



BEACON FREE PRESS

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Make reservations by May 16 for dinner 'with' General Washington



Actor Doug Thomas will portray General George Washington during the annual History Dinner at Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon on June 6. Reservations must be made by May 16.

-Courtesy photo

By Kristine Coulter

Actor Doug Thomas, of the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia, will portray General George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, during the 30th Annual History Dinner at Mount Gulian Historic Site on Saturday, June 6 from 4:30 – 9 p.m. The event will celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's independence from England.

Bridgecreek Catering will prepare the dinner. Guests will dine in the 18th century Dutch barn. Tickets are \$185 per person. Prepaid reservations are required by May 16, tickets are \$185.

"This Dinner will be especially important as we will be welcoming Gen. George Washington, visiting us during the crucial year of 1776. At that time the fate of the young nation was in doubt, but he pulled us through. Washington stays in character throughout the evening, so guests can speak directly to him and ask questions," remarked Mount Gulian Historic Site Executive Director Elaine Hayes.

"We have many events, weddings and school programs at Mount Gulian every year, but our annual Living History Dinner is the highlight," said Hayes. "Our guests are delighted to be in the presence of important historical personages (portrayed by professional actors) who meet and greet and give an engaging performance. Over the years we've welcomed Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and other presidents, as well as people like Eleanor Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and Susan B. Anthony. Our guests love the event."

It was noted, "Diners will be invited to experience the world of our newly forming nation and the Continental Army through the eyes of the General, and future First President, who remained faithful to the principles of Independence for which he and his country had fought." The General's presentation will be followed by questions and answers, it was stated.

For an invitation and further information, contact Mount Gulian at 845-831-8172, email at info@mountgulian.org, or visit the website at www.mountgulian.org

Mount Gulian is at 145 Sterling St. in Beacon.

Youth cadets build valuable skills, thrive with DC Sheriff's Office

By Morgan E. Maier

Strengthening a community's future begins with its younger members. Within its Youth Cadet Program, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office engages directly with young people interested in law enforcement and community service. This is not a police academy or basic training. In connecting officers and the communities they serve, the program prioritizes team building, leadership and skills that can translate to other professional settings.

From October to June, the program emphasizes hands-on service, physical fitness and community betterment. Reality-based scenarios train in topics of conflict resolution, crime scene and criminal processing. Trips to local offices promote field learning and career exploration, while activities like rock climbing to escape rooms develop problem-solving and team cohesion.

The program was originally meant to offer field experience, according to Sgt. Jeff Cohen, who co-leads Youth Cadet Post 108 of the Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Education Association (N.E.R.L.E.E.A). Through a hands-on curriculum, N.E.R.L.E.E.A aims to bridge gaps between police officers and the communities they serve.

"I had seen too many individuals go through a police academy chasing a childhood dream, only to realize afterward that it wasn't the right fit for them. Many of our cadets say becoming a police officer has always been their dream. Through this program,



Members of the Youth Cadet Program of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office are pictured during an intern meeting at the Dutchess County District Attorney's office.

-Courtesy photo

they're able to gain meaningful, hands-on exposure that helps them decide if this is truly the path they want to pursue - before committing their college years to a profession they may not fully understand," said Cohen.

Dutchess County's program, alongside others in the Hudson Valley, is leading the charge in New York State. The program uses a paramilitary style, according to Sergeant Alonzo Montanya, which is critical to the education. Experienced cadets are appointed squad leaders, and conduct smaller group lineups.

Learning is led by Sergeants

Montanya and Cohen and joined sometimes by guest instructors. Sgt. Cohen and Sgt. Montanya are the main instructors and meet with other Deputy Advisors.

N.E.R.L.E.E.A. curricula are effective because they are age- and skill level-appropriate. Cadets advance to higher level material upon completing years of the program. With widespread interest from cadets, the program aims to continue activities through summer, so the group can stay busy while school is out of session.

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Plant sale set for May 9 in Fishkill

By Kristine Coulter

The Verplanck Garden Club will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, on the lower level, in Fishkill. There will be a large assortment of flowers and plants to purchase. It is suggested that one comes early to choose from the largest selection.

Garden club members bring in clippings from their perennials.

There will also be "hanging baskets, tons of annuals," said chair Deb McLiverty.

The event co-chair Debora Cole added there will also be, "Herbs, tomatoes, veggies." There will be raffles for different items.

"We have some arts & crafts," noted McLiverty. There will also be artwork available, she added.



The Verplanck Garden Club will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, on the lower level, in Fishkill.

-Courtesy photo Verplanck Garden Club

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Marshall+Sterling, Guardian Revival Expand Impact+ Effort to support local Veterans through Boots & Paws Partnership

Marshall+Sterling, in partnership with Guardian Revival's Boots & Paws program, supported the awarding of a companion dog to a local veteran and first responder, marking the program's fourth placement this year and reflecting Marshall+Sterling's broader Impact+ commitment to strengthening health and well-being across the communities it serves.

The event brought together members of the Hudson Valley community - including guardians, donors, friends, and family - to celebrate the placement of Bella, a nine-week-old chocolate Labrador, with Alex, a U.S. Navy veteran and FDNY first responder, and his family. Hosted at Marshall+Sterling's Poughkeepsie headquarters, the moment recognized Alex's service and resilience while providing an opportunity for connection and healing through companionship. This initiative is part of Marshall+Sterling's Impact+ program, which focuses on enhancing the well-being of the communities where we work and live while supporting causes that help create a future that's safer and more secure. In 2025 alone, the program supported more than 50 communities, reinforcing the firm's belief that stronger communities reduce risk at its source. Through Impact+, Marshall+Sterling prioritizes investments in education, health, social impact initiatives, veteran support,

and environmental sustainability, areas that directly influence long-term community resilience.

That focus is increasingly important as mental health challenges continue to rise, particularly among veterans and first responders. These challenges are creating real and measurable impacts across individuals, families, workplaces, and communities. Programs like Boots & Paws play a critical role. Companion animals have been shown to improve emotional stability, reduce stress, and strengthen daily routines — outcomes that directly contribute to long-term resilience and reduced downstream risk.

"Over the years at Boots & Paws, we've had the privilege of seeing firsthand how these companion dogs have a profound effect on the lives of our guardians by providing them with unconditional support," said Rachel Hill, executive director of the Boots & Paws program. "Each awarding reminds us of the incredible connections that can be forged between guardians and companion dogs in just a matter of minutes."

"Risk doesn't always show up as a claim — it shows up in people's lives," said Eric Diamond, President and CEO of Marshall+Sterling and a U.S. Army veteran. "From my time in service, I've seen how resilience is built long before a crisis. When we help clients predict, prepare for



Marshall+Sterling's Impact+ program focuses on enhancing the well-being of the communities where we work and live while supporting causes that help create a future that's safer and more secure.

-Courtesy photo

and preempt risk, that includes supporting the mental health and stability of the communities they depend on. Partnerships like Guardian Revival are one way we put that into action."

As Guardian Revival continues to grow across the Hudson Valley,

moments like this remind us that no guardian has to walk alone. These life-changing programs are only made possible through the generosity of partners like Marshall+Sterling.

To learn more about our work, visit <https://www.guardianrevival.org>.

City administrator takes leave of absence

City Administrator Chris White, who was set to retire in June, is on a leave of absence. Ben Swanson, whose appointment as the next administrator the Council approved earlier this month, will be filling in.

"The week after Council approved the appointment of Ben to become the City Administrator, Chris put in paperwork for

leave of absence through mid-June — we were unaware of that before his filing," said City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou via email to Beacon Free Press.

White's retirement will still take place in mid-June (charter says 90-day notice), according to the mayor. "Ben becomes City Administrator in mid-June."

White is still on the payroll, it was noted.

Voters approve 2026-27 library budget

The Howland Public Library held its Budget and Trustee vote on April 30. Thanks was offered to the Beacon City School District community approved the library's 2026-27 budget. The budget passed with 275 'yes' votes and 27 'no' votes, it was posted on the HPL's social media.

Antonia "Toni" Maeck, Kathleen Furfey, and Pia Ruisi-Besares were elected as library trustees.

Trustee Election Results were:

- Antonia "Toni" Maeck 256
- Kathleen Furfey 240
- Pia Ruisi-Besares 233
- Henry Breed 156.

