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Istvan resigns Town of Fishkill position and takes employment with Dutchess County

By Kristine Coulter

Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent, and former Town Board member, Carmine Istvan has resigned to take a position with Dutchess County.

“After much thought and reflection, I have made the difficult decision to resign as your Highway Superintendent to accept the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Public Works, effective as of August 9, 2026. Serving the residents of the Town of Fishkill has been one of the greatest privileges of my career,” Istvan stated in a letter to the Town of Fishkill residents. Istvan told Beacon Free Press he begins with Dutchess County on Aug.10.

Istvan said every day he was honored with “the responsibility of maintaining our roads, responding to emergencies, improving our infrastructure, while ensuring that our Highway Department and Buildings & Grounds Department served our community with professionalism, integrity and pride.

“Whether you called with a concern, stopped me on the road to ask a question or simply expected safe roads to travel [each] day, you deserved to be treated with respect, professionalism and responsiveness. That philosophy guided every decision I made and every service our department provided. Public service is, at its core, customer service, and I have always been committed to caring your trust through hard work, accountability and open communication.”

Istvan mentioned accomplishments. “From snow and ice [operations] to road improvements, infrastructure projects and day to day maintenance. These successes were possible because of the dedicated employees of the Highway Department and Buildings & Grounds Department with the support of the residents we proudly serve. I am incredibly grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the opportunity to work on behalf of this community,” he wrote.

Istvan noted Fishkill is a big part of Dutchess County.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said: “Dutchess County is fortunate to welcome two highly qualified leaders into key roles within our Department of Public Works. With the retirement of long-standing Commissioner Bob Balkind earlier this year, Acting Commissioner Dave Whalen has provided steady leadership and continuity during this transition. We are grateful for his service and commitment to the department as these important organizational updates move forward.

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Leaders in Training to hold farm stand at Fresh Air Fund’s Sharpe Reservation on Aug. 9

By Kristine Coulter

The Fresh Air Fund’s Leaders in Training (LIT) have started a new program as part of the farm program at camp. As a culminating project, participants run a farm stand in the Fresh Air Fund’s Sharpe Reservation’s parking lot. Among the items for sale are produce that has been grown in the garden, maple syrup, fresh snow cones with freshly made flavors, and more.

The farm stand is a way to show the agribusiness side of farming and teach the kids entrepreneurship, it was stated. The next farm stand will be held at Sharpe Reservation, 436 Van Wyck Lake Road from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 9 in Fishkill. The initial one was held last month. In August, they will be highlighting snow cones with whole fruit syrup, homemade crumb bars, produce and fresh cut flowers.

“The LIT program creates the next leaders of our camps. We intentionally spend the summer engaged in leadership learning along with traditional camp activities. The youth are also placed at camps where they have practical learning on leadership,” stated Lisa Gitelson, The Fresh Air Fund’s CEO, via an email.

Over the course of the summer, there will be nearly 50 Leaders-in-Training and nearly 40 Counselors-in-Training, it was stated.



The Fresh Air Fund’s Leaders in Training will hold a farm stand at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill on Sunday, Aug. 9.

-Photo by Sneyder Curipoma

How did the idea for the farm stand come about?

Gitelson replied, “We were discussing new ways to make the farm be relevant to

the older kids and if there could be a type of final farm project that could be worked on for several weeks. The idea of the

Continued on page 8

Battenfeld family, Whalen, Germonds gain top honors from DCAS for 2026

By Curtis Schmidt

As Board of Directors Chairman Tom Angell emphasized the key attributes of local farmers, members of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society (DCAS) presented the organization’s top honors for 2026 at their Summer Meeting on July 22.

The members are in full preparation for this year’s 180th Dutchess County Fair, set Aug. 25-30 at the Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck (Visit dutchessfair.com for information).

Addressing the particular calling of farmers, Angell told those in attendance, “The Dutchess County Agricultural Society has been at work in this county for more than 180 years. Our group has worked tirelessly to promote, protect and advance the cause of those who day-in and day-out tend to our piece of the creation. And this is no small responsibility. We not only raise and grow the food that sustains human life and nurtures the land that makes it possible to do so, but we embody the very values which are the basis for a citizenry which governs itself - hard work, determination, discipline, perseverance, resiliency and commitment to community.”



Judy and Mark Germond receive the Volunteer of the Year Award from Andy Imperati, President and CEO of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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Istvan resigns Town of Fishkill position and takes employment with Dutchess County

Continued from cover

“We are pleased to announce the appointments of Matt Dutcavich and Carmine Istvan to strengthen DPW’s leadership team. Matt brings more than two decades of Dutchess County experience and a proven record as a thoughtful, steady, and highly skilled engineering professional. His deep knowledge of DPW operations and strong problem-solving abilities will serve the department well in his new role as Senior Deputy Commissioner.

“We are equally pleased to welcome Carmine Istvan as Deputy Commissioner. Carmine’s blend of municipal experience in the Town of Fishkill as Highway Superintendent and as a former Town Board member as well as his extensive private-sector background managing large-scale construction and landscaping operations provides a unique and valuable perspective. His leadership experience and hands-on project management skills will be a tremendous asset to the department.

“Together, Matt and Carmine will bolster DPW’s capacity, enhance support for staff, and help ensure that our department continues to operate proactively, efficiently, and with a strong focus on serving the residents of Dutchess County,” said Serino

“Although my role is changing, my commitment to public service remains the same. Fishkill will always hold a special place in my heart and I look forward to continuing to serve this community as part of my [responsibilities] with Dutchess County. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Highway Superintendent. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career and I wish the Town of Fishkill continued success for many years to come,” Istvan stated.

Dutchess County Legislator Kevin Giles posted on social media, “Thank you for your years of dedicated service as Highway Supervisor and for your commitment to our community. Your experience, leadership, and hard work have made a lasting impact, and I know those qualities will continue to serve our residents well in your new role.” He added, “I wish you continued success as you begin this exciting new chapter, and I look forward to working together to keep moving Dutchess County forward. Best of luck!”

Dutchess County Legislator Robert Faust posted, “Congratulations my friend! You will be an



Carmine Istvan
-Courtesy photo

absolutely incredible asset to Dutchess County! Looking forward to working with you!”

Istvan thanked town officials, colleagues, community members and the residents.

“I have complete confidence in the talented men of the Fishkill Highway Department and Buildings & Grounds Department. Their commitment, work ethic and dedication to public service will continue to ensure that our residents receive the high level of service they deserve,” he said.

Istvan noted, “While leaving the Town of Fishkill is bittersweet, I am excited to begin this next chapter as Deputy Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Public Works. Because Fishkill is an integral part of Dutchess County, I will continue serving many of the same residents and communities I have been privileged to work for over the years, just in a different capacity. I look forward to supporting all our County’s Towns, Villages and residents while building upon the experience and values I developed here in Fishkill.”

The Fishkill Town Board has on its agenda to appoint current highway employee Kevin McCarthy as Deputy Highway Superintendent at the Wednesday, Aug. 5th meeting.

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra stated, “I’m going to miss Carmine. He’s been an ally and a pal.” Albra said Istvan was “pivotal in getting everything up-to-date in the Town of Fishkill.”

BHS Class of ‘66 Reunion set for Sept.

A 60th Class Reunion is being formed for Saturday, September 26 for Beacon High School Class of 1966. Organizers are still looking for former

classmates. If one reads/sees this notice and can help contact people, please email information to: paulpappet@gmail.com.

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County election officials issued subpoenas by County Comptroller; commissioners respond

Staff and county reports
Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair has issued subpoenas to the Dutchess County Commissioners of Elections, Erik Haight and Lisa Jessup, as well as select employees, in order to obtain documents and conduct interviews central to an audit of the Board of Elections’ (“BOE”) election worker payroll process. Aymar-Blair said the subpoenas may be the first ever issued by the Dutchess County Comptroller’s Office and reflect the unprecedented circumstance of County Commissioners refusing to cooperate with an audit. He said the subpoenas were issued as a last resort after the Commissioners refused to provide the requested documentation or agree to attend an entrance meeting for nearly three months prior to this conclusion.

On April 24, Aymar-Blair first notified the Dutchess County BOE that their election worker payroll process would be the subject of an audit, it was stated in a press release. On April 29, the BOE objected to the proposed audit plan, arguing that the Comptroller did not have the authority to conduct it.

After further attempts and rebuttals, on June 16, the Comptroller advised the BOE of their legal obligation to produce the requested documentation necessary for the Comptroller’s Office to perform the full scope of their audit, with a deadline of June 30. The Comptroller stated that further failure to comply and provide the documents by the provided date would result in a formal demand by way of a subpoena, pursuant to Dutchess County Administrative Code Article XXXII, Section 32.05.

On July 2, the Comptroller’s outside counsel, retained exclusively to help obtain the cooperation of the Commissioners, gave them five more business days (until Friday, July 10) to comply and offered to confer with the Commissioners and/or their counsel. The Commissioners thereafter retained legal counsel to represent them in this matter, and counsel for the Comptroller corresponded with the Commissioner’s counsel. Upon conferring with the Commissioner’s counsel to resolve this matter, the Commissioners maintained their refusal to comply with the Comptroller’s audit plan.

Commissioner Erik J. Haight stated via email last week to Beacon Free Press, “We’ve tried our very best to educate the locally elected Dutchess County Comptroller that the operations of the Dutchess County Board of Elections (DCBOE) are outside of his purview. Based on common sense and on advice from personnel at the State Board, it is improper for a local elected official to review and ultimately attempt to dictate the policies and procedures of an autonomous BOE when we are mandated to administer the very election that puts him in office.”

Commissioner Lisa Jessup commented in that email to Beacon Free Press from Haight, “It’s unfortunate that the

Comptroller is spending time and money subpoenaing records already in his possession. The BOE cooperates with the Comptroller after every election to review money spent to compensate Election Day workers and we will continue to do so. Not a single check is issued to anyone without the Comptroller’s close examination of payroll and approval. This legal maneuver is confusing and unnecessary.”

Commissioner Haight said, “During my tenure, the IRS and the State Board have audited our office because the law permits those agencies to do so. This local comptroller clearly does not enjoy the same authority, so sadly we will have to spend significant dollars to protect the integrity of the BOE(s) from an overzealous auditor that has drifted out of his lane. In short, he can count pennies, not conduct a performance review under the guise of a financial audit. That responsibility rests solely with the State Board.”

Commissioner Jessup concluded by saying, “Despite our attempts to resolve this issue and avoid litigation, it may be up to a judge to rule on the limits of the Comptroller’s purview over the operations of the Board of Elections. This can happen when parties disagree, but I am dismayed to see that the Comptroller is seeking to discredit the Board of Elections in the media, especially in the current political climate where we have almost daily assaults on the credibility of our elections coming out of the Oval Office.”

