

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## City Council honors Chief Lucchesi for heroic action

By Kristine Coulter

City of Beacon Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi was honored by the Beacon City Council during the council meeting on Monday, Dec. 15 for his heroic action taken on Halloween, Oct. 31.

"So, Chief, you did a pretty amazing thing, mostly the fact that you were in the area at just the right moment is absolutely incredible. But as I understand it, you were returning to Beacon down the Taconic. Got on to I-84 Westbound and observed someone in the westbound lane going eastbound, amazingly," Mayor Lee Kyriacou said in part.

"I'd like to give you this plaque in recognition," the mayor stated to Lucchesi.

The chief was recognized for "quick thinking" and brave action.

Lucchesi explained, after being presented with the plaque and to applause for his heroic action, that he was returning from dropping off a member and took the Taconic State Parkway and was on Interstate-84 going westbound. "I look up and there's a car coming at me in the left-hand lane," Lucchesi said.

"You mean the fast lane?" asked Kyriacou.

"In the fast lane, yes," replied the fire chief. Cars were trying to get out of the driver's way, he recalled.

"I swerved out of her way. She passed me. As she drove by, I saw it was an elderly woman, just sort of looked like she was out for a Sunday drive," Lucchesi remembered. It took him a minute or two to catch up to her, while she was still driving in the left-hand lane.

"I ended up going in front of her, figuring she'll hit me or stop on her own. Luckily, she stopped and she said she made a wrong turn," said the chief. He added, "Fortunately, no one got hurt."

Lucchesi noted about his fellow firefighters sitting in the galley of the meeting room, "Any one of these guys here would have done the same exact thing same circumstance. So, I appreciate [the plaque] very much. Thank you."

Amber Grant, at-large member, commented they are "so lucky to have you [here] in Beacon. I am not surprised that is an action you took." She said the action speaks to Lucchesi's character.

## Fishkill youngster, family prepare 140 meal bags in holiday drive



From left: Marilyn Knapp, Abraham Knapp, and Becki Tompkins pose with the meal bags in front of the trunk of meals.

-Photos by Alexander Tsahalidis

By Alexander Tsahalidis

In 2024, the Fishkill Food Pantry provided over 140,700 meals to people in need. These meals feed about 300 families per month. The food to feed all these people comes from all over the community. This year, young members of the community are showing that you're never too young to make a difference by organizing

food drives.

Abraham Knapp is only seven years old. At a time of year when most kids are worried about what they're getting from Santa, Abraham was helping his mother prepare 140 meal bags.

"I have a food drive every year for my birthday," said Marilyn Knapp, Abraham's mom. "I've done the food pantry a couple of



Some of the meal bags that will be handed out.

times before and when I saw the meals in a bag on TikTok I thought it would be a great idea with the holidays coming up." Knapp put out a message on her Facebook page asking her friends to donate, and donate they did. The average donation was about seven meals' worth of loose goods, with some of her friends donating 10 or 20 meals in a bag.

Continued on page 2

## East Fishkill Rotarians hold inaugural collection for Toys for Tots

By Kristine Coulter

The East Fishkill Rotary Club got into the holiday spirit by collecting toys for local children.

"This is our very first year hosting the toy drive, and we are hosting on behalf of the Toys for Tots programs. We have been assured that all toys collected here stay here in Dutchess County," said Suzanne DeCosta, president of the East Fishkill Rotary Club.

DeCosta explained, "One of the Rotary's core values is community service and drives like this help people in need, especially children, and they also help bring people together."

According to the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots website, <https://www.toysfortots.org>, the program has distributed 708-million toys to

314-million children since 1947.

Lt. Gen. Jim Laster, USMC (Retired), Marine Toys for Tots Foundation President and CEO, said they are humbled and proud of the volunteers' dedication. "Congratulations to each of you on a job well done," he stated to volunteers in a video on the website.

"What [volunteers] do for the Toys for Tots program doesn't impact just one holiday. It provides lasting hope and security for children and families in need year-round," Col. Ted Silvester, USMC (Retired), Marine Toys for Tots Foundation Vice President, Marketing & Development, shared in the video on the program's website.

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Some of the donated items collected for Toys for Tots by East Fishkill Rotarians.

-Courtesy photo East Fishkill Rotary Club



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# Fishkill youngster, family prepare 140 meal bags in holiday drive



Eddie Colon, Abraham Knapp, Marilyn Knapp, Becki Tompkins, and two food pantry workers stand behind a table loaded with meal bags.

-Photo by Alexander Tsahalis

Continued from cover

The bags are a quick and easy way of distributing food. Each one contains several non-perishable or long-term shelf-stable ingredients and a recipe card explaining what the dish is and how to make it. The different meals include: beef stew with mashed potatoes, casseroles, burrito bowls, chicken and dumplings, and even a turkey dinner with all the fixings.

"I'm so lucky to have this village and community. When I asked, they showed up," said Knapp. "I surround myself with kind-hearted people and we can do wonderful things like this." Word of Abraham's efforts reached the Town of Fishkill. On Dec. 3, he was presented with an official proclamation recognizing his outstanding contributions to the town by working to combat food insecurity.

The Fishkill food pantry also worked with several local schools during food drives. At St. Mary School Fishkill, they've done several food drives to help others in need.

"Last year we implemented a food drive in June for those who have food insecurities over the summer," said Diana Robles-Rios, the school principal. "I

think it's important that we do it throughout the year for those in need." They've also had them at Super Bowl time to help those struggling through the winter months. The food drives have had a strong impact on the students, with several also volunteering at the food pantry as part of their confirmation project.

"Collecting food for the food bank was fun because I knew it was for a good cause," said Nicole, an eighth grader. "I [feel] bad for everyone that has to rely on donations for food and I love giving to those in need so they can be as fortunate as I am." Beyond food drives, St. Mary's has also collected socks for nursing homes and written Christmas cards to those in need. "They're the future," said Robles-Rios. "If we don't teach them to help others, we're at a loss."

Fishkill Elementary School also had a food drive promoted by the Girls on the Run club. Each season, the club completes a community service project. The food drive was run by the girls who created flyers and gathered donations from the school community to make it a success. They collected six boxes of food and walked them over to the food pantry on a flatbed cart.

## Fishkill Ave. project completed, until 'clean up' in spring

During the Dec. 15 Beacon City Council meeting, City Administrator Chris White remarked, "We finished the Fishkill Ave. Water and Sewer project last Friday (Dec. 12)."

White said, "I just want to thank the Council for their support for the project, and the public for their amazing patience and all the businesses that were also disrupted."

He added, "We will be coming back" in 2026, to "clean up" with milling and paving.

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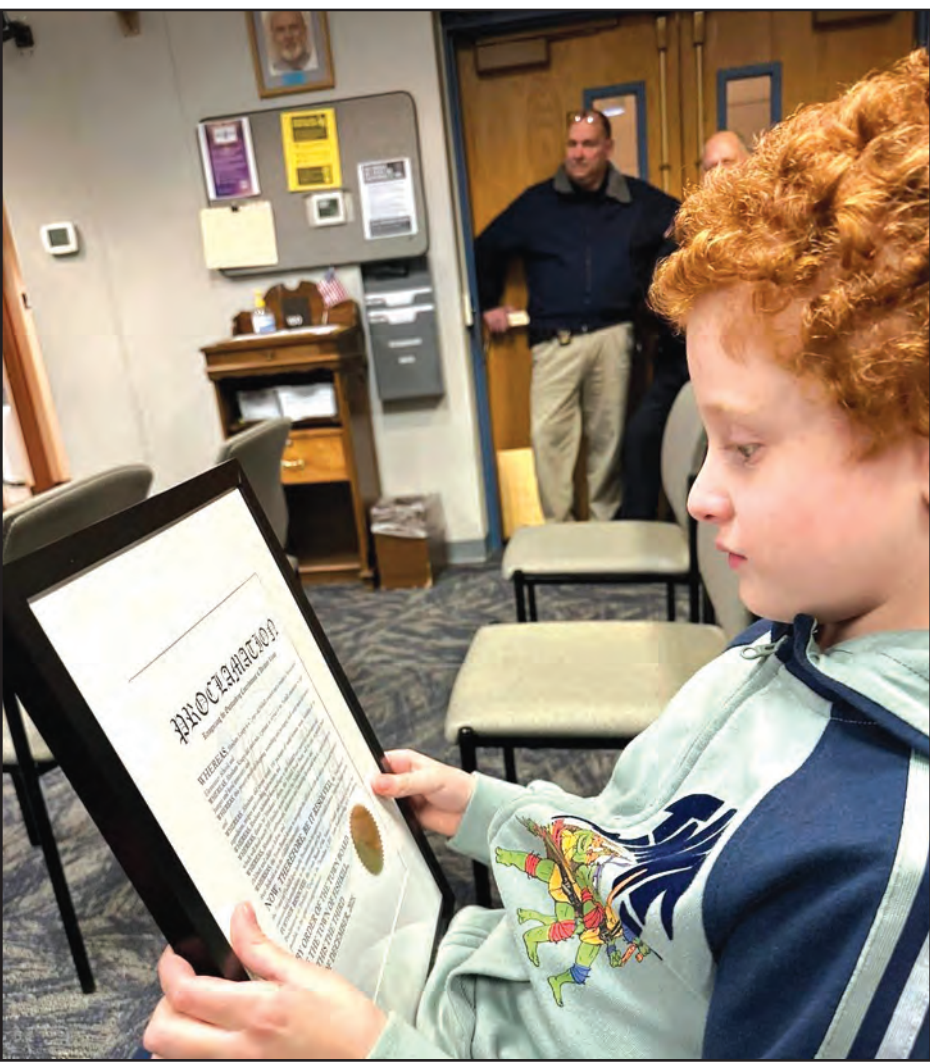
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Abraham Knapp with his award.

