SEE VETERANS DAY PHOTOS - PAGE 5

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Fishkill church to hold 'An Evening of Gratitude'

By Kristine Coulter

An Evening of Gratitude will be held at the Fishkill Church of the Nazarene, 953 Main St., on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 5 p.m., in Fishkill. The event is free, but one must register to attend.

"One doesn't have to look very hard to see that loneliness seems to be the prevailing emotion these days, second only to hopelessness. It's my belief that if we can help find a way to alleviate some of the loneliness, then quite possibly some of the hopelessness will follow. And we feel like the best way to counteract loneliness is with community engagement, and the best way to reduce hopelessness is with gratitude. God did not create humans to exist at their best in isolation. Yet, that's exactly the trap that technology seems to have befallen upon us. So, we wanted to create a time that would offer both community - to meet some neighbors, and appreciation - to be thankful for the good things we do have," explained Rev. Christa Jamison, lead pastor at Fishkill Church of the Nazarene.

During An Evening of Gratitude, attendees can expect to be able to post on the "Wall of Appreciation" something for which they are grateful and to be seated at a table with other neighbors, shared Jamison. They will also enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the trimmings served family-style at their table, she remarked.

"We will even have Thanksgiving-themed paper activity place mats for the children. And if folks want to stick around after the meal, there will be a selection of card and board games available," Jamison said.

The Fishkill Nazarene Church family will be providing the entire meal, noted Jamison. "And if there are many leftovers, we will be packaging those up and taking them to Fishkill's unhoused community to share with them," she said.

What is Jamison grateful for?

"This year, I am most grateful for the opportunity to live in Fishkill, NY! I accepted this pastoral position and relocated here in July, 2025, but have been met with so much warmth and hospitality from the very first day. It has quickly become "home" and I'm thankful to have the opportunity to share that with others," she said.

Jamison added, "We would love to see our tables filled for An Evening of Gratitude want to make sure we are prepared."

Guests can help organizers prepare by registering for the dinner by calling 845-896-8203 or filling out the form found at: https://forms.gle/ScBhDmvDLHBdVH757.

Beacon Players to perform 'Frozen' November 20-22

By Kristine Coulter

Let it go, and have an enjoyable night during the Beacon Players' performance of "Frozen: The Broadway Musical." Shows will be performed at the Seeger Theater in Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Ave., on November 20-22. Show times are 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Anthony Scarrone, director for the Beacon High School drama club, said via email, "After the great success of "Jekyll and Hyde" we thought we should do something lighter and more family oriented where nobody was murdered. We went back-and-forth on a number of shows before deciding upon "Frozen" it also helped that the person who starred on Broadway in the role of Anna, Patti Murin, had been my student in sixth grade in a production of "Cinderella" and then all through high school. Patti has been a role model for our kids and even attended our auditions."

He added, "Shows such as this are always wonderful and geared to make people happy."

In this rendition of "Frozen," Anna is played by Molly Lyons.

"Anna is a super fun, energetic role. I'm very excited to share her light with the audiences...," said Molly via email.

She said, "My favorite song to perform is "Hygge," it's a huge dance number in the show and I have a blast doing it with the whole cast."

Henry Cerchiara plays the King and also does double as ensemble.

"I love to perform so many numbers but the scene right after Elsa accidentally freezes Anna is so much fun because I get to act in so many different ways," said Henry in an email. "The Beacon Players cast and crew both work so hard to make some of the best high school theatre we can create. This is going to be a very different but amazing approach to so many things in "Frozen."

Crystal Musorofiti portrays Bulda the Troll Queen and also double as many different ensemble roles.



The Beacon Players, the high school drama club, will perform "Frozen: The Broadway Musical" November 20-22 at Beacon High School.

-Courtesy photo

Continued on page 7

Taking It to the Streets holds ribbon-cutting ceremony Gala set for December

By Kristine Coulter

Taking It to the Streets Feeding the Hungry with Dignity held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month at 37 Lamplight St in Beacon. This is also the drop-off location for donations. They will host a gala in December.

Ruth Anderson, who founded Taking It to the Streets, remarked that this is the 10th anniversary of the nonprofit. She shared how she started Taking It to the Streets, noting she owned a store in Pleasant Valley. She told of how a pastor started coming in the store every week. He told her about "the hungry man," and said he was in Chicago feeding the hungry and clothing the naked.

Anderson recalled that a customer asked her what she was going to do, to which Anderson said, "Whatever God asks an individual to do, He will provide."

Anderson and volunteers began the mission as Mansion Street Park, she recalled.



Ruth Anderson, founder of Taking It to the Streets, makes remarks during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Beacon.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Continued on page 2



Hear a selection from the new book 'Beacon Light'

Opening of student artwork display on Nov. 22

By Kristine Coulter

Lovely Shati Kelly will read a selection from her forthcoming book, "Beacon Light," which documents the history and legacy of Beacon's Dummy Light. The Beacon Dummy Light Centennial Exhibition, which runs until Nov. 30 at Hudson Valley Food Hall, features artwork by Beacon City School District students. Kelly will read a selection from her book on Nov. 22 at Hudson Valley Food Hall, 288 Main St., from 5-7 p.m., in Beacon.

"I grew up in Beacon, and I think when you're a kid growing up in a small town, you don't necessarily realize how special the place you're from really is. You take so much for granted — the beautiful setting nestled between the mountains and the Hudson River, the wonderful characters, the little traditions, and all those things that make a place feel like home. As you get older, you start to appreciate just how unique and lucky you were to have grown up somewhere like this," Kelly stated.

Kelly shared how she remembers going to all the Beacon festivals as a kid. There she saw a "joyful guy with a banjo, wearing two different colored socks, getting everyone to sing along. We knew him as "Pete." It was only later that I realized he was actually a national treasure (Pete Seeger)! I think there's something wonderful about that — sometimes you don't recognize how extraordinary the things right in front of you really are."

Kelly continued, "I think the Dummy Light is a little bit like that. It's always been part of Beacon. It's quirky, it's iconic, and it's one of those things that makes our town unmistakably ours. When I started learning that it was one of only three remaining functioning examples of its kind in the country, and that Beacon's light dated back to 1926, I thought, wait a minute! This little thing has quite a story, and somebody really ought to tell it!"

What can people expect if they read your book?

"I want "Beacon Light" to be both a history book and an art book — something people will enjoy reading, but also something beautiful to look through, revisit, and keep," said Kelly. "There's some really fascinating history to uncover, not only about the Dummy Light itself, but also about the early history of traffic signals and how Beacon came to have one. I'm also discovering some interesting details about the first traffic lights in Beacon that I think will surprise people. There are stories and historical connections that go well beyond what you might expect from a little traffic light!



Artwork of the Dummy Light at Sukhothai in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo

"But I don't want the book to be just a chronology of dates and facts. I want it to capture the personality and spirit of the Dummy Light and the place it holds in people's lives. There will be archival photographs, historical images, contemporary photography, artwork inspired by the light, and stories and memories gathered from people in the community."

Kelly remarked that her book is "Ultimately, I hope it will be a book that people who grew up in Beacon will feel a connection to, but that will also introduce people who don't know Beacon to a little piece of its history and character. It's really a love letter to a town and one of its most beloved little landmarks."

What has Kelly discovered as to why the Dummy Light is so beloved in Beacon?

"I think it's because the Dummy Light has become so much more than a traffic signal. It's a familiar face in the middle of town! Generations of people have grown up with it, driven past it, met friends near it, taken photographs of it, and developed their own little connections to it. It's become part of our collective memory and identity," said Kelly

"There's also something endearing about its personality. It's a little unusual, a little quirky, and certainly not something you see every day. In a world where everything seems to be getting modernized, replaced, or torn down, there's something wonderful about having this old-fashioned, slightly eccentric fixture that has managed to hold its ground for 100 years."

For the people who live in Beacon, Kelly noted, "The [city] has changed tremendously over the years, but there are certain things people really don't want to lose. The Dummy Light is one of them. People have cared enough to preserve it, repair it, celebrate it, and even make art about it!" She continued, "I suppose that's what makes it so special. It's not just about nostalgia. It's about having something that connects people across generations and gives a town a little bit of its own personality. And honestly, how many towns can say they have a traffic light that people are this sentimental about?"

What does Kelly think of all the artwork that has been done on the Dummy Light?

"I absolutely love it! As an artist, I'm always interested in seeing how different people interpret the same subject. And I think it's pretty wonderful that this little traffic light has inspired so many different artistic expressions. It's been photographed, painted, drawn, reimagined, and turned into all sorts of creative interpretations. There's something really lovely about seeing how one familiar object can spark so many different ideas."

She added, "That's also one of the reasons I wanted to make the centennial a community-wide art celebration, rather than simply a historical commemoration. As a former art educator in the Beacon City School District, I developed a curriculum for students to explore the Dummy Light as a symbol of their town and create their own artwork inspired by it. I wanted the kids to have an opportunity to participate in celebrating something that belongs to all of us."

"As an artist, photographer, and book designer, I'd actually thought for years that I'd love to make a book about the Dummy Light someday. When I realized its centennial was coming up in 2026, I decided that someday needed to be now! I wanted to create something that would document and honor this little piece of Beacon history, and celebrate the affection people have for it. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to bring together my love of Beacon, my interest in its history, and my work as an artist and educator," said Kelly.

Kelly said, "What I love most is that there's no one right way to interpret the Dummy Light. Everyone brings their own imagination, experiences, and perspective to it. I think the artwork is a wonderful reflection of the affection people have for this little icon, and it will be an important part of the book. After all, if something has inspired a hundred years of history and so much creativity, it deserves to be celebrated in more ways than one!"

Taking It to the Streets holds ribbon-cutting ceremony

Continued from cover

Linda Diaferia, a volunteer for approximately 3 years, said Anderson is "very energetic" about service. "She's taken me out to the streets – literally," remarked Diaferia. She added, "It's an unending need and I didn't know that."

