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NYS DOT opens state-of-the-art maintenance facility in East Fishkill

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez and Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy announced on Thursday, Dec. 4 the opening of a new, state-of-the-art maintenance facility that will bolster snow removal and road maintenance activities along key highways in the Hudson Valley. According to officials, the new, 18,427-square-foot building at NYSDOT's Lime Kiln Yard in the Town of East Fishkill, will help speed repairs to plow trucks and other vital pieces of equipment, allowing them to stay on the road longer and facilitating a more efficient response to incidents of severe weather and other highway emergencies. The new facility also features the latest technology and clean energy initiatives to help safeguard the environment and better serve travelers.

"The Department of Transportation has one of the finest snow fighting forces in the nation and we are committed to giving them the resources and equipment they need to keep travelers safe," Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said. "This state-of-the-art facility will ensure that our dedicated crews have the facilities, materials and equipment they need to maintain and operate our state roadway network as well as making sure our plows and emergency response vehicles are ready to go when New Yorkers need them the most - during emergencies and extreme weather events."

East Fishkill Supervisor Nicholas D'Alessandro said, "The opening of this new NYS-DOT residency is great news for our community. With a modern, centrally located hub right here in Hopewell Junction, residents will benefit from quicker response times, improved road conditions, and enhanced winter storm readiness." He thanked Commissioner Dominguez and all partners who are involved in making this "long-planned project a reality." D'Alessandro noted to Southern Dutchess News that Region 8 is the best region in NYS.

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'Keep Moving Forward' 2025 theme of Wreaths Across America

By Kristine Coulter

All over the United States, wreaths will be placed on the graves of American veterans as part of Wreaths Across America. This year's theme is "Keep Moving Forward." Some of the ceremonies will be held in Fishkill, Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls.

"There will always be challenges to overcome as individuals, communities and a country, but we must keep moving forward together," stated Wreaths Across America Executive Director Karen Worcester on the website, wreathsasscrossamerica.org.

Ceremonies scheduled in Fishkill and Poughkeepsie

Joe Schuka, a funeral director for Delehanty Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls, has been organizing ceremonies in Fishkill and Poughkeepsie. The ceremony in Fishkill will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9. Then at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14, a ceremony will be held at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, 342 South Ave., in Poughkeepsie.

Schuka said the Wreaths Across America ceremony is "a nice way of stopping during the holiday rush, to take a moment and "remember" the fallen, "honor" those who served, and "teach" the next generation about the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans."

"Honor." "Remember." "Teach," that is what the mission of Wreaths Across America is about.

Schuka has been organizing this event for five years in Fishkill and four years in Poughkeepsie.

"The reason that I continue to partic-



Wreaths Across America participants during a previous year's ceremony.

-Courtesy photo Dani Masterson

ipate in this national veterans event, on a local level, is because of how strong I feel as a patriot; something that was instilled in me at a young age, [was] always showing respect to those who served our...," he explained.

As for what one may expect if they attend, Schuka replied, "They can expect to see their fellow neighbor, a brief ceremony to honor the lives of those who served our country, and some fellowship after."

The Fishkill Rural Cemetery has about 600 graves in the two veteran sec-

tions, according to Schuka. He said, late last month, there were 300 wreaths this year, "which will be enough to cover one of the sections."

It is not about the actual wreath, according to Schuka, it is about "coming out and honoring those who served and are serving."

"It's always been proven a successful and beautiful tribute event, though cold temperatures but worth it since these men and women gave much more for our freedoms," said Schuka.

Continued on page 2

Lourdes to name gym in honor of legendary coach Brian Giorgis

By Morgan E. Maier

Before Brian Giorgis led Marist University to its first Sweet Sixteen in program history, he was a trailblazing basketball coach at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Now, the school where he led 19 league championship teams to school history, will be dedicating its gymnasium in his honor.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, at 1:30 p.m., the school will officially unveil the gym bearing Giorgis' name with a ceremony at the Our Lady of Lourdes Arts & Athletic Center at the school, located at 131 Boardman Road in Poughkeepsie. A reception with light refreshments is to follow.

The plans for the coming event began

with a call from Mike Krieger, director of alumni relations at Lourdes. Krieger shared with Giorgis the school's wish to do "something" to honor him. The nine-time state champion coach thought he'd be clearing shelf space for a plaque, then learned the scope of the honor.

Continued on page 7

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Reserve seats now for Children’s Holiday Tea at Mount Gulian

By Kristine Coulter

Generations will gather at Mount Gulian Historic Site to take part in the annual and very popular Children’s Holiday Tea. The annual event, which has been held for decades, is set for Monday, Dec. 22 from noon to 2 p.m. Attendees will hear about a bygone era, at the historic site that once served social teas.

Admission is \$20 for children and \$30 for adults. Prepaid reservations are required by Monday, Dec. 15. For reservations and further information call 845-831-8172 or email at info@mountgulian.org.

“I’d have to say the highlight is really the overall atmosphere of the day. Children are excited to come to a “formal Tea,” experiencing life in Victorian times, with some girls coming in dresses and boys in suit jackets. The rooms are decorated for the holidays with our wonderful Christmas tree, ornaments and fresh greens, and each Tea table is set with fine linens and chinaware. It’s a unique day for our visitors, many of whom come back year after year,” said Elaine Hayes, Mount Gulian Historic Site Executive Director.

The menu will include assorted Harney & Sons teas.

Hayes, added, “Victorians came to “Tea” to socialize but also to eat,” Dainty finger sandwiches will be prepared by The Bagel Shoppe, in Fishkill. A selection of homemade desserts will also be served. She noted, “Mount Gulian will be warm and beautiful, just like the good ol’ days...”

As in years past, previous attendees will bring the younger generation to now enjoy the festivities.

“We’ve had grandmothers come with their adult children and their own kids, and we’re very proud of that because it shows that presenting history in a fun and entertaining way works. It’s labor intensive for us, but always gratifying, as the event makes an impression on everyone who attends, and we always get “repeat business.” It’s always amazing when someone shows up who attended years ago as a child, with their own children,” said Hayes.

A Victorian-inspired craft project for the children will also be offered.

Hayes said of this year’s craft, “Led by Gabriel Byrne, our Operations Manager, every child will make a Christmas orna-



The annual Children’s Holiday Tea is set for December 22 at Mount Gulian.
-Courtesy photo Mount Gulian Historic Site

ment, that they can hang on their own tree or use to decorate their room. No one leaves empty handed.”

This year’s annual Children’s Holiday Tea is made possible through the generous support of Stewart’s Shops. Mount Gulian is located at 145 Sterling Street in Beacon.

‘Keep Moving Forward’ 2025 theme of Wreaths Across America

Continued from cover

Commemorating Wreaths Across America’s mission

“Wreaths Across America is a powerful annual tribute that celebrates the selfless sacrifices of our fallen service-members and deceased veterans worldwide. Every December, the community comes together for the Wreaths Laying Ceremony, where participants, family members, supporters, and veterans unite to commemorate the Wreaths Across America Mission: to Remember, Honor, and Teach. By placing a wreath on a grave and taking two steps back, we “Remember” and pay tribute to America’s brave defenders of freedom. We “Honor” their service and sacrifice by reciting their name, hand on heart, and/or salute (veterans), and actively “Teach” the next generation the value of freedom and the sacrifices made to protect it. This meaningful tradition inspires us to cherish and celebrate the courageous men and women who have given their lives for our freedom, ensuring their memory and legacy endure,” stated Dani Masterson, who is organizing this year’s events in Wappingers Falls, with Virgil Capollari.

“I’ve organized Wreaths Across America in Wappingers Falls because honoring our veterans is a responsibility I feel deeply. Each wreath is a reminder that their service and sacrifice are not forgotten. Over the past six years, I’ve

seen how this tradition unites our community-families pausing to reflect and children learning history,” said Masterson, via email.

She added, “For me, it’s about more than coordinating an event. It’s about creating a space where remembrance is alive, meaningful, and shared. Year after year, I return because those moments of gratitude and connection show the true power of remembrance.”

Masterson noted this is her seventh year as a location coordinator for Wreaths Across America and she has loved organizing this event every single year.

“During the event, I feel a powerful mix of reverence and gratitude-standing around the wreaths with the community, I’m reminded of the sacrifices made and the importance of remembering them together,” said Masterson.

