

**Clinton's Whitton releases State of the Town address**

By Kate Goldsmith

Clinton Town Supervisor Michael Whitton announced via email last week that his 2026 State of the Town address is available online at the town's website, www.clintondcny.gov, and also may be viewed in hard copy at Town Hall, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck.

"When I meet residents, I am invariably asked how the Town is doing," Whitton said in the email. "Admittedly, I do not know if these residents want a simple answer or a more complex answer that goes into detail. Some people want something in between those two, and everyone is different. For this reason, I have compiled a State of the Town."

The document, viewable and downloadable as a PDF, includes town demographics, accomplishments in 2025 and goals for this year. Whitton also explains how taxes are broken down into various components (town, county, school, fire district, library), with rates depending on where you live.

"When residents tell me, 'I pay high taxes,' what I most often hear is, 'I pay high taxes, and I'm not getting value for my dollar.' That's an understandable frustration, but it's important to clarify where those tax dollars go," he noted in the State of the Town document.

Whitton touted 2025 town accomplishments, such as receiving a NYSERDA grant (through Clinton's Climate Smart Communities Task Force) to help fund energy-efficient improvements to the town's highway garage; receiving another grant to install solar panels on the town's Salt Shed; continuing the successful Hometown Heroes program honoring the town's veterans; installing a Pickleball Court at Friends Park with

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♥♥♥ VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE STORY ♥♥♥

**'It all snapped right into place' for Ellen & Jonah Triebwasser**

*Editor's note: Each year for Valentine's Day, we at the Northern Dutchess News interview a local couple that has been married for over 50 years.*

By Curtis Schmidt

They met in high school, broke up (his fault), restarted the affair with a whirlwind romance, married, started busy careers and now – 52 years later, he is the one who is bringing people together.

As Valentine's Day approaches, Ellen and Jonah Triebwasser of Red Hook are remembering the experiences that brought them together. Jonah knows all about that. As Town and Village Justice, he has officiated at over 300 weddings.

Their story starts in the New York City borough of Queens, Far Rockaway neighborhood to be exact, in the late 1960s. The initial meeting was a plan that Ellen and Jonah's sister, Wilma, "cooked up" and he didn't learn about it until later.

"Jonah's sister and I were friends and I was really interested in meeting him," said Ellen. "I even joined the Photography and Future Teachers of America clubs so we could meet up.

"Did I like him? Absolutely! He was handsome, friendly and funny, self

assured and very intelligent."

Jonah described Ellen as "cute and pretty, and she still is. She took the better classes in school. She was smarter than me, and still is."

They were dating for a while and Ellen even organized an 18th birthday party for Jonah at her parents' home. And two months later she was expecting "prom-talk." But soon thereafter, Jonah spoke to her in the hallway between classes one day saying he was taking someone else to the prom.

"I took it badly. I was crushed," said Ellen. They did eventually breakup and Jonah commented, "I've been making it up to her ever since."

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Ellen and Jonah Triebwasser were engaged on Feb. 13, 1973 and married on Sept. 2 of the same year. They have been together for 52 years. *Courtesy photo*

**County offers tips, resources for cold-weather safety**



Compiled by  
 Kate Goldsmith

Winter 2026 has been one for the books so far, with cold snaps and snowfall accumulations not seen in a long time. While temperatures are forecast to rise above freezing during the day this week, we're still not out of the proverbial woods. Awareness of the various cold-weather risks will help us get through the next several weeks, and Dutchess County has been proactive in providing tips and resources to do exactly that on its website ([www.dutchessny.gov/Winter](http://www.dutchessny.gov/Winter)

Preparedness) and Facebook page (@DutchessCountyGovernment). Below is a summary of information the county provides.

**Winter-related health risks**

- **Frostbite:** People work or play outdoors during the winter can develop frostbite and not even know it. Watch for these danger signs:

- Skin may feel numb and become flushed (red). Then it turns white or grayish-yellow.

- Get to a warm area. Cover affected area with something warm and dry.

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# Valentine's Day Love Story: 'It all snapped right into place' for Ellen & Jonah Triebwasser

continued from cover

Their separation lasted through college with Ellen going to the University at Albany and majoring in Spanish and secondary education and Jonah attending the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Then fate jumped in and played a key role. Ellen and Wilma bumped into each other at Penn Station during the Winter Break of 1972-73.

"We hadn't seen each other in three-and-a-half years," said Ellen, "and she invited me to her apartment for a New Year's Eve party."

They were in a group sitting on the floor playing board games when in walked Jonah with his brother, Justin, and his girlfriend. They recalled it was a very unseasonably warm night and Ellen and Jonah ended up in a group of about 15 kids walking around while church bells were ringing a little before midnight.

"We hadn't seen each other in four years," said Ellen. "Jonah dropped me off at my parents' home and asked 'When you get back from Albany, would you go out with me?' I remember going up to my room as happy as I could be. We knew each other, so it was easy to talk. The instant attraction was still there – four years later."

They didn't wait long and went out on several dates in the next month. And by Feb. 13th, Ellen said she was sure about the relationship.

"I work fast," she joked. "It all snapped right into place."

When Jonah proposed, Ellen replied, "Probably, but let me think about it." He didn't have a ring, figuring they would go pick it out together.

Then Jonah said he "did something really old-fashioned. I went to see Ellen's father and asked his permission." But Ellen had already informed her parents that she was saying yes, and her dad was very pleased.

The ring was/is a dark red sapphire surrounded with diamonds. "It cost \$147," said Jonah. "That was a week's pay for me back then. It's ingrained in my memory."

Both also recalled that Princess Diana had received a similar ring from Prince Charles around that time, but obviously more expensive.

"We were trendsetters," said Ellen.

They were engaged on Feb. 13, 1973 and married on Sept. 2 of the same year. Their honeymoon was a week's stay in Bermuda. Jonah said, "The only thing we missed doing was riding on the mopeds, but as I said that while on the bus to the airport, the bus driver had to slam on the brakes to avoid a collision with a moped."

Back home in Queens and Staten Island, Jonah was an investigator with the State Attorney General's office, while Ellen was working as a clerical assistant with a publishing company and then an architectural firm. This went on for about three years when Jonah gained the opportunity to attend law school. "That was a big move," said Ellen. "I hated him being a cop. He wasn't in uniform, but he worked nights and weekends and that wasn't much fun."

After three years of law school, Jonah landed a job in Wingdale handling sanity hearings for patients at the Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center and Ellen gained a position with the State Office of Mental Health in Albany. They looked at a map of the area and settled on Red Hook as a central location and made the move in 1979. After two years commuting, Jonah went to work handling legal issues for the NYC Water Supply in Kingston and Ellen transferred to Poughkeepsie.

They started their family with Tom born in 1983 and Alison in 1986. Jonah went to work for the NY Department of Environmental Conservation in 1989, retired in 2005 and started working as an adjunct professor at Marist University in 1989 and Vassar College in 1997. Ellen retired in 2008 after 33 years with the state, the latest being with the Office for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

Jonah served as Town Justice from



Ellen and Jonah Triebwasser of Red Hook have been married for 52 years. They feel a long and happy marriage is about mutual trust, believing that you have a commitment to each other and supporting each other, regardless of the situation. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

2008 to 2024 and is still happily working as the Village Justice in Red Hook since 2007, handling traffic court, misdemeanors, DWIs and beginnings of felonies, small claims, landlord/tenant issues AND weddings.

"The weddings are always a lot of fun," said Jonah. "They are the only times when everyone is happy to see me."

He performs "short, medium or long ceremonies" depending on the verbiage desired. He doesn't get into advice, noting "I'm not a minister. I just make sure both parties are amenable and they have the marriage license."

Most weddings for "regular local folks," but he has married a few famous actors and actresses.

As for advice on a long and happy marriage, Ellen said, "It's about mutual trust and believing that you have a commitment to each other and that commitment outweighs anything you might

argue about. Plus, it's very important to support each other through career changes."

Jonah's advice is to "take it one day at a time and understand that any problem can be worked out when you compare it to the overall relationship from weeks to months to 52 years."

Ellen and Jonah have two children and four grandchildren – Tom and daughter-in-law Suzanne with grandchildren Shalom and Gabi, and Alison with son-in-law Paul and granddaughters Ruth and Miriam.

Ellen and Jonah are also members of the Red Hook Rotary Club with Jonah as the Club President for 2025 to 2027.

"We are committed to Rotary's philosophy of service above self, and are very proud of all of the good Rotary does locally and around the world," said Jonah.

## Presentation on 'FDR's Disability' set Feb. 18 at Wallace Center

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site will present "FDR's Disability: A True Story" with Dr. Shelby Landmark on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. The event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park and streamed live to the official FDR Library YouTube and Facebook accounts. This is a free public event, but registration is required to attend in-person.

son. Visit [fdrlibrary.org](http://fdrlibrary.org) to register.

While Franklin D. Roosevelt 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. Shelby Landmark's ongoing research has revealed that the public frequently observed FDR using leg braces, crutches, canes, customized speaker stands, ramps, elevators, and even automobiles to navigate his surroundings. Rather than trying

to deceive or convince the public that he was able-bodied, he wanted the public to see him as an able leader, not a "helpless invalid." Dr. Landmark will share this research including never-before-published images of FDR and his use of mobility aids, newspaper archival examples, and archival materials found at the FDR Presidential Library.

Landmark is the Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow for Disability Representation at Historic Sites located at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt

National Historic Sites. Her research has informed new interpretations of FDR's disability as well as revised existing interpretive programs. In 2025, she opened an exhibit at the site focusing on FDR's use of mobility devices. Her work has challenged predominant narratives about FDR's paralysis and led to a more nuanced and accurate understanding of his legacy as an important disabled historical figure.

Contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 with questions about the event.

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# Yankees select Bossi as new manager of Renegades, name 2026 field, support staff

The New York Yankees have announced their 2026 player development staffs and Aaron Bossi will take over as the manager of the Hudson Valley Renegades, the Yankees' High-A affiliate.

Bossi becomes the 21st manager in team history, and the sixth in six years during the Yankees era. He replaces James Cooper, who guided the Renegades to a franchise-record 79 wins in 2025 and was named the new manager of the Double-A Somerset Patriots. Under his tutelage the Renegades had their 13th consecutive winning season, and 16th in the last 17 seasons. Since the beginning of the 2012 season, the Renegades have the best winning percentage (.577) in Minor League Baseball.

