

BEACON FREE PRESS

**DC Transportation
Council sets
comment period
for improvements**

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) is currently accepting comments from the community about its Draft FFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – the prioritized listing of federally funded transportation projects in Dutchess County.

Developed as part of the DCTC's metropolitan transportation planning process, the TIP is one of the DCTC's core products, where agencies and municipalities commit to carrying out federally funded projects. The TIP provides details such as the sponsor, scope, schedule and cost for each project, and the DCTC updates it every three years. The Draft FFY 2026-2030 TIP covers the period from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2030, and will program over \$164 million in federal transportation funding for state and local projects in Dutchess County. The five-year program will fund critical repairs to local bridges, maintain state and local roads, and support local bus and commuter rail services; residents can also view the DCTC's online TIP Viewer map for more details about the projects. The Draft TIP proposes four new highway projects:

- Repaving Route 9 from Route 113 (Spackenkill Road) in the Town of Poughkeepsie to West Dorsey Lane in the Town of Hyde Park (\$15.5 million) (2026)
- Improving the CR 114 (Main Street)/Grand Avenue intersection in the Town of Poughkeepsie (\$4.3 million) (2028)
- Making pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Beekman Street in the City of Beacon (\$3.8 million) (2029)
- Replacing the Parsonage Street Bridge in the Town of Rhinebeck (\$3.2 million) (2028)

In addition to projects located solely in Dutchess County, the Draft TIP programs federal funding for systemwide maintenance projects across the seven-county region of NYSDOT-Region 8, which includes Dutchess County. These projects cover work such as bridge and culvert repairs, road paving and traffic signal and sign improvements on State highways.

The comment period provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft TIP. Comments may be submitted by mail, email or phone, using the contact information below, by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 23.

Volume 74, Number 25

June 18, 2025

Historical markers bring awareness to community

By Kristine Coulter

During the City Council meeting held on June 2, Beacon Historical Society president Denise Doring VanBuren discussed historical markers.

“Hopefully we’re bringing awareness to our beautiful community,” said VanBuren.

VanBuren thanked the city's Department of Public Works for a marker that was installed at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main St.

“The historical society applied for the grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation,” explained VanBuren. “It came about because the Veterans approached us last year to help them celebrate the centennial of the Memorial Building. At the same time, the Elks Lodge approached us and asked us to help them to work on their centennial.” She continued, “We ended up applying for a grant for the Elks Lodge, as well.” The Elks marker was unveiled earlier this month.

The historical society members are the “keepers of Beacon’s story,” said VanBuren. Visitors and long-time Beaconites ask about the Mount Beacon Incline Railway on Route 9D. A marker has been applied for and is in the system



A new William G. Pomeroy Foundation historical marker was unveiled at the Beacon Elks Lodge earlier this month. The Elks obtained the marker through an application made by the Beacon Historical Society.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Historical Society Facebook

already, noted VanBuren.

There is also an application for the Scenic Hudson marker on Route 9D, which had a deadline of June 9.

“Other markers we heard” were where

to mark the dividing line between the 2 villages – Fishkill Landing and Matteawan.

Continued on page 2

Top of the BHS Class of '25

By Kristine Coulter

Beacon High School's valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2025 are Anabelle Arginsky and Addison Miller respectively.

Beacon High School principal Corey Dwyer said about this year's valedictorian and salutatorian, "Anabelle and Addison embody the qualities we strive for in all our students: hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to both academic success and meaningful involvement outside the classroom. They've demonstrated excellence not only in their studies but also by contributing to our school community in impactful ways. Their achievements reflect a dedication to excellence and service that we are proud to recognize."



Anabelle Arginsky



Addison Miller

-Courtesy photos BCSD

Continued on page 2

DC Comptroller: \$3 million shortfall in 2024 sales tax revenues

The Dutchess County Comptroller’s Office has completed its review of the County’s 2024 sales tax revenues. Sales tax, which comprises 42% of the total income received by Dutchess County, is the largest and most vital revenue source. Sales tax collections in Dutchess County totaled \$263.7 million in 2024, up 4% from 2023, but 1.1% or \$3 million lower than what was budgeted for the year.

The 2024 budget assumed an increase in sales tax revenue after, in 2023, the Dutchess County Legislature passed a sales tax rate increase from 3.75% to 4%. The County’s requested sales tax rate also needed to be voted on in Albany.

“The County’s request for the tax rate increase was not supported by the State Legislature, resulting in a tax revenue shortfall in 2024,” said the Comptroller. “Had it been approved, this increase would have raised an additional \$9.9 million.”

To balance the budget following the lower-than-expected sales tax revenues, the \$3 million shortfall would have to be

covered by other sources, such as property taxes or state and federal grants. In 2024, American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds and increased state revenue contributed to the County ending the year in a net positive position.

The Office of the Comptroller is tracking sales tax disbursements monthly in 2025, which has been projected to increase by 1.6%, to \$268 million, according to the 2025 adopted budget.

As part of an ongoing effort to increase how much information the Office of the Comptroller shares and to make that information more accessible, the annual Sales Tax Report has been expanded.

“Recognizing the importance of sales tax revenues to maintaining the County’s economic health, our Office has made what we believe are some helpful and important additions to the annual Sales Tax Update Report,” said Comptroller Aymar-Blair, “including a description of how sales tax is collected and distributed, insight into the industries with the most taxable sales and purchases, and more.”

Ruge’s Automotive welcomes BOCES graduate to Tech Team



Ruge’s Automotive recently participated in the Dutchess BOCES Career and Technical Institute’s Career Signing Day, an event designed to help connect graduating students with local employers. Ruge’s currently employs about six individuals from previous BOCES Signing Days. Graduates start careers with Ruge’s as Apprentice Technicians. Said Scott Hutchins of Ruge’s Automotive, “We’ve have had a lot of great success since partnering with Dutchess BOCES and the Career & Technical Institute! Many past graduates are still employed and working with us in our service centers.”

Ruge’s Automotive is excited to welcome new graduate Diego (center) to the Ruge’s family and Tech Team.

- Courtesy photo

Historical markers bring awareness to community

Continued from cover

“Chestnut St. was the dividing line,” said VanBuren.

“If [one] lived on the Fishkill Landing side, [one] got mailed delivered to their home,” she explained. While, if one lived on the Matteawan side, one would have to have had to pick up their mail. The application is Titled “Dividing Line - Chestnut St.”

VanBuren said a good location to place

the marker would be adjacent to one of public lots on Chestnut St.

“I hope that you’ll support this,” VanBuren stated to the council.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou stated this was a good way to advertise the information about the markers and to gather support.

“It’s still a competitive grant process,” remarked VanBuren, who added approval will not be known until later this year.

Councilmember Amber Grant thanked VanBuren for all the work she and the historical society does for the community.

Top of the BHS Class of ‘25

Continued from cover

Anabelle Arginsky - Valedictorian

“I was extremely excited, proud, grateful, and relieved to see all of my hard work pay off,” Anabelle recalled about being told she was at the top of this year’s graduating class.

Anabelle said she will be attending Binghamton University in the fall, “majoring in the health sciences, hopefully with a concentration in food science!”

“I will miss the close relationships I’ve built with my teachers, the school spirit my graduating class has, the traditions our school takes part in (homecoming, school dances, spirit weeks, etc.), fun field trips, and being a Beacon Player (the school’s drama club),” said Anabelle via email.

“To students starting high school in September, I would advise to try as many different things as possible (classes, extracurricular activities, and new experiences) so that you can gain exposure to all that being a high schooler has to offer! I would also share that finding a good and healthy balance of in-school and out-of-school activities is incredibly important, as it will enable you to have both the best performance and state of well-being possible. Lastly, I’d say to try to find aspects of fun in high school, because it makes the entire experience less heavy and more enjoyable,” said Anabelle.

Addison Miller - Salutatorian

Finding out she was the salutatorian, Addison said she felt a mix of “relief and excitement.”

“It was comforting to know that all my hard work had paid off and that I had finally achieved my goal. I was also incredibly excited and honored to be recognized for such a significant accomplishment,” said Addison.

Looking back on high school, Addison said, “I think that the thing I will miss the most about high school, specifically here at BHS, is the togetherness and community that we have been a part of. I have always really appreciated the close-knit feel that comes with our smaller class sizes. It has created a more personalized learning environment that encourages us to build meaningful relationships with classmates and teachers.”

Addison will attend Quinnipiac University, in Connecticut, to major in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

“I am very excited to continue my education there and I’m confident that I will be well prepared for a successful future in this field,” remarked Addison via email.

“A piece of advice that I would offer to incoming students would be to take advantage of any opportunity that is presented to you. Never hesitate to take a new class or join a new club if it is something you are interested in. High school is the perfect place to explore these interests and figure out more about yourself before moving on to the next chapter of your life,” Addison said.

New Rombout Fire District fire station dedication ceremony set for June 21

Rombout Fire District will dedicate and officially open the new fire station 2 at 1548 Route 52, Fishkill on June 21. Starting at noon the Rombout firefighters will symbolically parade from the old station 2 on Cedar Hill Rd. to the new station half a mile away. Besides opening the new 13,182 square feet station the new 2025 Pierce 107’ Ladder truck (62-49) will also be officially put in service to the Fishkill community.

From noon to 3 p.m. the public is invited to the dedication ceremony, to tour the station, free food and beverages. Due to limited parking area and handicap parking at the station, fire officials ask the public to park across the street at Ocean State Job lot.

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Nine arrested by Drug Task Force

In a coordinated effort to dismantle street-level drug trafficking operations, the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force has wrapped up Operation Street Sweeper—a sweeping initiative targeting narcotic and dangerous drug dealers operating across multiple jurisdictions in Dutchess County.