-Courtesy photo Eddie Colon

All of this may sound like a lot of donations, but to the food pantry, it's never enough. "This pantry is like a revolving door," said Eddie Colon, who runs the pantry. "Food comes in and goes right back out again." The pantry doesn't turn anyone in need away, and they try to ensure people always have access. They're open five days a week, and every evening before they close, they stock a community fridge outside. The generosity of the community never fails to astonish him, though. Besides the schools, several

local businesses ran food drives, and local people dropped off donations. One of the most successful food drives was at BJ's, where 480 bags of food were collected.

The Fishkill Food Pantry is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon, and Monday and Wednesdays from 2:30 - 6 p.m. They are always in need of donations with the most needed items being: cereals, canned meats and beans, soups, canned veggies, coffee, rice, canned fruit, pasta and pasta sauce, powdered milk, dish/laundry detergent, soap and body wash, and toilet paper.

## Dutchess County to participate in STOP-DWI Holiday Crackdown through January 1

Various law-enforcement agencies throughout Dutchess County are out en masse to stop impaired driving during the holiday season, during a focused effort currently underway which runs through Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026. Departments are stepping up their patrols as part of a coordinated effort to reduce alcohol-related crashes, injuries and deaths during this period.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Let's all do our part to keep everyone safe on the roads this joyous holiday season. If you plan to celebrate with friends and loved ones, please make sure you have a safe way to get home. As always, I thank our hard-working, law-enforcement officers who protect our roads throughout the year."

The campaign is part of STOP-DWI's broader "High Visibility Enforcement" initiative, supported by the New York

Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, and involves agencies across the state working together to reduce alcohol- and drug-related crashes during peak times.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, from 2019 to 2023, nearly 5,000 people nationwide were killed during the month of December in alcohol-impaired crashes.

The statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Enforcement initiative also targets other peak travel periods throughout the year, including Super Bowl weekend, St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day weekend, July 4th, Labor Day weekend and Halloween.

Impaired driving is both illegal and preventable. Residents are encouraged to download the STOP-DWI "Have a Plan" mobile app or arrange alternative transportation before drinking.

## East Fishkill Rotarians hold inaugural collection for Toys for Tots

Continued from cover

By hosting this toy drive, DeCosta shared, she hopes it eases some of the stress on parents who are struggling and will show children that they matter.

"It is my hope that as the children open their presents on Christmas morning, they

feel joy and excitement as well as hope that good things can happen. It is my hope that this toy drive can continue as an annual event and next year we will have many more local business partners which in turn will increase our impact on making our community a better place," said DeCosta.



# Anderson – DCC ‘ribbon’ grows with second holiday gift drive

**By Morgan E. Maier**

The Anderson Center for Autism twinkles for the holiday season. Among the friendly house-decorating competition, each light builds to the gleaming campus-wide anticipation. Here, a holiday promise is fulfilled for the second year in a row. A visitor is soon to arrive, gifts of clothes, toys, and biggest wishes in tow.

December 18 marked the completion of the second annual Dutchess Community College (DCC) Holiday Gift Drive for the Anderson community. Led by Ron McKeon, HVAC supervisor at DCC, the drive inspires the entire Dutchess community to bring cheer to their neighbors. In search of a local organization to benefit from the donation drive, Beacon resident McKeon looked to Anderson. Having watched a friend’s child grow up with an autism diagnosis, McKeon was touched by the school and its mission.

Gifts are placed in six boxes across the DCC campus and collected by McKeon and his crew. Items in droves landed at the Physical Plant, the “hub” where McKeon and his crew emptied the filled boxes alongside regular workday operations. Staff and families at Anderson passed along tips for recommended items, which were listed on each box to guide gifters with their shopping.

Campus-wide emails were sent throughout the drive to the DCC community. Student workers in the library promoted the drive on social media. The posts encouraged donations and spread further awareness of the drive.

“It’s spreading out a little more. We’re getting people from all over. People all over the county work here, so they’re spreading the word. We’re getting a lot of support from the students; it’s been great,” McKeon said. “I can’t ask nothing more from this college than what they’ve done already.”

For the first year, people donated cash to the cause. Between work at DCC and his other job, McKeon took to the store, purchased gifts with donated cash, alongside his own shopping for the drive.

On delivery day, McKeon and fellow workers haul everything to Anderson, where the gifts soon mix with smiles, anticipation, and the type of waiting to unwrap gifts that everyone dreads on a holiday morning. For the inaugural collection in 2024, McKeon dressed as the



*A van full of gifts arrived at the Recreation Center at the Anderson Center for Autism on Dec. 18, courtesy of the staff and students at Dutchess Community College. From left are Anderson Recreation Coordinators Nancy Dalmacy and Anna Gustafson with DCC staff Nelson Perez, (Building Maintenance), Ron McKeon (HVAC Supervisor), Judy Spanhake (Principal Program Assistant) and Matt Palmatier (Warehouse Supervisor).*

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Grinch to transport the gifts from campus to campus, bringing the holidays to the houses at Anderson. It is an especially delightful experience for residents who may not leave campus for festivities with family.

“We love the community support we get at Anderson. We value it, we treasure it, and we put it to good use. There are a lot of organizations beyond Anderson that could benefit from this type of action,” said Eliza Bozenski, chief development officer at Anderson. “It represents the kindness and thinking of others that we typically highlight at the holiday season, but we would love to see highlighted every single day of the year.”

The event is only one ribbon of the relationship between these two community partners. From the college’s support of Anderson’s international programs to hands-on internships supplied to DCC students, the institutions are tied by years of mutual support.

“When people make the effort to deliver gifts or deliver a fun experience, it’s really meaningful. It’s meaningful to the students. It’s meaningful for the staff because they feel supported as well, and also for the families, who are really touched so much by the outpouring of support from the community,” said Bozenski.

A study by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) found that, worldwide, 15% of people aged 15 or older volunteer at least once a month. This drive is one of many volunteer-run initiatives in Dutchess County this season.

“Volunteerism is really declining, like that 15% they claim now. It seems like everybody’s so busy - and everybody is busy - but you have to make time for certain things,” said McKeon. “It’s a great feeling, the energy is great, and it’s a great cause. I’d love to see, within five years, us bringing a semi-truck full of toys.”

# Volunteers fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child

**By Kristine Coulter**

Operation Christmas Child collects shoeboxes, filled with essential items, toys and a prayer, for children all over the world.

“At my drop off location Vineyard Community Church (in East Fishkill) we had 711 shoe boxes collected. We had several churches, community groups and individuals drop,” remarked Area Church Relations Coordinator/Drop off Team Leader Sarah Cossette. She noted the Hudson Valley East Region total was 6,845 shoeboxes dropped off at the central drop-off location, which was Vassar Road Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie.

Cossette said she would tell all the volunteers who assisted this year, “Thank you for your service and dedication. It truly takes a team effort to make this happen. I am grateful to have a dedicated team to support me during collection week.”

Cossette enjoys seeing how everyone from her church “stepped up to help and donate items for our packing party.” The packing party is when volunteers get together and fill the shoeboxes.

According to Operation Christmas Child’s website, “Samaritan’s Purse

sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Samaritan’s Purse, which was started by Franklin Graham (son of Rev. Billy Graham), “is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan’s Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God’s love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

A shoebox’s journey begins with being packed, then collected, shipped, prayed over for the children who receive them and distributed, some at outreach events.

“Knowing that a child will receive a gift packed with love this Christmas as this may be the first time they are receiving a gift. We are bringing hope and joy to a child in need,” said Cossette.

What message does Cossette hope the children who are gifted a shoebox



*Children in the Philippines show their excitement over the items in their shoebox gifts.*

-Courtesy photo Operation Christmas Child

receive? “The message I hope they receive is that they are loved and we are praying for them. We are showing God’s love through the shoebox gift. They will also learn about Jesus through the 12-week Greatest Journey

Discipleship program.”

For more information about Operation Christmas Child, visit out <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/ways-to-volunteer/>.



## NY National Guard members who responded to 9/11 attacks eligible to file notice of potential claim for disability benefits

Members of the New York National Guard who served on State Active Duty in New York City following the destruction of the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001, can now register for the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs World Trade Center Benefits Program with information provided online.

This state-funded pension benefit is designed to compensate Guard members who developed a 9/11 related illness since the attacks that day on Sept. 11, 2001.

The extension of a pension benefit to 9/11 responders suffering from qualified health conditions was approved by the legislature and added to New York State Military Law in 2023.

Survivors of Guard personnel who die as a result of a 9/11-related condition may also be eligible for benefits.

These benefits also apply to members of the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard --the state's two state defense forces-- who responded to the attacks.

