

BEACON FREE PRESS

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Hochul announces
Newburgh-Beacon
Bridge shuttle
rebrand set
to begin Jan. 2

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced last week that beginning on Friday, January 2, the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Shuttle — operated by Leprechaun Lines on behalf of the New York State Department of Transportation — will be expanding bus service between Newburgh and Beacon to provide more connections for Orange County commuters with MTA Metro-North Railroad trains to and from New York City. This enhanced service will increase the amount of cross-Hudson trips by 60 percent, and will more than double the weekday trains that commuters are connected to.

“For too long, riders on the west side of the Hudson River have lacked access to the full range of Metro-North Hudson Line service — in 2026, that changes,” Hochul said. “Better access to fast and reliable transit is an affordability win for New Yorkers. Working together, the MTA and the State DOT’s new and improved shuttle service between Newburgh and Beacon will ensure that our commuters have full access to high-quality Metro-North service on both sides of the Hudson River. This enhanced service will save people time, improve connections and strengthen communities.”

The rebranded and expanded Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Shuttle will offer 65 trips daily, up from 41 currently, creating enhanced local travel within Newburgh and Beacon, while expanding economic opportunities for businesses on both sides of the Hudson River and for customers connecting with Metro-North trains. For train commuters, the new bus will now connect with at least 54 trains each weekday, more than twice as many as the 25 daily train connections the bus offers today.

For local riders, the relaunched bus service will eliminate a confusing and inefficient traveling configuration on the current route to streamline the service into a simplified structure that will offer two clear routes: an express route serving Stewart International Airport and the Route 17K park and ride, and a local route that will also offer service to stops in downtown Newburgh. This enhanced service is the latest transit improvement for Hudson Valley riders; in October, Hochul announced the ahead-of-schedule start of faster “Super-Express” trains on Metro-North’s Hudson Line, connecting Beacon and Grand Central in 73 minutes and saving daily riders an hour every week.

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Hockey is back! HV Reapers
capture excitement of fans

By Morgan E. Maier

Hudson Valley hockey is back in Poughkeepsie, where truck horns are engineered into blaring goal celebrations, and snare drums and stick taps echo every rink corner. Jeers and cheers of Hudson Valley Reapers fans swirl inside opposing players’ helmets, as cotton candy sticks to smaller clapping hands in the stands. This is Poughkeepsie’s semi-professional revolution on ice, revived inside MJN Convention Center Ice Arena by tricorncapped phantoms.

The Reapers arrive from the icy underbelly of Hudson Valley history, right in time for America’s 250th birthday. Bridging colonial inspiration with fast-paced hockey fetes, the Reapers began this season on a 5-0 roll. The team leads the Power Play Senior Hockey League (PPSHL) in every tracked statistic: goals, assists, points per game, shorthanded goals, and hockey fans’ favorite, penalty minutes.

The Reapers hunted Sasquatch in Salem, marked Mallards in Massachusetts. They crumpled Papermen at MJN to start a six-game homestand, a 10-8 onslaught that marked the Reapers’ highest scoring performance of the undefeated season. Opponents will count their days in “The Graveyard” with chattering teeth.

Formerly the Hudson Valley Vipers,



Taylor Traenkle (#10) of the Hudson Valley Reapers works to control the puck near the opposing team's goal during a recent game.

-Photo by Bill Winters

Poughkeepsie’s new-look club is back on top in the PPSHL. The inaugural Vipers were champions of the American Premier Hockey League in 2023-2024 before ownership shifts and a lack of home rink

dulled the championship offseason. The Vipers called off the 2024-25 season with a promise to return soon.

Continued on page2

Fishkill Highway Department rededicates
facility to honor former superintendent

By Kristine Coulter

Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan and members of the Town of Fishkill Highway Department, elected officials, and members of the community honored Glenn Scofield, the retired highway superintendent, on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Town of Fishkill Highway Dept. location off Geering Way. The facility was rededicated to honor Scofield. An 80-year-old snowplow was also dedicated. It was noted the snowplow was “the only thing that’s been in service to Fishkill longer than Glenn himself.”

“I appreciate so many people being here,” Scofield told those gathered in the Glenn Scofield Highway Facility.

Scofield first took office in 1970 after running for the elected position in November 1969. Scofield was elected to the superintendent position after his father decided not to run for that post again. At the time of his retirement, in Dec. 2023, Scofield noted the Town’s fleet for the department had tripled over time.

“I can’t believe what I’m seeing here today,” Scofield said about the updates that were done to the facility since his retirement.

Continued on page 2



Former Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Glenn Scofield smiles during a rededication ceremony held in his honor at the highway facility on Dec. 6 in Fishkill.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

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HV Reapers capture excitement of fans



Hudson Valley Reapers fans join players and the mascot for a birthday celebration prior to a recent game.

-Photo by Bill Winters

Continued from cover

“After everything that happened, the team coming together and the community, I couldn’t see it die there,” said Joey Bonitatibus, the Reapers owner/coach who took the reins after the Vipers’ hibernation.

Bonitatibus assembled the squad, navigating the new-owner waters of contracts and lawyers. He unearthed players and PA announcer Bill Winters to restart the movement, finding many in local men’s leagues. The built-in audience, formerly named “Fang Gang,” was waiting for the moment.

A New Jersey Devils fan, Kim Tesoriero rediscovered her love of hockey when she moved to the Hudson Valley. The Vipers offered a fun, die-hard hockey community, from the players who become like brothers, to the hockey family that texts each other on holidays.

“The hockey is great, the winning is great, but the whole atmosphere is what makes it. From Bill (Winters) as the announcer, to the guys being engaged with the fans, to everyone who volunteers and helps out. You look forward to going because you know it’s going to be a positive experience,” said Tesoriero.

Tesoriero and fellow fan Bradley Delmar spearheaded the “Sport Local Hockey 845” movement. The Facebook community connects Hudson Valley hockey fans, coordinates road trip car-pools, sharing pictures and stories, and spotlighting local fundraisers. The community endured until the Reapers rose again.

The once-serpentine faces emerged not with fangs, but a scythe-sharp identity inspired by Hudson Valley’s history. Shoutout number 28, Gino Santaguida, graphic designer by day and a stalwart defenseman by night. He created the brand that the Reapers – and their fans – have quickly assumed.

The “Mad House on Mill Street” is for the Reapers’ fanatics. Right outside the Zamboni gates, the bustling section sets the tone. From the undulating cowbells to the resident Reaper himself, down to the face paint and snare drum. Postgame get-togethers keep the Reaps close to their fans, making real connections that travel as far as New

Hampshire, Massachusetts, when the Reaps’ faithful accompany the road trip.

The homestand schedule is teeming with community celebrations, including youth hockey team nights. Through Jan. 17, Saturdays are for the Reaps, offering affordable family fun for all ages, snack bar and beverages, plus all the drama of a fight-friendly sport. It’s Madison Square Garden on a budget, and there is no shortage of New York Rangers gear. Winters, the voice of Marist on ice from 1990-2000, sees the “labor of love” that is this grassroots hockey revolution.

On Dec. 13, the Reapers rolled to a 4-2 win over Boston Gold Kings. They will return to play on Jan. 3.

“There’s something for everybody. If you’re a hockey fan, you get to watch hockey. If you don’t know much about hockey, you get the entertainment value. If you’re a little bit of both, you get the best of both worlds,” said Winters. “Plus, it’s a cheap night out, and you don’t have to go that far.”

Here, the sport is not one’s day job. With 9-5s ranging from IT to sales, finance, and phlebotomy, Reapers players and personnel built hockey careers on the love of the game. They’ll toss shirts in the crowd, sign pucks, and hang out postgame with families and fans. The engagement is a favorite of the players, according to Bonitatibus, who are always happy to take photos, sign autographs for kids, and go the “extra mile” for the fans.

Sal Safonte delivers fights in seven seconds or less, guaranteed to delight fans. Marist fan favorite Max Henry returns to Red Fox home as the Reapers captain. Hailing from Wappingers Falls, John Jay alum Robert Clerc shows out for the hometown crowd alongside Highland native Jarret Distasi. Brett Jackson’s league-leading 12 goals (as of Dec 6) have electrified arenas across the Northeast.

“You just feel welcome here. Anybody who is coming feels like this is their team at the end of the day. It’s something we can be proud of that belongs to Poughkeepsie,” added Delmar.

Hudson Valley hockey is for all, whether they’ve loved the game for 30 years or three periods.

Fishkill Highway Department rededicates facility



Current Town of Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan (left) listens as former highway superintendent Glenn Scofield makes remarks during the rededication ceremony of the highway facility, Geering Way, on Dec. 6 in the Town of Fishkill.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Continued from cover

“It’s beautiful what [Istvan’s] done,” Scofield said about the work done to the building.

“The family here is what it’s all about,” Istvan about the Scofields. During the rededication ceremony, he showed the new signs that state “Glenn R. Scofield Highway Facility.”

Regarding the plow, Istvan remarked. “the questions of ‘Do we keep it? Don’t we keep it?’” were asked.

In the end, the plow was repainted and cleaned up, he said.

“These are the little touches that go a long way,” said Istvan, who stated the members of the Fishkill Town Board are “invested in keeping our roads and community safe.”

“We never wavered when we could have,” Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra said about road improvements. “We never stopped.” He saluted Scofield for his decades of service to the town.

Scofield’s son, Glenn Scofield Jr., said before the rededication ceremony, “I think it’s amazing. I appreciate Carmine’s efforts and the Town Board’s efforts on behalf of my father.”

The younger Scofield noted, “It’s an amazing feat what [my father] accomplished and a day he deserves.” He added the support from the community is amazing and that his father “truly loves the people and they love him in return.”

“Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you for taking the time to come here and see me,” Scofield told all in attendance.

Lawyer: Contracts are out to be signed for sale of former Beacon Engine Co. firehouse



Contracts are out to be signed for the sale of the former Beacon Engine Co. Firehouse on East Main St., according to Nicholas Ward-Willis, attorney for the City of Beacon.