The operation focused on independent drug dealers responsible for funneling narcotics and dangerous drugs, including fentanyl and cocaine, into our neighborhood. These narcotics and dangerous drugs are fuels for the violent and property crimes, addiction, and fatal overdoses that have devastated hundreds of families across Dutchess County in recent years.

Drug Task Force Agents acted swiftly and strategically over the past several months while conducting undercover operations purchasing fentanyl and cocaine and meticulously building cases against these dealers in the Poughkeepsie, Hyde Park and City of Beacon areas. Beginning June 3, 2025, and continuing through June 10, the Drug Task Force executed a series of coordinated search warrants, culminating in the arrest of 9 individuals on Class B felony charges.

These enforcement actions were aimed at disrupting the availability of narcotics and dangerous drugs in of our neighborhoods and communities. During the raids, agents seized quantities of fentanyl, cocaine, U.S. currency, digital scales, and drug packaging materials, critical evidence that reinforces the scale and seriousness of these operations.

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony P. Parisi said, "Operation Street Sweeper represents the focused, intelligence-driven enforcement that our communities deserve. These arrests send a clear message: if you are pushing fentanyl, cocaine, or other deadly drugs into our neighborhoods, we will find you, we will investigate you, and we will hold you accountable. I commend the Drug Task Force for their tireless work over the past several months executing this operation with precision. I also want to thank the

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, the City of Beacon Police Department, the City of Poughkeepsie Police, the Town of East Fishkill Police, the Town of Fishkill Police and the Town of Hyde Park Police for their critical support. We will continue to pursue drug dealers aggressively and invest in strategies that break the cycle of drugs, violence, and victimization in Dutchess County."

The following individuals have been arrested and charged:

June 3 - Donny Daniels, 56, was arrested by Agents in the City of Poughkeepsie and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Daniels was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released to the supervision of probation pursuant to NYS Law.

June 4 - Jasmine Green, 27, was arrested by Agents in the City of Poughkeepsie and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Green was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released to the supervision of probation pursuant to NYS Law.

June 4 - Ydde Gauthier, 53, was arrested by Agents in the City of Poughkeepsie and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Gauthier was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released to the supervision of probation pursuant to NYS Law.

June 4 - Luke Grady, 41, was arrested by Agents in the City of Poughkeepsie and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Grady was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released to the supervision of probation pursuant to NYS Law.

Juen 4 - Darius Wood, 50, was arrested by Agents in the City of Poughkeepsie and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Wood was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released to the supervision of probation pursuant to NYS Law.



The Drug Task Force announced the arrests of the above 9 people during Operation Street Sweeper.

-Courtesy photos from Dutchess County Gov't

June 5 - Oliver Hassell, 34, was arrested by Agents in the City of Poughkeepsie and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Hassell was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released to the supervision of probation pursuant to NYS Law.

June 9 - Darren Atkins, 63, was arrested by Agents in the City of Beacon and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Atkins was arraigned in the City of Beacon Court and was ROR per the Judge's discretion.

June 4 - Rashard Haile, 21, was arrested by Agents in the City of Poughkeepsie and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Gauthier was arraigned in the Town of Pleasant Valley Court and released to the supervision of probation pursuant to NYS Law.

June 10 - Victor Smith, 66, was arrested by Agents in the City of Poughkeepsie and charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree. Smith

was arraigned in the Town of Pleasant Valley Court and remanded to DCJ.

*All of the defendants listed above are facing additional charges by the Drug Task Force related to this operation, according to officials.

The Drug Task Force was assisted by the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office Violent Crimes and Dangerous Drugs Unit, the Sheriff's Office Road Patrol Bureau, the City of Beacon Police, the New York State Police Community Stabilization Unit, the City of Poughkeepsie Police Community Policing Unit, and the Town of Hyde Park Police with the execution of search warrants and arrests made during this investigation.

If anyone has information regarding this case or about any other individuals selling drugs in Dutchess County, you are urged to contact the Drug Task Force confidential tip line at 845-463-6040 or by emailing your tips to Drugtaskforcetips@gmail.com.

As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely an accusation and those individuals named in this release are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

County to host 'Putting Your Skills Back to Work' event on July 10

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced that the County will host a free "Putting Your Skills Back to Work" Older Adults Skills Fair for older adults who are interested in exploring part-time employment or volunteer opportunities, on Thursday, July 10 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park. Serino said, "Dutchess County's older adults have a wealth of knowledge and wisdom that make them ideal candidates for part-time jobs or the countless volunteer opportunities within our community. Our skills fair reflects our commitment to supporting older adults in our county who want to remain vital, active and connected. Whether you're looking to return to the workforce part-time, give back through volunteer work or just explore what's out there, this fair is a great place to start, and I hope to see you there!"

Whether retirees are seeking a flexible job, an opportunity to share their expertise through volunteerism or simply exploring ways to stay socially and mentally stimulated, this event will give them the chance to:

- meet local employers offering flexible, part-time positions tailored to experi-

enced workers;

- connect with nonprofit organizations seeking dedicated volunteers; and
- enjoy complimentary light refreshments.

There is no RSVP required for guest attendance; participants can simply show up and take advantage of the many offerings.

Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) Director Todd Tancredi said, "This event is a valuable resource for our older friends and neighbors. We recognize the varied experiences and knowledge they bring, and this skills fair will open doors to new opportunities for those who still want to give back, stay active or earn a little extra income. Businesses and non-profits organizations interested hosting a table at the event can call the County Executive's Office at 845-486-2000, email countyexec@dutchessny.gov or go to dutchessny.gov/senior-skills to reserve a spot.

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) provides services and advocacy to support independence, dignity and quality of life for older adults in the county. From nutrition and wellness programs to caregiver support and employment resources, the OFA is committed to enriching the lives of local older residents. More information about all the OFA offers at dutchessny.gov/aging.

NYS Police: Alleged trespasser at former Downstate facility to take pictures, calls for assistance after getting trapped in a cell

New York State Police from the Wappinger barracks responded to a report of a trespass at the former Downstate Correctional Facility, at 121 Red Schoolhouse Road in the Town of Fishkill at approximately 12:04 a.m. on June 14.

Upon arrival, Troopers discovered the caller, identified by state police as Cody M. Mallon, 19, of Argyle, Washington County, locked inside one of the facility's cells.

State police stated in a release that the investigation revealed that Mallon

"had unlawfully entered the unused facility by crawling through a hole in the perimeter fence. He reportedly entered the premises to take photographs and became trapped in a cell."

Troopers, along with Glenham Fire Department, assisted Mallon out of the cell and subsequently placed him under arrest. According to law enforcement, he was charged with third-degree criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor. Mallon was issued an appearance ticket returnable to the Town of Fishkill Court at a later date.

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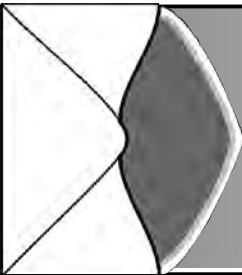
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Viewpoints



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.

Democratic caucus urges action on EMS issues in County

Editor’s note: The following is a letter to Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino from Democratic caucus members urging action on EMS issues in Dutchess County.

To County Executive Sue Serino:
We are writing as members of the Democratic Caucus of the Dutchess County Legislature to express both our appreciation and concern regarding the County’s current approach to addressing our emergency medical services (EMS) system.
We recognize the administration’s efforts in launching the supplemental EMS program and taking steps to address critical service gaps. However, we believe the current approach remains a temporary solution—and one that still falls short of delivering equitable results across the entire county. The recently released Q1 data shows that response times in many rural towns remain well above acceptable targets. This is not just a data point; it is a serious public safety issue affecting thousands of Dutchess County residents.
Dutchess County needs a more ambitious, long-term strategy—one that moves beyond stopgap measures and builds a comprehensive, countywide EMS infrastructure that meets the needs of every municipality, regardless of size or location. Other counties, including Ulster and Saratoga, are making significant progress toward regionalized EMS models, with dedicated funding and centralized oversight. Dutchess should be doing the same.
To that end, we respectfully urge your office to:

1. Accelerate development of a comprehensive, regionalized EMS plan, informed by legislators, municipal leaders, county officials, and EMS providers across the county. Identify the resources needed to implement this plan within Q4 2025 and ahead of FY26 budgeting.
2. Expand transparency and accountability in the supplemental program, including clear reporting on performance metrics and a commitment to equitable deployment of resources in underserved rural areas. Include County Legislators in the quarterly regional meetings that align to their districts.
3. Revamp the EMS public education campaign to meet its stated goals of reducing the volume of non-emergency calls to EMS and promoting EMS careers. The current public education campaign not only falls short of achieving its objectives, but could actually inflate non-emergency calls to 911. The taxpayer-funded billboards currently displayed throughout our county do nothing to address or reflect our EMS crisis, and instead simply promote EMS and the County Executive. Our goal is to save lives, not face.

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4. Implement immediate adjustments to improve current EMS coverage—including shifting deployment patterns, enhancing dispatch coordination, and providing interim financial support to struggling local agencies. The time for further study has passed. We have sufficient data, successful models to look to, and a responsibility to act quickly to address the crisis. County Executive Serino, you like to regularly point out that EMS is not a mandated essential service by the state, but that’s not an excuse for failing to fix our EMS crisis. Dutchess County should recognize EMS as an essential service. The County has a role to play beyond stopgap supplemental service, encouraging more mutual aid, and questionable public relations campaigns.
We remain ready to work in partnership with your office to ensure that every resident of Dutchess County—regardless of geography—can depend on timely, high-quality EMS care. We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how to move forward together on this critical issue.