Race Day for ARF set for May 17

The Animal Rescue Foundation's (ARF) Annual 5K Run & Walk with the Dogs, is set for Sunday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Memorial Park, Robert Cahill Dr., in Beacon.

This year's event is extra special as ARF celebrate 40 years and the community that makes their work possible. Whether one is running the 5K, or walk-

ing with one's pup, signing up the kids for the 1K Fun Run, creating a personal fundraiser, or cheering from the sidelines, every registration helps provide food, shelter, medical care, and love for the cats and dogs waiting at ARF.

For more information, or to register, visit <http://www.arfbeacon.org> or Annual 5K RUN & WALK With The DOGS.

Latin Dance Night set for May 21

Dining and Latin Dancing at the Towne Crier Café on Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m., at 379 Main Street in Beacon. Lose yourself to the wonderful sounds of Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, Cumbia, Reggaeton and much more, played by DJs Rhoda and Al.

Admission is \$20, which can be paid at the door. For reservations (not required), please call the Towne Crier at 845-831-5500. Please send any Song Requests at least two days in advance.

For more information, call Rhoda at 845-765-0667 or rhodaja@optonline.net.

Held in Grace: Reflection on Life, Death & Grief set for May and June

Held in Grace: Reflection on Life, Death & Grief will be held May 5 - June 2. The supportive gathering will meet for five weeks at 6:30 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 60 Union St.

in Beacon.

All are welcome. Organizers said one did not need to be experiencing a recent loss to attend.

Christ Church, United Methodist

Spring Fling Rummage Sale!

BARGAINS, BARGAINS, BARGAINS! EVERYTHING PRICED LOW TO GO!!

Where: 60 Union St., Beacon
When: May 9, 2026
Time: 9am - 2pm

Breakfast: Bacon, Egg and Cheese
Lunch: Hot Dogs

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\$20 Admission • Fine Dining • Full Bar

TOWNE CRIER LATIN DANCE NIGHT

Thursday May 21st at 6:30 PM
379 Main Street, Beacon • (845) 855-1300
\$20 Admission • Fine Dining • Full Bar

Info: (845) 765-0667 • rhodaja@optonline.net

Youth cadets build valuable skills, thrive with DC Sheriff's Office



Left: Members of the Youth Cadet Post 108 of the Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Education Association take part in a fundraising event where they gathered pet supplies. Right: The program uses a paramilitary style, according to Sergeant Alonzo Montanya, which is critical to the education. Experienced cadets are appointed squad leaders, and conduct smaller group lineups.

-Courtesy photos

Continued from cover

“Our program creates an environment for cadets to thrive like young adults – that’s what they are,” said Sgt. Montanya. “We push people past what their minds tell them they can’t do.”

Cadet Hayden Miller, who plans to be a crime scene investigator, has enjoyed an “amazing” experience in the program, and would recommend it to anyone able and interested in joining.

Cadet Damien Hague has learned proper professional methods from public speaking to conducting traffic stops. Arrays of knowledge – and new friends – will support Cadet Hague as he continues to learn different career paths.

Cadet Tiffany Loo sees her confidence grow with every opportunity. “Through the different drives and activities, I’ve had to talk to new people and step outside of my comfort zone. When I first joined, I was very anti-social, but over time I started talking more and made new

friends. The cadet program has really helped me improve my social skills, and I enjoy being a part of it,” she added.

Doors open 30 minutes before the meetings so cadets can catch up with their peers. When the clock hits the hour, it is time to work. Sessions begin with celebrating the cadets’ achievements collectively. Maybe one got a new job or a driver’s license, overcame a personal challenge, or reached a fitness milestone. Cadets are also expected to share negatives, like receiving disciplinary action at school, privately. And they do, because accountability is also part of the program.

“The impact of the program goes far beyond career exploration. The camaraderie, confidence and leadership skills these cadets develop - and bring back into their communities - are lasting qualities that I hope will continue to guide them throughout their lives,” added Sgt. Cohen.

Police departments are deeply affected by the risks officers meet head-on, every

day. N.E.R.L.E.E.A. offers the opportunity to channel that experience, and embrace a new community role. At the core is a reminder that young people are not just kids; they are capable of enacting change with service and character.

“It should absolutely be adopted by other agencies across the state and country with the right staff and oversights in place. While the main focus is to build bridges and teach about law enforcement, we also encourage the youth to become young leaders and/or positive role-models in their communities, as not all choose to go into the criminal justice field. That’s what separates our program from others. The legacy and impact transcends beyond our office and directly into the communities the youth call home,” said Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati.

Sgt. Montanya has been with the program each of its seven years. His mission is reaffirmed with every reference letter and recommendation he pens - when a returning cadet influences their first-year

peers through positive leadership, and by the parents who, inspired by a child’s service, begin volunteering at their side.

Cadets currently serve alongside their former post leaders, intern at the District Attorney’s office, and serve globally in the armed forces. Post 108’s impact echoes outside Dutchess County’s bounds; alumni have graduated from police academies and served communities outside the Hudson Valley. Some will not follow a police officer’s path, but are nevertheless equipped for whatever the future entails.

“Regardless of their avenue of life, the goal is to build positive communities and role models. We prepare them with things translatable to everyday life,” said Sgt. Montanya, noting public speaking and team-building as a few examples.

With plans to expand the curriculum to corrections, Post 108 is continuously evolving its modes, connecting cadets with experience and confidence to thrive as young adults.

More than 100 pounds unused, expired medications collected on Drug Take Back Day



Assemblyman Anil Beephan (R, C-East Fishkill) joined local officials and community partners on April 25 to host successful Drug Take Back Day events at the Amenia and Wappinger town halls, resulting in the collection of over 100 pounds of unused and expired prescription medications.

The events were held in partnership with the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, led by Sheriff Kirk Imperati, and the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE). Beephan recognized the leadership of Amenia Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm and Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini for their partnership in coordinating the collection events.

The initiative provided residents with a safe and convenient way to dispose of unused medications, preventing them from being misused or falling into the wrong hands. Hundreds of potentially dangerous pills and controlled substances were safely secured and removed from circulation.

-Courtesy photo

Something ROTTEN!

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 Music and Lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick
 Conceived by Karey Kirkpatrick and Wayne Kirkpatrick

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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.

Subject: Planet Earth

To the Editor:

NASA reported thst Artemis II traveled 252,756 miles in a little over 9 days in its trip from earth around the moon and back. In one day Planet Earth traveled an approximately 1.6 million miles around the sun in our Earth capsule at approximately 67,000 MPH, according to Google and we did not feel it!

In ancient Greece during the "BC" era, Aristotle wondered about our existence and material matter such as the Earth and concluded it resulted from the existence of a "Prime Mover," someone we call God.

Do we view the wonders of our existence with the same awe as Artemis II?

Carl L. Schaefer
Beacon

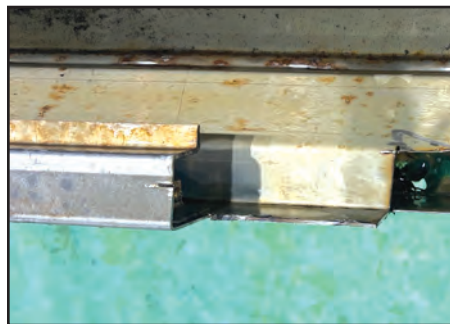
Towne Crier Jam set for May 7

"Get On the Good Foot" Dining and Dancing at the Towne Crier Café on Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m., at 379 Main Street in Beacon. Lose yourself to an exciting mix of R&B, Latin, Soul, Funk, Disco, Rock, Reggae, Hip-Hop and more, played by DJs Rhoda and Al. Fine dining and full bar are available all evening. The lights are low, the sound is full and the ambiance is warm and intimate. Attire is whatever suits your mood -

from blue jeans to dazzling sparkles. These dances are informal and even if you come alone, you can always find a friendly partner on the dance floor. Admission is \$20, which can be paid at the door. For reservations (not required), please call the Towne Crier at 845-831-5500. Please send any Song Requests at least two days in advance.

For more information, call Rhoda at 845-765-0667 or email rhodaja@optonline.net

City of Beacon Fire Department dislodges finger of a 10-year-old from BHS swimming pool



The City of Beacon Fire Department dislodged the finger of a 10-year-old from the swimming pool in Beacon High School last week.