-Archive photo by Kristine Coulter

“This will be ready to be sold, if not by the end of the year, very quickly thereafter,” Nicholas Ward-Willis, attorney for the City of Beacon, said about the former Beacon Engine Co. firehouse on East Main St.

The city had received a number of bids, according to the attorney.

“We have the contracts out for signature with the purchaser,” Ward-Willis remarked. He said details can be provided after the contracts are signed.

The purchaser lives out of state, he noted, in a National Historic Registered building. Ward-Willis added, “The new

use will be from going to a firehouse to a single-family home.” The potential purchaser is aware of the fact the building is on the National Register of Historic Places, according to Ward-Willis, and the city zoning laws. Any changes to the exterior of the building require approval of the council, he noted.

“They’re excited to move to the city. They have connections to the city,” the attorney said of the potential buyers.

They have title survey and some other inspections to do after the contracts are signed, he said.

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**See story,
page 8**

Dr. George E. Verrilli - noted physician, community supporter and auto enthusiast



Dr. George E. Verrilli cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the Red Hook Community Center. He acquired the Northern Dutchess Christian Church building and donated it to the community. “We needed a place like that in Red Hook,” he said. The Center opened in 2017 and continues to serve the community today.

-Courtesy photo.

A tribute by Jim Donick and Curtis Schmidt

It would likely be impossible to overstate the effect that Dr. George Verrilli had on his community over a long and generous life. George was a family man, a doctor, a generous supporter of his community, a campground proprietor in Nova Scotia, a world class international racing driver, a car guys’s car guy, and who knows what else. He packed all of this into 96 years of life.

With a physician father, George Verrilli was raised in a medical family in Westchester County. As many little boys do, George fell in love with cars at a very early age. This love would continue throughout his life. More on that anon as motorcars were always a presence in his life.

After graduating from Georgetown University in 1951, he opted to study medicine in Europe. The American medical schools were pretty full of WW II veterans going there on the GI Bill, so Verrilli ended up in the Medical College of the oldest university in Italy, the University of Padua. His command of the Italian language meant that life and education in Italy were pleasant enough and he was excelling at his

studies. It seemed, though, that he missed having a car like he always did back in the States. A trip to the MG dealer in Paris, France solved that problem. He took a train up there and purchased a brand new MG-TD Midget and drove it back to Italy. He owned that car until he died.

The MG was a sporty little number and pretty quick for its size, so Verrilli found himself entering a few competitive events, mostly hillclimbs. His success in the MG caught the attention of a well known Italian racing team owner, who quickly signed the young American medical student to spend some weekends racing significantly more exotic cars than the MG. Success ensued. Before his European racing had concluded, George Verrilli had driven in many of the most important events imaginable, the most famous of which was the fabled Mille Miglia. The Mille Miglia was the most arduous of the European Road Races in the 1950s. It ran a thousand miles from Brescia to Rome and back to Brescia over public roads at racing speeds. The Italians are notorious for their collective love of fast cars and the annual Mille Miglia, until it was discontinued as too dangerous, was the “ne plus ultra” manifestation of that enthu-

siasm. George Verrilli took part in it on three separate occasions. The only European road race that was said to be more dangerous than the Mille Miglia was run through the mountains of Sicily. It was called the “Targa Florio.” He drove in that one too.

The racing was all great fun, but the young man never forgot why he was in Europe in the first place. He was there to learn to be a doctor. When that was accomplished, he returned home for residency and then to begin a practice.

After about a year in Westchester County, where his father practiced, he moved north, arriving in Rhinebeck in 1961. Even then, the Northern Dutchess Hospital was developing an outstanding reputation as a community and patient centered establishment. They recruited Verrilli to come up as a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The relationship with Northern Dutchess proved to be a match made in heaven.

He focused on patients as people and provided innovations and support to the community that continue to this day. Denise George, when she was President of

Northern Dutchess Hospital, was one of his colleagues, as well as one his fans. She commented, “The revered obstetrician paved the way for a less-invasive and safer approach to labor and delivery practices, which are now mainstream. As a founder of the hospital’s Neugarten Family Birth Center more than 30 years ago (now 40 years ago), he assured the center grew and was successful thanks to his reputation for great care and his bedside manner.”

That birth center approach is now standard procedure at many hospitals around the country and it was pioneered in Northern Dutchess County. She continued, “Dr. Verrilli’s energy and love of life came through in everything he did for Northern Dutchess Hospital, from delivering more than 15,000 babies during his career to serving as a board member since 1969.”

Not one to inflate his accomplishments, Dr. Verrilli only claimed to have assisted at the birthing of 14,129 human beings over his career. It should be noted, though, that the number is pretty close to one and a half times the entire population of Pleasant Valley.

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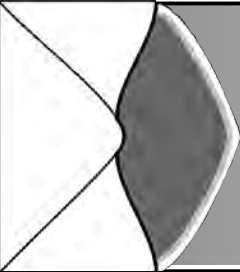
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Viewpoints



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Policy on letters:

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

Elks ‘lighting the way’ for communities

To the Editor:

This December, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is lighting the way for communities across America. At a time when many families are searching for hope, the Elks are answering the call with generosity, compassion, and unity on a scale few organizations can match. Across more than 1,800 Lodges in all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the Panama Canal Zone. Elks members are stepping forward to serve their neighbors and strengthen the places they proudly call home.

Elks volunteers are preparing and delivering thousands of holiday food baskets, warm meals, gifts, and essential items to families facing difficult times. Hospitalized and homebound Veterans will receive heartfelt visits, care packages, and reminders that they are valued and never forgotten. These moments of kindness honor the Elks’ solemn promise to those who served our country: “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.

The Elks’ commitment to America’s youth shines especially bright this season. Lodges nationwide are reviewing thousands of scholarship applications and investing 5 million dollars annually to help students pursue their dreams. Through the Community Investment Program, the Elks will deliver 17.6 million dollars in grants to strengthen neighborhoods, uplift seniors, support families in need, fight hunger, improve community safety, and build lasting connections that make towns and cities stronger.

In 2024, Elks volunteers contributed more than 531 million dollars in charitable impact. That extraordinary achievement reflects the Order’s 157-year legacy of service, patriotism, and compassion. With nearly 800,000 members, the Elks continue to welcome American citizens age 21 and older who believe in God and share their commitment to charity and community. To learn more, visit www.elks.org or [Join.Elks.Org](#).

This December, the Elks will be the light. This December, the Elks will Be the Difference for America.

Rick Gathen
Director, Elks USAMembership

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Democratic legislators voice opposition as 2026 County budget passes, 15-9

At the full board meeting of the Dutchess County Legislature on Dec. 8, the 25-member Dutchess County Legislature passed the \$653,619,277 budget for 2026 by a margin of 15-9, along party lines. Several amendments were also presented.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “The annual budget process is always challenging and difficult choices must be made. The budget plan I presented maintained and enhanced the programs and services our neighbors depend on, while ensuring fiscal stability for what is ahead – including increasing state mandates, declining federal support and economic uncertainty. The legislative amendments made to the 2026 budget, while certainly worthy, added new and ongoing expenses while further drawing down our fund balance, creating a very large budget gap that will be even more difficult to close for the 2027 budget. Using millions more dollars from the fund balance, while adding new, ongoing costs, is unsustainable and jeopardizes the County’s long-term fiscal health. I am carefully reviewing each of the amendments with the Budget Office team, committed to making the best decisions for our neighbors and taxpayers before returning the final budget to the Legislature.”

Minority Leader Yvette Valdés Smith (D-Fishkill) doubled the county’s contribution to the Housing Trust Fund, used to incentivize construction and help mitigate the effects of the housing crisis. And, was a “No” vote on the budget, stating, “The County Executive’s budget does not adequately address the affordability crisis that our residents are facing. While Democrats in our caucus passed meaningful amendments to help residents, the overall County Executive’s budget is

lacking and we must do better.”

Will Truitt, Chair of the Legislature, said “The 2026 Dutchess County Budget is both responsible and forward-thinking, delivering an eleventh consecutive property tax rate reduction for our residents while strengthening investments in law enforcement and public safety. Over my ten years of service to Dutchess County, I have made it a priority to crack down on crime, remove drugs from our streets, and ensure that vulnerable residents receive the support they need - and this budget advances all of those goals. I am disappointed that my Democratic colleagues chose not to support this budget, and I challenge them to elaborate on their claims that it ‘fails to adequately address affordability,’ especially in light of the fact that it is their party leaders in Albany who have made New York State so brutally unaffordable for families. Our residents deserve more than bullcrap political rhetoric - they deserve real solutions, and that is exactly what this budget delivers.”

“We are tired of temporary fixes when what our county needs is long-term investment,” Legislator Barrington Atkins (D-Poughkeepsie) said. “The games being played at budget time come at the expense of families who are simply trying to survive.”

An amendment from Legislator Kristofer Munn (D-Red Hook) created a new grant program for municipalities seeking to create or supplement initiatives surrounding the issue of homelessness.

“This new program will allow municipalities to apply for grants up to \$25,000 to help people in their own communities rather than having to move them to the City of Poughkeepsie,” said Munn. “This is a first step toward a scatter-site solution to supporting those in need.”

Continued on page 5

Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department.

Nov. 16: Fight-Main Street- Samuel A. Parker, 40, of Beacon, was charged with Aggravated Harassment 2nd.

Nov. 16: Lost Property-Verplanck Avenue- Caller reported a package lost. Report Filed. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 17: Harassment-Bank Street-Caller reported being harassed by an individual that is known to her. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 18: Open Container-Veterans Place-Emilio Ramos, 44, of Beacon, was charged with Open Container.

Nov. 18: Abandoned Vehicle-North Elm- Officers responded to a call for an Abandoned Vehicle. Report taken. Investigation Conducted. Vehicle Towed.