Bossi is joined on the all-new field staff by Pitching Coach Ryan Mossman (1st season), Hitting Coach Scott Nestor (1st season), and Defensive Coach Chase Gerbick (1st season). The support staff features one returner in Clubhouse Manager Ryan Shute (6th season), and newcomers Athletic Trainer Maegan Manrow (1st season), Strength Coach Esteban Morales (1st season), Video & Tech. Assistant Robert Sieling (1st season), and Advanced Scouting Analyst Stephen Schuster (1st season).

"I'm very excited to be back in Hudson Valley where my coaching career began, working with such a strong staff and an exciting group of players," said Bossi. "We're looking forward to what I hope will be a memorable season for both our players and our fans."

Bossi, 32, returns for his second coaching stint with the Renegades, and his first as the team's manager. Bossi was the defensive coach for Hudson Valley in 2021 on Dan Fiorito's staff. He enters his ninth season in the Yankees organization, and his second as a manager after leading the Single-A Tampa Tarpons in 2021. He joined the Yankees in 2017, and spent three seasons assisting rehabbing players at the Yankees' minor league complex, was slated to serve as the defensive coach for Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in 2020 before the season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was the defensive and baserunning coach for Double-A Somerset from 2022-24.

Bossi managed the Tarpons to their best overall record (63-63) since 2021. Tampa narrowly missed out on the play-offs after posting an impressive 36-29 record in the first half of the season. The Tarpons had one of the top offenses in the FSL, leading the league in batting

average (.248) and stolen bases (307), and finished second in the league in OBP (.353) and OPS (.732).

The Renegades managerial job has become a launching pad in the six years under the New York Yankees affiliation, with Bossi following Cooper (2025), Nick Ortiz (2024), Sergio Santos (2023), Tyson Blaser (2022) and Dan Fiorito (2021) in the post. Ortiz and Blaser both moved up in player development into coordinator roles in other organizations, while Fiorito is now on the Yankees Major League staff.

Ryan Mossman begins his first year as the Renegades pitching coach and third in the Yankees organization. He previously served as the pitching coach for Single-A Tampa (2025) and the FCL Yankees (2024), working with Bossi in Tampa. Under his guidance, the Tarpons finished tied for fourth in the Florida State League in ERA (4.24) and had the best Groundout-to-Air Out ratio (1.05) in the league. He helped develop prospects Griffin Herring, Xavier Rivas, Andrew Landry and Brandon Decker, who all went on to make big contributions on the Renegades staff in 2025.

Scott Nestor begins his first year as the Renegades hitting coach, and his third season in the Yankees organization. He previously served as the hitting coach with the FCL Yankees in 2024 and 2025. The FCL Yankees ranked near the top of the Florida Complex League in most major offensive categories in Nestor's two years mentoring hitters, and led the 15-team FCL with 47 home runs in 2024.

Chase Gerbick begins his first year as the Renegades defensive coach, and his third season in the Yankees organization. He spent the 2025 season as the manager of the DSL Yankees, and was the defensive and baserunning coach for the FCL Yankees in 2024. Gerbick, 22, began his collegiate playing career at Lipscomb University before arm injuries forced him to retire. At just 19 years old, he became the youngest coach in collegiate baseball history when he served as the Director of Player Development for Indiana Wesleyan University in 2023 before joining the Yankees.

Ryan Shute begins his sixth year as the Renegades Home Clubhouse Manager and eighth in the Yankees organization, previously working for the Short-Season A Staten Island Yankees in 2019 and Rookie-level Pulaski in 2018. Before joining the Yankees, Shute was the Visiting Clubhouse Manager for the

Carolina Mudcats during the 2017 season. A native of the Hudson Valley and 2011 graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Shute spent four summers as a Stadium Operations and Groundskeeping Assistant for the Renegades from 2012-15.

Maegan Manrow begins her first season as the Athletic Trainer of the Renegades, and her third season with the Yankees. She served as the Athletic Trainer for Single-A Tampa in 2025, and was the Assistant Athletic Trainer with Double-A Somerset in 2024. Prior to joining the Yankees, she spent the 2022 and 2023 seasons as an Athletic Trainer in the Baltimore Orioles system. Manrow graduated from the University of South Florida in 2019 with a bachelor's degree, and earned her master's degree in Athletic Training from USF in 2022.

Esteban Morales begins his first season as the Renegades Strength & Conditioning Coach, and his third year in the Yankees organization. He spent the past two seasons in the same role with Single-A Tampa, working on staffs with 2025 Renegades manager James Cooper and Bossi, respectively.

Robert Sieling begins his first season as the Renegades' Video & Tech Assistant, and his first season with the Yankees. He spent the previous four seasons with the Washington Nationals, first serving as the On-Field Coordinator of Baseball & Softball Programs from 2022-24, and then spending 2025 as the Video Intern for the Triple-A Rochester Red Wings.

Steve Schuster begins his first season



Aaron Bossi

as the Renegades' Advanced Scouting Analyst, and his first season in the Yankees organization. He previously held similar roles with the Miami Marlins (2025), Detroit Tigers (2024), and New York Mets (2023) systems. Before beginning a career as an analyst, Schuster spent nine years as the play-by-play broadcaster for the Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball club of the independent American Association, where he also handled public relations duties and for three years served as an Advance Scout/Analyst for the team as well.

Season Ticket Memberships, Group Tickets, and Ballpark Passes for the 2026 Renegades season are on sale now. For more information call the Renegades Ticket Office at (845) 838-0094 or slide to hvrenegades.com/tickets.

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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.

Thanks to the team at Northern and  
Southern Dutchess News, Beacon Free Press

To the editor:

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and your staff of the Northern & Southern Dutchess News, Beacon Free Press.

Before the holidays, I purchased ad space in the Holiday Gift Guide, looking to promote my caricature illustration, party and gift service. I spoke with Curtis (Schmidt) who walked me through the steps to create an inviting and meaningful advertisement. He was knowledgeable, personable and patient - a pleasure to work with and I felt very much like it was a creative collaboration. He dropped an idea during one of our conversations about maybe featuring my work as a special interest piece in one of the regular publications.

After the holidays passed, Curtis and I revisited this idea, and soon thereafter, he put me in touch with writer Morgan Maier. From beginning to end, her communication style is warm, professional and generous. She is a very special person, and I feel that she put together an exceptional piece that I am so proud to share with friends, family and clients. Indeed, since its publication, I have been contacted by a variety of people, and am now happily busy responding to emails, filling holes in my calendar and deepening my network.

Thank you for bringing this light to a cold Winter!

Marlene Kryza  
Newburgh

Immigration and the rule of law

To the editor:

A video has been "going viral," as they say, of a speech President Obama made on July 1, 2010 in Washington D.C. He spoke against illegal immigration, saying that our nation "has the right and obligation to control its borders and set laws for residency and citizenship," saying further that "... no matter how decent they are, no matter their reasons, the 11 million who broke these laws should be held accountable." His total deportations totaled at least 3 million people, according to various online sources. His vice-president, Joe Biden, departed from Mr. Obama's policy by allowing record numbers of illegal immigrants into the country, thus paving the way for Donald Trump's decisive victory in 2024.

This idea of a nation's right to control its borders has been recently emphasized in a paper from the Catholic advocacy group CatholicVote entitled "Immigration Enforcement and the Christian Conscience," by Benjamin Mann. The paper reminds us of the Catholic teaching which states that nations have a moral obligation to accept immigrants, people who may be fleeing desperate living conditions. But along with that obligation exists the right of a host nation to decide how many people it can accommodate. Too many immigrants can, by over-loading a nation's resources, re-create the difficult conditions in the host country that exist in the countries that immigrants are trying to flee from. Massive abuses have accompanied the open border policy of the last administration.

The paper points out that some well-meaning Church leaders are misleading Catholics by being too tolerant of unlimited immigration and open borders. They say that the teachings of Jesus oblige a nation to accept immigrants without any restraints, that this is part of "the preferential option for the poor" that the Church embraces. This, the CatholicVote document insists, is not in line with the Catholic teaching found in such authoritative resources as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Vatican II document "Gaudium et Spes" (Latin for "joy and hope"), and the Compendium of Social Doctrine. These sources declare that, again, it is up to a nation's civil authorities to decide on immigration issues, that a nation's first obligation is to its own citizens, and that the rule of law is essential in protecting the rights of those citizens. CatholicVote argues that deportation is a legitimate enforcement of immigration law that Catholics and all people of goodwill can support in good conscience.

Robert Crolius  
Hyde Park

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, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

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Beekman car-pedestrian  
fatality under investigation

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the investigation into a fatal car-pedestrian crash which occurred on State Route 55 near Gardner Hollow Rd in the Town of Beekman at approximately 11:45 a.m. on Feb. 5.

The preliminary investigation has revealed that Marissa L. Burke, age 39 of Beekman, was crossing Route 55 after disembarking a Dutchess County LOOP bus when she was struck by a westbound 2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Burke was transported to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital where she was pronounced

dead, and the operator/sole occupant of the Jeep was uninjured. The bus was not involved in the crash.

The primary factor in the crash appears to be failure to yield on the part of the pedestrian, at this time no charges have been filed and the investigation is continuing by the Sheriff's Office's Detective Bureau and Crash Investigation Unit. The Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Beekman Fire Department and Route 55 was closed for approximately 3 hours due to the investigation.

Clinton's Whitton releases State  
of the Town address

continued from cover

a Community Development Block Grant; and initiating a zoning revision process; among other items.

Goals for this year include:

- Accelerating the timeline to improve cellular phone service in the town, which is often unreliable.

• Updating the town's Comprehensive Plan (which dates back to 2012), with a newly formed committee meeting soon to begin an estimated two-year process.

Public engagement will be encouraged in the formation of the new plan.

• Proposing two new revenue sources that will not burden existing taxpayers, including an occupancy tax on overnight stays in the Town of Clinton, and a transfer tax on higher-end home purchases within the town.

Additional details, as well as other proposals and more information, can be viewed in the complete document.



Resumes:

[gm@wkze.com](mailto:gm@wkze.com)

# County seeks proposals for 2026-2027 youth program funding

## Grant workshops set for March 10 and 12

The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services' Division of Youth Services is requesting applications for free youth programming services from municipalities and non-profit, community-based organizations for the program year on Oct. 1, 2026, to Sept. 30, 2027.

Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be awarded in the following categories:

- Youth Development Programs
- Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding

• Runaway and Homeless Youth  
Eligible applicants should be either a Dutchess County municipality or a

501(c)(3) nonprofit, community-based organization with a federal identification number and charity registration number. Programs will be required to have staff trained in Positive Youth Development. Agencies must also show how the program addresses one of Dutchess County's "Path to Promise" domains/value areas: Economic Security, Physical and Emotional Health, Education, Citizenship/Civic Engagement, Family and Community.

