

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## Zolzer leaves Renegades, plans new role at Pamal



**Rick Zolzer**

-Courtesy photo

**By Rich Thomaselli**

Perhaps the most recognizable face of the Hudson Valley Renegades has resigned.

The popular Rick Zolzer, who has served as the public address announcer and later a vice president of the minor league baseball franchise since its inception, has stepped down.

He has been with the team since it first moved to the Hudson Valley from Erie, PA, in 1994, save for one year when the club tried a new public address announcer in Lisa Morris.

Zolzer made the initial announcement last week in a Facebook post, writing:

"First, I would like to say that I have utmost respect for the Hudson Valley Renegades organization. I have always wanted to retire as a Renegade, but unfortunately this is no longer an option. But I am and always will be a Renegade. For the last 28 years, I accomplished so many things including raising a ton of money, entertaining over 3 million people, dealt with great partners, sponsors and spread the overall message of the Renegades. I always made it a point to make sure the Renegades were a place where friends, families and businesses could go to have fun and create memories that last a lifetime. I believe this is still the case. I will always believe in the staff that is there now and their ability to carry the ball into the future. Please do not boycott the Renegades. Please continue to support them. They remain the single best family entertainment option EVER in the Hudson Valley so please continue to support the 'Gades. If you know me, know that this is not my last stop. I am not retiring or giving up - Stay tuned for my next message in about 24 hours!!!!"

It took him less than a week to find a new gig.

Continued on page 9

## SOLVING FOOD INSECURITY

# Beacon's Green Teen program expands to include Poughkeepsie



*A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the Poughkeepsie Green Teen garden with students and representatives from local, county, state and federal officials was held at the garden on the DCC campus on Thursday, July 18.*

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

**By Curtis Schmidt**

An incredible collaborative effort has resulted in providing fresh garden produce for needy families in Poughkeepsie, while also providing educational and work opportunities for local teenagers.

The Green Teen program is being coor-

minated through Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), Dutchess Community College (DCC) and Poughkeepsie High School, with a helping hand of funding from Jonathan Jacobson - NY Assemblyman, whose 104th District includes the cities of

Beacon, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony with students and representatives from local, county, state and federal officials was held at the garden on the DCC campus on Thursday, July 18.

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# 20th annual Hudson River Swim set for Saturday

## Still time to sponsor a swimmer

**By Kristine Coulter**

Celebrate two decades of the Great Newburgh to Beacon Hudson River Swim on Saturday, July 27 at Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon. The event will kick off at UNICO Park, 70 Front St., in Newburgh, Orange County. The event will also raise funds for the River Pool at Beacon, the non-profit that supports the floating pool which was inspired by the late Fishkill resident, folk singer and activist Pete Seeger. Check in is from 10:15-11:45 a.m. Swimmer registration and kayakers is closed, but one may still sponsor a swimmer.

"Yes, people can make a donation by sponsoring a swimmer through the riverpool.org website and following links to the River Swim or by going directly to our Sponsor a Swimmer page at riverpool.org/sponsor-a-swimmer/. We have 230 swimmers signed up who would love help in achieving their fundraising goals," said Alan Zollner, the vice president at River Pool.

The participating swimmers start the one-mile, cross-river swim will begin from the Newburgh Riverfront Marina and finish at the Beacon harbor, according to organizers. (The rain date is July 28, splash in around 1:40 p.m.)

Water temperature is expected to be comfortable, between 75 and 80 degrees, it was noted.

There will be kayak escorts, shoreline



*The 20th annual Hudson River Swim from Newburgh in Orange County to Beacon will take place on Saturday, July 27.*

*Participants in the 2023 Hudson River Swim are pictured.*

-Archive photo by Alan Thomas

volunteers and the marine units from the Dutchess County and Orange County sheriffs offices will monitor river vessel traffic during the swim. Organizers said the swim is coordinated with the U.S. Coast Guard to limit river traffic and in

Newburgh and Beacon will be available on the respective shores.

"There are a number of reasons this event continues (and grows) each year: For one, it represents both an iconic challenge and a

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# 20th annual Hudson River Swim set for Saturday



Kayak escorts will be on the Hudson during the annual Hudson River Swim. The swim is set for July 27. Pictured is from the 2023 event.

-Archive photo by Alan Thomas



The 20th annual Hudson River Swim from Newburgh in Orange County to Beacon will take place on Saturday, July 27. Pictured are people enjoying the River Pool in Beacon.

-Archive photo

Continued from cover

celebration for many people. Fifty-two years after passage of the clean water act and after millions have been spent cleaning up the Hudson, this event marks a celebration of those successes. Second, people want to support the dream of the likes of Pete Seeger in providing a free safe swimming spot for children to cool off, be together, and connect with the natural environment in the safe way our rainbow

river pool provides. Third, there is virtually no other opportunity to safely swim across the Hudson River. People appreciate that we work with the U.S. Coast Guard and local marine law enforcement to limit marine traffic, and plan around the river currents. Together with that, people feel this is a safe, well-run event. It is not a race, but simply intended to provide an opportunity for an enjoyable open water swim across the Hudson River,” remarked Zollner.

In January, Gov. Kathy Hochul unveiled NY SWIMS: the New York Statewide Investment In More Swimming. “Access to swimming isn’t just about recreation – it’s about public health and climate resiliency,” Hochul said at the time. “NY SWIMS will be the largest statewide investment in swimming since the New Deal, expanding access for underserved communities and improving safety for kids across New York.” Contributions raised by swimmers

will be used to operate the River Pool, said organizers, and to ensure continued access to the Hudson River. Each swimmer must raise a minimum of \$100. There is also an additional \$75 registration fee (\$25 for minors). The River Pool was upgraded last year. It was installed in 2007. In 2023, refurbished seats were added. According to organizers more than 15,000 have come to the Hudson River to the pool, which has lifeguards.

## Outdoor performances of ‘Always...Patsy Cline’ set to begin July 24

**By Kristine Coulter**  
Ted Swindley’s “Always...Patsy Cline” can be seen live on Bannerman Island. Performances are set for Wednesday, July 24 through Sunday, July 28. Encore performances are scheduled for August 1-3. For tickets, go to [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org). “Always...Patsy Cline” is described as “a true story about American Country Pop Singer Patsy Cline’s friendship with a fan from Houston, TX named Louise Seger who first heard Patsy on the Arthur Godfrey Show in 1957. Seger became an avid fan of Cline’s, hounding a local disc jockey to play her records on the radio. Seger later befriended the star in a Texas honky-tonk and continued correspondence with Patsy until the star’s untimely death in a tragic plane crash in 1963 at the age of 30.” Emily Clare Zempel plays Seger, who is Cline’s fan, and future friend, in the show. Jessica Welch portrays Cline. “When I read the play, I was struck by how different I am from Louise. She is bold, sassy, an extrovert through and through, and totally Southern. It seemed like a really fun challenge to me,” Zempel remarked to Southern Dutchess News recently in an email. Louise, said Zempel, “speaks to the audience with such boldness and a fun spirit--I really wanted to try her on. Once I started working on the text and found her heart, I started to notice how much we had in common.”



Emily Clare Zempel will portray Louise Seger in “Always...Patsy Cline.”

-Courtesy photo

Examples of what Seger has in common with her, Zempel said, were during hard times they both turn to “art to help us feel O.K. and we both have a big mama bear side. (Also being Southern and being from

the Midwest they have a lot in common.) “She is so fun to play, and she is teaching me a lot, as good characters often do. Particularly, she is teaching me about carrying someone’s love after their loss and trusting in that,” said Zempel. Asked if she was familiar with Cline’s music, Zempel replied: “I fell in love with Patsy Cline as a young teen, but I only knew the song “Crazy.” I absolutely loved her voice and her musicality. At the time I was a young jazz singer, and I thought of Patsy as a jazz artist! It wasn’t until later that I realized she was a country singer, and I was a bit shocked because I did NOT like country back then on principle. I was a grunge kid.” How does one prepare for the show, since it will be performed outside with the Hudson River nearby? “During rehearsal we play a lot with the staging, trying different things, feeling out the relationships. I had the opportunity to work through the text with the playwright, Ted Swindley, who is a delight to work with and gave me so many useful insights. On my own, I think through her character and work through her physicality a bit. I’m researching other women with her type of experience and body language to get a feel for it, and I also use some of the “good ol’” acting tools like Laban (physical movement style) and energy centers to put her in my body. Other than that, I rest a lot. This role is very demanding, and I find that I have to guard my energy, and prioritize sleep and rest,” explained Zempel. She continued, “This is my third show on Bannerman, and though the venue has some challenges, there is nothing like that boat ride over and the beautiful scenery. Bug spray helps! With this particular costume, I’ll be researching wearable ice packs. Luckily, we drink lots of “coffee” and “beer” in the scenes, which means lots of fluids are available! As I never exit the stage, that will help a lot.”

Does Zempel have a favorite scene in the show? “Much of this show is me storytelling to the audience, which is so fun, but my favorite part might be when I sit around the kitchen table with Patsy (Jessica). The relationship between them is built so quickly and skillfully through song and dialog, and It’s a wonderful moment of warmth in the show,” remarked Zempel. As for that friendship between Seger and Cline, Zempel said, “At first read, I was thinking--what does Patsy see in her? But they have a lot in common. Patsy is drawn to Louise as someone who speaks her mind and knows herself. Louise starts as a super fan, and she is a bit manipulative in the ways she tries to get close to and stay close to Patsy--but it comes from her heart. For instance, she takes care of Patsy at the Esquire Ballroom once she finds out the conditions of Patsy’s performance. This is partially so she can be useful to Patsy who will then want her around, but also because Louise really cares about her. As they get to know each other, Louise learns that Patsy’s life is not so different from her own. They bond over their broken, hard marriages, the stress of being working mothers, and their mutual drive to enjoy life anyway. This relationship is one that I think most of us have dreamed of at some point in our lives. We meet our idol, and then become lasting friends. Who wouldn’t want that? Louise gets to live this dream for all of us.” Zempel noted, “I’m so grateful to Neil [Caplan] that he gave me the opportunity to play this role. It’s not a role that just any director would think of casting me in from my appearance and personality. When I first read something, I often think... “I don’t know this person, I don’t know this character, I don’t think I can do this.” But there is always something, there is always at least one hook that I can find that makes me think-- “Wait. I know this woman. I have felt this, and I have been here.” Once I find that hook, there’s no stopping it.”

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# Dedication ceremony for the Zone Sgt. Jame G. Sweeney Memorial Bridge

New York State officials hosted a dedication ceremony of an overpass on Interstate 84 honoring Zone Sergeant James G. Sweeney, a decorated September 11, 2001 first responder and former New York State Trooper from the Town of Wappinger. Sweeney died in March of 2021 at the age of 68.