Submitting the Application for World Trade Center Notice preserves the individual's right to file a claim in the future and waives no legal rights

Registering preserves your right to file a claim in the future and waives no legal rights. A service member does not have to be sick to apply.

The deadline for filing this application is Sept. 11, 2026.

Instructions and documents required to file for this benefit, or to submit the appli-

cation of notice, can be found online at <https://dmna.ny.gov/911/>.

Qualifying conditions for this presumption include:

- Upper respiratory tract (rhinitis, sinusitis, pharyngitis, laryngitis, vocal cord disease, upper airway hyper-reactivity and tracheobronchitis, or a combination of such conditions).
- Lower respiratory tract (bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, reactive airway dysfunction syndrome and various forms of pneumonitis - hypersensitivity, granulomatous, or eosinophilic).
- Gastroesophageal tract (esophagitis and reflux disease).
- Psychological (post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, or any combination of these conditions).
- Skin (conjunctivitis, contact dermatitis or burns, infectious, irritant, allergic, idiopathic or non-specific in nature, caused by exposure or aggravated by exposure); and
- New onset diseases (resulting from exposure as such diseases may occur in the future including cancer, asbestos-related diseases, heavy metal poisoning, musculoskeletal disease and chronic psychological diseases).

View Online: <http://dmna-ny.meritpages.com/news/NY-National-Guard-members-who-responded-to-9-11-attacks-are-eligible-to-file-notice-of-potential-claim-for-disability-benefits/53789>.

# Council authorizes sale of firehouse

Beacon Engine Co. No. 1 firehouse's sale was authorized at the Beacon City Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 15 at City Hall.

"The City has been able to find a purchaser for the Beacon Engine building located at 57 East Main St.," said attorney Christian A.L. Gates, who was sitting in for Nicholas Ward-Willis, the city's attorney. Gates remarked, the city will receive more than \$1.6 million.

"In addition to authorizing the sale, we need essentially Council approval to finalize the contract and sign it," he stated.

The council also needed to adopt a negative declaration, said Gates.

"The building is a Registered Historical building, so any future development would be subject to the City's regulations, specifically tailored to historical. We are aware that the purchaser likes historical buildings and that is one of the reasons why [the potential buyers] are interested in it," Gates noted.

Molly Rhodes remarked there might be some level of work to convert it that the potential buyer would like to do.

Gates said depending on the level of work, the historic register designation would come more scrutiny. "More things will trigger that approval" and "there are more restrictions on exterior modifications as well as any interiors features that may be modified," said the attorney.

"Our understating, with the purchaser, is that this is why they are interested in this property," said Gates about the Historic Register designation.

According to the resolution, a section of the City Charter allows the City Council, by resolution, vote to sell City property upon such terms and conditions as the City Council may deem proper.

The sale was authorized by a unanimous vote of the Council in attendance. Council member Jeff Domanski was excused from this meeting.

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## Parisi thanks Legislature for restoring DA staff positions; Serino defends line-item vetoes

**Compiled by Curtis Schmidt**

As Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi thanked the Dutchess County Legislature for overriding County Executive Sue Serino's line-item vetoes last week and restoring staffing positions in the District Attorney's Office, Serino also gave reasons for her veto.

"These positions are essential to protecting the people of Dutchess County," District Attorney Parisi said in a press release. "By overriding the veto, the Legislature put public safety first and ensured that our office has the resources necessary to prosecute violent crime, support victims, and hold offenders accountable."

Serino initially presented a \$651 million budget with no layoffs and a 1.8 percent spending increase. During the legislative review process, lawmakers amended the budget, increasing spending and utilizing \$7.2 million from the county's fund balance.

As part of that process, Parisi addressed the Legislature to request funding for nine positions necessary to meet the growing demands imposed by New York State's revised Discovery Laws, while also allowing his Office to be proactive in protecting vulnerable populations and pursuing effective, data-driven prosecutions. Acknowledging the county's fiscal constraints, DA Parisi said he worked collaboratively with lawmakers and identified what he sees as the five most critical positions required to maintain core prosecutorial functions. The Legislature unanimously approved an amendment restoring funding for those five positions in the District Attorney's Office.

In addressing the members of the Legislature, Serino said, "Your budget amendments, for the most part, use Fund Balance or the Community Benefit fund, which are one-time revenues, to fund or add funds for one-time expenses including grant programs such as the Housing Trust Fund and a new Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program. However, the amendments to add five positions to the District Attorney's Office using fund balance creates new, ongoing operating costs without recurring revenue to pay for them -- and kicks the tax burden down the road to next year's budget."

She added, "My vetoes offer a compromise -- keeping two of the positions for the District Attorney, which can be supported by the \$200,000 in recurring property tax revenue that you amended into the budget. However, without an ongoing revenue source, I could not support the additional three positions. How do you justify adding five positions for just one agency, when across the board, there are 10 deleted positions and 17.5 positions held vacant, with no other department adding positions?"

"Some will try to paint this as not supporting public safety, (but) nothing is further from the truth. I will always do what is right for this County. This budget protects our

residents. Public safety is not limited to the District Attorney's Office. Public safety includes making sure roads are plowed so first responders can arrive quickly, Child Protective Services to help children in abusive situations, Deputy Sheriffs on road patrol and responding to incidents of domestic violence, the Drug Taskforce getting drugs off our streets, Probation monitoring offenders released from jail, our Emergency Response and so much more. This budget accounts for all aspects of public safety and provides a fair and balanced approach."

Parisi commented, "Adequate staffing ensures timely evidence processing and disclosure while strengthening efforts to combat elder abuse and financial fraud, disrupt repeat and violent offenders, and support smart prosecutions that prioritize public safety, accountability, and prevention."

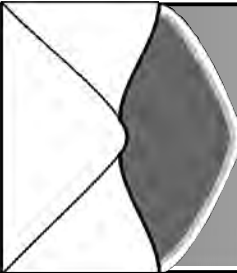
"I am grateful that the Legislature recognized that public safety is not an abstract concept, but a daily responsibility that requires adequate staffing and resources," Parisi said. "Unfortunately, the County Executive's vetoes failed to acknowledge the real-world consequences these cuts would have had on victims, law enforcement, and the safety of our communities. These positions are not optional; they are vital for justice to be done and our community to be safe."

While noting that she has been proud to work with the District Attorney in expanding public safety initiatives since he took office last year, Serino also stated, "Between authorized positions and grant funded temp positions -- the District Attorney's Office has more positions than ever before. Even with the vetoes I have made, his office will have 73 positions in 2026 compared to the 68 positions when he took office last year."

"But I also have a responsibility to our taxpayers, one I take seriously, and that is why I could not in good conscience approve his original request for an additional nine positions and an overall increase of \$2.2 million, which would have increased the tax levy 2% for his department alone."

"We have a lot coming at us in 2026, as I have already outlined to you -- including millions of dollars in new costs for the CSEA contract, and right after that is the DCSEA contract (our corrections officers). So we have to be thinking about these future costs coming our way."

"Again, this is about compromise. This provides the DA with two additional positions funded by ongoing revenue, while still remaining under the property tax cap. You share in the responsibility for fiscal sustainability. We will need to compromise in the new year to work together to do what's right for our community, while minimizing the impact on taxpayers. Sustaining these vetoes is a good first step, and I look forward to working together in the new year."



LETTERS  
TO THE  
EDITOR

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- 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.



## BHS senior selected as 2026 YoungArts Jazz Composition winner

YoungArts announced that Teo Fairbanks, a senior at Beacon High School, has been selected as a 2026 YoungArts award winner in Jazz Composition. Fairbanks joins hundreds of the nation’s most accomplished young visual, literary, and performing artists from 39 states and the District of Columbia. Bestowed annually since 1981, the YoungArts Award is the only award in the nation that recognizes exceptional young talent across artistic disciplines and affirms their pursuit of a professional life in the arts. Recipients become part of a lifelong community of peers and mentors, with access to critical resources that help sustain their creative practices throughout their careers.

The 17-year-old is an aspiring high school senior at Beacon High School with a focus on jazz performance and composition. He currently serves as a drummer in the Jazz at Lincoln Center High School Jazz Academy. His previous experience includes performing with Fat Cats “Belongó,” the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, and the Dutchess Community College Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Joe North. He looks forward to the long and exciting journey ahead as he continues to pursue a life in music.

“If we give young people the validation to pursue artistic careers, then the arts in the United States will continue to thrive,” said YoungArts President & CEO Clive Chang. “The YoungArts Awards not only affirm their interests and talents, but give them the support networks and resources that allow them to envision a long-term path and sustain it. We are thrilled to recognize the extraordinary creativity, imagination, and talent of this year’s award winners and to champion them for the rest of their lifetimes.”

YoungArts award winners, all ages 15-18 or in grades 10-12, are selected through a highly competitive application reviewed by panels of esteemed artists in a rigorous adjudication process. All YoungArts winners have demonstrated exceptional technique, a



Teo Fairbanks  
-Courtesy photo

strong sense of artistry, and an extraordinary commitment to developing their craft. Winners were selected from a record number of nearly 13,000 applications across 10 artistic disciplines: classical music, dance, design, film, jazz, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing.