The Division of Youth Services has scheduled two grant workshops for non-profit agencies and municipalities interested in more information. The workshops are being held on Tuesday, March 10, and Thursday, March 12, at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

Contact Juliana Corbett at (845) 486-3354 or [Juliana.Corbett@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Juliana.Corbett@dfa.state.ny.us) to register for a workshop. Youth Services will review the step-by-step process of applying online through the Dutchess County Grant Portal and address any concerns or questions.

Specific funding eligibility requirements are as follows:

Youth Development Programs (YDP): Grants will be awarded to programs for youth under 21 that provide free, direct services designed to improve youth and community outcomes.

Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding (YSEF): Grants will be awarded to free programs that serve youth ages 6-17 and aim to foster educational connections and achievement; physical health and well-being; mental health and well-being; employment; and/or community cohesion.

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY): RHY services are grounded in the Positive Youth Development framework and focus on supporting and developing healthy relationships to enhance youths' existing strengths and resiliency, while incorporating youth voice and leadership into programming.

Additional information about the grant eligibility criteria is available on Youth Services' grant funding webpage, accessible via [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov). All 2026-2027 grant applications are due to the Division of Youth Services on or before Thursday, April 2, by 1 p.m.

Funding is made available through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. In 2025-2026, 37 programs were awarded more than \$445,000 in funding. The amount of funding will be subject to availability.

## Pok Public Library District's February highlights

Adriance Memorial Library is at 93 Market St.

Boardman Road Branch Library is at 140 Boardman Road.

Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library is at the Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton Street.

Register for events at [www.poklib.org](http://www.poklib.org); visit the website or call (845) 485-3445 for more information.

Strategy Board Game Night  
Thursday, Feb. 12, 5 p.m.

Boardman Road Branch Library  
No registration required.

His Story ... A Panel Discussion About Health

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library

Registration required.

In honor of Black History Month, The Brain and Body Coalition dig into "His Story," a story of wellness, resilience and power. Featuring four men on different paths with different stories full of depth, inspiration and strength.

Soul United Choir members  
Concert: Souls United Choir  
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2:30 p.m.

Lateef Islam Auditorium at the Family Partnership Center

No registration required.

Souls United of the Hudson Valley, founded in 2010, is an interfaith gospel choir composed of members from the Mid-Hudson Region. Their repertoire consists mostly of music from Christian, Baha'i and other faith traditions, as reflected by the choir's membership.

## Hinchey announces February Mobile Office Hours

New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey (SD 41) recently announced that her office will hold mobile office hours throughout February, providing residents across Dutchess, Columbia, Greene and Ulster counties with one-on-one support from her constituent services team to navigate state programs and access essential services. (Editor's note: The press release arrived too late for publication in our Feb. 4 issue; in lieu of the Feb. 10 event at the Millbrook Library, Dutchess residents can attend any of the other events.

Hinchey said, "Every day, we help our neighbors get the support they need, and mobile office hours are a key part of our effort to bring answers and assistance directly to our neighbors. We've helped local veterans find housing, assisted fire departments with capital funding, connected residents with state agencies, helped small businesses apply for licenses, supported seniors in applying for home accessibility repairs, advocated for residents dealing with utility issues—and everything in between. Whether you have a problem we can assist with or want to

discuss an issue important to you, come visit us at one of our mobile office hours this month."

The remaining February Mobile Office Hours schedule is as follows:

**COLUMBIA COUNTY**  
Thursday, Feb. 12  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Philmont Library  
101 Main St., Philmont

**GREENE COUNTY**  
Thursday, Feb. 19  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Mountain Top Library  
6093 Main St., Tannersville

**ULSTER COUNTY**  
Wednesday, Feb. 25  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Elting Memorial Library  
93 Main St., New Paltz

Hinchey's office is also available every weekday via phone; contact the District Office at (845) 331-3810.

## Barrett introduces legislation to implement performance-based utility regulation

Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-Dutchess/Columbia) recently introduced legislation (A.9640) that would authorize the Public Service Commission to implement performance-based utility regulations, a model that aligns utility rates with performance metrics like affordability, energy efficiency, and grid reliability. This is a departure from New York State's current utility regulation model, which incentivizes infrastructure expansion and capital investments.

"As New Yorkers watch their energy bills soar following yet another double digit utility rate increase request, it is abundantly clear that our current regulatory framework for utilities is not working," said Barrett. "Performance-based utility regulation, which has been adopted in other states, shifts the rate-making process from a system that rewards infrastructure expansion at the expense of ratepayers to one that penalizes and rewards utility companies for their performance against metrics that more directly align with our state energy goals."

The bill was referred to the Assembly's Energy Committee on Jan. 21.

## When it comes to finances, it matters who has your back.

Meet Beth Coon, branch manager of our Pine Plains branch. If you ask her what she likes most about her job, she will say it's all about the customers – from helping high school grads open their first bank accounts, to assisting older customers maneuver new banking services like Online Banking. With over 30 years of local banking experience, Beth says "it's great to be part of a bank where family and community are so important."

Stop by, say hi to Beth and tell her what financial services she can help you with. She's a great listener!

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Beth Coon  
Pine Plains  
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# NYS Ag Dept. announces overtime tax credit advance portal now open for farmers to register

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has announced that the State's Farm Employer Overtime Credit advance portal is now open for farmers to register and begin preparing the documents they will need to apply for reimbursement.

Later this year, eligible farm employers may apply to the Department of Agriculture and Markets for a certificate of advance payment of eligible overtime paid to their employees between January 1 and July 31, 2026.

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "Farm labor is one of the most critical issues for agriculture and we are working hard to ensure that farmers have the resources they need to support their workforce while meeting their food production goals. This program, coupled with the State's refundable tax credits, are providing real relief to the industry by offsetting increased labor costs and additional pressures stemming from supply chain disruptions, ongoing tariff changes, and cuts to important programs. I encourage our farmers to consider the overtime credit and its potential impact on their operations."

The Farm Employer Overtime Credit is a refundable tax credit available for eligible farm employers who pay overtime wages after January 1, 2026, based on the gradual phase-in of the overtime threshold in New York State. Farmers can apply for this refundable credit if they or their business are an eligible farmer, employ eligible farm employees that were paid eligible overtime, either directly or indirectly, through a Professional Employer Organization (PEO), paid eligible overtime wages to eligible farm employees.

The overtime threshold, which is used to calculate a farm's credit amount, is reduced by four hours every two years until the threshold reaches 40 hours in 2032. In 2026, the threshold will be 52 hours.

**Catch Up Credit** - New this year, farms that used a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) for payroll services that included eligible overtime between January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 are eligible to receive a one-time "catch up" credit. To receive this credit, eligible farms will need to obtain a year-end certificate from the Department and claim the credit on the farm's tax return

that includes December 31, 2025. There will not be another opportunity to claim this credit for eligible overtime paid in calendar year 2024 or 2025. The application period to apply for a certificate is currently open through February 1, 2026.

All eligible farm employers are encouraged to prepare to apply for their 2026 credit by taking the following steps:

- Ensuring that they are registered for a NY.gov ID through My.NY.gov.
- Taking the farm employer eligibility assessment to establish if they (the farm employer) expect to meet the eligible farmer income requirements for their tax filing type at the end of the tax year.
- Discussing the program with their tax and payroll advisors to ensure they are keeping necessary records.
- Registering their farm in the online portal now if they plan to apply for the advance payment or year-end credit in 2026. The application portal can be accessed by visiting [taxcredit.agriculture.ny.gov](http://taxcredit.agriculture.ny.gov).
- Optionally, choosing to delegate authority to a representative (e.g., a tax

preparer), who may complete and submit the application on the farm employer's behalf later in the year.

A user guide to assist farmers with these preparatory steps is available at [agriculture.ny.gov/farming/farm-employer-overtime-credit-advance](http://agriculture.ny.gov/farming/farm-employer-overtime-credit-advance).

Also new for the 2026 tax year, all eligible farm employers will need to apply for a year-end certificate from the Department in order to claim the credit on their 2026 tax return. The application period to apply for a 2026 year-end certificate will be January 1 through February 1, 2027.

Additional information and resources, including important dates and a chart where upcoming educational events will be available when scheduled, can be found on the Department of Agriculture and Markets' website at [agriculture.ny.gov/farming/farm-employer-overtime-credit-advance](http://agriculture.ny.gov/farming/farm-employer-overtime-credit-advance) and the DTF website at [tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/farm-employer-overtime-credit.htm](http://tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/farm-employer-overtime-credit.htm). Questions may be directed to [farmOTadvance@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:farmOTadvance@agriculture.ny.gov) or (518) 457-7076.

## County offers tips, resources for cold-weather safety

*continued from cover*

- Never rub frostbitten skin
- Get the person to a doctor or hospital as quickly as possible.

**Hypothermia:** Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures can cause hypothermia. Be aware of these symptoms: inability to concentrate; confusion; poor coordination; slurred speech; drowsiness; exhaustion; uncontrollable shivering, followed by a sudden lack of shivering.

Seek emergency medical assistance if your body temperature drops below 95 degrees. Remove wet clothing, wrap yourself in warm blankets and drink warm liquids until help arrives.

Avoid long periods of exposure to severe cold to decrease the risk of frostbite or hypothermia. Dress in layers of clothing and wear a hat and mittens.

**Physical exertion:** Risk of a heart attack increases with activity like shoveling, clearing debris or pushing a car. You should:

- Stay warm, dress warm and slow down when working outdoors.
- Take frequent rests to avoid over exertion.
- If you feel chest pain - STOP and seek help immediately.

### If you need emergency shelter

The county's CODE BLUE protocol is in effect for anyone who needs shelter when temperatures are 32 degrees or below. Dutchess County Department of Community & Family Services collaborates with community partners to ensure every resident is safe. Anyone who needs emergency shelter can call 2-1-1 after business hours/weekends and staff will help you to shelter placement.

### Winter fire risks

**Kerosene Heaters:** Follow these safety tips when using kerosene heaters:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use only the correct fuel for your unit.
- Refuel outdoors ONLY and only when the unit is cool.
- Keep the heater at least three feet away from furniture and other flammable objects.
- When using the heater, use fire safeguards and ventilate properly.