Rev. Tony Hart presided over the ceremony. Hart called Anderson "a visionary." He read from the Matthew chapter 25 verses 25-26

"Our mission is a simple one – yet a powerful one – help somebody," remarked the reverend, but "everyone can help somebody."

Vivette Hagues, volunteer, said, "I came for one day and I'm still here."

Many times people think they cannot make a difference because they do not have great wealth, stated Hart.

"I'm so grateful you all are here," Anderson stated to those in attendance. "You all make it possible for me."

The 10th Anniversary Gala will be held on Dec. 11. Tickets are available for purchase via Zelle or check by mail. Check payable to Taking It to the Streets FHWD, PO Box 242, Glenham, NY 12527. It is $65 per person.

Reginald Bennett Jr. and former Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan will be the guest speakers.



Taking It to the Streets will host a gala to celebrate the 10th anniversary on Dec. 11. Pictured are volunteers from Taking It to the Streets during a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month in Beacon.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter



IMPACT PR & Communications

Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Welcomes Three Community Leaders to Board of Directors



See story, page 8

DUTCHESS COUNTY-POUGHKEEPSIE LAND BANK

IMPACT PR & Communications

First Lieutenant Henry Bialosuknia honored at 'Veteran of Distinction' ceremony

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino expressed her personal gratitude and Dutchess County's collective appreciation to Army First Lieutenant Henry Bialosuknia, as she and the County's Office of Veterans Affairs hosted this month's "Veteran of Distinction" ceremony.

The gathering paid tribute to Bialosuknia, a Poughkeepsie native and decorated U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam, for his military service and contributions to his community. This month's "Veteran of Distinction" observance was part of the County's Veterans Appreciation Day & Resource Fair, held at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center in Hyde Park.

Serino said, "Henry Bialosuknia isn't just a true American hero and a decorated Vietnam veteran—he's a dear neighbor and longtime friend right here in our Salt Point community. We all owe Henry, and heroes like him, a debt we can never fully repay. Seeing him come home, raise a wonderful family, and continue to pour his heart into Dutchess County, is just so special. I'm so excited to gather with our local veterans and their families at the Wallace Center to proudly recognize Henry as our November 'Veteran of Distinction.' It is an absolute honor to celebrate him."

Born and raised in Poughkeepsie, Bialosuknia served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, leading infantrymen through numerous combat operations. His bravery and leadership earned him several military honors, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star with "V" Device for valor and Purple Heart. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to IBM, where he enjoyed a successful 39-year career as a computer programmer before retiring in 2006. He and his wife, Nancy, raised three children and are proud grandparents of eight.

Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche said, "Henry Bialosuknia is a true American hero who served our country. Dutchess County is proud to recognize all he has accomplished, both in uniform and here in our community. On behalf of our Veterans Services team, thank you, Henry, for all you have given our country."

The Veterans Appreciation Day & Resource Fair brought veterans from throughout Dutchess County and their families together to honor their service and learn about support services and resources offered by more than 20 local organizations.

Monthly "Veteran of Distinction" ceremonies take place on the second Tuesday of each month from April through November, hosted in the community where the honored veteran resides. Ceremonies will resume in April 2027.



Army First Lieutenant Henry Bialosuknia, a Vietnam veteran and a native of Poughkeepsie, was honored during this month's "Veteran of Distinction" ceremony in Hyde Park.

-Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov't

Beacon Elks support NAM Knights Hudson Valley

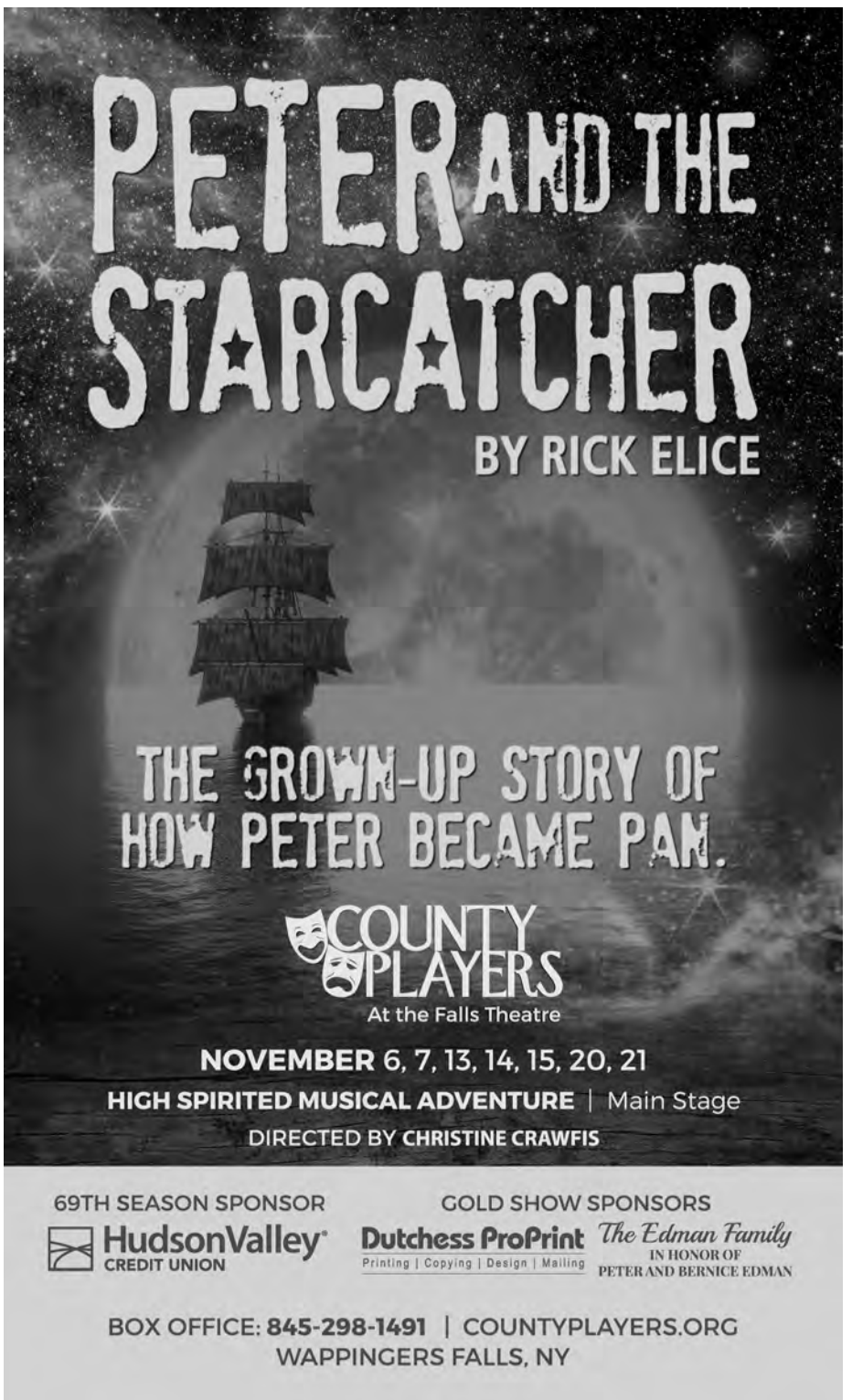


Beacon Elks Lodge 1493 made a donation to the NAM Knights Hudson Valley in recognition of the important work they do in the local community.

The NAM Knights are dedicated to helping veterans and first responders, supporting those who have dedicated their lives to serving and protecting others. Their commitment to giving back and helping those in need reflects the true meaning of brotherhood, service, and community.

The Beacon Elks' mission is to support those who have served and sacrificed for others.

-Courtesy photo



Viewpoints

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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.

Turkey on Every Table: A community effort that requires a community

To the Editor:

As we approach another Thanksgiving season, I think it is important to share the story behind Turkey on Every Table and why continued community participation is essential to its success.

Turkey on Every Table began in 2014 through a collaboration between I Am Beacon and Key Food Marketplace. The initiative grew out of an experience the previous year, when Beacon City School District staff reached out to I Am Beacon after finding themselves short on turkeys for families. We stepped in to help fill the gap. That experience inspired an effort to ensure local families could have a turkey and a bag of holiday fixings on their Thanksgiving table. With the support of Key Food Marketplace, Turkey on Every Table was established and continued annually through 2017.

At the time, several local organizations were providing Thanksgiving food assistance and it appeared that the community's needs were being addressed. I Am Beacon shifted its attention toward other community initiatives.

However, in 2020 a representative from Key Food Marketplace approached I Am Beacon about bringing the program back. Key Food had been contacted by Salem Tabernacle Church, which had an established Thanksgiving food assistance program serving families beyond Beacon and wanted to become more involved in the community where the church is located. Recognizing an opportunity to work together, I Am Beacon, Key Food Marketplace, and Salem Tabernacle Church reestablished Turkey on Every Table.

For the next five years we worked collaboratively to identify families, collect donations, raise funds, purchase food, assemble holiday meal packages, and get them into the homes of families throughout Beacon and the surrounding communities. Together we worked to serve approximately 100 families each year.

Then came 2025.

With the federal government shutdown and interruptions to SNAP benefits, the need for food assistance grew beyond what our existing partnership had historically served. Recognizing the urgency, Fareground food & community was invited to join the effort. With its commitment to building a stronger food safety net throughout the Hudson Valley, Fareground helped expand our collective capacity. Through this collaboration, we were able to provide Thanksgiving meals to 344 families in Beacon and surrounding communities.

That number represents hundreds of households, individuals, children, and neighbors who needed a little extra support during a challenging time.

Now in its sixth year since being reestablished, Turkey on Every Table is entering another season with a familiar reality. The cost of living continues to place pressure on household budgets, and we are seeing increased demand for assistance. The need has not disappeared, and our response cannot depend on the same limited group of people and organizations year after year.

I want to recognize and thank Salem Tabernacle Church in particular. Its congregation and leadership have been a significant source of fundraising support in helping bring this initiative back in 2020 and sustain it through the years. That commitment has made a meaningful difference.