“I’m especially looking forward to co-hosting this year’s event alongside Virgil Capollari. Sharing the day with someone who shares the same passion makes the experience even more meaningful and we can grow our Wreaths events bigger and better every year,” said Masterson.

“Virgil and I invite you to join us for National Wreaths Across America Day as we gather in remembrance, gratitude, and community. Together, we will lay wreaths to honor our veterans and carry forward the mission: Remember. Honor. Teach.,” said Masterson.

The free and open event takes place at



Wreaths Across America ceremonies will take place at Fishkill Rural Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 13 and at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery on Sunday, Dec. 14. Pictured is last year’s ceremony at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

-Archive photo

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GENERAC

noon on Saturday, Dec. 13, a ceremony and wreath laying will take place at Wappingers Rural Cemetery, 174-208 W. Main St, in Wappingers Falls. Then at 2 p.m., at St. Mary’s Cemetery, a wreath laying ceremony will be held.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, at noon, a wreath laying ceremony will take place at New Hackensack Cemetery, Route 376 (New Hackensack Road), Wappingers Falls.

“Afterward, I carry a sense of fulfillment and pride. It’s humbling to stand shoulder to shoulder with neighbors, veterans, and families, all united in purpose. It fills me with hope knowing that each wreath laid is a promise that we will never forget. Seven years in, the feeling hasn’t faded- it’s only grown stronger,” remarked Masterson.

To find out more about Wreaths Across America, and more local ceremonies, please visit <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org>.

NYS DOT opens state-of-the-art maintenance facility in East Fishkill



State and local officials cut the ribbon for what is described as a NYS DOT state-of-the-art maintenance facility in East Fishkill on Thursday, Dec. 4.

-Courtesy photos



The new NYS DOT maintenance facility in East Fishkill.

Continued from cover

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy said, “OGS is proud to build, rehabilitate, and upgrade DOT spaces in all corners of New York. This new 20,000-square-foot facility in Dutchess County is a result of our longstanding partnership and will serve as a hub for their teams, who work around the clock to keep our roads reliable and safe no matter the season.”

The new maintenance facility is capable of garaging 14 large dump trucks and features office space, exterior and interior LED lighting, plug in stations for DOT’s electric vehicles, and a high efficiency heating system, it was stated. Additionally, an indoor wash bay was installed to ensure vehicle cleanliness to improve vehicle visibility, protect critical parts and reduce long-term maintenance. Construction of the new building began in 2022.

Visible from Interstate 84, the Lime Kiln Yard provides a centrally located hub for NYSDOT operations in Dutchess and Putnam counties. The 26 workers based at this yard are responsible for maintaining approximately 230 lane miles of state roads. In addition to storm response, they also perform such tasks as filling potholes, guiderail repairs and drainage repairs. Areas in this jurisdiction include:

Interstate 84 between the Newburgh Beacon Bridge and the Connecticut state line

Taconic State Parkway from U.S. Route 6 to State Route 55

State Route 376 between State Route 52 and State Route 113

The Department of Transportation is still accepting job applications to join the highway maintenance workers/snowplow operators, mechanics, engineers, and office staff. A candidate must be at least 18 years old and

pass a physical and drug test. Qualified candidates interested in a rewarding career, keeping our communities safe, can stop by a local DOT residency, a Regional Fleet shop, or find more information on NYSDOT’s website at ny.gov/dotjobs.

State Senator Rob Rolison said, “The Hudson Valley thrives when our roads are safe, reliable, and well cared for. This new residency ensures that our region will be better served — not just during storms or emergencies, but every single day. By giving NYSDOT teams a modern, centrally located home base, we’re strengthening the backbone of our transportation network and supporting the communities that rely on it.”

Assemblymember Anil Beephan said, “This modern facility will strengthen our ability to maintain local highways, respond quickly to snow and ice events, and ensure safer travel for our residents who rely on these corridors every day. I

appreciate the dedicated workforce who will operate this facility, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact this investment will have on our community.”

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “This new location will be an important asset in keeping the vital state roadways in the southern Dutchess area, including I-84 corridor, Taconic State Parkway and U.S. Route 376, in good repair and safe during snow and ice weather events. State roadways, including I-84 corridor, Taconic State Parkway and U.S. Route 376, are critical to commerce, emergency services and everyday travel.”

To ensure the safety of the traveling public and snowplow operators during storms, motorists are reminded “Don’t Crowd The Plow” - slow down and stay safely behind snowplow trucks to give them plenty of room on the road. Plows travel at approximately 35 miles per hour and should never be passed.

Free holiday films, food drive set Dec. 13 at Roosevelt Cinemas

Hyde Park Roosevelt Cinemas, I Heart Media and the Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union are joining forces to host free Christmas movies and a food drive on Saturday, Dec. 13, for children and their families.

“The Polar Express,” rated G, starring Tom Hanks, is a Christmas classic based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg.

“Red One,” rated PG13, stars Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans. When Santa gets kidnapped from the North Pole, an E.L.F. operative and the world’s best tracker set off on an adventure to find him

and save Christmas.

“Miracle on 34th Street,” rated PG, is the 1947 story of 6-year-old Susan who has doubts about Santa Claus. After meeting a special department store Santa she is convinced he’s the real thing and she is given the best gift of all—something to believe in.

The doors will be open at 9:30 a.m., when Santa will be on hand to visit with children. All three films will begin at 10:15 a.m.

Admission is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance from the Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union on Burnett Blvd. in Poughkeepsie, or at the theater.

Everyone who attends the movie is asked to please bring non-perishable food items for distribution through a local food pantry. The need is greater this year and food pantries are stressed.

Food donations may also be dropped off at Roosevelt Cinemas, 4060 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, any time after 3:30 p.m. any day before Dec. 13.

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Chanukah celebration set for Dec. 14



The lighting of the menorah in 2024 in Beacon.

-Archive photos Chabad of Beacon

By Kristine Coulter

Celebrate Chanukah with Chabad of Beacon and the “Grand Menorah Lighting” at Polhill Park, off of Route 9D.

“We’re planning a community meno-



Chabad of Beacon will host the annual “Grand Menorah Lighting” on Sunday, Dec. 14 in Beacon. Pictured is from the 2024 celebration.

rah lighting on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 5 p.m.! This year’s menorah will be

carved entirely out of ice, yes, you [read] that right! The carving will begin at 4 p.m., followed by the lighting at 5 p.m.,” said Rabbi Shaya Itkin. One may RSVP at chabadbeacon.com/menorah.

What is Itkin looking forward to about Chanukah this year?

“The unity that it brings, uniting with a shared mission to spread light in the world! And of course, coming together over latkes and donuts adds its own special joy,” replied the rabbi.

What would Itkin like everyone to know about the Chanukah story?

“That it doesn’t take a lot of people to make a difference. Sometimes we think, “Who am I to bring light when the world feels so dark?” But just like in the story of Chanukah, where the few triumphed over the many the same is true today. Light and love will always prevail, even when it starts with just a few,” said Itkin.

During the event, there will be music. There will be refreshments - food, hot cocoa and apple cider.

To prepare for the holiday, Itkin said, “First and foremost, make sure you have a menorah and candles.” If one does not, feel free to reach out at rabbi@chabadbeacon.com and they can provide a free menorah set.

Anderson Foundation for Autism lists recipients of grant awards

The leadership team and trustees of Anderson Foundation for Autism announced last week the names of grantees for the Foundation’s recent grant-making cycle.

Grant award recipients are as follows: Autism Society Greater Hudson Region (\$5,000 grant award), Arcadia University (\$5,000 grant award), Backyard Sports (\$10,000 grant award), BluePath Service Dogs (\$5,000 grant award), and Beautiful People (\$5,000 grant award).

Kevin Kollar, Chair of Anderson Foundation for Autism’s Board of Trustees said, “It is deeply gratifying to know that Anderson Foundation for Autism is able to ‘pay it forward’ to these visionary grantees. Each of these organizations shares a commitment to our cause, and we look forward to watching them continue to make valuable contributions to our field as time goes on.”

