



Snow banks are piled high on Sunday afternoon in this scene from Stormfield Swiss Farm in the Town of Wappinger. County Executive Sue Serino thanked residents for cooperating during the travel ban that was imposed because of the snowstorm. *Courtesy photo*

DC Ag Society launches ‘Adopt-A-Calf’ program

The Dutchess County Agricultural Society (DCAS), which annually produces the Dutchess County Fair, has launched a new component to its educational programs - connecting classrooms with local farmers to bring agriculture alive through an “Adopt-A-Calf” program.

The program is being introduced with the support of the 2025 Dutchess County Farm Family of the Year. The DeForest-Lawrence family, owners of Stormfield Swiss Farm in the Town of Wappinger, will serve as the program’s featured host.

The Adopt-A-Calf program invites classrooms throughout Dutchess County to “adopt” a dairy calf and follow its growth through the school year. Students receive an introductory video taken soon after the calf is born and can write back to the farmers with questions that will be answered in future video or photo updates. Each update provides age-appropriate educational materials that focus on animal care, nutrition, and the role that agriculture plays in everyday life.

As the school year comes to a close, the highlight of the program is a visit by their calf to the school where students get to interact with the calf and farmers directly.

“We are excited to launch a program that strengthens the connection between our agricultural community and local classrooms,” said Cassie Messina,



Justin, Jenna and Jason Lawrence of Stormfield Swiss Farm in the Town of Wappinger are pictured with “Sweet Treat,” this year’s star of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society’s Adopt-A-Calf program. *Courtesy photo*

Agricultural Educator of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society. “This program is a valuable addition to our existing agricultural education programs, giving students a hands-on link between their curriculum and understanding where their food comes from, while developing an appreciation for agriculture and the families who dedicate their lives to it.”

Jenn Deforest of Stormfield Swiss Farm stated, “You can look around and see that many people are several generations removed from agriculture. So we were excited when the Dutchess County Fair asked us to help with this new Agventure!”

“We feel it helps reconnect with the community. It’s about building lasting relationships with the children. It opens

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Residents heed warnings during massive snowstorm

By Kate Goldsmith

Town and village offices across the county remained closed on Monday, Jan. 26, as crews continued clearing roads in the aftermath of the biggest snowstorm Dutchess County has experienced in recent years. States of Emergency were issued across New York and Dutchess on Friday as the storm approached.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino issued a travel ban for non-essential travel from 5 a.m. Sunday morning, Jan. 25, through noon on Monday. The county’s State of Emergency was set to be lifted at 7 p.m. Monday. However, residents were advised to continue to avoid non-essential travel for safety, as road conditions remained hazardous and snowbanks created visibility issues at intersections.

“We are grateful to all of our highway crews, first responders and many others who have been working continuously throughout this storm to keep us safe,” Serino said in a statement released Monday morning. “It has been a huge storm, and it is not quite over yet. Observing the travel restrictions and

staying off the roads has helped keep accidents to a minimum and helps the crews deal with moving the significant amounts of snow. Even once the travel ban ends today at noon, if you don’t have to travel, please continue to stay home and respect the highway crews and essential workers who still have a lot of work to do.”

Commissioner of Public Works Robert Balkind said, “With the snow tapering off, we have the majority of roads passable, but there may still be hazardous conditions due to the large volume of snow. Crews are working to widen lanes and cut back the snowbanks created. We urge people to continue to stay off the roads for their safety and the safety of our crews.”

Balkind reminded parents to keep children away from roadway snow banks, and for those clearing snow from

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Sheriff’s Office warns of ‘posing as detective’ scam

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office warns the residents of Dutchess County and surrounding areas about scams that once again seem to be on the rise.

The latest scam involves the perpetrators posing as Detectives from the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, in which they call and tell the victim that they failed to report for jury duty. The perpetrators will then attempt to solicit money to avoid the consequences for missing the fake jury duty.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to offer the following general tips to help people avoid these scams:

- If you’re contacted by someone you don’t know asking for money, for any

reason, it’s very likely a scam.

- If you receive correspondence from someone that you don’t know and they instruct you to keep the matter confidential and not tell anyone about it, it’s most likely a scam.

- Emails or text messages that contain misspelled words, grammatical errors, don’t make sense, or are sent at odd hours – for example the middle of the night - are most likely scams.

- Legitimate law enforcement would not attempt to satisfy a warrant or make promises to avoid prosecution by soliciting money. Law enforcement also does not contact people about jury duty.

- If you receive an email or text about

an order you didn’t place or asking you to send money call the company using a legitimate number. DO NOT follow the instructions in the email, click on any links in the email, or call the number provided in the email.

- If someone you don’t know asks you to purchase merchandise, transfer money, provide bank information, provide remote computer access, enter a code, or click on a link given to you by them use caution as it is likely a scam.

- Do not meet up with someone that you don’t know; if you’re asked to do this it is surely a scam, and it is very dangerous as well.

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DC Ag Society launches ‘Adopt-a-Calf’ program

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the window into everyday life on the farm and the level of care taken to raise healthy animals. These experiences may spark curiosity and respect for agriculture that hopefully lasts a lifetime.”

The star of this year’s program is “Sweet Treat,” a Brown Swiss calf born on Dec. 9 of 2025.

“She is one of our son Jason’s favorite babies,” said DeForest. “She is very affectionate, always happy to be played with and petted. Her mom’s name is ‘Sarah’ and she was shown by a 4-H youth at the Dutchess County Fair a couple years ago. So hopefully ‘Sweet Treat’ will follow in her footsteps and be at the Fair this year after she is done meeting all her school friends.”

The “Adopt-A-Calf” program aligns with the Society’s mission to promote

agriculture through education. In 2018, the DCAS launched its Agriculture in the Classroom programming, providing tailored hands-on educational experiences for K through 12 classrooms in Dutchess County. At no charge to the school, an agriculturally related theme is brought alive monthly, making students aware of the importance of agriculture in their lives while aligning with current curriculum standards. Classes also have the opportunity for field trips to visit farms and other agribusinesses.

Classes and school teachers and administrators interested in participating in the “Adopt-A-Calf” program, or any agricultural education programs, can contact Cassie Messina by email at dcasaged@dutchessfair.com or by calling (914) 774-1236.



Students watch a giant Flemish rabbit. In 2018, the Dutchess County Agricultural Society launched its Agriculture in the Classroom programming, providing tailored hands-on educational experiences for K through 12 classrooms in Dutchess County. *Courtesy photo*

Residents heed warnings during massive snowstorm

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their driveways to not push snow onto the roadway.

All county and local municipal offices were closed Monday, including the Dutchess County Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) offices and Dutchess County Office for the Aging’s Senior Friendship Centers. Dutchess County Public Transit bus service was suspended for the day. The county’s Parks Division staff continued to assist with snow

removal operations.

Dutchess County’s CODE BLUE protocol continues to be in effect for anyone who needs shelter when temperatures are 32 degrees or below. Dutchess County Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) collaborates with community partners to ensure every resident is safe. Anyone who needs emergency shelter should call DCFS at 845-486-3300 on weekdays between 9am and 5pm or call 2-1-1 after business hours/weekends to be connected with staff who will assist in getting people to shelter placement.

Residents are advised to stay up to date on Dutchess County’s storm response, including travel restrictions and important safety tips, online at www.dutchessny.gov/stormupdates and on Dutchess County Government’s Facebook page.

Cows venture out from barns on Sunday at Stormfield Swiss Farm in the Town of Wappinger. *Courtesy photo*



Serino thanks residents

In a statement Monday morning on her Facebook page, Serino expressed gratitude for residents’ cooperation during the travel ban.

“I want to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of you,” she wrote. “Because you stayed home and honored the travel ban, our emergency responders were able to keep the roads clear for those who needed them most. Your patience paid off. We saw only one Priority 1 accident and two Priority 3 accidents during the height of the storm. That is an incredible testament to our community looking out for one another!”

The County Executive also thanked “the heroes who worked through the night,” including road maintenance teams, first responders and essential workers.

“Stay safe, stay warm, and thank you for doing your part, Dutchess!” Serino said.

Town officials weigh in

“I would like to thank each and every one of you for your cooperation yesterday during the travel ban. We are happy to report that there were zero accidents,” Beekman Town Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono posted on her Facebook page Monday morning. “A special thank you to [Highway Superintendent] Tony [Coviello], the Highway Department, our Maintenance Team, the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, New York State Police, and the Beekman Fire Department. We

truly appreciate all that you do.”

Stanford Town Supervisor Julia Descoteaux wrote on Facebook: “On behalf of both the Town of Stanford and Dutchess County, I want to extend our sincere appreciation to residents for adhering to the travel ban that was put in place during this significant winter storm. Your cooperation made a real difference.”

“Because people stayed off the roads, there was only one personal injury motor vehicle accident in all of Dutchess County reported (nothing reported in Stanford) during the storm. That outcome is a testament to our communities taking the warnings and restrictions seriously—and it helped keep both residents and first responders safe.”

Descoteaux also expressed gratitude to Stanford’s Highway Department, “who worked tirelessly through the night and across multiple shifts to keep roads passable under extremely challenging conditions. ... Their work, alongside County and State crews, has left our roads in better shape than we initially anticipated.”

In a storm update email sent to village residents, Red Hook Mayor Karen Smythe said, “...I want to publicly thank our DPW team, headed by Jake Smith, for their work in clearing the Village roads, and all the DPW crews. They spent all day yesterday and most of the overnight into the early morning hours clearing roads so that they are now open and available for travel.”

Sheriff’s Office warns of ‘posing as detective’ scam

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- If someone calls you and tells you that a relative has been hurt or is in jail, confirm it first before sending any money. Call other relatives or a legitimate law enforcement agency for confirmation before any money is sent. If they’re posing as a relative, try and contact that relative for confirmation.

- Sending money overseas is especially risky; use extreme caution.

- Ask the person for their call back number and ask to speak to their supervisor to confirm the info; if it’s a scam they will most likely hang up at this point and the number they give you will be bogus.

- If a loved one has recently passed away be wary; in some cases perpetrators have even preyed on victims by searching through the obituaries and calling surviving loved ones. If you get calls from people you don’t know soon after someone passes away, be careful and confirm it before you send any money.

- In some cases someone will call and tell the victim that they’ve won money,

but to “process the claim” they need to first send money. Beware this is most definitely a scam and don’t send any money – you should never have to pay money to claim a prize. If it seems too good to be true, it most likely is.

- If there’s any doubt about a phone call/email/letter you’ve received contact the Sheriff’s Office before sending any money.

- Scams tend to increase during the holiday season, so be especially alert for them during those times.