-Courtesy photos

At approximately 4:08 p.m. on April 28, the City of Beacon Fire Department, along with Beacon Volunteer Ambulance, responded to Beacon High School, at 101 Matteawan Road, for a rescue call involving a child whose finger was trapped in a section of the school's Olympic-size swimming pool. According to Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi, upon arrival, responders found a 10-year-old female with her finger lodged in an approximately half-inch opening within a component of the pool structure.

Lucchesi stated in a press release, "Firefighters initiated an extended technical rescue operation to safely free the child while minimizing the risk of further injury. Rescue efforts included partially draining water from the pool and using specialized rescue equipment to carefully cut away a portion of the pool

structure. After a coordinated operation, crews were able to successfully free the child's finger. The child sustained minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital for evaluation."

In addition to Beacon Volunteer Ambulance, the City of Beacon Fire Department was assisted at the scene by the City of Beacon Police Department. The Arlington Fire District was requested to respond for additional assistance with specialized cutting equipment but was canceled while en route. Castle Point Fire Department provided standby coverage in the City of Beacon during the incident. The City of Beacon Fire Department would like to recognize the teamwork of all responding agencies, whose efforts helped bring this unusual incident to a safe resolution.

County announces Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling events

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced the County will once again host three Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling events in 2026, including a collection event at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck for a second straight year.

Serino said, "Keeping our community clean and safe is something we all share responsibility for. Our annual events make it easier for our neighbors to properly dispose of materials that can't go in the regular trash. By offering convenient opportunities throughout the year, including our return to northern Dutchess in September, we're helping protect our environment while giving our neighbors a simple way to do the right thing."

Dutchess County's Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling events will take place from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Saturday, June 6
Dutchess County Department of Public Works
626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie
Online registration opens Wednesday, May 6

Saturday, Sept. 19
Dutchess County Fairgrounds
6636 Route 9, Rhinebeck
Online registration opens Wednesday, August 19

Saturday, Oct. 17
Dutchess County Department of Public Works
626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie

Online registration opens Thursday, Sept. 17

These popular events are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and residents should anticipate wait times upon arrival. Participation is limited to the first 400 households per event, and pre-registration is required. A \$10 registration fee applies, and these events typically fill quickly, so residents are encouraged to register online as soon as possible.

Beginning Wednesday, May 6, residents can register online for the June 6 event using a credit card or register and pay by check by calling (845) 486-2841. Checks should be made payable to "Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance" and mailed to the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management, 96 Sand Dock Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

These events provide residents with a safe and responsible way to dispose of household chemicals, electronics and other materials that require special handling, helping to prevent harmful substances from entering the environment. The program is part of the County's ongoing efforts to reduce waste, protect natural resources and promote sustainable practices across Dutchess County.

Additional details about the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal & Electronics Recycling Events, included accepted items, is available online via www.dutchessny.gov.

Camp Free to Be Me accepting enrollment

Camp Free to Be Me enrollment for the 2026 season (July 20 - 25) is now officially open and looking for campers! This is an opportunity for children ages 9 through 17 who are navigating life with Tourette Syndrome.

Located at the Camp Kinder Ring in Hopewell Junction, the summer program provides a specialized, safe space where "tics are normal" and the focus shifts from deficits to strengths. It's a transformative week filled with traditional camp fun—from Sylvan Lake

water sports to talent shows—all designed to build confidence and lifelong friendships. Campers come to the camp from across the United States to be part of the specialized programming.

The camp is committed to making this experience accessible. Free tuition options and financial assistance are available for those who qualify. For more details on registration and scholarships, please reach out to Tonya Pulver at tonya.pulver@gmail.com.

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Listening to the past: The value of oral history

By Olivia Bragitikos

There's something about listening to someone's voice that makes the story they're telling that much more compelling. When you're listening, you can pick up on the narrator's vocal inflections, pauses, and emotions. Each inflection, each pause, each emotion, carries its own story - one the listener might not have grasped had they just been reading it as a document text. This is the value of oral history.

To a historian, oral histories are a qualitative research method. It uses audio-recorded interviews to document and study personal stories, memories, cultural narratives, and lived experiences. For many decades, the Dutchess County Historical Society has been a repository for oral histories. Oral history is especially relevant for local communities to preserve the stories, legacies, and experiences of the people residing there. It provides another perspective on studying history and deeply and collaboratively engaging with communities. This article will touch on how oral history began, its importance, and its connection to Poughkeepsie through examining an important interview of a Poughkeepsie resident from 1996, which is part of the Dutchess County Historical Society's Oral History Collection.

Libraries first used oral history sources in the early 1950s to "fill in" historical records that felt incomplete. This practice developed from the Columbia University Oral History Research Office, which was founded in 1948. It was one of the first and most notable programs during this time. Oral history was first dedicated to documenting influential historical figures, or the "movers and shakers" in society. It was, of course, met with skepticism from historians and archival researchers who were critical of oral history's reliance on faulty memory, a suspicion that has not totally faded even in the present day. It was therefore



Display of the tape from the Interview and the Panasonic.

-Courtesy photo

considered an auxiliary tool to support existing archival collections. However, it has been, and continues to be, conducted locally by institutions like Vassar College and the Dutchess County Historical Society as part of community-focused history initiatives.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, oral history became more widespread as part of the social history movement that emphasized recovering history from the "bottom up." The Oral History Association was founded in 1966, and in 1969, the Society of American Archivists established an oral history committee to further promote oral history as an independent research method. The National Endowment for the Humanities also provided funding to inspire historians to use oral history to uncover the "forgotten" or "unacknowledged" history of underrepresented people, like minorities, women, and anyone from "ordinary life." These stories, like the ones collected at Dutchess County Historical Society, pro-

Senator Rolison calls on Attorney General to act on Wappingers Falls sidewalk safety hazard

New York State Senator Rob Rolison (District 39) has sent a letter to Attorney General Letitia James urging immediate action to resolve ongoing litigation tied to a partially collapsed stone wall and long-closed sidewalk along West Main Street (Route 9D) in the Village of Wappingers Falls. The sidewalk has remained closed since the wall was damaged in 2020, creating a public safety crisis for pedestrians in a heavily trafficked area.

"Since taking office in 2023, I have engaged in multiple discussions with stakeholders, previously sent correspondence and continue to hear from residents, business owners and constituents who travel through the Village, who are frustrated by the lack of

progress," reads the letter. "As the State Senator representing this community, I take those concerns seriously and urge prompt action to prevent a potential tragedy."

In his latest letter, he requested a formal update from the Attorney General's Office, which is representing the New York State Department of Transportation in the matter, including the status of litigation, anticipated next steps, and a timeline for moving the case forward.

Senator Rolison emphasized the urgency of resolving the issue before a preventable accident occurs and reaffirmed his commitment to advocating for timely infrastructure repairs and public safety across the district.

Jennifer Silva at Savage Wonder on May 8

Jennifer Silva will be celebrating spring by singing her original songs inspired by nature and animals as well as releasing a brand new single called Poison Garden on May 8 at 9 p.m. Savage Wonder in Beacon. The song was recorded by Jonny Taylor at the Beacon AV Lab and mastered by

Matthew Agolia at The Ranch Mastering, also in Beacon. This release is in conjunction with the newest episode of her podcast "Through the Forest with Jennifer Silva: Haunting Tales and Ballads."

Savage Wonder is located at 139 Main St. in Beacon.



Displays the Society of American Archivists' inaugural dinner, June 18, 1937.

-Courtesy of the Records of the National Archives

vide lived experiences and personal insights from local communities that might not have been fully documented in official written documents.

In 1968, library science professor Martha Jane Zachert contributed to the development of oral history by constructing a framework of creativity to engage with oral history. She believed that researchers could pull from their own public relations skills, research expertise, and knowledge of collection gaps to make a fruitful, creative, and intellectual contribution. It's important to acknowledge, however, that this method leaves room for biases by the researcher, which is a large part of why it's met with rejection. In this way, archives and oral histories are not neutral. The language, content, and the researcher's own culture will all influence the outcome of their studies. It's therefore important for the reader/listener to understand the structures in place and the researcher's biases that might have influenced their work.

If trained properly, historians, archivists, researchers, and anthropologists involved in creating an oral history can produce more authentic, collaborative, and holistic research that involves understudied subjects. This is especially important when studying local history, like in Dutchess County and Poughkeepsie, which have undergone many changes since the 1900s and are still rapidly developing. Oral history offers us a way to capture the Poughkeepsian narratives from the people who have been experiencing the changes directly.