Susan Brune, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Grants Committee, said, “These grantees all presented initiatives that are very much aligned with Anderson’s mission of optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism. Beautiful People, for example, will use the grant funds to provide athletes with more inclusive opportunities, by purchasing adaptive equipment to enhance safety and accessibility. Autism Society Greater Hudson Region has been given some of the funds needed to help deliver the BRIGHT (Brave, Resilient, Inspiring Girls Happening Together) program, which creates a safe, fun, and affirming space where autistic and neurodiverse girls can build meaningful peer connections, strengthen self-esteem, and develop essential social-emotional and soft skills. And our other award recipients are likewise doing meaningful work;

it is an honor to help them advance their efforts.”

Brune added that all recipients will be required to report on outcomes, and that the Foundation reserved up to \$50,000 in total for its 2025 grantmaking cycle.

According to Patrick Paul, CEO/Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism, “Anderson Foundation for Autism was initially launched to help bridge gaps between financial needs and resources for Anderson Center for Autism, but the success of Foundation fundraising has far exceeded every expectation. Now, we’re well-positioned to support the work of other nonprofits too, and we look forward to building on our grant-making program in the years to come.”

Eliza Bozenski, Chief Development Officer at Anderson Foundation for Autism, added: “The collective generosity of philanthropists, businesses, families, trustees, and community members is what drives our success; it has been awe-inspiring to see the outpouring of support for our work. We are deeply thankful to

everyone who has made Anderson Foundation as strong as it is today, and all who continue to pave the way for a successful future. Each donor is giving to something much larger than our agency; every gift really supports a broader humanitarian movement.”

Anderson Center for Autism (ACA), founded in 1924, which also receives funds from Anderson Foundation for Autism, offers evidence-based educational, vocational, residential, and consulting/training programs, drawing students and residents from all over the United States to experience its school and residential offerings. Its affiliate,

Anderson Center International (ACI), hosts scholars from countries throughout the world for a 12–18-month training program at Anderson’s Staatsburg campus.

Anderson also runs Early Learning Academy programs (in Pine Plains, NY, Mount Marion, NY, and Latham, NY) and The Anderson Center Clinic (Latham, NY).

Anderson Foundation for Autism’s 2026 grant cycle will open in January.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to holiday press schedule for the Dec. 24 issue, the Beacon Free Press has an early deadline for that paper.

For the Dec. 24 issue: Advertising is due by Tuesday, Dec. 16. Editorial submissions must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Please contact cschmidt@sdtchessnews.com for more information.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Policy on letters:

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

Survivors tell stories of inspiration at sold-out Go Red for Women luncheon

Two years ago, Cindi Mannese of Milton had open-heart surgery to repair a valve. When surgeons found an aortic aneurysm, Mannose’s surgery took seven hours.

Mannese shared her story at the Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Luncheon on Dec. 4 in Poughkeepsie. Go Red for Women is a campaign of the American Heart Association, a relentless force changing the future of health for everyone everywhere.

“Survivorship isn’t about what I went through, it’s about what I get to do now,” Mannese said. “I’ll never forget hearing my doctors talk about the ‘rest of my life.’ That kind of joy stays with you. And now, I get to take that gift and hopefully help thousands of others feel less alone.”

Two hundred women attended the sold-out event, which raises awareness that cardiovascular disease is a leading health threat for women.

“We know that women are underrepresented in research, and that their symptoms are often ignored,” said Brenda Swatek, vice president of people and culture at IBM, who chaired the 2025 Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Luncheon. “Today, we made a difference for the women in our community. We provided education and information and celebrated the way women can come together to change the way the world is.”

There were Hands-Only CPR demonstrations at the event; a silent auction; a photo booth; and health information. During the lunch program, Mannese shared her story, and participants in the Woman of Impact campaign shared their success in raising \$54,000. Christine Pellegrino of Pellegrino Healing was the winning Woman of Impact, raising more than \$30,000.

Experts discussed “The Mind-Body Connection and Heart Health,” providing concrete tips for audience members to use in their daily lives – and to share with friends and family.

- Pellegrino moderated the panel, whose participants were:
- Lauren Grimshaw, LMHC, CDPHP
- Sheri Harrison, M.D., Nuvance Health, now part of Northwell
- Roufia Payman, Northern Dutchess Hospital, Nuvance Health, now part of N-Mark S. Hahn, M.D., Ellenville Regional Hospital

“Since 2004, Go Red for Women has met the evolving health needs of women and addressed the awareness and clinical care gaps when it comes to cardiovascular disease,” said John Strawbriage, director of development at Vassar Brothers Medical Center/Nuvance Health, now part of Northwell, and chair of the board of directors of the American Heart Association in the Hudson Valley.



Attendees during the annual Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Luncheon held on Dec. 4 in Poughkeepsie.

-Courtesy photo

“Today’s event was a testament to the strength of women coming together for a common cause.”

The event concluded with the announcement that Steph Raymond, president and CEO of Central Hudson Gas and Electric, will chair the 2026 Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Luncheon.

Sponsors include Central Hudson Gas & Electric; CDPHP; Greencastle Consulting; Nuvance Health, now part of Northwell; Q92.1; Hudson Valley Living; the Southern Dutchess News; the Northern Dutchess News; and the Beacon Free Press. For information, visit www.heart.org/goredhv.

Four non-profit youth sports organizations awarded \$85,295

Funding still available; submit application by Dec. 23

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced on Dec. 2 that \$85,295 has been awarded to four non-profit youth team sports organizations offering free team sports programs for underserved children under the age of 18 through New York State’s Youth Team Sports (YTS) grant program. Additional funding is still available for eligible organizations.

Dutchess County Executive Serino said, “Dutchess County is dedicated to making sure all kids, no matter their background, can take part in activities that support their physical, mental and emotional health. These Youth Sports Teams grants give young people valuable opportunities to not just to play sports, but to gain important skills that will help them succeed as they grow.”

These grants, ranging from \$16,805 to \$25,000, create opportunities for young people in need to take part in sports programs that help them grow physically,

mentally, emotionally and socially. Team sport activities can lower stress, anxiety and depression; strengthen social skills and teamwork; and reduce the likelihood of substance use or other risky behaviors.

Projects funded through the 2026 Youth Team Sports Program include:

Dover Little League (Dover Plains), Batters Up for a Brighter Future, \$25,000 – Providing competitive baseball and softball program in Dover, which offers all players with a safe, supportive place to build key skills, to players at no cost.

Northern Dutchess Aquatic Club (Red Hook), Long Course and Dryland Training, \$16,805 – Offering a free, eight-week long session at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson for swimmers, ages 6-13, and free dryland training for swimmers, ages 14-18.

NY FLIGHT 845, Inc. (City of Poughkeepsie), Youth Team Sports,

\$18,490 – Provide free, year-round, after-school, open-gym basketball training at the Family Partnership Center in the City of Poughkeepsie that builds basic skills for middle- and high-school students, while also continuing the Kingdom Classic Tournament for fourth-graders and rising seventh-graders.

YMCA of Kingston (Kingston), Youth Basketball League 2026, \$25,000 – Dutchess County youth, ages 7-15, can take part in a free, six-week summer basketball league at Greenvale Park in the Town of Poughkeepsie, designed to boost fitness, improve skills and help develop teamwork and good sportsmanship.

There is still funding available through the YTS grant program, for the program year Jan. 1, 2026, to Sept. 30, 2026, for local youth-serving organizations that provide free team sports opportunities to young people under age 18. This funding opportunity

defines a “team sport” as an organized physical activity in which groups of two or more individuals compete with two or more opposing individuals.

Eligible applicants should be either a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or other community-based organization with a federal identification number, operating in Dutchess County with the ability to meet the County’s insurance requirements. All funding requests must be for a program that provides free, direct services to all youth.

Applications must be submitted by 1 p.m. on Dec. 23 to the Division of Youth Services through the online grant portal, available at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=dc>. Please visit the Division’s NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) Grant Funding webpage for more comprehensive information regarding this program and how to apply.

Home Energy Assistance Program now open for Central Hudson customers

Applications are now being accepted for the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP.

HEAP’s benefits help income-qualified utility customers who heat their homes with electricity, natural gas, oil, coal, propane, wood/wood pellets, kerosene, and corn. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, the primary heating source, and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, age 60 or older or permanently disabled. For this year’s benefits, households of four who heat their home with natural gas with a maximum annual income of \$80,160 are eligible for a \$400 grant.

