

BEACON FREE PRESS

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BOE to leave vacancies open

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon City School District (BCSD) Board of Education (BOE) discussed the two vacancies on the board at the Sept. 8 meeting and took a straw poll.

"We wanted to open up the discussion about the process and expectations around it," stated BOE President Flora Stadler. Last month, board members Kristan Flynn and Anthony White resigned due to professional obligations.

Stadler said the following are the options that the current seven-member board has:

- Appoint 2 new board members
- Wait until the next election in May 2026
- Have BOCES appoint board members through the next election
- Call a special election

In her time on the board, they have done appointments and have waited, noted Stadler.

"We can sort of talk about the differences of those options," she said to her fellow board members.

Stadler remarked she feels there were times "when appointments feel that they're necessary." She added there is a big difference between being appointed and "actually running" and having to go out there when one is running.

BOE Vice President Meredith Heuer mentioned they are "a seven-member board right now" and they "want to keep the meetings going."

"I think these are tools available to us," said Heuer. "And I feel that the time we made appointments that was the right thing to do and the time we waited I agreed with that."

At this time, Heuer said she has zero interest in appointing members. She added she "would say at this point... I feel comfortable leaving the seats open."

Stadler noted appointments would also change the "make up of some committees."

"Whoever would get appointed would have to run again in May anyway," it was explained.

Dr. Matthew Landahl, BCSD Superintendent of Schools, said regarding a special election, "Last time we estimated it, and this may not even cover all the costs, was around \$10,000." He noted "that was that was a while ago."

Special elections can also sometimes have low turnout, he remarked.

Board members Catherine Buscemi, Semra Ercin, Christopher Lewine, Lavonne McNair and Eric Schetter also each said their preference was for waiting until the next election in May 2026.

There was some discussion about having the board go from 9 members to 7.

Heuer explained, the voters would have to vote on that resolution in the next Budget vote. The result would apply in 2027, she added.

"Essentially, what would happen that year, that slate of open seats would go from 3 to 1," she explained.

Only one of the board members who are up for reelection that year would be able to serve, Heuer said. Landahl stated the Board would have to vote on what goes on the ballot by March 2026.

Essentially if this continues to be a topic or the board votes on approval of that proposition, it would be on the ballot in March, he said.

Lewine said "I wouldn't choose the situation we're in," but now board members can have a feel of how a 7-member board would run and how the committees would feel.

'Catoberfest' to raise funds for MHAA

By Kristine Coulter

The 13th annual "Catoberfest" fundraiser for Mid Hudson Animal Aid (MHAA) will take place at the Hudson Valley Brewery, 7 East Main St., in Beacon, from 3-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21. Proceeds will benefit the felines at MHAA, which is a no-kill and free-range cat sanctuary.

"The therapy cats Millie, Max, and Sox will make their return after a short absence. There will also be a few promotional items for sale during the event," said Ira Chavis, organizer of Catoberfest each year.

The Judith Tulloch Band, The Black Coffee Blues Ensemble, The Costello's, Tony DePaolo's Electric Gypsies, and the Last Minute Soulmates will provide live music during the event.

Russell St. George is a member of Last Minute Soulmates. He said they will be playing "a variety of soulful original songs" of his past released music "Take Me Away" and "Reality." They will also be playing some new unreleased music, he noted. The lineup for Catoberfest will include Russ St. George on vocals and guitar, Carla Springer on vocals, Emily Hague on keys, David Hollander on guitar, Peter McCaw on bass, and Glenn Sacchi on drums.

Continued on page 2



The annual "Catoberfest" will raise funds for Mid Hudson Animal Aid. The event is set for Sunday, September 21 in Beacon. Pictured is Babbett, who is up for adoption (as of press time).

-Courtesy photo MHAA

'Slaterpalooza' set for Saturday

By Kristine Coulter

"Slaterpalooza" will be on Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Slater Chemical Firehouse, 76 Old Glenham Road, in Fishkill. There is no pre-registration required. Admission is \$15 at the door.

"I started Slaterpalooza in 2011 as a way to connect three things I love: music, our fire company and the Glenham community. With friends and family, we put together the first Slaterpalooza in just a few weeks. Now it has grown to become one of our biggest fundraisers with people coming from all over the tri-state area," Slaterpalooza Founder Kevin McGarry said via email recently. "This year we expect over 700 attendees."

Attendees can expect a full day of music.

"As a long-time musician, I have many friends in local bands, and they are always willing to share their talent to support a good cause. Slaterpalooza is a family-friendly, non-political community event. We will have 8 local music acts, food from Hidden Rose catering, desserts, T-shirts for sale and many raffles. Local businesses have really stepped up with donations for the raffles," remarked McGarry.

Band schedule:

1:30-2:30 p.m. Cadillac Brothers

Continued on page 2



"Slaterpalooza" will take place at the Slater Chemical Firehouse on Saturday, September 20 in Fishkill. Pictured is from a previous year's event.

-Courtesy photo

‘Slaterpalooza’ set for Saturday

Continued from cover

2:30-3:30 p.m. Rubixx
3:30-4:30 p.m. The Lot
4:30-5:30 p.m. Black Kettle Fire
5:30-6:30 p.m. Second Shot
6:30-7:30 p.m. Boomkat
7:30-8:30 p.m. Alison Elena (from “The Voice”)
8:30-9:30 p.m. Circle 65

What would organizers like the community to know about how hard all the firefighters work for the community throughout the year?

“Firefighters are ready to respond 24/7, 365 days a year. Slater Chemical averages approximately 275 calls a year and we are a 100% Volunteer Company. Even during Slaterpalooza, we are ready to respond.” Jenna Mazzacone, one of the event organizers, explained. “There are also non-emergency activities such as our Junior Firefighter week every summer, Pancake Breakfast, Fire Prevention Day and the extremely popular Santa Run on

Christmas Eve. Our Auxiliary also does Trunk or Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, and Craft Fair, etc.”

It was stated, “Support your First Responders! Support Live Local Music!! Come have a great time with us!”

Slaterpalooza has donated to many things involving first responders and frontline workers, it was noted. There have been donations of food to local hospitals during COVID, supported first responders during illness, injury and even their families if the unthinkable happens, fed our troops staying at local hotels, helped our fire department for different events and so much more.

The committee has put in a lot of time and effort to ROCK THE HAMLET 2025.

The Committee members include Mark Matthews Jr., Mark Matthews Sr., Jeffrey Phillips, Debbie DiRubbio, Dominic Virtuoso, Doug Zukowski, Frank Ameretto, Kevin McGarry (founder) and Shawn Haight. Jenna Mazzacone and Stephanie Matthews are the event’s co-chairs.



“Slaterpalooza” will take place at the Slater Chemical Firehouse on Saturday, September 20 in Fishkill. Pictured is the crowd from a previous year’s event.

-Courtesy photo

‘Hit reset and remind ourselves who we really are’

Chabad of Beacon will be hosting community Rosh Hashanah Dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m. One may RSVP at chabadbeacon.com/roshhashana.

What can one expect if one attends the dinner?