Nov. 19: Traffic Stop- Robert Cahill Drive- Christopher A. Musorofiti, 52, of Beacon, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Vehicle 3rd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

11/20 Traffic Stop-North Avenue-Angel I. Cruz-Nunez age 29 of

Newburgh, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operations Vehicle 3rd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

Nov. 21: Auto Accident- Hit & Run-S. Davies Terrace-Caller reported damage to his vehicle as a result of a hit-and-run accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 22: Warrant-Municipal Plaza-Corey A. Jones, 56, of Newburgh, Orange County, was processed on an open Bench Warrant.

Nov. 23: Auto Accident-Hit & Run-Fishkill Avenue- Caller reported damage to her car as a result of a hit-and-run accident. Report taken. Investigation conducted.

Nov. 24: Traffic Stop- Barrett Place-John T. Halpern, 71, of Delhi, NE, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation Vehicle 3rd & Miscellaneous Vehicle & Traffic Violations.

Nov. 25: Fraud-Wolcott Avenue-Caller reported being a victim of fraud. Report taken. Investigation conducted.
Number of Calls: 314
Auto Accidents: 18
Domestics: 5.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to the Christmas holiday, the deadline for the Dec. 24 issue of Beacon Free Press is Thursday, Dec. 18. E-mail cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com for more information.

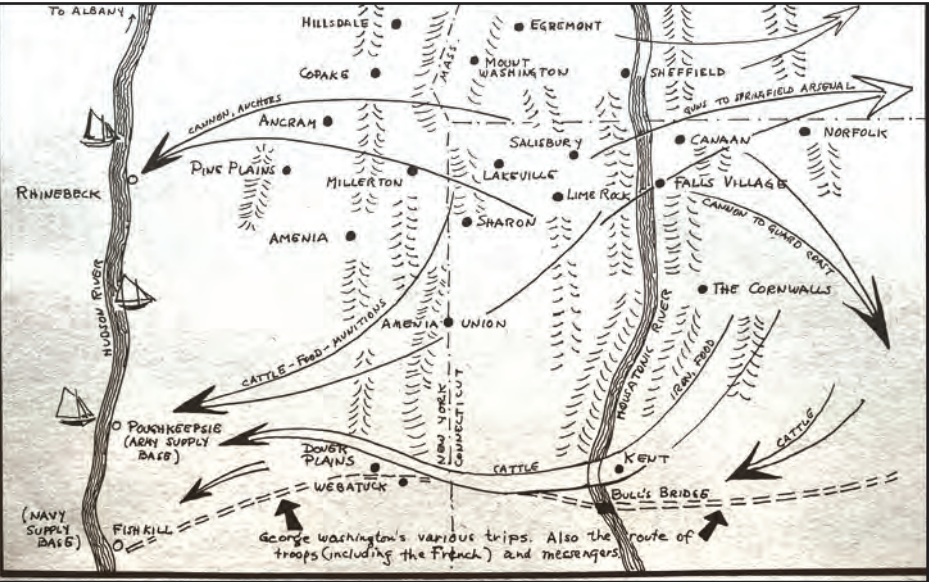
CORRECTIONS:

An article on Dec. 10 concerning the Our Lady of Lourdes gymnasium dedication for Brian Giorgis stated Giorgis’s years of employment at the school were 1989-1999. Giorgis was the athletic director from 1989-1999. The dates he taught were from September 1977 to June 2003.

The HV Nativist sincerely apologizes for her error in last week’s column. December 21, 2025 is the winter solstice, not the 25th as written.



1776 & Beyond: The Ongoing Revolution



Map from “The Arsenal of the Revolution,” published by the Lakeville Journal, described seventeen towns in three states as often overlooked but essential iron and foraging areas during the Revolution.

By Bill Jeffway

This is the second part of a two-part series telling the story of Dutchess County’s unique and important role in the American Revolutionary war through a six-panel traveling exhibition. The lens of local history allows us to see, in very personal terms, the effect of the war at the time, and the many journeys launched in the name of freedom and equality.

Supported with a 2025 grant from Dutchess County government they are published by DCHS. Two sets can be loaned depending on availability. They can be reserved through DCHS by email Bill Jeffway at bill.jeffway@dchsnny.org and viewed online at www.dchsnny.org/rev250-banners. This outlines the narrative of the fourth, fifth and sixth banners.

Sustaining the Revolution

Dutchess County played a pivotal role in supplying the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The county’s position at the Crossroads of the American Revolution, between the New England and Middle colonies, placed it in a unique position to materially contribute to the war effort. Vital resources like ore, wood, and food were produced throughout Dutchess. These raw materials were an integral part of military supply networks that fueled the revolutionary cause. Industrial and logistical centers, another important part of these supply lines, transformed raw materials into weapons, munitions, and vessels. Sites like the Fishkill Supply Depot and the Poughkeepsie shipyards gave the Continental Army access to goods produced and stored in Dutchess County.

Revolution on the Home Front

While the stories of major battles of the American Revolution are best known, the struggle for American Independence was equally important on the home front, in the lives of everyday people. Throughout Dutchess County, citizens became active participants in, and were personally affected by, the political and social Revolution. News spread through word of mouth and printed material, while local governing bodies monitored and enforced Patriot requirements.

The Revolution pitted neighbors against each other. Various committees, like the Committees of Safety and Correspondence, served as local arms of the Revolutionary government. They represented the general interests of the Continental Congress, offering direct social and material control in towns and the county. Backed by local militias, committees enforced Revolutionary policies among the people. They were tasked with furnishing supplies for the war, often through the impressment of property, including enslaved persons, especially against Loyalists. During the war nearly 120,000 acres of land was taken in Dutchess County alone. At the end of the war, around 60,000 Loyalists relocated to Canada in an effort to forge new lives.

These seizures could also include items like livestock, food, and clothing that could be sent to the Army. One local example comes from the Town of Northeast where, in 1778, the Committee of Safety ordered citizens to deliver sleighs and horses to Albany. One such individual who failed to do this, Mathias Rowe, was found “guilty of Disobedience of Orders and Contempt of Orders of the Senate and Assembly.” They fined him eight pounds.

A million journeys to freedom

The July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence announced a new country and radical premise: that all men are created equal. Those who felt disadvantaged by their economic status, gender, race, or faith saw this as their opportunity. The journeys began. Progress came from a combination of winning over hearts and minds and profound legal change through amendments to the US and State Constitutions and laws.

Workingclass rights

Rhinebeck’s Nathan Darling (1802-1866) was born in poverty. While a house painter in New York City in 1830, he cast a vote moderating the goals of an emerging labor rights organization, helping it become the broader, successful Mechanics movement. In 1858 he built a house that stands today reflecting his successful military and political career. Among labor achievements: 1826: Property ownership requirement to vote



The banners have begun to travel and were recently at a student engagement at Vassar College. Oval insets: Starting top then clockwise, local men and women who are profiled for their specific journeys – Lucretia Mott, Laura Wylie, imagined portraits of Nathan Darling and Andrew Frazier, the Fishkill memorial to Daniel Nimham.

-Courtesy images

removed (for White men only). 1831: Abolition of imprisonment for debt. 1867: Free public school for all.

Women’s equality

Lucretia Coffin Mott (1793-1880) was a student and teacher at the Quaker school in today’s Millbrook before becoming an advocate on the world stage. Vassar College’s Laura Wylie (1833-1932) led local organizations to obtain the right to vote, and to help women vote effectively. Landmarks: 1848: Seneca Falls Convention, where 4 out of 5 organizers were Quaker. 1861: Vassar Female College opens. 1880: Voting in school elections allowed. 1918: Right to vote in NY State. 1920: Right to vote nationally.

Religious freedom

By abandoning the idea of a single official state religion, diverse faiths emerged. Clinton’s Amanda Halstead Deyo (1838-1917) was born a Quaker. As that faith declined after an 1827 split, she became one of the earliest female ordained ministers in the Universalist Church. Among the movement’s achievements: 1777: No religious preference law. 1777: Military service exemption for Quakers. 1806: Catholics allowed in public office.

Race, African heritage

Pine Plains and Milan’s Andrew Frazier (ca. 1742-1846) was likely born enslaved but earned his freedom after serving in the Revolutionary War. He and his local descendants led by example, having served in every major war including World War 2. His great-granddaughter became the first woman of color allowed to teach White students in NYC in 1895. Landmarks: 1865 to 1870: 13th, 14th, 15th US Constitutional Amendments eliminate slavery, ensure citizenship, and guarantee equal protection. 1948: Racially integrated US military.

Race, indigenous peoples

Daniel Nimham (ca. 1726-1778) fought for the American cause believing he would have greater success in getting land disputes settled after failing to do so with the British that included a trip to England. He was killed in action. Forced relocation and disease greatly reduced the local population, but descendants today are active in maintaining their culture. Landmarks: 1778: First treaty between US and a Tribe. 1830: Indian Removal Act. 1924: US Grants Citizenship.

Clarification relating to Part One: This does not relate to the text in the banners but relates to the published text of Part One of this series. When describing the location of the Fishkill Supply Depot as opposite Washington’s Newburgh Headquarters, while true in a general sense looking at any contemporary map, we did not mean to communicate that they were created simultaneously. For the clarification we turn to one of the most studied historians of southern Dutchess County, particularly for the period of the Revolutionary War, Steve Lynch.

Lynch explains, “Washington’s headquarters in Newburgh wasn’t established until Nov. 1781 after the battle of Yorktown, Virginia. When the Fishkill Supply Depot was established in Nov. 1776, General Israel Putnam came to the Van Wyck Homestead [which stands beautifully maintained today] located on the Albany Post Road in Fishkill, and commandeered the house as Officers’ Headquarters.”



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

Democratic legislators voice opposition as 2026 County budget passes, 15-9

Continued from page 4

Other amendments to the budget included additional funding added for Rev250 programming celebrating the 250th anniversary of 1776, restoring positions to the DA’s office including three assistant district attorneys, funds to support Sheriff’s Department, and \$750K for grants to improve security and safety in municipal buildings.

An amendment proposed by Legislator Chris Drago (D-Town of Stanford) to increase funding for EMS planning and support was voted down along party lines.

