

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## Rombout Fire Co. Assistant Chief 'a beacon of hope'



Rombout Fire Co. welcomed Assistant Fire Chief John Lucariello home last week from the hospital after he collapsed at a fire scene on Aug. 11.

-Courtesy photo Rombout Fire Co.

By Kristine Coulter

Rombout Fire Co. Assistant Fire Chief John Lucariello was welcomed home with signs outside each of the Rombout Fire Co. two stations last week.

It was on Aug. 11, while fellow firefighters were investigating an active structure fire on Mountain Road in Fishkill, Lucariello 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.

"John, a seasoned firefighter with over four decades of experience, was severely injured while responding to an emergency call. His road to recovery was underway at a local hospital, where the news of his impending discharge sparked an outpouring of support from fellow emergency responders and the community," it states on the Rombout Company website, written by Recording Secretary John Muller.

On the site, The Yard Foundation (theyardfoundation.org), it was stated, "(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 continued, "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..."

Police and fire trucks led the procession from Westchester County to Dutchess County when Lucariello was released from the hospital.

"As John Lucariello continues his recovery, the echoes of the community's support will undoubtedly bolster his resolve, reinforcing his choice to wear the helmet and don the badge. His story is a beacon of hope and a powerful affirmation of the indomitable spirit of service, camaraderie, and the profound connection between emergency responders and the communities they serve," it was stated on the fire company's website.

## 'White Glove' tours at Mount Gulian Historic Site Sundays in September

By Kristine Coulter

Visit Mount Gulian Historic Site on Sundays in September and receive the exclusive "White Glove" tour that will offer a unique perspective on the site's past. These special tours will be offered on Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at noon and 2 p.m. During the tour, visitors will see rarely seen items that will be on display at the historic site.

After the tour, attendees can put on white gloves and examine some of the artifacts that will be out of the collection storage room, up close.

"We rarely offer our "White Glove" tour to the general public," said Elaine Hayes, Mount Gulian Historic Site Executive Director. "We hope out of town visitors, our neighbors, and local residents will stop by and avail themselves of this unique opportunity."

Items that will be highlighted during the special will include:

- a historic Verplanck family Bible, in Dutch, dating to 1683;
- a silk, hand-painted fan from Tiffany and Company, circa 1870;
- a gentleman's beautifully tailored knee-length wool frock coat, circa 1850;
- handwritten letters from Verplanck children to their respective parents, dating from 1806 & 1830;
- a ceremonial military sword and scabbard from 1820

Two Verplanck descendants donated



"White Glove" tours will be held at the Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon on Sundays in September.

-Courtesy photo Mount Gulian

what Hayes described as "wonderful family pieces" to the historic site earlier this year. Among the donations were two Chippendale chairs, circa 1790, that are now back at Mount Gulian, she said.

"The Metropolitan Museum of Art has

several similar chairs, located in the Verplanck Room in their American Wing. And, we now have an original portrait from 1880, painted by Henry Darby, of his son-in-law William E. Verplanck and

Continued on page 5

## Annual Gala set for September 13 at Grinnell Library

By Kristine Coulter

The Gala at Grinnell, hosted by The Friends of the Grinnell Library, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 5-7:30 p.m. Attendees will offer support to New York's sixth-oldest library, which was established in 1867. The library, where the annual event will take place, has been in its current building at 2642 E. Main St. in Wappingers Falls since 1887. Tickets are \$50 per person in advance or \$55 at the door. Tickets, which include wine, beer, and soda, are also available at the library.

One can celebrate with other supporters of the library from the community. Guests will be served hors d'oeuvres by "The Jessica Experience." One may also sit outside in the pavilion and enjoy live entertainment by Johnny Dell and his daughter, Kirsten Lee, who will perform as "The Silly Things." Students from Roy C. Ketcham High School's Masque & Mime will volunteer their time assisting at the event.

"The day after the last [Gala] we started planning," said Laura Landau, who is with The Friends.

Landau said, "It's really a team effort."

Kristen Campbell, Grinnell Library Director, said, "The Friends sponsor our intern."

The Friends recently honored the library's newest intern, Marist College student Francesa Oliva. The program is in



The Gala at Grinnell will be held on Saturday, September 13 at Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls. The annual event will raise funds for the library.

Pictured are members of The Friends of Grinnell Library and staff, from left, Laura Landau, Jessica Schmeiler, Beth Devine, Reva Cowan, Mike Cowan, Jennifer Thompson and Kristen Campbell.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

the third year, according to organizers. The Friends also help to provide funding for museum passes that patrons can borrow, directly enhancing community access to arts and cultural activities, it was noted.

According to organizers, the net pro-

ceeds from the Gala will also support the restoration of the library grounds, enhancing Grinnell's outdoor spaces.

"I love being with the community," said Campbell.

Continued on page 2

# George Atkinson, The Roundhouse to receive ‘Beacons of History’ Awards in November

The Beacon Historical Society will present its ninth annual “Beacons of History” awards on Thursday, Nov. 6 to an individual and a business who have made substantial contributions to Beacon and helped to preserve its history and sense of community. The 2025 recognition will be presented to:

**Individual Honorees**  
**George Atkinson**

George still resides in the Locust Place home where he was born in 1927, drives his own car and participates in a local airplane club – all reasons to honor this spry and humorous 98-year-old gentleman. But his true importance shines through when discussing his hometown – for George has loved Beacon through its ups and downs and remains a passionate advocate for a city that he has watched weather the Great Depression, fight (and win!) World War II, ride the Mount Beacon Incline Railway and close the Newburgh Beacon Ferry. (Just try to stump George on any Beacon history – you likely won’t get the best of his amazing memory and historical recall.) George graduated from the Spring Street School and Beacon High School, where he credits classes in its brand-new workshop for sparking his career as a machinist in local businesses such as Dutchess Tool during WWII. He is one of the Society’s most valuable and faithful volunteers and a living treasure trove of Beacon history.

**Organizational Honorees**  
**The Roundhouse**

In a superb example of adaptive reuse, The Roundhouse has converted one of our most historic factory complexes into one of our most successful businesses. First developed in the early 1800s, the site has



George Atkinson and The Roundhouse will be honored with “Beacons of History” Awards in November by the Beacon Historical Society.

manufactured locomotives, knives, the first lawnmowers in America and a vast amount of other machinery and goods in more than 200 years of active use. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the property housed one of our first factories, the Matteawan Manufacturing Company, forerunner (starting in 1864) of all hat-making factories in Beacon. Later the Mase Hat Shop, and later still, Braendly Dye Works, the complex saw several of its buildings razed in the 1980s due to safety concerns. Beginning in 2010, The McAlpine Family rescued the site and converted the remainder of the old factory



-Courtesy photos Beacon Historical Society

and the Roundhouse property into a restaurant, luxury hotel, event space and artist lofts – preserving original elements where possible, repurposing materials found on site and collaborating with local architects and designers.

The cocktail party will be held at the Roundhouse as both a friend- and a fund-raiser for the Historical Society, which is headquartered at 61 Leonard Street. Members will receive invitations after Labor Day. Tickets are \$75 per person, and sponsorship opportunities are available. Memorial donations, contributions and other means of financial support are most appreciated in order to assist the Society in paying for its headquarters expenses, establishing new displays and caring for its vast collection.

“We hope that local businesses and residents will support this event to celebrate Beacon’s past and future,” said Historical Society President Denise VanBuren, noting that it is the Society’s single largest fundraiser this year. “In addition to honoring outstanding award recipients, the proceeds will be used to assist our Society in celebrating the history of Beacon at a time when our city is experiencing a great deal of rebirth and change. Come join us – support the work we do as volunteers to preserve Beacon’s history.” All are welcome to attend, but reservations must be made and paid in advance for what is expected to be a sold-out event. Contact VanBuren for more information at BeaconHistorical@gmail.com.

## Annual Gala set for September 13 at Grinnell Library

Continued from cover

Beth Devine, a member of The Friends and also a member of the Grinnell Public Library Board of Directors, said, “I love the Gala. So many people come year after year and they’re supporting the library. I think it becomes a real community event every year.”

“It’s one of our favorite events in the Village,” said Landau. “I love [the Gala.] I love helping the community,” said Jessica Schmeiler, who will be catering the event. For ticket information or to learn more about the Friends of Grinnell, please visit the library or email at friends@grinnell-library.org.

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# Rolison secures release of \$100K in state funding for City of Poughkeepsie Public Works Equipment

Senator Rob Rolison (39th District) was joined by City of Poughkeepsie officials to announce \$100,000 in State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM) funding for the City’s Department of Public Works (DPW) last week.