“Good food, great vibes, lots of warmth, and a chance to celebrate the Jewish new year together like family and listen to the Shofar that’s the commandment of the day,” said Rabbi Shaya Itkin.

Why is it important to get together to celebrate?

Itkin remarked, “Because Rosh

Hashanah is about renewing our connection with God and starting the new year! There’s nothing like starting the year surrounded by community.”

Rosh Hashanah, said Itkin, is “the birthday of the world, the day we hit reset and remind ourselves who we really are and take inventory of the last year.”

“I would like to wish everyone a happy and sweet new year only love peace and blessings to all. Looking for a place to celebrate Rosh Hashanah or hear the shofar hit us up,” said Itkin.

‘Catoberfest’ to raise funds for MHAA



Tobias is one of the cats currently up for adoption (as of press time) at Mid Hudson Animal Aid in Beacon. The annual “Catoberfest” will raise funds for Mid Hudson Animal Aid. The event is set for Sunday, September 21 in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo MHAA

Continued from cover

Attendees can also participate in raffles with prizes featuring gift certificates and merchandise from local businesses.

An online auction will be held during the week of Catoberfest, according to Chavis. Catoberfest will host kid-friendly events including a face painting booth hosted by Fun2seefaces, with proceeds of sales going to MHAA, said Chavis.

“Catoberfest is our yearly Fall Feline Festival, modeled after the German Oktoberfest, we all come together to celebrate our felines and the community. Everyone is welcome. Catoberfest is a very family-friendly event, which

includes a great kids activity program,” said Chavis.

Chavis noted, “The proceeds from Catoberfest go to the care of our feline residents. This includes food and medical care among other things.”

“We really hope our attendees will be generous and support Mid Hudson Animal Aid. MHAA gets no public funding and relies on private donations to remain open,” he added.

According to organizers, Hudson Valley Brewery and The Beacon Daily will donate for every beer or meal sold during Catoberfest event hours.

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page 8

DUTCHESS COUNTY 9-11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Where we were NOT and what we must do to honor the fallen



By Curtis Schmidt

Jeffrey C. Martin, Family Court Judge/Acting Supreme Court Justice Dutchess County concentrated on several poignant points during his remarks at the county's 24th 9-11 Memorial Ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 11.

In response to the "Where were you? What were you doing?" thoughts of many, Martin offered "Where we were NOT (on Sept. 11)." To honor, and to gather and to cherish are noble gestures, but Martin said, "We can do more, we must do more." And in regard to different cultures, different races, different ideas, different opinions, or different politics that, together, represent the best of who we once were as a country, he said "We need to find that spirit again."

Where we were not

- "We were not on that plane that passed above the Hudson River, not far from here as it traveled to its doom when it collided into the tower.
- "We did not experience the terror of the passengers after they learned that their plane was hijacked.
- "We did not see the faces of the parents who were left to clutch their children for dear life as the plane sailed to annihilation.
- "We could not help the frightened passenger who sat alone in the plane with no one to comfort them, no one to talk with, no one to call, and no one to hold onto when they took their last breath.
- "We were not a passenger on Flight 93 in Pennsylvania, whose passengers fought bravely and unselfishly to prevent collateral death and damage far greater than the self-

Clockwise from top left, officers and speakers gather after the ceremony. Dutchess County Family Court Judge Tracy MacKenzie and County Executive Sue Serino address those in attendance. Flags are lowered during the ceremony. Oliver Mackson of Bugles Across America plays Taps. Desiree S. King - CASA/MHA Dutchess County sings the Stars Spangled Banner. Below, Family Court Judge Jeffrey Martin offers remarks. Rev. Dr. Edward Hunt of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church offers a prayer for the community.

sacrifice they made when they must have known that their actions guaranteed a swifter and frightening death.

- "We were not at the Pentagon looking out the window when a plane was flying directly at them, knowing that there was nowhere to go, no place to run, and no place to hide.
- "We were not in the tallest sections of the twin towers, trapped in an area of increasing smoke, fire, heat, and despair.
- "We were not forced to determine our choice of death - by smoke, fire, or by jumping.
- "We were not wearing the heavy fire-fighters gear as they bravely raced up the stairs and into eternity.
- "We were not with the court officers who rushed into the buildings to assist without thinking for a second that their time was very limited.
- "We were not confronted with the agonizing decision to place one final call to a loved one, sensing that this would be the last time, the very last time, that any earthly communication would be possible before the inevitable end would occur."

**We can do more;
We must do more**

- "We must use our voices to speak out against chaos, inequality, prejudice, and evil.
- "We must organize and mobilize to fight against evil.
- "We must educate to prevent ignorance.
- "We must learn to accept each other, to be nonjudgmental, to embrace our mutual desire to live happily and with longevity without fear of reprisal, judgment,



or rejection.

- "We must understand that the differences between us are far outweighed by our similarities.
- "We must be worthy to carry the legacy of the lives lost on 9-11 to future generations in a manner that does not cause a repeat of this tragedy.
- "We must learn, to relearn, how to love each other. There is no greater energy than love.
- "We must learn to harness this energy to improve the greater good.

"Each precious soul who died on 9-11, or in its aftermath, and who are still dying from illnesses related to 9-11, has a story to tell. Each story is different, each story is unique, and yet, when combined, they form a mosaic of different cultures, different races, differ-

ent ideas, different opinions, or different politics that, together, represent the best of who we once were as a country.

We need to find that spirit again

"To honor the memories of the fallen, may we - as a society - work with each other, instead of against each other, to help each other be the best we can be. We owe that to the victims. We owe that to their survivors and we owe that to their families.

"We owe that to each other. Choose forgiveness. Choose patience. Choose kindness. Choose love.

"Within the trials and tribulations of life, find joy, choose joy, live our lives as the victims wished they could have lived theirs.

"We owe that to them. We owe that to ourselves and we owe that to our nation."



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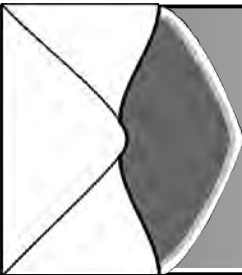
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Viewpoints



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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.

Battery Energy Storage Systems face opposition in Town of Poughkeepsie

To the Editor:

During the Town Hall Meeting on September 3rd, residents of the Town of Poughkeepsie voiced strong and overwhelming opposition to the proposed law allowing installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), particularly large-scale facilities, throughout our Town.

Concerns centered around health and safety, yet the Democratic Party majority ignored these concerns, rejecting attempts to delay their proposed BESS law, voting among party lines to pass it. This law allows large-scale BESS facilities to be constructed as close as two hundred and in some cases fifty feet from residential areas. Town residents are afraid, as this law takes effect immediately.

While the Republican minority does not oppose emerging technologies, they remain apprehensive due to numerous BESS-related incidents, fires, and evacuations across the United States and worldwide, therefore voting against immediate passage of this law. In addition, the established defensive fire policy (let it burn) and the absence of a tested and coordinated area wide emergency plan is especially concerning.