**Wood stoves and fireplaces:** Make sure you are using your wood-burning stove, fireplace and heater safely.

- Always keep a screen around an open flame.
- Never use gasoline to start your fireplace.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Do not close the damper when ashes are hot.
- Make sure you have proper ventilation.
- Keep curtains, towels and potholders away from hot surfaces.

**Carbon monoxide poisoning:** Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas created by car exhaust, home heating systems and obstructed chimneys that claims about 1,000 lives in the United States each year. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sleepiness, headaches and dizziness.

If you experience the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning get into fresh air immediately and call 911 for emergency medical help.

- Never run generators indoors. Open a window slightly when using a kerosene

heater.

- Never use charcoal to cook indoors.
- Never use a gas oven to heat your home.

### Protect pets

• Ingesting anti-freeze can be fatal for your pets. If you spill some, soak it up immediately.

• Pets that live outdoors should be fed a bit more in the winter (they need the extra calories to stay warm). Always have fresh water (consider a bowl that prevents the water from freezing).

• Pets can get frostbite easily on the ears, tail and paws – be aware of the temperature.

• Check your pets' paws to make sure ice or road salt is not building up between the toes.

• Keep your pet on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.

• When starting your car, honk your horn to make sure an animal has not found a warm spot to sleep under your hood.

### Winter safety on the road

If you must drive during a winter storm – preparation is key.

• Stock your car with blankets, a shovel, flashlight and batteries, extra warm clothing, tire chains, battery booster cables, quick energy foods and brightly-colored cloth to use as a distress flag.

• Keep your gas tank full to prevent gasoline freeze-up.

• Keep batteries charged if you have a mobile phone or two-way radio

• Make sure tires are properly inflated and have adequate treads.

• Make sure someone knows your travel plans.

• Listen to local news reports or call law enforcement agencies for the latest road conditions.

• Keep your vehicles clear of ice and snow (this includes your hood and roof).

If you become trapped in your vehicle, here are some tips to follow:

• Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow.

• If you have access to a mobile phone or two-way radio, contact emergency services.

• Stay in your car and wait for help to find you.

• Run your engine for short periods of time to stay warm.

• Keep your window open slightly to allow circulation.

• Turn on the dome light at night when you are running the engine to signal rescuers.

• Hang a brightly colored piece of cloth or piece of clothing from your car.

• Move arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

### Plan ahead for winter safety

It might be tempting to block winter out of our minds once spring arrives, but that is the perfect time to prepare for next year.

• **Develop a Family Emergency Plan** - Be informed about plans at your workplace, and anywhere you and your family spend time. Ready.gov can help you develop a family plan should disaster strike.

• **Stock Up on Emergency Supplies** - During an emergency, electric, heat or phone service may not work. Make sure you're covered - download a checklist from Ready.gov.

• **Be Aware** - Local radio and television stations provide official up-to-date information during an emergency.

• **Have a mechanic check** the following items on your vehicle, before winter arrives: battery, wipers and windshield washer fluid, antifreeze, ignition system, thermostat, lights, exhaust system, flashing hazard lights, heater, brakes, defroster, oil level.

• **Help your neighbor** - If your neighbor is elderly or dependent on life-sustaining or health-related equipment, you can assist them now to ensure their needs are met during severe winter and power outages:

• Help them stock a home disaster kit.

• Check on them after a storm or power outage.

• Make sure they register as a special needs customer with their utility.

• Notify local emergency responders such as the fire department.

• Have a list of emergency numbers readily available for them.

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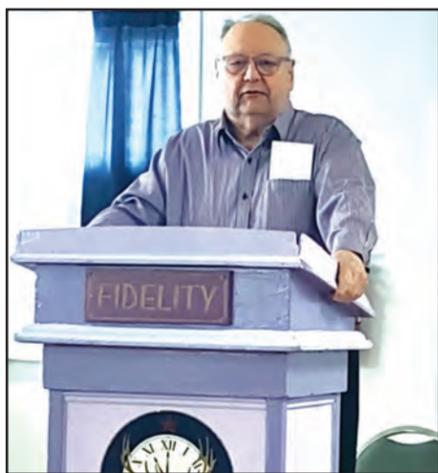
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# Red Hook/Rhinebeck Elks Lodge announces Backpack for Heroes, check to riding center



Left photo: Joe Spano, Exalted Ruler of Red Hook/Rhinebeck Elks Lodge #2022, introduced two programs which the Elks Lodge sponsored at their awards breakfast Sunday, Feb. 8. Center photo: Elks Lodge Veteran Service Chairman, Rich Gohl, organized the Elks Backpacks for Heroes program and provided backpacks fully loaded with necessary supplies valued at \$3,000 for distribution to veterans by Rachel Hamilton, Columbia County Veterans Service Agency in Hudson. Right photo: Jane Rodd, Development Director of High & Mighty Therapeutic Riding & Driving Center located in Ghent, accepted the Elks check for \$3,000 to support the veterans program at the center. Army veteran and Elks member Bill Pilon, a participant and advocate of the Center, gave an overview of the programs from which he benefited. Also pictured are members Andrew Graffia and Joe Spano. *Courtesy photos*

# Uncover local history and support seniors at Antique Appraisal Day & Buying Event

Have you ever wondered if that dusty attic find is a hidden gem or if your family heirloom has more than just sentimental value? Residents of the Hudson Valley are invited to find out at the Antique Appraisal Day & Buying Event, hosted by the historic Vassar-Warner Home in partnership with Astor Galleries.

The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Vassar-Warner Home, located at 52 South Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie. (Alt. snow date: 02/28/2026).

Appraisals for a Cause - Professional

appraisers from Astor Galleries will be available to evaluate a wide range of items, including furniture, fine art, collectibles, and unique curiosities.

- Cost: \$10 per item, or a special rate of three items for \$25.

- Limit: Six items per person.

**On-the-Spot Buying Event** - In response to high demand, the event also features a Buying Event for those interested in liquidating their items. Astor Galleries will provide competitive, no-obligation offers and immediate payment for items such as:

- Precious Metals: Fine jewelry, gold/silver coins, and scrap gold/silver.
- Timepieces: Vintage and antique watches.
- Sterling Silver: Tea sets, bowls, and flatware.

Entry to the buying event is \$10, with no limit on the number of items presented. (Please note: Astor Galleries does not purchase items they have appraised during the event.)

“We are thrilled to bring this event to Poughkeepsie and support the vital mission of the Vassar-Warner Home,”

said Stephen Cardile, Director of Acquisitions and founder of Astor Galleries. “Whether you’re curious about a family heirloom or thinking of selling, our team is here to help.”

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Vassar-Warner Home, helping to support their mission of providing quality care and housing for seniors in the community.

For more information, visit [www.astorgalleries.com/appraisal-days](http://www.astorgalleries.com/appraisal-days) or call 800-784-7876.

## Millbrook CSD launches NexTrex Recycling Challenge

The Millbrook Central School District kicked off participation in the NexTrex Recycling Challenge Program in December, intending to earn a bench for the district’s campus. This initiative will build a movement of community-level recycling to include students, parents, faculty and staff.

The NexTrex Challenge is a nationwide program that supports local recycling efforts. The challenge is set to collect 1,000 pounds of soft plastic film and packaging by December 15, 2026. If the Millbrook Central School District reaches this goal, Trex will donate a bench made from recycled materials to the District, which will be a lasting symbol of the community’s commitment to sustainability. The District is also offering an incentive to each of the Millbrook Schools. The first school to collect 250 pounds of plastic will win an outdoor game.

“We are grateful to all those volunteers in the Millbrook Central School District who will help us reach our 1,000 pound

plastics goal and are excited about this community challenge,” said Millbrook Central School District’s, Dr. Amy Watkins, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Community Relations. “This initiative will not only help our environment but educate our students on how plastic film recycling prevents plastics from ending up in landfills.”

Yellow collection bins have been placed outside Elm Drive, Alden Place, the Middle School, the High School and the First Student Bus Garage for plastics collecting. Additionally, the Millbrook Library has a collection box in the Library’s main lobby. Accepted items include grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, plastic shipping envelopes, and more.

The Millbrook Central School District serves the educational needs of students residing in the Village of Millbrook, Town of Washington, Town of Clinton, Town of Pleasant Valley, Town of Unionvale, Town of Stanford, and Town of LaGrange.

### LAGRANGE TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON CDBG FOR PARK BATHROOM PROJECT

The Town of LaGrange will hold a public hearing at the Town Hall, 120 Stringham Road, Lagrangeville, on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., to discuss the application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund an accessible bathroom project at LaGrange Park.

All interested persons will have an opportunity to be heard, in person or in writing. Visit <https://www.lagrangenyny.gov/> or call (845) 452-1830 for more information.

send us your news [cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com](mailto:cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com)

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# Dutchess County hosts 3rd Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Forum

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) recently hosted the County's third annual Human Trafficking Awareness Forum at Dutchess Community College's James and Betty Hall Theatre, bringing together more than 120 community partners, service providers, educators, healthcare professionals and law enforcement to strengthen local efforts to prevent human trafficking and support victims.

Serino said, "Human trafficking is a crime that often goes unseen, and awareness is one of our strongest tools. By continuing to bring people together for education and training, we are strengthening our community's ability to recognize exploitation and connect victims with help. Dutchess County is eager to keep working alongside our committed partners, and we thank all who took part."

Human trafficking, defined as the unlawful trade of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for exploitative purposes, includes crimes such as forced labor, sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude. The International Labour Organization estimates more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of human trafficking; it remains a serious public safety and human rights issue nationwide, affecting communities of all sizes. In 2025, the Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking received 38 local referrals of suspected trafficking cases – including referrals received from probation officers, youth service providers and staff at shelters for runaway and homeless youth.

The Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking brings together professionals from many different fields to stop human trafficking by raising awareness, recognizing possible victims and providing coordinated, trauma-informed support. The task force also offers prevention education for young people and practical resources for the community, including guides, hotline numbers, service listings and fact sheets that address common myths about trafficking.

The forum focused on increasing public awareness, improving identification of trafficking indicators and reinforcing coordination among agencies that serve vulnerable populations across Dutchess County. The program featured presentations, panel discussions and training sessions led by subject-matter experts. Speakers addressed emerging trends in

human trafficking, best practices for victim-centered responses and the importance of cross-agency collaboration.