Legislator Craig Brendli (D-Town/City

of Poughkeepsie), said, “My concern is ensuring that our county departments and local municipalities receive the support and funding necessary to effectively serve the people of our county. I look forward to the work ahead next year and the opportunity to deliver for our residents.”

Drago said, “We cannot continue to ignore an EMS system that is failing communities across Dutchess County. My amendment would have given towns the tools they need to expand ambulance service and would have finally started the work of creating a

Continued from page 10

Dr. George E. Verrilli - noted physician, community supporter and auto enthusiast

Continued from page 3

Oddly enough, George Verrilli might have died in his med school years. One of six survivors who came through a massive air crash coming into New York City from Rome on December 18th, 1954, he was essentially uninjured. He had changed seats when the plane stopped in Boston. Otherwise he wouldn't have survived. An experience like that can change a life. In Verrilli's case, it seems to have galvanized his commitment to making the world a better place.

George Verrilli didn't just focus on one other sphere of interest. His passion appears to be making the whole world a better place starting in his own community. He may have learned a little of that during his student days in Italy. "One of the things I love about the Italians," he mused, "is that they don't spend a lot of time worrying about the government or even about the pope. They keep their eyes on their families and their business." Verrilli's words are another way of suggesting that charity begins at home. If it worked that way for everyone, then the intersecting circles of all of those people would result in stronger communities, states, nations, and maybe even the world. The northern Dutchess communities of Rhinebeck and Red Hook can attest easily to the benefits of this philosophy.

Aside from investing his life in the community, he also invested much of his treasure. The growth of the hospital is proof enough, but there have been other parts of the community to experience his commitment.

He bought the remains of Red Hook's old Chocolate Factory in 1995. It had been all but abandoned since the early 1980s, but was an important part of the town's economic history. It had gotten pretty run down. Verrilli renovated it and put it back to work for the community.

Part of the facility became the base for his automotive interest, Eastgate Motors. His office there was a veritable Aladdin's cave of interesting cars, but that is to be expected. A closer examination of the premises turns up models and photographs, some old enough to be fading, of

races and racing cars from as far back as 60 or 70 years ago.

He made sure that even that space is available to local enthusiasts who could use some help getting a beloved vintage motorcar back on the road. Peter Charlap is the former Chair of the Vassar College Art Department. He's also a dyed in the wool car guy with a very rare Bugatti automobile that he drives all over the northeast. He did most of the restoration work himself and much of it under the tutelage of George Verrilli. "George had this most wonderful twinkle in his eye that reflected his love of life," says Charlap. "He was also a delight to work with. My Bugatti wouldn't be on the road today if it wasn't for his help. Hearing of his loss hit me pretty hard."

Verrilli turned the rest of the space into a nursery bed of sorts for artisans and boutique business ideas. People can rent space, a studio of sorts or more space as needed and can develop their business or creative idea with a nearby village center location and a limited investment.

Aside from being a great place to indulge his love of motor cars, The Chocolate Factory was and continues to be an investment in the economic future of Red Hook.

One of Verrilli's later projects was to turn the failing school of the Northern Dutchess Christian Church into a community center for Red Hook. He acquired the building and donated it to the community. "We needed a place like that in Red Hook," he said.

Denise George of NDH summed the story up well. "Northern Dutchess Hospital and the greater community were lucky to have him as 'our' advocate," she said. One suspects that the 14,129 people he helped bring into this world would agree.

Community memories

Margaret Lovell, former Director of Patient Care Services for the Neugarten Family Birth Center

"Dr. Verrilli was an obstetrician whose passion for natural childbirth and family-centered care shaped not only the Birth Center, but all who worked beside him. He truly believed in the strength of women, the importance of families being



Dr. George Verrilli is shown during a race in Italy in the 1950s. He attended medical school in Italy and gained an interest in racing specialty cars.

-Courtesy photo

present, and the beauty of the natural birthing process.

"He had a clear vision for the Birth Center and dedicated his talents to creating a culture rooted in compassion, respect and trust. Nurses and colleagues admired him deeply-for his clinical skill, his calm leadership and the genuine respect he showed the entire care team.

"His influence lives on in the Birth Center he helped build, in the families he supported, and in the values he instilled in all of us. We are grateful for his dedication, his heart for birth and the legacy of compassionate care he leaves behind."

Robert Selkowitz, artist and creator of Historic Automobile Endurance Runs, (a series of Catskill focused motoring tours throughout the season)

"I first met George in early 1978. My wife was seven months pregnant with our first child and we weren't comfortable with the medical support she was receiving in Kingston. We went to Northern Dutchess and George Verrilli was willing to take on the case even so late in her pregnancy. He and I also discovered at the time that we shared an interest in sporting cars. He simply made us both feel welcome and secure. I'll never forget the 13th of March, 1978. It was dawn or maybe still the false dawn, when I was crossing the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge in an old Jaguar, knowing that Dr. Verrilli was already at the hospital and waiting for our arrival. Our daughter came into this world and into his talented hands. We became friends for life. We found a shared love

of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton and visited him there a few times over the summers. Over the years we've shared art, travel and Nova Scotia. I'll miss him."

Low Ruge of Ruge's Auto Group

Low Ruge has served on the Board of Directors of Northern Dutchess Hospital (NDH) for over 50 years. He met Dr. Verrilli in the way that most did - after the birth of two of his daughters.

He said, "Dr. Verrilli held the torch leading NDH into a new century of healthcare in the 1960s.

He was very sharp and knowledgeable -but also witty, opinionated and straight forward - you always knew right where he stood on most any issue."

Ruge worked with Dr. Verrilli on many fundraising campaigns for the expansion of NDH. "George was always very helpful, benevolent himself and was willing to make contacts with individuals who could provide further financial assistance. Along with former CEO Michael Mazzarella, George was the driving force in the founding of the Neugarten Family Birth Center. Both of them were very forward thinking individuals and their main interest was in providing a better hospital for the community and surrounding area."

Ruge said Dr. Verrilli was always "very professional, upbeat and humorous. He had a way about him - he would make fun of you, but in a nice way, he was blunt in a nice way. He never panicked, was always looking for solutions. He looked beyond the panic."

Continued on page 7

Hochul announces Newburgh-Beacon Bridge shuttle rebrand set to begin Jan. 2

Continued from cover

The new bus schedule is available online, and additional information is available at mta.info/newburgh.

The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Shuttle will continue to use the New York State Bridge Authority's Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, which has carried Interstate 84 across the Hudson River since 1963 and was expanded in 1980 with the addition of a second span. The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Shuttle will not charge a fare to passengers the entire year as this expanded service rolls out.

State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, "Governor Hochul has called upon every agency in state government to find new and innovative ways to make life more affordable for New Yorkers, and NYSDOT's expanded bus shuttle service between Newburgh and Beacon perfectly fits this directive. Affordable transit is the lifeblood of communities across the Hudson Valley, bringing people to jobs, school, shopping destinations and restaurants, doctors' offices, and everywhere in between. I look forward to continued collaboration with our state agency partners to deliver on the Governor's investment in safe, reliable and affordable transportation in every corner of the Empire State."

Metro-North Railroad President Justin Vonashek said in part, "The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Shuttle is yet another great example of New York State's commitment to eliminating barriers between proximity and opportunity. This enhanced shuttle service will give Metro-North Hudson Line customers more connections to and from Newburgh at more times of day and to more destinations."

State Bridge Authority Executive Director Dr. Minosca Alcantara said in part, "The Newburgh-Beacon Bridge serves as an essential and affordable link for the Hudson Valley and the broader Northeast. In recent years, the Bridge Authority has expanded opportunities for free non-vehicular travel by upgrading lighting and security systems along the pedestrian and bicycling path, enabling safe, continuous access at all hours."

Operated by Leprechaun Lines, the buses will be timed to allow passengers to seamlessly connect with trains traveling to and from New York City. This enhanced service will improve upon the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry Rail Link, a Metro-North connecting service that has operated as a substitute bus since Jan. 17, 2025, which will be discontinued on Dec. 31.

To enable further connectivity, the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge's south span,

which carries eastbound I-84 traffic toward Beacon, offers a pedestrian and bicycling path, separated from traffic and open 24/7. Access on the west side is from Grand Avenue in Newburgh, while access on the east side is from Route 9D in Beacon, immediately south of the Exit 41 ramp and north of Van Ness Road.

In coming months, further improvements will be made to this shuttle service including improved bus stops, dedicated bus signage, and enhanced wayfinding.

As part of the FY 2026 Enacted State Budget and Governor Hochul's 2025 State of the State, New York is conducting an in-depth transit analysis to propose and evaluate additional recommendations to expand and maximize the impact of rail service and examine opportunities for other types of commuter transit for New Yorkers living west of the river and working in New York City.

Representative Pat Ryan said, "I've been fighting to make transit between Newburgh and Beacon faster, cheaper, and easier for everyone from Metro-North commuters to folks who regularly go back and forth over the Hudson. I'm grateful to Governor Hochul for making this major investment to advance those goals. But there's more work left to do. I'm going to continue pushing for more smart transit investments, especially west of the Hudson, and that certainly

includes ferry service."

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "This investment by the state to establish reliable bus connections between the City of Beacon and Beacon Train Station and Orange County, including the City of Newburgh and Stewart Airport, is a game-changing commitment to our region's transportation infrastructure. By linking our communities through public transit, we're expanding access to jobs, strengthening tourism, reducing traffic and emissions, and ensuring that residents from both sides of the Hudson River can move easily and affordably."

City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou said, "As a decades-long Metro-North commuter myself, I know firsthand how essential reliable and affordable transportation is for families across the Hudson Valley. Governor Hochul's expansion of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Shuttle — with more frequent service, better connections, and complimentary fares for all riders in 2026 — is a game changer for our region. This investment strengthens the link between Newburgh and Beacon, supports local businesses, and makes it easier for residents to access jobs, and opportunity. We are grateful for the Governor's continued commitment to building a more connected and affordable Hudson Valley."

get growing!

by mark adams

Remembrance of Christmas Past!



