Spirit of Beacon Day Sunday, continues 43 years of tradition

By Kristine Coulter

Though there will not be any large gathering on Main St. this year, Spirit of Beacon Day will still happen from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27. From noon to 4 p.m. on that day, join with one’s family for “Porch Celebrations.” The “Neighborhood Drive Thru” will take place from noon to 2 p.m. Cheer on first responders and community organizations as they go through local neighborhoods. A Virtual Concert will be held from noon to 2 p.m.

“Our committee reflected on the fact that Spirit of Beacon Day has been running every year since 1977 and is now in its 43rd year. We recognized that folks had come together as a community without fail year after year to show their “spirit” – so this year we wanted to see how we could still reflect that “spirit” but in a safe way for everyone,” said Gwennno James, Chairperson of the Spirit of Beacon Day Committee. “Also, we realized how many folks were stepping up and supporting each other during the pandemic,” she said. We thought this could be a time to highlight those efforts and say “thank you” to those who have helped and supported our community during this challenging time.

The committee would like to keep to the founding mission and intention of Spirit of Beacon Day, which started 43 years ago, said James, as an attempt to: “Bring the City together, especially the children and youth...the community should get to know one another better, learn to know what each other likes in conversation, feelings, entertainment, education and food...A day when everyone comes together to attempt a better understanding of each other and the entire community.”

Those taking part will have to keep safety guidelines in mind, noted James. “Folks can watch the Drive Thru at home, from their front lawn, yard or porch – and we encourage everyone to have what we’re calling a “Porch Celebration” with their family and cheer on the vehicles as they come by. We’re also encouraging folks to decorate their lawns or create homemade encouraging community signs to display on Spirit of Beacon Day,” she stated.

James added, “Also – folks can tune in live...because there will be a “Virtual Concert,” streamed between noon and approximately 2 p.m. on Facebook, the Spirit of Beacon Day website (spiritofbeacon.org) and Channel 22 television. We are gathering messages, photos and performances across the community in advance which will be compiled together and shown on the day.”

 Asked what resident should know about precautions that are being taken this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, James replied, “The health and safety of our community is our utmost priority, and all our planning has been made in consultation with health and city officials and we are following the CDC guidelines. The event this year is Virtual and Safe-Distance, meaning that everyone can stay at home and still enjoy the day with their families.”

The committee started meeting back in March on Zoom, just as the lockdown started. “All our meetings have been online and we have coordinated via email and phone. It took us several months of discussions before a plan emerged about how we could coordinate the event this year – and we thank everyone in the community for their input, feedback and ideas,” said James.

As for what the committee hopes for this year’s celebration, James answered, “We hope that we can still celebrate and showcase our city’s spirit although we cannot be all together in person and we look forward to thanking and highlighting those who have supported us during this pandemic.”

For more information, visit www.spiritofbeacon.org.

Council receives update on police chief search

By Kristine Coulther

Council member Terry Nelson is the Police Search Committee chairperson. He noted at the Council’s Sept.14 meeting that a survey for residents to complete was due Sept. 15.

“I don’t have the findings yet,” he noted. The committee was scheduled to look at them on Sept. 17.

“What we’re going to do...is look at the box and look at the data,” said Nelson. He added they want to put out a description that goes further than the Civil Service description for the chief. Currently the acting chief is Sands Frost.

Nelson said committee members want to put out a description “that’s appropriate for Beacon.”

A brochure will be put out by the search firm the city hired, said Nelson. City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said the brochure would be ready by mid-to end of October.

The committee’s discussion is “what do you want in a chief” and check off the boxes and have gotten from data and feedback, it was stated.

“It’s been an interesting committee to be a part of,” said Council member Air Rhodes, who is also on the Police search committee.

“It’s been a wonderful conversation to be a part of,” said Rhodes, adding the committee hopes “to bring in just the type of leader we’re looking for in the police department.”

“We need to get this done,” said Mayor Lee Kyriacou.

The Beacon City Council heard an update on the search for a police chief for the city.

Photo by Kristine Coulther
Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Lois summarized the New York State Association of Counties’ (NYSAC) update on year-to-date sales tax payments to counties. The report shows the 57 counties in New York, outside of New York City, Dutchess County has the 12th largest drop in sales tax revenue for the period of January through August 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. “Dutchess County sales tax revenue dropped 8.5%, or $11 million, from $131 million to $120 million for the same period in 2020. These drops are a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the mandatory closing or limitations of many businesses from March until August of 2020,” stated Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Lois. “Most businesses in the state currently can operate at some capacity; I’m hopeful that, short of a second shut down, the worst of the sales tax hits are behind us.” Sales tax is the largest source of revenue for Dutchess County, accounting for 41.1% of 2020’s total budgeted revenue, or $211 million of $514 total budgeted revenue. Overall, Dutchess County’s sales tax revenue as a percentage of total revenue has increased from 32% in 2010 to 40% in 2019. Total actual revenue increased from close to $126 million in 2010 to over $208 million in 2019, an increase of 66%. NYSAC reported that the first 2 months of the year were very strong (pre-COVID) for counties, and that most counties projected growth for 2020. Dutchess County budgeted a 4% increase in sales tax revenues for 2020 over 2019, which compounded with the current 8.5% decrease year-to-date indicates the losses are larger than the straight year over year comparison. Comparatively, half of the counties in the state experienced less than a 5.4% drop in sales tax receipts, including 10 counties that had a slight growth of revenue during the period. Westchester County hosts ‘Think Jobs’ round-table forum

Last week, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro virtually welcomed local businesses, civic groups and individuals to the county’s fourth annual “Think Jobs” round-table discussion, which highlights the benefits of local businesses from hiring residents with special needs, encourages them to do so and honors community partners who employ those with disabilities. Molinaro said, “More than just a paycheck, meaningful employment provides residents of every ability a sense of empowerment and self-esteem, enabling them to reach their full potential. Over the past several years, through the success of our annual ‘Think Jobs’ events, we have seen local businesses make great strides in hiring more of our friends and neighbors with special needs – benefiting employers, employees and Dutchess County, as a whole. While we celebrate these achievements today, we’re reminded there remain opportunities for this untapped workforce, and we encourage more employers to Think Differently and open their ranks to our residents with disabilities.”