“Enrolling in HEAP is one of the most important steps customers can take to ensure they stay safe and comfortable during the winter months. These benefits provide critical assistance for managing energy costs, and we encourage all eligible house-

holds to apply as soon as possible,” Lauren Preston, Chief Customer Services Officer at Central Hudson said. “Affordability is top of mind for our customers, and we’re committed to helping them access the resources they need to keep their homes warm and their energy bills manageable.”

Customers who are eligible for HEAP and other qualifying programs are also eligible for Central Hudson’s Energy Affordability Program (EAP) Bill Discount. If your account receives a HEAP credit, you will automatically be enrolled in the EAP Bill Discount. Residents may apply online by visiting <http://www.mybenefits.ny.gov/>, or through their local Department of Social and other community service organizations. Your local district HEAP contact offices listed by county can be found here.

For more information on HEAP eligibility requirements and benefits, please

visit www.CentralHudson.com/HEAP or <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/program.asp>; and for more on Central Hudson’s

assistance and billing programs, visit www.CentralHudson.com, and click on “My Account.”

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Geeks OnSite

that’s italian!

by luigi coppola



The matches

Luigi takes a harrowing journey in search of a light for Pop.

Growing up in an Italian house with both parents from the old country, we were not allowed to speak English. All we spoke at home was Italian. As such, my parents’ English didn’t develop as well as other Italian immigrants. There were times that English and Italian were mixed together in a sort of new dialect that we understood, but our relatives overseas did not. This didn’t work out very well when we would visit Italy and we would try to hold conversations.

My father and his two uncles would take turns going to Italy to visit their mother. So every three years we would pack up and go stay in my father’s hometown of Monte di Procida at the house he grew up in. I remember when I was 7 years old, we went to Italy for the summer.

Monte di Procida, as I remember, was a small town with narrow cobblestone streets and stone building with a view of the Mediterranean no matter where you were. Driving in Italy was, and probably still is, an adventure. My father is not the best driver here in the States, so you can imagine what he was like in Italy. So, when he rented a car for our time in Italy, let’s just say, Pop got the extra insurance. We scraped many stone walls, and as such our rental car looked like it had just gone through Afghanistan instead of our little town of Monte di Procida.

On most days, when not visiting relatives, we would go to the beach, usually Miliscola, then have a late lunch around 4 p.m., because everything in town would shut down for siesta between 1 and 3 p.m.

On one such occasion, we were eating at a small open-air café near the beach. As

was custom after dinner, my father would light a cigarette. Unfortunately, he didn’t have any matches, so he sent me to get some. I went to front desk and asked for “matchediels,” which unbeknownst to me is not an Italian word at all. It’s not even the Italian dialect of our hometown. It is a hybrid word made of the word “matches” with an Italian ending to it, which I would find out later in life was fairly common for Italian Americans. The correct word is fiammiferi, which is a word that I had never heard of.

Anyway, the maître d’ yelled at me, told me to get lost, cursed me out and kicked me in the butt, not knowing that I was eating there with my family. So I wandered out of the restaurant and spied a little store across the street. Now drivers in Italy are notorious for running down people, so I had to kind of jump and weave my way across the street of death, defying the devil himself. Out of breath after a few near misses, I made it across. I went in the store that I had spied and asked for “matchediels.” He kicked me out of the store, cursed me out, and kicked me in the butt.

Now I was determined. I was on a quest. I went down to another store and asked for “matchediels.” Once again I was kicked out of the store, cursed out, and kicked in the butt.

Now I’m noticing a pattern. I may have been 7 years old and naïve, but every kick in the butt I received was starting to wear on me; and I realized what I was saying was not being understood. The next store I entered I didn’t speak. I instead chose to point and grunt. This didn’t work either because they thought there was something

wrong with me and they kicked me out anyway, again with the customary cursing and the ever-present kick in the butt. You see, I didn’t realize it at the time, but apparently there was a problem with gypsies using kids to scam store owners, so they just assumed I was one of them.

My butt was getting sore from getting kicked so many times, and my spirits were low from being cursed out so many times, so I decided to go back to restaurant with my tail between my legs and no matches. Once again I had to cross the street of death and dodging traffic, laughing at the devil himself, in order to get back across the road.

When I went into the café, I had to sneak back in. If you remember, the maître d’ kicked me out the first time I asked for “matchediels” and I wanted to avoid getting another cursing and another boot in the butt. After I snuck by the front desk, as I was walking back to our table, I spied a large bowl in the shape of an elephant with ... books of matches. I grabbed one and went back to the table, albeit a half-hour later.

When my father saw me, he asked where I was, so I told him the whole story complete with my harrowing cross of the street of death. He was horrified, but proud that his son refused to give up before returning with a book of matches. There was a plate of hazelnut biscotti on the table with a small pot of espresso and a bottle of anisette. Pop handed me a biscotti and put his arm around me, as I sat next to him, and he lit a cigarette. Well, at least I knew I wasn’t going to get kicked in the butt again.

Hazelnut Biscotti
Ingredients

6 whole eggs
4 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups white sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
4 tablespoons Amaretto
3 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups chopped hazelnuts

Method

Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Mix the eggs and liquids in a separate bowl. Add liquids to the dry ingredients gradually, mixing until dough is stiff. Do not overmix.
Shape dough into two rectangles 4 inches wide by 12 inches long. Place on greased cookie sheet. Bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees.
Remove baked rectangles from oven and let stand until cool.
Using a sharp knife, slice the large cookie into 3/4-inch slices. Place them back on the cookie sheet, on their side, and bake again for 15 minutes or until they are golden brown.
Serve with espresso and, of course, a bottle of Anisette.

Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family tradition in the way their parents taught them, using classic recipes taught to them at their apron strings. Visit their website at www.coppolas.net.

Tickets available for ‘Die Nutcracker Harder’ in Beacon

This month, Savage Wonder Art Center teams with Exit12 Dance Company to blow the doors off holiday tradition with “Die Nutcracker Harder,” a wild, genre-melting mash-up of “A Christmas Carol,” “The Nutcracker,” and “Die Hard” — reimagined as one gloriously chaotic holiday experience.

Conceived by writer Christopher Soucy and brought to life under the direction of Christopher Paul Meyer, “Die Nutcracker Harder” fuses “A Christmas Carol,” “The

Nutcracker,” and “Die Hard” into a singular theatrical/dance holiday experience done in Savage Wonder’s style - a fully choreographed and blocked performance with no props, no costumes, script-in-hand, live sound foley effects, all done in a living-room-style performance space.

Performance Dates & Times
Sunday, Dec. 14 – 3:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20 – 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 21 – 3:30 p.m.
Cast highlights include:

- Kevin Gilmartin (Marvell Repertory Theatre) as The Narrator
 - John Hartzell (Hit House Creative) as Husband / John McClane
 - Ana Anderson (Savage Wonder regular) as Wife / Holly
 - Dean Linnard (Berkeley Rep, Portland Stage, Playwrights Horizons) as Ghosts / Marley
 - Topher Kage (Savage Wonder)
- Each performance will be surrounded by holiday spectacle: pre- and post-show

events, seasonal drinks at The Grape Rebellion, pop-up gallery activations, and spontaneous festive ambiance — making every performance a full Savage Wonder holiday experience.

Tickets are available via SavageWonder.org and through Eventbrite. Ticket prices range from approximately \$25–\$55 depending on date and availability.

County to celebrate ‘ThinkDIFFERENTLY’ 10th anniversary with sensory-friendly performance of ‘The Nutcracker’ on Dec. 12

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is inviting residents of all abilities and their families to mark the 10th anniversary of the County’s “ThinkDIFFERENTLY” initiative with a sensory-friendly showing of “The Nutcracker.” Performed by the New Paltz Ballet Theatre, this holiday classic takes place at the historic Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie on Friday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. Admission is free, but seating is limited and registration is required at dutchessny.gov/nutcracker.

Serino said, “The holidays should be a joyful time for every child and every family. Dutchess County is thrilled to once again offer a welcoming, judgment-free evening of live theater where children with disabilities and their loved ones can enjoy the magic of ‘The Nutcracker’ together. I encourage families to celebrate the season with us through this timeless performance.”

