

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Percentage of new Fishkill Ave., Teller Ave. sidewalks to be torn out, replaced

New sidewalks on Teller Avenue and Fishkill Avenue will have to be torn out and replaced due to concrete that was “substandard,” according to a post on the City of Beacon Facebook’s page.

Approximately 20 percent of the new sidewalk on Teller Ave. and Fishkill Ave. will be torn out and replaced, according to the post made on July 17 on social media. The work began on the day the post was made.

The explanation, according to the post posted on the City’s Facebook page, “The concrete used in these sections last fall was substandard and caused the sidewalks to flake and spall even though they were just installed last year. The replacement of these sections is being done by the contractor at NO ADDITIONAL COST to the City.”

The post concludes, “This sidewalk work will take about two weeks. Starting in mid-August, all of Teller Avenue and Fishkill Avenue between Main Street and Blackburn Avenue (across from Memorial Park) will be milled and paved. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we get through this generational upgrade to these critical streets.”

Exhibit at Dia: Beacon leads Upstate Art Weekend

By Alexander Tsahalis

When you think of art, you probably think of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, or the Guggenheim in New York City. Art isn’t limited to the city, and Upstate Art Weekend (UAW) is a great reminder to get out and see what the Hudson Valley has to offer.

Founded by Helen Toomer in 2020, UAW began with 23 participants and has since grown to over 155 this year. “Upstate Art Weekend is about community, collaboration, art, and the outdoors, which are essential to our well-being,” says Toomer, “This event was created to shine a light on the incredible organizations in the region and to solidify lasting connections with those visiting and those discovering what lies in their neighborhoods.”

This year, UAW kicked off with a presentation of Kishio Suga’s works at Dia: Beacon. Kishio Suga is a Japanese artist whose work frequently incorporates industrial materials, including stone, cement, glass, rope, and wood. “In the 1960s Suga went to Tama Art University, which had a lot of artists interested in rethinking traditional mediums,” says curator Matilde Guidelli-Guidi, “By the time he graduated in the late ’60s, he had become kind of a key figure in what is known as the Mono-ha school of thought.” Mono-ha is an art movement that can be translated as the School of Things, with a heavy focus on materials and their combination. A good example of this is the centerpiece of the Suga installation, Soft Concrete.

Soft Concrete is a fascinating work of art. It’s comprised of a softy mounded pouring of concrete with four stone rectangles sunk in it. Suga also added machine oil to the concrete to help it stay soft. “In the early 70s Suga was working at a lot of construction sites



Kishio Suga’s works at Dia: Beacon will highlight Upstate Art Weekend. Suga is a Japanese artist whose work frequently incorporates industrial materials, including stone, cement, glass, rope, and wood. Founded by Helen Toomer in 2020, UAW began with 23 participants and has since grown to over 155 this year.

-Photos by Alexander Tsahalis



Kishio Suga’s “Soft Concrete” at Dia Beacon.

and he used a lot of materials from those sites in his art.” says Guidelli-Guidi. “He was trying to give attention to what the material is beyond our daily use case.” Suga’s focus on industrial materials is also evident in his other works, which range from piles of rope to stones placed at angles and held in

place by metal wires. The installation contains a total of seven works of art by Suga.

The Kishio Suga exhibit is on display now at Dia: Beacon. Admission to Dia: is also free for all residents of the Hudson Valley on the last Sunday of each month.

County honors East Fishkill Vietnam veteran posthumously

By Kristine Coulter

The late U.S. Navy Petty Officer Paul Davidson was honored posthumously during Dutchess County’s latest “Honor-A-Veteran” Ceremony held at the Knights of Columbus St. Mary’s Council #4065 in East Fishkill. The former East Fishkill resident was recognized on Thursday, July 17. During the ceremony, Davidson’s family was presented with numerous awards and proclamations for his legacy of military service and volunteer work.

“This was amazing,” Davidson’s widow, Susan Davidson, said after the ceremony. “I kept looking at his picture.”

She said, “Paul would have been very humbled by it. Me – I’m bursting at the seams.”

Paul was born to Jack and Elizabeth Davidson on July 23, 1948, in the Bronx. During the Vietnam War, it was stated, Davidson served on the destroyer, USS Robert H. McCard and then joined Operation Game Warden, Task

Force 117 on a Patrol Boat River (PBR). There, from 1967-’68, he patrolled the Mekong Delta. He earned three Bronze Star Medals and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Davidson was a New York City cab driver, employed by Penn Central, and then a freight conductor for Conrail.

“It’s great the families speak up and tell their stories so young people can hear them,” said County Executive Sue Serino.

Davidson began the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Transportation Program at Castle Point VA Medical Center campus in 1994. Three years later, he was awarded the DAV’s national George H. Seal Memorial Award Honorable Mention for his service to veterans. He was also honored by being named Castle Point’s Volunteer-of-the-Year.

Continued on page 2



Former U.S. Navy Petty Officer Paul Davidson was honored posthumously during Dutchess County’s latest “Honor-A-Veteran” Ceremony on July 17 in East Fishkill. During the ceremony, Davidson’s family was presented with numerous awards and proclamations for his legacy of military service and volunteer work. Pictured is Susan Davidson with Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, left, and Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche.

-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov’t

County honors East Fishkill Vietnam veteran posthumously



Dutchess County Chairman Will Truitt, second from left, makes remarks during the “Honor-A-Veteran” Ceremony in East Fishkill on July 17. Pictured with Truitt are, from left, Legislators Tony D’Aquanni, Truitt, Lynne Versaci, Rob Faust and Steve Caswell during the ceremony.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter



Late East Fishkill resident and U.S. Navy veteran Paul Davidson was recognized posthumously during Dutchess County’s “Honor-A-Veteran” Ceremony on July 17 in East Fishkill.

Continued from cover

“It’s not just what Paul did, but how he lived,” Serino told those gathered at the ceremony. “He stepped up,” she said.

Davidson was a member of the Color Guard at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5913 in Wappingers Falls. He served as adjutant of the Beacon VFW Pvt. William B. Wilson Post 666.

Davidson was also a local volunteer. He gave his time by driving seniors to medical appointments for Friends of Seniors. He also volunteered his time as an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) driver for the local American Red Cross.

NYS Senator Rob Rolison (Senate District 39) said he met Davidson at the American Red Cross. “He didn’t talk about his time in Vietnam. We talked about his time as an engineer for the railroad,” stated Rolison.

Rolison presented Davidson’s family with The New York State Liberty Medal, in honor of the Navy veteran.

“Paul’s unwavering commitment to the people of our region, through his selfless volunteerism and dedication to improving the lives of others, epitomizes what the Liberty Medal stands for,” said Rolison during the ceremony. “When I worked with the Red Cross, Paul was one of our most dedicated volunteers and someone I counted as a friend. I was never aware of his distinguished military service because, like so many veterans, he didn’t speak of it. It was a special privilege to recognize him today—not just for his quiet service to our country, but for the lasting difference he’s made in our community.”

NYS Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. said Davidson helped others “who serve us.”

East Fishkill Town Supervisor Nick

D’Alessandro said, “This is a wonderful event,” and “we have to honor veterans for all they do.”

Dutchess County Chairman Will Truitt, along with legislators Steve Caswell, Tony D’Aquanni, Rob Faust, Lynne Versaci, Wappinger Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini, Town of Fishkill Councilman John Forman and Dutchess County Court Judge Edward McLoughlin, were in attendance.

“When you look at what Paul went through, losing his friends and comrades, it’s unimaginable,” Truitt stated during his remarks. Davidson is “a hero,” he said.

Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche remarked Davidson “returned home carrying invisible scars” but he showed “immense courage” and became “a beacon of hope” for others.

Members of the Dutchess County Honor-A-Veteran Committee, along with Serino and Roche, presented Davidson’s family with a:

- U.S. flag flown in Dutchess County for 30 days in his memory;
- proclamations;
- Veterans Challenge Coin from the Dutchess County Honor-A-Veteran Committee;
- handmade quilt from Mental Health America of Dutchess County’s Veterans Programs’ Quilts2Honor.