Local businesses seeking more information about the county’s “Think Jobs” efforts, including the benefits of hiring the disabled and other resources, can contact Kadiyah Lodge at the Dutchess One Stop Career Center at klodge@dutchessonestop.org or (845) 554-5936.

The annual event, held in coordination with the County’s Department of Community and Economic Development, Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (and) the Dutchess One Stop Career Center, embodies Dutchess County’s “Think Differently” initiative, which encourages communities to foster a welcoming and supportive environment for those with special needs. The event was presented virtually to comply with social-distancing guidelines and the prohibition on large gatherings, resulting from the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Molinaro said, “More than just a paycheck, meaningful employment provides residents of every ability a sense of empowerment and self-esteem, enabling them to reach their full potential. Over the past several years, through the success of our annual ‘Think Jobs’ events, we have seen local businesses make great strides in hiring more of our friends and neighbors with special needs – benefiting employers, employees and Dutchess County, as a whole. While we celebrate these achievements today, we’re reminded there remain opportunities for this untapped workforce, and we encourage more employers to Think Differently and open their ranks to our residents with disabilities.”

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The event included three “Think Jobs” award categories presented by Molinaro, which recognize the “Think Differently” spirit embodied by local employers, employees and community partners.

- The “Think Jobs” Business Award recognizes local businesses who have opened their hiring practices to provide vocational training and/or employment opportunities for people of all abilities. The award was presented to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, a long-time partner of the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (and) the Dutchess One Stop Career Center, which provides qualified staff with intellectual and developmental disabilities job skills and life skills while enjoying a college experience.

- The “Think Ahead” Individual Award celebrates the success of residents with disabilities who embody the spirit of “Think Differently” and the successes of “Think Jobs” through their employment. This award was presented to Michael Tardio, a graduate of Arlington High School’s Dutchess Community College, whose previous work experience prepared him for the food service industry. Tardio has worked as a food service worker since 2006 at the Anderson Community Center, where he provides daily support and assistance to the monthly support he gets from a Job Coach through Integrated Employment, as this allows him the opportunity to talk through issues and to problem-solve; and he is looking to the future and working toward taking on more cooking responsibilities.

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By Kate Goldsmith

As New York’s rate of infection once again dipped below 1 percent, Gov. Andrew Cuomo continued to drive home the need for vigilance to help manage COVID-19.

“The temperature is cooling and the leaves are starting to change colors — but while it feels like a new season, COVID remains with us,” he said. “We can defeat this virus, but we need New Yorkers to stay vigilant. We all must continue to wear masks, socially distance, wash our hands and get tested.”

At a press conference last Wednesday, Cuomo acknowledged the frustration of businesses that are still prohibited from reopening, including movie theaters and performance venues.

“Every business wants to be open … New York wants to get back to normal life,” said Cuomo. “but we’re not ready.”

He said the state has opened up as much economic activity as possibly to stay at or below the 1-percent infection rate.

“We are right up to that limit,” he said, which is why the state isn’t allowing theaters and concert venues to reopen yet.

“The last thing we want to do is go back,” said Cuomo, acknowledging comments from the public that the pandemic is not the crisis it used to be in New York, Cuomo said, “It’s not a crisis the way it was because we’re managing it.”

Cuomo also touched on the long-term psychological consequences of going through the pandemic.

“COVID was a trauma for this country ... like being at war,” he said, noting that many will suffer PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder).

“This is a profound transformational moment in society” that shows us “how dangerous denial is.” He went on to say how the United States has experienced other disease outbreaks but still downplayed the novel coronavirus.

This week in his briefings, the governor will expound on the mental health implications of the pandemic.

IN BRIEF:

- With flu season around the corner, New Yorkers are reminded to get a flu shot — “because the last thing you want is to risk having the flu and COVID at the same time.”

- The MTA implemented its new mask enforcement policy. MTA will issue a $50 fine to riders who refuse to wear a mask on the subway or bus even after being asked to, and offered one.

- New York State is providing funding for workforce development. Across the State, 66 businesses, schools and community-based organizations have been awarded nearly $9 million to support job training opportunities for more than 3,600 New Yorkers adapting to the post-COVID economy.

- Six states have been removed from New York’s COVID-19 Travel Advisory. Individuals traveling from California, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada and Ohio will not be subject to a 14-day quarantine. The Northern Mariana Islands have also been removed, but Puerto Rico remains with us,” he said. “We can defeat this virus, but we need New Yorkers to stay vigilant. We all must continue to wear masks, socially distance, wash our hands and get tested.”

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Consider making a blood donation

To the Editor:

The church I pastor has been hosting an average of three blood drives per month since May after I found out that the normal place I give blood was closed due to the COVID-19 shutdown. The other day I was called "brave" for doing this since many places continue to refuse to host a drive due to fears of COVID-19.

