

BEACON FREE PRESS

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‘Super-express’ trains added to Hudson Line

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the launch of faster “super-express” trains on the Hudson Line between Poughkeepsie and New York City with the upcoming MTA Metro-North Railroad schedule effective Sunday, Oct. 5. The first “super-express” trains will run on Monday, Oct. 6. These new trips were announced in the Governor’s 2025 State of the State address and will cut travel times between Poughkeepsie and Grand Central Terminal to less than 90 minutes each way. Initially projected to launch in 2026, work was completed ahead of schedule, allowing for faster service to begin this month.

“Delivering better, faster Metro-North service to Hudson Valley commuters will propel economic growth across our state and improve quality of life,” Hochul said. “These new super-express trains will save commuters nearly 15 minutes of travel time every day, giving riders back over an hour a week of their precious time. This is just the start - work remains underway to deliver even more service improvements along the line, improving reliability and making trips up and down the Hudson Valley even faster.”

Faster Metro-North Hudson Line trips

Metro-North is shortening five trips between Poughkeepsie and Grand Central to less than 90 minutes and one trip down to 95 minutes, delivering the fastest trips ever between the two cities.

The travel time for a non-express trip between Poughkeepsie and Grand Central can be up to 115 minutes, depending on the number of stops. The run time improvements cut travel times by as much as 7 minutes one way compared to the current super-express train schedules, and by as much as 20 minutes one way compared to non-express trains, providing commuters and visitors with a quicker and reliable ride into and out of Manhattan. Details of the “super-express” Hudson Line trains are outlined further below.

As part of her 2025 State of the State, Governor Hochul proposed investments in Hudson Valley rail service that would increase capacity, reduce delays, improve safety and cut travel times. This proposal included shortening “super-express” Metro-North Hudson Line trips to less than 90 minutes.

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Wellness sessions, music, local artisans to highlight Beacon Flow Festival on Oct. 11

By Kristine Coulter

The annual Beacon Flow Festival is set for Saturday, Oct. 11, from noon – 5 p.m., at University Settlement Camp in Beacon. This free, family-friendly event will feature live music and wellness sessions. There will also be food vendors and local artisans.

Founders and musicians Dassi Rosenkrantz and Amy Soucy recently shared the purpose and vision behind Beacon Flow.

“We are trying to create a space that is safe and fostering of the goodness that the Festival is offering,” said Rosenkrantz.

Wellness sessions include yoga, Reiki, meditation, sound baths, tarot readings and more.

Last year, the festival welcomed more than 150 attendees, and organizers are excited to see the community gather again this fall for an even bigger celebration, said Rosenkrantz and Soucy.

Rosenkrantz and Soucy emphasized that this year’s lineup showcases a diverse mix of musicians, wellness instructors, and healers:

Scheduled Music Performances

Chris Ams – Singer-songwriter
The Downside Up – Americlecticana Band
Dassi Rosenkrantz – New Age music

Movement & Mindfulness

Taylor Bree – Immersive Movement Instructor
Newburgh Yoga Shala - Pranayama & Meditation



Dassi Rosenkrantz, one of the organizers of the Beacon Flow Festival, performs during last year’s event at University Settlement Camp in Beacon. The annual event is set for October 11.

-Courtesy photo Alejandro Lopez

Julian Paik – Yoga Instructor
Caryn Challman - Chakra Meditation

Sound & Voice Healing

Sara Hart & Drew Campbell – Sound Healing
Onome – Circle Singing

Soucy said, “We got a lot of feedback (after last year’s event) and from my personal observation, there were a lot of joyful faces.” Soucy said a friend’s mother was in the area from India and “was so happy to have the experience.”

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‘No One Rocks Alone’ Music Festival set Oct. 4 in Wappinger

By Kristine Coulter

Donna Thomas is continuing to keep the memory of her son, James, alive by reaching out to others. James’s Warr;ors 2nd annual “No One Rocks Alone” Music Festival is set for Saturday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Brexel-Schlathaus Park, 127 All Angels Road, in Wappinger. Tickets are \$20online and at the door \$25.

“The festival honors James, who was caring, funny, and deeply loved. Though he hid his struggles, his story is a reminder of how important it is to break the stigma around suicide and mental illness. While our organization was founded in James’s memory, it stands for all who have died by suicide. We are their voices now,” Donna told Beacon Free Press recently.

James died by suicide in 2018. On the James’s Warr;ors website, jameswarr;ors.org, Donna, along with James’s father, Bobby, wrote: “Our son’s death was a complete shock to us, our family and friends. We had no idea that James was suicidal. Since then, we have learned so much about depression, anxiety, and suicide. We would never want a family to have to endure this kind of loss. We, with the help of our family and friends, founded a not-for-profit organization called James’s Warr;ors. Our goal is to teach our communities to talk about mental illness without shame and secrecy.”

Continued on page 6



The annual “No One Rocks Alone” Music Festival is set for Saturday, October 4 at Brexel-Schlathaus Park in Wappinger. The festival will honor James Thomas, pictured with his mother, Donna Thomas. James died by suicide in 2018. The funds will go to James’s Warr;ors.

-Courtesy photo Donna Thomas

‘Super-express’ trains added to Hudson Line

Continued from cover

Leaders comment on faster service

City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou stated in a social media post, “A huge thank you to Governor Hochul and the MTA for delivering on their commitment to improve our lives and communities in the Hudson Valley, through these investments to shorten travel times on the Hudson Line. Metro-North is the economic backbone of Hudson Valley communities like Beacon, allowing working families to earn a living, raise children and contribute to their communities.”

“Faster, high-speed trains along the Metro-North line from Poughkeepsie to Grand Central are a huge win for the Hudson Valley,” said NYS Senator Rob Rolison in a social media post last week.

“Shorter commute times will mean more time at home with family and more opportunities for our businesses, strengthening our local economy and making mass transit more efficient.

“It’s efforts like this that improve the quality of life for residents across our region and ensure the Hudson Valley continues to thrive. See you on the train!”

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber said, “Part of being a good transit operator is knowing what your customers want — whether it’s even more LIRR service to the Ryder Cup or faster Metro-North trains between Poughkeepsie and the City. With Governor Hochul’s support and investments in transit, we’re able to do both.”

Metro-North Railroad President Justin Vonashek said, “These enhancements build on the railroad’s record-setting reliability with a systemwide on-time performance of 98% — and with more improvement work underway, this is only the beginning.”

Representative Pat Ryan remarked, “We’re making it easier and faster than ever for Hudson Valley residents to get to NYC. I’m grateful to Governor Hochul for completing this project ahead of schedule, and investing in Metro North service — because every Hudson Valley family deserves transit options that are constantly innovating to better serve our community.”

Super-Express Hudson Line service improvements

Adjustments to dozens of other trains, along with schedule optimization, resulted in clear paths for these Hudson Line Super Express trains to operate more efficiently.

The 6:08 a.m. train from Poughkeepsie to Grand Central will now be an 89-minute run, five minutes faster than the current run time. This train makes stops at New Hamburg, Beacon and Harlem-125th St.

The 6:42 a.m. train from Poughkeepsie will depart two minutes later at 6:44 a.m. and will now be an 89-minute run, seven minutes faster than the current run time. This train makes stops at New Hamburg, Beacon, and Harlem-125th St.

The 7:03 a.m. train from Poughkeepsie will depart two minutes later at 7:05 a.m. and will now be a 95-minute run, five minutes faster than the current run time. This train makes stops at New Hamburg, New Beacon, and Croton-Harmon.

The 5:08 p.m. train from Grand Central will depart one minute later at 5:09 p.m. and will now be an 88-minute run, seven minutes faster than the current run time. This train stops at Harlem-125th St, Beacon, and New Hamburg.

The 5:30 p.m. train from Grand Central to Poughkeepsie will now be an 88-minute run, six minutes faster than the current run time. This train stops at Beacon and New Hamburg.

The 6:11 p.m. train from Grand Central will depart one minute later at 6:12 p.m. and will now be an 88-minute run, seven minutes faster than the current run time. This train stops at Harlem-125th St, Beacon and New Hamburg.