Local resident Dani Masterson played “Taps” to honor Davidson.

Serino began the monthly series to recognize the lives and services of local veterans who have died. The inaugural ceremony was held earlier this year in April.

According to County officials, monthly “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremonies will continue through November. It was noted that future ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m.



Town of East Fishkill Supervisor Nick D’Alessandro makes remarks during the ceremony recognizing posthumously veteran Paul Davidson on July 17. Davidson served in the U.S. Navy.

on or about the third Thursday of each month.

Applications for the program can be found online at dutchessny.gov/honora veteran or in person at the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, 1335 Route 44 in Pleasant Valley.

All submitted applications must be accompanied by a copy of the veteran’s military separation papers (DD-214, WD AGO 53-55, NBG-22 or report of casualty), obituary and death certificate, according to officials.

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80 nights of ‘Taps’ tribute in recognition of WWII ending



Dani Masterson, a Wappingers Falls resident, is playing “Taps” for 80 nights in recognition of the end of World War II.

-Courtesy photo

By Kristine Coulter

Dani Masterson, a Dutchess County resident, is in the middle of an 80-night tribute. Masterson, who is known as “American Taps Girl,” has played “Taps” at veterans’ funeral services all over the county and country.

Masterson is the New York State Director for Bugles Across America.

Masterson began her first night of “Taps,” most evenings playing at the Veterans of Foreign War Post 5913 in Wappingers Falls, on May 27.

“This nightly salute is leading up to... August 14th—commemorating the day President Truman announced the end of WWII. It’s also the 80th anniversary of that historic moment, which is why we’re honoring it with 80 nights of remembrance,” explained Masterson.

The resolution regarding “Spirit of ‘45 Day” was passed by Congress in 2010. The resolution states: “Whereas on August 14, 1945, the people of the United States received word of the end of World War II; Whereas on that day, people in the United States and around the world greeted the news of the Allies’ noble victory with joyous celebration, humility, and spiritual reflection.” It continues, “...the victory marked the culmination of an unprecedented national effort that defeated the forces of aggression, brought freedom to subjugated nations, and ended the horrors of the Holocaust...” It is noted, “Whereas more than 400,000 Americans gave their lives in service to their country during World War II.”

The resolution remarks on the men and women of the World War II generation who “created an array of organizations and insti-

tutions during the postwar era which helped to strengthen American democracy by promoting civic engagement, volunteerism, and service to community and country.”

It also mentions that the members of the WWII generation “have inspired subsequent generations in the United States Armed Forces...[and] military and civilian alike, has provided a model of unity and community that serves as a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans to come together to work for the continued betterment of the United States and the world.”

“We’re getting people from all over. A former village resident, who lives in Texas now, stopped” one night, said Masterson. “She loved it,” noted Masterson. There were also the two veterans who traveled from Ohio to hear “Taps” played in Wappingers Falls.

“Sounding “Taps” is the last nicest thing you can do for someone,” stated Masterson.

One can see photos and the schedule, which is posted on Sundays with locations for that week, on Facebook at “Dani Masterson – 80 Nights of TAPS.”

“It’s been outstanding. As a valued member of the Auxiliary, Dani is breathing back life into a place that was once very active,” Virgil Capollari, VFW Post 5913 Sr. Vice Commander, said, about how Masterson’s playing is also affecting the Post.

Cyndee Butler, president of the Auxiliary and widow of a Vietnam-era veteran, said, “I love this” about the 80 nights of “Taps.”

Also in attendance was Janice Dimock and dog, Bear. Masterson said Dimock had been in attendance, so far, 21 of the 49 nights.



Virgil Capollari, VFW Post 5913 Sr. Vice Commander, center, with two veterans from Ohio who stopped by to hear Dani Masterson play “Taps” at the VFW in Wappingers Falls earlier this summer.

-Courtesy photo Dani Masterson

Dimock explained her nephew, SPC Joseph “Joey” Dimock II, was Killed in Action in Afghanistan on July 10, 2010. Dimock was a 21-year-old Army Ranger who also served Iraq. He was from Wildwood, Ill.

According to the Associated Press, Dimock, was killed in “Salerno, Afghanistan, in a non-combat explosion at an ammunition holding facility

during an inventory” and was assigned to Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

“The thing is, the military, they do so much for us,” Dimock stated. If Dimock and Bear, can make it, they will go to the nightly playing of “Taps.”

“Take a moment to appreciate all the work that has gone into holding this,” said Capollari.



Bugler Dani Masterson plays “Taps” at the VFW in Wappingers Falls on July 14. She is playing “Taps” for 80 nights in recognition of the end of World War II.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

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BY TERRENCE MCNALLY

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Hochul releases ‘Master Plan for Aging’ final report

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently released the final report for New York’s first-ever Master Plan for Aging (MPA). The MPA Final Report contains more than 100 proposals directed toward all levels of government, the social sector and private enterprise, all with the aim of helping individuals age with dignity, independence and the support they need and deserve to thrive.

“Every New Yorker should be able to age with dignity and independence,” Hochul said. “The Master Plan for Aging builds on our ongoing efforts to empower older adults and advance New York’s status as an age-friendly state. I thank the hundreds of stakeholders, state agency staff and partners who worked to develop these proposals and look forward to reviewing the report.”

The report’s release was accompanied by a newly unveiled MPA website featuring the complete report and a sortable library of its 100-plus proposals, available in multiple languages at <https://planforaging.ny.gov/>.

The MPA advances goals outlined in the Governor’s 2022 State of the State Address and Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Executive Budget. It was formally established by Executive Order No. 23, signed in November 2022.

The Master Plan for Aging, led by the

New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office for the Aging, and the New York State Department of State is the product of a collaborative effort with dozens of stakeholders inside and outside of government.

New York has the fourth-largest population of older adults in the U.S., with 3.2 million individuals – about 16 percent of the population – over age 65. The state’s population of those over the age of 60 is projected to grow to 5.3 million by 2030, with those over 80 years of age exceeding 1.2 million – growing faster than any other age group in some areas of the state. By 2030, older adults will make up 25 to 30 percent of the population in most New York counties.

New York State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, “The Master Plan for Aging was created by New Yorkers, for New Yorkers, so we can age successfully and independently—on our terms – right here in New York.”

New York State Office for the Aging Director Greg Olsen said, “The final Master Plan for Aging is a true triumph of collective problem-solving. Under the vision of Governor Hochul, the MPA has brought together hundreds of the brightest and most accomplished minds from diverse fields and sectors – all contributing their talent to create this historic

roadmap for an age-friendly New York. The Master Plan for Aging outlines over 100 proposals, each holding the promise to make a real difference in the lives of individuals as they age. Just as importantly, this document assesses the potential challenges, opportunities and pathways for action on each proposal, making it both visionary and practical. I applaud Governor Hochul, our state agency partners, the stakeholders and the public for their contributions to this historic outcome for older adults in New York State.”

Nine ‘pillars’ cited in report

Hundreds of stakeholders participated in a process of MPA workgroups to develop the MPA Final Report proposals. Organized into eight subcommittees and over 34 workgroups, the stakeholders coalesced around nine overarching pillars, which were:

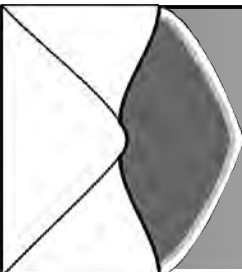
- Affordability of Basic Necessities
- Informal Caregiver and Workforce Support and Modernization of Community-Based Aging Network Service
- Modernization and Financial Sustainability of Healthcare, Residential Facilities and Community-Based Aging Network Service Providers
- Prevention, Wellness Promotion and Access
- Housing Access and Community Development
- Access to Services in and Engagement with Historically Underserved Communities
- Social Engagement of Older Adults
- Combatting Elder Abuse, Ageism, Ableism and Stigma
- Technology Access and Development

The 100-plus proposals presented in the MPA Final Report explore multiple approaches that address the built environment and infrastructure, transportation and transit, financing of care and services, recruitment and retention of the long term care workforce, licensing and training, pilot initiatives that can bring together providers and community services, innovations in care and service delivery, public-private partnerships, and many more.