I don’t consider it brave for it is simply the right thing to do and with infection rates of those tested in the county running about 1% since mid-June and mortality rates of those with COVID-19 running at about 0.6% for the same time period, I don’t really find much to fear either. It is fairly easy to disinfect a building.

But with that fear in mind, I want to thank both those that faithfully come to give blood and those giving since the there always is a need by those who are fighting for their lives.

For the life of the flesh is in the blood... - Leviticus 17:11a. Go to redcrossblood.org to sign up for a blood drive.

Scott L Harris
Wappingers Falls

Beacon PBA endorses Forman

To the Editor:

The Beacon PBA endorsed Judge Peter Forman. In a statement, The City of Beacon PBA announced its endorsement to re-elect Judge Peter Forman, County Court Judge.

The statement reads: “Forman has proven himself, over the length of his career to be fair and honest. His dedication to the residents of Dutchess County goes far beyond just sitting behind the bench. Judge Forman has shown his compassion and respect for all that stand in front of him. His efforts in creating the Dutchess County Family Treatment Court and Juvenile Treatment Court shows he is truly dedicated to serving and helping those in need.”

The statement went on to announce that the Beacon Police Benevolent Association (PBA) announced its endorsement of the Dutchess County Family Treatment Court and Juvenile Treatment Court shows he is truly dedicated to serving and helping those in need.

DCC alumna Gambino named acting president

The Board of Trustees of Dutchess Community College with the endorsement of the State University of New York, has appointed Ellen Gambino, Ed.D., acting president. Gambino joined the College in various academic leadership roles since 2006, becoming Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Services in 2015. Prior to joining DCC, the Hudson Valley native held academic leadership positions at private colleges in Downstate New York.

Gambino brings to the role extensive experience in curriculum design, student success and retention, strategic planning, budget management, academic assessment and workforce development. She led the development of the College’s new associate degree program in Public Health, and two offerings awaiting state approval – Hospitality and Tourism and Aviation Management Technician.

"I am extremely proud and honored to lead Dutchess Community College during this transition," said Gambino. “With the support of our faculty, staff, alumni and board of trustees, I am confident that the College will emerge from these challenging times stronger and better positioned to continue to fulfill our mission to provide a high-quality education that is affordable, accessible, equitable and inclusive.”

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City to distribute $1,000 in Key Food gift cards donated anonymously

Mayor Lee Kyriacou announced that the City of Beacon will, as a result of an anonymous donation – is distributing over one thousand dollars in Key Food Gift Cards by way of various local non-profit groups and the school district.

The gift cards, issued at Beacon’s Key Food grocery store, will be redistributated to local families going through financial difficulties during the current health crisis and economic downturn. The city was able to provide gift cards to local religious institutions, non-profit groups and the census, “said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro. “It only takes five minutes, and your personal information is kept confidential.”

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Letter to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or management of the Southern Dutchess News Group.

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

If a rally isn't enough, will a lawsuit be the next step?

Last Sunday, high school athletes, coaches, parents and supporters held a rally outside the Westchester County Center in White Plains asking that the New York Public High School Athletic Association reconsider its decision on moving high-risk sports football, volleyball and competitive cheerleading to March 2022 and return to the traditional fall season.

Days later, the #LetThemPlay movement hired the Syosset, Long Island-based firm The Mermigis Law Group to file a civil action and injunction to force New York State and the athletic governing bodies to allow fall football.

According to the group, lead attorney James Mermigis Esq. filed on behalf of gyms and restaurants already and has been successful. The suit is expected to be filed this week, and there is an active fundraiser to assist in litigation costs and expenses at https://www.gofundme.com/f/yy13T-let-them-play.

This suit has implications even in those Sections that have postponed all sports to 2021: There is no guarantee that football will be installed. Additionally, this lawsuit prevails, the question of whether football can be played then will be removed.

Additionally, the group says that just bringing this suit could have an impact on current and future decisions by officials regarding other sports as the state will be put on notice and precedence could be established for other similar legal actions. Frankly, all fall athletes are still in peril, not just the high-risk sports.

Although Gov. Andrew Cuomo already gave his blessing for a Sept. 21 start for low- to moderate-risk sports - boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, girls swimming, girls tennis and field hockey - it is still a tenuous situation.

Section 9 has moved all fall sports and moved all to March, affecting local schools Dover, Webutack, Millbrook, Rhinebeck, Red Hook, Pine Plains, Rhinebeck and Spackenkill. Sections 8 and 11 (Long Island) and Section 4 (Binghamton and Southern Tier) have also moved all fall sports to the early spring.

Section 1 (Ketcham, John Jay, Arlington, Poughkeepsie, Beacon and Our Lady of Lourdes) has already approved low- to moderate-risk sports being played in the fall, albeit eight days later than the state with a Sept. 29 start date. But individual schools could opt out, as at least four did in Section 7 (upstate Champlain); whole leagues could decide on their own whether they want to play and could opt out, as did in Section 4 prior to the whole section making the move; or school superintendents could have the ultimate say and decide on their own whether to play. This is what happened in Section 6 when all Buffalo Public Schools decided to postpone all fall sports to March, a total of 18 high schools, although the rest of the section voted to continue with low- to moderate-risk sports.

Section 1 Executive Director Todd Santabarbara said “As always, the Section has made the safety and well-being of our student-athletes, coaches, officials and communities its top priority. Today’s decisions by the Executive Committee represents a balance between supporting schools as they reopen amid this complex and unprecedented time, while also providing for the safe return for our student-athletes to interscholastic competition. The Section continues to be guided by a belief in the value that interscholastic sports participation contributes to student-athlete’s feelings of belonging and overall social-emotional well-being.”

