INSIDE - FALL HOME & GARDEN MAGAZINE

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ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Board of Elections staff, county partners express confidence in voting process



Compiled by Kate Goldsmith

For the last few weeks, the Dutchess County Board of Elections and its county partners have been proactively distributing information to the public to ensure a smooth process this election cycle and to maintain voter confidence in that process. Early voting gets under way this week on Saturday, Oct. 24 (details at the end of this article), followed by the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

The Dutchess County Board of Elections met earlier this month with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Emergency Response as part of its ongoing coordination with county partners in preparation for the 2026 General Election.

"These planning conversations are a standard part of election administration – ensuring that all county agencies are aligned, communication channels are established, and that everything is in place for a smooth Election Day experience for Dutchess County voters," said Democratic Elections Commissioner Lisa Jessup.

The Board distributed a recent advisory from the NYS Attorney General's office regarding voting rights and the 2026 election, information on all polling locations as well as the different types of observers allowed in polling locations. Visit https://ag.ny.gov/ to learn more.

Sheriff Kirk Imperati said, "As Sheriff I take my public safety responsibilities very seriously, and that includes helping to ensure that every voter in Dutchess County is able to exercise their right to vote in a safe and peaceful manner. I am proud to partner with the Board of Elections and Department of Emergency Response in this effort, and as a result a well-coordinated plan is in place to protect the safety and security of Dutchess County voters as they head to the polls this fall."

"Dutchess County voters should feel confident that their elections are well-organized, well-supported, and in good hands," said Republican Commissioner Erik Haight. "We are proud to work alongside outstanding county partners who share our commitment to making sure every voter has a safe, accessible, and positive experience at the polls."

The meeting also addressed early voting and election day security as well as contingency plans for any interruption at a polling site.

Continued on page 10

Rolison faces challenge of Kaul in race for District 39 senate seat

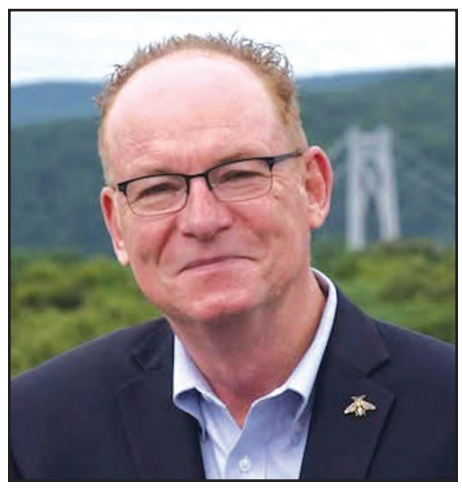
By Curtis Schmidt

Incumbent New York State Republican Senator Rob Rolison (39th District) faces the challenge of Democrat Lisa Kaul in the upcoming election.

Rolison is currently serving his second full term, having won re-election in November 2024 for the 2025–2026 legislative session. After a career in law enforcement, he served in the Dutchess County Legislature for several years and as mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie.

Kaul has served in the Dutchess County Legislature for nearly three years, since January 2024. She won election in November 2023 for District 6 (Town of Poughkeepsie), took office in January 2024 and won re-election in November of 2025.

Both Rolison and Kaul gave responses to questions via email.



Rob Rolison



Lisa Kaul

Kaul lists qualifications

Kaul gave the following responses when asked about her qualifications for the role.

"As a new American and a mother who chose to make the Hudson Valley home, I understand the importance of knowing that your voice matters and that you can use it to shape your community's future. That belief has guided my work as an educator, community organizer, and county legislator, bringing people together to solve problems and deliver results.

"My work in the County Legislature has given me firsthand insight into the infrastructure needs and services that require greater state investment. I have a record of building coalitions and working across the aisle to get things done. As a member of the Senate Majority, I would be better positioned to advocate for our communities and secure the resources they need.

"I am running because the Hudson Valley families need leadership that understands their challenges and has the vision and ability to deliver. I am ready to hit the ground running in Albany to lower utility costs, expand affordable housing, strengthen our infrastructure, protect our environment, defend workers' rights, and improve access to healthcare. I've spent my career turning community needs into action and I'll bring that experience to Albany to build a Hudson Valley where every family can thrive."

Rolison lists accomplishments

When asked about his major accomplishments over the last term, Rolison gave the following responses.

"I'm proud of several accomplishments, particularly our work to make New York safer and more affordable for families. One that stands out is our progress on the Lethality Assessment Program legislation. This lifesaving bill

Continued on page 10

County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

Compiled by Curtis Schmidt

Control of the Dutchess County Legislature has always been a game of numbers. This year, that "game" (election) has several interesting numbers.

The Legislature is divided into 25 districts. This year, legislators face challenges from opponents in 17 districts and eight have no opponents. The unopposed are all Democrats. Democrats have candidates in all 25 districts, while Republicans have candidates in 17 districts.

In District 6 (Town of Poughkeepsie), the position is currently held by Democrat Lisa Kaul, however, she is running for NYS State Senate, District 39. The Democratic candidate in District 6 is Tonya Speed and Republicans do not have a candidate - making it an open seat. The other open seat (no incumbent) is in District 10 (City of Poughkeepsie) where Democrat Nakia Simmons faces Republican Shanta A. Persad Saeteros. Incumbent Randy Johnson is not running.

Early Voting begins on Saturday, Oct. 24 The general election is Nov. 3.

Last year, Democrats won control of the Legislature by a 15-10 margin. Before that, the last time the Democratic Party held a majority in the County Legislature was in 2008 and prior to that was in 1977.

But New York's Even Year Election Law made that win for Democrats a one-year win. Candidates are running again this year for two-year terms.

For this report, incumbents and challengers were asked to provide information on their background and why they are running for election/re-election and what they see their major goals for the upcoming term.

Incumbents are listed first. In open districts (no incumbent), candidates are listed alphabetically.

In the Southern Dutchess New and Beacon Free Press, we are providing information on candidates for districts representing Wappinger, Fishkill, East Fishkill, Beacon, plus the bordering districts of the Town and City of Poughkeepsie, Pawling, Dover, Union Vale, LaGrange and Beekman. Information on the remaining districts are given in the Northern Dutchess News.

Continued on page 3

Bottini Waste Solutions brings a new local choice to the Hudson Valley

For Bottini Waste Solutions, being local means more than simply operating trucks in the Hudson Valley. It means building a company here, employing people who live here and being accountable to the same communities its employees call home.

"We live here. We work here. Our families are here," said Mitchell Bottini. "When we started BWS, we saw an opportunity to give our neighbors and local businesses another choice for a service that every household and business depends on. We want to build the kind of company we would want to do business with ourselves."

That philosophy is reflected in how BWS is building the company. The business is investing in new trucks and containers, hiring locally and using technology that gives customers better access to their accounts and timely service updates. At the same time, BWS is keeping its approach to customer service intentionally personal.

"When someone calls us, we want them to reach someone here who can actually help them," Bottini said. "If there's a problem, we want to know about it and fix it. If weather changes a collection schedule, we want our customers to hear it from us. And when we tell someone we're going to be there, we want them to be able to count on us."

BWS is emphasizing straightforward pricing, without credit-card fees, fuel surcharges or environmental surcharges, along with discounts for veterans and military members, first responders, teachers, healthcare workers and seniors.

BWS also believes that giving Hudson Valley residents and businesses more choice ultimately benefits the entire community.

"Competition is a good thing," Bottini said. "Customers should have options, and they should expect a lot from the companies they choose to do business with. We know we're the new company, and nobody owes us their business. We have to earn it every week by providing great service, being easy to reach and giving people a fair, straightforward bill."

For BWS, that means focusing on the details customers notice most: reliable pickups, clean and well-maintained equipment, responsive local customer service, clear communication when schedules change and pricing without unexpected add-on fees.

"We have an opportunity to build this company from the ground up around what customers actually want," Bottini said. "That's exciting for us. We can be responsive, make decisions locally and never lose sight of the fact that every account we have represents a neighbor, a local family or a local business that chose to trust us."

BWS plans to grow throughout the Hudson Valley by adding residential and commercial customers while continuing to invest in local employees, equipment and community partnerships.

"We're excited to grow, but we want to grow the right way," Bottini said. "For us, success isn't just how many customers we have. It's whether those customers trust us, whether our employees are proud to work here and whether we're making a positive contribution to the communities we serve."

BWS enters a Hudson Valley waste market where many residents and businesses have relied on the same providers for years. The company believes there is room for another choice; one built locally, backed by significant investment in new equipment and focused on responsive service, straightforward pricing and accountability.

As its trucks begin rolling through neighborhoods and business districts across the region, BWS will look to build its customer base the same way it intends to build its reputation: one pickup, one customer and one community at a time.

On what makes BWS different

"We've made a significant investment in new trucks, new containers and technology, but ultimately our biggest differentiator has to be service. Answer the phone. Communicate with the customer. Show up when you say you're going to show up. And if there's a problem, fix it. It is all about accountability."

On being local

"We're building this company here, hiring people here and serving the communities where we live and work. We want our customers to know the people behind the company that's picking up their waste every week."

On pricing

"We want pricing to be straightforward. That's why we're not adding credit-card fees, fuel surcharges or environmental surcharges. Customers should be able to understand what they're paying for."

On the competition

"We have a lot of respect for the established companies that have served this area for years. We're not building BWS by talking negatively about anyone else. We believe competition is healthy, and our job is to give customers a strong local option and earn their business."

Bottini Waste Solutions (BWS)

Serving: Dutchess County

Services: Residential waste and recycling, commercial waste and recycling, front-load containers, and roll-off dumpsters

What sets BWS apart:
- Locally owned and operated
- Brand-new collection trucks and equipment
- New residential and commercial containers
- New roll-off containers
- Local customer service
- Modern customer portal
- Text/message service updates and communication
- No credit-card fees
- No fuel surcharges
- No environmental surcharges
- Competitive, straightforward pricing
- Discounts available for veterans/military, law enforcement/first responders, teachers/healthcare workers, and seniors
- Commitment to hiring locally and investing in the Hudson Valley

Howland Dance Jam at Howland Cultural Centrer on Oct. 30

The Howland Dance Jam at the new venue, The Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., will; be on Friday, Oct. 30, from 7-10 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Lose yourself to a vibrant mix of R&B, Latin, Soul, Funk, Reggae, Rock, Disco, Hip-Hop & more, played by DJs Rhoda and Al. The Howland provides a Hospitality Table serving drinks and light snacks at no charge.

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



FeedHV expands food rescue program with county fairs across Hudson Valley

For the past five years, FeedHV, in partnership with a fair food rescue team, has been working to collect and distribute food from regional county fairs each season. In 2026, FeedHV collected and distributed a total of 1,761 pounds of food from three county fairs. The rescue team included volunteers, fair managers, community leaders and partner organizations.

FeedHV, a program of the Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation, is the Hudson Valley's app-assisted food rescue and harvesting network, dedicated to meeting the needs of neighbors while mitigating the impacts of food waste.

"Our fair food collection was such a success this year and we hope to work with more county fairs in years to come," said Isabella Kemp, FeedHV program coordinator. "FeedHV is so grateful to collaborate with such incredible organizations and volunteers. We appreciate all the vendors who donated and send a special thanks to the volunteers who helped move this food."

FeedHV has been working with the Dutchess County Fair for the past five years and Ulster County Fair for three years. This year, the program added the Columbia County Fair to their efforts with a strong turnout and enthusiastic participation from vendors, volunteers and local pantries. As a result of the fair food rescue team collaboration, FeedHV served 17 local pantries and food distribution centers across Dutchess, Ulster and Columbia Counties.

"One of the things I'm most proud of about the Columbia County Fair is the way it brings people together and gives back to our community," said Eric Barnes, General Manager of the Columbia County Fair and Secretary of the Columbia County Agricultural Society. "To collect 638 pounds of food in our first year is a tremendous start, and it says a lot about the generosity of our vendors and the people who make the fair happen. We're excited to continue this partnership with FeedHV and look forward to working together in the years ahead."

The FeedHV program has grown exponentially since its inception due to its network of donors, feeding agencies and volunteers. In April, the organization celebrated its greatest milestone in the program's history, reaching more than one million pounds of food rescued. In this year alone, FeedHV has saved more than 200,000 pounds of food that would have otherwise gone to waste.

The FeedHV network includes 507 volunteers, 268 donor organizations and more than 192 receiving agencies. Donors range from restaurants, farms and food makers to caterers, event venues and educational institutions. Since 2017, FeedHV has been using the ChowMatch app to match food donors with food assistance programs and direct food to those who need it most.

FeedHV is always looking for volunteer food drivers, food donors and receiving agencies in the counties it serves. Monetary gifts allow the program to purchase directly from local farms to augment the donations that run through the FeedHV rescue network, provide

even more to our receiving agencies, and support local agriculture. To make a monetary donation to FeedHV, visit feedhv.org/donate-today.

IMPACT PR & Communications

Four Honors, One Impact: Impact PR & Communications Earns National Recognition With PR and Credit Union Industry Nods

See story, page 8



IMPACT PR & Communications

County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

Continued from cover

TREVOR REDL – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 1, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

Here's what I've campaigned on in 2025: Countywide Housing Plan and Accountability Framework; More walkable, bikeable, safe streets; Invest in skills and trades of tomorrow at DCC, including increased access to special education; A healthier environment.