Aymar-Blair’s release said that after three months, the BOE has still failed to present the Comptroller or the Comptroller’s Attorney with any applicable legal argument justifying their non-cooperation, resulting in a failure to fulfill their legal obligation as an auditable entity operating with taxpayer funds, according to the Comptroller’s office. He added that under New York County Law Section 577, Dutchess County Administrative Code Article XX Section 20.02(a)-(e), the Comptroller has the authority to request documents related to expenditures of County funds as was requested. It stated further that the assertion on the part of both Commissioners that the Comptroller is seeking operational information, and therefore exceeding the scope of the Comptroller’s authority, is belied by the above quoted legal authority and the fact that the Comptroller’s Office has performed similar audits in 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2020. Accordingly, subpoenas were issued as the Commissioners advised through counsel that they would not comply.

“It is not the preference of the Comptroller’s Office to obtain audit materials under threat of subpoena,” said Aymar-Blair. “We provided the BOE with ample time to comply and offered to adapt the plan around their busy calendar. As I have always said, we audit County departments and partners to offer recommendations for making government financial operations more efficient, a high priority for County taxpayers.”

Butterfly Day on Bannerman Island set for Aug. 19

Visit Bannerman this month to see the magnificent gardens and witness the migration of Monarch butterflies in the Hudson Valley. Butterfly Day is set for Wednesday, Aug. 19. Garden volunteers have restored the original gardens that Francis Bannerman VI and his wife Helen designed between 1900 and 1918, adding new flowers and plants, attracting wide varieties of butterflies each year! Bannerman Island is now a certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation. The R/V Estuary Steward departs the Beacon

Dock at 11a.m. and noon. Commemoration of 250th anniversary of Fishkill Supply Depot
An evening vigil will be held for the 250th anniversary of the Fishkill Supply Depot, hosted by the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot, on Friday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. at 504 Route 9 in Fishkill. The service will honor the soldiers who perished in service of their country, according to the organization’s announcement. For more information, email info@fishkillsupplydepot.org.

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IN MEMORIAM

‘His devotion, warmth, and iconic lifetime of service will never be forgotten’

Former Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Glenn R. Scofield Sr. dies at 84

By Kristine Coulter

Former Town of Fishkill Highway Department Superintendent Glenn R. Scofield Sr. died on Saturday, Aug. 1. Scofield worked for and headed the highway department for decades. Before being elected to that position, one his father also held, he was in law enforcement as a deputy sheriff for Dutchess County. He also served the community as a firefighter. Scofield was 84 years old.

“It is with profound sadness that my siblings & I share the passing of our beloved father, Glenn Scofield Sr.,” Glenn Scofield Jr., eldest of Scofield’s children, posted on social media on Aug. 1. “Dad spent over 60 years serving our community - as the long time Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent, Ex-Chief of the Fishkill Fire Department & a Deputy Sheriff with the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office.” The younger Scofield continued, “He kept us safe & built a legacy we are infinitely proud of. I am honored & blessed to be one of his children.”

Calling hours will be held Friday, Aug. 7, from 3-7 p.m. at McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, 1089 Main St., followed by a Firematic Service at 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, Aug. 8, at 10 a.m. at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9.

During a 2024 interview with Beacon Free Press for a story about Father’s Day, the younger Scofield said about his father, “He is a great Dad.”

The elder Scofield said he was proud of his son and how he rose up the ranks in the police department. It was also noted by father and son that the younger Scofields’ teams, when they were kids, were coached by their dad.

“Dad was very good to all of us. He made sure we were taken care of,” noted Scofield Jr. during that interview.

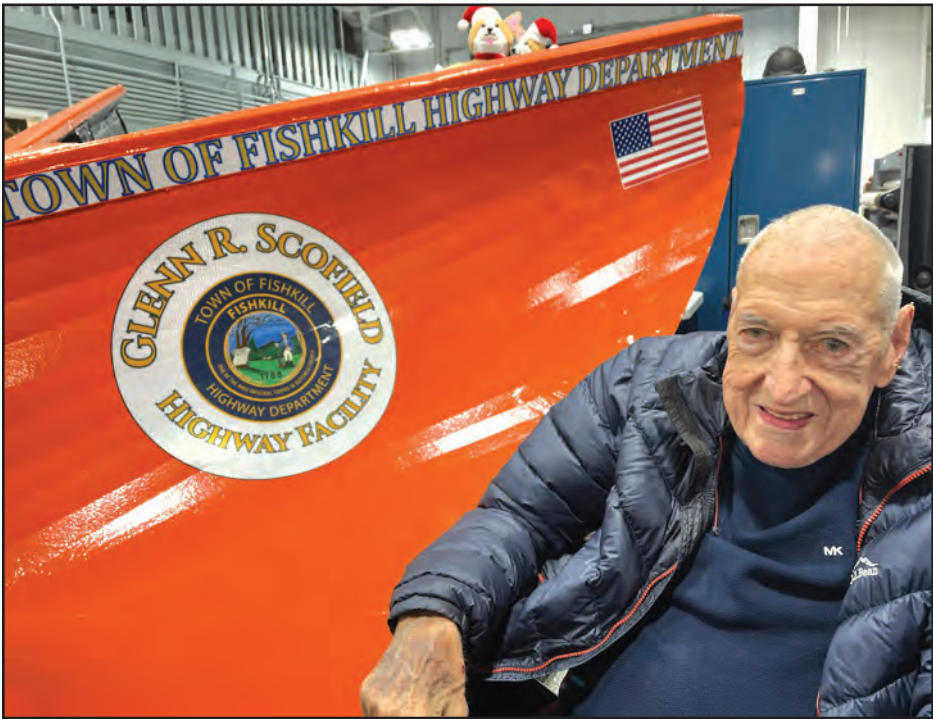
Posted on the Town of Fishkill Highway Department Facebook page was the following statement: “For over 50 years the residents of the Town Fishkill put their faith in Glenn Scofield and over those 5+ decades Glenn faithfully and dutifully served the Town of Fishkill. He was the true embodiment of what a public servant should be...honorable, kind, trustworthy, and always up to the challenge. We lost a giant today, a pillar of our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with Glenn’s family during this difficult time. Rest in Peace Superintendent.”

Carmine Istvan, who was elected to the Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent position after Scofield, stated, “We’re all going to miss him. He built the highway department.”

In December of 2025, Istvan, members of the highway department, elected officials and community members gathered to honor Scofield with the rededication of the Glenn R. Scofield Sr. Highway Facility and dedication of a plow.

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra remarked about Scofield’s professionalism. “He never hesitated to help and was always there for the residents of the Town of Fishkill.”

Town of Fishkill Councilman Brian Wrye recalled meeting Scofield shortly



Former Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Glenn R. Scofield Sr. died on Aug. 1 at the age of 84.

-Archive photos by Kristine Coulter



Glenn Scofield Sr., right, and Glenn Scofield Jr. were highlighted in a story about Father’s Day in 2024.



Glenn Scofield Sr., right, with his successor as Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent, Carmine Istvan, in 2025 during a rededication ceremony of the highway facility in honor of Scofield.

after buying his home in the town when the highway department was doing work. Wrye said Scofield was always “kind” and that he will be missed.

Posted to social media, in part, by the members of Village Protection Engine Co. #1, “Glenn went through the ranks of the department and served as chief of department from 1967-1969 and again from 1970-1974. Glenn had over 50 years of active service with the department.” The statement on the post continued, “Glenn also was the Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent. Many members of the department over the years had the pleasure to work for him. Glenn built a legacy only some can dream of. Our thoughts are with the Scofield family at this difficult time.”

Dutchess Junction Fire Dept., of which Scofield was a Life Member, posted on social media, “Our thoughts and prayers are with the Scofield family during this time.”

Slater Chemical Fire Co. posted on social media, “Glenn’s extraordinary commitment to the fire service earned him the respect and admiration of firefighters throughout the region. In addition to his longtime honorary membership with Slater Chemical Fire Company, he held honorary memberships with Rombout, Dutchess Junction, Wiccopee, and Thomaston, Connecticut fire companies.

“All of us here join Glenn’s family, friends, fellow firefighters, and the greater Fishkill community in honoring his memory and his lifetime of friendship, leadership, and dedicated service.”

The Town of Fishkill Police Department offered condolences to the Scofields. “Superintendent Scofield was a fixture in the Town of Fishkill for years. Although he will be missed, his legacy will live on in the roads and facilities of the town that he helped build and maintain” was posted to the department’s Facebook page.

Scofield lived in the same house his

entire life.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino posted a statement on the loss of Scofield on her Facebook page on Sunday, Aug. 2.

“Glenn spent his entire 84 years rooted in his beloved Town of Fishkill, leaving behind a legacy of service that few will ever match. From serving 62 years with the Town of Fishkill Highway Department, including 54 years as Highway Superintendent, to his work as a Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff, Village of Fishkill Police Sergeant, and Ex-Chief of Protection Engine Co. #1, Glenn dedicated every chapter of his life to keeping our community safe and running smoothly.

“To know Glenn was to love him. He was a steadfast anchor for his family and a dear friend to so many of us across the county. His devotion, warmth, and iconic lifetime of service will never be forgotten.”

Serino asked others to join her in holding the Scofields in their thoughts and prayers.

“Rest in peace, Glenn. Thank you for a lifetime of selfless service to Dutchess County,” Serino stated.

NYS Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. posted in part, “My heartfelt condolences go out to Deputy Commissioner Scofield, the entire Scofield family, and all who

had the privilege of knowing Glenn.”

Dutchess GOP posted in part on social media, “Today we pause and remember a legend in our community, Glenn Scofield, Sr.” The post stated Scofield served “with dignity and honor.”

The Jackson Family of Shenandoah Farm in East Fishkill, which has generational ties to Dutchess County, posted on social media, “The Jackson and extended families of Shenandoah Farm wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Scofield Family and members of Protection Engine Company in the Village of Fishkill. We are extremely grateful for not only the leadership, but more importantly the friendship of Glenn Scofield Sr. His commitment to his family, friends, and community will be his ever living legacy. We bid farewell to one who can never be replaced but will always be remembered.”

“Please keep our father & our family in your prayers,” asked Scofield Jr.

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Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.

July 2: Assault-Fishkill Avenue-David Sobieski, 67, of Beacon, was charged with Menacing 3rd & Assault 3.

July 2: Other-Fishkill Avenue-James T. Geoghegan, 65, of Beacon, was charged with Obstructing Governmental Administration 2nd

July 3: Medical Aided- Tompkins Terrace-Officers responded to a call to assist Medical Aid. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 4: Stolen Vehicle-South Avenue-Officers responded to a call for a stolen Vehicle. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 7: Fraud-Dogwood Lane- Caller reported being a victim of fraud. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 7: Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Cayman Johnson, 32, of Livingston Manor, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

July 8: Larceny-Main Street- Caller reported that her identification and credit cards were stolen from her vehicle. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 9: Harassment-Colonial Road- Caller reported being harassed by a neighbor. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 9: Traffic Stop-Verplanck Avenue-George A. Hammer III, 70, of Montgomery, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Vehicle 3rd & miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

July 12: Warrant- Municipal Plaza- Robert E. Morganfield, 57, of Newburgh, Orange County, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

July 13: Larceny- Forrestal Heights- Caller reported a box of money stolen. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

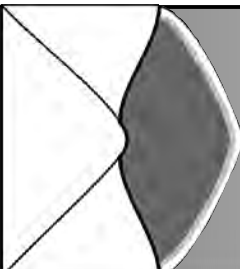
July 13: Criminal Mischief-Forrestal Heights- Caller reported scratches to her car while it was parked. Report taken Investigation conducted.