An oral history tape from Dutchess County Historical Society from April 1996 serves as an important example; for the purpose of this article, we have chosen to keep the interviewee anonymous. Her interview was conducted by David Levinson, who explored the interviewee's opinions on the changes in Poughkeepsie from the time she grew up to today (1996). She described early Poughkeepsie as a hub of industry and life, from sailing, whaling, and manufacturing, and thought, "there's nothing that they couldn't do!" According to her, Poughkeepsie was a place that held "angels," or large contributors to the community. They consisted of the Smith brothers, or the "cough drop men," manufacturers, and businessmen.

These were the leaders of the community who emphasized civic responsibility and leadership in Poughkeepsie. Oral history here allowed the interviewee to engage with her relationship with the "movers and shakers" of the city and share their impact on her family and neighborhood.

In her words, "Poughkeepsie wasn't a place about money; it was a place about the community." It was abundantly clear that she loved the town she grew up in and wanted to build as many bridges between people as possible - "I love going down the street and having black, or white, or pink, or even green people [arm and arm] with me." Through oral history, she was able to explain her attitude about Poughkeepsie and how she personally impacted the community; she was all about inclusion, social cohesion, and uplifting people. She shaped the local society through her contributions to the Bardavon, being on multiple board positions at the YMCA, and local fundraising. This oral history provided insight into the lived experiences of a local Poughkeepsie resident that might have been lost in written documents. In this way, oral history allows us to explore people's stories within spaces from a "ground up" perspective that might not have come across as clearly in other academic forms of literature.

I believe that oral history is essential to understanding a full picture of local history. The local population of Dutchess County, for example, the interviewee in this article, has contributed greatly to the community, and oral history provides a way to connect to those figures and learn firsthand their contributions. Oral history complements, rather than replaces, written histories. It encourages local participation and community involvement, and encourages people to tell stories of their lived experiences. Preserving voices ensures that history reflects authentic, lived experiences of the "ordinary person," not just official records.

Olivia Bragitikos is a senior at Vassar College majoring in anthropology and minoring in Chinese language. At the Dutchess County Historical Society, Olivia is working as an archival intern. She indexes, transcribes, and analyzes oral histories conducted by the Dutchess County Historical Society in the 1990s.

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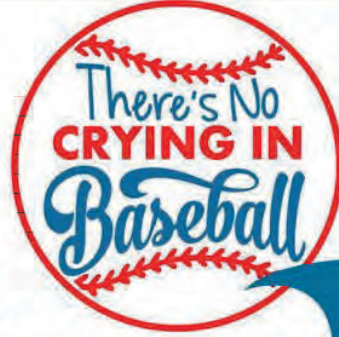


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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades only 'claw' to two wins at Jersey Shore as BlueClaws roll

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades (14-12) had sunny outings turned sour at ShoreTown Ballpark from April 28-May 3, dropping four straight games to end the week. By the end of the week the Jersey Shore BlueClaws (14-12) withstood the Renegades' late cracks at a comeback and earned a second-place tie with Hudson Valley.

The series started with two consecutive successes, and the first late-inning awakening that would define the Hudson Valley effort. They would lead the opener wire-to-wire, bolstering an early advantage with three runs scored in the 7th and 8th frames. Kaeden Kent was 2-4 with 4 RBI, including a three-run blast in his final at-bat of the 9-5 win. Another strong start by Luis Serna (5.2 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 6 K) got Hudson Valley nearly to a win, before the BlueClaws' ninth inning rally forced some free baseball. Core Jackson broke through in the 11th with an RBI single, then Roderick Arias worked a bases-loaded walk for the insurance. The BlueClaws put one up in the bottom, but Hudson Valley held on for the 5-3 win.

Things spiraled out of hand for Hudson Valley on May 1, not only for the two BlueClaw runs that scored on a wild pitch. The BlueClaws exploded for seven runs in the fourth inning,

then were held scoreless the rest of the way. As the Renegades bullpen put up zeroes the rest of the way, the offense took a crack at the 6-run deficit, including a 3-run rally in the ninth inning. Hudson Valley would fall 8-7, the second of three straight one-run losses. The Renegades' 9th-inning rally fell just short the night before, as Kyle West's fielder's choice brought in the Renegades' third run of the game. Jersey Shore would prevail 4-3. Cam Troyer hit an early 2-run home run to equalize it 2-2. Troyer later knocked in an extra-inning run with a sacrifice fly, but Jersey Shore erased that one, too, and won the game 5-4 on a passed ball.

The Renegades were quiet in the Sunday slate until the top of the 7th inning, where they exploded for five runs. Cam Troyer had another blast – 3 runs to take the lead – but the home team had 4 of their own and negated Troyer's 3-run blast to take the lead in the top. This time, Jersey Shore would go on to win 7-6 to take the series win.

Next week, the Winston-Salem Dash (16-11) will visit town for the first matchup of the season. The High-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox comes off their own series split against the Greensboro Grasshoppers (16-11), who have taken a slight lead atop the South Atlantic League North. The top five spots in the division are separated by a game and a half, while the



Kaeden Kent was 2-4 with 4 RBI, including a three-run blast in his final at-bat of a 9-5 win for the Renegades last week.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

Brooklyn Cyclones (7-18) are on the outside looking in. On the promotion slate for the latest homestand, Hudson Valley hosts 70s Night on May 5;

Education Day on May 6 (11:05 a.m. start time), and Newburgh Gorhams Night on May 8 to celebrate Black history in local baseball.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT	16	11	.593	-	5-5	W2
Wilmington WSH	15	11	.577	0.5	7-3	W3
Jersey Shore PHI	14	12	.538	1.5	5-5	W4
Hudson Valley NYY	14	12	.538	1.5	5-5	L4
Frederick BAL	14	12	.538	1.5	6-4	W1
Brooklyn NYM	7	19	.269	8.5	3-7	L1
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB	17	10	.630	-	6-4	L1
Winston-Salem CWS	16	11	.593	1.0	4-6	L2
Rome ATL	14	13	.519	3.0	6-4	W1
Hub City TEX	13	13	.500	3.5	6-4	W4
Greenville BOS	13	14	.481	4.0	5-5	L4
Asheville HOU	6	21	.222	11.0	2-8	L3



May			
05/06/26	vs. Winston-Salem	11:05 AM	Education Day presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/07/26	vs. Winston-Salem	06:35 PM	Country Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/08/26	vs. Winston-Salem	07:05 PM	Newburgh Gorhams Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/09/26	vs. Winston-Salem	05:05 PM	Irish Heritage Night presented by Leprechaun Lines WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/10/26	vs. Winston-Salem	02:05 PM	Mother's Day at the Ballpark WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/12/26	vs. Frederick	06:05 PM	70s Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/13/26	vs. Frederick	11:05 AM	Education Day presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/14/26	vs. Frederick	06:35 PM	Healthcare Appreciation Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/15/26	vs. Frederick	07:05 PM	In Our Baseball Era WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/16/26	vs. Frederick	05:05 PM	Military Appreciation Night WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/17/26	vs. Frederick	02:05 PM	Pirates Day WMCHHealth Club Lounge Tickets





Renegades Extra!



IMPACT

PR & Communications

**Vassar-Warner Home Executive Director,
Ericka Von Salews, Named to New York's 2026
Above and Beyond Women List**

See story,
page 8



IMPACT

PR & Communications

What's in a name? Here is the story of 'Renegades'

By Morgan E. Maier

Baseball teams create nationwide followings for unique nicknames ranging from mollusks to natural phenomena. Existing alongside the Dragons, precious Emeralds and prospecting RockHounds, the Hudson Valley Renegades are one of two teams represented by a raccoon. The Frederick Keys are Minor League Baseball's only namesake for a lawyer. But what are the Renegades named for?

Francis Scott Key was no more a baseball player than he was a songwriter. Yet Key's presence swirls through every pre-game playing of the Star-Spangled Banner, based on a poem the Maryland native wrote in 1814. The National Anthem holds special meaning at Nymeo Field, home again to an Orioles' affiliate for the first time since 2019.

Hudson Valley has known the same team for more than 30 straight seasons, and Renegades fans can thank local resident Yvette Cruz for the suggestion.

"Renegades" emerged among over 5,000 entries in the great team-naming contest of 1993, then beat out three other finalists: Venom, Vipers and Hawks. The name was inspired by Yvette's brother and his passion for local Native American and Hudson Valley history.