The dedication ceremony was held at the overpass accessible from Lime Kiln Road in the Town of East Fishkill.

Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. stated, “I am proud that this was my first piece of legislation passed in the NYS Assembly last year; it is a tribute to Jim and to all those affected by 9/11-related illnesses,”

“Honoring Zone Sergeant James Sweeney with a bridge named in his memory underscores the profound debt we owe to those who sacrificed so much on and the years following September 11, 2001. His bravery and dedication as a first responder and New York State Trooper exemplify the courage and selflessness that define this very community. On behalf of all in our Town of Wappinger, we forever keep Jim’s wife Noreen and his family in our prayers, and we are grateful for this recognition by the State of New York. It is a truly fitting tribute to his legacy and a reminder of the enduring

impact of his service,” Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini told Beacon Free Press.

“Sgt. Sweeney’s dedication and sacrifice epitomize the highest standards of public service, and this memorial bridge will serve as a lasting testament to his extraordinary contributions,” said Beephan.

Sweeney “joined the NYPD (New York Police Department) in 1974 and was furloughed in 1975 during New York City’s fiscal crisis. He then began his gratifying career with the New York State Police, attaining the rank of Zone Sergeant. One of his proudest achievements on the job was lobbying the NY State Senate and Governor [George] Pataki to rename two overpasses in memoriam to two of his fallen colleagues. He was a proud member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Police Association and the Knights of Columbus,” according to his obituary.

Sweeney and his wife had four children, Elizabeth, Kevin, Katie and Shannan.

“Zone Sergeant Sweeney’s life was ordered and defined by service to his community and his state,” remarked NYS Senator Rob Rolison said. “As a former



A dedication ceremony of the Zone Sergeant James G. Sweeney Memorial Bridge recently took place on I-84.

-Courtesy photo

Town of Poughkeepsie police officer who knew Sergeant Sweeney, I am honored to carry this bicameral legislation along with my colleague and friend Assemblyman

Beephan designating an East Fishkill bridge and stretch of state highway in his memory. We must continue to support and honor those who sacrifice to protect us.”

## State Regulators issue ruling on Central Hudson’s one-year rate plan

The New York State Public Service Commission issued a decision last week that establishes new rates for Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. that will go into effect on August 1 and run through June 30, 2025.

The order concludes an extensive 12-month vetting process that included six virtual and in-person public statement hearings and testimony made before administrative law judges provided by Central Hudson subject matter experts, members of Department of Public Service staff and registered parties. Based upon the hearings and testimony, the administrative law judges issued a recommended decision to the Public Service Commissioners, who issued their final ruling today.

“This new, one-year plan will allow Central Hudson to make critical investments in the energy system so we can continue to safely serve our customers while also supporting New York State climate laws and reliability mandates,” said Joe Hally, Vice President of Regulatory

affairs. “We appreciate the work and dedication of all parties who helped the Commissioners arrive at this decision.”

According to Central Hudson, the approved rate plan will allow Central Hudson to make critical investments in areas including:

- Critical electric and natural gas infrastructure investments that will replace equipment that has reached the end of its useful life and upgrades that will allow for greater connection of locally produced renewable resources.

- Preparation and response to severe weather events, including enhanced vegetation management and tree trimming as well as additional funding to provide personnel and resources to address severe weather when it happens.

- Upgrades to technologies that will improve the customer experience.

- Addressing economic implications following the COVID-19 pandemic including inflationary pressures and

employee turnover.

According to discussion at last week’s commission session, the typical residential electric customer will see a total bill increase of approximately 7.85 percent, or approximately \$12.65 per month. The typical residential natural gas customer will see a total bill increase of approximately 9.19 percent or approximately \$12.25 per month. When the approved order is received, Central Hudson will review the materials and provide rate changes with customers on monthly bills, in newspapers, and via the website, CentralHudson.com.

The PSC’s ruling comes one month after Central Hudson and regulators agreed to a settlement of up to \$62.59 million to close the investigation into the implementation of the Utility’s billing system in September 2021. As part of the agreement, Central Hudson and its shareholders agreed to pay or absorb the amount of the settlement. No revenue from customers associated with today’s

approved plan will be allocated to meeting that agreement. Congressman Pat Ryan released the following statement on Central Hudson’s rate increase.

“From day one, I’ve been fighting to lower costs and hold Central Hudson accountable. With Hudson Valley families feeling the economic pressure, allowing any rate increase is completely unacceptable. We’re all still reeling from years of systemic failure by Central Hudson – while their profits continue to grow at our expense. We can’t back down.”

Ryan has made repeated calls for Central Hudson’s rate increase request to be rejected until its billing systems are fully fixed and every customer that was wronged is made whole. Last October, Congressman Ryan demanded that the rate increase request be rejected and applauded the Public Utility Law Project of New York (PULP)’s filing of a motion to deny Central Hudson’s request for a utility rate increase.

## Serino announces Youth Wellness Support Microgrants

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced on July 18 a new grant opportunity: the Youth Wellness Support Microgrant program. Grants up to \$20K each will fund local programs that offer activities that build strong well-being and deter young people from developing substance use issues and other destructive behaviors, and setting them up for successful, healthy futures as adults.

Serino said, “Our young people have always been, and must continue to be, a priority for all of us in Dutchess County. With our new Youth Wellness Support Microgrants, we are excited to encourage creative, youth-oriented programming and messaging that can nurture our young people and help them avoid the pitfalls of substance use. Ensuring they have activities and programming to bolster their health and well-being builds a healthier community for generations to come.”

The Youth Wellness Support Microgrant program seeks proposals from nonprofit organizations, municipalities and grassroots organizations that offer specific programs benefiting youth, with evidence-based wellness activities that help reduce the risk of

substance use for children and young adults under age 25. Grant awards can range from \$5,000 to \$19,000 per recipient, with a total of \$200,000 available. Funding for the Youth Wellness Support Microgrant program is through opioid settlement funds obtained as a result of litigation against the pharmaceutical industry. Grant applications are now available online via Dutchess County’s online grant portal (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Login?urlkey=dc>) and will be accepted on a rolling basis while funds are available.

The 2024 Youth Wellness Support Microgrant Program focuses on several key areas targeting preventing young people from developing substance use disorders and safeguarding their mental wellness:

1. Prevention
2. Public Awareness Activities
3. Social Media Awareness and Safe Use

Grant proposals should reflect one or more of these focus areas. Creative ideas that have demonstrated success are encouraged.

Youth Wellness Support Microgrant Program instructions and guidance is available online at [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov); appli-

cants must ensure compliance with Dutchess County’s Procurement Policies and Procedures. For more information on the

grant program and application process, please contact Sandi Pierson at [spierson@dutchessny.gov](mailto:spierson@dutchessny.gov).

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# Viewpoints

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. **Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.** Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to [newsplace@aol.com](mailto:newsplace@aol.com), and the phrase "Letter to the Editor" should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

### Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published
- 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.
- 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.

## Fair, honest and provable elections are needed

### To the Editor:

November 5th, 2024, Election Day, is fast approaching. We the People of New York State must have fair, honest and provable elections. With many states "spot-lighting" their voter rolls, and the lack of control by each state to maintain accurate voter information, NYS voter rolls are no different, in fact horrendous. NYS is NOT following Federal Election Law process. The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 demands "accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained" NYS voter rolls are not accurate or current. (New York State Legislature Fails to Address Catastrophic Breach of State NYSVoter Rolls <https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2023/06/new-york-state-legislature-fails-address-catastrophic-breach/>) The Help America Vote Act of 2002 demands "every legally registered voter is assigned a unique identifier." NYS voter rolls have voters with multiple voter IDs. Time is running out, we must have a remedy. The election process is very simple. You have a voter, a vote cast, and a vote counted. Legislation must be passed defining the accuracy rate for voter registration, operational controls and tabulation, and a process by which an end-to-end audit would be triggered in elections - in the meantime, an end-to-end audit of the 2022 election. Polls show almost 80% of Americans want a voter ID, and our NYS officials frown greatly on this. Other countries use a thumbprint with ID before allowing citizens to vote, hence not allowing illegal voters to cancel out a legal voter's choice. I volunteer with NY Citizens Audit ([AuditNY.com](http://AuditNY.com)). Our data findings have been brought to the attention of all who should be concerned. Their response is AG James bringing litigation against us, but no one has ever refuted the analysis, or asked to speak with us. How can an election be certified with a system error rate of over 10%, and with election results as close as they have been, how can we say who is sitting in office has legitimately been elected?

Deborah Fleury  
Wingdale

## BEACON FREE PRESS

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## Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley announces new chair, trustees



Community Foundations announced Robert J. Cotter, left, as its new chairperson. G. Angela Henry, center, and Mary Etta Schneider will join the board of trustees. -Courtesy photos

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) announce the appointment of Robert J. Cotter as the new Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. G. Angela Henry and Mary Etta Schneider will join the Board as Trustees.

CFHV's President and CEO, Laura Washington, expressed her enthusiasm, sharing, "I am delighted to welcome our new Board Chair and two new esteemed Trustees. We are honored to have such accomplished and dedicated individuals on our Board. Their collective expertise will be instrumental as we advance our strategic initiatives and address the evolving needs of our Hudson Valley communities."

Cotter, previously First Vice Chair, has been an active Board member since 2020. He succeeds Chip Simon, who has served as Board Chair since 2022, and who will remain a Trustee. A longtime resident of the Hudson Valley, Cotter brings over 30 years of leadership and strategic planning experience from his tenure at IBM in Poughkeepsie. Bob's extensive volunteer work includes contributions to Guiding Eyes for the Blind and F.I.S.H. Philipstown. "We are in an exciting time. We are on the verge of getting to the next level, which means having an even greater impact on all three counties we serve. As a Hudson Valley native, I am really excited to see how we can better work with the community for positive change."

Simon, who penned the Community Foundations mission — "Inspiring and celebrating local charitable giving and civic engagement" and was key in the development of the strategic plan said, "The Foundations is in excellent hands with Bob in the role of Board Chair. During the last two years he has been a member of the CFHV Executive Committee. He spearheaded the Transition Task Force that ultimately identified and selected our current President & CEO, and he made significant

contributions as head of our HR Committee. Add to this Bob's innate ability to connect with people and you have a Board Chair who is ready and able to help the Foundations move forward with its strategic plan and expand its role as a community leader."

