

BEACON FREE PRESS

Hocus Pocus
Parade to highlight
'unforgettable day'

By Kristine Coulter

The annual Hocus Pocus Parade is coming to Beacon. The parade will take place on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 3 p.m. on Main St.

Parade lineup is at 2:30 p.m. at Polhill Park. The parade will end at Veterans Place. From 3-6 p.m., in the Veterans Place parking lot, there will be the First Responders Trunk or Treat.

Do not forget about the Black Cat Scavenger Hunt.

"This year, we're thrilled to unite the Parade and the Black Cat Scavenger Hunt into one unforgettable day, packed with a range of activities that ensure families can dive into all the Halloween festivities without compromise. On October 25th, Beacon will come alive with something special for everyone of all ages. Kick off your Halloween adventure with the Black Cat Scavenger Hunt from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.—a thrilling quest to discover hidden cardboard black cats scattered throughout businesses along Main Street," said Brunson Stafford, who is organizing the event this year and is a licensed real estate agent with the Gate House Team at Compass in Beacon.

"Look for stores adorned with an orange pumpkin in their window, as these locations will host the elusive black cats. Participating businesses will also offer "passports" for stamping with each cat found, and for every 15 stamps collected, participants can claim a prize at either Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hudson Valley Properties (226 Main St.) or The Gate House Team at Compass (490 Main St.," advised Stafford.

"After the hunt, immerse yourself in the vibrant Halloween Parade from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., where creative costumes will take center stage. At the same time, Beacon first responders are hosting a Trunk or Treat at Veterans Place from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., providing a safe and delightful trick-or-treating experience for the little ones," said Stafford. "Meanwhile, at Happy Valley, enjoy a day filled with video games and snacks from [Noon] to 7 p.m., and make sure to catch the family-friendly costume contest from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., where winners will be awarded gift cards from Beacon businesses. As night descends, adults can look forward to a lively 21+ Halloween party at Happy Valley from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., featuring a spirited costume contest between 10 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., with winners receiving gift cards from local businesses."

Organizers anticipate "a larger turnout than last year" thanks to the variety of activities to choose from and the new schedule," said Stafford, who noted everything is "conveniently happening on one day."

"Everyone loves Halloween, and this year's celebration offers a fantastic opportunity not only to enjoy the festivities but also to support local businesses. The Black Cat Scavenger Hunt has been particularly successful for Beacon businesses, drawing in people who might not have ventured into these shops otherwise and often resulting in return visits for purchases in the following weeks. We're proud to announce that this year, we have the largest number of businesses participating in the scavenger hunt—around 95 businesses are involved! This event is a wonderful way to explore our local community while celebrating Halloween in a fun and engaging way," he said.

Stafford added, "We're excited to see how this year's event goes and look forward to growing our partnership with local businesses in the future!"

Volume 74, Number 43

October 22, 2025



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4



Incumbent Aymar-Blair, Truitt
vie for County Comptroller role

By Curtis Schmidt

Incumbent Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair faces the challenge of Will Truitt in this year's local election. Early voting begins on Oct. 25 and Nov. 4 is Election Day.

Aymar-Blair defeated Gregg Pulver in 2024 and served the final year of the four-year term of Robin Lois, a Democrat who resigned to become the state's deputy comptroller for local government and school accountability.

Aymar-Blair, a Democrat, emphasizes 20 years of experience in government financial operations, including 15 years at New York City Public Schools where he served as Chief Operating Officer for Teaching and Learning, which he states had a budget as large as that of Dutchess County. He also served on the Beacon City Council from 2020-2024.

Truitt, a Republican and current chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature, highlights his management of the finances of a local, family-owned construction company for the past eight years, which makes millions of dollars in annual revenue. As Chairman of the Legislature's Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, he led the adoption of a budget in excess of \$630 million.

In response to a question on the main issues in the race, Aymar-Blair said, "Just like Sheriff and District Attorney elections, voters are more often looking at competence, not party affiliation. So the



Dan Aymar-Blair



Will Truitt

main issue in the race is competence."

He added, "As Comptroller, my job is to identify patterns of weakness in our policies and procedures and internal controls. The main patterns I have identified are a systemic lack of planning and reckless real estate deals. Dutchess County needs to do better in these areas."

He identified two examples and said, "Better planning saves money and delivers better results for taxpayers."

Truitt stressed the affordability issue and said, "In a state that makes it uniquely challenging to afford to stay here, we must do all that we can locally to blunt this trend. That is why in my 10 years of

service in the legislature, we have reduced the county property tax rate every year. We have done all this while maintaining a healthy reserve account of approximately \$100 million and maintaining an S&P bond rating of AA+; the highest in the state of New York."

He added that in his time in the legislature, "We have created and strengthened many grant programs that put money back where it belongs, in our communities."

The following is the full text of the responses from the two candidates, with the incumbent going first.

Continued on page 9

'I have been given a second chance'

Rombout Fire Co. Asst. Chief thanks heroes who saved his life

By Kristine Coulter

Rombout Fire Company Assistant Chief John Lucariello was with his fellow firefighters, town employees and community members outside the Fishkill Town Hall, where a huge American flag was flying off a Rombout Fire Co. fire truck. The Fishkill Town Board honored Lucariello and the heroes that saved his life earlier this year, during its Oct. 15 meeting at the town hall.

"As I stand here before you all, I can wholeheartedly say, for some reason ...miracles happen - I am living proof. I have been given a second chance. Thank you," Lucariello said in the town hall.

Lucariello collapsed at a scene on Mountainview Road in Fishkill in the early morning hours of Aug. 11. According to a social media post at that time by the Rombout Fire Co. (RFC), it was while investigating an active structure fire, that the assistant chief collapsed. He was "declared dead," it said in the statement.

The statement on social media in August stated, "Five minutes later, in a moment that doctors say they've never seen before, John began breathing again on his own. His heart started beating." Lucariello was first brought to Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, Orange County, and then he was flown to Westchester Medical Center in Westchester County and was under the care of cardiac specialists.

Continued on page 2



Rombout Fire Company Assistant Chief John Lucariello receives a standing ovation during the Town of Fishkill board meeting on Oct. 15 at the Fishkill Town Hall. He thanked those who saved his life on August 11.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

‘I have been given a second chance’

Continued from cover

“Absolutely nothing. Not a thing,” Lucariello replied when asked what he remembers from the day in August. “The only thing I remember is waking up a week later.”

Lucariello returned to work, for the Town of Fishkill Highway Department, in September.

“It’s good to be back at work,” he said.

Fishkill Highway Superintendent remembers phone calls

Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan recalled a phone call he received after Lucariello collapsed.

“I was one of the first ones to get the call that there wasn’t a pulse,” Istvan remembered. Minutes later, Istvan received another call, informing him, ‘John died.’ “My heart stopped, literally. I was very sad and emotional,” said Istvan. Then, after another 10 minutes, “I got a call again, stating they got a pulse. It was amazing!” said Istvan.

It is “great” having Lucariello back at work, said the highway superintendent. “For the guys that support him, the jokes and teasing him, it’s amazing. It’s a miracle!”

Neighbor prays for assistant chief

Luigi Manente said he was asked to share a story about “someone so important, so necessary to his family and community,” that “he fought off death.” Manente was up early praying. “I am the one who called in the fire,” he recalled. He helped carry Lucariello to the front lawn. He went “to go hose down the back deck, because I would much rather put out a fire than to watch someone die.”

“I never witnessed such strong composure and confidence in something, that to me, was so frightening,” Manente said. He said for the previous 3 weeks he was not getting on the road until later, but that day he woke up earlier. He gave thanks to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Manente recalled seeing a firefighter screaming out in pain at the loss of his fellow firefighter. “I asked Mary, ‘if there is anything you can do, please do it now,’” he told those in the town hall. He said at that moment on that day, the Biblical story of Lazarus, who was raised from the dead, came into his mind. He said he didn’t find out the fire chief began breathing on his own until days after the incident. “He is a living miracle,” said Manente.

Rosary beads from Jerusalem were given to him by the owner of the home whose house was on fire that August day. “I asked God to open a door for me” to give the rosary beads to the fire chief. He presented



Members of the Fishkill Town Board and local leaders honor local first responders and community members for saving the life of Rombout Fire Co. Assistant Chief John Lucariello. The event took place on Oct. 15 at the Fishkill Town Hall in Fishkill.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

the rosary beads, which have been blessed by numerous people, to Lucariello. Lucariello received the beads and embraced Manente to a rousing applause from all in the room.

Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall staff’s lifesaving efforts

John Bilancione, Emergency Department Director at Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital, in Orange County, said it was “an unbelievable” event that took place. Bilancione read emails from Dr. Shahram Ahari, Medical Director & Chairman of Emergency Services, who was not there that particular morning, but did follow up. Emails from Daniel Maughan, President & CEO Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital were also shared.

“Your efforts definitely saved a life,” Dr. Ahari stated in his email.

Maughan remarked in his email “reading this message gave me chills” and filled him with pride. Maughan said it was because of the “unshakable commitment” to beat the odds, that Lucariello was saved.

“Every link in the chain was strong,” he said in the email, and noted every moment matters. “Miracles are sometimes made by people who refuse to quit,” he said.