The Democratic Caucus - Dutchess County Legislature
Yvette Valdés Smith, Barrington Atkins, Chris Drago, Brendan Lawler, Lisa Kaul, Kristopher Munn, Craig Brendl, Nick Page and Brennan Kearney

In need of a third party

To the Editor:
As a citizen of the United States, I believe we are at a key point in our nation’s history. We are at a time when the Republicans and the Democrats are so far apart from each other that they will not come together. They both focus on what is best for their party rather than what is best for the country. I believe that America has never been more ready and in need of a third party. I am sure that many other Americans feel the same.
Maybe there are plans already in place to begin to bring a third party to the ballot. If this is the case, the momentum needs to start building now. I would be ready to provide financial support for this movement. My personal belief would be a Presidential ticket with Nikki Haley and/or Liz Cheney as running mates.
Please continue to stand for the values our nation was built on -- myself and many Americans are behind you.

Bonaldo Balvazzi
East Fishkill

Thank you to a kind, generous person who represents ‘the best’ of the Beacon spirit

To the Editor:
I am writing to say thank you to the person who bought breakfast for my daughter and me at the Yankee Clipper on Monday, June 9th. You have no idea how you brightened our day when we were having a rough morning.
Your generosity and kindness really touched us and represents the best of the Beacon spirit. We are so grateful to be part of this beautiful community!

Flynn Larsen
Beacon

Ulster Financial welcomes Devin McGill to Kingston location

Ulster Financial Services, located at Ulster Savings Bank, recently announced the addition of Devin McGill as a Registered Representative/Financial Advisor at the Bank’s 280 Wall Street, Kingston location.
McGill, a Saugerties resident, will help Ulster County clients achieve their financial goals through planning and investment management, with an active commitment to their economic well-being. Before joining the bank, Devin was Vice President/Financial Advisor at a local investment management company.
When not giving advice on finances, he is also a musician and a martial arts instructor in Kingston.
For more information about financial products and services and investment services available through Cetera Investment Services, LLC, please call Devin at 845-338-6322, ext. 3243, or e-mail him at dmcgill@ulstersavings.com.
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Devin McGill
-Courtesy photo Ulster Financial Services

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Correction

In our article of June 11, on the Naturalization Ceremony at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, the following quote was attributed to Honorable Judge Tracy MacKenzie. The statement was actually from Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall.
“I can safely say that today is a day that you will remember for the rest of your lives. Not because of what is said here by the distinguished speakers but by what you say when you take the Oath of Allegiance.
“Politicians will come and go. Stocks will rise and fall and rise again. As surely as day follows night, fall will follow summer to be followed by winter and spring again. But the decisions that have brought you to this moment will change your lives ... the lives of your daughters and sons and grandsons and granddaughters forever.
“In 1787, the Congress of the United States adopted a new Constitution. This new Constitution, in Article 1, enumerated the powers of the Congress. The fourth clause of Article one grants to Congress the power ‘To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.’ “That the power of naturalization is enumerated ahead of the power to coin money, to declare war and to raise an Army and a Navy is proof that the founders knew what we know: that only by providing a means for this nation to welcome new citizens with their talents and abilities could this nation grow and prosper.
“For 296 years, the oath of allegiance has been administered in Dutchess County. Today it is my pleasure to continue that long practice.”

VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

Why join your local American Legion and VFW?

These organizations offer much to the community



When I returned home from active duty in 2004, I was 22 years old. I didn't know many veterans my age and certainly didn't know how to turn the skills I learned as Sergeant of the Guard for the American Embassy in Kabul and Infantry Squad Leader fighting in both Iraq and Afghanistan into viable employment.

So, for almost 15 years, I found various jobs in the security and restaurant business and as a bouncer in several establishments throughout the Hudson Valley.

Numerous times during those years of feeling alone and often misunderstood, family members and friends who weren't even military veterans would attend various functions at local chapters of the American Legion (TAL) and (Veterans of Foreign Wars) VFW. They would encourage me to join them and suggest I get involved, but I always resisted. I found I had accepted the cliché that these groups were filled with older men who gathered at the bar on weekends to tell war stories, watch football games and maybe offer an occasional spaghetti dinner.

In fact, it wasn't until 2016 – when I was blessed to get hired at Mental Health America (MHA) Dutchess County's Vet2Vet program and began visiting local American Legion and VFW chapters and meeting fellow veterans who belonged to those groups – that I realize I had missed nearly 15 years of opportunity to serve both the veterans and the communities of Dutchess County.

I found these men and women offered me a social connection, regardless of their age; understood the obstacles of returning to community life; understood the trauma of battle and the isolation I was experiencing; and many were leaders in the community forming a large network of contacts in various areas of public life.

According to a 2024 Sun Newspaper article, the VFW and its auxiliary members totaled about 1.4 million, with 5,667

posts around the world. The American Legion has approximately 2 million members in more than 12,000 posts around the country. Those numbers makes both organizations fierce advocates for improved healthcare and benefit access, enhanced women's healthcare and veteran-focused legislative changes at all levels of government.

Locally, both organizations are active participants in community events and offer volunteer opportunities for veterans through youth outreach and scholarship programs for both veterans and non-veteran families. Their commitment to organizing holiday ceremonies and parades that honor our fallen comrades and those who have served, keeping that service at the forefront of public consciousness, is unquestioned.

Despite all this, however, there is evidence that the younger generation of military vets have shied away from becoming involved in their local chapters of TAL and the VFW. Groups like the Wounded Warriors Project, Student Veterans of America and non-veteran groups that focus on activities such as one-on-one mentoring of disadvantaged youth, delivering food to the needy and personal health related pursuits have given returning veterans a wide range of activities to choose from, rather than what some see as traditional and outdated social gatherings.

A 2019 New York Times article stated, "The newer organizations reflect cultural shifts in a smaller community of younger and increasingly diverse veterans who are replacing the older, predominantly male veterans."

Add to that busy lifestyle, raising families, involvement in kids sports and social events, church commitments and a perception that the experiences of serving in more recent conflicts like the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are not adequately represented, understood or acknowledged by mem-

bers of the older veterans' organizations, makes recruiting new members into the American Legion and VFW challenging.

However, there is some good news. In July 2019, during President Trump's first term, he signed the "LEGION Act" (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service) into law. This law honored close to 1,600 U.S. military personnel who were killed or wounded in action during previously undeclared times of war and allowed nearly 6 million additional veterans access to American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

Along with opening the door to more veterans, there is a recent trend among American Legion and VFW leaders to not quietly sit back and accept declining participation. They instead are working to appeal to newer generations by simplifying eligibility requirements; pushing the government to speed up electronic health records to help post 9/11 veterans in transition; offering mental health treatment programs; and organizing job fairs with local Chambers of Commerce.

In the case of the American Legion, there is also a move taking place to go back to the founders' original, post-World War I era mission: That is, to give back to communities and foster programs that are inclusive and geared toward family outings and events.

Derric Grimes, an Army veteran and a member of the post in Fuquay-Varina, NC, related in an interview with military.com that about 10 years ago, his post had roughly 250 members and now it's North Carolina's largest post, with more than 920 members. "We made it about family," Grimes said. "Reinvigorating family time – cookouts, fairs and a little something for everyone was the catalyst it needed because if I can't take my family to Legion stuff, I'm not going."

Leaders of both groups say two things they hear over and over from vets are, "No one has ever asked me to join" and "What is in it for me?"

Dutchess County American Legion Adjutant Kevin Hathorn hears a similar refrain. He says local Legion and VFW posts are collaborating to address the issue by creating a hub of communication at all levels of the organization that fosters community unity and awareness – awareness that will allow members to come to the aid of those in real need of assistance by getting to know the community through blood drives, cook-outs, giveaways and offering construction assistance to them. There is also an effort to better broadcast programs that younger veterans' children can benefit from, such as Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contests and the Boys State Program, a summer program that immerses high-school students with hands-on experience in the practical operation of local government by running a mock government. Hathorn says it's all about keeping the American Legion and VFW strong for future military personnel and their families, and he says that clearly rests on younger vets getting involved.

There is much both the American Legion and VFW offer the entire family and community; and I encourage any veteran, young or old, to take the step of contacting their local chapter. I've found you don't have to commit to attending every weekly meeting. Just getting involved once a month and participating in some select events often serves as a catalyst for becoming engaged and brings new ideas and talents to the group.

If this article has piqued your interest, please call your local American Legion or VFW; or if you are not sure how to proceed, feel free to contact me at the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs at 845-486-2060; or email us at veterans@dutchessny.gov. We will gladly help you get started.

New 4-H team leads Dutchess County youth

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) now sports a new 4-H team to develop and deliver quality youth development programming. Dutchess County currently provides to almost 400 youth enrolled in the 4-H program; providing essential tools, training, and life skills to further the national 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better."

Heading up the new team is Carolyn McGraw. Carolyn is the 4-H Youth Leadership & Workforce Development Program Leader for Dutchess County and brings over a decade of diverse 4-H experience as a member and as a professional to the table. When asked what she is looking forward to in Dutchess County, Carolyn quoted, "...connecting with our 4-H families and community partners to strengthen and expand our Dutchess County 4-H program."

Following Carolyn is Jim Barey, 4-H Program Manager. Jim quoted himself as a "returning transplant" to New York 4-H, as he previously lived and traveled throughout New England and Eastern New York, networking agriculture industry professionals and youth in 4-H and FFA. Jim brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from several different state 4-H associations, most notably Maryland and Delaware. Jim will join the

rest of the Dutchess County Extension team full-time in July.

Rounding out this team of professionals is Brooke Tibbetts, a Dutchess County 4-H alum. Brooke gained her start in 4-H as a member of the Got Goat Milk 4-H Club when she was 8 years old. Brooke will provide an insider perspective for the Dutchess County 4-H Team and is looking forward to working with the amazing 4-H youth and volunteers for her home county. Brooke will fulfill the role of Dutchess County 4-H Program Coordinator.