The Metro-North team used specialized train-simulation software and in-depth analyses of GPS and signal data to create new timetables that shave up to seven minutes from some Hudson Line trains both into and out of New York. Improvements to Metro-North’s signaling infrastructure have allowed the railroad to increase train speeds and reduce the effect of speed restrictions along the Hudson Line, resulting in



City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou shakes hands with Gov. Kathy Hochul at Grand Central Terminal in New York City after it was recently announced that “super-express” trains have been added to the Hudson Line.

-Courtesy photo

improved run times for some trains.

Minor adjustments to departure times have been made across the entire network to accommodate ongoing capital projects and routine track work.

Customers can check the new schedules online or use the TrainTime app for trip information. This schedule change will be in effect from Oct. 5, until the spring of next year.

Artichoke presents Drew Prochaska, Adam Selbst on Oct. 4

Artichoke presents two funny storytellers, Drew Prochaska and Adam Selbst, on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m. Get tickets at artichokeshow.com. Jamie Mulligan hosts as Artichoke founder Drew Prochaska performs his solo show, “Get the Dog,” and Artichoke’s graphic designer, Adam Selbst, shares his show, “As I Lay Whining.” (Both shows are intended for adults.)

Next Lit Lit set for Friday

The next Lit lit is set for Friday, Oct. 3, from 7 – 9 p.m. One may come read one’s own writing of any genre, for a maximum of five minutes. Arrive by 6:30 p.m. to sign up to read at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St. in Beacon. Or just come and listen.

It is asked that a \$5 (more if one can/less if one can’t) donation be made to support this grassroots and nonprofit host at the Howland. Drinks and snacks are available.

Misery

By William Goldman
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“An old-fashioned chiller ... the gasps and the giggles are deliciously jumbled together.”
NJ.COM

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Redevelopment Projects





Hochul: New 4,200-horsepower Siemens Charger trains ready for passenger service

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that new 4,200-horsepower Siemens Charger locomotives received last year for testing by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) will begin passenger service on Metro-North Railroad's Hudson Line recently. These new locomotives provide riders with even more reliable service while reducing airborne pollutants by 85 percent, all while producing 1,000 more horsepower than the current fleet.

"Metro North is charging into the future with faster, greener, and more reliable locomotives," Hochul said. "I will always be a champion for New York's commuters, and by modernizing our Metro-North fleet, tens of thousands of riders every single day will have a smoother, faster ride."

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber said, "Transit is already the antidote to climate change, and it's only getting cleaner and greener as we replace Metro-North's aging diesel fleet with top-of-the-line diesel-electric locomotives. These are just the first of many new trains to come as part of the MTA Capital Plan's \$11 billion investment in new rolling stock."

The new locomotives will be able to travel farther under electric power than the current fleet of locomotives, the GE P32s, which operate under electric power only in the tunnels in and out of Grand Central Terminal, a distance of four miles. The new locomotives can operate in electric mode the entire 102 miles of Metro-North's third rail territory, which extends to Croton-Harmon on the Hudson Line, Southeast on the Harlem Line, and Pelham on the New Haven Line. The new locomotives are compliant with Tier IV of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's vehicle emission standards, significantly improving emissions and noise pollution in densely populated areas across the State of New York.

According to the governor's office, enhanced reliability is made possible by ultramodern monitoring and diagnostic systems that allow crews to spot and fix issues quickly.

"Metro-North couldn't be more excited to bring these powerful, reliable, and green locomotives to our railroad. With these on time, on budget, and American made locomotives, we are making a significant, long-term investment in the service we provide. These locomotives are key to our transition to a faster and cleaner fleet in the coming years. Like everything we do at Metro-North, this

is all possible thanks to the hard work of our employees," said Metro-North Railroad President Justin Vonashek.

Rolling Stock Siemens Mobility North America President Tobias Bauer said, "Today marks a proud milestone for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Metro North Railroad, Siemens Mobility, and for rail innovation in America. The Charger locomotives entering revenue service are more than just trains, they represent our shared commitment to modern and reliable transportation for millions of passengers. Built right here in the U.S., these locomotives combine cutting-edge technology with proven performance, and we're honored to celebrate this moment alongside our partners at the MTA at Grand Central Terminal."

In 2021, the MTA's Metro-North Railroad placed an order with Siemens Mobility for 27 Dual Mode Charger locomotives, known by the model number SC42-DM, it was stated. These locomotives operate on both diesel-electric and third-rail electric power, enabling them to run on all of Metro-North's non-electrified lines and switch to electric power for electrified routes, including in Grand Central Terminal. These locomotives are being manufactured at the Siemens Mobility rolling stock facility in Sacramento, CA, and delivered to Metro-North through 2027, according to officials.

The purchase of these new Siemens Charger locomotives was funded by the MTA's 2015-19 and 2020-24 Capital Plans, along with funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Representative Pat Ryan said, "This upgrade to Metro-North's rolling stock is a transformative investment in cleaner air and more reliable service for Hudson Valley commuters and visitors. That's a win for Hudson Valley families and that's a win for the environment. I'll always fight for investments that improve the rider experience and protect our precious environment."

State Senator Rob Rolison congratulated Metro-North Railroad on the introduction of the new Siemens Charger trains, a major investment in our region's transportation infrastructure.

"These modern, sustainable locomotives will replace aging rolling stock and deliver more efficient service across both electric and diesel territory. This upgrade not only improves the Hudson Line experience for daily commuters but also strengthens the connection between the Hudson Valley



The new 4,200-horsepower Siemens Charger locomotive on the Hudson Line.
- Photo by Michael Carrigy/MTA

and the New York metropolitan area," Rolison remarked.

Assemblymember Anil Beephan said, "Metro North's commitment to cleaner and more reliable service is great news for Dutchess County. These new locomotives equipped with modern monitoring systems are an important step that will help reduce delays while keeping service dependable for the residents and visitors. I appreciate Metro North's investment and look forward to seeing these improvements benefit our riders."

Dutchess County Executive Sue

Serino said, grateful to the MTA for this investment, which was decades in the making.

"Dutchess County is excited to be the primary beneficiary of these American made hybrid locomotives having the largest number of stations outside of the electrified track network on the Harlem and Hudson lines. The new engines, designed to be exceptionally energy efficient, will reduce fuel consumption and most importantly for our community, significantly reduce air pollution," said Serino.

One Night, Two Paranormal Shows: Vision Callers at the Howland Cultural Center

On Sunday, Oct. 5, at 6 p.m., the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will host Vision Callers, a one-night-only comedy double-bill. The evening features "Predictable" by Laura Ornella, fresh from its NYC premiere, alongside "Spectre Projector" by Jack Blankenship and Allison Frasca. Together, the two

works promise a spooky, hilarious evening of bold new theater.

Tickets for tickets go to howlandculturalcenter.org.

This one-night-only event spotlights two bold new works from the region's most exciting comedic voices.



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Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.

Sept. 1: Auto Accident- Hit & Run - Howland Avenue-Caller reported damage to his car as a result of a Hit & Run Accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Sept. 1: Traffic Stop- Wolcott Avenue-Sabrina Picca, 34, of Carmel, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Motor Vehicle 3rd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

Sept. 2: Property Dispute -Cross Street-Patti A. Shealy, 67, of Beacon, was charged with Criminal Contempt 2nd.

Sept. 2: Property Damage-Main Street-Caller reported damage to his truck as a result of a Hit & Run Accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Sept. 4: Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Amanda S. Ackerman, 39, of Morristown, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

Sept. 4: Barking Dog-Long Dock Road-Caller reported that he was attacked by two unleashed dogs. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Sept. 6: Unwanted Party- Dutchess Terrace- Matthew J. Kulers age 30 of Hopewell Junction, was charged with Criminal Trespass 3rd & Harassment 2nd.

Sept. 6: Criminal Mischief- Municipal Plaza-Matthew J. Kulers, 30, of Hopewell Junction, was charged with Criminal Tampering 3rd& Criminal Mischief 3rd.

Sept. 6:Assault - Municipal Plaza-Matthew J. Kulers, 30, of Hopewell Junction, was charged with Making Terroristic Threats, Assault & Obstructing Government Administration 2nd.

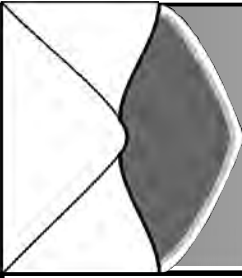
Sept. 9: Auto Accident- Hit & Run Accident-Fishkill Avenue-Brent C. Randolph, 48, of Wappingers Falls, was charged with Leaving the Scene of a Personal Injury Accident.