But Salem Tabernacle should not be expected to shoulder an ever-growing community need on its own. Food insecurity is a community issue. And addressing it requires shared responsibility.

This is where the broader community has an opportunity to step forward. Local businesses, organizations, civic groups, individuals, and residents can all play a role. Whether through financial contributions, food donations, or helping connect families to available resources. Every contribution helps strengthen our collective ability to respond.

At I Am Beacon, we have a dedicated fundraising fund called Serving Our Community (www.iambeacon.org) to support initiatives like Turkey on Every Table. We want to make it easier for individuals and businesses to invest in the well-being of the community they call home.

Our goal is not simply to distribute more meals. It is to build a sustainable community response that brings organizations, businesses, and residents together around a shared purpose.

Serving Our Community is about making sure families feel supported, neighbors feel connected, and no one is left to navigate difficult times alone.

The work began with a simple act of responding to a need. More than a decade later, that same spirit remains. The question now is how many more of us are willing to show up and share in the responsibility.

Because putting a turkey on every table should be a community effort.

Reuben Simmons Jr.
Founder, I Am Beacon

Grateful for approving Blodgett library budget, proposition

To the Editor:

I have been a Fishkill resident, homeowner, and taxpayer since 2012. Like so many of us, my husband and I work hard to make ends meet and save money wherever we can. All with life happening…it's not easy.

After five difficult years—including a life-threatening miscarriage and IVF—we welcomed our miracle daughter, who is now three. Like any parent, I live and breathe for my child, which is why I am thrilled that the proposed improvements to the Blodgett Library have passed!

As someone with disabilities, I have been unable to easily access many of the library's children's programs, as I would have to walk down a flight of steps. The new plan now makes it possible to participate along with everyone else!

Paying roughly $5.50 a month in taxes is a small price to pay for a space my daughter and I can finally enjoy together….

I am deeply grateful to the volunteer board members, who are residents and taxpayers just like me, for their dedication to keeping the financial impact on our community as low as possible and for the months of work they put into this plan. Thanks especially to Keep Fishkill Beautiful for advocating in the best interests of our town.

I'm grateful to our elected officials, specifically Doug McHoul and Anne Scarano Machado who were so vocal in their support of the project. You have my vote because you put the interest of our most vulnerable community members first!!!

And I am grateful to all my friends and neighbors, especially those without children or disabilities, who headed out on November 12 in the pouring rain to cast their vote.

On behalf of myself and my daughter, thank you.

Diane McSpedon
Fishkill

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Thankful for passage of Blodgett Memorial Library proposition

To the Editor:

This week I saw the community in Fishkill New York come together to approve improvements to our library which included things that have been put off for way too long (a new boiler and HVAC system), things that are critical for safety of patrons (a sprinkler system), and things that will make this library fully accessible for our disabled, injured, and elderly communities.

I want to especially thank Village Trustee Anne Machado, and Legislator Doug McHoul, who actively and vocally embraced the project.

Karen Finnegan
Fishkill

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to holiday press schedule for the Nov. 25 issue, the Beacon Free Press has an early deadline for that paper.

For the Nov. 25 issue: Advertising is due by Thursday, Nov. 19. Editorial submissions must be received by Thursday, Nov. 19.

Please contact cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com for more information.

Wappingers CSD schools recognize local veterans











Administrators, faculty, staff and students in the Wappingers Central School District recognized local Veterans and their sacrifices during Veterans Day ceremonies at John Jay High School, Evans Elementary School and Roy C. Ketcham High School.

-Photos courtesy Wappingers CSD

Town of Fishkill hosts Veterans Day ceremony







State, county and local officials, as well as community members, took time to offer thanks to Veterans for their service during a Veterans Day ceremony held in the Town of Fishkill on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra offered remarks. It was announced that the flags of the military branches now fly outside of the Fishkill Recreation Center.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

Beacon Elks serve local veterans, spouses



Members of the Beacon Elks Lodge 1493 hosted a dinner for local veterans and their spouses on Wednesday, Oct. 28. They welcomed 65 attendees for an evening dedicated to recognizing and showing our appreciation for the brave men and women who have served this country. New York State Senator Rob Rolison, representing the 39th District, joined the event and made remarks.

-Photo courtesy Beacon Elks

Veterans Day marked in Village of Fishkill





Village of Fishkill officials, from left, Trustee Nick Forlano, Trustee Anthony Ruggiero, Mayor Kathy Martin, and County Legislator Doug McHoul attend the Veterans Day Ceremony in the Village of Fishkill on Nov. 11. A wreath was placed by the Veterans monument.

-Courtesy photos



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

John Jay cheerleading wins Class A state championship

By Matthew Fetzer

On Nov. 8 at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, the John Jay Patriots cheerleading team won the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Game Day Cheer State Championship.

"Game Day" cheerleading focuses on crowd interaction and an "on-the-field" atmosphere, rather than a competitive cheer format. Schools were divided into three classes, with John Jay winning Class A. This marks the program's first state title ever. The team is coached by Alice Granger.

In addition to their success in competition, the team prides itself on community involvement, regularly hosting fundraisers for Sparrow's Nest, which provides meals for families and individuals dealing with cancer.



The John Jay Patriots cheerleading team won the program's first-ever state title on Nov. 8 at Hudson Valley Community College.

-Courtesy photo

Arlington football falls short in title game – The Arlington High football team cruised into the Section 1 Class AA tournament with high expectations. As the No. 1 seed, the team beat No. 8 John Jay in the quarterfinals, 14-7. The Admirals followed up that performance with a 32-20 victory over Scarsdale in the semifinals. Now, they had to play No. 2 Mamaroneck, a team they had blown out earlier in the season, 34-7. However, Mamaroneck got the better of them on Saturday night as Arlington lost, 28-14.

Mamaroneck is now back-to-back Section 1 football champions. For Arlington, they end their season with a 6-1 league record, and an 8-3 overall record.

Beacon takes second place - With a 34-0 win against Marlboro Central in the Section 9 Class B football tournament, the Beacon Bulldogs looked to win it all against Port Jervis on Saturday afternoon. Port Jervis had previously beaten Beacon this season, 24-14.

Played at Monroe-Woodbury High School, the Bulldogs couldn't overcome a 28-7 halftime deficit, losing the game 42-13. Despite the loss, star running back Elijah Epps had 11 carries for 167 yards and a touchdown.

Beacon ends its year at 9-2, an improvement from last season's 6-4 record.

Wappingers Titans boys volleyball - The combined team of boys from John Jay and Ketcham, the Wappingers Titans, entered the Section 1 boys volleyball tournament as the No. 1 seed. They took the bracket by storm with a quick 3-0 sweep over No. 9 Arlington in the quarterfinals. The semifinals had the same result with the Titans sweeping No. 4 New Rochelle. The championship match against No. 2 Scarsdale proved more challenging as the team lost 3-1 at the Westchester County Center on Nov. 12.

Set scores were 23-25 (Wappingers), 25-17, 25-16, and 25-14. The team ends its season with a 20-4-3 record and a 70-15 overall set record. This is the boys volleyball team's fifth year as a program.

Arlington girls volleyball - After winning the Section 1 championship over John Jay, the Arlington girls volleyball team matched up against Section 9 champion Monroe-Woodbury in the Class AAA sub-regional. The game was a quick 3-0 sweep, with set scores posting 25-14, 25-20, and 25-16.

Junior Stella Mahon and junior Caroline Urso both led the team with 11 kills. The Admirals moved on to the regional final against Bay Shore on Nov. 14, where they were knocked out by a score of 3-0. Set scores were 25-20, 25-20, and 26-24. Arlington ends its season with a 30-7-1 overall record, winning a Section 1 championship for the first time in 16 years.

Arlington girls soccer makes state semifinal appearance - Crowned Section 1 Class AAA champions, the Admirals girls soccer team made their way up to Binghamton to take on Elmira for the regional championship. It was a close game, with the final score being 1-0 in favor of Arlington.

The lone goal scorer was Chase Harris. Goalkeeper Ireland Murphy posted yet another clean sheet. It was then time for the state semifinal, where the team traveled up to Cortland on Nov. 14. It was a hard-fought game against Albertus Magnus, the same team that Arlington beat in the Section 1 championship match, but they ultimately lost 3-1. The team ends its season with an 11-1-4 league record, a Section 1 Class AAA championship, a regional championship, and a New York State final four appearance.

Cam Schlittler is first former Renegade to win American League Cy Young Award

Major League Baseball has announced that former Hudson Valley Renegades pitcher Cam Schlittler has been named the winner of the 2026 American League Cy Young Award,.

Schlittler, 25, went 14-6 with a 1.95 ERA while striking out 239 batters in 193.2 innings pitched in 33 starts with the New York Yankees during the 2026 season. He led the American League in ERA and Wins Above Replacement (7.0) and was named to the All-Star Game for the first time in his career.



Schlittler has become the first Renegades alumnus to win the Cy Young Award in either league. He joins Evan Longoria, Jeremy Hellickson and Josh Hamilton as former Renegades players to win a major MLB award.

Drafted in the 7th round of the 2022 First-Year Player Draft out of Northeastern University, Schlittler pitched for the Renegades during the 2023 and 2024 seasons, combining to go 7-4 with a 2.73 ERA (92.1 IP, 69 H, 37 R, 28 ER, 39 BB, 114 K, 7 HR) in 19 starts. Schlittler was named the 2024 South Atlantic League Pitcher of the Year and took the mound for some of the most notable games at Heritage Financial Park in recent years, including being the starting pitcher for Snooki Night in 2023 and pitching in the debut of the Newburgh Gorhams identity in 2024.

Schlittler won the award over other finalists Dylan Cease (Toronto Blue Jays) and Parker Messick (Cleveland Guardians). Schlitter received 30 out of 30 total first-place votes. He is the 10th American League pitcher to win the award unanimously, and the first since Tarik Skubal of the Detroit Tigers in 2024.