Here's what I've accomplished: Passed the Dutchess County Housing Plan & Accountability Framework; Passed tax incentives for Accessory Dwelling Units; Deployed $7 million from the housing trust fund; Secured hundreds of thousands for veteran housing; Tens of thousands of dollars in state grants secured to install pedestrian safety upgrades; Increased compensation for early childhood special education preschool providers.; Supporting DCCs mission to expand and invest in skills and trades; Supported a grant that would preserve hundreds of acres of land.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My goals are to create a county we can all afford, safe & productive streets, better EMS coverage, and protecting our environment. Talking with my constituents, their top priority is housing affordability and options. It's not just availability of homes, but ensuring we can offer diverse types of residences. From apartments for seniors to age in place to single-family starter homes — these are all in high demand. To be an area where everyone can thrive, we need to plan accordingly, so I put forward legislation to create a county-wide Housing Plan and the Housing Working Group. Housing is inextricably linked to our other priority issues, and it's critical to the economic success of our region.

I'm running for re-election because there is so much more to be done. I know my district street-by-street and will continue delivering for my constituents. I'll always fight to solve issues and be transparent about challenges.

BOB GORMAN – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 1, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I have been a local business owner for many years. I know the opportunities and the challenges that come with running a business and making a life in our community. Having previously served for two years in the Dutchess County Legislature, I have also gained a keen understanding of the issues that face this community. My experience in the community, as a public servant, and as a small business owner uniquely prepare me to tackle the challenges that we will face in the coming years.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

Cost of living, taxes, and affordability are the top issues facing our community today. As the cost of living continues to rise, local government must do what it can to help ease this burden. As a small business owner, I know the challenges that are presented by ever increasing costs. This is why in my time in the Legislature, I voted to reduce the property tax rate in the 2025 and 2026 budget. At the same time, I voted to invest significantly in programs to tackle affordability, including allocating more than $2 million to our Housing Trust Fund.

Communities across New York State are facing an EMS crisis, and in Dutchess County, we took action to address this issue. When I was a member of the Legislature, I voted for a first of its kind program that invested $2 million annually in supplemental EMS coverage in Dutchess County. The program has been successful, putting ALS and BLS units on the road and transporting more than six patients a day at present. If elected, continued investment in this program, as well as exploring long term solutions, will be one of my top priorities.

I am also a strong proponent of public safety. In my time in office, I voted for crucial funding for our Dutchess County Drug Task Force. We must continue to invest in the Drug Task Force and our law enforcement personnel to ensure that our community is safe and that people are able to thrive.

EMMA ARNOFF – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 2, LAGRANGE, PLEASANT VALLEY, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

In my first year in office, I am proud of what our Legislature has accomplished to make Dutchess County more affordable, safer, and more supportive. As Chair of the Family and Human Services Committee, I have focused on issues that directly impact children and families.

I spearheaded a resolution increasing pay for 4,410 Preschool Special Education Related Service Providers to bring compensation in line with surrounding counties. This will help us recruit and retain providers in Dutchess County, where nearly 200 children are currently on a waitlist for mandated special education services.

I also spearheaded a resolution expanding Domestic Violence education for elected officials, ensuring those entrusted with serving our communities are better equipped to support victims and survivors and help prevent further violence.

When we support our youngest residents and their families, we strengthen our entire community and build a better future for Dutchess County.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

I am running for re-election to continue delivering real, tangible improvements in people's lives - from lowering costs and expanding affordable housing to strengthening public safety and supporting families.

Working with first responders, service providers, and community leaders, I will strengthen emergency preparedness and public safety while ensuring people experiencing mental health crises receive appropriate care. I will work to protect the stability, accessibility, and affordability of the communities we call home.

I will hold county government accountable, protect residents' privacy, and ensure new technology serves the public—not works against it.

Together, we can build a Dutchess County where families can afford to live and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

ANNE BURGER – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 2, LAGRANGE, PLEASANT VALLEY, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

My experience in serving the Town of Poughkeepsie as a board member for four years is a major qualification that I will bring to the role of legislator. I bring an understanding of the realities of creating legislation, working with the varied stakeholders involved and the true implications to all people in the community.

I voted on and extensively researched several important issues during my time on the board including, battery energy storage, EMS solutions in a town of 45k, dispensary legislation, workforce housing zones and good cause eviction just to name a few. I sat on the town budget and personnel committees which included robust salary negotiations and difficult decision making.

Moreoever, I am an independent thinker and bring an objective lens to decision making. I try to look at all outcomes and perspectives of a situation before coming to a conclusion. I'm pragmatic and sensible and I have no agenda.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My major goals coming into the legislature are to find ways to control county spending and find ways to offer tax relief to residents. People are looking for more ways to keep money in their pocket so they can spend on things that matter to them. This tax relief can be tackled in different ways, increase tourism tax perhaps, decrease utility tax, eliminate spending on programs that aren't working. However, none of these ideas will work without both sides of the political aisle working together. Just tune into a legislature meeting now, the division is palpable and counterproductive.

Secondly, the county needs to address housing costs and lack of housing. As Dutchess County continues to grow in population the need for housing continues. This means we need builders to build so there is an opportunity to streamline permitting processes, offer incentives to builders and rehab old buildings.

MICHAEL POLASEK – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 3, LAGRANGE

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

One of my proudest accomplishments was sponsoring the successful amendment to the 2026 County Budget that preserved the sales tax exemption on clothing and footwear under $110, protecting valuable savings for Dutchess County families.

I also supported the bipartisan gas tax cap and a county budget that reduced the property tax rate while maintaining essential services. Locally, LaGrange received $125,000 for ADA-accessible bathrooms at LaGrange Park.

I was also proud to support funding for Dutchess County's REV250 initiatives, including a grant to the LaGrange Historical Society for its Freedom Day celebration, helping bring our nation's history to life for local families.

As Minority Leader, I've remained committed to fiscal responsibility, government transparency, and ensuring LaGrange residents have a strong voice in county government.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My top priority will be responsible financial management. That means carefully reviewing spending, setting priorities, and ensuring county government delivers essential services efficiently while remaining mindful of taxpayers.

I will continue supporting economic development that creates jobs, strengthens small businesses, and encourages investment in Dutchess County. This includes supporting expanded skilled trades and workforce training programs at Dutchess Community College.

Public safety will remain a priority, including road safety and emergency services.

I also want to build on investments in our parks and recreational facilities, improving accessibility for residents of all ages and abilities.

Government transparency, accountability, and balancing the needs of residents and businesses will continue to guide my decisions.

Most importantly, I will remain accessible to constituents, listen to their concerns, and work toward practical solutions that preserve the quality of life we value in Dutchess County.

DAVID SIEGEL – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 3, LAGRANGE

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I'm running for the Dutchess County Legislature in District 3 because our community deserves a voice that listens and delivers. I've lived in LaGrange for 32 years. I've watched our town grow — more families, more traffic, more needs — and I know firsthand that what worked even 5 years ago won't cut it anymore. I have been attending Town meetings for several years and provide a newsletter regarding Town and County issues to 300 subscribers. LaGrange has seen its fair share of controversy in recent years and it continues. As County Legislator, I'll stand with the residents of our town to demand responsible development. I'll fight to lower the cost of living, strongly support our first responders, work to address the housing affordability crisis, and advocate to expand social services so everyone has a fair chance. I'll make sure LaGrange is never an afterthought at the County Legislature.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If elected, I look forward to being a good steward of our tax dollars. I'll work to help create a responsible budget that works for

Continued on page 5



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.

Recent U.S. moves favoring Russia are decisions that 'will live in infamy'

To the Editor:

In betrayal of everything this nation has ever stood for, this President - enabled by Republicans in Congress and the Oligarch Elon Musk - has turned America into an ally of Russia and an enemy of the democratically-elected country of Ukraine, which was attacked and has been fighting for its life against Russia for the last four-and-half years.

That we have been starving Ukraine of Patriot missiles is bad enough and nothing new - we've been doing this for the entirety of this administration, but now - in a decision which will live in infamy - we've crippled the Starlink system specifically over Ukraine with speed limitations rendering their home-grown drone defenses ineffective.

Putin's goal is to make Ukraine unlivable this winter thereby prompting a migration crisis that will take down the rest of Europe, and America is helping him do this (even though Europe has been a committed ally of ours and that we know that Russia has been helping Iran in the war with America).

Add to this the deal to allow Russia to sell its diesel fuel, which will not affect the prices paid by Americans at the pump and Trump's exempting Russia from the sanctions recently passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support, we see a damning portrait being painted of what was once called, "The Leader of the Free World."

This is the polar opposite of American Greatness, and Republicans are enabling this. Until we vote them out, we will continue to behave in this shameful manner. The mid-terms are upon us. You know what you must do.

Mark Lagus
Town of Northeast

Dutchess County Transportation Council to meet Oct. 28

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) will hold a virtual Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

They will have a presentation by Dutchess County Public Transit, review local planning efforts, and discuss future presentation/training topics.

Please visit the calendar for meeting materials.

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Hocus Pocus Halloween Parade steps off on Main St. on Oct. 24



The annual Hocus Pocus Halloween Parade will take place on Main St. on Oct. 24 in Beacon.

-Archive photos

By Kristine Coulter

Beacon's Hocus Pocus Halloween Parade & Festivities will be taking place throughout Beacon on Saturday, Oct. 24. The celebration will bring Halloween festivities to Main Street throughout the day, including trick-or-treating, the Black Cat Scavenger Hunt, the Hocus Pocus Halloween Parade, Trunk or Treat with Beacon first responders, a family-friendly Halloween celebration at Happy Valley, and a Kids & Family Costume Contest, according to organizers.

"Planning has been going really well! There are always a million little things that go into it, but everything is coming together. Every year you kind of forget how much coordination it takes until you're back in it again lol. I'm really lucky that we have so many great people, businesses, and volunteers in Beacon who are always willing to help make it happen," said Brunson Stafford, who is heading this year's festivities. Stafford is a licensed real estate salesperson with The Gate House Team at Compass in Beacon.

Asked how store owners have been responding to the Black Cat Scavenger Hunt, Stafford replied, "Really well! The businesses have been great about it and seem excited to participate. I love the Black Cat Scavenger Hunt because it gives families another reason to go up and down Main Street, stop into the different stores, and make a whole day out of it. It's something fun for the kids, but it also helps bring people into our local businesses, which is really important."

The following is the day's schedule, according to organizers:

11 a.m. – 6 p.m.: Main Street Trick-or-Treating & Black Cat Scavenger Hunt

Families can make their way along Main Street, visiting participating businesses during their normal business hours for trick-or-treating and the Black Cat Scavenger Hunt.

Participating businesses will display a numbered orange pumpkin in their window and hide a black cat somewhere inside. Children can find the black cat and have the corresponding square on their scavenger-hunt passport stamped, it was stated.

Scavenger-hunt passports will be available at participating Main Street businesses, as well as at all three prize pickup locations, so families can easily join the hunt throughout the day, it was remarked.

For every 15 stamps collected, participants can receive a prize at one of three prize pickup locations, said organizers:

- The Gate House Team at Compass, 490 Main Street
- Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hudson Valley Properties, 226 Main Street
- Corcoran Country Living, 215 Main Street

Noon – 5 p.m.: Family-Friendly Halloween Celebration at Happy Valley, 296 Main St.

2:30 p.m.: Hocus Pocus Halloween Parade Lineup

Parade participants should gather at Bank Square, Main St.

3 - 3:30 p.m.: Beacon's Hocus Pocus Halloween Parade

The parade will step off from Bank Square and make its way down Main Street, and end at Veterans Place, according to organizers

3 p.m.: Trunk or Treat with Beacon First Responders at Veterans Place (until candy runs out)

4:15 p.m.: Costume Contest Arrival

Organizers remind everyone that children, teens, families and groups who would like to participate in the costume contest should arrive at Happy Valley by 4:15 p.m. to be considered.

4:45 p.m.: Kids & Family Costume Contest

- Best Family / Group Costume
- Best Kid Costume, ages 0 months to 12 years
- Best Teen Costume, ages 13 to 17 years

"Main Street completely changes that day - there are kids everywhere in costumes, families, people coming out of the stores, and just a really fun energy throughout Beacon. I also love seeing all the costumes. People really go for it, which makes it even better. It's one of those days that reminds you why Beacon is such a special community," said about what he looks forward to the most about the day's events.

Stafford advised, "Just come out and have fun! Support the local businesses, do the scavenger hunt, dress up, and enjoy the day. A lot of people put time into making the parade happen every year, and seeing everyone show up and enjoy it makes all of that work worth it. I'm really excited for this year!"

Trunk or Teat in Beacon set for October 24

All are invited to the Trunk or Treat at the Beacon Elks Lodge, 900 Wolcott Ave., from 1-3 p.m. (set up at noon) on Saturday, Oct. 24, in Beacon. There will be costumes, candy and good vibes.

GUIDELINES FOR POLITICAL LETTERS

- Maximum 200 words
- Must be sent via email
- Provide a phone number where we may reach you to confirm you have written the letter-writers
- We will run as many letters as possible, space permitting, in our Oct. 28 issue. Please note that we will NOT run negative letters against any candidate in the Oct. 28 issue; only letters endorsing candidates will be run in that issue.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We appreciate the passion that people feel for their candidates and their political parties, but encourage letter-writers to express support for their candidates in a positive and instructive manner. It is easy to criticize others, but at the local level, we know that great things can be accomplished through cooperation. We have faith that our readers, and our communities, can rise above the partisan fray in this election season, and emphasize the good that their candidates will do.

County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

Continued from page 3

the people of Dutchess County. I'll push for financial transparency to ensure our taxpayers are getting maximum value. I'll support funding for public health and safety programs. I'll work to secure funding for district initiatives and specifically look for solutions regarding the serious traffic problems that plague the county and state roads in LaGrange. I'd like to try and expand public transportation in LaGrange, which many people, particularly seniors could benefit from. Additional goals of mine are working to expand the county's Mental Health Services and make improvements to the county's EMS services. Finally, I want to listen to my constituents by building a strong 2-way communication channel to keep them informed, listen to their concerns and address local problems and issues.

ANNA SHAH - DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 5, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my first term, I have focused on delivering results, protecting taxpayers, and holding government accountable.