Sept. 12: Fraud-Edgewater Place- Caller reported that someone fraudulently signed for a package that was delivered to her. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Sept. 13: Unknown Problem-Ackerman Street-Nicole E. Keppel, 47, of Cold Spring, Putnam County, was charged with Obstructing Government Administration 2nd, Resisting Arrest & Assault 3rd.

Sept. 15:Fraud-Harbor View Court- Caller attempted to buy a dog and never received it. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Number of Calls: 305
Auto Accidents:1 2
Domestics: 3.



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.

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- 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.

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Jury convicts 24-year-old Philadelphia man of 2022 murder in Beacon

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office announced that on Sept. 22, following five days of testimony and less than an hour of deliberations, a Dutchess County jury convicted 24-year-old Khyree Pratt, of Philadelphia, of the crimes of Murder in the First Degree, a Class ‘A-I’ Violent Felony, Murder in the Second Degree, a Class ‘A-I’ Violent Felony, Conspiracy in the Second Degree, a Class ‘B’ Felony and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class ‘C’ Armed Violent Felony.

District Attorney Anthony Parisi said, “This verdict sends a clear message, those who plot violence and those who carry it out will be held fully accountable. This defendant and shooter, along with every conspirator who played a role in this calculated and cold-blooded murder, will face the consequences of their actions. Justice does not stop with the trigger — it reaches everyone behind the plan.”

The jury concluded that on May 14, 2022, at approximately 7 p.m., in the City of Beacon, in the area of West Center Street and Forrestal Heights apartment complex, the defendant aided, abetted and acting in concert with others, knowingly possessed a loaded firearm and pointed the gun at the victim, Lionell Pittman, and fired a shot striking him in the head causing his death. The defendant committed the killing pursuant to an agreement with others and collected money as compensation for his participation in the murder, according to the DA’s office.

The City of Beacon Police Department posted on social media on Sept. 24, “On Monday (Sept. 22), a jury convicted



Khyree Pratt
-Dutchess CountyD.A.’s Office

Khyree Pratt of murdering Lionel Pittman in May of 2022. The speed in which they were able to reach that conclusion is a testament to the great work and long hours put in by many members of the Beacon PD and the Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office.”

The City of Beacon Police Department handled the investigation. The case was prosecuted by Unit Chiefs Andrea Long and David Kunca. The trial was conducted in Dutchess County Court before the Honorable Edward T. McLoughlin, who has scheduled sentencing for Nov. 24, according to the D.A.’s office.

Drug Task Force arrests Queens man for intent to sell

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force has announced the successful execution of a search warrant at a residence off North Bridge Street in the City of Poughkeepsie following a narcotics investigation.

Agents began the investigation after developing intelligence about a suspected dealer operating in the area. Numerous community complaints about suspected drug activity at the same location further supported the investigation.

Through their efforts, Agents identified Derrick Ensley, 41, of Queens, New York, as the individual allegedly distributing narcotics from the residence. Over the course of the investigation, Agents conducted multiple purchases of fentanyl and cocaine allegedly from Ensley, which ultimately led to the securing of a search warrant.

On Sept. 11, Agents of the Drug Task Force, assisted by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Services Unit (SWAT) and the Poughkeepsie Police SWAT Team executed the warrant. During the operation, Ensley allegedly attempted to flee through a window but was apprehended without incident by tactical officers.

The search resulted in the seizure of large quantities of cocaine, fentanyl, drug packaging materials, U.S. currency, digital scales, and other items associated with the sale and distribution of narcotics, according to the Drug Task Force.

Ensley was charged with Criminal Possession of Controlled Substance 3rd degree with intent to sell, a class B Felony, and was later remanded to DCJ with no bail.



Derrick Ensley
-Photo Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office
Drug Task Force

This investigation and enforcement action were made possible through close collaboration between the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Patrol and Detective Bureaus, the City and Town of Poughkeepsie Police Departments, City of Beacon Police Department, Town of Hyde Park Police Department, Town of East Fishkill Police Department, Town of Fishkill Police Department, and the New York State Police Community Stabilization Unit.

If anyone has information regarding this case or about any other individuals selling drugs in Dutchess County, you are urged to contact the Drug Task Force confidential tip line at 845-463-6040 or by emailing your tips to Drugtaskforcetips@gmail.com. As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely an accusation and those individuals named in this release are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Wellness sessions, music, local artisans to highlight Beacon Flow Festival on Oct. 11

Continued from cover

Rosenkrantz noted, “Some of the vendors couldn’t wait to be back.”

Asked about Beacon as the location for the Festival, Soucy said, “It reminds me what a vibrant scene we have here – helping others get well.”

“Everyone is so excited about this festival” and “Beacon is the perfect place for it,” noted Rosenkrantz.

The following are sponsors of the event: Beacon Wellness Pharmacy, BeaHive, Mirbeau, Healist, Padilla, Gabby Grace, Beacon Natural Market, Valley Spirit, Kelta, The Cabo Project LLC, Keyfood, Pacha Unisex Saloon, Beacon Wine and Liquor, Main Street Music, Bagel Shop, Mr. V’s, Sal’s Pizza, Notions-N-Potions, Beacon Creamy, Yankee Clipper, Hudson Beach Glass, Brothers Trattoria

Members of the team include: Amy Soucy, Co-founder; Dassi Rosenkrantz, Co-founder; Richie Cabo, Co-founder; Devon Marsh, Event Marketing; Zeinab Manesh, Social Media; Paula Finnerty, Graphic Design; and Caryn Challman, Website Design.

Rosenkrantz and Soucy agreed University Settlement Camp is the perfect location. They can open it up to the indoor space, if the weather doesn’t cooperate. The theater is gorgeous, they said. The lawn is perfect for yoga, they noted. It is also by Mount Beacon and at the same time secluded.

University Settlement Camp is at 724 Wolcott Ave. in Beacon.

For more information, please visit [BeaconFlowFestival.com](https://www.beaconflowfestival.com) or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beacon-flow-a-free-community-music-wellness-festival-tickets-148917681092> or on Instagram, @beacon.flow.



Yoga will be practiced during the Beacon Flow Festival on Saturday, October 11 at University Settlement Camp in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo Alejandro Lopez

Dutchess County partners with Helpsy

Municipalities must sign up to take part in program

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced on Wednesday, Sept. 24, the County is expanding its successful environmental initiatives by partnering with Helpsy, a leading textile collection company, to launch a pilot textile recycling program aimed at promoting sustainability and reducing landfill waste. The partnership will bring free, convenient, environmentally friendly textile drop-off and collection options – including curbside pickup service in participating communities – to residents, helping Dutchess County continue its State-recognized climate action and diversion goals while bolstering its effective textile reuse and recycling efforts.

Serino said, “Our neighbors have told us they want more ways to live sustainably, and this pilot program delivers. By working with Helpsy, residents in participating communities will be able to clear out their closets, give life to unwanted textiles and know they’re

making a difference for our environment – all without costing a dime. It’s a simple step in our ongoing work to protect our environment and build a greener future for Dutchess County.”

Residents who live in participating municipalities will be able to schedule free pick-up appointments on designated service days and Helpsy representatives will come directly to them to collect clothes, shoes, linens and other textile materials to be responsibly recycled. There is no cost to municipalities or the County for this program. Local municipalities must sign up to take part in this pilot program, which is expected to begin at the end of 2025, for residents to take advantage of curbside pickup. The Department of Solid Waste Management has contacted local municipal supervisors and mayors, inviting them to take part in this beneficial program as it gets started later this year.

Helpsy works with more than 400

municipalities across 10 states with the mission of extending the life of clothing and reducing environmental harm by keeping textiles out of landfills. Helpsy collects, sorts and trades secondhand clothes and shoes. Clothing is sold primarily for reuse, with higher grade textiles resold to thrift stores in North America and other secondhand markets around the world. Lower grade textiles can be turned into rags for industrial use or stuffing and insulation. In 2024, Helpsy collected more than 32 million pounds of clothes, shoes and other items.

Dutchess County currently hosts Helpsy collection bins at the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency, 96 Sand Dock Road in Poughkeepsie, where residents are invited to drop off textiles. Additional Helpsy collection bins are located in Red Hook, Pawling and the Town of Poughkeepsie.