The state funds, originally allocated in 2018, through the efforts of then-Senator Sue Serino and administered through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), were recently released and used to purchase new equipment that will help DPW staff maintain city parks and public spaces. The investment will strengthen the department’s capability to keep Poughkeepsie’s parks clean and green, improve efficiency, and support residents’ access to safe, well-maintained community spaces.

“Maintaining clean and safe public spaces is a core responsibility of local government, and I am proud to help deliver state resources to the City of Poughkeepsie that will make this job easier,” said Senator Rolison. “This funding will allow our hardworking DPW employees to do what they do best – support the quality of life of every resident by keeping our city’s parks and green spaces beautiful and accessible.”

“The City of Poughkeepsie is grateful to Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and NYS Senator Rob Rolison for securing this \$100,000 investment,” said Mayor Yvonne D. Flowers of the City of Poughkeepsie. “These funds have allowed our Department of Public Works to purchase equipment that helps keep our parks clean, safe and green for the entire community.”

“I was proud to originally secure these funds during my time in the State Senate, and I’m even prouder to see them now being put to work for the City of Poughkeepsie,” said Serino. “The City’s DPW employees show up every day to care for the spaces that bring neighbors together, and this investment helps give them the tools they need to keep our community safe, welcoming, and beautiful. I am grateful to Senator Rolison and Mayor Flowers for their partnership in making sure these resources are making a difference right here at home.”



From left are State Senator Rob Rolison, City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino.

-Courtesy photo

# Ryan secures \$15 million for Community projects in HV

Last week, Congressman Pat Ryan announced that he has secured more than \$15 million for Hudson Valley community projects, including more than \$8.3 million for law enforcement and first responder agencies across Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties.

The funding was approved by the House Appropriations Committee, but will require Speaker Mike Johnson to pass a full year budget to be allocated across the Hudson Valley. Last year, despite Ryan securing millions in funding for community projects across the Hudson Valley, President Trump and Speaker Johnson cut every last dollar from our police officers, first responders, and more.

“The federal government works best when it works directly on behalf of the communities that it serves,” said Congressman Pat Ryan. “These community funded projects are a great opportunity to deliver on the Hudson Valley’s top priorities. This past year, our community got screwed over when the Republican budget cut all \$17 million from remarkably deserving initiatives, including more than \$6 million from our law enforcement and first responders. But alongside our community leaders I kept pushing, and I’m incredibly proud of the projects we secured funding for this year, especially the \$8.3 million for law enforcement and first responders. I’ll keep doing everything in my power to get these projects over the finish line.”

“The Dutchess County Sheriff’s office will use this critical funding to establish a two-way radio system, connecting and improving law enforcement response times countywide and saving lives,” said Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati. “On behalf of the men and women at the Sheriff’s Office I would like to thank Congressman Ryan for his dedication to bolstering public safety in Dutchess County. I look forward to continuing to work together as we make Dutchess County one of the safest places to live in all of New York State.”

“We are incredibly optimistic about the potential for this federal funding to strengthen our new Analysis and Real-Time Crime Intelligence Center. This support will further empower Dutchess County with advanced analytics, faster investigative turnaround, and enhanced real-time response to protect our citizens,” said Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi. “This investment would not only enhance public safety through cutting-edge technology, but would also strengthen collaboration, and deliver justice more effectively, ultimately making our community safer for all.”

“This essential funding will ensure that radio communication system interoperability is consistent for all Dutchess County law enforcement agencies,” said Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response Commissioner William H. Beale. “Dutchess County greatly appreciates Congressman Ryan’s partnership in supporting this critical component to public safety.”

In March, when President Trump and House Republicans under Speaker Johnson’s leadership cut more than \$6 million in funding from Hudson Valley law enforcement agencies, Congressman Ryan immediately rallied with local law enforcement in opposition. He is now imploring President Trump and Speaker Johnson to properly allocate the \$8.3 million Ryan secured for Hudson Valley law enforcement and first responders this year.

The projects Congressman Ryan secured funding for in Dutchess County include:

- \$1,000,000 for upgrades to the Arlington Fire District Fire Station 4, including renovations to the existing building structure include fire suppression systems, fire alarm systems, ADA compliance, on-duty firefighter quarters, decontamination showers, and facility upgrades.
- \$1,031,000 for Dutchess County Analysis & Real Time Crime, to elevate the county’s policing efficiency and responsiveness through the procurement of cutting-edge intelligence gathering, analysis, and sharing equipment, in addition to communications equipment and technology-specific training.
- \$850,000 for renovations to Hooker Ave Fire Station, Poughkeepsie, including building envelope repairs and structural repairs to the main floor of the station and making improvements to the 100 year old slate roof and for the replacement of century-old windows to promote energy efficiency.
- \$1,031,000 for Dutchess County Consolidated Two-Way Radio System.

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT.

# BULLSHOT CRUMMOND

BY RON HOUSE, DIZ WHITE, ALAN SHEARMAN, JOHN NEVILLE-ANDREWS, AND DEREK CUNNINGHAM

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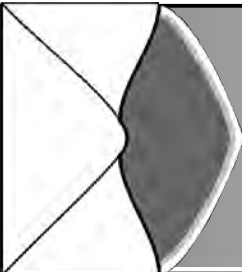
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Viewpoints



LETTERS  
TO THE  
EDITOR

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

Policy on letters:

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

### Elks to remember 9/11

#### To the Editor:

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will lead the nation in remembering the heroes and victims of September 11, 2001, with Patriots Day ceremonies held across the United States, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and the Panama Canal. Local Elks Lodges invite the public to come together in unity, reflection and gratitude – paying tribute to the firefighters, police officers, first responders, military members and ordinary citizens whose courage and sacrifice continue to inspire America.

As one of the nation’s foremost patriotic and charitable organizations for more than 157 years, the Elks are proud to honor the spirit of service and patriotism that rose out of tragedy. In 2024, the Elks contributed more than \$520 million in cash, goods and volunteer time- supporting veterans, empowering young leaders through scholarships, and strengthening local communities nationwide. With a nearly 1,800 lodges and 800,000 members, the Elks remain committed to ensuring that the values of service, patriotism, and remembrance are passed on to future generations.

The Elks will never forget September 11th. Each year, we gather not only to mourn those we lost, but to honor the resilience of a nation that came together in its darkest hour. Through our acts of charity and service, we strive to keep that spirit of unity alive.

From small towns to major cities, Elks lodges will pause to remember, reflect, and recommit to building stronger communities in honor of those who gave everything.

For more information or to find a ceremony near you, visit [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org). For membership details, visit [Join.Elks.org](http://Join.Elks.org).

Rick Gathen  
Director, Elks USA

## Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley accepting applications now through Sept. 30

Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley (RTHV) continues to accept applications for their Rebuilding Day home repair and accessibility modification program. These services are provided at no cost to income qualified homeowners in Dutchess and Ulster Counties and focus on ensuring that individuals can live independently in a safe, warm, dry, and healthy home.

The deadline for applications to be considered for the 2026 Rebuilding Day program is September 30. Income qualified Dutchess and Ulster County homeowners are encouraged to apply.

The Rebuilding Day program takes a whole-house approach. Typical repairs can include replacing a roof or windows, addressing electrical or plumbing issues, fixing a porch, installing a ramp, bathroom accessibility modifications, and much more. “We know there are residents out there silently struggling with critical home repairs for their safety and this is our chance to reach them,” said Darcy McCourt, Executive Director of RTHV. “But time is limited — we urge anyone who might qualify, or who knows someone in need, to apply before the September 30 deadline. In performing these types of repairs, RTHV helps ensure that homeowners can live in a safe and healthy home for as long as they choose to stay there.

Neighbors, friends, and family of those who have been served by the local non-profit all suggest and strongly encourage their fellow Dutchess and Ulster County residents to apply. A recent homeowner exclaimed, “I can’t thank you enough for all you do. Your kindness, empathy, and concern made it an even more incredible experience. I feel blessed to have been accepted into your program when at a time in my life it was desperately needed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!”

David, the son of a recent homeowner we served said “My father was amazed when everyone showed up on the Rebuilding Day and was touched by the warmth of the volunteers. My dad hopes to never have to leave his home, and the work performed will help with that goal by keeping him safe, secure, and happy.”

Another happy homeowner told RTHV, “Thank you for the joy and hope that you have reignited in me. The compassion, care and the power of working together to improve the world has had a profound impact on my home and for me. I am truly thankful for the work that you have done, I will never be able to thank you enough!”