It is very important not to send any money to anyone that you don’t know until you’ve confirmed the situation through an independent source and feel comfortable with it. If it’s a scam once the money is sent it’s very difficult, and most times impossible, to get it back. If anyone thinks they may have been the victim of a scam they are encouraged to contact the Sheriff’s Office at 845-486-3800 or via the tipline at 845-605-CLUE or dcso tips@gmail.com.

send us your news cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

Free File an option for many New York taxpayers

With the start of the 2025 income tax filing season just opening on Jan. 26, 2026, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance announced that the Tax Department and the IRS will begin accepting and processing income tax returns. The deadline to file returns and pay any tax owed (or request an extension of time to file) is midnight on April 15, 2026.

Many New Yorkers are eligible to file their federal and New York State returns at no cost through the Tax Department website using Free File. Hundreds of thousands of New York State taxpayers take advantage of this truly free service each year, saving them on average \$269 in tax preparation fees.

“I encourage all eligible taxpayers to take advantage of Free File – a secure, efficient, and free way to file,” New York State Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller. “To save on tax preparation costs, visit the New York State Tax Department website for a truly free filing experience for those who qualify.”

Free File information is available in multiple languages on the Tax Department’s website, www.tax.ny.gov.

For information on gathering key documents to prepare and file income tax returns, the benefits of choosing direct deposit, and information on income tax credits, visit the Tax Department’s Income tax filing season resource center.

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OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Northern Dutchess News will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, home-town 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 Northern Dutchess News.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News. Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

Donald Trump – the megalomaniac conqueror

To the editor:
America has changed, Trump apparently feels that he has conquered our America and aspires to conquer the world. I do not understand his mentality or know if he has visions of being one of the greats like Adolph Hitler, Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, or Julius Caesar.
He has gone from being a tax dodger, businessman who declared six businesses bankrupt, a convicted sex offender, and pathological liar to become a two-time president of our country. His words in 2005 about women still resound “grab them by the pussy, you can do any thing” (Billie Bush- Politifact). Yes America has changed to a Trump-owned Presidency, House of Representatives, Senate, and Supreme Court.

Yes “what has god wrought” - in one year Trump’s anger and hate everywhere has created so much chaos in this country and the world. Trump’s “Modus Operandi” the way he works is to create chaos and use the result to claim as basis to divide and conquer. The Justice Department is now the Vengeance Department of Trump attacking his perceived enemies; the Defense Department is now the War Department implying his direction for our country. The ICE immigration people are acting more like Hitler’s brown shirts (Sturmabteilung-SA) of Nazi Germany targeting the blacks and browns instead of the yellow stars Jews had to wear in Nazi Germany. Now we have the required identification cards.

Trump deserves credit for trying to end the Gaza-Israel war, but probably Israel’s citizens revolting and marching in the streets were more effective. 82,209 Palestinians and 3,017 Israelis killed so far. Current Population is 9.6 million Israelites and 5.6 million Palestinians (Statisticstimes).Trump’s 20 point plan is weighted in favor of Israel and has no provision for a Palestine homeland state, which is the only answer for peace. There will be no peace until Palestinians are treated as equal human beings. There are no clean hands. The problem started with the UN not establishing two states with defined limits along with Israel in 1947. The Zionists saw it only as a step for future expansion (David BenGuren- Wikipedia). The Israeli incitement for violence started with the “Nakba of 1948” where Israel evicted about 700,000 Palestinians from their lands, sometimes in brutal manner and other Zionist Jewish settlers still invading and taking over Palestinian land.

David F. Queen
Red Hook

Governor Hochul’s ambitious agenda comes up short again

To the editor:
Governor Hochul has released her \$260 billion budget and policy proposals for SFY 2026-2027, providing for more than 200 initiatives. And, once again, comes up short.
While I’m not surprised, I am disappointed that the Governor did not include any increase for Early Intervention Services, notwithstanding a huge budgetary increase for almost everything.

As many folks know, Early Intervention is rooted in IDEA 1986, Part C, providing infants and toddlers with Special Needs, with specialized services (PT, OT, SLP, Audiology, Special Instruction, etc). It’s recognized as one of the most successful programs ever launched in NYS, giving these children a much needed start towards a lifetime of success. No one disputes this!
The Early Intervention Program is at a critical juncture. Over 2,500 highly skilled providers have left this program in the past two years. Their reimbursement rates are LESS NOW than in 1994, when a large pizza was \$5. These dedicated professionals are not seeking a huge increase, merely an increase that would return to the 1994 rates. How fair is that? It would cost NYS approximately \$40 million.

For the past three years, the NYS Legislature, Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, a plethora of advocacy organizations and professional associations, have pleaded with the Governor for relief. According to the Comptroller’s Office, tens of thousands of NYS kids are unserved or underserved, ranking the Empire State near the very bottom nationally, along with Mississippi and West Virginia. How shameful is that? Hopefully, the Legislature will support Early Intervention Services once again, spotlighting the injustice and encouraging the Governor to do the right thing.

Is it possible, that there are more than 200 initiatives, that are more important than the future of babies and toddlers with Special Needs in NYS? I don’t think so!

Frank M. Volz, Jr.
Pine Plains

An ode to Minnesota

To the editor:
For most of my life, before moving to New York’s Hudson Valley 30 years ago, I lived within an hour’s drive of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and I can honestly write that I love that great state and her people nearly as much as I love New York, and therefore, having to watch these last few weeks of Trump’s War on Minnesota has been infuriating.
I say this: If this administration was truly interested in pursuing undocumented immigrants, ICE would be terrorizing Texas and Florida instead, as each of those states have more than 10

times the number of the undocumented than Minnesota; if this President was serious about fraud, he would not be pardoning criminals convicted of fraud; if this President was serious about keeping drugs off of America’s streets, he would not have pardoned Honduras’s former President who was convicted of smuggling hundreds of millions of dollars of drugs into the U.S.
By his own actions, therefore, we can see that this President is not serious. Thanks to whistleblowers, we now know that ICE and DHS are training its masked men to violate the Fourth Amendment—you know, the one which requires judicial warrants for officers to enter our homes. ICE agents have apprehended and used five-year-olds as bait, they are caught on videos pepper spraying the face of an immobilized protestor pinned to the ground by other masked men.

And we all know about the violent death of Renee Good and now Alex Pretti. In his most recent campaign, candidate Trump promised retribution. We should take him at his word, as retribution against a state which never voted for him is what this appears to be about. His actions, and the actions of his administration read as deliberate escalations - purposeful attempts to incite violence to enable further escalation.

But Minnesotans know that you must not give in, that one needs to stand up to bullies, and that is what they did Friday. Peacefully. Tens of thousands of them marching in brutal cold demanding that ICE goes home. I’m proud of them, but pride is fleeting as there is no end in sight to this terror. This only ends when enough Republicans of conscience remember the values they used to hold, and find the courage to say that they’ve had enough. If it’s happening there, it can happen here. It’s time to end this.

Mark Lagus
Town of Northeast

The future of our rural community

To the editor:
As a longtime member of our community, I am increasingly concerned about development proposals that could fundamentally alter the character of where we live and work.

On January 21, 2026, I attended a Clinton Town Hall Planning Board meeting focused on the ongoing review of the proposed Six Senses hotel, spa, and conference center. The project would develop approximately 32 acres of a 238-acre parcel located primarily in the Town of Clinton, with a portion in Hyde Park. For those unfamiliar with this proposal and its broader implications, a comprehensive overview is available at Commonsenseshv.org.

I want to be clear: I am not opposed to growth or job creation. My concerns center on preserving the rural character of our area, protecting environmental health, managing increased traffic, and safeguarding the natural beauty that defines daily life here.

Given the scale of this project, a full SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) review appears necessary. One major issue discussed at the meeting involved wastewater effluent generated by the hotel and spa. The proposal would result in the daily discharge of approximately 18,500 gallons of treated wastewater into the Crum Elbow Creek. This creek flows through multiple communities and is a well-established fishing stream where people catch and consume fish.

What was not discussed—and should be addressed publicly—is whether this discharge could contain harmful substances such as PFAS or PCB-type “forever chemicals,” which persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in living organisms. This is a serious public health concern. The Planning Board should obtain this information and make it available for public review.

Another unresolved issue involved the remaining 206 acres of the parcel, largely composed of wetlands and steep terrain that appear unbuildable. The Planning Board reasonably requested a conservation agreement to permanently protect this land from future development. The applicant’s resistance to such an agreement raises concerns about possible future expansion. Many residents already believe the proposed hotel and spa are outsized for our community and would prefer a reduced footprint and lower intensity of use.

Finally, this application has exposed weaknesses in our zoning laws that may allow other projects to capitalize on these gaps. A current example is Milea Vineyards, which is seeking to expand at the former Clinton Vineyards property on Schultzville Road. The proposal includes a large restaurant footprint and a substantial asphalt parking lot.

Schultzville Road is designated as one of Dutchess County’s most scenic roads, valued for its historic character, tree canopy, and use by walkers, cyclists, and drivers. Increased traffic and commercial intensity would significantly alter its character and impact nearby residents.

Unless stronger protective measures are adopted, these developments do not bode well for our community. We must carefully consider our future and take deliberate steps to preserve the character, environment, and quality of life that make this area special.

Rudy Heintze
Town of Clinton

Fidelis Care presents \$16,500 ‘Here for Your Health’ grant to United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region



Officials of Fidelis Care are pictured with representatives of United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. *Courtesy photo*

Fidelis Care, a statewide health plan with more than 2.4 million members in New York State and a Centene Corporation company, presented a \$16,500 “Here for Your Health” rural health grant to United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

This grant is one of seven totaling \$130,000 awarded to providers and community-based organizations that support innovative preventive care programs in rural communities across New York State.

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in

the community. The organization plans to use the Fidelis Care Here for Your Health rural health grant to support Ride United, an initiative focused on removing transportation barriers for vulnerable populations in Dutchess and Orange Counties. Founded in 2021, Ride United gives individuals better access to healthcare appointments and screenings, work and school, and food and other essentials. The program provides one-time, round-trip transportation through private car services, buses, trains, and other non-emergency transportation options. It has served more than 1,000 people since its inception.

Navigating menopause event set Feb. 26 at Starr Library

Amy Novatt, MD and Marybeth Cale, Certified Life and Health Coach have announced details of “Change is Inevitable: Courage and Confidence through Midlife Transitions.” The event will be held on Thursday, February 26 from 7-9 p.m. at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck (downstairs / back entry to the building).

According to Novatt and Cale, the objective is to empower and educate women navigating perimenopause/menopause. Dr. Novatt will lead an informative discussion that covers hormonal changes, menopause therapy, and body image, and Cale intends to facilitate activities designed to help guests consider what makes them thrive, and what action steps can optimize feelings of well-being.

Novatt, MD is a board-certified OB-GYN with more than 30 years of clinical experience. Her work centers on integrating women’s health with lifestyle practices that support wellness across the lifespan. She guides women through perimenopause, menopause, sexual health concerns, and the challenges of chronic

medical conditions—both in clinical settings and through retreat-based programs. She is also the creator and host of GynoCurious, a global podcast exploring women’s health and the many ways we heal and are healed.