This year's forum offered clear, practical information on the many forms of human trafficking, how to recognize the warning signs and steps that can be taken to prevent it, including:

- Human trafficking victim advocate and survivor speaker Alicia McDonald discussed her background of being a survivor of sex trafficking at the hands of her first husband;

- A presentation by the New York State Office of Prevention of Domestic Violence regarding gender-based violence and the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI);

- A review of Family Services, Inc.'s Center for Victim Safety and Support program, which offers services to victims/survivors in the community, including a 24-hour hotline for trafficking victims to call to seek assistance, available at (845) 452-7272; and

- A panel presentation from Hudson Valley Safe Streets on a multi-agency collaboration on a case involving a runaway youth from the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie.

Dutchess County participates in New York State's Safe Harbour program, which helps counties better recognize young people who have been trafficked, sexually exploited or are at risk and connect them with the services they need. Forum attendees learned about Dutchess County's Safe Harbour Program and the Center for Victim Safety and Support.

DCFS Commissioner Sabrina Jaar Marzouka said, "Human trafficking is a serious abuse of human rights, and it is a crime that must be stopped. We appreciate the dedicated individuals in Dutchess County who work bravely to protect people of all ages who are at risk. The collaborations strengthened at this year's forum will help build a safer community, and we thank everyone who participated and shared their expertise."

Suspected cases of human trafficking can be reported anytime by calling the County's Human Trafficking Hotline at 845-452-7272. To learn more about Dutchess County's prevention efforts and access a resource guide for service providers, law enforcement and attorneys on creating a coordinated, trauma-informed response, visit DCFS' Human Trafficking Task Force webpage, accessible via [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov).



From left: Michael J. Hall, Dutchess Community College's Behavioral Sciences Department Chair; Tracy Connelly-Hart, Deputy Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services; County Executive Sue Serino; David Garcia, Human Trafficking Coordinator-Safe Harbour, Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking; DCC Professor and retired Connecticut detective Matthew Greenstein. Below, Serino and trafficking survivor Alicia McDonald, who shared her experience with forum attendees. *Courtesy photos*



## 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.

## Starr Library sets Feb. book clubs

Starr Library is at 68 West Market St. in Rhinebeck. Call (845) 876-4030 or visit [www.starrlibrary.org](http://www.starrlibrary.org) for more information.

from the surrounding anarchy. In a society where any vulnerability is a risk, she suffers from hyper-empathy, a debilitating sensitivity to others' emotions.

**STARR LIBRARY BOOK CLUB**  
"Parable of the Sower" by Octavia Butler

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7-8 p.m.

The remarkably prescient post-apocalyptic novel written in 1993 by acclaimed writer Octavia Butler. When global climate change and economic crises lead to social chaos in the early 2020s, California becomes full of dangers, from pervasive water shortage to masses of vagabonds who will do anything to live to see another day. Fifteen-year-old Lauren Olamina lives inside a gated community with her preacher father, family, and neighbors, sheltered

**QUEER HORROR BOOK CLUB**  
"Natural Beauty" by Ling Ling Huang

Thursday, Feb. 26, 6-7 p.m.

Sly, surprising, and razor-sharp, "Natural Beauty" follows a young musician into an elite, beauty-obsessed world where perfection comes at a staggering cost. When an accident leaves her parents debilitated, our narrator abandons her promising future for a job at a high-end beauty and wellness store in New York City. She is plied with products that slim her thighs, smooth her skin, and lighten her hair—but beneath these creams and tinctures lies something sinister.

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## Creating inclusive opportunities through Dutchess County 4-H

Dutchess County 4-H is proud to offer Flourishing Farmers, a unique and inclusive 4-H program designed specifically for youth with special needs. This program welcomes young people with a wide range of abilities and disabilities, including Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, deafness, blindness, and other intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Flourishing Farmers focuses on creating meaningful, hands-on opportunities that may not always be available through traditional programs.

Just like other 4-H clubs, Flourishing Farmers members meet at least once a month and participate in age-appropriate, experiential learning activities. Youth explore agriculture, animal care and nature-based learning in a supportive and adaptable environment that encourages confidence, independence and personal growth. The program emphasizes learning by doing, celebrating each participant's strengths and interests.

Flourishing Farmers offers several different program tracks, allowing youth to engage in experiences that best suit their abilities and passions. Some participants work with horses through partner locations that focus on safe, guided animal interaction. Others attend a farm centered on plants and a variety of animals, where youth learn about gardening, animal care, and farm life. Another track takes place at a farm that primarily focuses on chickens, while also introducing participants to other types of animals. Additional youth participate at a farm that works with alpacas, along with several other animal species, offering a calm and engaging environment for learning.

Throughout the year, Flourishing Farmers members build skills, friendships and a sense of belonging. A highlight of the program is the opportunity for participants to showcase what they have learned at the Dutchess County Fair on Think Differently Thursday, proudly sharing their accomplishments with family, friends, and the community.

Flourishing Farmers reflects 4-H's commitment to inclusion and accessibility, ensuring that all youth have the chance to explore, learn, and thrive. If you have a young person who may be interested in joining Flourishing Farmers, we encourage you to reach out to the Dutchess County 4-H team to learn more.

Together, we are creating spaces where every young person can flourish.



Flourishing Farmers offers several different program tracks, allowing youth to engage in experiences that best suit their abilities and passions. Courtesy photo

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Skating rink open to the public

Town of Clinton Recreation announces that the Friends Park Ice Skating Rink is open to the public for open ice skating, weather permitting. Helmets encouraged. Friends Park is at 2350 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners.

## Lecture on forest amphibians set Feb. 12 at Cary Institute

"I Love a Rainy Night: The Rhythm of Forest Amphibians" is set Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m., at Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies, 2801 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook. In-person or live stream. The event is free, but registration is required via [www.caryinstitute.org](http://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.

Offered in partnership with the Catskill Science Collaborative.

## Pleasant Valley UMC to host Lenten meal series

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, 92 Martin Road, Pleasant Valley, will host a Soup & Roll Lenten Meal Series on Fridays in Lent, Feb. 13 to March 27, from 4 p.m. until sold out. Enjoy homemade soup, fresh rolls and warm fellowship. There is a suggested donation (give what you can) for a hearty dinner.

Soups of the week: Baked Potato Soup (Feb. 13), Tortellini Soup (Feb. 20), Cream of Broccoli (Feb. 27), Butternut Squash (March 6), Black Bean (March 13), Split Pea (March 20) and Soup Buffet Night (March 27; selections TBA).

"Ash & Dash," a special event, is set on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 6 to 10 a.m. Led by Pastor Caroline Beringer. Email [pleasantvalleyunitedmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:pleasantvalleyunitedmethodist@gmail.com) or call (845) 635-3022 for more information about these events.

## Galentine's Day Game Night set Feb. 13 in Stanfordville

Stanford Recreation will hold a Galentine's Day Game Night on Friday, Feb. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Stanfordville Social Club, 6063 Route 82 (next to Coyote Flaco). There is additional parking across the street. Bring a game and your girlfriends to eat, drink and play. Admission is free. Cocktails, mocktails and food will be available for purchase. Check out @townofstanfordrec and @stanfordvillesocialclub on Instagram for updates and more information.

## Repair Cafe set Feb. 14 at Brookmeade

Don't toss it...fix it! Bring items in need of repair to free Repair Café at the Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Dr., Rhinebeck, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14. We love keeping fixable things out of landfills. Coaches offer repairs, as well as advice for fixing broken but beloved items – mechanical, electrical, electronic, metal, wood, ceramic, jewelry, clothing – you name it! Knife sharpening is also available.

Sponsored by Sustainable Hudson Valley. In case of inclement weather, please confirm the event by checking <https://www.repaircafehv.org/rhinebeck> or emailing [elaine.rhinebeckrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.rhinebeckrepaircafe@gmail.com).

Future Rhinebeck Repair Cafes will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 9, Aug 8, and Nov 14.

## 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](http://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](mailto:mecr@mideastcrisis.org) or 845 876-7906

## Winter Rhinecliff Soup Sales

Winter Rhinecliff Soup Sales, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896, are offered on the third Thursday of the Month: Feb. 19 and March 19. Soup is sold by the Quart. \$10 per quart. Take-out only. Pick up at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Email: [JoBaer2@gmail.com](mailto:JoBaer2@gmail.com)

to be emailed the soup choices for each month and pre-order online.

## Friday Fish Fry at East Clinton Firehouse

The Clinton Volunteer Fire Department will be holding its Annual Fish Fry every Friday from Feb. 20 to April 3. It will be held at the East Clinton Firehouse, 9 Firehouse Lane Clinton Corners, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Eat in or take out for \$18 a dinner. The menu includes fish, French fries, coleslaw, dessert and beverages. For information call Lynn at (845) 266-5485.

## Wonders of Winter Ecology Walk set Feb. 21

On Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m., join Cary Institute's wildlife biologist Mike Fargione and educator Ashley Alred for The Wonders of Winter Ecology, an opportunity to view and hear wildlife, learn about their natural history, and discover research happening on Cary's grounds. Notice the many signs that wildlife leave behind, showing us they are still active. Observe the impressive ways plants and insects transform in the midst of winter. Children and adults are invited to participate in sensory activities along the way. Adults with children 13 and younger will be led by Alred on a walk geared toward younger ages. Cary Institute is at 2801 Sharon Turnpike in Millbrook. Visit [www.caryinstitute.org](http://www.caryinstitute.org) to register and for more information.

## Antique appraisal & buying event Feb. 21

Ever wondered what that family heirloom is really worth? Join Astor Galleries at the historic Vassar-Warner Home for an Antique Appraisal Day & Buying event on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Professional appraisers will be on-site to evaluate fine art, jewelry, collectibles and more. Looking to sell? A separate Buying Event will offer competitive, on-the-spot cash offers for precious metals, sterling silver and vintage timepieces. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Vassar-Warner Home, supporting their mission of providing quality care for Poughkeepsie seniors. Visit [astorgalleries.com/appraisal-days](http://astorgalleries.com/appraisal-days) or call 800-784-7876.

## Stanford Grange sets

### Chicken & Biscuit Dinner Feb. 21

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.

### 'Seed Social' set Feb. 21 at Morton Library

Dirty Gaia & Morton Seed Exchange Present the "2026 Seed Social" on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 3 p.m., at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Come and receive the gift of seeds, share your own seeds, and connect with neighbors and growers. If you're ready to get your hands in the dirt now, step up to the Winter Sowing Station and learn how to make mini greenhouses out of recycled plastic jugs. Free & open to all. Just bring your enthusiasm, and if you have them (NOT required), some seeds to share, along with an empty, clean, transparent 1-gallon jug or two. Registration optional at <https://events.humanitix.com/seed-social>.