Left: The John Jay Patriots cheerleading team won the program's first-ever state title on Nov. 8 at Hudson Valley Community College.

-Courtesy photo



College Notes

WORCESTER, MA (10/02/2026)--Isabella R. Forcelli, of Hopewell Junction, was named to second honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2026 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Floats for Festival of Lights Parade in LaGrange needed

The Town of LaGrange Festival of Lights parade returns to town center this year and is planned for Saturday, Nov. 28. The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. Line-up takes place at Arlington High School beginning at 5:30 p.m. The parade will exit the high school and travel West on Route 55 to its end at Freedom Road.

The parade is organized by the Town's highway and parks departments and has become the hallmark holiday event of the year. Organizers are already signing up parade entries with anticipation of this being the largest and most creative parade to date. Floats must be holiday themed in nature and family friendly. Walkers are not allowed, and nothing can be thrown from floats. Past participants have wowed the crowds with elaborate lighting, music and fun holiday themed displays. Businesses, teams, families, fire departments, etc. are encouraged to enter a float or lighted vehicle! Also, look for Full Gospel Center to be on hand in front of Lexington Park Plaza with complimentary hot cocoa to keep you toasty while watching the parade.

Town Supervisor, Anthony Marinaro, remarked on this special community celebration. "The excitement that surrounds this event each year is something we all look forward to. I extend my appreciation to our town departments who put so much into bringing this parade to our community."

Sandy Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director, remarked on the teamwork between departments. "We work hand-in-hand with the highway department to make this happen. The coordination of all involved is what makes this a safe and memorable event for all who attend. Additionally, the creation of floats by our departments has become a bit of friendly competition for bragging rights. I will concede "Best Lights" to our highway department, as nobody can compete with how they light those big trucks!" She encouraged families to save the date and make this an annual tradition.

For information on how you can be part of this year's parade, email Recreation@lagrangeny.gov or call the Parks & Recreation Office at 845-452-1972. All participants must register to participate and agree to all parade rules. Staff will be on hand inspecting floats at line-up.

For detailed information about the parade, including rules, parking and travel information, follow Town of LaGrange Parks and Recreation on Facebook, or visit the town website at www.lagrangeny.gov/parks-rec.

BluePath Service Dogs celebrates recent grads



BluePath Service Dogs, a nonprofit, celebrated the graduation of seven new working dogs. Hailey, Lucy, Sydney, and Wordle began their careers as life-changing autism service dogs to children and their families, while Delia, Destiny and Peaches graduated as facility dogs, bringing comfort, connection, and support to students in schools.

For more information, visit www.bluepathservicedogs.org.

-Photo courtesy BluePath

Blodgett Library budget, $7-million improvements and addition passes

By Kristine Coulter

Blodgett Memorial Library held its 2027 Budget and proposition vote on Thursday, Nov. 12. Two trustees,Vincent Sullivan and Esther Jackson, also were voted into office.

According to library officials, the vote count regarding the 2027 Budget, which was a proposed budget in the amount of $1,425,336.75 (of which $1,412,106.75. will be a tax levy), was 232 "Yes" votes to 152 "No" votes.

The proposition, for $7-million worth of improvements and an addition, passed with 203 "Yes" votes to 182 "No" votes.

On the Blodgett Memorial Library Facebook page it was posted: "Thank you for supporting the library."

Later the Board posted another statement stating: "The Board of Trustees extends its sincere thanks to the voters for their support and for the confidence they have placed in the Library. We are grateful for your trust as we work to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars while ensuring that the Blodgett Memorial Library remains an accessible, welcoming, and valuable resource for all members of our community. We look forward to continuing to serve our community with thoughtful planning, fiscal responsibility, and a commitment to equitable access for everyone. Thank you for making this possible!"

There were claims of misinformation given by certain individuals to library staff members concerning absentee ballots that a witness was needed to get a ballot, when one was not if they signed their names, and not just a mark.

"My issue has nothing to do with what was on the ballot - only the fact that for such an important vote they should have hired the board of elections to handle the voting process properly," stated Louise Daniele, a former Town of Fishkill board member and resident of Fishkill. Daniele stated, "Then maybe the continued misinformation regarding having to witness a signature for a ballot to be sent to you or the complete disregard or sending a ballot when someone requested one is the issue would not have happened."

Doreen Chiulli, a Fishkill resident, claims she and her husband were told about needing a witness for when he signed his absentee ballot. "I was very disappointed with how the election was held," said Chiulli, adding, "They were not prepared for a large turnout."

On the Library's Facebook page, "Congratulations" were offered from commenters. One person posted that the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) upgrades are necessary.

Beth Allee, president of the Blodgett Memorial Library Board of Trustees noted in an email to Beacon Free Press, "The Board of Elections has no oversight over our vote. The election was handled in accordance with applicable laws."

Veteran Arts Showcase set Nov. 20-22 at Wallace Center

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host a weekend-long Veteran Arts Showcase featuring works by local artists, photographers and authors with military backgrounds. The event kicks off with a reception on Friday, Nov. 20, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., followed by two full days (Nov. 21-22) of exhibits, presentations and performances. This event is free to attend.

Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served at the Nov. 20 reception. A Presentation of Colors & Opening Remarks will be followed by civilian and veteran presentations, performances and reflections on service, reintegration and the benefits of expressive therapies.

This year's honoree is World War II veteran and Battle of the Bulge survivor Ralph Osterhoudt Sr.

The Veteran Arts Showcase was founded on the understanding that the arts are vital to veteran reintegration - for self-expression, recovery from the aftereffects of war, and to reconnect with the community. The Showcase is much more than an art show. There are workshops, performances and music all weekend long. Organizers welcome attendance by members of the civilian community to foster an understanding of the issues that veterans face long after their service ends.

Hours are 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, with a Closing Ceremony from 3 to 4 p.m.

For more information visit VeteranArtsShowcase.org, call 914-522-5518 or email VeteranArtsShowcase @gmail.com.

Beacon Players to perform 'Frozen' November 20-22

Continued from cover

"My favorite song to perform is of course, "Fixer Upper." The energy of the music and choreography are exhilarating to perform with all my cast mates! It's my first time having a solo in the Beacon Players as well so that makes it extra fun," said Crystal via email.

Scarrone explained, "With any show, there are challenges from both the technical as well as the musical standpoint. With this show, the special effects are extremely challenging, making sure that the ice castles come to life as well as making sure that the iconic "Let It Go" is carefully portrayed and sets the tone for the shell."

Rehearsals, he said, "Have been extraordinary, this is a very difficult show to direct and maintain the standards that we have set up for ourselves, folks might think it's an easy show to do, but it is far from that building characters that were once cartoons is a task to itself."

Molly said, "The Beacon Players take on Frozen is definitely something all families in the area should enjoy. It's heartfelt, but also tackles some amazing set design and has a spectacular cast. Something that also stands out is the amount of work our cast and crew has put into this production. We've worked really hard to create something that captures the famous "Frozen" spirit, but also add our Beacon Players interpretation to it."

Crystal stated, "The Beacon Players take on "Frozen" is a special one that everyone should come see because of the time and energy that each and every member puts into making the show the best it can be. You'll be reminded of how the show has never been only for kids. The passion that everyone puts into their individual roles truly brings the classic story of "Frozen" to life."

Scarrone added, "I would be remiss if I didn't, [comment] on how incredible both our cast and crew are a rise to the occasion and truly help create the vision from the set designs to the execution of those sets and costumes, the cast always ready to make sure that the show is something to be proud of, and they never cease to amaze me."

For tickets, please go to www.beaconplayers.com.

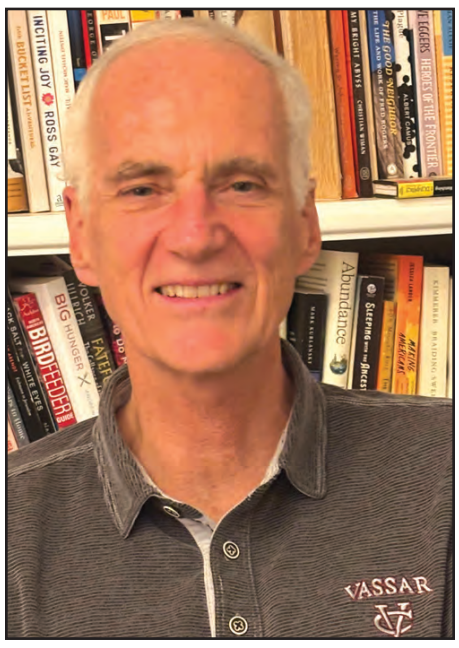


Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank welcomes three community leaders to Board of Directors

The Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Corporation (DCPLB), an organization that works to promote equitable and sustainable development by returning vacant, abandoned and underutilized properties to productive use, recently announced the appointment of three new members to its board of directors: John Bradley, executive director of the Vassar Urban Education Initiative, Shannon Decker, Dutchess County commissioner of finance, and Natalie Quinn, director of planning and development at KARC Planning Consultants, Inc.

As the Land Bank charts a path for long-term growth, adding these three community leaders to its team will further this goal.

"John, Shannon and Natalie, in each of their respective careers, have been integral in shaping how Dutchess County communities plan for growth and understand both the opportunity and complexities that come with making properties functional again," said DCPLB Board of Directors Chair, Angela DeFelice. "Their experiences within both the public and private sector will strengthen the board's decision-making as we continue our mission."



John Bradley



Shannon Decker



Natalie Quinn

John Bradley

Bradley brings a combination of education, healthcare, finance and leadership experience to the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank board. He presently serves as executive director of the Vassar Urban Education Initiative through Vassar College, an organization that connects Vassar students to local public-school students for mentoring, college counseling and teaching English, a position he's held for nine years. Prior to that, Bradley spent more than a decade as the executive director of Liberty Community Services and, before that, as a director of the Yale-New Haven Health System.