The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management reminds residents they should never place textiles in the garbage or in a recycling bin. Rather, the division encourages donating them to a variety of local organizations, including shelters, thrift stores, coat drives, Dutchess Outreach’s Children’s Clothing Closet or organizations such as Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, Dutchess Welcoming, The Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie, Hudson River Housing or Dress for

Success, among others.

Kerry Russell, Deputy Commissioner of the County’s Division of Solid Waste Management, said, “We are thrilled to partner with Helpsy to augment our thriving textile recycling and reuse initiatives. This collaboration represents Dutchess County’s latest significant step forward in our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. Together, we can make a meaningful impact by continuing to reduce waste and promote a circular economy in our community.”

According to Helpsy, the average person throws away 100 pounds of textiles per year, yet 95 percent of these items can be reused or recycled. The organization has helped communities divert millions of pounds of textiles from landfills, reselling, reusing or recycling the materials through their established network of partners.

Dutchess County remains committed to environmental sustainability and community well-being. In 2024, Dutchess County earned New York’s top Climate Smart Communities Silver Certification, highlighting the County’s strong commitment to environmental sustainability and resilience.

Additional details about Dutchess County’s continued environmental initiatives and sustainability efforts, recycling education, home composting and more are available on the Division of Solid Waste Management’s webpage.

Elks hold car wash



A car wash was recently held at the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 to raise funds to continue providing free Veterans Luncheons monthly to all Veterans and their loved ones. Scouts Troop 41 helped the Elks raise enough money to host three more monthly lunches. Monthly lunches are held on the third Saturday of each month at the lodge, 900 Wolcott Ave.

-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

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‘No One Rocks Alone’ Music Festival set Oct. 4 in Wappinger

Continued from cover

Donna said, “I know our son loved us very much. We talked all the time. We never knew what he was struggling with in his own mind. He was a funny, handsome, smart, and caring person. He never let on that he thought that suicide was his only resort.”

Last year, James’s Warr;ors held its inaugural festival and Donna said it “was an amazing success — nearly 300 tickets sold!”

The list of musicians and bands taking part in this year’s event are: Circle 65, Pandemonium, Follow Suit, The Differents, Jimmy Lee Duo, Big Ang, Misfit Toys and Rebella. The guest host will be John Burtoni. There will also be special guest musicians, food trucks and 50/50 raffle.

“These family-friendly events are more than just music; they remind those who may be struggling with their mental health that our community truly cares,” explained Donna.

Why is there the use of a semicolon in James’s Warr;ors name and logo?

“The semicolon is a symbol of hope for those who are struggling with mental health and thoughts of suicide. It helps serve as a reminder that your story isn’t over yet and you can share your story without shame. A semicolon is used when a writer could have chosen to end their sentence but chose not to. You are the writer and the sentence is you. Your life can continue. Your life matters and you are someone’s blessing,” it is explained



James Thomas
-Courtesy photo Donna Thomas

on the not-for-profit’s website.
Donna said, “We hope you’ll join us for a day filled with community, love, music, and hope. Together, we can change the conversation around mental health.” The event is in collaboration with the Town of Wappinger and Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini.
If someone is in crisis, call or text 988.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

By Morgan E. Maier

Beacon soccer nearly becomes Spack’s match
Beacon’s girls gave Spackenkill the closest matchup the Spartans have seen all season. Their efforts nearly took the victory. The Bulldogs came to a 1-0 lead on a penalty kick by Sarai Home, but it was quickly knotted at one on a goal by JoJo Ragusa. After the teams went to halftime tied at one, Olivia Stout’s second assist, this time for Amalia Parsons, was the game winner. Beacon’s Victoria Murigli had 18 saves.

John Jay football rolls to 4-0 record
The Patriots took no time against Arlington in its latest of dominant wins this season. The team scored 31 points on the Admirals, while holding the team to just one touchdown. John Jay scored in all four quarters, pouring on the scoring in the final period. After scoring in the first, Arlington put up zeroes the rest of the way.

Ketcham volleyball wins 6 straight
The Storm have taken gyms by storm this season, having won their last six matches after losing the season opener. Neither Brewster, Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow, or Suffern could contain Ketcham.
A 3-0 win against White Plains captured the most recent addition to the streak, as RCK is in the hunt for a top spot in the standings.

Bulldogs down Panthers, 28-7
After a quiet first quarter, neither offense had broken through. The Bulldogs’ defense did first. Jah’Real Witted took an interception to the house,



Bowdoin Park’s annual cross country extravaganza took place on September 27.
-Courtesy photo

scoring six points for Beacon and giving his team a lead they’d never give up. Five sacks further propelled the Bulldogs defense, while Elijah Epps led on the other end with two rushing touchdowns. Delano Rigby Jr. connected with Jaden Jones for a touchdown. Jones went for 101 yards in the win. Rigby was 11/21, with 141 yards and the touchdown to Jones. Kent Glasgow was Wallkill’s only scorer, reaching the end zone on a touchdown run.

Sassatelli, Bliss finish in Top 3 of Bowdoin Classic
’Tis the season for Bowdoin Park’s annual cross country extravaganza, which took place on September 27. The Millbrook School’s Andrea Sassatelli and Pine Plains’ Violet Bliss were at the front of the girls’ varsity 5K at the 2025 Bowdoin Classic. Sassatelli crossed the finish in 19:22.7. Bliss was close behind at 19:28.6. Sassatelli and Bliss finished second and third behind Horace Greeley’s Malina Santee. Pine Plains’ Daniel McPherson took 7th in the boys’ varsity race, with a time of 16:34.3.

Beacon recertified as Silver Climate-Smart Leadership Community

Last week, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that the City of Beacon has been designated as a Climate Smart Community for the second time. This announcement came as part of DEC’s latest round of certifications and recertifications during 2025 Climate Week.
Beacon is now recertified with silver status, the highest level of certification, and the designation will be in effect for another five years. Beacon first received the distinction of silver status in 2020, and was one of three communities in the State to earn recertification for the same in 2025, along with the City of Kingston and the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson.
Mayor Lee Kyriacou said: “Since tak-

ing office in 2020, my administration has prioritized climate action at all levels of our operations as well as gaining access to extensive grant funding. I am pleased to see that our thoughtful work has paid off in receiving recertification. I look forward to continuing our support of the State’s climate goals and I know that Beacon will continue to demonstrate what is possible for municipalities to do in preserving local environmental quality and health in the years to come.”
Climate Smart Communities is an interagency State program that acknowledges municipal leaders in climate action and provides access to environmental grant financing. To be certified, a local government must pass a resolution pledging to act, and then

complete numerous actions focused on reducing local greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to climate change. Communities must also demonstrate an active task force of both residents and municipal representatives advancing local climate action. Faye Leone has served as Beacon’s Climate Smart Coordinator since 2021, and works with the City Administration to coordinate many of the City’s environmental initiatives.
Among the actions to achieve re-certification of silver status, the City of Beacon completed multiple GHG emissions inventories and an action plan for reducing emissions from government operations through 2030. These informed subsequent evidence-based environmental

initiatives, such as:
Renovating the Central Fire Station to utilize geothermal heating and cooling;
Using renewable energy for 100% of municipal electricity, and planning new solar installations for additional local energy generation;
Transitioning gasoline and diesel vehicles in the City’s vehicle fleet to battery-electric cars and trucks; and
Undertaking methane mitigation at the former Dennings Point landfill.
By completing these projects and tracking their impacts, Beacon aims to meet or exceed its target 2030 emissions reduction levels, which were set in support of the New York Climate Law, and contribute to a safe climate for all, both locally and globally.

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



Nature enthusiasts wanted!



From left: Peter Dlugos (right) is a Surveyor Volunteer with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Other volunteers with the Conference are Annalise Jarski and Cathy Elko and Stefanie Brown.

-Photos by Krysti Sabins and courtesy photo

Note: This week’s Hudson Valley Naturalist Column relied on contributions of Brent Boscarino, Chris Petty, and others affiliated with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

Fall in the Hudson Valley provides stunning views as the leaves change color. You can enjoy an immersive experience among the beautiful foliage at our area’s parks, preserves and trails. Everyone in our readership area can surely access a nearby town, county, state, federal or even privately maintained greenspace that is open to the public. They are maintained for all of us, as well as future generations to enjoy.