Dutchess County resident Henry is an accomplished actor and voice - over artist, she is a popular emcee at fundraising events. Henry has a resume of philanthropic endeavors. She served as the COO for the International Women's Health Coalition and was also Director of Operations at the Mali office for CARE. She currently serves as the Executive Director for the Poughkeepsie Public Schools Foundation, where she helps raise money to help bridge opportunity gaps in the Poughkeepsie school district. Henry's deep-rooted community involvement will be invaluable to CFHV. "Community Foundations play an increasingly important role in the lives of their partners, and CFHV is no exception. It is an honor and privilege to serve alongside the highly engaged and committed members of the CFHV Board, and it is exciting to be on the forefront of meaningful impact in our three-county region."

Schneider, a former banking executive with a career at Citibank and Bank of America, currently serves as Board Chair of Historic Huguenot Street. Schneider has also been a dedicated volunteer with the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist, the SUNY New Paltz Foundation Board, and the Metropolitan Opera. Schneider's extensive experience and insights will greatly benefit the CFHV Board of Trustees. "Some of the primary functions of the Board are to provide good governance and oversight as well as to support the Chief Executive Officer in execution of the organization's strategic plan. I look forward to leveraging my business background to help move the organization forward."

## Beacon Recreation

**By Heidi Harrison**  
**Free Movies in the Parks:** Watch "Shrek" on July 24 at South Ave Park, South Ave.; "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" on July 31 at Memorial Park, Robert Cahill Dr.; "The Goonies" on August 7 at Green St. Park, Green St. and "Beetlejuice" on August 14 at Settlement Camp Park, 18 Camp Loop Road.

The rain date is August 21, if one is needed.

**Wee Play Community Block Party:** Every Wednesday 10-11:30 a.m. \$1 donation suggested.

**Green Teen Farm Stand:** Every Wednesday 5-6 p.m. form July-October.

**Gemms (Growing & Empowering Myself & My Sister, Inc.):** Girls grades 6-12 on Sundays from 5-7 p.m.

**Senior Chair Yoga:** Mondays & Fridays, 9-9:45 a.m. This is a free class.

**Senior Exercise:** Offered by Dutchess County Office of the Aging: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-11 a.m. (pre-registration is required)

**Tai-Chi:** Mondays & Fridays 10-11:30 a.m. Beginners on Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-Noon. All levels fee is \$50/4 Class Session & Drop Ins is \$20.

For information, contact Marc Sabin, 212-960-3238 or [taiji@marcsabin.com](mailto:taiji@marcsabin.com).

**Open Arms Christian Ministries Food Pantry:** Every Saturday 10 a.m.-Noon. Open to all.

Classes and events held at Beacon Recreation Center is located at 23 West Center St.



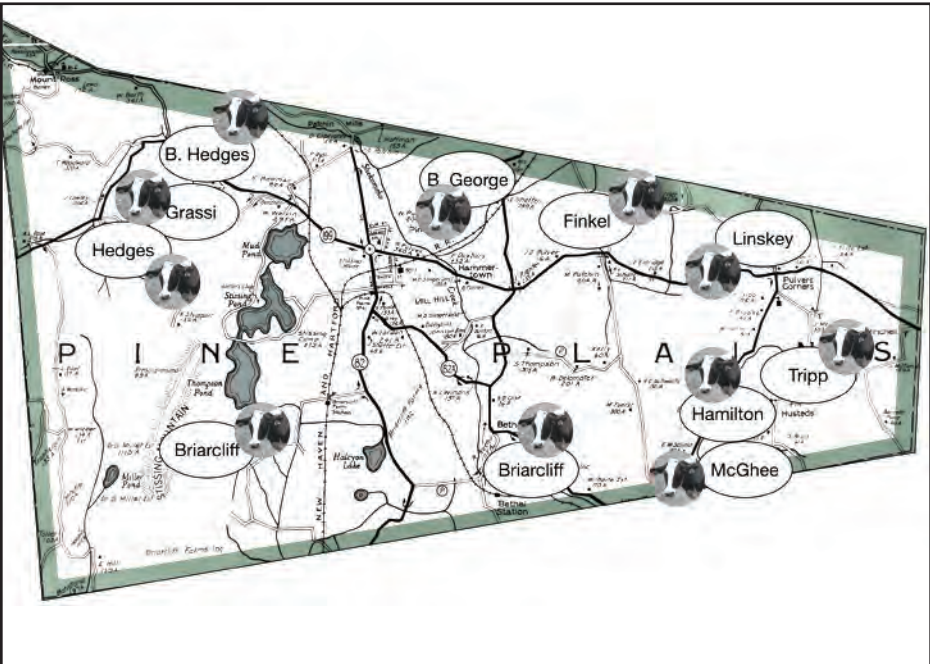
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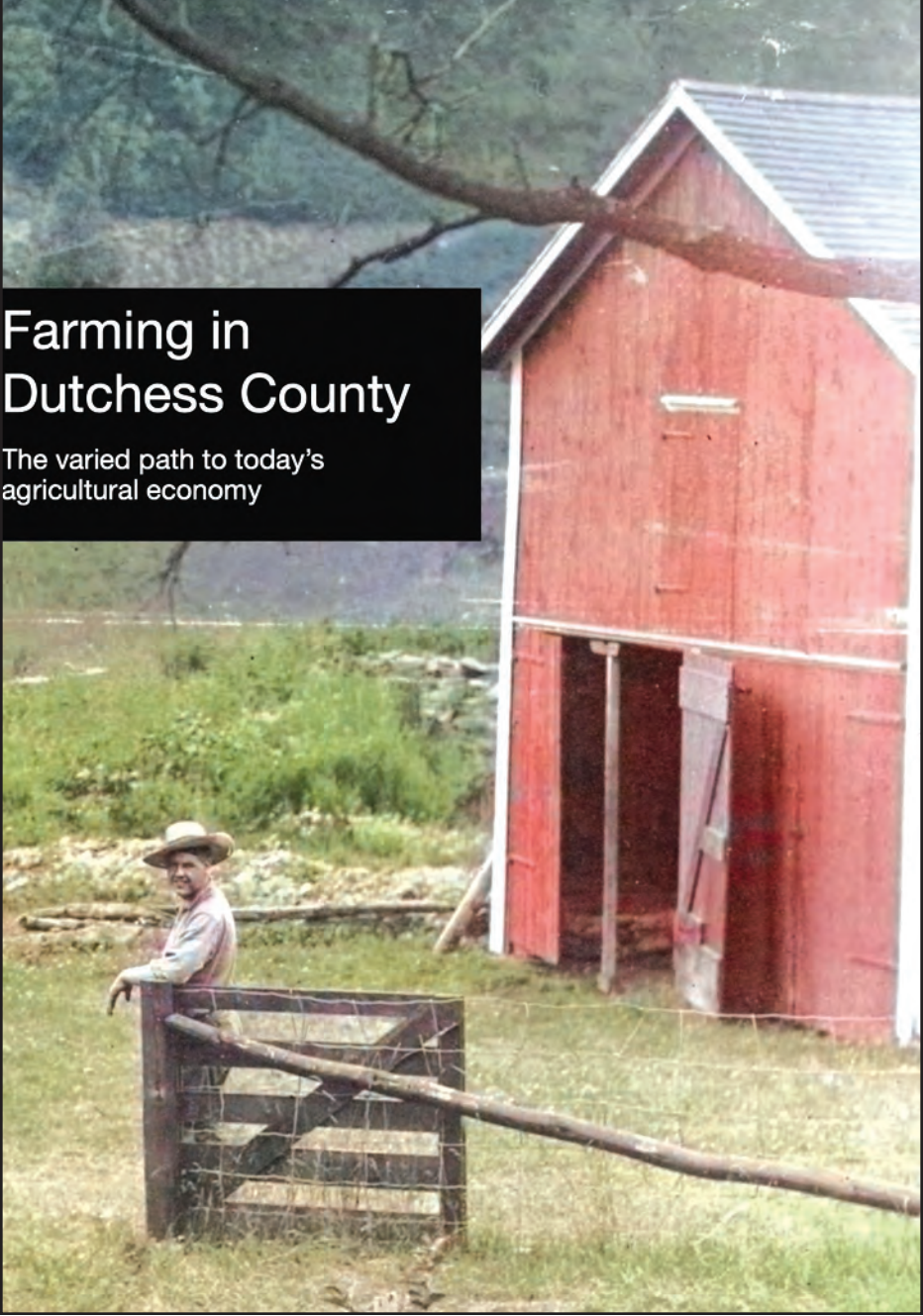
Dutchess County  
Historical Society

[www.DCHSNY.org/ddp](http://www.DCHSNY.org/ddp)

# The loss of small family dairy farms in Pine Plains



*This map identifies some of the dairy farms that used to populate all of Pine Plains, given the convenience of a major railroad connection in the town center.*  
-DCHS image



## Farming in Dutchess County

The varied path to today's agricultural economy

*The full 2023 DCHS Yearbook can now be found online at [www.dchsn.org/yb-2023](http://www.dchsn.org/yb-2023).*  
-Courtesy image

**By Dyan Wapnick**

Imagine you could travel back in time to Pine Plains at the turn of the twentieth century. Standing at the intersection of Main and Church Streets you might catch the whistle of the Poughkeepsie and Eastern train as it leaves the Borden Creamery at the P&E station, where local dairy farmers dropped off their milk twice a day in 10-gallon aluminum cans – fully loaded weighing over 80 pounds – to be processed and shipped. Every Tuesday was cattle day, when a cattle car was placed at the Newburgh, Dutchess and Connecticut railroad stockyard on South Main Street and where farmers drove their beef cattle to be transported to New York City. With 18 trains going in and out of the hamlet daily, it was a busy place, and a lot of that activity revolved around the farms.

Today you would be hard pressed to picture this peaceful hamlet sequestered in northeast Dutchess County capable of supporting two weekly newspapers (the Pine Plains Herald and Pine Plains Register), two drug stores (Bowman's Pharmacy and Cole Drug Store), two large hotels (the Ketterer Hotel and the Stissing House), several boarding houses for tourists (including The Pines, a 25-room mansion), Bowman's Opera House, multiple shops, and a renowned school (Seymour Smith Academy), not to mention over 40 small-fcto mid-sized family farms dotting the surrounding countryside and nearby communities. Yet that's how it was in 1900.

