

BEACON FREE PRESS

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**Fresh produce,
honey, soaps
available at local
farmers markets**



A Beacon Farmers Market attendee offers a thumbs-up during a visit.

-Photo courtesy Beacon Farmers Market

By Kristine Coulter

Farmers Markets are still taking place across the area.

Wappinger Farmers Market through Sept. 28

One can find fresh produce, hand-crafted items and more at the Wappinger Farmers Market outside the Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Rd., on Mondays, from 4-7 p.m.

"I enjoy meeting people," said Kerri-Ann Lynch. Lynch was selling honey products from Right From the Hive LLC, which is located in Otisville.

On a recent Monday, there were 28 vendors, said Amy Matos, organizer of the farmers market.

"This is an amazing community," she said.

Raquel Verdesi, director of the Fishkill Food Pantry, and Eddie Colon, food coordinator with the food pantry, had a table. People were dropping off donations. One can make a donation for a special T-shirt at the pantry or at Fishkill Tire, 1103 Main St., in Fishkill.

Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini said, "This is exactly what we had in mind bringing the community together" with healthy foods. He said he is proud they "got it done" and plan to have the farmers market again next year.

The market has been open since June 22. The last Monday, for now, will be on Sept. 28.

"We hope to have some pop-up markets," Matos said about the future.

On Sundays head to the Beacon Farmers Market

What makes the Beacon Farmers Market, 223 Main St., in Beacon, special is that it has become much more than a place to buy groceries on a Sunday afternoon, it was stated.

"Of course, the foundation is incredible local food and the farmers and small businesses who produce it. But somewhere along the way, it also became — we build — a real community gathering place. A town square. A city center. A piazza," said Amy Bandolik, market manager for the Beacon Farmers Market.

Continued on page 3

'I'm way past the uniform. I'm way past Darryl Strawberry, the Major League Baseball player that had success. I'm a totally different man. I want to be known for my post-baseball ministry work.'

-Darryl Strawberry

Darryl Strawberry to headline MARC Foundation Awards Dinner

By Matthew Fetzner

Darryl Strawberry spent many years in the spotlight as one of Major League Baseball's (MLB) biggest stars. Now the four-time World Series champion is using his experiences with addiction and recovery to help inspire others, as he will be the keynote speaker for the MARC Foundation's annual Awards Dinner Sept. 22 at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie.

Started in 1993, the foundation's mission has been "to aid individuals with a substance abuse disorder by generating financial support to provide prevention and residential treatment," according to its official website. They are known to provide grants that expand and improve sober housing in the Hudson Valley. The awards dinner highlights these efforts.

The event overview states, "In conjunction with National Recovery Month, the MARC Foundation will host its signature fundraising event, created to inspire hope, raise critical funds, and bring awareness to the ongoing substance misuse crisis affecting individuals and families across our community."

Michael Carber, MARC Foundation board member, and New York State Sen. Pete Harckham will both be presented with the Champion of Recovery Award, as well as keynote speaker Strawberry. This award goes to individuals who are making an impact in the recovery community.

"I heard what the foundation was about and that they were looking for a speaker," said Strawberry. "I wanted to speak and really come to encourage people that are hurting. I wanted to encourage other people to always get involved, because this



Former MLB star Darryl Strawberry will deliver a message of inspiration and encouragement at the MARC Foundation Awards Dinner on Sept. 22 at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie.

-Courtesy photo

life is all about people helping people."

Strawberry has always been applauded for his career on the baseball field and with the career accolades he has under his belt, it's easy to see why. An eight-time MLB All-Star and four-time World Series champion, Strawberry won big with both the New York Mets and the New York Yankees. He was even inducted into the Mets Hall of Fame in 2010, while the team retired his iconic No. 18 jersey in June 2024.

However, Strawberry has had his own

issues with substance abuse. He was suspended by the MLB on three different occasions for substance use, which included a 140-game suspension in 1999. He spent time in and out of rehab centers and prison. In March 2002, he was sentenced to 18 months in prison after violating non-drug rules at a Florida treatment center while on probation. He was released early in 2003, and has been sober ever since.

Continued on page 2

'Catoberfest' to raise funds for Mid Hudson Animal Aid Sept. 20

By Kristine Coulter

Mid Hudson Animal Aid (MHAA), a free-range, no-kill animal sanctuary, will host its annual "Catoberfest" on Sunday, Sept. 20 from 3 - 7:30 p.m. The fundraiser will take place at Hudson Valley Brewery, 7 East Main St., in Beacon. There is free admission. There will be a cash bar, food and live music.

"MHAA is committed to providing shelter and care for its resident felines. And finding them good homes. We try and intake as many felines as possible focusing on the abused and special needs animals," explained Ira Chavis, organizer of Catoberfest. "We are one of the few shelters and provide homes for FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) and FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) cats. We have a very stringent process for adoptions ensuring the cats go to the best homes. Some animals take a



Mid Hudson Animal Aid will host its annual "Catoberfest" on Sept. 20 in Beacon.

-Photo courtesy MHAA

while to find their forever homes."

Chavis shared, "We had one cat

named Apple Jack, who was not adopted until she was 14 due to a range of factors but lived most of her life with us."

Asked what his favorite part of Catoberfest is, Chavis replied, "That is a hard question to answer. I love seeing all the people come out to support us, the passion of the community, business sponsors, musicians and MHAA staff who work the event make it special. In recent years we have added a range of kids' activities. The junior Catotobefest attendees have so much fun face painting, cat toy making and the cat-themed balloons we give out. I love to play a couple of tunes on my mandolin with the bands."

Catoberfest proceeds go to the general housing/care/feeding of the resident felines.

More information can be found at <http://catoberfest.cat>.

East Fishkill veteran James Crifo honored during ‘Veteran of Distinction’ ceremony

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs celebrated U.S. Army Private James Crifo, a beloved East Fishkill resident who served during World War II, at the County’s most recent “Veteran of Distinction” ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at the Knights of Columbus St. Mary’s Council No. 4065 in East Fishkill.

Dutchess County Executive Serino said, “James’ life reflects courage, service and love of family. He answered his country’s call during World War II and survived unimaginable hardship as a prisoner of war. Yet James came home, built a beautiful life and devoted himself to his family. Through our ‘Veteran of Distinction’ program, Dutchess County celebrates James’ service, his strength and the lasting legacy he leaves through his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His story reminds us of the courage and sacrifice that helped shape our nation.”

Crifo served in the U.S. Army from Sept. 17, 1943 to Nov. 20, 1945, serving with the 101st Airborne Signal Company and providing critical communications support during World War II. James survived the Normandy invasion and later volunteered for service with gliders that quietly landed infantry, vehicles and heavy equipment directly behind enemy lines. During a mission from Belgium to Holland, his glider crash-landed in enemy territory, where he was captured and became a prisoner of war. He was held at

Stalag VII, Germany’s largest P.O.W. camp, later transferred to a work camp and eventually liberated by American forces on May 4, 1945. Four years later, James married Elsie, with whom he spent 67 years together and raised four children. He is a proud father, grandfather and greatgrandfather with eight grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren.

Dutchess County Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche said, “Private Crifo is a true American hero who personifies courage and sacrifice. He faced the dangers of combat and the perils of captivity as a P.O.W. Through it all, James remained committed to his country and his fellow soldiers, and Dutchess County is deeply grateful for his service and sacrifice.”

Monthly “Veteran of Distinction” ceremonies take place on the second Tuesday of each month from April through November, hosted in the community where the honored veteran resides.

Nomination Requirements

- Nominees must meet the following criteria:
- Be a current Dutchess County resident
- Have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and received an honorable discharge
- Have served during wartime or peacetime; there are no restrictions on service dates or duration

How to Nominate

- Applications may be submitted:



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche join U.S. Army veteran James Crifo and his family at Dutchess County’s “Veteran of Distinction” ceremony held on Sept. 8 in East Fishkill.

-Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov’t

- Online: dutchessny.gov/veteranofdistinction
 - In person: Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, 1335 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
 - By email: veterans@dutchessny.gov
- All applications must include appropriate military separation documents (DD214, WD AGO 5355, NGB22, or casualty report).
- For more information, contact the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs at 845-486-2060.

Comptroller releases audit report on maintenance in lieu of rent

The Dutchess County Comptroller’s Office has released its audit report of the 2025 Maintenance in Lieu of Rent (MLR), as well as their report of the 2025 Indirect Cost Allocation Plan (ICAP). The MLR is produced annually by the Department of Public Works, providing occupancy related costs for the maintenance of County-owned buildings. The information provided in the MLR contributes to the Comptroller’s Office’s preparation of the ICAP, which is used by the Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) to make a claim for federal reimbursement of indirect costs associated with federal grant pro-

grams the County participates in.

“In uncertain economic times, every dollar of revenue matters. Our work on Maintenance in Lieu of Rent and the Indirect Cost Allocation Plan ensures that the County is being reimbursed to the greatest extent possible,” said Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair.

The MLR report concluded that a total of \$10.4 million dollars was identified as maintenance in lieu costs, and a total of \$2 million was billed. The ICAP anticipates \$1,759,954 in revenue in 2027 for DCFS based on 2025 percentages.

The reports can be found on the Comptroller’s website.

Darryl Strawberry to headline MARC Foundation Awards Dinner

Continued from cover

“We just assume that everybody should be well and that’s not true,” he said. “We all recover from something. I’ve lived this life at the highest and I know that a lot of people have a story like this. Sometimes people’s stories are more public like mine has been, but I’m not ashamed of it. I’m not a victim.”

Strawberry became an ordained minister in 2007, along with his wife, Tracy. The two opened Strawberry Ministries in 2011. As a born-again Christian, he regularly visits various institutions across the country, sharing his story and offering guidance. He preaches 270 days out of the year at these institutions, as said in “Another Life,” a book that Strawberry published this past August which focuses on healing and purpose.

“I go into all different types of places,” he said. “Prisons, communities, hospitals, all over really. You talk to some people on death row. I love going into prisons and speaking with the people there. I don’t try to change their circumstances, but just to give them a hug and tell them that the God I know, and who saved me, loves them just as much as he loves me. My job is to go in there and bring compassion.”

Strawberry’s ministry work has allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life, inspiring hope as he goes. It’s been a long time since he’s suited up to play baseball, but this is the legacy that he wants to leave now.

“I’m way past the uniform,” he said. “I’m way past Darryl Strawberry, the Major League Baseball player that had success. I’m a totally different man. I want to be known for my post-baseball ministry work. Everybody is always going to talk about the sports part of me, and that I could’ve been a Hall of Famer if it wasn’t from the drugs. Well guess what? I’m right



Former MLB star Darryl Strawberry will be a speaker at the MARC Foundation Awards Dinner on Sept. 22 at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie.

-Courtesy photo

where I’m supposed to be. That’s what I want people to remember.”