This relaxed, hour-long “no-hush” performance is designed to create a sup-

portive and flexible environment where audience members are free to engage with the show in ways that feel comfortable to them. Adjustments to lighting and sound will be made to accommodate those with sensory sensitivities, including individuals on the autism spectrum. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and outside food and beverages are not allowed inside the venue.

Prior to the performance, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bardavon’s lobby, Dutchess County will host a brief event marking the 10th

anniversary of “ThinkDIFFERENTLY,” a community-wide initiative that promotes inclusion, accessibility and respect for residents and visitors of all abilities.

Since its inception in 2015, “ThinkDIFFERENTLY” has been warmly embraced by more than 100 communities throughout New York State, setting an unparalleled standard for acceptance by encouraging communities, businesses and organizations to embrace a more inclusive approach toward those with disabilities.

hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



A widely observed & celebrated holiday deserves a special ornament

December 25, 2025 is the winter solstice. That day will have the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year; the sun will reach its lowest daily maximum elevation in the sky. December sees nary a celebratory ornament. This undeniable situation (as evidenced in any grocery or department store, or on the internet) can be easily rectified. Correct the scant seasonal décor this December with an homage to the solstice: orange pomanders.

Pomanders are historic

Even if you don't believe my claim about the dearth of holiday trimmings during the month of December, you can trust these true facts: A pomander is a ball made for perfumes. They were used in the late Middle Ages through the 17th century to perfume the air in the immediate vicinity. Carriers of pomanders found it more tolerable to walk streets where filth and disease reigned. Some people wore them as a necklace or ring.

Those wealthy enough could afford silver or gold pomanders, which were globular cages for holding fragrant herbs or scents. Later, in colonial homes, pomander balls could be found in baskets, cupboards, or carried in a traveler's handkerchief to sniff when they encountered nasty odors on the road. By the Victorian era, pomander balls were a staple in many American homes.

Science & history: Having faith in the return of the sun

Before more accurate understandings of the solar system, gravity, and axial tilt, the ancients told stories to explain winter's darkness and provide reassurance. Those living in the northern hemisphere experienced winter's shorter, darker and colder days.

Winter-time agriculture was limited, or

nonexistent. Proper management of the previous season's harvest was vital. If the community's food supply was inadequate, the group might not survive.

But celebrations were still an integral part of the end-of-year festivities. Rituals kept peoples' hopes up. Greenery was brought into homes for its enduring and, therefore, symbolic value. Fires and candles provided warmth, and extended an invitation for the return of the sun. With the re-emergence of spring, the ancients drew comfort in the effectiveness of their rituals.

This play between light and darkness features into celebratory traditions today. The lighting of the menorah during Hanukkah symbolizes overcoming politically darker days of oppression, while Diwali, the Hindu Festival, signifies the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Shab-e Yalda is a Persian festival that celebrates the winter solstice and the rebirth of the sun. Christmas traditions, including the multi-colored ornamentation of evergreen trees, celebrate light and hope during the darkest time of the year.

Clove and Orange Pomander

Pomanders are great for gifts and decorations. They provide a fabulous fragrance for the holidays. Any citrus fruit, studded with whole dried cloves, scents the air and is festive. But I think oranges are more symbolic of the sun than limes.

Toothpicks or skewers can be used to make impressions in the fruit. The cloves may then be inserted into them. Designs can be pre-drawn by pen or marker. Alternately, a citrus zester or channel knife can be used to draw a design at the same time as create an impression for the cloves.

Pomanders will dehydrate if baked on a wire rack at 200°F for about 12-24 hours.



Make your own pomander using citrus, cloves, channel knife and toothpicks.
-Photo by Francine Wizner

They are ready when they feel light and sound hollow when tapped. You can also display pomanders without preserving them. But, if you choose to do that, you'll want to place them in the refrigerator at night to prolong their freshness. Run a piece of wire through the pomander to hang it, or string several together.

This could be used as a lesson in a science, geography, history, or economics class to highlight the celebration of the winter solstice across cultures. It might even be used for a Science Fair! Here is the activity: [https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/DECEMBER-WINTER-SOLSTICE-ACTIVITY-MAKE-AN-ORANGE-POMANDER-](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/DECEMBER-WINTER-SOLSTICE-ACTIVITY-MAKE-AN-ORANGE-POMANDER-ENRICHMENT-7595190)

ENRICHMENT-7595190
Here is a video showing how to make the pomanders:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IEKPPxnzpk
Happy Winter Solstice!!

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

Lourdes to name gym in honor of legendary coach Brian Giorgis

Continued from cover

"That floored me," said Giorgis. Giorgis was inducted into the New York State Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010. He also led Lourdes' softball, baseball, and volleyball teams, and is New York's only coach to reach the state Final Four in four different sports, according to the school.

Giorgis taught health and biology, and some physical education classes at Lourdes from 1989-1999. An entire generation of student lives impacted, inside and out of the baselines. Teaching not only from the textbooks, but leading by example, and offering student-athletes the skills for success.

"Coach Brian Giorgis didn't just win state championships, he inspired generations of young men and women, teaching them the meaning of discipline, teamwork, and excellence - all hallmarks of a Lourdes graduate. We are honored to dedicate this gymnasium in recognition of his unparalleled career accomplishments. For decades, he poured his heart and soul into our students, pushing them to achieve



Brian Giorgis was inducted into the New York State Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010. He also led Lourdes' softball, baseball, and volleyball teams, and is New York's only coach to reach the state Final Four in four different sports.

-Courtesy photo

things they never thought possible. This dedication is a small way for us to thank

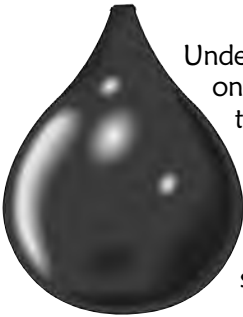
him for his incredible contributions to Our Lady of Lourdes," said Lourdes principal Meghan Vilardo in a press release.

Without the staff, players, and the athletes who went on to win titles themselves as coaches, this moment would not be possible. Neither would the 451-44 record amassed in his Lourdes basketball career.

"It's not one person who does it all. It takes a lot of people for a team to have success," said Giorgis.

Many of those instrumental to Giorgis' success will be in attendance to celebrate him alongside the Lourdes community. That will include former players, assistants, and faces the coach hasn't seen in years. And he'll be just as happy to reconnect with every one again. Seeing the former players, Warriors and Red Foxes alike, who attended his final Marist game in 2023 was, to Giorgis, "just as good as going to the Sweet 16 and winning state titles."

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New York City at the holidays: A short ride to magical adventures



Radio City Music Hall’s famed precision dancers, the Rockettes, are back on stage for the annual Christmas Spectacular. They’ll be delivering holiday cheer and high kicks through Jan. 5, 2026. This year marks the 92nd Christmas Spectacular and the 100th anniversary of the Rockettes.

-Photos by Jim Donick

By Jim Donick

For many folks in the Hudson Valley, New York City beckons loud at this time of year. Kids are off from school and can be excited at the possibility of going on an expedition. New York, with its various activities and decorations, promises a magical holiday adventure that renews itself every year. A little snow doesn’t hurt, but the possibilities, even without snow, are nearly endless. Travel from Poughkeepsie via MetroNorth is reasonably priced and even more reasonably reliable. Arrival at Grand Central Terminal means that the traveler is literally in the heart of Manhattan. Walking is a preferred means of travel there. It is perfect for simply soaking in the magic.

And there is lots to do. The streets are alive with color and with lights. A walk up Fifth Avenue to Rockefeller Center brings one to what is arguably the most famous Christmas tree in the world.

The Rockefeller Christmas Tree tradition began in 1931 during the Great Depression, when construction workers at Rockefeller Center pooled their money to buy a modest 20-foot balsam fir tree, decorating it with handmade garlands, tin cans, and cranberries.

In 1933 the first official tree lighting ceremony was held, and that tradition began to become an annual event.

This year’s tree is a lot bigger than that first 20-foot fir. The 2025 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree came to Manhattan from East Greenbush, N.Y., which is up near Albany. It’s a 75-foot

Norway Spruce. Today, rather than being decorated with garlands, tin cans, and cranberries like that first one, it is adorned with more than 50,000 multicolored LED lights spread across approximately 5 miles of string lights. Atop the tree sits a spectacular Swarovski crystal star, measuring 9 feet 4 inches, weighing around 900 pounds, and featuring 3 million crystals.