Cale is a National Board Certified Health and Wellness Coach and Certified Life Coach. Founder of Estuary Coaching, she offers individual and group coaching on a number of topics, including well-being, confident communication, empathic listening, stress management, business development, and more. Cale is also a writer, publicist, and co-president of Cale Communications. In her free time, she serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees for Anderson Foundation for Autism, Chair of Anderson Foundation’s PR Committee, and Chair of Rhinebeck Rotary’s Community Health Committee (which works to address food insecurity and mental health and wellness locally).

Advance reservation and payment is required to attend the February 26th event, as space is limited. Visit estuarycoaching.com/packages to register.

New York Army National Guard promotions

LATHAM, NY - Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announces the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Darryl Avery of Millerton, assigned to Bravo Company, NY Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion, received a promotion November 21, 2025 to the rank of private.

Emily Desouza Rivas of Clinton Corners, assigned to Bravo Company, NY Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion, received a promotion November 21, 2025 to the rank of private.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a soldier’s overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential. These promotions recognize the best qualified soldiers for a career in the New

York Army National Guard.

Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit www.dmna.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com

The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state’s executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York’s Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

Joe Ely named chairman for Ulster Savings Bank Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Ulster Savings Bank has announced the appointment of Joe Ely as its new chairman beginning in 2026.

Ely, who has chaired the Risk committee, the Audit committee, and served as a former chair of the Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation during his 14 years as a bank trustee, recently retired after serving in numerous engineering, program management, and executive roles in a wide range of other intensive technology businesses.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Hartford, and a Master of Science degree in Engineering Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He previously held national and New York State securities and insurance licenses.

His professional involvement included membership in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Project Management Institute (PMI). He has served as an advisor on the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Security Standards Council, the I-95 Corridor Coalition, and OmniAir payment interoperability. He was also granted a U.S. Patent.



Joe Ely

Ely previously served on the Rhinebeck Technology Committee and the Cable Franchise Board of Control. He’s been involved with other community organizations including the Southlands Foundation, Little League Softball, Neighbor’s Gun Club, Mensa, and Intertel.

Ely currently resides in Rhinebeck.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

The first nationwide three-digit mental health crisis hotline is up and running. It is designed to be as easy to remember as 911, but when you dial 988, a dispatcher will connect callers with trained mental health counselors.

Dialing 988:

- Is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress.
- Provides support: People may dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.
- Help for VETERANS: Veterans can press “1” after dialing 988 and be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.

NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS: 2026 HOME IMPROVEMENT FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA

Roof • Windows • Siding • Bathrooms • Heating & More

Is your home telling you it’s time?

- ✓ Roof showing age, leaks, or storm damage
- ✓ Old, drafty windows driving up energy bills
- ✓ Outdated bathrooms or exterior issues
- ✓ Projects you “planned” to do-but put off because of cost

You may qualify for special home improvement funding programs not available to the general public.

- ✓ Lower out-of-pocket costs
- ✓ Spread payments over time
- ✓ Move forward without delaying needed work

Even homeowners who could pay cash are encouraged to check eligibility.

ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED

Programs, appointments, and installations are available on a first-come, first-served basis in your area. Programs change frequently and may close without notice.

CALL NOW TO CHECK ELIGIBILITY
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COLLEGE NOTES

VALDOSTA, GA - Valdosta State University congratulates Steven Mauro of Stormville for earning a spot on the Fall 2025 Dean's List.

To qualify for Dean's List at VSU, students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional grade point average of 3.00 or higher. Please note that developmental studies, transient, and graduate students are not eligible for Dean's List status.

BUFFALO, NY - The following local students were named to the University at Buffalo's fall 2025 dean's list; Regina Avancena of Red Hook, Cameron Decker of Red Hook, Benjamin Finch of Red Hook, Irelynn Fitzgerald of Hyde Park, Jake Florin of Hyde Park, Liam Hally of Red Hook, Sarah Holtman of Red Hook, Josh Lipke of Milan, Talia Lipke of Milan, Micah Sinclair of Amenia.

To qualify for the dean's list, full-time undergraduate students must demonstrate academic excellence by earning a grade

point average of at least 3.600 while completing a minimum of 12 or more UB letter graded (A-F) credit hours. Students are named to the dean's list at the end of the fall and spring semesters.

WEST HARTFORD, CT - The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,327 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the spring 2025 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Among those recognized are:
Madeline Granger of Dover Plains - Dean's List
MacKenzie Hayes of Holmes -

Dean's List
Italia McGlasson of Holmes - Dean's List
Emily Chason of Lagrangeville - Dean's List and President's List
Kaitlyn Benny of Poughquag - Dean's List
Jake Short of Poughquag - Dean's List
Katie Hiraldo of Stormville - Dean's List
Shea Gallagher of Rhinebeck - Dean's List and President's List
Anna Faraldi of Rhinebeck - Dean's List
Briahna Curcio of Staatsburg - Dean's List and President's List

SPRINGFIELD, MA - Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List students for the 2025 Fall Semester. This list includes:

Emanuel Allen from Rhinebeck. Allen has a primary major of Health Science.
Hope Christensen from Red Hook. Christensen has a primary major of Education.

Collin Fuller from Millbrook. Fuller has a primary major of Exercise Science / Applied ES.

Sebastian Ortega Gutierrez from Red Hook. Ortega Gutierrez has a primary major of History.

Briseida Ortega-Gutierrez from Red Hook. Ortega-Gutierrez has a primary major of Health Science.

Faith Owusu-Ansah from Pleasant Valley. Owusu-Ansah has a primary major of Health Science.

Parker Ruger from Rhinebeck. Ruger has a primary major of Psychology.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term. Student must not have been barred from Dean's List due to disciplinary action.

EAST STROUDSBURG, PA - Eleeana Francia, a Physical Education Teacher Education from Clinton Corners, is among the 1,965 students have been named to the Dean's List at East Stroudsburg University for the Fall 2025 semester of the 2025-2026 academic year.

Students eligible for the Dean's List must have achieved a 3.50 grade point average (GPA) or higher and be enrolled full-time. For reference, the grade "B" equates to 3 quality points per credit, while an "A" earns 4 quality points per credit.

NEW PALTZ, NY - SUNY New Paltz announces its Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester, a recognition for students who excel academically and earn at least a 3.3 grade-point average in a semester with a full-time course load.

Local students include Colby Ackley of Staatsburg, Jessica Amato of Tivoli, Emily Anderson of Red Hook, Olivia Babcock of Hyde Park, Kylie Barbato of Red Hook, Ariana Bianchini of Pleasant Valley, Mara Blatz of Pleasant Valley, Moira Burns of Red Hook, Daniel Butt of Hyde Park, Steven Cassarino of Rhinebeck, Vanessa Coons of Red Hook, Kaitlyn Cvijanovich of Hyde Park, Katrina D'Antonio of Amenia, Carolina Dickens of Rhinebeck, Caroline

Dockstader of Stanfordville, Colleen Doherty of Tivoli, Bridget Donnelly of Stanfordville, Caitlyn Doyle of Red Hook, Camila Duran of Hyde Park, Mackenzie Ean of Pleasant Valley, Gianna Geraci of Clinton Corners, Mimzy Guzman-Henriquez of Millbrook, Moses Guzman-Henriquez of Millbrook, Allie Hammell of Pleasant Valley, Julia Jacques of Hyde Park, Madeline Kerzner of Red Hook, Diego Lopez of Clinton Corners, Gloria Losurdo of Red Hook, Thomas Macpherson of Pleasant Valley, John Magnarella of Pine Plains, Madeline Marchant of Clinton Corners, Mawazi Matende of Hyde Park, Sofie Morton of Wassaic, Aaron Munn of Red Hook, Kole Niznik of Hyde Park, Katelyn Oles of Hyde Park, Julia Osterhoudt of Staatsburg, Ashley Ottman of Red Hook, Lacy Parsons of Red Hook, Sophie Pelletier of Pleasant Valley, Marissa Perricelli of Pleasant Valley, Joseph Randazzo of Pleasant Valley, Heidy Ruiz of Pleasant Valley, Abigail Scott of Red Hook, Jack Scott of Pleasant Valley, Ryan Scott of Hyde Park, Benjamin Siebold of Hyde Park, Mia Socci of Millbrook, Jack Sozzi of Staatsburg, Reign Stokes of Hyde Park, Paige Teixeira of Red Hook, Olivia Tolomeo of Staatsburg, Maxwell Ulyatt of Millbrook, Benjamin Van Kleck of Red Hook, Tania Wells of Stanfordville, Ashlynn Wilk of Hyde Park.

MURFREESBORO, TN - Middle Tennessee State University is congratulating 6,647 students who appear on the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester, including Jacob McGee of Red Hook.

To qualify for this distinction, an undergraduate student must maintain a current semester grade-point average of 3.5 or above and earn at least 12 semester hours.

HEMPSTEAD, NY - Arianna Lutz of Lagrangeville achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the fall 2025 semester, earning a spot on the Provost's List at Hofstra University. Arianna's major is English.

ADELPHI, MD - More than 18,700 University of Maryland Global Campus students were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 term. Local students include Luke Hobson of Red Hook and Richard Wasvary of Hyde Park.

To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

AMES, IA - More than 11,800 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 fall semester Dean's List. Included for this honor was Shane Maleonskie of Pleasant Valley (Finance, B.S.)

Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

RANDOLPH CENTER, VT - Vermont State University is pleased to recognize Austin Sypek of Lagrangeville for earning a place on the President's List for Fall 2025.

This highest academic distinction honors full-time students who achieved a 4.0 semester grade point average.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

FDR girls basketball team is undefeated for January

By Morgan E. Maier

As a massive snowstorm threatened games and practices (and school!), Dutchess County's high school athletes continued warming up their winter seasons. Our Lady of Lourdes swimmers found success in the pool, while Franklin D. Roosevelt continued its strengths on the court (All results as of Jan. 25).

Presidents' month - The FDR Presidents have not lost a girls' basketball game in three weeks. After opening the new year with a tournament loss on Jan. 3, the Franklin D. Roosevelt girls' basketball team is undefeated this month. They have five straight wins while holding opponents to 40 points or fewer, including a 63-40 win over a domineering Marlboro Dukes team. Their shooting especially scorched Rondout Valley before getting snowed in, staying perfect at home with a 61-28 win on Jan. 23. Holding a 3-0 record in their own court, the Presidents next host Poughkeepsie on Jan. 29.

Bulldog Tournament hosts county's wrestling talent - Beacon's Jan. 20 wrestling tournament, weather-delayed by two days, featured a plethora of action as athletes from Arlington, Fallsburg-Tri Valley, Roy C. Ketcham, Goshen, Kingston, Saugerties, Ellenville and Highland visited the Bulldogs' mats.

