

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Get ready to celebrate 20 years of the Bannerman Island Gardeners

By Kristine Coulter

Bannerman Castle Trust (BCT) will hold its 20th Anniversary Garden Party, which will include a special garden tour and honor the garden volunteers, who have given their time for the past two decades restoring the gardens. The event is set for Wednesday, Aug. 27, from noon to 2:30 p.m. on the Island.

"The Bannerman Island Gardeners are truly the heart of the Trust's "Friends" volunteer organization. But make no mistake, this group of extraordinary women and men are extremely competent, strong and dedicated," stated BCT Deputy Executive Director Kelly Ellenwood.

During the celebration, late volunteer Dorothy Basini will be honored posthumously. Basini was described as "a faithful Bannerman Island gardener who donated her time to Bannerman Island for over 15 years." It was stated that Basini, who is missed by her fellow gardeners" was a "friendly team player with excellent gardening skills."

During the party, one can hear from BCT Executive Director Neil Caplan after a tour with island guides and gardeners. Donna Blakemore, Lead Gardener, will also make remarks to attendees. Volunteers care for the gardens from March – November each year. They plant new flowers and plants, as well as weed and care for the gardens, it was remarked.

"What they bring to the experience every visitor has on the island is immeasurable - in every season! Even in the fall when the flowers have faded, they embrace the season, with surprises and unique touches in every corner to surprise and delight," Ellenwood said about the



The Bannerman Gardeners, which was headed by Donna Blakemore in 2015, will celebrate 20 years of volunteer efforts on August 27 on Bannerman Island. Pictured, from left, in 2015, are Donna Blakemore, Carla Miller, Joyce Van Hassel, Dorothy Basini, Linda Scott (In the back) Barbara Baker and Melanie Lanc. -Courtesy photo Bannerman Castle Trust

volunteers and gardeners.

Artist Kathleen Griffin will also be on hand to discuss her Butterfly Sculpture Project to be installed on Bannerman Island in 2026, it was stated. She will be giving attendees a preview of one of the sculptures.

According to BCT information, Blakemore met BCT Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Gottlock in 2005 and they had an idea to beautify, weed and clear some areas on Bannerman Island for new tourism. Blakemore and Gottlock contacted master gardeners

from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County and some of their members helped restore the Wee Bay Gardens as a group project.

Then, volunteers offered their services, while local businesses began donating plants and supplies for the project it was stated. The Bannerman Island Gardener Volunteer group was formally formed in 2006, it was noted.

Anyone who would like to volunteer, with any level of experience, may visit bannermancastle.org or call 845-831-1001 for more information.

PSC announces agreement with Central Hudson regarding 2023 incident on Brick Row in Wappingers Falls

By Kristine Coulter

The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) adopted the terms and conditions of a joint settlement agreement to resolve all alleged violations committed by Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation for a gas explosion on Brick Row in Wappingers Falls in 2023.

According to a Commission document, "The November 2, 2023 gas explosion on Brick Row caused a massive fire and tragically injured multiple individuals, including children. The explosion also destroyed homes and upended the lives of the residents of Brick Row."

"Under the now approved agreement, Central Hudson commits to funding a \$5 million account to be used for the benefit of our customers on matters as determined by the New York State Public Service Commission and Central Hudson will also commit an additional \$2.5 million dedicated to enhancements in gas safety. These financial commitments will not be passed on to customers," it was stated in a statement from Central Hudson sent by company spokesperson Réal Hamilton-Romeo.



One of the injured is assisted by first responders after an explosion on Brick Row in Wappingers Falls on November 2, 2023. -Courtesy photo

179th
YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE SPECIAL
a supplement of
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DUTCHESS NEWS
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Rhinebeck, NY
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Flourishing Farmers
Flourishing Farmers provides an education and personalized 4-H club experience for students with special needs. This year members of the club will be presenting their work at the Dutchess County Fair's "Differently Day" from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 23 in the Livestock Show Ring.
See story on page 12

Veterinary Goals for Jenna Lawrence
Jenna Lawrence was the home she wanted to be a veterinarian since she was a youngster. As a member of the same age High School FFA, Lawrence not only educates others on farming, but she also participates in a variety of competitions at the New York State FFA Convention.
See her story on page 4

Addison Stapp's leadership skills
Addison Stapp will be showing his model goat at the year's Fair and she is a Dutchess County Livestock Sale representative. She has been a chapter officer of the Pine Plains FFA chapter for two years and is president of the Goats and Glory 4-H club.
See her story on page 38

Inside: DC Fair Youth in Agriculture section

Assistant fire chief collapsed at scene, 'pronounced dead,' begins breathing again



The Rombout Fire Co. wishes a speedy recovery to Asst. Fire Chief John Lucariello. He collapsed at a scene on Aug. 11.

-Courtesy photo

By Kristine Coulter
Rombout Fire Co. Assistant Chief John Lucariello collapsed at a scene on Mountainview Road in Fishkill at 5:19 a.m. on Aug. 11.
According to a social media post by Rombout Fire Co., it was while investigating an active structure fire, that the assistant chief collapsed. He was immediately transported to St Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, Orange County, for treatment, then flown to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, Westchester County. According to the fire company, Lucariello was currently in critical condition under the care of leading cardiac specialists last week.
According to a fundraising page for the assistant chief on The Yard Foundation (theyardfoundation.org) "(Lucariello's) brothers and sisters in the service, along with paramedics, immediately began life-saving efforts. After being shocked five times, the unthinkable happened: John was pronounced dead."
The statement on the site continues, "Five minutes later, in a moment that doctors say they've never seen before, John began breathing again on his own. His heart started beating. He was flown to Westchester Medical Center and is now under the care of cardiac specialists, holding on in critical but stable condition."
"We ask for the public's understanding and respect as we navigate this situation," stated the Rombout Fire Co. in the post, which added, "We appreciate your support and understanding."
The statement on the Yard Foundation notes, "To his family, John is "truly the best man in the entire world." To his fellow firefighters and the community he swore to protect, he is a dedicated leader for whom the fire service is life. He has spent his career answering the call for others in their darkest hour."

Continued on page 3

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Event set for Sept. 13 at Dutchess County Fairgrounds

Registration now open

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced the County’s second Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Event of 2025 will be in northern Dutchess on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6596 Route 9 in Rhinebeck. Registration opens on Aug. 13th and residents are encouraged to sign up promptly as these popular events fill up quickly and the new northern Dutchess location is certain to attract many new participants.

Serino stated, “Our Hazardous Household Waste & Electronics Recycling Events give neighbors a simple and responsible way to properly dispose of harmful materials, and we’re excited to bring the next one to Rhinebeck. We’re grateful to the Dutchess County Agricultural Society for welcoming us to the Fairgrounds, and we hope this new location makes it even easier for residents in northern Dutchess to take part and help keep our community safe and clean.”

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to safely

dispose of items such as cleaners, pesticides and electronic waste. Proper disposal of these materials helps protect the environment and ensures a healthier community for future generations.

Pre-registration is required. Registration opens on Wednesday, Aug. 13th. Residents can register online using a credit card to pay the \$10 registration fee, or can register and pay by check by calling 845-463-6020. Checks should be made payable to “Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance” and mailed to or dropped off to the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management at 96 Sand Dock Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Registration is limited to the first 400 households. Events are first-come, first-served, and registered residents should expect to experience wait times when they arrive at the location.

In 2024, more than 1,000 residents participated in the County’s three events for Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling, safely disposing to 39,910 pounds of chemicals and 64,954 pounds of electronic waste during these events.

This is the second of three such collections the County is hosting this year, with the third and final event scheduled for Oct. 18 in Poughkeepsie. These events are part of a full slate of recycling events and activities that the Division of Solid Waste Management hosts throughout the year. Other upcoming events include the Home Composting Workshop, the third of a series, on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 in Poughkeepsie.

For more information about the event and the materials accepted, please visit the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management’s website. The Division’s online Recycling Encyclopedia also provides valuable information about what can and can’t be recycled – from antifreeze to yard waste.

More information about the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management’s Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Events is available online.

Acceptable Items:
Product Containers Marked:

“Warning,” “Hazardous,” “Flammable,” “Poisonous,” “Corrosive”

Lead based paints (NO latex or oil based!), stains, varnishes, photo chemicals, non-latex driveway sealer, pool chemicals, creosote, kerosene, flammable liquids, metal polish, turpentine, strippers, thinners, gasoline/oil mixture, brake fluid, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, chemical fertilizers, adhesives, resins, solvents, fluorescent tubes (tape together or put in box to prevent breakage), propane tanks, mercury containing devices, computer monitors, CPUs, fax machines, printers, TVs, stereos, telephones, lithium & sealed lead acid batteries (no automotive!)

Do Not Bring:
Latex or oil based paints, ammunition or explosives, asbestos products, latex driveway sealer &, building or construction debris, tires, furniture, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, air conditioners, radioactive materials, scrap metal, metal drums or empty containers, motor oil, car batteries, alkaline or rechargeable batteries.

Pre-register for free rabies clinic on Sept. 13 in East Fishkill

The Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) will once again partner with the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary (HVARs) to offer a free rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the East Fishkill Community Center, 890 Route 82 in Hopewell Junction. The event is open to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets 3 months of age and older. Pre-registration is required; registration opens Wednesday, Aug.20 at hvars.org.

The clinic is free for Dutchess County residents and \$15 per pet for non-residents. All dogs must be on a leash, and cats and domestic ferrets must be in carriers. Vaccinations will be good for three years with proof of prior vaccination. For those without proof, the vaccination will be good for one year. Microchipping will also be available at a cost of \$45 per pet, and a one-year distemper vaccine for \$25 per pet.

In New York State, rabies vaccinations are required for all cats, dogs, and domestic ferrets by the age of four

months. Revaccination is then required on a regular schedule to keep the animal properly immunized against the rabies virus. Owners can be fined up to \$200 if they fail to get their pets vaccinated and keep them up to date.