More information on the event, tickets, and how to donate to the organization can all be found on the MARC Foundation website marc-foundation.org.

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See story,
page 8



Impact PR & Communications to Lead Regional Outreach for Hudson Valley Connected

Digital Navigators of The Hudson Valley



Fresh produce, honey, soaps available at local farmers markets

Continued from cover

On any given Sunday, Bandolik noted, one will see people “doing their weekly shopping, kids eating something delicious, neighbors running into each other, musicians playing, people sitting down for coffee or lunch, community organizations sharing their work, and customers talking directly with the people who grew or made their food. There is a real sense of connection and joy there.”

Bandolik explained, “We work very intentionally to curate a market that feels abundant, diverse and exciting while still being deeply rooted in local agriculture and food access. We want people to come because they need tomatoes or eggs — but stay because they ran into three friends, heard some music, ate something great and felt connected to their community.”

“In terms of why I think we’ve experienced so much success, a huge part of my management philosophy is vendor first. My belief is that if our vendors feel heard, supported and genuinely happy to be there, that feeling travels outward to our customers,” said Bandolik.

As for feedback, Bandolik said, “We really try to lead with joy and hospitality, and that shows up in big and tiny ways. It’s in the music and the flowers and the chalk on the pavement. It’s making sure there’s water out for the dogs, picking up a piece of garbage when we walk past it, giving people somewhere to sit and eat, remembering someone’s name, helping a fellow vendor when they need an extra hand, or stopping to talk with a kid who comes to the Manager’s Tent. It’s hugs and heart. Those little things tell people: somebody cares about this place, and we’re really glad you’re here.”

“The thing we hear most often is some version of, ‘This is my favorite part of the week.’ And that means a lot to us,” relayed Bandolik.

According to Bandolik, during the current summer season, they support 146 local vendors, based in New York State and within 200 miles of Beacon, with about 80 vendor stalls on any given Sunday.

“We have a mix of weekly, biweekly and

guest vendors throughout the season, including farms, bakers, prepared-food producers, beverage makers and other locally made goods,” she said.

Bandolik added, “The Beacon Farmers Market is stewarded by Common Ground Farm, whose mission at the market is to feed and engage the Beacon community, support local farms and businesses, and help create a more just food system. Food access is a major part of that work: each year, the market processes thousands of dollars in SNAP and other food-access benefits, helping make fresh, locally grown food more accessible to our neighbors while putting those dollars directly into the hands of local farmers and food producers.”

Hours are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - rain or shine.

East Fishkill market open on Saturdays

The Marketplace at East Fishkill is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2670 Route 52 in East Fishkill.

Robert Spaccarelli is a vendor at the East Fishkill Farmers Market. He has been for the last five years with Hudson Valley Honey.

“I am an avid beekeeper in the town of Beekman and had honeybees for the last 35 years consecutively,” said Spaccarelli. He noted, “It has been challenging with the way the weather has been changing.” He produces apple blossom honey.

“I’m able to determine the nectar that they’re bringing in. I also produce a good amount of wildflower which consists mostly of thistle, goldenrod and astors.”

Spaccarelli is also the author of “Simple Living in the 21st Century. He said the book is on beekeeping and sustainability, foraging container, gardening, maple syrup, and propagation.

At the farmers market, one can find on his table wildflower, beeswax, pollen and more.

“It is very beneficial to consume local honey that contains propolis pollen from within the area that you live to help build your immune system so you’re less susceptible to allergies containing pollen,” he remarked. He added, “My honey is lightly filtered from beeswax but never heated and completely raw.”



The Beacon Farmers Market is open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Sundays at 223 Main St. in Beacon.

-Photo courtesy Beacon Farmers Market

Author Lecture Sept. 17 at Beacon Sloop Club

On August 4th, Arcadia Publishing released a new title, *Hudson River Sailing*, as part of its popular “Images of America” book series. The book includes more than 200 images that trace more than four centuries of Hudson River sailing history. The images were compiled and text written by Steve Schwartz and James Malchow, both captains on the Hudson River sloop *Woody Guthrie*.

On Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. Captains James and Steve will give an author presentation at the Beacon Sloop Club. The talk will cover the process of compiling and writing the book, noteworthy stories, and selected historic photos that were both included and left out from the final printing. They will also gladly sign and inscribe books after the program.

The history of New York is inseparable from the history of sailing on the Hudson River. Beginning with Henry Hudson in 1609 the Dutch and English extended their empires into the Hudson Valley and extracted its bounty via sail.

Control of the Hudson River was a lynchpin for American victory in the Revolutionary War and New York City’s 19th-century rise to global prominence was powered by the sailing vessels on its waterways. Upriver, sloops and schooners delivered goods from the nation’s interior and international whaling businesses

operated from Hudson and Poughkeepsie and Kingston and Newburgh became noted shipbuilding centers. Yacht racing and ice yachting emerged as popular sports among wealthy families like the Astors and Roosevelts. Sailing clubs preserved these traditions into the 20th century. Since the 1960s, activists including Pete Seeger have used sailboats to galvanize a movement to revive the river ecosystem. Today, the river is home to new generations of sailors continuing these traditions into a fifth century.

Steve Schwartz has sailed and captained numerous sailing and motor vessels on the Hudson River since the 1970s. He and James Malchow are both captains on the Hudson River ferry sloop *Woody Guthrie*. Images in this book, collected from local libraries, historical societies, the New York State Archives, Library of Congress, and private collections, capture the people, places, and ships that have made the Hudson River an important sailing center for over four centuries. 100% of author royalties will go directly to the Beacon Sloop Club and the Hudson River Ice Yacht Preservation Trust.

Captain Steve Schwartz has sailed and captained numerous sailing and motor vessels on the Hudson River since the 1970s. He and Captain James Malchow are both captains on the Hudson River ferry sloop *Woody Guthrie*.

THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE

BY JULIA CHO

A TALE OF HEARTS REACHING BEYOND WHERE WORDS END AND LOVE BEGINS.



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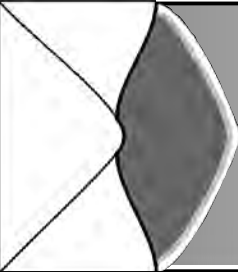
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Viewpoints



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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.

Safe staffing means safe care at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital

To the Editor:

When nurses and technicians at WMC Health’s Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie take to the picket line, the community should pay attention. Last month, I joined SEIU 1199 healthcare workers on the picket line as they rallied for a new contract that recognizes the critical work they do every day.

What I heard from these workers was deeply concerning. They described workplace violence and unsafe staffing conditions, including reports that patients experiencing behavioral health crises may not have access to a psychiatrist or social worker on site in the emergency room during overnight hours. These are serious allegations, and they deserve serious answers.

In my capacity as county legislator, I wrote to Mid-Hudson Regional leadership to request more information about the concerns raised by healthcare workers and to better understand the hospital's overnight staffing and behavioral health services in its emergency department. I am glad that hospital leadership has responded and offered to meet with me to discuss the issues raised in my letter. I welcome that conversation. But a meeting should be the beginning of a dialogue, not the end of one.

A regional hospital must be prepared to care for every patient who walks through its doors, including patients in the midst of a psychiatric emergency. That means that we need to understand what resources are available to patients and emergency room staff around the clock. Nurses and technicians should not be expected to manage potentially dangerous or complex mental health situations without access to the appropriate expertise and support.

Safe staffing also means better patient care. When there are too few nurses, technicians and qualified clinical staff, the burden falls on the workers who are there and ultimately on patients. Overstretched healthcare staff cannot be expected to provide the level of care that patients deserve. Adequate staffing also helps create safer working conditions for the people responsible for caring for us when we are at our most vulnerable.

Our nurses and technicians should not have to choose between protecting themselves and providing care to their patients. That is why the concerns raised by Mid-Hudson

Regional’s nurses and technicians should not be dismissed as just workplace demands. The conversation with Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital is an opportunity to better understand what is working, where gaps may exist and what can be done to address them. Mid-Hudson Regional is an important regional hospital, serving patients and families from across the area. Anyone who has needed emergency care, taken a loved one to this hospital, or relied on a healthcare worker during a crisis has a stake in making sure this institution has the resources and staffing necessary to meet patients’ needs. When we protect the people who care for us, we protect the quality and safety of care for everyone in our community.

Lisa Kaul
Dutchess County Legislator, District 6

Do you qualify for childcare assistance? The answer may surprise you

To the Editor:

New York has some of the most expensive childcare in the country. Most families pay 15.5% of their income per child – more than double the federal government’s 7% affordability threshold.

But what does that actually mean?

A family of four can expect to spend \$31,000 per year on childcare. MIT’s Living Wage Calculator finds that such a family would need to earn about \$141,000 annually (\$117,400 after taxes) to cover basic expenses (food, housing, transportation and medical care) in New York. Dutchess County’s median household income is over \$40,000 less, at \$99,478.

This gap leads to an impossible choice:

- Pay for childcare so you can work, but fall behind on rent or other bills?
- Pay the rent but lose your job because you can’t afford childcare?
- Ask your partner to stay home, hoping you can get by on one income?

But there is another option: subsidized childcare, contrary to popular belief, is available to most New Yorkers and can change lives. Families earning below 85% of the state’s median income are eligible for childcare assistance.

For example, a family of four can earn up to \$113,567 per year, or \$9,463 per month, and still qualify. These limits are above the average wages in Dutchess County.

Because income is only one of the requirements, it is best to connect with your local Department of Social Services to confirm your eligibility. Visit the Office of Children and Family Services’ website (ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/help.php) to apply online or download an application. You can also pick one up at a local office or call 845-486-3190 to have a packet mailed to you.

Approved families often pay less than \$15 per week for care. For a family of four, a \$31,000 bill drops to \$780 or less. This accessibility opens the door to stable employment, financial security and even continued education. It also gives children access to structured environments that support healthy development and early learning.

These benefits ripple outward: employers gain a more reliable workforce, families become resilient, and communities grow stronger. Childcare assistance is more than help — it’s an investment in New York’s future.

Jaime Hyla
CEO of Community Family
Development and a member of
the Poughkeepsie, NY community

Call 988 to connect with mental health professionals

September 8th was 988 Day, a national day focused on raising awareness for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and suicide prevention. Dutchess County been a leader in crisis response, operating its 24/7 HELPLINE crisis line for decades. When 988 was launched in 2022 as the national crisis lifeline number, Dutchess County’s HELPLINE integrated into the new system, with the Department of Mental Health’s (DMH) experienced mental health professionals answering calls from both the 988 number and from the County’s seven-digit 9700 legacy number. With 988 now widely recognized, Dutchess County DMH is retiring the legacy number and encourages anyone who needs mental health support to call 988 to connect with our dedicated team of mental health professionals.