Traveling down a garland-lined Memory Lane

“Today I got a telescope, a pocket radio, 50 cactus seeds, a chess set, an electric football game, a book bag, a shirt, pajamas, two insect books, a Mattel shootin’ shell gun, a stocking full of stuff, a barrel cactus, a Spanish dictionary.” That’s what a 10-year-old boy got for Christmas in 1959.

That little boy was me.

I also wrote in my diary, *“We went to Church before we saw the tree.”*

My dad insisted on that, every year. Back then, Adams Fairacre Farms was just a farm, a year before the Poughkeepsie store was built. So our extended family get-together happened on Thanksgiving, and Christmas was more relaxing than it is nowadays. Still, over the years, I can remember a few good stories:

• **Pain in the butter** – I was a such a fussy eater, I would never eat margarine. My mom wrapped up a pound of butter and put it under the Christmas tree.

• **Charlie Brown tree** – When Adams started selling Christmas trees, my dad, Ralph, would bring the very last tree into the house on Christmas eve. He was the same way with apples, and all the vegetables we sold at the store. We’d get the bruised and misshapen ones. They still tasted great, and the

tree looked great once it was covered with tinsel.

• **Christmas at the library** – You know those coffee table books you get for Christmas – “Famous Paintings from the Louvre,” “25 Great Vacation Spots,” “Mansions of the World,” “Birds of North America in Glorious Color.” Everybody oohs and ahs over them on Christmas day, and then they go on a shelf, never to be seen again. Well, I checked out a bunch of those books from the library, wrapped them and gave them to my parents, brother and sisters for Christmas. Two weeks later, I took them back to the library, and nobody noticed.

• **Fish sticks** – On our first Christmas together, Sue was so proud of the feast she put together for the whole family, all crammed together in our new home at Ridgefield Apartments. Except she bought a fresh ham, thinking it was precooked. When she took it out of the oven, it was still raw. So we had to eat fish sticks. I told her that one day she’d look back at this and laugh. After 50 years she still hasn’t.

• **Car parts** – When Becky’s first car (our old 1994 Toyota Corolla) broke down, I bought her a new intake manifold, wrapped it up, all 40 pounds of it,



Mark and Sue’s daughter Becky visits Santa in 1983.

-Photo courtesy Mark Adams

and put it under the tree. The next day, we installed it together. Of course, she

still has the car.

• **Bad Santa** – When kids ask Santa for a particular toy, he’s supposed to say something like “I’ll see what I can do, the elves are pretty busy.” Back in 1983, four-year-old Becky came to me in a panic, at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. “Dad, I haven’t seen Santa yet! I won’t get any presents!” It so happened that Santa was at Herman’s Nursery, so we hurried over there. Well, Santa recognized me, so when Becky told him she wanted a Rainbow Brite Gas Station (yes, it was a thing), he declared, while looking me right in the eye, “Of course I’ll bring you one!” I dropped Becky off at the house and hightailed it down to Bradlee’s in the Poughkeepsie Plaza Mall, and grabbed the last Rainbow Brite gas station just as they were closing the doors. Turned out I was the only busy elf that day.

I googled “Mattel shootin’ shell gun,” one of my 1959 Christmas presents. Turns out it’s now worth \$25,000. By the way, I never did learn how to play Chess.

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

Dr. George E. Verrilli - noted physician, community supporter and auto enthusiast

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He said Dr. Verrilli was definitely “into antique and specialty cars. He was always tinkering with the cars and he lived for the thrill of racing those cars.”

Ruge remembers one time when he and Dr. Verrilli were attending a local gathering. “I was an Oldsmobile dealer at the time and had new models,” he said. “One was kind of a hot rod and Dr. Verrilli obviously wanted to try it out. So we hopped in the car and he drove to Rhinecliff and back. I was hanging on for dear life and he was smiling and cool as cucumber all the way.”

He said Dr. Verrilli’s favorite car was a brown Maserati convertible. “He was talking about cars all the time. Our interest in cars was the key to our friendship. He was also a jokester and got a kick out of saying ‘Hey Luigi’ whenever he saw me.”

Ruge said Dr. Verrilli was not just a storyteller - “He actually did all of those crazy things.”

“I’m honored to be able to call him a great friend.”

Sara Ugolini, Director of the Red Hook Community Center

“As many of you know, George was the visionary who imagined the Red Hook Community Center into existence. It was, in no small part, his tenacity and determination that has made the Center into the bustling community hub it is today. As he would say, he was a ‘people-oriented person’ who

believed deeply in the power of connection, and always worked to help provide support and opportunity for every member of our community. Here at the Center, we will miss George’s good company each day, his joy and excitement for life, and his ever-present generosity of spirit. Moreover, we will be forever grateful for this beautiful dream of his that is now our reality.”

Diane Post, former Clinical Nurse Coordinator for Maternity, Northern Dutchess Hospital

“Dr. Verrilli believed in the beauty of childbirth and the importance of providing a safe and trusted environment during a woman’s pregnancy, labor and delivery. He achieved that safe and trusting environment by providing continuity of care for women by employing his nurses to not only work in the office, but to also provide early pregnancy classes, teach childbirth education and then be the woman’s labor nurse when they came to the birth center to give birth.

“This care provided not only the physical care, but also the education and emotional support women needed to learn to trust their own bodies and believe in the childbirth process. Dr. Verrilli’s devotion to the beauty of childbirth and importance of a family-integrated birth center continues to echo through the halls of the Neugarten Family Birth Center and it is the responsibility of the present team at the Birth Center to carry on Dr. Verrilli’s legacy.”

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love to cook

by vicki frank day



Symbolic snacking

The wreath and tree inspire holiday nibbles.

For winter’s holidays, decorating with wreaths, garland and trees is a tradition. We use fragrant evergreen, holly, pine cones and mistletoe as well as other natural elements and somehow that makes it all the more cozy, the warmth and earthy beauty they add to our homes making them as peaceful and magical as the first snow.

Bringing the outdoors in is certainly nothing new. Early Pagans worshiped trees. Celtic Druids ceremoniously gathered the mistletoe that grew on the oak trees they revered. Ancient Romans, Pagans and even Egyptians brought evergreen boughs into their homes as symbols of renewal, hope and for protection from evil. The meaning became even more pronounced when fashioned into wreaths, either to be worn or as decoration, the never-ending circles representing everlasting love and devotion. Early Christians, who borrowed many Pagan traditions and made them their own, interpreted evergreen symbolism as a promise of life returning after the dead of winter and eternal life in Heaven.

Although Queen Victoria and (German-born) Prince Albert are largely credited with making the Christmas tree popular, it was already a long-standing tradition in Germany (and likely other countries). Protestant reformer Martin Luther is widely believed to be the first to add lit candles to his tree in 16th-century Germany. Not surprisingly, it was German immigrants who brought the Christmas tree tradition to America in the early 1800s, although it wouldn’t catch on nationwide for a while. Tree decorations throughout history included paper roses (symbolizing the Virgin Mary), beads, nuts, fruits, cookies, popcorn and candles. It’s hard to imagine now when we see brightly colored lights everywhere, but how magical it must have been to see a tree adorned with candles brightening a room in the dead of winter.

You can find trees and wreaths as time-honored traditional symbols of Christmas even in the holiday foods we celebrate with. Festively shaped cookies, candy, breads and cheeses can be found in many

stores. It’s easy and festive to use these motifs in your own presentations. For example, this year I’m making a crudité/antipasto wreath and cheese-filled rolls baked in the shape of a tree which, when served by the fire, will be fun and festive to nibble on all day.

If you want to make an edible wreath, the sky’s the limit. Arrange cherry tomatoes, olives, cheese, stuffed peppadews, mushrooms, fresh herbs and/or salami in a circle on a cutting board or platter. Similarly, you can arrange caprese skewers – cherry tomato, mozzarella ball and a basil leaf – which can be easier for guests to pick up. For a crudité wreath I like to stick with a red-green-white theme (tomatoes, cucumbers, mushrooms, cauliflower and broccoli florets, snap peas, radishes) and place a bowl of dip in the center. Doesn’t get much easier than that!

PULL-APART CHRISTMAS TREE ROLLS

I’ve made versions of this over the years with crescent rolls and puff pastry, but my favorite is with pizza dough as in this recipe. If you want to make your own dough, good for you! But because I’m all about making things easier during busy times, using store-bought is just fine. I’ve also used fresh mozzarella for the filling, but mozzarella sticks are easier to cut into pieces and give you wonderful stretchy-cheesy results. You will need parchment paper for this so the rolls don’t stick to the pan and for easier transfer once they’re baked. Sometimes I add a little pizza sauce or pesto to these before rolling them into balls, but it isn’t necessary since you’ll serve dipping sauce on the side. You can assemble this a day ahead and bake when ready to serve.

INGREDIENTS

- Pizza dough (usually found in 1lb pieces), room temperature (easier to roll)
- Mozzarella cheese sticks, cut into 4 or 5 equal pieces
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder and dried oregano
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon warm water



An edible wreath and Pull-Apart Christmas Tree Rolls pay tribute to traditional symbols of the holiday season.

-Photos by Vicki Frank Day

- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- Freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- Fresh basil and/or Italian parsley, chopped
- Sauce for dipping (marinara, pesto or pizza sauce)

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

Roll pizza dough out on a lightly floured surface (to about ¼-inch thickness). Cut into 2-inch squares. You can get about 32 pieces. Place a mozzarella piece in the center of each square and sprinkle with seasonings. Fold dough edges around the cheese, pinch to seal and roll into balls.

Place balls onto prepared baking sheet in the shape of a Christmas tree. (If you have extra rolls, place them on the sheet off to the side). Whisk the egg with the water and brush on top. Bake until golden-brown, 16-18 minutes.

Remove from oven, allow to cool slightly and carefully transfer to a cutting board or platter. Brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with Parmesan and fresh herbs.