On November 13, 2023, while Rebecca Edwards was an active full-time professor, Vassar College submitted an application requesting an area variance for a large-scale BESS Storage Facility, leasing their 159 Manchester Road parcel to Key Capture Energy. On February 7, 2024, Supervisor Edwards sponsored Resolution 2, setting a public hearing on March 6, 2024, beginning discussions to implement large-scale BESS facilities, stating: "The Town of Poughkeepsie may receive applications for such facilities."

Given her connection to Vassar College, Supervisor Edwards might have considered recusing herself from the September 3rd vote, but did not. Despite Key-Capture Energy's apparent recent withdrawal, Vassar College remains poised to facilitate BESS in our Town.

Supervisor Edwards and the Democratic Party majority have ignored the public's concerns, opting instead to continually implement policies and laws aimed at their primary goal of "Turning Poughkeepsie Blue," as articulated on the front page of their website, topdems.org. The Democratic Party majority have forgotten their primary

responsibility as elected officials: Listening to your Constituents.

Town of Poughkeepsie residents deserve better. We need elected officials who represent all of us by prioritizing our concerns, and do not impose any party's political agenda upon us. Residents can fight back by speaking out at Town Board meetings and making their voices heard at the ballot box. Early voting begins October 25th and ends November 2nd . Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th. Residents can find their polling place by visiting: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

The BESS Law can be viewed on the Town of Poughkeepsie Website, Agendas and Minutes, September 3rd Town Board Meeting, Resolution 7: SKM_751i25090911540

Bill Reuter
1st Ward Councilmember
Town of Poughkeepsie

History will remember those who ‘created our current predicament’

To the Editor:

The article titled “Ryan secures \$15 million for Community projects in HV” from the Sept. 3 issue fails to address the funding that our community actually did lose in the new budget. The article points out that the Congressman secured \$15 million of the \$17 million which we were due, a net loss of \$2 million. One would expect that all types of projects would be squeezed, so I was surprised to see that the law enforcement funding had actually risen from the originally promised \$6 million to a staggering \$8.3 million. This means that non-law-enforcement funding coming into the district decreased by over \$4 million in the new budget.

At a time when our communities are being attacked by the federal government and our farmers have crops rotting in the fields, our representative is touting a bill that defunds our communities to pay for an expansion of the militarized police state as a win. History won’t soon forget the names of those who created and enabled our current predicament, and I fear Mr. Patrick Ryan might be among them.

Robert Holmes
Beacon

Golden Gathering to attract hundreds of Dutchess seniors

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, in partnership with New York State Senators Rob Rolison and Michelle Hinchey and the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA), invites residents to attend the Golden Gathering on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Arlington High School, 1157 Route 55 in LaGrange.

From nutrition counseling to senior safety - and new this year, employment opportunities - this event is a one-stop event for older adults, their families, and caregivers. Thanks to the generosity of the James J. McCann Charitable Trust, this event is free of charge for all who attend, and there is no RSVP required.

Serino said, "Older adults are at the heart of our community, and supporting them has always been a top priority for me. I'm proud to once again help bring the Golden Gathering to our seniors, an event that connects them with the support and services they need to stay healthy, independent, and engaged. I'm excited to welcome many familiar faces and make even more new friends on September 27th!"

This annual event is the largest of its kind in Dutchess County, drawing hundreds of attendees each year. With more than 90 exhibitors expected, attendees can explore services and information on healthcare, financial planning, legal assistance and more. Representatives from various Dutchess County Government departments, as well as local and state government agencies that serve seniors, will also be on hand.

Serino has made senior employment a priority at the 2025 Golden Gathering, which, for the first time, will feature more than a half-dozen local businesses offering part-time job opportunities for older adults looking to re-enter the workforce and put their skills and experience to use.

Highlights of the 2025 Golden Gathering include health screenings, including diabetes, blood pressure, and dementia. on-site flu shots administered by local healthcare providers, live entertainment and interactive demonstrations and activities, the opportunity to safely discard unwanted, unnecessary, or unused medication, complimentary breakfast and water throughout the morning; and door prize giveaways for attendees.

Rolison said, "From health screenings and flu shots to live entertainment and helpful resources, the Golden Gathering truly offers something for everyone. I look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces, meeting new ones, and sharing a day that connects us with each other and with the services that support healthier, happier lives."

Hinchey said, "The Golden Gathering is a special event dedicated to celebrating our senior community, while connecting folks to over 90 vendors offering a wide range of services and support. From health screenings and flu shots to live entertainment and giveaways, it's a day designed to honor and make life a little easier for the people who have given so much to our communities. We encourage all of our seniors to join!"

Nearly 1,000 residents attended last year's Golden Gathering, with more than 200 receiving their complimentary influenza immunizations.

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging empowers older adults by helping them stay active, independent, and connected to their community. Through a variety of programs and services - from nutrition and transportation, to caregiver support and wellness initiatives - the OFA ensures seniors have the tools and resources they need to thrive, while also linking them, their families, and caregivers with information and assistance to address their evolving needs as they age. Residents can learn more about the County's OFA at dutchessny.gov/aging, its Facebook page (www.facebook.com/dutchesscountyofa), by calling 845-486-2555 or emailing ofa@dutchessny.gov.

Wappingers School District tax bills sent out

Lee Anne Freno, Receiver of Taxes for the Town of Wappinger, announced the 2025 Wappinger Central School District school tax bills were mailed out on Sept. 9. Payments may be made by mail, online or in person at the tax office at Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Collection hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday through Oct. 31.

Taxpayers who have escrow accounts at banks or other lending institutions are reminded their bills are forwarded directly to those institutions. If you have not received your tax bill and have it sent directly to your home, please contact the tax office. Bills must be paid by Oct. 14, to avoid penalty.

For further information, please call the tax office at 845-297-4342 or visit the Town’s website at townofwappingerny.gov.

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VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

County honors its veterans with special events



Even before I became the Director of the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, I was thankful that I lived in a community that truly cares about its veterans. American Legion and VFW posts are always supportive of those of us who served, and organizations like Mental Health America (MHA) of Dutchess County and others provide amazing services, such as MHA's Vet2Vet peer support program.

From a statewide perspective, though, Dutchess County is an example for other counties in New York and the nation to follow how we lift up our veterans and their families. In addition to the various services and programs our office administers every day, the County honors its veterans with special events throughout the year. We're hosting several of them in the coming weeks, and I want to make sure you have time to plan so you can join us.

We will again welcome hundreds of veterans to Dutchess County's popular "The Red, White and You!" Veterans Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at James Baird State Park, 14 Maintenance Lane in Pleasant Valley. In just four short years, this event has quickly become an annual

tradition for the local veteran community, and one of my favorite events of the year.

The picnic is a chance for veterans to relax outdoors, share a meal and connect with other veterans and their families. On-site transportation is available when you arrive at Baird Park, and smiling volunteers greet you when you get to the picnic, offering a welcoming sense of belonging. No matter the era in which you served, you're treated with the dignity and respect you deserve.

Sure, there's amazing, complimentary food, thanks to Tavern 23; live music from the Stringmasters and iHeartRadio's Uncle Mike leading a patriotic and respectful atmosphere; but there's so much more to the "Red, White and You!" day.