AG James announces $10M to protect homeowners during COVID-19 pandemic

Attorney General Letitia James recently announced $10 million in grant funding as part of a total $20 million allocation to support New York homeowners struggling with foreclosure. The Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP) connects homeowners to free, qualified mortgage-assistance representatives across New York.

According to FHFA’s 2020 first-quarter report on foreclosure prevention actions, just over 170,000 homeowners asked for a forbearance on their payments, compared to around 7,000 that were filed in the last quarter of 2019. As mortgage payment deferrals due to COVID-19 begin to expire, New Yorkers, more than ever, need this support to ensure they can remain in their homes. The funding supports a network of more than 80 housing counselors and legal service organizations that have helped more than 100,000 families avoid foreclosure and remain in their homes.

“Owning a home is a staple of the American Dream,” said James. “During these uncertain times, the need for assistance and guidance to get homeowners back on track is acute and urgent. My office is committed to protecting homeowners and ensuring that all New Yorkers have a safe and decent home.”

“Throughout the pandemic, New Yorkers have proven that they are smart, tough and resilient, but these are the most challenging times we have faced in generations and we have an obligation to do all we can to prevent foreclosures from plaguing communities,” Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. “The Homeowner Protection Program championed by Attorney General James will provide homeowners across the state with much-needed security during this incredibly difficult time.”

The Attorney General’s Office is partnering with the Center for NYC Neighborhoods and the Empire Justice Center to help manage and coordinate the program.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) established the program in 2012 in response to rising foreclosure stemming from the financial crisis. However, even a decade beyond the “housing crisis,” communities across New York state continue to face many challenges related to homeowner stabil- ity, such as continued foreclosures, predatory mortgage lending, deed theft, and other scams.

Until now, the funding for HOPP came from bank settlements secured by the OAG. Funding will also continue to support educational and referral services. Now the program is state funded, and the New York state legislature has allocated a total of $20 million to support the program through a ninth year.

James encourages those who have been scammed to report complaints by calling the office (800) 771-7755 or by filling out a complaint form. The OAG cannot assist with mortgage payments, however, homeowners throughout New York state who are behind on their mortgage or other charges can get free help in their community by calling HOPP hotline at (855) HOME-456 or (855) 466-3456. Any identifying information provided to the OAG will be protected in a manner consistent with state law and policies on the safeguarding of identifying information.
By Bill Jeffway

By definition, the telling of our shared history in public spaces includes the entire public. “Public spaces” could include anything from public parks and monuments, to private buildings in public view, to what we teach children in public schools, and public holidays. Greater attention to this issue is emerging in Dutchess County. This column, the first in a series on the topic, looks at public holidays that embrace two key questions: Who has the earliest claims to America (notoriously leaving the indigenous people aside, and those of African heritage), and what is the source of our liberties?

An early “arrival” was meant to imply significance.

In 1892, the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ trip to what we call America, Italian immigrants were still finding their footing and acceptance in a predominantly White Protestant country and county.

The effort to embrace Columbus came early in our history. The association of “Columbia” with the United States came about in the late 1700s, nowhere more evident than being the “C” in Washington D.C. (District of Columbia).

It was on Columbus Day in October of 1923 that the first nation-wide instruction for school children to say the “Pledge of Allegiance” to the flag was instituted through a proclamation by US President Benjamin Harrison. Increasingly and quickly, Columbus as an individual, and Columbus Day as a holiday, were embraced by Italian Americans and tied to patriotism. This group was not alone in staking a claim in this way, some more successful than others.

While not a recurring public holiday, the creation of the 1899 Hudson-Fulton celebration was a big public event locally. With a little sleight of hand to include both the 1609 voyage of Hudson (an Englishman sailing on behalf of the Dutch) and the 1807 first successful run (notoriously leaving the indigenous peoples behind) of a steamboat, the Clermont, the year 1899 was chosen.

Among the commissioners of the celebration was NY State Senator from Dutchess County, and future US President, Franklin Roosevelt. Some historians feel that this exposure of FDR to patriotism led directly to his major efforts through the Works Progress Administration while President, to create public murals, perhaps most famously, in post offices. Speaking in 1925, US President Calvin Coolidge thrilled a massive audience (reflecting the large, local Nordic population) at the Minnesota State Fair by declaring that it was actually Leif Erickson who was the first person to arrive on American soil, in 1000 AD. In 1949, a statue of Leif Erickson was erected at the Minnesota state capitol. Beyond that, the idea did not gain much traction.

Where in history was the first emergence of liberty?

A curious set of notes in the May 17, 1923 meeting minutes of the Dutchess County Historical Society read, in part, “The object of the teaching of history [in public schools] is to give a truthful picture of the past with due regard to the age of the pupils for whom the work is intended; that the truth should not be distorted for any purpose whatsoever and that both sides of a controversial question should be adequately presented from an academic point of view, so that students of history shall be trained in the habits of open-minded tolerance so as to prevent narrow-minded bigotry and prejudice.”

This was a resolution adopted by the NY Association of History Teachers who had requested historical organizations to endorse it in an effort to prevent political influences from shaping the teaching of history. In addition it said, “[w]e wish to defeat attempts made to get legislatures to write into the statutes the content of courses in history and the social sciences; the proper place for determining such content is with the state and local educational authorities.”

The resolution passed unanimously by the DCHS board.

Research revealed that there was a movement to create a celebration on June 15, Magna Carta Day, to and change school textbooks. The effort was an effort to portray the fundamental principles of liberty as not having emerged from the American Revolution, but instead from the British Magna Carta, the document that King John of England was forced to sign in the year 1215, giving written concessions, freedoms and rights to the people.