The MPA process is already having an impact. The FY 2026 Enacted State Budget includes \$45 million in additional funds to expand community-based aging services offered through area Agencies on Aging — a critical priority identified by the MPA. This funding will help to reduce waiting lists for services such as home-delivered meals, assistance from personal care aides for activities of daily living, transportation assistance, home adaptations, case management to assist with person-centered resources, and other community-based supports. Going forward, the MPA provides a range of strategies for state agencies, the Legislature, stakeholders and partners to consider as New York pursues policies, programs and collaborations that will benefit older adults and their families.

The MPA Final Report builds on the MPA Preliminary Report issued in August of 2023 and Interim Report issued in October of 2024.

The MPA Council, which is made up of New York State executive agencies, will continue to engage stakeholders from groups and communities across the State and coordinate efforts across state agencies to ensure that policy and programs supporting New York’s aging population are moving forward.



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.

College notes

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.

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GARDEN CITY, NASSAU COUNTY - Adelphi's Class of 2025 celebrated their accomplishments with family and friends at the University's 129th Commencement ceremony on May 20 at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, New York. The following local students among the class were:

Krista Antonio, Poughkeepsie; Candice Leon, Beacon; Anjana Olahannan of East Fishkill and Kripa Thomas of East Fishkill.

SYRACUSE - Natalie Lavello, of Poughkeepsie, graduated from Le Moyne College in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and was named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

BOSTON, MA - The following students are named to Emerson College's Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester. To make the Dean's List, students must have a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Mila Acquanita of Poughkeepsie, is majoring in Journalism and is a member of the Class of 2025.

Shannon Cullen of Wappingers Falls, is majoring in Writing, Lit & Pub: Publishing and is a member of the Class of 2027.

ALBANY - Mackenzie Cronin of Hopewell Junction has received the 2025 UAlbany Great Dane Award.

The Great Dane Award is given to any student who has demonstrated leadership in several co-curricular activities or significant leadership in one such activity during the current year.

Recipients have demonstrated a variety of accomplishments including extraordinary leadership, service, academic achievement and involvement within the University community.

ALBANY - Sara Anderson, of Poughkeepsie, has been named an America East Presidential Scholar for the 2024-25 school year. Anderson, who is majoring in Human Biology, earned a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher during the course of their undergraduate studies in order to qualify for the award.

In addition to registering a 3.75 GPA for their college career, award winners must have received their undergraduate degree in the academic year in which they are honored and have attended their institution for a minimum of two years.

CARLISLE, Pa - Dickinson College has announced the following students graduated during the Commencement ceremony held on May 18.

Eleanor Rose Mary Lee Nolan, daughter of Michael and Jennifer Nolan of East Fishkill, BA, English, cum laude, John Jay Senior High School

Jenna Brooke Weinstein, daughter of Michael Weinstein of East Fishkill, BA, international business & management, cum laude, Arlington High School

Gavin Arthur Heinly, son of Matt and Aimee Heinly of Poughkeepsie, BS, environmental science, dean’s list, Arlington High School

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ - Kimberly Edge from Beacon, a graduate of Haldane High School, made the Dean’s List at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ School of Nursing. Kimberly is in the Class of 2026. Major in Nursing, Minor in Psychology. Parents Jennifer Ninnie-Edge and Jason Edge.

BRISTOL, RI - The following students received their degrees in May as part of the Roger Williams University Class of 2025.

Paloma Bellizzi of Wappingers Falls Grant Soedler of East Fishkill.

Annual Hyde Park Car Show attracts enthusiasts of all ages



New written exam for Deputy Sheriff position announced

Sheriff Kirk Imperati, in conjunction with the Dutchess County Department of Human Resources, has announced that a new written exam for the position of Deputy Sheriff has been scheduled.

The written exam will be offered on Saturday September 20, and the application deadline is August 15. Applicants should also be aware that, starting with this exam, the maximum age to take the exam has been raised significantly from prior years.

All qualified candidates are strongly

encouraged to take the written exam for Deputy Sheriff for a chance to become part of the team at the Sheriff's Office. A competitive salary, strong benefits, numerous opportunities for career advancement, and a career filled with community engagement are only a few of the many reasons to become a Deputy Sheriff!

To get further details, find out if one qualifies, and sign up for the exam please visit the Dutchess County Department of Human Resources website at <https://dutchess-portal.mycivilservice.com/post/exams>.

Clockwise from top left, this year's Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce Car Show was dedicated to the memory of Lynn Golden. Family members honored Lynn and are pictured with her Ford Mustang. Pete Mercado won the Best of Show award with his 1963 Chevy Nova. The Chamber's Choice award was presented to Georgia and Clay Mason with their 1955 Mercury Montclair. Show Director Stu Davis of S&S Vac and Appliances presented both awards. Dave Koehler of Hopewell Junction is pictured with his 1931 Ford Model A.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

DCTC Planning Committee meeting set for July 30

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) will hold a virtual Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 30, at 10 a.m.

A summary of the June 25th Policy Board meeting will be shared, as well as updates on the long-range transportation plan, the upcoming Mid-Hudson Valley

TMA Federal Certification, ongoing planning efforts, and more.

Please visit the calendar for meeting materials, including meeting summaries for May and June. See the agenda (.pdf) for the meeting link and call-in number and/or save this event to one's calendar.

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Keating improves command to lower earned run average

By Morgan Maier

Hailing from Omaha, Nebraska, corn-fed Matt Keating has been solid for the stellar bullpen this season. Keating enters 2025 with 40 High-A games under his belt, one of 10 returning pitchers to the Hudson Valley Lineup.

Often brought into assuage a bases-loaded jam or a couple runners on, Keating is a core relief pitcher, though he's built like a football player and once swiped bases like a shortstop.

In his native Nebraska, Keating found success at Lincoln's Southeast Community College (SCC) as a first-year player. He received National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-American accolades as a hitter first, with a few pitching appearances.

A successful two-way player, Keating dominated on the mound for SCC. After a shortened 2020 season, Keating returned for his first full collegiate season. He received national attention, being named a NJCAA All-American with his offensive prowess. He stole 27 bases, hit .404, and drove in 62 runs, plus launched 19 home runs for the Storm.

That season, SCC was 24-6 in its conference, with a 25-3 home record. Keating still likes the home cooking, as he has walked just one batter at Heritage Financial Park compared to 13 in away games. His 2.31 earned run average is

nearly one full run lower at home, and Keating had a near-immaculate month of June. Keating fanned 13 in seven appearances, with an ERA of 1.64 over 11 innings.

With his second-year transfer to University of Southern California (USC) came increased focus on Keating's arm. Fewer plate appearances, more reps on the mound. He spent one year in the gold and cardinal. Keating fanned 44 batters for a 13.2 strikeout per 9 inning rate, the program's top of the season. He intended to transfer to the University of North Carolina after the 2022 season, but the Yankees scooped him in the ninth round, making him the 280th overall pick.

The righthander made a massive leap from 2023 to 2024, dropping batting average against (BAA) from .240 to .181 in 40 appearances. Ahead of the 2025 season, Keating added speed on the fastball, adjusting all four pitches in his arsenal. His curveball is liable to fool hitters, and his command his improved on the splitter and slider. In 2025, hitters are sitting around .200 against Keating, with just one home run in 29.2 innings.

As the only Trojan selected by the Yankees in 2022, Keating looks to become the most successful USC draft pick in over a decade.