Dutchess County 4-H is a collection of programs that provide youth, ages 5-19, with the mentoring and support to grow and thrive regardless of their background, interests and abilities.

Positive Youth Development strategies, such as engaging young people in topics that interest them, empowering them to make their own decisions, and providing challenging opportunities, result in youth who have: Confidence, Competence, Caring, Character, and Connection.

These Life and Leadership Skills are the foundations which enable 4-H youth to: succeed as individuals, support their families, strengthen their communities, and make a difference to our world.

4-H empowers nearly six million young



The new 4-H team at Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County includes, from left, leader Carolyn McGraw, program manager Jim Barey and program coordinator Brooke Tibbetts.

-Courtesy photo

people across the US with the skills to lead for a lifetime. Learning through 4-H is fun and effective; children learn life and technical skills through hands-on learning in topics of their choice. The Dutchess County 4-H Club Program has evolved from its rural agricultural roots. While we are proud of our strong agricultural programs, we are excited to provide other

outlets for youth to explore and grow in, such as arts, crafts and technology. Embracing differences and welcoming diversity, 4-H offers a place for all Dutchess County youth to grow and thrive.

Want to learn more about the 4-H Positive Youth Development programs of CCEDC? Please visit our website: cce-dutchess.org/youth-4-h.

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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Three one-run wins send Renegades past Greenville

By Morgan E. Maier

In the Renegades' only homestand of the month, Hudson Valley proved victorious over southern rivals in the Greenville Drive. As the parent clubs in Boston and New York battled at Fenway, the Renegades split a series, with five games decided by two runs or fewer. There was little power hitting, but masterful pitching prevailed. Over the weekend, the Renegades took the field as the Cider Donuts and the new-look Retrievers, but through classic bullpen performances, Hudson Valley triumphed over its southern league rivals.

Strikes and swipes

In a bullpen-only affair on June 12, five Renegades pitchers combined for 12 strikeouts. Geoff Gilbert was a highlight, fanning 5 batters over 2.2 innings. Tyrone

Yulie, starter Hayden Merda, and Matt Keating had two punchouts each, and Bryce Warrecker added one in the 3-2 Renegades loss. With two outs in the second and third innings, Josh Moylan (4) and Jackson Castillo (11) swiped second base as the Renegades clung to an early 1-0 lead. Both of their scoring efforts were in vain, but each trotted back to the dugout with another stolen base under the belt. Props to manager-slash-first base coach James Cooper for promoting aggressive baserunning on a nightly basis and getting his guys in scoring position. After this week, the team is on the cusp of 100 stolen bags on the year.

Starting strong

To go along with a couple of fantastic bullpen outings, Renegades starters

combined for just three earned runs in six games. Josh Grosz allowed one earned run over 6.1 innings, striking out six in a 6-4 Greenville win on June 11. Kyle Carr allowed two over two starts, going 1-1 with nine strikeouts. Overall, the Renegades scored 14 runs but allowed 18 in the series split.

One-run fun

The Renegades were victorious by a lone run in three games this series. Winning 1-0 on a bullpen beauty in the June 13 contest, Hudson Valley hung on to a 2-2 series split approaching the final two games. But in the series opener, Hudson Valley held on to a 3-2 lead to secure Kyle Carr's first win of the season! Longevity is his game of late, as Carr has revved into 6+ innings in three of his last four starts. In consecutive games, the Renegades won

1-0, with a sacrifice fly by Tomas Frick ultimately proving to be the game winner on June 13. The following night, Jose Colmenares' patience won the game for Hudson Valley in the first inning. Eight innings of shutout baseball followed Colmenares' bases-loaded walk to give Hudson Valley its third one-run decision of the week.

The Renegades (37-25) will be on the road for the rest of the month, making stops in Jersey Shore and Wilmington to close out the week. Eight games ahead of the Blue Rocks for third place in the South Atlantic League (SAL), the Renegades trail the co-leading Brooklyn Cyclones and Greensboro Grasshoppers. Once again, the Renegades hold third place in the North division and the top run differential in the SAL.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Brooklyn NYM	43	20	.683	-	6-4	W2
Greensboro PIT	42	20	.677	0.5	7-3	W2
Hudson Valley NYY	37	25	.597	5.5	5-5	L1
Wilmington WSH	30	33	.476	13.0	8-2	W7
Jersey Shore PHI	24	37	.393	18.0	6-4	W1
Aberdeen BAL	24	38	.387	18.5	4-6	L1
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB	33	29	.532	-	4-6	L1
Greenville BOS	33	30	.524	0.5	7-3	W1
Hub City TEX	30	33	.476	3.5	2-8	L7
Rome ATL	28	35	.444	5.5	1-9	L2
Asheville HOU	27	36	.429	6.5	3-7	L2
Winston-Salem CWS	24	39	.381	9.5	6-4	W1



Home Schedule

July			
07/01/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	2025 Graduation Party Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
07/02/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	The Inaugural Rascals Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery
07/03/25	vs. Brooklyn	07:05 PM	Independence Day Celebration: Happy Birthday America!! Independence Day MEGA Fireworks!
07/08/25	vs. Asheville	06:35 PM	Cider Donuts: Dusty's Revenge, Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
07/09/25	vs. Asheville	06:35 PM	Jewish Heritage Night Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery
07/10/25	vs. Asheville	06:35 PM	Union Night Blue Renegades Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
07/11/25	vs. Asheville	07:05 PM	Italian Heritage Night Fireworks Friday
07/12/25	vs. Asheville	05:05 PM	Beach Night Hawaiian Shirt Giveaway Presented By Hannaford Supermarkets
07/13/25	vs. Asheville	02:05 PM	Gades 5K Star Wars Day
07/23/25	vs. Rome	12:05 PM	Camp Day Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery
07/24/25	vs. Rome	06:35 PM	Hudson Valley Retrievers: Who's A Good Dog? Presented By The Brothers That Just Do Gutters Retrievers Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
07/25/25	vs. Rome	07:05 PM	Christmas In July Fireworks Friday
07/26/25	vs. Rome	05:05 PM	Introducing The Hudson Valley Big Apples Big Apples Bucket Hat Giveaway Presented By Hannaford Supermarkets
07/27/25	vs. Rome	02:05 PM	Princess Day Sunday Family Funday





Renegades Extra!



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Summer Nights & Smooth Jazz: Bernie Williams returns to Millbrook Vineyards & Winery for 4th Annual Summer Jazz Concert

Minor leaguers recall performances in College World Series, playoffs



Renegades pitcher Josh Grosz has an interesting story about getting ejected from a playoff game in his college days.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

By Morgan E. Maier

As the College Baseball World Series gets underway in Omaha, surely some of the Hudson Valley Renegades are taking trips down memory lane. The 2025 Renegades have competed at various collegiate baseball levels, from junior college through Division I.

Even pitching coach Demetre Kokoris was instrumental in Texas Rangers’ practices en route to their 2023 World Series win. Though the current 30-man roster features just one national champion, plenty Renegades have notable postseason clips.

Greenville, SC native Tomas Frick faced his boyhood team in the Hudson Valley this week, but he first starred north of his native border in 2023 at the University of North Carolina. To clinch the Heels’ automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, Frick hit a monstrous .571 and led the tournament in runs batted in. Oh, and he hit two home runs, earning him a fast track to the All-Tournament team.

Though they didn’t rep the Carolina Blue together, Frick and Parks Harber were a part of back-to-back Tar Heel dream teams. In a possible foreboding, Harber went 3-6 in the first game of the 2022 Chapel Hill Regional, hitting a triple, a home run, and four RBI against Hofstra as a member of the Georgia Bulldogs. Two years later, Harber and the Tar Heels headed to Omaha for the team’s first College World Series appearance since 2018.

The Renegades Roc Riggio couldn’t stop in Stillwater. Oklahoma State University hosted the 2022 regional, and Riggio dazzled in his NCAA tournament debut. A freshman back then, Riggio hit .555, mashing four home runs and notching 17 RBIs in five games at the Cowboys’ home regional.

With East Carolina University vying for an automatic tournament bid, Josh Grosz’ teammate Jacob Starling hit a massive

home run during the conference tournament to cut the University of South Florida’s lead to one. Grosz, ever-conscious of the “hangry” teammate, figured such a clutch knock would call up an appetite. He handed Starling a hot dog as he returned to the dugout, to the horror of the American Athletic Conference (AAC). No matter how well intentioned such a gesture could be, it was considered a celebration prop, a no-no even amongst the most growling stomachs. Grosz was promptly ejected from the game, and banned from his following start in the AAC tournament.

NCAA Division I champion Griffin Herring has impressed Hudson Valley fans since his June 1 debut. Southerners repping the “Geaux Tigers” mantra picked their jaws off the concourse years ago. In a performance that arguably rivaled that of eventual first overall pick Paul Skenes, Herring held a must-win game for LSU in the 2023 edition of the College World Series, striking out the biggest of Wake Forest’s hitting threats. The Tiger win brought Skenes to the mound the following day, clinching the College World Series title. It marked Herring’s second title in as many years, as the Texas native won the 2022 Class 6A state championship at Southlake Carroll High School.

Duncan Pastore and the 40-win Louisiana-Lafayette squad were all the rage in the 2024 College Station Regional. In the regular season, Pastore’s first and only as a Ragin’ Cajun, the graduate transfer finished with the second highest batting average on the team (.321) which was ranked 22nd in the nation. In Game 1 of the Regional round, Pastore finished 3-3 with a RBI single in a 10-2 rout of Texas to stave off elimination. He notched another RBI in the following game, but the hosting Aggies of Texas A&M mellowed the Cajuns’ hopes of reaching the Super Regional.

Renegades’ community initiatives put focus on health and wellness

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades have announced the team’s latest initiative to create a lasting impact on wellness in the community. As part of the Hudson Valley Renegades Community Program, the team will be donating gently-used weight training equipment from the New York Yankees to a deserving school or youth center in the Hudson Valley.