Dutchess County’s HELPLINE is one of 13 National Suicide Lifeline (NSPL) call centers in New York State, answering calls from Dutchess County as well as surrounding areas including Sullivan and Ulster counties. In 2025, the Dutchess County Department of Mental Health’s (DMH) experienced professionals answered more than 35,000 calls, providing compassionate support to individuals facing mental health or substance use concerns, making connections to the County’s 24/7 mental health services including the Dutchess County Stabilization Center, Mobile Crisis Intervention Team as well as other community resources. The Dutchess County HELPLINE team was recently recognized for achieving the best answer rate in New York State – with 93% of all calls answered.

County Executive Sue Serino said, “Having lost both my brother and nephew to their mental health battles, I know how important it is to have easy access to support when someone needs it most. That’s exactly what our dedicated HELPLINE team does, working around the clock to support our neighbors during some of their most vulnerable moments, and I can’t thank them enough for the compassion they show each and every day. To ensure a smooth transition, if you have the legacy line saved in your

phone, please update it to 988 and help us spread the word!”

The retirement of the legacy numbers will be phased in to ensure callers have uninterrupted access to crisis services, with Phase One currently underway. The full transition is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

Phase One: HELPLINE staff are informing callers at the end of their conversations that the County is transitioning calls to 988.

Phase Two: callers to the 9700 number will hear an automated message explaining the change and the anticipated transition date prior to being connected to HELPLINE staff.

Phase Three/ Final Phase: individuals who call the 9700 number, will hear an automated message prompting them to dial 988.

While the legacy HELPLINE number will no longer accept calls once the transition is complete, the 845-485-9700 line will continue to be active for text messages only, to ensure people connect with Dutchess County’s local mental health team who are familiar with area services. Unlike phone calls, texts to 988 enter a national network and may be answered by NSPL centers outside of the area.

Department of Mental Health Commissioner Jean-Marie Niebuhr said, “Our goal has always been to make sure residents can easily access responsive, compassionate support when they need it. Transitioning all crisis calls to 988 makes that even easier, and we’re pleased that more people are recognizing 988 as HELPLINE — the same trusted local resource they have always been able to count on.”

DMH has also been working closely with schools, healthcare and service providers and other community partners to promote 988 and spread the word about this invaluable resource.

For easy access to mental health resources right from a cellphone, including 988, residents are encouraged download the Dutchess County HELPLINE app from their device’s app store.

To learn more about DMH’s full array of services and resources, visit: dutchessny.gov/behavioralhealth.

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Retired Battalion Commander offers message of ‘community helping one another’ during 25th Patriot Day Memorial of 9/11 attacks



From left, Retired Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Battalion Commander Keith E. Cartica of Pleasant Valley speaks at the Dutchess County Patriot Day Memorial Ceremony on Sept. 11. Rev. Dr. Desiree S. King sings the Stars Spangled Banner, Oliver Mackson plays “Taps” and a large crowd listens in silence.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

By Curtis Schmidt

Retired Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Battalion Commander Keith E. Cartica of Pleasant Valley gave a message of “a community coming together to help one another” during his address at the annual Dutchess County Patriot Day Memorial Ceremony on Sept. 11.

Cartica related his experiences of that September morning 25 years ago, when the World Trade Center Towers were attacked. He noted that it happened to be the first day of a vacation and he was at home with his children. Upon hearing of the attacks, he went into “first responder mode” and headed down the Taconic State Parkway and was soon joined by a group of NYS Trooper vehicles to form a motorcade traveling to the scene.

On that day and the days that followed, Cartica said he was struck by the “outpouring of individuals helping one another” in a myriad of ways. “We showed that

we are strongest when we come together and help each other in any way we can,” he said and pointed to many acts of kindness, consideration and compassion.

Cartica served the FDNY for 42 years, holding various supervisory and leadership positions of Fire Marshal, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief and Battalion Commander.

Dutchess County Family Court Judge Tracy C. MacKenzie gave the welcome and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino also offered remarks during the event. Rev. Dr. Desiree S. King sang the Stars Spangled Banner and God Bless America. Dean Anderson of the Dutchess County Department of Public Works lowered the flag and “Taps” was performed by Oliver Mackson and Charlotte Fenichel. The closing Prayer for the Community was given by Rev. Fr. Michael Connelly, pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Poughkeepsie.



Local municipalities hold 9/11 commemoration ceremonies



Local municipalities held 9/11 commemoration ceremonies on Friday, Sept. 11. Clockwise from top left, Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra makes remarks during the ceremony outside the Town of Fishkill Police Station. Town of Fishkill Councilman Greg Totino offered remarks about that fateful day 25 years ago. Kevin Elliot shares his experience as an EMS worker in New York City on 9/11 during the ceremony in the Village of Fishkill. Firefighters salute during the annual ceremony in the Village of Fishkill. Town of Wappinger, Dutchess County and NYS officials during the morning ceremony in the Town of Wappinger at Sgt. Mark C. Palmateer 9/11 Memorial Park. The American flag flies over Mesier Homestead in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter, courtesy photos



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VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

Free events express thanks to veterans and their families

Dutchess County is an amazing place to call home for so many reasons, chief among them the way this community truly honors our heroes who have protected our freedom for generations.

County Executive Sue Serino and our Office of Veterans Affairs take pride in offering opportunities to recognize our for local veterans for their service and bring them together to meet one another, swap stories of their military past and make lasting connections. Those connections are so vital to our veterans, as is their knowledge that their community fully supports them and their families.

That's why we have several more free events for our veterans planned for the coming weeks that I want to share with you.

• **Red, White & You Veterans Picnic** - Our annual picnic takes place this year on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at James Baird State Park in Pleasant Valley. Always a favorite with our vets and their guests, this free, rain-or-shine event brings together veterans of various eras to enjoy delicious barbecue food, compliments of Tavem 23; live country music from a local

band, the StringMasters; and the chance to rekindle old friendships and foster new ones. It's a great opportunity for Dutchess County to thank our veterans for their service and for attendees to enjoy a day outside in autumn, with all the scenery our area has to offer.

• **Veterans Pasta Dinners** - Years ago, as a member of the New York State Senate, County Executive Serino began a tradition of partnering with MHADC to host our veterans to a series of free pasta dinners, a practice she has continued since taking office in 2024. This year's first will take place on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Red Hook VFW Post 7765, 30 Elizabeth Street in Red Hook; the second will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1 – with two seatings, at 2 and 4 p.m., respectively – at the East Fishkill Community Center, 890 Main Street in Hopewell Junction. These events not only show appreciation for our veterans' sacrifice, they give them the chance to meet those who serve them.

Each of these events is free, but advance registration is required. I invite you to register yourself and one guest to attend our picnic and/or the pasta dinner of your choice by

emailing the County Executive's Office at countyexec@dutchessny.gov or calling 845-486-2000.

• **Dutchess County Veterans Day Ceremony** - Each year, at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, County Executive Serino leads the community in a solemn Veterans Day commemoration at the Dutchess County War Memorial in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The purpose is simple: to pay our deepest respect to the courageous service members who have kept our nation safe for centuries. We come together as a community to show our appreciation for our veterans, laying a wreath at the foot of the memorial and paying tribute to the selflessness and dedication to duty that everyone who has ever worn the uniform has displayed.

In addition to these upcoming gatherings, we also bring the community together from April through November to celebrate the lives of veterans still among us, as well as recalling the legacies of those who have passed.

• On the second Tuesday of these months,



County Executive Serino and Veterans Affairs host our "Veteran of Distinction" ceremonies, in which we thank a local veteran, nominated by the community, for his or her distinguished service. At our "Honor-A-Veteran" remembrances, held the third Thursday of the month, we come together to commemorate veterans who are no longer with us. These dignified observances are always moving and inspiring, and I invite you to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/dutchessveterans to learn about next ceremonies.

Whether you served in Armed Forces for a year or two, or you spent your entire career in the military, Dutchess County thanks you for your service and sacrifice. Your community will always remember all you've given to our country. We at the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs look forward to personally thanking you at one of our upcoming events, and we are always available to you and your family by calling our office at 845-486-2060 or emailing us at veterans@dutchessny.gov. Thank you, as always, for your service.

County awards \$100K in Veterans Microgrants

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino recently announced the award of \$100,000 in one-time funding to nine local initiatives through the County's Veterans Microgrant Program. The grants will help municipalities and community organizations carry out projects that recognize and support veterans for their service to the country.

Serino said, "Dutchess County is honored to provide these microgrants to organizations and communities committed to serving our brave veterans. I've seen firsthand how these local efforts make a real difference for veterans and their loved ones, and Dutchess County is proud to help expand their reach. Our goal is to continue recognizing the sacrifices made by our veterans while investing in programs that enhance their quality of life."

The 2026 County Budget included \$100,000 in dedicated funding for the program, continuing Dutchess County's commitment to investing in services improving the quality of life for veterans. Funding will support a diverse mix of initiatives led by nonprofit groups and municipal partners, all focused on improving services, facilities and opportunities for veterans.

Funded projects through the 2026 program include:

Veterans Sportsmens Association, Pleasant Valley, \$13,000 – Purchase fishing equipment, including adaptive fishing gear for disabled veterans, for vets' free use; the organization will collaborate with

community partners to establish fishing tournaments and lessons throughout Dutchess County.

Restored Heart Collective, Town of Poughkeepsie, \$12,500 – Support a transformative retreat experience, designed exclusively for female spouses of veterans and military members in Dutchess County to rest, reconnect and begin their journey toward lasting emotional wellness; rent for venue, lodging and participants' meals; support facilitators who will lead trauma-informed workshops, group therapy sessions and restorative activities; provide participants with materials, such as journals, tote bag, water bottle, etc.

Arlington American Legion Post 1302, Town of Poughkeepsie, \$14,000 – Purchase two stoves and a refrigerator to update kitchen for veterans dinners and fundraisers.

Town of LaGrange, \$13,000 – Establish LaGrange as a Purple Heart Town through a community celebration event and permanent recognition efforts; fund event expenses, including food, refreshments, signage, banners and flags to honor veterans and engage the public; support identification, purchase and preparation of a designated location for a monument, creating a tribute to Purple Heart recipients and ensuring ongoing recognition of their service and sacrifice.

American Legion Post 739, Pleasant Valley, \$13,000 – Renovations, including



The Veterans Sportsmens Association was among the recipients of microgrants awarded throughout the county to help municipalities and community organizations carry out projects that recognize and support veterans for their service to the country. The microgrants were awarded by Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche (far left).

-Courtesy photo

new air-conditioning system, TV and security system, stairs and accessible ramp.

American Legion Post 203, Beacon, \$11,375 – Purchase solar shades, round plastic tables, event table with cart and rectangular plastic tables with cart.