Fairbanks joins a distinguished community of artists who receive creative and professional development support throughout their career, including microgrants and financial awards, mentorship and professional development opportunities, and collaborations with major cultural partners nationwide. They also become part of an intergenerational network of more than 23,000 past awardees and accomplished artists including Daniel Arsham, Jon Batiste, Terence Blanchard, Camille A. Brown, Timothée Chalamet, Viola Davis, Amanda Gorman, Denyce Graves, Judith Hill, Jennifer Koh, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Andrew Rannells, Desmond Richardson, Jean Shin, Hunter Schafer, and Shaina Taub. Fairbanks will receive a monetary award of \$250 in recognition of their achievement.

## Club makes 10th annual donation to VA Women’s Veterans Program



*Pictured are members of the Dutchess County Chapter of the International Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club, from left, Nicole Embry Chief, Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE)/Volunteer Service, Bob Simmonds, Gary Simmonds, Mike DeRosa and Mark Thomas. Absent from the picture this year is Tim Pagones. They, along with the Lewis Tompkins Hose Fire Dept. donated thirty \$25 gift cards to be used at a local department store.*

*The VA Women’s Veterans Program serves women of all ages, ranks and levels of authority in every branch of service who have served in the military. Women have served in the military since the Revolutionary War and have made significant contributions.*

*For more about how to claim benefits or learn more about the program, visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/PERSONA/veteran-women.asp>.*

-Courtesy photo

## BCSD students receive 5-foot Christmas stockings from firefighters



*For the 45th year in a row, four students in the Beacon City School District were presented with the annual Firemen’s Christmas Stockings. Each of this year’s winners, one from each of the four elementary schools in the district, received a five-foot stocking filled with gifts including a smoke detector. The annual event is sponsored by the volunteer firefighters of Lewis Tompkins Hose Fire Co., Beacon Engine Co., Mase Hook & Ladder Co., Dutchess Junction Fire Co. and Slater Chemical Fire Co.*

*This year’s winners were (from left) were: Abby L’Heureux of J.V. Forrestal Elementary School; Neylon Woolston of Glenham Elementary School; Miles Santiago of Sargent Elementary School and Arianna Russell of South Ave. Elementary School. Posing with the children are Lewis Tompkins Hose members Dave Simmonds and Bob Simmonds, co-chairs of the annual event.*

-Courtesy photo

## Utility reform bill co-sponsored by Jacobson and Hinchey becomes law

A bill that makes utility rate increase requests more transparent, co-sponsored by Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) and Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41), has become law.

Governor Kathy Hochul signed the bill (A2736/S8213) into law earlier this month. According to the new law, any utility that makes a request for a rate increase must fully and publicly explain all capital expenditures included in the request. This would include the purpose and cost of the capital project, as well as any benefits to ratepayers.

“Since utilities receive a greater return on capital expenses than on other expenses, transparency is essential when they’re requesting a rate increase,” said Jacobson. “The public and the Public Service Commission (PSC), which determines such requests, deserve to know.”

“Our legislation requires transparent and public reporting on utility capital expenditures to prevent companies from inflating project costs to pad profits and

increase rates,” said Hinchey. “New Yorkers deserve fair rates grounded in facts, and this new law gives us the leverage to push back against unchecked utility increases.”

According to the elected officials, Central Hudson has made repeated requests for rate increases in recent years. The PSC approved a 5% increase for the utility starting in July 2024, followed by another increase last August of more than 10% for electricity and more than 20% for gas over the next three years.

This is the latest effort by Jacobson and Hinchey to reform utility practices. Their previous legislation (A4055/S4234), which was passed into law last year, requires utilities to bill within three months of the end of a billing period, or they lose the ability to charge for that period.

The legislators added: “We thank Governor Hochul for signing this bill and joining us in our quest for fairer utility rates.”

The new bill will go into effect immediately.

## Wonderland of Lights runs through Dec. 28 at Fairgrounds

The Dutchess County Fairgrounds presents a Winter Festival highlighting the 5th annual Wonderland of Lights drive-thru Light Show.

The Fairgrounds has joined with North Pole Productions, celebrating its 25th Anniversary producing memorable experiences for thousands of families throughout the United States.

The Drive-Thru Light Show has become a family tradition for many of our friends and neighbors. The month-long celebration of Holiday Magic will run until December 28th. The event will span the Dutchess County Fairgrounds located at 6636 US-9

in Rhinebeck.

Tammy Peters, President of North Pole Productions said, “We are happy to once again be working with the team of professionals at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Our 5th Annual Drive-Thru Light Show will have many new light displays and offer something for the young and ‘the young at heart.’ We look forward to welcoming families back for another unforgettable year.”

A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Make-A-Wish Foundation.

For schedule and to purchase tickets visit our website: [thewonderlandoflights.com](http://thewonderlandoflights.com).



# 13 inclusive businesses throughout Dutchess County awarded ‘Think Accessible’ certification



From left: County Executive Sue Serino presents Nick Martucci, owner of E.P.C. Sports, and Steve Martucci, owner of Spider’s Web Comics & Collectibles, with certificates. All Abilities Program Director Dana Hopkins presents each business owner a window decal.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino proudly announced the first businesses to earn recognition through the County’s “Think Accessible” Community Certification Program, the County Executive’s initiative which raises awareness about physical disabilities while encouraging small businesses to become more accessible.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “These businesses are helping make Dutchess County a place where everyone of every ability feels welcome, supported and included. By making their spaces and services more accessible, they’re not only opening doors for people with disabilities, but also inspiring others to do the same. Their efforts are helping us build a stronger, more caring Dutchess County for all, and we thank them for joining us in this important initiative.

Launched earlier this year, the “Think Accessible” Community Certification Program marks the next step in Dutchess County’s ongoing commitment to ensuring that residents and visitors with disabilities can fully participate in all that their community offers. This program invites busi-

nesses and municipalities to evaluate their accessibility practices, implement improvements and earn certification at the Gold, Silver or Bronze level based on established criteria.

Dutchess County’s “Think Accessible” Community Certification Program is based on nine key accessibility categories, including physical accessibility, staff training, communication accommodations, sensory-friendly options and participation in formal accessibility assessments. Two businesses earned Gold certification, nine earned Silver status and two achieved Bronze.

Inaugural Round of “Think Accessible” Certified Businesses:

**Gold Certification (met at least seven criteria)**

Residence Inn, 2525 South Road, Town of Poughkeepsie  
Hampton Inn & Suites, 2361 South Road, Town of Poughkeepsie

**Silver Certification (met at least five criteria)**

Curry Estate, 2737 Route 52, East Fishkill  
Trevor Zoo, 131 Millbrook School



County Executive Sue Serino (right) presents Hampton Inns and Suites Poughkeepsie’s Director of Sales and Marketing, Indira Naidu (center), with a certificate for achieving Think Accessible Community Certification Gold Status. Dutchess County’s All Abilities Program Director, Dana Hopkins, presents Naidu with a decal to display the hotel’s certification.

Road, Millbrook  
Fishkill Farms, 9 Fishkill Farms Road, East Fishkill  
Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, 4097 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park  
Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market Street, City of Poughkeepsie  
Sensory Stepping Stones, 1906 Route 52, East Fishkill  
Friends of Spook Hill Park, 40 Reggie Drive, Wappinger  
E.P.C. Sports, 946 Route 376, Wappingers  
Spider’s Web Comics & Collectibles, 900 Route 376, Wappinger

**Bronze certification (met at least three criteria)**

Millbrook Inn, 3 Gifford Road, Millbrook  
i2Evolve, 17 East Market Street, Red Hook

Certified businesses receive a certificate from County Executive Serino and a window decal to recognize the certification. Businesses and municipalities interested in

applying for the next round of “Think Accessible” certification will find application forms at [dutchessny.gov/thinkdifferently](http://dutchessny.gov/thinkdifferently).

Kimberly Popolizio, owner of i2Evolve, which features an accessible entrance, portable wheelchair ramp, and hosts the majority of its classes for neurodivergent individuals, said, “Receiving this Think Accessible certification means so much to us. Art should be for everyone, and we’re thrilled to create a studio where people of all abilities can feel welcome, included and inspired. We’re honored to play a part in building a more inclusive Dutchess County, and I thank County Executive Serino for this recognition.”

The “Think Accessible” Community Certification complements Dutchess County’s popular ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative, established in 2015. Together, these programs strengthen Dutchess County’s position as a statewide leader in accessibility and inclusive community design, with more than 100 municipalities in New York State embracing the fundamental ThinkDIFFERENTLY principles and applying them to their respective communities.



From left: Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, i2Evolve owner Kimberly Popolizio, Dutchess County All Abilities Program Director Dana Hopkins and Village of Red Hook Mayor Karen Smythe. Popolizio’s business was given a window decal as part of the County’s “Think Accessible” Community Certification Program.

-Courtesy photos Dutchess County Gov’t

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that’s italian!

by luigi coppola

Sing along with Luigi



Some popular holiday carols, re-imagined for a Coppola Christmas

Well, it’s that time of year. Christmas carols and songs blaring on the radio and in the background in the restaurant. I started to think: What if the songs had an Italian slant to them? I started laughing to myself imagining the songs and how they would sound. Then, naturally, my mind went to what a funny article that would be.

So ... here it is. My take on Italian Christmas Carols. Oh, and enjoy my recipe for Christmas Eve. Buon Natale!