Executive board members of schools and youth organizations are encouraged to apply for this donation through the month of June. Applicants will be evaluated based on need, projected use, and overall fit for the equipment. The 2025 Hudson Valley Renegades Equipment Donation application can be found on the Hudson Valley Renegades website. All documents must be postmarked by June 30th to be considered. After review and recipient selection in July, the donation will be made in August.

The WMC Club Lounge in left field has facilities fitted with new equipment for both the Renegades and visiting teams, and no use for the Yankees’ weight training equipment. Through the donation program, the gently used equipment may positively impact the health of youth in local organizations, rather than collecting dust at Heritage Financial Park. The commitment to friends, fans, and families in the Renegades’ community doesn’t end at the final out. It stays a priority long after Renegades’ personnel clock out for the night. Schools and youth organizations across the Hudson Valley are eligible for the weight equipment donation, from Ulster to Sullivan to Dutchess counties - and in between!

Jessica Levinson, manager of community relations and ticket operations, said community initiatives like this are only half the fun of an organization like Hudson Valley. “To have something that’s specifically focused on the health and

wellness of the local youth, I think that’s what makes this initiative stick out.”

This campaign is just the most recent sports-centered program announced for the summer. On June 17, the Renegades participated in the Field Betterment initiative, renovating a field for Pine Bush Little League in Crawford, the first recipient of the grant based in Orange County. The weight donation project follows a similar structure to the Field Betterment program, according to Levinson.

The Renegades’ involvement in the community is built around genuine connection and communication. The team is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of youth in the Hudson Valley region, and it begins with physical fitness and wellness. Above all, physical and mental well-being at the forefront of all Renegades’ youth initiatives.

Inspiring all kids to succeed, both on and off the field, is key to raising a healthy community.



Roc Riggio of the Renegades encourages a young performer to “keep your eye on the ball” during a sports/athletics-based community outreach event on June 3 at Little Britain Elementary School in New Windsor.

-Courtesy photo

Summer Nights & Smooth Jazz: Bernie Williams returns to Millbrook Vineyards & Winery for 4th Annual Summer Jazz Concert



Former New York Yankees centerfielder and jazz musician, Bernie Williams and his Band of Friends will perform at Millbrook Winery on Saturday, June 28.

-Courtesy photos

Celebrating music, wine and the Dutchess County community, Millbrook Vineyards & Winery (Millbrook Winery) will host former New York Yankee centerfielder and jazz musician, Bernie Williams and his Band of Friends, for its fourth annual summer jazz concert overlooking the vineyard on Saturday, June 28 at 6 p.m. with the lawn and food trucks opening at 4 p.m.

As part of a shared commitment to music education and supporting future musicians, Williams and Millbrook Winery will donate \$10 from every concert ticket sold, as well as a portion of wine sales that evening, to the music programs at Dutchess Community College (DCC). DCC’s music program offerings are as diverse as they are dynamic, providing a strong academic foundation for students preparing to transfer into four-year programs in performance, education, studio production, music therapy, business, and more. With instruction spanning styles from classical to jazz, the College prepares aspiring musicians, educators,

and industry professionals for success. Beyond the classroom, DCC fosters a vibrant musical community through ensemble opportunities, private lessons, and non-credit classes open to learners of all ages and backgrounds. By making high-quality instruction accessible to both degree-seeking students and passionate community members, DCC reflects Williams’ lifelong advocacy for the arts and the winery’s affinity to supporting its local community.

“Returning to Millbrook Winery and being a part of something that blends music, wine and community is always one of the highlights of my summer,” said Williams, on the partnership. “Sharing the stage with the next generation of musicians and supporting music education makes it all the more meaningful to me.”

“The Performing Arts program is thrilled for the chance to have members of the DCC Jazz Ensemble open for the Bernie Williams annual concert at Millbrook Winery on June 28,” said John

Howell, assistant professor of music and supervisor of the performing and fine arts music program. “The Jazz Ensemble consists of a wide range of musicians: DCC students and alumni, students from local Dutchess County high schools, and musicians from the community at large, and they welcome new members every semester. We are grateful to both Millbrook Winery and Bernie Williams for giving our students an opportunity to perform.”

Coupled with the concert and philanthropic partner, the 2022 vintage of “Bernie’s Blend,” a red wine blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, aged to perfection, along with a newly created 2023 Chardonnay and the 2021 Pinot Noir varietals blended by Williams himself and Millbrook’s Head Winemaker, Ian Bearup, will debut at the evening of the concert. Becoming a family tradition, the wine blends will be adorned by a custom label created by Williams’ daughter, Beatriz Williams, a Brooklyn-New York-based artist. The label artwork features a symbolic guitar held by two sets of hands — one older, one younger — representing the passing of musical knowledge from one generation to the next. This visual pays tribute to Williams’ own journey, inspired by his father, who first taught him to play guitar.

“Working with Bernie on each year’s wine blend is a true reflection of the passion and artistry that winemaking and music share,” said Bearup. “Each vintage of ‘Bernie’s Blend’ is crafted with care and it’s an honor to see our work come together each year, especially as we celebrate our 40 year anniversary this year.”

Since retiring from the New York Yankees in 2006, Williams embarked on a

successful second act as a jazz musician, earning a Bachelor of Music in jazz performance from the Manhattan School of Music. In 2021, a visit to Millbrook Winery sparked an unexpected connection. Captivated by the vineyards and the winemaking process, Williams struck up a conversation with David Bova, the winery’s vice president and general manager. Their shared appreciation for baseball, music and the artistry behind winemaking led to a unique and fruitful partnership. Each year since, Williams has collaborated closely with the winery, taste-testing barrels and carefully crafting each vintage with precision and creativity.

The 2025 concert will kick off at 6 p.m., featuring a special opening act by DCC Music Program students, who will join Williams and his Band of Friends during the second act. Led by director and saxophonist Joe North, the DCC ensemble includes standout performers, including DCC alum Ben Basile (upright bass) and current students Jevaughn Brown (key-board), Teo Fairbanks (drums), Pedro Velez de Assis (bass), and Brianna Vivace (vocals). Tickets are on sale now on the Millbrook Winery website and offered in three tiers – VIP Deck or VIP Lawn (\$250 each), which includes a meet and greet with Williams and an open wine bar, and General Admission (\$70 each) where guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs. “Bernie’s Blend” red blend, Pinor Noir and Chardonnay will all be for sale the evening of the performance.

The Bernie Williams concert is one of many in Millbrook Winery’s summer jazz concert series, happening every Saturday evening, beginning June 21. A full concert schedule can be found on their website.

Reel Hope for Men’s Mental Health Fishing Derby scheduled June 22

The Brain and Body Coalition (BBC) has announced that Reel Hope for Mental Health, a community-oriented fishing event is scheduled for Sunday, June 22 from 6 a.m. – 12 noon at Sojourner Truth Park, 100 Sojourner Truth Way, Ulster County. This event is designed to be inclusive and welcoming to all, with a particular focus on Men’s Mental Health Awareness Month, addressing the critical need to dismantle the stigma surrounding mental health issues among men.

While Reel Hope for Mental Health is open to everyone, it aims to foster a supportive environment where men and boys can be themselves without fear of judgment, pressure, or shame. Fishing serves as more than a leisure activity; it is a catalyst for connection, mindfulness, and healing. Studies indicate that outdoor activities can greatly enhance mental well-being, and this event offers a collective opportunity for such rejuvenation.

No prior fishing experience is needed to participate. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own equipment, though fishing gear and instruction will be available for newcomers. Whether you are a novice or an experienced angler, you are welcome

to join the community at the water’s edge. Prizes include: Largest Fish, Smallest Fish, Most Fish and Least Fish ...and more surprises!

“We strive to craft experiences that foster connection rather than isolation, particularly for men, who are frequently encouraged to hide their struggles,” stated Heather Ann Pitcher, Founder of The Brain and Body Coalition. “This event provides a straightforward yet impactful method to engage with mental health through community, nature, and joy.”

The BBC expresses heartfelt thanks to Stewart’s Shops, Lew’s, Zebco, Price Chopper, Market 32 , Poughkeepsie Orangetheory fitness, The UPS store in Poughkeepsie, Hudson Valley Pickleball. People USA, Hudson Valley Renegades, Dicks Sporting Goods and our community partners for their support in making this event a reality.

While advance registration is appreciated, it is not mandatory. To register, please visit: Register by email, Reply@brainandbodycoalition.org.

Join us, cast a line, start a conversation, and support men’s mental health.

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Connecting the dots across collections



Among the things we can learn about G.W. Beckwith from his portrait by the renowned itinerant local artist Ami Phillips, is that he was fond of his dog. Phillips would often have a child hold his own dog for effect, but this seems to be the only portrait that includes the portrait subject's dog. While we can learn a lot by looking at the portrait, the real “decoding” comes through locating, reading and interpreting sometimes dozens of written documents and ledgers.

-Beckwith Collection, DCHS Collections and Archives.

By Aidan Chisamore

Although digital collections are ever increasing public access to historical material for researchers and history enthusiasts alike, it can be all too easy to forget that each item constitutes only a small part of a larger collection. These collections, held at archival institutions across the county, often represent interrelated material that, when viewed as a whole, grants us a deeper understanding of their subjects.

At the Dutchess County Historical Society, our collections are largely organized by donor, and thus, relate to a particular family, area, or interest. While thematically distinct, they all serve as the basis for conducting historical research. At DCHS, we are guided by a commitment to the ethical and responsible archival stewardship of tangible objects. This objective motivates us, as it does many other institutions, to maintain the “context” of items within a collection. More simply put, this means preserving both how items arrived and ensuring all collections are kept intact. It is only through this careful stewardship that we as historians can begin to interpret and present history.