In the final weight class melee of the day, Elijah Rupp and Jay Adams captured 3rd and 5th place finishes for Beacon in the 285-pound weight class. Ketcham's Bojk Bojkaj went all six minutes against Goshen's Dominic Cusumano and the 3-

1 decision went in favor of the Gladiator from Goshen.

Greg Schaefer earned first in the 118-pound class with a technical fall on RCK's Lucas Glickman. Beacon's Nathaniel Salvati took third place over Ketcham's Aidan Francis with a 12-5 decision. For Arlington, Vincent Ariola (103 pounds) took three wins in his four matches, with three falls and a 4-0 decision on the day. Antonio Quinones also took three wins for the Admirals, with two technical falls and a 1:26 fall.

Warriors, Raiders, Hawks earn Section 9 swim berths - On Jan. 22, Lourdes, Red Hook, and Rhinebeck met at the Marlboro High School pool for a three-sided meet. The Warriors won both team matches, 111-40 against Rhinebeck and 86-77 over Red Hook. Red Hook bested Rhinebeck, 98-49. Swimmers from all three schools earned Section 9 meet qualifications, including two earned by Rhinebeck's Joseph Pociask. A 24.65 in the 50-yard freestyle, followed by 1:11.16 in the 100-yard breaststroke, earned Pociask's pair of qualifications. Two first-place finishes by Red Hook's Reuben Berko earned 76.5 points for his team on the day. They included a 3.5 second improvement by Jackson Lunceford in the 100-yard butterfly, where he took second to teammate Berko, marked a section qualifying swim for the senior. Lourdes high scorer Nick Napoli took two golds, in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke. Napoli's 1:59.60 in the freestyle marked the Warriors' lone Section 9 qualification in this meet.

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A & E CALENDAR

Through Feb. 1: “Mary Poppins,” The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. CENTERstage Productions presents a musical is based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film; with original music and lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman, book by Julian Fellowes, plus new songs and additional music and lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones upon whom she has a profound effect. Performances: Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$29. www.centerforperformingarts.org or (845) 876-3080

Through Feb. 7: MODfest, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. Vassar's 24th annual interdisciplinary tribute to the arts, featuring music, dance, visual arts, and—for the first time, an opera. All events are free and open to the public. Complete schedule of events at <https://modfest2026.vassar.edu/>

Jan. 27: Author Event, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Oblong Books and Morton present Emma Tourtelot (“No One You Know: A Novel”) in conversation with Sari Botton (“And You May Find Yourself ... Confessions of a Late-Blooming Gen-X Weirdo”), 6:30 p.m. Told in the dual voices of a mother and daughter grappling with loss, “No One You Know” is filled with poignant observations on parenthood, best friendship, class and political divides, infidelity in a small town—and the bitter truth that death can touch everything we love. Registration required. Admission with book: \$21 - includes one hardcover copy of “No One You Know” and sales tax. Admission only: \$10. (845) 876-2903 or <https://morton.rhinecliff.lib.ny.us/>

Jan. 31: The Chatham Trio, Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. Trio showcases an engaging program of

solos, duets, and trios for clarinets and piano, 4-5:30 p.m. The program includes opera arias by Mozart, a concert piece by Mendelssohn, and works by other classical masters, along with klezmer and soundtrack selections. Admission \$20. Advance reservations not required. More info: copakegrange@gmail.com or www.copakegrange.org/events.

Jan. 31: Winter Garden Talk, Amenia Free Library, 3309 Rte. 343, Amenia. The Amenia Garden Club presents Kate Kerin, Landscape Curator at Innisfree Garden, who will talk about this extraordinary 185-acre garden in Millbrook, 2 p.m. Learn about its unique design influences, history, and how the garden is adapting to climate change. More info: www.ameniagardens.org

Feb. 4: Concert by Yefim Bronfman, Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. The Howland Chamber Music Circle presents a special concert by world-renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman, 7 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musician and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. Tickets at www.howlandmusic.org

Feb. 4: Deraps, Daryl's House Club, 130 Rte. 22, Pawling. New hard-rock powerhouse band from Canada brings their high-voltage, late-'70s-inspired sound to the US for the first time, 7 p.m. www.darylshouseclub.com

Feb. 4, Textile Conservation, Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rte. 55, Lagrangeville. Skyllkill, a local chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America, presents Meredith Wilcox-Levine, curator of the Textile Conservation Workshop in South Salem, NY. Ms. Wilcox-Levine will be showing textile pieces and sharing how she does museum quality conservation, cleaning, mounting as well as research on clients' personal pieces. This program begins at 12:30 p.m. Join other needleworkers for fun and learning beginning at 10 a.m. or come for this program only beginning at 12:30. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/SkylkillIGA or email to EGASkylkill@gmail.com.

Vanderbilt Garden Association seeks volunteers

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association is looking for volunteers to perform all tasks required to plant and maintain the formal gardens on the grounds of the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site in Hyde Park. No gardening expertise is needed, training is provided as the volunteers work.

Volunteers must be age 18 or older and be able to perform, at minimum, basic physical labor such as bending, kneeling and carrying buckets.

Garden work is done during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The Association also offers a “Greeter

Program” on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. At least two-volunteers are needed for each afternoon. No gardening involved. The Greeter volunteers encourage visitation to the formal garden through the provision of self-guided tour brochures and explanation of the garden emphasizing the volunteerism involved in the garden maintenance and the need for community support through monetary donations.

You are welcome to work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, e-mail volunteers@vanderbiltgarden.org or visit www.vanderbiltgarden.org.

In Flight, Inc to host ‘Sweetheart Silent Auction’ from Feb. 1-7

For the second year in a row, local nonprofit organization, In Flight, Inc. will host the “Sweetheart Silent Auction,” a completely online event running Feb. 1-7, offering Valetine’s gifts that give back. Featuring romantic date-night packages and local experiences, the Sweetheart Silent Auction has something for everyone.

More than a chance to find the perfect Valentine’s Day gift, In Flight’s Sweetheart Silent Auction supports programs that prioritize the health, safety, and independence of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Funds raised strengthen wellness initiatives, including heart-health supports, early detection efforts, and the tools

needed to provide regular checkups within In Flight’s programs.

While shopping for Valentine’s gifts, community members can also share a thoughtful gesture with participants in In Flight’s programs. For a suggested donation of \$5, a carnation will be delivered to one of over a hundred participants, brightening their day and letting them know they are valued by their community. Bella Fiori Floral Co., Petals & Moss, and Marsh Meadow Farm generously donate these carnations, helping the community spread love, acceptance, and inclusivity with this heartfelt gesture.

Visit In Flight’s Facebook page or inflightinc.org for auction details, highlights, and updates.

Miles of Hope appoints new development director

The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation recently announced the appointment of Lynne Versace as the new development director. Versac comes to Miles of Hope from the local offices of the New York Senate where she was the special events coordinator. Her experience also includes nine years as the senior community development director at the March of Dimes.

“Lynne’s leadership will be instrumental as we continue to expand our programs and strengthen our partnerships,” said Foundation Executive Director Pari Forood. “As a former Dutchess County legislator in the 14th District representing the towns of Poughkeepsie and Wappinger, Lynne has amassed a great

deal of knowledge about our community which aligns perfectly with our mission and values.”

The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation is a public charity with a mission to fund support services, education and outreach for people affected by breast cancer within the nine counties of the Hudson Valley, New York. Founded in 2004, Miles of Hope has given away over \$4 million dollars to individuals and programs helping people with breast cancer pay their bills alleviating some of the financial and emotional burden of a breast cancer diagnosis.

Visit <https://milesofhope.org/> for more information.

EXHIBITIONS

Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. **Through April 7:** “Look Close”, photographs by Jen Radicone. poklib.org/events/art-in-the-library

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 &12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through February:** The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center kicks off its 2026 Art Exhibition Season with 13 artists in three Visual Art Galleries. Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. in Poughkeepsie will be Kelly Stohr, presenting her solo exhibition, “Shadow Map.” At 12 Vassar St., WomensWork.Art brings together 12 artists for their group show, “Something About the Women,” in the Hancock and Reception Galleries. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Curio Cabinet of the Hudson Valley, 300 Main St., Poughkeepsie. **Through February:** “Curio - Curioso” a solo exhibition by noted multidisciplinary artist Franc Palaia. www.curiocabinetHV.com

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 1:** “Chronostasia: Select Acquisitions 2020–2025,” an exhibition that brings together more than s60 works acquired over the past five years. **Closing Program:** Thurs., Jan. 29, 5:30 p.m., in Taylor 102, artist talk with Cecilia Vicuña. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through July 7:** Special exhibition, “Signature Moments: Letters from the Famous, the Infamous, and Everyday Americans,” During their extraordinary public careers, the Roosevelts interacted with a “who’s who” of the 20th century. “Signature Moments” opens the FDR Library’s archives and museum for an insider’s view of the remarkable – and sometimes surprising – variety of personal exchanges with an amazing array of famous (and a few infamous) people, including golden age movie stars, queens and kings, scientists, and legendary military heroes. Visitors will see signatures of literary giants, celebrated artists, world leaders, and, of course, prominent politicians and political activists – including seven American presidents. Regular Library and Museum admission applies to view the exhibit. www.fdrlibrary.org

Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. **Through April 12:** “Bannerman Island and the Mighty Hudson River Exhibition,” the Second Annual Collaborative Hudson Valley Landscape Fine Art Show, featuring unique fine art paintings, watercolors, prints, photography and mixed media works in a variety of genres - from traditional and representational works to abstract masterpiece. (845) 831-4988 or www.howlandculturalcenter.org

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through February:** The Millbrook Arts Project presents “The Color of Growth,” bringing together four artists - Irja Bodén, JoAnne Lobotsky, Patrick Neal, and Colin O’Con - whose work re-imagines nature and landscape as dynamic sites of transformation. **Artist Talk** with Irja Bodén and JoAnne Lobotsky: Sat., Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through Feb. 27:** “Mother’s Favorite Spatula: 20 Years of Painting by Angela Basile,” the exhibition spans work made between 2006 and 2026, offering a glimpse into how ideas, themes, and styles overlap and evolve over time. **Reception:** Fri., Feb. 6, 5 p.m. (845) 876-4030 or www.starrlibrary.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Feb. 8:** “The Language of Black & White,” an exploration of light, shadow, texture, and emotion through the timeless world of black and white art. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

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From 1776: The voices of indigenous peoples heard locally

By Bill Jeffway

This is part of an ongoing series of DCHS findings that look at the launch of countless local journeys inspired by the 1776 American Revolution as we approach its 250th anniversary. At the time, the American promise of freedom and equality was a radical experiment. When we look at local Indigenous communities, we find that their ambition to maintain vital, dynamic, and discreet communities across generations past, present and future has consistently involved addressing land rights issues.

Some contemporary examples of today’s communities may be found at www.dchsnny.org/rev250-indigenous.

But first, here is some context from the Revolutionary period itself.