Matt Keating is a core relief pitcher for the Renegades, who is often brought into assuage a bases-loaded jam or a couple runners on base.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Greensboro PIT					17	7	.708	-	7-3	L1
	Hudson Valley NYY					14	9	.609	2.5	7-3	L2
	Brooklyn NYM *					12	12	.500	5.0	4-6	W1
	Aberdeen BAL					11	13	.458	6.0	5-5	W1
	Wilmington WSH					11	13	.458	6.0	5-5	L1
	Jersey Shore PHI					10	13	.435	6.5	5-5	W2
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Hub City TEX					15	9	.625	-	7-3	L1
	Bowling Green TB *					13	11	.542	2.0	4-6	W2
	Greenville BOS					10	12	.455	4.0	4-6	L2
	Asheville HOU					10	13	.435	4.5	3-7	L1
	Rome ATL					9	13	.409	5.0	4-6	W1
	Winston-Salem CWS					8	15	.348	6.5	4-6	W1



Home Schedule

July			
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
August			
08/05/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Strikeout Cancer Night Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
08/06/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Renegades Musical HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)
08/07/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Copa De La Diverción: Caribbean Night Presented By Cafe Con Leche HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)
08/08/25	vs. Brooklyn	07:05 PM	Make-A-Wish Night Presented By Mirabito Energy Fireworks Friday
08/09/25	vs. Brooklyn	05:05 PM	Veterans Night HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)
08/10/25	vs. Brooklyn	02:05 PM	Halloween In August Kids Eat Free Presented By Hannaford Supermarkets





Renegades Extra!





IMPACT

PR & Communications



Renegades alums shine bright on the Major League level

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades have reached the All-Star Break, in the hunt for the second-half title. True to minor league methods, the team is playing a vastly different lineup from the Opening Day roster. Since becoming a Yankees affiliate in 2022, former Renegades have starred under the bright lights of the Bronx and beyond. Some earned a regular roster spot this season, or earned call-ups in the wake of injuries. Others have inherited a premature comparison to legends of the game.

Six straight days without Renegades baseball? What a fine time to check up on some former Hudson Valley heroes!

The New York Yankees feature five former Renegades on the regular roster, plus a few key bench players. Austin Wells, the 28th pick in the 2020 draft, wears the same number across his back as New York's everyday catcher. Homegrown shortstop Anthony Volpe holds the highest career slugging percentage (.587) in Hudson Valley history. After the Yankees' slide of June and July, Volpe was the topic of heavy conversation – is this 24-year-old a bust, or on the cusp of blooming? In the Yankees' return from the All-Star Break, Volpe had a career night on July 19, with two home runs and four RBI to help mount New York's 7-run comeback against the Atlanta Braves. While Volpe continues to make milestones, including his first career multi-homer game, his go-ahead Game 4 grand slam stands as New York's lone highlight of the 2024 World Series.

Viva El Marciano, Renegades alum of 2023! The Martian, Jasson Domínguez, touched down for good in the Yankees clubhouse, with key offensive contributions at the plate and in the outfield. The switch-hitting Domínguez saw early offensive struggles, but is showing improvement from the right side. Yankees fans continue to marvel at his silky lefty swing and propensity to take right-handed pitchers to the moon.



From left, Former Renegades Austin Wells, Jason Dominguez are starring for the Yankees, while shortstop Trey Sweeney is a strong performer for the Detroit Tigers.

-Photos by Dave Janosz

Some former Renegades are fan favorites in rival farm systems, like Carlos Narvaez. The Boston Red Sox acquired the hard-swinging backup catcher for flamethrower RHP Elmer Rodriguez-Cruz this past December. Much like Renegades fans cheer the fortune that brought E.R.C. to the Valley, Red Sox Nation is pleased to have Narvaez defending their home plate.

Other prospects have punched a ticket to this year's MiLB playoffs. Former first-rounder LHP TJ Sikkema was drafted alongside Volpe in 2019. In 2022, Sikkema appeared in 11 games for Hudson Valley, holding opponents to a measly .165 average. Sikkema now plays for the AA Chattanooga Lookouts. The Cincinnati Reds affiliate captured the first-half title in the South League, a year after going 45-90 on the season.

First-round draft picks C Anthony Siegler and SS Trey Sweeney proved MLB worthy for different franchises. Sweeney's development was less favorable than Volpe's, and

the organization dealt him to the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 2023 off-season. Hardly six months later, Sweeney was packing again, landing with the Detroit Tigers with whom he debuted in August 2024. Sweeney made his first Opening Day roster this season.

Becoming a piece of the young core that looks to make another postseason run, Siegler made waves as a switch-hitter and pitcher as a high school prospect, ultimately selecting free agency from New York and signing with the Milwaukee Brewers this past offseason. Siegler held a .881 on base plus slugging percentage (OPS) in 63 games with Triple-A Nashville before getting the call to the Brew Crew on July 1.

Nobody is having a year quite like Spencer Jones, who in 2023 became the first Hudson Valley Renegade to be named to the All-Star Futures Game. Jones leads all minor league players in home runs (24). He's been having the best individual offensive season

across the 120 MiLB teams, including a 1.390 OPS. Now in Triple A-Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Jones is hitting a monster .397, including a 4-5, 3 RBI performance on July 19.

Jones's success led the way for New York's top prospect George Lombard Jr., who began this season as a Renegade. A few months into his AA career, Lombard has rediscovered his power, contributing solid offensive performances and being named the Yankees' sole representative in the Futures Game.

Hailing from colleges, high schools, and countries across the world, Hudson Valley Renegades alumni find themselves on different, uncertain paths to the dream. That player may become a Hall of Famer. He could find a passion outside of baseball. Wherever he goes, thousands of fans will be in the Valley, cheering him on every minute of his career. Once a Renegade, always a Renegade.

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades swept in shortened 2-game series

By Morgan E. Maier

After just spending just shy of a week away from the game, the Hudson Valley Renegades (14-9) were back in action for a beach trip, spending the weekend with a faceoff against the Jersey Shore BlueClaws (10-13).

Seeking to play spoiler in the second half, Jersey Shore had the Renegades salty from twin Friday and Saturday losses. Weather-induced poor field conditions postponed the Sunday matinee, holding the Renegades winless on the shore.

Hudson Valley never held a lead in this shortened series, returning to play after a week of inactivity for the All-Star festivities in Atlanta. They scored in two innings over the pair of games - a three-spot in

Friday's seventh inning, followed by one run on Saturday.

Cheers to the BlueClaws pitching staff. Gabriel Barbosa improved to 3-0 after five hitless innings on Friday. In the 9-3 Jersey Shore victory, Hudson Valley was held to just two hits, scoring three late runs off the bullpen. Griffin Herring was the losing pitcher, giving up two runs and striking out six in four innings. Each team left seven runners on base, but the BlueClaws had more opportunities to crack the game open. The sixth inning proved it.

In a six-run carousel around the bases, the BlueClaws added a handful (plus one) insurance run. Hudson Valley's three-run response in the following frame

hardly scratched the surface of the deepening deficit. A bases-loaded walk by Kiko Romero made it 8-1 Claws. An RBI single from Dillon Lewis, then a run crossed by a wild pitch. The BlueClaws scored their ninth run in the bottom half of the seventh, which stood as the final run of the game.

The man at the corner, 3B Josh Moylan, is on a hot streak. He extended his streak of reaching base safely to 20 games, a sign of offensive improvement after a sluggish start to the season. In Saturday's loss, Moylan was 2-2 with a triple and a walk. He scored the Renegades' lone run on an RBI ground-out by Manuel Palencia.

On Saturday, the Renegades debuted a

new identity in a clash of the Locals and the Bennys. An honorific of a traditional conflict in a beachfront town, Hudson Valley was the Bennys (see also: annoying, cliché-driven tourists). The hosting BlueClaws were the Locals. As is the case for many a feel-good teen beach movie, the hometown team prevailed again. The Renegades tied the game at one, but couldn't come back from the subsequent three-run deficit.

Up next, the Renegades return home against the Rome Emperors of the SAL South. In an interdivision matchup, Hudson Valley will see Rome for the first time all season. With a hot start to begin the second half, the Renegades are 8-1 at home.

Welcomed back home: Vassar-Warner Home introduces Vassar-Warner ‘Home for the Day’

After months of fighting to maintain its position in the Dutchess County community, Vassar-Warner Home recently celebrated its reopening as Vassar-Warner “Home for the Day” – a social model adult day care program – with an official Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting.

The social model adult day care program – which operates Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. – provides personalized care to Hudson Valley seniors, tailoring its services to meet dietary restrictions, health concerns, interests and overall wellness.