Sometimes the singular dimension in a collection is the collector who gathers historically significant material related to personal interests. This is true, for example, for our Mangold Collection. Harold Mangold and his father did not focus so much on their family as they did local history. So the collection of rare photos, documents, and ephemera reflect their two generations of collecting interest (and in this case, great skill!). It has been important for us to leave scrapbooks, and displays they created just as they created them – we are in fact preserving more than just the objects, we are preserving how they viewed what was of interest in local history.

One such display is the Mangold collection pin boards (fig. 1). Initially, this subcollection, comprising nearly 150 pin-back buttons, might appear random. On closer inspection, however, the related subject of the buttons reveals intentionality on the part of the collector. Specifically, the subcollection emphasizes the material history of popular civic movements in the first few decades of the 20th century. Viewed together, historically significant narratives such as the battle for public health and childhood education begin to emerge.

Other examples of collections can be organized around a single family or place, the result of generations of accumulated material. Our single biggest family collection is the Hart Hubbard Collection which tells the story of the family that continues to live in the farm house their ancestors built in 1838 in LaGrange. Unlike the Mangold Collection, it is not the arrangement of a specific subcollections that gives the

Hubbard Collection contextual significance. Instead, its great value comes from its continuity and breadth. Through this the collection can tell many stories: the transformation of a self-sufficient farm into a successful international apple business by the turn of the last century. The multi-generational household produced accomplished artists like Caroline Clowes in the 19th century, and Edith Hubbard in the 20th century.

Collections can also tread the line between familial and antiquarian. The Beckwith collection provides one such example. Recently secured at auction, this acquisition includes a dozen ledger and account books; a box of Dutchess County ephemera, photographs, and legal documents; and a large portrait of George Washington Beckwith (1848-1881) by Ammi Phillips (1788-1865) (fig. 2). While the contents largely relate to the Beckwith Family during the 19th century, the collection also shows how later generations collected items of personal interest. This allows us both to access a deeper historical understanding of a subject like in the Hubbard Collection, and to understand the intent of the collector as in the Mangold Collection.

Items directly related to the Beckwiths construct an intimate view of the family and their farm over several generations. Most prominently, the portrait depicting George Washington Beckwith serves as an important visual record, literally giving a face to the collection. If our engagement stopped there, however, we would miss the other side of the rich history revealed in the rest of the collection. Ledger and account books, for example, speak to important aspects of daily life on the farm, detailing the produce grown and its value, conditions of harvest, practical remedies for livestock, relationships between family members and friends, and the expenses needed to keep the farm running. Additional material in the collection, not directly connected to the family, reveals an interest in civic engagement and agriculture by later generations that expands on the familial material further bringing its subjects to life. The Beckwith collection is an important example of how a wide range of sources and source types are used in conversation to deepen our understanding of local history and the residents of the county. Had any of the collection not been kept together, the narrative is lessened, and the information it contained, lost.

Through maintaining the context of a collection, whether personally or at an institution like DCHS, we seek to preserve the history of its subjects. It is for this reason that holdings such as the Beckwith, Hubbard, and Mangold Collections are so invaluable. While individual items might have historical significance, collections demonstrate the age-old adage that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”



Above, image of one of the two pin-back button boards in the Mangold Collection. The buttons range from the 1900s to the 1930s, and most of the above relate to the National Tuberculosis Association, leading in civic health and childhood education around WWI.

Mangold Collection, DCHS Collections and Archives.

Through preserving collections together in context we begin to scratch the surface of understanding the people, families, and localities in a way that would be impossible through individual items.

Aidan Chisamore is part of DCHS's staff. He works in Collections and Archives and may be reached at aidan.chisamore@dchsny.org.

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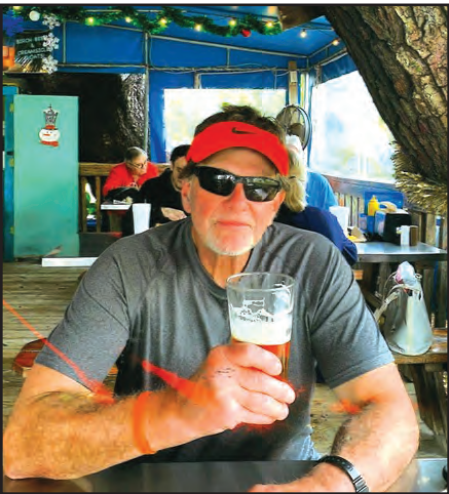
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Obituaries

William B. DiDiego



William B. DiDiego, 68, formerly of Yonkers, NY, died unexpectedly at home on June 10, 2025.

Born on June 26, 1956 in Yonkers, NY, he was the son of the late Theodore R. and Maryann (Sternat) DiDiego .

He leaves behind his loving wife of 39 years, Maryalice (Jones) DiDiego; his children, William DiDiego and his wife Krista, Allison Thomas and her husband Brendon, and Brandon J. DiDiego; and his four grandchildren whom he adored, Luciano, Stella, Vincenzo, and Ravella.

Bill was a family man who worked hard to provide for them. He worked as a Locomotive Engineer for MetroNorth Railroad for 38 years. After his retire-

ment, he stayed busy by working 3 part time jobs at Adams Fairacre Farms in Wappingers Falls, Acura of Wappingers Falls, and the Beekman Golf Course, where he made many new friends that he called “family.”

He was a great storyteller, and he loved to make people laugh! Bill enjoyed playing golf, tending to his garden, and taking trips to Florida with his family. His family and friends will miss him dearly. Bill was truly one of a kind.

Calling hours were held on Friday, June 13th at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Saturday, June 14th at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 832, Hopewell Junction followed by burial at St. Denis Cemetery.

Donations may be made in memory of Bill to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Please visit his Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

William N. Clinton



William N. Clinton, 77, an area resident for more than 40 years, died peacefully on June 8, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

Born in Brooklyn on August 22, 1947, he was the son of the late Norman and Lenora (Comfort) Clinton. William proudly served our country in the US Army during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Purple Heart, and was a member of the Disabled American Veterans. He was employed as the Signal Department Supervisor for Metro North Railroad.

William was a parishioner of St. Columba Church. He enjoyed bowling at Fishkill Bowl where he was a member of

the Thursday Night Bowling League and the Friday Senior Bowling League. He loved spending time on his boat and fishing in the Long Island Sound with family and friends. He was also very talented, making designer cups and t-shirts.

William is survived by his beloved wife, Carole Wiggins; his sons, Michael Clinton and his wife Anna, and Ernest Clinton; his grandchildren, Elizabeth, Joshua, Jonas, Karylle, Javan, Alexander and Evan; his siblings, Norman and Lenora; and his nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to his parents, he was also pre-deceased by his sister, Cheryl.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. There was a funeral service and military honors.

Memorial donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans.

Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 recognizes Wappingers Junior High School students



Members of the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 recognized Wappingers Junior High School Students of the Month (April 2025) during a certificate ceremony on May 21.

Pictured front row: Madison Arriaga, (8th grade recipient), Colin McKinney (7th grade recipient); Back row: Terrence Thompson, principal; Mrs. Perri Siena, teacher; Cathy Oken, Elks Youth Activities Chair; Jeanine McAuley, Beacon Elks Exalted Ruler; and Mrs. Heather Coelho, teacher.

Students who are recognized as Elks Student(s) of the Month are nominated by their teacher(s) and were chosen for their kindness, helpfulness, and offering support to classmates.

“Our Student of the Month program recognizes hard work and dedication by the student, with the overall goal of encouraging students to continue their great work,” said McAuley. “We hope these students – and all students – continue to excel in their studies.”

Students of the Month receive a certificate of achievement and a gift certificate to a local business. The Elks thank Giacomo’s Pizza Cafe for supporting this month’s students.

-Courtesy photo Elks

Sheryl Lee Anne Perrotti



Sheryl Lee Anne Perrotti, 67, died peacefully on June 8, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Poughkeepsie on October 10, 1957, she was the daughter of Lewis Perrotti and the late Patricia (McGrath) Perrotti. Sheryl proudly worked for Abilities First as an assembler for 35 years. She loved working and never missed a day.

Sheryl also enjoyed participating in the Special Olympics. She competed in bowling, track and field, the softball throw and the 50 yard dash. Sheryl was a social butterfly who loved watching Wheel of Fortune, bowling, doing crossword puz-

zles and jigsaw puzzles, and making latch hook rugs which she happily shared with friends and family.

Sheryl is survived by her father, Lewis Perrotti; her siblings, Sally Ingalls, Kristine Perrotti-Floyd and husband Darren, and Lewis Perrotti Jr. and wife Lauren; her nieces and nephews, Courtney Adams, Chelsey Mills, Keylee Floyd and Ryan Perrotti; and her great nieces and nephews, Colton, Elliott, Carsen, Chanlar and Lincoln.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, June 21 from 11am-12:30pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. There will be a funeral service at 12:30pm.

Memorial donations may be made in Sheryl's name to the Special Olympics.

Robert John Komarek



Robert John Komarek, a resident of Fishkill, NY since 1983 and formerly of Lynbrook, NY, passed away unexpectedly at home on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. He was 73.

Son of the late William J. and Anne E. (Sheehy) Komarek, he was born in New York, NY on April 18, 1952. Robert began his college education at the University of Tennessee, where he received a scholarship to play tuba for the Vols' marching band. He went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from Hofstra University and a Master's Degree from the College of St. Rose. In his early 20's, he proudly took pleasure in being a Track Coach for his high school, St. Agnes.

Robert dedicated his career to special education. As an Early Intervention Specialist, he made countless visits to his students' homes. In 2012, he retired from Valley Consultants in Saugerties, NY after 35 years of service. In his retirement, he took on a part-time job in the Lawn & Garden Department at Home Depot in Newburgh, NY.