To request an application or inquire about our programs please call the RTHV office at 845-454-7310. The application and further details can also be found at [RTHudsonvalley.org](http://RTHudsonvalley.org).

## Clean-up Day for Town of Fishkill residents set for Sept. 13

Fishkill Town-wide Clean-up Day is set for Sept. 13, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 2 Geering Way. This is for Fishkill residents only.

No trucks such as U-Hauls, vans, utility trailers larger than the bed of pick-up truck will be permitted into the Highway Yard to dump their bulk debris. Only ordinary pick up trucks will be allowed. Cleanup material must be separated by wood, metals, and soft miscellaneous items. Construction debris will not be accepted.

Community Shred Event: A Commercial Shredding Truck will be on site from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each household is limited to three file boxes or three kitchen garbage bags (or containers of like size).

Please Take Note: The following items cannot be accepted due to landfill restriction: Engine oil, lawn and garden chemi-

cals (such as fertilizer), insecticides, pesticides, poisons, brush, leaves, drain cleaning chemicals and other caustic solvents, paint materials (such as latex or oil based paints, turpentine, shellacs, sealers, mineral spirits and other paint related materials), gasoline, kerosene, and other flammable liquids (including containers that were used for these products) aerosol cans and other pressurized tanks. Tires will no longer be accepted at clean-up days. You may bring them to Royal Carting for a fee.

As per NYS Law Royal Carting does not accept electronic items (e-waste). For those wishing to dispose of such material the County hosted Hazardous Waste/E-Waste event can be found at: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Solid-Waste-Management/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Electronics-Event.htm>

### Sheriff’s Office investigating shooting in Fishkill

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office is investigating a shooting that occurred on Pappas Lane in the Town of Fishkill at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 23. The shooting involves one male victim who was treated for non-life-threatening injuries at St. Luke’s Hospital in Newburgh, Orange County before later being transferred to Westchester Medical Center, according to law enforcement officials. At this time, the shooting is not believed to be a random act and there appears to be no danger to

the general public.

The investigation is continuing by the Sheriff’s Office’s Detective Bureau, and anyone with information is urged to contact Detective Myers at 845-486-2049 or [cmymers@dutchessny.gov](mailto:cmymers@dutchessny.gov). Information can also be supplied through the Sheriff’s Office’s tipline at 845-605-2583 or [dcso tips@gmail.com](mailto:dcso tips@gmail.com), and all information will be kept confidential. The Sheriff’s Office was assisted at the scene by the New York State Police, and more information may be released as it becomes available.

## HV Homeschool Band starts up on Sept. 18

The Hudson Valley Homeschool Band (brass, woodwind, percussion) will start weekly rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., at St. Paul’s Episcopal in Pleasant Valley. Information for the 2025 Fall and 2026 Spring sched-

ules is available at <https://artmusicemporium.com/hv-homeschool-music>.

The band is conducted by Joshua E. Long, PhD. Visit [www.joshuaelong.com](http://www.joshuaelong.com) or call 610-588-1884 for more information.

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# Putnam Chorale begins rehearsals on Sept. 8

**By Kristine Coulter**

The Putnam Chorale is beginning its new Fall season. The Chorale will begin rehearsals on Monday, Sept. 8, at Carmel High School, Fair Street, in Carmel, Putnam County. Rehearsals are from 7- 9:30 p.m. at Casey Hall in the main building. Singers are residents of Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester counties, as well as Fairfield, CT. Last season Putnam Chorale increased its membership by 30%.

“More singers mean a bigger sound, and the ability to tackle more ambitious pieces,” said Dr. Jason Tramm, music director and conductor of the Chorale. “The Chorale is a well-established community choir, meaning that the group does not audition singers, except if needed for section placement,” he added. Tramm mentioned prior experience in a choir is not necessary.

Katherine Gambino, president of the Putnam Chorale, noted that the singers are a wide range of ages and are “an inviting, down-to-earth mix of people from around the Hudson Valley region.”

“Learning and singing great music is a fun stress reliever as well as a challenging mental and physical exercise,” said Gambino. “Anyone who loves to sing should consider joining. We offer rehearsal aids and recordings that make it easier to learn and perform.”



Putnam County Chorale will begin rehearsals on September 8 at Carmel High School in Putnam County.

-Courtesy photo Putnam Chorale

This December, Chorale will perform concerts in Dec. 6 Beacon and Dec. 7 in Carmel. “Shimmering Night: Songs of Wonder, Mystery and Serenity” will fea-

ture music by composers Benjamin Britten, Ola Gjeilo, Robert Cohen and Eric Whitacre.

“Music is a bridge that connects people

and culture in mysterious and magical ways,” said Tramm. “The Putnam Chorale is a musical ensemble that has the capability to inspire and uplift audiences both locally and internationally.”

Lat year, 24 members of the Putnam Chorale took part in a concert tour in Italy. One of the members who took part in the concert tour was Putnam County resident Ellen Purcigliotti.

“It was a wonderful experience...to see the beautiful historical sites and to sing in the ancient cathedrals,” said Purcigliotti.

The Putnam Chorale singers sang with members of the Ocean Grove Great Auditorium Choir and the Taghkanic Chorale. The three choirs formed the American Vivaldi Choir, which toured at the Chiesa di San Marcello al Corso in Rome. From Rome, the next stop was to the ancient town of Assisi. There they performed at the Basilica San Francesco Superiore (Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi).

The final performance was sung at the Chiesa di Santa Maria Della Pietà in Venice, which is also known as the Vivaldi Church.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I’m so happy I took part in the tour,” stated Purcigliotti.

So, join the Putnam Chorale – there’s no telling where it will take one.

For more information, email [contactus@putnamchorale.org](mailto:contactus@putnamchorale.org).

## Village of Fishkill bulk pickup set for Sept. 20

The Village of Fishkill will provide a curbside bulk pickup for its residents, a one-day only service, on Saturday, Sept. 20. Please have any items for disposal at the curb Friday night, Sept. 19.

The following items are examples of what will be accepted:

Metals: Bicycles, washing machines, dryers, lawnmowers, small appliances, metal bed frames, stoves.

\* Any items that contain Freon must be Freon free and tagged i.e. refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, etc.

Acceptable soft and natural fiber products: Cardboard games, clothes, lamps, cushions, plastic items, wood chairs, wood tables, mattresses, upholstered chairs, couches.

**Items not accepted:**

Paint materials, chemicals, tree limbs, engine oil, lawn/garden chemicals, cleaning chemicals, pressurized tanks, turpentine, shellac, sealers, drums, fuel containers, propane tanks, tree stumps/limbs, auto batteries, oil cans, railroad ties, construction debris, computer monitors.

Household Hazardous Waste can be disposed of through the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency. More information can be obtained by calling 845-463-6020 or visiting <http://www.dccra.org/hhwcal.html>.

Tires must be brought to Royal Carting, 845-896-6000, for disposal.

## ‘White Glove’ tours at Mount Gulian Historic Site Sundays in September

Continued from cover

daughter, Virginia E. Darby, who were the last residents of Mount Gulian,” explained Hayes.

Admission for the tour is \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$8 children. Free admission is offered to children under 6 and Mount Gulian members. Membership is open to the public, and may be purchased day of the tour. Hayes strongly suggest registering for the tour.

Hayes stated, “The items in Mount Gulian’s collection, like the buildings themselves, tell a story of life in the Hudson Valley spanning almost 400 years. These unique items provide insight into how the Verplancks’ lived,

interacted and expressed themselves. Each piece in our collection holds meaning, reflecting the cultural values, beliefs, and practices of American culture since the 17th century.”

To register for a tour, contact Mount Gulian at 845-831-8172 or [info@mountgulian.org](mailto:info@mountgulian.org).

Hayes added, “The general public shouldn’t underestimate the importance of local historic sites and the items in their collections. I think a lot of people would be amazed to see the fine furniture, portraits, textiles and archival materials that a relatively small site like Mount Gulian has to offer. So come and visit and enjoy our history!”