County officials offer thanks

Commissioner of Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response William Beale spoke on behalf of Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. He said it was

“an honor” to speak in front of heroes.

“Each one of you was in the right place at the exact right time and did the exact thing that you needed to do, which beat all the odds that were stacked against you all. I believe, by the grace of God, that this living miracle is here today.” The Lazarus effect is extremely rare, he noted. “John would not be here today without the heroic persistence of every single one of these individuals,” said Beale.

Dutchess County Chairman Will Truitt stated, “Thank you for letting us be here to witness this today. What a beautiful ceremony. He thanked “everyone who played a part in this.” He added, “This story, this miracle ... we are so thankful.”

Legislator Doug McHoul said, jokingly, “Everybody who knows John, knows John loves a crowd giving him attention.” He continued, “John you are a top-notch individual.”

Yvette Valdés Smith ,Dutchess County Legislature Minority Leader, Dutchess County Legislature, said, “Everybody in this room, this is what makes Fishkill, Fishkill.” She said Lucariello is her son’s hero.

“Thank you for all of your service and the service I know you will continue,” said Yvette Valdés Smith.

Legislator Robert Faust said everyone did everything they could for Lucariello and they love him.

Rombout Fire Chief is ‘thankful’

Rombout Fire Company and Fire District Chief Jeff Marino said the members respond to about hundreds of calls a year. They also have a catering service to raise funds, such as the pancake breakfast. “One person that has been integral to all of that” is Lucariello, who has been an all-time responder, said Marino. “He’s a very important guy. So, why’d I tell you all that? To all of you being recognized, not only did you save a life, you may have very well saved our entire organization, [we would have had] to fill a void so large that we may not have fully recovered.”

Marino thanked all the RFC families and members and neighboring fire companies for “stepping up” during this time. He offered appreciation to all who were honored saying their “persistence” was “truly heroic.” “John, we’re so thankful you’re back with us,” remarked Marino.

Council reads and presents proclamations

Councilman Brian Wrye read a proclamation for Manente. “Everything you did put everything else in motion. It started with you, and the Lord was with you,” stated Wrye to Manente

A proclamation was read by Councilman John Forman for Dutchess County Sheriff’s Deputy Ben Concha. Concha evaluated Lucariello and surmised he was having a heart attack, he “immediately began CPR,” said Forman.

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra read a proclamation for Town of Fishkill Officer Dennis Karaman, who drove the ambulance to hospital so two paramedics could stay in back with the assistant fire chief.

“To say that this moment is extraordinary is an understatement,” said Councilman Greg Totino, who read a proclamation for Empress EMS paramedics Gladys Plaza-Guzman and Dustin Moore.

Councilwoman Jacqueline Bardini read the proclamation for those from Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital.

Lucariello offers thanks to community

Lucariello thanked the town board and supervisor for taking time “to honor the people that saved my life.”

He said first responders and the staff at St. Luke’s performed their jobs “flawlessly.” To the Westchester Medical Center cardiac thoracic unit and all doctors and nurses, he said, “I say ‘thank you.’” He offered thanks to fellow firefighters for supporting RFC.

Istvan, he said, was there from the beginning for his family offering support and “being my voice of reason.”

Appreciation was offered to all who offered well wishes, texts and calls, “know, that in my heart, I was thinking of you,” said Lucariello. He is grateful to all police and other first responders who escorted them to and from the hospital.

Lucariello then thanked his family for their outpouring of love and support. “The love you have shown me is truly the love of what family is all about,” he said.

“To my wife Linda, as was mentioned, [after] 26 years, we did get married. When this first happened, you never stopped believing I would survive,” he said. “Thank you. I love from here to eternity.”

Ribbon-cutting ceremony for Ellen’s Place in Poughkeepsie



Mental Health America of Dutchess County (MHA) and CASA of Dutchess County unveiled the Ellen’s Place Outdoor Classroom at Pershing Park, on Friday, Oct. 3.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony welcomed community members, local leaders, and families to celebrate the launch of this nature-based learning space. Inspired by the legacy of Dr. Ellen Lynn Hall, the classroom is designed to nurture curiosity, creativity, and resilience in children from infancy through adolescence.

With support from Dutchess County, Scenic Hudson, City of Poughkeepsie and other partners, Ellen’s Place is poised to serve over 300 children and families, offering a safe and enriching environment for growth and development.

-Courtesy photo

Beacon officer honored for actions at fire scene



City of Beacon Police Officer John Underwood was among several officers, deputies and troopers honored during the Dutchess County Police Officer Hero Dinner last week at Heritage Financial Park in Fishkill.

Officer Underwood was one of the first on the scene of a large house fire on April 15. He encountered two victims with serious burns and got them out of the danger area, flagging down the first responding EMS unit and carrying one of the victims to the ambulance in his arms.

Pictured with Underwood, center, are Officer Nocerino, Sgt. Grey, Chief Thomas Figlia, Lt. Vargas, Officer Connor and Lt. Confield.

-Courtesy photo

Halloween curfew set in Wappingers Falls

Village of Wappingers Falls Clerk John Karge announced By Executive Order of the Mayor of the Village of Wappingers Falls, the Halloween curfew.

During the evening hours of Oct. 30, through Nov. 1, between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. the following day, it shall be unlawful for any minor, anyone under the age of 18, to congregate, loiter, wan-

der, remain or play in or upon any public place, public park, public area, street, road or highway in the Village.

The terms “remain” and “loiter” mean: 1) linger or stay, or 2) fail to leave premises when requested to do so by a police officer, owner, operator, or other person in control of the premises.

Mid Hudson Trout Unlimited (MHTU) will hold its annual Stewardship Dinner and Auction fundraiser

When: November 7, 2025
Time: 6 – 10 p.m.
Location: Beekman Golf Club,
11 Country Club Road,
Hopewell Junction.



Scan Me

This event is open to the public. Tickets, \$65 per person, are available online or \$60 by check payable to MHTU. Send your check to Pat Crisci, 115 Beaver Rd., Lagrangeville, NY 12540.

For more info, please contact patcrisci@aol.com
Proceeds from the dinner and auction will help fund MHTU conservation projects such as stream cleanups, tree plantings, stream and habitat improvement, community outreach.

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Promises Made...

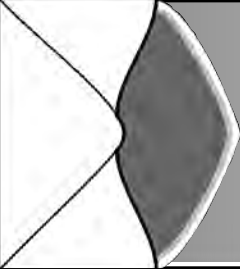
Promises Kept.

Vote Early Oct 25-Nov 2

Election Day Nov 4

Paid for by Friends of Dan Aymar-Blair

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.

‘Wholeheartedly’ supports re-election of McLoughlin

To the Editor:
I had the honor of serving as one of the two County Court judges in Dutchess County from 2011 until 2020, when I retired. County Court is where felony prosecutions, such as murder, robbery, sexual assaults, and drug trafficking are litigated.
One of those judges, Hon. Edward “Ned” McLoughlin has served in that position since his election in 2015. Since our terms overlapped for 5 years, I had the unique perspective of having worked with him on a daily basis handling the most severe crimes that occur in our county. Based on my personal and professional dealings with Judge McLoughlin, I wholeheartedly support his re-election in November.
Before his election to the bench, Judge McLoughlin served as a prosecutor in the Dutchess County District Attorney’s office for more than 20 years. He was one of the best trial lawyers in that office. He never lost a felony trial in County Court during his tenure in the DA’s office.
As a judge, he has brought that same work ethic and experience to the position of County Court judge. His trial decisions are routinely affirmed after defendants convicted after trial file their appeals to the Appellate Division. He is courteous and polite to all who serve on juries or appear as witnesses or as members of the various agencies and departments who have business before his court. Attorneys who practice before him are always treated with respect.
Law enforcement has, in particular, lined up to support his re-election this year because they know he supports their efforts when proper cases are brought before him. He does not shy away from giving a guilty defendant a lengthy prison sentence, when appropriate.
In addition, Judge McLoughlin has been a valuable member of the adjunct faculty at Marist University, teaching criminal law and procedure courses to the next generation of students for more than 20 years.
In my opinion, there is no one more qualified to sit as a member of the County Court bench in Dutchess County than Judge Ned McLoughlin. Please join me in voting for him on November 4th.

