Visitors now welcome at Bannerman Island

By Kristine Coulter

Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. (BCT) is ready to take visitors to Bannerman Island.

“The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. just completed a $25,000 project to continue stabilizing the interior walls of the Tower. This project was funded with a grant from The Jane W. Nuhn Charitable Foundation of Poughkeepsie. The BCT also installed a new concrete walkway from the new restroom to the bridge,” said Neil Caplan, Bannerman Castle Trust.

As for the precautions being taken because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Caplan stated, “The Bannerman Castle Trust is a Friends Group with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and takes the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously. We have a COVID-19 Plan for safety on Bannerman Island that has been approved by the state. It is a disclosure, real conversations, where one side or the other doesn’t get offended if they hear something that they don’t agree with.”

In a statement released last week, Kyriacou expressed disappointment that the police union is resorting to, in his words, “intimidation and escalation – exactly the opposite behavior of what is appropriate in today’s charged environment.”

The Beacon PBA recently posted a letter to Facebook stating its members “have lost all trust, faith, and confidence in the Mayor and City Council’s ability to lead this city and the police department during these trying times.” The mayor said his door “remains open to calm, constructive discussion.”

And the Bannerman Visitors Center taken in 2018.

Visitors must wear masks while they are on the tour boat and when they go into the residence. There has been a reduction of the number of passengers on the Estuary Steward boat. Masks must be worn on the island if one is 6 feet from someone who is not in your group. Trails are one-way. All are asked to use social distance, emphasized Caplan.

As for performances, Caplan said, “We had to cancel our regular season, however we are still doing our Third Sunday Music Programs. We are also going to have renowned violinist, Daisy Irving to perform a benefit in September. We also will have our Farm Dinner combined with our Parishian Gala on September 5 on Bannerman Island.”

Caplan wrote approximately 30 stories about Bannerman Island, which are on the Bannerman Castle Trust Facebook page. People can join the Facebook page and help spread the word about Bannerman Island.

Volunteers are welcome to help out on Bannerman Island on Saturdays and Sundays by calling Neil Caplan at 845-831-6346. They will be adding 6 p.m. evening tours on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Since seats have been reduced on The Estuary Steward, it is recommended that one purchase your tickets in advance at www.bannermancastle.org, said Caplan.
Continued from page 1