This article will attempt to show how the loss of these farms, with a focus on dairy farms, has had a direct, negative impact on the vitality of the once-thriving hamlet of Pine Plains. If you could stand on the same spot in 1935, other than horse and buggies replaced by automobiles, you wouldn't see many changes from 35 years earlier despite it being the middle of the Great Depression. Sure, the opera house closed, but now there's a popular cinema across the street, the Pine Plains Theatre, which is also a testing site for first-run films before they debut in New York. There's a clock tower next to the Stissing House, memorializing long-

time Doctor Henry Clay Wilber. Yes, the two weekly newspapers have merged into a single weekly, the Register-Herald, and Seymour Smith Academy was recently torn down, but it's been replaced by the Pine Plains Central School, the first centralized school district in Dutchess County. The tourists continue to flock here every summer, with boys' and girls' camps on Stissing Lake owned by the parents of future composer and lyricist Jerry Herman (a camper here from the age of 6 to 23, and later the camps' musical theater director). A former large dairy enterprise called Briarcliff Farms just south of the hamlet ceased operation, but it's now an Aberdeen Angus championship beef farm supplying the stock for 95% of the Angus cattle in the United States.

However, by the end of the decade the railroad was no more, with the last freight service in 1937 and the tracks eventually all pulled up; yet if you were to stand on that same corner in 1950 you might be surprised to see the railroad's demise has not had a noticeable effect on the community. Truck transport has taken the place of the trains, and in the years since World War II, with the help in part of the GI Bill which provided loans and educational opportunities for farmer veterans, Pine Plains has continued to flourish, looking much the same as it did 15 years earlier. But change was coming—and when it came, it changed the life of the hamlet.

Beginning in the 1960s, a small-town version of urban renewal began to take place in the hamlet. One of the first buildings to go was a beautiful Greek Revival on Church Street, the Davis House, torn down in 1963 to make way for a Grand Union. By 1970, the former Ketterer Hotel on the corner, last known as the Piester Building, sat vacant, and it was demolished in 1974, leaving an empty lot in its place, while the venerable old Stissing House on the opposite corner had become the local watering hole, in danger of suffering the same fate. Also in 1974, Berlin's Department Store on the northeast corner was torn down to allow for the Stissing National Bank's expansion. Fire

destroyed several buildings on South Main Street (in 1981 and 1992), which became more empty lots. The old movie theatre closed and was slated for demolition until a last-minute reprieve saved the building and it was converted into Pine Mall, supporting businesses on three floors. But that, too, failed and it became another abandoned eyesore.

The decline didn't happen overnight, and it was not unique to Pine Plains. The seeds had been sown quite a few years earlier, ironically during a period of progress and growth, the result of technological changes and other factors which directly influenced the number and size of dairy farms. (According to the USDA, dairy farm size can be classed by headcount, with small farms having 30 milk cows, mid-sized farms from 30-500 milk cows, and large farms anything over that number).

You can't talk about the development of Pine Plains without including the railroads, which transformed this rural community in the boom years after the Civil War. Pine Plains was uniquely situated to take advantage of the east-west rail traffic afforded by the so-called "short lines" in Dutchess County. At its peak, there were three railroads serving the town. While they all provided passenger service, it was in the hauling of iron ore and milk that they expected to make money, and among the sales pitches used to entice Pine Plains residents to invest in the first

of them to be incorporated, the Poughkeepsie & Eastern (1872), was the claim that their farms would gain 25% in value within three years of its completion. For what had been mostly subsistence farms, the railroad opened new markets, especially in New York, and once refrigerated rail cars made it possible to ship raw milk by train, production escalated to meet the demand and farmers began increasing the size of their herds...

The full article can be found in two online locations: DCHS's 2023 Yearbook, vol. 102. Farming in Dutchess County at [www.dchsn.org/yb-2023](http://www.dchsn.org/yb-2023) and larger context found at [www.dchsn.org/small-farms](http://www.dchsn.org/small-farms).

*Dyan Wapnick is the president of the Little Nine Partners Historical Society of Pine Plains, NY, and an executive producer of their documentary, "Our Farms, Our Farmers," which serves as a companion piece to this article.*

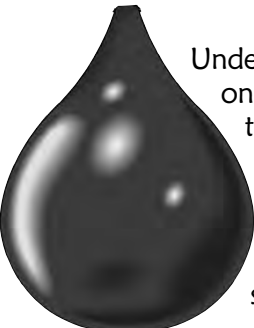
*You can find a link to her full article (this is a partial, "snippet view" only) and the documentary video at [www.dchsn.org/small-farms](http://www.dchsn.org/small-farms). Wapnick is also DCHS Town Vice President for Pine Plains.*

*The article is from the just-published 2023 DCHS Yearbook, vol. 102, "Farming in Dutchess County" which can viewed online at [www.dchsn.org/yb-2023](http://www.dchsn.org/yb-2023) or purchased in print at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) (search books). If you have any questions, contact Bill Jeffway at [bill.jeffway@dchsn.org](mailto:bill.jeffway@dchsn.org).*

# GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE

## Who needs blood?

Under normal circumstances, every two seconds someone in America will need a blood transfusion. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims - due to accidents and burns - heart surgery, organ transplants, women with complications during childbirth, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.





# Renegades Extra!



Celebrating 50 Years  
In The Hudson Valley

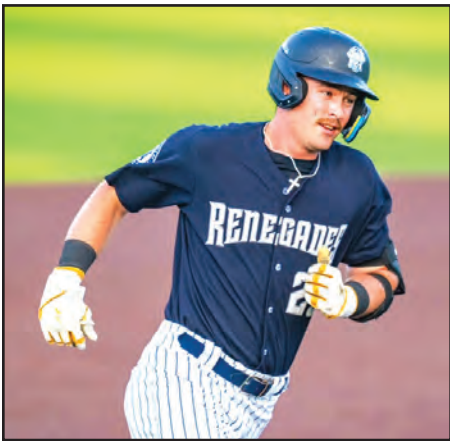
1173 Route 9 \* Wappingers Falls, NY  
www.viscountwines.com

## League Standings

| SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH |                   |   |    |    | W    | L   | PCT | GB |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|----|----|------|-----|-----|----|
|                             | Greensboro PIT    | * | 16 | 8  | .667 | -   |     |    |
|                             | Aberdeen BAL      |   | 13 | 11 | .542 | 3.0 |     |    |
|                             | Jersey Shore PHI  |   | 13 | 11 | .542 | 3.0 |     |    |
|                             | Hudson Valley NYY |   | 11 | 12 | .478 | 4.5 |     |    |
|                             | Wilmington WSH    |   | 11 | 12 | .478 | 4.5 |     |    |
|                             | Brooklyn NYM      |   | 8  | 16 | .333 | 8.0 |     |    |
| SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH |                   |   |    |    | W    | L   | PCT | GB |
|                             | Bowling Green TB  |   | 14 | 9  | .609 | -   |     |    |
|                             | Greenville BOS    |   | 14 | 10 | .583 | 0.5 |     |    |
|                             | Hickory TEX       |   | 13 | 11 | .542 | 1.5 |     |    |
|                             | Winston-Salem CWS |   | 12 | 12 | .500 | 2.5 |     |    |
|                             | Asheville HOU     |   | 9  | 14 | .391 | 5.0 |     |    |
|                             | Rome ATL          | * | 8  | 16 | .333 | 6.5 |     |    |

## RENEGADES RAMBLINGS

### Tough 2nd -half start and Martin's power surge



Garrett Martin has been hot at the plate recently. In his last 20 games, Martin has 11 extra-base hits, including five home runs, five doubles, and a triple.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

A few items from the notebook.  
**NEW BEGINNINGS:** With 43 games left to go in 2024 after Tuesday's game, Hudson Valley currently is off to a tough start. July has been a rough month so far, with Hudson Valley entering play Friday with a 4-8 record since July 1.  
**THE ROME WHO?:** Hudson Valley

welcomed the Rome Emperors to Heritage Financial Park this past weekend. It is the first time the Renegades have hosted Rome since they became known as the Emperors prior to the 2024 season. The franchise was known as the Rome Braves from 2003 to 2023.

**THE PROMISED LAND:** The Renegades continue a stretch this week where they will play 12 of their next 15 games, and 18 of their next 27, away from Heritage Financial Park. The team will go to Wilmington, Del. for a six-game series this week.

**THE RUNNIN' RENEGADES ARE BACK:** After stealing only 13 bases in 27 games in June, the Renegades have been on a stolen base frenzy to begin July, going 17-for-19 on stolen base attempts as a team through the first 12 games of the month. Roc Riggio leads the way with six steals in seven tries.

**STELLAR STARTERS:** Starting pitching continues to be excellent for the Renegades. Thirty-five of the last 41 starters have allowed three earned runs or less in their outings.