Hon. Peter M. Forman (Retired)
Beacon

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Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.
Sept. 17: Identity Theft-Mason Circle- Caller reported being a victim of Identity Theft. Report taken. Investigation.
Sept. 17: Property Damage-Teller Avenue- Brigid C. Murray, 50, of Cold Spring, Putnam County, was charged with Suspended Registration & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.
Sept. 19: Fraud-Municipal Plaza- Caller reported being a victim of Fraud. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 20: Traffic Stop- Beekman Street- Alvin L. Geathers Jr., 46, of Ossining, Westchester County, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.
Sept. 20: Criminal Mischief-Main Street- Caller reported that his car had been scratched with a key. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 21: Hit-and-Run Auto Accident - Cliff Street- Caller reported damage to his car as a result of a hit-and-run accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 22: Parking-Church Street- Unregistered & Uninspected vehicle was towed from a city-owned parking lot. Report on file.
Sept. 23: Fraud- Municipal Plaza- Individual walked into Police Headquarters and reported being a victim of Fraud. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 23: Open Container- Main Street- Joseph C. Istvan, 64, of Beacon was charged with Open Container.
Sept. 24: Unattended Death-Beacon- Officers responded to a call for an Unattended Death. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 24: Hit-and-Run Auto Accident- Eliza Street- Caller reported damage to his vehicle as a result of a hit-and-run accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 25: Warrant- Municipal Plaza -Cory A. Jones, 56, of Newburgh, Orange County, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.
Sept. 25: Trespass-St Lukes Place- Caller reported a suspicious person was trying to gain entry to a neighbor’s home. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 28: Traffic Stop-Ralph Street-Tevin R. Beamon age 34 of Newburgh was charged with a DWI and Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic violations.
Sept. 28: Traffic Stop-Ralph Street-Weldon Hinson III age 34 of Beacon, was charged with Obstructing Government Administration & Resisting Arrest.
Sept. 29: Fraud-Fishkill Landing-Caller reported a phone that she ordered was delivered to the wrong address. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 29: Harassment- Robert Cahill Drive- Caller reported that he was harassed and threatened by an individual that was not known to him. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Sept. 29: Fraud-Tompkins Avenue- Caller reported being a victim of a scam. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Number of Calls: 301

Auto Accidents: 24

Domestics: 2

Early voting starts October 25

Note: Information taken from <https://elections.dutchessny.gov/early-voting/>
Early voting for the Nov. 4 General Election begins on Saturday, Oct. 25, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 2. (In-person early voting is not available on Nov. 3, the day before the Election Day.) Dutchess County voters may visit any early voting site in the county. Please be aware that your typical poll site is likely closed for early voting.

Locations:
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

Schedule
Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 27, noon-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 29, noon-8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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. 29 issue. Please note that we will NOT run negative letters against any candidate in the Oct. 29 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.

Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Poughkeepsie seeks volunteers

Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Poughkeepsie has a need for volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday, picking up the meals at 11 a.m. & delivering them to clients in the greater Poughkeepsie area. The most immediate need is for Thursdays. One can volunteer once a week or once a month...whatever fits one’s schedule and ours.
Please call Judy Lombardi or Amy Abrahams at 845-452-2245 for more information.

County legislators face challenges in 15 districts

Compiled by Curtis Schmidt

The Dutchess County Legislature is divided into 25 districts. This year, legislators face challenges from opponents in 15 districts and 10 have no opponents - five Democrats and five Republicans.

Early Voting begins on Oct. 25. The general election is Nov. 4.

Incumbents and challengers were asked to provide information on their background and why they are running for election/re-election and what they see as the main issues facing the county and in their area in particular.

In this report, 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.

Bob Gorman - Republican
District 1, Town of Poughkeepsie



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.

I am in my first term as a Dutchess County Legislator. I

am currently a member of the Legislature's Environment Committee and the Public Works & Capital Projects Committee. I also serve as a liaison to the Dutchess Community College Board of Trustees.

I am committed to holding the line on taxes and ensuring the fiscal health of Dutchess County. That is why in the most recent budget I voted to decrease the property tax rate for Dutchess County taxpayers. This was achieved while maintaining the highest bond rating in New York State and keeping a strong balance in reserves. I will continue to support budgets that keep a lid on taxes and maintain Dutchess County's strong fiscal position.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

I believe in putting money back into the community in a variety of ways. This year, I have supported grant programs that have allocated \$150,000 for our veterans, \$500,000 for our seniors, and \$100,000 for our local historic societies. I will continue to advocate for grant funding that sends money back to the community in future budgets.

Supporting our police and first responders are a top priority of mine. I have been an advocate for an increased investment in our Drug Task Force, for the establishment of a Real Time Crime Center, and for \$2 million in funding for supplemental EMS coverage in Dutchess County. I will continue to advocate for investment in our first responders to prioritize the safety of my constituents.

Trevor Redl – Democrat
District 1, Town of Poughkeepsie



Please give your background and why you are running for election.

I am a lifelong Dutchess resident, Marist graduate, and community leader.

Raised in a family of small business owners, I know how hard it is to keep our community affordable and thriving. As Housing Chair and founder of the Poughkeepsie Weekly, I've fought for families and local businesses, and now I'm running for County Legislature. If elected, my goal is to deliver Dutchess County's first comprehensive housing plan so that we can create more affordability for our families, seniors, and the next generation of residents. When businesses look to invest here, one of the reasons they don't is because of housing supply and the cost of it. Housing is very much so linked to our local job market and opportunities. Importantly, I've talked to hundreds of families across the district and I have heard directly what their concerns are locally. My goal is to turn those specific concerns into action, starting day one when elected I want everyone to feel that the county government sees them, hears them, and is actively working for them.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

The most pressing issues are housing costs, high taxes, and making sure the government works for people, not special interests. My campaign is focused on leading Dutchess County's first housing plan so families can stay rooted here, cutting red tape so small businesses can thrive, and keeping money local by investing tax dollars in our own communities. I'm also fighting for better buses and safer streets, walkable and bikeable neighborhoods, and phasing out the polluting incinerator with a responsible waste plan. I believe that when families feel safe and connected to our community, when the government actionably works for them, we can grow a stronger community.

Ryan Travelpiece – Republican
District 2, Lagrange, Pleasant Valley, Town of Poughkeepsie



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.

I am currently serving my first term as a Dutchess County Legislator represent-

ing parts of the Towns of LaGrange, Pleasant Valley and Poughkeepsie. I currently serve as the Vice Chair of the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee and as a member of the Family & Human Services Committee. I am also the representative of the legislature on the Audit Review Board, the Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council, and the Youth Board & Coordinating Council.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

Property taxes are one of the top concerns I hear from constituents. While the county portion of the property tax bill represents a very small portion, it is important that we keep them in check. I bring a lifetime of experience in the financial sector to my work in the legislature. As the Vice Chair of the Budget Committee, in my first budget as a legislator, I was proud to champion a budget that reduced the property tax rate by 2.7%. We must continue this trajectory by maintaining our healthy bond rating, keeping a robust fund balance and implementing smart budgeting practices that fund essential service at the best value to the taxpayer. My background in finance prepares me well for this challenge.

I am a proponent of doing all that we can to support our veterans. That is why I supported \$100,000 in grants for veterans' organizations and an additional \$50,000 to bolster transportation options for our veterans in the most recent budget. I would like to see Dutchess County continue to fund these programs that seek to enrich the lives of

those who served us.

Public safety must be a top priority for any government. In my first term, I was proud to support funding for a groundbreaking Real Time Crime Center in Dutchess County that will bolster law enforcement's ability to rapidly respond and better protect our residents. I was also proud to support \$2 million for supplemental EMS services in Dutchess County. We must continue to fund this program as the state fails to act on the EMS crisis that is facing every county across New York State.

Emma Arnoff – Democrat
District 2, Lagrange, Pleasant Valley, Town of Poughkeepsie



Please give your background and why you are running for election.

I've dedicated my life to serving our community. As a social worker, I've

helped families through challenges and connected them with the support they need. When I started The Sensory Space, it was to give children and parents a place where they feel welcome and understood. I've also coached Little League, partnered with local schools, and worked with groups like

Astor Services and Think Differently to make sure every child has the chance to thrive.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

Our biggest challenges in Dutchess County are our rising cost of living, the housing shortage, and underfunded mental health and emergency services. Families, students, and seniors are struggling to stay here, and we need our county government to do more. I'll fight wasteful county spending while focusing on solutions that make life more affordable and safe: expanding mental health services, building more housing, and strengthening EMS and public transportation. Our county government is not doing enough to make Dutchess County affordable for the people who live and work here, and I'm running to change that.

Michael Polasek – Republican
District 3, LaGrange



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.

I have been proud to serve the residents of LaGrange and Dutchess County for

the past six years. For the past two years, I have served as the Assistant Majority Leader. Together with my colleagues, we have: Supported a cut to county property taxes for 2025, created a real-time crime center in collaboration with the Sheriff's office and the District Attorney, continued investment in the Drug Task Force resulting in a 50% drop in overdose deaths, invested \$2 million in supplemental EMS service, which has led to reduced response times, created a Department of Mental Health to focus on the growing need to help our residents, made Veterans Affairs a distinct unit of County Government, estab-

lished a Youth Wellness Microgrant Program, continued to invest in our regional airport, which now operates at a profit to the County and approved historic investments in Dutchess Community College, including the trades programs

If elected, my goals for the next two years are to:

Continue to control county property taxes, while delivering mandated essential services, support economic development that fosters growth in Dutchess County, promote public safety, including tick disease education and prevention, maintain a high quality of life in Dutchess County, including inclusive parks and balance the needs of small businesses with those of our residents.

Dave Siegel - Democrat
District 3, LaGrange



Please give your background and why you are running for election.