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## Coaching staff leads with synergy for Renegades

**By Morgan E. Maier**  
Strong teams shine when leaders shine as well. When Hudson Valley Renegades coaches, clubbies, and Heritage Financial Park staffers clock in every day, they're putting in as much work as the players. The Renegades have amassed quite a team highlight reel in 2025, following the lead of a majority first-year High-A coaching staff. With one week left in a season that saw milestones met by dozens of 'Gades players, James Cooper's bench has much to smile about. (Note: Stats are based on August 27 reporting)

**James Cooper, Manager** - Master of the double steal, Cooper has kept his Renegades in playoff contention in the second half. While high on the list of to-dos, flying the SAL pennant isn't the only goal of Renegades baseball. The team's 163 (and counting) stolen base total has surpassed last year's stolen base total (155). As Cooper said at the season's beginning, "The ultimate goal is to be doing this in New York, and that's what we're trying to do to get these guys prepared for it." Twenty-three of his Renegades have gotten promotions to AA-Somerset since April; Cooper has done just that in his first Hudson Valley season.



*Twenty-three of the Renegades have gotten promotions to AA-Somerset since April; Manager James Cooper, left, has done just that in his first Hudson Valley season.*  
*The Renegades offense has slugged and set records all season, with the most grand slams in one season, thanks to the efforts of Hitting Coach Tom DeAngelis.*  
*-Photos by Dave Janosz*

**Demetre Kokoris, Pitching Coach** - With four games left in August, the Renegades are the only South Atlantic League team with a sub-.200 batting average against (BAA). Kokoris' pitching staff is dealing a .187 BAA, from first pitch to bullpen. They have allowed the SAL's fewest in hits (680), runs (379) and earned runs (319), home runs (47). The 2.87 earned run average

only scratches the surface. Two starters have hit double digits in strikeouts, with Xavier Rivas and Elmer Rodriguez-Cruz joining Drew Thorpe and Baron Stuart for the second most in franchise history. With the most shutouts in the SAL, Kokoris has developed the pitching staff in equal parts command and speed. The bullpen has been especially remarkable, with the fewest walks and hits per innings pitched.

**Tom DeAngelis, Hitting Coach** - The Renegades offense has slugged and set records all season, with the most grand slams in one season set with a Josh Moylan bomb on June 29. The Renegades' run differential peaked at +186 on August 21, trailing only (who else?) Greensboro for the most in the SAL.

**Caleb Hamilton & Teuris Olivares, Defensive Coaches** - During a 14-game

stretch from July 26 to August 10, the Renegades' defense performed without any errors. This marked the longest stretch of clean slates all season. Improvements on the defensive front have been clear as the dog days of summer turn to minor league baseball's last days.

**Adaric Kelly, Athletic Trainer & Dylan Lidge, Strength and Conditioning** - The most seasoned members of this Hudson Valley staff lay the foundation for excellent performance. Each foul tip off a finger and painful hit by pitch is met immediately by trainer Adaric Kelly, out of the dugout in a flash. Dylan Lidge handles strength and conditioning, ensuring every Renegade is operating at top capacity, every day. The quality of their performance is shown in the performance, the effort. It's seen in RHP Bryce Cunningham's bounce back from injury. Hayden Merda's successful rebound from Tommy John surgery that got him promoted in May, and Luis Durango going lightning fast despite a few weeks' sidelining. And especially, the liability for any Renegade position player to complete that aforementioned double steal when necessary.

A team that wants to win - to grow - works best with a staff that shows up for them every day. The winning formula requires a collective goal, synergy, and a dedication that runs deep in all members of this team. All credit to the ones in the dugout, on the bench, and in the clubhouse for a 5th straight entertaining season of Renegades baseball. Hudson Valley baseball may look best in pinstripes.

### League Standings

| SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH |    |    |      |      |     |      |
|-----------------------------|----|----|------|------|-----|------|
|                             | W  | L  | PCT  | GB   | L10 | STRK |
| Greensboro PIT              | 40 | 17 | .702 | -    | 6-4 | W5   |
| Hudson Valley NYY           | 35 | 21 | .625 | 4.5  | 5-5 | W1   |
| Jersey Shore PHI            | 31 | 25 | .554 | 8.5  | 5-5 | W1   |
| Aberdeen BAL                | 28 | 28 | .500 | 11.5 | 6-4 | L1   |
| Brooklyn NYM *              | 24 | 33 | .421 | 16.0 | 5-5 | L1   |
| Wilmington WSH              | 21 | 36 | .368 | 19.0 | 1-9 | L3   |
| SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH |    |    |      |      |     |      |
|                             | W  | L  | PCT  | GB   | L10 | STRK |
| Hub City TEX                | 30 | 27 | .526 | -    | 6-4 | W1   |
| Bowling Green TB *          | 29 | 28 | .509 | 1.0  | 5-5 | W1   |
| Greenville BOS              | 28 | 29 | .491 | 2.0  | 4-6 | L1   |
| Winston-Salem CWS           | 27 | 29 | .482 | 2.5  | 8-2 | W3   |
| Rome ATL                    | 23 | 31 | .426 | 5.5  | 6-4 | L3   |
| Asheville HOU               | 21 | 33 | .389 | 7.5  | 4-6 | L1   |



### 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!





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**The Verdict is in: Jad Haddad Earns Third Accolade by Best Lawyers®**



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## IMPACT

PR & Communications

# 2nd-half highlights: Complete game, Walking tour and bullpen blast

**By Morgan E. Maier**

With just one homestand to go in the regular season, let's take a look back at the Hudson Valley Renegades and their home-field advantage in the second half.

Since the beginning of summer, Heritage Financial Park has seen no shortage of spectacles. Everything from walkoffs to professional debuts, even a no-hit performance by the Aberdeen IronBirds. On July 4, the fans rocketed through the gates, setting a single-game attendance record of 6,176 for the mega fireworks show. These are the brightest non-firework moments of the past 26 home games, live from the Hudson Valley.

**1. Kyle Carr's Complete Game** - With the Renegades gaining on the Brooklyn Cyclones for second place in the SAL and a scheduled doubleheader on July 3, Hudson Valley looked to Kyle Carr. Carr, with a stellar summer ahead of him, pitched 7.0 strong innings, allowing just three singles and three walks. The Renegades notched a 2-0 victory, as lefty Carr struck out seven to tie his season high. He is the owner of the Renegades' lone complete game of the season and, presently, the lowest earned run average among qualified South Atlantic League starters (2.06). And with that doubleheader sweep, the Renegades took second position in the SAL.

**2. The July 11 Walking Tour** - With the Asheville Tourists in town the following week, the Renegades gave them a taste of Hudson Valley on July 11. The Renegades never led in the contest after falling behind



*Kyle Carr pitched 7.0 strong innings, allowing just three singles and three walks on July 3. The Renegades notched a 2-0 victory, as lefty Carr struck out seven to tie his season high.*

-Photo by Dave Janosz

in the second inning. Asheville saw the Renegades in the rearview all game, each run erased by the Renegades in the following frames. The equalizers came from Kiko

Romero and Dylan Lewis, who each matched the Tourists' stride with one swing. With both offenses quiet from the 6th inning, Hudson Valley earned its 51st

win on a walk-off moon shot from Tomas Frick. Frick's fourth home run of the season turned out to be his last in High-A, as he was promoted to the Somerset Patriots following the series finale.

**3. Bullpen Blast** - In Bryce Cunningham's first appearance off the injured list, the bullpen needed length against the IronBirds. On August 13, six Renegades pitchers combined for 10 innings, 11 strikeouts, and just one hit. Cunningham's inning restriction called for three strong frames from Ocean Gabonia, who combined with Sebastian Keane for six of the 11 Hudson Valley strikeouts. Keane's 2.2 innings of hitless work allowed for two more by Geoff Gilbert. Winning pitcher Hueston Morrill took to the top of the 10th, and in 14 pitches promptly sat Aberdeen down in order. With the offense primed for walkoff antics, Juan Matheus stepped to the plate. His third knock of the night scored

Owen Cobb easily from third. Hudson Valley won the game on its lone RBI, its first of two 1-run victories in the series.

In the final week of the regular season, the Renegades look to defend home territory – and clinch a playoff spot – against the league-leading Greensboro Grasshoppers. The Renegades have not squared off against the Grasshoppers this season, besides the view from second-place spot in the SAL standings. September 2 - 7 could be the final glimpse of the 2025 'Gades, so fans should get to Heritage Financial Park while they can!

## RENEGADES ROUNDUP

# Renegades eye final season series vs. Greensboro

**By Morgan E. Maier**

Minor League Baseball has just one week of games left. Now, the Hudson Valley Renegades control their own destiny. The Renegades were 1-for-3 to start the penultimate series of 2025, but a dramatic victory on August 28 broke their five-game losing streak.