When the Town of Poughkeepsie Police were improperly billed $315,000 for VESTA 911 upgrades, I challenged it and fought for grant funding to protect taxpayers from that expense.

Recognizing the documented connection between animal cruelty, domestic violence, and other crimes against people, I established and co-chair the Animal Welfare and Community Stewardship Committee to strengthen humane law and animal cruelty coordination to protect people and pets.

I supported $7 million for affordable housing, sponsored property-tax relief for accessory dwelling units, sponsored increased preschool special education reimbursement rates, and authored legislation challenging ICE and reaffirming Dutchess, as a welcoming community for all, which received bipartisan support.

Beyond legislation, I am proud of being a fearless, independent voice who asks difficult questions, works across party lines, and regularly recognizes the contributions of community partners such as law enforcement K9 partners, Dutchess Co. Interfaith Council and animal rescues among others.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My priorities are affordability, protecting taxpayers, and strengthening public safety through meaningful animal welfare reforms.

I am particularly committed to improving humane law enforcement efforts. Recognizing the documented connection between animal cruelty, domestic violence, and other violent crimes, I am working closely with the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, animal control, and rescue organizations to address significant gaps. My goal is to establish coordinated protocols and standard operating procedures that promote early intervention, accountability, and prevention of animal cruelty to protect both people and pets.

I will also advocate for responsible spending, expanded housing opportunities, and greater government transparency.

As an attorney, I bring the ability to scrutinize complex records, do my due diligence, and am not afraid to ask difficult questions. My first-term record reflects that commitment, both on and off the legislative floor.

I value collaboration across party lines, but remain willing to challenge questionable decisions and stand alone when necessary if it is best for my constituents. I will listen to my constituents, my door is always open.

TONY D'AQUANNI – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 5, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

For over 30 years, I have been a homeowner and award-winning businessman right here in the Town of Poughkeepsie. I am a compassionate and common-sense leader, and have championed our environment, public safety, our veterans, and our seniors.

I believe in putting money where it belongs; back in our communities so that our citizens and small businesses can flourish.

When I previously served in the legislature, I was part of the caucus that: Lowered County Property Tax Rate by 2.7%; Sponsored local law to protect local aquifer and water sources; Voted for $millions in EMS services; Supported $150,000 in microgrants and transportation funds for our veterans; Voted in favor of $500,000 in Municipal Innovation Grants for programs for our seniors; As chairman of the Environment Committee, championed $75,000 for waste reduction.

When I previously served in the legislature, I was proud to be chair and serve in the following committees: Environment Committee, Chair; Budget, Finance & Personnel Committee; Family & Human Services Committee; Airport Advisory Committee, Nonvoting / Ex Officio Member;Veterans Affairs Committee, Member

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If re-elected, I pledge to continue to represent Dutchess County residents with the same common-sense approach to decision making that serves the best interest of all of our neighbors.

TONYA SPEED – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 6 – TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

No opponent – Did not respond.

Note: The position is currently held by Democrat Lisa Kaul, however, she is running for NYS State Senate, District 39.

CRAIG BRENDLI - DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 8 – CITY, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE
(Running unopposed)

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

Our greatest accomplishments reflect a shared commitment to making Dutchess County Government more accountable and responsive to the people that we serve.

Working with my legislative colleagues, I have advocated for meaningful changes to address homelessness, including a future street outreach team to connect people with services and address community concerns. I also supported increased compensation for preschool special education providers to help recruit and retain the professionals children and families depend on.

To help residents facing rising costs, I supported capping the county's sales tax on gasoline and continuing that relief. I also supported additional funding for our Housing Trust Fund to create and develop affordable housing throughout Dutchess County.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

As the legislator for District 8, I believe delivering results starts with listening and serving with compassion, empathy, and flexibility. I am committed to responsible spending, effective services, and a government that puts residents first.

BARRINGTON ATKINS - DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 9 – CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

As Majority Leader, I've worked to make sure Poughkeepsie has a strong voice in decisions affecting all of Dutchess County.

One of my proudest accomplishments was introducing four resolutions addressing homelessness. The Oakley Street shelter was moving forward, regardless of my vote. I fought to secure protections for the surrounding community, while requiring the County to take responsibility for homelessness beyond Poughkeepsie. My resolutions established a county-wide shelter study, expanded street outreach, required a written action plan, and created a long-term homelessness council.

I've also been part of a legislative majority that advanced affordable housing, property tax relief for accessory dwelling units, protections for working families, investments in early childhood services and greater government oversight.

Leadership isn't simply about casting votes. It's about making difficult decisions, holding government accountable, and ensuring the people you represent aren't forgotten in the process.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My priorities remain focused on public safety, affordability, housing, education, and government accountability.

I want to see Dutchess County make meaningful investments in neighborhoods, expand affordable housing opportunities and address the rising costs facing working families.

As an educator and licensed social worker, I understand that public safety requires more than enforcement. We must invest in prevention, mental health services, youth programming and opportunities that keep young people on a positive path.

I will continue pushing for a countywide approach to homelessness, with clear expectations and measurable results.

As Majority Leader, I also want to strengthen oversight of county spending, protect taxpayers, and ensure government resources reach the communities that need them.

My commitment is to the City of Poughkeepsie, but my responsibility extends to every community in Dutchess County. I intend to continue leading with that understanding.

AARON SCOTT - REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 9 – CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I am a lifelong Poughkeepsie resident with a background in business management, economics, and law.

As someone who has served our community on the local level, I understand that our residents don't need more empty promises - we need accountable, common-sense results.

At the County Legislature, I will use my business and legal experience to deliver real tax relief, make our neighborhoods safer, hold drug dealers accountable, and address homelessness with structured support and job training. I am running to ensure District 9 has a strong, pro-active voice fighting for our families every day.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

In the first 100 days as County Legislator for District 9, the priority is delivering accountable, common-sense results for Poughkeepsie.

The initial 30 days will focus on partnering with law enforcement to crack down on street crime and drug trafficking, while conducting a thorough fiscal audit of county spending to target property tax relief for seniors and working families.

In the second month, efforts will pivot to the homelessness and addiction crises by advancing a framework for transitional housing that integrates mandatory mental health resources, addiction treatment, and job training.

By day 100, the focus will turn toward expanding county-funded youth development programs to keep kids engaged and safe, alongside securing capital investments to fix local roads, update water infrastructure, and address neighborhood blight.

Through this clear timeline, the goal is to replace rhetoric with real solutions that protect neighborhoods, respect taxpayers, and build stronger opportunities across the community.

NAKIA SIMMONS – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 10 – CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

My greatest qualifications for this seat are my lived experiences, my commitment to advocacy and my deep connection to the community I hope to represent. As a mother raising a family in Poughkeepsie, I understand firsthand the challenges working families face, from housing insecurity and rising living costs to concerns about public safety.

My experience advocating for individuals facing mental health challenges has taught me the importance of listening, compassion and connecting people with resources. As a family member of a victim of gun violence, I understand the devastating impact violence has on families and neighborhoods.

I believe effective representation requires more than understanding how government works. It requires understanding the people government serves. I bring a perspective shaped by real challenges, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to finding solutions. My goal is to ensure that everyday residents have a voice in county government and that their concerns are never overlooked.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My major goals for the upcoming term are to address housing affordability and homelessness, improve public safety, expand economic opportunities and make county government more accessible to the residents of District 10.

I will advocate for increased investments in the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund to support affordable and workforce housing. I also want to expand public transportation beyond the Route 9 corridor, connecting more residents to employment opportunities and essential services throughout the county.

Public safety will remain a priority, including addressing the conditions affecting our neighborhoods and ensuring residents and businesses feel safe. I will also support efforts to revitalize Main Street and strengthen our local economy.

Equally important is being an accessible and accountable representative. I plan to hold quarterly district meetings, attend city ward meetings, and maintain open communication with constituents. My goal is to deliver meaningful progress that residents can see and experience firsthand.

SHANTA A. PERSAD SAETEROS – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 10 – CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

As a homeowner and mother of two young daughters, I'm deeply invested in our community and along with my extensive experience in government, healthcare leadership, human resources and business administration, I am dedicated to collaborating with colleagues on both sides of the aisle in reviewing, shaping and advancing legislation and investment, with thoughtful oversight of county infrastructure and capital projects that benefit all residents of Dutchess County.

My candidacy is a direct response to the concerns of neighbors who no longer feel safe walking their own streets, business owners struggling to maintain their livelihoods, and parents worried about the future of their children. Let's together build a city where every resident feels safe, seen and supported. A primary pillar of my platform is a comprehensive and compassionate approach to the city's homelessness crisis. I'll move beyond band-aid solutions toward a model that confronts the issue head-on while focusing on healing. My vision includes breaking the cycle of "revolving door" policies by implementing long-term support systems that offer those in need a genuine path toward a healthy, stable and dignified life.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

Public Safety: Ensuring that all residents feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods and on their doorsteps by supporting public safety initiatives and advocating for and securing funding and resources for law enforcement, firefighters and EMS services.

Affordability: Working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the County Tax Rate remains low and exploring every available initiative to make Dutchess County more affordable for families, seniors, veterans, residents with exceptional abilities, businesses and working class residents. Top focus would be looking into ways we can assist with more affordable housing, easing the burden of high and rising gas prices, inflation and high utilities costs.

Economic Resilience: Supporting local businesses as the backbone of the City of Poughkeepsie economy. My top priority is to make our district and - by extension - our entire City of Poughkeepsie and County safe. If we make our city safer, we can all thrive, grow and our quality of life dramatically increases and we invite new businesses and patrons to enjoy all the beautiful things our city has to offer.

JOHN METZGER – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 12 - EAST FISHKILL

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

I believe it is important for county government to run efficient, effective and fiscally sound to minimize the financial burden on our residents. This is always a major priority when considering new legislation.

Specifically in this most recent term, I voted for a cap on fuel taxes, I voted again this past month to extend the fuel tax cap into next year. These votes intended to help lessen the strain we are all feeling at the pumps.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If I have the honor and privilege of being re-elected for another term, I will continue to work hard for our community.

There are many complex issues the residents of Dutchess County are currently facing. However, I believe the most pressing issue affecting residents is the cost of living. This is an issue that we are all feeling in almost every aspect of our day-to-day lives, whether it is at the grocery store or paying monthly utilities. Residents are feeling the burden of this increase of living expenses every day in their wallets. This is why I believe it is absolutely crucial the county not only continue to become more efficient, effective and fiscally sound, but also look to get the most out of every dollar spent.

This term it is my goal to focus on legislation that will help reduce the out-of-control cost of living.

ANTHONY GIACCONE – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 12 - EAST FISHKILL

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

When I considered running for this office, I spent a lot of time thinking about what qualifications I would bring to the role. I believe they come down to two key areas.

First, my lifelong connection to the county. I grew up here, and my family's roots run deep. My parents owned the same home for 50 years and my father was born in Poughkeepsie. Even during the years I lived elsewhere, this county remained home. I bring more than 55 years of personal history and perspective on this community.

Continued on page 6

County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

Continued from page 5

Second, my professional experience in technology. While I haven't served as an elected official, I believe it's important for legislators to bring a variety of backgrounds and experiences to government. I have 40 years of experience in technology, including work on projects for state and federal governments. With the growing importance of AI and IT, I believe this experience would be a valuable asset to county government.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

Transparency in government is exceptionally important to me. I believe performance should be measured through clear metrics to evaluate results and identify opportunities for improvement. Too often, government operations are opaque to the average citizen. If we want public confidence, we need to change that.

I'm particularly interested in two projects. First, following the county's announcement that it is canceling its contract with Flock for ALPR cameras, I'd like to create a county-level countdown page showing active cameras and the expected date of their complete removal. Residents could track progress as cameras are removed.

Second, I'd like to develop a county issued web app where residents can report road defects. Reports would go to the appropriate authority, with progress tracked publicly through each stage: reported, identified, dispatched, and repaired.

These projects reflect the kind of practical, measurable initiatives I would support to improve transparency, strengthen accountability, and give residents greater visibility into local government actions. Ultimately, that visibility can help build public trust.

KEVIN GILES – REPBLICAN
DISTRICT 13 - EAST FISHKILL, WAPPINGER

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my first 10 months as Dutchess County Legislator for District 13, I have worked to deliver results for the residents of Wappinger and East Fishkill. I voted for meaningful tax relief, including twice supporting a cap on county gas taxes to help ease the burden on local taxpayers. I also supported more than $10 million in county bridge, culvert, and highway improvements to strengthen our infrastructure and protect public safety.

I have supported supplemental EMS services to help fill critical gaps in emergency response and voted to invest in programs that benefit our communities. Through grant programs, I have helped bring funding back to Wappinger and East Fishkill for local priorities.

As a lifelong Dutchess County resident raised on the Baisley family farm, I understand the values of hard work, responsibility and community. My decades in the private sector have taught me the importance of accountability and making every dollar count. I bring that same practical approach to county government.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My priorities will be affordability, public safety, reliable emergency medical services and responsible fiscal management. I will continue looking for ways to provide meaningful tax relief, control spending and identify efficiencies so we can deliver quality county services without placing an unnecessary burden on taxpayers.

I am committed to strengthening EMS services to help ensure residents receive timely emergency care when they need it. I will also continue supporting our police, Drug Task Force, first responders and investments in roads, bridges and infrastructure that keep our communities safe.

I believe we must invest in our children, support our seniors and veterans, and create economic opportunities that allow the next generation to build their futures here in Dutchess County. Through responsible economic development, shared services, and careful use of taxpayer dollars, I will work to keep our communities strong, safe, and affordable. My goal is simple: listen to residents, deliver results and put our community first.