Bradley earned a master of business administration from the University of Chicago and a bachelor of arts in history from Yale University and is a resident of the Town of Poughkeepsie. He was jointly appointed to the board by Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers.

Shannon Decker

Decker, who lives in Pleasant Valley, has deep financial and accounting experience and is currently the commissioner of finance for Dutchess County, an appointment through Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. She brings more than 19 years of experience within the County's Department of Finance to the role, from joining as an accountant, then advancing to senior accountant and then senior research analyst. Prior to working on the government side, she had a career within the private sector at Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, CPAs and Sedore and Company, CPAs.

Decker holds a master's degree in accountancy from SUNY Polytechnic Institute and a bachelor's degree in accounting from SUNY New Paltz. She was appointed to the board by the Dutchess County Legislature.

Natalie Quinn

Quinn brings more than a decade of land use, zoning and community development experience to her role on the board of the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank.

Since 2023, Quinn has led private and municipal planning projects for KARC, guiding development from conception through construction, including zoning analysis, environmental review and land use approvals. Prior to this role, Quinn spent several years with the City of Poughkeepsie, leading the PK4Keeps Comprehensive Plan, a citywide zoning code update, the Poughkeepsie Innovation District zoning code and the city's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Her work streamlined the city's land use review and approvals process, helping to facilitate the approval of more than 1,500 housing units and one million square feet of commercial space.

A resident of Poughkeepsie, Quinn holds a master's degree in urban planning from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, as well as a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Quinn was appointed to the board by the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council.

Germania to start holiday season with Christkindlmarkt Nov. 20-21

The sights, sounds and aromas of a traditional German holiday season are coming to our local community. Germania of Poughkeepsie will hold its annual Christkindlmarkt on Friday, Nov. 20, from 4 to 9 p.m.; and on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 37 Old DeGarmo Road, rain or shine.

Inspired by centuries-old open-air holiday markets across Germany, this year's family-friendly festival promises an authentic German holiday experience complete with unique shopping inside a large heated tent, a "German Baked Goods Corner," delicious German food, caroling, raffles and more.

It will be a shopper's paradise as visitors can stroll through the tent filled with vendors selling a variety of handcrafted goods, knitwear, wine, maple syrup, plus authentic German feasts and festive holiday treats.

No Christkindlmarkt is complete without having some traditional German comfort food. Attendees can feast on freshly grilled bratwurst, beef goulash, Pilzrahmsuppe (German cream of mushroom soup), German potato salad, herring salad, red cabbage, sauerkraut and more.

For dessert, the volunteers are pulling out all the stops. The market will feature a spectacular selection of classic seasonal treats and traditional German baked goods, including Lebkuchen, Zimtsterne, Springerle, Vanillekipferl, Buttergebäck, Aachner Printen, Spritzgebäck, Honiglebkuchen, Rum Balls, Plain Stollen, Marzipan Stollen, Apple Strudel, Cream Horns, and Bienenstich.



Maria Bruhmuller and Helga Nowak-Razey prepare Zimtsterne (Cinnamon Star Cookies) for Germania's Christkindlmarkt.

-Photo courtesy Germania

The air will be filled with the joyous sounds of the season as Germania Singers will lead in singing familiar German and American Christmas carols. Feel free to sing along.

Visitors will also have the chance to win gift baskets filled with items donated by members, sponsors and market vendors with proceeds directly supporting the club's programs.

"Our annual Christkindlmarkt is more than just a holiday market; it's a way for us to share the rich German traditions and bring the whole community together in a spirit of warmth, togetherness, and celebration," said Sylvia Reuter, Germania's president. "Whether you are coming for authentic German food and holiday treats or looking for that perfect handmade gift, or just want to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate while listening to carolers, there is something magical here for everyone."

Admission and parking are free. For more information regarding the schedule of events, a full list of vendors, or make reservations for some of our baked goods, please visit germaniapok.com and click on the Christkindlmarkt flyer, or call 845-471-0609.

Germania supports the community by procuring goods and services through locally owned Hudson Valley businesses. The organization remains a 100% volunteer private organization, and is actively looking to increase membership, along with Club Sponsorship and Event Vendors. Membership is open to individuals of all faiths and backgrounds. Follow on Facebook at Germania of Poughkeepsie, Inc.



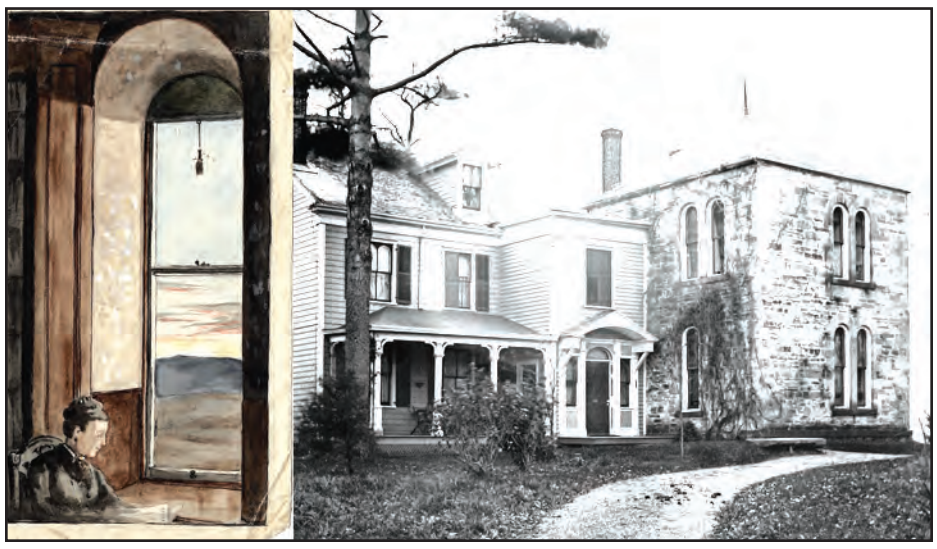


DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

www.DCHSNY.org/ddp

DCHS Dutchess County Historical Society

Familiar traditions of a 150-year-old Thanksgiving



The Lossing home, known as "The Ridge," stands today in Dover in a meticulous state of preservation. It is sited on a broad plain with wide vistas which were put to good use by the children on Thanksgiving nearly 150 years ago, with the help of a spyglass.

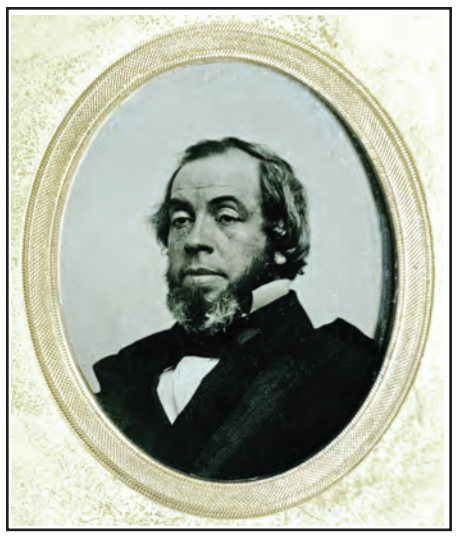
-Courtesy of DCHS Collections

By Bill Jeffway

In 1946, a manuscript arrived at the Dutchess County Historical Society from California. Its author, Thomas Sweet Lossing, had died a few months earlier. In the last decade of his life he had written out his memories of growing up on Chestnut Ridge in the northwest section of the town of Dover. The DCHS editor, Amy Pearce Ver Nooy, printed four of the sketches in that year's Yearbook under the title "My Heart Goes Home." One of them is the fullest account of a nineteenth-century Dutchess County Thanksgiving that can be found. The father at the head of that table was Benson J. Lossing, the famous and highly regarded national historian.

That Thanksgiving Day (we believe in the late 1870s) began with a spy glass. Lossing's uncle and his family lived 19 miles away. Although the family and town are not named, we believe it is the family of Robert Titus, of Titusville in LaGrange, who married the sister of the author's mother. Titus was a wealthy wool factory owner. The two households, six members each, spent every Thanksgiving together, alternating houses. At that season the ride was long and the roads frozen, so the uncle came in a three-seated spring wagon with the side curtains down, and the children watched for him from the house.

About eleven o'clock they could catch him through the glass, two miles off, coming over Cole's hill. Then came half an hour of suspense until the wagon appeared again by the cheese factory, and a last wait until it topped O'Brien's hill a quarter mile away. "By this time, we young ones couldn't stand still at all," Lossing wrote. "There were squeals of



By his son's telling, the noted 19th century American historian, Benson Lossing of Dover and his wife, Helen (formerly Sweet), alternated hosting a classic Thanksgiving holiday with the family of Helen's sister who also had four children, as they did – of approximate age.

-Courtesy of DCHS Collections

delight and even old Hawkeye knew something was up." His parents waited at the door dressed in their best, his mother with rouging at her neck and lace cuffs turned back; the children ran out to the horseblock, the girls in woolen dresses and clean white aprons, Thomas in a little blue suit. In the front seat sat his cousin Helen, "my favorite and my age," in a yellow overcoat and red mittens, her hands laid out on the buffalo robe. The horses stood steaming. The family climbed down "like animals out of the ark," and last, when the children were small, came Ann, a nurse, a woman of color, who looked after the youngest, in a blue plaid turban.

A whisper at the dining room door, and dinner was announced. Before leaving the parlor, someone set a brass fender that had belonged to his great-grandmother in front of the roaring fire. The table was laid with the best white china, silver knives with ivory handles, cut-glass goblets, and a great-grandmother's soup tureen in a red-dish-brown pagoda pattern, with a big silver ladle beside it. Twelve sat down. Lossing's mother took a tall fiddle-backed chair "supposed to have been sat in by George Washington," and from it asked the blessing, through which the young ones fidgeted. Then Esther, who worked for the family, carried in the turkey on its huge platter and set it before the the elder Lossing, the historian, who carved almost continuously as plates came back for seconds, and told "jolly stories, with a flavor of history," along with the year's events.