This year’s lighting of the tree took place on December 3rd. The daily lighting of the tree will continue through mid-January. For even more magic, a visit in the early evening gives the opportunity to see the lights just after dark. Ice skating on the ice rink at the foot of the tree is open to the public. Rental skates are available for those so inclined.

Directly across Fifth Avenue is the iconic Saks Fifth Avenue. Saks offers its own addition to New York’s holiday magic. Once upon a time their windows were decorated to tell a story that continued from window to window as one walked along. Now the attraction is a sound and light show. This year’s spectacle will feature a synchronized light and music display on the store facade, directly across from Rockefeller Center. Shows will run nightly, repeating every 10 minutes, with the best viewing spot being the Channel Gardens at Rockefeller Center.

From Rockefeller Center one can continue up Fifth Avenue toward Central Park and take in the displays of imagination in the windows of other major stores. Some will have a tree inside the door visible from the street. Others offer a more tradi-



The world-famous tree at Rockefeller Center.

tional collection of enchanting window displays. Possibly the best of these are the displays at Bergdorf Goodman’s iconic presence just a block south of the park. They are not to be missed.

As long as one has gotten to the foot of the park one can add to the romance of the adventure by taking a horse-drawn carriage on a tour of the park. The carriage will have lap blankets if it’s cold. The driver will be pleasant and the roads of Central Park offer a constantly changing landscape of trees, statues, fields and paths with other holiday strollers. If the carriage seems a bit much, then a walk, hand in hand, through the park at twilight with the lamp posts casting a gentle glow is as romantic as any couple could imagine.

From Bergdorf’s, a short walk up Fifth Avenue alongside the park takes one past “Museum Mile” and right to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Met continues a long-standing holiday tradition with the presentation of its Christmas tree. The magnificently lit, 20-foot blue spruce looms over a vivid 18th-century Neapolitan Nativity scene, surrounded by an abundant array of lifelike figures with silk-robed angels hovering above. It is claimed that the scenes laid out under the tree reflect the Mediterranean harbor town’s multicultural population. Others will imagine it as the world of the Middle East at the time of the nativity. We don’t recall too many Neapolitan camels, but there were lots of

them in the Middle East. Whether the tree has a genuine theme or offers simply a collection of scenes and models of people from much of the then known world, they are unrivaled.

The installation is set in front of the 18th-century Spanish choir screen in the Museum’s Medieval Sculpture Hall. The Medieval Sculpture Hall provides the perfect atmosphere for visiting the tree. The tree’s various vignettes can absorb one’s imagination for a most pleasant period.

The Met also has a number of options for food and drink scattered throughout the building. One may grab lunch or a snack before continuing the holiday adventures.

The Theater Season in New York is in full swing by the Christmas holidays, and there should be something there to satisfy any taste. One can likely find a performance of Handel’s “Messiah” at any number of venues.

Possibly the most iconic of New York City’s magical musical events, though, is Radio City’s Christmas Spectacular, complete with high-kicking Rockettes.

Radio City Music Hall’s famed precision dancers are back on stage for the annual “Christmas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes.” They will be delivering holiday cheer and high kicks through January 5, 2026 this season. This year marks the 92nd Christmas Spectacular, but, even more important, 2025 is also the 100th anniversary of the Rockettes! With such an anniversary the dancers are said to have pulled out all the stops. They promise to make this year’s spectacular the most memorable of their century of creating Christmas magic for New York City, which, at the holidays, is quite possibly the “capital of the world.”

All of this - and it’s only a short train ride away.



A decorated store window on Fifth Avenue.

-Photos by Jim Donick

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Obituaries

Peter Miles Fasce



Peter Miles Fasce, 58, an area resident since 2000, died suddenly on December 1, 2025 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, NJ. He previously lived in Somers and Mahopac. Born on July 10, 1967 in Yonkers, Peter was the son of the late Peter and Barbara (Rutyna) Fasce. He had been a truck driver for Glenn's Towing in Elmsford for the last 10 years. Peter was an avid fisherman who also enjoyed working on cars. He is survived by his partner, Marlo Tompkins; his stepsons, Edward, Logan, and Cullum Pavone; his grandson, Edward Joseph Pavone; his siblings, Lynn-Lee Ciano and her husband Joseph and Joseph Fasce and his wife Theresa; his nephews and nieces, Kyra-Lee, Michael, Joseph Jr., Alyssa, Alexis, Joseph, Christopher, Steven and Jake; his great-nieces, Chelsea and Brynn-Lee; his brother-in-law, Thomas Scianna; and his

beloved furry companions, Koby, Harley, and Charro. In addition to his parents, Peter was also predeceased by his sisters, Chistine Fasce and Michele Scianna; and his nephew, Thomas Scianna. Calling hours were held on Friday, December 5 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A funeral service was held on Saturday, December 6 at the funeral home followed by burial at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Please visit Peter's Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Dorothy M. Drusik



Dorothy M. Drusik, 90, of Wappingers Falls passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Born in Poughkeepsie, NY on October 27, 1935, she was the daughter of the late Albert and Marie (Terpening) Rogers. On July 29, 1956, she married her beloved husband Paul Drusik at St. Joachim's in Beacon, New York. They spent many happy years together until his death in 1998. Dorothy and Paul built a home in Wappingers Falls and lived there together for many years, raising a family and making wonderful memories. Dorothy worked at the rectory office at St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Fishkill for over 20 years, greeting everyone with a smile and her always pleasant personality. Dorothy was a warm and gentle person. She was known for giving the best hugs! She was a true animal lover and had many

beloved pets over the years. She enjoyed cheering on her favorite football teams, the NY Giants and the Kansas City Chiefs. Dorothy is survived by her 3 children: Elizabeth "Betsy" Lewis and her husband William (Bill) and their children Crystal (Jason), Patrick, and Allison; Linda Pisacano; and John Drusik and his partner Camille and their children Michael (Jill), Nicholas (Teresa) Ashley (Bryan), Zackary (Nikki), Leann (Jonathan), as well as several great grandchildren. Additionally, she is survived by her brother Major General Albert G. Rogers USAF Retired. Having lived in their original house since it was built, Dorothy had seen many neighbors come and go over the years but valued the support of her close neighbors, including Mark and Cathy, Mike and Terry, Vinny and Linda, and Jim and Becky. A very special thank you to Mark. Calling Hours were held on Monday, December 8, 2025 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at St. Mary, Mother of the Church, 106 Jackson Street, Fishkill, NY followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Please consider a donation in memory of Dorothy to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital www.stjude.org.

Serino announces 9 new Fly Car Grant recipients

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced \$134,303 in funding awards to nine recipients of the County's second round of Fly Car Grant Awards. These grants provide critical funding for life-saving equipment to fire departments, rescue squads, and ambulance corps. Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Fly Cars continue to be a vital tool for our local first responders, allowing them to provide fast, critical support to patients in life-threatening situations. This grant program is helping raise awareness about EMS in our community, especially how rewarding careers saving lives can be. We are proud to support our local agencies as they continue to build their response capabilities to best protect the health and safety of our communities." The following organizations have been awarded grant funding for life-saving equipment, such as automatic chest compression devices, carbon monoxide poisoning detectors, trauma bag supplies, and automated external defibrillators (AEDs):

- Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corp - \$16,310
- City of Beacon Fire Department - \$16,579
- City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department - \$8,235
- J. H. Ketcham Hose Co., Inc. - \$17,150
- LaGrange Fire District - \$19,858
- New Hamburg Fire District - \$11,100
- Rombout Fire District - \$5,124
- Roosevelt Fire District - \$20,000
- Tivoli Fire and Rescue - \$19,947

As part of the program, the agencies' fly cars or other support vehicles display branded, unified recruitment messaging

promoting career and volunteer opportunities in EMS, including a link to the County's website, dutchessny.gov/EMS. Since the graphics have started appearing on local agencies' vehicles, the website has seen hundreds of page views per month. Jeff Scala, Chief of Roosevelt Fire District in Hyde Park, said, "This grant helps us grow our capacity to respond, both by adding necessary, life-saving equipment, and helping boost our ongoing volunteer recruitment efforts. We are grateful to County Executive Sue Serino for helping tackle the challenges local departments are facing with EMS and are excited to continue this partnership." This initiative is part of Dutchess County's investment in addressing the EMS crisis through innovative programs and partnerships. County Executive Serino has continued support of the County's Supplemental Ambulance Service and EMS in Dutchess County in the 2026 Executive Budget. As part of ongoing efforts to build awareness of the challenges facing EMS, the County has launched a multi-pronged public awareness campaign, EMS Matters. The campaign has focused not only on recruitment for EMTs and paramedics, but also on how to recognize the signs of a true emergency that needs EMS versus heading to an urgent care facility, safety and prevention tips, and more. The Dutchess County Legislature was scheduled to vote on the 2026 Budget at its Board Meeting on Monday, December 8, with the full 2026 County Budget process to be completed by December 17, with the adoption of the tax levy.