Town of Stanford, \$6,000 – Establish Purple Heart Community to honor local Purple Heart recipients; purchase two commemorative plaques, honoring Purple Heart recipients, as well as commemorative coins, postcards, display in Town Hall, formal presentation of proclamation open to public, flowers to be planted at Bangall Monument, flowers for recipients' families at formal presentation.

Town of Hyde Park, \$13,000 – Fund initiative to honor local Purple Heart recipients, enhance military war monument at Town Hall, which serves as place of remembrance for wounded or tragical-

ly killed in line of duty; enhance accessibility with ADA-compliant upgrades at the monument; update the monument to recognize local Purple Heart recipients in the community; restore flagpoles at the proposed site.

Town of Union Vale, \$4,125 – Hire contractor with a bucket truck to install banners on utility poles in the town.

Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs Director Roche said, "These microgrants truly make a difference by increasing veterans' access to services, strengthening their connections among their peers and recognizing their contributions in meaningful ways. We're fortunate to partner with a strong network of local organizations, and our Veterans Microgrant program helps support the important work they are doing every day to assist our veterans."

Dutchess County continues to expand its efforts to honor veterans through additional initiatives. Earlier this year, County Executive Serino introduced the "Veteran of Distinction" program, which pays tribute to a living local veteran each month, from April through November. Details about eligibility and how to nominate a veteran are available at dutchessny.gov/veteranofdistinction.

More information about programs and services for veterans in Dutchess County can be found at dutchessny.gov/veterans or by contacting the Office of Veterans Affairs at 845-486-2060.

Veterans Luncheon set for Sept. 20

A veterans luncheon, honoring those who served, is set for Sunday, Sept. 20 at noon at the Beacon Elks Lodge, 900 Wolcott Ave., in Beacon.

Call 845-235-4618 to sign up.

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Dutchess County Executive’s Arts Awards set for Oct. 7 in Beacon

The Dutchess County art scene is set to shine as Arts Mid-Hudson proudly presents the 40th Annual Dutchess County Executive’s Arts Awards. This year’s awards ceremony, to be held on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at The Roundhouse, will celebrate eight remarkable individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the arts in Dutchess County.

The event will begin with food and drinks at 5:30 p.m., followed by the awards presentation at 7 p.m. Attendees will gather to honor this year’s awardees, each recognized for their unique impact on the local arts community.

The community nominates the recipients who are chosen based on their important contribution to the growth of Dutchess County’s cultural life over a significant period of time, the extraordinary support they show for the arts, and/or their vision and leadership in using the arts to enhance community life.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “In Dutchess County we celebrate every form art takes, whether its music or dance, theater or poetry, or the visual arts, every creative spark shapes the heartbeat of our community. We are so grateful to Arts Mid-Hudson for continuing the Dutchess Arts Awards tradition, ensuring the arts remain a vibrant force throughout our region. This year’s honorees stand as powerful examples of how creativity uplifts, connects, and strengthens residents and visitors alike. Congratulations to all of the honorees; thank you for the impact your work carries forward.”

Arts Mid-Hudson Executive Director Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas said, “For 40 years, the Dutchess County Executive’s Arts Awards have celebrated the artists, organizations, businesses, and community leaders whose creativity helps shape Dutchess County. Reaching this milestone is an opportunity not only to honor this year’s remarkable awardees, but also to recognize the generations of people who have invested their talent, passion, and leadership in our creative community. This year’s theme, ‘Harvesting Creativity,’ reminds us that a thriving arts and cultural landscape is something we cultivate together, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate those whose work continues to make Dutchess County a vibrant place to live, work, and visit.”

Tickets are available at

artsmidhudson.org/dc-arts-awards or by calling 845.454.3222.

2026 Dutchess County Arts Executive's Arts Awards Recipients:
Art in Public Places: Art Day in the Village

Art Day in the Village is a grassroots celebration connecting artists and community members through local art. We exist to inspire everyday creativity and to offer local creators a welcoming space to share their talents through various mediums of creative expression.

Artist: Stacey Burgay
Stacey Burgay is a New York-based artist, creative producer, and Founder of That Creative Space. After years in television and advertising, Stacey—a lifelong maker—found herself disconnected after she stopped creating art. A continuing education mixed media class at Parsons became her path back to herself. After losing her job in 2024, she looked around Beacon and saw a need for affordable studio space and a welcoming place where adults could explore creativity. She opened That Creative Space in September 2025, believing creativity brings people together and strengthens community. Since then, the studio has welcomed more than 200 students and was voted Chronogram Readers' Choice #3 Best Art Class in the Hudson Valley.

Arts in Education: Nicole Asendorf
Nicole Asendorf is an artist, arts educator, and owner of Hoshyla Farms in Manorville, New York. Since 2007, she has inspired creativity through private instruction, public schools, and as an Art Specialist for the Department of Defense. Her work is known for its expressive use of color and texture, evolving from abstract painting to landscapes inspired by nature. Working primarily in oil and acrylic, she incorporates resin and organic textures to create richly layered pieces that capture the tranquility and energy of the outdoors. Through her art, Nicole invites viewers to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with nature.

Arts Organization: Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum
Founded in 1989, the Mid-Hudson

Discovery Museum has become a regional leader in youth arts programming and creative learning. For more than three decades, MHDM has helped children discover their voices through visual art, performance, storytelling, design, and imaginative play. Its Art Studio, interactive exhibits, school and library partnerships, community festivals, outdoor arts experiences, and accessible family programs have brought high-quality arts education to generations of Hudson Valley children. From its beginnings as a small children’s museum to its home on Poughkeepsie’s waterfront, MHDM remains committed to making the arts joyful, inclusive, and central to how young people learn, connect, and see themselves.

Business: Hudson Valley Hospice Music Therapy Team

Founded in 2003 by music therapy pioneer Dr. Russell Hilliard, Hudson Valley Hospice’s Music Therapy Program has become a hallmark of compassionate, innovative end-of-life care. Using the power of music to comfort, connect and heal, the program helps patients and families ease anxiety, foster communication and create meaningful memories.

Established in 2004, the Music Therapy Internship Program has mentored 75 students worldwide. Under the leadership of Terry Blaine, LCAT, MT-BC, since 2008, the program has grown to include ten board-certified music therapists and three interns providing care in homes, hospitals, nursing homes and the Hospice House, advancing Hudson Valley Hospice’s commitment to comfort, dignity and compassion.

Individual Artist: Rachel Handler
Rachel Handler is a writer, filmmaker & actor known for her stint as Peg Leg Doris on AMC’s “Interview With the Vampire” and her award-winning Slamdance films “Committed” and “HOW MUCH AM I WORTH?” Other acting credits include, “Best Foot Forward,” “NCIS: New Orleans,” “New Amsterdam,” and “The Upside.”
Handler became an amputee after a car accident. She believes deeply in the power of stories to create social change and is passionate about healthcare and human rights. Her awards include the AT&T Underrepresented

Filmmaker Award, Best Writer, Best Awareness, and Best Actor in the Disability Film Challenge, and Best International Film in Focus on Ability. She is directing a feature documentary about health insurance. @bionic.brunette

ThinkDIFFERENTLY in the Arts: Andre West

Andre West is a talented artist whose creative journey has grown from drawing cartoon superheroes to creating a diverse collection of expressive characters. His dedication and artistic growth have earned him recognition in the community, including a featured two-month art exhibition at Adriaance Public Library in Poughkeepsie, where he was honored for his exceptional talent. Accompanied by a heartfelt story written by his mother, the exhibit celebrated both his artistic ability and inspiring journey.

Though quiet and soft-spoken, Andre communicates powerfully through his artwork, bringing joy to those who admire his creations. His passion shines from his personal art studio and in every work he produces. Andre’s story will also be featured in an upcoming direct mail campaign, reaching thousands of homes and inspiring others to pursue their dreams. In recognition of his remarkable achievements and positive impact, Andre is proud to be honored with the 2026 Dutchess County Executive’s Arts Award.

Youth with Exceptional Promise in the Arts: Jonah Sebastian P. Espinosa

Jonah Sebastian Espinosa is a recent graduate of Beacon High School and has been most involved with the Beacon Players, the school’s drama program. He loves performing and has been involved in several shows for the Beacon Performing Arts Center and Beacon Players' productions. Some roles he’s played include Chip (Beauty and the Beast), Troy (High School Musical Jr.), Jesus (Godspell Jr.), Enjolras (Les Misérables), the Phantom (Phantom of the Opera), Don Quixote (Man of La Mancha), Nathan Detroit (Guys and Dolls), Laurie (Little Women), Jekyll/Hyde (Jekyll & Hyde), and most recently Paul (A Chorus Line). Jonah plans to continue to pursue his passion of the arts through a BFA in Acting at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama.

Arts Mid-Hudson presents Leading with Artivism on Sept. 23

Arts Mid-Hudson presents Leading with Artivism: an interview with Ayo Nish!, lead by Poet Gold. This live stream and in-person event will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. at Arts Mid-Hudson's Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie, and will also be live streamed on YouTube and Facebook. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the streaming link. All who register are invited to submit questions that will be asked during the Q&A session of the event. RSVP at: <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/leading-with-artivism>

Leading with Artivism? is a live quarterly

interview series, created and curated by Poet Gold in collaboration with Arts Mid-Hudson, featuring a diverse mix of Artists (Artist Activists) who have taken up the charge through their art to highlight social issues. Each episode gives viewers an inside look at the hearts and minds of these courageous creatives.

To watch all previous episodes of Leading with Artivism: <https://www.youtube.com/@ArtsMidHudson>

Poet Gold is a rare talent who grabs you by the heart and says “Recognize” – Poet, author, performer, songwriter, community “Artist” and speaker, Bettina “Poet Gold” Wilkerson is pushing the bound-

aries of poetry and the spoken word. Living with a chronic illness since childhood, Poet Gold, or as she is affectionately known as “Gold”, brings a soul-searching insight about the human existence, love, dreams, challenges, and triumph.

Ayo Nish! is an artist and cultural architect whose work lives at the intersection of music, storytelling, and community. Her creative practice centers

authenticity, joy, and intention — designing moments that connect people to themselves and to each other.

Through her movement, Different Type of Different (DTOD), she continues to build spaces that honor creativity as culture and community as art. Her focus remains on building spaces where creativity feels like home for everyone.

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One mile at a time: Guardian Revival rallies community for Suicide Awareness Month

On the heels of the 25th anniversary of September 11, and during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Guardian Revival is asking communities across the country to show up for the “guardians” who have shown up for them. For the Beacon-based nonprofit dedicated to the mental health and well-being of military members, veterans, first responders – known as “guardians” – and their families, this moment carries an added layer of significance to the organization’s annual month-long initiative, the One Mile Challenge.

Built around the idea that no guardian should feel alone, the One Mile challenge was created to raise funds and awareness to combat veteran and first responder suicide in the United States. The challenge kicked off in Beacon on Sept. 1 with participants committing to one simple act throughout the month: walk, run, roll or ruck one mile every day. It’s a commitment to showing up each day for people who too often feel they need to face their

struggles alone.