This is my first time running for public office. I have been a resident of the Town of LaGrange

with my wife, MaryEllen, for 31 years. I have two adult children that were raised here in LaGrange. I graduated from Syracuse University and then embarked on a 40-year plus career in information technology. I retired and decided to get active in local politics because I was disturbed by the fact that Republicans ran unopposed election after election in our town and I decided I wanted to do something about it. So, after becoming the Secretary of the LaGrange Democratic Committee, I launched my campaign for County Legislature representing District 3. The voters of LaGrange deserve to have a choice on the ballot. I spent my career in business and I want to cut waste, improve services, and put more money back in your wallet. LaGrange should have a representative who listens, cares, and gets results for families and local businesses.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

Important issues in our community begin with our lack of affordable, attainable housing. It's time to start putting the creation of affordable housing at the top of the agenda for this county's government. We need to leave no stone unturned when it comes to looking for creative ways to encourage the development of homes that people can afford while still being able to pay all of their other bills. Another important issue is the expansion of Mental Health facilities in our county. We don't have enough beds and we don't have enough Mental Health professionals. Mental Health issues can be the root cause of many other societal problems that plague us such as drug abuse and homelessness. If we can help more people (especially when young) I believe it will go a long way to helping us reduce homelessness and crime. We must improve our Emergency Medical Services in Dutchess County. While the southern parts of the county have by and large good EMS services, the same

Continued on page 6

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County legislators face challenges in 15 districts

Continued from page 5

can't be said for some of the Northern parts. Our goal should be a quantifiably reliable system county-wide, no exceptions. Preserving clean air and water for everyone in Dutchess is another issue and that begins with the incinerator in Poughkeepsie that is nearing end of life. I was happy to see that a solid waste consultant was retained by the county to review the situation and provide alternatives, but much more needs to be done. For LaGrange in particular we need more County provided Senior Services and more affordable housing.

**Tony D'Aquanni - Republican
District 5, Town of Poughkeepsie**



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
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.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

I have lower County Property Tax Rate by 2.7%, sponsored local law to protect local aquifer and water sources, voted for \$2 million in EMS services, supported \$150,000 in microgrants and transportation funds for our veterans, and voted in favor of \$500,000 in Municipal Innovation Grants for programs for our seniors. As chairman of the Environment Committee, I have championed \$75,000 for waste reduction.

In the legislature, I serve as Environment Committee Chair, member of the Budget, Finance & Personnel Committee, Family & Human Services Committee, Airport Advisory Committee, Nonvoting / Ex Officio Member and member of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

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.

**Anna Shah - Democrat
District 5, Town of Poughkeepsie**



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
I'm Anna Shah, a lifelong Poughkeepsie resident, Spackenkill

High School graduate, mother of two, and attorney who has spent 25 years standing up for people who need a voice. I've served this community as PTSA president, volunteer, and board member, because leadership begins with service.

I'm running because District 5 deserves better than the status quo. Families are struggling with rising costs, scarce housing, and dwindling support, while taxpayer dollars fund projects that do little to improve daily life. Our rights are being eroded, and too many residents feel unheard. We need leadership that listens, questions, and acts with integrity.

As legislator, I'll bring the same diligence and courage that has defined my legal career, scrutinizing every proposal to ensure public funds deliver real value, meets my constituents needs and improves quality

of life.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

My Priorities:
1. Stronger Communities: Invest in housing, public safety, and programs for youth, seniors, and veterans.
2. Public Health & Well-Being: Expand mental health services, preserve green spaces, and create walkable, connected neighborhoods.
3. Infrastructure & Stewardship: Repair what's worn down, plan for the future, and protect taxpayer dollars.
4. The people deserve leadership that is bold, honest, and grounded in compassion. I intend to deliver exactly that to District 5, and all of Dutchess County.

**Lisa Kaul - Democrat
District 6, Town of Poughkeepsie**



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
I immigrated from India and have lived in Poughkeepsie for 21 years. My background as an educator combined with my

service on the Board of Education of the Arlington Central School District Board and as the Director of Community-Engaged Learning at Vassar College has taught me to listen carefully, identify root problems, and forge partnerships that deliver practical solutions.

My years volunteering with local organizations – including organizing the Poughkeepsie Repair Café - give me firsthand understanding of the challenges families face and the resources communities need to thrive.

As your legislator, I serve on the Environment, Government Services & Administration, and Airport Advisory committees, plus the Climate Smart Communities Task Force, and Environmental Management Council.

I have already delivered results, securing bipartisan support for a comprehensive waste management study and improving transparency through expanded financial disclosure requirements. I'm proven to be an effective watchdog while allocating funds for youth programming, senior services, veterans' support, housing support, mental health resources, transportation and accessibility initiatives.

Serving as your legislator has been an incredible honor. We deserve a county that is affordable, safe, and sustainable. To get there, we need a transparent, fiscally responsible government that works for all. That's what I'm here to fight for.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

1. Affordability: Dutchess families face real challenges – from rising housing prices and taxes that make it hard for young people to stay in the county and for seniors to stay in their homes, to a lack of affordable childcare and eldercare options. Lack of robust public transportation options adds to the affordability crunch.

2. Infrastructure –waste management, water, roads: We need to reduce, divert, and dispose of our waste sustainably to ensure that we have clean air. Our water infrastructure is aging and our roads and sewer systems are facing increased stress because of extreme weather events.

3. Mental health, substance use, food insecurity. There is a substance use epidemic and mental health crisis in Dutchess, exacerbated by a lack of appropriate services. The looming cuts to Medicaid and SNAP will increase hardship for our most vulnerable.

4. Government transparency and accountability. We need a county government that is fiscally responsible with tax-payer dollars

and committed to completing projects that have been started.

5. Public safety – especially road safety and gun violence.
(No opponent)

Craig Brendli - Democrat District 8, City and Town of Poughkeepsie



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
Defending and delivering for the City and Town of Poughkeepsie is deeply important to me. I am a longtime

resident and homeowner in Poughkeepsie, a former public school teacher for ten years, and currently a local real estate agent. My background in education taught me the importance of communication, collaboration, and accountability, while my work in real estate gives me firsthand understanding of the challenges residents face with affordability, property taxes, and access to housing.

During my tenure, I have fought to make county government more transparent and accountable. We have delivered meaningful results including ethics reform, independent redistricting, the Dutchess County Stabilization Center, expanded health and mental health services, the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank, and funding for affordable housing through a housing trust fund. I have also opposed wasteful spending such as the oversized county jail and costly stadium upgrades.

I am running to ensure county government remains focused on responsible spending, smart investments, and real solutions that strengthen our community.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

The key issues we face both locally in Poughkeepsie and across Dutchess County include the mental health crisis, the growing housing shortage, and the need for expanded workforce development opportunities to strengthen local jobs and the economy.

The county must continue expanding access to mental health services, especially for our youth. Our investment in health and mental health programs has been an important step forward, but more needs to be done to ensure residents receive care locally, when and where they need it most.

Increased funding for affordable housing through the county's housing trust fund has also been a step in the right direction, but additional investment is needed to meet growing demand. The rising cost and limited availability of housing continue to impact families, seniors, veterans, and young professionals. We must prioritize responsible development that expands affordable and workforce housing options throughout Dutchess County.

As a member of the Legislature, I will continue to advocate for expanding job training and workforce development programs that strengthen our local economy and create sustainable, well-paying jobs. I am also committed to advancing environmental initiatives that reduce waste, improve air quality, and protect our natural resources. Expanding opportunities for youth, seniors, and residents with disabilities will remain a top priority so that Dutchess County can be a place where everyone can live, work and thrive.

(No opponent)

**Barrington R. Atkins - Democrat
District 9, City of Poughkeepsie**



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
Since taking office, I have worked tirelessly to ensure that the City of

Poughkeepsie has a real voice and a fair shake at the county level. Poughkeepsie is one of the most resilient and culturally rich communities in Dutchess County, yet it has too often been overlooked and under-funded. My mission has always been to change that reality by fighting for equity, transparency, and accountability in how county resources are distributed.

During my term, I have championed initiatives that strengthen youth programs, expand access to mental health services, and support working families and local businesses. I have stood firm against policies that perpetuate systemic inequality and demanded fairness in budgeting, housing, and social services.

I am running for re-election because the fight is far from over. Our city deserves to be respected, heard, and invested in. I will continue to advocate for fair funding, stronger partnerships, and policies that uplift every neighborhood in Poughkeepsie. My commitment is to keep pushing until equity is not a request, but the standard.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

One of the most urgent issues is the decision by the Republican led County Legislature to site the homeless shelter in the Fifth Ward of Poughkeepsie. This was never a City choice. It was imposed on our community without transparency, without equitable sharing of burden, and without honoring our voice. That decision reinforces a long pattern of offloading challenges onto Poughkeepsie while other areas evade responsibility.

Another broken promise is tied to the plan for the YOU Youth Opportunity Union, a multipurpose youth center intended for the benefit of all youth in the region. Though celebrated in political campaigns, that vision has repeatedly stalled and shrunk, with only demolition and planning funds spent so far. What was supposed to be a flagship facility has become a political echo chamber, and Poughkeepsie's residents are still waiting for real action.

Underlying both these issues is a deeper power imbalance at the county level. Too often major decisions slide through on party line votes. Too many legislators sit silent in sessions, refusing to challenge flawed proposals or defend communities under duress. The consequence is that public policy frequently compounds inequality rather than correcting it.

I am running for re-election to continue pushing against that imbalance. I will demand accountability, make sure Poughkeepsie is heard before decisions are locked in, and fight until we secure momentum, investment, and justice, not just empty promises.