The menu that day may sound familiar: turkey, cranberries, boiled onions, mashed potatoes, Hubbard squash or beets, homemade bread and butter, then a plum pudding "that had caused so much anxiety in its preparation, but which never failed perfection," with its wine sauce, and last, hickory nuts from the family's own trees, already cracked and passed in a vegetable dish from the same set as the tureen, each guest with an ivory-handled nut pick.

A Dover table in the 1870s was not so different from a Dover table today. Lossing adds one confession: his cousin Annette once accused him of scratching his head with a piece of pie, and his older sister backed her up, "but this was not a fact although I have to plead guilty to having held a piece of pie in my hand while I scratched my head with my little finger."

Then came the games, which is what the children had been waiting for. Puss-in-the-corner in the hall, hide-and-seek all over the house, and later the quiet ones, parcheesi and "the checker-game-of-life," Milton Bradley's board game of 1860, played by shaking dice for the number of squares to move. Landing on the square marked "marry" made them "look blinky"; landing on "go to jail" delighted cousin Helen, especially if Thomas drew it. The coveted squares were "good occupation," "coasting," and "cricket." The afternoon of games made everyone hungry again, "but alas, supper on Thanksgiving night consisted of light sandwiches, chocolate and fruit cake at six o'clock," passed around the parlor on big oval tin trays, served on plates his mother had painted with her own design of green leaves and tiny blue and pink blossoms, the chocolate poured from a tall silver pitcher her father had made for her, with a twin for her sister.

What follows in the manuscript is four pages describing the parlor where that supper was eaten, object by object: the square Steinway on which his sister, at eight, played Beethoven to the admiration of Professor Ritter of Vassar; crimson silk curtains falling from gilt frames at the ceiling; a dome of white coral from the West Indies beside the fire tools; a painting of an Adirondack stream over a black walnut screen. It reads less like a memoir than an inventory, and that is the point.

A Dutchess County side note: If anyone needs evidence that national disagreement is nothing new, look to 1939 when then U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving would be celebrated one week earlier, moving from November 30 to November 23, to give merchants more shopping days before Christmas. He admitted the idea sounded "silly" but deferred to the retailers. The country split down the middle. Of the 48 states, 23 and the District of Columbia took the new date, 22 kept the old one, and Colorado, Mississippi, and Texas, observed both. Roosevelt carved his turkey on the 23rd at Warm Springs regardless.

The December 30, 1939 Poughkeepsie Journal announced that calendars being published for 1940 did not indicate a specific Thanksgiving Date but instead noted, "Thanksgiving Day to be fixed by the President of the United States." Congress felt slighted and in 1941 Congress fixed the holiday by law on the fourth Thursday of November, where it has stayed. The president signed the law.



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

Timothy Brown to bring 'classical' works to Howland Cultural Center Nov. 22

By Kristine Coulter

Timothy Brown will be performing at the Howland Cultural Center (HCC) at 4 p.m. on Nov. 22. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main St. in Beacon.

"The concert is a showcase of my "classical" works, for various combinations of solo, duet, and quartet ensembles featuring piano, oboe, flute, voice, and string instruments. The pieces range from somewhat recent to almost 40 years old," said Brown.

How did Brown get into music?

"Most likely due to the influence of my immediate family growing up, I've never really been into anything BUT music. My music-teacher mother, choir director father, and older siblings immersed in music, perhaps I had no choice. I also credit the strong teachers/programs in my small hometown school district for shaping my love for music. I was lucky enough to gain experience in instrumental music (piano/oboe), vocal music (solo and choral), musical theatre, and also early training in music theory and composition," he explained.

Brown added, "I went on to focus solely on music through college. Then started my career as a teacher of high school choral music. Once I relocated to New York, I returned my focus to composing, though, at that time, mostly in the world of musical theatre. The upcoming concert is a RARE opportunity to live briefly on The Classical Side, which I love."

The Howland is not a new venue for Brown's performances.

"Indeed, I was pleased to be presented by HCC in 2022 in a showcase of my THEATRE music; an evening of stand-alone songs and songs from show projects. The cast included local stars, Nicole Tori, Jen Malenke, Christian Campbell, Ryan Dunn, Daniel Rowan-Lyons, and Broadway leading lady, Chilina Kennedy," he recalled. "In addition, The Howland housed the first reading performance of my current musical theatre project, "Loving Vivian" in 2024, featuring Joanna Castle-Miller, Kelly Ellenwood, Carrie Gibson, Jen Malenke, Connor Bond, Annalyse McCoy, and Scott Ramsey." He also performed there - mostly as conductor - with Illume Choir in 2025.

"I'm involved with HCC through my work on the board of directors of Howland Chamber Music Circle, which presents a dozen world-class chamber music concerts each year at The Center," he noted.

Brown said he invites "all classical music loving folks to join us (you won't like it if this kind of music isn't your thing).

"I'm grateful to the wonderful performers who'll be taking part for breathing life into these long-dormant works," he said.

For tickets, please go to www.howland culturalcenter.org.



Obituaries

Joseph William Pettit



Joseph William Pettit, a life-long resident of the Village of Wappingers Falls, recent years of Poughkeepsie, NY; passed away peacefully on November 8, 2026 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie; at the age of 76. He was born in the Village of Wappingers Falls on February 25, 1950, son of the late John Otis Pettit and Mary Elizabeth (nee Komer) Pettit.

Joseph proudly enlisted in the United States Marines in 1969. He served during the Vietnam War, and received an honorable discharge. Joe was a longtime active member of the Wappingers Falls VFW Post 5913.

Joe was a Life-Member of the W.T. Garner Fire Company #1 in Wappingers Falls, he was past-Chief. He also was a member of the Hughsonville Fire Department, where he served as Assistant Chief.

He worked for several years for the VA Hudson Valley Healthcare at both Castle Point and Montrose campuses, until he retired. He enjoyed serving as transportation for his fellow veterans who needed the assistances.

Joe was an avid sports fan; he enjoyed bowling, softball and flag-football. He also was an avid fisherman.

Joe is survived by his two children: daughter Kelley A. Pettit; his son Tyler Pettit and his wife Jessica; his three grandchildren Charlie Pettit, Miles & Elaina. He is also survived by his three brothers: Corky Pettit, Ronald Pettit and John Pettit.

Along with his parents, Joe was predeceased by his wife Judith Pettit, and his sister Patricia Pettit-Stalter.

His Family will gather with Friends to honor his Life and Military Service on Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 11:00 AM with a graveside military service by the United States Marine Corp Honor Guard at the Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, Veterans Plot, West Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of 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.

Stanley H. Diamond

Stanley H. Diamond, formerly of Manhattan, NY and recent years of Poughkeepsie, passed away peacefully on November 11, 2026; at the age of 101 years old, two-weeks before his 102nd birthday. He was born in Brooklyn, NY on November 28, 1924, son of the late Herman & Gussie (nee Baker) Diamond.

Stanley was a veteran of World War II, serving in the former United States Army-Air Corp which is now the United States Air Force. He received an honorable discharge for his service.

Stanley is survived by his two daughters: Andrea Diamond and Beth Gaines, and his brother Carl Diamond. He is also survived by his five grandchildren: Derek Peterson, Tyler Peterson, Alex Peterson, Max Gaines and Noah Gaines; his four great-grandchildren, Juliet, Jack, Layla and River.

Along with his parents, Stanley was predeceased by his sister Diana Diamond.

Arrangements were entrusted to the professional care of DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. Interment and Military Honors will be a later date at the convenience of his family. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.DelehantyFuneral.com.

Gerri Ann Galioto



Gerri Ann Galioto, a life-long resident of Wappingers Falls, passed away peacefully on November 9, 2026, at the age of 68. She was born at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York on April 27, 1958, daughter of the late Phil and Joyce (Herring) Galioto.

She leaves behind her loving son, Mike, and daughter Michelle, along with her two cherished grandchildren, Tiffany and Mikaya, who will carry her memory in their hearts. She is also survived by her sisters, Vicenza (Vicki) Galioto and Rae Galioto; her brothers Fedeli Galioto, Gino Galioto; and the entire Barry Family, who held a special place in her heart.

Our beloved mother will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. She was a woman who found happiness in life's simple pleasures, especially being near the water, taking long car rides and spending time fishing.

She also shared a special love and bond with her love, dear friend and devoted companion Joseph Barry who meant the world to her. Their relationship was an important part of her life and filled her with love, friendship and companionship.

Her love for the water, the open road, and the peaceful moments spent fishing will forever be remembered by those who shared those experiences with her.

Though she may no longer be with us, the memories, love, and the moments she gave us will live on forever. Forever loved, forever remembered and never forgotten.

Her Family will receive Friends on Friday, November 20, from 3-7 PM at DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered 11AM on Saturday, November 21st at St. Mary's Church, 11 Clinton St., Wappingers Falls, followed by a private cremation. Interment will be a later date in the Wappingers Falls Rural Cemetery, at the convenience of her family.

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

Graig G. Gorgas



Graig G. Gorgas, born in Pennsylvania on July 4, 1964, age 62 of Wappingers Falls passed away on October 30, 2026. Graig graduated from John Jay High School and earned a certificate in cosmetology from BOCES. He put those skills to use as a stylist for family and friends. He also worked in food preparation and production.

Graig was a devoted Mets fan, and loved the Looney Tunes Tasmanian Devil. He loved decorating for the holidays, and had a large collection of rock and roll music.

Graig is survived by his son, Brandon Gorgas; his brothers, Mark (Rebecca) and Scott (Theresa); and his sister, Tamara (Robert).

His Family and Friends will gather for a Celebration of Life on July 4th, 2027; the anniversary of his birthday. The location will be announced and Interment will follow.

His Family wishes for memorial donations can be made to Cardinal Hayes Home for Children, P.O. Box CH, St. Joseph Drive, Millbrook, NY 12545 (https://cardinalhayeshome.org/donate/).

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of 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.