What makes the picnic so special is the sense of connection. Veterans who may not know each other end up swapping stories, sharing laughs or just enjoying the day together – a return to the sense of fellowship you felt when you served. You may meet someone who served in the same branch as you, perhaps even the same unit, just years apart. You might find a sympathetic ear sitting right next to you and chat about

your service or your life here at home: family, hobbies, pets or jobs.

I promise you this: You will never feel alone at Dutchess County's "Red, White and You!" Veterans Appreciation Picnic.

Just as importantly, you can connect with my office at the picnic to ensure you receive the benefits you've earned through your service. You might learn about services you didn't know are available to you – from healthcare and transportation, to employment and housing assistance.

We invite you to bring a guest and register to attend the picnic by emailing countyexec@dutchessny.gov or calling (845) 486-2000, and we'll see you there!

Our celebrations of Dutchess County's heroes continue in late October and early November, as County Executive Sue Serino and MHA will again co-host their annual Veterans Appreciation Pasta Dinners. These informal, sit-down dinners will take place at the Lions Community Pavilion, Stissing Lake Road in Pine Plains, on Sunday, Oct. 26, with one seating at 4 p.m., and at American Legion Post 1302, 55 Overlook Road in Poughkeepsie, on Sunday, Nov. 2, with seatings at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

These Pasta Dinners are small tokens

of our gratitude for your service, and we'd be honored to share a meal with you and a guest. Whether you're reconnecting with old friends or making new ones, these dinners promise a welcoming atmosphere filled with camaraderie and community spirit.

Like our picnic, these events are about more than food; they are about community. You never know who you'll meet: It might be somebody you haven't seen in years, or maybe you'll make a new friend. Conversations often range from light-hearted to serious; but no matter who you sit with or what you discuss, you leave feeling like you belong.

Both pasta dinners are free, but seating is limited, so please register by emailing CountyExec@dutchessny.gov or calling 845-486-2000. We can't wait to welcome you and celebrate the incredible contributions you've made to our nation.

What I love about these events is how genuine they are. It's just people coming together to say "thank you" in the simplest way possible: by sharing a meal. That kind of honesty means more than any words ever could, and I'm proud we live in a county that honors its veterans in such a heartfelt way.

CCEDC training session held on invasive species identification

Officials and educators with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) hosted a training session on invasive species identification for our county parks on Sept. 10 at Bowdoin Park.

The training was held with funding from the NY/NJ Trail Conference and the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LHPRISM).

The training was followed by a short walk and talk session and ribbon-cutting and focused on scouting, identifying and reporting invasive species and their host plants. The presentation focused on six invasive species of particular concern: beech leaf disease, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, spotted lanternfly, tree of heaven, and spongy moth.

Also, as a part of this year's initiative, CCEDC provided boot brush stations, along with accompanying invasive species awareness brochures. These are the first boot brush stations installed in Dutchess County Parks, with a total of four stations, two at Bowdoin Park and

two at Wilcox Park. Each station features a sign explaining its purpose and a kiosk to hold an Invasive Species Awareness brochure created by the Horticulture staff at CCEDC. The brochures will be updated each season to reflect the current stage in the invasive species life cycle, helping park patrons quickly identify and report new or currently affecting invasive species, as well as explore management options.

These stations aim to prevent the spread of invasive plants by encouraging hikers to brush off seeds, plant material, or insect eggs from their boots before and after hitting the trails. They also provide an opportunity to raise awareness about how easily invasive species can spread unknowingly and how park patrons can contribute to mitigating this issue.

Now on the National Register of Historic Places, the Northside Hub is home to Scenic Hudson staff offices and light-filled spaces for the local community and visitors to learn, grow, play, create, and celebrate.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Sept. 10 at Bowdoin Park to celebrate the installation of the first of four boot brush stations during a training session on invasive species identification. Dutchess County Executive Serino, along with County Legislators Chris Drago and Lynne Versaci were on hand for the event with officials and educators with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County.

-Courtesy photo

Hudson Valley Gospel Festival set for Sept. 27

The Hudson Valley Gospel Festival committee announced the 6th Annual Hudson Valley Gospel Festival, set for Saturday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m. at the Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie. This free, family-friendly event brings together choirs, praise teams, and dancers from across the mid-Hudson region for an afternoon of uplifting music, worship, and community celebration.

The 2025 festival will feature the Hudson Valley Gospel Festival Choir, directed by Dinesa Hansen, the Ulster County Community Gospel Choir, led by Dennis Washington, the Baptist Temple Church Praise Team from Orange County, led by Pastor Dollyann Briggs, and the Hudson Lily of the Valley Praise Dance Team, led by Linda Molina. Pastor Evelyn Clarke will serve as emcee for the afternoon.

Gospel music has been an essential part of Poughkeepsie's cultural life for

generations. The Hudson Valley Gospel Festival continues this legacy, providing a platform for choirs and performers to engage the community while celebrating the richness and creativity of gospel music today.

The Hudson Valley Gospel Festival is free and open to the public. Families, friends, and neighbors are encouraged to attend and enjoy an afternoon of music, dance, and fellowship in the heart of Poughkeepsie.

Pre-sale Tickets: Adult Admission: \$20 | Student (K-12 with ID), seniors, veterans & active military: \$15 | Children under 5: Free

At the Door: Adult Admission: \$30 | Students (K-12 with ID), seniors, veterans & active military: \$25 | Children under 5: Free

Sliding-scale tickets are available at the door.

For more information, please visit www.artsmidhudson.org/hv-gospel-fest.

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Jacobson, Hinchey back two utility reform bills

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) and Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41) passed two major utility reform bills to bring more transparency in rate hike requests and restrict estimated billing.

The first bill (A2736/S8213) requires that any capital expenses included in a utility's request for a rate increase are fully and publicly explained. This would include the purpose and cost of the capital project, as well as any benefits to ratepayers. Because utilities receive a greater rate of return on capital expenditures, it is critical that these costs be disclosed to regulators in a transparent and complete manner.

The second bill (A5969/S2182) requires utilities to bill customers based on actual monthly meter readings, rather than estimates, unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances like extreme weather. It also directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop a standard estimation formula for all New York utility providers.

"Central Hudson rates are high enough. Since utilities receive a greater return on capital expenses than on other expenses, transparency is essential for the PSC to make a proper determination on a rate increase request. The public and the PSC deserve to know," said Jacobson. "Customers deserve timely and accurate billing. Our previous legislation, which is now law, eliminated late billing. Now, we

want to eliminate estimated billing."

"Our legislation addresses two of the biggest questions we hear from Hudson Valley residents: Why did my bill go up, and does it actually reflect what I owe?" said Hinchey. "Utilities are a public service, and the costs they pass on to ratepayers must be transparent, reasonable, and connected to serving their customers. These bills bring commonsense oversight into capital expenditures proposed by utilities and their billing practices, and we hope the Governor will sign both into law to help us protect ratepayers."

Both bills are another step in Jacobson and Hinchey's fight against Central Hudson's never-ending rate increase requests and controversial billing practices. The disastrous rollout of a new billing and customer service system in 2021 led to a cascade of customer issues, including wildly inaccurate and missing bills, it was noted by Jacobson.