KEITH ODUMS – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 13 - EAST FISHKILL, WAPPINGER

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

My nine years on the Wappingers Central School District Board of Education, including two years as Vice President, have prepared me to serve as County Legislator. During that time, I gained valuable experience in strategic planning, policy development, contract negotiations and oversight of budgets exceeding $325 million annually. This experience taught me how to make thoughtful financial decisions, work collaboratively and hold government accountable for delivering results.

I understand the importance of balancing fiscal responsibility with the need to provide essential services. As County Legislator, I will bring a practical, results-oriented approach to keeping taxes low, eliminating wasteful spending, supporting public safety and infrastructure and expanding access to affordable housing and community-based mental health services.

I am committed to listening to residents, protecting our parks, farms, and open spaces and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used effectively. My experience and commitment to accountability will help me represent our community's priorities.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

I am running for County Legislator to make our community more affordable, protect our quality of life and ensure local government spends taxpayer dollars responsibly. My top priority is affordability. I will work to control taxes, eliminate wasteful spending, expand affordable housing opportunities and cap sales tax on gas and diesel to help families manage everyday expenses.

I will also prioritize essential community services, including 911 and EMS, safe roads, reliable infrastructure, transportation and expanded community-based mental health care. I believe we can support responsible growth while protecting our farms, parks, open spaces and rural character.

My nine years on the Wappingers Central School District Board of Education, including two years as Vice President, have prepared me for this role. Through strategic planning, policy development, contract negotiations and oversight of budgets exceeding $325 million annually, I learned the importance of careful budgeting, collaboration, and accountability. I will bring that experience to county government and work to deliver practical results for residents.

ALIX WINSBY – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 14 - TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE, WAPPINGER

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

In my first year in office, I've brought together partners across all levels of government to deliver for our residents. I've secured funding for pedestrian safety, advocated for green space preservation and mixed-use zoning in historic hamlets and elevated residents' concerns about the EPA cleanup to the federal level.

In the Legislature, we increased Housing Trust Fund support, expanded services for un-housed residents, raised pay for Pre-K special educators, reduced plastic waste, strengthened domestic violence protections, established an ai/technology oversight committee and invested in our 911 system. We have capped the gas tax twice to keep gas prices affordable for residents.

My co-sponsored three-foot passing law, protecting vulnerable road users, including construction workers, first responders, pedestrians, dog walkers and cyclists, just passed through the Legislature.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

I'm focused on expanding pedestrian safety improvements across my district and the county, increasing transportation access and options, and strengthening mental health services, especially by supporting the Sheriff's Office in expanding its mental health crisis response team. I'll continue exploring innovative solutions to reduce waste and pollution, while connecting more communities to our county's green spaces.

I'm running again because there's so much more we can accomplish together. I'm committed to building a county government that works for our residents, addressing their needs and creating a safer, healthier, more connected community for everyone.

LYNNE MIELE-VERSACI – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 14 - TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE, WAPPINGER

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

What qualifies me to be the DC Legislator for District 14 is that I held the seat for two years prior and accomplished many things in that time, including reducing the property tax, investing in supplemental EMS services, critical support for our Drug Task force and the Sheriff's Office, as well as invest in seniors, youth and affordable housing.

I am also a lifelong area resident that values transparency and, as a single Mom, I know the challenges facing local residents, because I have lived them. I have worked in public service for many years and have done and continue to do much volunteerism in our community.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If elected, my focus would continue to be affordability, as I voted for $2 million in the 2026 budget in additional funding to the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund.

I would continue to advocate for our seniors, as I brought back a $75k MIG grant for upgrades to our senior center, as well as our youth as they are the future of our community and lastly, but not limited to our EMS services to expand them, I did vote for $4 million in supplemental Services and I hope we can continue that expansion with bi-partisan support. I want to work across the aisle to get the job done to help and support our community.

ROB FAUST – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 15 – WAPPINGER

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my most recent term as Dutchess County Legislator representing District 15, I have focused on bringing county resources directly back to the Town of Wappinger while continuing to make public safety a priority.

I helped secure $15,000 in funding to support our local veterans and $25,000 for our seniors. These investments reflect my commitment to supporting residents and strengthening our community.

During my previous term, while serving as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, I worked alongside County Executive Sue Serino, who championed the initiative, to help secure $2 million to launch Dutchess County's county-wide supplemental EMS program, providing additional emergency medical coverage throughout the county.

With 23 years of law enforcement experience, I understand the importance of supporting our first responders and keeping our neighborhoods safe. I remain committed to listening to residents and ensuring Wappinger's voice is heard in county government.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My goals for the upcoming term are to continue delivering results for the residents of the Town of Wappinger, bringing more county funding and resources back to our community and ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly.

Public safety will remain one of my highest priorities. With 23 years of law enforcement experience, I understand the importance of supporting our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. I will continue working to strengthen emergency services, improve response capabilities, and ensure our first responders have the resources they need.

I also want to expand opportunities for our seniors, veterans and families, while supporting improvements to our infrastructure and overall quality of life.

Most importantly, I will continue being a visible, accessible, and responsive legislator who listens to residents, addresses their concerns and takes action. My commitment is to make sure Wappinger's voice is heard at every level of county government.

KYLE FENDRICH – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 15 – WAPPINGER

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

As a first-time candidate for Dutchess County Legislature, District 15, I bring financial expertise, community service and a strong foundation in economics.

At Volvo Cars USA, I work in financial analysis and forecasting and have served as interim Western Region Controller, overseeing budgets and revenue planning. Previously, at American Express, I evaluated financial performance and challenged assumptions to support better decisions. I would apply that experience to scrutinizing county spending, improving efficiency and protecting essential services.

My service with the Ossining Micro Fund showed me how small loans can help people overcome financial setbacks. I also worked in community outreach with Hope & Main, a food business incubator.

I hold a master's degree in Economic Development and a bachelor's in Economics and Political Science. I would combine that training with listening to residents and measuring results.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My central goal is to make Wappinger more affordable through thoughtful economic development and responsible budgeting.

I would work with Dutchess Community College, employers and local incubators to connect residents with training for regional careers. By the end of my term, I would aim to help establish a Wappinger-focused economic development committee or special business district and secure funding for at least one incubator or job-training program. These investments will help local businesses grow and broaden our economic base.

I would prioritize reusing existing buildings and improving commercial areas, with development addressing roads, walkways, and other infrastructure. I would pursue state and federal grants while accounting for future operating costs.

My finance background would guide efforts to reduce avoidable spending through better processes and realistic forecasting. I would publish quarterly progress updates and hold regular resident meetings so voters can track results and hold me accountable.

YVETTE VALDÉS SMITH – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 16 – FISHKILL, BEACON
(Running unopposed)

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

This year we made good on the promise to making life more affordable in Dutchess County. The Democratic Majority delivered on the following and I authored or sponsored the following accomplishments:

Established an Annual Housing Plan and allocated $12 million for affordable housing.

Implemented a gas tax cap at $3.00 per gallon; Invested in the county's 911 safety system; Expanded the property tax exemption for disabled veterans; Increased the reimbursement rate for Preschool Special Education Related Services by $20; Voted unanimously to ban kratom concentrates; Passed legislation on housing stability and homelessness.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

We deserve affordable, safe, equitable and supportive communities throughout our great county. My fellow legislators and I have spoken to thousands of residents throughout our county over the years, and the message is clear - the county must do more to support our working families, seniors, veterans, and those struggling with mental health.

Affordability, housing and providing the best county services without raising taxes. These issues must be addressed at every level of government and your legislators are committed to finding solutions and easing the burden so many of us have felt. I remain laser-focused on the work ahead and grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Continued on page 7

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County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

Continued from page 6

DOUG MCHOUL – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 17 – TOWN, VILLAGE OF FISHKILL

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

I am proud to have worked for a bond resolution for more than $2 million, which, in addition to a bridge & culvert replacement, will also pay to have new sidewalks installed along Jackson Street in the Village and Town of Fishkill, allowing pedestrians a safer walkway from St. Mary's Church & School to Main Street.

I also sponsored a budget amendment to account for the addition of a Town of Fishkill Police Officer to join the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, whose incredible work in recent years has led to a 50% decrease in drug overdose deaths.

Additionally, I co-sponsored resolutions to protect Dutchess County from large-scale data center development, as well as the immediate disabling and prompt removal of Flock cameras throughout the county.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

As always, the safety of my constituents is paramount. Although we have an amazing group of volunteer firefighters and emergency responders throughout the county, volunteerism has declined steadily over the last decade. This has resulted in fewer available responders, strained resources, and limited backup coverage.

Emergency Response Commissioner Bill Beale and his team have initiated a detailed assessment of ambulance coverage throughout the county, and I look forward to our continued partnership so that we can establish long-term solutions to resolve this crucial issue.

Additionally, we are currently facing an affordable housing crisis in the United States, especially in New York State and Dutchess County. Although the county already offers programs to mitigate housing costs, I believe that by working with federal and state representatives, we can find other creative solutions to resolve this problem, especially for our seniors, veterans, our local workforce and first-time homebuyers.

MIKE SCHADE – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 17 – TOWN, VILLAGE OF FISHKILL

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

For over 25 years, I have fought to protect working people, safeguard clean water and hold powerful corporations accountable. I've led national campaigns that pushed major retailers to eliminate toxic chemicals from toys and food packaging, including at stores here in Fishkill.

Locally, I helped pass legislation in the Town of Fishkill protecting tenants from unfair rent hikes and evictions while respecting responsible landlords, securing unanimous, bipartisan support.

Recently, I worked with residents to oppose a massive AI data center that would likely push Central Hudson utility bills even higher for local families. I was proud to help secure a three-year moratorium on these data centers, giving officials time to adopt necessary safeguards.

I've also earned endorsements from well-respected organizations, including Pat Ryan's Patriot PAC, CWA, CSEA and the NYS Nurses Association.

I'm ready to put my two decades of experience to work for Fishkill in the Dutchess County Legislature.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

I am running for County Legislature to make Fishkill more affordable, promote responsible growth and bring our fair share of tax dollars back to Fishkill.

#1 Affordability. My top priority is easing the financial burden on working families, seniors, and young people. Rising housing, food, and energy costs are squeezing household budgets. We need county policies that provide relief, including expanding bus service and making housing more affordable.

#2 Overdevelopment. Traffic and unchecked development are major concerns for Fishkill residents. We need responsible growth that respects our community's character, protects natural resources, and accounts for infrastructure capacity. Development should serve existing residents, not simply add more traffic or drive-up energy costs.

#3 Cutting wasteful county spending. The County has wasted taxpayer dollars on pet projects that don't benefit most residents. In fact, my opponent voted to spend millions on luxury box seats at Dutchess Stadium. We need fiscal responsibility.

MOLLY RHODES – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 18 - BEACON AND FISHKILL
(Running unopposed)

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

I'm most proud of the Dutchess County Legislature's work to create a more liveable Dutchess County for all residents, such as through limiting the gas tax on already high gasoline prices, better pay for early education specialists focused on children with special needs and a suite of initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of homeless residents and the communities where they receive their services.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If re-elected, I look forward to work with my fellow Legislators and the County Executive's office to create a fiscally sustainable multi-year plan aimed at addressing affordability and livability issues across Dutchess County.

STEVE CASWELL - REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 21 - EAST FISHKILL

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

My focus this year, and each year I've been your Legislator, has been to provide you the services you need, while keeping your taxes affordable.

For 2026, I supported measures to extend the county sales tax cap on gasoline and diesel fuel, as well as preserve the sales tax exemption for shoes and clothing; measures that make things a little more affordable for each of us here in Dutchess County.

We have a 2026 budget that again lowered the county tax rate. In fact, each year I've served in the Legislature we have passed a budget that lowered the property tax rate. Tough decisions were made that balanced investing in critical programs with controlling costs in other areas to keep your county taxes affordable. We have also made important investments to support the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Office to support our public safety.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

I will continue to do my part to maintain fiscal discipline at the County level, to ensure living in Dutchess County and East Fishkill is affordable.

There are several proposals on the table that challenge this approach, looking to provide "free" services to the people of Dutchess County. Well, they are not free. Your taxes will go up, or other services will be cut to pay for them. My focus last year, and each year I've been your Legislator, is to provide you the services you need, while keeping your taxes affordable. Where there is benefit to the entire county, I will support the county providing the service and let you know how it will be paid for.

I will also continue to volunteer and support local organizations in the community, allowing me to identify areas where County grants and resources can be directed to our town.

FRAN CARACAPPA – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 21 - EAST FISHKILL

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

My qualifications for the Legislature representing East Fishkill's District 21 are rooted in my commitment to service and my credentials as a New York State Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner. My professional experience in budgeting and finance along with my credentials will serve the district well.

Even before considering a run for County Legislature, I recognized the importance of attending Town Board meetings and using my voice to raise concerns. This year, I was among the first to speak out against hyperscale data centers.

As affordability remains a concern, I will work to ensure County funds are spent wisely and benefit everyone, regardless of party affiliation. I will not rubber-stamp my party's actions. Instead, I will keep District 21 residents informed about the County Legislature's work and how it can improve their lives, while addressing issues affecting our quality of life in Dutchess County.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My first goal as a newly elected legislator will be to represent all constituents, regardless of party affiliation. I will be a voice for the community, guided by input from the residents I represent.

I will bring town halls to the community, collaborate with fellow legislators on affordability issues and work with local organizations to expand services for our most vulnerable residents. I will serve as the community's "eyes and ears" by attending East Fishkill Data Center Task Force meetings as an observer.

Another priority is working with the Legislature and Town to bring more affordable housing to our district, while preserving East Fishkill's small-town charm. Why should young families have to leave because they cannot afford to live here?

My commitment to listening, staying involved and advocating for our community will guide my service. It would be an honor to represent District 21 in the County Legislature.