the leadership of the department offered to lead this accredited agency through these times without a chief in place, the Mayor and Council recently voted to appoint a temporary police chief who has not worked actively as a police officer since almost 2000. In the letter, the PBA noted that at the Council meeting where Cornett was appointed, a Teamsters Law Enforcement Division representative pointed out the appointee’s certification must have lapsed due to the length of his time not serving as a police officer since retirement in 2002. The PBA’s dissatisfaction came to light immediately upon the unanimous appointment of former Beacon Lieutenant William Cornett as Acting Police Chief, to fill in for the short-notice retirement of our chief and captain. I chose someone with a long history in the Beacon police, with a record of integrity and transparency, and with no interest in continuing in the role. That choice safeguards our community, our police department and the City, as we search for permanent leadership. If the PBA is disgruntled at not being able to hand-pick leadership, that simply reflects their failure to engage in dialogue as well as unrealistic expectations,’ remarked Kyriacou. According to Cornett, The New York State Attorney General has confirmed that lack of certification as a police officer is irrelevant to the appointment of a police chief. The Attorney’s General Office did not respond with a request to confirm by press time. Cornett noted, “The Dutchess County Department of Human Relations (Civil Service) has approved and confirmed my appointment as Acting Chief of the City of Beacon Police Department. The only restriction which applies to me being confirmed as acting chief is that I may not be issued a department owned firearm,” said Cornett. Confield said the PBA wants a leader. “Not a temporary stop gap to affect what is essentially political nepotism, does not address the needs of the community, nor the department serving it,” he said. Confield said, “The city council, and mayor, by overlooking the leaders within our ranks, have sent a tacit message to the public we cannot be trusted. A message like this makes the already difficult job of protecting Beacon that much harder.” Councilmember-at-large Amber Grant said via email, when asked for comment, “I’m dismayed that simply having conversations and asking questions has caused this reaction from the PBA. It isn’t rooted in the reality of the conversations I have been part of, which I think have been respectful and thoughtful on the part of both the council and police participants. I would like to think we both have common goals to ensure the safety and comfort of everyone in our community, and expect our work to continue to reflect that.” Councilmember Jodi McCredo emailed the following comment, “I am deeply disappointed by the letter put out by the PBA. The council has been working very hard on finding solutions to benefit all and bring this community together, and the PBA’s letter was uninformed and unnecessarily divisive. Right now we are in the listening and learning stage of this discussion. I think the perfect time to reach out to us and share your thoughts. A public attack with unfounded accusations isn’t the best way to do that. It’s an indicator of exactly the kind of toxic aggression that is being protested all across the country.” “It is unfortunate that the Beacon PBA chose to publish an open letter expressing their concerns instead having a conversation with the mayor or the city administrator. To make matters worse, the letter was filled with many factual errors,” said Council member Terry Nelson. “At no time did the council or the mayor say that we were defunding the police.” “Let’s start with what we have in common and build trust. The PBA and the Beacon City Council both want what’s best for the public’s safety and the members of our Police Department. That’s where I wanted to start and that’s what the letter should have said,” said Council member Dan Aymar-Blair, via email. Council members George Mansfield and Air Rhodes did not respond for comment by the deadline. Confield said the PBA wants the Council and Mayor to stand for truth. “Unchallenged inaccuracies and false accusations cause unnecessary anger and potentially pave the way for avoidable violence. We have all seen that a single spark can cause a violent response. We have worked hard, and any pride of the past we have played in making Beacon the great city it is. We don’t want to be used to destroy it,” he stated. Kyriacou said, “Our police officers are all trained in and must practice de-escalation. The police union tactics ignore de-escalation training – at a time when our community needs to come together. I would encourage them to reach out and be constructive – my door remains open for calm, honest discussion.” The mayor also stated, “I am deeply disappointed by the approach of the police union, which has resorted to intimidation and escalation in a highly charged environment – where the community-building approach should be outreach and dialogue. Neither I nor the City Administrator (Anthony Ruggiero) has received a single meeting request, call or email from the leadership of the PBA, requesting a discussion or anything else. Other than a statement from the PBA that I offered to read at a protest, I have heard nothing from them.” The PBA’s letter ends with, “In closing, we would like to reiterate that the men and women of the Beacon City Police Department PBA have lost all trust, faith, and confidence in Mayor Kyriacou and the entire City Council’s ability to lead this city.” Kyriacou said, “Finally, let me reiterate some of the things I have said in public. I have repeatedly discussed the department’s successful completion of a lengthy U.S. Department of Justice oversight process, as well in continuing accreditation by the NYS Law Enforcement Accreditation Program – the latter an achievement shared by only a handful of local departments. And while anyone who has observed me on City Council knows I am incredibly protective of spending taxpayer dollars, I have made no definitive statements regarding funding levels of the police department going forward.” He added that his door remains open. Confield stated, “The PBA is never against meeting with any member of the council, or the mayor. The mayor said his door is always open. Well, our door is literally always open, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.”
Parents face tough decisions with school plans for fall

By Rich Thomaselli

When the coronavirus pandemic hit the U.S. hard in March, forcing schools to close for the remainder of the school year, parents were thrust into a predicament. Who was going to watch their children while they worked? What kind of adjust-ments would need to be made? Would they need tutors or extra help to make the adjustment to online learning? Those were just a few of the many questions parents faced a few months ago. Now, as New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo gathers the information and find-ings from school districts on how to reopen in the fall and make a final deci-sion, parents are again pondering some of those same questions.

Plus one more big one – Should they even send their children on a bus and back to school in the fall?

“I don’t want to call it a burden. Your children are never a burden. But it’s mak-ing for some difficult decisions and cer-tainly some difficult arrangements,” said Wappingers Falls resident Jim Francese, who has one daughter in grade school and another, field hockey star Violeta Francese, who will be a junior at Roy C. Ketcham High School.

When Francese and his family went through this from March through June earlier this year, he tried to keep a sense of humor upon reflection.

“Well, one thing I realized – we need two computers in the house,” he said with a laugh.

In the spring, it was somewhat easy for Francese to make adjustments on the fly. As the Director of Player Services at Hudson National Golf Club, he had the flexibility to work from home when golf courses and the clubhouse were closed. He might not have that same flexibility in the fall.

Violeta is old enough to babysit her younger sister – but only if there are no fall sports and she doesn’t have field hockey practice - a whole other story. If she does have practice, sister Daniella will be bussed to her after-school karate program. But the problem still isn’t solved because both will eventually have to be picked up later in the afternoon.