Silenta Nighta

Silent nighta, noisy night,  
Nonna snores — what a sight!  
Panettone and vino too,  
Papa’s singing an opera tune.  
Family shouting all day,  
Christmas the Italian way!

Silent night, pasta night,  
Twelve more fishes in sight.  
Cannoli stacked up high on the tray,  
Zia says she’s on a diet — “Not today!”  
Espresso keeps us awake,  
Buon Natale, let’s celebrate!

Jingla Bells

Mama’s in the kitchen,  
Cooking Christmas Eve,  
Pasta, fish, and meatballs,  
So much food you won’t believe!

Papa’s pouring wine,  
Nonna shouts “Mangia!” loud,  
Everyone is talking,  
All at once — what a crowd!

Ohhh...

Jingla bells, jingla bells,  
Pass the Parmesan!  
‘O sole mio’ on the stereo,  
Sing it if you can — hey!

Jingla bells, jingla bells,  
Espresso all the way,  
Oh what fun it is to eat  
For twelve straight hours today!

Decka the Halls

Decka the halls with bowls of pasta,  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-lasagna!  
Nonna says you must eat faster,  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-lasagna!

See the table piled with fishes,  
Fa-la-la, fa-la-la, fa-la-la!  
Papa pours more wine — he wishes,  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-lasagna!

Family shouting, hands are flying,  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-lasagna!  
Opera voices, no denying,  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-lasagna!

Eat cannoli, sip espresso,  
Fa-la-la, fa-la-la, fa-la-la!  
Buon Natale, tutti presto,  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-lasagna!

Cioppino: A Christmas Eve Tradition  
Ingredients

- Seafood
- 2 lobster tails, meat removed and cut in pieces
- 1 1/2 lbs. large shrimp (16 to 20), meat removed
- 8 Littleneck clams, scrubbed

- 1 lb. Mussels, scrubbed
- 1 lb. cod filet, cut into pieces
- 6 sea scallops, cut in half
- 1 large king crab leg, cut in 2 or 3 pieces

Cioppino Broth

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 6 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 1 large fennel bulb, thinly sliced
- 2 stalks thinly sliced celery
- 1 carrot, peeled and finely diced
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes (or to taste)
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 ½ cups dry red wine (Chianti works well for this)
- 1 32 oz. jar Coppola’s Marinara sauce
- 1 medium pinch saffron threads
- 3 cups seafood stock
- ¼ cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 handful fresh basil, finely chopped, for garnish

Instructions

Add olive oil to a large Dutch Oven pot over medium high heat on the stove-top and heat until shimmering. Add garlic and onions and cook until garlic just starts to brown. Add butter to stop the garlic from burning.

Add fennel, celery, carrots, bay leaf, oregano, red pepper flakes, thyme sprigs,

salt and black pepper stirring, until vegetables are softened, about 5 minutes.

Add wine and boil until reduced about 3 - 4 minutes. Add shellfish stock, marinara sauce and saffron. Simmer, covered, 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Add crab, clams, mussels to the pot, cover and simmer until clams just open, about 5-10 minutes. Discard any clams or mussels that do not open after 7 - 10 minutes.

Add the lobster, scallops and halibut pieces on top. Simmer, covered, until just cooked through, about 5 - 10 minutes.

Add the shrimp last. Simmer, covered, until just cooked through, about 3- 5 minutes.

Test for seasoning. Add more black pepper, salt and red pepper flakes if desired. Gently stir in parsley and basil. Discard bay leaf and thyme sprigs.

To serve Cioppino, place fish pieces in bottom of shallow soup bowl or pasta plate. Ladle the broth on top. Serve immediately with grilled ciabatta bread on the side

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

\$542,000 in Changemaker Funding marks

Community Foundation’s largest grant cycle ever

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) has awarded its 2025 Community Grants, awarding a total of \$542,000 to nonprofits across Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties and marking the Foundation’s largest round of Community Grants ever. In Dutchess County, 55 local nonprofits have received a total of \$287,500, an unprecedented level of CFHV-driven support for the community.

This year’s Community Grant awards represent CFHV’s largest investment in both dollars and the number of nonprofits funded, reinforcing the foundation’s commitment to fueling innovative, high-impact programs that strengthen local communities.

“Over the past year, we listened closely to what people across the Hudson Valley care about most,” said Laura Washington, President & CEO of CFHV. “That community input guided this year’s grants, helping us address the most pressing needs while continuing to support the wide range of programs that make this region such a special place to call home. We’re proud to award the largest Community Grants in our history and to stand with the organizations working every day to strengthen our communities.”

Community Foundations is extending its impact beyond funding by supporting Dutchess County nonprofits with

essential educational resources and training. Through complimentary memberships to the Nonprofit Learning Lab, nonprofit leaders will gain access to expert guidance on fundraising, strategic planning, volunteer management and other critical skills. Monthly capacity-building workshops further strengthen organizational fundraising, governance and operations, communications, and financial management. These initiatives reflect CFHV’s approach to philanthropy – providing nonprofits with both resources and expertise to expand their programs, launch new initiatives and amplify their impact across the community.

CFHV celebrated the 55 Dutchess County grantees at its annual changemaker event on December 11, 2025, at Unshattered, Inc. Awarded organizations include: Dutchess Outreach, Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, Hudson Valley Clubhouse, Fareground Community Kitchen, Red Hook Responds, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Camino al Exito Project for All, Art Effect, Teen Closet, Inc., DAY ONE Early Learning Community, Inc. New Pine Plains Herald, Pawling Free Library, Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum, Stony Kill Foundation, Grace Smith House, Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, Mid-Hudson Works, I Am Beacon, Walkway

Over the Hudson, HUDSY Community Project, Upstate Films, Maya Gold Foundation, and many more.

“Unshattered is honored to be a recipient of a 2025 grant from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley,” said Kelly Lyndgaard, Founder & CEO, Unshattered. “This support helps us achieve our mission of ending the addiction relapse cycle and helping those on their journey of recovery become good employees, neighbors,

and community members. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to host this year’s Community Grants recipient recognition event and open our space to bring donors, nonprofits, and community members together.”

To discover how you can support the CFHV mission, explore the full list of 2025 Community Grant recipients, or apply for a grant for yourself or your organization, please visit [CommunityFoundationsHV.org](http://CommunityFoundationsHV.org).

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hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



# Save time by remembering it

Jim Croce wished he could save time in a bottle, but knew that days couldn't last forever. My creased and pin-holed 2025 wall calendar, with its scribbled appointments and social events tells me the same: Another year will fade away.

And like Decembers of yore, there are prompts to reflect on events of the past year. Whether we are at work or at gatherings with friends and family, we are bombarded with the "year in review," slideshows, or stories and tales of the past year's obstacles and achievements. This is also when the media assails us with plays of the biggest hit-songs and countdowns.

But year's end doesn't have to be about what famous name was on the Billboard top singles list or who sold the most gizmos, doodads, or thingamajigs. Sometimes "saving time in a bottle" can be a group effort to inform the future about events of the past or an individual's way of commemorating personal bests.

**Time capsules from notable figures**

One long-term group effort began when influential men, Samuel Adams and Paul Revere, placed a time capsule within the cornerstone of the new Massachusetts State House in 1795. Their capsule contained coins, a plaque, newspapers, and other items. Since its original placement by those men, it was removed in 1855, and again in 2014. In 2015, state officials resealed the capsule in place, with coins from the current era and a plaque.

The artist Andy Warhol created over 600 Time Capsules with various objects that can be described as a deconstructed scrapbook. The items contained in his Time Capsules included everyday ephemera, valuable artwork, and weird items, like nail clippings and signed underwear. They can be viewed at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh.

**Time capsules from Earth**

NASA has included time capsules on several of its spacecraft to communicate the story of Earth and humanity to potential extraterrestrial life or future humans. The Voyager Space Probes contained records with natural and human sounds,

music from various cultures and eras, greetings in 55 languages, images, and messages. The Lucy Spacecraft was launched to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, which are remnants from our solar system's formation 4.5 billion years ago. Its Prime Mission will conclude in 2033, but Lucy will continue to orbit the Sun, for, perhaps, millions of years. Lucy carries a plaque with data about Earth, poems, songs, and speeches. It is hoped that future humans, or other intelligent life, might one day recover it as a relic of our 21st-century exploration.

**Personal time capsule**

Objects of personal importance can be preserved digitally. But a physical time capsule requires a weatherproof container, such as an aluminum or stainless steel can, or a sealed PVC tube. Include only non-perishable items that represent your life, interests, and the current era.

To prepare the items for long-term storage, use acid-free paper and a graphite pencil or archival pen for any written documents. All paper items and photos need to be in individual plastic sleeves or envelopes to protect them from potential chemical damage. Metal fasteners, paper clips, and staples should be avoided. Add silica gel packets to absorb any moisture inside the container.

Once all items are packed and the container is tightly sealed, it should be marked with the current date. Choose a safe, stable location to store it. If burying it, the hole should be in a well-drained spot, at least 4 feet deep. Place the sealed capsule inside a plastic bag before burial. Record the capsule's location and the opening date on your calendar, in a digital document, or in your will, to ensure it won't be forgotten.

**Developing children's interest in time capsules**

As a fun and educational endeavor, a time capsule can be a collaborative project that connects a learning topic to children's lives and the future. I like the idea of scientific research and predictions about future discoveries.