Many people are familiar with the great American Patriot Daniel Nimham who was originally from southernmost Dutchess County, today’s Putnam County. His motivation to join the Patriot rather than the British cause may have stemmed from his failure to get what he felt was just treatment from the British.

In 1767, he traveled to England to argue his case to the British Secretary of State and Lords of Trade, who turned down his appeal. He died in battle in the Revolution in 1778. Had he lived, he no doubt would have faced the same obstacles with the new United States that he faced in trying to have his land rights issues resolved with Colonial New York.

At the time of the publishing of the Declaration of Independence, expectations of fair treatment and property rights had been in the air among Indigenous people as both British and US Patriots sought their support.

In the late summer of 1775, “King” Solomon Uhhaunauwaunmut of the Stockbridge Munsee spoke at the Treaty of Albany meeting to leading Patriots saying, “Wherever you go, we will be by your side. Our bones shall die with yours. If we are conquered our Lands go with yours, but if we are victorious we hope you will help us to recover our just rights.” Uhhaunauwaunmut became an important Indigenous combatant, among

many, for the patriot cause. But tensions over land rights would continue.

Although the phrase manifest destiny did not come into use until 1845, the concept of westward expansion to the Pacific was well in play in 1839 when efforts to remove any remaining Indigenous populations from New York State were under way.

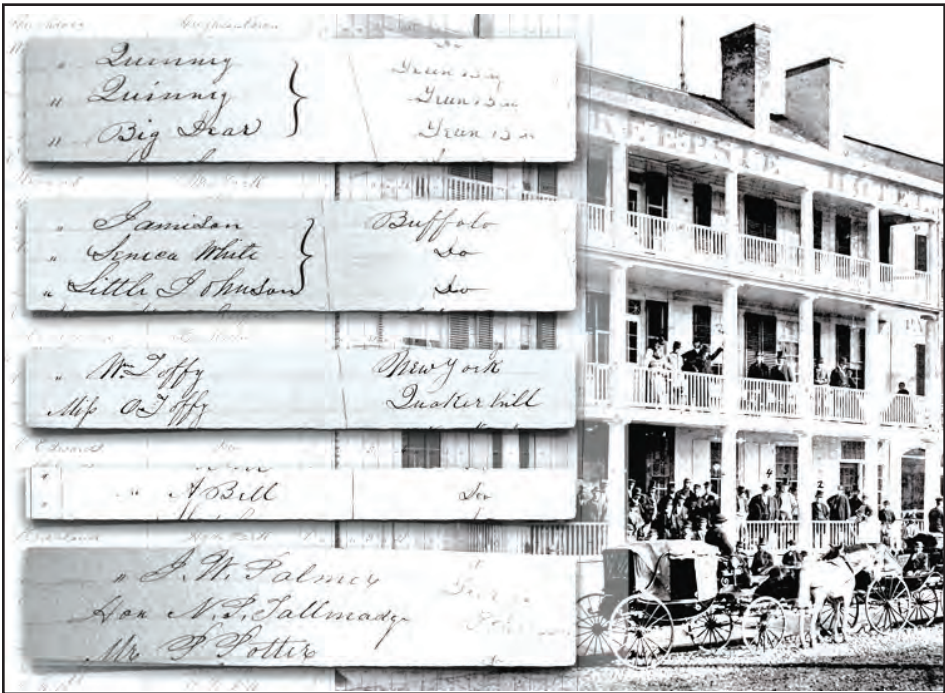
Poughkeepsie’s Nathaniel P. Tallmadge was a U.S. Senator from New York who was involved in the making and amending of an important Senate bill related to what was largely seen as a fraudulently obtained 1838 Treaty of Buffalo Creek.

Through the Poughkeepsie Hotel register (DCHS Collections) of 1839 we find a January 10 gathering of the most important leaders of Indigenous Peoples at the time.

Six leaders arrived and registered at the hotel. The Seneca leaders Jamison, Seneca White, and Little Johnson arrived from Buffalo and were noted as “Indians.” Two men named Quinny (one of whom would have been John Wannaucon Quinney), and Big Bear from Green Bay, Wisconsin, were noted as “Indian Chiefs.” These leaders were trying to reverse the goals of the 1838 treaty they say was unjustly obtained by the United States, that would relocate any remaining Indigenous in New York State communities to the U.S. West.

They were aided by Quakers, who in 1839 published a significant committee report documenting the overwhelming wish of the majority Indigenous people to remain on ancestral lands. We believe at least two of those registering at the hotel at the same time were important Quaker leaders. The treaty was ultimately amended in 1842 which preserved the Seneca territories of Allegany, Cattaraugus and Oil Springs. This was a small, but important victory. But larger battles continued.

One-hundred and ten years after the launch of the American Revolution, the Dutchess County Peace Society had its annual gathering for thousands on August 1, 1886 in the Town of Clinton’s Wiley’s Grove. The group’s leadership emerged from local Quaker husband and wife



The 1839 hotel register of the Poughkeepsie Hotel (Market Street now runs north on top of and through the former site at Main Street) shows the names of six important Indigenous national leaders. William Toffey and Abraham Bell were well known Quaker leaders. They were likely part of a major meeting with then US Senator from New York, Poughkeepsie’s Nathaniel P. Tallmadge. *Courtesy of DCHS Collections*

Charles and Amanda Deyo.

The Society’s main goal was to stop deadly war; but included advocacy for the fair and equal treatment of Indigenous people, people of color, women, and the working class.

On that particular day in Clinton, Chief Red Cloud (1822-1909), a highly regarded leader of the Oglala Lakota, spoke through a translator. The New York Times described him as “the greatest Chief...about six and a half feet in height, and large in proportion.”

Comments of Chief Red Cloud that day reflect the challenge of balancing a defense of identity and assimilation to engage. At Wiley’s Grove he said, “I am glad to come among White folks. I am glad to have White folks visit my people. My boys wanted to taunt White people. I would not let them. Now they don’t want to fight anymore. I came out east to see about my lands. I came with Mr. Cody (Buffalo Bill) not for money alone but to learn.”

Other speakers that day argued for citizenship rights for Indigenous people which were eventually granted in 1924. Except for the controversial 1887 Dawes

Act, which for nearly 50 years promoted individual land ownership among American Indians, the federal approach was to relocate and consolidate Indigenous people on reservations.

The profiles of the many Indigenous people who lived locally is a separate and ongoing exercise. We end with a brief single profile: Hannah Coshire. The 1919 reporting of her 1887 death in or near LaGrange is revealing. The Sunday Courier (Poughkeepsie) at the time described her as, “the last of the Schaghticoke.” The persistently popular 1826 book, The Last of the Mohicans by James Fennimore Cooper, fixed a narrative that many contemporary Indigenous people wish to correct. Keep an eye out for historical narratives of a “disappeared race” while examining the contemporary voices of Indigenous people today.

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



From left, Daniel Nimham (ca. 1726–1778) gave his life for the American Patriot cause and is memorialized through a monument in Fishkill. John Quinney (1797-1855) was an important Stockbridge-Munsee leader who had resettled in Wisconsin. Red Cloud (1822-1909), the highly regarded leader of the Oglala Lakota, gave a speech at Wiley’s Grove in the town of Clinton. Hannah Coshire (ca. 1800-1877) was described as “the last of the Schaghticoke” when she died, perpetuating the myth of the vanished race.

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Lemon Olive Oil Cake

Delightfully moist and not too sweet – perfect for a snack with coffee or tea.

In terms of food, there are many things I’ve never tried to make before, and the proverbial bucket list is lengthy enough that I decided it was time to chip away at it. One recipe that’s languished on that list is olive oil cake. I just never got around to making it or even trying it when it was the popular thing to do, but it isn’t the first time I’ve been a little late to the game and now, as luck would have it, it seems to be having a bit of a resurgence; so the time was right to give it a go.

I honestly wasn’t sure I’d love it and certainly didn’t think it merited all the hype. Turns out I should have tried it years ago, because it was worth it. It’s lovely and satisfying and I get the appeal, though I dare say it may not be for everyone. But if you like simple cakes with few ingredients that turn out delightfully moist and not overly sweet, then olive oil cake is for you.

I suppose one reason I never got around to it was the anticipation of it tasting like olive oil, which I happen to love but not necessarily in a cake. I’m not gonna lie – it’s definitely in there, though I think that has everything to do with the type of olive oil you use. But it isn’t unpleasant by any means, at least for me. I don’t like my desserts overly sweet anyway. But if you can get past that and appreciate the complexity of flavors the simple ingredients bring to the table and the ever-so-slightly bitter note from the fruity oil, then you’re sure to like it. It bakes up with a crisp top, a delectably moist crumb and rich mouthfeel that still manage to be somehow light. A simple sprinkling of confectioner’s sugar on top is all it really needs to finish it and – voila – a lovely snack cake that’s perfect with a cup of tea.

I did a lot of research before I made it, comparing several recipes and taking it from there. Some added fresh orange juice and zest, others Grand Marnier or lemon. I had already intended to use lemon because the complement of flavors just made sense and really appealed to me. I did try a version with orange and Grand Marnier but, if you ask me, it’s lemon all the way!

The ingredients across the board were pretty much the same otherwise, but the amounts of each varied greatly, so I came up with my own based on my baking experience. I wouldn’t change a thing with this lemon version. If you like a sweeter cake, you could make a lemon glaze for the top and/or serve with a dollop of whipped sweetened mascarpone, but I prefer the simple perfection of it without all that. Plus, the lovely top “crust” is part of its charm, and a sweet glaze would alter that, but to each his

own. I imagine a lemony glaze would also offset the olive oil flavor, which might be preferable for some.

LEMON OLIVE OIL CAKE

As the name implies, olive oil is the star here. The type you choose will affect the flavor because you will likely taste it; although to be fair, if you didn’t know you maybe couldn’t put your finger on it. I could detect it though it wasn’t overpowering. I went with an extra virgin oil, which is more flavorful, so maybe that’s why. (I almost used the bold, peppery one I prefer using for salads and finishing but am glad I didn’t). It adds richness of flavor with pleasant, subtly earthy, slightly grassy notes and you absolutely cannot beat the moistness and tender crumb it creates. In other words, the texture is heavenly! Because it’s only slightly sweet, it would be perfect for breakfast or brunch or really any time you want a tasty snack. The lemon surprisingly isn’t overly pronounced but rather complements or maybe offsets the olive oil. It’s just a combination that plays well together.