JOE TRESCA – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 22 – BEEKMAN, UNION VALE

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

In my first 10 months in office, I'm proud of the progress we've made connecting Beekman and Union Vale with county government. I regularly attend and speak at both towns' board meetings, share updates through my newsletter and make myself available to residents throughout the district. I also arranged monthly visits with a local senior community and brought other local officials into those conversations.

I've worked with both towns and eligible organizations to connect infrastructure needs with funding opportunities. Through the county's Municipal Investment Grant process, that work helped bring $95,000 in awards to our district. I also worked directly with Beekman to support its vacuum sweeper truck grant application, which, if awarded, could save taxpayers almost half a million dollars.

These efforts reflect what I ran on: Listening, following through and making sure our district receives attention and support.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If re-elected, I will focus on responsible county spending, effective public services, and making sure District 22 has a voice in decisions that affect Dutchess County.

I will continue working to protect taxpayers, support our law enforcement and emergency services and ensure county resources are used effectively. I will also look for opportunities to bring grant funding and county resources back to our communities, while maintaining open communication with residents and local officials.

I believe county government should work collaboratively with our towns, not create unnecessary burdens for them. That means supporting local businesses and farmers, encouraging housing options that meet community needs and making responsible decisions about growth, while protecting farmland, open space and our rural character.

My goal is to be an accessible, accountable representative who looks at the bigger county picture, while making sure the needs of Beekman and Union Vale are not overlooked.

HEIDI TUCCI – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 22 – BEEKMAN, UNION VALE

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I have lived in this district for close to 40 years and prior to that, I was born and raised in rural Vermont. I am a retired Public School Teacher who taught in this district for more than 20 years.

I know how to listen, assess, work hard, bring people together and try different things to create the best possible outcome. I do not leave problem-solving and hard work to others; I stay until the job is done. I will not just be a legislator who sits in a seat and votes along party lines. I will do the work to ensure that our district and our county get the resources and solutions needed for our residents and municipalities to succeed.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My overall goal is to do everything I can to help our citizens thrive. We live in a beautiful area. We want our adult children to be able to raise their families here and our parents/grandparents to be able to stay in the communities they have worked hard to build.

I want to expand access to public transit, create incentives for affordable housing and green energy and build partnerships between schools and local small businesses.

I want to expand access to affordable childcare and offer education for adults who wish to retrain for better employment opportunities. I want to connect our residents to County services by communicating regularly.

County-wide, I want to make sure that Dutchess is a safe, welcoming place where people seek to raise their families and build their lives. In District 22, I want to make sure we get our fair share of the pie.

CHRIS ROLISON – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 23 - PAWLING, BEEKMAN, EAST FISHKILL

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my most recent term as your County Legislator, District 23, I have focused on protecting taxpayers, strengthening public safety and delivering results for our community.

In 2026 alone, I supported securing $100,000 in grant funding for our district, helping bring valuable resources to local projects. I also worked to maintain a stable tax levy and supported budget amendments to provide additional resources for the District Attorney's Office.

Additionally, I collaborated across party lines on a bipartisan animal welfare committee to address community concerns. Throughout my term, I have remained committed to fiscal responsibility, bipartisan cooperation, and putting residents first.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If re-elected as your Dutchess County Legislator, my priorities will remain keeping taxes low, protecting taxpayers and ensuring responsible spending of public funds.

With families and businesses facing rising costs, I will continue to voice concerns over increasing utility rates and advocate for greater transparency and accountability from utility providers. I will also remain focused on strengthening public safety, securing additional grant funding for our district including for emergency services and supporting essential county services without placing unnecessary financial burdens on residents.

By working across party lines and listening to the concerns of our community, I will continue advocating for practical solutions that keep Dutchess County safe, affordable and a great place to live, work and raise a family.

MARTY MYGAN – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 23 - PAWLING, BEEKMAN, EAST FISHKILL

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

As a longtime resident of Southern Dutchess, giving back to my community is important to me. Over the past 20 years, I've built strong relationships with neighbors, small business owners and community organizations. I was elected to the Cedar Valley Homeowner's Association Board in 2021, and as Treasurer, succeeded in eliminating thousands of dollars in unnecessary taxes on the townhome development's common areas.

In 2023, I successfully ran for the Pawling Town Board to fight for greater financial transparency, ethics and accountability. Now, I am ready to expand my service and represent the residents of District 23 in

Continued on page 9





Four honors, one impact: Impact PR & Communications earns National Recognition with PR and Credit Union Industry nods

Underscoring its growing national profile and expertise in working with financial institutions, Impact PR & Communications, Ltd. (Impact PR), an award-winning public relations and marketing agency based in New York, recently celebrated four distinct honors this fall.

The agency was named among PR Daily's Top Agencies of 2026, a prestigious recognition of noteworthy public relations and communication firms across the country. Impact PR will be feted alongside fellow industry leaders at PR Daily's Top Agencies Awards Luncheon in New York City on December 2.

"Impact PR earned its spot on this year's list the hard way, through work and leadership that stood out in another competitive year for this program," said Brendan Gannon, director of marketing for Ragan and PR Daily. "Congratulations to the entire team for landing among the best agencies in the industry this year."

Adding to the agency's distinctions, Impact PR has earned three honors for its work with credit unions:

• Marketing Association of Credit Unions (MAC) - Silver Award in the Public Relations category

• PRSA Colorado - Silver Pick Award in the Media Relations category

• Credit Union Times' Luminaries Awards - finalist in the Consulting Excellence – Organizations category

"Together, these four awards showcase the influence our work has nationwide, as well as our depth of experience representing numerous credit union clients," said Filomena Fanelli, CEO and founder, Impact PR. "More than any individual recognition, we're proud of the high bar we've set, our purpose-driven approach and of the results we get for the companies we work with."



The team at Impact PR & Communications will be feted alongside fellow industry leaders at PR Daily's Top Agencies Awards Luncheon in New York City on December 2.

-Courtesy photo

Pop-up Shop to raise funds for children rescued from human trafficking

By Kristine Coulter

A pop-up shop will raise funds to help rescue children from human trafficking, forced labor, and exploitation. On Oct. 24, the Pop-Up Shop Fundraising Event will be held at the Oak Grove Grange Building, 2 St. Nicholas Road, in Wappingers Falls, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

This year Troy Brewer Ministries, an organization dedicated to rescuing children from sex trafficking and exploitation, is a partner.

"About six years ago, my brother-in-law got involved with an organization that rescues children from human trafficking. He came over one day and told us about it, and to be honest, I don't think I ever realized or could even fathom that something like this was happening. As he became more involved, he eventually became a rescuer himself, and we started doing what we could from here, raising awareness and sending money whenever possible," explained Dawn Bennett, who is assisting with the fundraiser.

Organizers said, to date, they have rescued over 12,000 children and have more than 6,000 children in their care at this time.

Bennett shared, "One night, I couldn't sleep because I kept thinking about how we could do something bigger than just asking friends and family for donations. For some reason, the idea of a pop-up shop came to mind, and I spent most of that night thinking of ways we could get products donated and make it happen. The next day, I talked to family and friends, and we hit the ground running!"

According to Bennett, "The response was incredible. Countless companies donated products for us to sell and items to raffle, and local businesses stepped up with financial donations. We ended up raising far more than we ever thought we could."

Now, years later, they are still doing whatever they can to help, and here we are planning another pop-up shop, said Bennett.

"What's really amazing is that literally everything is donated, even the venue! That means 100% of what we raise can go directly toward helping rescue more children," she remarked.

One of the most important things that can be done is to bring awareness to what's happening to these children, said Bennett.

"Human trafficking is something people hear about, but I don't think most people realize just how many children are affected by it. And many don't realize that it's happening everywhere. They think it's something far away that doesn't affect them. It's heartbreaking to hear the stories, but at the same time, it pushes us to want to do even more! These are real children, with real lives, who deserve to be safe, loved, and protected. We can't help change something if we don't know it's happening. The more people who become aware, the more we can come together to make a difference," she said.

Bennett shared, "This is Troy's very first rescue story, told from his mouth….

There was one specific day where my life changed forever. And I had only heard about sexual trafficking through the news or through media or television or something. And I was mildly aware of it. But then one day I came face to face with it, and everything changed.

There was this woman who had these two little refugee children, and she was holding their hands. They were so skinny, and they were both nine years old. She came over to me, and I was catching only a few words.

And then the interpreter turned around and said, "Do you know what she's trying to do?"

And I said, "No, what?"

And he said, "She wants to sell these two little girls to you."

And I was like, "What?"

And then I looked at her, and she said, "You can make a movie."

And my mind exploded. I was shocked. I was embarrassed. I wanted to run away screaming.

I looked in the eyes of those two little girls, and I saw the way that they were looking at me. And I was horrified.

And as soon as I was getting ready to run away, I felt a peace and a calm and a stability.

And I said, "Yeah, man, I'll buy them. How much?" And I didn't even know what the heck I was saying.

And she told me $60 bucks apiece. And so I bought them for $120.

I grabbed ahold of those two little girls. We got in the car., and we started making phone calls.

There were four of us that were there, and we started talking to these two little girls and saying, "Do you know what today is?"

And they're like, "No."

And so we told them what the date was, and then we told them, "You're going to remember this day for the rest of your life because this is the day that everything changes for you."

We fed them. We found a doctor. We got them into a home, and we committed to supporting those first two little girls."

"And that's were it all started for Troy and his wife. Can you imagine paying only $60 to save a child? That's why we partner with organizations like this to bring freedom to children. From there door after door opened and they went from saving those two girls to now rescuing over 12,000," said Bennett.

(They have so many more that you can watch and listen to on YouTube, noted Bennett.)

"We're hoping people will stop by and enjoy themselves! We'll have a little bit of everything, from housewares, toys, games, books, pet supplies, beauty products, holiday items and so much more. Everything is brand new, and there will be some great deals! We also have over 60 raffles, some fun games to play, and plenty of food. There's really something for everyone! We'd love for people to bring their family and friends, do a little shopping, grab something to eat, play some games and have some fun. And the best part is, while they're enjoying themselves, they're also helping us make a difference in the lives of these children," said Bennett.

For more information, one can visit www.NNCFundraisingEvents.com, and on Facebook and Instagram.





County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

Continued from page 7

Beekman, Pawling and East Fishkill.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My top priority is to work to solve the affordability crisis in Dutchess County. I will vote to keep the county gas tax cap and hold the line on utility rate increases. Most importantly, my goal is to end wasteful county spending.

Just a few years ago, County Legislators spent $30 million on capital improvements to Heritage Financial Park (formerly Dutchess Stadium). That money could have been better spent on protecting vital services for our senior citizens and improving Dutchess Loop Bus service.

For example, in Pawling, there is a senior housing development with no access to public transportation. Residents are forced to walk down dangerous Route 22 to shop for groceries at Hannaford. I will work to ensure that the County Legislature will focus on funding programs that improve residents' lives and provide the best return on their hard-earned tax dollars.

ANDREW HOUSE – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 24 - DOVER , PAWLING

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my first three years as Dutchess County Legislator for District 24, I have focused on responsible fiscal management of the county's budget, helped Dover and Pawling secure municipal grant project funding, addressed some important situational needs of individual residents and supported the success of events and outreach of businesses and nonprofit groups in Dover and Pawling.

A major accomplishment of my term in the Legislature has been a reduction in the county property tax rate, while advocating and overseeing responsible budgeting and taxpayer accountability.

I worked collaboratively with fellow legislators and community partners to pursue grant funding that benefited our fire departments, youth and senior recreation programs and municipal facilities. Additionally, I've supported initiatives to assist vulnerable families and prioritize improvements to county roadways and infrastructure.

Recently appointed to the Artificial Intelligence and Technology Oversight Committee, I will help ensure emerging technologies are used responsibly and transparently.

As a lifelong Dover resident and small-business owner, I remain committed to listening and assisting residents, finding practical solutions to resolve issues, and improving the quality of life for my constituents of District 24 in Dover & Pawling.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My goal for the upcoming term is to turn community needs into measurable results, while keeping government accountable to the taxpayers it serves. I will continue working to control county property taxes, pursue state and federal grants, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely on projects that deliver tangible benefits.

I want to make it easier for residents, especially seniors and families on fixed incomes, to access programs that help manage rising costs of living. I will also champion our small businesses, strengthen support for our fire departments and community organizations and continue to support investing in infrastructure and recreational opportunities.

Preserving our rural character, scenic open spaces and natural resources of Dover and Pawling will remain central to my work. I will also promote transparency and responsible decision-making as county government adopts new technologies.

My lifelong Dover roots give me a unique appreciation for Dover and Pawling, the communities I serve in Dutchess County. If re-elected, I will remain focused on the work ahead - dedicated to making a lasting, positive impact for our communities today and building success for generations to come.

AUGUST URIBE – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 24 - DOVER, PAWLING

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

As a former auction house executive responsible for half a billion dollars in annual sales, I deeply understand the fundamentals of meeting budgets and controlling expenses.

Whether in the corporate or political arena, the goal remains the same: Delivering real success for clients and constituents. We achieve this by accurately identifying problems, aligning transparent solutions, executing with quality and keeping open channels for feedback.

Above all, fiduciary duty and public trust demand the same standard - clean governance, responsible resource management and strict fiscal and ethical integrity. After a decade of significant fiscal waste, that mismanagement ended 18 months ago when a Democratic majority took office in the Dutchess County Legislature. By remaining focused on the evolving needs of our residents, I hope to continue delivering sustained, long-term oversight for our community.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

We are losing too many residents in Dutchess County due to a severe lack of affordable housing. Our seniors and neighbors living on fixed incomes lack the reliable public transportation required for basic daily tasks, such as visiting the local pharmacy or grocery store.