The event included remarks from Vassar-Warner's Executive Director Ericka Von Salews, who highlighted the support of the organization's board of directors, particularly Board President Richard Schuster, staff, friends and family. New York State Senator Rob Rolison, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, New York State Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson and Poughkeepsie City Administrator Joseph Donat were in attendance. Marcia Dunn, the program's first participant, was also introduced.

“I can't express enough thanks to everyone involved who has worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life and for those who have given us their unwavering support,” said Von Salews. “This new endeavor will once again offer Hudson Valley seniors a safe haven, an environment designed to provide elders with the highest level of support, comfort and care.”

Housed in an 1835 Greek Revival building, Vassar-Warner Home, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, began as the Dutchess Academy for Boys. In 1870, Jonathan Rowland Warner transformed the Academy into a refuge for elderly women, a vision he pursued with local church groups. Despite his passing, his legacy endured and the Old Ladies Home opened its doors to the first residents in 1871. By 1896, the Home faced high demand, prompting Smith Brothers cough drop manufacturer William W. Smith to fund an expansion to accommodate 27 new rooms. The Old Ladies Home merged with the Vassar Home for Aged Men, originally founded by Matthew Vassar Jr. and John Guy Vassar, and in 1974, became Vassar-Warner Home, which served as Dutchess County's sole nonprofit senior living facility for 153 years.



From left are New York State Senator Rob Rolison, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Vassar-Warner's Executive Director Ericka Von Salews and Vassar-Warner's Board President Richard Schuster.

-Photo by Nicholas Cerbone, Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce

For more information about the history of Vassar-Warner Home and its present services in the community, visit <http://vassarwarner.org>.

Latin Dancing at the Towne Crier on July 24

A Night of Latin Dancing will be presented by Beacon Dance Beat on Thursday, July 24 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m. for dining and music), located at the Towne Crier Café, 379 Main Street in Beacon. Enjoy the artistry and influences of Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, Reggaeton and much more, played by DJ Rhoda. Song requests welcome.

Full menu and bar service are available before and during the dance. Admission is \$15, which can be paid at the door.

For reservations (not required), please call the Towne Crier at 845-831-5500.

Volunteer firefighters honored at annual County Convention



Hughsonville Firefighter Mark Liebermann was honored for 55 years of service. William Beale, Acting Commissioner and Director of Emergency Management, presents Liebermann with a Unit Citation on behalf of Dutchess County Emergency Management and County Executive Sue Serino.

-Photo by Vinny Galvin

The Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association (DCVFA) held their 78th Annual Convention at the Pawling Fire Department on Tuesday July 15 in a jammed-packed hall with over 120 people in attendance.

Elected officials in attendance were representatives from State Senator Michele Hinchey's office, State Senator Rob Rolison, New York State Assemblyman A.J. Beephan Jr. and Joe Torres representing Didi Barrett, Dutchess County Emergency Response Acting Commissioner William Beale, County Legislatures Andrew House, Chris Rolison, Ryan Travelpiece, Town Supervisors Joseph Cavacini of Wappinger, James Schmitt of Pawling, Mary Albrecht of Pleasant Valley, Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County President Robert Boyles, 1st VP John Steele, FASNY President Gene Perry, 1st VP Don Farrell, 2nd VP Ken Holmes, Director Michael Karashay, Sergeant at Arms Eric Orr, HVVFA President Robert Schrader and Officers

of DCVFA, PCVFA, UCVFA and WCVFA.

Also in attendance were eight high school graduates receiving scholarships from the DCVFA. They include Beekman FD member Seth Reinoso, Hughsonville Fire Fighters Devin Byrne, Michael VanBuren, Millerton FD Firefighter Eric Golden, New Hamburg FD member Noelle Gerbeth, Pleasant Valley Firefighter Andrew Fanuele, Rhinebeck Firefighter Lillian Eighmy and Wassaic FD Auxiliary Alexis Winters.

The Youth Mentor of the Year award went to Daniel Mochon of the Hughsonville Fire Department.

Hughsonville Firefighter Mark Liebermann was honored for 55 years of service.

Special honors went to Hughsonville FD for a motorcycle vs. car with entrapment, Pawling Firefighter Deputy Chief Chris Greene for an Ice Rescue and Pleasant Valley Firefighters chief John Cronk and Firefighter Ed See for heroic actions taken on a fully engulfed house fire.

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that’s italian!

by luigi coppola



Chicken

A special pizza order has Mom crying ‘fowl.’

My mother, God rest her soul, was a pip. She was very stringent about what should be served and how it should be served. Pizza was included on her list.

A longtime customer, Richie, came in for a pizza, and my mom was out front. Richie wanted to order his usual pizza with chicken on it. My mother thought Richie was from another planet.

My mother went to my brother John in shock.

Mom: John, Richie hea wants the pizza with chicken on it. We can’t do that?

John: Yes, we can do it.

Mom: Oh, come on. How you going to put a chicken on a pizza?

John: Mom, we put the whole chicken on the pizza. Beak, feathers, feet ... The whole chicken; then we put it in the oven.

Mom: Really? I noa think that tastes good.

John: Oh, Mom, it’s delicious, The feathers

even tickle a little when its going down.

Mom: You telling me the truth?

John: Yeah. Would I lie about food?

Mom: Oh, come on. Really? Everything?

John: Yeah!

Mom:

Mom looks at John, then slaps him right across his face with a huge smile on her face.

Mom: You think you make a joke to me, huh?

She turns to Richie and give him a light slap also.

Mom: So you wanna the pepperoni on your pizza?

Richie: Yes, Mrs. Coppola.

While you contemplate a pizza with a whole chicken, please enjoy this recipe from

my mother for Chicken Wings Cacciatore.

Chicken Wings Cacciatore

Ingredients

12 chicken wings (2 lbs.)
1/4 c. olive or vegetable oil
1 lg. onion, chopped
1 med. size green pepper, sliced thin
1 clove garlic, minced
1 jar Coppola’s Marinara Sauce
1/4 tsp. oregano
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. basil
1/4 tsp. leaf rosemary
1/2 c. dry red wine
5 potatoes

Method

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees F.
Rub chicken wings with flour, salt and pepper. Brown in oil in a large skillet. Remove when brown; keep warm.

Drain off pan drippings into glass measure. Return 3 tablespoons to skillet. Sauté onion and garlic in skillet until soft, about 5 minutes.

Stir in Marinara Sauce, wine, oregano, basil, and rosemary. Bring to boiling.

Return chicken wings; add green pepper and sliced potatoes.

Place skillet into the oven and let bake for 30 minutes.

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Children’s Home marks new era of care with dedication of Sanctuary Garden



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie on Wednesday, July 16. The ceremony celebrated a renewed commitment to the Sanctuary® Model, a trauma-informed framework that guides the agency’s culture and approach to care.

-Courtesy photo Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie

To mark an important milestone for the agency, the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, July 16 that celebrated a renewed commitment to the Sanctuary® Model, a trauma-informed framework that guides the agency’s culture and approach to care.

The ribbon-cutting brought together over 250 local leaders, community partners, supporters, staff and youth to celebrate the rededication of the Sanctuary Garden, an idyllic space originally created in 2014 to provide children, families and staff a calming, peaceful environment. The Sanctuary Model emphasizes safety, emotional intelligence, and shared responsibility as cornerstones for building an environment focused on safety and healing. It informs how the agency provides services to individuals and families, as well as how the agency supports its staff.

“We are proud to share this joyful occasion with staff, children and supporters as we embrace our mission to empower chil-

dren and families to grow and heal safely,” said Walter J. Joseph, Executive Director and CEO of the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie. “The Sanctuary Garden has deep meaning for us as a place for children and staff when needed.”

Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the Sanctuary Model, connect with staff leading its implementation, and share in celebrating the transformative progress already underway throughout the agency.

“We are grateful to everyone who joined us today,” said Erin Cafarelli, Chief Development and Public Relations Officer. “We have always been an innovative agency, adapting to the evolving needs of our community and advocating for the health of those we serve. This is another step forward in building a healingcentered future together.”

To learn more about the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie and its commitment to the trauma-informed approach, visit childrenshome.us.