This vaccination clinic is the second of three such rabies clinics hosted by DCDOH and HVARs in 2025; the final will be held before the end of the year, and details to follow as the date nears.

Residents who see an animal acting strangely are advised to contact their local police agency. If a person or a domestic pet is bitten or is in contact with any animal, please contact DCDOH at 845-486-3404 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or 845-431-6465 on nights and weekends. Staff will investigate and advise the pet owner of any necessary steps to ensure the safety of their animal.

To learn more about rabies, visit dutchessny.gov/rabies or contact DCDOH at ehs@dutchessny.gov.

Beacon Elks honored by HV Renegades



The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 Veterans Committee was honored by the New York Yankees Upper A Division baseball team, the Hudson Valley Renegades as the recipient of the 11th annual Veterans Recognition Day Organization.

Activities included a wiffle ball game between the Renegades and the Lodge Veterans Committee. The Exalted Ruler threw out the first pitch of the game. Interviews were broadcast on local radio stations and TV news stations. An information station was set up for information of Elks programs and membership and the committee was recognized during the game.

Elroy the Elk (Lodge Secretary Lorraine Banks) came with the group and the Lodge members distributed 250 Elk Drug Awareness Coloring Books with crayons.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

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PSC announces agreement with Central Hudson regarding 2023 incident on Brick Row

Continued from cover

The statement from Central Hudson continues, “We will comply with the settlement order and are committed to keeping our communities safe – both now and into the future.”

“Under the terms of the settlement agreement adopted by the Commission, Central Hudson admitted it did not provide safe and adequate service and further agreed to pay a \$5 million penalty payment for ratepayer benefit. Central Hudson also will establish a gas safety protocol remediation fund between \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million for targeted safety measure enhancements to prevent similar incidents in the future. The responsibility and obligation to make the financial payment rests with the company shareholders, not ratepayers,” according to a release from the Department of Public Safety Commission.

“The Commission’s paramount concern is protecting the public and ensuring safety throughout our energy distribution systems,” said Commission Chair Rory M. Christian. “Enforcement actions hold utilities and their shareholders accountable for violations of the Public Service Law.”

According to the Dept. of Public Service’s investigation, “...on November 2, 2023, Central Hudson’s contractors struck an unmarked natural gas service line and caused a high-pressure gas leak. Minutes later, the residence at 7 Brick Row exploded and a gas-related fire erupted in the building, severely injuring multiple individuals including children, and damaged other residences along Brick Row. The Department is the staff arm of the Commission.

“The Department’s October 2024 investigation report alleged that Central Hudson had actual knowledge of 7 Brick Row’s active natural gas service line prior to the explosion. Furthermore, the Department contended that Central Hudson apparently did not include this critical information in the project binder given to its contractors for the Brick Row excavation project. The active natural gas line serving 7 Brick Row was not visually designated as an existing underground facility prior to the start of excavation operations on Brick Row.”

In return, OIE staff agreed to cease the prosecution of the instant enforcement action and resolve all pending violations stemming from the Brick Row explosion event.

According to Commission documents, Order Adopting Terms of Settlement, “On October 16, 2024, the Commission found sufficient factual basis to merit issuing an Order to Commence Proceeding and Show Cause as to why the Commission should not commence an enforcement action pursuant to Public Service Law (PSL) §25-a against Central Hudson.2 On November 15, 2024, Central Hudson responded, denying the alleged violations set forth in October 2024 Investigation Report.”

On March 21 of this year, “the Commission recognized that triable issues of fact and law were present in the administrative record and therefore issued an Order to Assign Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and Commence Evidentiary Hearing,” the



The rubble on Brick Row in Wappingers Falls in November 2023.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Commission document state.

It was on April 23, 2024, the presiding ALJ issued a ruling to establish a procedural schedule for prehearing processes and the commencement of an evidentiary hearing, according to Commission documents.

It was stated in Commission documents, “It should be noted that multiple civil plaintiffs have filed personal injury actions in Dutchess County Supreme Court against Central Hudson regarding the events of November 2, 2023. The administrative enforcement action before the Commission is entirely independent of any pending civil action in New York State Supreme Court.”

Commission document reads: “Department staff has alleged 128 apparent violations of the Public Service Law and New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations, Title 16, Section 255 regarding the gas explosion at Brick Row. These apparent violations and their factual predicates are detailed in the OIE October 2024 Investigation Report and the October 16, 2024 Order to Commence Proceeding and Show Cause.”

According to the commission document, “In reviewing proposed Settlement Agreements, the Commission looks to ensure that the agreement’s terms are in the public interest. A compromise should be consistent with the environmental, social, safety, consumer, economic, and legal policies of the Commission and the State. Also, such a compromise should produce results that are within the range of reasonable results that would have likely arisen

from a judicial or Commission decision in a litigated proceeding. A settlement agreement likewise should endeavor to balance interests of ratepayers, shareholders, and public safety consistent with the applicable legal framework.”

It was stated by the Commission in the document, reviewing the proposed Settlement Agreements, the Commission looked to ensure:

-The agreement’s terms are in the public interest.

- A compromise should be consistent with the environmental, social, safety, consumer, economic, and legal policies of the Commission and the State.

- Such a compromise should produce results that are within the range of reasonable results that would have likely arisen from a judicial or Commission decision in a litigated proceeding.

- A settlement agreement likewise should endeavor to balance interests of ratepayers, shareholders, and public safety consistent with the applicable legal framework.

According to the Commission document, Central Hudson intends to file written confirmation, signed by a chief corporate officer or a New York licensed attorney, that the Company has created and funded an account in the amount of \$5,000,000, consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement by Sept. 15. Also by Sept. 15, Central Hudson shall file written confirmation, signed by a chief corporate officer or a New York licensed attorney, that the Company has created and funded an account in the amount of a minimum of \$2,500,000, establishing a Gas Safety Protocol fund, consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and this Order.

“On January 16, 2026, July 14, 2026, and January 14, 2027, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation shall file CASE 24-G-0483 -9- written reports, signed by a chief

corporate officer or New York licensed attorney, describing and confirming the delivery of benefits to ratepayers consistent with the terms of this Order and the Settlement Agreement and the implementation of the program and information integration improvements consistent with the objectives of the Gas Safety Protocol fund,” it is stated in the Commission document.

It was added: “In the Secretary’s sole discretion, the deadlines set forth in this Order may be extended. Any request for an extension must be in writing, must include a justification for the extension, and must be filed at least three days prior to the affected deadline.”

The statement from Central Hudson noted, “We deeply regret the impact this incident has had on all those who were injured or otherwise impacted by the incident. We remain focused on rebuilding trust with the communities we serve through transparency, accountability, and meaningful action. To that end, we are taking comprehensive steps to strengthen oversight and reinforce safety protocols, ensuring that all work performed on our behalf meets the highest standards of safety and reliability.” Central Hudson mentioned the company cooperated with regulators during the course of its investigation “into the tragic natural gas incident.”

The PSC notes, the recent decision may be obtained by going to the Commission Documents section of the Commission’s website at www.dps.ny.gov and entering Case Number 24-G-0483 in the input box labeled “Search for Case/Matter Number.” Commission documents may also be obtained from the Commission’s Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500). If one has difficulty understanding English, call 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services.

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County seeks proposals for 2026 Youth Team Sports Program Funding

Grant workshops set for August 26, 27

Playing sports helps children develop important life skills like teamwork, discipline and perseverance while also supporting their physical health, boosting self-confidence and encouraging friendship and good sportsmanship. The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services’ Division of Youth Services is requesting applications for youth team sports (YTS) programming from local community-based organizations and nonprofits for the program year Jan. 1, 2026, to Sept. 30, 2026.

Youth team sports funding is grounded in the principles of positive youth development. It is intended to provide support to local team sports programs in communities where such programs may be scarce or under-resourced. Youth development through team sports aligns with Dutchess County’s “Path to Promise” domains: Learning, Material Basics, Safety, Family/Relationships, Mental Health and Physical Health.

Local youth-serving organizations that provide free team sports opportunities to youth under age 18 are encouraged to apply for grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. A total of \$129,716 is available through the New York State Children and Families Services Youth Teams Sports Reimbursable Grant*. This funding opportunity defines a “team sport” as an organized physical activity in which groups of two or more individuals compete with two or more opposing individuals.

Eligible applicants should be either a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or other community-based organization with a federal identification number, operating in Dutchess County with the ability to meet the county’s insurance requirements. All funding requests must be for a program that provides free, direct services to all youth.

2025-2026 Youth Development Programming (YDP) or Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding (YSEF) awardees are not eligible to apply for the same program for 2026 YTS funding.

Funding may provide general operating support to give agencies the flexibility to efficiently allocate resources for quality programming. This may include educational instruction necessary to prepare youth to participate in team sports.

Agencies are strongly encouraged to attend a grant workshop specific to this YTS funding opportunity. The Division of Youth Services has scheduled grant workshops at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie. Workshops are expected to last about two hours.

- Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 12:30 p.m.

They will review the requirements to apply, the step-by-step process of applying online, and address any concerns or questions. Please contact Doreen Clifford at 845-486-3663 or Doreen.Clifford@dfa.state.ny.us to register for a workshop.

The application period for the Youth Team Sports grant opens Tuesday, Aug. 26 and closes on Friday, Sept. 19.

All grants are due to the Division of Youth Services through the County’s online grant portal on or before Friday, Sept. 19, by 1 p.m. Please visit the Division’s NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) Grant Funding webpage for more comprehensive information regarding this program and how to apply.

* Total funding amount subject to change based on final allocation from New York State Children and Family Services.

County Board of Ethics meeting set for Aug. 27

There will be a meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Ethics on Wednesday, August 27, starting at 1 p.m. until 2 p.m.

The public has the right to attend at the Dutchess County Legislature’s Caucus Room, 22 Market Street, 6th floor, Poughkeepsie.