Nearby places to walk, hike or go for a run include The Empire State Trail System, The Hudson Valley Greenway Trail System, Walkway-Over-The-Hudson, The Appalachian Trail (90 miles of it is in New York), Harriman Park, and Hudson Highlands State Park. Countless people use public trail systems yearly. Most who do may not think about what goes into planning, building, marking, maintaining and repairing those trails.

Committed individuals, mainly volunteers, devote their “labor of love” to keep the trail systems clear and usable. Volunteers complete tasks such as identifying and clearing invasive species, clearing litter and repairing damage from erosion and use. One such volunteer, Annalise Jarski, “[has] surveyed for the past several years and I love that this program allows me to explore new

and familiar parks to a greater extent. It’s nice to have an excuse to spend time outside and clear my mind while helping the Trail Conference monitor invasive species growth. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about regional invasive species and I look forward to surveying next year!”

Cathy Elko, who has participated for the past three years shared that, “Being a Surveyor Volunteer for the Trail Conference is truly an incredible, ongoing journey. For me, exploring new trails is exciting, and it’s nice to have good company. We maintain a lighthearted atmosphere; we stop, we survey, we laugh, and then we move on to the next location, and then do it again. A healthy blend of work and fun makes this role so fulfilling. Every survey feels like an adventure, and every laugh is good for the soul.”

Why not follow your passion for the outdoors and take to the trails? Look online for private hiking clubs and outdoor social media meet-ups. For organized camaraderie and volunteering similar to what Jarski and Elko described, try these:

- **Appalachian Trail Conservancy:** It manages the Appalachian Trail. They do this in coordination with multiple Federal, State, Municipal, and private stakeholders, as the trail crosses both public and private lands. <https://appalachiantrail.org/>

- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation:** The NYDEC partners with many groups (Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve,

Cornell University and others) to manage plants, wildlife, land and people. <https://dec.ny.gov/about/employment/volunteers>

- **Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LH PRISM):** LH PRISM is a collaboration of environmental organizations, engaged community members and other stakeholders that are dedicated to invasive species education, detection, prevention and habitat restoration in the Lower Hudson region of New York State. <https://www.lhprism.org/action-steps-resources/#volunteer>

- **Student Conservation Association:** Their mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities. Their programs provide hands-on service programs for youth and young adults. <https://thesca.org>

- **Dutchess Land Conservancy:** The DLC is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the scenic, agricultural, and environmental resources of Dutchess County. <https://www.dutchessland.org/>

Brent Boscarino, Director of Land Stewardship for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, says that, “One of the greatest parts of volunteering is the rewarding feeling that comes from connecting with nature and the building of community in ways that go beyond just your ‘standard hike.’ Many of the environmental issues we face in protecting

our trails can seem overwhelming at first. But when you start linking up with other engaged community members and partner organizations, you begin to realize you are not alone and that there are some incredible achievements happening on the ground through collective community action. That sense of empowerment -that your individual efforts are part of a greater whole that are leading to tangible accomplishments - is inspiring and breathes new life into that nature experience and giving back to the lands we love.”

- **New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (NY/NJTC):** The Conference builds and maintains a network of over 2,150 miles of public trails. To perform their mission, they partner with thousands of volunteers across multiple organizations to maintain an incredible network of trails. <https://www.nynjtc.org/volunteer/> Check ‘em out!

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

Dutchess arts awards ceremony set Oct. 8

The 39th Annual Dutchess County Executive’s Arts Awards are set Wednesday, Oct. 8, at The Curry Estate, 2737 Route 52, Hopewell Junction. Festive food and drinks served at 5:30 p.m., with awards presentation starting at 7 p.m. Featuring Balloon Pop auction and Wine Drawing events.

This year’s awardees include:
Arts Organization: Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra
Individual Artist: Jessica Licciardello

ThinkDIFFERENTLY in the Arts:
Lonely Worm Farm
Artist: Nikki Hung
Business: Splash Art Murals
Patron in the Arts: Sue Hartshorn
Arts in Education: Carrie Decker
Special Citation, Posthumously: Lou Trapani
Youth with Exceptional Promise in the Arts: Madelun McCormack
Visit artsmidhudson.org/dc-arts-awards for more information.

Loose Wheels at Elks Lodge on October 4

The Beacon Elks Lodge #1493 will host Loose Wheels, a Country band, on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at the lodge, 900

Wolcott Ave. in Beacon. There is a \$5 cover charge. All members and guests are welcome.

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Union members meet with Rep. Ryan

Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation union members and representatives met with Rep. Pat Ryan on Tuesday, September 23 in Arlington to discuss the need to lower health care costs and restore funding to Disproportionate Share Hospitals. Participants were from the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) 3343, New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), Communications Workers of America (CWA), Public Employees Federation (PEF), New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and 1199SEIU. Congressman Pat Ryan said, “I fought against MAGA’s Big, Ugly Betrayal because I knew the harm it would cause our community – especially our Hudson Valley labor community. It’s the biggest job-killing legislation in the history of



Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation union members and representatives met with Rep. Pat Ryan on Tuesday, September 23 in Arlington.

-Courtesy photo

this country, ripping health care and food assistance from millions and closing hospitals, all for billionaire tax cuts. I’ll always stand with labor and I vow to fight these harms wherever we see them arise in our community.”

Beephan meets with DOCCS Commissioner about exposure incidents in Fishkill Correctional Facility

There were more exposure incidents reported at Fishkill Correctional Facility last week.

A spokesperson for Gov. Kathy Hochul said in an email to Beacon Free Press late last month: “Governor Hochul’s top priority is public safety, and she is fully committed to ensuring the safety and security of all staff and incarcerated individuals that enter our correctional facilities. Governor Hochul respects the extraordinary work of New York’s Correction Officers and medical personnel, and she is thankful for the work being done at Fishkill Correctional Facility to identify and recover contraband. We will continue to monitor this situation and take aggressive action to remove contraband from all of our facilities.”

New York State Correctional Officers Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) last month called on the State to take “decisive and immediate” action to address and mitigate exposures to staff.

NYS Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr.

posted on social media on Sept. 27, “Today, I had a productive discussion with the Commissioner of DOCCS (Department of Corrections and Community Supervision) after his most recent visit to Fishkill Correctional Facility.

“DOCCS has conducted a series of targeted frisks & searches at Fishkill, uncovering some contraband. I am encouraged to see systemwide policy improvements being implemented, including K9 searches of all incoming mail and tobacco. They’re also limiting the use of certain chemicals, which are often used as inhalants.

“We also discussed the troubling increase in drone activity and the urgent need for federal & state intervention to prevent contraband drops into state facilities.

While specific details cannot be disclosed due to active investigations, the department does appear to be taking this situation seriously. I will monitor this situation closely and contact the Commissioner and Superintendent as these operations progress.”

Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank awarded \$1.07 million to launch redevelopment projects

With a focus on promoting equitable development and revitalization in Dutchess County, the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Corporation (DCPLB) has announced that it has been awarded \$1,070,000 through the New York State Homes and Community Renewal’s (HCR) Land Bank Initiative. This competitive grant was awarded to DCPLB’s first phase of redevelopment in Dutchess County and the City of Poughkeepsie, and is part of a broader effort by HCR to support land banks statewide in their missions to combat blight and revitalize communities.

DCPLB will use this funding to acquire and stabilize distressed, tax-abandoned properties, demolish derelict structures to eliminate blight, and support the rehabilitation of affordable housing units in partnership with Hudson River Housing. This initiative is also expected to leverage an additional \$1 million in private investment, contributing to the creation of stronger, more vibrant neighborhoods and helping to break barriers to homeownership as the region faces a housing and affordability crisis.

“Fairness, equity and transparency are at the heart of our mission,” said Amy Gigliuto, executive director of the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank. “We’re not just renovating buildings, we’re taking potential and creating opportunity. This is about opening doors to homeownership for people who give so much to our community – and ensuring every neighborhood has a chance to thrive.”

As part of its redevelopment efforts, DCPLB will work directly with community-based contractors and businesses, ensuring the benefits of this investment ripple outward across the local economy.