Twenty-five years after 9/11, the organization’s message feels more important than ever. The anniversary has renewed conversations about what service costs both first responders and military members, not just in the immediate aftermath of a crisis, but in the years and decades that follow. The numbers underscore the urgency. Nearly 17 veterans die by suicide every day in the United States, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and first responders are statistically more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty. Guardian Revival’s work, and the One Mile Challenge in particular, reflects just how critical support for guardians really is.

While official registration for the One Mile Challenge is no longer available, the invitation to walk in solidarity, spread the word or support Guardian Revival in other ways remains open. Strength can be found in movement and connection, and



Participants are pictured at Guardian Revival’s One Mile Challenge kickoff earlier this month in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo

together we’re capable of making a meaningful difference for someone who needs to know they are never alone.

To learn more about Guardian Revival or the One Mile Challenge, visit guardianrevival.org.

Impact PR & Communications to lead regional outreach for Hudson Valley Connected

Award-winning public relations and communications agency, Impact PR & Communications (Impact PR), has been selected to provide strategic communications and support for Hudson Valley Connected, a regional initiative expanding free technology assistance and digital literacy resources throughout the Hudson Valley. The project is funded through a \$500,000 grant awarded by Empire State Development’s ConnectALL Office to the Westchester Library System, the lead financial partner and grant administrator for Hudson Valley Connected.

The initiative will grow the Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley program, originally launched in 2022, across Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. Working collaboratively with the Westchester Library System, Southeastern New York Library Resources Council, Mid-Hudson Library

System and the Ramapo Catskill Library System, the program recruits and trains additional digital navigators, connecting residents with free one-on-one technology assistance through local libraries and community organizations. As part of the successful grant application, Impact PR will develop and implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign designed to increase visibility, community engagement and utilization of these free services.

“I’m incredibly proud of the work our Digital Navigators have done across nine counties in New York since 2022,” said Carolyn Bennett Glauda, Digital Navigator ambassador for Hudson Valley Connected. “Trained professionals who offer tech help to solve everyday problems are meeting a real-world need. Getting the word out will allow even more people to get the support they need to go online with confidence. Thanks to this grant, and the resources of Impact PR & Communications, who have



deep nonprofit expertise and roots in the communities we’re serving, we can have an even bigger impact and grow this program for the long-term.”

The expansion to the program comes as New York State continues investing in digital equity following the loss of comparable federal funding. According to New York State’s Digital Equity Plan, 29% of New Yorkers need professional support because they cannot repair or troubleshoot their devices independently, while 23% of older adults and 20% of low-income households report low confidence using technology.

“We are honored to be selected as the communications partner for Hudson Valley Connected and are grateful for the opportunity to help drive awareness of these valuable services,” said Filomena Fanelli, founder and CEO of Impact PR. “Libraries play a vital role in strengthening our communities, and New York State’s continued investment in digital equity will help more Hudson Valley residents gain the skills and support they need to succeed.”

To learn more about Impact PR & Communications, including its clients and capabilities, visit prwithimpact.com.

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‘Steal This Story Please!’ at Howland Cultural Center Sept. 18

The Beacon Film Society presents feature documentary “Steal This Story Please!” Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! takes on soldiers, politicians, and corporate media in a fearless pursuit of truth. The film will be shown on Friday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., in Beacon.

Undeterred by armed soldiers, smooth-talking politicians, and riot police, independent journalist Goodman has reported some of the most consequential stories of our time. “Steal This Story, Please!” is a

portrait of the trailblazer whose commitment to truth-telling spans three decades of turbulent history.

In “Steal This Story, Please!,” Oscar-nominated filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin (“Trouble the Water,” “The Janes”) craft a portrait of journalism’s power – and peril – in an era of corporate control and political attacks on truth.

The film premiered at the 2025 Telluride Film Festival and has won eight festival Audience Choice Awards.

Slaterpalooza set for Sept. 19

Slaterpalooza is set for Saturday, Sept. 19 at Slater Chemical Firehouse in the hamlet of Glenham in Fishkill. Spend 8 hours listening to bands on two stages. Admission is \$15. Bring a chair or blanket. All proceeds are set aside directly to assist first responders, active

military personnel, veterans and their families in times of need.

Follow on Facebook page for the latest Slaterpalooza updates: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063764641511>.

Beacon’s music in Hollywood

The film “The Big Break,” featuring a soundtrack by Beacon composer Joseph Bertolozzi, was screened at Grauman’s Chinese TCL Theater in Hollywood on Sept. 16 at the Indiewood Film Festival.

Directed by Avi Setton, it’s currently

making the rounds of film festivals and has so far won Best Comedy Feature at The Indie Gathering Film Festival in Ohio, and Best Feature at the WILDsound Film Festival from Toronto.

hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



Zero-dollar finds—They prompt irresistible purchases

The popular saying “the best things in life are free” has never been truer than here and now. And Dutchess County, NY, makes an incredibly compelling case for it. As an area balancing quiet green spaces with bustling towns, residents pay a premium to live in our vibrant Hudson Valley.

Keeping everyday cost-of-living expenses under control is a challenge. According to Zillow Housing Data, the median list price of a home here is \$562,000. Ownwell Property Analytics shows that our property taxes average over \$7,700 more than the national median. Even getting around the valley pinches the wallet, with gas prices averaging around \$4.17 per gallon, according to AAA New York Fuel Data. With overhead like that, local bargains and freebies are deeply appreciated.

The well-traveled paths

Locals are familiar with the area’s marquee attractions. Area parks offer perfect vantage points to soak in panoramic views at no cost. Regional art centers provide excursions to see brushstrokes by masters like Picasso and O’Keeffe without touching your wallet. Dutchess denizens know that celebrated venues are gratis – from scenic overlooks to historic estates where you can meander the grounds like a Gilded Age millionaire.

Lesser-known free and low-cost treats

But when reality sets in and you realize you aren’t an 1860s captain of industry – yet still want to enjoy the finer things in life – where else can you look? While major landmarks are well publicized, a few unique, lesser-known spots offer exceptional value.

Spa days!

Inner Beauty Salon & Spa, located at 1 Bushwick Road, near the intersection of Titusville Road and Route 55, has served the Hudson Valley community since 2006. Longtime customers report that the spa’s licensed professionals deliver personalized attention and an elevated level of care during every session.

Says owner-esthetician Jacqueline Herriman, “The transition from summer to fall can dry skin. Now is the time to restore, hydrate, and prepare for the changing season. Professional treatments with organic products can make a huge difference in keeping your skin healthy, balanced, and glowing.”

Now through the end of this year, you are invited to schedule a complimentary skincare consultation with Jacqueline to determine what your skin needs for the season ahead. You’ll also receive free skincare samples to try at home for an entire week. Book a facial on the day of your consultation and enjoy 20% off.

Call or text 845-625-9786, or visit organicinnerbeauty.com to book.

Free virtual learning activities

You don’t have to leave home for the next freebie. Parents, homeschoolers, and teachers can download over 400 instructional activities created by one of your Dutchess County neighbors. These classroom-tested, practical resources are available digitally at the GKatzChronicle Teachers Pay Teachers online store (<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/store/gkatzchronicle>). Simply select the “free” filter on the pricing menu to view zero-cost materials, and instantly download your chosen files. Many of the broader curriculum sets are bundled together to maximize your savings.

Outdoor Sports and Gun Show

The Dutchess County Pistol Association, located at 47 Saint Nicholas Road in Wappingers Falls, is hosting its annual Outdoor Sports and Gun Show on Saturday, September 26th. The event features a live appearance by CJ from Wolf Radio alongside music throughout the afternoon.

Attendees can browse vendor booths showcasing firearms, archery gear, fishing tackle, hunting equipment, and outdoor accessories. Hands-on activities like air pistol and rifle targets will be set up, and local food vendors will be on-site. A one-dollar donation is requested for entry; children are admitted for free. It promises to be an entertaining community gathering to exchange field insights and stock up on gear for autumn adventures.

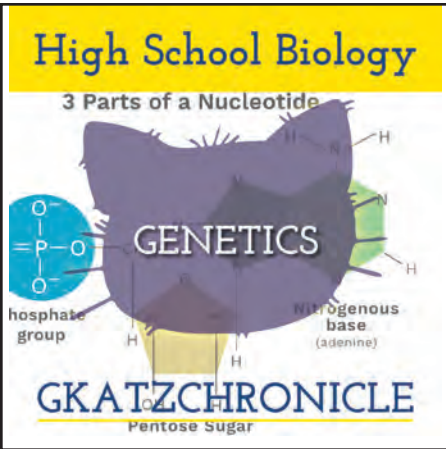
Witchcraft District Bazaar: Autumnal Equinox Celebration

The Witchcraft District Bazaar at 8 Mt. Carmel Place in Poughkeepsie is hosting an in-store celebration of the Autumnal Equinox on Saturday, September 19th. This seasonal event honors autumn folklore, harvest traditions, and regional magic. Visitors can explore a curated selection of fall gifts, custom candles, botanical oils, crystals, herbs, alternative books, and unique metaphysical items.

Celebration-day patrons can participate in a local raffle and pick up exclusive giveaways. Throughout the day, visitors are invited to take free photos with their shop Scarecrow. Local sorceress Debbie Ruxton will also be on-site offering traditional bone readings – a practice utilizing bones, shells, and charms to offer personal insights and guidance.

Finding value off the beaten path

By all means, keep visiting our famous local greenspaces, regional art centers, and sprawling historic manors. They are deeply restorative and an essential part of



Left: Inner Beauty Spa.
-Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Herriman
Above: Free product on TPT - GeneticsExtResponse.
-Image by Francine Wizner

living in the region.

But when we observe Dutchess County through a lens of community connection and everyday sustainability, the lesser-traveled local venues shine just as bright. Luxuriating at a local spa, utilizing free digital resources, supporting heritage sports clubs, and visiting specialty storefronts are perfect ways to find immense value right in our own backyard.

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.youtube.com/@PVMaPleLodge>.

Day of Golf for Meals on Wheels set for Oct. 2

Meals on Wheels of Wappingers will host its annual Day of Golf on Friday, October 2nd at Beekman Country Club. 100% of proceeds go back to this organization to continue delivering meals to our seniors in need. Your patronage is key to keeping this volunteer organization thriving. Over 50 seniors a day receive lunch and dinner from Meals on Wheels of Wappingers.

Sponsorships are available. All golf abili-

ties are welcome. This is a day of fun for all with raffles, prize holes and contests throughout. Please reach out if you have any questions and make sure to share with your friends and families. October is a great time for golf. Hope to see you there!