Our infrastructure is equally strained: Century-old culverts desperately need upgrades to prevent severe flooding from increased rainfall and snowmelt, and our roads are riddled with potholes. In addition to these problems, staggeringly high energy costs leave working families and seniors struggling to make ends meet, while utility providers report record profits at our expense.

These critical issues must be rectified NOW. To get eastern Dutchess County back on track, these urgent challenges require action. By prioritizing smart investments, transparent governance and responsible fiscal management, I would like to help modernize our local infrastructure and build a stronger, more resilient community.

Primrose Hill Farm sets second Heritage Harvest Festival Oct. 24

Primrose Hill Farm, located at 203 Fiddlers Bridge Road in Staatsburg, is hosting its second annual Heritage Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24 to raise funds for the restoration of the Creek Meeting House. The theme of the event is Managing a Historic Rural Property and runs from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Cynthia Koch, President of the Clinton Historical Society explains that "The Heritage Harvest Festival is a wonderful educational opportunity for those interested in historic preservation and land conservation. Primrose Hill Farm has been in the same Clinton family for six generations and its owner, Bob Schoch, a trustee of the Trustee of the Clinton Historical Society, is donating the proceeds to support the restoration of the historic Creek Meeting House in Clinton Corners."

This day-long event will allow visitors to understand the past, present and future of agriculture in the Town of Clinton.

Festival activities will include hayrides stopping at the location of a beacon light that guided air traffic before the advent of radar, viewing a wetland that forms the headwaters of the Crum Elbow Creek, and acres of Christmas trees under cultivation. A tour of the Dutch bank barn built in the late 1700s will explain the hygienic advantages and the labor-saving efficiency of that design and show agricultural and household antiques.

The vision for the farm's future will be explained by Schoch and others who have been involved in the farm's permanent preservation. A genealogy workshop will be conducted using various resources from the farm's collections and the archives of the Clinton Historical Society.

A display of antique tractors and trucks, still in use, will be shown with their haymaking attachments and the decision-making for selection and pairing of newer implements with older tractors will be explained.

Lunch will be available for $12 and dinner for $30. For more information, check website primrosehillfarm.com.



Incumbent Ryan faces challenge from Auringer

Compiled by Kate Goldsmith
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18

Includes towns of Amenia, Beekman (partial), Clinton, Dover, Fishkill, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Milan, North East, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale, Wappinger and Washington; and the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie.

Incumbent: Pat Ryan (DEM/WOR)

Pat Ryan represents New York's 18th Congressional District, which includes all of Orange County and most of Dutchess and Ulster counties. Ryan was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2022. Prior to that he served as Ulster County Executive. Ryan attended West Point and deployed for two combat tours in Iraq as an Army intelligence officer.

His priorities (taken from his campaign website):

Leveling the Playing Field – In Congress, Ryan said he is fighting inflation by going after price-gougers who are harming customers, guaranteeing middle-class voters get a tax cut, and making sure billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share. Ryan added will work with organized labor to guarantee better wages and protections for working families, pass paid family leave for all Americans, and ensure that equal work means equal pay.

Protecting our Foundational Freedoms – Citing his oath to protect and defend the U.S. Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic, Ryan said he is a leader who will stand against those who wish to undermine the Constitution. Ryan said he will fight to ensure reproductive rights for women, make sure the right to vote is protected, and guarantee Americans are safe.



Pat Ryan



Jackie Mary Auringer

Keeping the community safe – Ryan has stated that keeping our communities safe is the core role of government. In Congress, he has voted for increasing law-enforcement budgets. Having carried weapons of war in combat, Ryan said he understands the devastating power they can inflict and has called for the passage of commonsense gun reforms including, red flag laws, assault weapons ban, and universal background checks. He is committed to increasing mental health and addiction recovery resources to make sure that those who need it get the help they require.

Safeguarding the environment – Ryan said the greatest threat to the future is climate change. He is fighting for investments in electric public transportation, job training in green careers, and standing against big polluters who want to damage the Hudson Valley's precious natural resources.

Visit https://www.patryanforcongress.com/ for more information.

Challenger: Jackie Mary Auringer (REP/CON)

Jackie Mary Auringer was born and raised in Ulster County. She works in her family's construction business, where she serves as a project manager and managerial accountant. According to her website, working in a small business taught her exactly what government gets wrong: too much red tape, too many taxes, and too little concern for the people doing the actual work. She is also a marketing and branding professional. Through her work, she said she has gained firsthand experience with the challenges facing small businesses, tradesmen, and working families across New York.

Auringer's priorities if elected (taken from her campaign website):

- Lowering the cost of living – Addressing taxes, energy costs, everyday expenses, and healthcare costs to ensure more income stays with Hudson Valley families and small businesses.
- Expanding local opportunities – Focusing on good-paying jobs, small business growth, skilled trades, and education connected to careers in the region.
- Restoring government accountability - Promoting congressional ethics, government transparency, and protecting the rights and public safety of local residents.

Visit https://winwithjackie.com/ for more information.

Rolison faces challenge of Kaul in race for District 39 senate seat

Continued from cover

gives law enforcement a proven tool to identify domestic violence survivors at greatest risk of being killed by their abuser and immediately connect them with critical support.

"I know it works because the program began right here in Dutchess County when I was Chairman of the County Legislature. This year, we passed the legislation in both houses, and it now awaits the Governor's signature. I won't stop advocating until it becomes law.

"I'm also proud of our work to support working families through a historic $4.5 billion statewide investment in childcare and early education, including $20 million for a pilot program right here in Dutchess County. Access to affordable, quality childcare is essential to helping parents remain in the workforce and giving our children the strongest possible start.

"These accomplishments reflect my commitment to delivering meaningful results that protect our neighbors, support families and make the Hudson Valley a better place to live, work and raise a family."

Rolison's goals

In looking at the next term, if re-elected, Rolison gave the following reply as to his major goals.

"Our priority is always to make the Hudson Valley safer and more affordable so families can build their lives here and our children and grandchildren can afford to stay here. That means continuing to fight rising energy costs and providing families with relief they can actually feel.

"One of my top priorities will be passing my utility tax holiday legislation, which would immediately lower utility bills by suspending state taxes and fees that are passed along to ratepayers. The bill is currently in committee, and I've heard from colleagues on both sides of the aisle who agree that it is a good idea. Families struggling to pay their bills cannot wait five or ten years for relief; they need help now. This is the only proposal currently being considered that would provide immediate, direct relief on utility bills, and I'll continue working across the aisle to get it passed."

Kaul's goals

Kaul gave the following response when asked about her major goals if elected.

"From day one, I will be laser-focused on lowering the cost of living in the HudsonValley – so that our elderly can afford to stay in their homes, and a new generation can afford to raise their families here. That means tackling the cost of housing by protecting renters, and incentivizing building homes that ordinary people can actually afford.

"It means stopping outrageous rate-hikes by corporate utilities like Central Hudson – and cutting red-tape, so that it's cheaper and easier for people to put money-saving solar panels on their roofs. It means creating an affordable, high-quality alternative to profit-driven health insurance, so that no one risks medical debt just by getting the care they need.

"We can make the Hudson Valley a better place to live and work by investing in workforce training, mental health resources, adding more sidewalks and bike-paths to our neighborhoods, and more frequent and reliable public transit. We must modernize our aging water and sewer infrastructure and build protections for our air and water – and say no to extractive data centers. And we can make our communities safer by investing in clean, money-saving technologies, so that we can leave our kids a safe, stable climate."

Board of Elections staff, county partners express confidence in voting process

Cotniued from cover

"The Department of Emergency Response proudly partners with the Board of Elections and the Sheriff's Office ahead of each general election to ensure that all aspects of public safety are well coordinated," said Commissioner William H. Beale.

"We are proud to be the only county in the state with vote centers, meaning voters can vote at any polling location within their city or town on Election Day," said Jessup, "This is not only a convenience for voters, but a built-in back-up plan in case of any emergency where a poll site experiences a disruption for any reason."

Early voting in Dutchess County begins Oct. 24 at seven sites around the county. Voting in the general election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Voters are encouraged to visit https://elections.dutchessny.gov/ for more information.

The last day to register to vote in the 2026 election is Oct. 24.

DC 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 Jessup. "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."

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."

Voters may also 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."

Visit elections.dutchessny.gov for sample ballots, polling locations and more information.

Early Voting Information

Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 26, noon-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28, noon-8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Drive, Rhinebeck

Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill

Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie

Cornell Cooperative Extension, 2715 Route 44, Millbrook

Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie

Board of Elections Training Center, 4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park

Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls.

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Classified Line Ads
20 words $12.50; each additional word 20¢

Classified Display Ads
$14.50 per column inch

If submitted by deadline, ads appear in three newspapers: Northern Dutchess News, Southern Dutchess News & Beacon Free Press

We are not responsible for typographical errors. A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

Classified Index

100 Help Wanted
105 Employment Opportunity
106 Business Opportunity
107 Situations Wanted
120 Schools
121 Special Instruction
122 Musical Instruction
140 Nursery Schools
141 Child Care
142 Day Care
143 Baby-sitting
145 Adult Care
150 Announcements
151 Adoption
152 Novenas
154 Lost & Found
155 Personal
200 Services
201 Home Improvement
202 Cleaning Services
203 Lawn Services
221 Professional Services
222 Tax Experts
223 Beauty Services
225 Business Services
226 Travel & Services
227 Bridal Services
295 Financial
296 Mortgages
300 Real Estate
301 Townhouses & Condos
302 Commercial Property
304 Mobile Homes
305 Lots & Acreage
400 Townhomes & Condos for rent
401 Apartments for Rent
402 Rooms for Rent
403 Furnished Rooms
404 Furnished Apartments
405 Wanted to Rent
406 Garages for Rent
407 Vacation Rentals
408 Houses for Rent
420 Commercial Rentals
500 Musical Merchandise
501 Kid Stuff
502 Clothing
503 Furniture
504 Appliances
505 Free Items
506 Computers
507 Sports Equipment
508 Exercise Equipment
509 Office Equipment
510 Firewood
511 Lawn & Garden Equip.
512 Winter Merchandise
516 Misc. Merchandise
700 Pets & Supplies
701 Free Pets
702 Lost & Found Pets
703 Pets for Adoption
710 Garage & Yard Sale
711 Tag Sale
712 Moving sale
713 Rummage Sale
714 Flea Market
715 Craft Corner
716 Barn Sale
717 Estate Sale
718 Auctions
719 Antiques
720 Vendors Wanted
721 Wanted to Buy
722 Bazaar
723 Consignments
724 Farmers Market
725 Collectibles
750 Events
800 Boats
801 Campers & Trailers
802 Motor Homes
803 Recreational Vehicles
900 Autos for Sale
901 Vans/SUV's
902 Trucks
903 Motorcycles
904 Auto Parts & Tires
905 Autos Wanted

Contact Us

Call:
845-297-3723

Fax:
845-297-6810

E-Mail:
sdnadvertising@aol.com

Monday-Friday
9 am-4 pm

100 Help Wanted

Qlty Assurance (QA) Assoc (Red Hook, NY) Qlty ctrl. Comply w/ custmr, product, industry stds/safety. Inspecdt products. Instruct staff on troubleshootg issues & product testg. Evaluate product qlty. 35 hrs wk. $27.55/hr. Bach's degree or highr in technology or engineerg field (or for. equiv.) & 6 months quality control or productn mgmt exp. CV to: New Life Technologies & Associates, Attn: E Rosario, 51 Elizabeth St., Red Hook, NY 12571.

200 Services

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-877-290-0023 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

201 Home Improvement

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-877-271-0003

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-877-318-7982

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years ($849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-888-605-1496

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-516-1160 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In-Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-916-5473

201 Home Improvement

Do you know what's in your water? Leaf Home Water Solutions offers FREE water testing and whole home water treatment systems that can be installed in as little one day. 15% off your entire purchase. Plus 10% senior & military discounts. Restrictions apply. Schedule your FREE test today. Call 1-866-247-5728

Professional Services

Senior Care Personal Assistant/Companion
Do you need help organizing Meal Prep, Medication Reminder, Assist with Groceries. I'm your Extra Hand. CPR/First Aid Certified and fully vacinated.
Call Jane: 203-450-5819

204 Health

Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-855-484-2093.

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-536-0251



219 Attorney Legal

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-877-315-0990.. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider

226 Travel Services

SAVE ON YOUR TRAVEL PLANS! Up to 75% More than 500 AIRLINES and 300,000 HOTELS across the world. Let us do the research for you for FREE! Call: 877 988 7277

295 Financial

End your tax worries today. Let us make your tax problem our priority. Scared, stuck with high tax amounts? Our A+ tax professionals can help. Call for a FREE consultation. Call Priority Tax now 1-877-663-7719

300 Real Estate

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-704-5670

516 Misc. Merchandise

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-844-919-1682



521 Internet

AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-877-461-0663

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To $600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-782-4069

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just $25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-329-9391

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Direct and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package $84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

905 Autos Wanted

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2026. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-484-3467 today!

Donate your car today, running or not. Support Patriotic Hearts for our Veterans and their Families! Free fast pickup. May be tax deductible. Se habla Espanol. Call now: 844-415-1229

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Call Classified's at 845-297-3723

Ask for Classified's at Ext. 1003 for more information

· Southern Dutchess News
· Beacon Free Press
• Northern Dutchess News

Classified

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CarDonation2Veterans 877-466-1103

Here's to a Great School Year!
Wishing all students, teachers, and families **a happy and safe year!**
Kimberlee Markarian
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As a consistent top producer fo the last 28 years, I would like the opportunity to help you, as I have the knowledge & experience to et the job done.
Associate Real Estate Broker
m. 845.505.9174 | d. 845.244.2188
kmarkarian@bhhshudsonvalley.com
kimberleemarkarian.bhhshudsonvalley.com
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6370

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PPLD Big Read presents Tanisha Mitchell with 'Cotton: The Dream and Hope of the Slave'

Join the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD) for their 2026 Poughkeepsie Big Read events, scheduled to run from Saturday, Oct. 17 – Tuesday, Nov. 24. The Big Read is an annual program intended to encourage the community to read, discuss, and participate in thematic events. On Friday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m., the library will host Tanisha Mitchell Presents "Cotton: The Dream and Hope of the Slave" at the Beulah Baptist Church at 92 Catharine Street in Poughkeepsie, which honors the African-American experience during slavery through spirituals, art, and slave narratives. Mitchell, the soprano and librarian behind the popular Opera Talks, will present her research and perform two live spirituals.