|        |                       | Players Statistics |    |     |      |    |    |     |     |     |      |      |    |     |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|----|-----|------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| PLAYER | TEAM                  | G                  | AB | R   | H    | 2B | 3B | HR  | RBI | BB  | SO   | SB   | CS | AVG | OBP   | SLG   | OPS   |       |      |       |       |
| 1      | JaredSerna SS         | HV                 | 84 | 326 | 49   | 81 | 23 | 0   | 12  | 55  | 39   | 60   | 10 | 7   | 0.248 | 0.339 | 0.429 | 0.768 |      |       |       |
| 2      | OmarMartinez C        | HV                 | 71 | 244 | 35   | 59 | 10 | 1   | 10  | 32  | 52   | 68   | 0  | 0   | 0.242 | 0.377 | 0.414 | 0.791 |      |       |       |
| 3      | JaceAvina CF          | HV                 | 73 | 281 | 38   | 74 | 22 | 0   | 8   | 41  | 31   | 85   | 4  | 1   | 0.263 | 0.347 | 0.427 | 0.774 |      |       |       |
| 4      | GarrettMartin RF      | HV                 | 51 | 164 | 29   | 34 | 10 | 2   | 7   | 24  | 19   | 57   | 9  | 1   | 0.207 | 0.319 | 0.421 | 0.74  |      |       |       |
| 4      | RocRiggio 2B          | HV                 | 69 | 260 | 50   | 59 | 16 | 4   | 7   | 27  | 47   | 57   | 15 | 4   | 0.227 | 0.359 | 0.4   | 0.759 |      |       |       |
| 6      | RafaelFlores 1B       | HV                 | 57 | 193 | 27   | 55 | 17 | 0   | 6   | 35  | 38   | 55   | 2  | 1   | 0.285 | 0.403 | 0.466 | 0.869 |      |       |       |
| 7      | JesusRodriguez C      | HV                 | 56 | 211 | 39   | 70 | 14 | 4   | 5   | 33  | 29   | 30   | 7  | 3   | 0.332 | 0.412 | 0.507 | 0.919 |      |       |       |
| 7      | KikoRomero 3B         | HV                 | 49 | 152 | 20   | 34 | 9  | 0   | 5   | 17  | 26   | 63   | 9  | 1   | 0.224 | 0.355 | 0.382 | 0.737 |      |       |       |
| 9      | JoshMoylan 1B         | HV                 | 68 | 227 | 32   | 54 | 9  | 1   | 3   | 23  | 40   | 68   | 2  | 3   | 0.238 | 0.361 | 0.326 | 0.687 |      |       |       |
| 10     | ChristopherFamilia LF | HV                 | 22 | 77  | 8    | 13 | 3  | 0   | 2   | 11  | 6    | 26   | 0  | 0   | 0.169 | 0.256 | 0.286 | 0.542 |      |       |       |
| 10     | AntonioGomez C        | HV                 | 14 | 49  | 3    | 8  | 2  | 0   | 2   | 6   | 5    | 15   | 0  | 0   | 0.163 | 0.236 | 0.327 | 0.563 |      |       |       |
| 12     | KyleBattle LF         | HV                 | 21 | 46  | 14   | 8  | 1  | 1   | 1   | 5   | 9    | 23   | 5  | 0   | 0.174 | 0.316 | 0.304 | 0.62  |      |       |       |
| 12     | TylerHardman DH       | HV                 | 16 | 59  | 8    | 14 | 3  | 0   | 1   | 7   | 5    | 26   | 1  | 0   | 0.237 | 0.292 | 0.339 | 0.631 |      |       |       |
| 14     | BeauBrewer 3B         | HV                 | 32 | 89  | 8    | 21 | 6  | 0   | 0   | 10  | 8    | 18   | 0  | 0   | 0.236 | 0.299 | 0.303 | 0.602 |      |       |       |
| 14     | JuanCrisp P           | HV                 | 3  | 0   | 0    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |      |       |       |
| 14     | BrennyEscanio 3B      | HV                 | 17 | 53  | 5    | 15 | 6  | 0   | 0   | 8   | 5    | 16   | 3  | 1   | 0.283 | 0.339 | 0.396 | 0.735 |      |       |       |
| 14     | ColeGabrielson RF     | HV                 | 59 | 173 | 23   | 34 | 11 | 1   | 0   | 15  | 25   | 52   | 10 | 3   | 0.197 | 0.33  | 0.272 | 0.602 |      |       |       |
| 14     | AnthonyHall RF        | HV                 | 12 | 38  | 3    | 3  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 9    | 16   | 1  | 0   | 0.079 | 0.255 | 0.079 | 0.334 |      |       |       |
| 14     | DJLeMahieu 3B         | HV                 | 2  | 7   | 1    | 2  | 1  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0    | 1    | 0  | 0   | 0.286 | 0.286 | 0.429 | 0.715 |      |       |       |
| 14     | NelsonMedina CF       | HV                 | 48 | 152 | 12   | 18 | 3  | 1   | 0   | 14  | 13   | 73   | 8  | 0   | 0.118 | 0.192 | 0.151 | 0.343 |      |       |       |
| 14     | OscarSilverio X       | HV                 | 1  | 1   | 0    | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 1    | 0  | 0   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |      |       |       |
| 14     | AlexanderVargas SS    | HV                 | 5  | 15  | 1    | 3  | 1  | 1   | 0   | 5   | 3    | 1    | 1  | 1   | 0.2   | 0.316 | 0.4   | 0.716 |      |       |       |
| 14     | JorbitVivas 2B        | HV                 | 4  | 16  | 4    | 5  | 1  | 0   | 0   | 5   | 2    | 3    | 0  | 0   | 0.313 | 0.389 | 0.375 | 0.764 |      |       |       |
|        |                       | Pitcher Statistics |    |     |      |    |    |     |     |     |      |      |    |     |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
| PLAYER | TEAM                  | W                  | L  | ERA | G    | GS | CG | SHO | SV  | SVO | IP   | H    | R  | ER  | HR    | HB    | BB    | SO    | WHIP | AVG   |       |
| 1      | CamSchlittler P       | HV                 | 5  | 3   | 2.77 | 15 | 15 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 74.2 | 48   | 31 | 23  | 6     | 3     | 37    | 94    | 1.14 | 0.18  |       |
| 2      | BenShields P          | HV                 | 3  | 2   | 2.75 | 14 | 7  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1    | 52.1 | 35 | 19  | 16    | 5     | 4     | 10    | 71   | 0.86  | 0.185 |
| 3      | TrentSellers P        | HV                 | 6  | 2   | 2.94 | 23 | 1  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 4    | 52   | 32 | 25  | 17    | 2     | 2     | 29    | 63   | 1.17  | 0.173 |
| 4      | SebastianKeane P      | HV                 | 6  | 6   | 4.88 | 15 | 15 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 66.1 | 62   | 37 | 36  | 6     | 6     | 32    | 62    | 1.42 | 0.252 |       |
| 4      | MattKeating P         | HV                 | 3  | 3   | 4.73 | 28 | 0  | 0   | 0   | 2   | 3    | 51.1 | 39 | 30  | 27    | 7     | 0     | 22    | 62   | 1.19  | 0.205 |
| 6      | ColeAyers P           | HV                 | 2  | 3   | 2.88 | 32 | 0  | 0   | 0   | 3   | 6    | 50   | 41 | 20  | 16    | 3     | 3     | 18    | 59   | 1.18  | 0.219 |
| 7      | KyleCarr P            | HV                 | 0  | 6   | 6.04 | 16 | 16 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 67   | 70   | 54 | 45  | 5     | 2     | 43    | 58    | 1.69 | 0.275 |       |
| 8      | BaronStuart P         | HV                 | 5  | 3   | 4.05 | 13 | 13 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 66.2 | 63   | 31 | 30  | 3     | 5     | 26    | 56    | 1.34 | 0.257 |       |
| 9      | JoelValdez P          | HV                 | 1  | 2   | 3.16 | 25 | 0  | 0   | 0   | 3   | 5    | 42.2 | 29 | 19  | 15    | 2     | 4     | 21    | 50   | 1.17  | 0.192 |
| 10     | MasonVinyard P        | HV                 | 2  | 2   | 3.56 | 20 | 0  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 2    | 30.1 | 24 | 18  | 12    | 2     | 1     | 19    | 43   | 1.42  | 0.211 |
| 11     | JacksonFristoe P      | HV                 | 1  | 3   | 3.79 | 12 | 12 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 38   | 27   | 18 | 16  | 2     | 1     | 28    | 40    | 1.45 | 0.201 |       |
| 12     | LuisArejula P         | HV                 | 3  | 4   | 3.05 | 21 | 0  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 4    | 38.1 | 33 | 18  | 13    | 2     | 2     | 21    | 36   | 1.41  | 0.232 |
| 13     | HuestonMorrill P      | HV                 | 2  | 2   | 3.52 | 23 | 0  | 0   | 0   | 2   | 3    | 30.2 | 28 | 17  | 12    | 6     | 2     | 9     | 33   | 1.21  | 0.239 |
| 14     | EricReyzelman P       | HV                 | 0  | 0   | 0    | 6  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 9.2  | 2    | 0  | 0   | 0     | 1     | 4     | 17    | 0.62 | 0.065 |       |
| 15     | BlaneAbeyta P         | HV                 | 1  | 1   | 1.64 | 4  | 4  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 22   | 17   | 8  | 4   | 0     | 3     | 2     | 16    | 0.86 | 0.207 |       |
| 16     | BrianHendry P         | HV                 | 1  | 0   | 0    | 3  | 3  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 11   | 5    | 2  | 0   | 0     | 0     | 6     | 15    | 1    | 0.125 |       |
| 16     | LeonardoPestana P     | HV                 | 1  | 0   | 1.86 | 6  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1    | 9.2  | 1  | 2   | 2     | 0     | 0     | 5     | 15   | 0.62  | 0.036 |
| 18     | 18YorlinCalderonP     | HV                 | 0  | 0   | 1.59 | 6  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 11.1 | 8    | 3  | 2   | 0     | 1     | 5     | 13    | 1.15 | 0.186 |       |
| 19     | 19GeoffreyGilbertP    | HV                 | 0  | 0   | 0    | 5  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 2   | 2    | 7    | 1  | 0   | 0     | 0     | 2     | 10    | 0.43 | 0.043 |       |
| 20     | 20StevenFulgencioP    | HV                 | 1  | 1   | 4.15 | 8  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1    | 8.2  | 7  | 7   | 4     | 0     | 2     | 6     | 7    | 1.5   | 0.219 |
| 21     | 21McKinleyMooreP      | HV                 | 0  | 0   | 7.36 | 4  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1    | 3.2  | 2  | 3   | 3     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 6    | 1.09  | 0.154 |
| 22     | 22JuanCrispC          | HV                 | 1  | 0   | 12   | 2  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 3    | 2  | 4   | 4     | 2     | 0     | 4     | 4    | 2     | 0.182 |
| 23     | 23HarrisonCohenP      | HV                 | 0  | 0   | 0    | 1  | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 1.1  | 0  | 0   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 2     | 0    | 0     | 0     |
| 23     | 23BryceWarreckerP     | HV                 | 0  | 0   | 3.86 | 1  | 1  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 2.1  | 3  | 1   | 1     | 0     | 0     | 2     | 2    | 2.14  | 0.333 |
| 25     | 25JoshGrosz P         | HV                 | 0  | 1   | 13.5 | 1  | 1  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 3.1  | 6  | 7   | 5     | 2     | 0     | 6     | 1    | 3.6   | 0.429 |





# Renegades Extra!



## RENEGADES ROUNDUP

# Three pitchers combine on historic no-hitter and Riggio's walk-off HR seals deal as Renegades top Rome

By Rich Thomaselli

What a way to start the second half of the season after having nearly a week off for the All-Star break.

On a historic Friday night at Heritage Financial Park, the Hudson Valley Renegades threw the third no-hitter in franchise history in a remarkable 1-0 walk-off win over the Rome Emperors. After nine no-hit innings from the Hudson Valley pitching staff, a towering walk-off home run to right field by Roc Riggio broke a scoreless tie to complete the no-hitter in astounding fashion.

The no-hitter thrown by Kyle Carr, Trent Sellers and Hueston Morrill was the first for Hudson Valley since July 10, 2021, against the Brooklyn Cyclones, and the first at Heritage Financial Park since August 10, 2000 vs. the Pittsfield Mets. That no-no, thrown by Doug Waechter, was also the only other nine-inning no-hitter in Renegades franchise history.

Carr was tremendous, throwing five no-hit innings and allowing just three baserunners in the game. After Carr walked three of the first five batters he faced, the southpaw retired 11 in a row to complete his outing. Two runners caught stealing aided Carr in navigating the walks in the first two innings. In his last three starts at home, he has now allowed just two runs in 15.2 innings.