It was not lost on critics that the day was close to, and could potentially overshadow, the 4th of July and shift the focus of the origins of liberty from 1766 to 1215. A 1926 Canadian newspaper report does not hide the intentions writing, “Whatever the race or origin of the people of the United States today, they acknowledge fully and freely that their history is a continuation of British history, and that the principles of Magna Carta and other great instruments of British Freedom have come directly down the stream of time as the common heritage of the Anglo-Saxon race. Today American students of constitutional history describe the revolution as in the line of succession to Magna Carta…”

Critics, like the Catholic Fraternity of Columbus, called the effort a biased, pre-British rewriting of history. Poughkeepsie Superintendent of Schools Sylvester Shear was giving voice to other effects when he was embracing the movement when he said to a Memorial Day crowd at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery in 1916, “I feel that the time is not far distant when the Magna Carta shall be written larger and broader and in better terms as a guide for all civilizations.”

In 1918 he said, “In all our six wars we have fought for the extension of the principles of Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence.” The effort ultimately failed.

Debates about what is told in public spaces, through public holidays, and in public education, are necessarily dissonant, but constructive.

In future columns, we will look at the emerging work of the Poughkeepsie-based group Celebrating the African Spirit, and their efforts to tell a more inclusive local history in public spaces.

DCHS is piloting a trial resource online. www.DCHSNY.org/public-history, that looks at how other institutions are dealing with the issue of history in public places, with a view to adding a range of local voices over time.

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Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society, a member of the Black History Committee of Dutchess County, and a founder of the platform supporting the better use of local history at www.HistorySpeaks.us. Bill can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsny.org or 845-296-7711.
Sholes & Miller law firm celebrates 20th anniversary

The Firm of Sholes & Miller is celebrating their 20th anniversary. The firm was founded in August 2000 by partners Sarah E. Sholes, Esq. and Robert Irving Miller, Esq. The firm of Sholes & Miller has been providing comprehensive legal representation of families, individuals, companies, medical professionals and facilities, and other lawyers for the past twenty years in the Hudson Valley, the New York City metro area and the Capital region.

Not long after being established, Sholes & Miller emerged as a pre-eminent leader in providing comprehensive representation of clients in the healthcare industry. The firm’s attorneys have represented numerous clients – from malpractice and disciplinary proceeding defense to helping hospitals and nursing homes keep their legal matters running smoothly. The dynamic combination of founding partners Sarah Sholes and Robert Miller, who have both spent their entire careers working with healthcare professionals, has made the firm a leader in providing comprehensive representation of clients in the healthcare industry.

The history of Sholes & Miller is a story of growth and change. Throughout the years, the firm has grown in both size and scope. The firm currently consists of a team of seven experienced attorneys. Over the years areas of practice have expanded to include legal counsel in litigation; personal injury; labor, employment, construction and prevailing wage law; Title IX/sexual harassment; and wills, trusts and estates. Many of the firm’s individual clients – whether for estate planning, business management or other general needs – are physicians and other health professionals who liked the work of Sholes and Miller’s attorneys in an initial litigation or professional disciplinary matter and have asked to remain as clients for other purposes. In 2020, this general practice legal firm has expanded and is going strong!

Volunteerism is an important part of the firm’s contributions to the community. Both partners, Robert Irving Miller and Sarah Sholes, serve on numerous community boards. Ms. Sholes serves as a lifetime emeritus trustee at the Anderson Center for Autism, in addition to her other volunteer positions.

The past few months have been extremely challenging for everyone due to the worldwide pandemic. Sholes & Miller is happy to offer video conferences instead of in-person meetings to ensure the health and safety of clients and staff. Socially distanced, outdoor meetings are also a simple solution to today’s problems. Sholes and Miller looks to the future as the current public health crisis is moving the use of technology to the forefront, with consultations, depositions and some court proceedings being held virtually. Sholes & Miller remains fully committed to safely and efficiently serving their valued clients for many more years to come.

Sholes & Miller, PLLC, 300 Westage Business Center Suite 225 in Fishkill, is comprised of attorneys who have more than 140 years of combined experience. To learn more about the diverse legal services offered by Sholes and Miller, PLLC Attorneys and Counselors at Law, visit www.SholesMiller.com.

Walkway to host Starry Night October 2

The Friends of the Walkway nonprofit organization is hosting its annual Starry Night Starry Night benefit virtually on Friday, October 2. The highlight of the evening is the 7 p.m. premiere of a Walkway-story of growth and change. Throughout the years, the firm has grown in both size and scope. The firm currently consists of a team of seven experienced attorneys. Over the years areas of practice have expanded to include legal counsel in litigation; personal injury; labor, employment, construction and prevailing wage law; Title IX/sexual harassment; and wills, trusts and estates. Many of the firm’s individual clients – whether for estate planning, business management or other general needs – are physicians and other health professionals who liked the work of Sholes and Miller’s attorneys in an initial litigation or professional disciplinary matter and have asked to remain as clients for other purposes. In 2020, this general practice legal firm has expanded and is going strong!

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EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

1) ABSENTEE BALLOT
New York State has expanded the guidelines for qualifying to cast an absentee ballot, to include anyone who is concerned about voting in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?
As soon as possible, fill out a request for absentee ballot at https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/. An absentee ballot application may also be obtained by visiting the DC Board of Elections or calling 845-486-2473.

• A ballot will be mailed to you. OR you can receive and cast your ballot in-person all in one trip to the DC Board of Elections.