The challenges are especially difficult for single parents. Sandy, a single mother and first-grader in the Millbrook Central School District, has been on the frontlines of this crisis, quickly taking on the unprecedented task of transitioning our students to virtual learning from the classroom. As we plan for this fall, the health and safety of our teachers, staff, students, and community members are our top priority,” said Dr. Greer Rychick, Superintendent of the Millbrook Central School District. “At the heart of any reopening plan is PPE and Senator Schumer’s proposal will bring vital financial support to our district to improve the quality of our program.”

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) was in Hyde Park last week to discuss the school reopening situation. Schumer said schools will have the state and federal guidelines they need, but questioned whether they will receive federal funds to pay for personal protection equipment, cleaning sup-ples and more.

“Everyone wants our schools to reopen, but the federal government must lead the way by funding the safety measures that would open the doors of schools throughout the Hudson Valley region in a way that helps ensure the coronavirus does not needlessly spread or infect teachers, kids or staff,” Schumer said.

Combined, Schumer said Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties have almost 200,000 students in grades kinder-garten to 12, according to the state Education Department.

“Without federal dollars to cover the massive costs of PPE, barriers, cleaning supplies and more, local school budgets across the Hudson Valley would be crushed, local taxes could rise and some schools might simply stay closed—and we do not want that,” Schumer said.

“Thad’s why as Hudson Valley school dis-tricts, like Hyde Park, work hard to plan for the fall we need to take action and commit $175 billion to the goal of safely reopening K-12 schools for all.”

The teachers within the Hyde Park Central School District have been on the forefront of this crisis, quickly taking on the unprecedented task of transitioning our students to virtual learning from the classroom. As we plan for this fall, the health and safety of our teachers, staff, students, and community members are our top priority,” said Dr. Greer Rychick, Superintendent of the Millbrook Central School District. “At the heart of any reopening plan is PPE and Senator Schumer’s proposal will bring vital financial support to our district to improve the quality of our programs.”

Separately, Rychick told the Southern Dutchess News that safety has to be the No. 1 priority before any decisions about in-person learning vs. remote learning vs. a hybrid of both are made.

“If our preference would defi-nitely be for total in-person learning, the CDC guidelines indicate that structurally that may not be possible and as such sup-ports the hybrid model to actualize social distancing in the classroom,” she said.

“Additionally, we need to plan for full remote learning in the event that future infection rate data in New York State prompts the Governor at any time to close schools again.”
Barrett highlights work of Assembly’s Veterans Affairs Committee

Last year, I had the honor of addressing the New York State Assembly to discuss the important issues related to veterans’ mental health. I saw firsthand how much our elected officials in Albany care about these issues. Since then, it might be easy for us to forget those officials are still working hard to improve the lives of our veterans, even though we might not see them publicly during this time of social distancing.

Recently I spoke with our Assemblymember Didi Barrett, who is the Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee in the New York State Assembly, and asked her to give us an update from Albany. It looks like she’s been very busy.

Q. As Chair of the Veterans Committee in the Assembly, can you share any updates on the Committee’s work in 2020 to support our veterans? I am pleased to say that 2020 has been a great year for veterans’ services in New York. In the state budget, we secured a record-high level of total funding for veterans’ programs, including $4.5 million to the Joseph P. Wyner Veterans Program and new funding to reestablish Local Legal Services of the Hudson Valley’s legal work for veterans and their families to Dutchess County. In addition, The Restoration of Honor Act, which will provide state-level benefits to veterans with an “other than honorable” discharge who are LGBTQ or suffers from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), THI (traumatic brain injury), MST (sexual trauma sexual assault) will take effect in November. Any veteran who may be eligible under this legislation should contact the NYS Division of Veterans’ Services.

Q. What might the average person in Dutchess County not know about your work to support our veterans in the New York State Assembly?

As Chair of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, one of my most important opportunities as a legislator is advocating for veterans’ programs in the state budget, and in separate legislation. This means meeting with veterans and veterans’ advocates, hearing about their experiences, and then creating policy that benefits New York’s veterans and their families. Another thing people may not know is that our office can help solve problems with state-level veterans’ services. We can help connect veterans to the correct services within New York State, or help with issues like securing high school diplomas for veterans who never received one, or applying for a replacement NYS military medal.

Q. What are you most looking forward to, with regard to your work supporting our veterans, now that social distancing is looking to ease? I’m looking forward to getting back to seeing local veterans in the community again at ceremonies, senior picnics and elsewhere. I’m also planning to host a legislative hearing on Aug. 14 that will examine how coronavirus has impacted our pilot launch veterans. Like every part of life, the pandemic has upended the normal course of veterans’ services, and our hearing will look at how things have changed and what we need to do differently going forward to make sure that our servicemembers are still taken care of.

