

BEACON FREE PRESS

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DC Legislature
passes resolutions
on homelessness,
shelter at 26 Oakley

From County reports

The Dutchess County Legislature passed four resolutions addressing homelessness across the County and passed the resolution on the emergency housing shelter at 26 Oakley Street in Poughkeepsie by a vote of 23-2 at their full board meeting on Monday, Sept. 14

The four resolutions include a County Action Plan on homelessness, adding three staff members to the street outreach team that approaches the chronically unhoused, a study focused on current and future locations of shelters, and a council to work on a long-term plan to address homelessness in Dutchess County.

Chair Yvette Valdés Smith said, “The resolutions that we passed at our board meeting is the beginning of a multi-faceted approach to finding solutions to homelessness. The legislature was faced with a difficult decision regarding the 26 Oakley emergency housing facility. We’ve worked diligently for years to put forward the resources needed to strengthen the County’s long-term plans because it is our responsibility as elected officials to provide safe and secure shelter for our un-housed community. The resolutions that we passed today will begin to move the county towards a comprehensive plan to address homelessness.”

Majority Leader Barrington Atkins (D- City of Poughkeepsie) said, “I’m proud of these resolutions because they move us beyond speeches and into solutions. We put outreach, accountability, equity, and long-term planning on paper and gave them teeth. The City of Poughkeepsie will continue to lead, but leadership does not mean becoming everyone else’s excuse not to act.”

Minority Leader Michael Polasek commented on behalf of the Republican Caucus: “For four years, we have worked toward making 26 Oakley a reality, and now it is finally happening. After months of criticism of this project and the process that brought us here, the Democratic Majority ultimately joined us in overwhelmingly approving the agreement and moving forward with the plan first put forward four years ago. We welcome their support. Now we can put the political arguments behind us and focus on what has mattered from the beginning: getting the HOPE Center open and helping people get back on their feet.”

Legislator Trevor Redl (D-Town of Poughkeepsie) stated, “This package strengthens outreach, accountability, and long-term planning, building a more comprehensive response. Expanding street outreach is critical: we need to meet people where they are and connect them with meaningful help.”

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Spirit of Beacon Day
set for Sept. 27

By Kristine Coulter

The annual Spirit of Beacon Day will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Main St. on Sunday, Sept. 27. The parade is at 1 p.m. The theme this year is “Unity in the Community.”

“The committee came up with this year’s theme because “Unity in the Community” is a concept that transcends time. However, you slice it, bringing people together, since we’re social creations, is imperative. Uniting as a human race matters. We have been choosing themes that we can embody and live by throughout the year and emulate as an organization and community,” stated Ali. T. Muhammad, chairperson of the committee for Spirit of Beacon Day.

The event occurs on the last Sunday every September. The founder’s mission in 1977 for the day was stated as: “A day 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.”

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The Spirit of Beacon Day Parade will take place on Main St. on Sunday, September 27.

-Archive photo

Handcrafts, paintings to highlight
Haitian art sale and auction

By Kristine Coulter

The 26th annual Haitian Art & Handcraft Sale will feature an online auction and in-person sale at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. The event features hundreds of pieces of artwork and handcrafts by Haitian artists.

“We will have hundreds of paintings, many of which will be offered for the first time. We have a wide variety of handcrafts, including iron sculpture, woodworks, silk scarves, papiere mache, and products made of goat horn. There are 39 items in the online auction, which starts a few days earlier than the in-person sale. We will have a special presentation Saturday afternoon of the sale, featuring our long-time consultant and partner in Haiti, Pere Andre Wildaine. He is going to paint a picture of what life is like in Haiti today, amidst the rampant gang violence and nascent attempts to bring about the first presidential election in over 10 years,” stated Lila and Andrew Meade via email. The couple founded The Haiti Project in 2001 when the non-profit educational organization partnered with the village of Chermaitre and 46 other villages in Haiti, it states on The Haiti Project website.

The online auction, www.thehaitiproject.org, began Sept. 19 and goes until Sept. 27. The Families Weekend Sale, on the Vassar College campus in Poughkeepsie, will take place on Friday, Sept. 25, from noon – 6 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Continued on page 2



The annual Haitian Art & Handcraft Sale will feature an online auction, from Sept. 19-27. The art sale will take place at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie from Sept. 25-27. Pictured is a variety of artwork by Haitian artists.

-Courtesy photos

Serino: East Fishkill veteran James Thomas Cartica Sr. ‘lived with gentle strength that made people feel supported’

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs remembered the life and military service of U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt.) James Thomas Cartica Sr. and respected Hopewell Junction resident, who passed away in 2025, at this month’s “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremony, held at Beekman Recreation Center in Hopewell Junction.

Serino said, “James Cartica lived with a gentle strength that made people feel safe and supported. From the day he joined the Air Force at 17, he gave his whole heart to serving his country and helping the people around him. Dutchess County is proud to share Mr. Cartica’s legacy through our ‘Honor-A-Veteran’ program so that his kindness, loyalty and love will stay alive in the many lives he touched and inspire others to live as he did.”

Enlisting as a 17-year-old, James Thomas Cartica, Sr. dedicated more than three decades to serving his country in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard. He served from 1978 to 2010, including 26 years with the 105th Maintenance Squadron at Stewart Air National Guard Base, where he specialized in aerospace propulsion. CMSgt. Cartica supported numerous military operations, including Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His leadership, expertise and commitment to his fellow airmen earned their respect and left a lasting impact. After his military service, CMSgt. Cartica continued serving his community



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs joined the family of U.S. Air Force CMSgt. James Thomas Cartica, Sr. to celebrate his life and service at this month’s “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremony.

-Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov’t

through his work at Metal Container Corp. in Orange County. He was a devoted family man, mentor and friend, remembered for his legacy of service, friendship and love of country.

Dutchess County invites nominations for

its monthly “Honor-A-Veteran” ceremonies, held April through November, to pay tribute to deceased U.S. Armed Forces veterans who served in wartime or peacetime. Community members can submit nominations and required military docu-

mentation for consideration through the County’s Office of Veterans Affairs, with the next ceremony scheduled for Oct. 15.

Additional information and downloadable applications are available at dutchessny.gov/honoraveteran.

Handcrafts, paintings to highlight Haitian art sale and auction

Continued from cover

Guest Speaker Père André Wildaine will present “Insider’s Perspective: What’s (Really) Happening in Haiti” on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 4 p.m.

How have the sale and auction changed through the years?

“One of the biggest changes is that all our paintings and some of the handcrafts are visible online, so people can get an advance viewing before coming to the sale. And of course, the auction is now entirely online, which makes it easy for people to participate wherever in the U.S., or the world, they might be living. The emergence of Galerie Benoit, a young boy who attended our school and who is now teaching art to students near

the NW mountains, has helped to offset the challenges of procuring art from street markets,” explained the Meades.

What would the Meades like people to know about the artists whose work they can purchase or bid on?

“Besides getting something beautiful to put in your home, and besides supporting education in Haiti, purchasing art directly supports the artists who have painted the paintings or created the handcrafts. This is no small thing, because at a time where tourism is down to zero, our Haiti Project represents one of the few viable ways to purchase Haitian art,” they said.

For more information, visit www.thehaitproject.org.



The annual Haitian Art & Handcraft Sale will feature an online auction, from Sept. 19-27. The art sale will take place at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie from Sept. 25-27.

-Courtesy photo

NAMI offers free educational programs for families

National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Family-to-Family is a free educational program created specifically for family members, caregivers, and loved ones of people living with mental health conditions.

Throughout the eight sessions, one will learn more about:

- Communicating and problem-solving more effectively
- Supporting your loved one with compassion
- Understanding mental health conditions and current treatments
- Navigating crises and finding local resources
- Managing stress and taking care of yourself

- Understanding how mental health conditions affect the entire family

This fall they are offering two classes — one in Ulster County and one in Dutchess County. Both start this month.

Ulster County
Saturdays, Sept. 26 – Oct. 31
1 – 3:45 p.m.
Highland Public Library

Dutchess County
Tuesdays, Sept. 29 – Nov. 10
6:30 – 9:15 p.m.
Both programs are free, but registration is required and space is limited.
For more information, contact@namimidhudson.org.

New date for ‘Catoberfest’

A new date for Mid Hudson Animal Aid’s “Catoberfest” was announced last week due to rain on the originally scheduled date of Sunday, Sept. 20.

The event will now be held on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2-6 p.m. at Hudson Valley Brewery, 7 East Main St. in Beacon.

**IMPACT**
PR & Communications



Eastdale Village Brings a Taste of Italy To Hudson Valley with First Ferragosto Celebration







Spirit of Beacon Day set for Sept. 27



This year’s annual Spirit of Beacon Day Parade will be held on Sunday, Sept. 27. Pictured are marchers in the 2025 parade, which was started by the City of Beacon police.

-Archive photos

Continued from cover

“The people who flock to Main Street, the people who lineup on the sidewalks, the folks who participate in the parade, as vendors, entertainers, and more, make the Spirit of Beacon special. We have incorporated the act of honoring Beacnites who embody the Spirit of Beacon through their works and lives, which adds something tangible for some families. Spirit of Beacon Day is special because it was formed by community members to become stronger neighbors and that impetus continues to this day, 49 years later,” remarked Muhammad.