**Aug. 26: 10-9, Brooklyn**  
**Nick Roselli (2 - 3 HR, 2B, 2 BB, 4 RBI, 2 R)** - As the Renegades clung to a two-run lead in the bottom of the ninth inning, Brooklyn lay one pitch away from losing the opening game. Two strikeouts, one out to go. A pair of Cyclones reached base, then a successful double steal shifted momentum in the home team's favor. From allowing six Renegades runs in the second inning to a mounting 10 run comeback, Brooklyn was within reach of victory in its final hour. Right fielder Nick Roselli, already with an RBI on the night, had one final twist for Hudson Valley's fate. With a 1-2 count, Roselli made the final strike. He took Tyrone Yulie yard to

end the game, a walkoff three-run shot, for his first High-A home run.

**Luis Durango (3 - 3, 2 BB, 4 SB, 2 R)** - Don't blink, catchers, because Luis Durango is already gone. The outfielder has been wheels since his return from injury on August 17. He has doubled his stolen base count (15) in just five games. To start the month of August, Durango is a perfect 8/8 on stealing bags. On August 26, Durango was the only player on either side with three hits. Durango also reached a career high with four stolen bases, the most of any Hudson Valley player in a game this season. It ties the franchise record set by current Milwaukee Brewer Anthony Siegler, who did it on July 6, 2021.

**Aug. 27: 8-7, Brooklyn**  
**Marco Vargas 2 SB (37), Boston Baro 2 SB (28), Diego Mosquera SB (6); Yohairo Cuevas SB (6), Chase Houck SB (3)** - This game was won on the basepaths. With five Cyclones combining for seven stolen bags, Brooklyn's running game was the key to nabbing this 8-7 win.

**Kaeden Kent (5 - 5, 3 RBI, 2 R)** - Though they fell short in another high-scoring contest, the Renegades fought hard for the victory. None more than Kaeden Kent. The shortstop went a perfect 5-for-5, including a home run and a two-run single to cut it close in the ninth inning. August 28 marked the first triple-RBI night of Kent's professional career. Given the blazing start to this 22-year-old's professional career, more will likely follow.

**Aug. 28: 7-1, Hudson Valley**  
**Ronald Hernandez (2B, RBI, 2 SB)** - With Brooklyn in danger of being recipients of the Renegades' 18th shutout on the season, Ronald Hernandez finally ticked the scoreboard in the ninth. The Renegades had opened the scoring in the fourth inning, taking a 1-0 lead on an Engelth Urena sacrifice fly. Urena's second RBI, a single, made it 2-0 Renegades, then Luis Durango's first double of the year scored three more runs. With one out in the bottom of the ninth, Hernandez kept

things interesting for Brooklyn with his own RBI double. Though the home team began to mount a rally in its final frame, the contest ended with Hernandez stranded at third base

**Kyle Carr (6.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 6 K)** - Kyle Carr got support on Aug 28, and it came from the offense and bullpen alike. Seven on the board was more than enough to salvage Hudson Valley's first win of the series. Core Jackson kickstarted the four-run sixth inning in which eight Renegades took to the batter's box. Jackson finished 2 - 4 with two runs scored. The infielder was one of two Renegades, along with Durango, to give a multi-hit performance.

With the Brooklyn series complete, the Renegades look to make one final stand against the Greensboro Grasshoppers. Hudson Valley will look to make magic happen during the 2025 season's swan song. The Renegades' Fan Appreciation Week festivities will be underway as the team hosts the North Division leaders from Sept 2 - 7.

# A breath of fresh air: Yoga House opens its doors in Poughkeepsie

After nearly a year of anticipation and ground-up construction, The Yoga House, an award-winning yoga studio owned and operated by Amy Reed and Joyce San Pedro, will open its third location – and first in Dutchess County – on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 2623 South Road (Route 9) in Poughkeepsie.

The Hudson Valley community is invited to celebrate the studio’s new beginnings, meet founders Amy and Joyce and sample The Yoga House’s inclusive and uplifting offerings during a weekend-long grand opening, including a ribbon cutting on Saturday 12:30 p.m.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 6, and Sunday, Sept. 7, guests will have a chance to explore The Yoga House’s breadth of offerings through free 30-minute vignette classes. A glimpse into The Yoga House’s approach to holistic wellness, these mini sessions will include various types of yoga, like Vinyasa and Restorative, plus TRX (total resistance exercise), Pilates, fusion classes and more.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to get to know other neighboring local businesses – like Foam & Wash Car Wash, Crumbl, Moonburger and Sweet Cheeks Aesthetics – and enter for a chance to win free one-on-one sessions, classes, membership passes, The Yoga House apparel, a yoga prop package and more. In addition, the public is invited to sign up for the studio’s unlimited membership pass before Monday, September 8, to receive a highly discounted “Founding Member” rate of \$99 per month for three months.

“Every corner of this location has been thoughtfully designed with our members’ wellness journey in mind,” said Amy. “The Yoga House’s new home is more than a yoga studio – it’s a gateway to wellness. We cannot wait to welcome this community into our sanctuary and grow in our practice together.”

In addition to the disciplines being highlighted throughout the grand opening weekend, The Yoga House’s Poughkeepsie studio will offer Barre, guided meditation, sound baths and Reiki. Demonstrating their inclusive approach, Amy and Joyce will offer many classes both in-person and virtually, through its sister studio in Kingston, ensuring all practitioners can participate –regardless of physical ability, schedule or location. The studio’s on-site showers, in addition to its convenient location and ample parking, make it a user-oriented stop for locals and visitors alike, including commuters.

Notably, Amy and Joyce chose to omit mirrors from the Poughkeepsie studio’s design. Recognizing that mirrors draw people’s attention outward, the co-owners decided to leave the studio’s walls bare, reinforcing its role as a wellness sanctuary and enabling visitors to practice introspection while focusing on their body, mind and spirit.

“We encourage those who practice with us to work in, rather than work out,” said Joyce. “We believe that the key to living well is having harmony between the body, mind and spirit, and our goal is to not only build strength and flexibility but establish mindfulness practices that prepare people



The Yoga House, an award-winning yoga studio owned and operated by Amy Reed and Joyce San Pedro, will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its’ Poughkeepsie location, 2623 South Road (Route 9) on Saturday, Sept. 6 at 12:30 p.m.

-Courtesy photo

to live and age well.”

“Whatever stage of your wellness journey you’re in, we hope you’ll join us to explore your body, quiet your mind and, most importantly, connect with your true self,” added Amy.

To stay up to date on The Yoga House – Chronogram’s Best Yoga Studio of 2025 –

and its new home in Poughkeepsie, visit [www.theyogahouseny.com](http://www.theyogahouseny.com) and follow @TheYogaHouseNY on Facebook and @yogahouseny on Instagram. Visitors can also receive the exclusive Founding Member rate of \$99 per month for the first three months by visiting The Yoga House’s website.

## The verdict is in: Jad Haddad earns third accolade by Best Lawyers®

Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele LLP announced that for the third consecutive year, associate Jad Haddad was included in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America for his work in litigation - real estate and real estate law. Best Lawyers®, which employs a rigorous, peer-to-peer, industry-driven evaluation to determine its rankings, analyzed over four million votes for the 2026 edition of Best Lawyers: One to Watch in America.

“I’m grateful to be recognized on the Ones to Watch® list for the third year in a row,” said Haddad. “It is especially meaningful to receive this accolade from such a well-respected publication.”

A 2020 graduate of Albany Law

School, Haddad joined Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele, LLP in 2022. He focuses on litigation, with an emphasis on real property litigation, and residential real estate.

This latest nod adds to Haddad’s recognitions. Earlier this year, he was honored with the Amee VanTassel Young Lawyer Award by the by the Dutchess County Bar Association.

“Jad is a talented young attorney and a key part of our legal team,” said Jessica Glass, partner at Stenger, Glass, Hagstrom, Lindars & Iuele, LLP. “We are consistently impressed with his strong work ethic, dedication to our clients and to the legal profession in general.”



Jad Haddad

-Courtesy photo

## New Hackensack Fire Co. to hold 9/11 ceremony

To commemorate the 24th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center in NYC, the Pentagon in Virginia and the downing of flight 93 in Pennsylvania there will be a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony honoring the lives lost September 11, 2001, including the first responders who paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to face health challenges from that day.

The ceremony will begin Thursday Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. at the New Hackensack Fire District/Company Memorial, 217 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls, rain or shine.

The ceremony is open to all. Refreshments will be served following the service. Stay and meet the Company’s firefighters after the ceremony.