These problems didn't stop Central Hudson from making repeated requests for rate increases, including a 25% increase request in 2024. The PSC instead approved a 5% increase that went into effect in July 2024. Soon after this was approved, Central Hudson proposed another increase. In August, the PSC approved an increase of more than 10% for electricity and more than 20% for gas over a three-year period.

The bills are awaiting the Governor's signature to become law.

Beacon, Ketcham, John Jay stay undefeated in football



The Beacon High School cheerleading squad was there to cheer their football team to its second win on the season as they defeated New Paltz, 21-0 last week.

-Courtesy photo

By Morgan E. Maier

With two wins to start the 2025 campaign, the The John Jay High School Patriots burst on the scene at home and across the Hudson River. John Jay blew holes in Pine Bush's defense in their Hopewell home opener. A week later, they soured Suffern's homecoming with a massive 35-0 shutout performance. John Jay will host the Scarsdale Raiders, hot off a 34-8 opening night performance, on September 19.

Ketcham improved to 2-0 with a dominant performance over Ramapo. Jacob Weickel turned a 3rd down & 15 to an RCK lead with a 37-yard touchdown

reception. Late in the game, with multiple lead changes and a zero quit in the eyes of the Storm, Ketcham came back on each of Ramapo's advantages. Hudson Feters hauled in a 53-yard run to set up the comeback. Ketcham once more raced upfield with under two minutes to spare, securing the 42-41 win in thrilling fashion. Following a bye week, the Storm will celebrate their senior night against White Plains on Sept. 26.

Beacon stayed perfect with its own statement shutout, blanking New Paltz 21-0 in the Dogs' home debut. They'll match up against Kingston for a non-league contest on Sept. 19.

Rotary Club of Wappingers Falls, partners provide back-to-school supplies



The Rotary Club of Wappingers Falls and JanCare Private Home Care Agency partnered to provide 12 backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need at Wappingers Junior High School. In addition, JanCare generously donated a nursing basket to the school. The Rotary Club also extends appreciation to JanCare staff members Marie Rizzo and Alyssia Green, whose support contributed to the success of this initiative.

This partnership highlights the Rotary Club's ongoing mission of "Service Above Self" and demonstrates the positive impact that can be achieved when local organizations work together for the betterment of the community.

Rotarians were able to donate nearly 1,000 school supply items to Sheafe Road, Evans, and Myers Corners elementary schools.

Rotarians thank Trustco Bank in Fishkill and JanCare Private Home Care Agency for their partnership this year, and the Town of Wappinger, Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, Grinnell Library, for serving as drop-off locations.

Pictured, from left, Todd Bowen (Past President, Rotary Club of Wappingers Falls), Dr. Dwight Bonk (Superintendent, Wappingers Central School District), Andrew Green (Vice President of Operations, JanCare), Janice Green (CEO, JanCare), Dick Thurston (President, Rotary Club of Wappingers Falls), Hayley Bowen (Front Desk Coordinator, JanCare), Crystal Butler (Healthcare Recruiter, JanCare) and Jennifer Bianco (Care Coordinator, JanCare).

Left: The Rotary Club of Wappingers Falls and JanCare Private Home Care Agency partnered recently to provide school supplies to local children.

-Courtesy photo Rotary Club of Wappingers Falls

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Law enforcement run for Special Olympics



A group of law enforcement officials gathered for the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New York on Sept. 3.

-Courtesy photos

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New York made its way through Dutchess and Ulster County on Wednesday, Sept. 3, with nearly eighty-five law enforcement officers taking part in the awareness run.

For more 35 years, LETR has been more than just a run—it's a movement led by the "Guardians of the Flame," a title proudly held by more than 6,200 law enforcement officers from over 470 agencies across New York State. These dedicated individuals carry the Flame of Hope to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics NY, alongside athletes, families, and supporters.

The route began at the home of Franklin D Roosevelt National Historic Site and traveled through Marist University, MJM Northside Trail, Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park, The Mid-Hudson Bridge and concluded at Mahoney's Irish Pub and Steakhouse in Poughkeepsie.

Thanks was offered to the following individuals, route partners and financial

supporters: Sheriff Kirk Imperati, Sgt. Alonzo Montanya, Chair of Dutchess/Ulster LETR, State Senator, Rolison, County Executive, Sue Serino, County Legislators, Robert Faust and Tony D'Aquanni, Walkway State Park, New York State Bridge Authority, FDR National Historic Site, Marist University, City of Poughkeepsie Police, New York State Police, Town of Poughkeepsie Police, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Town of Lloyd Police, Pine Plains Police Department, Beacon Police PBA, Dutchess County Office of Probations, CSEA, Dutchess County Police Chiefs Association, Vinny Miller Funeral Home, Grace Hargraves Photography, Texas Roadhouse-Poughkeepsie, NYSID, State of New York Corrections and Community Supervision, Gallagher, Dutchess County Track Officials, Mid-Hudson Road Runners Club, Hyde Park Marina, Beacon PBA, PuroClean, Dutchess County Deputy Sheriffs PBA, Empress Medial



Services, Let Me Run Organization-Netherwood Elementary, ThinkDifferently, and Girls on the Run-Hudson Valley.

To learn more about LETR or how to

get involved with Special Olympics NY, visit <http://www.specialolympics-ny.org> or email Susanne O'Neil, Director of Development at soneil@nyso.org.

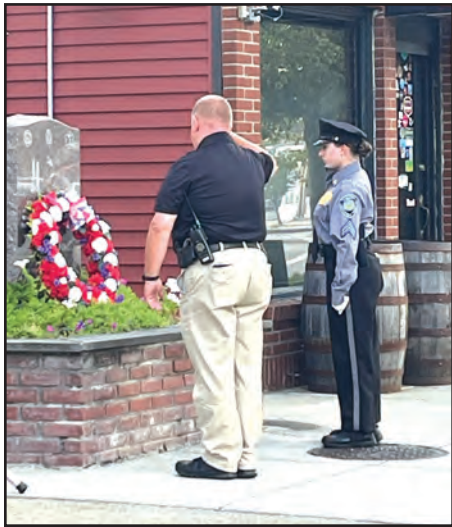
Municipalities remember 9/11 on 24th anniversary



Clockwise from top left: Village of Fishkill Mayor Kathy Martin makes remarks during the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 11 at Van Wyck Village Hall.

A wreath is placed in front of the 9/11 Memorial by members of the Village of Fishkill PBA outside of Van Wyck Village Hall.

The towns of Wappinger and Fishkill both honored the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.



-Photos by Kristine Coulter, courtesy photos



Performance by Saint Rita's Music Room on Sept. 21

Saint Rita's Music Room will present a performance by the quintet - and not coincidentally named - Saint Rita on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. The evening will be a heartfelt exploration of the music of Kurt Weill and Edith Piaf and features the talents of Nate Allen (double bass), Kathleen Bosman (violin/viola), Stephen Clair (guitar), Kelly Ellenwood (vocals), Brad Hubbard (woodwinds).