Serve immediately with a side of sauce.

I love serving special food for the holidays and I certainly don’t mind fussing to do so. But sometimes you can put something together quickly and easily, presented in a festive way, that only looks like you fussed and there’s no harm in that! The best part of the holidays, after all, is spending time with the ones we love and limiting the time spent in the kitchen is a great way to do that. Think of it as a gift you don’t need to wrap. So deck those halls and your table, let the warmth of the season fill you up as you gather with those you love and savor the comfort and joy of it all. Merry Christmas!

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.

Client success drives KDD Marketing award

Maintaining its position as an award-winning agency, KDD Marketing is ending the year with a series of honors, including the agency's first Davey Award win and seventh consecutive year of accolades from the American Graphic Design Awards. These achievements bolster the marketing team's recent recognition as Ulster County's 2025 Small Business of the Year.

The Davey Awards, which are sanctioned and reviewed by the Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts, recognize the work of small agencies, independent

creators and in-house teams. As part of the 2025 award cycle, KDD Marketing received a Silver Award for Website Redesign for its team's work with The Emerson, a Catskills-based resort and spa.

The American Graphic Design Awards (AGDA), a long-running design competition presented by Graphic Design USA, acknowledges outstanding work in branding, print design, packaging, web and app design, social media campaigns and more. KDD Marketing was recognized for designing websites for both the Kingston



KDD Marketing team members celebrate their 2025 Ulster County Small Business of the Year award.

-Courtesy photo

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Local Development Corporation and Anne Waxman. Additionally, the agency received an award for its traditional ad campaign on behalf of The Emerson.

"Seeing our work recognized by industry-leading organizations is a strong testament to our team's commitment to client success," said Katy Dwyer, founder and creative director of KDD Marketing. "We

are incredibly grateful for these awards, and as we look ahead to 2026, we're planning for another year of making waves for our clients and within the design industry at large." To learn more about KDD Marketing and its team, visit www.teamkdd.com or follow along on Facebook (@KDDMarketing) and Instagram (@kddmarketing).

VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

Check in on the veterans in your life this week



As we head into the final week before Christmas, when the crowds get larger, the pressure gets heavier and emotions run a little closer to the surface, I find myself thinking even more about the veterans in our community who struggle this time of year.

For many people, these days are filled with excitement: last-minute shopping, family gatherings, kids counting down the hours. For a lot of veterans, though, especially those living with post-traumatic stress (PTSD), this week can be one of the toughest of the entire year. The noise, the expectations, the changes in routine and the memories that tend to bubble up can all make the holiday season feel far more overwhelming than festive.

I say that because I’ve lived it. As a Marine, I learned to keep my feelings locked down tight and push through anything. The holiday season, however, often has a way of stirring up the past, especially for those of us who’ve served. You can stand in a room full of people you love and still feel a world apart; and if the holiday cheer around you doesn’t match what you’re feeling inside, it can make the distance feel even wider.

That’s why I’m asking, from one neighbor to another: Please check in on the veterans in your life this week.

A simple “Thinking of you,” an invitation to lunch or a seat at your holiday table are small gestures that hit more deeply than you might ever realize. The days leading up to the holidays can be isolating for veterans carrying unseen burdens. Your kind actions and words can be exactly what steadies them.

To my fellow veterans reading this: If this season feels heavy, please know you don’t have to shoulder that weight alone. Dutchess County is filled with people who care and places where you can find support, togetherness and a sense of belonging.

Our American Legion and VFW posts are especially active right now, hosting holiday meals, gatherings and community events. These posts are spaces where you’re understood without needing to explain anything, places where you can laugh, talk or just sit quietly among people who have been where you’ve been, seen what you’ve seen and understand. They get it. If you’ve been feeling disconnected, walking through those doors might be the lift you didn’t know you needed.

At our office inside MHA’s Dutchess County Veterans One Stop in Pleasant Valley, we’re here through the holidays for any veteran who needs help, whether it’s assistance navigating benefits, connecting to mental-health support or simply finding a supportive someone with

whom you can talk. The holiday season can bring old wounds to the surface, but it can also be a chance to reach for the help you deserve.

One of the most valuable resources available right now is our office’s GoGo Veterans program. Now that it’s colder and holiday errands ramp up, transportation can become a real barrier, especially for veterans who don’t drive or don’t have reliable transportation. GoGo Veterans offers free rides for eligible veterans anywhere in Dutchess County, whether it’s getting to a VA appointment, the pharmacy or picking up groceries.

This free program can make a huge difference. Just call my office at (845) 486-2060, and we’ll get you registered; this is the perfect time to utilize this service. Getting out, breaking up the isolation and being around people can change the tone of the whole season.

Even with all these programs, the most powerful support still comes from people. That support can be neighbors looking out for one another, friends checking in or families remaining loving and patient when someone withdraws or doesn’t seem, well ... right. The holidays can stir up feelings that veterans sometimes struggle to explain, and it’s the kindness of others – even strangers – that can keep them grounded.

During the holidays, amid the rush and the excitement, I hope we’ll all make time to remember the veterans among us. They often served away from their families so the rest of us could celebrate safely with ours. A little compassion goes further this week than you might imagine.

To any veteran reading this: Please know you matter. Deeply. Your presence is a gift to Dutchess County. If you’re struggling, please reach out. Call me at 845-453-5842; swing by the MHA Veterans One Stop (1335 Route 44 in Pleasant Valley); reach out to a fellow veteran, loved one or someone you trust. These aren’t the old days; there’s no weakness in asking for support. Seeking connection is actually the strongest thing you do during this season.

My wish, as both a Marine veteran and your Director of Veterans Affairs, is that this season brings you moments of connection, comfort and true peace. I also hope the holidays, no matter how you celebrate them, bring a little light back into places that might have felt dark.

From my staff to you and your families, I wish you hope, warmth and the knowledge that Dutchess County’s veterans are never alone – not during the holidays, not ever. We are here for you.

Arts Mid-Hudson awarded \$236,511 NYSCA grant

Arts Mid-Hudson recently announced grant awards totaling \$236,511 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support the arts and culture sector. Through New York State’s continued investment in arts and culture, NYSCA has awarded \$80.9 million in FY 2026 to arts and culture nonprofits across all 10 regions and a historic number of artists.

“New York’s arts and culture sector is a cornerstone of the state’s identity, and we’re making bold investments to ensure it remains strong,” Governor Hochul said. “These grants will lift up artists and organizations in every region, fueling local economies and expanding access to the arts. Congratulations to all the grantees – your talent and dedication help power New York’s future.”

New York State Council on the Arts Executive Director Erika Mallin said, “During these challenging times, the New York State Council on the Arts has been a stalwart and innovative funder. These grants will serve artists and organizations in every region and county, fueling our economy and serving our communities. We know this support isn’t just an invest-

ment in the arts; it’s an investment in New York’s future. Congratulations to Arts Mid-Hudson and thank you for your perseverance, your creativity, and your tireless service to New York State.

New York State Council on the Arts Chair Patrick Willingham said, “With the unwavering support of Governor Hochul and our Legislature, the Council is proud to congratulate this year’s grantees, whose collective efforts strengthen and benefit us all. I also want to recognize the work of NYSCA’s panelists, staff, and the entire Council, whose dedication has ensured that this critical support will reach every corner of New York State.”

Arts Mid-Hudson’s Executive Director Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas said, “Support from the New York State Council on the Arts—through both General Operating Support and the Statewide Community Re-grants services—strengthens Arts Mid-Hudson’s mission to expand access to the arts and invest in the creative voices of our region. We are grateful to partner with NYSCA in ensuring that artists, cultural organizations, and communities across the Hudson Valley continue to thrive.”

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Obituaries

Margaret J. Siebert



Margaret J. Siebert went to be with her parents and two siblings on November 26, 2025, at Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Peg was born in Beacon, NY on December 15, 1959, to Robert and Nancy (Annetta) Siebert. She attended Beacon schools and after graduating attended Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, graduating with a teaching degree in elementary education.

She used her education and skills with children to teach Sunday School as well as to run popular children’s programs at Blodgett Library in Fishkill.

In addition to her Sunday School duties, she was active in the Methodist Church in Beacon as an alto in the choir, member of a Bible study group, Women’s Society, and the church finance committee.

Peg was always engaged in various sorts of needlecraft and often accompanied her mother to area craft fairs. Her most recent activity was knitting items for the Praying Hands group based in St. Mary’s Church in Fishkill.

Peg was predeceased by her parents, brother Ken, and sister Judy. She is survived by brothers Don (Lynn) of Morris Township, NJ, Bill of Beacon NY, Tom of Albany, NY and nieces and a nephew.

A memorial service was held at Christ Church United Methodist 60 Union St. Beacon on Saturday December 13, 2025. She was be laid to rest in May alongside her sister at Wildwood Cemetery in Williamsport, PA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mount Saint Mary College in support of the Childhood Education Program.

Donations may be made online at msmc.edu/giving or mailed to: Mount Saint Mary College, Advancement Office, 330 Powell Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550

Checks should be made payable to Mount Saint Mary College, with “In memory of Margaret Siebert” noted in the memo line.

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

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

Raymond B. Moore



Raymond B. Moore, 86, a lifelong resident of Wappingers Falls and Cold Spring, died on December 11, 2025 at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence in Newburgh.

Born on November 3, 1939 in Hempstead, Long Island, Ray was the son of the late James and Elizabeth (Burns) Moore. He grew up on a local farm before beginning a career as a truck driver for companies including Agway, Montfort Brothers, Package Pavement, and Allen Coal before opening his own company, Moore Cement, in Cold Spring, which he operated for over 40 years until his retirement.

Raymond was a founding father of the North Highlands Fire Department. He

was a member of the Cold Spring/South Highland United Methodist Church where he was a former trustee.