Q. Do you have any other information or updates that might be helpful for our local veterans?

My office has been assisting local VFW Posts as they navigate the careful process of re-opening, including by distributing hand sanitizer, and encourage those with any questions to reach out to my office for further assistance. Similarly, we continue to assist veterans’ and their families with issues through the New York State Division of Veterans’ Services programs. (Poughkeepsie District Office: (845) 454-1705; Hudson District Office: (518) 828-1961)

Thanks so much to Didi Barrett for taking the time to speak with us here in our latest Dispatch. And thank you for listening. I look forward to seeing you next time.

Tom Zurhellen is the commander at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 170 in Poughkeepsie. A Navy veteran, he served aboard the cruisers USS Truxtun and USS Astoria during the Vietnam Gulf War. He currently serves as Associate Professor of English at Marist College, where he taught Creative Writing courses for the last 15 years.

Do your photography & selling your home – what you need to know

Editors note: The Dutchess County Association of Realtors (DCAR) is presenting articles on home-buying and selling trends and services provided by local DCAR member agents.

By Royal Ricci

For many individuals, selling your home is the largest financial investment that you will ever make. Perhaps the most important factor, in my experience, is working with a REALTOR® who you choose ensures that the photos taken of your listing present it in its most flattering state, especially with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. One area of real estate marketing that is of growing demand is the use of “Drone Photography.” However, a property owner should be aware of certain issues when hiring a drone photographer. While this is a new field, there are stringent regulations placed on drone operators set forth by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

In an online interview with Peter Cimino, of Buffalo Perspective, and Pierce Johnson, of Pierce Johnson Photography, both agreed on the following points when hiring a drone pilot. If your REALTOR® is providing this service, they along with their brokerage, should be aware of the following information in order to avoid any liability issues.

1. • Is the Pilot Licensed and, can they show their insurance certificate? Using an uninsured drone pilot can lead to major liability issues. Make sure they go wrong on the property you will be working with and Do they have their airspace approval available if in controlled airspace? A controlled airspace includes anywhere within a five-mile radius an airport? Keep in mind that there are three operational airports here in Dutchess County.

2. • Does the pilot know the airspace and flight restrictions in the area of where they will be working and Do they have their airspace approval available if in controlled airspace? A controlled airspace includes anywhere within a five-mile radius an airport? Keep in mind that there are three operational airports here in Dutchess County.

3. • They follow all of FAA Part 107 Rules? These are the rules and regulations that the FAA has set forth for drone pilots.

4. • What is the pilot’s level of experience and how long have they been doing commercial drone work? Do they have a “shut down”, or commercial of their work that they can provide you for viewing? They may be able to provide you web links of their work.

5. • What type of equipment are they using, specifically their drone type as well as make and model? The FAA requires that the license ID (a.k.a. Tail number) for the Drone to be clearly labeled on the outside of the drone.

6. • How long does the job take to complete from filming to editing to getting the final product delivered? Will they do the editing work themselves or using someone else to process their film work? Sometimes turnaround time can be an issue due to some drone pilots being in high demand as this is a new and burgeoning field.

As one can see, there is a lot to consider when you have a professional in your home performing this type of work.

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HV schools may not be able to safely reopen in the fall

Citing COVID-19 costs as too big for New York school districts to carry alone and drawing from recommendations of Hyde Park Central School District, Aviva Katz, UNR Senior Charles Schumer released on July 22 a plan without specific federal funds, Hudson Valley schools may not be able to reopen safely come fall.

The press conference took place at the D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park.

“Everyone wants our schools to reopen, but we need a law to tell us that. We are simply not able to make policing information readily available, to both inform the public, and making policing information readily available to both inform the public, and to increase transparency and build trust in our community,” said Schumer.

Schumer explained that last week the New York State Education Department (NYSED) released a framework of guidance to help school districts as they plan to reopen. The three phases of the school year will be based on the degree to which a district can ensure social distancing and other COVID-19 safety requirements.

“With the statewide school shutdown, police officers to distribute business cards

Acting Chief of Police William Cornett – in increasing transparency and build trust in our community.”