## Beacon Elks host luncheon for Veterans and loved ones

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 hosted its monthly luncheon with 37 veterans and loved ones attending. A special presentation was provided by Patricia Lamoree, an Elks member, and representative of

Community Outreach of Dutchess County. Topics included benefits available if one qualifies, such as weatherization of one’s home.

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# 'Dahlia Capital of the World'

## Wappinger show set for Sept. 14

**By Kristine Coulter**

The Wappinger Dahlia Show, a tradition dating back at least 124 years, will take place on Sunday, Sept. 14 at Mesier Homestead in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls. The Wappinger Dahlia and Improvement Society, in conjunction with the Wappingers Historical Society, the Town of Wappinger and Carnwath Community Farming, is planning the show. The public display time is from Noon-4 p.m. The event is free to attend.

Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini said returning the show during Wappinger's 150th anniversary will reinstate Wappinger's "claim as the Dahlia Capital of the World," with the help of community partners. Cavaccini noted one of the show's organizers and partners is Kate Cahill, with the Wappinger Dahlia and Improvement Society.

Since this show is a part of the Wappinger150 Sesquicentennial, celebrating 150 years of Wappinger, there will be the "History in Bloom: Celebrating Wappinger 150!" For this arrangement, one will have a container arrangement of five or more different dahlia blooms based on that theme.

The logo for the 150th shows a hand-painted representation of the Wappinger-bred "Rotary Dahlia" of N. Harold Cottam.

Knowing the history, and the Town celebrating its 150th, town officials "chose the dahlia as the symbol," said Beth Devine, president of the Wappingers Historical Society,

Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini explained recently, "Nassau Harold Cottam was born in Cottingham, England in 1862. He immigrated to the United States at the age of 18 and was hired by former Town Supervisor Reginald Rives to be a gardener at his estate which is our Carnwath Farms Historic Site & Park.

"He was so good at horticulture that his dahlia gardens became world renowned, and he soon became the one of the leading authorities on the subject. People from all over came to Wappingers Falls to see the famous dahlia gardens and Cottam won many competitions featuring his new flower varieties. He named one of his varieties the "Rotary Dahlia," after the International Rotary Club. This flower had a red color with white tips and measured around eight inches in diameter."

Cottam established the Wappinger Dahlia Society, the first dahlia-based organization in the United States and helped to establish the American Dahlia Society which recently celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2025, said Cavaccini.

The Society began holding annual flower shows in 1901 in various buildings (National Bank, O'Farrell's Opera House and the Academy of Music) throughout the town, mentioned Cavaccini.

"Cottam bought property on South Road in 1902 which now encompasses



**The Wappinger Dahlia Show will be held on Sunday, September 14 at Mesier Homestead in Wappingers Falls.**

-Courtesy photo Kate Cahill

Cottam Hill Road, part of the [former] South Hills Mall and some of the Poughkeepsie Galleria areas. His knowledge was in very high demand, especially judging flower shows. Closer to home he held the position of director and then vice president of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society. One of his tasks included assisting at the horticultural exhibits at the Dutchess County Fair. He was also a member of the Dutchess County Horticultural Society and served as a Master of the Oak Grove Grange," the supervisor remarked.

The society was disbanded in 1928 and Cottam, who passed away six years later in 1934, is buried in Wappingers Rural Cemetery, on Route 9D.

"The Dahlia plot at Carnwath Community Farming is about 20' x 100' and has 1,000 dahlia plants. There are three sections: one for modern varieties (and eventual seed collection), one for seedlings (new varieties grown from seed I collected last year) and one for heirloom varieties. The project to research heirloom varieties that were grown in Wappinger and grow them again at Carnwath is called the Wappinger Heirloom Dahlia Garden," explained Cahill.

Devine remarked, the show came about "to encourage everyone in the community to start growing dahlias again." She noted, the inaugural "Tuber Swap" event was held in April at Mesier Homestead.

"Kate has just really immersed herself in the gardens," Devine said of Cahill.

Courtney Kolb, with Carnwath Community Farming, said, "These blooms -- I've never seen anything like it. Every blossom is truly different."

Kolb said she is excited for the show. September is the peak season for dahlias, said Cahill.

Want to enter this year's show? According to event information:

1. Participation is free
2. Participants need not be local residents.
3. Participants may change their entry classes up through drop off on the day of the show. When in doubt, bring that bloom!
4. Registering beforehand is not required but is greatly encouraged
5. Each participant may submit up to 2 entries per class -- up to ten show entries total. First and second place ribbons will be awarded for each class.
6. All dahlias entered in the show must have been grown by the participant under whose name they have been entered.
7. Participants must provide their own display containers. Suggested containers include reused glass bottles (such as wine, soda or kombucha bottles). Only bring containers which you do not mind having accidentally lost or broken.
8. All entries must be dropped off between 8:30-9:30 a.m. on show day.
9. After drop off, all participants must clear the area for judging until noon. The public display will be held from noon to 4 p.m. All entries and awards must remain in place until pickup at 4 p.m.
10. Pickup of entries and awards will take place between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. All remaining entries (flowers and containers) will be donated. Awards will be held at the Mesier Homestead Museum for pickup during the Museum and Gift Shop's regular open hours in the week after the show.

Master Gardeners will judge the entries, said Devine.

The whole point, said Cahill, is to bring them to the community.

For information and to enter, go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTe961li5O7B5aFMnRoegxqthAwXFnswnQuC0k5to-kDjA/viewform>.

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Drew Robison (Minister) and wife Sandy

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# Drew Robison, Gospel Preacher brings ministry to Southern Dutchess area

Drew Robison, Gospel Preacher, and his wife, Sandy, are bringing their ministry to Southern Dutchess Church of Christ, located in the River Valley Arts Center, 9 Mesier Avenue in Wappingers Falls.

The Church will have a Bible study at 7 p.m. on Thursdays on Zom. Call the Church number for details 845-554-4141. Every Sunday, Bible class including questions and answers will be held from 10 - 10:45 a.m. Worship services on Sundays are set from 11 a.m. - noon.

Preacher Drew states, "I have come to spread truth from the God of heaven, to minister to those in need and to bring encouragement and great cheer."

Drew has been preaching the gospel

and teaching Bible classes for nearly 30 years. He received his preaching training in Fort Worth, Texas and graduated from the Brown Trail School of Preaching in 1998. He has conducted a number of gospel meetings for Churches of Christ and performed evangelism efforts in Los Angeles CA, San Diego CA, Moss Point MS, Hurley MS, Grand Bay AL, Little Rock AR, Carlsbad NM, and other states and cities. His wife, Sandy also received her ministerial training at the same preaching school and has continued to be a big part of spreading the gospel of Christ.

Drew's secular education includes a Bachelors in Management Communications and a Masters in Human

Services with a Specialization in Counseling Studies. For over 15 years, he formerly worked in the field of Case Management addressing the needs of the homeless and helping people with addiction related issues. He has also conducted research and training tours for the Probation Department's rehabilitation programs.

He attended a prestigious acting Academy in Los Angeles. Famous actors such as Robert De Niro, Melanie Griffith, Marlon Brando and a host of other well known entertainers, also attended the Academy. Drew said that he left the Hollywood scene, 30 years ago to preach the gospel. He emphasized that this decision was because he

weighed the hope of a heavenly home as far greater riches than any earthly achievements (for example, Oscars and Grammys, etc).

Drew believes in preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27) and emphasized that all scripture is giving by inspiration of God and has great benefit for the saving of men and women's eternal souls (2 Timothy 3:16-17). This is the message that he hopes to bring to Southern Dutchess County.

Although he is no longer in music and acting as a profession, Drew said that he has written over 50 songs to his beloved wife. His wife Sandy's hobbies includes crocheting and photographing nature.

# Rolison, Murray urge parole board to reject rule change

Senator Rob Rolison and Senator Dean Murray, Republican members of the Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections Committee sent a letter on Aug. 18 to Daryl Towns, Chairman of the NYS Board of Parole, urging the rejection of a proposed rule change that would drastically alter the way the Board considers parole in the case of violent offenders that committed crimes when they were minors, further eroding public safety in communities throughout New York State.

Under the proposed rule, the Board would be required to place more consideration on the age and "brain development" of the offender rather than the danger the offender poses to the community, the nature of the crime committed, or the impact on the victims. The rule would apply to offenders who are serving a life sentence for a crime committed while under the age of eighteen. Life

sentences are reserved for the most heinous felonies, including murder and sexual assault, making those who would qualify for this new consideration among the most violent offenders in the prison system.