July 14: Medical Aided-Beacon-Officers responded to a call for an Unattended Death. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

July 14: Lost Plate-Summit Street- Caller reported a lost motorcycle plate. Report taken.

July 15: Lost Plate- Tompkins Terrace- Caller reported a lost vehicle plate. Report taken.

Number of Calls: 301
Auto Accidents: 20
Domestic: 1



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press.

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Serino proposes county-wide ban on kratom as health concerns grow

From County reports

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is working to protect residents from the dangers of kratom, proposing a countywide ban on its sale and distribution. Serino says the measure is aimed at safeguarding families and preventing young people from being exposed to a risky, unregulated substance that has been linked to a growing number of hospitalizations and deaths across the country.

Serino said, “My top priority is keeping our community safe and healthy, especially our children. Many families aren’t aware of the dangers of kratom because it’s often marketed as a natural product and it is so easily accessible. But ‘natural’ doesn’t always mean safe and public health data shows kratom-related deaths are rising. We cannot wait until another life is lost. Protecting our community must always come first, and I am proud to take this important step to safeguard Dutchess County.”

Kratom is an unregulated substance derived from a Southeast Asian plant. Its active compounds act on the same brain receptors as opioids and have been linked to addiction, seizures, liver damage, respiratory depression, and, in some cases, death. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved kratom for any medical use and continues to warn consumers about its risks.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported dramatic increases in kratom-related health emergencies. Hospitalizations for single-substance kratom exposure rose 1,200 percent—from 43 in 2015 to 538 in 2025.

Multiple-substance exposures increased 1,300 percent, from 40 to 549. The CDC also reported 233 kratom-associated deaths nationwide over the same period.

Kratom is increasingly easy to obtain, sold online and in convenience stores, smoke/vape shops, gas stations, and other retailers. Marketed as a “natural” supplement, many consumers mistakenly assume it is safe. Products are often displayed alongside everyday goods and sold in capsules, powders, gummies, and beverages—frequently in bright, flashy packaging—making them easy to purchase and difficult for parents to recognize.

Under Serino’s proposed legislation, any person found to be selling or distributing Kratom or a Kratom derived product, with limited exceptions, will be subject to civil penalty up to \$1,500. Additionally, her legislation puts heightened focus on preventing youth access to Kratom, with higher penalties for those found to be selling or distributing to a minor (under the age of 21) – going up to \$2,000 for a violation. The law will be enforced by the Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH).

Dutchess County DOH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado said, “Kratom products have not been tested for safety, consistency, or accurate labeling and are not approved by the FDA. The potential for harm is clear, with cases nationwide linking these products to addiction, serious health complications, overdose, and even death.”

Serino has submitted the proposed resolution for the local law to the County Legislature for consideration at their August 10 board meeting.

Derek Anderson named president of Putnam Hospital in expanded Northwell role

Northwell Health announced the appointment of Derek Anderson as president of Putnam Hospital. Anderson will assume the role while continuing to serve as president of Northern Westchester Hospital, further strengthening collaboration and advancing high-quality care across the region.

“Derek’s blend of strategic vision, operational expertise and commitment to patient-centered care makes him exceptionally well-positioned to lead Putnam Hospital into its next phase of growth,” said Kevin Beiner, Northwell’s EVP and Chief Operating Officer. “Derek’s expanded role will strengthen collaboration between our teams, accelerate the sharing of best practices and ensure we continue providing outstanding care for patients throughout the region.”

A respected healthcare executive, Anderson, a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, has led Northern Westchester Hospital since 2019, where he has driven significant clinical and operational advancements. Under his leadership, the hospital has earned a prestigious 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for three consecutive years and achieved Magnet® recertification with distinction.

Anderson has overseen several key initiatives, including the introduction of cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology services, the launch of graduate medical education programs, and the implementation of the Epic electronic medical record system.

Anderson began his career with Northwell Health in 2009 as a financial and strategic planning analyst and later held progressive leadership roles at

North Shore University Hospital, where he contributed to major capital and strategic projects.

“It is an honor to serve the Putnam Hospital community and build upon the remarkable work of Dr. Hirko and the dedicated team members, physicians and volunteers who make this hospital so special,” Anderson said. “Putnam Hospital has a strong history of serving its community with excellence and compassion. I look forward to listening, learning and working alongside our teams to strengthen services, expand access to care and ensure we continue meeting the evolving needs of the patients and communities we serve.”

Putnam Hospital is a 164-bed acute care hospital providing medical, surgical, psychiatric and 24-hour emergency services. It was established in 1964 and is the only hospital in Putnam County, serving Putnam, Northern Westchester and Southern Dutchess counties.

Honoring Dr. Mark Hirko’s leadership

Anderson succeeds Mark Hirko, MD, who recently retired following nine years of dedicated service to the organization.

A vascular surgeon and accomplished healthcare leader, Dr. Hirko joined Health Quest Medical Practice in 2017 as assistant vice president of surgical services and medical specialties.

In 2019, he was appointed president of Sharon Hospital and later expanded his responsibilities to include Putnam Hospital following the formation of Nuvance Health. In 2022, Dr. Hirko assumed full-time, onsite leadership at Putnam Hospital, where he helped drive transformative growth initiatives.

Roadwork scheduled for Route 376 and Route 311

After much advocacy, the Town of Wappinger announced that NYS DOT will be completely repaving NYS Route 376. There will also be work done on Route 376, as well as 311, in the towns of Poughkeepsie LaGrange and East Fishkill.

The State’s contractor has advised the Office of the Town Supervisor that work will begin the week of August 2 and mostly occur at night to avoid traffic congestion.

According to the Tilcon New York Inc.,

which was awarded the project, with the NYS Department of Transportation to perform milling and resurfacing work, the work will be done on approximately 10 miles of Route 376 and 0.2 miles of Route 311. According to officials, the work includes lane closures. According to the State’s contractor, most of the work will be done at night, and expected to be completed at the end of December.

Any questions, one is asked to call NYS DOT Region 8 Office at 845-431-5750.

Battenfeld family, Whalen, Germonds gain top honors from DCAS for 2026

Continued from cover

Farm Family of the Year
The 2026 Farm Family of the Year award was presented to the Battenfeld family of F.W. Battenfeld & Son Farm.

“Fred, his son, Lance and his daughter, Morgan, are carrying forward a proud five-generation legacy of F.W. Battenfeld & Son. Playing an integral part of this legacy is Fred’s wife, Suzanne. The Battenfeld story reflects the multi-generational stewardship, dedication, and love of agriculture that are central to both farming and the Dutchess County Fair,” stated Andy Imperati, DCAS President and CEO. “They clearly exemplify the importance of agriculture and how agriculture can be a successful business.”

Fred Battenfeld commented, “We feel honored to be chosen as the Farm Family of the Year. The room was filled with many farm families as worthy as us. Our thanks to Andy Imperati and others responsible for choosing us.”

Battenfeld Farm has been part of the Red Hook landscape since the late 1800s, when Conrad and Elizabeth Battenfeld founded it as a fruit and dairy farm specializing in apples. In the early 1900s, the family shifted to growing violets, which was then a thriving Hudson Valley industry that earned Rhinebeck the nickname “Violet Capital of the Country.”

Now in its fifth generation, Battenfeld Farm grows fresh cut flowers across nearly two acres in eight glass greenhouses. Their signature crop is premium anemones. They also grow butterfly ranunculus, lilies, alstroemeria, dahlias, peonies and violets.

The flowers are shipped nationwide and to Canada, with wholesale customers in New York City, Boston and Philadelphia, as well as local florists and individual buyers. Each stem reflects their commitment to quality, consistency and the enduring beauty of farm-grown blooms.

The Battenfeld family planted their first Christmas trees in 1956, selling the first one for just a dollar. Today, more than 100 acres of evergreens stretch across the farm. Each December, families return to cut their own tree, take a horse-drawn wagon ride, visit Santa, and enjoy a tailgated meal among the fields. It’s become a Hudson Valley holiday tradition.

Distinguished Service
Dick Whalen, who calls the Fairgrounds his “second home,” was honored with the Distinguished Service Award.

“Often times people will fly under the radar with their contributions to the Agricultural Society and the Fair. Dick Whalen is one of those people. He’s been

involved with the Fairgrounds for over 71 years. He is very deserving of our first Distinguished Service Award,” said Imperati.

Whalen responded, saying “My involvement with the DCAS and the Fair has always been a top priority in my life. I am overwhelmed and extremely happy to be the first recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.”

In an interview in 2025, Whalen spoke about his involvement the DCAS and the Fair. . “It’s about care and respect for all of the other individuals in the organization and working together. I’ve seen the Fair evolve and I’ve been part of the decision-making process to help the Fair grow. With the business side, it’s been a lot of learning and hard work,” he said.

And with the Fair itself, Whalen said he “hasn’t missed a day in all of these years – and that includes all of the extra days in setting up with the animals.” He has been showing dairy cattle at the Fair for over 70 years.

Friendships, like his Friendship Farm, mean everything to Dick Whalen. And the Dutchess County Fair and its people are his “best friends.”

Volunteers of the Year
Recognizing their commitment to rural history and the Fair, the DCAS presented the Volunteers of the Year Award to Mark and Judy Germond.

“For the first time, the Agricultural Society is presenting husband and wife, Mark and Judy Germond, with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Both have been involved with the Fairgrounds, particularly the Century Museum Village, for over 30 years. Their dedication to the museum and the Agricultural Society has not gone unnoticed. They are an integral part of our team and Fair family,” said Imperati.

The Germonds thanked Imperati and the DCAS and said they “enjoy planning new exhibits, watching visitors reminiscing about items they see, children seeing how simple life can be and the opportunity to showcase our rural history.”

The Germonds are members of the Century Museum Village and Collectors Association (CMVCA). Mark noted that in 1990, this group was contacted by Tom Odak (Fair Manager) about the possibility having of a museum at the Fairgrounds. The Museum would cover the time period 1870-1929 of rural life in the Hudson Valley.

“The CMVCA members were very happy to accept the offer. Plans were made and the Museum was finished in 1992,” he said. “The Museum has some permanent exhibits. When Volunteers join with special talents, exhibits are made so



Clockwise from top left: Dutchess County Agricultural Society Chairman of the Board of Directors Tom Angell speaks at the organization’s Summer meeting. The Battenfeld family – Morgan, Fred, Lance and Suzanne – were named the 2026 Farm Family of the Year. Dick Whalen, left, receives the Distinguished Service Award from DCAS President and CEO Andy Imperati.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt



they can demonstrate their skills. The Museum is entirely staffed by volunteers. To date we have 60 volunteers.”