- This year’s schedule follows:
- Vendor Tables are open all day. Food + activities available while the last
 - 10 a.m. - Streets blocked off in Spirit of Beacon Table Perimeter.
 - 11 a.m. - Spirit of Beacon Day Opens and Vendor Tables Open
 - 11:30 a.m. - Volunteers of the Year Ceremony
 - Noon - Parade lineup (those in the



parade go to Route 52 (Yankee Clipper Diner)

- 1-2 p.m. Parade
- 5 p.m. - Spirit of Beacon Day ends

“There are a few new things, but folks will just have to come out on the last Sunday of September and see for themselves,” said Muhammad.

DC Legislature passes resolutions on homelessness, shelter at 26 Oakley

Continued from cover

“I am proud that these resolutions passed by a large margin and that we Democrats are tackling a long-running problem that has been ignored for far too long. Creating a comprehensive plan to address homelessness is part of our responsibility as elected officials and community members,” said Legislator Brendan Lawler (D-Hyde Park).

“The poor decisions of three consecutive County Executives, and of the previous Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, Rob Rolison, have backed the City into a corner. Tonight my colleagues and I took the bad situation they handed us, looked at it squarely, and made the only responsible decision: to support urgently needed

shelter for our most vulnerable, while working to create a long-term, equitable plan to address homelessness in Dutchess County,” said Legislator Lisa Kaul (D-Town of Poughkeepsie).

The resolutions included:

- Adding a Three-person Street Outreach Team for Unsheltered Persons in the City of Poughkeepsie,
- Requiring a City of Poughkeepsie Coordinated Street Outreach, Behavioral Health, and Recovery Action Plan,
- Establishing the Dutchess County Council on Homelessness and Housing Stability and Requiring a Countywide Long-Term Plan, and
- Hiring an Independent Racial-Equity and Environmental-Justice Consultant to Conduct a Shelter and Housing Impact Study.



THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE

BY JULIA CHO

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

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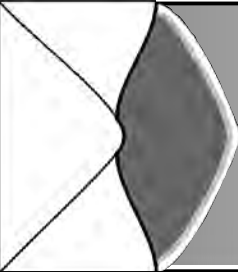
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Viewpoints



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press.

Taking the first steps to restore affordability

To the Editor:

Whether a concerned Republican, fair-minded Independent or disappointed Democrat, you may have noticed that your pay or benefits have not kept pace with the rising costs of basic goods, housing, health care, energy and services. Consumer prices were up 3.7% in July—almost twice the Fed’s 2% inflation target. The current Yale study estimates tariffs alone are costing families an additional \$1,700 a yr.

Yet those in political power, the mega-wealthy and giant business oligarchs continue to reap disproportionate wealth, benefit from billion-dollar tax cuts and enjoy political favors—all at our expense. That is no illusion. It is the reality confronting working Americans.

Whether you are paying for groceries, utilities, health insurance and medications, searching for affordable housing or seeking a well-paying job, Congressman Mike Lawler has done little to change this growing disparity. Quite the opposite. His votes overwhelmingly support Administration policies favoring the wealthiest, while working people—including small-business owners, teachers, nurses, EMTs, firefighters and police—are left paying the price.

Lawler’s allegiance appears less to his CD17 constituents than to a President who dismisses “affordability” as a Democratic “hoax” while assuring us inflation is falling and the economy is thriving. So, when Congressman Lawler spends millions on TV advertising, with friends touting the savings and benefits he claims to have delivered, ask yourself: WHY DOESN’T YOUR BUDGET SHOW IT?

Lawler and his fellow Republicans have enacted sweeping cuts that will not take effect until after this year’s midterm elections—in other words, after you have voted. And let’s not forget Lawler’s critical vote for the One Big Beautiful Bill, cutting more than \$1 billion from Medicaid and SNAP and potentially causing well over 30,000 CD17 constituents to lose access to health care, while creating additional costs for working families and older adults—and protecting ultra-wealthy individuals and mega-corporations from paying their fair share.

In fact, Lawler is this President’s trusted wolf in sheep’s clothing, his enabler, posing as a bi-partisan fair-minded legislator, but in truth a dishonest and expedient political operative picking our pockets every chance he can.

This November, whatever your party affiliation, your vote for Cait Conley can begin to bring an end to this deception and chaos. Cait has given her word to prioritize the needs of all CD17 constituents, not just the privileged few. Given a chance, she will fulfill that pledge.

Jay Forbes
Peekskill, Westchester County

Be well informed on electricity rates

To the Editor:

This is in response to seeing this in many online debates: we need to rebuild Indian Point to lower the Central Hudson rates.

So, you say that to solve the outrageous and ruinous Central Hudson electricity rates, we should rebuild Indian Point, that nuclear power should never have left NYS’ Hudson Valley?

Interesting.
What’s that got to do with CenHud??
I’ll make it easy: NOTHING
If Indian Point were generating power again, CenHud i.e., Fortis, would NOT buy power there.

How do I know this?
I’ll ask the Q: Do you think that CenHud purchase power in-state now, i.e., from the 3rd largest power producer in the country, NYPA?

Again I will answer: NO
So they would not purchase power from any other non-Fortis-owned power producer.
And BTW (By The Way) how many many years and gazillions of dollars do you even imagine it would take to build a new nuclear power facility (which would NEVER be approved, anyway).

Do you think they care about efficiency, building less infrastructure (they clearly want to build and own AS MUCH infra as they can, this is what has driven our rates up 72% !!!! in six years), or that YOU pay a lesser rate? No, to it all.

We need only one thing and no it is not about communism, it’s the state legally supporting the buyout via establishing an entity called an Authority in NYS, specifically HVPA, the Hudson Valley Power Authority. The buyout of CenHud will be done via a very conducive bond (at better rates than Fortis can obtain), not via additional NYS taxes. We’ll save a little money immediately, it’s hard to turn around the rapacious ruin Fortis has driven. BUT THE GALLOPING RATE INCREASES STOP IMMEDIATELY, FIRST YEAR. First year, HVPA should be in the black, not in the red as is usual with such huge financial dealings.

For anyone who actually cares and just wants to be a mature citizen and be well-informed, please read the details at <https://hudsonvalleypowerauthority.com/>, and The Hudson Valley Power Authority Act (A02127/S02026). And then, contact your Assemblyperson and Senator and make it clear that you expect NYS to pass this Act, and stop the madness.

Brian McElroy
Wappingers Falls

Dutchess County Board of Elections offers guidance to absentee and vote-by-mail voters

The Dutchess County Board of Elections is emphasizing, for absentee or vote-by-mail voters, alternative methods for delivering completed ballots, beyond the United States Postal Service, such using drop boxes at early voting sites and poll sites on election day and over-the-counter absentee voting at the Board of Elections.

“Nothing has changed in New York State election law or at the post office with respect to voting by mail in New York State, but we do want to encourage those who can, to use other methods of returning their ballots,” said Lisa Jessup, Democratic Commissioner. “Postal delays have been an ongoing concern and we want to make sure that voters understand the alternatives. Voters who must mail back their ballot should do as soon as possible and do so at a post office where they can obtain a postmark.”

Republican Elections Commissioner Erik Haight added: “I’ve always encouraged voters to show up in person either during Early Voting or on Election Day. Once the voter’s ballot is inside the voting machine it is 100 percent secure.”

On September 18th, the Board of Elections will be issuing ballots to military and overseas voters as well as any voter who has already requested an absentee ballot for 2026.

Also, starting September 18th, voters may request an absentee ballot over the counter at the Board of Elections during business hours, fill out the ballot, and return it over the counter. The Dutchess County Board of Elections is located at 112 Delafield Street, Poughkeepsie and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Absentee ballots may also be dropped at the Board of Elections or at any Dutchess County poll site during early voting or on election day and may be dropped by anyone.

Said Jessup, “There are no restrictions on who can drop off your sealed ballot, so if you are unable to get to a ballot drop location, it is fine for you to give your ballot to someone you trust to drop it for you.”

The list of candidates on the ballot in Dutchess County in 2026 and poll locations are on the Board of Elections website at elections.dutchessny.gov.

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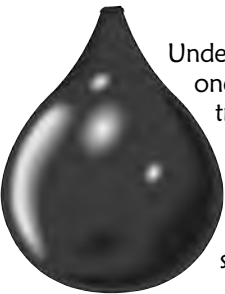
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GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE



Who needs blood?

Under normal circumstances, every two seconds someone in America will need a blood transfusion. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims - due to accidents and burns - heart surgery, organ transplants, women with complications during childbirth, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.



The magic of the daguerreotype



Above left and right: Some sitters were better at being able to express a degree of happiness than others. Two sitters for comparison. The right-hand image by Walker. Middle: A Samuel L. Walker case shows in red crushed velvet: Samuel L. Walker, Po’keepsie, N.Y., artist.

-Courtesy DCHS

By Bill Jeffway

It can be hard to describe why a daguerreotype can be so powerful. It might come from a combination of its age (they are from the 1840s and 1850s), its ability to capture detail (three wrinkles under the left eye, four under the right), its connection to a distant past (older people in these settings would have grown up with George Washington as U.S. President), its fleeting nature (it can only be seen at a very precise angle to the light with a dark reflecting background), and its silvery hue, which makes it both refined and ghostlike. There is no negative and multiple prints; there is but one treasured image.