### Rhinebeck Garden Club to meet Feb. 25

The Rhinebeck Garden Club's monthly meeting is set Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m., at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. Speaker Ashley Gamell of Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley, will talk about the design of Rhinebeck's new pollinator demonstration garden, located at the east entrance of the Municipal Parking Lot. Gamell's presentation will highlight the vision behind the garden, the native plant species selected for the site, and the role pollinator-friendly landscapes play in supporting local ecosystems. The meeting is open to the public but guests are asked to join after attending two meetings. The 2026 Yearbook will be distributed and reviewed. Refreshments served. For more information about this program, or the RBGC or upcoming programs, please contact Sue, 845-797-3226.

### Menopause Journey program

"Change is Inevitable: Courage and Confidence through Midlife Transitions" is set February 26 from 7-9 p.m. at the Starr Library, 68 W Market St, Rhinebeck (downstairs: use back door for entry.) This event is designed to empower and educate women navigating the perimenopause/menopause journey. Dr. Amy Novatt will lead an informative discussion that covers hormonal changes, HRT, and body image, and certi-

fied life and health coach Marybeth Cale will facilitate activities designed to help guests consider what makes them thrive and what action steps they can take to optimize feelings of well-being. Space is limited; reservations required. Learn more at [estuarycoaching.com/packages](http://estuarycoaching.com/packages).

## Stanford Winterfeast set Feb. 28

The Stanford Grange and Stanford: A Caring Community invite you escape the clutches of winter and share a meal with other Stanford community members at the Stanford Grange on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be live local musicians, great conversation and a delicious winter feast on the table, featuring family and heritage recipes. We will be gathering together to share laughter, conversation and a look forward to the first signs of spring. If you would like to bring and share a special family or heritage dish, please email Maeda Bloomberg at [Macdabk@gmail.com](mailto:Macdabk@gmail.com) or Ryan Orton at [orton808@yahoo.com](mailto:orton808@yahoo.com). All are welcome.

## 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 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](mailto:csaniewski1@gmail.com) for more information.

## Hyde Park Chamber Breakfast set March 12

The Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Breakfast Meeting on Thursday, March 12, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at the Eveready Diner, 4184 Albany Post Road (Route 9), Hyde Park. The speaker will be Patricia Munk, Dutchess County Emergency Response. The cost to attend is \$25 per member, \$30 per non-member. Advance reservations are requested via [www.hydeparkchamber.org](http://www.hydeparkchamber.org); payment online or at the door.

## St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie sets Irish Dinner March 14

On Saturday, March 14, St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie will hold their annual Irish Dinner prepared by JJ & the students from the Culinary Institute of America. The menu includes baked potato soup, tossed green salad, shepherd's pie, Irish soda bread, apple cake, tea & coffee, cider, water. All of this for only \$20. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call the church at (845) 452-8440 to make your reservation. Pay at the door. St. Paul's Church is at 161 Mansion St., Poughkeepsie.

## Ale Launch at Mill House to benefit Anderson Center

On Thursday, April 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., Mill House Brewing Company (289 Mill St., Poughkeepsie) will host a Mr. Anderson Ale Launch Event to benefit Anderson Center for Autism. The cost is \$40 per person; includes pint glass. Reservations/Information: [andersoncenterforautism.org/mranderson](http://andersoncenterforautism.org/mranderson)

Note: Event is open to the public, but NYS law

requires that you must be 21 years of age or older to drink alcohol.

## ONGOING

**Parkinson's Support Group** - at Starr Library Community Room, third Monday of the month, noon-1:30 p.m. The monthly Parkinson's Support Group is a gathering place for those with Parkinson's and their loved ones to create community and share information. The group will meet each month to offer a space for everyone to discuss their challenges and successes, share stories, connect with others who are navigating similar issues, and sift through medical information and the latest news about available treatments. Refreshments and resources provided. Register via the online calendar at [www.starrlibrary.org](http://www.starrlibrary.org). The library is at 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck.

**Chess:** First Monday, 7 p.m., at Clinton Town Hall, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck.

**Men's fellowship and Bible study:** Tuesday nights, 7-9 p.m., in the home of David Mahoney, 21 Mountain View Road, Staatsburg. Call (845) 797-4805 for more information.

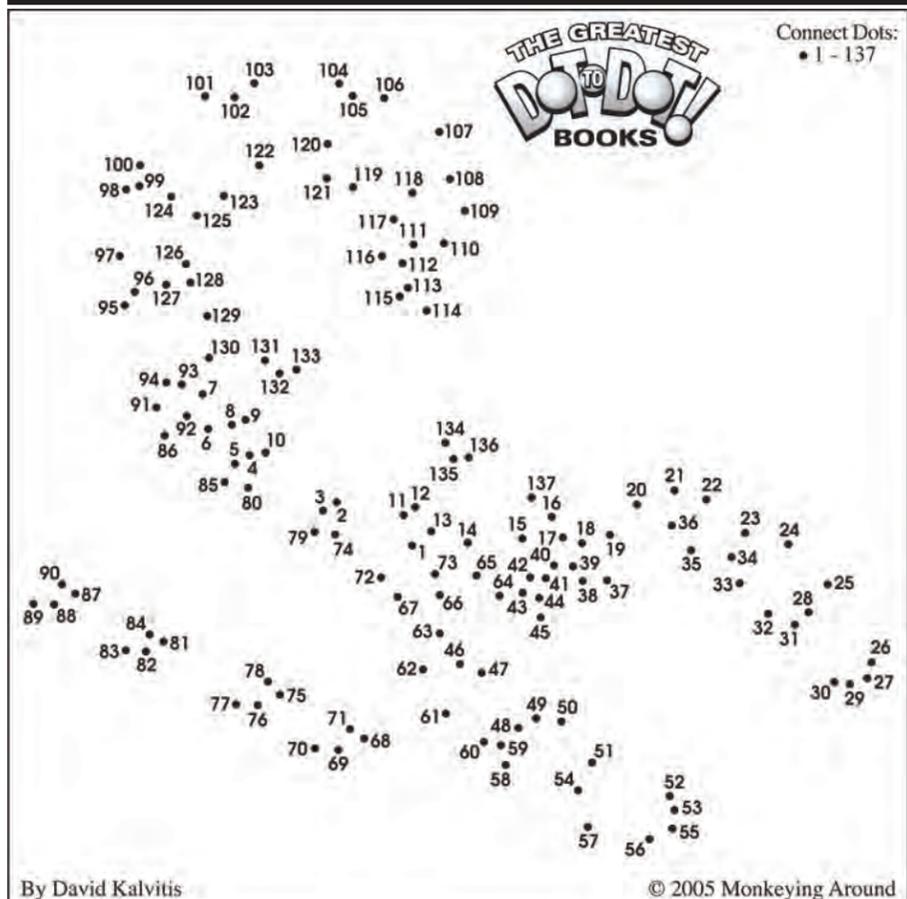
**PV Garden Club** meets first Thursday of the month. Want to learn more about gardening while helping your neighbors? Join Pleasant Valley Community Gardens for its monthly meetings at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of every month at the Pleasant Valley Library. No experience necessary. Pleasant Valley Community Gardens are volunteers learning as they grow vegetables and flowers in Helen Aldrich Park on Route 115. Everything we grow is to benefit local food pantries. See our Facebook page and web site at [www.pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com](http://www.pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com).

**The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association** seeks 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. Work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, e-mail [volunteers@vanderbiltgarden.org](mailto:volunteers@vanderbiltgarden.org) or visit [www.vanderbiltgarden.org](http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org).

**Meals on Wheels of Hyde Park and the Village of Rhinebeck** is seeking volunteer drivers during the hours of 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Drivers are needed Monday-Friday. You can drive one or more days each week or substitute as needed. All drivers work in teams so couples or friends are encouraged to volunteer together. For more information visit [www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org) or, contact Andrea Tkazyik at (845) 229-5896.

## DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



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Geeks OnSite

## Serino, library association partner to launch 'Sue's Book Picks'

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is partnering with the Dutchess County Library Association to launch Sue's Book Picks, a special new reading initiative featuring age-appropriate selections for children, teens, and adults. The program celebrates the joy of reading, encourages families to read together, and strengthens community connections through our local libraries.

Serino said, "There's something so special about reading – whether it's a bedtime story with your kids, a thought-provoking novel, or a book that simply makes you smile. Books have always brought me comfort, courage, and connection, and our libraries are the perfect place to pass that feeling along. With Sue's Book Picks, I hope families and neighbors across Dutchess County will discover something new and enjoy the simple joy that comes from reading a good story."

From February through May, four books will be highlighted each month – two for children, one for teens, and one for adults – as official Sue's Book Picks. Selections will be featured in the 22 libraries across Dutchess County with a themed bookmark and flyer to help readers explore the picks and share in the

experience.

### February Book Selections:

- Children's Picture Book; "The Wild Robot on the Island" by Peter Brown
- Children's Chapter Book (4th – 8th grade); "The Bletchley Riddle" by Ruta Sepetys
- Young Adult; "All My Rage" by Sabaa Tahir
- Adult; "James" by Percival Everett

Each month's selection can be found at [www.dutchessny.gov/SuesBookPicks](http://www.dutchessny.gov/SuesBookPicks). If the title is unavailable at your local library, see staff for assistance and you can have the book delivered from one of the other libraries in the system.

Carol Bancroft, Director of Clinton Community Library and President of the Dutchess County Library Association said, "Sue's Book Picks is a wonderful way to showcase the incredible resources our libraries offer. We're excited to guide readers of all ages to new stories, help them explore a variety of genres, and provide a welcoming space where books can spark curiosity, inspire imagination, and bring our community together."

To learn more about this program, please contact the County Executive's Office at (845) 486-2000 or email [CountyExec@dutchessny.gov](mailto:CountyExec@dutchessny.gov).

## Powerhouse Theater Training Program accepting applications through April 1

Powerhouse Theater is dedicated to the artistic development of emerging and established artists. The Training Program offers students a unique opportunity to dive headfirst into a conservatory-like intensive on the Vassar College campus. Actors, directors, and writers hone their respective crafts through both class work and practical experiences. By engaging with professional theater companies and artists who are in residence each summer, students deepen their understanding of the art and the industry. A summer at Powerhouse exposes students to new theater-making possibilities through a process of self-discovery.

A Powerhouse day includes morning and early afternoon classes, led by some of the country's leading theater practitioners and instructors. The core classes for all disciplines are acting, movement, and Soundpainting. Powerhouse afternoons and evenings consist of rehearsals, masterclasses, performances, talkbacks, and much more.