‘West Point Block Party’ to celebrate summer on July 26



The West Point Band’s Benny Havens Band will present “West Point Block Party” on Saturday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m. at West Point’s Trophy Point Amphitheater. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will take place at Eisenhower Hall in West Point. Weather-related updates will be posted to www.westpointband.com and social media.

Get ready to dance and sing along with the West Point Band’s Benny Havens Band as they celebrate the summer with their own A-list playlist, featuring classic rock and pop favorites to old school hip-hop and R&B. We invite all West Point families and the surrounding community to come out and enjoy an evening of carefree summer fun with live music by the Army’s favorite party band.

This concert is free and open to all; for more information visit www.westpointband.com.

-Courtesy photo West Point Band

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Obituaries

George K. McSpedon



George K. McSpedon, a longtime Wappingers Falls resident, passed away peacefully at the Hudson Valley Hospice House in Hyde Park, NY on July 13, 2025; at the age of 79. He was born in Yonkers, NY on May 24, 1946, son of the late George Decker McSpedon and Mary (nee Fennessey) McSpedon.

George proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, from December 21, 1965 and received an honorable discharge on December 11, 1967. He was decorated with 2 Bronze Stars, and achieved rank of an E-5 Sergeant.

On June 16, 1979 in Glenham, NY, he married the love of his life, Ellen L. White, who survives him at home.

George was an avid worker, he loved working with his hands; from construction to

cars, and even his yard. He worked for over 15-years for the Operating Engineers Local Union 137 of Briarcliff Manor. Later, he went on to own and operated his own construction company, the Du-Put Construction Company from 1980 until his passing.

Along with his wife 46 years of marriage, Ellen McSpedon, George is survived by his two daughters Kelly McSpedon and Wendy McSpedon; and his three sons from a previous marriage: Philip McSpedon, George Decker McSpedon and Michael McSpedon. He is also survived by his 12 grandchildren, and his sister Christine McSpedon.

Along with his parents, George was predeceased by his brother, Walter McSpedon and his sister, Doreen Von Essen.

His Family will gather with Friends to remember and honor his life on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 from 5-8PM at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York, where Military Honors will be rendered by the United States Army at 7:30PM. Interment will be private at the discretion of his family.

In lieu of flowers the family wishes for memorial donations to be made to either the American Cancer Society, 2678 South Road, Suite 103, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or to the Hudson Valley Hospice House, 542 Violet Avenue, Hyde Park, NY 12538.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Mary Ann Weitz



Mary Ann Pietragalla Weitz, a former longtime resident of Beacon, entered into rest on June 24, 2025 with her daughters by her side. She was 86 years old.

Mary Ann was born on March 5, 1939 in Beacon, the daughter of the late John and Josephine Libro Pietragalla. After graduating Beacon High School, she attended and graduated from the Krissler Business Institute. Mary Ann had worked as an administrative assistant for several companies and the North Carolina Department of Transportation before retiring.

She was a former member of the Catholic Daughters, Court Liberata and the Beacon Historical Society. She loved doing crafts and reading but above all, she loved being with her family.

Mary Ann is survived by her daughters, Susan Weitz and George-Ann Weitz Sauer; her former son-in-law, David Sauer; her nephews John DeAngelis and Mario DeAngelis and his wife Betsy.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Mary Ann Weitz; her grandson, Michael John Weitz Sauer; and her sister, Lucy Pietragalla DeAngelis.

Funeral arrangements will be private for the family. A graveside service will be held at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice in her memory.

To send a personal condolence, please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Matthew ‘Matty’ Hutchins



Matthew “Matty” Hutchins, AKA Buttermilk Jack, passed away on June 29, 2025. He was 51 years old.

Born on June 18, 1974 in Tampa, Florida he was the son of Kelly Austin and the late Charles Hutchins. He was a devoted husband to his wife Bridget Kenny and loving father to his step children Quinn Baumann and Luke Baumann. Those who knew him best, knew him as a poet, a painter, a musician, a storyteller, a dreamer, a collector of oddities; a mischief-maker, and a seeker of all those hidden tastes, spaces and spectacles. He was our rabble-rouser, a crazy dancer, the heart of every group and the first to point out the absurdity of himself and it all. He has gone off adventuring again, hopefully looking for trouble at the source.

Matty was a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and quickly made his mark on the Hudson Valley food scene. When he brought his unique, approachable, farm-to-table cooking to Beacon, at the Hop, it soon sparked a culinary and cultural renaissance in the area. His talent and vision shaped many beloved local spots, including The Birdsall House, Mama Roux, Dogwood, Quinn’s, The Beacon Hotel and Untouchable. Most recently, Matty was the chef at Hudson Valley Brewery, where he continued his passion for cooking and bringing people together through his food.

Although he was best known for his work in the kitchen, Matty was also a gifted musician, a giant music fan, and an incredible performer. Although he was best known for his work in the kitchen, Matty was also a gifted musician, a giant music fan, and an incredible performer. He played in several Band Camp cover bands with Beacon Music Factory, hosted an Electronic Music night at Quinn’s under the name “Space Biscuits” and performed in the metal cover band Maximum Satan, along with his friends. His deep love for music was woven into everything he did, and left a lasting impression on those he encountered.

His deep love for music was woven into everything he did, and left a lasting impression on those he encountered.

Matt is survived by his wife, Bridget Kenny; his step-children, Quinn Baumann and Luke Baumann; his mother, Kelly Austin; his sister, Vivian Ward and her husband, Carl; his twin brother, Adam Hutchins and brothers, Jacob Hutchins and Christopher Hutchins; his nine nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate his unique and special life on Sunday, August 3 from 1pm to 6pm at Hudson Valley Brewery, 7 East Main Street, Beacon.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Stella M. Osterhoudt



Stella M. Osterhoudt, a longtime resident of Wappingers Falls, NY, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 19, 2025 at the Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Beacon; at the age of 86. She was born in Greece on June 3, 1939, daughter of the late Spiro & Christine (nee Rogaris) Kyrimis.

Stella was a devout Catholic woman, and faithful communicant of St. Mary’s Church in Wappingers Falls. She was active with the various local church parish Saturday prayer groups. She also was an active volunteer at Vassar Brothers Hospital and St. Francis Hospital.

Her strong Catholic Faith was her strength and comfort and sustained her through many trials in life. She devoutly looked forward to receiving the Sacraments, especially the Most Holy Eucharist. She was also an auxiliary member of the Legion of Mary. She loved animals, especially cats and horses.

Stella was sadly predeceased by her son Thomas Osterhoudt on February 9, 2020; she was also predeceased by her two sisters Helen & Argie.

Stella is survived by three nieces and one nephew; four great-nieces & one great-nephew. She was also survived by several close-friends, she always cultivated friendship wherever she went.

Funeral Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. As per her wishes, there will be no-calling hours.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated for her 10:00AM on Monday, July 28, 2025 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, New York, followed by interment to the Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, 174-208 West Main Street, Wappingers, NY. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Schuka joins Delehanty Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls

By Kristine Coulter

Joseph “Joe” Schuka, who has assisted families at the most difficult times as a funeral director, is now with Delehanty Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls.

“I’ve been in funeral service for over 20 years, and a resident of Dutchess County for that time as well. Though it was not a family business for me, I have always worked for family-owned funeral homes,” said Schuka, a native of Peekskill in Westchester County, who started working at a funeral home right after high school and during his college years.

“I was doing just about everything funeral related that I could, and even maintenance around the funeral home properties from car details, landscaping and constructions jobs. I became a jack-of-all-(funeral)-trades. Truly I was grateful for all the learning opportunities,” Schuka remarked recently.

After his studies, Schuka began working for local funeral homes in Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, and Poughkeepsie. He returned to his hometown of Peekskill to serve as a licensed funeral director at one of the funeral homes there for over 10 years. In 2017, an opportunity arose for him to come back and work in Dutchess County at another long-standing family-owned funeral business, he explained.