NOTE: You will need a round cake pan for this, preferably 9-inch with 2-inch depth. A shorter pan will not hold all the batter and will overflow as it bakes. You may have to serve it straight from the pan: I greased and lined mine with parchment but the cake didn’t release from the pan, which was fine. It rose just to the top of the pan, nice and flat without a rounded top. You could certainly use a spring-form pan but will want to wrap the bottom and up the sides with foil to prevent leaking and check it after 50 minutes for doneness.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups flour (I used all-purpose), sifted
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup olive oil (I used extra virgin but opt for a light variety if you want less olive taste)
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- Zest from 1 lemon (it works best to zest the lemon before juicing)
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice (from about 2 lemons, depending on size)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup milk

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
In a medium bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt together to blend well. Set aside.
In a large bowl, whisk olive oil and eggs together. Add sugar, lemon zest and juice, vanilla and milk and whisk to combine.
Add the flour mixture, half at a time,



Lemon Olive Oil Cake. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

and whisk just to combine. Avoid over-mixing for the best texture. The batter will be loose.

Pour into prepared pan. (It should come to within half an inch of the top). Bake until risen, set and golden brown on top, 55-60 minutes. Not sure if it’s done? Insert a toothpick in the center. If it comes out clean or with a few moist crumbs clinging to it, it’s done. Cool slightly before dusting top with confectioner’s sugar. Enjoy immensely.

If you think it isn’t for you, I still suggest you try it. But I should warn you – if you’re anything like me, the first bite had me saying “Hmm,” but subsequent bites had me oddly addicted; so I ended up eating two generous pieces at one go and probably (definitely) could have managed a third, but restraint (and the need to photograph it) won out.

As always, feel free to play with it according to your taste. I might try that peppery oil after all and serve it with dark

hot chocolate or espresso. Red grapefruit juice and rosemary or the addition of warm spices like cardamom could work too, methinks. But for now, this is the recipe I’ll savor, and something tells me it might be the best of the bunch. Some things are just at their best when they aren’t too fancy and you let the pure, simple goodness shine through. I suppose that can be said for most things in life, even, and maybe especially, when you finally experience them later on. Enjoy!

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

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Ghosts I have known

Mark recalls spirits he has encountered, both near and far.

I don't believe in ghosts; at least I didn't, until the evening of January 12, 2026. Sue has always believed in spirits, fairies and angels. So wherever we go, we book a ghost tour, from San Francisco to Saint Augustine and everywhere in between. On a Jack the Ripper tour in London, we peered down Hanbury Street looking for ghosts, and instead saw about 25 other Ripper tours in progress. In Medellin, Colombia, a Pablo Escobar tour took us to the famous Drug Kingpin's grave and to the roof of the building where he was shot. In Bogota, on a bicycle tour to Evita's grave, Sue's bike got stolen, so she stole a different one. When we returned it, the tour operator didn't notice the difference.

Poughkeepsie resident (and famous musician) Billy Beehler is an amateur ghost hunter, using an electromagnetic field meter and a spirit box to search for paranormal activity at the old Hyde Park train station. Before he moved to Cocoa Beach, Billy talked me and Sue into taking a particular ghost tour in San Francisco where the leader levitated a haunted hotel room key. It actually worked! And there were a few other attractions to visit while we were there – for example, we rented a car to drive down Lombard Street.

Saint Augustine was especially frightening, with the old jail, where prisoners killed each other to get more food, water and space. Pawley's Island, South Carolina is home to the Gray Man, who walks the beach before a storm. Gettysburg, Savannah, Albuquerque and of course, Salem, Massachusetts are all haunted. At the Andrew Jackson Hotel in

New Orleans, which I later found out was once an orphanage, I was relaxing on the balcony when a bunch of people in the street started pointing up at me. Turns out it was a ghost tour, and they thought I was a ghost! Or the time at Van Dieman's Land in Tasmania that Sue saw orbs on the trees where the prisoners were hanged. The orbs even showed up on her photos.

I guess every city, town and village has a story. In the Hudson Valley, we have tons, starting with the Headless Horseman in Sleepy Hollow, all the way up to Schuyler Mansion in Albany, where 14 skeletons were found buried on the property. Here in Dutchess County, we have Rhinebeck's Beekman Arms, the oldest continuously operated hotel in America. Sue and I stopped there for dinner last Friday to collect some ghost stories.

The ghost tour, which we took a few years ago, hasn't been held since 2019, but the ghosts still linger in the wine cellar. Server Grace Hanna told us that she's seen glasses fly off tables, lamps turn on and off, heard boots marching and knows about a "shadow person." Former employee Catherine Larkin used to smell pipe smoke (she says it's different from cigar or cigarette smoke, maybe Virginia cherry) in the upstairs office. Could it be the ghost of Aaron Burr, as he was plotting to kill Alexander Hamilton?

The ghost at Fiddler's Bridge is perhaps Dutchess County's most famous spirit. Our iconic local musician Vito Petrocitto heard the victim fiddling and wrote his song "Fiddler's Bridge Road." Vito also told me about the dungeon at the Rogers/Crumwold estate where sup-



This historic marker explains the tale behind the name of Fiddler's Bridge Road in Clinton. Below: The haunted wine cellar at Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck. *Photos by Mark Adams*



posedly dozens of people died, creating an entire haunted neighborhood where he grew up on Rogers Drive in Hyde Park (the mansion almost burned down a few weeks ago).

Last January 12, Sue and I booked a night at the Richard King suite in the Mengers Hotel, San Antonio. Richard King owned the largest ranch in America when he died in his bed at the Menger on April 14, 1885. The hotel kept his suite exactly as he left it, except they installed a giant flat screen TV at the foot of his four poster bed (they also changed the mattress). Sue tells me that ghosts don't like electronics, which must be true, because the TV went blank in the middle of an episode of "Forensic Files." After that, the ghost messed up Sue's computer, while she was trying to type the article I'd written to send to Northern Dutchess News. She got all riled up, which got me mad, and led to a big argument (about what? I don't remember). So we're sitting there in the King Suite, arms crossed, not talking to each other, no TV, no internet, silently stewing.

Then a strange thing occurred. Then, guess what? It so happens that January 12 was the 100th anniversary of my dear mother's birth. Her ghost must have challenged Richard King's ghost and defeated him. The TV suddenly came back on, the computer booted up, and Sue and I flew into each other's arms.

Now I believe in ghosts.

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

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Morton Library issues call for 'Monologue' Madness submissions

Morton Memorial Library in Rhinecliff is calling for submissions to its Fourth Annual March "Monologue" Madness. Submissions (original work only) are due by Saturday, Feb. 7. All genres welcome.

Monologues must be 7 minutes or less in length (include the approximate time length of the piece when submitting) and should NOT contain playwright's name. Send via email to sandy@morton-rhinecliff.org or in-person/snail-mail to 82 Kelly St., PO Box 157, Rhinecliff, NY 12574.

Accepted authors will be notified by the last week of February.

Morton will present the evening of monologues on Saturday, March 28.

For questions, contact Prudence Garcia-Renart at pgarciarenart@icloud.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ceremony and Birthday Cake to honor FDR's birthday Jan. 30

On Friday, Jan. 30, the National Park Service will hold a Rose Garden Ceremony at 3 p.m. to commemorate Franklin Roosevelt's Birthday. Following the ceremony, the FDR Presidential Library will invite attendees to return to the Wallace Center for birthday cake and refreshments. This is a free, public event. The Wallace Center is on the grounds of the FDR Library & Home in Hyde Park.

Program to offer 'true story' of FDR's disability

Starr Library, 68 West Market St. in Rhinebeck, will host "FDR'S Disability: A True Story" with Dr. Shelby Landmark on Friday, Jan. 30, from 7 to 8 p.m. The talk, presented by the Rhinebeck Historical Society, will be held in the Community Room.

For the last 80 years, most people have gotten the story of FDR's disability wrong. While FDR is one of the most recognizably disabled historical figures, his disability is most commonly represented in ways that imply he hid the truth of his paralysis from the public after contracting polio in the summer of 1921. Dr. Landmark's new and ongoing research reveals a very different story.

Stanford Grange's upcoming events

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$38 per person. This course allows New York drivers to receive a 10% discount off their collision and auto liability insurance and remove up to 4 points on your license for any violations

incurred in the last 18 months. The class includes festive classroom participation and informative movies as well as a delicious homemade lunch served by the Grange Dinner Committee with a free will offering asked. For more information or to request an application for the course, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

The Travel Club of Stissing Mountain Junior - Senior High School in Pine Plains will serve a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, February 7, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will include spaghetti, meatballs, side salad, Italian garlic bread, and dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. Total proceeds will benefit the Travel Club's trip to Greece during the summer of 2026. For reservations, contact Stanford Grange Secretary and Travel Club Co-Advisor Ryan Orton at (518) 398-7181 Ext. 1144 or (845) 868-7869, and leave a message.

Stanford Grange #808 will serve a Chicken & Biscuits Dinner on Saturday, February 21, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will include chicken with gravy, mashed potatoes, homemade biscuits, peas, carrot salad, and Chocolate Cherry Dump Cake for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. For reservations, call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869, and leave a message.

DAR to meet virtually Feb. 8

The Chancellor Livingston Chapter NSDAR will meet on Sunday, Feb. 8, via Zoom at 2 p.m. business (members only); with speaker at 2:30 (open to the

public). As we celebrate America 250, the DAR continues to recognize under-recognized patriots. The program will feature a female patriot, Rebecca Brewton Motte, presented by CLC member Amanda Hodges who now resides in Charleston, who will discuss and show a video of Rebecca Motte, Firestarter. Free. For information about this meeting or how to become a member, email Doris at darrhinebeck@gmail.com. Zoom Meeting ID: 697 483 1531. Passcode: 310471

Pancake Breakfasts in Rhinecliff

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad host Winter Pancake Breakfasts on Sunday Mornings from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 8, March 8 and April 12. Enjoy a pile-high of "Rhinecliff's Best" pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. It's all-you-can-eat, so bring your appetite and your friends! Breakfast is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children (children under age 6 eat for free).

Breakfast is held at the Rhinecliff Firehouse (corner of Shatzell & Orchard, Rhinecliff). Proceeds Support the Rhinecliff Vol. Fire Co. Call Cynthia at (845) 876-5738 or e-mail csaniewski1@gmail.com for more information.

Skilled Trades Fair to returns to Arlington High School Feb. 11

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino's Skilled Trades Fair, in partnership with the Arlington Central School District, will return to Arlington High School, 1157 Route 55 in Lagrangeville, from 6 to 8 p.m. This free event is open to all Dutchess County residents and no RSVP is

required to attend.

The County Executive's Skilled Trades Fairs connect hundreds of students and their families with diverse career opportunities in the Hudson Valley in fields such as construction, electrical work, plumbing, masonry, and more.