(No opponent)

Continued on page 7

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Continued from page 6

**Randy Johnson – Democrat
District 10, City of Poughkeepsie**
Did not respond to questionnaire.
(No opponent)

**John Metzger - Republican
District 12, East Fishkill**



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
I was born and raised in the Town of East Fishkill, where I

and my family currently live. I am married with two children.

I graduated from Hudson Valley Community College where I earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science. After attending the Rochester Institute of Technology, I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering Technology.

I am currently the Vice President of my family's construction company located here in East Fishkill. As the son of small business owners and farmers, I was raised with a sense of pride and obligation for my local community.

I would like to continue to work for the people of the 12th district to make county government more efficient, effective and financial sound. I am dedicated to keep Dutchess County affordable and its government working for all of us.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

I feel there are many complex issues the residents of Dutchess County are currently facing. However, the issue I believe at this time is affecting all residents is the cost of living. This is an issue that we are 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 keeps taxes low, but also look to get the most out of every dollar spent.

(No opponent)

**Kevin Giles - Republican
District 13, East Fishkill and Wappinger**



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
This is the first time I am running for elected office. I am a lifelong Dutchess County

resident and have been involved in the local community for many years, including as a youth baseball coach, commissioner and board member. I have knocked on over 1,000 doors meeting my neighbors and the top issues I consistently hear about are taxes and the cost of living. As a legislator, I will work to keep our tax burden from spiraling out of control at the county level. I have spent my career in the private sector which has given me a keen understanding of how to do more with less and identify wasteful and duplicative spending. I believe by doing this we can keep taxes in check while still funding critical services that people rely on.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

As someone who has raised my children here and been involved in youth sports, I believe investing in our families and youth is crucial. Dutchess County has a number of smart grant programs, including ones that invest in youth sports leagues and in youth centers across the county. I would like to see our commitment to those programs continue and grow. I believe that we ought to put money where it belongs, back in our local communities. I will also do all that I can to support our veterans and seniors. I would like to see Dutchess County continue and grow its grant programs that invest in our veterans and seniors, including funding for transportation and for capital improvements to senior friendship centers. Dutchess

County should also continue to fund improvements to local veterans organizations as has been funded in the past few years. Public safety is another issue I hear about constantly on the campaign trail. We must invest in our first responders. So many people in our community have been affected in some way by the opioid and mental health crisis. We must continue investments in our Drug Task Force and our local police to ensure that we are fighting this scourge. I would also like to see us continue our investment in EMS in Dutchess County. The latest budget added \$2 million for supplemental service in our county, and I would work to see this continue in the legislature.

**Keith Odums – Democrat
District 13 – East Fishkill and Wappinger**



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
I am a 23-year resident of the Wappinger community and a devoted

husband and father. I have consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the well-being of our community and to the people who call Dutchess County home. My track record speaks for itself. As a three-time elected Trustee of the Wappinger Central School District Board of Education, I have served with distinction for eight years — twice as Vice President — and contributed meaningfully on the Policy, Operational Audit, and Strategic Planning Committees. Beyond my service on the school board, I hold leadership roles on several community boards, where I continue to champion effective governance and collaborative progress. I am also well known for my longstanding involvement in youth sports, serving as both a coach and mentor, helping to shape the next generation through team-

work and leadership. Professionally, I bring the perspective of a seasoned business consultant, equipped with a data-informed, analytical approach to decision-making. My ability to ask the right questions, identify solutions, and make sound, forward-thinking decisions makes me exceptionally qualified to serve in public office. I am ready to lead with integrity, transparency, and dedication. I am endorsed by The Working Families Party and the Dutchess County Central Labor Union

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

My campaign is committed to listening to the community, addressing real concerns, and delivering sustainable improvements across four key pillars: social wellbeing, environmental stewardship, infrastructure development, and fiscal responsibility. Focusing on these key pillars will build a thriving, resilient, and future-ready county. If elected, I will work to ensure our county government delivers healthy and inclusive communities by expanding access to mental and physical health services for all residents.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive, and that starts with care that is affordable, accessible, and responsive to the needs of our diverse population. I will also prioritize environmental stewardship by protecting open spaces and investing in eco-services that preserve our natural resources for future generations. A cleaner, greener county benefits not just our environment, but our economy and overall quality of life. To support smart growth, I will invest in resilient, modern infrastructure, upgrading water and sewer systems, ensuring access to clean drinking water, improving storm-water management, maintaining wastewater treatment, and expanding public transportation options to better connect our communities. Finally, I am committed to fiscal responsibility through transparent budgeting and diversified revenue sources, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively to meet today's needs while planning responsibly for tomorrow. Our county deserves leadership that's forward-thinking, practical, and committed to the well-being of every resident. I'm ready to serve.

**Lynne Miele-Versaci – Republican
District 14, Town of Poughkeepsie and Wappinger**



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
I am a lifelong resident of Dutchess

County and have raised my two children here, all while serving my community and working several jobs at a time to provide for my family. Currently, I am in my first term as a Dutchess County Legislator representing the people of the 14th District. I am proud to serve as a member of the Public Safety Committee and as a member of the Government Services & Administration Committee. I am the Chair of the Dutchess County Tick Task Force, an ex-officio member of the Airport Advisory Committee, and a member of the Dutchess County Veterans Affairs Committee.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

As always, taxes and cost of living are a top issue to my constituents. In my first term, I am proud to have supported a county budget that reduced the property tax rate by nearly 3%. We must continue to hold the line on taxes so that our children can afford to settle here and our seniors can afford to stay here.

We also must continue to invest in public safety. That is why I voted to allocate \$2 million in supplemental EMS service in our county. I have also supported to establishment of a Real Time Crime Center here in Dutchess County and have voted to increase our investment in the Drug Task Force to ensure that our communities remain safe for all.

I am proud to have advocated for several grant programs that have brought money back into our community. This includes a \$75,000 grant that was recently awarded to the Town of Wappinger for improvements to the senior center, including new kitchens, renovated bathrooms and new flooring. We also recently awarded \$15,000 to the Wappingers Falls VFW for much needed infrastructure improvements. The Town of Wappinger also received a \$50,000 grant to improve composting efforts at the recycling and transfer station. I believe in putting money back into our community. I have done that in my first term and will continue to advocate for further investment if re-elected.

**Alix Winsby – Democrat
District 14, Town of Poughkeepsie and Wappinger**



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
This is my first step into elected public service. As a small

business owner, homeowner, and mother, I understand the affordability challenges families face.

Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, and the Village are vibrant communities that deserve strong representation that can lead to safer sidewalks, better mental health services and smarter environmental solutions.

Before running, I served on the Village of Wappingers Falls Planning Board. I currently serve on the boards of the Wappingers Historical Society and the Advisory Board for the Friends of Carnwath, and I'm an

active PTA member in the Wappingers Central School District.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety: One of the crossing guards in Poughkeepsie was killed this month in another pedestrian death. The need to work on sidewalks, crosswalks, flashing beacons, intersections, and heavily walked routes is imperative.

Air Quality: The Hudson Valley has one of the highest rates of asthma in the country. We need to take action in Dutchess County to divert as much of the solid waste stream as possible so that the incinerator burns within reasonable limits. I want to continue the work begun in the County Legislature to protect the health of our population.

A Walkable Future: Walkability connects safety and air quality. As a parent and a small business owner, I see every day how difficult it can be to get around without a car. Our district is cut in half by two major state roads, Route 9 and Route 9D. In their current state, they divide neighborhoods and make walking dangerous. This isn't a problem that one town can solve on its own. By working together across the county, we can bring real pressure on the New York State Department of Transportation to make changes that matter—like rerouting truck traffic out of the Village of Wappingers Falls and back onto Route 9. Doing so would allow us to strategically build sidewalks, bridges, and easements that connect residents to schools, green spaces, and local businesses. The result would be a safer, healthier, and more connected community, while also taking pressure off the parking shortage in the village.

**Robert Faust – Republican
District 15, Town of Wappinger**



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
As a retired police officer with 23 years of service, public

safety and community well-being have always been at the core of who I am. My wife is a dedicated teacher, and together we've built our lives here in Dutchess County, raising two children—one attending Marist College and the other at Roy C. Ketcham High School. We understand firsthand how important it is to keep our county safe, affordable, and family-friendly.

As Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, I've worked closely with law enforcement, first responders, and community leaders to strengthen safety initiatives across Dutchess County. From supporting our Real Time Crime Center to investing in mental health response and youth programs, I've focused on policies that make a real difference in people's lives.

I'm running for re-election because I believe in a responsible, common-sense government that listens, leads with integrity, and delivers results. My priorities are simple: keep taxes down, control spending, and ensure our neighborhoods remain safe. I want Dutchess County to continue being a place where families can thrive, seniors can afford to stay, and our law enforcement has the tools they need to protect our community

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

Dutchess County faces many of the same challenges seen across the Hudson Valley—keeping our communities affordable, maintaining public safety, and ensuring smart, responsible growth. As Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, I've made it a priority to support law enforcement, emergency services, and community-based programs that keep our residents safe. We've strengthened the Real Time Crime Center, expanded

Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 7

mental health crisis response, and improved coordination among first responders.