"To me, it was a fluke picking that name. I was out with my friends, and the three of us were going back and forth

about this contest," said Yvette. "And I thought, 'Well, I'll just put this one down, it reminds me of my brother.'"

As outlined in Clifford Trafzer's "Renegade Tribe: The Palouse Indians and the Invasion of the Inland Pacific Northwest," 'renegade' was a name given to indigenous people who resisted hostile land takeovers and relocations of their people, often resulting in conflicts with settlers arriving on the frontier. Such resistance continued for centuries, as recently as the 1980s in the Midwest, according to a 1985 New York Times article, "Around the Nation: 143 Renegade Kickapoos Accept Citizenship."

Hudson Valley's name honors this history and a sister's love, both relentless through time. Majority ruled on the Renegades before the inaugural 1994 season. Yvette's phone rang incessantly the evening it was decided. Her first of 10 years as a Renegades season ticket holder began with a 9 p.m. whirlwind of reporters, officials and two complimentary seats.

Those tickets came with community. Section 101 became Yvette's support outside of baseball, from baby showers to surviving breast cancer. When the family catches a game now and again, always on the first base line, they look for familiar faces. Often there, sitting with now-grown kids and grandkids, are these friends that would be strangers if not for the team.



Yvette Cruz is pictured with her son in this vintage photo with Renegades mascots. She was the winner of the great team-naming contest of 1993.

-Courtesy photo

Players write their stories with Hudson Valley's unwavering support through affiliation changes. First the Texas Rangers, then the Tampa Bay Rays and now the New York Yankees. "They've stood the test of time, even though it has changed from major league organizations. Part of it is the name, that stands for fighting for it and

keeping it going. It's always been about supporting players, regardless of what organization they belong to," said Yvette.

In choosing a name, the fans owned a piece of the team. They still do, because the Renegades would not be the same under any other name. Or in any other place.

May marks McGinnis' improvement at the plate

By Morgan E. Maier

Connor McGinnis hit the first home run of his career on May 3, and though the Hudson Valley Renegades lost the game – and series – to the Jersey Shore Blue Claws, McGinnis continues to settle into High-A.

This former University of Houston Cougar likes it on the road. McGinnis has five hits in eight games played at opposing ballparks. Where McGinnis hit .171 in April, offensive production maximized with a few 'season firsts' in his first two games of May.

The former 314th draft pick had an RBI in back-to-back games on May 1 and May 3. The latter saw McGinnis' first professional home run, a solo shot in the fifth inning to get the Renegades on the board. McGinnis appeared in four games against Jersey Shore, splitting time between second base and left field. McGinnis had a two-out, two-strike single to maintain the Renegades' comeback hopes on May 1, as he scored Josue Gonzalez to cut the BlueClaw advantage to one run.

McGinnis represented the tying run at first, but no Renegade could knock him in.

The New York Yankees selected McGinnis in the 10th round of the 2025 draft. The draftee out of Houston played 17 games in Hudson Valley to close the season. McGinnis knocked 11 hits and drove in 6 runs while also scoring 6. In his shortened junior campaign at the University of Houston, McGinnis was reliable at the plate, hitting .343 across 31 games played. He had eight multi-hit games, including four before injury sidelined him for 24 games. With fewer than 40 games of professional experience (as of May 3) over the past two seasons, McGinnis has yet to play half a season, but the end of spring seems bright for the 23-year-old lefty, who throws righty.

McGinnis finished his series on the Shore 3-14 with three runs scored and a pair of RBIs. Both came with two outs; McGinnis begins to showcase the ever-reliable contributions that Houston misses from him



Connor McGinnis has five hits in eight games played at opposing ballparks for the Renegades so far this season. The New York Yankees selected McGinnis in the 10th round of the 2025 draft.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

Vassar-Warner Home Executive Director, Ericka Von Salews, named to New York's 2026 Above and Beyond Women list



Ericka Von Salews, recently named to New York's 2026 Above & Beyond Women list, is prepared to lead Vassar-Warner Home into its next chapter.

-Courtesy photo

Underscoring its leadership team's commitment to enhancing the lives of Hudson Valley seniors, Vassar-Warner Home announced that Executive Director, Ericka Von Salews, has been named to City & State New York's 2026 Above & Beyond Women list. Von Salews is one of 50 women recognized across various industries for her role in moving the state forward.

"Being celebrated alongside so many amazing female leaders is a highlight of my career," said Von Salews. "I've dedicated the majority of my professional life to the advancement of senior care, and it's a true honor to be recognized for the role this plays in shaping the future of the state."

For 10 years, Von Salews has been at the helm of Vassar Warner Home's mission to provide high-quality care and resources to seniors living in New York. Most notably, in response to the Home's sudden closure in 2024, Von Salews took on a pivotal role in the fight to reopen it, working with local leaders and philan-

thropists to launch initiatives that garnered support and funding for the facility. Simultaneously, Von Salews successfully launched Vassar-Warner Home for the Day, a social model adult day care program, in 2025. Today, she not only oversees Vassar-Warner Home's day-to-day operations but is also preparing for the grand reopening of its residential program, which is set to welcome residents in May.

"As I lead Vassar-Warner Home into its next chapter, I'm proud to support my team as we give the facility our all," added Von Salews. "We are committed to making Vassar-Warner a home away from home, and won't stop until we reinstate our position as a pillar of the Hudson Valley community."

To learn more about Vassar-Warner Home, or to apply as a resident, visit www.vassarwarner.org. For additional updates, follow along on Facebook (@VassarWarnerHome).



The Verplanck Garden Club will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9. The sale will be on the lower level of the Fishkill Town Hall.

-Photo courtesy Verplanck Garden Club

Plant sale set for May 9 in Fishkill

Continued from cover

"They're really nice," added Cole. There will be stained-glass items as well.

"This is one of our biggest fundraisers. We have gardens that we support in town," explained McLiverty.

There is an herb garden the club supports at Stony Kill Farm and the special needs raised garden beds at Stony Kill. There is another garden at Geering Park the club upkeep.

"People look forward to [this event] and it's Mother's Day weekend,"

noted Cole.

McLiverty thanked Sunny Garden Greenhouses, on Route 9D in Wappingers Falls, for their support of the plant sale.

The club sponsors at least two children for summer camp. They also make a donation to the Fishkill Food Pantry and other local organizations.

"That's how we pay for the supplies," explained Cole.

As for the sale, McLiverty said, "People love it."

Cole remarked, "It's on people's mental calendar." She added, "We appreciate them coming down and supporting us."

John Jay student earns Eagle Scout rank



Eagle Scout Matthew Glasser with John Jay High School administrators.

-Courtesy photos Wappingers CSD

Wappingers Central School District congratulates John Jay High School student Matthew Glasser on earning the rank of Eagle Scout. For his project, Matthew worked with school administrators to divide the school into 12 zones; he then led volunteers in painting colored stripes on the walls to indicate each zone, helping

new students, visitors, and emergency responders navigate the building. He also created maps with the colored zones, AED and first aid kit locations, and emergency exit information. This will enhance safety for both students and first responders, benefiting John Jay for years to come.

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by vicki frank day



True inspiration

Thanks, Mom - the wind beneath my wings.

To my detriment, I am very hard on myself to the point of self-sabotage. Looking around, it's hard not to be. Not only am I dealing with personal things in my present and past but also what's being put out into the world. Social media has everyone posting beautiful photos of their beautiful lives, whether they're influencers or just people who want us to envy them or appear better than they are. Add to that filters and AI, and us ordinary folks don't stand a chance.

But although it gets harder every day to tell reality from fakery, it isn't a new thing. In my younger days it was magazines that inspired me by showing me the best lives of others, creating a longing in me that persists to this day. I still love lingering over pages depicting beautifully decorated rooms, porches, gardens and tables laden with exquisitely styled dishes. Martha Stewart was someone I aspired to be like, with her beautiful home and grounds, perfect food and seemingly endless energy to do it all. I know now, and did then, that very few people actually live that way every day, but it didn't make it any less appealing. And sure, I wanted that life. Still do.

But what do I have? NOT a perfect house or endless energy or self-esteem for days. It isn't that it's a terrible life - I have lots of love and support - it's just not what I'd hoped it would be and I must be the reason. I have to believe that, because that means I can change it. Otherwise, I'll stay stuck and unhappy, and don't we all deserve to be happy?