Housing has long been identified as one of the most pressing issues facing residents in Dutchess County. A recent report released by the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Voices of the Hudson Valley, found that access to affordable housing is among the top concerns of residents of Dutchess County. The report found that to afford rent in the county, single renters would need to work 60 hours per week, as rent has continued to increase at a greater rate than wages over the past decade. DCPLB’s work directly responds to this need by transforming blighted properties into affordable homes, creating more pathways to homeownership for individuals and families.

New York State has appropriated more than \$160 million to support the services and expenses of 31 Land Banks, addressing housing needs throughout the State.

This Land Bank Initiative funding has returned nearly 300 housing units to occupancy through rehabilitation and development, saved 180 properties for reuse through stabilization interventions, improved community safety by demolishing 180 blighted properties, and invested in predevelopment studies to prepare nearly 300 properties for redevelopment.

New York State Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas said, “Thank you to the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank for their continued partnership in addressing the housing crisis that is impacting so many residents across New York. HCR’s support of Land Banks is in keeping with Governor Hochul’s \$25 billion, five-year housing plan that is creating and preserving 100,000 affordable homes, with almost 1,000 already brought to life in Dutchess County. We are excited to see the

Land Bank put this \$1 million to work alongside operating funds it received previously to remove blight and help families build wealth through homeownership.”

“This \$1.07 million award to the Dutchess County Poughkeepsie Land Bank represents an essential investment in our community’s future,” said New York State Senator Rob Rolison, who was mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie at the time of the creation of the land bank. “By turning long-neglected properties into safe, affordable homes, especially for those who are giving back to our community, DCPLB is providing more than just housing – they’re providing opportunities for our residents to take root and grow here in Dutchess County. I’m proud to support its initiatives that prioritize fairness, empower neighborhoods and put local residents at the heart of revitalization.”

“We are committed to ensuring that our redevelopment projects reflect the needs of the people who live in these neighborhoods,” said Gigliuto. “We’re looking forward to hosting public information sessions in the months ahead, to give neighbors the opportunity to learn about the properties DCPLB has acquired, share input on what they would like to see in their backyard and explore ways to be directly involved in the process. We want our projects to be collaborative efforts that uplift the entire county.”

To learn more about the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank, follow along with its work or offer input to revitalization projects in your community, visit the website: www.dcpoklandbank.org or follow the organization on Facebook (Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Corporation) and Instagram (@dcpoklandbank).

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Verona Quartet and Steven Banks to perform at the Howland Cultural Center on Oct. 12

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) will continue its 2025-2026 chamber series with the highly accomplished Verona Quartet and Steven Banks, an ambassador for the classical saxophone. They will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musicians and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket, visit www.howlandmusic.org. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

The Verona Quartet has firmly established itself amongst the most distinguished ensembles on the chamber music scene today. The

Quartet has performed in all the world's great halls on four continents, winning accolades and prizes since its start in 2013. The Quartet believes storytelling transcends genre, and thus chose their name as a tribute to the great storyteller, Shakespeare.

Performer and composer Steven Banks has been cited for his warm yet glowing tone, well-crafted and communicative musical expression and deft technical abilities. He has soloed in many hallowed halls, as well as appearing with symphony orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the country. He currently serves as Saxophone and Chamber Music Faculty and Artist-in-Residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music.



The Verona Quartet and Steven Banks (inset) will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on October 12 in Beacon.
-Courtesy photo Howland Cultural Center

For this performance, the Verona Quartet and Steven Banks will perform

Albert Hay Malotte's "The Lord's Prayer" (1935); works by Mendelssohn, Debussy and Jancsek; as well as a Mozart quartet, arranged by Banks; a movement from one of Banks' compositions; Reena Esmail's "Magan Rehna," a Hindustani work; and Christopher Theofanides' "Visions of the Hereafter," that was composed for the Quartet and Banks in 2024.

HCMC now offers tickets at prices to include music lovers who may have been unable to afford our tickets in the past. A limited number of tickets will be available on a pay-what-you-wish basis. These tickets will be released one week prior to each concert.

HEADS UP, HIKERS!

THREE BREAKNECK RIDGE AREA TRAILHEADS ARE CLOSED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

SOMETHING EXCITING IS HAPPENING...

If you've spent any time in the area, you know that the Breakneck/Route 9D corridor has historically been hazardous for both hikers and motorists, especially on busy hiking weekends.

But, coming in 2027, the Fjord Trail's Breakneck Connector will make the area safer, improve accessibility, add public restrooms, organize parking, include renovation of the Metro-North Breakneck Ridge train station, and much more!

Construction began in April and is expected to continue for approximately two years. Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc. is working with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Metro-North Railroad; and the NY-NJ Trail Conference to bring you these critical improvements.



LOOKING FOR OTHER GREAT LEAF-PEEPING HIKES? VISIT WWW.BREAKNECK.INFO



Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

learn more about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail at hhft.org

Photo by Pierce Johnston

CLOSURE IMPACTS

- BREAKNECK RIDGE TRAIL** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- WILKINSON MEMORIAL TRAIL** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
- BROOK TRAIL** closed from trailhead to Cornish Connector
- METRO-NORTH RAILROAD BREAKNECK RIDGE TRAIN STATION** closed — no train service at Breakneck
- NO PARKING ON ROUTE 9D** in the area north of Breakneck Tunnel



NYS Police Sgt. remembered during funeral service in Poughkeepsie



A funeral service for New York State Police Sergeant and Sation Commander Nigel K. Barnett Jr. was held on Thursday, Sept. 25 at The Gathering at Faith Assembly, Golf Club Lane, in Poughkeepsie.

The 49-year-old, who was on his way to work on Sept. 16, died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle crash on the Taconic State Parkway in the Town of East Fishkill.

Gov. Kathy Hochul, who attended the Poughkeepsie resident’s funeral service, said in a social media post, “Sergeant Nigel K. Barnett led with strength, served with heart, and protected with pride. In his honor, flags are at half-staff on state buildings today (Sept. 25). His service and sacrifice will always be remembered.”

Barnett, who was a graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, was a 19-year veteran of the New York State Police.

-Courtesy photos NYS Police

Sue Serino and Walkway partner to raise awareness for breast cancer

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, in partnership with the Walkway Over the Hudson, invites residents to attend a free “Breast Cancer Awareness Day” event on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 1-3 p.m. on the Poughkeepsie side of the Walkway Over the Hudson, 61 Parker Avenue, Poughkeepsie. This event is part of an ongoing effort to provide residents with the opportunity to connect with local organizations and health services.

Serino, who has been in remission from a breast cancer diagnosis in 2020, said, “When I was going through my own breast cancer journey, what meant the most was knowing that I wasn’t alone. That’s why I’m so grateful we can bring our community together at the Walkway Over the Hudson this October – to connect with organizations who not only support those facing a diagnosis but also provide preventative care and screenings that can make all the difference. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a reminder to care for ourselves and one another, to make the appointment, and to put our health first.”

Among the organizations that will be in

attendance, with information and resources, include:

- Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation
- Dutchess County Department of Health
- Dyson Breast Center at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, part of the NuVance Health Cancer Institute
- Sparrows Nest
- MidHudson Regional Hospital, a member of WMC Health

In addition to resources, there will be family-friendly craft activities to high-light breast cancer awareness and show support for survivors and those currently dealing with a breast cancer diagnosis.

This event is free and open to the public, no RSVP required. For more information, email CountyExec@dutchessny.gov or call the Dutchess County Executive’s Office at 845-486-2000.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is also a reminder to “Make the Appointment” – whether it’s for a mammogram, an annual exam, or another preventive checkup that helps protect your health. Residents can take the pledge and learn more by visiting DutchessNY.gov/MakeTheAppointment.

Obituaries

Anny S. Robinson



Anny S. Robinson, a longtime Beacon and Wappingers Falls resident, was Called Home to the Lord on September 22, 2025; at the age of 96.

She was born in Antwerp, Belgium April 24, 1929, daughter of the late Louise (nee Berthier) Bemindt and Andre Schoeters; step-daughter to the late Andre Bemindt.

Before immigrating to the United States in 1951, she worked in banking beginning in 1948.

On March 3, 1953, in Hempstead, NY, she married William James Robinson Jr., who predeceased her on February 27, 1983, after 29-years of marriage. They lived in Fort Lauderdale, FL where they started their family, and then in the early 1960s, moved back to New York to Wappingers Falls; where she lived and loved until his sudden passing.