Current exhibits include: Ice Harvesting, Model “T” Repair Shop, Barber Shop, Modern Conveniences, Clock Shop, 1910

Bedroom, 1910 Parlor, 1910 Kitchen, 1910 General Store, Busy Hands (sewing etc.), Wood Harvest & Crafts, Print Shop, Broom Shop, Chair Caning, Weavers, The “Whatsit” display, Blacksmith Shop, Shingle Mill and Vintage Farm Equipment.

BHS announces honor students

The following Beacon High School students made the honor roll for the 4th quarter of the 2025-26 school year, according to the administration.

9th Grade Principal’s Honor Roll
Natalie Allen, Alexandra Alon, Luna Ayers-Uekawa, Sarp Bagriyanik, Desmond Barchetto, Fiona Burke-Smith, Teaghan Burks, Ivy Cohen, Elodie Duquesne, Lilah Fisher, Alice Gabel, Jack Garrett, Jordan Garzon, Edith Giunta, Manasvi Gupta, Silas Hayes, Samih Jabar, Samantha Johnson, Davia Kelleher, Julian Khan, Pixie Kimberg, Ileana Lawrence, Anthony Lopez, Auwaab Mohammed Murtada, Christian O’Brien, Suvi O’Shea, Dion Qelaj, Jonathan Saraceno, Ashley Senior, Silas Stampleman, Daniel Tschang, Emery Vergolina, Anita Vigeant, Marina Winters

9th Grade High Honor Roll
Trevor Bacon, Viviana Bailey, Hazel Balogh, Madison Carr, Ethan Cason, Lily Cheyne, Sebastian Concepcion, Shuprova Das, Kylie Ebeling, Shaniya Evans, Willow Faiella, Eli Gilleo, Carolina Guerra, Lucien Guido Taylor, Emmett Havers, Grace Just, Nahlia Keane, Miles King, Vivienne Lipari, Michael MacDougall, Ralph Marinaccio IV, Ivan Martinez, Dominick Pulcastro, Diannie Ramirez, Tallix Roan, Zbigniew Rybak, Genevieve Shrawder, Landon Soltish, George Stadler, Willa Staempfli, Ryan Sulca, Mia Tapia

9th Grade Honor Roll
Riley Anderson, Joshua Bagala, James Bailey, Hawken Brickman, Matthew Browne, Jack Bunker, Xylie Burns, Chase Christman-Evans, Connor Coldrick, Fischer Delaney, Gabriela Diaz, Sofia Dunay, Braedan Eraca, Evan Greenspan, Thyra Hairston, Isabella Hernandez Fandino, Samson Loeb-Sandiford, Marianna Marrero, Celest Marshall, Michael Medina, Lena Meibauer, Yailin Novas Perez, Maxine O’Malley, Sarah Pillcurima Panama, Leela Ramdeen, Justin Ramsey, De’Juan Rigby, Nyliana Rivera, Sophia Romero, Cadence

Ross, Avery Strang, Suri Stuart, Sherley Tacuri, Kylie Thomas, Everett VanCott, Joshua Velazquez, Lily Vogrincic, Callie Winther, Colin Witkowski

10th Grade Principal’s Honor Roll
Owen Allee, Skylar Carr, Claire Cumming, Evelyn DePalma, Maysie Doyle, Saoirse Fehilly, Drew Kelly, Maximilian Kong, Justin Mann, Louise Mauks, Desmond McGrath, Zechia Mickler, Uswah Mohammed Murtada, Gabriel Montleon, Zora Nicholls, James Reyes, Maeve Rinaldi, Nathaniel Salvati, Evangeline Santise, Violet Schilling, Shane Signorelli, Nahara Simkovic, Caellum Tripaldi, Derek Waltke, Luna Yawman, Owen Youatt

10th Grade High Honor Roll
Kendall Adnams, Kaylyn Adusei, Jesse Apostolou, Madison Beltran, Lily Berry, Breannah Brace, Gavin Bruno, Noa Buckland, Zahara Cone, Jake DeLuise, Joseline Duran, Christa George, Henry Greenberg, Henry Gute, Troi Harvey Semple, Jose Hernandez Canelo, Christopher Lee, Josue Martell, Victoria Maruggi, Shayne Maxaner, Braelyn Milligan, Elise Moran, Claire Morgan, Ismael Munoz, Catherine Musorofiti, Oscar Pages, Austin Ricketts, Hazel Schein, Gonzalo Soria Velecela, Ella Travis,Cayden Williams, Josefina Zezza, Nicholas Zippo

10th Grade Honor Roll
Femmie Akinwunmi, Jacqueline Albra, Kiann Allen, Kiersten Barber, Jaden Brito, Justin Buchman, Jayla Bunch, Wyatt Burgos, Mathias Cabrera, Sarah Camara, Henry Cerchiara, Amari Clarke, Lia Cosentino, Eleanor Culler, Zooey Dedring, Ramon Dewey-Brink, Ryan DiNobile, Abilena Eriksmoen, Leah Fahlman, Kyle Fairbanks, SaRiah Faust, Mckenna Griffin, Maeve Haley, Jayden Harrison, Alejandro Herrera, Heidi Maeng, Ruby Martin, Oliver Meyer, Jessica Morochro Llivipuma, Henry Mulligan, Payton O’Connell, Jacob Pasato Pintado, Sofia Posso Salcedo, Luis Ramon, Khloe Roci, Giana Rodriguez, Thalia

Rodriguez, Mack Roland, Isabella Ruffy, Benjamin Seaman, Vardan Singh, Hunter Smith, Shea Tanaka, Jalen Thompson, Eliza Verdichizzi, Olivia Viola, Eliot Waterman, Caleb Wells-McGurk, Hayden Wilson

11th Grade Principal’s Honor Roll
Mikayla Acevedo, Maayan Alon, Tamimesh Bernstein, Charlotte Bowen, Jerry Chen, Terry Chen, Theodore Concepcion, Travis Dickston, Ka’Dera Elliott, Elijah Epps, Fionn Fehilly, Lily Figlia, Hailey Fish, Emilio Guerra, Miguel Herrera, Shaun Jabar, Hailee Jennings, Ruby King, Wenang Kobarsih, Katelyn Kong, Lily Mack, Ash Marcus, Ethan Maxaner, Victoria McKay, Stella Reinke, Julian Rivers, John Rose, Charlotte Rossi, Finn Simons, Elias Smith, Januario Stageman, Harper Strang, Elliott Thorne, Isaac Tschang, Rudolph Vergolina, Jesse Vermeulen, Aslynn Way, Parker White, Julie Whittemore

11th Grade High Honor Roll
Savannah Acuti, Molly-Rose Archer, Savannah Brace, Myasia Burch, Michael Cahill, Shannon Colandrea, Zamaya Cone, Mateo Cruz, Angeleah Decker, Caroline Diaz, Ethan Diaz, Daniel Espejo, Tyler Evans, William Flynn, Khloe Franklin, Brandon Fremer, Samantha Garcia, Kayla Gerardes, Cole Heath, Ryan Huynh, Ava Lassiter, Isaiah Luis, Molly Lyons, Kaycee Matos, Shyanne McNair, Gianna Mercer, Lily Murr, Lakota Newman, Brianne Papo, Levi Partlow, Lilly Pendley, Nicholas Perry, Brady Philippar, David Ramirez, Sarah Ramkalawon, Lillian Ray, Samuel Riquelme Jr., Trevi Romanelli, Katherine Sendelbach, Stella Sheehy, Tabitha Smith-White, Declan Sprague, Gavin Troiano, Farrah VanCott, Fabiola Vogrincic, Lila Welsh, Ny’el Woods

11th Grade Honor Roll
Ziara Beamon, Juniper Breault, Hartley Brickman, Emily Coldrick, Abigail Durkin, Khordae Facey, Adriana Fazioli, Hudson Fontaine, Leo Garcia, Emanuel Gomez, Julian Hannah, Abigail Haydt, Gabriel Khan, Syeira Kozlik, Jayden Lassiter,

Octavian Paulin, Amari Powell, Caeleb Smith, Ramonsito Soto Jr., Nolan Varricchio, Slater Way, Kayteena Wilkins, Aine Woods, Ysabella Zappala

12th Grade Principal’s Honor Roll
Christian Clay, Parthib Das, Jonah Espinosa, Zenia Haris, Alina Joseph, Savana Kush, Alma Mart, Julia McGuire-Soellner, Aril McKee, Oscar McKible, Mira Miller, Liliana Rybak

12th Grade High Honor Roll
Madison Abrahamson, Nadeen Ahmed, Logan Blum, James Bouchard III, Alexander Browning, Peter Cohen, Misleidy Cruz Cruz, Tye Elias, Marisah George, Gabriel Godbee, Sophie Goessl, Samiha Golden, Kayla Hammond, Vincent Joao Jr., Everly Jordan, Oren Kelleher, Isabella Lee, Josiah Lind, Aiden Montleon, Annabelle Notarthomas, Olivia Reynolds, Julian Sala,Julius Sala, Annabelle Scher, Zachary Schetter, Kayla Selander, Desirae Smith, Rihanna Taylor, Jonathan Trentacosta

12th Grade Honor Roll
Macy Alencastro, Alianna Alijaj, Farhana Antora, Emanuele Bagala, Acacia Barker, Jayden Bostick, Serenity Bunn, Skylar Clair, Kiera D’lppolito, Isabella Galbo, Chloe Goessl, Brianna Green, Javier Gutierrez Jr., Jeremiah Hardwell Jr., Dylan Hetrick, Ayden Hooten, Gabrielle Khalil, Griffin Kitzrow, Eric Kruze, Kiran Kumar, Carlos Lampon III, Aron Li, Brayden Manning, Jalen Morton, Jaiere Newton, Nolan O’Malley, Adrien Okoye, Michael Ramos, Savannah Ray, Jalani Ricketts, Thomas Senior, Wilmer Sinchi Jimbo, Anibal Soto III, Chelsea Stephens, Michai Thompson, RiKya Whit

Boces CTI High Honor Roll
Savannah Acuti, Mateo Cruz, Lily Figlia, Jeremiah Hardwell, Isaiah Luis, Julia McGuire-Soellner, Shyanne McNair, Aiden Montleon, Lakota Newman, Jaiere Newton, Michael Ramos, Jalani Ricketts, Declan Sprague, Tabitha Smith-White, Ny’el Woods

Boces CTI Honor Roll
Christian Perez, Thomas Senior.

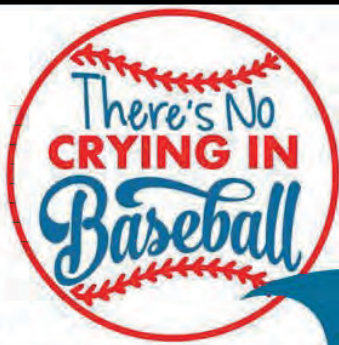


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RENEGADES FEATURE

Pitching, hitting, speed lead way as Renegades welcome 4 new players

By Morgan E. Maier

Four new players arrived at the Hudson Valley Renegades clubhouse this month with strengths reaching from the mound to the basepaths and back to the warning track. As Hudson Valley bids its latest farewell to the likes of Rory Fox and Luis Durango, fans will look to this newest bunch to spark the hometown team.