So, here's what I do when I get really down on myself. I look to those I love and admire. No, not Martha Stewart. I look to my mother. She is a constant source of hope and love and strength. She has made a Home that, growing up, all our friends wanted to come to. She's done that not by making it impossibly perfect, but genuine, neat, comfortable and lovely. It's decorated mostly with treasured pieces that evoke warmth and welcome, while honoring the relatives they came from. There's love and meaning in every piece; and the whole is the story of not just one life, but many.

It's a house my father grew up in and made changes to over the years with my mother at his side, which kind of sums her up. She's always at your side, always has your back, always at the ready to step in with sleeves rolled up. She taught me the art of anticipating the needs of others

and how to love through actions as much as words. I've learned through watching her that little things aren't little at all. She has shown me that putting others before yourself is its own reward, which is a good thing since it's often thankless. I wish there was a way to convey to her how much we appreciate all she's done for us, but I suppose this article, which will likely make her uncomfortable, will have to do.

Now that we're older, I have even greater respect for her. I've watched her physical pain increase over the years along with her frustration at having it limit her. It would be easy not to know she's in constant pain because she soldiers through it with determination, incredible strength and often a sense of humor. Everything she does impacts those around her and makes a real difference.

To all you influencers out there, her optimism and desire to live life to the fullest in spite of the pain is the REAL stuff of inspiration. It isn't a false representation of a wannabe life. It IS a life, and a far better one than most of you will probably ever know, filled with genuine beauty, purpose and love. I would hate for you to stay in your bubble trying to make others envy you with your 'Look at me! Look at me!' posts. I know you aren't living your best life and I feel sorry for you. I know where to turn for true inspiration and how fortunate I am because of it.

So, when I feel I'll never be good enough, live up to expectations or make a difference, I stay well away from social media. I'm pretty sure I've never disappointed anyone more than myself, and there are plenty of days I wonder if I matter or should bother getting out of bed. Then I picture my beautiful mother, and I know that, because of her, I DO matter, and it inspires me to share the gifts she gave me with a world that sorely needs them.

Thank you, mama. You are, as ever, the wind beneath my wings.

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

'Tackling Ticks on the Big Screen' part of Lyme Disease Awareness Month

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month, and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) continue to spread awareness and promote tick prevention tips, once again hosting "Tackling Ticks on the Big Screen" on Wednesday, May 20. This free evening of family fun will include a screening of the animated film, "DC League of Super-Pets," at the Overlook Drive-in Theater, 126 DeGarmo Road in Poughkeepsie. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m.; the movie begins at sunset. Registration is required and is available online at dutchessny.gov/tickmovie.

Serino said, "As the weather warms up and more people head outside, it's a great time to remember how to stay safe from ticks. Protecting our families and children is simple with a few easy tips to prevent Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. We invite our neighbors to join us, learn how to stay tick-free and enjoy a fun, family-friendly movie together."

DCDOH staff will be on hand with helpful tick safety tips and to explain how to

avoid bites. There will also be free giveaways, including tick removal tools and fun coloring books for children.

Health Commissioner Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD said, "Ticks have been a big health issue in New York State for a long time because so many types of ticks - and the germs they carry - live here. This event is a perfect chance to learn how to stop ticks from biting you and what to do if you find one on your skin. Knowing these steps is the best way to stay healthy, so we hope you'll come enjoy a fun movie and learn these helpful tips."

Admission to the movie is free; concessions will be available to purchase.

The Dutchess County Department of Health provides tick safety tips throughout the year. Residents can find the DCDOH staff and get expert advice at Mobile Health Unit (MHU) events held throughout Dutchess County. Information about the MHU's schedule and other helpful services that DCDOH provides is available at the Dutchess County Health Department's website: dutchessny.gov/health.

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'Our Renaissance Man' - A tribute to Gary Veeder

By Curtis Schmidt

The Encyclopedia Britannica describes Renaissance Man as "a person with diverse talents, expertise and knowledge across many fields ... and that individuals should learn and try to embrace all knowledge and develop their own capacities as fully as possible."

On the local level, that is an apt description of Gary Veeder of Pleasant Valley, who passed away on April 15. A celebration of life for Veeder will be held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in the Welcome Center on Monday, May 11, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Close friends Caroline Dolfi of the Pleasant Valley Department Store and Bob Beckmann of Matt's Auto Body both termed Veeder as "our Renaissance Man."

"Gary loved his community and he was not limited to just a few areas. He did everything to the fullest of his abilities and he enjoyed every minute of it," said Beckmann. "If he saw a need, he did something about it. He was always a helper and encouraged others to do their part. That was his personality."

For Dolfi, Veeder was "the real deal!" She added, "I feel so fortunate to have known Gary. He was our Renaissance Man - one who was interested and involved in so many walks of life - making an impact wherever he went," she said. "He's a tough act to follow - he was the epitome of a loving, concerned and active citizen and family man. He approached all he did with dedication, respect and humor."

Indeed, Veeder cared deeply about his community and when he took part, he was fully involved. He served as Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor from 1976-80, while also running the family business, Veeder Pharmacy, for many years with his wife, Pamela.

He was an active member of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society (DCAS) and never missed the Dutchess County Fair - always volunteering in the Information Booth and was a constant promoter of agricultural activities. He founded and ran the New York State Fiddling Contest at the Fair for many years.

Fair CEO and Manager Andy Imperati commented, "Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pam, Meegan and the entire Veeder family for their loss. Gary was a long time member of the Ag Society. He helped coordinate the volunteers for the Main Information Booth, helped out in the Arts & Crafts Building during the Fair, and was a familiar figure at many of the events here at the Fairgrounds."

DCAS member Suzanne Rajczi stated, "Gary was such a dedicated and familiar presence at the Fair, always willing to step in, lend a hand and support the Ag Society in so many meaningful ways. I especially appreciated his willingness to speak up, share his perspective, and stand behind the DCAS all in the true spirit of strengthening and celebrating the Fair. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him."

Veeder was all about volunteering and even worked as a high school crew coach and had an active role every year with the New York State Sheep & Wool Festival. In his later years, he discovered the forgotten Badgley Cemetery in Salt Point and spent years restoring the Revolutionary Era grave stones and grounds. He was instrumental in the placement of a historical marker honoring patriot graves at that site.

Salt Point neighbors Gretchen and Blaine Burnett said, "Gary was a one-man show cleaning up the headstones, as well as cleaning up the cemetery as a whole. It is very cool driving on Fox Run Road and now seeing the historical marker thanks to Gary." They added, "Gary was always a great support system to his family and he could always be found supporting his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters with all of their various tasks at the Sheep and Wool Festival."

Claire Houlihan, President of the Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Growers Association, said, "Many will recall Gary as a fixture in the Breed Barn at the Festival, helping to educate the public about Corriedale sheep. I can also clearly picture him walking the Fair with his wife, Pam, or in the Sheep Barn with his granddaughters. More than anything, he was a devoted family man."



On stage at the "Make It With Wool Fashion Show," Gary Veeder was one of the stars of the New York State Sheep & Wool Festival. He wove this scarf himself with fleece from sheep at the family farm.

-Courtesy photo

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Gary didn't just live in our community, he helped build it. His life was a master-class in public service. Gary was always motivated by a deep love for his neighbors and a desire to make Pleasant Valley and Dutchess County a better place for everyone." She added, "The Fair simply won't feel the same without him."

John DelVecchio, former Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor recalls Veeder with heartfelt respect. "When I served as Town Supervisor," he notes, "I could always count on Gary's thoughtful counsel. One of my favorite things about Mr.

Veeder was his honesty. He always let you know exactly how he felt. If he liked you, he would do anything he could to help you. Like so many folks, I was fortunate to call him my friend."

For Dolfi and many others, Veeder was a role model. "We could all think about Gary and how he lived his life and learn from him," Dolfi said. "He took great joy in helping others and serving the community, and he would love knowing that we followed in his footsteps. I'm going to try my best."

"We all learned so much from Gary - he will be sorely missed," said Beckmann.

Obituaries

Robert Elmer Paradis



At Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Poughkeepsie, NY on April 28, 2026, Robert E. Paradis passed away at the age of 82 years and 9 months. Born in Hoyt, New Brunswick, Canada in 1943, he was the son of the late Edward Paradis and Mildred Ryan.