In the Town of Wappinger, affordability remains a key concern. Families are feeling the impact of rising costs, and many seniors are struggling to stay in the homes they’ve worked so hard for. That’s why I’ve fought to keep taxes down and bring back county funding for our senior center and our veterans—two pillars of our community that deserve continued support.

We’re also investing in our parks, infrastructure, and youth programs to improve quality of life. My goal is simple: to keep Wappinger a safe, affordable, and vibrant place where families, seniors, and veterans can thrive.

(No opponent)

Yvette Valdés Smith – Democrat
Minority Leader, District 16, Fishkill and Beacon



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
I have been a public servant since 2021. I have served as the County Legislator for district

16, which includes the town of Fishkill and Ward 4 in the city of Beacon for two terms. During that time, my fellow colleagues have also chosen me to serve as the Minority Leader of the Dutchess County Legislature. I love serving our community and know how critical our role is at the local county government level for making positive change that affects people’s daily lives. Prior to becoming an elected official in Dutchess County, I was a public school teacher and hold dual NYS teaching certifications in Childhood and Bilingual Education. My husband and I raise our sons here in Fishkill, who also attend our public schools, and I serve on the Stonykill Education Center Foundation board in addition to my work with our PTO and local libraries. I currently serve as our County Legislator, Minority Leader of the Dutchess County Legislature, am on all Dutchess County legislative committees, and serve on the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board for the County. Making our community a place that supports everyone, especially, our veterans, seniors, and youth is my priority. Working across the aisle and finding what connects us is central to how I work at the County Legislature to get the job done and deliver for our neighbors. I very much hope to earn the vote of my fellow community members to continue this very important work in November.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?
The most pressing issues in our community continue to be affordability and housing. At the county legislature, I have worked on addressing and proposing solutions to both issues. In my last two terms I have fought to reduce the county property tax rate, expand mental health services and EMS, sponsored the REV250 grant funding, and sponsored a sales tax cut. I will continue to make sure that our hard earned taxpayer dollars are

used to benefit our community and never misspent. My work on the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board has helped increase the amount of affordable housing units and there will be much more work needed to do on this for Fishkill and Beacon as our housing market continues to tighten and grow increasingly unaffordable. My priority is to make sure our area is the best place to live, work, raise a family, and retire. A key component of that is making sure that we all can afford to continue to live here. I’m looking forward to continuing my work in the county legislature for our community.

If our district votes to reelect me again in November, I promise to continue to improve our quality of life. The goals that I look forward to fulfilling include: addressing our affordability crisis, improving and expanding our housing opportunities, and transportation, and making sure our tax dollars are used to benefit our communities directly.

John Forman - Republican
District 16, Fishkill and Beacon



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
I was a member in the County Legislature for 12 years: 10 years representing District 18

and 2 years representing District 16. Currently, I am completing a 4-year term as a member on the Fishkill Town Board.

Professionally, I have worked in the insurance industry for 40 years. I deal with people every day. Helping others has become second nature to me. Most of the time, there are solutions to every problem. When a resident comes to me with an issue, it's very important to them - which means it's important to me. The Fishkill Town Board is in the process of imposing a "Hotel Bedroom Tax" in the town. A resolution I brought to the Town Board was adopted in a bi-partisan vote. Once signed by the Governor, the anticipated annual revenue will be approximately \$500,000 per year. The money is paid by the visitors who stay in the hotels in the Town of Fishkill. These additional funds will benefit every single property owner in Fishkill. This will help subsidize property taxes in Fishkill for years to come. And for renters, when property taxes rise, higher rents tend to follow. My resolution helps everyone!

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?
In both Beacon and Fishkill, the lack of grant money coming in from Dutchess County has got my attention. Youth programs, Senior Centers, Police Departments, Fire companies and Fire districts and even local organizations for Food Assistance are among areas Dutchess County awards grant money. I'm running for this position because as a town board member, I have a front row seat to the lack of communication there is between County government and Town government. For example, Fishkill had to use ARPA money (Federal funds) to fix the leaky roof at our Senior Center (that leaked for 8 years). I see where East Fishkill received \$57,000 to repair their roof at their Senior Center and Wappinger

received \$75,000 to make improvements to their Senior Center - all grant money from County government. Where is our money? Recently, \$100,000 was awarded in the category for "local organizations for food assistance." In Fishkill, the Fishkill Food Pantry not only provides assistance to residents of Fishkill but to other surrounding municipalities as well. No money for them. Recently in Beacon, the city had to remove several old refrigerators from an area where residents in need would go to pick up necessities. That equipment needs to be replaced. None of that \$100,000 grant made its way into Beacon. Where is the grant money for Beacon and Fishkill? I will make it a priority to bring resources to Beacon and Fishkill courtesy of Dutchess County.

Doug McHoul – Republican
District 17, Town and Village of Fishkill



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
Seeking my fourth two-year term as Legislator, I currently serve as Chairman of

the Government Services & Administration Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Family & Human Services Committee, Legislative Liaison to the Board of Health, and am a member of the Budget, Finance, & Personnel Committee.

It's been an honor to be part of a team that has made great strides in strengthening our county's future. I was able to help many local organizations gain millions of dollars in funding through the county's "Learn, Play, Create" grant program, which was designed to help youth organizations recover from the isolation and fallout as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown.

I am a strong advocate for local law enforcement. By increasing funding to the District Attorney and Sheriff's Office, I am proud to say that our Drug Task Force has worked tirelessly to reduce overdose deaths in Dutchess by 50%.

Throughout this time, the Legislature has maintained strong financial oversight by paying off debt using fund balance, saving \$2 million in interest, lowering our property taxes, and earning one of the highest bond ratings in New York State.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?
As a lifelong Dutchess resident, local family business owner, and the father of two teenagers, I'll continue my efforts to enhance the stability and success of our county. And the challenges are numerous.

Our county, just like other counties across the United States, is currently facing an EMS and ambulance crisis. The health and safety of our residents is paramount, and the County Legislature is proactively seeking measures to mitigate this concern. With the recent appointment & confirmation of Emergency Services Commissioner Bill Beale, I have full confidence that we will be able to tackle this issue head-on by providing the funding and resources needed.

Traffic is always a hot topic, especially in Fishkill. Due to the fact that our busiest roadways are under the control of the NYS DOT, the truth is that our options are greatly limited. Therefore, we have to do everything possible on a local level. This includes working with our Town and Village Police Departments by taking measures to minimize traffic violations and prevent accidents. We must also improve pedestrian access throughout our community. I recently supported a resolution to design and construct new sidewalks along Jackson Street from St. Mary's Church & School to the intersection with Main Street.

(No opponent)

Molly Rhodes - Democrat
District 18, City of Beacon and Town of Fishkill



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
I've served on Beacon City Council for two terms/ almost four years, and am a

first-time County candidate running for the open seat for District 18. As a City of

Beacon leader, I have seen first-hand the critical role the county plays in supporting Dutchess County municipalities to meet their needs, and I want to have a more direct hand in continuing and shaping this work. I have spent my career in non-profit operations, most recently in my 11 years with Teach For America.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?
On a county-wide level, I'm interested in continuing to improve Public Transportation and access to Public and Mental health. I'm also focused on enhancing affordability throughout the county, such as through the Housing Trust Fund and workforce development programs. I also want to make what

Dutchess County does more transparent and accessible to people across Dutchess County. There are so many services and supports people rely on that are either run or made possible by the county, and we should both celebrate what we can do and make sure people are aware of the decisions being made in their name. Specific to Beacon and Fishkill, the county has an opportunity to champion the development of the proposed Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail, which would run through Beacon and Fishkill and connect to the Empire State Trail in Hopewell Junction.

(No opponent)

Stephen Caswell - Republican
District 21, East Fishkill



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
As a 39-year resident of East Fishkill, I love where I live, and I'm dedicated to making

my town and county an even better place to live. I volunteer my time with several not-for-profit organizations in the County, including the Julie's Jungle playground, The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, East Fishkill Historical Society and Dutchess Community College.

As your County Legislator for three terms, I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving the residents of East Fishkill and Dutchess County. Now retired from IBM, I have had a 40-year career in Accounting and Finance which serves me well as a legislator, continually advocating for a fiscally responsible government, growing the tax base, and reducing your county taxes each year I've been in office.

In the legislature, I have served on several legislative committees. I was previously Chair of the Government Services and Administration Committee, and I'm currently Chair of the highly regarded Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee. I believe my background supports me as being the best qualified person to continue serving the people of my town and county.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?
Expanding services for youth, seniors, veterans and first responders continue to be a pressing issue in my community. We have accomplished much with funding and recognition in these areas, but there is still more that can be done. As a County Legislator, my most important objective is to LISTEN to the people of my district and take ACTION to make improvements in our community. In the past 6 years I have obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money for East Fishkill, the Library, the Historical Society, and dozens of youth organizations, providing them with needed funding. This will remain a top priority for me as your legislator.

My goal is to continue to closely scrutinize the County Budget. By remaining fiscally conservative and advocating for shared services to improve efficiency and reduce costs, we will continue to provide the needed services as cost effectively as possible. We also need to ensure the County enables smart growth and development. The Town of East Fishkill has done an outstanding job in bringing businesses to iPark in Hopewell Junction and the County has supported the town along the way. We have amazing County employees providing outstanding services supporting our children and seniors, our families in recreation and those in need of a home. There is always more we can do! Growing our tax base will enable the County to expand services where needed most while keeping taxes low.