Under the Chief’s new order, officers will be carrying and distributing business cards. More to come. Plus, we will start up responsibly in the future. As an acting chief of police, I have an obligation to carry and distribute business cards with the officer’s name, badge number, and phone number. Under the Chief’s new order, officers will identify themselves to individuals upon request. We will also ensure that each officer receives a business card. When officers are conducting enforcement activities, including questioning or searching in traffic and checkpoint stops, searches and other non-custodial questions. Semnar will include officer names and an address to contact for further infor-

Mr. Yaritza and I are working through changes that can be implemented quickly and will help increase trust, transparency, and accountabil-

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On Wednesday, the City's police department released a blotter containing information on incidents, crimes, and arrests, as well as other police activities. The blotter is available online at http://www.cityofbeacon.org on the Beacon Police Department page.

The police "blotter" is a daily log of events in the City of Beacon. It includes information on incidents, crimes, and arrests, and other information on the activities of the police department. The daily blotter will be available at www.cityofbeacon.org on the Beacon Police Department page. The blotter is updated daily with the first step of making policing information readily available, to both inform the public, and to increase transparency and build trust.

This follows the socially-distanced public forums the City recently organized to listen to the community, which was held virtually by a large in-person, and constitutes the basic raw data for accurate statistics, the police blotter will be available at www.cityofbeacon.org on the Beacon Police Department page. The police blotter is updated daily with the first step of making policing information readily available, to both inform the public, and to increase transparency and build trust.

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Fall high school sports delayed at least a month

By Rich Thomae

The fall season for high school sports, originally scheduled to begin Aug. 25, will now be delayed until at least Sept. 21, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) announced last week, citing the current - and potential - impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition, even if the fall season is able to resume in late September, all fall regional and state championship tournaments will be canceled. And if the fall season cannot begin on Sept. 21, the state is prepared to implement a condensed season schedule for all sports that would start in January 2021.

"As the state considers reopening, it is unrealistic to believe athletic seasons can start on August 24th as originally schedu-

The NYSPHSAA Officers’ decision includes:

- Delay Fall sports start date until Monday, September 21st (NYSPHSAA PAUSE)
- Cancel Fall Regional and State Championship events

• Waive seven-day practice rule
• Maintain current practice requirements
• Encourage geographic scheduling for games & contests

Schools would have the option, if per-

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“Summer’s here!”

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Mayor Lee Kyriacou, said “I approved the Chief’s order because I think the City of Beacon was an early local adopter - transparency helps everyone and builds trust. Our officers work tirelessly every day to protect Beacon and people should know who they are. If a resident has a concern, they should know who is involved and how to proceed.”

The Mayor added “Chief Cornett and I are working through changes that can be implemented quickly and will help increase trust, transparency, and accountabil-

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Alert for signs of rising infection, Cuomo issues travel enforcement program

By Kate Goldsmith

Marc Coviello has resigned his position as director of Veterans Services effective July 31, as he is moving out of the area and will be pursuing other opportunities, according to Colleen Pillus, communications director for the Dutchess County Executive’s Office. “We wish Marc the very best as he moves on to his next endeavors,” said Pillus. “Marc has put his heart and soul into his work alongside Marc Coviello at Dutchess County Veterans Service over the last two years to help our veterans in need,” said Eddy Rivera in 2018, Coviello was missed. We wish him the best of luck on his next challenge.”

Marc Coviello

“Since the party, over 20 percent of the people who attended have tested positive for the virus. It only takes one person at one party to spread COVID. Wear a mask and be smart. It’s the only way to continue to keep one another safe.”

Coviello resigns as Veterans Services director

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Marc Coviello

“We wish Marc the very best as he moves on to his next endeavors,” said County Executive Marc Molinaro. “I am tremendously grateful to him for his service to this country, leadership in our county and passion for serving his fellow veterans. He evolves in the field for his friendship, partnership and terrific work.”

Coviello was not available to comment. “As Commander of the Poughkeepsie VFW, it’s been my pleasure to work alongside Marc Coviello at Dutchess County Veterans Service over the last two years to help our veterans in need,” said Tom Zurhellen. “I can tell you first-hand he has changed our local veteran community for the better, and he will be sorely missed. We wish him the best of luck on his next challenge.”

The State Police in Troop K are asking for the public’s assistance to help curb the recent increase in car theft and theft from cars in the lower Hudson valley. The State Police as well as its partners in law enforcement in the Hudson Valley have investigated more than 400 stolen vehicles cases in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and Rockland counties since March 1. Numerous arrests have been made by multiple agencies, and many of the vehicles have been recovered, often suffering severe damage from the perpetrators; but there is something every vehicle owner can do: Secure your vehicle properly and remove all keys or key fobs from the vehicle. Keys or key fobs left inside the vehicle is the most common factor shared amongs these cases.