Make a time capsule to create a snapshot of the current era. -Photo by Francine Wizner

Students could write letters to their future selves about science and their lives. The letters might include students' current scientific interests, questions they have, and what they hope to know in the future. What future advancements or technologies might exist when the capsule is opened?

Create a snapshot of the current era. Include a current newspaper, with a focus on scientific news, a new invention, or scientific event like an eclipse. Add a common piece of technology or a detailed description and image of one. Include wrappers from popular foods, trending media, and other items that reflect current consumer science and culture.

Personal information will also pique student interest. A class time capsule could catalog student data, such as their current heights, and tracings of their hand- or footprints. Photos of students, the classroom, and science projects also

can provide a visual history of the year. Once labeled, sealed, and stored, don't forget to record where the time capsule is located so it can be found in the future.

Here is a way of creating a digital science time capsule for every month of the year: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/NEW-YEARS-DAY-SCIENCE-TIME-CAPSULE-WEB-QUEST-ENRICHMENT-7598301>

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County.

Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.

## Postal Service seeks help keeping access to mailboxes clear of snow

The Postal Service is reaching out to communities throughout Upstate New York to raise public awareness on the importance of keeping walkways, sidewalks, and approaches to mailboxes clear from snow and ice so carriers can provide safe mail delivery.

Any amount of snow can cause a dangerous situation for mail carriers and others. Keeping a clear path to and around mailboxes will help mail carriers continue consistent delivery as well as keep them safe from potential slipping and/or injuries.

The Postal Service is issuing the following snow removal tips:

- Clear enough snow from curbside boxes to allow mail trucks to approach the

- box, deliver mail, and to drive away without the need for backing or departing the vehicle.
- Walkways should be cleared of snow and ice, allowing enough traction to avoid slips, trips or falls.
- Steps and handrails should be kept clear of ice and snow and in good repair to avoid injury to letter carriers or others.
- Overhangs should be free of snow and ice as well to reduce the risk of falling debris.

Customers with questions or comments about their mail service can contact the Postal Service at 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) or by clicking on Contact Us at the bottom of the Postal Service's USPS.com homepage.

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# Mount Saint Mary College holiday festivities begin with tree lighting



The Mount Saint Mary College Christmas tree marks the official start of the holiday season on campus.



Fr. Gregoire Fluets, Vice President for Mission and Ministry, celebrates along with a Mount Saint Mary College student at the annual Tree Lighting festivities.

-Photos by Lee Ferris

The Mount Saint Mary College campus glowed a little brighter on Thursday, Dec. 4, as students, faculty, and staff gathered for the college’s annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

More than just a flip of a switch, the event served as a joyous pause in the semester, bringing the campus community together to celebrate the start of the Advent season. Under the glow of the towering tree in front of Guzman Hall, the crowd joined in singing traditional

carols, their voices warming the crisp December air.

Inside, students took a break from their pre-finals studies to enjoy holiday-themed games and a popular stuff-a-plush station, where they created festive stuffed animals to take home.

Fr. Gregoire Fluets, Vice President for Mission and Ministry, welcomed the college community.

For more information, visit [www.msmc.edu](http://www.msmc.edu).

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# Celebrating a decade of ThinkDIFFERENTLY



From left: County Executive Sue Serino, Abigail Molinaro, members of the New Paltz Ballet Theatre and former County Executive Marc Molinaro.  
-Courtesy photos Dutchess County Gov't



From left: Dutchess County All Abilities Program Director Dana Hopkins, County Executive Sue Serino and former County Executive Marc Molinaro.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Dutchess County Government marked the 10th anniversary of the County’s successful ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative with a special commemoration last Friday at the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, as part of the annual complimentary, sensory-friendly presentation of holiday classic ballet, “The Nutcracker.”

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “For the past 10 years, ThinkDIFFERENTLY has made Dutchess County a more welcoming and inclusive place for everyone and aligns with our ‘Think Accessible’ initiative. This milestone is a chance to celebrate the progress we’ve made in promoting kindness and respect for people of every ability. Looking ahead, we remain committed to building on these values, creating more support, opportunities and ways for all our neighbors to fully participate in their community and thrive.”

ThinkDIFFERENTLY encourages residents, businesses, organizations and municipalities to adopt a welcoming and inclusive approach toward those with disabilities. Conceived by then-County Executive Marc Molinaro in 2015, the initiative has guided significant enhancements

in inclusiveness, strengthened community collaborations and expanded programming designed to support individuals with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities, as well as their families over the past decade

More than 100 communities across New York State – and several others across the nation – have warmly embraced the overarching philosophy of ThinkDIFFERENTLY, inspiring their own communities, businesses and organizations to be more inclusive and supportive of people with disabilities.

Serino joined All Abilities Program Director Dana Hopkins, former County Executive Molinaro, families, community partners and disability service organizations Friday to reflect on how far the initiative has come since its launch in 2015.

Serino’s Think Accessible initiative expands the ThinkDIFFERENTLY efforts by raising awareness about physical disabilities and encouraging efforts to help small businesses and municipalities make their locations more accessible. The County Executive announced the first round of local businesses to earn Think Accessible Community Certification earli-

er this month.

Additionally, Dutchess County Government has supported the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative in many ways over the past 10 years, including, among others:

- Reducing employment barriers for people with disabilities through its 55-a program, which allows qualified individuals with physical or mental disabilities to be appointed to civil service jobs without taking the standard competitive civil service exam;
- Hosting the annual “Think Jobs” roundtable forums to bring together businesses, employers and disability advocates to highlight the benefits of hiring people of all abilities, break down barriers and recognize inclusive employers;
- Investing in accessible infrastructure and universal design elements – including curb cuts, wheelchair ramps, accessible playground equipment and the like – through its Community Development Block Grant program;
- Hosting a multitude of inclusive events, including sensory-friendly picnics, a sensory-sensitive morning at the Dutchess County Fair and adaptive film screenings

with lowered volume and raised lights to ensure individuals of all abilities feel welcome to enjoy a day at the movies;

- Funding Autism Supportive Environment Training, through a partnership with the Anderson Center for Autism, to assist businesses in designing an environment supports the needs of individuals with autism and their families; and
- Partnering with Dutchess Community College to establish the popular “Think Ahead” program, a two-year, non-degree experience that helps young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities build life, social and job skills through coursework and on-campus internships.

At the conclusion of the brief recognition event, hundreds of attendees enjoyed an hour-long, no-shush performance of “The Nutcracker,” performed by the New Paltz Ballet Theatre. Bardavon staff adjusted the lights and sound to offer a relaxed, supportive environment and a comfortable experience for attendees with sensory sensitivities.

Information about additional inclusive events is available on Dutchess County’s award-winning website, [thinkdifferently.net](http://thinkdifferently.net).

## Obituaries

### Carlo E. Cadamagnani



Carlo E. Cadamagnani, 81, of Highland, New York, passed away peacefully on December 15, 2025. Born on July 28, 1944, in Albareto di Fontanellato, Parma, Italy, Carlo built a life defined by love, laughter, and hard work. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend whose warmth and humor left lasting impressions on everyone who knew him.

Carlo married his high school sweetheart, Gail Dolan, on February 23, 1965, and together they shared a lifetime of devotion until her passing. A proud family man, he found his greatest joy in spending time with those he loved—celebrating milestones large and small, from weddings to his grandchildren’s

college graduations.

Known for his generosity, friendliness, and quick wit, Carlo approached life with enthusiasm and an unshakable optimism. Whether cheering on his beloved Giants, sharing a glass of good wine, or gathering around the table for a hearty meal, he found joy in simple pleasures and in the company of his family.

Carlo is survived by his daughters Lisa (Mark) Crnkovich and Julie (Ronnie) Tausek; his sister, Lucia (Tony) Desantis; and his grandchildren Carly (Keith) Adornetto, Christopher (Olivia) Tausek, Ashley Crnkovich, and great grandchildren Luca and Giuliana Adornetto. Carlo will be remembered with love and gratitude by all who were fortunate to know him.

Calling hours were held on Friday, December 19, at the DiDonato Funeral Home, 1290 Route 9W, Marlboro, NY 12542.

A Mass of Christian burial was offered on Saturday, December 20, at St. Mary’s Church, 1209 Route, 9W Marlboro NY 12542.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Hudson Valley Hospice.

### Jan Wenggaard



Jan Wenggaard, a longtime resident of Hopewell Junction, NY, passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at the Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY; at the age of 85. He was born in Hønefoss, Norway on March 9, 1940, son of the late Jorgen Wenggaard and Gunhild (nee Bjertnes) Wenggaard. Jan proudly served in the Norwegian Army as military police, for two-years until he received discharge.

On May 2, 1964 in Jevnaker, Norway, he married Kirsten Ryen, who survives him at home.

Jan worked many years as self-employed carpenter; he was a skilled craftsman. He loved woodworking, and toying with different crafts in his work-

shop. He also enjoyed the outdoors, and fishing.

Along with his beloved wife of 61-years of marriage, Jan is survived by his loving daughter Siri Wenggaard and her husband Stephen Frey; his three grandchildren, Karin Spinney, Steven Alos and Michael Miller. He is also survived by several great-grandchildren, nieces & nephews.

Along with his parents, Jan was sadly predeceased by his daughter Anita Alos on November 26, 2021. He was also predeceased by three brothers and one sister.