I want to work with the entire County Legislature for the betterment of the people of Dutchess County.

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Incumbent Aymar-Blair, Truitt vie for County Comptroller role

Continued from cover

Dan Aymar-Blair

Please give your background/qualifications and why you are running for re-election to the position of County Comptroller.

Before being elected Dutchess Comptroller, I had 20 years of experience in government financial operations. I worked at New York City Public Schools for 15 years, where I served as the Chief Operating Officer for Teaching and Learning, which had a budget as big as Dutchess County's. I also served on Beacon City Council from 2020 to 2024, where I consistently lowered property tax rates and successfully advocated for infrastructure investments, park improvements, housing policy reforms, better public safety and emergency response capabilities for Beacon residents – including Beacon's new firehouse.

Because of my experience, I was able to jump right in and start making good on my promises to increase financial reporting and to share information about the County budget directly with the people. In the nine months I've been in office, I've gotten the office on pace to produce a record number of reports in 2025. I've also done 11 town halls and started recording brief video summaries of our reports on social media. The result is that our reports are being read by the public 4-5 times more than before. I'm doing the job exactly as I promised and I want to see this vision through.

What do you see as the main issues in this race and the role of County Comptroller?

The question before voters this year is: Who is more capable and independent to do the job of Comptroller?

There is no Democratic or Republican way to check that two numbers match. But a Comptroller must know which two numbers "should" match. Just like Sheriff and District Attorney elections, voters are more often looking at competence, not party affiliation. So the main issue in the race is competence.

As Comptroller, my job is to identify patterns of weakness in our policies and procedures and internal controls. The main patterns I have identified are a systemic lack of planning and reckless real estate deals. Dutchess County needs to do better in these areas.

From Dutchess County's COVID-19 funding to the stalled Youth Opportunity Union project in Poughkeepsie, I have seen well-intentioned projects fall apart due to a lack of planning. And, through our reporting, we've encouraged the County to make improvements. Better planning saves money and delivers better results for taxpayers.

I've also seen a pattern of large real estate deals that have gone sideways. For example, the County purchased a property for a homeless shelter but, not until after the purchase, did they learn that it needed \$15 million of work to get up to code. The County bought a campground for \$4.8 million even though it wasn't in the market for a campground and didn't shop around. This camp remains inaccessible to the public and has barely been used. What exactly is going on here? So we're staying on top of this and will make recommendations on improving the processes for acquiring real estate.

Because I haven't been in the legislature for the last ten years, I can look at these issues with clear eyes, pursue the

truth, and make recommendations for our County government to work better.

Will Truitt

Please give your background/qualifications and why you are running for the position of County Comptroller.

I am a lifelong Dutchess County resident and earned my degree in accounting and finance from Marist University. I have the right blend of private and public sector financial experience that uniquely prepares me for the position of Dutchess County Comptroller. Professionally, for the past eight years, I have managed the finances of a local, family-owned construction company making millions of dollars in annual revenue. Simultaneously, I have served my community in the Dutchess County Legislature for the last decade, including as the Chairman of the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, leading the adoption of a budget in excess of \$630 million. I currently serve as the Chairman of the Legislature, where I lead the entire body. My experience allows me to understand how to make government live within its means, as well as what it means to make payroll in the private sector. Over the past decade, I have built working relationships with elected officials, community stakeholders and non-profit leaders that will allow me to be an effective comptroller, working to ensure that our tax dollars are spent efficiently and effectively.

What do you see as the main issues in this race and the role of County Comptroller?

One of the top issues I hear about all the time is affordability. In a state that makes it uniquely challenging to afford to stay here, we must do all that we can locally to blunt this trend. That is why in my 10 years of service in the legislature we have reduced the county property tax rate every year. We have done all this while maintaining a healthy reserve account of approximately \$100 million and maintaining an S&P bond rating of AA+; the highest in the state of New York. This is made possible by making smart investments, consolidating services where we can, and effectively managing the revenues that we receive. If elected comptroller, I will provide constant oversight to ensure our tax dollars are spent efficiently, allowing us to continue this trend.

In my time in the legislature, we have created and strengthened many grant programs that put money back where it belongs, in our communities. This is why we have allocated \$500,000 in grants to local senior programming, \$150,000 for veterans' infrastructure grants and transportation needs, \$100,000 for local historical societies, as well as several rounds of grants for youth sports and youth programming, to name just a few. I believe we should continue to invest in our communities. As comptroller, I will work to ensure that these funds are being maximized and going towards the critical programming that they were intended to service.

Finally, Dutchess County over the next several years will come to consider several critical infrastructure projects. I believe that my background in the construction industry will allow me to provide deeply informed oversight over these types of projects, ensuring that money is spent most efficiently and that we are keeping our commitment to the taxpayers.

Spooktacular (not so haunted) at Stony Kill

Stony Kill Foundation will host its Not So Haunted Spooktacular on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 4-7 p.m. at 79 Farmstead Lane in Wappingers Falls. There will be

hayrides, farm animals, food trucks, an I Spy Spooky Garden and a haunted barn.

For more information, visit stonykill.org.

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AUTHORED THE "PROPERTY TAX RELIEF RESOLUTION" that imposes a hotel and motel tax on visitors who stay in our hotels and motels in Fishkill. Beacon already has a similar tax in place. This will bring in approximately \$500,000 annually to the Fishkill Town Government.

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I WILL WORK WITH THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE to secure funding for our Fire Districts, Sports Programs for our children and our Senior Centers.

■

WAS THE DECIDING VOTE TO ADOPT THE GOOD CAUSE EVICTION local law to provide the necessary support to renters.

BEACON AND FISHKILL SUFFER

Our current representative is the Minority Leader in the County Legislature.

As a result, other municipalities are given county grants while Beacon and Fishkill get very little back from Dutchess County.

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County legislators face challenges in 15 districts

Continued from page 8

**Eric Eckley – Democrat
District 21, East Fishkill**



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
I am a homeowner and have lived in my home in East Fishkill for 31 years. Both my

kids were brought up in Dutchess County, attended public school, and graduated from

John Jay. Both attended and graduated from local colleges, so they were very well prepared by the Wappingers School District. This type of success needs to continue; NYS Funding is critical to the future success of our schools. A well-educated population will allow us to attract more growth industries that will create jobs that offer living-wage career opportunities for our youth and future growing families. I am a proud service employee at Vassar College and the Vice Chair of our union local. My experience as a union leader, a member of the negotiating committee which just successfully negotiated a 3 year contract with the college has prepared me well to engage with local leaders in local government and I understand why it is so important to produce value for your community and constituents. We are all in this together!

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

My reasons for running are that bipartisan government is what will best serve our local community. No single political party has all the answers to govern a busy growing area like Dutchess County and in particular East Fishkill. Smart sustained development is what we should be focused on. Growing our economy while protecting quality of life will be my main focus. NYS is a big state, and each area is a bit different. We have become a bedroom community of Westchester and NYC, and the tax revenue from all commercial real estate and large residential development should be leveraged to ensure our schools and libraries are well funded, and that our roads are paved and our environment, air, water and open space, especially local farms and recreation areas, are protected. We all live here together and what is good for one should be good for all. Sustained development, funding local programs and protecting quality of life for Dutchess County residents will be my focus as your voice in Dutchess County government.

**Joe Tresca – Republican
District 22, Beekman and Union Vale**



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
I'm a 9/11 first responder and served for 15 years as a volunteer firefighter with the Mahopac

Volunteer Fire Department. I currently work as a Machine Equipment Operator for the Town of Patterson Highway Department. My wife and I built a small business together while raising our young family here in

Dutchess County.

Although this is my first time running for office, I've supported local efforts behind the scenes and have stayed involved in our community through town events and outreach. I'm running because I believe the legislature should include voices from everyday working people who understand the challenge of balancing work, family, and community life.

I want to bring a common-sense approach to government, be a representative who listens, and make sure residents in Beekman and Union Vale are informed and heard. My goal is to be an accessible legislator who shows up, shares updates, and helps keep our community connected to what's happening at the county level.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

One of the biggest issues facing Dutchess County is affordability. It's becoming harder for working families and seniors to keep living here, and we need to be thoughtful about spending. Residents want to live in safe, well-maintained communities with strong local infrastructure, reliable emergency response, and access to services that support their daily lives. They deserve leadership that respects their tax dollars and works to deliver real value.

In District 22, infrastructure is a clear priority. We need to invest in roads, public safety, and reliable emergency services like EMS. Just as important is the need for stronger communication and representation. Right now, many residents aren't aware of the programs, grant opportunities, or county services that are available. I want to change that by helping to keep people informed and building a stronger connection between the legislature and our towns.

If elected, I'll provide regular updates through a newsletter, speak at town board meetings, and attend local events to hear directly from residents. I'll also work closely with town officials to align our priorities and make sure we're working together to get things done for Beekman and Union Vale.

**Heidi Tucci - Democrat
District 22, Beekman and Union Vale**



Please give your background and why you are running for election.
I am a retired public school teacher. I taught for 33 years, beginning in Pough

keepsie and ending in Millbrook. Throughout my 37 years as a Dutchess County resident, I have volunteered with many organizations - The V.F.W., Dutchess Outreach, Sparrows Nest, The Parkinsons Foundation, Relay for Life, my church food pantry and more.