You can almost “feel” the clothing and hear its rustle. The coarser texture of a wool shawl rests against the harder but shinier surface of silk. You see the creases made by buttons.

Post-mortem images, particularly

those of children, are heartbreaking.

Sitters had to remain motionless for an extended period, in a fixed seated position, having been warned against blinking too much.

When Samuel F. B. Morse – better known today as the inventor of the telegraph – moved to Poughkeepsie later in life in 1847, he arrived associated with two of the era’s most advanced technologies. Morse had publicly demonstrated a working telegraph in 1837, a device which allowed messages to be sent over a wire with an immediacy that a messenger on horseback could not compete with. It was only two years later in 1839, while living in Paris, that Morse took particular interest in Louis Daguerre’s demonstration of his invention for capturing images. Within weeks of seeing the process demonstrated, Morse came to the U.S. and established himself as the person who introduced the technique to the



Above: An unknown gentleman taken by the Webster brothers in Poughkeepsie ca.1850. Daguerreotypes are notorious for their unforgiving detail, which sometimes caused distress for the sitter, since an oil portrait could be finessed for the sitter to look their best.

-Courtesy DCHS

country. Among his students was Mathew Brady, who would go on to famously photograph Lincoln and the Civil War. No doubt Morse’s interest, in part, stemmed from his early career as a portrait painter. Daguerreotypes quickly became popular with painters since it placed less of a burden on a sitter than an in-person on canvas session.

Dutchess County’s first known encounter with the daguerreotype came quickly. Research by local historian Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, published in the Dutchess County Historical Society’s 1931 “Yearbook,” records an advertisement in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* dated October 27, 1841: Alexander B. Weekes and David Keith, announcing that they were at 324 Main Street, prepared to make “Daguerrean Likenesses.” That is just two years after Daguerre unveiled the process in Paris.

Weekes and Keith did not stay, and neither did most of the operators who followed them. Reynolds traced a procession of names through the 1840s: R. G. Holmes advertised from January 1842 to September 1844, A. F. Thomson picked up the trade through 1844 and 1845, and William A. Tomlinson carried it through 1846. As Reynolds put it, these men “visited the village of Poughkeepsie, filled such orders as they could secure and moved on elsewhere to repeat the program.” For its first Dutchess County decade, in other words, the daguerreotype was a traveling trade, not a settled one. That same busy stretch, in September 1844, also brought a higher-profile visitor: Jeremiah Gurney, an ambitious young Broadway daguerreotypist trained by Morse himself, came up the Hudson to

show a daguerreotype at the New York State Agricultural Society’s fair – held that year in Poughkeepsie – and won a prize for it before heading home.

It took until June 1847, nearly six years after Weekes and Keith’s first advertisement, for the trade to finally put down roots, and it did so in a big way. That month, Samuel Walker – who learned the trade from Morse but had been living in Albany – announced his arrival in Poughkeepsie. Walker became one of the most famous and well-respected photographers in the country if not the world.

The very same year, 1847, Morse himself settled permanently into Locust Grove. Less than a decade after the invention itself, the man most responsible for bringing the daguerreotype to America, and a world-class practitioner trained in his circle, both chose to settle in Poughkeepsie.

By the following year, the trade had grown enough to support real competition. A gallery in Brewster’s Buildings on Main Street changed hands in 1848 between two brothers, E. Z. and Israel B. Webster, part of a family operation that would go on to run branches as far away as Kentucky.

In other words, nearly six years separated a single newspaper notice from a settled, competitive local trade – a remarkably fast education in a brand-new technology.



Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsn.org or 845-293-7711.

Application for PROTECT Competitive Grant Program open through October 9

Applications for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant program are now being accepted through Oct. 9.

The PROTECT program provides federal funding to support projects that strengthen transportation resilience against current and future weather events, natural disasters, and changing conditions (such as severe storms, flooding, and extreme weather).

The program has two funding categories: Planning Grants (0% match) and Resilience Grants (20% match). Projects identified in

Resilient Ways Forward, DCTC’s Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan, are eligible for a reduced minimum cost-share of 10% and do not need to perform a cost-benefit analysis.

There is no minimum or maximum award size but Planning Grant awards are typically \$100,000 to \$10 million and Resilience Grant awards are typically \$500,000 to \$60 million.

States, local governments and public transportation agencies are eligible to apply.

Please reach out to dctc@dutchessny.gov if one is considering an application.

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Jennifer Coccozza appointed Commissioner of Planning & Development for Dutchess County

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has selected Jennifer Coccozza to serve as Dutchess County Commissioner of Planning & Development. Coccozza has over three decades of experience in land use planning, public administration, and community development, including serving as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Planning & Development since 2014.

Serino said, “Jennifer’s deep experience and long-standing commitment to our county make her an outstanding choice to continue leading the team at Planning. Over the years, she has modernized our systems and helped strengthen the partnerships that help our communities thrive. Her leadership, creativity, and steady hand make her the ideal person to serve as Commissioner, and we will all benefit from her dedication and collaborative spirit.”

Coccozza began her career with Dutchess County Government in 1996 as an intern, working with New York State Department of Transportation officials to develop the Local Highway Inventory. In 1998, she joined the Department full-time as a Junior Planner, then advancing to Planner, Senior Planner and Senior Transportation Planner before being named Deputy Commissioner.

In her role as Deputy, she has overseen complex daily operations across multiple

divisions of the department. Her leadership has helped shape annual programs, guided two major organizational reviews and ensured efficient, transparent administration of a \$12 million annual budget. Coccozza’s tenure is marked by significant achievements that have modernized county planning functions and improved municipal coordination, including launching the county’s Referrals and Major Projects (RAMP) electronic portal to streamline municipalities’ required planning and zoning application submissions and negotiated intermunicipal agreements that eliminated unnecessary referrals.

Coccozza has a Bachelor of Education in Land Use & Environmental Studies from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and an Associates of Science from Dutchess Community College. She serves as liaison to the Hudson River Valley Greenway and represents the County on several regional councils.

As Commissioner, Coccozza oversees Department of Planning & Development and its mission to help maintain and enhance the County’s quality of life. The Department is responsible for countywide planning, planning assistance to local governments, and comprehensive mapping and geographic information systems (GIS) data. The Department of



Jennifer Coccozza, left, was appointed by Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino to serve as the County’s new Commissioner of Planning & Development.
-Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov’t

American Legion post donates to Castle Point



American Legion Post 1758 in Hopewell Junction donated \$550 worth of new clothing to the VA Facility at Castle Point in Wappingers Falls on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Items included desperately needed women’s shoes and men’s T-shirts and briefs. Pictured above are current and former commanders Lance Ashworth and Jim Reynolds along with VA Castle Point staff members.

-Courtesy photo

Planning & Development also provides administrative oversight and support to the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC), Solid Waste Management and the Traffic Safety and STOP-DWI programs, as well as several community agencies, which provide a wide range of programs for the County’s residents, businesses, and visitors.

Coccozza said, “I’m grateful to County Executive Sue Serino for the opportunity to continue serving Dutchess County. Our team has accomplished an incredible amount together, and I’m excited to help guide our efforts forward with the same commitment to collaboration, innovation, and community that has shaped my career so far.”

The Commissioner of Planning & Development helps guide policy development and manage operations across community, transportation, municipal government and special programs planning. The role includes advising the

County and the County’s Planning Board on key planning issues; coordinating interagency efforts at county and regional levels; meeting with public officials, developers, and investors; and managing critical departmental functions.

Eoin Wrafter, who served as Commissioner of Planning & Developing for 12 years and now serves as Senior Assistant County Executive, said, “I have had the pleasure of serving alongside Jennifer for more than a decade, and there is no one more qualified to lead the department than she. Her institutional knowledge of local planning, development and transportation issues and solutions is unparalleled, as is her desire to help every municipality in Dutchess County thrive. I look forward to seeing Jennifer flourish in her new role.”

The Dutchess County Legislature unanimously confirmed Coccozza as Commissioner at its September 14th board meeting.

Red Cross to release documentary ‘Iconic Excellence’

Even as the seasons change, the need for blood does not. The mission of the Red Cross Blood Services remains constant — and carries on today as a result of the innovation and leadership of Dr. Charles R. Drew.

This year marks the 85th anniversary of Dr. Charles R. Drew’s appointment as the first medical director of the Red Cross Blood Program. To commemorate his lasting contributions, the Red Cross is releasing “Iconic Excellence,” a short documentary exploring Drew’s life and steadfast influence.

Beginning Sept. 18, the film will be available to stream on the Red Cross YouTube channel. Community members can help carry Drew’s legacy forward by donating blood or platelets, encouraging others to give or hosting a screening of the documentary to inspire lifesaving action. Learn more and get started at RedCrossBlood.org/IconicExcellence.

The American Red Cross urges people not to wait to make a lifesaving impact this fall by scheduling a blood or platelet donation appointment in September. The

blood supply remains vulnerable after recovering from critically low levels during a summer blood shortage, and now is the time for donors of all blood types to help patients who count on blood products for care.