On the day, 9 a.m. registration; 10 a.m. shot gun start. It is \$170 golfer/\$680 four-some Sponsorships are available.

In case of questions please reach out to Doreen Shephard at 845-297-6938.



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Pere Andre Wildaine, *Consultant and Partner in Haiti*

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Obituaries

Hon. Timothy Pagones



The Honorable Timothy G. Pagones passed away on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at home, surrounded by his loving family. He was 63 years old. Born in Beacon, New York, on April 23, 1963, Tim was the son of Felicia (Spinapolic) Pagones and the late Anthony “Babe” Pagones. On May 15, 2005, he married his soulmate, Susan (Antalek) Pagones, who remained faithfully by his side throughout their life together.

A graduate of Ithaca College and Touro Law School, Timothy devoted more than 35 years to the criminal justice system and to serving the people of Dutchess County. He began his career in the early 1990’s as a Senior Assistant District Attorney with the Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office. He later spent 14 years as an associate with the Law Firm of Pagones and Cross, P.C.

Tim also served as a part-time Judge for the City of Beacon before becoming

the city’s full-time Judge. During his distinguished judicial career, he established the first Opioid/Recovery Court in Dutchess County, created the first Dutchess County Domestic Violence Court, and started the Beacon Drug Treatment Court, which had countywide jurisdiction.

Through his compassion, fairness, and commitment to helping others, Tim touched countless lives. He took tremendous pride in watching participants graduate from his treatment court programs and begin new chapters in their lives, still keeping in touch with many of his participants to offer his encouragement and support whenever it was needed.

Tim was a member of the City of Beacon Fire Department since 1985.

He was a past board member of the Martin Luther King Cultural Center, the Beacon Rotary Club, and in his earlier years volunteered with the Beacon Ambulance Corp.

When Tim wasn’t hard at work for the City of Beacon or the DA’s office, he was at home enjoying every moment spent with his family or riding his motorcycle with his Renegade Pig Brothers. Tim loved trips to the beach, relaxing in the sun, perfecting his tan, and telling everyone to “take the rest of the day off.”

Tim is survived by his loving wife Susan Pagones, and his children: Kati Wilson, Anthony Pagones and his wife Nicoletta, Cory Dubetsky and his wife Amanda, Katina Pagones, and Addy Pagones. Tim also leaves behind his 7 beautiful grandchildren, his mother Felicia Pagones, his father-in-law Frederick Antalek, brother Steven Pagones and his wife Julie, his brother-in-law Frederick Antalek, Jr. and his wife Lorna, as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

Tim was predeceased by his father, Anthony “Babe” Pagones and mother-in-law, Lee Ann Antalek.

A man of deep and abiding faith, Tim was devoted to his church and drew great strength from his relationship with God. Throughout his courageous battle with cancer, people often asked what they could do for him. His response was simply to take care of themselves.

Even during the darkest moments, Tim found a way to lighten the mood. His quick wit, warmth, and infectious personality made those around him feel comfortable and brought smiles and laughter wherever he went. He would often enter a room whistling and offering fist bumps to start the day. And as he would say, “If I were any better, I would be....”

The family would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Montefiore St Lukes, especially Dr. Mohmed Elsagga and Nicholas Shannon. They would also like to extend thanks to Hudson Valley Hospice for their care and compassion.

Calling hours were held on Monday, September 7, at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, New York. A Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, September 8, at Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church, 140 S. Grand Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in Timothy’s memory may be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, (www.stjude.org), Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church, (www.kimisisny.org), Montefiore St. Lukes (www.montefioreslc.org) or Hudson Valley Hospice (www.hvhospice.org).

Joe Mulcahey



Edward Joseph Mulcahey, known by all as ‘Joe Mulcahey’, a longtime Wappingers Falls resident, passed away on Saturday, September 5, 2026 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY; at the age of 65. He was born on January 3, 1961 in Champaign, Illinois, son of the late Ed Mulcahey and the late Judy J. (nee Davis) Bird. Joe was raised lovingly by his Dad William Bird who married Judy when Joe was very young.

Joe attended Wappingers Central Schools, and graduated from Roy C. Ketcham High School, class of 1979. He went onto attend Pace University, where he excelled on the college bowling team.

He was an avid bowler, and enjoyed bowling in leagues at the Fishkill Bowl and Spins Bowl in Poughkeepsie and

Wappingers Falls. Joe managed to bowl 3-perfect games of 300, and 1 memorable 299 game.

Along with bowling, Joe was also passionate about playing softball. He played in various local leagues; Joe thoroughly loved the game. He was a devoted sports fan dedicated to the NY Yankees and NY Giants. Joe respected his community, he served as a volunteer firefighter in New Hamburg for several years in the late eighties early nineties. His most important love above all was his love of animals, his cats and bearded dragon.

He was working as a logistics manager in packaging for Ultra Seal Corporation in New Paltz, NY; for 10 years up until his passing.

Joe is survived by his Dad William Bird (Tina); his brother and two sisters William Bird, Catherine (Ted) Riecker, and Margaret Bird; his nephew Teddy Riecker, and you can’t forget his two cats Charlie & Georgie. Joe is also survived by his large Mulcahey Family in Illinois, including his cousin Terry (Bonnie) Clennon, and numerous aunts, uncles and other cousins.

His Family received Friends on Sunday, September 13th at DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY; where a Service of Remembrance was offered. Private Cremation followed, and interment will be at a later date in Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, at the convenience of his family. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Jacqueline ‘Jackie’ Tortora



Jacqueline “Jackie” Tortora passed away peacefully after a long illness on September 4, 2026 at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence at the age of 67.

Jackie, a true Beaconite, was born on March 7, 1959 at the old Highland Hospital in Beacon to Armond Tortora and Wanda (Kowalski) Tortora. She was a lifelong parishioner of St. Joachim - St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon. Jackie graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie and Dutchess Community College with an AAS degree in Business. Most of her working career was spent at IBM in East Fishkill. When IBM downsized, Jackie continued her employment at Dutchess County Government.

Jackie was predeceased by her parents. She is survived by her sister, Joan A. Pagones (James); her brother, Joseph Tortora (Lisa); many nephews, nieces and cousins.

Special thanks to nephew and niece, Dan and Vickie Tortora, who devoted many years to caring for Jackie. Thank you to the doctors, nurses and staff at Tarrytown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Phelps Memorial Hospital and Kaplan Family Hospice Residence for their professional and tender care for Jackie.

There will be no visitation or funeral mass. Burial will be private.

May our memory of a sweet daughter, sister, loving aunt and fun cousin fill our thoughts and memories.

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

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

‘Pyrocene’ author Stephen Pyne to speak at Cary Institute on new age of wildfire

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies will host a science conversation featuring environmental historian Stephen Pyne, a leading authority on the relationship between people and fire, including the history of fire management, on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. He will be joined in conversation by Cary ecologist Winslow Hansen, who directs a national collaborative aimed at reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Guests can attend in-person at Cary’s auditorium in Millbrook or via live stream.

Hansen is a forest ecologist who has conducted research across western North America, from New Mexico to interior Alaska, and is the founding director of the Western Fire and Forest Resilience

Collaborative. The collaborative is working to advance fire science co-developed with practitioners and other decision-makers. Read more about Hansen’s work in the recent New York Times article, “Bigger, Hotter Fires Are Slowly Erasing America’s Great Forests.”

This event is free and open to all. There will be time for audience Q&A following the presentation. Registration is required. There are separate signups for in-person seating in our Millbrook, NY auditorium and virtual access via live stream. Copies of Pyne’s most recent book, *The Pyrocene: How We Created an Age of Fire, and What Happens Next*, will be available for purchase and signing from Merritt Bookstore.

Jewish Federation of Dutchess County Executive Director Karen Hochhauser recognized as 2026 Jewish Changemaker

The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County has announced that Executive Director Karen Hochhauser has been recognized by Congressman Mike Lawler as a 2026 Jewish Changemaker. This award celebrates her extraordinary leadership, unwavering advocacy, and vibrant commitment to strengthening the local community.

Under her guidance, the Federation has expanded key community connections, expanded local cultural programming, and championed critical educational initiatives across the Hudson Valley. Hochhauser was also instrumental in advocating for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism by Dutchess County, marking a historic step forward in combating hate and fostering inclusivity region-wide.

A lifelong resident of Dutchess County with deep local roots spanning generations, Hochhauser brings both strong community pride and a rich global perspective to her work. Drawing from nearly two decades of living abroad, as well as her background as a certified executive leadership coach, she leads with a passion for bringing people together. Earlier this year, she was also named a 2026 Woman of Distinction by New York State Senator Rob Rolison.

“Karen’s energy and passion for our com-



Karen Hochhauser

-Courtesy photo

munity inspire us every day,” said Russell Rothman, President of the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County. “This recognition as a Jewish Changemaker highlights her tireless work to repair the world and uplift everyone around her.”

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Classified Index

100 Help Wanted
105 Employment Opportunity
106 Business Opportunity
107 Situations Wanted
120 Schools
121 Special Instruction
122 Musical Instruction
140 Nursery Schools
141 Child Care
142 Day Care
143 Baby-sitting
145 Adult Care
150 Announcements
151 Adoption
152 Novenas
154 Lost & Found
155 Personal
200 Services

201 Home Improvement
202 Cleaning Services
203 Lawn Services
221 Professional Services
222 Tax Experts
223 Beauty Services
225 Business Services
226 Travel & Services
227 Bridal Services
295 Financial
296 Mortgages
300 Real Estate
301 Townhouses & Condos
302 Commercial Property
304 Mobile Homes
305 Lots & Acreage
400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

401 Apartments for Rent
402 Rooms for Rent
403 Furnished Rooms
404 Furnished Apartments
405 Wanted to Rent
406 Garages for Rent
407 Vacation Rentals
408 Houses for Rent
420 Commercial Rentals
500 Musical Merchandise
501 Kid Stuff
502 Clothing
503 Furniture
504 Appliances
505 Free Items
506 Computers
507 Sports Equipment
508 Exercise Equipment

509 Office Equipment
510 Firewood
511 Lawn & Garden Equip.
512 Winter Merchandise
516 Misc. Merchandise
700 Pets & Supplies
701 Free Pets
702 Lost & Found Pets
703 Pets for Adoption
710 Garage & Yard Sale
711 Tag Sale
712 Moving sale
713 Rummage Sale
714 Flea Market
715 Craft Corner
716 Barn Sale
717 Estate Sale
718 Auctions
719 Antiques

720 Vendors Wanted
721 Wanted to Buy
722 Bazaar
723 Consignments
724 Farmers Market
725 Collectibles
750 Events
800 Boats
801 Campers & Trailers
802 Motor Homes
803 Recreational Vehicles
900 Autos for Sale
901 Vans/SUV's
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Historical markers to be unveiled in Wappinger on Sept. 26

The Wappingers Historical Society in conjunction with the Town of Wappinger announces the installation and unveiling of two historical roadside markers designating sites that are important to the Colonial and Revolutionary War era in the town. The dedication ceremony will be on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 11 a.m. adjacent to the Town of Wappinger Boat and Kayak Launch on Wappinger Creek.