“There’s just something unexplainable for

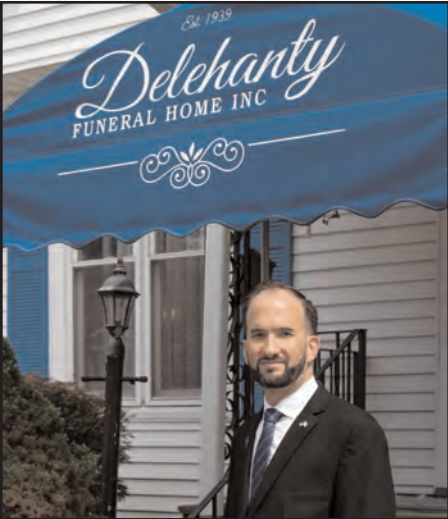
me, about family-owned businesses, very personable. It also allows one to be involved in the local communities, which is an area where I gravitated to. I truly loved the communities of Peekskill, Beacon and their surrounding area,” remarked Schuka.

“Community is something very important to me; it was instilled in me at an early age by my paternal grandmother, Ruth Schuka - someone who was very involved in the Peekskill community during my childhood, always helping her fellow neighbor. When I started my career in funeral service, it was also instilled, the importance of being involved and giving back,” remarked Schuka. “As a very young adult, I started joining local civic and fraternal organization, such as the Knights of Columbus, the B.P.O.E. (Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks) local Elks Lodge, then eventually the local Lions Club International and the Exchange Club (all of which I have served in leadership role, such as Grand Knight and President).”

In addition to civic organizations, Schuka said his Catholic faith is also very important to him and he serves in many ways at his parish and local community.

What does Delehanty offer the local community?

“Delehanty offers just about what every



Joe Schuka

-Courtesy photo

funeral home does to their communities, support and connection. We’re not just here for the saddest, most difficult times, we’re here for people during other times of need, such as food drives, holiday drives. During my years, I have always tried to reach out into the local communities by organizing different holiday drives and fundraisers,” he stated.

Schuka said he looks forward to bringing

the events that were established in Beacon and the surrounding Wappingers Falls area. He wants to bring events, such as, “Stockings for Veterans” every holiday season, which is when a collection of gifts are taken for veterans of the Castle Point VA Meical Center and surrounding facilities who might not have anything during the holidays; the Wreaths Across America events at the local rural cemeteries of Fishkill and Poughkeepsie (it’s been a great turnout the last four years, being able to cover about 1,000 veteran graves between both cemeteries of their veteran sections). “[A]lso keeping the beautiful relationship I have had with my friends from the CPCA (The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse) in Poughkeepsie, supporting their 5K-events and annual fundraising galas, to help raise awareness and funds for their cause,” he said.

What does Schuka hope to bring to those who use Delehanty’s services?

Schuka said he hopes to bring “another option” to families.

He said he likes to think he meets “families where they are and where they want to go; making them feel warm and comforting, and a part of our family for the moment they’re in our care.”

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‘Gypsy’ plays at The Center

Up In One Productions will present “Gypsy,” often considered the greatest American musical, at The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck. Performances will take place on weekends from now to Aug. 10. Tickets are \$29 and can be purchased through the Box Office at 845-876-3080 or online at www.centerforperformingarts.org. Performances will begin at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays (except Aug. 9) and 3 p.m. on Sundays. There will be a 3 p.m. matinee on Saturday, Aug. 9.

This landmark show explores the world of second-rate show business with brass, humor, heart and sophistication. With music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and a book by Arthur Laurents, “Gypsy” debuted on Broadway in 1959 starring Ethel Merman and has had several revivals starring Angela Lansbury (1974), Tyne Daly (1989), Bernadette Peters (2003), Patti Lupone (2008), Imelda Staunton (2015) and, most recently, Audra McDonald (2024). Over the years, “Gypsy” has won multiple Tony Awards including Best Musical.

Loosely based on the memoirs of bur-

lesque artist Gypsy Rose Lee, the show focuses on her mother, Rose, whose name has become synonymous with the ultimate show business stage mother. The ambitious Rose treks across the country with her daughters, Baby June and Louise, in search of success with their homespun vaudeville act. As times change, Rose is forced to accept the demise of vaudeville and the rise of burlesque, as well as her daughters’ quest for autonomy.

The musical contains many songs that have become popular standards, including “Everything’s Coming Up Roses,” “Small World,” “Together (Wherever We Go),” “You Gotta Get a Gimmick,” “All I Need Is The Girl” and “Let Me Entertain You.”

This production of “Gypsy” is directed by Nicole Tarcza and boasts of a popular veteran cast including Victoria Howland as Rose, Mary Kate Barnett as Louise, Kevin McCarthy as Herbie and Lisa Bettencourt as June.

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck is at 661 Route 308, just east of Rhinebeck Village.



Victoria Howland, from left, is Rose, Kevin McCarthy is Herbie and Mary Kate Barnett as Louise in Up In One Productions’ “Gypsy,” now through Aug. 10 at The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck.

-Photo by Nicole Tarcza

‘Beyond the Rainbow’ at Arts Mid-Hudson through Sept. 7

Arts Mid-Hudson, in partnership with Big Gay Hudson Valley, will present “Beyond the Rainbow: Highlighting LGBTQIA+ Stories,” on view through September 7, at the Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery in Poughkeepsie. This group exhibition showcases visual works across a variety of mediums that explore the diverse, complex, and deeply personal experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies.

“Beyond the Rainbow” highlights themes of identity, love, resilience, and community while honoring the ongoing contributions of queer voices in the Hudson Valley and beyond. The exhibition invites visitors to reflect, connect, and celebrate through the lens of artists who are actively shaping inclusive cultural narratives.

Participating artists include: Gülnar Babayeva, Beanie Bienish, Sean Bowen,

Theresa-Xuan Bui, Joseph Caserto, Randi Chalfin, Ariel Coffman, Camille Fischer, Avalon Gardner, Isabella Gemmati, Stephen Honicki, Perry A. Iannaconi Jr., Riley Johndonnell, Pam Krimsky, Elinor Levy, Elijah Marlborough, Alex Marsh, Cari Marvelli, Zelda aka Judith Z. Miller, Steven Rushefsky, Shirley Tuttle, and Sarah Wymer.

Gallery Hours are Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie.

Closing Reception, Artist Talk & Performance will take place on Sunday, September 7, 1 – 3 p.m. It will feature a 10-minute Live True Queer Story performance by storyteller Zelda aka Judith Z. Miller.

RSVP at: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E231621&id=525>. ‘Beyond the Rainbow.

The British Invasion at the LaGrange Association Library on July 23

While the American Blues found its origins in the United States, the unique sound traveled across the ocean to England where it took root and later returned as part of the highly successful British Invasion of the 1960s. Travel back in time with Alex Prizgintas and learn some of the fascinating stories behind iconic hits such as Led Zeppelin’s Kashmir, The Kinks’ You Really Got Me, The Zombies’ Time of the Season, and more.

The unique sound of Alex and his amplified cello will be featured at the LaGrange Association Library on Wednesday, July 23rd at 6 p.m. (please register on the library website). Classically trained, he employs non-clas-

sical tools like distortion, delay, and the iconic "wah-wah" guitar pedals symbolic of 1960s Rock n’ Roll bands--all in conjunction with a looping station. Equally comfortable with intimate and stadium settings, Alex is able to craft his own wall-of-sound through his 1,000 watt amp. Accompanied with a narration that reveal some of the back stories of baroque, jazz, folk, and Rock n’ Roll classics, he immerses his audience in a journey through musical history.

To learn more and see other video samples of his music and lectures, please visit alexprizgintas.com or follow him on Facebook and Instagram at Alex Prizgintas.

Delve into film history on Aug. 7 in East Fishkill

Join the East Fishkill Community on Thursday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m. for a fun and entertaining night!

Award-winning author and pop culture historian Marty Gitlin delves deeply into film history then travels forward to show videos of the most iconic scenes ever seen on the silver screen. He will highlight scenes from such classics as “Gone With the Wind,” “The Wizard of Oz,” “Casablanca,” “It’s a Wonderful Life,” “The Graduate,” “Jaws,”

“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” “Rocky,” “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” “E.T.,” “Saving Private Ryan,” “Dances with Wolves” and other legendary movies while playing classic film trivia with attendees. Gitlin will also talk about what made these film scenes so iconic in this highly entertaining presentation.