He is survived by his forever love, wife of 28 years, Joy, step daughter Jessica and her husband Tom of New York. Brother Fr. Paul Paradis, Falls, NB. Sisters Carol McIver (Bill), Susan Daneluk (George) all of Canada. As well as nieces and nephews in Canada and the US. His dear friend Bill Harding and several lifelong friends. He was Predeceased by his parents, brother Edward, Jr. (Lucy), sisters Theresa Tillotson (Paul), Donna Slevin and Janet Radakowski (Alan).

Soon after Bob's graduation from high school his dad arranged for a farmer in Maine to sponsor his immigration to the

US and Bob proudly became a US citizen. He worked for IBM where he had a successful career in engineering.

Bob was a member of Dutchess Golf and Country Club. He achieved 5 holes in one during his golf career and was known as the "Machine."

He generously gave his time to family, friends and neighbors, helping with large and small projects in and outside the house. He was very talented with his hands and loved seeing projects come to life.

Bob cared deeply for those he loved and lived simply and honestly, expressing himself through his actions.

May God Bless you and Keep you Bob, until we meet again.

Joseph J. Sheveck



Joseph J. Sheveck, a long time resident of Fishkill, New York, passed away on April 30th of natural causes. He was 86.

Joseph was born on June 29, 1939, in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. After moving to New York, he graduated Columbia College, with multiple degrees in Industrial Engineering; and eventually completed both his Master of Science and Professional post-grad degrees.

Joseph joined the workforce in 1962 as a College Recruiter at Colgate-Palmolive Company in Jersey City. His distinguished career however flourished at IBM Corp in East Fishkill, entering as an associate engineer in 1965 and retir-

ing as a senior programming manager in 1994.

He briefly un-retired in 2024 serving as chairman and vice-president of Western Remote Systems, Inc., in Los Angeles, Calif., until earlier this year.

Son of Joseph S. and Mary C. (Garbinski) Sheveck (both predeceased), Joseph leaves behind his wife of 59 years Dorinda D. (Dubetsky) originally of Beacon, New York, two sons, Jay (Vicki A.) of California and Joel (Dawn) of Rhode Island, a grandson Jake of California, his cousin Jack, seven nephews; Matthew, Keith, Chris, Sam, Cory, Daniel and Louis, three nieces; Kati, Olivia and Reagan, a sister-in-law Eleanor Dubetsky, and God child Stacey.

He was predeceased by a brother-in-law Derry Dubetsky.

Joseph was a member of the advisory organization Cecilwood Theater Group, Fishkill, 1972-1977; the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (senior member, various chairmanships 1965-1972); and the Institute of Industrial Engineers (senior member, professional achievement award 1966).

Joseph was articulate in multiple computer programming languages and also spoke fluent Polish.

No memorial will be held. As requested, his ashes will be spread into the sea at a later date by his family. He will be missed.

Joseph was a heavy contributor to both Shriners Hospitals for Children and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital if you wish to donate in his memory.

Arrangements are under the direction of McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc. For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

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THREE (3) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,764.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,540.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

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One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,507.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,575.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

HIGHLAND MEADOWS SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

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Announcement

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES: HOLIDAY PRESS SCHEDULE ISSUE.

Southern/Northern Dutchess News and Beacon Free Press will have an early deadline for the May 27th ISSUE. Advertising must be received by: May 20th

CALL: 845-297-3723 for more information.

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NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that Acura of Wappingers Falls, located at 1271 RT 9, Wappingers Falls, New York 12590, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, pursuant to New York Lien Law, the following vehicle to satisfy a garageman's lien:
 Vehicle: 2016 Acura TLX
 Vin: 19UUB3F50GA000960
 Lien amount: \$4497.46
 Stock Number: GP001
 The auction will be conducted on the Acura of Wappingers Falls website on 5/15/26

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NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES:

Due to a Memorial Day Press Schedule Southern & Northern Dutchess News and the Beacon Free Press have the following early deadlines for Classified Display Ads:

May 27th Issue Deadline is as follows:
 May 20th deadline before noon.

Email: roxannesdn@aol.com or Call: 845-297-3723 Ext. 1003 for more information.

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get growing!

by mark and sue adams

Our Moms – 100 Mothers’ Days

My mom and Sue’s mom both would have been 100 years old this year, so it seems like a good time for a Mother’s Day celebration.

Doris Adams (nee King) came from hardy farm stock in hardscrabble central New York, although her father was a doctor. Mom graduated from Cornell University, where she befriended the world-renowned physics Professor Richard Feynman, who even visited her at her parents’ house in Dansville. (Feynman had a reputation for dating his female students). I guess my mom was more impressed by a fellow student who was majoring in pomology (the study of apples) named Ralph Adams. After raising her kids, mom went back to school and earned a masters degree in Sociology from Fordham. She was always a fantastic mother, which means, from a child’s perspective, that she let us do whatever we wanted.

My mom didn’t work on the family farm, but she always had a passionate love of gardening. The Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield was a particular passion. Doris was a founding member of the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, created in 1994 to recreate the original landscape by the famous horticulturist Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959). Of the more than 100 gardens designed by Farrand, only a handful remain, including Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. The restored garden at Bellefield is a rare treasure, and a major attraction to visitors at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home next door. I think it was fellow founding member Sarah Peacock who told me my mom referred to her “head weeder” job at the garden as “editing.” Mom’s granddaughter Becky Adams carries on the legacy as a cur-

rent member of the Farrand Garden Association Board of Directors.

Music was another passion. We sang the “Messiah” together in the Camerata Chorale. Along with Lynn Burnstein and Joyce Ghee, Doris formed the band “The Merry Wives,” performing at all the early Sloop Festivals, where Pete Seeger was raising money to build the Sloop Clearwater. That was back around 1966, when Mom would drag all four of us kids to a big open field in Garrison to hear Pete, Arlo Guthrie and a kid named Don McLean. Mom was a big fan of Joan Baez. We went to one of Joan’s last concerts in 1919 when mom was 93 years old. We loved it.

When I mentioned to Sue that I was planning to write about my mom, she said, “What about MY mom?” Oh, yeah, Sue’s mom was a great lady, especially since she was crazy about me. So here’s Sue’s version:

My mom, Frances, was born in Florida, New York, three days before Mark’s mom, to parents who had emigrated from Poland (they met on the ship). She joined her father, three older brothers and sister in the onion fields when she was only eight years old. One year she grew popcorn and sold her bumper crop to a local store. After graduation from Newburgh Free Academy, Mom joined the AP company which trained her to become a bookkeeper, picking her up in a limousine every day!

Mom married my dad, Albert Gotthardt, in 1947. They always had a large vegetable garden. Mom not only helped in the garden, but also canned and froze lots of vegetables. Dad’s parents lived with us, and I can still remember the smell when the four of them fermented cabbage. Mom also loved flowers and grew hollyhocks, geraniums and perennials. After Dad’s passing in 1964, we



Sue’s mom, Frances (left), and Mark’s mom, Doris (right), in 1998.

-Photo by Sue Adams

moved to Bower Road, where mom not only continued to grow vegetables, but also grew beautiful hibiscus. Many motorists couldn’t resist stopping to admire the large blooms.

Mom was one of the original staff members of the Grand Union in Pleasant Valley and worked there until her retirement. In her spare time she loved to bake (she was famous for her pies, and now granddaughter Becky is), sew and do crafts. Mom was a 4-H leader and active in Home Bureau and the Senior Center (serving as president of both).

Mom loved attending parties at my house where she would sit and smile as she watched her three daughters, granddaughter Becky and great grandchildren

Ambika and Priya frolic in the pool. Every Mother’s Day, I’d go to her house and plant the flower beds, always making sure I had red salvia for her hummingbirds. She’d comment that I worked too hard. Just following her example!!

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

Sue Adams is vice-president of Mark & Sue Adams Greenhouses, an award winning container designer, president of New York State Flower Industries and author of “What Do Your Flowers Say Today?”

Elks honor RMS students



Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, presented March Student of the Month Awards at Rombout Middle School. The students were chosen for their kindness, respectfulness, enthusiasm and commitment.

Students received a certificate and gift card for their accomplishments.

The Beacon Elks thanks Glazed Over Donuts for sponsoring this event with them.