Public Comments will also be accepted

verbally, up to three minutes per person, for a total of up to thirty minutes in the aggregate at the end of the meeting. Each person may only speak once up to three minutes.

This meeting of the Board of Ethics shall be for the purpose of reviewing complaints received, if any, by the Dutchess County Board of Ethics.

Sheriff’s Office: Yonkers man hired by church to do artwork, accused of stealing money

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office reports the arrest of Fatjon Sulaj, 35, of Yonkers, Westchester County, in connection with a recent investigation into the larceny of money under false pretenses.

A complaint was made to the Sheriff’s Office’s Detective Bureau approximately one month ago, after which an investigation was conducted and Sulaj was arrested on July 29. At this time, Sulaj is accused of stealing money in excess of \$50,000 after he was hired to do artwork for a local church, but then failed to do the work.

At this time Sulaj has been charged with Grand Larceny in the 2nd degree, which is a felony. After being processed he was released with an appearance ticket, and was due to appear before the Town of Hyde Park Court last week.

The investigation is continuing by Sheriff’s Office Detectives, and anyone with information about this case or similar incidents involving Sulaj is urged to contact Detective Catuzza at 845-486-3820 or mcatuza@dutchess-ny.gov Information can also be sup-



Fatjon Sulaj
-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office

plied through the Sheriff’s Office tipline at 845-605-2583 or dcsotips@gmail.com, and all information will be kept confidential.

As with any criminal case, the charge described above is merely an accusation and Sulaj is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Back 2 School Block Party to celebrate 10 years on August 23 at South Ave. Park

I Am Beacon, in partnership with Key Food, announces the 10th Annual Back 2 School Block Party, taking place on Saturday, Aug. 23 from Noon to 3 p.m. at South Avenue Park. This long-standing community tradition brings together families, neighbors, and local organizations for a day of fun, connection, and school-year readiness.

This year’s event will feature:

- Food, music, face painting, and basketball
- School supply starter kits - The first 150 children in attendance will receive a free bag (child must be present)
- Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive - Donations are being collected now through August 23rd at:
 - Howland Public Library (regular hours), 313 Main St.
 - Key Food Marketplace (regular hours), 268 Main St.
 - On-site at the Block Party

The Block Party kicks off with Beacon Hoops All-Star Games starting at 10:30 a.m., featuring:

- 10:30 a.m. - Girls Game
- 11:30 a.m. - Rookie Division vs. Albany

- 12:30 p.m. - Junior Division vs. Newburgh
- 1:30 p.m. - Girls Game: Beacon vs. Newburgh

In addition, I Am Beacon has joined forces with Fareground Food + Community for a School Supply Giveaway on Thursday, Aug. 28, from 11 a.m. to Noon at 50 Liberty Street, Beacon. Registration required; child must be present.

Special thanks to partners and sponsors: Beacon City School District, Beacon Recreation, Beacon Hoops, Stewart’s Shops, Beacon Teachers Association, Mountainview Dental, Fidelis, State Farm (Catlin McVicker), Salem Tabernacle Church, Joker Inc. and Yanarella School of Dance.

This event continues to highlight the power of community collaboration to support children and families as they prepare for the school year ahead.

For more information, please contact: I Am Beacon
Email: iambeacon.info@gmail.com
Website: Back 2 School Block Party - I Am Beacon.
Rain date is Aug. 24.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to a holiday press schedule for Labor Day, there will be an early deadline for the Sept. 3 issue of the Beacon Free Press. Editorial deadline is Thursday, Aug. 28, at noon. Advertising deadline is Thursday, Aug. 28, at 5 p.m.

Contact cschmidt@sduchessnews.com for more information.

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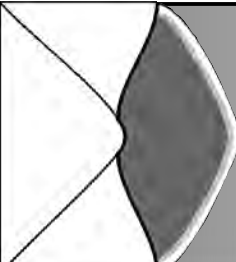
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

Honor Flights offer once-in-a-lifetime experiences for veterans

There’s nothing more amazing than watching a community unite around its veterans. We see that here in Dutchess County at events like our monthly “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremonies, our annual “Red, White & You!” Veterans Picnics and County Executive Sue Serino’s veterans pasta dinners. Another amazing celebration of our heroes takes place in just two short months.

Veterans from throughout the region and their dedicated supporters will take flight on Oct. 18, when the latest Hudson Valley Honor Flight lifts off from Stewart International Airport in New Windsor, Orange County. Like the three dozen missions before it, this 37th Hudson Valley Honor Flight is just that: a flight, free of cost to the participating veterans, that takes them to Washington, D.C., for a reflective trip to view their memorials in our nation’s capital and be honored for their selfless service. The emotional, introspective day begins with a warm send-off from well-wishers at the airport and concludes with a large rally as these veterans deplane and arrive to a hero’s welcome back at the terminal.

If you’ve ever witnessed an Honor Flight event as I have, or been lucky enough to be part of one, you already know: This is not just simply a daylong trip. It’s more than a free flight to Washington. It’s a gift, a solemn remembrance, a salute and a long-overdue thank you to the brave men and women who

have made out nation great.

When they returned home from their service – be it years or decades ago – many of these men and women never received the welcome they deserved. Some don’t speak of their sacrifice and still carry the wounds, both visible and invisible, related to their service. An Honor Flight, though, often heals what medical science can’t. These heroes are cheered as they board their early-morning flight, and they’re greeted with the dignity and respect they deserve when they land in Washington. Upon the veterans’ landing, back at Stewart, they’re greeted by hundreds of grateful supporters – family, friends and strangers alike – waving American flags, holding posters of support and shedding tears of joy and gratitude.

Seeing a young scout salute a veteran they’ve never met and thanking him or her for their service will often even the most hardened among us. Smiles and hugs abound as the veterans enter the airport terminal, and memories that will last a lifetime are instantly made. An Honor Flight is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all who take part, and I encourage veterans to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

The first Hudson Valley Honor Flight lifted off in June 2012 and since then, 2,750 local veterans have flown to Washington to reflect on their services and that of their brothers and sisters at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans

War Memorial and others.

Kevin Hathorn, a Navy veteran who works as a counselor in our Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs and took part in the 34th Hudson Valley Honor Flight, said, “We got to walk through the Memorial Parks and saw the Vietnam Wall, Vietnam Nurses statue and the Korean War Memorial. We saw the same gigantic statues that were made at Tallix Foundry in Beacon in their courtyard. It was truly a beautiful day.”

The nonprofit Hudson Valley Honor Flight organization, which organizes each flight, asks veterans who would like to fly on future events to apply directly on its website, hvhonorflight.com, or they can download, print and mail their application to P.O. Box 375; Walden, NY 12586.

The Honor Flight organization selects veterans for flights based on the order of their services – World War II, Korean War and Cold War veterans who served before Vietnam will be taken first, for example – and the organization will honor any terminally ill veteran from any era. There is currently a waiting list for Vietnam veterans, so Honor Flight organizes encourage all Vietnam Era veterans to interested in taking part in an upcoming flight to join the waiting list.

If you have a veteran in your life, I humbly ask you to share the Honor Flight’s story and mission with them and encourage them, if they’re interested, in taking part in an upcoming flight. We can all play another vital role in helping Hudson Valley Honor



Flight fulfill its critical mission.

Volunteers who accompany veterans on the trip, known as “Guardians,” serve as the first line of support on such a special – and admittedly busy – day. From helping vets board the plane, accompanying them around Washington (many need the assistance of a wheelchair), and keeping their energy up throughout a packed schedule, these volunteers help ensure our heroes make the most of their day.

“Being an Honor Flight Guardian in 2016 and seeing the joy on the face of the veteran I accompanied was such a privilege,” County Executive Serino told me. “I encourage anyone with a love for our country and the men and women who’ve protected it to explore being an Honor Flight Guardian. The experience will change your life forever.”

Learn more about becoming a Guardian for an upcoming flight on the Hudson Valley Honor Flight website, hvhonorflight.com.

Dutchess County has sent generations of its sons and daughters to defend our freedoms; and the Hudson Valley Honor Flight gives us the chance, if for only one day, to thank those heroes for their service to our nation. I hope you’ll take that opportunity. Let’s not wait until it’s too late. Through the Hudson Valley Honor Flight, we can lift these heroes up, recognize their sacrifice and pay them the honor they’ve earned. It’s more than just a flight; it’s the journey of a lifetime.

NYS PSC approves Central Hudson multi-year rate plan

By Kristine Coulter

The New York State Public Service Commission has approved a new multi-year rate plan for Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp, which some state, federal and local leaders are coming out against. According to the company, under the new plan that will go into effect on September 1, the average electric customer would see a total bill increase of 3.12 percent, or an additional \$5.43 per month for the first rate year. The average natural gas customer would see a total bill increase of 5.19 percent, or \$7.73 per month for the first rate year.

According to a statement from Central Hudson, “This forward-looking plan empowers Central Hudson to make essential upgrades that will enhance the reliability of the region’s energy infrastructure and reinforce cybersecurity protections against evolving threats. Designed with customer impact in mind, the three-year plan prioritizes efficiency; keeping bill increases modest for most customers while delivering immediate savings for low-income households.”

“Rising energy costs are a concern for families and businesses across the country and especially here in the Hudson Valley,” Central Hudson President and CEO Steph Raymond said. “We’ve spent more than a year working with our regulators and other interested stakeholders to arrive at a financially responsible plan that allows us to make the investments required to power our customers lives, protect their data and their energy system and do it all with minimal impacts to customers’ bills.”

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson said in a statement, “The PSC has let us down. Central Hudson is receiving [more] than a 10% increase for electric customers over the next three years on top of last year’s 5% increase all of which is more [than] the rate of inflation. Gas customers are being hit with a whopping 19.76% increase over the next three years. While the approved rate is less than what was asked for, the original request was never realistic. Central Hudson is also receiving its highest ever return on equity of 9.5%. Central Hudson now has no excuses not to provide reliable, dependable service, with timely and accurate billing, and to improve its aging infrastructure.”