Saint Rita offers a unique blend of artistry that captures the raw emotion and gritty authenticity of Weill and Piaf's compositions. The trio's performance will

transport audiences from Weimar-era Brecht to the Rue Pigalle and across time and space to 1940s Hollywood and Broadway.

The concert is an encore of a previously sold-out presentation at the Howland Cultural Center.

Tickets are available now through the Saint Rita's Music Room's website or at the door on the night of the performance.

For more information and ticket reservations, please visit <https://www.saintritasmusicroom.com> or email info@saintritasmusicroom.com.

Elks to host luncheon for veterans

There will be a free luncheon for veterans and their loved ones at the Beacon

Elks Lodge #1493, 900 Wolcott Ave., in Beacon on Saturday, Sept. 20 at noon.

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Tompkins Community Bank appoints new manager to lead Mahopac Branch

Reinforcing its promise to deliver trusted financial guidance and personal service, Tompkins Community Bank (Tompkins) has named Tyreik Brown as a new branch manager of its Mahopac branch.

With eight years of industry experience and deep knowledge of banking operations, lending and loan processing, Brown will be responsible for driving business growth, overseeing branch operations, and strengthening relationships with clients and the community.

“Tyreik brings a strong leadership ethos and a customer-first approach to this role,” said Carol Schmitz, senior vice president, community banking manager. “His dedication to employee development and client success aligns perfectly with our ongoing commitment to delivering outstanding service. We know his leadership will benefit both our internal Tompkins team and our wider Hudson Valley community.”

Prior to joining Tompkins, Brown served as a branch manager at TEG Federal Credit Union. A lifelong Hudson Valley resident, Brown holds a degree in business management from SUNY Orange and will soon graduate from SUNY New Paltz. In addition to his volunteer time with Habitat for



Tyreik Brown
-Courtesy photo

Humanity, Brown is a graduate of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Dutchess program, holds a NYS Real Estate Salesperson License and is a notary public.

Scenic Hudson’s Northside Hub opens for first look at sustainable innovation in action

After five years of transformation, Scenic Hudson officially opened the doors of its new Northside Hub in what can be a model for bringing new life to forgotten industrial sites in the cities of the Hudson Valley and across the country. With the correct vision and committed partners, contaminated and discarded properties can be restored and welcoming again.

Just steps from the popular Walkway Over the Hudson, the Northside Hub at 58 Parker Avenue in Poughkeepsie is a place to bring people together. Scenic Hudson combined a historic renovation of the abandoned Standard Gage factory - once a center of innovation and jobs in Poughkeepsie that counted President Franklin D. Roosevelt among its visitors - with a brownfield cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater. The restored buildings and landscape produce more energy than they consume and are powered entirely by the sun.

Now on the National Register of Historic Places, the Northside Hub is home to Scenic Hudson staff offices and light-filled spaces for the local community and visitors to learn, grow, play, create, and celebrate. The factory floors that turned out precision measurement tools during World War II are once again buzzing with innovation: Every detail is grounded in sustainable design, aligned with Scenic Hudson's mission of protecting the health and beauty of the Hudson Valley for future generations. This includes:

- o A state-of-the-art fresh air system that - for the first time in the United States - uniquely integrates "trickle vents" to heat and cool the building, providing up to double the amount of fresh air than a traditional system;
- o A three-story atrium that works as an “air chimney” to help pull fresh air through the building and unifies the two main factory structures;
- o Features that keep all rainwater on site to reduce the downstream impacts of storms, including trenches with vegetation called bioswales, underground retention, and a green roof; and
- o Versatile community resources including an auditorium, an open-air pavilion, open green spaces, and exhibition space that will be available for events beginning in January 2026, as well as office space for local organizations and businesses to grow.

To provide parking for the new Northside Hub, Scenic Hudson acquired the unimproved dirt parking area that had been available parking for the majority of cars carrying visitors to the Poughkeepsie entrance of the Walkway Over the Hudson State Park. They landscaped the property, adding angled solar panel and timber canopies that provide shaded parking and, together with rooftop solar, produce more than enough energy to power the entire site. The new parking area is now limited to less than half of the capacity that had existed for daily park goers previously. Signage indicates that the parking area will be open to the public on evenings and weekends.

Scenic Hudson’s Northside Hub is a collaboration between the environmental organization and dozens of dedicated partners, led by the nonprofit architectural firm MASS Design Group and Consigli

Construction Co., Inc. It was made possible by New York state agencies that provided vital funding, including New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Empire State Development (ESD), as well as Foss & Company's investment with state and federal historic tax credit programs.

For Poughkeepsie, the Northside Hub is the latest in a series of projects to harness the potential of underused areas for the local community. Scenic Hudson was a major supporter of turning the city's out-of-service 1889 railroad bridge into the Walkway Over the Hudson, now the world's longest elevated pedestrian bridge. Just down the road, the organization protected a former rail corridor that now, as Dutchess County’s Northside Line, offers a safe path to bike and walk across the city. And since 2022, the nonprofit has harvested 5,000 pounds of fresh produce at the new Pershing Community Farm next to Pershing Avenue Park, which were supplied free of charge to the local community.

Running behind the Northside Hub, the Fall Kill Creek holds immense potential to connect people with nature and make the area more resilient to flooding and heat. Scenic Hudson is working with partners to increase public access to the urban waterway, including around the Hub, and has already helped make much-needed improvements to the creekside Malcolm X and Pershing Avenue parks.

Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan said, "When Scenic Hudson was first introduced to this property, its shattered windows and polluted grounds were the picture of neglect, but we also saw a special place with a promising future. On the factory floors where the Standard Gage Company once manufactured cutting-edge instruments during much of the 20th century, we’ve started a new chapter of innovation. The Northside Hub is not only a stunning, sustainable home for Scenic Hudson, but also a vibrant community resource for our home city of Poughkeepsie and its visitors. Thank you to everyone who joined us on this journey - I couldn’t be more excited to see what lies ahead."

Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers said, “Today is not just an exciting day for Scenic Hudson, but it's also an extremely exciting day for the City of Poughkeepsie. It means so much to the local community to have this vibrant building and safe space open for anyone to gather, network, and dream up inventive ways to create that thriving city that we’re all longing for. I would like to thank Scenic Hudson for their investment in the City of Poughkeepsie and for their commitment to helping us along with many other communities throughout the Hudson Valley.”

Consigli Construction Co., Inc. Project Executive Scott Cruikshank said, "The Northside Hub presented a unique challenge: honoring the historical significance of the Standard Gage factory while integrating innovative, cutting-edge sustainable design. As Hudson Valley residents and neighbors who benefit daily from Scenic Hudson's important work, our team is honored to have played a key role in the historic restoration and cleanup of this site, creating a space that respects the past while building a greener, more resilient future."

Tag Sale and Adoption Event set for Sept. 28

A Tag Sale and Adoption Event is set for Sunday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at River Valley Arts Center, 9 South Mesier Ave., in Wappingers Falls. There will be pup for adoption. A plant sale

will also be held. The event will be held rain or shine.
For questions, email hopefordogsvolunteer@gmail.com.