• If you are choosing absentee voting over concerns of contracting COVID-19, you will check the “temporary illness physical disability” box in Question 1.

• Remember your absentee ballot by mail - if you visit an early voting polling location where drop-boxes will be placed outside the locations. Drop-boxes will also be available outside of polling sites on Nov. 3.

2) EARLY VOTING: Oct. 24-Nov. 1
Five locations throughout the county are designated Early Voting sites; see the DC Board of Elections website for locations and hours.

3) VOTING ON ELECTION DAY: Nov. 3
Polling locations will be open from 6 AM to 6 PM. If you are unsure of your polling site, visit the DC Board of Elections website (see below) and click the link on “Where to Vote.”

Questions?
Call DC Board of Elections at 845-486-2473 or visit https://www.elections.dutchessny.gov/
The new pediatric unit in MidHudson Regional Hospital (MHRH) just got a little friendlier thanks to Elaine Suderio-Tirone, assistant professor of Nursing at Mount St. Mary College, and her family.

Suderio-Tirone, her daughter Viviane, and her brother Elizar (an RN) teamed up recently to paint murals in the MHRH pediatric unit, which is an extension of Maria Fareri Children’s Health Services. Since the hospital is based in the beautiful Hudson Valley, they used a fun and familiar theme: farming.

“When kids are sick, it is hard for them to adjust in a new environment,” explained Suderio-Tirone. “Having something cheerful on the wall or anything that helps divert their attention makes a lot of difference.”

It only took Suderio-Tirone and her family three days to complete the majority of the artwork. After all, they already had some experience in mural painting: Years ago, Suderio-Tirone and her then three-year-old daughter painted similar murals in the pediatrics unit of Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

At the time and for many years afterward, Suderio-Tirone worked as a nurse in the Vassar pediatric unit. It wasn’t the only art project that she and her daughter worked on during her time at Vassar.

“Through the years, my daughter and I would paint the glass windows on holiday decorations,” Suderio-Tirone. “It helps cheer up sick children and gives color to the unit.”

Vassar Brothers Medical Center converted their pediatrics unit to accommodate COVID-19 patients in March, so Suderio-Tirone decided to move on.

“I was sad to leave the [old] mural behind, but happy to have been given the task again to paint the mural in the new pediatric unit in MHRH,” said Suderio-Tirone. “When I was hired, the executives knew that I painted the one in Vassar and appointed me to be the muralist. But this time, my daughter is the lead muralist.”

Viviane is now a senior in high school now and is looking to attend college for art when she graduates.

“This isn’t the first time that Suderio-Tirone has recruited her family to help with a service project. Inspired by news stories detailing the shortage of personal protection equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic, Suderio-Tirone, her brother, and her sister-in-law sewed and donated more than 3,000 masks.

In addition to long shifts each week treating COVID-19 patients at a local hospital, a typical day for Suderio-Tirone and her family was to sew from 7 a.m. up to 3 a.m. the following day. They kept this grueling pace up for weeks.

Suderio-Tirone was named one of the area’s COVID Healthcare Heroes by the Dutchess County Medical Society in July, in recognition of her selfless work to save lives.

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“The finalists range from a young student in the Newburgh Enlarged School District (Michael Galmin) to a woman in her 80s who continues to volunteer (Irene Decker). Many were nominated for acts of kindness during the COVID-19 crisis that range from helping feed community members and first responders (Dana Collins, Tara Shafer) to providing compassionate care in hospital settings (Joan Cusack-McGuirk, Lisa and Gabby Hodges). Others received their nominations for their ongoing compassionate work in the community (Simone Berry, Jo Ann Brown, Cynthia James, Brian Riddell, Sarah Winkel) as well as being volunteer superstars for their community causes (Susan Armistead, Amanda Friedemann, Amanda Pecorella). To find out more and vote for each of these finalists, go to www.uwdor.org/kindness and click on their individual page.

Via Zoom, join author, photographer, and lecturer Kevin Woyce, on Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. to discuss the origins of the Jack-o’lantern, holiday. Along the way, Woyce will detail why we carve pumpkins at Halloween, dress up in costumes, and decorate our houses with skeletons and ghosts.

This colorful program traces the strange history of Halloween, from Old World harvest festivals to our modern family holiday. Along the way, Woyce will discuss the origins of the Jack-o’lantern, Orson Welles’ 1938 “War of the Worlds” radio broadcast, the first monster movies, haunted houses and hotels, and much more. The hour-long slideshow is illustrated with original photographs and antique Halloween cards, advertisements, artwork, and movie posters.

Email Adult Services Librarian Alison Herrero, at adults@beaconlibrary.org for the invitation link. This event for adults is free. To learn more about Woyce, go to www.kevinwoyce.com.

To see all events currently offered at the Library, go to www.beaconlibrary.org and click on Calendar. For more information call Herrero at 845-831-1134.
Obituaries

Dolores J. Janiski

Dolores “Dee” Janiski, 88, of Wappingers Falls, a long-time resident, passed away on September 17, 2020 at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence, Newburgh. Born June 25, 1932 in Poughkeepsie, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Marjorie Heady Gadapde. Dolores was an avid reader who loved spending her time attending book club search sessions, listen to the radio, and watch Westerns on TV. She was also known to attend many Penny Socials locally. Survivors include her daughters, Dawn Janiski of Poughkeepsie, Kristy Janiski of Endicott, NY and Alicia Freymuth and husband, Justin of Poughkeepsie and their children, Alexis and Ronda; her sister, Winona Joyce and husband, David of Wappingers Falls; her brother-in-law, John Sokol of Wappingers Falls; several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her infant sister, Marjorie Gadapde and niece, Minnie Sokol. Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. Arrangements are under the direction of Strong-O’Hern Funeral Home, 55 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY. To send the family a personal condolence, please visit our website at www.strongcatalanoHalvey.com.