Gov. Kathy Hochul said she appreciat-

ed the PSC “worked to significantly lower the outrageously high initial rate proposals, it’s still not enough.

“I have been crystal clear that utilities must make ratepayer affordability the priority. Since taking office, my administration has prioritized energy affordability, particularly for our most vulnerable, and we need the utilities to take it seriously as well. That means at a time when worried New Yorkers are being forced to tighten their budgets, all utilities must follow suit. This is no time for bonuses and big raises for executives, especially if they are going to be looking to raise rates on their customers.”

“Yesterday’s (Aug. 14) decision is the direct result of Kathy Hochul’s failed, ideologically driven energy agenda,” said Congressman Mike Lawler (17th Congressional District). “By blocking new natural gas infrastructure, previously shutting down nuclear power plants, and pushing unreliable renewable mandates without a realistic transition plan, she has manufactured an energy crisis in New York. Now, hard-working families are left holding the bag with higher utility bills, all while Albany bureaucrats and lobbyists pat themselves on the back.”

“This is the same Governor who cheered the closure of Indian Point — a nuclear power plant that provided clean, affordable, and reliable power to millions — without replacing it with an equivalent energy source,” Lawler continued. “The result? Further reliance on imported energy, skyrocketing costs, and rolling black-out warnings.

“We should be embracing an all-of-the-above energy approach — expanding natural gas infrastructure, investing in nuclear power, and responsibly developing renewables — instead of shackling ourselves to policies that punish ratepayers and jeopardize our energy security,” concluded Lawler.

According to Central Hudson, “The rate plan was also designed with protections for the most vulnerable customers within the utility’s service area. Customers who receive the base level Home Energy Assistance Program or other qualifying benefits on average would see their monthly electric bill decrease by approximately 4.2 percent per month and their natural gas bill increase by approximately 1.08 percent per month in the first

year. In addition, Central Hudson has committed to increasing outreach efforts to income qualified customers to maximize enrollment.”

Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Rebecca Edwards said in an email to residents: “In my Supervisor’s Report at this Wednesday’s (Aug. 20) board meeting, I am going to begin identifying some ways we can continue the fight against Central Hudson’s high rates (which force residents to pay for the company’s massive mistakes) and continued billing errors.”

“We understand the impacts rising utility bills can have on our customers’ bottom line and we are committed to doing everything in our power to ease that burden,” Raymond added. “We know that energy is essential and so is our customers’ trust. That’s why we’re focused not just on powering homes and businesses, but we’re also focused on supporting the people behind them.”

For more information on the approved rate plan, please visit www.centralhudson.com/rateplan.

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Yankees' draft picks join Renegades roster

By Morgan E. Maier

The New York Yankees saw 38 picks taken in the 2025 draft before they could make their first move. Shortstop Dax Kilby marked the first of the team's 19 picks. With baseball season approaching its final month, Hudson Valley Renegades fans finally got a peek at the latest prospects to bring speed, southpaw power and experience to the High-A roster. Debuting in their first full Renegades series, we have the three-man infield of Kaeden Kent, Connor McGinnis, and Core Jackson, plus outfielders Camden Troyer and Robbie Burnett.

Kaeden Kent, Texas A&M (3rd Round, No. 103)

A .290 career hitter as an Aggie, Kent earned the full-time starting shortstop role in 2025, his junior campaign. As a sophomore, he was the offensive foundation of the first A&M team to reach the College World Series final. His 10-for-24 (.450, 7 RBI) performance in Omaha earned All-Tournament Honors. Kent was a highly touted prospect for his power hitting, one of eight Aggies selected in this draft. He's a lefty bat that throws with his right, and Kent's power-hitting prowess and ability to draw walks bode well for the infielder's development.

Core Jackson, Utah (5th Round, No. 164)

With the arrival of Core Jackson, the Renegades have another southpaw in the batter's box. Given the Yankees' propensity for lefty hitters, this added pickup is no surprise. As a 'Gade, Jackson has taken reps at second base and shortstop, and batted fourth in the cleanup. Such displays of versatility can be highly valuable at the High-A level.

Robbie Burnett, Georgia

Undrafted free agent signee Robbie Burnett joins the Renegades after four years as a Bulldog. He ended his college career at Georgia after three seasons at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. The outfielder holds a notable knack for speed, including a Georgia program-tying four stolen bases in a single game. He hit .307/.477/.693 and launched a career-high 20 home runs as a senior. Burnett was named a First-Team All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) and appeared at four fielding positions for Georgia. He was a semi-finalist for the Golden Spikes and Dick Howser awards, honors based on character, athletic ability, and sportsmanship. Still early in his Hudson Valley career, Burnett checks many boxes of a solid acquisition.



Texas native Connor McGinnis started 30 games for the University of Houston in his junior season. Though his collegiate career ended with an injury, McGinnis was an extra-base machine, leading the team in doubles. The second baseman hit .343 in 31 appearances as a Cougar with 25 RBIs and eight multi-hit games.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

Connor McGinnis, Houston (10th Round, No. 314)

Texas native Connor McGinnis started 30 games for the University of Houston in his junior season. Though his collegiate career ended with an injury, McGinnis was an extra-base machine, leading the team in doubles. The second baseman hit .343 in 31 appearances as a Cougar with 25 RBIs and eight multi-hit games. He garnered national attention at the Division-I junior college level as a Blinn College Buccaneer, hitting .538 to propel his team to the championship title. That season, McGinnis hit .399 with seven

3+ RBI performances on his way to third-team All-American honors. As the Yankees organization prioritizes strong infield development, McGinnis' smooth swing should be a good addition to the middle positions.

Camden Troyer, Liberty University (12th Round, No. 374)

The Yankees took Camden Troyer on the draft's second day, after the outfielder's career season at Liberty University. He scored 54 runs in 56 starts, posting 44 RBI and a .300 average. He led the team in on-base and slugging percentages, compiling a .926 OPS with 10 home runs. Troyer played three seasons at Liberty, amassing a .265 career batting average and known for his difficulty to punch out. Troyer notched three hits in his first four Renegade appearances.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH		W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Greensboro PIT	34	14	.708	-	6-4	L1
	Hudson Valley NYY	31	16	.660	2.5	7-3	W1
	Jersey Shore PHI	27	20	.574	6.5	6-4	W1
	Aberdeen BAL	22	25	.468	11.5	5-5	L1
	Brooklyn NYM *	20	28	.417	14.0	5-5	W2
	Wilmington WSH	20	28	.417	14.0	4-6	L1
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH		W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Greenville BOS	25	23	.521	-	5-5	W1
	Bowling Green TB *	24	24	.500	1.0	3-7	L5
	Hub City TEX	24	24	.500	1.0	3-7	L2
	Rome ATL	20	27	.426	4.5	7-3	W5
	Asheville HOU	19	28	.404	5.5	5-5	W2
	Winston-Salem CWS	19	28	.404	5.5	4-6	L2



Home Schedule

September			
09/02/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	First Day Of School Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
09/03/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	Football Night Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery
09/04/25	vs. Greensboro	06:05 PM	Hudson Valley Big Apples Presented By Apples From New York Big Apples Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
09/05/25	vs. Greensboro	07:05 PM	Copa De La Diversión: Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff Presented By Cafe Con Leche Fireworks Friday Presented By D. Rohde Home Services
09/06/25	vs. Greensboro	05:05 PM	Rascal & Rosie's Anniversary Party Rascal & Rosie Bobblehead Giveaway Presented By WRWD
09/07/25	vs. Greensboro	02:05 PM	Fan Appreciation Day Sunday Family Funday





Renegades Extra!



Black history and baseball: Who were the New York Gorhams?



Garrett Martin of the Renegades sports a New York Gorhams uniform during a game last week.



The traveling Gorhams once represented cities including Newburgh, Philadelphia, Easton (PA) and Ardonia (CT). Over the seasons, the lineup featured eventual Hall of Famers like Frank Grant. Big-hitting George Stovey and brothers Andrew and Oscar Jackson further rounded out the team. Others were only known by first name like Emory, a catcher.

-Courtesy photo

By Morgan E. Maier
On the banks of the Hudson River, Newburgh is less synonymous with America’s pastime than home of the baseball bat, Easton, Pa. But both cities were represented by the East Coast’s most successful all-Black exhibition baseball club, well before the nation organized the Negro Leagues. The New York Gorhams operated from 1886-1892, representing cities across the tri-state area.
The Hudson Valley Renegades recognized the Gorhams in a game last week at Heritage Financial Park.
So how did the Gorhams come to shape baseball in the Hudson Valley?
While the Gorhams were named for a Black Manhattan bar owner, others employed the monikers of professional teams, like the Gorhams’ rival Cuban Giants. Originally the New York Giants, the Cuban Giants drew up a more stylized nickname after playing some winter matchups in Cuba.
In the prominently white enterprise that was 19th-century baseball, the Gorhams and

Cuban Giants represented cities in the Middle States League, hosting visiting teams who needed a financial boost. Rather than threaten to fold, teams could meet payroll requirements in these matchups and know the Gorhams and Cuban Giants could draw a crowd, win or lose.
The traveling Gorhams once represented cities including Newburgh, Philadelphia, Easton, and Ardonia (CT). Over the seasons, the lineup featured eventual hall of famers like Frank Grant. Big-hitting George Stovey and brothers Andrew and Oscar Jackson further rounded out the team. Others were only known by first name like Emory, a catcher.
For a few seasons, the team played in the Middle States League that was made primarily of white clubs. Many matchups with such teams, primarily made of college students, featured parades, brass grandiose, and a fair amount of marketing. Ambrose Davis, the original player-manager and first Black club owner of salaried players, learned how to draw the interest of other teams – and spectators — in these contests.
Think Globetrotters, or Savannah