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hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



Weigela grows tons of tiny trumpets

If a cylinder and a bell got married, they would make a trumpet.

Found most often in bands and musical ensembles, trumpets have a powerful sound. Their music is often used to honor important events or individuals. They have a historical association with royalty and ceremony.

The shape of the trumpet contributes to its bright, piercing tone. The inside diameter of its tube is relatively consistent for most of its length. That distinguishes it from instruments like the cornet, which has a more conical bore (gradually widening tube) and a mellower sound.

In essence, the trumpet's shape can be described as a long pipe, with a mouthpiece at one end, a flared curve at the other, and a set of valves in the middle to manipulate the airflow and produce a variety of notes. To me, it's like a baby produced from the pairing of a cylinder and a bell.

Trumpets in unexpected places

In nature, the trumpet shape can be found in some unusual places. Chanterelles are flared-funnel-shaped mushrooms often used in savory dishes. The stentor, a protist, commonly found in freshwater throughout the world, has a characteristic trumpet shape that is particularly important in capturing its food. The Giant Triton and Queen Conch are marine snails which grow very large shells that have been used as horns due to their ability to resonate sound in their spiral shapes. Our outer ears act like the bell of a trumpet, gathering sound waves from the environment; Our ear canal acts as the lead pipe, further channeling and modifying the sound waves as they travel to the eardrum.

Flowers

Trumpet-shaped flowers abound because they have evolved to attract pollinators with long beaks or proboscises (tongues). Small Carpenter Bees and Bumblebees are both long-tongued pollinators that forage from flowers with deep floral tubes, such as the Wild Morning Glory (Genus Calystegia), a climbing plant with white or pink trumpet-shaped flowers. Likewise, Hummingbirds are major pollinators of Trumpet Creeper (Campsis radicans), an aptly named vine with vibrant flowers of red, orange, or yellow.

The flowers of Calystegia are about 3 inches in length and width. Typically, one flower blooms at the points where leaves

connect to the stem. The flowers of Campsis radicans are longer than those of the Wild Morning Glory, but the mouth of their trumpet is narrower. Trumpet Vines flower in clusters of two to eight per stem. Both grow along Rombout Road in LaGrange, as well as many other places in Dutchess County.

Vines vs Shrubs

Morning glories and trumpet creepers both grow on supporting structures. Sporadic pinkish-white blooms appear in a thicket of greenery when Calystegia takes over. Contrast that to the bevy of bright, beautiful flowers which are produced by Campsis radicans. But, keep your distance, because the trumpet vine is known to cause skin irritation.

Neither of those vines produce as many trumpet-like blossoms as the genus Weigela. Some species of the deciduous shrubs bloom more than once during a season. Flowers that appear are plentiful in white, pink, and red.

You can't choose your family

The Weigela genus is a member of the Honeysuckle Family. Like Calystegia and Campsis radicans, Asian Honeysuckles are invasive in Dutchess County. But, flowers on both native and non-domestic honeysuckles have tubular, albeit smaller trumpet-like blooms. So, it's not surprising that Weigela shares some DNA with them.

Say Wy-JEE-la or Vy-JEE-la

Some may even say WAY-guh-luh when referring to the Weigela Genus. The eponym was bestowed to commemorate the German scientist Christian Ehrenfried Weigel, who made contributions to the field of botany. So, when pronouncing the name for the genus, its acceptable to emphasize the first or second syllable, use a hard or soft "g," and start with a phonetic /w/ or /v/. But, do not end with the 'ia' sound. The plant is not called a Weigelia.

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



Weigela



From left, Trumpet Creeper, and Calystegia Genus.

-Photos by Francine Wizner

OFA ‘Senior Prom’ registration now open

The annual OFA “Masquerade Ball” Senior Prom takes place on Monday, Oct. 20, from noon to 4 pm, at Villa Borghese, 70 Widmer Rd. in Wappinger.

The prom begins with a sit-down lunch, then the full Bob Martinson Band will keep the dance floor packed for the rest of the afternoon. The prom is presented with vital support from The Pines at Poughkeepsie.

Prom reservations are now open and are \$20 per person. The registration deadline is Friday, October 10th, or until the event reaches capacity, whichever comes first. The prom sells out every year!

Need the sign-up form? It's at www.dutchessny.gov/prom. For those of

you who organize group trips, there's a page where you can list everybody in your group. Those who are planning to attend the prom as part of a group should send their payment in together.

Not online? Paper forms will be available in the upcoming Fall 2025 issue of our THRIVE60+ newsletter, due out later this month. They're also available at OFA headquarters in Poughkeepsie (location in next paragraph).

Payment (cash, check or money order only) can be mailed, or hand-delivered during business hours, to Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

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Obituaries

Ann Parisi



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Ann Parisi on September 12, 2025 after a valiant battle with cancer. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, teacher, and the cherished matriarch of her family, she left this world surrounded by her loved ones, leaving behind a legacy of faith, family, and compassion.

Born on February 26, 1940 in Niagara Falls, NY, she was the daughter of Philip and Mary LaRose, Ann grew up in a close-knit Italian Catholic family that instilled in her the values of service, kindness, and perseverance. She graduated from the University of Plattsburgh with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and began her career teaching elementary school in Lockport, NY, and North

Syracuse, NY.

During that time, she met and married the love of her life, her devoted husband of 58 years, John Parisi. Together they built a beautiful life, raising their family in Millbrook, NY. There she continued her passion for education as a nursery school teacher while dedicating herself to raising her four children. A woman of faith and deep community ties, Ann taught religious education at St. Joseph's Parish, was an active member of St. Joseph's Ladies Guild, served on the PTA, and was a dedicated 4-H leader. She also volunteered countless hours at Uncle Al's Thrift Shop, giving selflessly to her community.

Her love of nature blossomed in her gardens, where she was an avid gardener and proud member of the Nine Partners Garden Club. At home, she shared her love through cooking and baking-always ready with a warm meal, and forever remembered for her love of celebrating every holiday with food, family and traditions.

Above all, Ann's greatest joy was her family. She is survived by her loving husband, John Parisi, and their four children: Dr. Susan Parisi and her children Isabella, Annaeliese, and Alexander; the Hon. Anthony Parisi and his wife Sinead and their daughters Seraphina and Giuliana; Dr. Marybeth Parisi and her children Giovanna, Annabella, Marco, and Giulian; and Ann Marie Ozolins and her husband Christopher and their daughter Viviann. She is also survived by her brothers Stephen LaRose, Philip LaRose, Jr., and Anthony LaRose. She was predeceased by her parents, Philip and Mary Larose.

Ann will be remembered for her unwavering faith, her generosity, her strength, and most of all, her love for her family. Though she is gone from this earth, her spirit will live on in the lives she touched and in the hearts of all who loved her.

Family and friends were invited to celebrate Ann's life with calling hours on Tuesday, September 16, at Allen Funeral Home, 3270 Franklin Avenue, Millbrook, NY 12545. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church, 15 North Avenue, Millbrook, NY 12545, followed by burial at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com for condolences and directions.