Jeri L. Wagner

Jeri L. Wagner, a resident of Fishkill, passed away on Monday, September 14, 2020 at northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco. She was 61. Daughter of the late Gus and Marilyn (Burns) Wagner, she was born on March 4, 1959. Jeri worked as an Image Librarian for the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. A talented artist, she showcased her work throughout many Dutchess County venues including Chelsea, SoHo, and Greenwich Village in addition to hosting shows in Poughkeepsie and Upstate New York. On Saturday, September 19, 1959, Jeri married John J. McCullough. Survivors include her daughter, Dawn (Jan) and John (Susan). His youngest son, Brian (Diane), preceded him also. He was survived by his brothers John and Joseph (Decker) Seifts. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, Boiceville, NY. Memorial services will be held privately.

Edward J. Seifl

Edward J. Seifl, 76, of Poughkeepsie, NY, passed away on August 30, 2020 at Mid Hudson Regional Hospital. He was born on October 5, 1943, in Poughkeepsie, New York to the late George Edward and the late Mary (Becker) Seifl. Survivors include his wife Loretta Seifl of Poughkeepsie New York; daughter, Kathleen and her husband, Joseph of Poughkeepsie, NY; daughter, Margaret and her husband, Richard of Poughkeepsie, NY; daughter, Kathleen and her husband, Richard of Poughkeepsie, NY; son, John and his wife, Jennifer of Poughkeepsie, NY; son, David and his wife, Sarah of Poughkeepsie, NY; sister, Carol and her husband, John of Poughkeepsie, NY; sister, Mary and her husband, Michael of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, James and his wife, Carol of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, John and his wife, Linda of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Joseph and his wife, Audrey of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Richard and his wife, Carol of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Mark and his wife, Asia of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Stephen and his wife, Karen of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Thomas and his wife, Ann of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Robert and his wife, Mary of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Peter and his wife, Diane of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, James and his wife, Carol of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Joseph and his wife, Audrey of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Richard and his wife, Carol of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Mark and his wife, Asia of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Stephen and his wife, Karen of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Thomas and his wife, Ann of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Robert and his wife, Mary of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Peter and his wife, Diane of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, James and his wife, Carol of Poughkeepsie, NY; brother, Joseph and his wife, Audrey of Poughkeepsie, NY; and their 16 grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, Boiceville, NY. Memorial services will be held privately.

J. Richard Thorn

J. Richard Thorn, 97, at the Highlands Living Center, Poughkeepsie passed away on 9/15/20. Richard was born in Kingston, NY to Clarence and Gladys (Furness) Thorn, September 13, 1922. He graduated from Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie, NY. Richard served his country during WWII as an MP, seeing action in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Richard was a member of the Madison Area Operation Engineers. After the war, he built a house in West Hopewell Avenue, Poughkeepsie where he and his wife raised their family and lived there until 2010. An avid life-long sportsman, he was most comfortable outside hunting, hiking or fishing. He also loved to enjoy the Orange County Fair, just a small part of his support.

Senator Sue Serino and the Mental Health Awareness Coalition of Dutchess, Orange and Putnam Counties are hosting the third three-language forum for veterans, by veterans, and provides non-clinical services for vets suffering from PTSD, suicidal thoughts, TBI, depression, addiction or other mental health challenges. In Dutchess County, contact Anthony Kavours at 845-473-2500. ext. 40. To visit the region, A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at St. John’s R.C. Church, Hopewell Junction. A graveside service will follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hopeful Well - Endicott and grandchildren, Colvin James, Jenna Annelise, and Mason Richard; son, Paul Allan Waldbillig and his wife, Stephanie (Presto) of Hopewell Junction and grandchildren, Colin James, Jenna Annelise, and Mason Richard; son, Paul Allan Waldbillig and his wife, Stephanie (Presto) at Hopewell Junction.

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NOTICE OF SCHOOL TAX COLLECTION DUTCHESS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE TOWN OF WAPPINGERS, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOTICE THAT I, the undersigned, Re-ceiver of Taxes for the Town of Wappingers Central School District, Town of Wappingers, Town of East Fishkill, County of Dutchess and State of New York, h avalanche received for record and warrant for the collection of taxes for the Wappingers Central School District for the year 2020, on and after June 30, 2021, and that I will attend to the business of the Receiver of Taxes for the abovesaid town(s) at 20 Mid- dlebury Road, in said Town of Wappinger from Monday through Thursday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on each day, excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, in the performance of the purpose of receiving the taxes listed on the said list and in the manner of money or order is to be made out to Lee A. Frencel, Receiver of Taxes and mailed to the Town Hall. Tax office information may be obtained by calling 845-342-4342 or visiting the Town’s website at www.wappingersfallsny.com.

REQUEST FOR BID NOTICE

The Purchasing Department, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-56-20

REBID for Aerial Demolition, Maintenance and Repair for County Public Works

Bids will be received on the 13th day of October 2020 at the Dutchess County Division of Public Works, 378 (DEP) Rural Route 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12591.