Please call the library at 845-221-9943 or use the online calendar at <http://www.EFLibrary.org> to register

Ulster Saving’s Hyde Park Branch Community Appreciation Day planned for August 2

Community members are invited to Ulster Savings Bank’s Community Appreciation Day on Saturday, August 2, from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at the Hyde Park location at 4240 Albany Post Road. Activities and entertainment include fun

games and a live broadcast remote from Q92. Enjoy free refreshments (while supplies last). They will have local businesses from the community attending plus donation collections for the Dutchess County SPCA.

BHS Class of 1965 to hold reunion

The Beacon High School Class of ‘65 will hold a 60th reunion in Beacon on October 4. If one graduated with that class, reach out to Linda Salvatore Beasimer, lbeasimer@gmail.com or Barbara Conley Gosda at bgosda4765@gmail.com or Connie Perdreau at corneliaperdreau@yahoo.com.

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SUDOKU

S	P	A	S	P	A	S	P	A	S	P	A
R	E	D	S	R	E	D	S	R	E	D	S
H	U	R	S	T	O	N	Y	H	U	R	S
C	L	O	N	E	A	O	N	E	C	L	O
A	G	E	S	C	H	E	S	H	I	R	E
T	N	T	I	E	R	O	N	S	E	T	S
A	N	T	I	S	I	L	A	G	E	S	I
P	A	L	M	S	A	L	E	M	A	R	I
O	N	E	T	S	H	I	R	T	N	E	X
T	I	G	G	E	R	A	P	O	G	E	S
A	H	E	A	D	A	N	A	N	A	N	A
C	A	T	W	O	M	A	N	I	S	L	E
G	O	N	G	O	R	E	O	M	A	L	S
U	L	N	A	W	O	R	N	A	L	I	B
A	F	A	R	N	B	A	N	B	A	N	B

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

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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			
		4			5
		1			
		2			5
	5		5		

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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: FICTIONAL FELINES

ACROSS

1. A long way off

5. Basketball org.

8. *Dr. Seuss' cat headgear

11. Elbow-wrist connection

12. Showing signs of use

13. Legal excuse

15. "The ____ Show" (1976-1980)

16. Black and white cookie

17. Pall ____ and ____ of America

18. *Halle Berry's 2004 role

20. Small island

21. In advance

22. Santa ____ winds

23. *Bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, poun-cy one

26. Orbital extremes

30. Half and half

31. Casual top

34. Clerk's call

35. Fortuneteller's props

37. Pub offering

38. *Berlioz, Toulouse and ____ of "Aristocats"

39. ____perspirant

40. Silo contents

42. Philosophical system

43. More zestful

45. Army's offensives

47. Blast maker, acr.

48. " ____ Line Is It Anyway?"

50. Long, long time

52. *Lewis Carroll's smiley ____ Cat

55. Star Wars attacker

56. First rate (2 words)

57. Foolish

59. Jaws of Life manufacturer

60. *Cereal-praising tiger

61. Lake north of Cleveland

62. Comedian Schumer

63. Health resort

64. Communists, slangily

DOWN

1. Summer mo.

2. Flocculant, for short

3. Actress Kendrick

4. Riffraff

5. ____ Jean Baker

6. Certain pudding ingredient

7. Happening soon, old fashioned

8. Ant construction

9. Competent

10. ____ the season!

12. Suitors

13. Type of acid

14. *Garfield's favorite food

19. Sharpens

22. Bldg unit

23. November birthstone

24. Lacking sense

25. Hanukkah coins

26. Atlas stat

27. Chilling

28. Be

29. Champagne flute part, pl.

32. Whisker

33. Not well

36. *What three little kittens lost

38. Decent person, in Yiddish

40. Between game and match

41. " ____ Goosey Gander"

44. Magazine's special feature

46. Kidnapper

48. What pertussis patients do

49. Temporary tattoo ink

50. Class reunion attendee

51. With bloodshed

52. *A. L. Webber musical

53. One in a million

54. Children's author Blyton

55. Repeated Cuban dance step

58. An affirmative

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7				8	9	10
11						12						13	14	
15						16						17		
	18				19							20		
				21						22				
23	24	25						26					27	28
30					31		32	33				34		
35				36			37					38		
39						40				41			42	
43					44					45		46		
				47				48	49					
	50	51					52						53	54
55							56					57		58
59							60					61		
62							63					64		

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

hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



A cosmopolitan plant

Plantain is the common name for the *Plantago* genus of plants. Their common name brings to mind the banana-looking fruit in the unrelated *Musa* genus. Linguists believe the shared moniker resulted from both being edible, similar to other foods that refer to multiple types, like pepper or biscuits.

Worldwide, 200 differing species of adaptable plantains grow in various habitats. Most are wind pollinated, producing up to 20,000 seeds per plant. About 35 *Plantago* species are native to North America. But in Dutchess County, you are more likely to encounter European varieties that arrived during the colonial period and have become naturalized.

A useful weed

Plantain leaves and seeds have been consumed as human food since prehistory. The plants have antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and antihistamine properties; they have been used to treat insect bites, rashes, and skin irritations, as well as coughs and intestinal upset. The *ovata* species of *Plantago* is instrumental in psyllium, found in Metamucil, which promotes bowel movements.

Fibers and dyes for textiles, as well as mucilage for glue, are also made from *Plantago*. As a weed in your lawn, the deep tap root which makes it nearly impossible to eradicate, is also the quality that allows the plant to loosen compacted soil and draw nutrients up into the range where other plants can use them. Plantain out-competes lawn grass, but it is a useful weed.

Can it be served in a martini glass?

In botany, “cosmopolitan” does not describe a plant’s elegantly simple fash-

ion sense, nor its use as an ingredient in a vodka-cranberry drink. Plantains are cosmopolitan because they can be found in the Americas, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, and Europe. Also, in some of the finest yards in Stanford, Wappinger, and Pawling.

The two main types of *Plantago* in Dutchess County are Broadleaf Plantain (*Plantago major*) and Narrowleaf Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). These common weeds thrive in various conditions, including lawns, gardens, sidewalk cracks, along roadsides, and disturbed areas.

As its name indicates, Broadleaf Plantain has wide, oval leaves with a waxy surface and pronounced veins. It has small, white-petalled flowers. Its ability to regenerate from its crown and its resistance to many herbicides can make it difficult to control. Narrowleaf Plantain has lance-shaped leaves and can be identified by its distinctive flower heads. It is well adapted to dry, low-fertility soils, and can withstand mowing. Its long taproot makes it difficult to eradicate. Plantains emerge in winter or early spring and grow through fall until colder weather beats them back.

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



Botanically speaking, plantains are “cosmopolitan,” meaning they are found in many places around the world. Pictured is a cosmopolitan plant with the same-named drink and magazine.

-Photo by Francine Wizner

Beacon Historical Society to open new exhibit on Camp Nitgedaiget July 26

The Beacon Historical Society will open a new exhibit, “Beacon’s Camp Nitgedaiget: A Vanished Utopia,” at 61 Leonard St., from noon - 4 p.m., on July 26. Pronounced “Nish-guh-die-get,” it means “no worries” in Yiddish.

Just two miles south of Beacon, in Dutchess Junction, Jewish progressives and Communist sympathizers gathered

each summer at Camp Nitgedaiget. Operational from 1922 until early 1950s, it accommodated up to 1,000 patrons daily, according to the Beacon Historical Society.

Admission is free. Open Thursdays 10 a.m. – noon and Saturdays from 1-3 p.m.

The exhibition, which will be shown through November, is in collaboration with



The Beacon Historical Society will open a new exhibit, “Beacon’s Camp Nitgedaiget: A Vanished Utopia,” on July 26.

- Courtesy photo Beacon Historical Society

the Bronx County Historical Society and Schlossberg Family Fund of the Community sponsored by the Irving and Gloria Foundation of the Hudson Valley.

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