The proposed rule comes amidst reports that an increasing number of teens are the victims and perpetrators of violent crimes in the wake of New York's Raise the Age legislation.

"During my time as a police officer in the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department, I saw firsthand the lifelong scars left on victims and families by crimes so violent and heinous that a life sentence is the only just outcome. The Parole Board's duty is to protect the public and stand with victims—not to create a path for offenders who have already proven they are capable of unimaginable harm. Public safety must be the top priority for government, never an after-

thought. This proposal tips the scales toward the offender at the expense of the community. I stand with victims, and with Senator Murray, in urging the Board to reject it outright," said Senator Rob Rolison, Ranking Member of the Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee.

"The number one responsibility of the NYS Parole Board should be to ensure the public's safety. This rule change flies in the face of that responsibility. I am also extremely concerned that this rule change very much mirrors changes included in legislation, (S.159) "Fair and Timely Parole", that was introduced, but did not pass, the NYS Senate earlier this year. Rather than going through the body that represents the people of New York, the state legislature, the parole board decided to bypass and ignore the legislature and adopt this controversial change, on their own,

through a rule change. I fear this will have deadly consequences," said Senator Dean Murray, Member of the Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee.

"Now is not the time to adopt a policy which seeks to negate criminal culpability for violent offenders who have already demonstrated a willingness to endanger their communities and inflict serious harm on others. The Parole Board must instead prioritize public safety and ensure that dangerous criminals, regardless of age, are not released back into the community," the letter reads.

The proposed rule change is currently in the public comment period, which will expire on Oct. 12. The Senators urged residents to express their opposition to this dangerous proposal during the open comment period. Public comments can be submitted by email to: [rules@doccs.ny.gov](mailto:rules@doccs.ny.gov).

## Obituaries

Deborah D. DeRobertis



Deborah D. DeRobertis, of Beacon, NY, entered into rest on Monday, August 25, 2025. She was 72.

Daughter of the late Frederick L. and Geraldine E. (Robinson) Sandford, she was born August 1, 1953 in Beacon, NY.

A lifelong Beacon resident, "Debbie" as she was known by family and friends was a homemaker. Family was very important to her and she enjoyed crafts, especially ceramics, and bowling in the early days. She also enjoyed going to concerts at the park in the summertime.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph A. DeRobertis; a son, Joseph (Emily) DeRobertis of Wappingers Falls; three daughters, Nicole Taylor of Texarkana, TX, Amanda (Michael) Cobb of Sandusky, OH and Lauren DeRobertis of

Beacon, NY; seven grandchildren, Victoria, Fredrick, Lisa, Ariel, Jessica, Kylie and Sophia; seven great grandchildren, Julian, Jamari, Jaliyah, J.J., Reace, Trypp and Audrey Mae; along with two nieces.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by a brother, Darryl Sanford and a grandson, Anthony Meyer.

All Services and Burial will be private.

Donations in Deborah's memory can be made to any pet charity of your choice.

Arrangements are in the care of White, Venuto and Morrill Funeral and Cremation Service, 188 N. Plank Road, Newburgh, NY 12550.

James R. Sackelos



James R. Sackelos, a longtime Wappingers Falls resident originally raised in the quiet hamlet of New Hamburg, passed away peacefully at his home on August 26, 2025; at the age of 68 years old. He was born on August 2, 1957 in Poughkeepsie, NY, son of the late Joseph & Lois (Hamilton) Sackelos. James attended Wappinger Central Schools, and graduated of Roy C. Ketcham High School, class of 1976.

Jimmy was a member of the New Hamburg Fire Department, for many years; always enjoyed the fellowship. He was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan, he enjoyed fishing, and simple pleasures like BBQs with family and friends. He also enjoyed his vegetable garden, he loved to watch things grow.

Jim worked as a heavy equipment operator and welder for several local construction companies, particularly Trap Rock in the Town of Poughkeepsie, NY, and recently the Ziffs Family Estate in Pawling, NY, until retiring.

On April 20, 2002, he married the love of his life, Colleen Lyons, in St. Thomas US Virgin Islands; she survives him at home.

Along with his loving wife of 23-years, Colleen Sackelos, James is survived by his sister and brother: Joy (Eric) Sarracino and Joseph C. (Maria) Sackelos Jr; he is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and great-nieces & great-nephews.

Along with his parents, James was predeceased by his nephew and Godson, Michael Brogan, and his beloved dog 'Dallas'.

His Family will receive Friends on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 from 4-7PM at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered 10am, Thursday, September 4 at St. Mary's Church 11 Clinton Street, Wappingers Falls, followed by interment in St. Mary's Cemetery, Wappingers Falls.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.DelehantyFuneral.com](http://www.DelehantyFuneral.com).

- Southern Dutchess News
- Beacon Free Press
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by francine wizner



# Did you know that Sharon’s cousin is a marshmallow?

As an herbal tea drinker, one of the “To Dos” on my list once I moved here was to try making my own hibiscus tea from the blooms growing near my house. Commonly called Rose of Sharon, *Hibiscus syriacus* is a tropical-looking woody shrub that survives in our growing zone. Many of the homes I pass on my regular driving routes have the hardy hibiscus, with its pastel blooms, in their yards.

I did, in fact, make my own hibiscus tea. I made beverages using flowers that I harvested fresh from the trees, as well as some flowers that I dried. Summertime begs for Rose of Sharon Tea over ice.

### Before tea time

The process of making the tea was illuminating. I tried steeping the flower petals in cold water first, but steeping in hot water was faster and more effective at releasing the volatile aromatics and flavorful compounds. The resultant liquid was not pretty in either circumstance. I expected it to be pink or purple, like the flowers.

I learned that hibiscus flowers contain anthocyanins, which are natural pigments responsible for the flower’s colors. Anthocyanins are sensitive to pH levels. They exhibit different colors depending on whether the solution is acidic, neutral, or basic.

When I steeped the hibiscus in hot water, the anthocyanins leached out, creating a gray liquid. When I added acidic lemon juice, the color was enhanced to a brighter pink. If I wasn’t interested in drinking the tea, I could have added a base (like baking soda) and made the liquid turn green or blue.

Another observation I couldn’t help but

make, was that hibiscus flowers are slimy! Hibiscus are in the mallow family of plants. Among other commonalities, all mallows contain mucilage. Cotton and okra are two familiar mallows. Another that comes to mind is marshmallow.

**A S’more with a plant as the main ingredient?**

The marshmallow (*Althaea officinalis*) is a perennial herb. The plant’s roots have historically been used in herbal medicine to treat coughs, sore throats, and digestive problems. According to the National Confectioners Association (NCA), Ancient Egyptian royalty also enjoyed *Althaea officinalis* sweetened with nuts and honey in 2000 BC.

Passed through time and across cultures, the candy’s ingredients shifted, replacing mallow root with gelatin. The change made producing the confection less laborious. But, since gelatin is an animal product, conventional marshmallows are neither vegan nor vegetarian. Plant-based options are available as specialty products derived from seaweed or red algae.

### Marshmallows go with cocoa, not hibiscus tea

Cooler weather will soon be arriving, presenting the opportunity for some hot Rose of Sharon Tea. And, it is also possible to make marshmallows from *Althaea officinalis* because the plant will grow in our zone. But, I don’t think marshmallows would enhance the flavor of the tea. Marshmallows are better paired with cocoa, which comes from a tropical plant.

### Easy to do

Making herbal tea is easy. I picked the



Rose of Sharon flower petals steeping in hot water.



Why buy hibiscus tea when you can make your own?



Rose of Sharon Iced Tea.  
-Photos by Francine Wizner

fresh hibiscus flowers, removed the petals, and rinsed them so that they were free from bugs and any other debris. I poured boiling water over them and let them steep for about 10 minutes. Adding a little lemon juice will change the yellow-gray water to a more appetizing hue. Add sweetener or ice, if desired. (Of course, only ingest foods that you are certain are safe to eat. Edible plants have toxic look-alikes. Accurate identification is essential.)

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

## Bossa Blue to re-imagine James Taylor at the Towne Crier

Award-winning singer-songwriter Brad Cole and his band Bossa Blue will perform James Taylor: ReIMAGINED at The Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon on Friday, Sept. 5 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are

\$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

“The James Taylor Songbook is a treasure chest of melody, delicate structure and intimate storytelling,” noted Cole. “The fun and challenge here is to update each composition and performance in a compelling way with this extraordinary group of musicians. Every tune has found its own unique blend of Bossa Nova, Samba, Jazz, Rock, Soul, and Blues, all rich with harmony.”