Sellers was tremendous in relief of Carr, continuing his outstanding stretch on the mound. He tossed three perfect innings, not allowing a single baserunner while striking out three. In his last six appearances, Sellers has now thrown 16.2 consecutive scoreless innings.

In the ninth inning, Justin Janas walked to lead off the ninth for Rome, ending a streak of 20 consecutive batters retired by Renegades pitching that began in the second inning. However, Hueston Morrill then secured three consecutive outs to complete nine no-hit frames.

Entering the bottom of the ninth inning, the Renegades had just four hits



**Trent Sellers, Kyle Carr, and Hueston Morrill pitched a combined no-hitter on Thursday, July 19. It was the first no-hitter for Hudson Valley since July 10, 2021, against the Brooklyn Cyclones, and the first at Heritage Financial Park since August 10, 2000 vs. the Pittsfield Mets.**

-Photo by Dave Janosz

with only one runner reaching scoring position. That all changed when Riggio ripped a ball deep into the night sky for a solo home run, completing the no-hitter in the most dramatic of circumstances. It marked the Renegades' sixth walk-off win of the year and the first on

a home run.

Hudson Valley lost a 4-3 extra-inning decision on Saturday night.

On Sunday, the Renegades earned a 3-1 victory, taking two of three from the Rome Emperors in the first series following the All-Star Break.

Cam Schlittler put together his second consecutive strong start, allowing just three hits and one run across five innings with five strikeouts. The right-hander has allowed just two earned runs over his last two starts while recording 13 punchouts in 11 innings.

## General Manager Q&A

# Handling the home stretch and value of promotional events

*The Hudson Valley Renegades have a first-year general manager in Zach Betkowski. He sits down with reporter Rich Thomaselli every week to express his thoughts on the Renegades in particular and on minor league baseball in general.*

**There are about two months left in the season. Is there such a thing as a home-stretch for management?**

I always joke, but it's true – August brings the dog days of summer. It's easy for people

to get frustrated quicker because they have been working all year. August can be a challenge at times, because you are dealing with fatigue. We've really made it a priority this year to give staff some extra time off. A little R&R, if you will, even when the team is at home. We try to take advantage of opportunities when we can, such as letting people go early and things like that.

**Rome just made its first and only appearance in Hudson Valley this year. Do**

**you think fans come out to see visiting teams and players as well?**

I think there's something to that, yes. Do I think it's the majority of people? Certainly not. But I do think there's a science to it all. Baseball purists want to see the stars of tomorrow. They want to see a major league player who might be doing rehab. Order maybe they are just curious to see a team that doesn't often come into town. So, yeah, there definitely something to that.

**What promotional value do you think you get out of things like the mascot wedding?**

We take great pride in our promotional schedule. The mascot wedding (of Rookie and Renee) was huge for us. There was a lot of interest in that. ... As a staff we take out the promotional schedule every day. It's probably one of the most important things that we do. We know that if we have a killer promotional schedule that the fans will come out.



Zach Betkowski

SOLVING FOOD INSECURITY

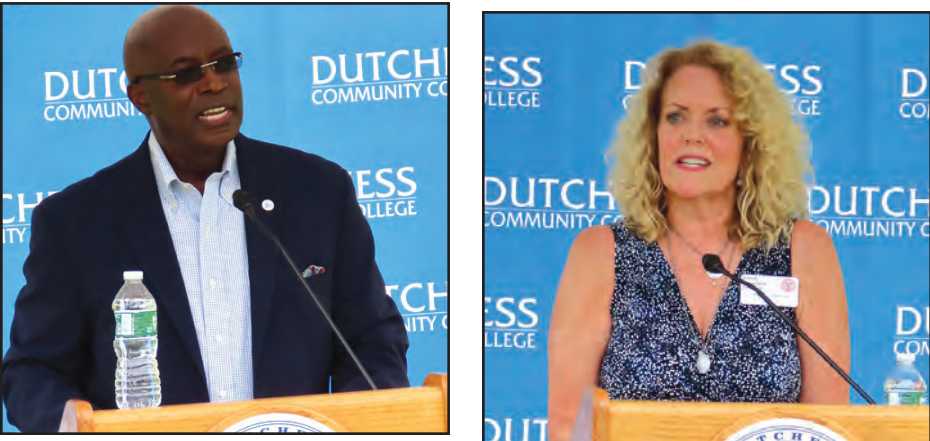
CCEDC’s Green Teen program expands to Poughkeepsie youth



Above: Beacon Green Teen program members join Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers, Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Executive Director Mary Lou Carolan.

Left, in the photos from top to bottom are Poughkeepsie Green Teen members David Benz and Elizabeth Soriano, DCC President Peter Grant Jordan and CCEDC Executive Director Mary Lou Carolan.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt



Continued from cover

The Green Teen students of Beacon and Poughkeepsie showcased the fruits and vegetables. Supporters attending included

Dr. Peter Grant Jordan, President of DCC, CCEDC Executive Director Mary Lou Carolan, Jacobson, Brandon Gonzalez of the Office of Congressman Pat Ryan, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino,

Dutchess County Legislators and City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers. Certificates of Recognition were awarded to CCEDC and DCC by County Executive Serino, Mayor Flowers and Pat Ryan’s office.

This all started two years ago when Assemblyman Jacobson met Samantha Brittain, CCEDC Green Teen Program Manager, at an event in Beacon and was inspired by her team’s work with teens in Beacon. This meeting was the beginning of a meaningful partnership between the CCEDC and Jacobson’s Office. A proposal to extend this program to the youth of the City of Poughkeepsie was made and Jacobson secured funding for the program’s Community Garden on the DCC Campus. Lacie Reilly, President of the Board of Directors at CCEDC and Instructor & Program Chair of Human Services Program Behavioral Sciences Department and Director of The Pantry at DCC, put the gears in motion for the collaboration.

“This is an incredible collaborative effort. The seeds were planted in so many ways and it has grown into a wonderful garden,” said Carolan as she spoke at the event. “The Poughkeepsie High School students are obtaining valuable knowledge, learning to work together and have the opportunity to gain credit for classes at DCC.”

She added that the sustainable edible garden will also address food insecurity in the City of Poughkeepsie and the county as the vegetables harvested are available at the pantry at DCC for access to anyone needing food. Any produce that is not distributed at DCC is moved to Dutchess Outreach or the Saint Thomas Food Pantry in Amenia - all food is utilized.

Jacobson commented, “I witnessed the enthusiasm of Samantha Brittain with the Beacon Green Teen program. I was so impressed with her efforts and that pro-

gram that I knew I had to work to fund a similar program in the City of Poughkeepsie.”

Jordan said, “We at DCC are happy to a partner in this impressive program and to share our knowledge. This is all about working together.”

Poughkeepsie Green Teen members Elizabeth Soriano and David Benz addressed those in attendance and spoke of the benefits of the Green Teen program.

The Community Garden space is 4,000 square feet with about 2,400 already tilled and utilized, with 210 square feet cultivated into raised beds. The teens started planting in late May of this year. Included are 480 tomato plants with 80 Sungold Cherry and 400 Jet Star Slicers. Additionally, these dedicated youth have planted over 80 Summer and Acorn Squash and Zucchini, 40 winter squash, Hubbard, and kombucha varieties. They’ve developed about 90 square feet rows each of kale, beets, greens, green beans, lettuce, mustard greens and radishes. In the past week alone, Green Teens have planted another 40 Butternut Squash plants and are delicately resetting the lettuce rows.

So far, over 130 pounds of lettuce and yellow and green squash have been harvested.

Green Teen has served the Beacon community for 20 years through two programs - the work-to-learn youth employment program, where participants ages 14 to 18 are hired to plant and maintain the program’s garden on West Center Street, and the recently developed Club Green Teen, an after-school program for youth ages 12 to 14. Since 2020, Green Teen has also operated a free farm stand, in which all produce grown by the program is donated back to the community each summer. Green Teen expanded its program to Poughkeepsie in 2023.

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hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



# Ladies and Gentlemen: Wear Sunscreen

Valuable advice, given in a 1997 hypothetical commencement speech by columnist Mary Schmich, and further popularized as a spoken word song by Baz Luhrmann. But the recommendation to use sun protection is not a recent kernel of wisdom. Even the ancient Egyptians would offer us this tip for the future. They used sun blocks which contained rice bran, jasmine, and lupine.

Sunlight is necessary for our bodies. It helps produce vitamin D, which is important for bone health, blood cells, and the immune system. Sunlight helps regulate our sleeping patterns, and may also factor in lower blood pressure and mental health. As necessary as sunlight is, however, it can also be damaging.

The discovery of negative health effects from exposure to the sun’s UV rays occurred in the late 1800s. Since then, sun blocks were developed, but they initially had no indications of efficacy on their packaging. Advancements brought increased sun protection factors, eventually achieving levels of 100 SPF, or more.

### Sunscreen choices

Sunscreens are either organic or inorganic. In a scientific context, organic substances are those that contain carbon. Substances that do not, are inorganic.

Inorganic, or mineral sunscreens, contain fine powders of either zinc oxide or titanium dioxide that were traditionally called “sun blocks.” Mineral sunscreens are often recommended for people with skin sensitivities. They offer broad-spectrum protection; however, some may be chalky and difficult to spread. Some mineral sunscreens have alleviated this prob-

lem with tints and tiny, micronized zinc and titanium particles.

Organic, or chemical sunscreens, contain ingredients such as avobenzone and oxybenzone. Since they don’t leave a white film when applied to the skin, they are easier to wear on a broad range of skin tones. Their active ingredients absorb UV rays before your skin can soak them up. Sensitive skin or conditions like rosacea or melasma may be aggravated by the ingredients in chemical sunscreens.

### Alarmist claims remain unproven

There has been some media attention regarding the safety of organic/chemical sunscreens. Concerns have related to negative environmental effects and endocrine disruption. However, the most up-to-date research has found no conclusive evidence of negative health outcomes related to sunscreens.

### Sun exposure can cause premature aging and skin cancer

Experts recommend wearing sunscreen daily. New York State Licensed Esthetician, Denise W. of Niamh Lynn Salon & Spa, in Wappingers Falls (845-221-5500) says the “best” or “healthiest” type of sunscreen is the one you’ll use consistently.

“We know for a fact that UV radiation is bad for us; it contributes to the outward appearance of skin aging as well as increasing the likelihood of developing skin cancers. The known dangers of not using any sun protection products should definitely outweigh any hesitancy over the exact mechanism behind the way your sunscreen of choice works.



Some of the sunscreen options at a Dutchess County store.