Upon settling in Dutchess County, she worked at the Matteawan/Fishkill National Bank and later M&T Bank in Beacon until she retired. She also worked as a supervisor at the McClelland Home for Adults in Wappingers Falls until retiring from there as well.

Anny was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon for many years, serving as a church deacon and elder. She was also active with the Presbyterian Women’s Club, and attended the senior citizen club when she was able. She loved her time at the church. She remembered teaching Sunday School, and doing Bible skits which she would compose with the former pastor and friend, Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink and dear friend Nancy Johnston.

Anny thoroughly enjoyed history, considering that she lived through tremendous parts of it; from World War II in Belgium, and immigrating to a new world as a young woman. Anny enjoyed watching the birds, and admiring her beautiful flowers; she also enjoyed the loving companionship of her cats Leonard, Phantom and Magnum.

Anny was very proud to have been chosen to be in the WWII West Point Hall of History, especially proud of the moment when her son, Steven, brought her to West Point.

Along with her husband, Bill, she was sadly predeceased by her two sons, William James “Jamie” Robinson III on January 24, 1998, and Steven Roger Robinson on October 5, 2022.

Anny is survived by her beloved and loving daughter, Leslie L. Robinson, a host of her church family, friends and kind neighbors. A particular special thanks to Rose Quirk and Nancy Johnston for their outstanding love and supportive hand in aiding Anny and her daughter, Leslie.

Her Church Family and Friends will gather to honor her life on Monday, October 6, 2025 1:00PM at the Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9, Fishkill, New York; where a Graveside Service will be offered. Arrangements were entrusted to the professional care of the Clinton Funeral Home of Cold Spring, New York, To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.clintonfh.com.

John M. Pagliaro



John M. Pagliaro, a longtime resident of Beacon, passed away on September 22, 2025. He was 87 years old.

Born on November 5, 1937 in the Bronx, John was the son of the late Attilio and Catherine Redenti Pagliaro. On February 3, 1957 he married the former Joan Podloski who predeceased him in 2021. John retired from Ford Motor Company in Mahwah, NJ. He was an avid fan of the New York Mets and Washington Redskins. John was actively involved with coaching and running Beacon Junior Baseball for over 30 years, where he became known as Mr. P and Coach Pags. He had the privilege to coach his children and then his grandchildren.

John is survived by his sons, Michael Pagliaro and his wife, Bonnie of Oxford, FL and Ronald Pagliaro and his companion, Mary Noon of Beacon; his daughter-in-law, Debbie Pagliaro of Charleston, SC; his grandchildren, Aaron (Alyssa), Joel, Regina (Chris), Ryan (Molly), Angela (Quentin), Heather (Wayne), Richard, Andrew, Dan (Valerie) and Shannon (Jesse); his 16 great grandchildren; his three sisters, Rosemarie, Toni and Mary; many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his son, James Pagliaro in 2022.

Family and friends will gather on Friday, September 26 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, September 27 at 12 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Willow Street, Beacon. Burial followed at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

The family would like to thank the nursing staff at Fishkill Center for Rehabilitation and the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps for their support.

Memorial donations in memory of John may be made to Beacon Junior Baseball, care of Ronald Pagliaro, 7 Shale Road, Beacon, New York 12508.

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

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

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106 Business Opportunity

107 Situations Wanted

120 Schools

121 Special Instruction

122 Musical Instruction

140 Nursery Schools

141 Child Care

142 Day Care

143 Baby-sitting

145 Adult Care

150 Announcements

151 Adoption

152 Novenas

154 Lost & Found

155 Personal

200 Services

201 Home Improvement

202 Cleaning Services

203 Lawn Services

221 Professional Services

222 Tax Experts

223 Beauty Services

225 Business Services

226 Travel & Services

227 Bridal Services

295 Financial

296 Mortgages

300 Real Estate

301 Townhouses & Condos

302 Commercial Property

304 Mobile Homes

305 Lots & Acreage

400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

401 Apartments for Rent

402 Rooms for Rent

403 Furnished Rooms

404 Furnished Apartments

405 Wanted to Rent

406 Garages for Rent

407 Vacation Rentals

408 Houses for Rent

420 Commercial Rentals

500 Musical Merchandise

501 Kid Stuff

502 Clothing

503 Furniture

504 Appliances

505 Free Items

506 Computers

507 Sports Equipment

508 Exercise Equipment

509 Office Equipment

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512 Winter Merchandise

516 Misc. Merchandise

700 Pets & Supplies

701 Free Pets

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711 Tag Sale

712 Moving sale

713 Rummage Sale

714 Flea Market

715 Craft Corner

716 Barn Sale

717 Estate Sale

718 Auctions

719 Antiques

720 Vendors Wanted

721 Wanted to Buy

722 Bazaar

723 Consignments

724 Farmers Market

725 Collectibles

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Imagination Breakfast focuses on childhood literacy

The United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region (UWDOR) launched its 2025 Workplace Campaigns with its annual Imagination Breakfast on Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Doubletree by Hilton, in Poughkeepsie. This year’s event highlighted the critical role of literacy and community kindness in building a stronger future for the region.

The 2024 Workplace Campaign Chair, John Stroligo, was honored and Nicole Gilmartin, at CPA, Client Advisor Partner at RBT CPAs, LLP, was introduced as the new Campaign Chair for the 2025 Workplace Campaigns. Gilmartin is a dedicated United Way volunteer with a long history of leadership and service with the organization.

A central feature of the breakfast was the recognition of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, a program partner, that provides free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five. At the breakfast the United Way announced its expansion of the program into additional towns. The program is being offered by United Way in Orange County in Pine Bush, Crawford, Circleville, Montgomery and in Dutchess County in the towns of Amenia Wassaic, Millerton.

“Imagine the excitement on a child’s face when their very own book arrives in the mail, addressed just to them!” said Jeannie Montano, President and CEO of UWDOR. “These books aren’t just entertainment; they are gateways to new worlds, tools for cognitive development, and building blocks for a lifelong love of reading.”

As community Literacy Champions, two speakers were featured from the

school districts from the towns where the Imagination Library programs have launched: Joseph Lenz, Superintendent of Pine Bush Central School District, and Ray Castellani, Superintendent of Webutuck Central School District. Attendees heard from local author and retired Fire Lieutenant Mark Bendel, Jr., a Marist University graduate. He shared the story behind his book, “Scout, the Firehouse Mascot: A True Story,” and explained his writing process and why he chose it as a children’s book. Bendel’s keynote offered an excellent opportunity to hear from a community member who served locally.

United Way also announced the top three winners of the Kindness Champion competition. Twelve nominees were recognized for their extraordinary acts of kindness following a community-wide peer-to-peer vote. The finalists received prize packages, including donations to a charity of their choice serving Dutchess or Orange Counties. The nominees were: Faith Cass, Nivanni Felix, LaShawne Granger, Dr. Ebony Green, Stephen Haff, Inginia Jackson, Debbie Major, Nyla Pichardo, Rebecca Snyder, Lori Rivenburgh, Shaniya Warren and Shawn White. Nyla Pichardo took first place, LaShawne Granger in second place, and Inginia Jackson in third.

The event was hosted by local radio personalities Anne Marie Leamy and Ryan Dutcher. Guests enjoyed a performance by the 2025 Talent United winner, local high school student Caroline Sottile. Thank you to the community dignitaries in attendance: NYS Senator Rob Rolison, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Bella Cometti, a repre-



Local author and retired Fire Lieutenant Mark Bendel, Jr. shares about the story behind his book, “Scout, the Firehouse Mascot: A True Story,” during the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region’s annual Imagination Breakfast on Sept. 18 in Poughkeepsie.

-Courtesy photo United Way Dutchess-Orange Region

sentative from the Office of Congressman Pat Ryan, Lisa Kaul, Dutchess County Legislature, and Pastor Patrick Guaracino of Immanuel Church in Wappingers Falls, who delivered the invocation.

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region would like to thank all of its 2025 Imagination Breakfast Sponsors.

Register now for ‘Don’t Mess with Stress’ workshops

With cardiovascular disease remaining the leading cause of death worldwide, affecting 1 in 20 adults over the age of 20, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is partnering with the American Heart Association (AHA) to host two, free “Don’t Mess with Stress” workshops in October. These workshops will give residents practical tools to better manage daily stress and support their health.