Mid-Hudson Quakers participate in 'Oh, Freedom!' Quilting Project

Mid-Hudson Quakers from the Bulls Head-Oswego, Cornwall, Hudson, New Paltz, and Poughkeepsie Friends Meetings are drawing upon their rich history by participating in the "Oh, Freedom!" Quilting Project organized by the Mid-Hudson Anti-Slavery History Project. The Mid-Hudson Quaker Quilt will honor the role Quakers played in the abolition of slavery, in New York and, eventually, nationwide.

Members of the Religious Society of Friends, who are also known as Quakers, were among the first to oppose the institution of slavery in the United States, becoming a driving force behind abolitionist movements, the Underground Railroad, and anti-slavery legislation. The Quaker Trail in Dutchess County was a covert network guiding courageous freedom seekers to safe houses, sanctuary and support. Quaker homes, barns, and meetinghouses served as vital resting points. The Society was the first organized religious denomination to officially ban slaveholding among its members by 1776.

In a series of hands-on workshops, Mid-Hudson Quakers are learning from experienced quilters how to create one to honor the story of their forebears. The goal is to have their quilt for display ahead of next summer's bicentennial celebration commemorating the 200th anniversary of the legal end of slavery in New York State, a process which began July 4, 1827. The Quaker quilt will be included in the 2027 exhibition currently being planned at Marist University.



Mid-Hudson Quakers participate in the "Oh, Freedom!" quilting project.
-Courtesy photo

The Mid-Hudson Quakers are committed to raising awareness about the Society of Friends (Quakers) in the Mid-Hudson Valley, including commitments to peace, equality, and radical witness.

Visit midhudsonquakers.leaflet.pub for information about events.

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

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Southern/Northern Dutchess News and Beacon Free Press will have an early deadline for the

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kimberleemarkarian.bhhshudsonvalley.com

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Due to a Thanksgiving Day Press Schedule Southern & Northern Dutchess News and the Beacon Free Press have the following early deadlines for Classified Display Ads:
November. 25th Issue Deadline is as follows: November 18th deadline before noon.
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516 Misc. Merchandise

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523 Seasonal Merchandise

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514 Christmas Merchandise

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NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES:

DUE TO A HOLIDAY PRESS SCHEDULE FOR THE NOVEMBER 25TH ISSUE.

THE SOUTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & THE BEACON FREE PRESS WILL HAVE AN EARLY DEADLINE FOR THE Thanksgiving Day ISSUE.

ALL ADVERTISING MUST BE RECEIVED BY

WEDNESDAY November 18th BEFORE NOON.

CALL: 845-297-3723 x1003 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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get growing!

by mark adams



AgriTech

Cutting-edge projects at Cornell University's agriculture and food science research center

I got terribly sick drinking hot mulled cider at a movie theater. During the movie. That was before the January 2006 N.Y. state law requiring all non-alcoholic cider to be pasteurized to eliminate bacteria. At the time, small farm cideries, of which there are many in the Hudson Valley, complained that the pasteurizing process, which heats the cider briefly to 161 degrees, ruined the flavor.

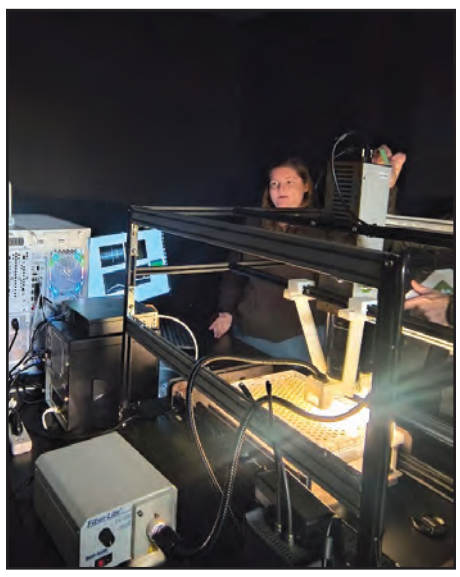
Enter Cornell AgriTech, Cornell University's agriculture and food science research center.

Around the time the cider food safety laws were gestating, scientists at Cornell AgriTech were developing a way to pasteurize cider with ultraviolet light, without heating it. And the UV system cost way less than the traditional high temperature equipment, perfect for smaller farms.

Research is critical to our nation's food and agriculture industries. The 900-acre AgriTech campus in Geneva, N.Y. is home to 300 people, including 47 researchers and 68 graduate students working on innovation in plant breeding, entomology, horticulture and food science. The everyday apple varieties Cortland, Empire and Ruby Frost were developed at AgriTech. Northstar, the new hybrid broccoli that will perform in New York's hot summer climate, is aiming to take back a chunk of California's annual billion-dollar broccoli sales.



Rye Webber with robots.
-Photos by Mark Adams



Elia Brewer checks genetic traits.

As members of Cornell's Project Work Team, Sue and I were able to experience firsthand some of the cutting-edge research going on at AgriTech:

• **Robotics** – Technician Rye Webber showed us the prototypes of robots designed to travel through vineyards scouting for pests and diseases. The earliest version kept tipping over when it hit a pothole. The latest iteration is equipped with a $250,000 camera that can be taught to recognize a disease like powdery mildew on a grape leaf.

• **Breeding for disease resistance** – Why not eliminate the disease before spending half a million dollars on a camera? PhD student Elia Brewer is working on a way to quickly identify genetic traits in grape varieties that offer resistance to powdery mildew, eliminating years of testing new varieties in the field.

• **Companion planting for pest control** – Thrips and whiteflies can devastate a tomato crop, especially in a controlled environment like a greenhouse. Ukrainian student Yaroslav Grynyshyn, working on his masters degree, is trialing companion plants like marigolds, basil or sweet alyssum that draw these pests away from the tomatoes. He also needs to figure out the ratio of companion plants to tomato plants so that the least amount of space is removed from production.

• **Lighting for pest control** – Another of Cornell entomologist Samantha Wilden's students, Cristhian Ochoa, is investigating the effect of different wave lengths of LED lighting on pest development. He suspects that red light can boost a plant's immune response (this has previously been studied by students at Wageningen University in the Netherlands).

• **Fast composting** – Cornell student Renee Smith is studying bokashi composting, which can break down kitchen scraps by fermentation in a few weeks instead of the six months it usually takes. The goal is to develop a scalable solution to deal with the 60 million tons of food wasted every year in the U.S.

• **Food preservation** – Cornell extension associate Ann Vegdahl toured us through the Food Innovation Lab, where food products are tested for safety, marketability and shelf life. New foods to be released commercially need to hold up in the grocery store for more than a few days. Most impressive was the Hyperbaric Processing Machine, which can "cold press" packaged foods or beverages at 87,000 pounds per square inch, pulverizing bacterial pathogens without using heat or chemical preservatives. I wondered if this process could be used on milk, which suffers in the market place because of its relatively short shelf life. Ann says that AgriTech is prevented from exploring this possibility by intense opposition from dairy's traditional pasteurization industry. But it works great on cider.

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

Beacon resident Peter Stropoli receives NY Army National Guard promotion

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Peter Stropoli from Beacon, and assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, received a promotion Oct. 15, to the rank of specialist.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

Christmas Fair at St. Gregory Orthodox Church on December 5

Christmas Fair at St. Gregory Orthodox Church of America will be held on from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. Attendees can have their pictures taken with Santa, from noon – 2p.m. There will be church tours at noon and 2 p.m.

Do not forget to have some baked goods, ethnic foods and look for some gifts. Eat in or take out is available.

Organizers note that all proceeds will benefit St. basil's Academy, Dutchess Outreach and St. Christopher's Inn.

The church is located at 1500 Route 376 in Wappinger Falls.

Shop, dine and celebrate the season.

this week's puzzle solutions

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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



Sugoru solution

2	5	4	1	3	2
3	1	3	2	4	1
2	5	4	1	5	3
3	1	3	2	4	1
4	2	4	1	3	2
3	1	5	2	5	4

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Resolution 2026178
November 10, 2026
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the County Attorney of Dutchess County in the County Office Building, County Attorney's Conference Room, 5th Floor, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, on the 25th day of November 2026 at 10:30 AM, on the following local law:
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE DUTCHESS COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AS IT PERTAINS TO SECTION 30.05, ARCHITECT, ENGINEER AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT SELECTION COMMITTEE, RESOLUTION 2026178.
At said time and place, all parties interested will be heard.
Dated:
November 10, 2026
Poughkeepsie, New York
Susan Serino
Dutchess County Executive

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-122-26
24 ft. Enclosed Equipment Trailer
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 27th day of November 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

The deadline for Legals is every Monday @ 12 noon for a Wednesday Publication* *When a public holiday falls on a Monday the deadline becomes Friday at noon.