Many of the vehicles stolen have been from affluent neighborhoods. Do not assume this will not happen where you live. Additionally, do not leave valuable vehicles, close the windows and, when possible, park in well-lit conspicuous areas.
Seventeen weeks in, Town Halls still sharing important information

By Kate Goldsmith

Last Wednesday, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro addressed an online Town Hall at Quiet Cove Riverfront Park in Beacon. The town hall was held 17 weeks to the day after holding his first online Town Hall Forum about coronavirus-related concerns. Molinaro provided the latest updates on the pandemic and the county’s reopening process as well as answered residents’ questions about the reopening process.

“Just like the lights from the July 15 discussion,” Molinaro addressed an apparently jump in total confirmed (see data below). Of the 39 new cases reported for July 13 on the Dutchess County COVID-19 Dashboard, at least 13 were false positives resulting from a lab error. Nine of those cases originated from prisons located in Dutchess County, which the county has no role in monitoring. There is no evident connection among any of the remaining 17 cases. False positives were also reported in other neighboring counties and are under investigation.

The latest data available as the Northern Dutchess News went to press on Monday was from July 17, and had been posted to the Dashboard on July 18:
- 4,373 total confirmed cases (3,989 recoveries)
- 231 current active cases
- 77,979 tests completed
- 17 new positive tests confirmed
- 79 - 153 deaths

Answering a question from a viewer about cases pending address confirmation, Molinaro held that it is an individual’s responsibility to self-report with the Traveler Health Form at the state’s website (https://forms.ny.gov/forms/A Nhật), to self-quarantine for 14 days.

In cases where the county has received complaints of violations, “We try to contact individuals when we know,” Molinaro said. “No matter your political view, or your view of the order,” said Molinaro, everyone is expected to comply. If someone is caught violating the order, the state will issue fines.

“The county always works with the town,” Molinaro explained, of the collaboration between the county’s "Restarting Dutchess" efforts, and the local municipalities in Dutchess County, to provide additional support during the application process to vulnerable households including:

- Extremely low-income households;
- Those with limited English proficiency;
- Those with limited technology skills and access; and
- Those most at risk of homelessness.

“Assistance may be provided by calling Hudson River Housing at (845) 337-4407, ext. 103; or, Dutchess Charities at (845) 451-4251.

Dutchess County’s Community Development Block Grant CARES ACT (CDBG-CV) funds, secured via the federal CARES Act, are being used to support this partnership.

• Last week, Gov. Andrew Cuomo released guidance for schools during the current school year. A virtual plan is expected to open, schools can be closed if their region experiences a 7-day average infection rate above 9 percent after Aug. 1.

- With the state-provided guidance for in-person instruction for colleges under Phase 4, Molinaro shared updated plans for students’ return to campus at Marist, Vassar, Bard and Dutchess Community colleges, as well as the Culinary Institute of America.

Current guidance for each institution is available on their respective websites.

- Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Loescher released a special update on process improvements within the county and the Comptroller’s Office in response to the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on modernizing audit practices and payment processes, thereby “Maximizing the use of the county’s financial management system and software to eliminate duplicate tasks, as well as eliminating costly paper processes associated with filing and handling paper,” she stated. The full release is available at www.dutchessny.gov under the Comptroller’s department.

In addition to these reported process improvements, the comptroller has identified several other areas for improvement that will continue to be worked on with departments and end users throughout the remainder of the year. The comptroller, as chief accounting and chief auditing officer, has primary responsibility to carry out the promoted duties while safeguarding taxpayer funds.
Rallies held across street from each other

Weldon Hinson holds a sign during a Black Lives Matter peaceful protest organized by Beacon4BlackLives on Sunday, July 19. Across the street at Polhill Park, Thomas DiCastro holds a flag with a blue stripe as part of Support the Beacon Police Department. Supporters of Beacon4BlackLives hold signs on the sidewalk outside of the Municipal Building off of Route 9D. Across the street, flags are held by those in support of the Beacon Police Department.

---Photos by Kristine Coulter

Preparing for having a baby Zoom presentation July 29

Join Dr. Meera Garcia, of NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, for an online presentation titled “Preparing For and Having Your Baby.” Hosted by the Howland Public Library, this event is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, starting at 1 p.m. Dr. Garcia will discuss how to prepare for your baby and what to expect in the first few months as you care for baby and yourself. She also will highlight how NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital has modernized its Maternal Health Center, which will open this fall. A Q&A segment will follow.