Cotton's presentation will run for three acts, with Act One highlighting enslaved children who witnessed families torn apart and auctioned off. Act Two will look at the role religion played in keeping slaves in a submissive position, and its role in the practice of slavery being questioned, followed by a narrative of a slave, Uncle Silas, questioning his deliverance from slavery. Act Three covers emancipation, and the motivation for escape, as well as the role of spirituals in conveying codes for escape.

Mitchell is a soprano and librarian, and runs a popular program, Opera Talks, an arts outreach company that brings a new spin to opera lectures using technology, artifacts, and live performance to teach and inspire audiences. Mitchell was named a "Mover and Shaker" by Library Journal and is known for her work in the arts in New York City, Long Island, and beyond. She is the arts coordinator at the Freeport Memorial Library, where she brings a new perspective to classical music and archival programming. For more information about these events, follow the Poughkeepsie Public Library District on Facebook and Instagram, visit the website at https://poklib.org, or call 845-485-3445 ext. 3707.



Tanisha Mitchell

-Courtesy photo

· Southern Dutchess News
· Beacon Free Press
• Northern Dutchess News

Classified

SDN Subscriber ads

145 Adult Care

Experienced Caregiver looking for Part time or Full time.
Call: 845-896-8120

107 Situations Wanted

Cleaning person wanted. Reasonable rates, Wappingers Falls near Hannaford store. 845-297-4741

408 House for Rent

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

409 Roommates Wanted

House ToShare First Class Home New Windsor NY, $1,200 a month all utilities included. 845-401-7654



501 Kid Stuff

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



503 Furniture

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

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

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

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

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

503 Furniture

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

Bunk bed new with mattress, $400. Call: 845-401-7654

508 Exercise Equipment

For Sale Cubii JRI under desk eliptical Bike Pedal Exerciser practically new, $125. 845-297-2925

516 Misc. Merchandise

Power Wheelchair Jazzy Elite 14 $800. Folding lift/carrier for car to transport chair $200. 914-456-7576

Couch, Loveseat, NEW Dining Set with 6 chairs, dressers, Xmas items, Desk, Mannequine, Fancy King headboard, New Jets Jacket. Call: 845-485-7363

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

516 Misc. Merchandise

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

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

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

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

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

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

516 Misc. Merchandise

Mobility Electric Scooter, Never Used, $495. Call: 914-456-6813

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

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

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

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

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



516 Misc. Merchandise

4-BMW Alloy rims, 15", $200. Warner Aluminum Ext. Ladder, 40', $200. 10,000 BTU Kerosene Heater with Free 2 Containers filled with Kerosene, $100. Call: 845-831-0617

523 Seasonal Merchandise

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

900 Autos For Sale

Car Getting A Little Old? Sell It Here!

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

Pets for Adoption

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

710 Yard Sale

Newburgh
52 North Plank Rd
October 24th
Household furniture, Grandmother Clock, Old Storage Trunk, Misc. Glassware, etc.

Pets for Adoption

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



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

FREE!

PRIVATE PARTY NOT FOR BUSINESS USE

Classified Ad

for ***Southern Dutchess News*** Subscribers only
*Your personal use only *Restrictions apply *One word per line

				(Home phone)

Name: _____ **ID#:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

SORRY, WE CANNOT TAKE THE SUBSCRIBERS' FREE LINE ADS OVER THE PHONE
Ads must be received by 12 noon the Friday prior to publication. We cannot acknowledge receipt of ads.
Free ads run "space available." We do not guarantee placement.
Email (with "Free line ad" as the subject) your subscription name, address, phone number, & subscriber ID, along with your ad to: **sdnadvertising@aol.com**
Ads should be limited to 20 words including a contact phone number (must be included in ad).
If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.
Faxes are accepted, but not recommended. **Our fax number is: (845) 297-6810**
Ads run for 2 weeks. If after 2 weeks you wish your ad to run again, it must be resubmitted.
We reserve the right to modify or reject any ads.
Southern Dutchess News, 84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

___ Yes, send me the Southern Dutchess News for the next 52 weeks for just $10.
Call to ask about our 2 & 3 yr. prices!!!

Payment Method
___ Check
___ Money Order
___ Credit Card
Visa__ Mastercard___ Discover___

Card # _____
Exp. Date: _____ **Access Code:** _____
Signature: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____
Zip Code: _____ **Phone:** _____
Email: _____

Mail Coupon To:
Southern Dutchess News
84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Coupon must accompany payment

Legal Notices Legal Notices Legal Notices Legal Notices Legal Notices Legal Notices Legal Notices

DUTCHESS COUNTY 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

LEGAL NOTICE

ALL POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026

GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-120 of the New York State Election Law, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will be a General Election held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in Dutchess County. The polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

We, Erik J. Haight and Lisa Jessup, Commissioners of Elections for the County of Dutchess, State of New York, do hereby certify the following offices and propositions that may be lawfully voted for in the said election.

The offices and propositions to be voted on are listed below:

(1) STATE GOVERNOR
(1) STATE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(1) STATE COMPTROLLER
(1) STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL
(3) 9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
(1) REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – DISTRICT 17
(1) REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – DISTRICT 18
(1) NYS STATE SENATOR – DISTRICT 39
(1) NYS STATE SENATOR – DISTRICT 41
(1) NYS MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – DISTRICT 103
(1) NYS MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – DISTRICT 104
(1) NYS MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – DISTRICT 105
(1) NYS MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – DISTRICT 106

DUTCHESS COUNTY
(1) SHERIFF
(25) MEMBER OF DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

TOWN OF AMENIA
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) TOWN JUSTICE
(1) MEMBER OF TOWN COUNCIL – UNEXPIRED TERM

TOWN OF BEEKMAN
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) TOWN CLERK – UNEXPIRED TERM

TOWN OF CLINTON
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR

TOWN OF DOVER
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) TOWN CLERK – UNEXPIRED TERM
(1) TOWN JUSTICE
(1) TAX COLLECTOR

TOWN OF EAST FISHKILL
(1) TOWN JUSTICE

TOWN OF HYDE PARK
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(4) MEMBER OF TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN OF LAGRANGE
(1) TOWN JUSTICE

TOWN OF MILAN
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) TOWN JUSTICE

TOWN OF PAWLING
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) TOWN JUSTICE

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) TOWN JUSTICE

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS – UNEXPIRED TERM

TOWN OF RHINEBECK
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) MEMBER OF TOWN COUNCIL – UNEXPIRED TERM

TOWN OF STANFORD
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) TOWN CLERK
(1) SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS
(1) MEMBER OF TOWN COUNCIL – UNEXPIRED TERM

TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(6) MEMBER OF TOWN COUNCIL
(1) LIBRARY TRUSTEE

TOWN OF UNION VALE
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(1) TOWN CLERK
(1) TOWN JUSTICE
1) SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS
1) TAX COLLECTOR

VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK
2) TRUSTEE

VILLAGE OF PAWLING
(2) TRUSTEE

TOWN OF WAPPINGER
(1) TOWN SUPERVISOR
(4) MEMBER OF TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
(1) MEMBER OF TOWN COUNCIL – UNEXPIRED TERM

CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
(1) LIBRARY TRUSTEE

PROPOSITIONS:

BEEKMAN
SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF BEEKMAN FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE BEEKMAN LIBRARY BE AT SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TEN ($679,910) DOLLARS ANNUALLY?

EAST FISHKILL
SHALL THE TOWN BOARD'S RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BORROWING $20,000,000.00 (MILLION) DOLLARS FOR UP TO 30 YEARS TO ACQUIRE PARCELS OF LAND, OR RIGHTS OR INTERESTS IN SUCH LAND, FOR PASSIVE PARK PURPOSES AND THE PRESER VATION OF OPEN SPACE AND PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE TOWN BE APPROVED?

PINE PLAINS

Legals continued on next page

LEGAL NOTICE

DUTCHESS COUNTY EARLY VOTING FOR THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION POLLS ARE OPEN FOR EARLY VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

Saturday, October 24:	9AM – 5PM
Sunday, October 25:	9AM – 5PM
Monday, October 26:	Noon – 8PM
Tuesday, October 27:	9AM – 5PM
Wednesday, October 28:	Noon – 8PM
Thursday, October 29:	9AM – 5PM
Friday, October 30:	9AM – 5PM
Saturday, October 31:	9AM – 5PM
Sunday, November 1:	9AM – 5PM

At any of the following locations:

Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Drive, Rhinebeck
Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill
Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie
Cornell Cooperative Center, 2715 US-44, Millbrook
Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie
Board of Election's Training Facility, 4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park
Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappinger

LISA JESSUP and ERIK J. HAIGHT, COMMISSIONERS
DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
112 DELAFIELD STREET, SUITE 200 POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601 845-486-2473
www.elections.dutchessny.gov

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-116-26
Representative Payee Administration Services
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., October 27, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-96-26
Ready-Mix Concrete On-Site and/or from the Plant
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd day of November 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

LEGAL NOTICE
Resolution 2026174
October 15, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the County Attorney of Dutchess County in the County Office Building, County Attorney's Conference Room, 5th Floor, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, on the 29th day of October 2026 at 10:00 AM, on the following local law:

A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE ROAD USERS - RESOLUTION 2026174.

At said time and place, all parties interested will be heard.

Dated:
October 15, 2026
Susan Serino
Poughkeepsie, New York
Dutchess County Executive

Constitution Marathon reading set for Oct. 28

Arts Mid-Hudson will present Constitution Marathon Reading, a free community event hosted by Ruth Danon and Mike Jurkovic on Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 1-5 p.m. at the Cornell Creative Arts Center in Kingston. Participants will read the complete U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, creating space for reflection, questions, and discussion about the meaning of these founding documents in today's democracy.

Americans often speak proudly of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but how well do we understand what these documents mean for a challenged democracy? The Constitution Marathon Reading invites community members to read and listen to the words together, ask questions, exchange ideas, and peacefully assemble. The event encourages participants to engage with these foundational texts and consider their continued significance in civic life.

The readings are a creative collaboration by Ruth Danon, Stephanie JT Russell, and Mike Jurkovic. Danon currently serves as Dutchess County Poet Laureate, while Jurkovic serves as Ulster County Poet Laureate. Through this collaborative reading, participants of all ages are invited to take part in a shared experience centered on civic engagement, dialogue, and the rights of the people.

The event is free and open to people of all ages.

Diversions

SUDOKU

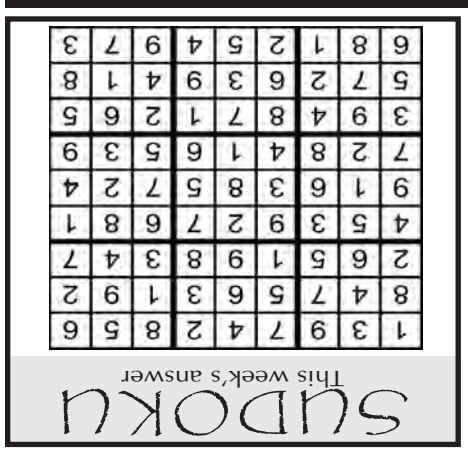


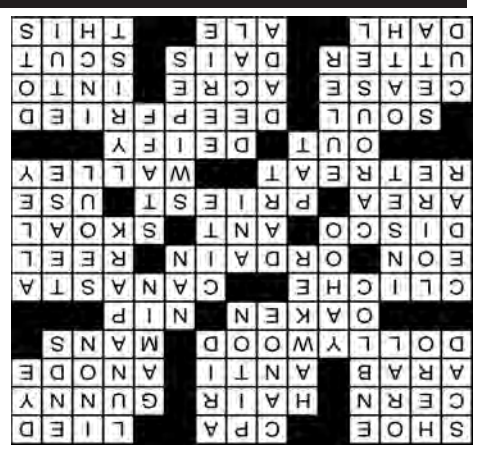
1			7				5	6
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6	8				4			3

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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.