Bananas, before social media trends rose such daring play to fame. The Gorhams were known for their ability to keep one-sided games entertaining, with acrobatic catches and in-game entertainment that could keep an audience engaged. Even a 25-4 score, as was the first-ever game between the Gorhams and Cuban Giants.
As the Gorhams’ home in 1887, Benkard Heights in Newburgh hosted a long-awaited midsummer victory. With a 4-3 win in exhibition game, the New York became the first victor over the Cuban Giants that didn’t feature a white man on the roster. The gutsy play of Oscar Jackson sealed the win, scoring on an infield single. The catcher dropped the ball after Jackson made contact, securing the win on Gorhams’ home turf. As was customary of many previous Gorhams and Cuban Giants matchups, dazzling defense and crafty baserunning were talk of the spectating crowd.
Baseball Hall of Famer King Solomon “Sol” White documented the win in his work, *History of Colored Base Ball*. Originally published as the Official Base

Ball Guide, White’s work was nearly lost to time, as few copies were printed. The 1995 republication was possible through a found collection of journals and other historic documents to fill missing information.
In the Gorhams post-Newburgh years, their dominance was resounding. Even the most loyal Cuban Giants wanted to be a Gorham; many left the team in 1981 to join the once-rival team, now nicknamed the “Big Gorhams.”
Even Benjamin Harrison, the nation’s 23rd president and famed lover of the game, sat for a Gorhams matchup during his term. In the summer of 1891, New York was victorious over the semiprofessional host team in Cape May, N.J.
Sol White, in his second stint with the Gorhams that season, remembered the team as one of the big powerhouses in the era, black or white. Pitchers and catchers were equally talented in the field and offensively, and each player was assigned to his strongest position. He wrote, “Every man a student of the game and experienced, they were a hard team for any club to beat.”

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades roll in final series vs. IronBirds

By Morgan E. Maier
The Hudson Valley Renegades (31-16) concluded the extended homestand with one last series against the Aberdeen IronBirds (22-25) ... for good. The Baltimore Orioles affiliate is being phased out of the South Atlantic League to join the MLB Draft League. Despite being no-hit for the first time since 2006, the Renegades won the final series, taking four of six from Aberdeen in the team’s final matchup.
None, then one - Hardly 24 hours after being held to the goose egg end of a no-hitter, the Renegades bounced back on August 17 with a 1-0 victory. It was a

one-hit wonder, as IronBird Maikol Hernández’s third-inning single proved to be Aberdeen’s final offensive stand. Matt Keating (3-1, 2.79 ERA) earned the win, pitching two hitless innings in relief of Cade Smith (5.0 IP, 5 K, 1 H). Bryce Warrecker closed with his fourth save of the year. The lone Renegades run came in the sixth inning, as a Josh Moylan sacrifice fly scored Dillon Lewis. Lewis finished with two of the Renegades’ four hits on the day. The Renegades picked up a game on the Greensboro Grasshoppers (34-14) with the finale win, pulling to two games behind Greensboro with just three weeks to go in the season.
Viva La Rivas - Xavier Rivas set a

Renegades record on August 15, fanning 12 IronBirds on the way to his first High-A win. Aberdeen hit Rivas for one run in the first, but he quickly settled in. A four-run first frame boosted the lefty down the stretch, as Kaeden Kent went yard to erase Aberdeen’s lead with a two-run blast. High-A opponents are hitting just .098 against 2024 draft pick Rivas, who went seven strong to preserve a few bullpen arms. Tony Rossi’s team-leading seventh save shut the door on Aberdeen in the ninth, securing the third series win for Hudson Valley.
First five - Hudson Valley scored in each of the first five innings on August 14. Back-to-back RBI by Core Jackson

and Tyler Wilson got it started. Lewis followed with his 11th High-A home run in the second. Lewis was responsible for half of the 10 runs, with a spectacular performance (3-5, 5 RBI) that included an RBI double to clear every duck from the pond. Kyle Carr held the lead for six innings, striking out five while allowing one run on three hits. Seven ‘Gades runs came with two outs, including all five Lewis RBI.
Three weeks remain in the regular season, and the Renegades trail Greensboro by two and a half games. Up next, Hudson Valley will hit the beach for a sandy bout with the Jersey BlueClaws (27-20), who hold the third position in the SAL.

179TH DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

Dick Whalen celebrates 70th
year showing at DC Fair

By Curtis Schmidt

Dick Whalen of Millbrook has had a second home and family for the past 69 years. They are both at the Dutchess County Fair. Whalen is celebrating his 70th year of showing dairy cows at the Fair this week at the 179th DC Fair.

“It’s really all about the Fair family and the camaraderie, the commitment to agriculture and the Fair itself,” said Whalen. “It’s the Fair experience and I’ve always just loved being at the Fair and the Fairgrounds.”

Showing dairy cows is how it all began, but it has become so much more. Whalen has been a member of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society and the Fair Board of Directors for over 40 years.

“With all of the meetings and events, it really is a second home. 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.”

How it began

This all began (where else?) at the Fair in 1953. He and his parents were driving home from the Fair and he made the statement from the back seat: “I want to show cattle at the Fair.”

His parents owned the Friendship Farm near Millbrook and were very supportive. “They encouraged me right off the bat,” Whalen said. “But my dad was busy with the banking business, so my mother became the real support figure for me, day in and day out.”

He initially joined the Baby Beef program with 4-H clubs because it was the most popular one at the Fair. But there was a problem. “I soon found out that the beef kids sent their animals to the butcher and I didn’t want any part of that,” he



Dick Whalen is pictured at the age of 12 with a dairy cow at the Dutchess County Fair in 1954. He has not missed a year at the Fair since that time.



Dick Whalen is celebrating his 70th year of showing dairy cows at the DC Fair this week. He plans to have 10 Guernsey cows at the Fair.

-Courtesy photos

said. For him, showing and raising cows was also about the relationship that he developed the animals.

He joined the Southern Dutchess Dairy 4-H club - and in 1954 with a cow named “Gracious Jewel,” Whalen made his debut showing at the Fair. “I was just 12 at the time, and I had a keen interest. I loved 4-H and the Fair and stayed the whole week in the 4-H dormitory,” he said. “It was my first time away from home.”

However, he also learned to “obey rules, the responsibility involved in taking care of the animals, looking out for others and learning to work with others.”

He continued to show every year until the age of 21. He had several first-place winners, but no grand champions. “Guys like Ray Vail, Henry Beneke, Jack Pulver and Harold Miller were the big winners in the dairy shows all of those years,” said Whalen.

He also became more involved in farming and raising the family’s growing Holstein herd. He started showing in the Open Class. In 1965, he married Judy – and incidentally had his first grand champion with “Friendship Reflector Carla.” “She was the ideal Holstein, very easy to work with,” said Whalen. He showed many junior champions and had the grand champion in 1970 with “Friendship

Maple Jane.”

Switching to Guernseys

By 1978, the Holstein herd numbered 124, but due to changes at the farm, the family started to concentrate on Guernsey cows in the 1990s. He showed the family’s first Guernsey – “Tessie” – in 1998. In 1999, “Katie” won both Grand Champion and Supreme Champion honors. “She went on to be the matriarch or foundation cow on two of the most famous Guernsey bloodlines in existence,” said Whalen. He also went on to show Katie and other Guernsey cows at national shows around the country.

This year he intends to have 10 Guernsey cows to show at the Fair with the help of his daughter, Donna. “She had her first cow at age 7 and has a strong interest in continuing the tradition,” he said.

Whalen said he has “always loved caring for animals. It becomes an important part of life.” He also takes great pride in the showmanship part of the shows. “You learn to know what the judges are looking for,” he said.

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

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179TH DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

Sharing a passion: Youth Livestock contestants invite all to annual Sale

By Curtis Schmidt

Jackson Crisp, Jack Coon, Tessa Mashburn, Addison Stapf, Lyris and Tavin Pennock and Hailey Brennan all share a passion for learning about and raising animals. They are just seven of many youth who represent the future of agriculture in the Hudson Valley.

All of them would like to meet you and impart their knowledge and enthusiasm at the Youth Livestock Sale at the Dutchess County Fair on Saturday, Aug. 23. If you have an interest in the future of our youth, you will make a point of attending the pre-sale event at 2 p.m. to actually meet the youth and the sale itself at 4 p.m. in the Main Show Ring at the Fair.

The Youth Livestock Sale is where the best of the best are on parade after all of the different shows during the week of the Fair. During the pre-show event, the youth meet with potential buyers and interested fair-goers in an educational and friendly setting.

So, what are the advantages of purchasing animals at the sale? Just read what the youth have to say.

Jackson Crisp is 18 and a member of Golden Fleece and Northern Dutchess Dairy clubs. This is his 13th and final year of 4-H and ninth year participating in the Youth Livestock Sale at the Fair. He will be a freshman at Cornell University this fall, majoring in Agricultural Sciences.

“If you are lucky enough to purchase an animal in the sale, you will be able to custom cut the meat,” he said. “For example, if you



The annual Youth Livestock Sale at the Dutchess County Fair is set for Saturday, Aug. 23 at 4 p.m. in the Main Show Ring. Showing their animals above are, from left, Jack Coon (hog), Lyris Pennock (duck), Jackson Crisp (lamb), Hailey Brennan (rabbit) and Tavin Pennock (turkey). In back with the steer is James Roush.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

purchase a lamb, you could buy it with a bon-in leg of lamb and another leg boneless and butterflied. The meat you purchase will be custom cut and delivered to you by your seller. You can then fill your freezer with quality local meat to enjoy year round.”

From the personal side, Crisp said, “When you buy from one of these kids, you not only get a firm handshake, smile and a thank you from a 4-H or FFA student, you get quality meat from someone you can trust and talk to.”

Tessa Mashburn, 13, is the Commercial

Rabbit Species Representative for the Livestock Sale. She asks, “Where can you find animals that carry a story?” Her answer: “At the Dutchess County Fair Youth Livestock Sale, every rabbit and animal offered is more than a number on a tag, it’s the result of months of care, hard work and connection to the land.”