An avid reader who enjoyed gardening, he also collected historical memorabilia, especially items related to the Civil War, a subject he studied greatly. He was an enthusiastic fan of “Jeopardy!” with an impressive recall that at times surpassed the 3 contestants. Robert was a parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill.

On August 6, 1983, he married Mary Ellen Dawson at St. Joachim Church in Cedarhurst, NY. Mary survives at home in Fishkill.

Additional survivors include his daughter, Allison Komarek-Brannen & her husband Kevin of Wappingers Falls, NY; his son, Brendan Komarek of Fishkill; his grandson, Jack Komarek-Brannen; his sister, Ellen Komarek Siebel & her husband Charles of Wappingers Falls; his nephew and niece, Matthew Siebel and Katelyn Siebel; in addition to many other loving family members & dear friends.

Calling hours were held on Monday, June 16 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A memorial service was ffered.

“Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matthew 19:14)

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by visiting www.stjude.org.

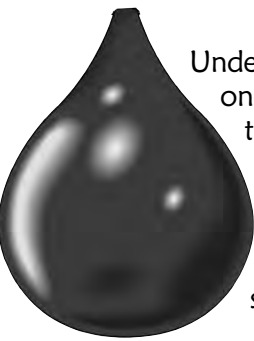
For online tributes, visit Robert's Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Elks Soccer Shoot set for June 21

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 invites children of the Beacon and surrounding communities to participate in the annual Elks Soccer Shoot. The event is on Saturday, June 21, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Kerr & Galloway Fields at Sargent Elementary School, 29 Education Drive, in Beacon. The rain date is Sunday, June 22. This free event does not require pre-registration.

Children in four age groups are eligible to participate: 7 & under (U-8), 8-9 (U-10), 10-11 (U-12) and 12-13 (U-14) based on the age on Jan. 1, 2025. First and second place winners will receive trophies in each category for boys and girls. The first-place winners can move on to the Elks District Shoot.

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**NEW HACKENSACK FIRE COMPANY
STEAK SANWICH NIGHT**

Friday June 20th

Take-Out Menu Includes:

Take Out Dinners served: 4:30pm to 7:00pm

DINNER MENU

Steak Sandwich on a Club Roll, French Fries, Corn on the Cob.
Choice of toppings - sauteed onions, mushrooms, & cheese.
Meal also includes a Brownie and Bottled Water.

Kids Meal:

Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Corn on the Cob,
Brownie, and a Bottled Water.

Adult Dinner : \$15.00

Seniors (60+) : \$13.00

Kids Meal (12 & under) : \$10.00

CASH ONLY

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217 Myers Corners Road

Wappingers Falls, NY

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get growing!

by mark adams



The Big Garden

It's time to do some serious planting.

It would not stop raining. This weather reminds me of the time Sue and I were hiking in “La Mosquitia” in Honduras, and I started complaining that I was getting wet.

“We’re in a rainforest!” Sue shouted through the steady downpour, mixed with tears.

Last Tuesday (June 10) the rain finally let up enough so we could plant the “big garden.” That’s a 70 X 30-foot garden of annual flowers that we start fresh every year. The garden, filled with almost a thousand individual transplants, serves as a nursery for the new varieties Sue is trialing, and as a collection of cut flowers to compete in the Dutchess County Fair (Becky won a thousand dollars the year before they changed the rules, reducing the number of ribbons given out). Plus, we get gorgeous cut flowers to make arrangements for our tables all summer long.

And the garden is alive with pollinators. Monarch butterflies especially love the tithonias, to fill up before they head south for the winter. (We have an adjacent wildflower meadow with lots of milkweed for Monarch caterpillars). And, of course, it just looks beautiful.

Here’s how we do it:

• **Select the flowers** – Sue chooses about 40 varieties of annual flowers to grow from seed or from unrooted cuttings sent to her from breeders like Ball, Proven Winners, Benary or Syngenta. We sow the seed in cell packs in late April to grow in the greenhouse. Zinnias are a staple, because they’re deer proof.

• **Topdressing** – A few days before the starting date, winter rye that was sowed last fall is mowed down with a lawn mower. Then about a hundred cubic feet of compost or peat moss is spread out, along with 40 pounds of 10-10-10 granu-

lar fertilizer, to make up for the nutrients and soil that were removed when last year’s garden was put to bed.

• **Tilling** – My friend Rick brings his big tiller (my Mantis tiller wouldn’t handle this) down from his farm in Wurtsboro and spends an afternoon working the soil to a nice fluffy consistency.

• **Laying the plastic** – It takes three people four hours to lay down eight rows of three-foot-wide black plastic mulch, each row 70 feet long. The edges of the plastic are covered by hand, leaving about eight inches of space between the rows.

• **Planting the garden** – Nine people show up to spend two hours planting 1,000 transplants into plastic, covering each hole with a trowel full of compost. Ideally, this happens before it rains, or

we’ll be wallowing in mud. Sue supervises, trying to keep the taller zinnias, including the new “mazurkia” from Harris Seeds, in the back row. Seven other new varieties are scattered around, including celosia “shimmer” from Johnny’s Selected Seeds, along with tried-and-true varieties to enter in the fair.

• **Water and deer** – We might need an inch of water per week, measured by putting a couple of containers around before we turn on a sprinkler. I haven’t seen as many deer this year, not like a few years ago when a 6-point buck stood watching us plant. We kept him at bay with “liquid fence,” my favorite deer repellent. If we get a lot of rain in July, we might need to toss on a bit more fertilizer, but the initial dose before tilling is usually enough.

• **Weed control** – Weeds come up

between the rows of plastic like a green carpet. Two weeks after planting, when the weeds are a quarter-inch tall and before the flowers have grown over the sides of the plastic, I put on my backpack sprayer and apply a contact herbicide between the rows. Just one time.

• **Enjoy** – Now for the fun part – harvesting the flowers.

After we clean up the garden and sequester the plastic, we rake in 10 pounds of winter rye seed to hold the soil in place until next year. And we hope for nice weather in June.

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

this week’s puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer

SUDOKU

A	P	E						
H	O	R	D	E				
C	H	E	A	P				
S	H	O	O					
E	N	D	E					
N	A	O	H					
L	I	N	T	S				
I	V	Y						
M	A	S	S	E	D			
G	E	P	P	E	T			
R	O	S	A					
P	R	O	D					
A	G	R	A					

This week's answer

SUDOKU

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

This week's answer

SUDOKU

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices																																																																
LEGAL NOTICE Pursuant to New York State Election Law §4-118, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held in Dutchess County on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, as follows: DEMOCRATIC PARTY City Poughkeepsie/001-Ward City Council Member City Poughkeepsie/008-Ward City Council Member County Legislator-District 20 REPUBLICAN PARTY Beekman-Town Board Member Beekman-Superintendent of Highways Beekman-Supervisor Lagrange-Town Board Member Lagrange-Supervisor Pawling-Supervisor Village of Pawling-Mayor Union Vale-Supervisor County Legislator-District 22 CONSERVATIVE PARTY Lagrange-Town Board Member Lagrange-Supervisor WORKING FAMILIES PARTY Lagrange-Town Board Member Lagrange-Supervisor LISA JESSUP and ERIK J. HAIGHT, COMMISSIONERS DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS	112 DELAFIELD STREET, SUITE 200 POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601 845-486-2473 www.elections.dutchessny.gov LEGAL NOTICE To all voters of Dutchess County, New York Primary Election, Tuesday, June 24, 2025 The following is a true and correct list of all nominations of candidates for the offices to be filled at the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, certified to us or filed in our office pursuant to the provisions of Election Law. ALL POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M. D e m o c r a t i c Primaryes: County Legislature – District 20 Kristofer Munn Troy Haley City of Poughkeepsie – Ward 1 City Council Member Ernest J Henry Warren G Jones City of Poughkeepsie – Ward 8 City Council Member Daniel L Atonna Sakima AG McClinton R e p u b l i c a n Primaryes: County Legislature – District 22 Faye B Garito Joseph Tresca	Beekman – Member of Town Board (Vote for Two) Ezio Battaglini Frank M Lemak V Gina Ragusa Kate Blake Beekman – Superintendent of Highways Anthony Coviello Brian Green Beekman – Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono Stella Maria Slattery Lagrange – Member of Town Board (Vote for Two) Daniel Mosquera Franco Giangrasso Susan Condon Lagrange – Supervisor Anthony Marinaro David Anthony Mashiah Pawling – Supervisor James Schmitt Catherine Giordano Village of Pawling – Mayor Lauri Taylor Louis Musella Union Vale – Supervisor Charles Richwine Steven Frazier C o n s e r v a t i v e Primaryes: Lagrange -Member of Town Board (Vote for Two) Alfred P Rabasco Susan Condon William Bedford Lagrange – Supervisor Anthony Marinaro Steven McKenna Working Families Primaryes:	Lagrange -Member of Town Board (Vote for Two) Allyson Persaud Luis Rodriguez Reese Persaud Lagrange –	Supervisor Rovin Persaud Suzette Persaud ERIK J. HAIGHT LISA JESSUP COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS	DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 112 DELAFIELD ST., STE 200 POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601	845-486-2473 www.dutchess elections.com																																																																
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				<table><tr><th>Town</th><th>Election District(s)</th><th>Site</th><th>Address</th></tr><tr><td>Beekman</td><td>All</td><td>Beekman Recreation Center</td><td>31 Recreation Rd</td></tr><tr><td>Beekman</td><td>All</td><td>Town Hall</td><td>4 Main St</td></tr><tr><td>Beekman</td><td>All</td><td>Beekman Elementary School</td><td>201 Lime Ridge Rd</td></tr><tr><td>LaGrange</td><td>All</td><td>Overlook Primary School</td><td>11 Mapleview Rd Ext</td></tr><tr><td>LaGrange</td><td>All</td><td>Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church</td><td>1168 Route 55</td></tr><tr><td>LaGrange</td><td>All</td><td>Town Hall</td><td>120 Stringham Rd</td></tr><tr><td>Pawling</td><td>All</td><td>Lathrop Center</td><td>2 Lakeside Dr</td></tr><tr><td>Pawling</td><td>All</td><td>Holmes Whaley Lake Civic Association</td><td>239 Route 292</td></tr><tr><td>City of Poughkeepsie</td><td>1-1, 1-2, 8-1, 8-2</td><td>Interfaith Towers</td><td>66 Washington St</td></tr><tr><td>City of Poughkeepsie</td><td>1-1, 1-2, 8-1, 8-2</td><td>St. John’s Lutheran Church</td><td>55 Wilbur Blvd</td></tr><tr><td>Red Hook</td><td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td><td>Bertelsmann Campus Center</td><td>30 Campus Rd</td></tr><tr><td>Red Hook</td><td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td><td>Mill Road Intermediate School</td><td>9 Mill Rd</td></tr><tr><td>Red Hook</td><td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td><td>Red Hook High School</td><td>103 West Market St</td></tr><tr><td>Rhinebeck</td><td>1</td><td>Starr Library</td><td>68 West Market St</td></tr><tr><td>Union Vale</td><td>All</td><td>Fire House</td><td>3373 Route 82</td></tr></table> LISA JESSUP and ERIK J. HAIGHT, COMMISSIONERS DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 112 DELAFIELD STREET, SUITE 200 POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601 845-486-2473 www.elections.dutchessny.gov	Town	Election District(s)	Site	Address	Beekman	All	Beekman Recreation Center	31 Recreation Rd	Beekman	All	Town Hall	4 Main St	Beekman	All	Beekman Elementary School	201 Lime Ridge Rd	LaGrange	All	Overlook Primary School	11 Mapleview Rd Ext	LaGrange	All	Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church	1168 Route 55	LaGrange	All	Town Hall	120 Stringham Rd	Pawling	All	Lathrop Center	2 Lakeside Dr	Pawling	All	Holmes Whaley Lake Civic Association	239 Route 292	City of Poughkeepsie	1-1, 1-2, 8-1, 8-2	Interfaith Towers	66 Washington St	City of Poughkeepsie	1-1, 1-2, 8-1, 8-2	St. John’s Lutheran Church	55 Wilbur Blvd	Red Hook	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Bertelsmann Campus Center	30 Campus Rd	Red Hook	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Mill Road Intermediate School	9 Mill Rd	Red Hook	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Red Hook High School	103 West Market St	Rhinebeck	1	Starr Library	68 West Market St	Union Vale	All	Fire House	3373 Route 82		
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Diversions