Local businesses and trade organizations interested in showcasing their opportunities at the fair are encouraged to register online at dutchessny.gov/AHSTradesFair or contact the Dutchess County Executive's Office at 845-486-2000 or CountyExec@dutchessny.gov. There is no fee to participate, however space is limited, and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Film screening in Kingston Feb. 15

Sunday, February 15, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston, NY. Showing of "Gaza Fights For Freedom," a must-see debut feature film, directed by Abby Martin, that shows you Gaza's protest movement like you've never seen before. Thought provoking and inspiring cinematic portrayal of Palestinians' heroic resistance to oppression, repression and ethnic cleansing from their homeland. Free admission and community reflection/discussion after the film. Cosponsored by: Middle East Crisis Response mideastcrisis.org, Columbia County for Palestine, JVP Hudson Valley, Mid Hudson Valley DSA, New Paltz Quaker Meeting, Peace Education Center, Rally Middletown, Veterans For Peace, and Women In Black - New Paltz. Contact: mecr@mideastcrisis.org or 845 876-7906.

OBITUARIES

George M. Carmody

HYDE PARK – George M. Carmody, 85, of Hyde Park, passed away on January 19, 2026.

Calling hours were set to take place on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 4 pm to 7 pm at Sweet's Funeral Home, 4365 Albany Post Rd, Hyde Park. A funeral mass was to be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 10 am at Regina Coeli Church, 2 Harvey St, Hyde Park. Entombment of his ashes will take place at a later date.

To read the full obituary or leave an online condolence, please visit George's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Marion Dunbar Clemens

LAGRANGE – Marion Dunbar Clemens died peacefully in her Lagrange, NY home on January 18, 2026 at the age of 102.

Born in Yonkers, NY on September 27, 1923, to Henrietta (Clark) MacPherson and Aldon MacPherson, she married David Alonzo Clemens. Together, they left Yonkers, NY and moved to Dutchess County in 1975.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY in the latter part of April 2026. Please visit the www.mchoulfuneralhome.com to read Marion's full obituary and for more details on the upcoming Celebration of Life.

Phillip Randall Dudley

RED HOOK – Phillip Randall Dudley passed away peacefully on January 16, 2026, following a brief illness. He was born January 26, 1936, to Hubert and Madeline (Ross) Dudley in Bolton, NY. He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Robert Dudley, and his two beloved dogs, Sammy and Sadie. On August 13, 1978, he married the love of his life, Ann Scorza Dudley, in Red Hook, NY. Read the full obituary at <https://www.burnett-white.com/>.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hope Soars Fund for Parkinson's at Albany Medical Center by following this link <https://www.hopesoars.org/donations-to-hope-soars-fund-for-parkinsons-research.html> ; or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, at https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=home-btn-donate-now ; or The Ascienzo Family Foundation, at ascienzofamilyfoundation.org.

A Celebration of Life Service will be scheduled for springtime; please check back.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 7461 S. Broadway, Red Hook, NY.

Albert R. Mauri

HYDE PARK – Albert Ross Mauri, just short of his 94th birthday, died in his home in Poughkeepsie, in sight of his beloved Hudson River, on January 15, 2026. Born in Buffalo

NY to Ross Albert Mauri and Lena Barcellona on February 13, 1932, Al grew up with his one sister Lynn (Laman).

Memorial calling hours were held Friday January 23, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, followed by a celebration of life immediately after calling hours in Poughkeepsie.

Al's ashes were entombed privately at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

To read the full obituary or leave an online condolence, please visit Al's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Robert Meyen

SALT POINT – Robert H. Meyen, 86, of Salt Point, NY, passed away peacefully at home on January 14, 2026, surrounded by his family. Born on July 23, 1939, in Long Beach, NY, Robert was the son of the late Seigfried and Lillian (Sloat) Meyen.

Read Robert's full obituary at www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com.

Visitation was held on Friday, January 23rd, at Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, January 24th, at St. Joseph's Church, Millbrook. Interment followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Millbrook. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Robert's memory to Mid-Hudson Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 982, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602. Robert's family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Hudson Valley Hospice for their compassionate and exceptional care during his final days.

For condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com

Gerald Murray

HYDE PARK – Gerald Francis Murray, 93, a lifelong resident of Violet Avenue in the Town of Hyde Park, died peacefully on January 20, 2026, surrounded by his children.

Calling hours were held Friday, January 23, 2026, at Sweet's Funera Home, Hyde Park. The Funeral Service took place on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the Funeral Home. Burial followed in the family plot at Union Cemetery of Hyde Park.

In lieu of flowers, Jerry's family respectfully requests memorial donations to the First Baptist Church of Poughkeepsie, 164 South Cherry Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or to your local Fire Department.

To read the full obituary or leave an online condolence, please visit Gerald's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Joseph Ratchford

RED HOOK – Joseph Ratchford, 77, passed away on December 16, 2025, at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck. He was born on November 10, 1948, in Pittston, PA, the son of Bernard and Julia (Sedlak) Ratchford.

Joseph is survived by his children, Joanne

(Cliff) Hulsart, Megan (Rich) Brenner, Christopher Ratchford, and Susan Ratchford, who will all cherish the memories they created together. Joseph was a proud grandfather to Marissa (Cole) Klasinski, Gavyn Queen, Masyn Killmer, Jaxyn Killmer, Chloe Ratchford, and Ryan, Sophia, Lucas, Maximus Brenner, Katelyn Brenner, Courtney Coons, Lilyanna Brenner and Emma Brenner. He is also survived by his siblings, David (Lizbeth) Ratchford, James (Joann) Ratchford, and Rita Klein, and all of their children, along with his stepchildren Jessica Traver, Carl, and Stephanie Diesing, and additional grandchildren and great grandchildren. Joseph will also be fondly remembered by his ex-wife Debra Ratchford.

He was predeceased by his parents, brother Michael Ratchford, and his late ex-wife Carol Ratchford, whose memories continue to live on through the lives he touched.

Family and friends shared memories and offered condolences on Friday, January 23rd, at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, Pine Plains, NY. In lieu of flowers donations in Joseph's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society's Leukemia Foundation. For directions or to read the complete obituary please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Janet Reasoner

HYDE PARK – Janet Reasoner, beloved sister, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2026, at the age of 82.

Janet was born on July 16, 1943, in Los Angeles, CA, to the late James and Ione Buie. She is survived by her brother, John Buie; her children, Katherine Duenckel, Jeffrey Leach and his wife Lisa Shay, John Reasoner and his wife Shannon, and Russell Reasoner and his wife Melissa; her 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A time for sharing memories and offering condolences took place on Saturday, January 24, at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, Pine Plains, NY. Donations in Janet's memory may be made to the Stanfordville Library, at <https://stanfordlibrary.org>. For directions or to leave a message of condolence please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Donald Harry Earl Weaver III

MILLERTON – Donald Harry Earl Weaver III, 59, a lifelong area resident, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at Sharon Hospital in Sharon, CT, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Mr. Weaver worked for seventeen years at Flood's Sanitation Service in Millerton, NY,

send us your news cschmidt@sutchessnews.com

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCB-01-26. NAME OF PROJECT: Oakley Street Housing Support Center. Project Description: The conversion of existing building to a housing support center, work including selective demolition, reconstruction, alterations to electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, and ADA/code compliance of existing building. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnet-direct.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnet-direct.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Christopher Sterbenz, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00AM Friday, February 27, 2026, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft

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Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 96020243# Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business Friday February 20, 2026 and emailed to Christopher Sterbenz at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is April 13, 2026; the anticipated substantial completion date is May 30, 2027. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2026000467. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable, and NYSDOL Contractor Registry requirements. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS RECEIPT OF BIDS:

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Separate sealed bids on enclosed forms prepared by the Engineer will be received by the Town Clerk Office at the Town of Milan, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, New York until 11:00 A.M. (local Time) on Friday, March 6, 2026 for **MILAN CULVERT REPLACEMENT BUNDLE PROJECT BATTENFELD ROAD AND TORRE ROCK ROAD** Town of Milan Dutchess County, New York For the construction of replacing both the existing Battenfeld Road culvert and the Torre Rock Road culvert. Bids received after 11:00A.M. (local time) Friday, March 6, 2026 will not be accepted or considered. Sealed bids will be publicly opened by the Town Board and read aloud at 11:00 A.M. (local time) on Friday, March 6, 2026 at the Town of Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, New York 12571. The Information for Bidders, Specifications, and other Contract Documents may be reviewed at the offices of the Town of Milan, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, New York 12571, and at the office of KC Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C., 15 Governor Drive, Second Floor, Newburgh, New York 12550. Drawings and other Contract Documents will be available on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 and may be obtained ONLY at the Town Hall upon deposit of \$50.00 per set. Deposit made by check shall be made payable to the Town Clerk. Said deposit shall be totally refunded to the unsuccessful Bidder(s) who includes a proper Bid deposit. Refunds shall be made only if plans are returned in good condition (intact and unmarked), within thirty (30) days

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following the bid opening. Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond in the amount of five (5%) percent of the base Bid in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. The Bid Deposit shall be made in Certified Check from the Bidder or in a Bid Bond on the form of said Bid Bond attached to the Specifications or similar and be drawn payable to the Town of Milan. No Bidder may withdraw a Bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the opening thereof. **To all prospective Bidders, there will be a strongly recommended pre-bid meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.** The pre-bid meeting will take place at 9:30 A.M. at the Town of Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY. It is recommended that all bidders familiarize themselves with the plans prior to the pre-bid meeting so that questions and concerns can be addressed. Bidders are to promptly notify the Engineer of any errors, omissions, conflicts and/or ambiguity in the contract documents. No oral interpretations of the meaning of the Plans, Specifications, or other Pre-Bid Documents will be made to any prospective bidder. All requests for interpretations are to be in writing, addressed to KC Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C., 15 Governor Drive, Second Floor, Newburgh, New York. To be given consideration, requests for interpretation must be received at least seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the opening of Bids. Any and all such interpretations and any supplemental instructions will be in the form

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of written Addenda to the Specifications which, if issued, will be provided to the prospective Bidders, not later than three (3) days prior to the date fixed for the opening of Bids. Addenda will be issued by email to the bid document holders. All addenda so issued shall become part of the Contract Documents. The first addenda will include bid document holders list and pre-bid meeting attendee list. **OWNERS RIGHTS RESERVED:** The Town of Milan, hereinafter called the Owner, reserves the right to reject any and all Bids and to waive any formality or technicality in any Bid in the best interests of the Owner and in accordance with the Law. **STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION:** Bidders are required to execute the Non-Collusion Bidding Certificate, in the form attached to the Specifications, pursuant to Section 103-d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York. Bidders are also required to comply with the provisions of the Human Rights Law as set forth in Article 15 of the Executive Law of the State of New York. The Town of Milan is exempt under the Tax Law of New York State, Article 28 – Part III, and is exempt from payment of Sales and Compensating Use Taxes of the State of New York on all materials which are incorporated into work pursuant to the provisions of the Contract. These taxes are not to be included in the Bid under New York State Tax Law, Article 28, Part III. This project is subject New York State Prevailing Wage Rates. The work required by this Contract shall consist of furnishing all labor, equipment, materials, supervision, and performing all work necessary to complete the project