To register and obtain the Zoom link, email Adult Services Librarian, Alison Herrero at: adults@beaconlibrary.org. The Howland Public Library is partnering with NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital for this informative and free event for adults. For more information about the content of this event, call: NYP Hudson Valley Community Affairs at 914-734-3576. For more information, about this or other upcoming events, contact Alison Herrero, Adult Services Librarian at 845-831-1134.
Towne Crier to present virtual Stories & Songs with Jeff Daniels

Join Emmy award-winning actor, director, singer/songwriter Jeff Daniels on Sunday, July 26, at 7 p.m., for an intimate concert experience full of original songs, personal stories from his stage and movie career that only he can tell - and plenty of smiles.

Stick around for a 15- to 30-minute audience Q&A following the show. The questions submitted will be reviewed, with some then passed along to Jeff for reply.

Tickets are $15. Please note that Towne Crier is NOT selling tickets for the live stream. They are being sold by Jeff Daniels via Crowdcast. Only ticket buyers will be able to access the live stream. Purchase at https://www.crowdcast.io/e/jeffdanielstownecrierjuly26/register.

Aerodrome seeks donations, to hold online gala

Over the years, the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome has met many challenges with optimism and perseverance. Now, faced with an unprecedented situation, they are asking for the community's support.

Protecting its visitors, staff and volunteers while complying with NY State and CDC requirements means waiting to resume air shows until summer 2021. “We're carefully watching expenses and only doing what is necessary to maintain the collection and advance essential projects, but there's no sugarcoating it: The loss of admissions, biplane ride income, and gift shop sales will have a severe impact on the Aerodrome,” the organization stated in a press release.

The Aerodrome has “an urgent need” to raise $100,000 by next spring.

To make a donation by check or money order, mail to PO Box 229, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. A contribution of $25 or more makes you an Aerodrome Member, which includes a subscription to “Rotary Ramblings,” the quarterly newsletter, and a 10-percent discount at the Aerodrome gift shops for a full year.

The Aerodrome will hold its online Gala in the Cloud on Friday, July 31, at 6 p.m. to kick off its campaign. The Gala will be live at its YouTube channel, and the auction will be held online at 32auctions.

Planning to Grow Your Family? Learn How to Prepare and Care for Your Baby

NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital and The Howland Public Library of Beacon Present a FREE Virtual Community Lecture and Q&A Session.

Wednesday, July 29 | 1PM – 1:30PM

Learn how to prepare for your baby and what to expect in the first few months as you care for your baby and yourself from leading expert, Meera Garcia, MD, FACOG, an OB/GYN with NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley. A Q&A session will follow Dr. Garcia’s presentation.

Dr. Garcia is the Division Chief of OB/GYN at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital; Assistant Professor of OB/GYN at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons; and Regional Director of Women’s Health Services at NewYork-Presbyterian Medical Group Hudson Valley. Dr. Garcia sees patients at the recently renovated medical group offices in Cold Spring and Cortlandt Manor.

To register and obtain the Zoom link, email: adults@beaconlibrary.org

For more information, call: 914-734-3576
Giacomo D’Ambrosio

On Sunday, July 5th at 2 p.m., join Civic Institute of Ecosystem Studies for “Trees in Trouble,” a discussion about New York’s threatened forest ecosystem hosted by esteemed forest ecologist Gary Lovett. Gain insight into the forest pest problem, hear about the threat to New York’s forests and the policy actions one can take to protect trees.

Trees play a critical role in keeping people cool, purifying the air, reducing noise, reducing building cooling costs, and helping regulate the local, regional, and global climate. Many new policies have been implemented to address these issues, while others are being enacted to address climate change. However, these policies have failed to slow the spread of forest pests. In some cases, they can even contribute to climate change.

Imported forest pests, like the emerald ash borer and spotted lanternfly, are quickly decimating New York’s forests. These pests have spread rapidly across the state, causing billions of dollars in damages each year. In addition, they are costing New York billions of dollars in lost timber and property values. These pests are also contributing to climate change by releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

In order to protect New York’s forests, we must take action now. This event will provide an opportunity to learn about the threat to New York’s forests and to engage in discussions about the policy actions we can take to protect trees.