For further information or forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov or by contacting the County Attorney’s Office of Dutchess County, 100 Wavertree Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601.
THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO VOTE:

1) ABSENTEE BALLOT

New York State has expanded the guidelines for qualifying to cast an absentee ballot, to include anyone who is concerned about voting in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

• As soon as possible, fill out a request for absentee ballot at https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/. An absentee ballot application may also be obtained by visiting the DC Board of Elections or calling 845-486-2473.  
• A ballot will be mailed to you, OR you can receive and cast your ballot in-person all in one trip to the DC Board of Elections.
• If you are choosing absentee voting over concerns of contracting COVID-19, you will check the “temporary illness physical disability” box in Question 1.
• Return your absentee ballot by mail, or visit an early-voting polling location to drop it off. You can also drop it off at polling sites on Nov. 3.

2) EARLY VOTING: Oct. 24-Nov. 1

Five locations throughout the county are designated Early Voting sites; see the DC Board of Elections website for locations and hours.

3) VOTING ON ELECTION DAY: Nov. 3

Polling locations will be open from 6 AM-9 PM. If you are unsure of your polling site, visit the website and click the link on “Where to Vote.”

FACE-MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR IN-PERSON VOTING

Social distancing and sanitizing protocols will be in effect. Poll workers will sanitize voting booths after each use; and sanitized styluses (for signing in) will be provided.

Voters are welcome to bring their own styluses and black/blue ballpoint pens to fill out their ballots.

QUESTIONS?

Call DC Board of Elections at 845-486-2473 or visit https://www.elections.dutchessny.gov/

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

If not, download the registration form at https://www.elections.dutchessny.gov/ (Click on the link for “Voter Registration Form”) or pick it up at the Dutchess County Board of Elections, 47 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie. Forms are also available at many state agencies including Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Office for the Aging and others. Call 845-486-2473 for more information.

MAIL or HAND-DELIVER your registration form to the Dutchess County Board of Elections, at the address above.

Voter Registration forms must be postmarked by Oct. 9 or delivered in-person to the DC Board of Elections by Oct. 9.
SUDOKU

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills.
The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers.
Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

ACROSS
1. Cry of discovery
4. Time division
7. Wander
11. Tie together
13. Ice cream
15. Actress Moran
16. Call for the musicians to begin
19. Respect
20. Attacks from a submarine: var.
21. Man’s title
23. Suffer illness
24. NM’s time zone
27. Camping items
30. “Ditto”
34. Piece of wood
36. Overly sentimental
38. C minus XLVI
39. Tragic lover
40. Lyric work
41. Make up
43. Bear: Sp
44. Musky creature
46. Elegant home
47. Aquatic mammal
49. Disorganized
51. Eur. language
52. Priest’s garb
54. Poet’s contraction
56. Frying lightly
61. Tribal poles
66. Go immediately toward
68. Rifles
69. Sea eagle
70. Additional
71. Student’s concern
72. Comfy room
73. Poetic initials

DOWN
1. Wingless insects
2. Trumpeter Al
3. In __; even
4. Australian bird
5. Completely engaged
6. Choir member
7. Fighters
8. Toward the mouth
9. Dinner beverage in Italia
10. Conclusions
11. Take advantage of
12. ___ out; supplements
14. Defeat overwhelmingly
17. Give off
18. Prefix for center or gram
22. Take out
24. Lodge member
25. Pacific island group
26. Italian numeral
28. Certain paintings
29. Deadly fly
31. Solo
32. Child
33. Ending for who or how
34. Abbr. after Marx or Ames
35. “What’s up, ___?”
37. Edible tuber
42. Running game
45. Drink
48. Most modern
50. Abominable snowman
53. Green area
55. 0
56. Infatuated, old style
57. Swiss watering
58. Musical instruments, for short
59. Bookish fellow
60. Eye color determinant
62. Schoolbook
63. News
64. Greater amount
67. Dance judge Goodman

• The finished puzzle should be filled with Xs and Os.
• Horizontally and vertically, there should never be a continuous run of the same symbol longer than 2.
• There are an equal number of Xs and Os in each row and column.
• All rows are unique.
• All columns are unique, too.

The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Binox can be found on page 6
Governor Andrew Cuomo announced on Saturday, Sept. 19 that landmarks across the state would be lit blue that night in recognition of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ginsburg died on Friday, Sept. 18 at the age of 87. The Supreme Court announced her death and stated the cause was complications from metastatic cancer of the pancreas.

Blue is the color of justice and was reportedly Justice Ginsburg's favorite color, according to a press release from the Governor’s Office.

The landmarks included: One World Trade Center, the Albany International Airport Gateway, the Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, the Grand Central Terminal - Pershing Square Viaduct, the H. Carl McCall SUNY Building, the Kosciuszko Bridge, the Olympic Jumping Complex, the New York State Fairgrounds - Main Gate and Exposition Center, the New York State Education Department Building, Niagara Falls and the Mid-Hudson Bridge.

“As we mourn the loss of one of America’s most prominent and inspiring jurists, New York State will take a moment to celebrate the extraordinary legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her precedent-shattering contributions to gender equity, civil rights and jurisprudence,” Cuomo said. “In honor of Justice Ginsburg, I am directing landmarks throughout our state to be lit blue, the color of justice. New Yorkers from all walks of life should reflect on the life of Justice Ginsburg and remember all that she did for our nation as we view these beautifully lit monuments tonight (Sept. 19).”

Molinaro’s statement on Ginsburg’s passing

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro stated, “Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a remarkable soul, a force of nature, an inspiring woman and brilliant mind. Our nation owes her a debt of gratitude. And, with strong beliefs, she made an effort to listen and care for those with whom she disagreed. Her legacy is the life she led and her memory will be a blessing. Rest in a well earned peace.”

Landmarks across New York State were lit blue in honor of the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Saturday, Sept. 19. Governor Andrew Cuomo made the announcement.