Parking is available at the launch, across the street on Alexander Lane, or the at the Boathouse at 105 Market Street in the village of Wappingers Falls. The public is invited to attend this ceremony which takes place rain or shine.

The first marker, SHIPYARD SITE, commemorates the Revolutionary War era shipyard of Nicholas Brower (builder of the Mesier Homestead). From this shipyard, bateaux and other small vessels were built and supplies shipped to West Point. The shipyard was commissioned by General Washington for use for the Continental Army.

The unveiling of the second marker will be part of this ceremony. That marker, COLONIAL MILL, is located along New Hackensack Road, between St. Nicholas Road and Jackson Road. For safety reasons, we will unveil this marker remotely due to the heavy traffic along New Hackensack Road. This marker commemorates the site of the Van Benschoten Mill, a grist mill which supplied barrels of flour to the Army during the American Revolution.

For more information about the Wappingers Historical Society and this marker dedication ceremony, please call 845-632-1281 or email info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org.

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410
Studio's

Studio Apartment available Sept. Town of Poughkeepsie. Electric heat included. No Smokers, No Animals. Good area for commuters, \$1,200.
845-522-0879

408
House for
Rent

2 BDRM, spacious near Rt. 84 & 9D, \$1,800/month plus utilites. Shed included. One month security, references required.
845-897-5907

501
Kid Stuff

Graco Pac and Play Bassinet mobile. Great condition asking, \$75.
845-897-5812

503
Furniture

Sleep number California King mattress, dual firmness adjustment control,new compressor, excellent condition, like new, \$400.
845-505-8843

503
Furniture

4 set Antique wood dining chairs upholstered seats exc. cond. Best offer.
845-625-3213

503
Furniture

Trundle bed solid oak, twin size, bookcase headboard, drawers mattress's like new, \$350.
845-505-8843

503
Furniture

China Hutch, TV Cabinet, Queen Mattress & Boxspring, hardly used, Sealy Brand, Best Offer,
Call 845-797-9724

508
Exercise
Equipment

White Wickerr bassinet with newer mattress \$40 plus painted maple high chair \$20 both use for 3 generations.
845-897-5455

503
Furniture

Kitchen table solid Oak, round, two leaves, four chairs, excellent condition, \$400. 845-505-8843

503
Furniture

Day Bed Frame Twin white Decorative Head and Side Frame. Excellent condition, \$100. 845-226-8896

503
Furniture

Outdoor Mult. Position Reclining Chair, Cost \$75 New. Large Size. Call: 845-297-2105

503
Furniture

Patio set, glass top with four chairs with cushions. 9 foot umbrella with stand. Used once, \$350. Call 845-297-4741

503
Furniture

Bedroom set sokid wood furniture four pieces plus two mirrors great condition, \$200. 845-505-8843

503
Furniture

Spiral Stair case never used, \$950. Regular stair case 4' wide interior. 845-401-7654

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Werner Ext. Ladder, Fiberglass, 24', D6224-2, 300 lbss, like new, \$200. 845-297-9607

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Four Kenwood KL777 100W speakers, wood cabinet, exc. cond., \$225. 845-337-6509

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Guideposts Amish Sugercreek Mysteries, hardcover books one thru twenty-five series, great condition asking \$45. Great fictional writers, 845-897-4214

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Compressor - Cambell Hausfeld Model Century - A.C. Motor, 120V 240W - 125 PSI Max, 20 gal tank, Price \$150. Call 845-226-7409 leave message.

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Original Wooden Brio Train Set. Over 45 pieces including train, 3 different types of track and speciality pieces.\$75 845-264-0240

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Nautical collection for over 50 yrs Newburgh, Beacon ferry parts. Collectors pieces. 845-401-7654

516
Misc.
Merchandise

1980 Winter and Summer Olympic Sports stamp prints and blocks of stamps in original envelopes, 11 X 14, \$20. 845-592-0450

516
Misc.
Merchandise

AC Portable, \$80 - Dehumidifier, \$60, Grill Free, Snare Drum, \$80, Wicker shelf, Lamp, \$40. 845-418-0069

516
Misc.
Merchandise

50 years of collecting good stiff antiques call for appointment. 845-401-7654

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Queen size wood sleigh bed box spring mattress included. Exc. Cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Paintball Equipment for sale. Guns cases hoppers tanks masks all in good working order. Asking \$150 for all. 914-420-5626

516
Misc.
Merchandise

Magnisium Alum Alloy 16 ' extension ladder, 8 ' glass reinforced step ladder, Make offer. 845-297-6369

523
Seasonal
Merchandise

Propane Fire Pit Table with Tank. Used Once, asking \$110.00. 845-226-6242

710
Yard Sale

Yard & Estate Sale Wappingers Falls off of Eck Rd. Sept. 19th, 8am-3pm, Sept. 20th, 8am-1pm. Something for Everyone. No Early Birds.

710
Garage Sale

Wappingers Falls Sept. 26th, 8 - 4pm at 6 & 17 Nicole Dr off Route 28 to Kendell Farms.

900
Autos For
Sale

1957 Mark II one of a kind secone owner, \$57,000 original. 845-401-7654

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Them Lonely!
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Friend
For Life.

Pets for
Adoption

Pets For Adoption
ARF,
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845-831-5161
54 Simmons Lane
PO Box 1129
Beacon, NY
12508

Karl: 11 yrs. 3 mos, Male, Brown tabby, short hair, good with other cats. Sweet senior, shy at first but loves attention and begs for pets once he gets to know you. Big Boy with gorgeour marbled strips. Adopt: ARF, Simons Lane, Beacon, NY



Cider: Belgian Malinois, 1 yr. 5 mos, female dog, brown/chocolate with black, 66 lbs. Needs experienced adopter, house-trained. Cider is a beautiful your Belgain Malinois/Doberman mix. She is shy but sweet and loves to play and run. She would do great with an active family. She is tall and lean, born January 2025.

F R E E !

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Classified Ad

for Southern Dutchess News Subscribers only

*Your personal use only *Restrictions apply *One word per line

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ID#:

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City:

State:

Zip:

SORRY, WE CANNOT TAKE THE SUBSCRIBERS' FREE LINE ADS OVER THE PHONE

Ads must be received by 12 noon the Friday prior to publication. We cannot acknowledge receipt of ads.

Free ads run "space available." We do not guarantee placement.

Email (with "Free line ad" as the subject) your subscription name, address, phone number, & subscriber ID, along with your ad to: sdnadvertising@aol.com

Ads should be limited to 20 words including a contact phone number (must be included in ad).

If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.

Faxes are accepted, but not recommended. Our fax number is: (845) 297-6810

Ads run for 2 weeks. If after 2 weeks you wish your ad to run again, it must be resubmitted.

We reserve the right to modify or reject any ads.

Southern Dutchess News, 84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Yes, send me the Southern Dutchess News for the next 52 weeks for just \$10.

Call to ask about our 2 & 3 yr. prices!!!

Payment Method

Check

Money Order

Credit Card

Visa Mastercard Discover

Card #

Exp. Date: Access Code:

Signature:

Name:

Address:

City: State:

Zip Code: Phone:

Email:

Mail Coupon To:

Southern Dutchess News

84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Coupon must accompany payment

Gabby's Dollhouse MEOWseum at Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum

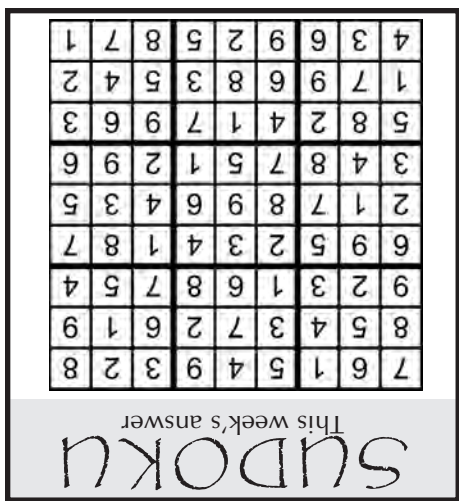
The Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum will participate in Gabby's Dollhouse MEOWseum Discovery Days, a 10-day celebration taking place Sept. 25 through Oct. 4, in partnership with DreamWorks Animation and the Association of Children's Museums.

Inspired by the animated series Gabby's Dollhouse, MEOWseum Discovery Days invites children and families to explore creativity, curiosity, compassion, teamwork, and social-emotional learning through hands-on activities and playful experiences.

Throughout the 10-day celebration, families can enjoy a variety of Gabby's Dollhouse-themed activities, all included with museum admission.

For more information, visit the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum website at mhdm.org.

this week's puzzle solutions



Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-94-26

22 ft Power Tilt Deck-Over Equipment Trailer

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 29th day of September 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent,
County of Dutchess,
Poughkeepsie, New
York, hereby invites the
submission of sealed
bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-
95-26
24 ft. Enclosed Equip-
ment Trailer
Bids will be received un-
til 2:30 p.m. on the 29th
day of September 2026
at the Dutchess County
Division of Central Ser-
vices, 378 Violet Ave-
nue, Suite 2, Pough-
keepsie, New York
12601. Specifications
and bid forms may be ob-
tained by visiting our
website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, select-
ing "Government", then
selecting "Bidding and
RFP Opportunities". For
additional information,
call 845-486-3613.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-
RFB-DCB-14-26

NAME OF PROJECT: Airport Support Buildings. Multiple Prime Bids shall be received for the following classes of work: General Construction and Electrical Construction. Project Description: The project involves the construction of new airport equipment storage facilities adjacent to the Airport's operations (ARFF/SRE) building. The new storage facilities will include an airfield maintenance equipment cold storage building (approximately 3,500 SF) and a salt/urea storage facility (approximately 3,200 SF). The project will also include electrical service to the storage facilities, minor access paving, earthwork, minor drainage

Legal Notices

modifications, and site restoration. It is anticipated that work for this project will begin Spring 2027. 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 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: Diane McKenna, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Bids due on or before 11:00 am Thursday, October 15, 2026, and at that time 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 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

Legal Notices

to ensure you are connected properly. All callers will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization.

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 225 125 31#. 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, Classification of Work and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. A Walkthrough is scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2026 at 1:00pm, Hudson Valley Regional Airport Operations Building, Wappingers Falls. All parties interested in bidding must apprise themselves of the site conditions immediately prior to bidding. Questions will be accepted by the close of business October 7, 2026 and emailed to Diane McKenna at dmckenna@dutchessny.gov and cc'd to phludzenski@cscos.com with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates. PRC#: 2026025597. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements.