Public can comment on Moving Dutchess Forward

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) is updating its countywide transportation plan, Moving Dutchess Forward. This plan is the guiding vision for improving transportation in Dutchess County over the next 25 years; and the DCTC invites the public to learn more during engagement opportunities, including a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 17, outreach events, and a public survey. Work on Moving Dutchess Forward will unfold over the next eight months in four steps: Learn, Assess, Advocate, and Invest. The Learn step – which reviews trends in the county's population, economy, housing, freight, technology, climate and travel behavior – is now available online for public review and comment at MovingDutchessForward.com. Public involvement is critical to the planning process, ensuring Dutchess County's transportation priorities reflect the needs of residents, workers, and visitors. The DCTC will hold several upcoming opportunities for the public to help shape the new plan: The DCTC will host a virtual public meeting on Dec. 17 from noon to 1 p.m. This virtual meeting will provide an overview of Moving Dutchess Forward and gather public feedback on transportation challenges and priorities. To register for the virtual meeting, please visit: tinyurl.com/MDFzoom1.

DCTC representatives will attend the Beacon Farmer's Market (233 Main Street, Beacon) on Dec. 14 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and the Millerton Farmer's Market (51 S. Center Street, Millerton) on Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., where residents can meet the DCTC team, ask questions and provide feedback on the County's transportation system. An online survey has been launched to gather feedback regarding transportation challenges and priorities. The survey, available in English and Spanish, is open through Dec. 31, 2025. The survey can be accessed at <https://arcg.is/1qDmOy3>, and three respondents will be randomly selected to win a \$25 Visa gift card. All community members are encouraged to participate in one or more of these engagement opportunities. Those who require any assistive technologies, language translation, American Sign Language interpretation and/or adaptive strategies to attend and engage during the virtual meeting can contact Liz Podowski King with Highland Planning at 585-649-1210 or liz@highland-planning.com by Dec. 12. More information about Moving Dutchess Forward can be found at MovingDutchessForward.com. The website provides draft content, information on upcoming events, an interactive map viewer and online comment form.

- Southern Dutchess News
- Beacon Free Press
- Northern Dutchess News

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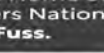
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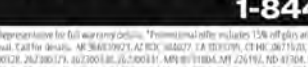
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Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of
Beacon Police Department.

Nov. 1: Traffic Stop-South Davies Terrace-Andrew A. Dennis, 36, of Fishkill, was charged with DWI & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

Nov. 1: Auto Accident-Hit & Run-School Street-Caller reported damage to his car as a result of a hit-and-run accident. Report taken. Investigation.

Nov. 6: Welfare Check-Beacon-Officers responded to a call for a Welfare Check that resulted in an unattended death. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 7: Trespass-South Avenue-Jaysun C. Vidal, 25, of Hopewell Junction was charged with Trespass, Giovanni C. Santoro, 25, of Wappingers Falls, was charged with Trespass, Tristan B. Paul, 26, of Germantown was charged with Trespass & Michael R. Arbolay, 28, of Highland Mills, was charged with Trespass.

Nov. 7: Dumping/Littering Complaint-Dennings Avenue-Caller reported an individual dumping without authorization. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 7: Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Robert E. Morganfield age 56 of Newburgh, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

Nov. 8: Road Rage- Fishkill Avenue-Caller reported being involved in a road rage incident and was threatened by the occupants of the offending vehicle. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 11: Fraud-Washington Avenue-

Caller reported being a victim of fraud.
Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 13: Auto Accident- Mountain Lane- Caller reported a delivery truck striking her fence. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 14: Traffic Stop-Verplanck Avenue- Mary E. Savala, 29, of Newburgh, Orange County, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle 3rd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

Number of Calls: 295
Auto Accidents: 12
Domestics: 6.

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Coupon must accompany payment

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84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Coupon must accompany payment

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFCO-DCP-01-26
EISEP & NFCSP
In-Home Respite Services
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 6th day of January 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.

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-65-25
CAM Superline Trailer
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 17th day of December 2025 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.

City of Beacon
One Municipal Plaza
- Suite One
Beacon, New York 12508
Phone (845) 838-5002
December 5, 2025
SUBJECT: Variance Application
Applicant: Kevin and Sarah Wolff
Address: 44 Lafayette Avenue
Tax Grid No.: 30-5955-19-637144-00
Zoning Classification: R1-7.5
Dear Neighboring Property Owner: Kevin and Sarah Wolff, 44 Lafayette Avenue, has applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for relief from Section 223-17, Attachment 1, to allow for the construction of additions to the rear and to the side of the existing structure, which requires relief from the following:
1. Section 223-17, Attachment 1, to allow for a rear yard setback of 17.25 feet (25 ft. required)
2. Section 223-17, Attachment 1, to allow for a side yard setback of 7.25 feet (10 ft. required)
3. Section 223-17, Attachment 1, to allow for 31.94% building coverage (30% maximum permitted)
The full application is available online at: <https://www.beaconny.gov/index.php/agendas-minutes/>
The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objection to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than 4:00 PM on December 16, 2025, to Mercedes Perez, Zoning Board Secretary, at mperez@beaconny.gov
Mercedes Perez
Zoning Board Secretary

Legal Notices

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: DUTCHESS COUNTY
-----X
In the Matter of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens by Proceeding In Rem pursuant to Article Eleven of the Real Property Tax Law, Chapter 602, Laws of 1993 by THE CITY OF BEACON in the Year 2020 PETITION AND NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE Index No. 2021-632
PETITION AND NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
Index No. 2021-632
-----X
The above-captioned proceeding is hereby commenced to enforce the payment of delinquent taxes or other lawful charges which have accumulated and become liens against certain property. The parcels to which this proceeding applies are identified on Schedule "A" of this Petition, which is annexed hereto and made a part hereof. This document serves both as a Petition of Foreclosure and a Notice of Foreclosure for purposes of this proceeding.
Effect of filing: All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in this Petition are hereby notified that the filing of this Petition constitutes the commencement by the Tax District of a proceeding in the court specified in the caption above to foreclose each of the tax liens therein described by a foreclosure proceeding in rem.
Nature of proceeding: This proceeding is brought against the real property only and is to foreclose the tax

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT: DUTCHESS COUNTY

X

In the Matter of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens by Proceeding
In Rem pursuant to Article Eleven of the Real Property Tax
Law, Chapter 602, Laws of 1993 by

PETITION AND
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
SCHEDULE "A"

THE CITY OF BEACON in the Year 2020

X

Index No. 2021-632

ID NO.	OWNER OF RECORD	ASSESSED TO, IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER OF RECORD	PARCEL	LOCATION	TOTAL DUE*
46	ARROY, PAUL		6054-13-109385	23 ELLEN DR.	\$10,809.87
19	HALL, SAMUEL	HALL, TIMOLINE	6054-29-112845	36 ACKERMAN ST.	\$680.11

*Amount due as of May 3, 2023. Such amount does not include any subsequent years' taxes,
interest or fees

beaconny.gov/index.php/agendas-minutes/
The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objection to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than 4:00 PM on December