Reserve a spot to give now. Visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App to schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment. Those who come to give Sept. 1-20 will receive an exclusive Red Cross x Hello Kitty® plush mascot clip and surprise sticker pack, while supplies last! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/HelloKitty for details.

Those who come to give Sept. 21-Oct. 18, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Fall for details. Additionally, all who come to give Sept. 21-30, 2026, at Red Cross blood donation centers and mention the word “pickleball” to Red Cross staff or volunteers onsite can score a custom Red Cross pickleball paddle and ball (limited quantities available).

Visit RedCrossBlood.org/FindADonationCenter for more information.

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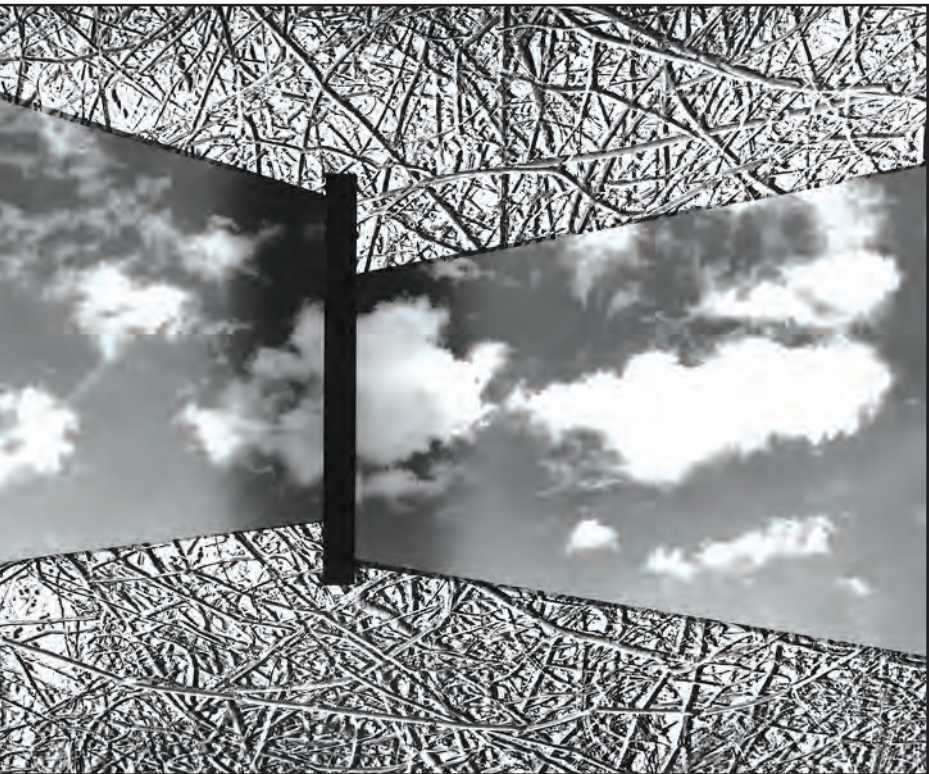
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New exhibitions exploring animal spirits, geological forms, and the passion for inquiry at BAU Gallery



“Slit with Sky and Bramble” by Dan Florin.



“Chimpanzee” by Eileen Sackman.

-Courtesy images BAU Gallery

BAU Gallery, 506 Main St., in Beacon will have exhibitions exploring animal spirits, geological form and the passion for inquiry through Oct. 4.

John Cote, Alison Palmer, and Eileen Sackman: Philozoic Gestures

Philozoic Gestures unites three distinct artistic voices to explore our deep, enduring connection to the animal kingdom. Through atmospheric-fired ceramics and narrative painting, the exhibition examines how the form, spirit, and historical footprint of animals shape our visual language. Where Palmer’s vessels capture playfulness and fluid grace, Sackman’s wood-fired pieces provide a soulful, urgent reminder of our responsibility to protect the planet’s most vulnerable species. Cote’s narrative paintings honor individual species that have left an unfor-

gettable mark on our collective consciousness. Philozoic Gestures invites viewers to reflect on our profound and complex interactions with the animal world.

Joel Brown and Joseph Squillante: Landforms

This two-person exhibition brings together the ceramic sculpture of BAU Gallery artist Joel Brown and the dynamic photographic work of Joseph Squillante. An architect for 40 years, Brown takes the process of making work as his sculptural focus, rather than beginning with an image or narrative. His pieces are coiled, paddled, cut, and wood fired. After completion, the array on view here reminded Brown of the Carrara marble quarries photographed by Edward Burtynsky, hence the title Quarry. In Landforms, acclaimed Hudson River pho-

tographer Squillante steps beyond the Hudson to explore landscapes near and far: the Grand Canyon, Susquehanna River, Point Lobos, and Sardinia, capturing compositions of individual forms to create a visual balance and gentle rhythm. Squillante hopes the exhibition allows viewers to stop and look slowly, feel the landscape’s quiet architecture, and enter a shared act of seeing.

Gallery Artists: Experiments + Discoveries

Trying something new and seeing what comes of it is how we expand, even break, the boundaries of what we understand and create. We draw on what we know, but in an endless passion for inquiry, we throw in a new variable just to see what happens, and in doing so we learn, grow, and change. Experiments might fail, but they

almost always offer insight, and hopefully we share that with a broader community of colleagues, students, viewers, and others. In that spirit, the artists in Experiments + Discoveries offer works in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, and photography that represent experimental moments in their practice, moments when they discovered something new about their work, how to make it, and what they offer viewers in the process. Participating Artists: Robin Adler, Karen Allen, Bob Barry, Dan Florin, Nate Hill, Nataliya Hines, George Kimmerling, Linda Lauro-Lazin, Nansi T. Lent, Sile Marrinan, Soli Pierce, Eileen Sackman, and Ilse Schreiber-Noll. Visit <https://www.baugallery.org/artists-current> for artist information.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Beacon football earns 3-0 start

By Morgan E. Maier

With a 49-7 win over Red Hook on Sept. 18, the Beacon Bulldogs remained perfect through three games this season. They have outscored opponents 105-43 early in the season, powered by quarterback Delano Rigby Jr. a strong two-way game of Elijah Epps, and Ramon Soto leading the receiving game. Against Red Hook, Soto and Rigby connected for two touchdowns.

Epps, Rigby, Jahreal Whitted, Timothy Benitoe Jr., and Jamir Spence each ran in a touchdown. Rigby had 180 total yards. Epps followed with 94 all-purpose yards, plus 8 tackles.

Ketcham volleyball wins game versus Putnam Valley

Ketcham volleyball bested Putnam Valley 3-1 in four sets on Sept. 16. Serafina Franco had 8 kills. Julia Martin

contributed 14 kills and 8 of 21 team aces. Ariel Rosenquest made 17 assists, and 6 aces. Mia McReynolds and Diane Aygalenq had 3 blocks each. The win marked a rebound in the previous four-set

loss to Clarkstown South. Emily Faust had 7 aces against the Vikings. Martin had 24 kills in the effort. Elana Patterson and Alexa Feuer each had 3 blocks. Rosenquest made 28 assists.

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Eastdale Village brings a Taste of Italy to Hudson Valley with first Ferragosto Celebration

On Saturday, Sept. 26, Eastdale Village Town Center will bring Italian community traditions to life in its own Palladino Piazza during a free full-day Ferragosto Celebration. From 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastdale will transform its Italian-inspired Piazza into a lively festival filled with the sights and sounds of Italy, featuring authentic Italian food, live music, wine and beverage tastings, local artisans, family activities and special events celebrating Italian culture and traditions.

“Palladino Piazza was designed to be a gathering place, somewhere people can come together; that’s what makes Ferragosto a natural fit for Eastdale,” said John Hettinger, president of Kirchhoff, the real estate investment firm behind Eastdale Village. “We created this community to bring people from across the Hudson Valley together, and Ferragosto is a wonderful example of that vision coming to life — gathering around great food, sharing in traditions and celebrating together.”

Highlights of the day will include a live mozzarella-making demonstration and putting local chefs to the test with the “Better Than Nonna’s Sauce Competition,” with entries to be judged by Italian Comedian

Candice Guardino; Culinary Institute of America Professor Antonella Piemontese; Chef Angelo Balbo, chef and owner of Hurricane Grill & Wings in Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, and Luca Pizza in Newburgh; and Chef Stacey Hawkins, chef, entrepreneur, television host.

Additionally, the Ferragosto Market and local artisans and vendors will offer goods for attendees to shop. Throughout the day, Eastdale’s popular restaurants and shops will offer Italian food specials, sweet treats and beverages. Ferragosto is currently accepting entries for the traditional red sauce-making competition as well as sponsors and vendors.

Completed and dedicated earlier this year, Eastdale’s open-air Piazza was inspired by the timeless character of European public squares and designed to be a social heart of the community. The space was named in honor of Giovanni Palladino, Eastdale’s director of architecture and design, whose vision and leadership helped bring the gathering space and the live-work-play community to life.

For more information and announcements of upcoming events, visit eastdalevillage.com and follow Eastdale Village on Instagram and Facebook.



A map of the Ferragosto Celebration, which will be held at Eastdale Village on Saturday, Sept. 26.