View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS-
RFB-DCH-2026-14**

NAME OF PROJECT:
**Dutchess County
Bridge Painting**

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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 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, 8am to 4pm: 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 **3:00PM Wednesday, October 7, 2026**, 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

Legal Notices

tify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) **Conference ID: 600 429 809#** 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 Wednesday September 30, 2026 and emailed to Lorraine Grant at dpw-contracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Ad-benda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is **April 5, 2027**; the anticipated substantial completion date is **July 2, 2027**. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2026022571. **Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements.** View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that tentative benefit assessment rolls for Dutchess County Water District Zones of Assessment 028AB, A, B, C, D, I, J, K, L, R, X, and Z in the Towns of Hyde Park, Rhinebeck, Beekman, Pawling, Red Hook, and Village of Tivoli, Part-County Sewer District #1, #3, and #15 in the Town of Beekman, Part-County Sewer District #2 in the Town of Pleasant Valley, Part County

Legal Notices

Sewer District #7 and #8 in the Town of Hyde Park, Part County Sewer District #10 in the Towns of Rhinebeck and Hyde Park, and Part County Sewer District #13 in the Town of Red Hook and Village of Tivoli in Dutchess County, New York, have been filed with the Clerk of the Dutchess County Legislature and are available for inspection at her office at 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, New York, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday starting September 14, 2026.

Zones A, B, C, D, I, L, R, and 028AB cover the Hyde Park Regional Water System along Route 9, Route 9G, Harbour Hills and Staatsburg in Hyde Park and Mill Road in Rhinebeck.

Zone J covers the Shore Haven Water System in the Town of Pawling.

Zone K covers the Birch Hill Water System in the Town of Beekman.

Zone X covers the Tivoli Water System in the Town and Village of Red Hook.

Zone Z covers the Peach Road Water System in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Part-County Sewer District #1 covers the Chelsea Cove Sewer System in the Town of Beekman.

Part-County Sewer District #2 covers the Valley Dale Sewer System in the Town of Pleasant Valley.

Part-County Sewer District #3 covers the Dalton Farms Sewer System in the Town of Beekman.

Part-County Sewer District #7 covers the Pinebrook Sewer System in the Town of Hyde Park.

Part-County Sewer District #8 covers the Greenfields Sewer System in the Town of Hyde Park.

Part-County Sewer District #10 covers the Vanderburgh Cove Sewer System in the Towns of Rhinebeck and Hyde Park.

Part-County Sewer District #13 covers the Tivoli Sewer System in the Town and Village of Red Hook.

Part-County Sewer District #15 covers the Alaina Estates Sewer System in the Town of Beekman.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Dutchess County Board of Benefit Assessment Review will meet to hear objections to each such roll at the Legislative

Legal Notices

Chambers of the Dutchess County Legislature, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, 12601, on the 13th day of October 2026, at 4:30 P.M.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone wishing to be heard must file a grievance application with the Clerk of the Legislature on or before the date and time above set forth for hearing objections by mailing to the Dutchess County Legislature, 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, by emailing countylegislature@dutchessny.gov, or by hand delivering a complete application to the Dutchess County Legislature during regular office hours. Grievance applications may be obtained during regular office hours or sent via email by calling 845-486-2100.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT REVIEW
Dated: September 14, 2026
Poughkeepsie, New York
Julie Shiroishi, Clerk of the Legislature

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess at a meeting held on August 10, 2026, adopted a local law entitled:

LOCAL LAW No. 6 of 2026 PROHIBITING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF CONCENTRATED AND SYNTHETIC 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNE (7-OH) KRATOM PRODUCTS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

The purpose of this Local Law is to ban lab-made 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) kratom concentrates and synthetic derivatives (MGM-15, MGM-16, and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl) while protecting adults' access to natural leaf kratom in Dutchess County.

County. Acopy of the local law is available at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature where it may be inspected during regular office hours.
JULIE SHIROISHI
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
Dated:
September 14, 2026

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

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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

4		1			
				3	
2					
		5	4	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: SOLAR SYSTEM

ACROSS

1. Ancient Peruvian
5. Hit the slopes
8. Bro or sis
11. Thomas the Engine's warning
12. *Sun, e.g.
13. Twist and distort
15. Carpenter's groove
16. *Jupiter's inner "ring"
17. MC Hammer's "2 ____ 2 Quit"
18. *It makes up the majority of Jupiter's mass
20. Narrative poem
21. "When ____ Cry" by Prince
22. Louisville Slugger
23. Chase
26. Puffy cloud
30. Nurses' org.
31. Frozen drink
34. Ricci of fashion
35. Same as climate
37. Buddy Holly's "Peggy ____"
38. Knight's breastplate
39. Flying toy
40. a.k.a. pennant
42. Possesses
43. Appetizer
45. Like certain pine
47. Large edible mushroom
48. ____-Arts, or fine arts
50. Disparaging remark
52. *The largest moon in the Solar System
55. *Jupiter's Great Red Spot
56. Up it in poker
57. Exclamation of disgust
59. Famous diarist Samuel ____
60. Like decorated cake
61. Reply from a tunnel
62. Tarzan's adoptive dad
63. Neither here ____ there
64. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, acr.

DOWN

1. It would
2. Master of ark
3. Buffalo Bill's last name
4. In conflict (2 words)
5. Coach-and-four
6. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.
7. *Reason for Mars' redness
8. Kind of palm
9. Author Murdoch
10. Sandwich with acronym name
12. Snow mover
13. Flash of light
14. *Farthest planet from sun in our Solar System
19. Make awake
22. Opposite of vend
23. Gets ready for a trip
24. Dark
25. Indian restaurant yogurt staple
26. ____ Zhen in "Fist of Fury"
27. *The Solar System spans roughly 1.6 ____-years
28. Uniate church member
29. Impudent
32. ____-friendly
33. *Center of the Solar System
36. *The smallest planet
38. Per ____, or yearly
40. Vigor
41. Approved
44. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.
46. Daisies
48. Bench in Mexico
49. Larger key on the right
50. Pas in ballet
51. Between trot and gallop
52. Effect of pain?
53. Mussolini, with II
54. Not counterfeit
55. Relaxation location
58. Ornamental pond dweller

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10
11					12					13	14		
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59						60					61		
62						63					64		

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‘That Creative Weekend’ set for Sept. 19-20

By Kristine Coulter

That Creative Space, 333 Fishkill Ave., opened in Beacon in Sept. 2025, and they are celebrating the first anniversary Sept. 19–20 with “That Creative Weekend,” which will feature the exhibition, *What We Carry*, a free community reception, and hands-on creative programming.

“People can expect a weekend that gives them a real sense of the different ways to experience That Creative Space. It’s a sampling of what we offer throughout the year—workshops and classes, social making, and now exhibitions—while also giving people a chance to learn about other ways to use the studio, including studio space, private events and parties, and rentals for local teachers, entrepreneurs and community gatherings,” explained Stacey Burgay, founder of That Creative Space.

Burgay was asked what has it been like putting together the exhibition for the event?

“It’s been really special putting the exhibition together because it brings together some of the artists who have been part of That Creative Space during our first year, as well as some new people joining us this fall. In a lot of ways, the exhibition and reception are also a thank you to everyone who helped carry the studio with me through this first year,” replied Burgay. “As part of the opening, we’ll also invite anyone in the community to take part in an interactive art activity that will become part of the exhibition and remain on display through Nov. 14. I hope it gives people permission to see themselves as creative too, even if they don’t

think of themselves as artists.”

The past year has been “a real joy,” said Burgay.

“I’ve heard again and again how much a space like this is needed. In some cases, people have told me that finding That Creative Space made them feel better about moving to the area. I’ve also seen a student thank a teacher at the end of a class and give them a hug because they were so happy to reconnect with something they loved, and I’ve watched people come back through our doors again and again because they’re excited to learn something new and support what we’re building,” said the entrepreneur.

The challenge of the past year, noted Burgay, “has been figuring out how to keep the studio going and how we can get to a point where it can be more accessible to more people.”

Part of the step forward in 2026 is a new fiscal sponsorship through Fractured Atlas, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization, according to Burgay. The exhibition will be one of the first opportunities to begin fundraising, with the goal of offering free and tuition-assisted programming in 2027, it was noted.

Burgay emphasized, “That Creative Space programming is meant for all levels, and that many of our workshops and classes require no prior experience, especially for adults. As adults, we often lose touch with some of the things we enjoyed doing most. This can be a way back in, a chance to try something new, reconnect with something you used to love, and give yourself permission to be creative again.”



“That Creative Weekend” will take place at That Creative Space, 333 Fishkill Ave., Sept. 19-20 in Beacon. Pictured are members of That Creative Space.

-Courtesy photo

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library now in Beacon



United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region (UWDOR), a partner of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, recently added Beacon to its list of service areas for the program.

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region (UWDOR) is a partner of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. This program sends free, high quality, age-appropriate books, from birth to their fifth birthday directly to your child’s home each month. Each book is addressed to them, creating a special moment of discovery and fostering a lifelong love of reading.

Recently, UWDOR expanded to add Beacon to their list of service areas for this program. UWDOR is excited to have Howland Public Library as a new Partner

in Literacy in Beacon. They are overjoyed for this extension and look forward to helping more children join the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program.

UWDOR also serves children in the following Dutchess County locations: Amenia, Millerton, Red Hook, Tivoli and Wassaic.

If you are interested in registering one’s child, sponsoring a child, or making a donation to the Imagination Library Program, please visit the webpage <https://www.uwdor.org/ImaginationLibrary> or call 845-471-1900 for more information.

OFA ‘Senior Prom’ registration now open

Hundreds of Dutchess County older adults attend each year’s Office for the Aging “Senior Prom” - it’s four hours of fun, taking place on Monday, Oct. 19, at Villa Borghese, 70 Widmer Rd. in Wappinger. The event begins with lunch at noon, followed by dancing to the music of the full Bob Martinson Band. This year’s theme is

“Hawaiian Luau,” if you’re thinking of dressing up.

Admission is \$25 (prepaid), which includes lunch, while seating is available. Guests must be Dutchess County residents over age 60.

Registration and payment information is available at www.dutchessny.gov/prom.

Latin Dance at Howland set for Oct. 3

“Get On the Good Foot” at the Latin Dance at a new venue, the Howland Cultural Center, 477 main St. on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 7-10 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Enjoy the amazing beauty of Salsa, Cha-Cha, Merengue, Bachata, Reggaeton, Cumbia, Latin Pop and more. The Howland provides a Hospitality Table serving drinks and

light snacks at no charge. Admission is \$15, paid at the door.

If you have a song request, please email the Title and Artist at least two days in advance so we’ll have time to get it ready. For any questions or comments, please call Rhoda at any time before 9:30 p.m. at 845-765-0667. To call the Howland, call 845-831-4988.

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