Legal Notices

liens described in this Petition. No personal judgment will be entered herein for such taxes or other legal charges or any part thereof.
Persons affected: This notice is directed to all persons owning or having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in this Petition. Such persons are hereby notified further that a duplicate of this Petition has been filed in the office of the Enforcing Officer of the Tax District and will remain open for public inspection up to and including the date specified below as the last day for redemption.
Right of redemption: Any person having or claiming to have an interest in any such real property and the legal right thereto may on or before said date redeem the same by paying the amount of all such unpaid tax liens thereof, including all interest and penalties and other legal charges which are included in the lien against such real property, computed to and including the date of redemption. Such payments shall be made to the Account Clerk, 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York 12508. In the event that such taxes are paid by a person other than the record owner of such real property, the person so paying shall be entitled to have the tax liens affected thereby satisfied of record.
Last day of redemption: The last day for redemption is hereby fixed as the **6th day of May, 2026**.
Notice of Right to Surplus Funds: If you believe you are entitled to surplus funds, if

any, from the Tax District's sale of the property, please send written notice to the Tax District (City of Beacon, 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York 12508) setting forth the claimant's name, claimant's address, and nature of the claim, so that you can be contacted if there are surplus funds.
Service of answer: Every person having any right, title or interest in or lien upon any parcel of real property described in this Petition may serve a duly verified answer upon the attorney for the Tax District setting forth in detail the nature and amount of his or her interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure. Such answer must be filed in the Office of the County Clerk and served upon the attorney for the Tax District on or before the date above mentioned as the last day for redemption.
Failure to Redeem or answer: In the event of a failure to redeem or answer by any person having a right to redeem or answer, such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all his or her right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcel described in this Petition and a judgment in foreclosure may be taken in default.
Dated October 27, 2025
Enforcing Officer: /s/ CHRISTOPHER WHITE
City Administrator, City of Beacon

Legal Notices

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: DUTCHESS COUNTY
-----X
In the Matter of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens by Proceeding In Rem pursuant to Article Eleven of the Real Property Tax Law, Chapter 602, Laws of 1993 by THE CITY OF BEACON in the Year 2021
PETITION AND NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
Index No. 2022-30
-----X
The above-captioned proceeding is hereby commenced to enforce the payment of delinquent taxes or other lawful charges which have accumulated and become liens against certain property. The parcels to which this proceeding applies are identified on Schedule "A" of this Petition, which is annexed hereto and made a part hereof. This document serves both as a Petition of Foreclosure and a Notice of Foreclosure for purposes of this proceeding.
Effect of filing: All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in this Petition are hereby notified that the filing of this Petition constitutes the commencement by the Tax District of a proceeding in the court specified in the caption above to foreclose each of the tax liens therein described by a foreclosure proceeding in rem.
Nature of proceeding: This proceeding is brought against the real property only and is to foreclose the tax liens described in this Petition. No personal

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT: DUTCHESS COUNTY

X

In the Matter of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens by Proceeding
In Rem pursuant to Article Eleven of the Real Property Tax
Law, Chapter 602, Laws of 1993 by

PETITION AND
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
SCHEDULE "A"

THE CITY OF BEACON in the Year 2021

X

Index No. 2022-30

ID NO.	OWNER OF RECORD	ASSESSED TO, IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER OF RECORD	PARCEL	LOCATION	TOTAL DUE*
7	ARROY, PAUL		6054-13-019385	23 ELLEN DR.	\$12,480.22
26	HALL, SAMUEL	HALL, TIMOLINE	6054-29-112845	36 ACKERMAN ST.	\$7,135.88

*Amount due as of June 2, 2023. Such amount does not include any previous or subsequent years' taxes, interest or fees

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-59-25
Qualified Elevator Inspection (QEI) Services
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 30th day of December 2025 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>, select-

Legal Notices

judgment will be entered herein for such taxes or other legal charges or any part thereof.
Persons affected: This notice is directed to all persons owning or having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in this Petition. Such persons are hereby notified further that a duplicate of this Petition has been filed in the office of the Enforcing Officer of the Tax District and will remain open for public inspection up to and including the date specified below as the last day for redemption.
Right of redemption: Any person having or claiming to have an interest in any such real property and the legal right thereto may on or before said date redeem the same by paying the amount of all such unpaid tax liens thereof, including all interest and penalties and other legal charges which are included in the lien against such real property, computed to and including the date of redemption. Such payments shall be made to the Account Clerk, 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York 12508. In the event that such taxes are paid by a person other than the record owner of such real property, the person so paying shall be entitled to have the tax liens affected thereby satisfied of record.
Last day of redemption: The last day for redemption is hereby fixed as the **6th day of May, 2026**.
Notice of Right to Surplus Funds: If you believe you are entitled to surplus funds, if

any, from the Tax District's sale of the property, please send written notice to the Tax District (City of Beacon, 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York 12508) setting forth the claimant's name, claimant's address, and nature of the claim, so that you can be contacted if there are surplus funds.
Service of answer: Every person having any right, title or interest in or lien upon any parcel of real property described in this Petition may serve a duly verified answer upon the attorney for the Tax District setting forth in detail the nature and amount of his or her interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure. Such answer must be filed in the Office of the County Clerk and served upon the attorney for the Tax District on or before the date above mentioned as the last day for redemption.
Failure to Redeem or answer: In the event of a failure to redeem or answer by any person having a right to redeem or answer, such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all his or her right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcel described in this Petition and a judgment in foreclosure may be taken in default.
Dated: October 27, 2025
Enforcing Officer: /s/ CHRISTOPHER WHITE
City Administrator, City of Beacon

ing "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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

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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

	2	3	5		2
	4				
			4		
5				2	

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

THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ACROSS

1. Shapeless form

5. Hot springs resort

8. Not square

11. Private theater box

12. Relating to ear

13. Rome's Colosseum, e.g.

15. I ____ you so!

16. *The opposite of a store the day before Christmas?

17. *"Auld Lang Syne" poet

18. *Partridge's perch (2 words)

20. Vegas numbers

21. New Zealand's indigenous people

22. Fuss

23. Tabby's favorite herb

26. More so than swell

30. Big-headedness

31. Resembling an ape

34. John Wayne Gacy's ____ the Clown

35. Photographer Dorothea of "Migrant Mother" fame

37. Type or kind

38. Like a sheep after a haircut

39. D'Artagnan's weapon of choice

40. Superlative of #33 Down

42. U.S. central bank

43. Wilma and Fred's hometown

45. *Latke's main ingredient

47. Word of possibility

48. Turning token taker

50. Exclamation of sorrow

52. * ____ Odbody of "It's a Wonderful Life"

55. Raspberry drupelets

56. Saintly glow

57. Letter opener

59. Hunts for food

60. Banana leftover

61. Guesstimate phrase

62. *Color on a Kwanzaa flag

63. Not divisible by two

64. Scholarship criterion

DOWN

1. Deli acronym

2. Chicago's central district, with The

3. Gawk at

4. Wish harm upon, arch.

5. One of The Beatles

6. Pileus, pl.

7. "The Road Runner" corporation

8. Group of cows

9. Bed-and-breakfast alternative, pl.

10. *"The Nutcracker" step

12. Certain cephalopod, pl.

13. It's sometimes humble

14. *Chuck Berry's "Run, ____, Run"

19. Reason to strike

22. Grass bristle

23. Famous one, slangily

24. Open-mouthed

25. Like a well-defined muscle

26. Hot alcoholic beverage

27. Washing sponge

28. Type of heron

29. Rondeau, alt. sp.

32. *Santa's beverage of choice

33. Not well

36. *Original home of Christmas tan-nenbaum

38. Fur shawl

40. Extremely unfriendly

41. Plane trick

44. Reprieve in a desert

46. Muscle to bone connector

48. Skidded

49. Weighed

50. 4,840 square yards

51. Told an untruth

52. Head of family

53. Wrap in waxy cloth

54. Comfort

55. Financing acronym

58. Stewart of "Maggie May" fame

CROSSWORD

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

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

Howland Cultural Center decked out for the holidays



Members of The Tioronda Garden Club decorated the interior of the Howland Cultural Center for the upcoming holidays. The Center is at 477 Main St. in Beacon.
-Courtesy photo Tioronda Garden Club

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Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony held in Beacon



On December 7, 1941 the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii was attacked which resulted in the United States declaring war on Japan. Every year Veterans pay tribute to those who made the sacrifice during the attack.
This year a ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial Building in Beacon. The guest speaker was US Navy Veteran Bob Haight, second from left. Representing VFW Post 666 (from left) Sr. Vice Commander Mitch Corrado, Marine Corps League Detachment 861 Commandant Ed DeGuisto and American Legion Commander Keith Coultas. Never Forget!

-Courtesy photo Harold Delamater