On July 29, 1992 in Myrtle Beach, SC, Ray married Barbara (Lyons) Moore who survives at home. He is also survived by his children, Cynthia “Cindy”, Michael, Elizabeth “Beth”, Jennifer, and Rae Marie; his stepsons, Richard and Robert Johnson; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his step-grandchildren, Zoe, Zachary, Mikila, Bailey, Sierra, and Ryan; his sister-in-law, Beverley Hotaling; and brothers-in-law, Nathan and Ernie Lyons.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, December 19th from 4 – 7 pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 20th at 11 am at the funeral home.

Donations may be made in memory of Ray to North Highlands Fire Department, Cold Spring/South Highland United Methodist Church, or New Hackensack Fire Department. Please visit his Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Democratic legislators voice opposition as 2026 County budget passes, 15-9

Continued from page 5

coordinated countywide EMS plan - something our own studies, the State Comptroller, and our municipal leaders have repeatedly called for. It also recognized that we must begin taking the profit motive out of saving lives by strengthening municipal ambulance services instead of deepening our dependence on a single private provider. The Republican Caucus’ unanimous rejection shows a refusal to confront the crisis we are in. While they voted to maintain a system everyone knows is broken, our caucus will continue fighting for the reforms needed to protect public safety.”

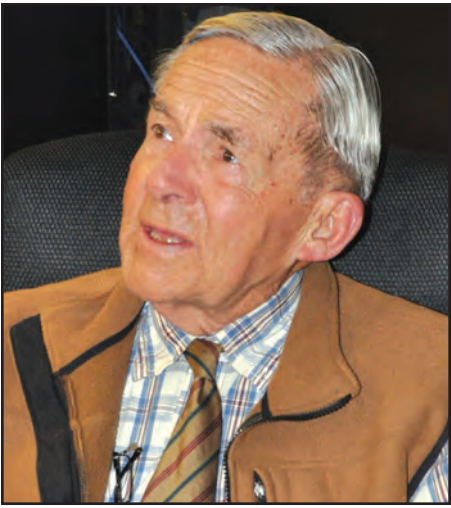
Brennan Kearney (D-Rhinebeck),

said, “My no vote reflects my commitment to the residents of Dutchess County to demand a budget that addresses the pressing needs of all our community members - many of whom are struggling to make ends meet in the current climate of financial insecurity. The County Executive’s budget fails to chart a clear path forward to protect our neighbors shouldering the burden of economic uncertainty and I cannot support it.”

The budget will now go to the county executive who can sign or veto the budget and/or individual amendments.

The Budget Override meeting and the Adoption of the Tax Levy meeting will take place Dec. 17 at the Dutchess County Legislative chambers at 22 Market St., Poughkeepsie.

Dr. George Emil Verrilli



Dr. George Emil Verrilli, 96, a longtime resident of Rhinebeck and Red Hook, passed away on December 5, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. A devoted physician, husband, father, grandfather, and community leader, George will be remembered for his spirited humor, vivacity, compassion, and love of family and community. Through his philanthropy, volunteerism, and an over 50-year career as an obstetrician and gynecologist, George touched the lives of many and leaves a legacy of lasting impact on families and communities in the Hudson Valley.

Born on July 20, 1929 in Port Chester, NY, George was the son of the late Emil Verrilli, a second-generation Italian immigrant from Westchester, and Maude (Beaton) Verrilli, a native of Springhill, Nova Scotia. In his youth in Mamaroneck, NY, he enjoyed horseback riding, sailing, and automobiles. He devel-

oped a passion for tennis that grew in his later years, as he challenged opponents significantly his junior (including his children).

George graduated from Georgetown University in 1951 and received his medical degree from the University of Padua in Italy in 1955, where he remarkably became fluent in Italian quickly enough to pursue his studies in the language. In 1954, in what is a dramatic illustration of the tenacity and lust for life that helped sustain him to his 96 years, George survived a devastating plane crash when returning home for Christmas from Italy. After escaping the sinking tail of the aircraft, which crash-landed in the frigid waters near Idlewild Airport (now JFK Airport), and assisting fellow passengers out of the wreckage, George emerged unscathed as one of only six survivors.

After his medical residency in Brooklyn at Methodist Hospital, George moved to Rhinebeck, NY where he practiced obstetrics and gynecology for over 50 years. A devoted physician, he cared deeply for the patients and families he served, assisting mothers with expertise and compassion in the delivery of well over ten thousand babies during his career. George played an instrumental role in a successful public campaign to prevent a 1970s state effort to phase out maternity services at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, where he went on to be a key player in the founding of the Neugarten Family Birth Center. Groundbreaking for its time, the birth center has provided a warm, family-centered environment for childbirth that has served generations of Hudson Valley families. Beyond the delivery room, George made a significant contribution to prenatal education through his writing, co-authoring the book *While Waiting*, which became a trusted guide for expectant parents, offering clear, reassuring advice about pregnancy, labor, and delivery, and helping demystify the process of childbirth for millions. George’s commitment to compassionate maternity care will remain one of his most enduring professional legacies.

George’s dedication to the well-being of others extended far beyond his medical practice. As the founder of the Red Hook Community Center, he helped create what has become a vibrant local resource that supports, uplifts, and connects local residents of all ages. The Red Hook Community Center stands as a testament to George’s commitment and dedication to building and supporting community through service and compassion and is an institution George hoped would continue to serve his community well beyond his lifetime.

Among his many other areas of community involvement, George was the first physician to be elected to the board of Northern Dutchess Hospital, on which he served for many decades, and was a long-time member of the Rhinebeck Rotary Club. George also served on the Town of Red Hook’s Economic Development Committee and was active in local real estate, taking on new construction and rehabilitation projects that included medical office buildings in Rhinebeck and Hyde Park, the Germantown Cold Storage building, the Chocolate Factory in Red Hook, and most recently the establishment of the Classic Car Corral, a collector car storage facility in Milan, NY.

Outside of his professional and civic contributions, George was well known for his lifelong passion for automobiles, which began with his acquisition of a Model A Ford at the age of 13 in Mamaroneck and led to his first appearances in traffic court by the age of 16. During his medical studies in Italy in the 50s, George found a more receptive environment in which to pursue his automotive passion, racing alongside the likes of Sterling Moss in the famed Mille Miglia road race. George’s ever-evolving collection of antique, classic, and modern automobiles was a cause célèbre, in no small part due to the appearances of his cars in local parades, his generosity in freely lending them out (be it Maserati or Model T), and his continual support of his fellow car enthusiasts.

George lived by the Italian adage “la famiglia è tutto” (family is everything). Over the years he reveled in seeing his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren grow, always encouraging and inspiring them to excel through his example. He delighted in the years of family dinners, held regularly on Sundays, where he would take his place as the “capotàvola” to hear and tell stories, make his opinions known, crack jokes, and demand that elbows were off the table! More seats were added to the Sunday dinner table as friends, spouses, and grandchildren came along, always with a warm welcome from George.

George had a deep attachment to his mother’s native land of Nova Scotia, Canada and to his Maritime family and friends. Every year George religiously spent the month of July in his beloved Nova Scotia. A non-negotiable when he was a practicing physician, he would secure coverage so he could spend the month with his family in the Maritimes. In retirement, George would spend from May to October in Nova Scotia, running his cherished Gulf Shore Camping Park, an operating campground he purchased in the 1970s. Continuing through this past summer, his regular activities at the camping park involved hours of mowing the grounds, towing campers out of ditches, chasing bears out of dumpsters, fixing the steep steps to the beach, and greeting campers who came from all over the world to enjoy the beauty of the Maritimes. George felt equally comfortable in the seat of his 90-horsepower New Holland, his backhoe front-end loader, and his beloved Gravely lawn mower– sulkly version, as he did in a 12-cylinder Ferrari or Jaguar. To those who knew him, it was no surprise that to George retirement meant “head north,” which despite the ubiquitous Scottish golfing tradition, was in line with a personal motto he repeated throughout his life: “no golf, no Florida, no German cars.”

Nova Scotia was undoubtedly George’s happy place. His extended community of family and friends looked forward to his annual visit and to his birthday party where he held court, carefully reading aloud his birthday cards and anticipating the buttering of his nose upon blowing out the candles on his birthday cake– a Maritime tradition. George instilled in his children his love of the Maritimes, taking them to spend their summers on the shore, just as his parents had done with their children. George loved the close-knit nature of his Maritime community, admiring how residents went out of their way to help each other. During his off-season time at the camping park, George benefitted from regular visitors, rides to church, invitations to brunch, and homemade dinners delivered to his doorstep from caring friends and community members who looked out for George until his wife, Christine, arrived for the summer. His undying loyalty to Nova Scotia and to family, friends, and community there saw the Gulf Shore Camping Park and the “Doc from New York” become local institutions.

George is survived by his beloved wife, Christine Verrilli; his children Colin (Cathy Farmer), Stewart (Jane Brien), Matthew (Betsey McCall), Bianca (Dominic Capaccio), Ariana (Thomas Heckel), and Gregory Verrilli (Kait Spyhalsky); his grandchildren Danielle, Marianne, Alberto, Gianmarco, Graham, Emersyn, Imogen, and Ferris; his great-grandchildren Clara and Anna; his sister Patricia Riedel; his brother Donald Verrilli, and many more loving relatives and friends, both in the U.S. and in Nova Scotia. He was predeceased by his parents, Emil and Maude, his first wife Kay Tremper Verrilli, his daughter Mary Virginia, and his brother Richard Verrilli.

Friends and family were received for calling hours at Burnett & White Funeral Homes (7461 South Broadway Red Hook, NY 12571, on Thursday, December 11.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Christopher’s Church in Red Hook, NY on Friday, December 12. A community celebration of George’s life will take place in spring 2026.

In lieu of flowers, donations in George’s memory can be made to the Red Hook Community Center or to the Neugarten Family Birth Center at Northern Dutchess Hospital.