Applications are accepted between

January 1 and April 1. Visit [Acceptd.com](http://Acceptd.com) to complete an application.

### Fees

\$60 - Application Fee (non-refundable)  
\$6,000 - Program Fee (including Room/Board and access to professional offerings)\*

\*A deposit of \$1,500 (non-refundable) is due when acceptance is confirmed. This deposit may be applied to future summers if the participant needs to withdraw from the program after it has been paid and before arrival on campus.

Financial Aid: To encourage access to this community, the Powerhouse program makes available financial aid to applicants based on need. To apply for limited financial assistance, include the following at the time of application:

A personal statement, detailing your and/or your family's current financial situation.

Supporting documentation from your academic institution or the US Department of Education, such as a FAFSA report.

## HV Foundation for Youth Health announces \$110K in grants for 2025

The Hudson Valley Foundation for Youth Health (HVFYH) has announced that it awarded more than \$110,000 to 43 nonprofit organizations in 2025. This marks the largest grant distribution in the foundation's history. The funding supports youth health and well-being programs across the region.

The record investment included board-recommended grants and two new rapid-response initiatives: Transportation Grants and Emergency Grants. Transportation Grants helped organizations offset travel costs and expand youth access to health and wellness services. Emergency Grants provided timely support to nonprofits facing unexpected challenges. Both initiatives were launched quickly in response to emerging needs in 2025, underscoring the foundation's commitment to flexible and responsive grantmaking.

"We recognized that our community partners needed timely, adaptable support to continue serving young people during a period of significant uncertainty," said Jackie Lieske of HVFYH. "These nimble initiatives allowed us to respond quickly

to urgent needs while continuing to invest in organizations doing critical work on the ground."

The 43 grant recipients represent a broad range of programs focused on physical health, mental wellness, nutrition, education, and holistic youth development. Funded organizations serve Columbia, Delaware, Greene, and Ulster counties, as well as the communities of Red Hook and Rhinebeck.

HVFYH also announced new leadership following the election of longtime Chairperson and community champion Barbara Mansfield as Town Supervisor of Shandaken. Two new officers were elected to guide the foundation's strategic direction. Joshua Vazquez, MBA, a veteran with professional experience in manufacturing and business, will serve as Secretary. Jackie Lieske, a leader in nonprofit and philanthropic communications and development, will serve as Chairperson. Together, their experience and perspectives will support HVFYH's continued growth and its commitment to expanding support for youth-serving organizations in 2026 and beyond.

## 'Artist's Choice' to open at Tivoli Artists Gallery Feb. 13

What happens when you ask artists what is their vision, and what story do they want to tell? "Artist's Choice" is an exhibition that starts from that question. Tivoli Artists Gallery invited artists to choose a piece that feels important to them – work that says something about where they are in their practice today.

The exhibition is set Feb. 13 to March 15 at the Gallery, 60 Broadway in Tivoli. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Some pieces come from long processes, others from more intuitive moments. Some are quiet, others playful, intimate, or experimental. What connects them is not a shared subject, but a shared intention: each work was chosen by the artist, for their own reasons.

This exhibition brings together more than 20 members of Tivoli Artists Gallery

working across different mediums and approaches. Seen together, the works form a kind of conversation — about making, choosing, trusting one's instincts, and allowing space for difference.

Throughout the exhibition, several artists will also offer talks, workshops, demonstrations, or informal gatherings, creating opportunities to share processes and open up conversations with the public. The schedule:

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2-4 p.m. Open ended collage exploration by Santina Tirone

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2-4 p.m. Framing demo by Ann Moring

Saturday, March 7, 2-4 p.m. Steampunk sculptures by Vaea Dang

Saturday, March 28, 2-4 p.m. Crosshatching exploration by Vaea Dang

Visit [tivoliartistsgallery.com](http://tivoliartistsgallery.com) for more information.



### Snow Shoveling Safety

#### Tips to Protect Your Heart

- Don't eat a big meal right before or after shoveling
- Use a small shovel or snowblower
- Take breaks
- Watch out for heart attack warning signs
- Consult a doctor before shoveling if you have a medical condition.

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# Creative Living

celebrating all good things

## Leonard Cohen documentary explores craft, faith and 'Hallelujah' on Feb. 14

A documentary about Leonard Cohen's artistic evolution and lifelong search for meaning screens at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St. in Kingston.

"Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song," presented as part of the Movies With Spirit community film series, uses Cohen's most famous work as a lens on his creative life – tracing how he spent years writing and rewriting the song before it became a global anthem.

Through archival footage, Cohen's personal notebooks and interviews with singer Judy Collins, The Velvet Underground's John Cale, musician Jeff Buckley and singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright, the film follows "Hallelujah" from a rejected album track to cultural phenomenon.

The film runs 1 hour 55 minutes and is rated PG-13.

A discussion will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served. Suggested

The documentary "Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song" traces Cohen's six-decade career wrestling with faith, love and mortality. The film will be screened at 7 p.m. on Feb. 14 at Old Dutch Church in Kingston, as part of the Movies With Spirit community film series. Photo credit: Leonard Cohen Family Trust/Sony Pictures Classics



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

The film's trailer can be seen on YouTube: [tinyurl.com/Hallelujah-MoviesWithSpirit](https://tinyurl.com/Hallelujah-MoviesWithSpirit).

Movies With Spirit, now in its 20th season, presents screenings exploring connection, compassion and meaning. The monthly series has no religious affiliation and welcomes all beliefs.

Screenings take place at diverse worship and cultural spaces in Ulster County, generally on the third Saturday of each month. The series is organized by Gerry Harrington of Kingston.

More information: at [tinyurl.com/MoviesWithSpiritFacebookPage](https://tinyurl.com/MoviesWithSpiritFacebookPage), (845) 389-9201, or [gerryharrington@mindspring.com](mailto:gerryharrington@mindspring.com).

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# In the room where it happens

Mark and Sue go to Albany to advocate for New York's farmers.

I was in the room where it happened. During Sue's and my visit to Albany last Tuesday, I was talking with N.Y. State Senator Jacob Ashby's legislative director, as the senator was introducing a bill to limit federal ICE enforcement in N.Y. state. What makes Ashby's new bill intriguing is the fact that he is a Republican and a combat veteran.

Sue and I were at the N.Y. capitol lobbying, I mean advocating, for New York farmers as representatives of the Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO). The CAO is an umbrella group for dozens of farm-related industries, from the New York State Horse Council to American Farmland Trust, N.Y. State Brewers Association and New York State Flower Industries, of which Sue is president.

After receiving our marching orders at an all-hands 8 a.m. meeting, the CAO members (we're volunteers) fanned out in groups of three to visit legislators. Our priorities concerned the state budget, pending legislation and out-of-control regulations:

- **Tariff relief** – Governor Hochul has earmarked \$30 million in the state budget for farmers impacted by tariffs. We're not sure how this money, if the legislature approves it, will be distributed. Will it go to farmers who dumped product when markets evaporated or to those who had to pay extra for imported supplies? We want the N.Y. Department of Agriculture to be involved.

- **Research** – The Farm Viability Institute, funded by the N.Y. Legislature, awards grants to innovative research projects chosen by a diverse panel of growers from around the state. Over the years, this research has led to increased yields in apple orchards, reduced pesticide applications and soil regeneration. Every year, farmers have to fight for adequate funding.

- **Extended Producer Responsibility Act** – Since municipalities lose money trying to recycle paper and plastic, the EPR act shifts the cost to manufacturers and packagers. Agriculture, especially wineries, plant nurseries and dairies, use a lot of packaging, so we are naturally reluctant to shoulder these costs, considering we already have our backs to the

wall. My group met with Assembly member Deborah Glick, who chairs the environmental conservation committee, to express our concerns. She wasn't swayed, since she introduced the EPR act. After 35 years in office, Glick is retiring at the end of her current term.

- **Labor** – This is a hot topic, considering that immigrants harvest a huge part of our food. It's a federal, not a state issue. But our state legislators, especially Agriculture Chair Michelle Hinchey, are trying to protect workers from overzealous ICE enforcement. Up until last week, it was Democrats who were promulgating legislation to rein in the federal agents, by requiring warrants, prohibiting intrusion in schools, churches, and courtrooms. Hinchey even signed a letter demanding that ICE and Border Patrol leave Minnesota immediately.

When my group stopped at State Senator Jack Ashby's office last Wednesday, we met with his legislative assistant Meaghan Rossbach, who announced that the senator was on the Senate floor introducing his new bill, the first from a state Republican limiting ICE. Rossbach calls this a "compromise," because it does not call for total ICE withdrawal. It fits into border czar Tom Homan's idea that enforcement should be targeted to specific individuals and that local police should cooperate when warrants are issued for undocumented criminal suspects. So now we have bipartisan support for some type of cool-down.

The Council of Ag Organizations recommends:

- Work authorization for current agricultural employees.

- Support for protecting our state's immigrant workforce from arrest, detention or deportation without due process.

- Opposition to permitting federal authorities to intrude on non-public areas without a judicial warrant.

Failure to enact legislation to address the farm labor issue will force farms out of business, resulting in an increase in food imports from foreign sources.

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



Assembly member Andrea Bailey (AD 133) and her legislative assistant Amelia Rugiero of Wappingers Falls, were among those who met with farmers' advocates in Albany recently. Photo by Mark Adams

## McCartney doc to play Feb. 19 at Moviehouse

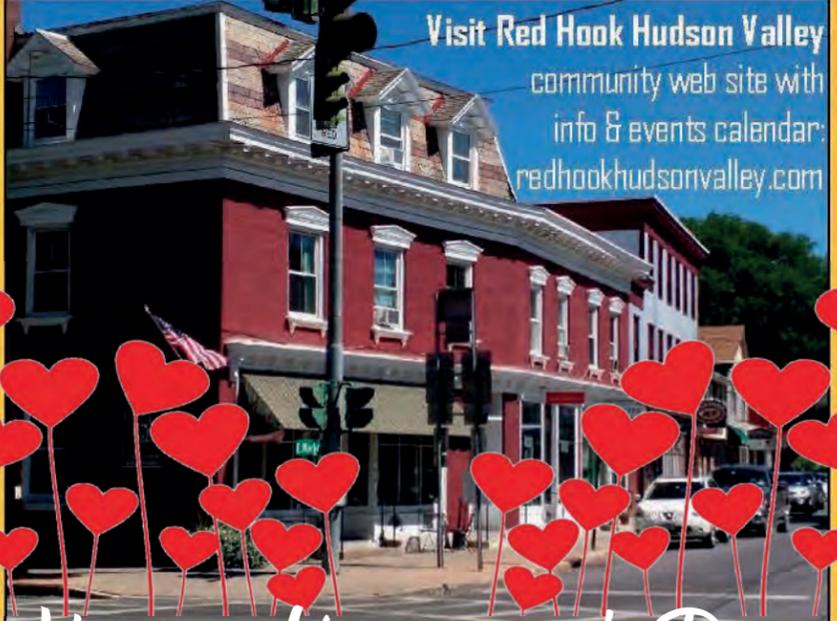
The highly anticipated documentary, "Paul McCartney: Man on the Run," will be screened on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., at The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton. Tickets are \$18; visit the-moviehouse.net to purchase and view the trailer.