Henry Lalane, LHP - New York has been waiting to welcome Bronx-born lefty Henry Lalane, the New York Yankees' 4th-ranked prospect. Lalane may graze a ceiling with his 6'7" stance, yet the southpaw's pitch command and penchant for strikeouts hint at how high he could soar. Back-to-back wins in Single-A Tampa, tossing seven innings with double-digit strikeouts, turned up Lalane's summer. He fanned 12 while allowing just one hit to the Dunedin Blue Jays. The Saint Lucie Mets wished to see a bullpen arm warming over Lalane's next start, a three-hit, 11-strikeout night. He has yet to be awarded a High-A decision, scattering 17 strikeouts to 4 walks



Henry Lalane

across his first three starts.

Jackson Lovich, SS - Multi-hit master Jackson Lovich needs an introduction, but his bat will have the last word. The infielder arrives at Hudson Valley after batting .275 for Single-A Tampa this season. A reliable offensive producer for the Tarpons, the former Missouri Tiger led the Florida State League with 18 home runs. Lovich, scouted by the Yankees for his speed, was highly effective (21/28) on the Tampa basepaths. Lovich further



Jackson Lovich

showcased power and flair for entertaining with his historic three-home-run day on May 20. With 8 hits already in 6 games with the 'Gades, Lovich brings much excitement for the next stage in his development.

Willy Montero, CF - Willy Montero's bat earned his High-A ticket, scorching Florida land like the July sun. An impressive string of hit streaks marked a .304 batting average in a month that began with Montero breaking a seven-game hit

streak. He would follow with an eight straight, including five multi-hit games. Montero was an All-Star for FCL Yankees in 2023, his first year playing outside of his native Dominican Republic. With an .822 on-base plus slugging (OPS) this season, Montero knows how to reach bases and balls. And though his first High-A series was one marred by a collective sluggish offense, the outfielder produced a pair of RBIs in Hudson Valley's lone win over the Jersey Shore BlueClaws on July 31.

Gabriel Lara, OF- Gabriel Lara is meeting his second new home crowd of the season, and wasted no time starting some action for Hudson Valley fans. Where he caught eyes in rookie leagues with a bit of offensive crack and timely hitting, Lara's ascent slowed a bit in Single-A. Yet every change of scenery can be a hot spot for adjustment. The youngest current Renegade got his first High-A hit in his debut, and his second the next night. Suppose the Hudson Valley summer ignites the speed that first hooked scouts in Santo Domingo?

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Wilmington WSH	21	14	.600	-	7-3	W4
Greensboro PIT	20	16	.556	1.5	4-6	L1
Frederick BAL	18	16	.529	2.5	4-6	L4
Brooklyn NYM	17	18	.486	4.0	5-5	W1
Hudson Valley NYY	17	19	.472	4.5	3-7	L3
Jersey Shore PHI	14	21	.400	7.0	7-3	W3
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB	25	11	.694	-	7-3	W1
Greenville BOS	19	17	.528	6.0	8-2	W7
Winston-Salem CWS	18	18	.500	7.0	5-5	L1
Rome ATL	16	18	.471	8.0	6-4	L1
Asheville HOU	16	20	.444	9.0	1-9	L6
Hub City TEX	11	24	.314	13.5	3-7	W1



August

August			
08/11/26	vs.Wilmington	06:35 PM	First Responders Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/12/26	vs.Wilmington	06:35 PM	Strike Out Cancer Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/13/26	vs.Wilmington	06:35 PM	Agriculture Night Jersey Thursday presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union
08/14/26	vs.Wilmington	07:05 PM	Make-A-Wish Night presented by Mirabito Energy Fireworks Friday
08/15/26	vs.Wilmington	05:05 PM	Union Appreciation Night Oasis Bottle presented by CSEA
08/16/26	vs.Wilmington	02:05 PM	Football Day WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/25/26	vs.Brooklyn	06:35 PM	An Ode to Cream Cheese WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/26/26	vs.Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Welcome Back College Students WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets





Renegades Extra!





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HVCU Charitable Foundation Awards \$550,000 in Grants to Non-Profits Across the Hudson Valley





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PR & Communications



See story, page 8



Hot dog champ Chestnut ‘meats’ Renegades’ Cider Donut Challenge

By Morgan E. Maier

He’s the top-ranked athlete of Major League Eating, but Joey Chestnut is bringing his talent to Minor League Baseball this season. The Hudson Valley Renegades hosted the 18-time Nathan’s Hot Dog Eating Contest champion for the Cider Donut Challenge on July 31. As Chestnut fielded fans by the dozens, each dressed the experience to their liking.

Hot dog costumes, Joey jerseys and condiment stains were worn for the occasion; Chestnut himself came fitted with the Yellow Mustard Belt, Major League Eating’s championship belt. Some fans traveled from out-of-town and state to see Coney Island’s king in the flesh at Heritage Financial Park. And plenty took their time to share thoughts on Chestnut’s biggest rival, Takeru “Tsunami” Kobayashi.

Local resident David Kalb got tickets to the game as a birthday celebration with family. During his meet-and-greet, Chestnut recorded a video shoutout for Kalb’s campus organization at Plymouth State University.

“I’ve been coming to games here since I was a little kid. It’s a great family tradition. Bringing that [the video] there up in New Hampshire, it’s awesome. It’s a little piece of

home,” said David.

Other fans opted to give Chestnut their own local taste.

Newburgh native Vincent Puleo and the team from social media outlet Finally (formerly Big Knick Energy) brought the meet and greet its juiciest spectacle: a six foot hot dog, created locally at Beacon’s own Dave the Butcher.

“I wish this was my challenge!” Chestnut said, smiling wide at the dog and three people it took to deliver.

Did he get a taste of the all-beef offering? At the risk of Nathan’s Famous sponsorship — and appetite for his impending Cider Donut Challenge — “Jaws” could not indulge. In his spirit, fans finished the entire thing before the inning was over.

Competitors ranging from Renegades staffers to fans and K104 radio station favorite Diva filled the field for a sticky, sweet post-game sweepstakes. The table was tasked with eating as many apple cider donuts as they could in five minutes.

“Joey’s Going Down” read one challenger’s shirt. Cinnamon dust was all that dropped at Chestnut’s spot as he downed 53 donuts. To nobody’s surprise, the champion’s mark easily swept the contest.



Right: Hotdog eating champion Joey Chestnut “chows down” on Cider Donuts and, above, joins a group of challengers at Heritage Financial Park on July 31.

-Photos by Dave Janosz



RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Hudson Valley endures tough week as Jersey Shore wins five of six games

By Morgan E. Maier

The Jersey Shore BlueClaws pinched the Hudson Valley Renegades five times in six games, leading the home team to pack for sunnier days in South Carolina. Two swept doubleheaders — one for each rainout that began the series — drizzled a sweet and sour week in Hudson Valley.

T.G.I.F. - July 31 saw the Renegades’ only win of the series, starting with Sean Paul Liñan and ending with Friday fireworks. Liñan allowed 0 runs after giving up one in the first inning, passing a shortened outing to the bullpen at the end of his 7.1 innings. Brady Kirtner retired both batters he faced; Thomas Balboni gave up one, but held the save for Brandon Decker to complete the one-out save. Cam Troyer’s three-RBI night included the ultimate game-winning home run, a two-run laser beam to cap the Renegades’ four-run fourth.

That night, the demolishing of cider donuts at the jaws of competitive eater Joey Chestnut followed Hudson Valley’s strong two-way performance. The Cider Donuts that took the field the rest of the series met a similar fate in BlueClaws.

Donut Holes - Hudson Valley clung to



a one-run lead in the first of an eight-inning series opener on July 30, but were held to zeroes the rest of the way. Jersey Shore would prevail with a 2-1 win, holding Hudson Valley scoreless until the sec-



Shortstop Jackson Lovich, left, had a strong hitting performance last week and Gabriel Lara, above, notched his first RBI for the Renegades.

-Photos by Dave Janosz

ond inning of Game 2. Hudson Valley took a 4-2 lead into the ninth inning, but a four-run winning inning was in store for Jersey Shore. Robbie Burnett, Jackson Lovich and Diomedes Hernandez had an

RBI in the 6-4 loss. Hudson Valley did not score a run after the fourth inning of the seven-inning nightcap.

Roderick Arias, Lovich and Enmanuel Tejeda had Hudson Valley’s three hits to start the series’ second doubleheader. Hudson Valley put a donut on the scoreboard for the 2-0 loss. Unfortunately for Renegades starter Luis Serna, Jersey Shore opted for the twist in Game 2. Eight runs in the first inning stood as the difference in the 14-6 clobbering for Jersey Shore’s fourth win of the season. Robbie Burnett sprinkled a rare Jersey Shore mistake over the fence in his three-RBI, 2-for-4 night. The finale came and went uneventfully for the Cider Donuts in their last-ever appearance. Newcomer Gabriel Lara notched his first High-A RBI with a sacrifice fly. West and Willy Montero each added an RBI in the 10-4 loss.

Hudson Valley goes next to Greenville, hoping to right the rocky stretch since the All-Star Break. The Drive enter the series with eight wins in the last 10 games, including a seven-game win streak to start their week as Hudson Valley’s hosts. There may be hope yet for the sub-.500 Renegades; Greenville is 6-9 against teams with a losing record in the second half!

HVCU Charitable Foundation awards \$550,000 in grants to non-profits across the Hudson Valley

Hudson Valley Credit Union (HVCU) has announced that the HVCU Charitable Foundation recently awarded \$550,000 in grants to 80 nonprofits across its 13-county footprint, helping to expand access to essential resources in four key categories of need – education, food, health and housing. A total of \$383,900 was distributed to 50 Mid-Hudson Valley-based organizations, reinforcing the credit union’s impact on the region and the people who call it home.

The Foundation’s Grant Review Committee used a data-informed approach to ensure grantees would address significant community needs and deliver measurable outcomes. Recognized for an ability to tackle immediate challenges and create pathways for long-term stability, the Foundation’s Mid-Hudson Valley grant recipients were: Anderson Center for Autism, Bridge Arts and Education, Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie, Coalition of Forward Facing Ellenville, Community Matters 2, Inc., Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County, Dutchess Community College Foundation, Dutchess Outreach, Family Outreach Food Pantry, Fareground Community Kitchen, Goshen Historic Track, Guardian Revival, Humane Society of Walden, Hurley Library, Kingston Land Trust, Kingston Midtown Arts District, Jewish Family Service of Orange County, Land to Learn, Mid-Hudson Energy Transition, Mid-Hudson Works, Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum, Museum Village at Old Smiths Clove, New Windsor Ambulance, Newburgh Urban Farm and Food, Inc., Nubian Directions II, Inc., Philipstown Depot Theatre, Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Putnam County Housing Corporation, Reading & Math, Inc DBA Ampact, Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley, Red

Hook Community Center, Safe Harbors of the Hudson, Seasoned Gives, Second Chance Foods, Sparrow’s Nest, St. Luke’s Cornwall Health System Foundation, Stony Kill Foundation, The Ashokan Center, The Cathedral at the House, The Lee A. Archer Jr. Red Tail Youth Flying Program, The Roy Community Foundation, The Susie Reizod Foundation, Town of Newburgh EMS, Ulster County Habitat for Humanity, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, Unshattered, Victory Hill Therapeutic Horsemanship, Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Woodstock Day School, Woodstock Farm Festival.