Learn how we can work together to stem the tide of pest invasions. This event will include a discussion led by Gary Lovett, followed by a panel of experts who will share their insights on how we can work together to protect our forests.

Download Zoom on your viewing device at least 15 minutes before the start of the webinar and follow the instructions to join the session. This free webinar will be recorded and shared after the event.

Advance registration is required to join the webinar.

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REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCCP-33-20

**Vehicle Purchase:**

26th Street News
Front Wheel Drive, Cargo Van
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 11th day of August 2020 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 376 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our web site http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting “Government”, then selecting “Bidding and RFP Opportunities”. For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

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**Public Notice:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Wappingers, Town of Wappingers Falls, NY and Tax Map #17-1370, a phone number will be provided for you to obtain a paper copy of the Contract Documents, call (845) 486-3613.

**Public Notice:**

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**Sudoku**

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills.

The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers.

Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

---

**ACROSS**

1. ___ up
2. misbehaves
3. Baby's ailment
4. Emcee
5. Worth or Knox
6. Center of activity
7. Comedian
8. Dan
9. Braid of hair
10. Large knife
11. Popular man
12. Advertising light
13. Silver or gold
14. Loiters
15. Novelist J.D. __
16. Attracted
17. Italian city
18. First lady
19. Sandarac tree
20. ___ acid
21. Spotted
22. Porch item
23. Villages
24. Common contraction
25. Menu phrase
26. Remove
27. Make a boo-boo
28. Become exhausted
29. Popular woman
30. Iran's dollar
31. Telegraphs
32. Worms or salmon eggs
33. Square column
34. Wipe away
35. Moon goddess
36. Roe
37. Drive back
38. Home for 35 Across

---

**DOWN**

1. Samuel
2. Gompers' org.
3. Outer garment
4. Half of a sextet
5. More mysterious
6. Saltier
7. Synthetic fabric
8. Part of a monogram: abbr.
9. Church member
10. Go quickly
11. Yes ___?
12. One-dish meal
13. High-schooler
14. Early beginning
15. Irish girl's name
16. Beast of burden
17. Of the ear
18. Person non __
19. Sudden, strong increase
20. Onassis and others
21. Waterfowl
22. Happening
23. French pension
24. Legal wrong
25. Mole or groper
26. Marketable
27. Uncovered
28. Cook's additive
29. Lowest room
30. More expensive fuel
31. The ones here
32. Metal fastener
33. German article
34. Lacking promptness
35. Source of heat
36. Word with booby or tourist
37. Praise
38. Row
39. Pantyhose shade

---

The finished puzzle should be filled with Xs and Os.

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

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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Binox can be found on page 6
Historic Patsy's Pizzeria opens in Wappingers Falls

By Curtis Schmidt

The first Patsy's Pizzeria location outside the five boroughs of New York City has opened in the historic Village of Wappingers Falls.

The opening was delayed by about six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Berisha family purchased the site of the former Goring Hall building and the location at 2657 East Main Street. Extensive renovations have taken place and it is now open for business.

Owner Elmi Berisha is accompanied by daughter and manager Ariana, and additional family members Arian, Teuta and Driton and Tony Raja.

“Wappingers Falls is a historical landmark in the Hudson Valley. We, as a family, are extremely happy to be part of our community here,” said Ariana. “Opening the first Patsy's outside the five boroughs was a lot of work and was the result of customers from the Hudson Valley requesting something different and delicious. People ask - and they shall receive.”

According to information at the Patsy's Pizzeria website, Patsy's Pizzeria is the undisputed premier pizza dynasty in New York and arguably in all of the United States. Started by the legendary Pasquale Lancieri, Patsy's Pizzeria traces its origin by over a century to Manhattan's Lower East Side. Opening his first modest shop in Harlem in 1933, the Patsy's Pizzeria name has become synonymous with authentic, Sicilian coal oven-pizza. Lancieri and his Patsy's Pizzeria creation were so forward thinking, he is widely credited by inventing selling pizza by the slice and popularizing traditional New York style thin-crust pizza. Loved by celebrities and people from all walks of life, Patsy's Pizzeria keeps the tradition alive as the beloved pizza family recently welcomed the fourth generation of pizza makers. Inspiring scores of imitators after over 80 years of pizza making, Patsy's Pizzeria continues to deliver old-world pizza to thousands every day.

Patsy's Pizzeria in Wappingers Falls is open from 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. from Tuesday - Sunday. Call 845-298-6093 or visit Patsy's Pizzeria on Facebook.