-Courtesy image

Westchester Medical Center Health Network advances spine surgery with radiation-free navigation technology, expands pediatric innovation

Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth) is advancing care for patients requiring spine and scoliosis surgery with the use of 7D FLASH™ Navigation System and MRVision™, an innovative navigation and imaging technology that eliminates radiation from the spinal navigation workflow while supporting both pediatric and adult patients.

Currently in use across Orthopedics and Neurosurgery, 7D MRVision enables surgeons to plan and perform spine procedures without relying on traditional radiation-based imaging. The system uses advanced BoneMRI software to generate a CT-like image from an MRI scan, allowing for surgical planning and navigation without preoperative CT scans or intraoperative radiation exposure.

Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital, a member of WMCHealth, is the first pediatric hospital in New York and the only hospital in the Northeastern region of the United States to offer radiation-free spinal navigation, reinforcing its leadership in

pediatric orthopedic innovation. It is also the second adult hospital in the state to adopt this technology.

“This represents a meaningful step forward in how we care for pediatric patients requiring complex spine surgery,” said Damon DelBello, MD, Section Chief of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery at WMCHealth. “By removing radiation from the navigation process, which can lead to severe complications like cancer, we are advancing both safety and precision. This is especially important for younger patients who may otherwise be exposed to repeated imaging over time.”

Traditional spine navigation techniques often require preoperative CT imaging or intraoperative radiation to guide instrumentation placement. In contrast, 7D MRVision enables a fully radiation-free workflow, from imaging through intraoperative navigation, a distinction not offered by conventional systems.

The ability to avoid radiation is especially important in pediatric spine care,

where long-term safety is a central consideration. Children and adolescents are more sensitive to medical imaging radiation, and repeated exposure over time may increase their lifetime cancer risk. A paper published in *The Spine Journal* projected that intraoperative CT could result in one radiation-induced cancer for every 1,000 adolescent patients treated. By removing radiation from surgical navigation, 7D MRVision supports a safer environment for patients and care teams while maintaining the precision needed for complex spine procedures.

“In neurosurgery and complex spine care, precision and patient safety guide every decision we make,” said Chirag D. Gandhi, MD, FACS, FAANS, Director, Brain and Spine Institute at WMCHealth, and Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery, New York Medical College. “A radiation-free approach to spine navigation allows us to deliver highly accurate care while avoiding exposure that can add up over a lifetime.”

Westchester Medical Center further differentiates its spine care approach through a comprehensive imaging and surgical pathway that integrates:

- Low-dose EOS full-body imaging for precise, standing skeletal assessment
- Radiation-free 7D MRVision navigation when surgery is required

Together, this continuum enables clinicians to minimize radiation exposure across the patient journey while maintaining high-quality imaging and surgical accuracy.

In addition to eliminating radiation, the 7D system supports streamlined clinical workflows, including MRI-based preoperative planning, automated image processing, and seamless integration with surgical navigation tools.

The adoption of 7D MRVision reflects Westchester Medical Center’s ongoing commitment to innovation, safety, and excellence in spine care for patients of all ages.

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love to cook

by vicki frank day



Baked with love

Vicki creates a special birthday meal for her mom.

For me, a well-thought-out gift from the heart can be more touching than anything wrapped in pretty paper. The older I get, the more I firmly believe that none of us really need things, even though it’s always fun to unwrap a present. I think it’s the time we devote and the love we bring to the intention that matter even more. Cooking for the people I love is one of my pleasures in life and, often, my gift to them. Whether it’s a birthday or holiday or any old day, it gives me a sense of purpose and peace.

My mother is the heartbeat of our family, and she takes such good care of all of us that she deserves the very best. Every year for her birthday I try to make something special for her, and this year’s endeavor was something new, a sort of mash-up of some of her favorite *things*. I had no idea if it would work, but I gave it a go.

Coming up with new recipes is almost always a fun challenge. I’m not sure if I invented something new (I doubt it), but when I couldn’t find any recipes even similar to what I had in mind, it was experiment time. What I made was a combination of baked ravioli and eggplant parmigiana, both of which she loves. My thought was to serve it with a fresh caprese salad of tomatoes and basil and garlic bread. In theory it sounded like it could work.

Here’s the thing about mothers: they often love and appreciate effort and almost anything their child makes, even if the results aren’t very good. (I’m reminded of the macaroni necklace I made for her in Sunday school). She’s always been my biggest fan and the wind beneath my wings, and that gave me not only the inspiration to give this a try but also the courage to fail. If it didn’t work, we could laugh about it and get takeout, and she wouldn’t love me any less. So, here’s what I came up with.

BAKED RAVIOLI- EGGPLANT PARMIGIANA

Mama and I both love a good eggplant parm and ravioli is a treat for her, so combining the two made some sense in theory. I doubled this recipe to feed a small crowd with leftovers. And before you ask, no, I did not make the ravioli from scratch. Next time...

A note on the eggplant: I’ve made parmigiana for over thirty years and have tried different methods of prepping the eggplant for the best results. Because eggplant is spongy it tends to absorb oil when frying, so removing excess moisture beforehand is key. Some people swear by salting it first to draw out moisture, but I think it makes it too salty, and it takes a while. I’ve discovered that heating the raw slices in the microwave makes for better and sweeter eggplant with better texture in a fraction of the time (5 minutes as opposed to 30-60 for the salting method). I peel it first since I don’t care for the chewiness of the skin, which can also be bitter. The finished slices are lightly crisp with a silky interior and slight sweetness.

And one more thing: I used a 9x13 baking dish and LOTS of paper towels.

INGREDIENTS

- Vegetable oil (for frying)
- 2 medium-sized eggplants, trimmed, peeled and cut into ~1/4-inch slices
- Flour (start with 1 cup but you may need to add more)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Eggs (start with 2)
- Water (start with 1 tablespoon)
- Large cheese ravioli (I used a 24oz bag of frozen ravioli and used 18 of them), cooked according to package and drained
- Pasta sauce (about 3 cups homemade or one 24oz jar)
- Shredded mozzarella cheese (1-2 8oz packages, depending on your mood)



Baked Ravioli- Eggplant Parmigiana - a special birthday meal for those you love.
-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

Sliced fresh mozzarella, optional (I used it for the top but shredded is fine)
Dried oregano

METHOD

Pour 1/4-1/2 inch of oil into a large, deep skillet. Place over medium-high heat. Place a paper towel on a microwave-safe dinner plate. Add a single layer of eggplant slices, top with another paper towel and add one more single layer of eggplant. Microwave 4-5 minutes. I blotted the slices dry when they were cool enough to handle, transferring them to a platter while I made more batches. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place flour in a shallow bowl. Season with a little salt and pepper. You may need

to add more as you go.

In a separate shallow bowl, whisk eggs with water. (You may need more of this, too).

Dredge eggplant slices through the flour, then dip both sides in the egg. Add to heated skillet – in a single layer without overlapping - and fry until golden brown, turning once. Transfer to a paper towel-lined baking sheet or platter and blot to remove excess oil. (You’ll need to replace the paper towels once or twice as you go).

Ladle enough sauce into the baking dish to just cover the bottom. Add a layer of eggplant, more sauce and a sprinkling of shredded cheese. Add a layer of ravioli (18 fit perfectly in the 9x13 dish). A layer of cheese, more sauce. Top with another layer of eggplant and sauce. I used fresh mozzarella slices on top, but more shredded cheese is fine. Sprinkle with dried oregano. (Can be made a day ahead to this point).

Bake until cheese is melted and bubbly, about 30 minutes.

Serves 6.

So, did it work? It did. It was pretty rich but also pretty comforting. I’m really glad I went with sorbet for dessert after! I’m not sure I liked it better than classic eggplant parmigiana, or if mama did, but she appreciated the effort as the gift it was intended to be, and that it was made with thought and love. In that way, I hope it was a fitting way to celebrate her. It was certainly my pleasure to make it.

Vicki Frank Day’s background includes over two decades in various aspects of the food service industry. In addition, she has over 27 years’ experience in marketing, graphic design, copy writing, food styling and research. She believes cooking should be a fun adventure, that food should be an experience and that every day can be a special occasion. Email her at vickiloves2cook@gmail.com.

Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.

Aug.17 - Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Frederick L. Boughton, 46, of Beacon, was processed on an open Warrant of Arrest.

Aug. 17 - Harassment-Tompkins Terrace- Caller reported being harassed by a neighbor. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 19 - Criminal Mischief- Spring Street-Caller reported damage to his front window. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 19 - Fare Dispute-Hastings Drive-Caller reported having a dispute with a Lyft Driver regarding her fare. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 19 - BOLO- Main Street- William E. Odell, 65, of Hyde Park, was processed on an open Warrant of Arrest.

Aug. 20 - Fraud-Davis Street- Caller reported being a victim of a fraudulent cash app. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 20 - Assist Other Agency-Van Ness Road- Officers responded to assist another agency with an investigation. Report taken.

Aug. 21 - Harassment-Main Street-Caller reported being harassed by someone not known to him over a parking spot. Report taken.

Aug. 24 - Harassment- Wolcott Avenue-Caller reported that he was harassed by someone known to him. Report taken. Investigation Conducted.