-Photo by Francine Wizner

“I don’t think we need to have a thorough understanding of the way something functions in order to benefit from it. For example, I drive a car daily but have no idea about the ins and outs of how internal combustion engines work or the complex computer systems that actually make the vehicle safe and operational.”

Denise also suggests layering makeup with high SPF ratings to protect yourself from sun exposure. She says that, “If people feel more comfortable using mineral sunscreens because they believe they’re more ‘reflective’ than ‘absorbent,’ the

accuracy of that belief is less important than the protection they’re getting by using something.”

*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://www.gertrudekatzchronicles.com/> and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.*

## Zolzer leaves Renegades, plans new role at Pamal

Continued from cover

“I have stayed off of FB since my big announcement, because my original plan was to use the next night to post why someone should hire me,” he wrote in a follow-up post on Facebook. “Well the original post garnered around 12 job offers (that I wasn’t expecting) and as of (Thursday) I had it narrowed down to 2. I made my official decision about an hour ago. Starting Monday I will begin a brand new chapter with my longtime friend Chuck Benfer at Pamal Broadcasting - He is building an actual Sports Network of stations that will carry Army Football, Basketball, Hockey and Currently the Renegades...He wants me to help with that process, be the face of it, sell it and add a live sports talk show to the mix, so

I will be back on the air too. There is honestly no way to express how overwhelmed I have been at the tsunami of love and support I have received from my circles of influence since leaving the 'Gades. Thank you to each and every one that commented on the original post, texted, called or emailed me....WOW!!! ... For the final time EVER - “Good Night, Drive Safe and God Bless America - I’m Rick Zolzer!!!!”

Hudson Valley General Manager Zach Betkowski told the Beacon Free Press that the public address announcer position will be filled on a rotating basis for the rest of the year.

Zolzer has long been a champion of minor league baseball and advocated to bring the franchise here when he was a disk jockey at WPDH Radio.

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# Obituaries

## Sister Ann Laforest, OCD



BEACON - Sister Ann Laforest, OCD, of the Carmelite Monastery in Beacon, New York, peacefully passed away on Friday, July 12, 2024 at Ozanam Hall of Queens Nursing Home, in Bayside, NY where she had been a resident since October 2019.

Sister Ann of Jesus (Antoinette Laforest) was born on June 19, 1933 in Washington, DC, the daughter of Alfred and Eva (Dent) Laforest. She attended St. Teresa's grade school in Anacostia, DC, and one year at Holy Angels Academy in Fort Lee, NJ. After graduation from St. Cecelia's high school, Sister Ann worked in the offices of The Times Herald. She entered the Carmelite Monastery in Saranac Lake, NY in May 1954, and on May 10, 1956 made her profession of vows.

Sister received a B.A. Degree from

SUNY Empire State College where she studied music and was a member of several singing groups. In 1968 she spent a year in Africa on the Carmelite missions.

Sister Ann was skilled in many areas and generously shared her gifts with community and friends. In particular, she contributed her musical abilities to the liturgical life of the community.

Sister Ann spent several years studying scripture, theology, ethics, psychology and pastoral care at Boston College and Boston University. She earned a Masters Degree in Sacred Theology from Boston University. During that time, she received certification as Director of Religious Education in the Boston Archdiocese. She assisted in directing adult education programs in Catholic parishes and worked as an assistant teacher in a Montessori School. Sister loved working with children and was a live-in Nanny while living in Boston.

When Sister Ann returned to community, she immersed herself in the life of the community, describing herself as a "full-time volunteer!"

Sister Ann has been a caring friend to many throughout her life. She especially sought ways to better the lives of those suffering from injustice and discrimination.

Sr. Ann was deeply devoted to St. Therèse and studied her life and writings in depth. Her book *Thérèse of Lisieux: The Way to Love* was published by Sheed & Ward in 2000.

Sr. Ann was predeceased by her parents and siblings Aubin, Stephen, William, and Frances Laforest Kieffer. She is survived by her loving sisters Mary Alciere, Virginia Uliana (Al), Celeste Fatora, and by many nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews whom she loved dearly. Until her death, she was a beloved presence in the lives of her dear ones.

Friends called at the Monastery on Friday, July 19. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Monastery Chapel by Fr. Richard G. Smith, pastor of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Parish in Beacon, on Friday, July 19. Burial of Sister's cremated remains followed at St. Joachim's Cemetery, Beacon, NY.

To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

## Bela Geza Pinczes



FISHKILL - Bela Geza Pinczes, 73, passed away suddenly in National Harbor, MD on July 3, 2024 while vacationing with family. He was born in Gyor, Hungary on July 24, 1950, the youngest of nine children born to Jozsef and Erzsebet Kirschner Pinczes.

Bela arrived in the United States with his family in 1956, when they fled the communist takeover of Hungary. The family settled in Dutchess County. He graduated from Immaculate Conception School in Amenia and then attended Webutuck High School.

After dabbling in several professions: landscaping, auto mechanics, gas station owner and farming, he began working at the Wassaic Development Center. He worked with disabled persons both at the Center and in community residences. Bela always treat-

ed his clients with gentleness and fairness. He was well liked by his clients and respected by his staff who appreciated his management and supervisory skills. He retired in 2005 after 30 years.

Although his first marriage to Deborah Adsit ended in divorce, they were blessed with three sons, Bela, Jr., Steven and Timothy. He married Rosemary Versace in 1987. They were together for 37 years and raised the boys and daughter, Francesca.

Bela and Rosie loved to travel with family. Many vacations were spent with extended family in national parks and at the beach. They ventured overseas to England, visited Hawaii and St. Thomas. Bela's last few days were spent on vacation near Washington, D.C. with his family. He had a great time celebrating Steven's 50th birthday and seeing D.C. with his grandchildren.

Bela loved watching sports, but his "happy place" was fishing. He loved going fishing with his grandchildren and sons.

Bela loved America. One of his proudest moments was becoming a U.S. citizen.

Bela is survived by his wife, Rosemary Versace-Pinczes. Also surviving are sons, Steven Pinczes (Megan) of Florida and Timothy Pinczes of Fishkill; daughter, Francesca Pinczes Lewis (Daniel) of Abington, MD. He is survived by grandchildren, Kaysea Pinczes Maupin (Dillon) of Poughkeepsie, Matthew Masch of Wappingers Falls, Cole Cash-Pinczes and Isabella Pinczes of Florida and Macie Rose Lewis of Maryland. Also surviving are sister-in-law, Theresa Pinczes, brother-in-law, Philip Versace, Jr., his first wife, Deborah Adsit and many nieces and nephews.

Bela was predeceased by 3 siblings in Hungary, his son, Bela Pinczes, Jr., his sisters and brothers, Thomas Pinczes, Teresa Terdik, Jozsef Pinczes, Elizabeth Farkas and Matyas Pinczes.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, July 25 at 11 a.m. at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard Street, Beacon. Burial will follow at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

Bela loved animals, so in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Dutchess County ASPCA in Hyde Park, NY.

To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

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

## Mark J. DiDato



EAST FISHKILL - Detective Mark J. DiDato, 51, passed away on July 13, 2024. A resident of Fishkill, he previously lived in East Fishkill.

Mark was born on January 7, 1973 in the Bronx. In 1985, he and his family moved to Hopewell Junction. He was a 1991 graduate of John Jay Senior High School. Mark started his career as a Corrections Officer at Green Haven Correctional Facility from 1997-2000 before beginning a 21-year career with the East Fishkill Police Department, retiring as Detective in 2021. During his retirement, he worked as a School Safety Officer at John Jay Senior High School.

He was an avid fan of the New York Rangers and the New York Yankees and enjoyed fishing. Mark will be remembered

as an important member of the community and will be missed by all.

Mark is survived by his fiancé, Pina Libertella of Fishkill; his parents, Robert and Edvige (Miniaci) DiDato of Hopewell Junction; his brother, Robert J. DiDato of East Fishkill; many cousins; countless friends; and brothers and sisters in law enforcement. Mark was predeceased by his brother, Sergeant Daniel DiDato on December 18, 2023.

Calling hours were held on Wednesday, July 17th and Thursday, July 18th at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday, July 19th at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction followed by entombment at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Donations may be made in memory of Mark to the East Fishkill PBA. Please visit his Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Br. Douglas Soik, OFM Cap.



BEACON - Br. Douglas Soik, OFM Cap., was born in Alpena, MI on February 13, 1948, the son of the late Jerome Soik and Celia Haske. Upon graduating from Alpena High School, he entered the United States Navy earning the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. He received an Honorable Discharge on April 26, 1971.

Br. Douglas began his life with the Capuchin Franciscans in September 1973, at St. Lawrence Seminary in Beacon, NY. After completing his novitiate, he made his First Profession of Vows in August 1975 and made his Perpetual Profession of Vows in July 1979. He pursued studies at the Ramapo College of NJ and received a degree in Sociology.

Br. Douglas was very committed to social

work and enjoyed ministering in various parishes. While working with Catholic Charities he received an award from the NAACP for the promotion of civil rights. He was also devoted to the Secular Franciscan Order and served in various capacities. He greatly enjoyed gardening and working outdoors.

Br. Douglas was called to eternal life on July 15 after a long battle with cancer. He is predeceased by six of his siblings: Jerry; Connie; Mark; Karen; Norbert; and Gordon. He is survived by three of his sisters and their spouses: Eunice Scott (Richard); Lucy McCabe (Ron); and Bernice Soik; along with three generations of several nieces and nephews.

A wake service was held at St. Lawrence Friary, 180 Sargent Ave., Beacon on Thursday, July 18 and concluded with a prayer service.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Lawrence Friary on Friday, July 19, followed by the burial at the friary cemetery. A repast was offered at the conclusion of the burial.

To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

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

## Sophie Foroglou



BEACON - Sophie Foroglou, 89, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2024. She was born on January 20, 1935 in Siatista, Greece. She was the daughter of Themistocles and Theodora Gimbas.

As a child, she lived through the German occupation of Greece during WWII. She emigrated from Greece to New York, NY in 1950 at the age of 15, with her parents and brother George. She graduated from William Cullen Bryant High School in Queens, NY.

On August 25, 1957 she married Alexander Foroglou in Flushing, NY. The couple moved to Poughkeepsie in 1961 where they raised their family and enjoyed their retirement years. Sophie and Alex spent several years living in Paris, France where she learned to prepare classic French

cuisine. They also travelled throughout Europe and enjoyed regular trips back to Greece throughout her life.

Sophia was a loving wife, mother and grandmother (or yiayia). She loved to cook classic Greek meals, play bridge, and was an avid tennis player. In her younger years she was an active member of the Greek Orthodox Philoptochos Society, and she was a lifelong member of the Greek Orthodox Church.