She adds, “I raise my rabbits here in the Hudson Valley, honoring the life they live and the joy and nourishment they can provide. Whether you come to find a beloved pet or wholesome local food, this sale is your chance to support 4-H and FFA youth and the future of agriculture, while taking home a piece of our community’s story. I hope to see you there!”

Jack Coon is also 13. He shows dairy cows, steers and hogs and is the Youth Livestock Sale Representative for hogs.

His enthusiasm shows in his comments about his favorite hog. “I have three hogs this year, but my favorite is ‘Jackhammer.’ I’m not a huge ‘bond with animals person,’ but I really like the way this hog looks and his attitude. Since the first show we went to, he was my showmanship pig. He’s like a best friend. I’ve been around the east side of the country with him at shows and he has done very well. He even helped me to win reserve champion junior showman at the Valley Classic in Luray VA.”

Addison Stapf is a 15-year-old member and secretary of the Pine Plains FFA chapter and the president of the Goats and Glory 4-H club. She is raising two market goats to be shown and sold in the Youth Livestock Sale.

“Twenty-five percent of the money received from the sale will be donated to Willow Roots in Pine Plains to help the people in my community when in a time of need,” she said. “The remaining funds will be used for my projects in the future along with assisting me through my journey through FFA by paying for trips to conven-

tions and workshops throughout the year that will better my understanding, of not only my species, but of the agricultural industry as a whole.”

Lyris Pennock, 15, is a member of the Stony Ground 4-H Club. She notes that “4-H has been an important part of my life for a long time. Through 4-H, I’ve learned a lot about leadership and enjoy taking on roles that allow me to share my knowledge with others.”

She is the Youth Livestock Sale Poultry Representative, but she work with other species as well. This year, she is raising Tunis sheep, heritage turkeys, geese and ducks.

“I look forward to showing my animals at the fair and having the opportunity to share my passion with others,” said Lyris.

Tavin Pennock, 13 is raising and showing Tunis sheep, Heritage Chickens and Turkeys and Bantam Cochins and Silkies.

“I enjoy working with a variety of species, because it allows me to learn more information. Sheep showmanship is one of my favorite activities to participate in at the Fair,” he said. “I really enjoy being a shepherd and it’s one of the reasons I wanted to become a Youth Livestock Sale Representative for Sheep. Every year I work hard breeding and caring for my animals, and I enjoy getting to show off all of my efforts at the Dutchess County Fair!”

Hailey Brennan, is 16 and going into my junior year at Webutuck High School. This is her 10th year in the Cool Critters Rabbit 4-H club and third year participating in the Youth Livestock Sale.

“I hope to sell my New Zealand rabbits,” she said. “Outside of 4-H, I am involved in my school’s National Honor Society and student council. With whatever money I make at the sale, I plan on putting some toward my breeding program for future project years, and the rest toward college expenses.”



Tessa Mashburn is the Commercial Rabbit Species Representative for the Livestock Sale.

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Obituaries

Donald John Penker



November 12, 1946 - August 11, 2025
Donald John Penker, 78, of Hopewell Junction, NY, passed away peacefully at home on August 11, 2025, surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with cancer.
Born in the Bronx, NY, on November 12, 1946, he was the son of the late Charles and Muriel (Baker) Penker. On May 2, 1992, he married the love of his life, Elizabeth (Lora) Penker, in Queens, NY. They shared 33 wonderful years together, and she survives at home.
Donald proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1972. A gentle, family-oriented man known for his patience, dedication and quiet strength, he worked for more than 30 years as a Telephone Installer with the New York Telephone Company. In retirement, he enjoyed working part-time in

the produce department at ShopRite, where he met and became friends with his future daughter-in-law, Sarah.
Being a father was Don's greatest joy. He shared this love by volunteering his time coaching Little League in East Fishkill when his son Brian was young. He also cherished the annual family vacations to Lake George - a tradition he helped start with his sister more than 40 years ago, and one that will continue for generations.
Don loved to swim, a skill taught to him by his father and a passion he shared with his beloved sister, which they then passed on to his niece, nephew, and son. He was a loyal fan of the New York Yankees and New York Rangers, enjoyed listening to the "oldies but goodies," hunting, and most of all, treasured time spent with those he loved most.
A devout Catholic, Donald was a faithful parishioner of St. Columba Church since moving to Hopewell Junction in the late 1970s.
In addition to his wife, Elizabeth, he is survived by his son Brian and his wife Sarah of Wappinger Falls, NY; his sister Dorothy Mitchell of Hopewell Junction, NY; his mother-in-law Maria Genao of Hopewell Junction, NY; his niece and goddaughter Danielle Mitchell-Ryder and her husband Keith of Hopewell Junction, NY; his nephews Christopher Mitchell of Saugerties, NY, and Matthew Mitchell and his wife Nicole of Hopewell Junction, NY; and his cherished grand-nieces, Kailey Ryder and Autumn Mitchell, who brought him endless joy and laughter.
Known lovingly as "Uncle Don" by many, he also leaves behind numerous extended and chosen family members, in-laws who adored him, and friends - all of whom he loved deeply and who loved him in return.
In addition to his parents, Donald was predeceased by his older brother, Charles Penker, and his beloved brother-in-law and friend, Eugene Mitchell.
The family extends heartfelt thanks to their dear neighbors and "earthly angels," Tom and Beth Abrams, whose unwavering kindness, generosity, and care during Donald's illness-and right through to the very end-will never be forgotten.
Calling Hours were held Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY.
A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at St. Columba Church, 835 Main Street, Hopewell Junction, NY.
Interment with military honors followed at St. Denis Cemetery, 604 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, NY.
In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to either of the following organizations:
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital - www.stjude.org
The Children's Home of Poughkeepsie - www.childrenshome.us

Christine Rodriguez



Christine Rodriguez, 63, an area resident for over 30 years, previously of the Bronx, passed away on August 14, 2025 at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.
Born in the Bronx on March 7, 1962, Chrissy was the daughter of the late John and Mae (Tierney) Stringer.
Chrissy was a proud stay at home mom during the crucial years of her children's childhood. She was very proactive in their education and community. Chrissy was a Hallmark Channel enthusiast. She and her husband traveled all over the United States to watch their children wrestle, play soccer, ice hockey, and inline hockey. She was their biggest fan. Most of all, her family was her life, she

was a proud Grandma, and a proud Military Mother as two of her sons served honorably overseas for the United States.
On May 12, 1984 at St. Helena's Church in the Bronx, Chrissy married David Rodriguez who survives at home after 41 years of marriage. She is also survived by her sons, David Scott Rodriguez and his fiancé Kaitlyn Montera of Yorktown Heights, Eric Rodriguez and his wife Molly of Salem, MA, and Mark Tyler Rodriguez and his wife Alexandria of Hope Mills, NC; her grandchildren, Lyric Lynn, Bella Christine, and Ravyn Madison; her siblings and their spouses, John and Elizabeth Stringer, Patricia and Arthur Wagner, Catherine and Andrew Jacobs, and Thomas and Elyse Stringer; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Daniel and Sylvia Rodriguez; and many nieces and nephews.
Calling hours will be held on Saturday, August 23rd from 12 - 4 pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction.
Please visit Chrissy's Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Virginia Butler



Virginia Butler was born in New York City, New York on September 20, 1953. She left this world on July 20th, 2025, she was 72 years of age. Virginia was truly a nurturing, softhearted, and charitable person. She cherished family and especially her mother Mrs. Irene Butler. Virginia was a second mother to her younger siblings mentoring, scolding and loving them unconditionally.
When tragedy struck the family, she was always the one who stepped up and stepped into the role of custodian, strategist, peacemaker, and she had an enduring strength that was admired. Even when Virginia was facing tribulations of her own, she would put aside her pain to tend to the needs of her family and friends. By God's grace, she overcame two forms of cancer, which the latter took a toll on her unexpectedly. Initially after becoming well and stronger, Virginia worked as a Personal Care Assistant. She found joy in making people laugh and assisting them to feel and be at their best.
She spoke her mind and her peace. She had challenges, heartache and dreams, but she triumphed over what she could and continued moving forward. Virginia is survived by her mother Mrs. Irene Butler, brothers: Wayne Butler, Dennis Butler, Sidney Butler, sisters: Sylvia Canada(brother-in-law, Tony Canada,) their children Priscilla Martinez, (nephew-in-law Erick Martinez), Shianne Canada and Allen Canada: Samantha McCants, (brother-in-law John McCants), their children/step-children, Tabitha Flores, (nephew-in-law Jose Flores) and Samantha Brown: great nieces, Elianna Watkins, Charli-Rose Martinez, Sh'dirah Thomas, daughter of the late Sharon Villanueva, nephews: David Butler (son of the late Sharon Villanueva) Robert Bennett, Jr. (son of the late Robert Bennett, Sr.) and great nephew Saige Starks.
Our beautiful beloved Virginia, we will miss you tremendously with a heavy heart. You will always be thought of and loved. To all our family and friends, thank you for your condolences and being with us in our loss. May the One true God keep and bless you all.
A special honor to God for Minister Mark of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in Pine Bush, New York for delivering God's true message.
Family and friends gathered on Friday, August 15 from at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. Family and friends spoke, then a funeral service was led by Minister Mark.
To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.
Funeral arrangements are under the care of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Carlo Marinaro