Bossa Blue is a critically acclaimed musical collective that has built a reputation for delivering unforgettable live performances.

“We love the Towne Crier!” says Cole. “The acoustics are phenomenal and it’s an extraordinary intimate space for us to really connect with the audience. This will be our third annual performance of James Taylor: ReIMAGINED. I guess it’s become a thing!”

Visit [bradcolemusic.com](http://bradcolemusic.com) for more information and please visit [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com) for tickets.

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Suguru

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ACROSS

1. \*The Coaches \_\_\_\_ or The AP Top 25 \_\_\_\_

5. \*Super Bowl halftime performer Kendrick Lamar's genre

8. 1/168th of a week

12. Purse to match a gown

13. Karl of politics

14. Model builder's wood choice

15. \*YDS, TD or INT

16. Black like certain tree

17. \*Last season's NFL MVP

18. \*Worth 6 points

20. Way, way off

21. Owl cries

22. Come and \_\_\_\_ it

23. Ape

26. Stucco or aluminum on a house wall, pl.

30. "Wheel of Fortune" request

31. Bette Green's "Summer of my \_\_\_\_ Soldier"

34. Stag, not doe

35. Like an uncomfortable mattress

37. European Economic Community

38. \*NFL Hall of Famer Greene or comedian Hart

39. Seed coat

40. Cylindrical flower cluster

42. Stir or fuss

43. City in Illinois

45. #10 Down's counterpart

47. Small dog's bark

48. Adams of "Summer Of '69" fame

50. \*Point value of a safety in foot-ball, pl.

52. \*Worth 3 points in football (2 words)

56. Behind a stern

57. Raise the roof

58. Classroom parasites

59. Blooper

60. Actor and singer Kristofferson

61. Some are slippery

62. Scraps

63. Ballpark fig.

64. Dark loaves

DOWN

1. Bothersome one

2. \*Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Graham

3. Molokai party

4. Leeches, alt. sp.

5. R2-D2, e.g.

6. Declares to be true

7. \*College, home to football's Nittany Lions

8. \*Football intermission

9. Paella pot

10. Addict

11. \*What the NFL's Jim Brown famously did

13. Fixed up

14. Bleated

19. Hoagie, alt. sp.

22. Bathtub hooch

23. Green side

24. Accustom

25. Imitate

26. \*Quarterback's downfall

27. The N of U.S.N.A.

28. Move smoothly

29. Mister in Madrid

32. \_\_\_\_-view mirror

33. What Harry and Sally did

36. \*Pre-championship games

38. Work the dough

40. High tea vessel

41. Bucolics

44. Gustatory sensation

46. Hook, line and sinker person

48. Coffin holders

49. Rekindled

50. Type of ski lift

51. Drift like aroma

52. Type of fish net

53. Like acne-prone skin

54. Climber's destination

55. It's more, to some

56. Don McLean: "A long, long time \_\_\_\_..."

CROSSWORD

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

# ‘Bullshot Crummond’ at County Players

## Shows run September 5-20

County Players, one of the longest-running community theatre companies in the area, presents the second Main Stage show in their current 68th Season: the irreverent comedy, “Bullshot Crummond” by Ron House, Diz White, Alan Shearman, John Neville-Andrews, and Derek Cunningham. Directed by Jeffery Battersby the show opens Friday, Sept. 5, at 8 p.m., with additional performances scheduled at 8 p.m. on Fridays & Saturdays, Sept. 6, 12, 13, 19, & 20, and matinees at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14, and Saturday, Sept. 20, at the County Players Falls Theatre located at 2681 W. Main Street, in the historic Village of Wappingers Falls.

The production features the local talents of Eric Grayson, Emily Holland, Keller Mickle, Dylan Parkin, and Amy Schaffer. Of this play director Battersby says: “‘Bullshot Crummond’ pays homage to the B-movies of the 1920s and 30s and, like any great comedic sendup (think ‘The Pink Panther’ or ‘Young Frankenstein’), delights in its self-serious namesake, extra-villainous villains, and also features illicit love, true romance, and a tremendous amount

of heart.”

Individual tickets are \$26 for Adults, \$24 for Senior (60+), Military, & Students (with ID at the door), and are available online at [countyplayers.org](http://countyplayers.org). The theatre box office is open for in-person ticket sales one hour before any performance. Groups Sales info is also available at [countyplayers.org/group-sales/](http://countyplayers.org/group-sales/).

Hudson Valley Credit Union proudly sponsors County Players’ 68th Season, and this production of “Bullshot Crummond” is supported by Gold Sponsor, Dutchess ProPrint, and by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com).

Located in the historic Village of Wappingers Falls the all-volunteer theatre company acquired the former Academy Theatre and renamed it the County Players Falls Theatre, their home since 1977.

County Players Falls Theatre is equipped with an assistive listening system for the hard of hearing. If one requires wheelchair accessibility, please contact the Box Office at 845-298-1491.



*The cast of the irreverent comedy “Bullshot Crummond.” Performances are set for September 5-20 at County Players in Wappingers Falls.*  
-Courtesy photo by Louisa Vilardi Photography

### The Lofts at Beacon presents ‘La Clave Latina’

The Lofts at Beacon presents “La Clave Latina” by Ricardo Betancourt Photography Exhibit, Museo De Las Americas (1997-1998). Comprised of thirty portraits of the most influential artists in the New York Music Scene of

the 1980s and 1990s.

The exhibition opens Sept. 6, from 3 - 6 p.m.

The Lofts at Beacon is at 18 Front Street, Beacon.

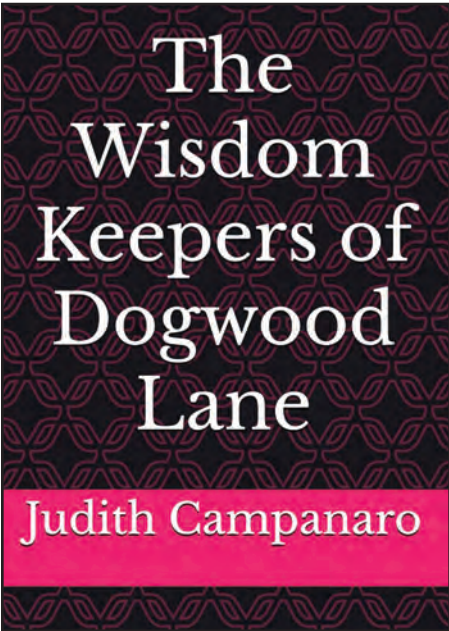
### Open house to highlight ‘The Wisdom Keepers of Dogwood Lane’

By Kristine Coulter

An open house will be held at 14 Dogwood Lane on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 1-4 p.m., in Beacon. Attendees will be able to purchase “The Wisdom Keepers of Dogwood Lane.” The book came from a desire to foster a stronger sense of community from a senior apartment complex, it was stated.

“Recognizing that we are all, in essence, family and that every life holds value, I interviewed twenty of my neighbors and crafted their stories. This book serves as a tribute to all the residents, celebrating the richness of aging, the strength found in overcoming challenges, and the profound importance of human connection. By sharing these personal narratives, we hope to demonstrate that we are not alone in our struggles or triumphs,” explained Judith Campanaro.

How would Campanaro describe the themes of the book? “The stories highlight how we weave meaning from our experiences, constructing personal narratives that define who we are. More than just recounting events, these acts of storytelling become paths towards healing and connection,” said Campanaro. “By sharing their journeys, the residents of Dogwood Lane combat the isolation that can often accompany aging, finding strength and solace in their shared humanity. Ultimately, my intention in creating this collection was to empower my neighbors by celebrating their individual journeys and acknowledging the valuable wisdom they offer to others. Through shared experiences, we build belonging and community. Ultimately, these stories offer comfort, perspective, and inspiration, proving that every life holds lessons worth hearing and sharing.”



*The cover of “The Wisdom Keepers of Dogwood Lane” by Judith Campanaro. An open house will be held on Dogwood Lane in Beacon on September 7.*  
-Courtesy image

Does Campanaro think one story stands out? “Perhaps not, because every life holds inherent value. Though our individual tales differ, they intertwine to reveal the very essence of living,” she replied.

Listening to each other strengthens us, offering solace, wisdom, and comfort, stated Campanaro.

“Life’s inevitable difficulties teach us to overcome, and in sharing our stories, we build a web of companionship and kinship, realizing that together, we are stronger,” she said.

One may also purchase the book on Amazon.com.

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