Pictured (l-r): Cathy Oken, Youth Activities Chair, Baylyn Carr (6th Grade), Jacob Bustamante Cruz (7th Grade), Victoria Squilla (8th Grade) and Jeanine McAuley, Exalted Ruler.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-54-26

Coached Visitation Services

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group’s Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., June 1, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website

Legal Notices

http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting “Government”, then selecting “Bidding and RFP Opportunities”. For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-34-26

Transportation of Voting Systems Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 19th day of May 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of

Legal Notices

Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting “Government”, then selecting “Bidding and RFP Opportunities”. For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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.

this week’s puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

H	Y	P	E	S	T	E	S	T	E	D	E	N
H	A	L	E	Y	P	E	E	R	T	A	C	O
S	K	U	L	K	A	N	T	E	A	C	N	E
O	P	E	N	N	I	C	H	O	L	S	O	N
C	A	R	B	O	C	E						
A	N	N	U	L	A	R	T	E	R	E	S	A
H	O	E	R	F	E	E	D	E	R	T	E	L
S	I	T	B	Y	E	N	D	G	L	O	R	Y
A	N	A	P	N	O	E	A	A	R	I	A	
P	U	E	B	L	O	R	E	N	E	W	A	L
R	E	T	R	I	Y	S	I	R				
W	A	T	E	R	G	A	T	E	E	T	A	S
A	V	I	V	E	G	O	S	I	N	U	S	E
L	A	N	E	P	L	O	P	T	O	Q	U	E
S	L	U	R	E	R	A						

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

Suguru solution

Farm Tours & Fiber Arts across 7 seven farms to be held May 9

The Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Growers Association invites the community to experience the Hudson Valley region's rich agricultural heritage during its annual spring Sheep & Wool Growers Farm Tours on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This self-guided tour, at seven farms across Dutchess County offers, visitors a unique opportunity to explore local farms, meet farmers, and learn about raising sheep and fiber production. Each participating farm will showcase a variety of activities and demonstrations including:

- Fiber arts such as spinning, weaving, and felting
- Guided and self-guided barn tours and opportunities to meet sheep and other livestock
- Educational displays and demos on wool processing and sustainable farming practices

Visitors will also have the chance to purchase a wide range of farm-produced goods, including yarn, wool products, handmade crafts and other locally produced items. As part of the event, visitors who sign in will be entered into a special raffle featuring a prize basket filled with farm produced items from each of the participating farms - offering a unique collection of local products.

The Sheep & Wool Growers Farm Tours provide a fun and educational outing for all ages, connecting the community with local agriculture and supporting small farms throughout Dutchess County. Additional event details, including participating farm locations, are listed below and can be found on individual farm websites.

- Anchorage Farm - 8 Mynderse Street, Saugerties - At Anchorage Farm you can meet registered Romney Sheep, pet lambs, feel - and purchase if you like - yarn and raw wool. Please park on Mynderse Street and walk into the farm.
- Visitors in need of special accommodations or transportation assistance, please contact us. Contact Rhonda Jaacks, 845-217-1974, anchorageromneys@gmail.com,

AnchorageRomneys.com.

- Clover Brooke Farm - 175 Ruskey Lane, Hyde Park - Clover Brooke Farm will be offering minifarm tours, demonstrations showcasing wet and needle felting techniques using natural fiber. Visitors can shop at our farm store featuring locally milled yarn, handcrafted fiber goods and handmade small batch wellness products include moisturizing soaps, loofahs, lotion bars and body lotion made at the farm. Pleasant Land Farm will have a booth at Clover Brooke Farm - selling Farm Fresh- NYS Produced/Grown- Jellies, Hot Sauces, Honey & Syrups. Candles, Gardeners Hand Balm and Vegetable Seedlings: Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant and Squash. Contact Andrea Parent-Tibbts, cloverbrookefarm@gmail.com, cloverbrookefarm.com, social: @cloverbrookfarmhydeparkny.

- Nobletown Fiber Works - 9221 St. Rt. 22, Hillsdale (look for the blue sign) - Nobletown staff will guide visitors through the mill, sharing insights into our process. A limited collection of yarns—made on site from locally sourced wool, mohair, and alpaca—will be available for purchase. Visitors should park in front of white buildings or in back and in front of the new barn under construction. Please do not park in front of house. Lewis Cleale, 646-285-4207, nobletownfiberworks.com, social media: @nobletownfiberworks.

- Patchwork Pastures - 475 N Quaker Lane, Hyde Park - Contact Meegan Veeder-Shave, patchworkpastures475@gmail.com.

- Point of View Farm - 41 Ludlow Woods Rd, Standfordville - Point of View Farm will have an on going wool skirting demonstration. Get your hands in the wool with our friends from Stone Silo farm in Standfordville. Meet our spring finnsheep lambs and stop in our farm shop for unique wool products. We'll have fresh lamb sliders



Clover Brooke Farm, located at 175 Ruskey Lane in Hyde Park, will be offering minifarm tours and demonstrations showcasing wet and needle felting techniques using natural fiber.

-Courtesy photo

prepared by the DC Sheep & Wool Growers Lamb Cart and pure, non-superwash and non carbonized Merino wool products in 6 weights with 115 colorways, some packed into handy kits with instructions from Morehouse Farm in Milan. DCfinnsheep.net.

- Springhill Farm - 379 Slate Quarry Rd, Rhinebeck - Contact Monique Marion, springhillfarm.org.

- Stony Kill Farm and Environmental Center - 79 Farmstead Lane, Wappinger Falls - At Stony Kill Farm, members of Stony Kill Foundation and the Stony Ground 4-H Club will offer guided tours of the historic barn and its flock of her-

itage Tunis sheep. Visitors can also enjoy fiber art demonstrations, including natural dyeing, felting, and fiber processing. Join the skirtathon (fleece skirting) and help raise funds for the farm. Featured items for sale will include skeins of Tunis yarn, sheep tallow balm, spring seedlings and various farm-produced products. Contact Stacey Lynch Adnams, foundation@stonykill.org, 845-831-3800, stonykill.org, social media: @stonykillfoundation.

For more information about the Dutchess County Sheep & Wool Growers Association, as well as programs and events offered, contact Mary Stephens at mjstep@optonline.net or visit dcswga.org.

Germania of Poughkeepsie to present an authentic Maifest!

A fun, festive and authentic Maifest! will be held at Germania Festival Grounds, 51 Old DeGarmo Road, Poughkeepsie, Friday May 15, 5-10 p.m., Saturday May 16, 1 – 10 p.m., and Sunday May 17, noon – 5 p.m. Event features live German bands, German food, German desserts, traditional German beers, Children's entertainment, Bavarian Folk Dancers, and singers. Adult entry ticket \$5 daily, \$4 Veterans and Active Military with valid ID, children under 16 with parents, no charge. This event will be held rain or shine under tents. Parking is free.

Germania of Poughkeepsie, founded 1850, is a benevolent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit and 509(a)(2) charitable organization committed to the education of German heritage and culture. Germania hosts various authentic cultural events throughout

the year including an annual Maifest, Oktoberfest, Christkindlmarkt, Heritage Bake Sale, Biergartens, authentic German Friday Night dinners, Tavern Trail historical events, Wednesday Stammtisch, along with other events.

Over the past 176 years, Germania has hosted educational programs in music, sport, dance, and citizenship. Germania sponsors numerous "Sister Clubs" who also promote many educational and authentic cultural events. These include the Germania Singers, Germania Almrausch Schuhplattler Verein, Steuben Society of America Dr. Charles Gilbert Spross Unit #167, and the Germania Blue & White Soccer Club. Germania also sponsors German Language Classes, Ballroom Dancing Classes, Senior Line Dancing Classes, and a Volkssport Club.

Throughout the year Germania holds

clothing, food, toy drives, as well as grants annual scholarships to BOCES CTI Culinary program graduates. Since the pandemic, Germania has donated over seven hundred German Friday and Saturday Take Out Dinners to area First Responders.

Germania supports the community by procuring goods and services through locally owned Hudson Valley businesses. The organization remains a 100% volunteer, private organization, and is actively looking to increase membership, along with Sponsorship and Event Vendors. Membership is open to individuals of all faiths and backgrounds.

Please visit maifest2026 - Germania for additional details, and Facebook (20+) Facebook

Contact Germania directly for further information, president@germaniapok.com, call 845-471-0609 or visit Germania - Willkommen.



Maifest! will be held on May 15-17 at the Germania Festival Grounds in Poughkeepsie.

-Courtesy photo

NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS: 2026 HOME IMPROVEMENT FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA

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