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

Suguru

5

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2

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

THEME: FATHER'S DAY

ACROSS

1. Home to Taj Mahal

5. Centum weight, acr.

8. Psychedelic drug, acr.

11. Elephant trainer's poker

12. *Ned Stark's youngest daughter

13. Draw out a conclusion

15. Parks of Civil Rights fame

16. Toothy wheel

17. Birth-related

18. *Pinocchio's father

20. Fortune-telling coffee remnant

21. Religious doctrine

22. D.C. mover and shaker, abbr.

23. Assembled

26. Raidable hotel room amenity

30. Evergreen creeper

31. "Faster" a shoe (2 words)

34. Nay, to a baby

35. Dryer accumulation, pl.

37. Expose to moisture

38. White heron

39. Sodium hydroxide

40. Same as battle-ax

42. UN labor grp.

43. Like localized disease

45. Crab's grabber

47. Catcher in the what?

48. Food-borne bacteria

50. Begone!

52. *"Fathers and Sons" author

55. Not expensive

56. Medicinal plant

57. Joie de vivre

59. Batu Khan's posse

60. *Fils' father

61. Chicken of the sea

62. *Tarzan's adoptive dad

63. Before, poetically

64. Big Bang's original matter

DOWN

1. Financing acronym

2. Hot rum drink

3. *Official flower of Father's Day

4. Adjusts

5. Minotaur's island

6. *Kurt Russell's son of "Thunderbolts" fame

7. Tropical tuber

8. Stringed instrument

9. Slang for heroin

10. Marina ____ Rey, CA

12. "To do" list

13. "____" a high note"

14. *Fictional Mr. ____ who banished children's nanny to a doghouse

19. Banana refuse, pl.

22. Gladys Knight's band member

23. *Christopher Robin's father A.A.

24. Like certain flu

25. Church assembly

26. Speechless

27. Gabriel of Chile

28. Administer ceremonial oil

29. Chopper blade

32. Nile dweller, for short

33. Snake-like reef dweller

36. *Cormac McCarthy's post-apocalyptic father/son novel (2 words)

38. Expatriate

40. Dream in the sky

41. Climactic stage

44. Nearsited one

46. Degrees in right angle

48. Prolific Swiss mathematician

49. Ten million, in India

50. Mercantile establishment

51. This location

52. Cassette contents

53. Twelfth month of Jewish calendar

54. Rooftop contraption

55. Cuban dance step

58. "Platoon" setting, for short

CROSSWORD

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

love to cook

by vicki frank day



Edible postcard

A meal enjoyed on a past vacation, re-created

It’s the time of year that, even if I’m not going anywhere, I want to eat like I’m on vacation. For me that usually means smaller portions (think tapas), appetizers as a meal and lots of fresh flavor, nicely presented. I certainly don’t eat that way all summer long, but when I can it’s a treat. Some of my favorite recipes came about as a result of dishes I experienced while on vacation, and it’s always fun to try to re-create them once I’m back home. That way I can relive the memory and be transported back to when and where I first had it, which is, for me at least, much better than a photograph posted on social media and more like an edible postcard.

I think most of us eat a little differently when on vacation. We tend to treat ourselves, give in to decadence and sample unique regional specialties, all of which is lovely and certainly a fun part of the travel experience. And while it’s nice to keep great meals as fond memories, it also wonderful to be able to revisit those experiences when you’re back home. I have a few such recipes that I’ve collected over the years that are fun to pull out when I need a little mini vacation or just want a treat.

Lately I’ve been craving just such a treat, so I looked through my recipes and found one I hadn’t made in years. On a summer trip to Nantucket many, many years ago I went to a quaint restaurant. I wish I remembered the name of it, and I often wonder if it’s still there. The salt air had given me quite an appetite, and a look at the menu was a bit overwhelming

because everything looked appealing. Not able to decide on an entrée, I ordered an appetizer to savor while I made a decision. Turns out it was so good I didn’t order anything else and knew I had to make my own version, which I did. I hadn’t thought about it for years but when I came across it, it served as dinner and was just as good as I remembered; so I wanted to share it with you.

It’s the kind of dish I love – easy to put together with fresh ingredients, rustically elegant and filling enough to be a meal. It combines flavors and textures that work beautifully together, the result seeming decadent and special. It’s a take on bruschetta with toppings served over toasted bread; and when I tasted it again after so many years it took me right back to that lovely restaurant in Nantucket.

‘BELLA BRUSCHETTA

This can be an appetizer or a meal in itself. It’s rich and earthy with a peppery nuance offset by the tangy creaminess of the feta without being too heavy. You can substitute cremini or button mushrooms for the Portabellas, or use some of the more exotic varieties available now. Served in shallow bowls with toasted bread, it’s perfect for enjoying al fresco with a glass of wine.

INGREDIENTS

Olive oil
2 medium shallots (or 1/2 an onion), finely chopped
2-3 cloves garlic, chopped
4 Portabella mushrooms (or 1lb other



‘Bella Bruschetta’s name derives from the star ingredient: Portabella mushrooms.

-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

mushrooms), stems removed, sliced
6 large basil leaves, chopped or chiffonade
2 tablespoons fresh parsley or oregano, chopped
Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
Red wine to deglaze pan
3 medium (preferably heirloom) tomatoes, diced (or 1 small can diced tomatoes, juice and all)
1-2 bunches arugula, well cleaned (or 3 cups baby arugula)
~6 oz feta cheese, crumbled
Baguette

METHOD

In a large skillet, sauté shallots and garlic in olive oil until just translucent. Add

mushrooms, basil, parsley, salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat until mushrooms soften. Add a little wine and stir to deglaze the pan, scraping up any browned bits.

Stir in tomatoes. Add arugula and cook until it wilts. Add feta and stir through.

Cut baguette into 6-8-inch pieces. Slice each piece in half lengthwise, brush with olive oil and broil just until toasty and golden brown, 2-3 minutes (watch closely so it doesn’t burn).

Place toasted bread in serving bowls and generously spoon mushroom mixture on top. Sprinkle with more fresh, chopped herbs and serve immediately.

Serves 2-4.

The food we eat, whether on vacation or at home, should fill us with joy. It should be an experience that goes beyond mere sustenance, each bite savored to its fullest. Perfect dishes that combine fresh flavors can make memories that last a lifetime and, when we’re lucky, can even transport us to another place and time. Here’s to many more such memories! Enjoy!

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

Creativity shines at Dutchess Heritage Quilt Show



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The Dutchess Heritage Quilt Show was held from June 13-14 at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. At the show, there were more than 80 quilts on display and various vendors, raffles and two featured speakers.

From left are the “Heart of America” quilt made by Terri Cronk of Pleasant Valley. This entry received a Vendor’s Choice Award.

The poppy quilt is titled “Plus Harmonia Axyridis” made by Mary Nisley. The red and tan quilt is called “Headin’ Home” and was made by Elaine Watkins of Poughkeepsie.

The quilts were on display in the Tom Odak Horticulture Building at the Fairgrounds.

-Courtesy photos

POWERHOUSE THEATER
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