Although I have donated countless hours in service to my immediate community and the greater community of Dutchess, I really felt that it was time to get more involved in the decision making process that affects the lives in our county. We need more public servants in office who are interested in doing the work to improve our communities.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

There are so many pressing issues in our communities right now. Three of my top priorities are affordability, mental health services, and our environment. Our adult children and senior family members are struggling to afford housing, utility costs, taxes, and groceries. This affordability crisis causes immense stress which can, and does, lead to mental health issues. We need to improve and expand access and outreach for vital mental health services.

Next, we need to ensure that our beautiful Hudson Valley environment remains a healthy place for future generations to enjoy. We must manage air, water, and soil pollution with progressive initiatives that not only maintain, but improve as time goes on. In my district, specifically, it is important that we continually work to maintain a balance between rural character and smart economic growth. As a Dutchess County Legislator, I will examine how we can rein in wasteful County spending on failed/delayed/unfinished/expensive projects. Then, find solutions to drive down the skyrocketing cost of living. I also plan to open lines of transparent and continuous communication with my constituents through newsletters and in-person reports at Town Board Meetings. I believe that if we can work to make smarter decisions in the legislature, we can find a multitude of ways to help all of Dutchess County grow and thrive.

**Chris Rolison – Republican
District 23, Beekman, Pawling and East Fishkill**



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
I have been in law enforcement since 2012 and currently

serve as a Sergeant in the Town of New Castle Police. I am running for re-election to continue working hard for the constituents of my district and for all of

Dutchess County. I strive to remain accessible, accountable and responsive to the concerns of our residents. Just as trust is essential in my work as a police officer, it is equally vital in my service as a County Legislator.

What do you see as the main issues facing the county and your area in particular?

Affordability remains a top priority for me and for our entire caucus. It's an issue that impacts every resident in Dutchess County. In speaking with constituents from District 23, I know that public safety is also a key concern. Over the past two years, we've made significant investments in the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the Real Time Crime Center to enhance safety and response capabilities countywide.

(No opponent)

**Andrew House – Republican
District 24, Dover and Pawling**



Please give your background and why you are running for re-election.
I am a lifelong resident, a second-

generation business owner, and have served as the Dutchess County Legislator, District 24 for the last two years. As your legislator, I have worked effectively with fellow legislators and colleagues in county government to support critical grant funding that serve our fire departments, youth, veterans and seniors. I will continue to advocate for my fellow residents and business owners who deserve to have their concerns and interests addressed by County Government.

Continued on page 12

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		7				5		
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6				5		9		

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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.

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THEME: WORLD SERIES

ACROSS

1. Treble, bass, and alto
6. OB-GYN test
9. Hoodlum
13. *In 1921, the World Series was first broadcast on it
14. Tribute poem
15. Cursor mover
16. Same as Amir
17. Neither here _____ there
18. *Any member of the 2002 World Series champs
19. *World Series trophy presenter, Rob _____
21. *2024 World Series winners
23. "_____ and the City"
24. German industrial valley
25. Gift topper
28. Kids' building block
30. *Player with most career World Series home runs
35. Good vs _____
37. Ball of yarn
39. Offspring
40. Thespian's part
41. Shasta and Tab, e.g.
43. Singer Tori _____
44. Potato masher alternative
46. Fox coat, e.g.
47. Hokkaido native
48. Put on a pedestal
50. Just manages, with "out"
52. *2005 World Series MVP, Jermaine _____
53. Time unit
55. Polar toy-maker
57. *Team with most World Series wins
61. *2024 World Series MVP Freddie _____
65. Met's offering
66. Legal grp.
68. Give the slip
69. Send, as payment
70. Toothy fish
71. Sells
72. Cupid, to the Greeks
73. Freudian topic
74. Surrealist Max

DOWN

1. Pull an all-nighter
2. Holy man
3. "Yellowstone" actress and Josh Brolin's daughter
4. Feudal estates
5. Sour salad green
6. Atlantic Ocean, in a popular idiom
7. "Much ____ About Nothing"
8. Lost, in Provence
9. Chinatown gang
10. Massive
11. Addict
12. Hair styling goops
15. ____ shirts, in "The Outsiders"
20. *#19 Across and such
22. Unit of electrical resistance
24. Mule deer's European cousin (2 words)
25. *Player with most career World Series hits, Yogi ____
26. Egg-shaped
27. "Will comply" in radio communication
29. Lump of stuff
31. *Org. that regulates the College World Series
32. Shy
33. Eccentric like a bird?
34. Follow
36. Sinister look
38. *Only one W.S. Game 7 ended by ____-off home run
42. Ranch grazer
45. Fix leftovers
49. Anonymous John
51. Ace hiding place
54. Consumption
56. "Saturday Night ____" movie
57. Yesteryear
58. Impersonator
59. Captain of Nautilus
60. * ____ Bryant, of 2016 World Series winning Cubs
61. Wild West card game
62. "Buddenbrooks" author
63. Contributes
64. Home to eggs
67. Tote, e.g.

CROSSWORD

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

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Patriots outlast Mamaroneck’s late comeback to claim title



John Jay cheerleaders during the Patriots game.

-Courtesy photo

By Morgan E. Maier
John Jay football is still perfect, but Mamaroneck gave the Patriots a run in their own pursuit of perfection. They improved to 7-0 with a 20-14 thriller over the Tigers. Cruz Calcagni got things started early with a rushing touchdown to put John Jay up 6-0. Count the extra point. John Jay’s number 43 was in the end zone with another rushing touchdown before halftime. Mamaroneck held John Jay scoreless the rest of the way, while scoring 14 fourth-quarter points to tie it with six minutes left in the game. The Patriots struck first in overtime to hand the Tigers their first loss of the season, 20-14. They are guaranteed at least a share of the Class AA League A title.

Ketcham falls to Arlington, John Jay in volleyball
The Patriots won a big one on the road, defeating Ketcham in four sets: 25-22, 25-17, 19-25, 25-22. Seniors Jaeda Lisi and Bella Cabrera led the way at the service line, with five aces each. They combined for 10/12 of the John Jay aces through the four matches. Peyton Kellam had 16 kills, Lisi and Cabrera followed with eight apiece. Lisi led the team on the defensive, having contributed to four of the team’s eight blocks. Margaret Bojarczuk had 31 assists, averaging 7.8

assists per set. Bella Cabrera also had 10 digs. Lisi and Bojarczuk each had seven digs for John Jay.
Two days prior, the Storm fell to Arlington in straight sets, 22-25, 17-25, 16-25. Junior Julia Martin led the team in kills with 10, tying Arlington’s Amelia Giorgi for the match tie. Jordan Carmichael was 2/2 on her kills. Emily Faust led Ketcham with three aces, followed by Ariel Rosenquest with a pair, and Serafina Franco and Martin with one each. Isabella Asuncion had 15 digs, and Paytyn Dee had 14. Martin completed a double-double with 11 digs of her own.

Bulldogs fall to Lourdes on the gridiron
Beacon had a tall away order on October 17, trekking to Poughkeepsie to face the Our Lady of Lourdes Warriors in their home country. The Warriors prevailed 32-14 despite strong performances from offense, defense, and two-way players. Delano Rigby Jr. had 18 completions for 165 yards. He rushed in one of two Beacon touchdowns and connected with Jaden Jones for the other. Elijah Epps had a strong showing, with nine tackles to go with 25 rushing and 24 receiving yards. Jah’Real Witted and Richie Omira each had 10 tackles, followed by Jamir Spence with nine.

Elks announce soccer winners



Alyssa Morris and Davis Vigeant earned first place in the East Central District Elks soccer shoot last month. They did a fantastic job representing the Beacon Elks Lodge #1493!
They moved on to the state soccer shoot at the Elks Camp in Bristol this month..
-Courtesy photo Beacon Elks

Obituaries

Karen Napolitano

Karen Napolitano, a resident of Wappingers Falls, NY; passed away on September 29, 2025 at the Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY; at the age of 72. She was born on June 18, 1953 in The Bronx, NY, daughter of the late Louis & Antoinette (nee Caridi) Cannizzaro.
On October 8, 1972 at St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church in The Bronx, NY, she married Salvatore Napolitano; who survives her at home.
Along with her beloved husband of 53-years Sal, Karen is survived by her three sons, Michael, Joseph and Vincent Napolitano; her two grandchildren Francesca and Andrea. She is also survived by her one sister and three brothers: Kathy, Salvatore, Anthony and Thomas Cannizzaro.
Interment will be private at the discretion of her family. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers



Falls, New York. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

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Photography Club to meet in East Fishkill on Oct. 23

The Photography Club will meet at the East Fishkill Community Library, 348 Route 376, on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 6:30 p.m. This group meets at the library on the fourth Thursday of each month. This group is composed of local photographers - both professional and amateur who come together each month to share their love of the art of photography, to explore new techniques and discover new software, applications and tools to enhance their art. The group is open to all interested individuals; drop-ins welcome.
Call the library at 845-221-9943 or please visit online at eflibrary.org for more information.