“Each one of this year’s grantees is making a meaningful impact on the population it serves,” said Desiree Wolfe, president and board chair of the Foundation and executive vice president, chief experience officer at HVCU. “The funding we are providing will support these programs as they address immediate challenges and create pathways for long-term stability within the state.”

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the HVCU Charitable Foundation supports nonprofits that help to enhance the quality of life and foster financial freedom across HVCU’s service areas. Since its inception in 2024, the Foundation has built a \$10 million endowment, ensuring it can sustainably support organizations addressing the state’s most pressing needs. To date, it has invested more than \$1.1 million into communities, reaching more than a million individuals and families.

“We established the Foundation because we recognize that financial health is influenced by more than access to financial products and services,” said Jonathan Roberts, Foundation board



Pictured from left - front row, are Desiree Wolfe, HVCU Charitable Foundation president and board chair and HVCU executive vice president and chief experience officer; Ashley Riker, HVCU Charitable Foundation board secretary and HVCU vice president, culture and employee engagement officer; Amy Jakobeit, HVCU Charitable Foundation board director and HVCU executive vice president, chief of member operations; and Wesley Lee, HVCU Charitable Foundation board director. In back are Robert Brown, HVCU Charitable Foundation board treasurer and HVCU senior vice president, head of retail network; Jonathan Roberts, HVCU Charitable Foundation board director and HVCU president and CEO; and Jay Pantaleo, HVCU Charitable Foundation board director and HVCU board director.

-Courtesy photo

member and president and CEO of HVCU. “When people struggle to meet basic needs, achieving financial stability becomes increasingly difficult. Through the Foundation, we can support organiza-

tions working to remove those barriers and play a role in building a stronger foundation for communities.” To learn more about the Foundation, visit hvcu.org/Foundation.

Leaders in Training to hold farm stand at The Fresh Air Fund’s Sharpe Reservation on Aug. 9

Continued from cover

farmers market seemed a great way to have the kids think about what does it mean to be a farmer, to take responsibility for the crops grown, and to also build our own farm stand. It would be real life skills of farming.”

Fifteen-year-old Carlos, one of the LIT participants, remarked, “What interests me the most about agricultural is definitely the uniqueness of it and seeing all your hard work pay off after getting items sold to a lot of customers.”

Paula, who is also 15 years old, said, “What interests me the most about agricultural business and selling products is learning about the overall process. It shows how there are more options than having processed food. There’s so much behind the scenes work that goes into it that I didn’t

know before.”

Regarding running the farm stand, Lilyreyn, 15, said, “I learned organization and teambuilding because all of us were working together at the farm stand to try and sell the products, so listening to each other was important.” Lilyreyn added, “I like the concept of building a community through agricultural business. I feel like food brings everybody together and they have the opportunity to try new things.”

Why should people stop by the farm stand on Aug. 9?

Carols replied, “People should come to the next farm stand because they get to try something new. This is the first time I ever tried basil lemonade so that was definitely cool.”

Paula responded, “People should stop by the next farm stand in August because honestly, it’s amazing!”



Some of the fruits, vegetables, flowers and maple syrup that were available during the farm stand held in June. The next farm stand is set for Aug. 9.

-Photos by Sneyder Curipoma



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that’s italian!

by luigi coppola



School uniforms

Embarrassment in the Husky section of M. Schwartz.

Growing up with two foreign parents was like living in a sitcom written by people who didn’t know it was supposed to be a sitcom. Other kids got Star Wars action figures; I got socks thick enough to stop a bullet. Other kids got grilled cheese; I got Rigatoni Bolognese that could feed a small village. And shopping with my mother? That wasn’t shopping. That was a military operation with yelling.

One year, Mom announced it was time to get our parochial school uniforms: blue pants, white shirts, and the tie that felt like it was woven from recycled sandpaper and Catholic guilt. My little brother Vinny was 3 or 4, I was 7 or 8, and together we were a two-man circus act of fidgeting, poking, slapping, whining and general chaos. We couldn’t stand still for more than three seconds without starting a small war.

We headed to M. Schwartz on the Main Mall in Poughkeepsie, which for kids was basically Times Square meets Willy Wonka’s factory. There were fountains you could throw pennies into, giant stores with escalators that felt like amusement park rides, and – best of all – our uncle’s restaurant next door, where we might score a soda if we didn’t get ourselves banned from the mall first.

Into Schwartz we marched: Mom in front like a general, Vinny and I behind her like two malfunctioning shopping carts with one bad wheel each. Through the jewelry, past the furs, around the fake plants, up the glass staircase – Vinny and I elbowing each other the whole way, whisper-fighting in that “I’m not touching you” tone that drives parents insane.

Then came the moment of doom: the children’s department.

Two sections: Normal Kids and Husky Kids

Guess where we went.

I’m not saying we were fat. I’m just saying our legs were still in negotiations with the rest of our bodies. The Husky section was for boys too big for kid clothes but too small for

adult clothes, and everything was designed for tall Husky kids, which we were not. So the crotch always hung somewhere around mid-thigh, and the pants could double as emergency tents.

Mom started holding up blue uniform pants to us, barking orders in Italian like she was directing airport traffic. Vinny and I were swatting at each other, stepping on each other’s feet, and getting smacked in return. She kept going up in sizes like she was bidding at an auction.

Finally, she picked a pair for each of us. Then came the humiliation.

The fitting rooms were across the store, and Mom was in a hurry. So naturally, she told us to try on the pants right there in the aisle. In the Husky section. In front of strangers. In front of other children who would definitely tell their friends.

We protested. She ignored us. We fought. She ignored us harder.

Off came our pants. On went the new ones. There we stood – two Husky boys in our underwear, fidgeting, fighting, whining and getting yelled at in Italian while Mom poked, prodded, tugged and made us bend over to “check the seams.” Other shoppers walked by pretending not to stare, which somehow made it worse. We were the Husky Exhibit.

Once Mom was satisfied that the pants fit “well enough,” we had to go see the tailor downstairs. Logic would suggest we could change back into our normal clothes. Logic, however, was not Italian.

So down the glass stairs we went, still wearing our too-long blue uniform pants, stiff white shirts and parochial school ties, shuffling in our stocking feet because the pants were dragging behind us like denim wedding trains. Vinny and I were still fighting, of course – because why stop now? We were committed to the bit.

The tailor was an old Italian man who appeared out of thin air holding chalk like a magician. He spoke no English but plenty of

Italian, and the only word I clearly remember him saying was “Husky,” which he repeated with the enthusiasm of someone announcing a lottery winner. He marked us up like two blueprints, muttering in rapid-fire Italian while Vinny and I fidgeted like we were being attacked by invisible bees.

Finally, he let us change back into our clothes. Mom paid for our uniforms, and we were released from captivity.

We went next door for our soda, where Vinny and I consoled each other over Uptown cola—still fidgeting, still fighting, still shooting spitballs like two tiny mobsters settling a score. Mom chatted with our uncle, and when she was done, she told us it was time to go home.

That night she made Baked Spaghetti. I guess that’s why we were shopping in the Husky section

Baked Spaghetti

Ingredients

- 1 pound dried spaghetti
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 pound mild or spicy Italian sausage, casings removed
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced (about 1½ cups)
- 1 cup thinly sliced sun-dried tomatoes (around 3 ounces)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1½ teaspoons kosher salt, plus extra for salting the pasta water
- 1 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 cups whole or 2% milk
- 5 ounces baby spinach (roughly 5 packed cups)
- 3 ounces shredded low-moisture mozzarella (about ¾ cup)

Directions

Heat your oven to 375°F. Bring a big pot of well-salted water to a boil over medium-high heat.

Drop in 1 pound of spaghetti and cook it until it’s just shy of al dente—about a minute less than what the box says. While it cooks, start building the sauce.

Melt 2 tablespoons of butter in a deep skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1 pound of Italian sausage (casings removed) and break it apart with a wooden spoon. Cook until it’s no longer pink, about 5–7 minutes.

Stir in the diced onion, sun-dried tomatoes, garlic, 1½ teaspoons salt, 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning, and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Let everything cook together until the onion softens – roughly 4 minutes.

Sprinkle 3 tablespoons of flour over the mixture and stir constantly for a minute to cook off the raw flour taste. Slowly pour in 4 cups of milk, whisking as you go. Bring it to a gentle boil, then lower the heat and let it simmer until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Add the spinach in handfuls, stirring until it wilts.

Drain the spaghetti and return it to its pot. Pour the sauce over it and toss until everything is coated. Taste and adjust the seasoning if needed.

Transfer the pasta to a 9×9-inch (at least 2 inches deep) or 9×13-inch baking dish. Spread it out evenly and top with the shredded mozzarella.

Bake until the edges are bubbling and the cheese is melted – about 18–20 minutes. Let it rest for 5 minutes before cutting it into squares, lasagna-style. Add fresh parsley.

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

Glenham Fire Dept. holds annual Junior Firefighter Summer Fire Academy

The Glenham Fire Department held its 4th annual Junior Firefighter Summer Fire Academy with 49 students in attendance. They held two sessions for rising 3rd graders - 6th graders and for rising 7th - 10th graders. There was no cost associated with the summer academy. The sessions were from July 20th to July 25th. Graduation ceremonies took place on July 25th.

Participants were allowed to ride throughout the district with multiple apparatus. This happened because of the volunteers from the Glenham Fire Department, Protection Engine Co. Number 1 and Castle Point VA. Some of the activities that the students were taught were search and rescue first aid, to crawl on the ground following the hose until they came out to the end of it, CPR, and learning about every tool on each rig and what they would use to breach in a wall, using the smoke machine and running the hose up a flight of stairs.

Students marched in a parade, were awarded certificates of accomplishment and cake and cookies. This would never have happened if they didn't have people like ex-chief Bob Dross and Firefighter Kayleigh Marron and the many volunteers that helped from the Glenham Fire Department, Pleasant Valley Fire



Department, Arlington Fire Department, Fairview Fire Department and Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corp. The Glenham Fire Department is looking for all to return next year for another year of learning so the students can have a fire in them to start.

-Photos by Vinny Galvin



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Obituaries

Glenn R. Scofield, Sr.



Glenn R. Scofield, Sr., a lifelong and deeply cherished resident of Fishkill, NY, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at Westchester Medical Center at the age of 84.