Legal Notices

as herein described. The work generally includes but is not limited to the following: 1. Battenfeld Road Culvert: a. Replace an existing 60-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe with 8ft high by 15ft-9in wide by 36ft long aluminum box culvert with a natural bottom, concrete footings, and with new headwalls and wingwalls. 2. Torre Rock Road Culvert: a. Replace an existing 45-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe with 5ft high by 9ft wide by 47ft long precast concrete box culvert with new headwalls and wingwalls. b. Raise the roadway by approximately 1 foot at the culvert crossing is proposed to accommodate the larger culvert size. Approximately 300LF of Torre Rock Road is proposed to be raised. c. Reestablish northerly ditch with new 12-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe and riprap as per plan. 3. Pavement restoration, including full depth pavement and top course milling and paving. 4. Replace approximately 325LF of guide rail along Battenfeld Road and approximately 215LF of guide rail along Torre Rock Road as per the plans. 5. Protect the existing stream channels and provide temporary bypass pumping of the streams as shown on the plans. 6. Provide erosion and sediment control measures per the plans. 7. Provide site clearing and restoration as per the plans. 8. Provide maintenance and protection of traffic. 9. Coordinate with the Town of Milan, NYSD, and local utility companies to maintain and protect the project area and maintain services during construction. This notice is issued in the name of the

Legal Notices

Owner, the Town of Milan, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, New York 12571. BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF MILAN By: William Jeffway, Supervisor Date: January 28, 2026 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-17-26 Security Guard Services Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 10, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613. PUBLIC HEARING Public Notice: The Milan Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on February 16, 2026, at 6:55 p.m. concerning proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, entitled, "Local Law Amending Town Code Chapter 183 (Taxation)" pursuant to Article 16 of the N.Y. Town Law. This Local Law will take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State. Complete copies of the proposed Local Law are available at the Town of Milan Town Clerk's Office for inspection during regular business hours. All interested persons and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposals at the Public Hearing to be held at the Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY. By order of the Milan Town Board, Ingrid Kulick, Town Clerk

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

NYS Parks awards grants to Mid-Hudson projects

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation recently announced it awarded grants to 27 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state – including seven in the Mid-Hudson region – to support the stewardship of state parks, trails, historic sites and public lands. Park and Trail Partnership Grants (PTPG) help partner organizations leverage private funds to support capital projects, engage in maintenance and beautification, provide educational programming, and host special events that promote public use of the parks.

The Park and Trail Partnership Grants program is funded through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund and 2026 marks its 10th anniversary. Grants

are administered in partnership with the not-for-profit advocacy group Parks & Trails New York. Recipients must raise outside funding for a match of at least 10 percent of the grant amount received.

The following projects in the Mid-Hudson region have been awarded Park and Trail Partnership Grants:

Bannerman Castle Trust (\$27,450) to connect the historic "Red Trail" to "The Grotto" to the "Wee Bay" facilitating access for all visitors, especially those who are mobility impaired.

Calvert Vaux Preservation Alliance (\$19,800) to hire temporary staff to support ongoing capacity building work by hosting a series of public tours and talks to increase visibility and engagement with

Vaux's work and The Point.

Catskill Center (\$31,033) to improve accessibility and the visitor experience at the Catskills Visitor Center by replacing damaged and out-of-date signage, installing an informational kiosk and interpretive signage along the trail systems, and placing Adirondack chairs for visitors to utilize the space outside of regular hours.

Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands (\$77,950) to preserve and restore an historic 1874 one-room schoolhouse for transformation into an interpretative Visitor Center, providing a window into late 19th-early 20th century life.

Friends of John Jay Homestead (\$36,868) to enhance the fundraising and

development capacity of the Friends in preparation for its 2028 reopening by overhauling its strategies and modernizing donor systems.

Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association (\$263,132) to construct an ADA-compliant boardwalk along an environmentally sensitive section of trail that is part of the eventual 46-mile regional rail trail system.

Walkway Over the Hudson (\$62,350) to design a system of interpretive and wayfinding signage to replace outdated, degraded signs that will enhance the visitor experience by improving accessibility, supporting inclusive storytelling, and encouraging learning through a holistic signage plan grounded in universal design principles.

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*Answers to this
week's diversions*

(puzzles on page)

How much medication is too much?

Your regular doctor prescribes medications A, B and C. Other specialists prescribe medications D, E, F and G. Maybe you've visited a nutritionist who adds their own thoughts on diet and supplements.

Are you having trouble keeping track of what to take, when, and whether they'll interact badly with each other?

The Wall Street Journal last month looked at the phenomenon of "polypharmacy," or the prescription of so many different medications that the risk of adverse interactions outweighs the original benefit of the medications.

According to the Journal's analysis of Medicare drug-benefit data, one in six older American adults is prescribed eight or more drugs at the same time. Over 3.5 million were getting at least one medication that older patients should generally avoid, in the view of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS).

January is a good time to take annual stock of what drugs you're taking, what conditions they're prescribed for, and their dosage levels.

What could go wrong? Lots

Having a list of medications, either written or digital, will help you and your doctors spot red flags like duplicate doses of the same medication. This can become an issue for those of us whose prescriptions are on auto-refill from a mail-order pharmacy. The convenience of skipping the trip to the pharmacy may have the unintended consequence of too much medication being delivered too soon.

The Beers Criteria and you

AGS publishes a clinical resource of medications that are potentially best avoided by older adults in many circumstances or in specific situations. It's called the Beers Criteria; your physicians are likely familiar with it.

What can go wrong? Here's one example from the Beers guidelines: taking too many drugs that act on the central nervous system. Those can include both prescription medications as well as over-the-counter medicines like Benadryl. If this sounds like your situation, visit acbcalc.com for an online calculator of which medications can cause adverse effects when combined. You can visit drugs.com as well for a "drug interaction checker."

Avoiding the Medication Cascade

The Journal presented the example of a man with dementia who was taking blood pressure medication that caused him swollen ankles. To deal with the swollen ankles, he was prescribed a diuretic. This in turn led to the need for a supplement to restore proper potassium levels. The supplement pills proved too large for the man to take, and ... enough, said one of the man's doctors, who prescribed a different blood pressure medication without side effects.

Your doctor can't help if you don't tell them

Next time you visit your doctor with concerns about your medications, bring your list of medications. Bring the actual pill bottles, if need be, including over-the-counter medications. It may be that

you do indeed need every single one of the medications you're taking - but if you don't speak up to the doctor, you'll never know for sure.

Ditch medications you don't need

Visit dutchessny.gov/ofaprintable for a list of safe medication disposal sites near you.

'SENIOR PARK PALETTE' RETURNS (NEW DATE/TIME FOR RED HOOK)

OFA and Dutchess County Parks are presenting the 2026 series of "Senior Park Palette" classes for Dutchess County older adults (age 60+). Dutchess County residents over 60 can sign up for one of the following free classes:

Tuesday, February 10th, 2:30-3:45 pm - Poughkeepsie Friendship Center, 114 Delafield St.

Tuesday, February 17th, 2:30-3:45 pm - Millerton Friendship Center, 28 Century Blvd. (Library Annex)

Tuesday, March 10th, 2:00-3:15 pm - Red Hook Friendship Center, 59 Fisk St. (Red Hook Community Center)

Tuesday, March 24th, 2:30-3:45 pm - East Fishkill Friendship Center, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction (East Fishkill Community Center)

All supplies are provided. Class size is limited to 12.

Please sign up by contacting OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text message.

SIGN UP FOR ALZHEIMER'S MINI CONFERENCE (Wed 3/18)

Join the Alzheimer's Association, the Office for the Aging, Sun River Health and community partners for a mini-conference and listening session on Alzheimer's disease, dementia and

memory loss:

Wednesday, March 18th, 9:30-11:30am

Millerton-NorthEast Library Annex (OFA Friendship Center)

28 Century Blvd., Millerton

It's essential learning for older adults and caregivers of all ages. Sign up by calling OFA at 845-486-2555 or emailing ofa@dutchessny.gov.

Light refreshments will be provided. The event is supported in part by grants from the New York State Department of Health.

SUBSTITUTE OFA FRIENDSHIP CENTER MANAGERS WANTED

The Office for the Aging is looking for candidates for Substitute Site Manager positions at our eight OFA Friendship Centers.

Friendship Centers are in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Hopewell Junction, Millerton, Pawling, Pleasant Valley, Red Hook, and Wassaic (South Amenia). Whether an applicant can help at only certain sites or all eight, we'd like to hear from them.

A typical day for a substitute site manager covers any weekday, from 8:30am-2:30 pm, and includes coordinating with OFA's nutrition coordinator, senior site manager, friendship center staff and volunteers. A background check is required.

Interested? Send an email, with an attached résumé, to ofa@dutchessny.gov; or contact Janet Nuccilli at OFA, during business hours at 845-486-2555.

For more information on OFA's Home Delivered Meals and Friendship Center services, visit www.dutchessny.gov/ofanutrition.

send us your news

cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

Upcoming events related to amphibian migrations and road crossings

"The Nature of Nature" Film and Panel, Sunday, Feb. 8, 3:30 p.m.

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson

Bard College sponsors a screening of the new short film, "The Nature of Nature: Biodiversity in the Hudson Valley." The 30-minute documentary will be followed by a panel discussion and reception. The event is free, but registration is encouraged via www.bard.edu.

"I Love a Rainy Night: The Rhythm of Forest Amphibians," Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Cary Institute, 2801 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook. In-person or live stream. Free. www.caryinstitute.org

Lecture sponsored by Cary Institute with Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell biologist Laura Heady to discover the fascinating world of forest amphibians, their life histories and role in forest ecosystems, and opportunities to get involved in conservation of vernal pool-breeding amphibians.

The event is free and open to all, but registration is required. Sign up to attend in person at Cary Institute in Millbrook or watch a live stream online at www.caryinstitute.org. Offered in partnership with the Catskill Science Collaborative.

AM&RC Project Volunteer Training

Cornell University's team at the Hudson River Estuary Program will provide one virtual and three in-person

volunteer trainings this year. Because the in-person trainings have limited space, DEC will give priority to volunteers from the Hudson River estuary watershed, especially those who have not attended an in-person program before. If you are a returning volunteer and need a refresher, please consider joining the virtual session. Register at <https://hudson.dnr.cals.cornell.edu/events>

In-person sessions:

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6-9 p.m. in Albany. Hosted by Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission

Saturday, Feb. 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in New Paltz. Hosted by Wallkill Valley Land Trust

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6-9 p.m. in Garrison. Hosted by Hudson Highlands Land Trust

Virtual session:

Save the date! Tuesday, Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m. Visit <https://hudson.dnr.cals.cornell.edu/events> for more details and a registration link.

Training topics will include volunteer protocols, safety measures, data collection and reporting on Survey123, and species identification. If you're unable to attend an in-person or virtual program, you can view YouTube training modules. All volunteers are asked to complete some form of training prior to surveying roads and submitting data.

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