Aug. 25 - Public Lewdness-Main Street- Darryl R. Hannah, 58, of Beacon, was charged with Public Lewdness.

Aug. 26 - Assault-Wolcott Avenue-

Wilfredo Padilla, 47, of Beacon, was charged with Assault 3.

Aug. 27 - Fraud-Howland Avenue-Caller reported being a victim of a Social Security scam. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 27 - Warrant Check- Meadow Ridge- Paris D. Moore, 25, of Beacon, was processed on an open Warrant of Arrest.

Aug. 27 - Traffic Stop-Fishkill Avenue-Thomas J. Betterbid, 51, of Fishkill, was issued Traffic violations. Report Taken.

Aug. 28 - Disturbance- Railroad Drive - Evroy L.Morris, 67, of Beacon, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th & Menacing 2nd .

Aug. 29 - Welfare Check-Long Dock Road- John L. Killeen, 51, of New York, was processed on an open Warrant of Arrest.

Aug. 29 - Auto Accident-Beacon Street- Caller reported damage to her car as a result of a Hit-and-Run Accident. Report taken. Investigation Conducted.

Aug. 29 - Criminal Mischief-Main Street- Caller reported damage to her car as a result of the kids doing wheelies on the street with their bicycles.

Aug. 29 - Harassment-Main Street-Caller reported that someone known to him made death threats to him. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Aug. 30 - Fraud-Main Street- Caller reported fraudulent charges on his account. Report taken Investigation conducted.

Number of Calls: 312
Auto Accidents: 11
Domestics: 5

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Obituaries

Dennis J. Lahey



Dennis J. “Denny” Lahey, a lifelong resident of Beacon, passed away on September 18, 2026, at Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital, surrounded by his beloved family. He was 92 years old.

Denny was born in Poughkeepsie on October 23, 1933, the son of the late Francis and Geraldine Brower Lahey. In 1953, he was inducted into the United States Army and served overseas during the Korean Conflict before being honorably discharged in 1954.

On April 8, 1956, Denny married the former Charlotte Carrozzelli at St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon. They shared 63 years of marriage until Charlotte’s passing on September 10, 2019. Denny spent his professional career with IBM in East Fishkill, retiring after 34 years of dedicated service.

Service to his community was an important part of Denny’s life. He joined the Beacon

Fire Department in 1960 and remained an active and devoted member for more than 65 years. During this time, he served in numerous positions in the department, including Chief. He was also a social member of S.W. Johnson Engine Company No. 2 in Wappingers Falls. For many years, Denny served as a crossing guard for the City of Beacon at the intersection of Wilkes Street and Fishkill Avenue, where he became a familiar and friendly presence to generations of local families.

Denny enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, playing softball and watching Turner Classic Movies. Above all, he treasured time spent with his family. He proudly attended the sporting events, musical performances and special milestones of his son, granddaughters and great-grandson. Deeply proud of his Irish heritage, Denny especially enjoyed St. Patrick’s Day and could always be counted on to dress for the occasion.

Denny is survived by his son, Dennis P. Lahey and his wife, Karla; his granddaughters, Kari Lahey, Denise Lahey and Kacee Lahey; his great-grandson, Riley Patrick Anderson; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Charlotte, Denny was predeceased by his beloved sister, Marie Lahey, and his brother, Francis “Buddy” Lahey.

Family and friends will gather on Monday, September 21, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A firematic service will be held at 7 p.m. at the funeral home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, September 22, at 10 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Willow Street, Beacon. Burial with military honors will follow at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon.

Denny’s family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to United Hospice and the staff of 4 North at Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital for the compassion, kindness and attentive care they provided during the final days of his life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

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

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

Arthur Pendleton, Jr.



Arthur Pendleton, Jr., a lifelong area resident, entered into rest on September 17, 2026, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. He was 85 years old.

Arthur was born in Beacon on April 19, 1941, the son of the late Arthur Pendleton, Sr. and Alice Hauver Pendleton. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1959 until his honorable discharge in 1963. Following his military service, Arthur enjoyed a long career with IBM in East Fishkill, where he worked until his retirement.

Arthur had a lifelong love of sports, especially baseball. For many years, he coached his children’s baseball teams through the Town of Wappinger and later took great pride in coaching college softball teams. He was also a devoted fan of the New York Mets and New York Giants.

Arthur is survived by his wife, Wanda Pendleton; his children, Lynn Daniels (Bob), Jeff Pendleton (Jeanne) and Matt Pendleton (Doreen); his granddaughters, Tori Daniels and Lauren Daniels; Wanda’s children, Carl Kropp, David Kropp and Jennifer Provost, and their families; several nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to his parents, Arthur was predeceased by his sisters, Alice, Barbara and Shirley, and his brother, Charles.

In accordance with Arthur’s wishes, funeral services will be private.

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

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

Robert Ruiz



Robert Ruiz, age 49, passed away peacefully at his home on September 14, 2026. Born in the Bronx on April 12, 1977, Robert was the beloved son of Roberto Ruiz and Migdalia Della Rocca.

Rob was a man who left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him. He had a great personality, a generous spirit, and a heart that was bigger than words could describe. He was someone who loved deeply, gave freely, and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Rob spent much of his working life in the asphalt and paving industry, where he was known as a hardworking laborer. But outside of work, Rob had a true passion for bodybuilding and took great pride in his strength, dedication, and commitment to the gym. He was also a talented cook who found joy in preparing meals for the people he cared

about. Family was at the center of his life, and he took great pride in caring for and providing for those he loved.

Rob was a man of Catholic faith, and his faith was an important part of his life.

Rob was incredibly proud of his Puerto Rican heritage, carrying his culture, traditions, and love for his roots with him throughout his life. His warmth, humor, generosity, and unmistakable personality will be remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Rob is survived by his loving children, Ashley, Marie, Dakota, Robert, and Antonio; his cherished grandchildren, Ayden, Logan, Nylina, Alaia, Anaia, and Kerriel; his brother, Jonathan, and sister, Melitza; his parents, Roberto and Migdalia; and his love, Tanisha. Along with his extended family and many friends.

Rob’s life was defined by the love he gave to others, the family he cherished, and the memories he created along the way. Though his time with us was far too short, the love he shared and the impact he made will live on in his children, grandchildren, family, friends, and everyone whose life he touched.

His Family will receive and gather with Friends on Thursday, September 24th from 4 – 8 PM at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10AM, Friday, September 25th at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY, followed by interment to Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, West Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York.

He will be deeply missed, forever loved, and never forgotten.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit:

www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

New Hackensack firefighters hold 9/11 services



The New Hackensack Fire Company held services on Friday, Sept. 11, to commemorate those lost 25 years ago on 9/11.

-Courtesy photos

The New Hackensack Fire Company held its annual 9/11 Memorial Service on Friday, Sept. 11 to commemorate those lives that were lost on 25 years ago because of the terror attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. New Hackensack holds two services on September 11th each year. The morning service is a more informal service that coincides with the times each World Trade Center Tower was attacked and when each Tower collapsed, and a formal service at 6 p.m., which is well attended by the local community.

At the morning service, Taps is played at the time each Tower was struck and collapsed, and the Fire Company Chaplain, Rev. Patrick Guarracino says a few words and a prayer at each time. The morning

service has been attended each year by a number of local residents that had family members that perished in the WTC attack, and have said how much it means to them to be able to attend this local ceremony, and to spend time with their local fire department and honor those family members that were lost.

The formal evening service starts with the members of the Fire Department marching to the memorial, and then remarks by J. Howard Prager, Chairman of the New Hackensack Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, Raymond Valentin, Chief of the New Hackensack Fire Department, and memorial service led by Rev. Guarracino. After the service, the public was invited for refreshments at the pavilion behind the fire station.

Rolison introduces legislation to establish statewide 9/11 curriculum

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center, New York State Senator Rob Rolison has introduced Seante Bill 10693 which would requiring the establishment of September eleventh awareness curriculum or instruction for school districts.

Today, nearly 40% of Americans were either not yet born on 9/11 or were too young to remember that day firsthand. Requiring this curriculum ensures future generations understand what happened that day, remember the lives we lost, honor the heroes who ran toward danger and learn how our nation came together in the days that followed.

"September 11, 2001, is a day that forever changed our nation, our state and the

lives of countless New York families. As a former police officer, I will never forget the courage of the first responders who ran toward danger, the innocent lives we lost or the extraordinary way Americans came together in the days that followed. But for today's students, September 11 is history, not a memory. We have a responsibility to share what happened that day, the sacrifices that were made and why we have vowed to never forget. I am proud to join my colleague, Assemblyman Matt Slater, to sponsor Firefighter Joseph P. Spor Jr.'s Law in the Senate so that the lessons, heroism and legacy of September 11 continue to be passed from one generation of New Yorkers to the next."

Firefighter Joseph P. Spor Jr.'s Law

would require instruction addressing the historical context of terrorism; the attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon and United Airlines Flight 93; America's recovery and response; the global consequences of the attacks; and the examples of heroism, resilience and service that emerged during and after 9/11. Educational resources must be age-appropriate, factually accurate, and sourced from reputable sources. The legislation is named in honor of FDNY Firefighter Joseph P. Spor Jr., a member of Rescue Company 3 who made the ultimate sacrifice on Sept. 11, 2001.