Born on August 20, 1941, to the late Frank and Margaret (Inness) Scofield, Glenn's roots ran exceptionally deep in the town he loved. He held the rare distinction of spending his entire life residing in the very same home where he was born, serving as a steadfast anchor for his family and community for over eight decades.

Glenn devoted his life to public service across law enforcement, fire protection, and local government.

Demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to the Town of Fishkill, Glenn spent 62 years with the Town of Fishkill Highway Department, including 54 years as its Superintendent retiring in 2023. His distinguished career also included roles as a Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff, a former Sergeant with the Village of Fishkill Police Department, and Ex-Chief of the Fishkill Fire Department Protection Engine Co. #1. His unwavering commitment to the fire service earned him profound respect throughout the region, along with honorary memberships in numerous fire companies, including Rombout, Slater Chemical, Dutchess Junction, Wiccopee, and Thomaston, CT. Beyond emergency services, Glenn was a Past President of the Dutchess County Association of Highway Superintendents and held an Honorary Life Membership with the NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways.

When he was not serving the public, Glenn embraced life outdoors. He found great joy playing in the men's over-35 softball league for Cervone's Autobody and Protection Engine Co. #1, spending mornings on the golf course, and camping with family and friends.

Surviving at home is Glenn's beloved wife Isabel McDonough Scofield, with whom he spent 32 happy years. In addition to his devoted wife, Glenn's legacy lives on through his children and their spouses, Glenn Scofield, Jr. and his wife Stacy of Fishkill, Keith Scofield and his wife Kathleen of Chapin, SC, Dean Scofield of Fishkill, and Ryann Bruno of Fishkill, as well as his stepdaughter, Michele Berlingieri. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Sean, Collin, Wyatt, Piper, Kiernan, and Gavin; step-grandchildren, Marissa, Sara, Jenna, Katie, and Joe; step-great-grandchildren, Braylin, E.J., Garcia, and Amilia; his brother, Kenneth Scofield; and several loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Frank "Bud" Scofield, and stepson, Joseph McDonough.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, August 7, 2026, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with a Firematic Service at 7:00 PM at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at 10 am at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill, NY, followed immediately by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 US-9, Fishkill, NY.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial donations be made in Glenn's honor to Protection Engine Co. #1, Village of Fishkill Fire Department, 1132 Main Street, Fishkill, NY 12524, or to the DC 10-13 Foundation of the Hudson Valley, P.O. Box 352, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

Deborah Anne Consiglio



The family of Deborah Anne Sylvester (nee Consiglio), 61, is saddened to announce her sudden transition to heaven on July 27, 2026. Debbie was born on July 30, 1964, to Elizabeth (Day) and Louis Consiglio. Debbie earned a Bachelor's Degree in chemical engineering from Marist College and was proud to work as a chemical engineer at IBM, where she was employed for more than 30 years. Debbie was compassionate and selfless, strong and sharp. Debbie had a remarkable ability to form friendships with everyone, regardless of their circumstance. She never met a stranger. Debbie cherished live music, the garlic festival, camping, hiking, and time

spent around a fire with loved ones. She lived in a world of fairy dreams, wizards, hobbits, fantasy and was an avid stargazer. In addition to her parents, Deborah was preceded in death by her brothers, Mark and Kevin. She was survived by her daughter Amber Monroe (Kevin), grandchildren Angelo and Lorenzo, brother Ronald, partner Paul, her beloved dog Buddy, and many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

Her Family will gather with Friends on Sunday, August 2, 2026 from 4-8 PM at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered 10:00 AM on Monday, August 3rd at St. Mary's Church, 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, followed by entombment at St. Peter's Cemetery Mausoleum, 171 Salt Point Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY.

In lieu of flowers, her family wishes for memorial donations may be made to the Environment America Research and Policy Center Inc: <https://environmentamerica.org/center/take-action/donate-today/> To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Roy E. Jorgensen



Roy E. Jorgensen, 86, an area resident since 1973 and formerly of Brooklyn, died peacefully on July 28, 2026 at his home.

Born in Brooklyn on August 4, 1939, he was the son of the late Einar and Alfield (Toftner) Jorgensen. Roy proudly served our country in the US Air Force and was employed as a teacher with the Wappingers Central School District at Brinckerhoff Elementary School.

Roy was a member of the East Fishkill Historical Society and was the past president of the Fishkill Historical Society.

On March 17, 1973 in Brooklyn, Roy married Rita McCann who predeceased him on September 2, 2021. He was also predeceased by his son, Frantz

Jorgensen in 1979; and his brother, Eric Jorgensen. He is survived by his nieces and nephews, Terje Torp, Joyce (Pete) Power, Thomas (Ronald Harris) Meade, Theresa (Hugh) McGrane, Mary (Thomas) King, Stephen Meade, Catherine (Joe) Sullivan, Patricia (Mike) Salvato, Michael (Denine) Meade; and William (Kathleen) Meade; many great nieces and nephews and some very special friends. Services will be private.

Memorial donations may be made to the East Fishkill Historical Society, PO Box 245, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 or the Fishkill Historical Society, PO Box 133, Fishkill, NY 12524.

Sheriff's Office warns of scams

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would like to take this opportunity to warn the residents of Dutchess County and surrounding areas about scams that once again seem to be on the rise.

Scams are ways in which criminals will attempt to get money from people by contacting them and making up elaborate stories. In some cases the perpetrators have tried, sometimes successfully, to use the victim's emotions about a loved one in trouble to get money. It's common for the perpetrators of these scams to try to get money by telling people that one of their relatives has been seriously hurt or is in jail, and that they need money right away. In many cases they will pose as a law enforcement official or another relative to try and convince the victim that it's legitimate.

The latest scam involves the perpetrators posing as law enforcement, in which they contact the victim and identify themselves as "Captain Watson" from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. They then go on to tell the victim that there's a warrant for their arrest, which can be satisfied if the victim purchases Walmart gift cards.

The Sheriff's Office offers the following general tips to help people avoid these scams:

- If you're contacted by someone you don't know asking for money, for any reason, it's very likely a scam.
- If you receive correspondence from someone that you don't know and they instruct you to keep the matter confidential and not tell anyone about it, it's most likely a scam.
- Emails or text messages that contain misspelled words, grammatical errors, don't make sense, or are sent at odd hours - for example the middle of the night - are most likely scams.
- Legitimate law enforcement would not attempt to satisfy a warrant or make promises to avoid prosecution by soliciting money or gift cards. Law enforcement also does not contact people about jury duty.
- If you receive an email or text about an order you didn't place or asking you to send money call the company using a legitimate number. DO NOT follow the instructions in the email, click on any links in the email, or call the number provided in the email.
- If someone you don't know asks you

- to purchase merchandise, transfer money, provide bank information, provide remote computer access, enter a code, or click on a link given to you by them use caution as it is likely a scam.
 - Do not meet up with someone that you don't know; if you're asked to do this it is surely a scam, and it is very dangerous as well.
 - If someone calls you and tells you that a relative has been hurt or is in jail, confirm it first before sending any money. Call other relatives or a legitimate law enforcement agency for confirmation before any money is sent. If they're posing as a relative, try and contact that relative for confirmation.
 - Sending money overseas is especially risky; use extreme caution.
 - Ask the person for their call back number and ask to speak to their supervisor to confirm the info; if it's a scam they will most likely hang up at this point and the number they give you will be bogus.
 - If a loved one has recently passed away be wary; in some cases perpetrators have even preyed on victims by searching through the obituaries and calling surviving loved ones. If you get calls from people you don't know soon after someone passes away, be careful and confirm it before you send any money.
 - In some cases someone will call and tell the victim that they've won money, but to "process the claim" they need to first send money. Beware this is most definitely a scam and don't send any money - you should never have to pay money to claim a prize. If it seems too good to be true, it most likely is.
 - If there's any doubt about a phone call/email/letter you've received contact the Sheriff's Office before sending any money.
 - Scams tend to increase during the holiday season, so be especially alert for them during those times.
- It is very important not to send any money to anyone that you don't know until you've confirmed the situation through an independent source and feel comfortable with it. If it's a scam once the money is sent it's very difficult, and most times impossible, to get it back. If anyone thinks they may have been the victim of a scam they are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office at 845-486-3800 or via the tipline at 845-605-CLUE or dcsotips@gmail.com.

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Vassar Brothers Medical Center’s nursing excellence earns national recognition

The exceptional nursing quality and care provided every day at Vassar Brothers Medical Center has earned national recognition. The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) has awarded Vassar Brothers Medical Center its prestigious Pathway to Excellence® designation, recognizing the hospital’s commitment to nursing excellence, quality outcomes, professional empowerment and a supportive practice environment.

At Vassar Brothers Medical Center, nurses play a critical role in delivering safe, high-quality care to patients across the Hudson Valley. Through shared decision-making, professional development opportunities and a culture that values the voices of frontline caregivers, the hospital

has built an environment where nurses are empowered to lead, innovate and continuously improve the patient experience.

The Pathway to Excellence designation is a globally recognized credential that identifies healthcare organizations where nurses are engaged, supported and positioned to provide the highest quality care. Research has shown Pathway-designated organizations benefit from higher nurse satisfaction, stronger retention, enhanced patient safety and improved clinical outcomes.

“Our nurses are the foundation of the exceptional care we provide every day,” said Susan Browning, Regional President of Northwell Health and President of Vassar Brothers Medical Center. “This

designation reflects their unwavering commitment to clinical excellence, compassion and teamwork. It also affirms our commitment to fostering an environment where nurses are respected, supported and empowered to make a meaningful difference for our patients and community.”

As a Pathway to Excellence organization, Vassar Brothers Medical Center is leading efforts to advance nursing excellence, enhance quality of care, promote patient and staff safety and strengthen the future of healthcare delivery.

“Receiving the Pathway to Excellence designation is a tremendous honor because it recognizes the work and dedication of our nursing team,” said Cathy Manley Cullen, MS, RN, NEA-BC, Chief

Nursing Officer at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. “Our nurses consistently demonstrate excellence at the bedside and in every aspect of patient care. This recognition validates the culture we have built together, one that encourages collaboration, professional growth, innovation and a steadfast focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for our patients.”

As a Pathway to Excellence organization, Vassar Brothers Medical Center joins a select group of healthcare institutions recognized for creating positive practice environments that support nurses and strengthen patient care.

For more information about the ANCC Pathway to Excellence program, visit the ANCC Pathway to Excellence website.

Historic Hyde Park Railroad Station

Museum open for Saturday tours

On Saturdays through Sept. 19, from 1 to 5 p.m., the non-profit Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum, supported and maintained by the Hudson Valley Railroad Society (HVRRS), will be open for free for all members and the general public. Soft drinks and light refreshments are available free, as well.

Enjoy a free tour of the Station Museum, a railroading time capsule built in 1914. Stroll the surrounding park and playground. The Museum's patio is next to the safely fenced-off and active Amtrak mainline to Grand Central and to Albany and beyond, as well as the Hudson River. The patio is great for both train watching and boat watching, and for enjoying great sunsets and stargazing in good weather.