“Stress is something we all experience, and too often we brush it aside,” said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, “These workshops are more than sharing information – they’re a chance to slow down, connect, and learn simple, practical ways to manage stress. Sometimes taking a moment for yourself is the best thing you can do – and it can end up making a difference not just for you, but for the people who count on you too.”

Each workshop will be led by Shelley Tatelbaum, M.S., C.G.T., a grief and stress reduction therapist and Ronald Tatelbaum, M.D., a retired cardiologist. Each session will explore what stress is, the mind-body connection, the impact of untreated stress, and practical tools that empower you to overcome your stress.

Residents are invited to attend either of the free workshops. Registration is required and is available online at www.dutchessny.gov/StressEvent

- Thursday, Oct. 9, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., FDR Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Educational Center, 4079 Albany Post

Road, Hyde Park
- Tuesday, Oct. 21, 5:30- 7:30 p.m., Wappinger Town Hall 20. Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls

Serino first launched the Don’t Mess with Stress initiative during her time in the New York State Senate to empower individuals to better handle the stress of everyday life.

For more information or questions, contact Dutchess County Executive Sue

Dance at the Elks Lodge on Oct. 11

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m., at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), in Beacon. Lose yourself to an exciting mix of music played by DJ Rhoda. The lights are low, the sound is full and the ambiance is warm and intimate. Attire is whatever suits one’s mood – from blue

jeans to sparkles. These dances are informal and even if you come alone, one can always find a friendly partner on the dance floor. Admission is \$15 includes complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar.

For more information, call 845-765-0667 or email rhodaja@optonline.net.

this week’s puzzle solutions

6931387693

872149536

954362178

256873941

569213784

728456913

231897465

485621397

697534821

This week's answer

SUDOKU

YES

ALAR

RITE

FOOT

BALL

VISIT

ALSA

CE

OKAY

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MID

ANION

INTO

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PUBLIC NOTICE TAKE NOTICE that tentative benefit assessment rolls for Dutchess County Water District Zones of Assessment A, B, C, D, I, J, K, L, R and X in the Towns of Hyde Park, Rhinebeck, Beekman, Pawling, Red Hook, and Village of Red Hook, Part-County Sewer District #1 in the Town of Beekman, Part County Sewer District #2 in the Town of Pleasant Valley, Part County Sewer District #7 and #8 in the Town of Hyde	Park and Part County Sewer District #10 in the Towns of Rhinebeck and Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York, have been filed with the Clerk of the Dutchess County Legislature and are available for inspection at her office at 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, New York, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday starting September 16, 2025. Zones A, B, C, D, I, L	and R cover the Hyde Park Regional Water System along Route 9, Route 9G, Harbour Hills and Staatsburg in Hyde Park and Mill Road in Rhinebeck. Zone J covers the Shore Haven Water System in the Town of Pawling. Zone K covers the Birch Hill Water System in the Town of Beekman. Zone X covers the Tivoli Water System in the Town and Village of Red Hook. Part-County Sewer District #1 covers the	Chelsea Cove Sewer System in the Town of Beekman. Part-County Sewer District #2 covers the Valley Dale Sewer System in the Town of Pleasant Valley. Part-County Sewer District #7 covers the Pinebrook Sewer System in the Town of Hyde Park. Part-County Sewer District #8 covers the Greenfields Sewer System in the Town of Hyde Park. Part-County Sewer District #10 covers the Vanderburgh Cove	Sewer System in the Towns of Rhinebeck and Hyde Park. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Dutchess County Board of Benefit Assessment Review will meet to hear objections to each such roll at the Legislative Chambers of the Dutchess County Legislature, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, 12601, on the 9th day of October 2025, at 4:00 P.M. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone	wishing to be heard must file a grievance application with the Clerk of the Legislature on or before the date and time above set forth for hearing objections by mailing to the Dutchess County Legislature, 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, by emailing countylegislature@dutchessny.gov, or by hand delivering a complete application to the Dutchess County Legislature during regular office	hours. Grievance applications may be obtained during regular office hours or sent via email by calling 845-486-2100. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT REVIEW Dated: September 23, 2025 Poughkeepsie, New York Leigh Wager, Clerk of the Legislature

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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

	3	5		3	
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5				1	
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The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: AUTUMN VIBES

ACROSS

1. *Maze plant
5. Wharton degree, acr.
8. Special effects in "Avatar," acr.
11. Dwarf buffalo
12. "On Golden Pond" bird
13. Isolated
15. Atomizer output
16. Enthusiasm
17. Pueblo people, pl.
18. *Pre-game party (2 words)
20. Doomsayer's sign
21. Perfume bottles
22. Tombstone acronym
23. Construction binder
26. "____: The Movie," 2002 slapstick comedy
30. Genetic info carrier, acr.
31. Dorsa, sing.
34. "He's Just Not That ____ You"
35. *Like some sweaters
37. Earth Day mo.
38. Opposite of cation
39. "Que Sera ____"
40. Approved
42. Denotes middle
43. Assess pro rata
45. Lorraine's neighbor
47. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
48. Temporary stay
50. Chicago's Navy ____, tourist destination
52. *Popular fall spectator sport
55. Hutu's opponents, 1994
56. Quinceanera or bat mitzvah
57. Biblical captain
59. Rocky ridge
60. Having wings
61. Russian parliament
62. Diamond or ruby
63. An affirmative
64. Dog command

DOWN

1. Cameron, to friends
2. The Fonz: "Sit _____!"
3. Civil rights icon Parks
4. Richard Wright's "____ Son"
5. Relating to mole
6. Whatever rocks them!
7. "Green Gables" protagonist
8. Walking helper
9. Smiley face
10. "____ Now or Never"
12. Smooth, in music
13. Before appearance of life, geology
14. *Patch purchase
19. _____ Hop dance
22. Ewe's mate
23. *Like air in fall
24. Keyboard key
25. Introduction to economics
26. Twelve angry men, e.g.
27. Carl Jung's inner self
28. Indifferent to emotions
29. Type of probe
32. *Leaf collector
33. R&R stop
36. *Bushels of apples, e.g.
38. Impromptu
40. Over the top, in text
41. Time for an egg hunt
44. Falcon's home
46. Uses two feet
48. Bridal veil fabric
49. Smidgins
50. Unadulterated
51. Individual unit
52. Brawl
53. Clod
54. Tibetan priest
55. Chasing game
58. *Cushion on a fall ride

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	
11					12					13	14			
15					16					17				
	18				19					20				
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59						60					61			
62						63					64			

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

Parade highlights from Spirit of Beacon Day





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The annual Spirit of Beacon Day Parade took place on Main St. on Sunday, Sept. 28. Clockwise from top left: City of Beacon Police start the parade. Scouts from Pack 3001 smile. Students from the New Covenant Learning Center ride on an “animal” float. Glenham Elementary School staff, families and students walk the parade route. J.V. Forrestal Elementary School students blew bubbles on the route. South Ave. Elementary School students, staff and families showed their school spirit. An ‘astronaut’ made an appearance with Sargent Elementary School students. Members of the Hudson Highlands Pipe Band played the bagpipes. One of the Beacon Players dressed in costume for the upcoming “Little Women” show, waves to the crowd. Rombout Middle School band students entertained the crowd. Students from Beacon Performing Arts Center carried signs of previous shows performed.

The following awards were handed out before the parade. Volunteer of the Year Awards were presented to Kenya Gadsden, Samantha Brittain, Deborah Cortes, Kyle Perrucci, and The Elijah Hughes Foundation.

In Loving Memory Awards, with “A life that touched so many will never be forgotten. With deep gratitude, we remember the joy, wisdom, and love you brought Beacon” engraved on them, were posthumously awarded to Erika Coughlin Thomaselli, Grant William McCabe, Matthew “Matty” Hutchins, and David P. Quill.

The Grand Marshal was Shaniesha Strange, in honor of Les Soeurs Amiables Civic Club.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

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Tax Foreclosures

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION ENDING
Wednesday, October 22 @ 10AM

FREE Brochure, visit web site or call (800) 243-0061.
Complete details and photos:

NYSAuctions.com

ABSOLUTE AUCTIONS & REALTY, Inc. (800) 243-0061