His Family will gather with Friends to honor and remember his Life on Saturday, December 27th from 2-4PM at the DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME, 64 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, New York. Interment will be private at the discretion of his family.

To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: [www.DelehantyFuneral.com](http://www.DelehantyFuneral.com).



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901 Vans/SUV's

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904 Auto Parts & Tires

905 Autos Wanted

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Opportunities to give blood or platelets this holiday season

Time is critical for patients this December. The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply steady over the busy holiday season. Types O positive, O negative and B negative blood donors are especially needed now and in the coming weeks.

December is National Month of Giving, and your Red Cross blood or platelet donation can bring hope and healing. Create a new holiday tradition and help spread comfort and support lifesaving care. When the unexpected happens, it's the blood products already on the shelves that matter.

Redefine the meaning of a gift bag; give something that means something and schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment

by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Those who come to give through Dec. 18, 2025, will receive a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email. Those who come to give Dec. 19, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. For details on December offers, see RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts. If you're unable to give, consider making a financial donation to support our lifesaving mission at red-cross.org.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Dutchess County

Poughkeepsie: Dec. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road

Poughkeepsie: Dec. 30, noon-5 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road

Tivoli: Dec. 26, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., The Masonic Lodge in Tivoli, 7 N. Road

The Red Cross is the primary provider to hospitals in the Eastern New York Region. In addition to providing lifesaving blood products, the Red Cross mobilizes relief to families affected by disasters, trains people in lifesaving skills and provides services to active and veteran U.S. military personnel and their families. Donors can feel good knowing that by supporting the Red Cross, they can help family and friends in their communities and across the country.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red

Cross Blood Donor App, visit?RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age?in most states?(16 with parental consent?where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.



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REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFCO-DCP-02-26  
Providers for Respite/Social Adult Day Care Program Services  
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 14th day of January 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

LEGAL NOTICE  
The following entitled bond resolution has been adopted on December 8, 2025, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, December 8, 2025  
/s/ Leigh Wager Clerk, County Legislature  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025196  
BOND RESOLUTION DATED DECEMBER 8, 2025  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,722,050 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ROOFS AT VARIOUS COUNTY-OWNED BUILDINGS, IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY  
WHEREAS, the capital project hereinafter described, as proposed, has been determined to be a Type II Action pursuant to the regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, which it has been determined will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment; and  
WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing of such capital project; NOW, THEREFORE  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess, New York, as follows:  
Section 1.  
The reconstruction of roofs at various County-owned buildings, in and for the County of

Legal Notices

Dutchess, New York, including incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,722,050.  
Section 2.  
It is hereby determined that the maximum estimated cost of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is \$1,722,050, and that the plan for the financing thereof shall be by the issuance of \$1,722,050 serial bonds of said County hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.  
Section 3.  
It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is twenty-five years, pursuant to subdivision 12(a) of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.  
Section 4.  
The faith and credit of said County of Dutchess, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. To the extent not paid from other sources, there shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said County, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable.  
Section 5.  
Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Commissioner of Finance, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Commissioner of Finance, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.  
Section 6.  
The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the Commissioner of Finance, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as she shall deem best for the interests of the County; provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, she shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. Thereceipt of the Commissioner of Finance shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money.  
Section 7.  
Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the County of Dutchess, New York, by the manual or facsimile

Legal Notices

signature of the Commissioner of Finance and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted or impressed thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the County Clerk.  
Section 8.  
All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the County by the facsimile signature of the Commissioner of Finance, providing for the manual countersignature of a designated official of the County), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the Commissioner of Finance. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the County not to impose and collect from registered owners of such serial bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Commissioner of Finance shall determine.  
Section 9.  
This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.1502. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.  
Section 10.  
The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:  
1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said County is not authorized to expend money, or  
2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or  
3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions

Legal Notices

of the Constitution.  
Section 11.  
This resolution, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in full in The Poughkeepsie Journal and The Southern Dutchess News, the official newspapers of said County, together with a notice of the Clerk of the County Legislature in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL  
The following entitled bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on December 8, 2025, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.  
A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is each available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.  
Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, December 9, 2025  
-----  
Clerk, County Legislature  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025199  
BOND RESOLUTION DATED DECEMBER 8, 2025  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,252,100 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS COUNTY BUILDINGS, IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY.  
Class of objects or purposes: Reconstruction of various County buildings  
Period of probable usefulness: 25 years  
Maximum estimated cost: \$4,252,100  
Maximum amount of bonds to be issued: \$4,252,100 bonds  
SEQRA status: SEQRA compliance materials will be on file in the office of the Clerk of the County Legislature upon final determination thereof. No financing shall occur prior to site-specific SEQRA compliance.

LEGAL NOTICE  
The following entitled bond resolution has been adopted on December 8, 2025, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess,

Legal Notices

New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, December 8, 2025  
/s/ Leigh Wager Clerk, County Legislature  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025195  
BOND RESOLUTION DATED DECEMBER 8, 2025  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,829,079 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF BATHROOM IMPROVEMENTS AT COUNTY BUILDINGS AT 22 AND 60 MARKET STREET IN POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY  
WHEREAS, the capital project hereinafter described, as proposed, has been determined to be a Type II Action pursuant to the regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, which it has been determined will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment; and  
WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing of such capital project; NOW, THEREFORE  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess, New York, as follows:  
Section 1.  
Bathroom improvements to conform with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements at County buildings at 22 and 60 Market Street, in Poughkeepsie, New York, in and for the County of Dutchess, New York, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$2,829,079.  
Section 2.  
It is hereby determined that the maximum estimated cost of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is \$2,829,079, and that the plan for the financing thereof shall be by the issuance of \$2,829,079 serial bonds of said County hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.  
Section 3.  
It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is twenty-five years, pursuant to subdivision 12(a)(1) of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.  
Section 4.  
The faith and credit of

Legal Notices

said County of Dutchess, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. To the extent not paid from other sources, there shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said County, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable.  
Section 5.  
Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Commissioner of Finance, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Commissioner of Finance, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.  
Section 6.  
The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the Commissioner of Finance, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as she shall deem best for the interests of the County; provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, she shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. Thereceipt of the Commissioner of Finance shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money.  
Section 7.  
Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the County of Dutchess, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the Commissioner of Finance and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted or impressed thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the County Clerk.  
Section 8.  
All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the County by the facsimile signature of the Commissioner of Finance, providing for

Legal Notices

the manual countersignature of a designated official of the County), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the Commissioner of Finance. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the County not to impose and collect from registered owners of such serial bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Commissioner of Finance shall determine.  
Section 9.  
This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.1502. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.  
Section 10.  
The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:  
1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said County is not authorized to expend money, or  
2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or  
3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.  
Section 11.  
This resolution, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in full in The Poughkeepsie Journal and The Southern Dutchess News, the official newspapers of said County, together with a notice of the Clerk of the County Legislature in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.



## Diversions

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

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

## this week's puzzle solutions

This week's answer

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

D	E	N	T		E	N	D		D	E		C	O	R	Y
S	T	O	O	D		C	I	A		E	S	S	E	N	
U	C	R	E		U	G	H			N	A	I	V	E	
J	I	G	G	E	R		S	T	I	R	E	D			
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S	L	U	R	P		L	E	V	O			S	E	C	T
I	L	I	A		A	L	D	E	R			A	L	A	R
W	E	P	T		J	E	A	N			A	C	I	N	I
T	H	O		Y	O	W	L		S	N	O	W	E	D	
		U	Z		G	H	E								
B	I	T	T	E	R	S		C	H	A	S	E	R		
O	V	I	N	E			A	M	T		Y	E	M	E	N
L	E	M	A	N			R	U	E		H	E	A	V	E
L	O	B	S		E	R	R				F	L	A	O	P

## 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-  
66-25  
Equipment for  
EMS/Paramedic  
Instruction  
Bids will be received un-  
til 1:00 p.m. on the 26th  
day of December 2025 at  
the Dutchess County Di-  
vision of Central Ser-  
vices, 378 Violet Ave-  
nue, Suite 2, Pough-  
keepsie, New York  
12601. Specifications  
and bid forms may be  
obtained by visiting our  
website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, select-  
ing "Government", then  
selecting "Bidding and  
RFP Opportunities". For  
additional  
information, call  
845-486-3613.

## Upcoming events at Howland Cultural Center announced

The following are upcoming events at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., in Beacon.

**Fri., Dec. 26, 7 p.m.:** The next Howland Open Mic Night. Your chance to sing or play. This one's a one-night-only special, with acoustic songs in the round. Join in! Organizers ask for a \$5 cover.

And coming in 2026

**Fri., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.:** Come to Nerd Night Hudson Valley. The topics are Taxidermy! Surgical Catastrophes! Squirrel Invasions! Early bird advance tickets are \$15. Or wait until after New Year's and it's \$20. Dr. Hannah Brooks speaks on "When Food Fights back: Gut Wrenching Tales of General Surgery." Trace Dominguez presents "Invading New Jersey with Squirrels: A Proposal." And Mike Price does "Meddling With Nature: Taxidermy and the beauty of going skin deep."