Several model railroad layouts will also be running, including ones with hands-on operating features, such as Thomas The Tank Engine ©.

Admission and parking are free to all attendees. The Museum's main floor is handicap-accessible.

The Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum was once used by the Vanderbilt Family, and by FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. The Station Museum is located at 34 River Road in Hyde Park.

The HVRRS is a group of volunteers who restore, maintain and operate the Museum. All donations go to the continuing restoration and operation of the Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum. This is a Nationally Registered Historic Place

open to the public by appointment and on Thursday evenings year-round, plus on Saturdays in summer, with free admission year-round, and which members of the HVRRS work to support. (Private group tours by appointment.)

Call 845-229-2338 or visit www.hydeparkstation.org for more information.

Right: The Historic Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum, pictured in 2022.

-Photo courtesy of the Hudson Valley Railroad Society,



this week's puzzle solutions

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This week's answer

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Suguru solution

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

The following entitled bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on July 13, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is each available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, July 28, 2026.

/s/Julie Shiroishi Clerk, County Legislature

RESOLUTION NO. 2026096
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FOR VARIOUS PROPOSED COUNTY BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS, IN

Legal Notices

AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$1,186,750, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,186,750 BONDS OF SAID COUNTY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

Class of objects or purposes: Preliminary design and environmental studies for various proposed County building improvements

Period of probable usefulness: 5 years
Maximum estimated cost: \$1,186,750
Amount of bonds to be issued: \$1,186,750 bonds

LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

The following entitled bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on July 13, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Legal Notices

copy of the resolution summarized herewith is each available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, July 28, 2026.
/s/Julie Shiroishi Clerk, County Legislature

RESOLUTION NO. 2026097
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,020,000 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A CARD SWIPE ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM AT COUNTY BUILDINGS, IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY.

Class of objects or purposes: Purchase/installation of a card swipe access system at County buildings

Period of probable usefulness: 10 years
Maximum estimated cost: \$2,020,000
Amount of bonds to be issued: \$2,020,000 bonds
SEQRA status: Type II Action

LEGAL NOTICE

The following entitled bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on July 13, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Legal Notices

tions were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is each available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, July 28, 2026

/s/Julie Shiroishi Clerk, County Legislature

RESOLUTION NO. 2026098
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$489,749 BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST OF THE CULVERT REPLACEMENT ON COUNTY ROUTE 49 (TITUSVILLE ROAD), IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY.

Specific object or purpose: Culvert replacement on County Route 49 (Titusville Road) over Wappinger Creek Tributary

Class of objects or purposes: Culvert replacement on County Route 49 (Titusville Road) over Wappinger Creek Tributary

Legal Notices

(Town of LaGrange)
Period of probable usefulness: 20 years

Revised maximum estimated cost: \$3,156,400
Previously authorized: \$1,166,651 bonds (12/18/25 bond resolution)

Other monies: \$1,500,000 State grants-in-aid
Additional amount of obligations to be issued: \$489,749 bonds
SEQRA Status: Type II Action

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFQu-DCP-79-26

Planning/Architectural/Engineering Consulting Services for Hudson Valley Regional Airport
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., August 31, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

Legal Notices

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-86-26

Operator for Scattered Site Code Blue Warming Centers
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., August 31, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-90-26

Mental Health Outpatient Treatment and Rehabilitative Services (MHOTRS)
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., September 1, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

Legal Notices

ment", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess at a meeting held on July 13, 2026, adopted a local law entitled:

LOCAL LAW No. 5 of 2026, A LOCAL LAW ADOPTING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR THE CREATION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS PURSUANT TO §421-p OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW AND EXCLUDING SHORT-TERM RENTALS

The purpose of this Local Law is to encourage the creation of accessory dwelling units for long-term residential occupancy to increase housing supply within Dutchess County by adopting the exemption authorized by §421-p of the Real Property Tax Law for qualifying accessory dwelling unit projects, while ensuring that public tax incentives are not utilized to subsidize short-term rental activity.

A copy of the local law is available at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature where it may be inspected during regular office hours.

JULIE SHIROISHI Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
Dated: July 31, 2026

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

Suguru

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

THEME: CAMPING

IACROSS

1. Soapy enemy

5. Architect's software, acr.

8. Professional number cruncher, acr.

11. Through, to a poet

12. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet

13. Garden pest

15. Chinese monetary unit

16. Sportscaster Andrews

17. Certain water birds

18. *Luxury camping

20. Scratch's target

21. Same as coho

22. DNA transmitter

23. Explanation backed by evidence

26. Gottfried ____, calculus co-creator

30. R in rpm

31. Er on Periodic table

34. Bowling ball path

35. Arabic VIPs

37. .0000001 joule

38. Financial woes

39. Cecum, pl.

40. "Et tu, Brute?" speaker

42. Food morsel

43. Siren, e.g.

45. *____ camping, or camping without shelter

47. Siesta

48. "There it is," à Paris

50. Gold or frankincense or myrrh, e.g.

52. *Fire starter

55. American chameleon

56. Antioxidant-rich berry

57. New Mexico art colony

59. Nymph chaser

60. Nonclerical

61. Poet Pound

62. High school parent org.

63. Be off base

64. Ready for picking

DOWN

1. Eye infection

2. College party chant

3. Russia's ____ Mountains

4. Western European city-state

5. Collectible in a cabinet

6. Skirt shape

7. Animal waste

8. Chocolate candy, to a Brit

9. Essence

10. Marketing creations

12. Gentle breeze

13. Raspberry drupelets

14. *Like drinking water

19. Customs and conventions

22. "Losing My Religion" band

23. *Leave no ____

24. Egyptian falcon god

25. Put out on a curb

26. Totes or tugs

27. Orient's bigwip

28. Preface, e.g.

29. Piquant

32. *____ bag or ____ canister

33. Rage

36. *Waterproof cover (2 words)

38. Funny

40. Large edible mushroom

41. Of low pH

44. Serve food at events

46. Restaurant staff member

48. "The ____ of Wakefield"

49. On the radio (2 words)

50. *Annoying biting fly

51. Tiny quantity

52. Leafy green

53. Like Hitler's Germany

54. *Good Ol' Raisins and Peanuts

55. Venomous snake

58. Greek letters on campus

CROSSWORD

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

hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



Divine fillers: A budget-bloom’s backstory



Bouquet of Roses and Baby’s Breath.

It might be carried as an accessory, given as a gift or used as home décor. Its beauty, capable of so many messages, could say love, gratitude, hope or peace. Birthdays, holidays, receptions for work or family—it doesn’t matter if the milestone is sorrowful or joyous—most likely there will be at least one flower bouquet to mark the occasion. Do you notice the component flowers?

Roses are a global bestseller. In a variety of colors, they are used for romance, celebration and comfort. By occasion, and as seasonally available, lilies, tulips, peonies and sunflowers are valued for their volume and presentation. But, for

budget-friendly versatility, carnations are the ultimate bloom.

Scientifically known as *Dianthus caryophyllus*, the carnation is uniquely structured to survive transport and handling where more delicate blooms fail. While highly responsive to the natural aging signal ethylene, modern post-harvest conditioning allows the hardy carnation to resist premature withering. This managed resilience gives its petals an incredible three-week lifespan and a rigid structure that easily withstands being packed tightly into arrangements. Florists rely on this durability to create a dense, cloud-like cushion within a bouquet,



Deptford Pink-Wild *Dianthus*.



Cultivated garden red *dianthus*.



Cultivated garden purple *dianthus*.
-Courtesy photos



Bouquet of Roses, Carnations and Baby’s Breath.

using the carnation’s natural ruffles to support heavier stems and act as fillers for empty spaces at a fraction of the cost.

Pink family
The Caryophyllaceae family, commonly known as “Pinks” (because of its most famous members, the *Dianthus* genus), includes several filler and volume flowers used in the floral industry. Those include Baby’s Breath (*Gypsophila*) as well as Carnations and Mini Carnations.

Flowers of the *Dianthus* genus typically have five petals with a frilled margin. The verb “to pink” means “to decorate with a perforated pattern”; pinking shears are scissors that create a zigzag edge on cloth, which discourages fraying. The color “pink” got its name from the flower, not the other way around.

The name *Dianthus* is a compound of the Greek words *Dios* (divine) and *anthos* (flower). The blooms were woven into ceremonial crowns and garlands worn during festivals, athletic victories and temple offerings in the Hellenistic World. In fact, our word “carnation” likely traces back to the Latin word *corona*, or crown, since the Greeks used these “divine flowers” to crown their heroes and deities.

Botanical quirk
The name Caryophyllaceae also originates from the ancient Greeks, who combined *karyon* (nut) and *phyllon* (leaf) to describe spice cloves. Centuries later, European botanists noticed that wild carnations—the ancestors of the ones we buy today—smelled like cloves. (They were, in fact, called Clove Pinks.)

Rather than devising a novel term, they adopted *Caryophyllus* as the official genus name for the flower. The standard suffix *-aceae* was added for the broader plant family. In 1753, when botanist Carl Linnaeus modernized the biological naming system to eliminate confusion, he replaced the genus name, *Caryophyllus*, with *Dianthus*. But the broader family name, with its eponym an unrelated spice, remained unchanged. It has remained a lasting botanical quirk!

The Garden Pinks that have a warm, spicy aroma do so because of organic chemistry, not due to any familial relationship with cloves. *Dianthus* flowers—especially traditional varieties like the Clove Pink (*Dianthus caryophyllus*)—naturally produce a chemical compound called eugenol in their petals. Eugenol is the same volatile aroma-mole-

cule that makes up roughly 70% to 90% of a tropical clove tree’s essential oil. Plant some, and your garden can smell like a jar of fresh cloves!

Scent-free and sterile, but puffy
The transformation of the simple five-petaled wild *Dianthus* into a dense commercial money-maker spanned over two thousand years of human intervention. Ancient Greek and Roman societies knew it as a single-rowed, pale-pink blossom. During the Middle Ages and Renaissance, European monks and cottage gardeners noticed the striking, but rare, extra petals that resulted from natural genetic mutations.

Wanting to duplicate the voluminous look of those multi-petaled mutants, breeders saved and selectively crossed the unique flowers over generations. By the 19th and 20th centuries, French and American cultivators had created thick, ball-like ruffled carnations that dominate the global floral market today.

Selecting for extreme petal density is a trade-off between natural survival and commercial longevity. In the garden, single carnations excel because their exposed reproductive organs attract pollinators and produce abundant seeds, though their delicate petals wither quickly. But for a striking visual “pop,” double and highly double varieties are spectacular. Furthermore, they are bred to resist moisture loss and mechanical damage, granting them an exceptionally long vase life. The cost of long-lasting beauty is that their reproductive parts are ineffective or absent. They have largely lost their signature wild, clove-like fragrance, leaving them entirely dependent on human propagation via stem cuttings to survive.

If you are interested in investigating selective breeding using carnations, check out this educational product: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Water-Movement-Artificial-Selection-CarnationCelery-EcologyEnrichment-16968215>

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County.

Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.

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