Author Talk with James Patterson in Poughkeepsie



James Patterson

-Courtesy photo

James Patterson has published over 200 novels, including the best-selling books featuring Alex Cross. He has expanded into non-fiction, including the recent best-selling book “The Idaho Four: An American Tragedy.” On Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m., Patterson will be in conversation at the Lateef Islam Auditorium in the Family Partnership Center to discuss his writings and his newest book, “Disrupt Everything—And

Win: The Proven and Effective Way to Harness Change Into a Force for Success.” Registration is required.

The first 500 attendees will receive a free copy of “Disrupt Everything—And Win: The Proven and Effective Way to Harness Change Into a Force for Success.”

The Lateef Islam Auditorium at the Family Partnership Center is at 29 N. Hamilton St., Poughkeepsie.

Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.

Aug. 1: Fraud-Main Street- Caller reported unauthorized charges on her account. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 1: Unattended Death- Beacon-Officers responded to a call for an Unattended Death. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 3: Traffic Stop- Main Street- Paul Cedric, 23, of Newburgh, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Vehicle 3rd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

Aug. 4: Animal Complaint- Lincoln Avenue Donna Idema, 72, of Beacon was charged with violating City of Beacon Code Section 99.9.A3, Intentionally and knowingly commit the offense of a Dog Habitually Howling.

Aug. 4: Fraud-Cross Street-Caller reported being a victim of a Gift Card scam. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 5: Burglary-Forrestal Heights-Caller reported a past occurred burglary. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 5: Harassment-Fishkill Avenue-Caller reported being harassed by someone known to her. Report taken.

Investigation conducted.

Aug. 6: Auto Accident- Long Dock Park-Caller reported damage to her vehicle as a result of another vehicle backing up. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 7: Theft of Service- Main Street-Caller reported that a customer known to her walked out before paying for her meal. Report taken. Investigation conducted. Customer was advised not to return to the establishment per owner request.

Aug. 8: Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Deanna M. Karge, 27, of Wappinger Falls, was processed on an open Bench Warrant and also charged with Bail Jumping 2nd.

Aug. 8: Warrant- Municipal Plaza-Shqiponje D. Gjoka, 34, of Poughkeepsie, was processed on an open Bench Warrant and also charged with Bail Jumping 3rd.

Aug. 8: Fight-Main Street- Officers responded to a call for a fight. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 8: Larceny from Vehicle-Colonial Road- Caller reported someone broke into her car and took items. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 9: Stolen Vehicle-Forrestal Heights- Caller reported her car was stolen, report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 11: Animal Complaint- Main Street- Caller reported animal cruelty to a cat. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 12: Harassment-Main Street-Caller reported being harassed by an individual known to him. Report taken. Investigation.

Aug. 12: Car vs. Dog Auto Accident-Fishkill Avenue- Officers responded to a dog that was hit by a car. Report taken.

Aug. 14: Criminal Mischief- Main Street- Caller reported that his vehicle was vandalized. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 15: Burglary-Heaney Drive-Ahjanay M. Sanders, 22, of Poughkeepsie, was charged with Burglary 2nd.

Aug.17: Larceny-Main Street-Wayne McKellar Jr., 34, of Peekskill, was charged with Petit Larceny.

Aug. 18: Traffic Stop- Main Street-Derek G. Patton, 46, of Poughkeepsie, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Motor Vehicle 3rd & miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic violations.

Aug. 19: Intoxicated Subject-Dinan Street- Randy S. Wilson, 37, of Beacon, was charged with Aggravated DWI & DWI.

Aug. 20: Warrant-One Municipal Plaza-Brandon L. Santiago, 25 of New Windsor, Orange County, was processed on an open Warrant of Arrest.

Aug. 21: Larceny- Main Street- Wayne McKellar Jr., 34, of Peekskill, was charged with Petit Larceny.

Aug. 22: Fraud-Washington Avenue-Caller reported someone fraudulently has been making charges on her debit card. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 22: Auto Accident -Hit & Run-Main Street- Caller reported damage to her car as a result of a hit-and-run accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 24: Trespass-Main Street- Daral Reilly, 54, of Beacon, was charged with Trespass.

Aug. 26: Auto Accident- Delavan Avenue-Arshdeep S. Dhaliwal, 21, of Fishkill, was charged with DWI, Left Scene of an the Injury Accident & miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic violations.

Aug. 30: Warrant-Forrestal Heights-Ryann L. Ferriter, 39, of Beacon was processed on an open Warrant of Arrest.

Number of Calls: 316
Auto Accidents: 12
Domestics: 5.

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700 Pets & Supplies
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702 Lost & Found Pets
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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
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724 Farmers Market
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Eagle Scout candidate unveils restored Albany Post Road Mile Marker in Wappinger



Town of Wappinger officials joined Eagle Scout candidate Evan DiMattia of Troop 145 in unveiling a beautifully restored Colonial Albany Post Road Mile Marker — a key step toward earning his Eagle Scout rank. Evan worked alongside Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini, his fellow scouts, and community volunteers to return this 18th-century landmark to its former glory.

Senior Councilman William H. Beale, representing the First Ward where this marker stands, and Fourth Ward Councilman Al Casella also joined neighbors to celebrate this moment of preservation.

Once inscribed with “72 Miles to N. York,” this mile marker is part of a chain installed along the original Post Road under the direction of Benjamin Franklin in colonial America. These markers served as vital reference points for mail carriers and travelers, guiding them between New York City and Albany — long before Route 9 became the modern thoroughfare we know today. The marker stands in front of Southside Plaza on Route 9.

-Courtesy photos Town of Wappinger

Early Railroading in Dutchess County, the story of the William T. Hart Railroad Ferry

Following its completion in 1889, the Poughkeepsie Railway Bridge was a crucial link between New England and the United States’ elaborate railroad network. It continued for over eighty years until its fiery demise in 1974, but prior to trains traveling by rail, a vastly different method of transportation was used to cross the Hudson River.

Join author and historian Alex Prizgintas with the Beacon Historical Society as he explores the early history of the Erie and West Shore railroads in Newburgh, Orange County as well as the service of the William T. Hart—a steam-powered barge that transported railroad cars from the late nineteenth century until the turn of the twentieth century from Newburgh to Fishkill Landing en route to New England.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. in the LaGrange Association Library in LaGrange.

The rise of railroad traffic between the Hudson River and Boston gave way to an intricate railroad network that connected almost every municipality in Dutchess County, with lines such as the Dutchess & Columbia, Boston, Hartford & Erie, and the Newburgh, Dutchess & Connecticut.

A Night of Gospel Jazz on Sept. 19

A Night of Gospel Jazz will be held on Sept. 19 at 8:30 p.m. at Towne Crier Café, 379 Main St. BTMOG & Associates with special guest Darren Rahn.

For tickets to this concert, please go to [at https://townecrier.com](https://townecrier.com).

Mount Alvernia Fall Tag Sale set for Sept. 20

The Mount Alvernia Fall Tag Sale is set for Saturday, Sept. 20. from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 158 Delavergne Ave. in Wappingers Falls.

There will be holiday decor, toys, houseware items and more.

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