**THEME: AT A BAR**

## ACROSS

1. Slovenly ones
6. To do this is human?
9. Not flip
13. Mistress or lover, arch.
14. Precedes de Rivoli
15. Lift a hefty load
16. Sheep-like
17. Invoice qty.
18. Republic on Arabian Peninsula
19. \*Aromatic additives
21. \*Beer with Bloody Mary, e.g.
23. Major Uziel Gal-designed gun
24. Clarified butter
25. Although, for short
28. Distressed cry
30. Bamboozled
35. What a willow did?
37. J in B. J. King
39. Raspberry drupelets
40. Pelvic bones
41. Birch family tree
43. Banned apple spray
44. Impolite dinner sound
46. Left, Latin prefix
47. Dissenting clique
48. a.k.a. chickadee
50. Four seasons
52. Abode for #1 Down
53. Do, re or mi
55. Buddy Holly's "Peggy \_\_\_\_"
57. \*Measuring tool at a bar
60. \*Not shaken
64. Dough or cabbage
65. "Gross!"
67. Lacking guile
68. "The Day the World \_\_\_\_ Still"
69. Intelligence org.
70. Ruhr's industrial center
71. Job for a body shop
72. Finish
73. Condemn

**DOWN**

1. #1 Across, sing.
2. Jeans maker Strauss
3. Leave out
4. Swahili and other languages
5. One of the seven dwarfs
6. Victorian one and Elizabethan one, e.g.
7. \*Liquor in Hurricane and Painkiller
8. \*Verb related to hangover
9. Fine print add-ons
10. Feeble
11. Above and beyond
12. Mightier than sword
15. Shenzhi of "The Lion King"
20. \*Spanish dry red wine
22. "For \_\_\_\_ a Jolly Good Fellow"
24. Seductive stare (2 words)
25. \*Citrus peel
26. Greeting
27. Laudanum ingredient
29. \*Same as rail at a bar
31. South American wood sorrels
32. Trickeries
33. Roleplay
34. \*Like martini with olive brine
36. Queen of Hearts' pastry
38. Campbell of "Scream" fame
42. Cook in the oven
45. Sent a modern message
49. Ballerina's support
51. Decayed or disintegrated
54. Cease-fire
56. Use other end of pencil
57. Burlap fiber
58. Desktop picture
59. Small cave
60. Herring's cousin
61. Microprocessor design, acr.
62. "\_\_\_\_ and anon"
63. Controvert
64. Psychedelic drug
66. \*Liquor in Tom Collins and Gimlet

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20			21	22				
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41				42		43		
44				45		46					47		
48					49		50			51		52	
				53		54			55		56		
	57	58	59					60				61	62
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			



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# Arlington students & ‘Santa Joe’ spread cheer at Office for the Aging



Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) Director Todd Tancredi left, is joined by Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, center, and OFA volunteers staff members.

School Bus driver “Santa Joe” Torres and Arlington Central School District Union Vale Middle School Flute Orchestra led by Music Director Kriss Rizzo made their annual visit to spread holiday cheer to staff and residents of Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) on Dec. 17.

This year, many seniors sang along as the students played music. There were other fun and exciting moments, such as - When Seniors asked the students to perform a rendition of Silent Night and Rizzo

gave a solo performance on a violin.

This year was even more special with the help of the 4th grade students of Joseph D'Aquanni West Road Intermediate School and their teachers. These students created more than 40 Christmas Cards in two days.

Also, Santa Joe and his two student elves, Kayla Miller and Saneih Stephenson, presented residents with a handmade Christmas Card made by Mrs. Cory's class.

Dutchess County Office for the Aging



Music Director Kriss Rizzo of Union Vale Middle School and ‘Santa Joe’ Torres are pictured with four of the students who have been part of the holiday visits for three consecutive years.

-Courtesy photos

Director Todd Tancredi said, “We always appreciate ‘Santa Joe,’ the young Union Vale Middle School musicians and their teacher, Ms. Kristina Rizzo, for sharing their time, talents and holiday spirit with

our older adults. Intergenerational experiences like these are invaluable to both the seniors and the students, benefiting all involved and exemplifying this season of giving.”

# Students honored for Beacon PRIDE

The following Beacon High School students were recognized for demonstrating Beacon PRIDE (Positivity - Respect - Integrity - Determination - Engagement) during the 1st quarter of the 2025-26 school year.

Certificates were awarded to the students on Thursday, December 11.

Lorelei Aakjar, Jay Adams, Jamal Ahmed, Nadeen Ahmed, Alianna Alijaj, Owen Allee, Janaly Alvarado, Farhana Antora, Brayden Arroyo, Kevin Asencio, Ashland Assael, Trevor Bacon, Emanuele Bagala, Mira Bagriyanik, James Bailey, Viviana Bailey, Kiersten Barber, Ziarra Beamon, Vincent Bergerson III, Lily Berry, Benjamin Betancourt, James Bouchard III, Charlotte Bowen, Jaden Brito, Alexander Browning, Jayla Bunch, Janyia Burch, Myasia Burch, Louis Burgos Jr., Fiona Burke-Smith, Teaghan Burks, Ziyarah Bush, Samuel Callan, Ethan Cason, Anthony Castano, Jennifer Chacon, Lola Ciccone, Piper Clark, Dylan Claro, Christian Clay, Peter Cohen, Shannon Colandrea, Kasidy Collins, Sebastian Concepcion, Tori-Ann Crawford, Misleiry Cruz Cruz, Jason David, Grace De La Hoz, Maliah Decoteau, Mylee Decoteau, Zooey Dedring, Bentley DeGuisto, Magdalena del Puerto-Vitti, Andrea Delgado, Ramon Dewey-Brink, Caroline Diaz, Ethan Diaz, Victoria Diaz, Naim Dika, Ryan DiNobile, Daniel Echevarria, Tye Elias, Elijah Epps, Braedan Eraca, Jonah Sebastian Espinosa, Tyler Evans, Khordae Facey, Willow Faiella, Malik Faison, Lily Figlia, Lilah Fisher, Grace Fleming, Alejandro Flores Urzua, Jayme Fuentes, Natalia Garcia, Samantha Garcia, Jordan Garzon, Lily Gines, Gabriel Godbee, Samiha Golden, Emanuel Gomez, Evan Greenspan, Tania Griffin, Lucien Guido Taylor, Alyson Guobadia, Manasvi Gupta, Kayla Hammond, Julian Hannah, Zenia Haris, Jayden Harrison, Sa'yon Harrison, Emmett Havers, Cole Heath, Gauge Heeter, Kaliyah Henderson, Jose Hernandez Canelo, London Hernandez, Zaphira Hernandez, Alaina Holguin, Ayden

Hooten, Ruby Hotchkiss, Brianna Hunt, Ryan Huynh, Hailee Jennings, Vincent Joao Jr., Alina Joseph, Grace Just, Oren Kelleher, Taylor Kelliher, Drew Kelly, Gabrielle Khalil, Pixie Kimberg, Wenang Edward Kobarsih, Eric Kruze, Kiran Kumar, Gabriella Larsson, Ava Lassiter, Jayden Lassiter, Ileana Lawrence, Isabella Lee, Mia Lentini, Aron Li, Josiah Lind, Isaac Long, Melody Longino, Anthony Lopez, Mary Lopez, Markus Louis, Michael MacDougall, Ash Marcus, Alma Mart, Josue Martell, Ruby Martin, Ivan Martinez, Ethan Maxaner, Desmond McGrath, Victoria McKay, Aril McKee, Oscar McKible, Ian Melhado, Sebastian Mendoza, Zechia Mickler, Jayden Mihalchik, Jaylen Mitchell, Elise Moran, Henry Mulligan, Silena Negron, Jaier Newton, Khiana Nicholson, Emily Nivicela Jarama, Adrien Okoye, Carmelo Osuba, Ace Owen, Quincy Owens, Brianne Papo, Amaya Paulin, Gabriel Peluso, Lilly Pendley, Hudson Penn, Roimel Perez Novas, Brady Philipbar, Luca Ragone, Michael Ramos, Victoria Reyes-Miele, Jonathan Richards, Kelly Rios Palacios, Samuel Riquelme Jr., Natalya Rivera, Marciano Rodriguez, Derek Rohr, Gabriel Roquel, Sebastian Roquel, Elijah Rupp, Liliana Rybak, Zbigniew Rybak, Julian Sala, Baron Santana, Evangeline Santise, Jonathan Saraceno, Abdul-Rahman Sayibu, Hazel Schein, Violet Schilling, Jayden Schumacher, Za'layni Shand, Shane Signorelli, Finn Simons, Wilmer Sinchi Jimbo, Kyla Smith, Noah Spiak, Aiden Spiecker, Silas Stampleman, Gannon Statini-Perez, Clive Stewart, Avery Strang, Harper Strang, Hayleigh Stumberger, Adryanah Sweat, Christina Testa, Kylie Thomas, Michai Thompson, Brevin Timm, Caellum Tripaldi, Daniel Tschang, Marcos Velasco, Joshua Velazquez, Olivia Viola, Eliot Waterman, Aslynn Way, Slater Way, Caleb Wells-McGurk, Jah'Real Whitted, Kayteena Wilkins, Josiah Wilson, Journey Wright, Piper Yewchuck, Owen Youatt, Ysabella Zappala and Nicholas Zippo.

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