She is survived by her sons Christopher and his wife Rosemary of Montreal, Thomas of Montreal, John and his wife Ronna of Poughkeepsie, and her six beloved grandchildren, Alexa, Zachary, Adriana, Jordana, Eliane and David.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother George Gimbas and husband Alexander Foroglou.

Funeral services will be on Wednesday July 24 at 10 AM at Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church, 140 So. Grand Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Entombment to follow in Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. Memorial Donations may be made to Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wm. G. Miller & Son FH, Inc. If you wish to send an online condolence, please visit our website at [www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com](http://www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com).

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Serino to host ‘Senior Mobile Office Hours’...with ice cream

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has been hosting ‘Senior Mobile Office Hours’ at Senior Friendship Centers throughout Dutchess County to allow for open dialogue between seniors and herself and provide immediate response to any questions or concerns they may have. The office hours are open to older adults who frequent these senior centers as well as other local seniors in the area who wish to attend. In celebration of July as National Ice Cream Month, ice-cream will be provided to those in attendance.

The office hours are held on in two-hour increments. The schedule includes the last of four dates:

Tuesday, August 6 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Red Hook Friendship Center, 59 Fisk Street, Red Hook

“After a lifetime of working, raising families, and contributing to our community, our seniors deserve our time and attention to ensure they are getting the resources they need,” said Serino.

“I am looking forward to having the opportunity to speak with our older adults and learning more about the most important issues they are facing. It is also a great chance for local seniors who may not be available with our OFA Friendship Centers to check them out and learn more about the programs they offer.” Reservations are not required.

Dutchess County has eight Senior Friendship Centers throughout Dutchess County where older adults can enjoy nutritious meals as well as take part in social activities and fellowship. Transportation is available in most cases. To learn more about these centers or other resources provided by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, visit: [dutchessny.gov/aging](http://dutchessny.gov/aging).

For more information on the upcoming office hours, please call 845-486-2000 or email [CountyExec@dutchessny.gov](mailto:CountyExec@dutchessny.gov).

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5913 elects its new officers

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) “Victor L. Bracone” Post 5913 in Wappingers Falls elected its new cadre of officers during its annual election meeting. These newly sworn officers officially took command in June.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation’s largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With nearly 1.7 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in more than 6,500 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “No One Does More For Veterans” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs.

VFW Post 5913 Commander Michael Rahilly, a U.S. Army Gulf War veteran was elected for his 1st term as Commander. Representing war veterans from as early as the Second World War to the present Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts,

Commander Rahilly brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the betterment of veteran lives, and collaboratively seeks to improve outreach.

Elected to serve alongside Commander Rahilly are the following officers:

- Sr. Vice Commander: Virgil Capollari
- Jr. Vice Commander: Charlene Adams
- Quartermaster: Jason Guisti
- Chaplain: Michael Goebel
- Adjutant: George Hemroth

These officers bring a variety of complementary skills to the VFW Post 5913 and the community—and work to bring about awareness to veterans issues, concerns and needs. The Post is ideally located within close proximity to the Castle Point VA Medical Campus as well as the surrounding city of Beacon and the towns of Wappinger, Fishkill, East Fishkill, LaGrange and Poughkeepsie.

For more information about the services provided, veterans benefits or on membership requirements, the VFW Post 5913 is at 8 School Street in Wappingers Falls.

The Post can be reached by phone at 845-297-9813 and Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWPost5913>.



## THEME: FAMOUS FIRSTS

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

# The CENTER for Performing Arts announces passing of extraordinary leader Lou Trapani



The passing of Lou Trapani, long time managing director of THE CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, was announced last week.

-Archive photo by Jim Donick

Officials at The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck have announced the passing of “our beloved leader,” Lou Trapani.

Trapani was the presiding force of The CENTER as we know it today. He was first an actor and director who then served as Executive Director. He took the helm to lead and guide The CENTER as Artistic & Managing Director in 1999. In late 2023, Trapani “semi-retired” and transitioned to a Senior Advisor role. Despite taking a step back, Lou and his

influence and guidance remained ever-present at The CENTER. Regardless of his title, Lou Trapani was the undeniable leader and visionary of The CENTER for 25 years.

Throughout his tenure at The CENTER, Trapani directed and performed in countless productions, bringing a wealth of knowledge, talent, and vision to the stage, its actors, and its community at large. He created and led numerous scene study and directing classes as well as youth and adult performance workshops.



Lou Trapani played countless roles on the stage. Here he pulled nearly every possibility together and took on the role of William Shakespeare, himself, arguably the father of modern drama.

-Courtesy photo

Lou taught and mentored hundreds of people, some of whom went on to professional careers in theatre, citing Lou as a primary influence. Lou was renowned for his annual portrayal of Scrooge in A Christmas Carol, a role he performed for nearly a decade in a play he adapted himself. His adaptation remains a favorite for audiences as well as local school field trips.

In 2024, Trapani adapted and directed an acclaimed production of Shakespeare’s Hamlet. He also delivered a deeply moving performance in the short play, Home Base, by playwright Louisa Vilardi, as part of Howl Playwright’s Howl at The CENTER production. Among his other recent works, he held great pride in directing Euripides’ The Trojan Women and presenting his unique adaptation of Oedipus Rx, a live-streamed teleplay based on the Sophocles tragedy. Lou was instrumental in the cre-

ation of The CENTER’s new Black Box space, envisioning it as a creative haven for emerging playwrights, directors, and performers to experiment and showcase their art. Due to his early career as an experimental performer and creator in NYC, he was particularly passionate about this endeavor. Lou was a lifelong learner, a trait evident in his focus and support of education in the arts.

Trapani was also a staple in the Town of Rhinebeck, supporting local business, frequenting restaurants, and participating in the town’s culture. He tirelessly worked to make The CENTER an integral part of Rhinebeck’s community, allowing people a place to feel welcome and belong. His hard work and determination ensured that The CENTER’s doors remained open for us again and again, through catastrophes and pandemics and hurricanes. He enriched our community immeasurably.

The CENTER will be organizing a celebration of life to honor Trapani’s extraordinary life and contributions. More details to come.

## this week’s puzzle solutions

|                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8                  | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 2                  | 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 3                  | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| 7                  | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 9                  | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 4                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 5                  | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 6                  | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 1                  | 7 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| This week's answer |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| SUDOKU             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| TOR      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EDITH    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| LOESS    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| THEA     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SENA     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SENEGAL  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AVI      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NISEI    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ALE      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MORENO   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INCUR    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MAGELLAN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| GONG     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AVAIL    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PRO      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|                 |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4               | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 5               | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| 2               | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 1               | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 3               | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| 4               | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Suguru solution |   |   |   |   |   |

## Open Mic Night set for July 26

The Friday Open Mic Night will be held on Friday, July 26 at 7 p.m., and the community is invited! One may just listen, or one can sing or play for the audience, at Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., in Beacon.

This is the longest-running open mic in the area and is hosted by Jay Strauss and Dan Raynor. There’s a \$5 cover. Slots are by lottery, with sign-ups beginning at 6:15 p.m. and the drawing is at 6:45 p.m.

get growing!

by mark adams



# Eastdale Village Farmers Market

Mark visits one of the newer markets in the area.

She misses the noise. Megan Williams moved up from “the city” a couple of years ago, to start her own cottage bakery in Poughkeepsie. She lives in LaGrange, and loves it, except she “misses the noise.” Megan’s Food to Write Home About is one of the 17 vendors at the brand new Eastdale Village



Megan Williams with desserts from her cottage bakery.



Henry, Mason, and Mandy Dykeman of Dykeman Farm. Megan Williams with desserts from her cottage bakery, Food to Write Home About.

-Photos by Mark Adams

Farmers Market.

Dutchess County boasts ten farmers markets, pop-ups where local and some not-so-local farmers, bakers and crafters promote their wares. Farmers markets are as old as agriculture itself, going back to at least the 1950s, when I remember helping my grandfather at the Clinton Square farmers market in Poughkeepsie. Today’s markets include:

Beacon – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday  
Rhinebeck – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday  
Arlington – 2 - 6 p.m. Thursday  
Hyde Park – 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday  
Pawling – 9a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday  
Millbrook – 9 a.m. - 1p.m. Saturday  
Poughkeepsie – 2-5:30p.m. Tuesday  
Millerton – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday  
Taste NY at Todd Hill – see their website

**Bear Creek Farm** – see their websiteAnd now Eastdale Village, every first and third Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastdale Village itself, a couple miles east of Poughkeepsie on Route 44, is a pop-up, having sprung up fully grown from Frank Brothers cow pasture. The hundreds of residents have it all right there – restaurants, a swimming pool, lots

of different shops, an insurance agency, a florist and even a urologist. Now there’s a farmers market. Market manager Shelby Lind – she is also in charge of Eastdale Village Marketing and Leasing – located the market on the less-traveled south side of Route 44 to hopefully get more foot traffic into the south-side shops.

Of the 11 vendors at last Sunday’s market, I had a chance to chat with a few:

**Meli Delicious Greek Pastries** – Tani and daughter Demetra Tsapepas create baklava, tsoureki bread and melo-makarona (honey cookies. Meli is the Greek word for honey) in their Beacon kitchen. I got to try the baklava boat – a lot of heaven for \$3, though Demetra wouldn’t let me pay.

**Pancake Hollow Sugarworks** – Todd Ridolph taps 3,000 maple trees on his sugarbush on Pancake Hollow Road in Milton. This is Todd’s eighth year on the farm. The farm is New York Grown and Certified, which means Todd has an environmental plan in place. His light amber syrup took first place at the Dutchess County Fair. I tried some of the maple sugar candies. Delicious! Ask Todd about black walnut syrup.

**Dykeman Farm** – Here you can get real fresh local vegetables. Dykeman is a fourth-generation family farm in Pawling. I couldn’t believe the vine-ripened tomatoes this early in the season, until Mandy Dykeman told me they plant them in high tunnels to extend the season on both ends. Sweet Corn, the holy grail of local produce, is available at the home farm.

**Finn’s Cafe** – Lisa Massarelli creates clothing, scarves and all kinds of pet supplies, mainly available on Etsy.

**Pickle Licious** – Looked like the most popular booth at the market. Headquartered in Teaneck, New Jersey, the pickles can be found in about 70 farmers markets, including Beacon and Pawling.

**Taconic Distillery** – Their property in Stanfordville is a nice spot for an afternoon or evening retreat, complete with a fire pit on cool nights (remember them?). Gina Cantarella was giving out samples of double barrel maple bourbon. Luckily I had several different hats with me. I could hardly ride my bicycle home.

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

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