Diversions

SUDOKU



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

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

Suguru

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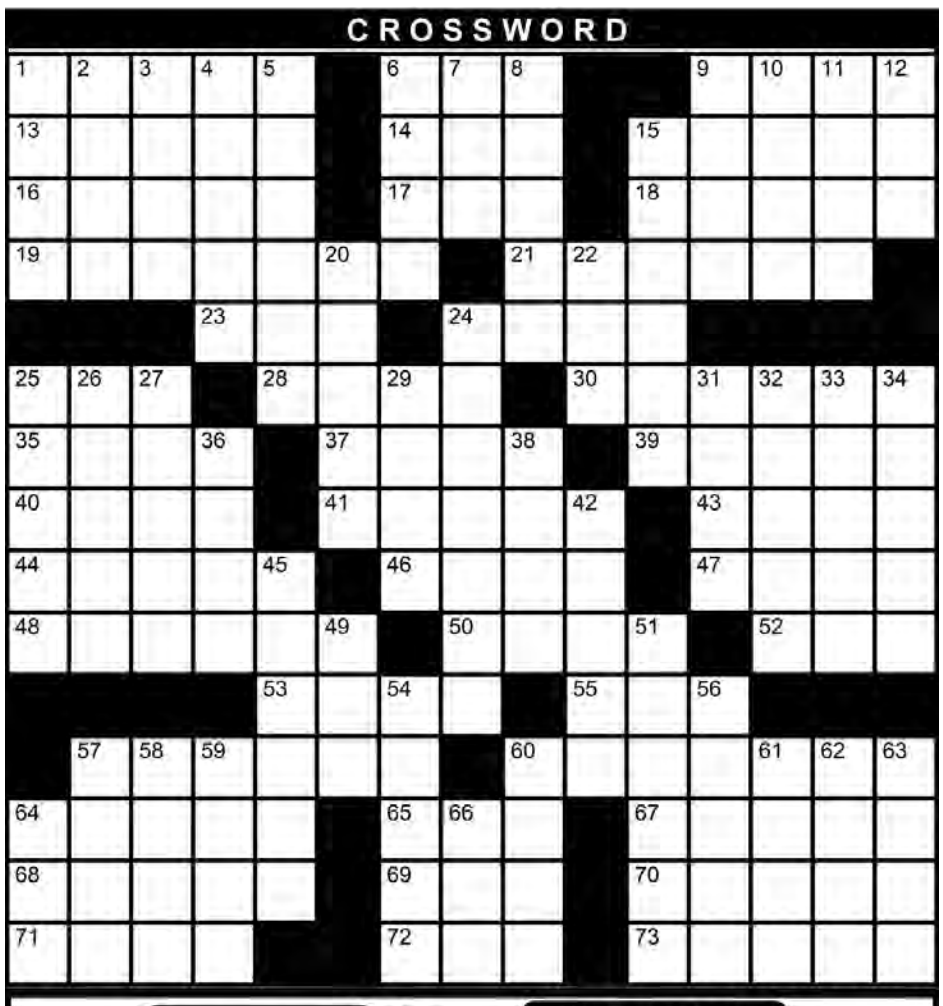
The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally,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

THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES

ACROSS
1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN
1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

CROSSWORD





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

love to cook

by vicki frank day

ThanksGifting

Presents for, or from, the heart of the home – the kitchen



Champagne and barware and old vintage linen
Ironstone platters and tools for my kitchen
Gifts that are thoughtful and make my heart sing
These are a few of my favorite things

The season of giving has begun and they say the best gifts are the ones you'd like yourself. We give gifts to say thank you, I love you, I appreciate you and, if we're fortunate, we have a long list of people to say that to. I have some ideas to help you with the food lovers on that list, whether it's for holiday giving or for whoever's hosting the biggest food holiday of them all. (Think of it as Thanksgifting). It can be a challenge to come up with food-related gifts, especially if you're shopping for an accomplished cook or cocktail aficionado since they likely have everything they need. That's not to say it's impossible to delight and surprise them with something they didn't know they needed, and I've put together a list for you to draw inspiration from, things that I would like to receive myself and have given to others. So, pour yourself a hot or cold beverage, sit back and let the holiday spirit move you!

Everyone these days mostly shops online, and I get it. It's convenient and you can find just about anything you're looking for. Call me old-fashioned, but I love going to actual stores to shop, although I certainly have done my share of online shopping. There's just something about actually seeing and holding the merchandise before buying that makes it seem more personal, and you get a better idea of quality when it's right in front of you. Catalogs and shops, both online and brick-and-mortar, abound offering everything from hard-to-find exotic spices and beautiful serving pieces to amazing kitchen gadgetry you never knew existed. I love going to local restaurant supply stores because it not only supports local businesses but also offers extensive, durable, high-quality things that are often as practical as they are fun to use. I often go to Warren Cutlery in Rhinebeck when I need to round out my shopping and always find great stocking stuffers to boot.

There are a few gadgets I can't do without in my kitchen and love to use, making them great for giving to others. A good whisk, offset spatula, digital meat thermometer, microplane or fish spatula are all invaluable for a well-appointed kitchen. An added plus is, because they're so useful, you really can't have too many; so if it turns out someone on your list already has one, an extra will still likely be appreciated. All are thoughtful, practical and won't break the bank or take up much precious kitchen space.

I also scour antique shops and flea markets year-round for vintage linens, silverware, serving pieces, pretty antique plates and vintage glassware. These are great as little gifts on their own, to serve as wrapping or package decor or to outfit a picnic basket, one of my favorite things to give. For me half the fun, and often half the gift, is how it's presented. Beautiful arrangement or wrapping of even the simplest gift can make it extra special.

One of my go-to hostess gifts is a potted rosemary plant, especially appropriate this time of year. Set on a sunny windowsill or counter, it's easily accessible to snip off a few sprigs while lending a festive scent to a holiday kitchen. Speaking of scent, I love adding fresh evergreen to gift baskets, flower arrangements and to decorate packages. Candles make nice gifts, but I recommend unscented tapers for tables with food. Those with fragrance are good for other rooms or in the kitchen when cutting onions.

For those who imbibe consider a wine coaster, set of cocktail picks, decadent Luxardo cherries or large ice cube trays (for that perfect rock in their whiskey). In lieu of wine, a good champagne is always a welcome gift (I love Veuve Clicquot for any special occasion). An aperitif to stimulate the appetite is another good choice, especially when paired with salty nibbles like olives, nuts and cheeses or when served before a big meal. These are typically light, dry and/or herbaceous and you can think of them as appetizers of a sort. Lillet Blanc, Campari, Aperol and prosecco are all good choices. On the other end of the spectrum is the digestif, usually higher in alcohol than its pre-dinner counterpart and meant to be sipped after a meal to aid in digestion. Cognac, port, Grand Marnier, Drambuie and Benedictine are some of my favorites and definitely gift-worthy. I'm not sure they actually help you digest but I can attest to the soothing quality they have on me and my full belly, likely more due to the herbs some contain than anything else. Give a bottle on its own or include some pretty, petite cordial glasses for serving.

Another idea is to look through the tons of photos on your phone and turn them into albums. Find a theme – holiday dinners, favorite vacation meals, nights out with friends – and go to one of the many websites that offer the service of turning them into photo books. Snapfish, Shutterfly, Mixbook, Popsa and Printique are all worth checking out and run the gamut in print quality, price point and user-friendliness. You can also check to see if your local CVS, Walmart or Walgreens offer this service. Not only can you share the memories (a great gift in itself), but you can often get multiple copies and free up space on your phone!

There are plenty of food gifts for those who don't cook, too. Bake a loaf of bread and wrap it up with a good European or flavored butter. Fill a tin with homemade cookies or a basket with local cheeses and a small cutting board. If they especially love something you make and know their way around the kitchen, hand-write a recipe card and attach it to a basket full of the ingredients they'll need. You might also consider a subscription to one of the many meal kit sites out there. They can choose their own weekly meals and the pre-portioned ingredients and step-by-step instructions will be delivered right to their door. I've never tried a meal kit but the idea is a good one for busy parents, seniors and those who live alone or need direction and inspiration to cook. Look into HelloFresh, Blue Apron and Hungryroot or search 'meal kits' online for more options and to see if it's a good fit.

It's the season of giving, and what better gifts than those for or from the heart of the home – the kitchen. Because of the personal nature of food, it helps to know people's tastes and preferences (and allergies!) before going wild. You also don't have to spend a fortune. You can buy as simply or as elaborately as you like or are able to: a single bottle of wine, beautiful peppermill or box of chocolates can be just as meaningful as a basket brimming with gourmet comestibles. It's the thought that really counts. Choosing gifts carefully tailored to the recipient shows a thoughtfulness that becomes part of the gift itself. Gourmet gifts can be found for almost anyone on your list, to say thank you for hosting or for just being you and, when unwrapped, bestow the one on the receiving end with warmth, nostalgia, love and comfort – all things that define the season and keep on giving long after the holidays are a fond memory. Enjoy!

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

Children's Holiday Craft Workshop November 21 in Fishkill

The holiday season will get a creative start when the Verplanck Garden Club hosts its 31st Annual Children's Holiday Craft Workshop on Saturday, November 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the lower level of Fishkill Town Hall.Designed for children ages 5–12, this popular community event invites young participants to make five festive, nature-inspired crafts and decorations to take home and enjoy throughout the holiday season. All craft supplies, instruction, and assistance are provided free of charge by the club's enthusiastic volunteers. No sign-up is necessary.

"The workshop has become a beloved Fishkill tradition, welcoming hundreds of children over the years" observed Chair Jean Haight. "It's wonderful to see children return year after year to enjoy a morning of creativity and holiday fun," Haight said. "We're looking forward to another successful workshop, and we're especially pleased that Santa Claus will be joining us. Children will have an opportunity to meet Santa and have their pictures taken with him."

While the club is preparing to accommodate as many as 125 children this year, the Verplanck Garden Club's commitment to the community extends well beyond the holiday season. Throughout the year, the club sponsors free educational and creative programs for children and seniors at various locations throughout the Town of Fishkill. These activities are made possible through community support and fundraising initiatives, including the club's annual Harvest Fest.

"We love finding ways to bring people together while sharing our enthusiasm for nature, gardening, and creativity," said Jennifer LeFevre, VGC Club President . "Programs like the Holiday Craft Workshop are a wonderful expression of our mission to promote environmental education and community beautification."



Santa's elves gathered at last year's Children's Craft Workshop to assist the kids with their projects, and to give Santa a helping hand as well.

-Photos courtesy VGC



Greenery in a mug is one of the projects that has been popular throughout the years.

In addition to its educational outreach, the Verplanck Garden Club plants and maintains nine public gardens throughout Fishkill and at Stony Kill Farm. It also sponsored the Roots of Liberty gardens which highlighted historic locations in Fishkill and Beacon associated with the American Revolution. These projects reflect the organization's ongoing dedication to enhancing the local landscape and encouraging an appreciation of gardening throughout the Hudson Valley.

The Verplanck Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Fishkill, New York. With 76 members, the club meets on the second Tuesday of most months. Meetings include educational presentations on gardening-related topics and discussions of the club's ongoing and upcoming community projects.