this week's puzzle solutions



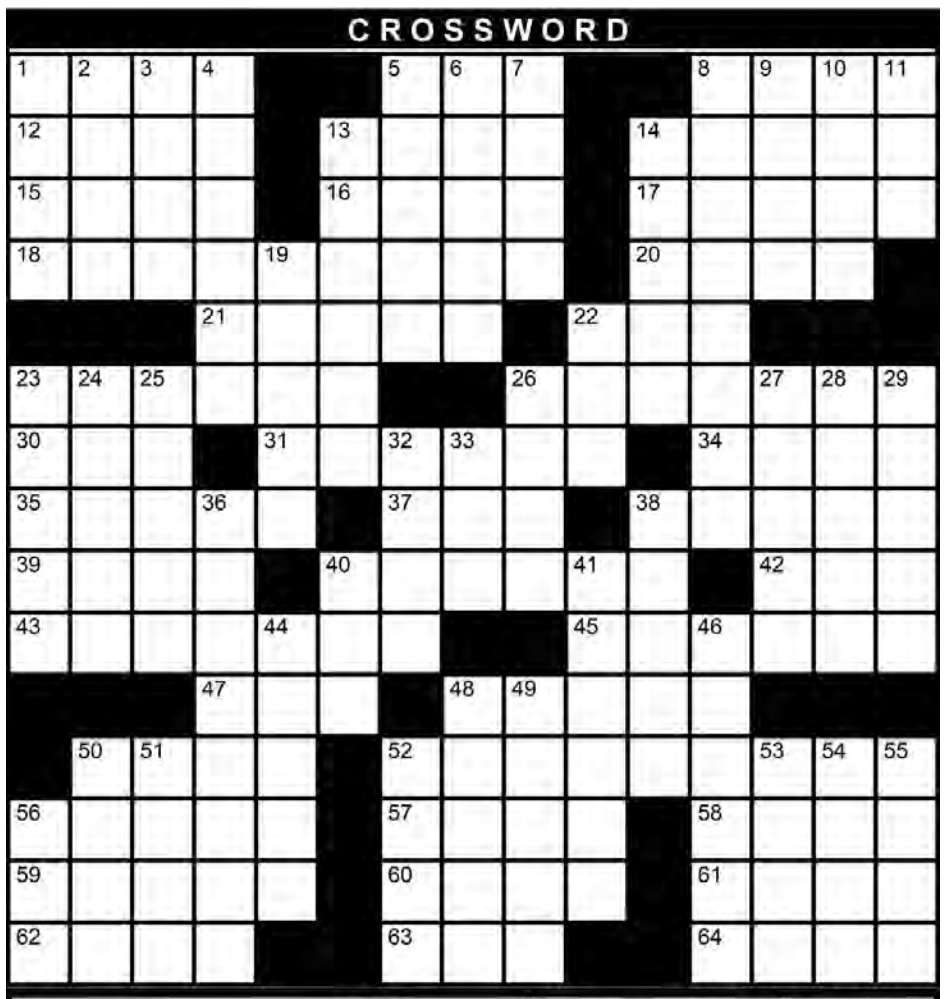


THEME: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ACROSS
1. Trampled
5. Dashboard unit, acr.
8. "Be quiet," onomatopoeically speaking
11. Clean the whiteboard, e.g.
12. Morally wicked
13. Former anesthetic
15. Bad luck precursor
16. Banned apple spray
17. *Ringo Starr's instrument, pl.
18. *Home of the bagpipes
20. Big one, at 7-Eleven
21. Contemplate
22. Jewelry stone
23. Hindu queens
26. Something earned
30. Tokyo, formerly
31. *Riddim pair music genre
34. Spock's famous body parts
35. *Animal, source of violin bow strings
37. Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf ____"
38. Away from port (2 words)
39. Not much (2 words)
40. Post-graduate journey?
42. Always, to a poet
43. Baby bear (2 words)
45. Beach-comber's collection
47. Choler
48. Popular pie nut
50. Glazier's unit
52. *Flute player
55. Pointy teeth
56. 36 inches
57. Sticky stuff
59. Hot ____ buns
60. Code word for K
61. Mauritania's Eastern neighbor
62. Soda pop container
63. Ems follower
64. Highest point

DOWN
1. *Piano has at least ____ pedals
2. Part of a glass, pl.
3. Leading oil-producers' grp.
4. Indicate
5. Home to Teatro alla Scala
6. Popular core exercise
7. Deer social group
8. Synagogue
9. Cannabis plant
10. Store posting, abbr.
12. Old-fashioned carry-on bag
13. Straight ones in drafter's toolbox
14. *Louis Armstrong's instrument
19. "And Then ____ Were None"
22. "Wow!"
23. User's "getaway"
24. Sun-dried brick
25. Water wheel
26. Intense anger
27. Painter's prop
28. Angler's basket
29. Former Russian leaders
32. Snatch
33. Toothy fish
36. *Lute family instruments
38. "Perfect" Buddhist
40. Theatrical prompt
41. Former Portuguese money
44. Edible herb
46. Brain teaser
48. Like average Jane
49. British peers
50. Prefix for "beyond"
51. Any minute, arch.
52. Type of fish net
53. Daytime TV program
54. Enameled metalware
55. Federal Communications Commission
58. *Standard number of strings on guitar

CROSSWORD





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Legal Notices

Legal continued from previous page

PINE PLAINS
SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF PINE PLAINS FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE PINE PLAINS FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED TO THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($231,000) ANNUALLY?

PLEASANT VALLEY
SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY FIFTEEN THOUSAND ($15,000) DOLLARS TO THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND ($552,000) ANNUALLY?

RHINEBECK
SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF RHINEBECK FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE STARR LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS ($48,000) TO THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED NINTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS ($594,800) ANNUALLY?

STANFORD
SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF STANFORD FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE STANFORD FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY SIX THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS ($6,600) TO THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED AND SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS ($207,000) ANNUALLY?

WASHINGTON
SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE MILLBROOK LIBRARY BE INCREASED FROM THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND ($349,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO THREE HUNDRED NINTY-NINE THOUSAND ($399,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY?

PLEASE NOTE THAT COMPLETE COPIES OF THE ABOVE PROPOSALS AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC AT THE DUTCHESS COUNTY COUNCIL OF ELECTIONS, 112 DELAFIELD ST SUITE 200, POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK (845) 486-2473
www.dutchesselections.com
LISA JESSUP and ERIK J HAIGHT, Commissioners of Elections

A toast to perfectly imperfect family holidays

Former Dutchess County resident to discuss funny and touching memoir Oct. 29 at Morton Library.

By Kristine Coulter

A talk and book signing with Danny Lettieri about his newly published holiday memoir, "Ho Ho, OH NO! Twelve True Stories of Tinsel, Bedlam, & Unconditional Love," will be held at Morton Library in Rhinecliff on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Lettieri, who grew up in Dutchess County, said he did not set out to write a book. He explained the book, which is a collection of holiday stories with his parents and four siblings (3 brothers and 1 sister) and into the present day with his husband, Vance, began when he started writing about tales from his childhood. Lettieri said it took about a year to write the book.

The book, whose chapters play on the "Twelve Days of Christmas" theme, is described as "Hallmark dreams collide with real life in funny (and true!) holiday tales."

One of the recollections Lettieri shares is about his Aunt Connie. In the chapter titled "On the Second Day of Christmas, My Sister Danced with Me," Lettieri describes his tough-as-nails aunt: "During the week, Aunt Connie worked at a factory called Ward Leonard in Bronxville - a job she had proudly held since World War II." But come Saturday, she traded her workday clothes for glamorous outfits to go dancing with her date, Fred.

"It was amazing. During the week she was 'we can do it,' and on the weekend, the transformation, my sister, Kathy, and I would be in awe," Lettieri recalled about his aunt.

As Fred whisked Aunt Connie off to the Roseland Ballroom, Danny and Kathy were inspired to imitate them in a nontraditional way.

"One might think that the role of Connie would be played by my sister and that I would take on the role of Fred. Guess again," Lettieri wrote.

In another story, Lettieri recalls watching the holiday classic, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," a show that held a very personal theme for him.

"Every Christmas season when I watched it, I fantasized about my own bullies realizing just how mean and hurtful they were," he wrote. "In my dreams, when I walked into the classroom, they would all proclaim, 'Merry Christmas, Danny Lettieri!' and start singing in heavenly, innocent voices. Obviously, that never happened, but seeing Charlie Brown every year gave me some small hope that one day, it could."



Author Danny Lettieri.

-Photo by Norm Yoshida

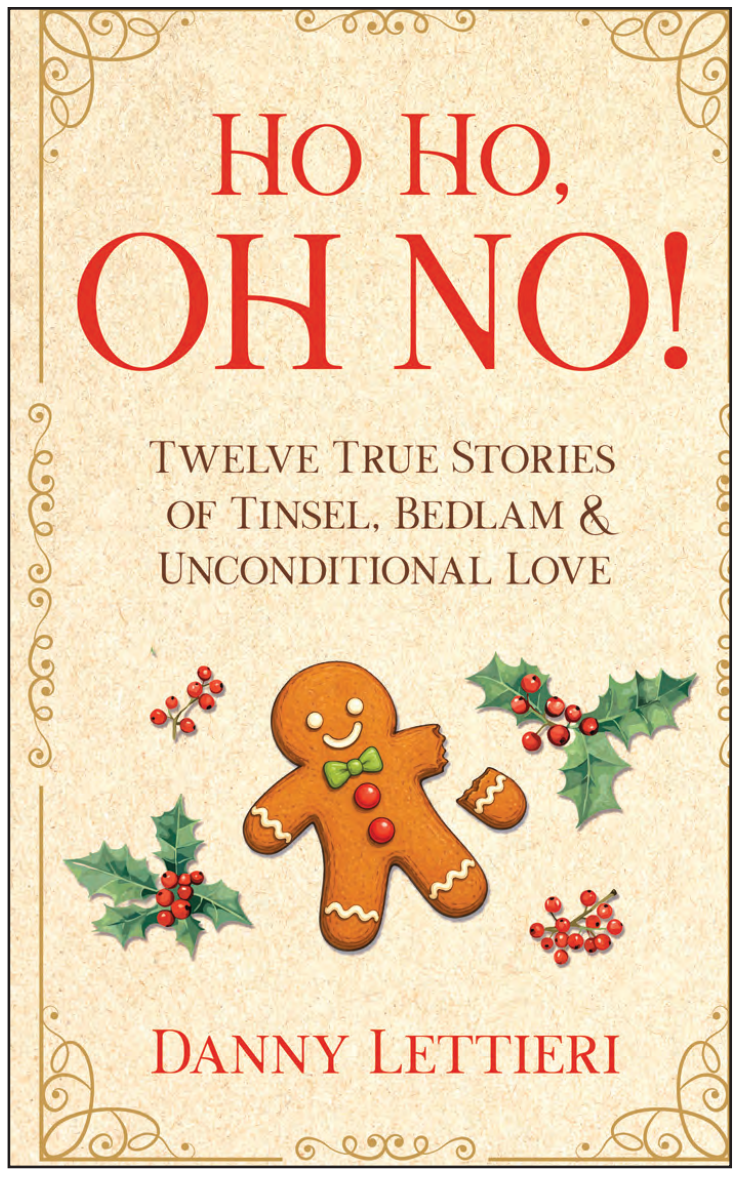
Describing the Christmases past when he was growing up, Lettieri said they were "very emotional, a lot of happy moments; but as we got older, the family drifted," calling it a "free for all" during his high school years.

"I was afraid to show my family the book, but they all love it, especially the Aunt Connie stories. They were laughing. I was pleasantly surprised," Lettieri replied when asked how his relatives reacted to his holiday memoir.

In one chapter, "On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, I'm Taking Down My Tree," Lettieri describes how the action of putting up and taking down ornaments evokes special memories.

"During the Christmas season, I know that friends and family who are no longer with me are also looking down at the tree (and some are looking up!). In those moments, we are all together again celebrating," he wrote.

Asked about the true meaning of Christmas, Lettieri replied, "For me the true meaning of Christmas is combining the past and the present. I remember the past - the people who made Christmas special when I was little. And then the present – I live in the moment, I try not to think about anything else."



The cover of "Ho Ho, OH NO! Twelve True Stories of Tinsel, Bedlam, & Unconditional Love."

-Courtesy image

Writing the book gave Lettieri a gift, he said.

He explained, "For me writing this book, one of the best things that happened to me, I was able to resolve issues between me and my mom and dad." He said he was not as close to his mom at the end of her life as when he was younger. As he wrote, Lettieri said he saw how "amazing" his mother was raising five kids and seeing all she did to make each Christmas season special for them.

Lettieri said about "Ho Ho, OH NO!," "I feel it's a good combination of happy and bittersweet; it's life."

The Author Talk begins at 6:30 p.m. at 82 Kelly St. in Rhinecliff. Registration is requested via EventBrite: "Author event - Danny Lettieri Ho Ho, OH NO!"

Learn more about the author at www.dannylettieri.com.

Danny Lettieri is the brother of Northern Dutchess News Editor Kate Goldsmith - "Kathy" in his book.

Fall Fun returns to Carnwath Farms with Annual Fall Festival & Pumpkin Painting

Get ready for an afternoon of fall fun, creativity, music and community at Carnwath Farms Historic Site and Park. Friends of Carnwath Farms and The Sports Museum of Dutchess County will host their fourth annual Fall Festival & Pumpkin Painting on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

This family-friendly celebration offers something for everyone. While supplies last, children can pick up a free mini pumpkin to paint (courtesy of Adams Fairacre Farms in Wappingers Falls), and let their creativity run wild. Visitors can also discover hands-on activities and exhibits from the Science Club Hudson Valley and the Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society, enjoy live music from local musicians (courtesy of music sponsor: Lotz of Guitars), and soak in the sights and sounds of autumn at one of the Hudson Valley's most special destinations.

And there's plenty more to explore. Guests are invited to wander the grounds of Carnwath Farms, a nearly 100-acre Town of Wappinger park featuring hiking trails, historic buildings and spectacular views of the Hudson River.

The Dog House food truck will be on site offering food available for purchase. Attendees can also try their luck with raffle baskets filled with donated items from local nonprofit organizations and businesses.

"Carnwath Farms and the Sports Museum are often called 'hidden gems,'" said Sports Museum President Bill Ponte. "We encourage community members and others to take advantage of the beautiful fall weather, bring the family and come discover all that this special place has to offer."

With pumpkins to paint, music to enjoy, trails to explore and plenty of autumn fun for the whole family, the Fall Festival and Pumpkin Painting is the perfect way to spend a fall Sunday in the Hudson Valley.

Carnwath Farms is at 81 Carnwath Farms Lane, Wappingers Falls.

For more information, please visit https://friendsofcarnwathfarm.org.



The annual Fall Festival & Pumpkin Painting will take place at Carwath Farms on Saturday, Oct. 25.

-Courtesy photos