Carlo Marinaro, 66, a resident of Hopewell Junction for 30 years and formerly of Mount Vernon, died on August 10, 2025 at his home surrounded by his loving family.
Born in Miglionico, Italy on January 14, 1959, he was the son of the late Pietro and Rosa (Pellicciari) Marinaro. He was a parishioner of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church and a member of the Italian Center.
Carlo was a restaurateur and entrepreneur, owning and operating the Landmark Grill in LaGrangeville. Due to his wonderful personality and love of people, he was an extraordinary host at their family business. He enjoyed hunting, golfing and gardening, but more than anything he loved spending time with his family.
On August 25, 1982, Carlo married the love of his life, Maria DiPietro, who survives at home. He is also survived by his children and their spouses, Peter and Emilia Marinaro, Anthony and Christine Marinaro, and Rosanna and Sal Alessi; his grandchildren, Julianna, Victoria, Micaela, Giancarlo, Evamarie, Antonia, Adrianna and Elianna; his siblings, Emanuele and Maria Marinaro, Mariella Dominijanni, Frank and Pina Marinaro, and Isa and Nay Marinaro; his brother-in-law and his wife, Angelo and Anna DiPietro; and many other extended family members including aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.
Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82, LaGrangeville, followed by entombment in the Community Mausoleum at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.
Memorial donations may be made in Carlo's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Suzanne Christensen



September 3, 1946 – August 12, 2025
Suzanne Christensen, of Wappingers Falls, NY, passed away on August 12, 2025. Born on September 3, 1946, she was a life-long resident of the Hudson Valley and a devoted advocate for learning, community, and family.
Suzanne graduated from Ketcham High School before going on to earn her Master's in Library Science from Syracuse University and a Master's in Career Counseling from Western Connecticut State University. She was an active member of the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District and Literacy Volunteers of America, dedicating her time and talents to helping others grow through knowledge and literacy.
Her interests included reading, playing bridge, traveling, and collecting books, postcards, coins, and stamps. She was proud to be a descendant of Sarah Wells, one of the first women to make her home in the Hudson Valley.
She is survived by her husband, Neal; her son, Shawn, and his wife, Nina Isabella; her grandsons, Avery and Adrian Christensen; her brother, Roger Cooper; and her nephew, Brian Cooper.
Family and friends are invited to gather in her memory on Thursday, August 21, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at McHoul Funeral Home, 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. A celebration of Suzanne's life will take place on Friday, August 22, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, 174–208 W Main St, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District to support local library programs and services.

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Grant funding to go towards installation of biofilters for closed Beacon landfill

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon City Council heard about the awarding of \$3.06 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at its Aug. 4 meeting held at City Hall. The Hudson Valley Regional Council, Inc. (HVRC), submitted an application as the lead applicant to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. The funding will go to support the installation of biofilters overtop 14 closed landfills across the Hudson Valley.

“Beacon has joined with 13 communities

and we’re taking this on together,” said Faye Leone. Leone is the part-time City of Beacon Climate Smart Coordinator.

According to Leone, the landfill is “still emitting methane in a pretty significant amount every year.”

HVRC will provide “endless support” and assistance with grants, it was stated.

HVRC looked at the sites, and so all together a memorandum will allow how much landfill gas is coming out right now.

There will be “individualized solutions”

for each of the landfills, said Leone.

“We can make our future predictions more accurate,” she noted.

Councilmember Amber Grant said, “I know this is something we’ve been thinking about for a while.”

The design will be implemented and monitored through 2029, explained Leone.

“What we know is that it had residential, municipal and industrial wastes, this is from DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) documents,” said Leone

about the history of the landfill.

“We test for water runoff each year, which is required. It is a stable landfill.” The largest threat is from the methane being released, said Beacon City Administrator Chris White.

“We don’t anticipate this will have a cost,” said the city administrator. “And in the future, it would be [minimal.] It would just be, taking care of the biofilter, but the installation is all paid for by the grant.”

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by luigi coppola

'Dad? Can I have some money?



As I write this article, it is August. The season is just starting to turn, and you can almost hear Autumn whispering her song of golden leaves and chilly nights.

Historically, August is the time of year when most of Italy goes on vacation. It brings me back to the last time my entire family went to Italy to visit. If my memory serves me correctly, it was the summer of 1976 and there was a festival in my father's hometown of Monte di Proscida.

It was the feast of St. Anthony. The entire town was adorned with lights and decorations, and there was a street fair going on. There was a bicycle race scheduled for the afternoon, as well as other activities. My cousins wanted to take my brother Vinny and I out and of course, we needed money.

Pop was sitting on the porch with my grandmother. I can still picture it. Pop was in shorts and a buttoned-down short-sleeved shirt. He was wearing a quasi-fedora and was enjoying a glass of red wine. My grandmother was sitting next to him dressed in traditional all black having a small glass of red wine. There was a plate of cheese with home made pepperoni in front of them.

Me: Pop, can Vinny and I have some money?

Pop: Whya you needa the money?

Me: Rossano and Antonio want to take Vinny and I out for the festa and we will need money to buy stuff.

Pop: Whata you need to buy? If you hungry, you come home.

Me: But pop, what if we want to buy something else?

Pop: Ok, here is a quarter. That'll be good enough, no?

Me: What can we get with a quarter?

Everything costs more than a dollar.

Pop: Ok then, here is a dollar. You two can share whatever you get.

Me: But Pop....

Pop: Ok, youa no wanta the dollar?

Me: No, no, no, no. That's ok. Pop. We'll take the dollar.

My grandmother, witnessing the

exchange, reached into her black dress and pulled out her handkerchief.

She slowly unfolded it and revealed her unusual wallet. She reached in and removed the Italian equivalent of \$ 10 and handed it to Vinny and I. She then smiled and shooed us away. We looked over to our father. Pop, eyeballed us and started to say something. But Nonna gave him a look and shooed us away, laughing with the knowledge that she was Nonna and my father still had to listen to her.

We took Nonna's \$10 and naturally kept Pop's \$1 also. When Nonna shooed us the second time, we ran before Pop had a second chance to say something.

Vinny and I had the time of our life. We had pieces of fresh coconut, gelato, and pizza while drinking bottles of mineral water. There were street vendors selling fried olives, arancini, and fried seafood. Cannoli's, Zeppole's and espressos. But our favorite was Porchetta Sandwiches. We bought this huge sandwich and shared it while we sat on the curb and watched the bicycle run through the town. We took turns taking bits of the

sandwich as the juices ran down our arms.

We knew when we got back that we were going to be in trouble for taking Nonna's money, so we figured we might as well enjoy life while we could. As the sun went down, the street lights came on and we knew it was time to go home.

When we got back, we were surprised to find Nonna sitting on the porch waiting for us, with a huge smile on her face. She was there to run interference with Pop. She asked us if we had fun and was very happy to receive the hug and kiss, we offered her. We went inside sure that we were going to be in trouble.

Instead, Pop brought us up to the roof of the house with Mom to see the fireworks that were about to go off for the festa. We woke the next morning in bed. We had fallen asleep waiting for the fireworks and Mom and Pop brought us down and put us to bed.

Vinny and I woke up wondering what had happened, talking about the prior day, trying to figure out when we would get our punishment and still talking about the sandwich. Sometimes, punishments are

worth the crime. Enjoy the recipe for Porchetta Romana.

Porchetta Romana
Ingredients

- 1 5–6-pound fresh pork belly, skin on
- 1 (trimmed) 2-3-pound boneless, center-cut pork loin
- 3 tablespoons fennel seeds
- 2 tablespoons crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh sage
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- Kosher salt
- ½ orange, seeded, thinly sliced
- 6 6" ciabatta rolls

Method

- Put belly skin side down; arrange loin in center. Roll belly around loin so the short ends of the belly meet. If any of the belly or loin overhangs, trim meat. Unroll; set loin aside.
- Toast fennel seeds and red pepper flakes in a small skillet over medium heat until fragrant, about 1 minute. Turn off heat. Add

Continued on page 16

this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer

SUDOKU

AROMA	YAK	ALALA	PADRE	LATH
EVANS	RIP	ILVIES		
DELTOID	PILATES			
ERR	BATE			
SKIBABA	SUNLIT			
TINT	TURF	PEACE		
ROVE	ERNIE			
AWARD	NOVA			
WAR	MUP	WERE	AYE	
CIRCUIT	CLING			
IDIOM	ERA	HONEY		
TELS	MEG	RADAR		
YALE	SPY	EMOTE		

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

Sugurn solution

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCB-13-25
NAME OF PROJECT: ADA Improvements Toilet Rooms 22 & 60 Market Street
MultiplePrimeBidsshall be received for the following classes of work: General Construction, Mechanical, Plumbing, & Electrical. Project Description: The project includes the renovation of existing toilet rooms on Floors 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of 22 Market Street and the renovations of existing toilet rooms on Floor 1, 2, 3, and 4 as well as the addition of ADA toilet rooms on Floors 2, 3, and 4 of 60 Market Street. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding

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andRFPopportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Lorraine Grant, Contract Specialist Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, on or before 11:00AM Wednesday, September 17, 2025, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes

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prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 131 881 85# Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business September 10, 2025 and emailed to Lorraine Grant at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated substantial completion date is December 15, 2026

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This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC # 2025010096. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable, and NYSDOL Contractor Registry requirements. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

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System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Christopher Sterbenz,

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Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00AM Friday, August 29, 2025, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting, +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll), Conference ID: 624 136 610#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has

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signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business Friday August 22, 2025 and emailed to Christopher Sterbenz at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is September 8, 2025; the anticipated substantial completion date is March 30, 2026. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC # 2025008174. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable, and NYSDOL Contractor Registry requirements. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

The deadline for Legals is every Monday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Friday at noon.