In the New York State Assembly, this bill is A07919A, sponsored by Assemblyman Matt Slater and is supported by the 9/11

Education Foundation. Slater represents the 94th Assembly District, which includes parts of Putnam and Westchester counties, including the towns of Kent, Patterson, Putnam Valley, Carmel, Southeast, Somers and Yorktown, as well as the village of Brewster.

"Twenty-five years ago, our nation witnessed unimaginable evil, but we also witnessed extraordinary courage, sacrifice and unity," said Slater. "As the generation that remembers September 11 firsthand grows older, we have a responsibility to make sure those stories are never lost. The support of the 9/11 Education Foundation and Senator Rolison sends a powerful message that 'Never Forget' cannot simply be something we say-it has to be something we teach."

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Community Baby Shower to offer information, resources and giveaways

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) will host a free Community Baby Shower on Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton St. in Poughkeepsie. Presented in partnership with the Institute for Family Health's Perinatal and Infant Community Health Collaboratives (PICHC) and Healthy Families Dutchess County programs, as well as the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet, the free public event is designed to celebrate, educate and support expectant and new parents throughout Dutchess County.

Serino said, "Every family deserves to feel supported, informed and celebrated as they welcome a new baby. Our Community Baby Shower brings together incredible part-

ners and resources to make sure parents have what they need from – trusted guidance to essential items. We're proud to host an event that helps support Dutchess County families, and we hope so see you there!"

Families attending the Community Baby Shower will receive essential guidance to help them prepare for their new arrival, along with a variety of practical giveaways. Vendors will share evidencebased educational materials and additional resources related to pregnancy, infant care and family health. Labor doulas, lactation consultants and local healthcare providers will be on site to answer questions and offer individualized support.

DCDOH Commissioner Dr. Livia SantiagoRosado said, "Supporting families during pregnancy and early childhood is one of the most important things we can do for

the longterm health of our community. This shower brings together trusted partners, essential resources and evidencebased guidance in one welcoming space. We are proud to offer families the tools, education and connections they need to feel confident and supported as they begin their parenting journey."

DCDOH's clinic located within the Family Partnership Center will be open to provide childhood vaccinations, giving attendees an opportunity to update their children's immunizations. Those interested should call the clinic at 8454862963 in advance to confirm eligibility and ensure staff can prepare the appropriate vaccine.

The event will feature a "shower passport" that encourages guests to visit each table, engage with community partners and learn

key information on pregnancy and early parenting. Families who complete the passport will also be eligible to win larger raffle items, such as a brand-new Pack 'n Play, stroller, Boppy set and baby food blender.

Director of Family Programs for Healthy Families Dutchess County and PICHC of Ulster & Dutchess Nora Engelhard said, "Our programs are rooted in building strong, trusting relationships with families, and this event reflects that spirit. It's wonderful to see so many partners come together to create a welcoming space where parents know they have our support. We're excited to meet families, share resources and celebrate this important stage in their lives."

To learn more about the Dutchess County Department of Health and its offerings, visit dutchessny.gov/health.

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County announces \$107,470 awarded though NYS’ Youth Sports and Education Opportunity funding

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino last week announced eight municipal and nonprofit organizations have been awarded a combined \$107,471 through New York State’s Youth Sports and Education Opportunity funding. The funding will expand athletic opportunities for local children ages 6 to 17 while encouraging healthy lifestyles, supporting academic achievement, preparing young people for future careers and strengthening community connections. Grant recommendations were developed by the Dutchess County Youth Board and Coordinating Council, comprised of community members and nonprofit representatives.

Serino said, “Every young person deserves the chance to learn, grow and thrive. Sports help young people build healthy habits, confidence, friendships and valuable life skills that can benefit them for years to come. We are thrilled to partner with these awarded organizations to provide a wide range of sports opportunities for our young people.”

Projects funded through the 2026-27 Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding program include:

City of Beacon, Beacon Swim Academy, \$10,977 – The City’s pool will host the popular Pool Swim

Academy program throughout the month of July for several age groups: preschool, ages 5-7, and 8+, serving 80 young people; funds will be used for personnel costs.

Northern Dutchess Aquatic Club, Pre-Team and Dryland Training, \$16,374 – Offer training opportunities through two free, eight-week, pre-team sessions, a 12-week dryland training session for swimmers ages 6-13 and free dryland training for swimmers ages 14-18; funds will cover costs of swimming and dryland equipment, pool rental and personnel.

NY FLIGHT 845, Inc., NY FLIGHT Academy, \$18,000 – Provide free, structured open-gym basketball training, skills and drills training, as well as organized team activities, building basic skills for middle- and high-school students, as well as continuing Kingdom Classic Tournament; funds will be used for equipment, supplies, coaches and trainers.

Ramapo for Children, Experiential Social and Emotional Learning Retreats for Dutchess County Nonprofits and/or Schools, \$14,500 – Offer minimum of three experiential retreats for at least 80 young people from local schools and nonprofits, utilizing active, hands-on experiences to strengthen social and emotional

learning skills while encouraging physical activity; funds will be used for ropes course maintenance and repair, as well as personnel cost.

Town of Hyde Park, Learn to Swim Program, \$7,558 – Helps young people achieve life-long skills through instruction from certified American Red Cross Swimming Lesson staff, offering the opportunity to learn to swim and physical exercise in a fun, safe and positive environment; funds will be used for lifeguards and instructors.

Town of Red Hook, Town of Red Hook Recreation, \$20,000 – Provides five-week summer programs that offer 12+ different recreational programs to over 500 young people up to age 21 living within the Red Hook Central School District; funds will be used for personnel costs.

Town of Stanford, Teen Fitness Foundations, \$5,762 – After-school program for students in sixth through 10th grade, building lifelong fitness skills through structured, engaging sessions by providing inclusive opportunity for teens, especially those not involved in sports, to stay active, improve their health and build habits that support long-term wellness; funds will be used for sports equipment and fitness trainers.

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie Outing

Club, \$14,300 – After-school program engages Poughkeepsie Middle and High School students in physical activity through structured outdoor programming to reduce barriers to outdoor recreation; funds will cover personnel cost and hiking equipment for the lending “library.”

Funding still available

A total of \$43,916 remains available through the YSEF grant program, for the program year Oct. 1, 2026, to Sept. 30, 2027, for local organizations that provide free sports opportunities to young people ages 6-17.

Eligible applicants should be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, other community-based organization, or a municipality with a federal identification number, operating in Dutchess County with the ability to meet the County’s insurance requirements. Organizations that have been awarded 2026-2027 YSEF funding are encouraged to apply for additional funding.

Please visit the Division’s NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) Grant Funding webpage for more comprehensive information regarding this program and how to apply.

Arts Mid-Hudson to present development workshop on Oct. 1

Arts Mid-Hudson will present A Roadmap for Annual Appeals: From Planning to Thank You, a virtual professional development workshop led by experienced annual appeal designer Molly Ahearn on Thursday, Oct. 1, from noon – 1 p.m. via Zoom.

Designed for nonprofit professionals and arts organizations, the workshop will provide practical guidance for developing a successful annual appeal campaign, from initial planning through donor follow-up. Participants will gain advice, cost-saving strategies, and ideas for sparking donor interest from Ahearn’s experience designing annual appeals for a broad range of nonprofit organizations.

The workshop will cover four key stages of an annual appeal campaign:

- Planning
- Design
- Production
- Follow-up

Participants will leave with practical

ideas and strategies they can apply to their own annual appeal campaigns, including ways to streamline production, manage costs, engage donors, and

encourage continued giving.

The workshop is open to adults and will be held virtually via Zoom. Registration is \$5 for Arts Mid-Hudson

members and \$15 for non-members.

For registration and more information, go to www.artsmidhudson.org.

this week’s puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

S	L	A	T	E	R	E	R	E	A	M	S		
D	E	C	A	Y	E	A	R	O	C	E	A	N	
D	O	M	E	D	F	D	A	L	A	V	E	R	
A	N	Y	M	O	R	E	F	A	I	L	U	R	E
S	E	A	D	O	G	S	E	N	T	E	D	O	
I	B	S	E	N	N	E	V	E	A	S	A	P	
R	O	L	E	R	E	L	A	Y	G	R	I	M	
A	D	A	R	E	V	E	R	P	O	O	L	E	
P	A	S	L	E	S	N	I	T	W	I	T		
F	R	A	N	K	L	Y	S	E	R	I	O	U	S
R	A	N	E	E	B	O	A	U	L	T	R	A	
A	I	T	C	H	A	I	L	T	E	N	E	T	
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2	1	2	4	5	2
3	4	5	3	1	3
1	2	1	2	5	2
4	3	4	3	1	3
5	2	1	2	4	5
1	4	3	5	3	1

Suguru solution

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS- RFB-DCB-16-26 NAME OF PROJECT: Multiple Roof Replacement Projects at Various Dutchess County Locations **Multiple Prime Bids** shall be received for the following classes of work: **General Construction & Electrical PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Roof Replacement Projects for various buildings at the following locations: Wilcox Park, NY-199, Stanfordville, Bowdoin Park, 85 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls, and the Amenia Outpost, 4717 Route 22, Amenia. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group’s Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnet-direct.com/new-york-county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnet-direct.com/new-york-county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting “Government” then selecting “Bidding and RFPOpportunities.” For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess

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County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. **All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids due on or before 11:00 AM, Wednesday, October 21, 2026, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. Bids for the above project will be received by:**

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Caroline A. Miller, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike, 1st Floor Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. **Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602** United States, Hemp-

Legal Notices

stead (Toll) Conference ID: #134 318 813 Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders’ security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. **Questions will be accepted by the close of business Wednesday, October 7, 2026, and emailed to Caroline Miller at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County’s response published in the addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. A Walk-through is scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2026, at 11 am, Bowdoin Park, 85 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls, Main Office. A Walk-through for any other location would be by request only due to the respective distance between each location. If you wish to attend the walk-through or request one for any other location, please send an email to dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov**

Legal Notices

ovby close of business Wednesday, September 30, 2026. All Bidders are encouraged to attend the Walk-Thru in order to submit Bids for this RFB. Pre-Registration preferred but not required. This RFB may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #2026026895. IMPORTANT: Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor Registry Requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding the APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

1			3		
					5
			4		
	1		5		
2					

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The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: MOVIE QUOTES

ACROSS

1. Give benediction
6. World's oldest broadcasting company, acr.
9. Hoodwink
13. H, spelled out
14. Have a cold, e.g.
15. Dogma
16. Raja's wife
17. Shel Silverstein's constrictor
18. Extreme, prefix
19. "*"____, my dear, I don't give a damn"
21. "*"Why so ____?"
23. "High" beverage
24. Fairytale's second word
25. "Swan Lake" step, e.g.
28. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
30. Nincompoop
35. Month of Purim
37. At any time
39. Coastal town in southern England
40. Flick part
41. 4 x 4 race
43. Like most Brothers Grimm stories
44. "Peer Gynt" playwright
46. Actress Campbell
47. Please do not delay, acr.
48. Experienced sailor (2 words)
50. Dispatched
52. a.k.a. Tokyo
53. Window guards
55. Beer faucet
57. "*"I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it ____"
61. "*"What we've got here is ____ to communicate"
65. Like United States Capitol
66. Food safety org.
68. Ritual basin
69. Tooth trouble
70. Husk of corn
71. Sharks' domain
72. Fence board
73. Pastrami partner
74. Paper quantities

DOWN

1. Vomit
2. The one with pants on fire
3. Volcano in Sicily
4. *"I can smell the _____ of a woman... Honey oil, lavender, soap"
5. Israeli monetary unit
6. *"Hasta la vista, _____"
7. Life story, for short
8. Fastener
9. Hero shop
10. "Do _____ others..."
11. Paddington Bear's homeland
12. Airport postings, acr.
15. Rutabaga cousin
20. Extra sweatshirt, e.g.
22. Long period of time
24. No-good
25. *"We'll always have _____"
26. Hacienda brick
27. Mexican cuisine staple
29. *"She doesn't _____ go here"
31. Party garb?
32. Not better
33. Homer's famous poem, with The
34. *"Not quite my _____"
36. Donna or Lou
38. Techno dance party
42. Busybody, in Yiddish
45. *"_____ puts Baby in a corner"
49. Toothy fish
51. Alterations specialist
54. Mention something
56. *"There's no _____ like home"
57. Contributes
58. Season to be jolly
59. Village People hit
60. Source of protein
61. Cab payment
62. Eye layer
63. #74 Across, sing.
64. Sea eagles
67. *"Go ahead, make my _____"

CROSSWORD

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

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

get growing!

by mark adams



A Golden World

Take some time to observe the unique ecosystem of the goldenrod blossom.

A tiny ant trudged across my newspaper as I was worrying about the latest world news. He (she?) was no doubt engrossed in its own problems. Serious problems, for the ant. I set aside the paper and ventured into a nearby meadow, where I came across a patch of goldenrod. There, right before my eyes, was an entire world of its own, with its own creatures basking in the sunshine, going about their daily routines, or struggling desperately for survival. A Golden World.

Goldenrod is a native perennial flower known for its bright golden blossoms opening in September and October. It gets a bad rap during hay fever season, because it blooms in conjunction with the real hay fever villain – ragweed. The pollen of goldenrod is sticky enough to stay on the blossoms, and this is the foundation of the microcosm that becomes the Golden World.

Take some time from your busy schedule, stop worrying about our world’s problems for a little while, and delve into the unique realm of the goldenrod. Here’s some of what you might discover:

- **Soldier beetles** – Like most citizens of the Golden World, soldier beetles use camouflage to match the golden color of their surroundings. They feed on the sticky pollen, laying eggs that drop to the ground, where their nymphs spend the winter hiding in leaf litter, waking up in spring to gorge on aphids and other garden pests.
- **Crab spiders** – They look like tiny pale

yellow crabs, nestled in the goldenrod flower spikes. Crab spiders will attack prey much larger than themselves – even bumblebees – by injecting them with venom.

- **Ambush bugs** – Tiny but adorable, with their chameleon camouflage, helmeted casque, and claws that would put a preying mantis to shame. They lay in wait for the passing traveler.

- **Bees** – Feral honeybees and more than a dozen species of native bumblebees gorge on the sticky pollen. Some tiny miner bees feed exclusively on goldenrod.

- **Wasps** – Amid all the hoopla about native pollinators, wasps get the short end of the stick. Some of them don’t even sting. A few wasps species are endemic to goldenrod. Digger wasps, blue-winged wasps and the more common paper wasps are all important pollinators. In addition, they prey on garden pests, including caterpillars, that they feed to their young. Unlike the malicious yellow jackets, wasps will leave you alone if you’re minding your own business.

- **Gall flies** – Downstairs, in the middle of the goldenrod stem, you’ll spot a globe like swelling, the home of the goldenrod gall fly larva. This bizarre insect can overwinter inside the swollen stem, thanks to the natural antifreeze in its “blood.” The adults are true flies, not to be confused with the hundreds of species of gall wasps collected by the famed human sexologist Alfred Kinsey.

- **Locust borers** – These beetles use the goldenrod as a hideout. The larvae bore



Above: Locust Borer on goldenrod.
Right: A Blue Winged Wasp.



-Photos by Mark Adams

into the wood of locust trees, causing damage similar to that caused by the invasive emerald ash borer. After the adult beetles lay their eggs on a locust tree, they start feeding on goldenrod, where their striking coloration blends in, protecting them from predators.

- **Butterflies and moths** – Monarchs bulk up on goldenrod nectar before migrating south. So far I’ve been describing creatures that I’ve actually observed on goldenrod, not just googled. But I have to admit I’d like to see a wavy-lined

emerald moth caterpillar, that supposedly (according to AI) camouflages itself by pasting bits of goldenrod leaves onto its back.

Take some time to observe the unique ecosystem of the goldenrod blossom. It’s all there – harmony, conflict, comfort, agonizing brutality – step right up to Golden World.

Mark Adams is an agricultural advisor to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County B.O.C.E.S. and Cornell University.

PPLD to celebrate Dolly Parton on Friday

The Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD) is hosting Celebrating Dolly! A celebration of Dolly Parton’s love of literacy, and the work she did to ensure children love reading will take place on Friday, Sept. 25, (or should we say, nine to five), at Adriance Memorial Library from 10-11:30 a.m. and at Boardman Road Branch Library from 2-3:30 p.m. One can participate in free Dolly Parton-themed activities: take pictures with our Dolly Parton cardboard cutout, sign up children under age five who reside in the City or Town of Poughkeepsie for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL), join a Dolly Parton-themed sensory playtime, and other themed activities.

The DPIL began when Parton was inspired by her father, who grew up illiterate, and wanted to ensure every child in Sevier County, Tennessee, where she grew up, would have access to books, regardless of socioeconomic status.

“She hoped those books would encourage children to love reading, dream more and believe that their own possibilities were bigger than they might imagine,” is how the DPIL describes her idea.

Those books have since travelled outside of Tennessee to all over the United States, and then all over the world, to as far away as Australia, and the PPLD is a proud participant, ensuring children in Poughkeepsie have access to a new book every month.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library has a partnership with the PPLD.

-Courtesy photo

The books are free, high-quality, age-appropriate books, and are now available in Spanish. Patrons can register in person at Adriance Memorial Library or online, as well as at the check-out desk at Boardman Road Branch Library. New registrants will be offered the option to enroll in the core English program or the fully Bilingual English-Spanish program.

Existing families can also switch over to Spanish within the parent login area. Sign up to receive books in the Youth Services Department on the second floor at Adriance Memorial Library or online at <https://poklib.org/youth/dolly-parton>.

“Through our partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, we aim to strengthen the Poughkeepsie communi-

ty by delivering free, high-quality children’s books—especially bilingual children’s books that nurture dual-language skills—to young readers every month, sparking early literacy and a lasting love of stories in every language,” said John Torres, Head of Youth Services at PPLD.

The DPIL will mail a free book to your home monthly for children from birth to their fifth birthday. Children must be residents of the City or Town of Poughkeepsie to qualify for free books.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library program is sponsored by the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

For more information, follow PPLD on Facebook and Instagram, visit the website at <https://poklib.org>, or call (845) 485-3445 ext. 3707.

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