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NYS adds Fishkill Creek to definition of inland waterways

Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. (R,C-East Fishkill) announced that his bill (A6888/S982) to add Fishkill Creek to New York State’s definition of inland waterways was officially signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

“I’m proud to share that my bill to help flood victims along the Fishkill Creek has been officially signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul,” Beephan said. “This designation will allow our communities to access state grants to reduce flooding and storm damage, strengthen creek banks and stormwater infrastructure, improve water quality and protect the environment. This legislation reflects a commonsense approach to local needs, helping our towns pursue projects that will safeguard residents and property for years to come. Thank you to Sen. Rob Rolison for partnering with me to get this done for residents in the 105th Assembly District.”

This new designation adds Fishkill Creek to definition of inland waterways nation will benefit residents across the towns of Union Vale, Beekman, East Fishkill, Fishkill, Wappinger and the City of Beacon.

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If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.

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Ads run for 2 weeks. If after 2 weeks you wish your ad to run again, it must be resubmitted.

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Southern Dutchess News, 84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

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

Therapy dogs visit Mount Saint Mary College students during finals week

Mount Saint Mary College students take a break from finals preparation to hang out with a therapy dog at the Kaplan Family Library. The event, utilizing volunteers from Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause, helped students de-stress before heading home for the winter break.

Therapy dogs visit Mount Saint Mary College students during final exams

As the semester ended and the pressure of final exams mounted, Mount Saint Mary College students found a friendly study break waiting for them. In the Kaplan Family Library there was a squad of wagging tails and wet noses.

Just before the campus heads home for Winter break, Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause brought therapy dogs to the college, offering students a much-needed chance to “paws,” breathe,

and decompress.

For students juggling research papers, final projects, and exam prep, the event provided a quick but meaningful moment of joy.

And the science backs it up: research shows that spending even a few minutes interacting with animals can significantly lower heart rate, reduce blood pressure, and decrease cortisol levels.

The event was a collaborative effort to support student wellness during the busiest week of the year, co-sponsored by the Kaplan Family Library and Learning Center, Counseling Services, Disability Services, Health Services, and Student Activities.

For more information, visit www.msmc.edu.



Right: Mount Saint Mary College students take a break from finals and visit with a therapy dog.

-Courtesy photo by Lee Ferris

Olana’s Winter Solstice Celebration set Dec. 20

The Olana Partnership and New York State Parks invite the community to join in celebrating the changing season during its annual Winter Solstice Celebration at Olana State Historic Site. Visit the site on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 1 to 5 p.m., to experience the Hudson Valley’s beautiful winter landscape through free indoor and outdoor activities and events.

The Winter Solstice Celebration will include free access to the historic interiors, a bonfire, seasonal storytelling for families, a winter choir performance by Catskill High School musicians, refreshments for purchase from Citiot in Catskill, a special visit from everyone’s favorite miniature donkey, Hank (back by popular demand), and much more. Special events will take place throughout the afternoon at both the Frederic Church Center for Art & Landscape and the East Lawn near the Historic House.

Nature Sarah will lead family-friendly, drop-in nature walks along Olana’s historic carriage roads. She will also lead hands-on activities designed to give audiences of all ages an understanding of the science of snow and ice and a deeper appreciation for winter weather.

The Olana Partnership’s educators will be facilitating winter-themed art activities throughout the day in the Wagon House Education Center. The educators will also gather around the bonfire for a special book reading focusing on how cultures from around the world celebrate the win-

ter solstice. This story hour will be provided in English and Spanish.

The Catskill café Citiot will be on site providing seasonal refreshments like hot cocoa, coffee and delicious baked goods to get visitors in the winter spirit. Nine Pin Ciders, also based in Catskill, will be providing full and half pours of everyone’s favorite Hudson Valley hard cider. Non-alcoholic sparkling cider will be available as well.

Right: Olana’s Winter Solstice Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 20 will offer a variety of free indoor and outdoor activities, including a visit from Hank the miniature donkey.

-Courtesy photo Olana Partnership

Discover the global treasures of Olana’s Main House interior in your own time for free throughout this special community event. Enjoy free access to Olana’s historic interiors during this self-guided opportunity. House entry will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Olana is at 5720 Route 9G in Hudson. To learn more, visit olana.org/solstice.



this week’s puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

FLAWS	ITS	LEI	ON	ION	ALLOU	D	KEG	FOGGY	POPPINS	SUE	RAKE	ENIGMA	BAT	MARE	SCRA	ETUI	LAP	ENTRAP	COOL	BAPT	BA	BERLIOZ	MOWGLI	ALL	NEO	AVIAN	CHOP	OUT	LEAFY
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1	5	1	3	1	2	4	3
2	2	5	2	1	3	1	4
3	2	5	2	1	3	1	4
4	2	4	2	1	3	1	4
1	5	1	3	1	2	4	3
2	3	1	4	1	3	5	1
3	5	1	3	4	1	2	1
1	2	4	2	5	3	1	1

Suguru solution

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-30-25
Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division Incarcerated Individual Commissary Services and Food Service for Incarcerated Individuals
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., December 23, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-57-25 Cummins Engine Repair and Replacement Service
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 29th 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.

Legal Notices

2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

Legal Notices

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 **23rd day of December 2025** at 10:00AM, on the following local law: A LOCAL LAW TO EXTEND THE YOUTH DEER HUNTING PILOT PROGRAM – RESOLUTION 2025207.
At said time and place, all parties interested will be heard.

Legal Notices

Dated: December 11, 2025
Susan Serino
Poughkeepsie, New York
Dutchess County Executive

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-04-26 On-Call Professional Land Surveying

Legal Notices

Services
Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 16th day of January 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal 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.

Bannerman Castle Trust’s production of ‘Dracula: The Journal of Jonathan Harker’ earns 5 Broadway World Regional Award nominations

By Kristine Coulter

The 2025 Broadway World Regional Awards have been announced and “Dracula: The Journal of Jonathan Harker” has received 5 nominations.

Performances were held on Bannerman Island during this year’s season by Bannerman Castle Trust.

“We are thrilled to be included in the nominations! This production was probably the best the Trust has produced - in no small part due to Duane Boutté’s extraordinary performance. We are planning to remount the production in 2026,” stated Kelly Ellenwood, Bannerman Castle Trust, to Beacon Free Press.

The “Dracula” nominations are for:

Best Play (Professional)
Best Performer in a Play (Professional) - Duane Boutté
Best Direction of a Play (Professional) - Christian Conn
Best Lighting of a Play (Professional) - Christian Conn and Gene Panzcenko
Best Sound Design of a Play or Musical (Professional) - Brett Sandusky

To vote, go to <https://www.broadwayworld.com/central-newyork/awards/standings/?btype=296®ion=Central%20New%20York>.

Actor Duane Boutté is nominated for a 2025 Broadway World Regional Award for Best Performance by an Actor.

According to a synopsis from Bannerman Castle Trust, “Once he arrives, Jonathan finds himself being held captive by the eerie and cryptic Count, discovering horrific sights behind some of the castle’s closed doors. Only after he escapes is his worst fear confirmed: Count Dracula is an undead creature of the night. With the help of Dr. Van Helsing and other friends, Jonathan sets off on a mission to find and destroy the Count before he becomes more powerful than ever, risking his life to save the lives of those he loves.”

The performances were first performed on Bannerman Island. Then shows were added in Oct. at St. Rita’s Music Room in Beacon.

Boutté has appeared in “Sex and the City,” “Alabama Shakespeare,” and at Lincoln Center in New York City. Conn is known for his work at the Asolo Rep, Guthrie Theatre and in television.

Ellenwood noted, “We were also honored to receive a grant from the NYS Council on the Arts in 2025 (and we just found out we received another for 2026!) - another indication of our excellence in programming.” The deadline to vote is Dec. 31.

-Courtesy photo



‘Waitress: The Musical’ live stage recording brings Broadway joy to New Paltz Dec. 20

A hit Broadway musical about friendship, courage and the healing power of baking comes to the screen in “Waitress: The Musical,” showing at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, at New Connexions United Methodist Church, 1 Grove St. in New Paltz.

The screening at New Connexions, formerly known as New Paltz United Methodist Church, is part of the Movies With Spirit community film series, now in its 20th anniversary season.

A live stage recording of “Waitress: The Musical” follows Jenna Hunterson (Sara Bareilles), a gifted pie maker and waitress longing for a way forward. Trapped in a marriage that has worn her down, she sees a spark of hope when a county baking contest offers a rare chance to change her life.

Her unexpected pregnancy makes her

search for a new beginning all the more urgent.

With the support of her fellow waitresses and an unexpected romance, Jenna begins to reclaim the part of herself she thought was gone for good.

“The perfect treat this holiday season,” Tania Hussain writes in Collider.

“Captures the energy previously only experienced by theatergoers in person,” writes United Press International’s Fred Topel.

“And now I am hungry for pie,” adds Frank J. Avella of Edge Media Network.

The 2023 film runs 2 hours 24 minutes and is not rated.

The film’s trailer can be seen on YouTube: tinyurl.com/Waitress-Musical-MoviesWSpirit.

The screening – which will include subti-



From left, Charity Angél Dawson, Sara Bareilles and Caitlin Houlahan release a cloud of baking flour in the hit Broadway show “Waitress: The Musical.” A film of that evening’s performance will be screened at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, at New Connexions United Methodist Church, 1 Grove St. in New Paltz, as part of the Movies With Spirit community film series.

-Courtesy photo Bleeker Street

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tles – will be followed by a discussion. Refreshments will be served.

Suggested donation: \$10 (ages 13 and up).

The monthly film series, organized by Gerry Harrington of Kingston, features stories that explore connection, compassion and the search for meaning. It respects all cultures and beliefs but isn’t bound by any single one, pointing instead to universal themes that connect us all.

Screenings take place in diverse places of worship and culture in Ulster County at 7 p.m. generally on the third Saturday of every month. Movies With Spirit has no religious affiliation.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/Waitress-MoviesWithSpirit; or call Harrington at 845-389-9201 or email gerryharrington@mindspring.com. Learn more on the Movies With Spirit Facebook page, tinyurl.com/MoviesWithSpirit FacebookPage.