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SPECIAL OFFER

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

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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

					1
			4		
					3
				1	
		5			
				1	

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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: WORKING OUT

ACROSS

1. Oven emanation
6. Beast of burden
9. Slat
13. Chocolate substitute
14. _____ carte
15. San Diego baseballer
16. Actress Linda of "Dynasty" fame
17. Grave acronym
18. Dartmouth and such
19. *Largest shoulder muscle
21. *Mind-body exercise with "apparatus"
23. To do this is human
24. Hold back or restrain
25. *Biathlon gear, sing.
28. Rum follower
30. Illuminated by a certain star
35. Windshield option
37. Gang's domain
39. Symbolized by white dove
40. Wander
41. "Sesame Street" regular
43. a.k.a. amir
44. Nobel Prize, e.g.
46. Most luminous star
47. 0.001 inches, pl.
48. *Workout prep
50. Used to be
52. Sailor's assent
53. Agitate
55. Carry a load
57. *Series of exercises with little or no rest
61. *Peloton sport
65. "Bite the bullet," e.g.
66. E in BCE
68. Term of endearment
69. "He _____ it like it is"
70. Actress Ryan
71. "M*A*S*H" character
72. One of #18 Across
73. 007
74. What actors do

DOWN

1. Passed with flying colors
2. Five-star review
3. Not written
4. _____ Carlo
5. Soak up
6. 36 inches
7. Boxer Clay
8. Fraternity K
9. Surface magma
10. Passage into a mine
11. *"Arboreal" yoga pose
12. Hitler's sidekick Rudolf _____
15. Highway accident
20. Extremely angry
22. "_____ show time!"
24. Nocturnal bird of prey (2 words)
25. It broke the camel's back
26. Plains tribe
27. Iron + nickel
29. *Use calories
31. a.k.a. Indian Lilac
32. Vampire of Greek mythology
33. In a cold manner
34. To the point
36. Four years for a President
38. V
42. Premature
45. _____ semolina, pl.
49. Hawaiian dish
51. Trick-taking card game
54. List components
56. Twilight
57. C in NYC
58. Brain wave
59. Small brook
60. Nat of Jazz
61. Same as cagey
62. _____-European language
63. Like a drink in a snifter
64. Swirling vortex
67. *One in a set

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8			9	10	11	12
13						14					15			
16						17					18			
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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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



Taste test: Milkweed vs. Willow leaves

Foragers report that milkweeds are poisonous when raw, but may be eaten if cooked. And, although some willows may be consumed raw as survival food, they are not particularly palatable. But, it's not their opinions I'm curious about.

The two "thief" books, "A Thief in Pollinator Paradise" and "A Thief in the Meadow," included characters that were part of the *Nymphalidae* family of brush-footed butterflies. Specifically, *Limenitis archippus*, the Viceroy Butterfly, is known to prefer willow leaves. And Monarch Butterflies, *Danaus plexippus*, consume milkweed leaves. Milkweed is the exclusive food source of their larvae.

Monarch and Viceroy butterflies

Twins, clones, body-doubles, look-alikes, or doppelgangers? Scientifically, Monarch and Viceroy butterflies are Müllerian Mimics, meaning that they are not closely related yet they are both toxic and their warning colors are similar.

They lead very different lives

Unlike most other insects in temperate climates, Monarch Butterflies cannot survive a long cold winter. They are migratory. Their annual life cycle begins at the overwintering grounds (either in Mexico or on the Pacific Coast). It takes three to five Monarch generations, during their migration, to repopulate the rest of the US and southern Canada. The final generation of the year hatches in September and does the return journey to the overwintering grounds. It is the longest generation of monarchs, making a journey of 8 months, while earlier generations may only live a

couple of weeks. Their larval stage lasts less than two weeks.

Viceroy Butterflies are found throughout North America. Typically, Viceroy Butterflies have two to three larval generations per year, with early broods living their life cycles in a few months. In the final generation, the larvae secure a leaf to a branch with silk and construct tube-like shelters. In the spring, after willow leaves sprout, the hibernating larvae start feeding on them. The complete their life cycle in the next several weeks.

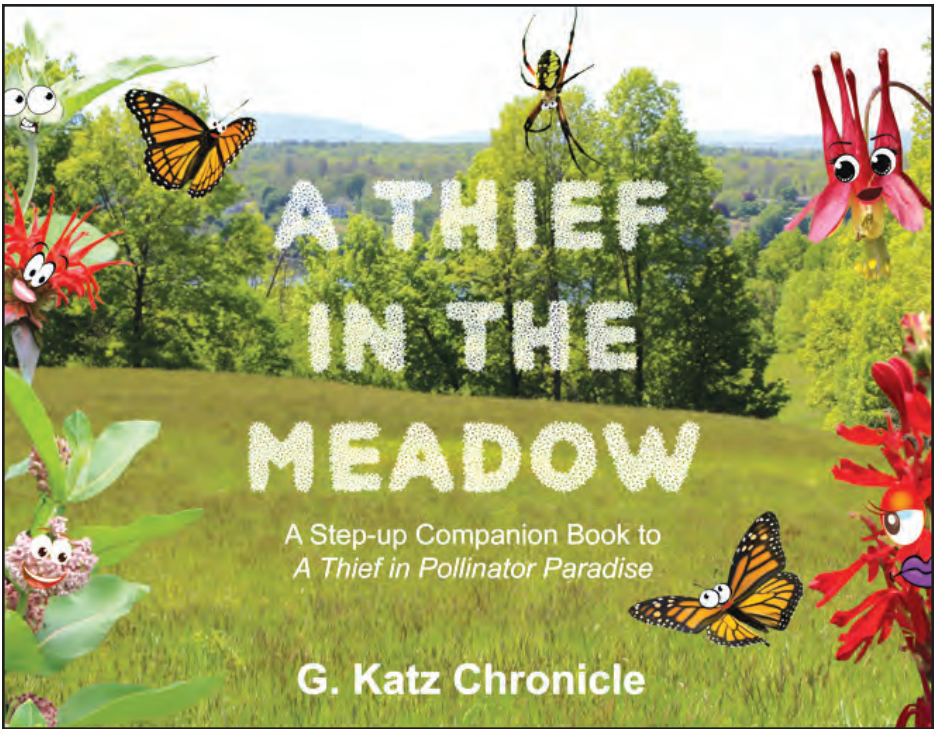
Diet

Monarch caterpillars feed on milkweed, which contains toxins called cardiac glycosides. Because of this, both the caterpillar and winged adult are toxic to most predators. (Cardiac glycosides often cause vomiting and sickness. They are potentially lethal in high doses).

Viceroy larval instars continue to develop as they feed on trees in the willow family including varieties of willows, poplars, and cottonwoods. The caterpillars sequester salicylic acid from substances ingested from its host plant. This makes the larva and, eventually the adult butterflies, bitter tasting.

Warning coloration

Aposematism is a term used to describe colors and/or patterns that warn predators that a potential prey species is unpalatable, toxic, or dangerous. Studies have shown that all vertebrates associate red, orange, yellow, and white coloration as signs of danger. Toxic or unpalatable butterflies have evolved color schemes that exploit this phenomenon,



“A Thief in the Meadow” e-book cover.

-Courtesy image

and thereby dissuade predators from attacking them. Aposematic signals are beneficial for the predator and prey since both avoid potential harm.

Mimicry

Viceroy and Monarch butterflies use Müllerian Mimicry. This means that they both benefit from looking alike and being toxic, yet they are in different genera, so they are not closely related to each other. Once a predator has become ill from eating one of them, it would likely stay away from both species, saving others of their species from being eaten.

A unique part of the evolution of the Viceroy is its mimetic behavior. In the natural world, mimetic behavior is triggered by predation and the proximity of toxic or unpalatable organisms. Viceroy may have evolved its mimicry adaptations during times when there were numerous unpalatable organisms in its environment.

Viceroy caterpillars, which are mottled brown or olive, mimic bird droppings. A Viceroy in the chrysalis stage also resembles a bird dropping. The adult Viceroy, which resemble Monarchs, mate, and shortly thereafter, females lay their eggs. Viceroy eggs resemble galls (outgrowths) on their host plant's leaves. At all stages, the Viceroy exhibits mimicking behavior to avoid predators.

Taste testing

Like all insects, butterflies have six legs. However, in the *Nymphalidae* family, their front pair is tucked close to their bodies, making them less visible. Brush-footed butterflies, like Monarchs and Viceroy, use their forelimbs for nectar foraging. The "brushes" help feel and taste the nectar that they are feeding on.

The forelegs of Brush-footed butterflies have chemoreceptors which allow them to "taste" with their feet. Monarchs and Viceroy sense that their host plants (milkweed and willow) tastes bitter, but they do not reject it. Instead, they actively feed on, and accumulate compounds in their bodies, which make them distasteful to predators, providing them with a defense mechanism.

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>.

that's italian!

Continued from page 14

remaining spices and let sit for 15 minutes as the pan cools. Places in a food processor and grind till fine.

- Set belly skin side down. Using a knife, score the belly flesh in a checkerboard pattern 1/3" deep so roast will cook evenly.
- Flip belly skin side up. Using a paring knife, poke dozens of 1/8"-deep holes through skin all over belly. Don't be gentle! Keep poking.
- Using the jagged edge of a meat mallet, pound skin all over for 3 minutes to tenderize, which will help make skin crispy when roasted.
- Turn belly and generously salt both it and loin; rub both with spice mixture. Arrange loin down middle of belly. Top with orange slices.
- Roll belly around loin; tie crosswise with kitchen twine at 1/2" intervals. Trim twine. Transfer roast to a wire rack set in a rimmed baking sheet.
- Refrigerate roast, uncovered, for 1-2 days to allow skin to air-dry; pat occasionally with paper towels.
- Let Porchetta sit at room temperature for 2 hours. Preheat oven to 500°. Season Porchetta with salt. Roast on rack in baking sheet, turning once, for 40 minutes. Reduce heat to 300° and continue roast-

ing, rotating the pan and turning Porchetta occasionally, until an instant-read thermometer inserted into center of meat registers 145°, 1 1/2-2 hours more. If skin is not yet deep brown and crisp, increase heat to 500° and roast for 10 minutes more. Let rest for 30 minutes. Using a serrated knife, slice into 1/2" rounds.

For the sandwich

- Transfer some of the drippings into a frying pan and heat. Using a serrated knife split the ciabatta roll and put cut side down into the frying pan and toast the roll for a minute or so in the drippings.
- Remove the ciabatta roll, add mozzarella cheese if you wish, and pile sliced porchetta on to the roll. Put the top of the roll on your sandwich and enjoy.

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.

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