What happens when you wake up the morning after leaving the most important rock band of all time? In April 1970, Paul released his first solo album, "McCartney," alongside a shocking press release that announced the beloved band had split. When asked what he'd do next, he said his only plan ... was to grow up.

"Man on the Run" captures McCartney's transformative decade in the wake of The Beatles' break-up. Through stunning archival footage, Linda McCartney's exceptional photographs, and interviews with Mick Jagger, Chrissie Hynde, Sean Ono Lennon, Mary and Stella McCartney, all the living Wings members, and of course McCartney himself, the film examines this time through a uniquely vulnerable lens.

The screening includes a bonus conversation with Paul McCartney and director Morgan Neville, exclusive to cinemas.

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Happy Valentine's Day!

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Vintage • Cavallo Jeweler • Yum Yum Noodle Bar • Bliss  
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Stationery Co • Equis Art Gallery • Bubby's Burrito • Holy  
Cow Ice Cream • Hana Sushi • Ben & Gracies • Subway

ALL THESE SHOPS AND MORE AWAIT YOUR VISIT!

# Moving & preserving demonstrate enduring legacy of the Moravian-Mohican mission

By Aidan Chisamore

As you travel on Route 82 in Pine Plains, it is easy to miss that just beyond the eastern tree line sits one of the county's most important historical markers. A quick detour down Strever Farm Road leads to a tall white marble pillar. This monument, constructed in 1859, commemorates the Moravian-Mohican mission that existed near the hamlet of Bethel during the 1740s. It serves as a physical reminder of an important story that sits firmly at the center of local knowledge and the town's history.

For many residents, this memorial may be a familiar sight. However, many may not realize that this structure has not always stood in its current location. A group of letters held in the Dutchess County Historical Society's Archives and Special Collections, as part of the Eno Law Office Collection, reveal how the monument, and the meaning attached to it, became the subject of debate during a period of dramatic change in Pine Plains at the turn of the 20th century.

To understand the significance of these letters, it is important to first contextualize the creation of the memorial. Founded in 1740, the Moravian mission in Pine Plains was an early Christian organization established among the Indigenous community of Shekomeko. The site was one of the first Protestant missions in

New York State, and, even during its operation, the mission was understood to be an important religious and historic site. Despite its significance, the mission only operated for a short period, formally closing in 1746 due to local threats and political action taken against missionaries and the indigenous community.

By the 19th century, the land was occupied as a farm by the prominent Hunting family. According to Moravian accounts, Edward Hunting (1797-1884), who bought the land in 1829, found a mysterious stone with a German inscription. The relic was eventually brought to the Poughkeepsie Lyceum, a local educational and cultural institution.

While there, the Episcopal Reverend and Pleasant Valley resident Sheldon Davis contended the stone was the grave marker of the Moravian missionary Gottlieb Büttner, who died in Shekomeko.

Setting out to discover more about the mission, its location, and the extent of surviving lore, Davis conducted an extensive research project. He detailed his findings in the 1858 pamphlet "Shekomeko; or the Moravians in Dutchess County." In this text, he claimed that Hunting identified for him the location of many of the mission buildings, its orchard, and the gravesite where the stone was discovered. (It is worth noting that there is no way to definitively



This monument, constructed in 1859, commemorates the Moravian-Mohican mission that existed near the hamlet of Bethel during the 1740s. Photo courtesy of Bill Jeffway

corroborate Davis' narrative.)

In the year following the pamphlet's publication, the Moravian Historical Society raised funds to erect a monument above the proposed site of the original grave. In October of 1859, the Historical Society met in Pine Plains to honor the dedication of the monument. They credited Davis as "the first to call the attention of the public, and that of the members of the Moravian Church, to the present condition of the old Mission stations." For the next half a century, the monument stood as a reminder of an attempt to preserve this narrative of local history.

The turn of the 20th century represented a significant change for the site of the former mission. Looking for cheaper agricultural land, Walter W. Law (1837-1924), the proprietor of a successful Westchester-based dairy operation, set his sights on Pine Plains. In 1907, Law started buying land around the hamlet of Bethel (over 3,200 acres) to create a large farm that would be called Briarcliff. One such parcel was the same lot formerly operated as the Hunting farm, where the monument was erected in 1859. Law worked with a local lawyer named Frank Eno (1845-1933), who helped him secure his many land purchases during the company's move from Briarcliff Manor.

Law's company did not share the same reverence for the monument, viewing it as an obstacle to their agricultural venture. In July of 1907, Law's son and ranking member of the company Walter William Law, Jr. (1871-1958) wrote a letter to Frank Eno saying, "I would ask that you kindly address a line to [the Moravian Historical Society], stating that the property has changed hands, and that the graveyard will interfere with the plans for development which the new owner had in mind in purchasing the property, and he will be obliged if they will kindly arrange for the removal of the bodies without delay." Law proceeded to offer the Moravian Historical Society land along the highway, removed from any agricultural operations, where the society could reinter any bodies.

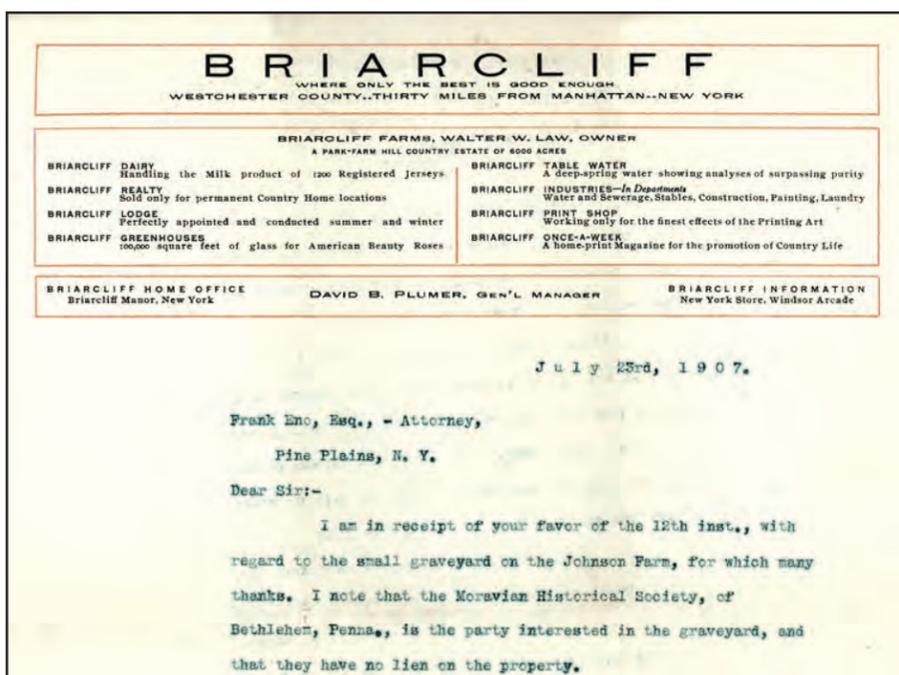
In his reply, Eno provided a detailed account of the Shekomeko Mission's history, the construction of the monument, and previous preservation efforts. The lawyer noted that, since its consecration in 1859, the monument "[had] been

looked upon with great reverence by the whole country." Eno's defense directly connected the monument to the land upon which it sat. This was particularly demonstrated in his reply to the reinterment of bodies. He attests that although there may not still be physical remains, the connection to these "venerable men" sanctified the site and the land upon which it sat. He concluded that it ultimately would be better business for the Law family to make peace with keeping the pillar in place: "The removal of the shaft would not only shock the moral sense of the whole county but would excite very unfavorable criticism in the public press of the state, and especially the county."

Despite Eno's initial success, pressures for agricultural development eventually prevailed. In 1918, the Law family sold the operation in Pine Plains to Oakleigh Thorne (1866-1948), a prominent New York businessman and Millbrook resident. The new ownership sought to shift agricultural practice, most notably opting to produce Angus beef instead of dairy. This also included a renewed effort to remove the monument. While there is no known record of discussions between Thorne's Briarcliff and the Moravian Mission, there seemed to be little tension between the two over the matter of moving the monument. Although the process took several years, the stone was relocated to its current position.

By 1926, the removal was completed, and the Moravian Historical Society met again in Pine Plains to rededicate the monument in June of that year. This event was hosted by the Thorne family. While seemingly obscure, the letters between Eno and Law demonstrate the enduring legacy of the Moravian-Mohican mission within local history. This debate and continued interest in the monument highlight the deep connection our county's history has to the physical landscape and how we continue to engage with it today.

Aidan Chisamore is a member of the staff at DCHS. He works in Collections and Archives and may be reached at [aidan.chisamore@dchsnny.org](mailto:aidan.chisamore@dchsnny.org).



The scale and power of the Briarcliff agricultural business in 1907 is reflected in the company's letterhead, and in the request from Walter Law to "arrange for the removal of the bodies without delay" as their sacred resting place was they were seen as an economic impediment. Courtesy of DCHS Collections

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# The heart of the matter

Never mind what it looks like; how does it work?

“The Romance of Alexander” is a fantastical account of Alexander the Great’s adventures and encounters with mythical creatures. One illustration, found in a decorative border of the manuscript, depicts a man with his hand on his chest. Facing him, a woman accepts the gift of his heart.

This drawing is the first example of the (now familiar) form that is used to represent romantic love. The scalloped shape and orientation of the symbol helped popularize the icon that became widely used from the 1400s onward. (Previous medieval depictions of the heart resembled a pine-cone or a pear. They were held with the point facing upward, based on physicians’ ancient anatomical descriptions).

### Human hearts are lopsided

Unlike the icon’s two symmetrically curved lines forming a pointed kiss, the left side of our hearts are thicker and stronger because that side pumps blood to the entire body. The right side of the heart only pumps blood to the nearby lungs. This unequal workload causes the heart to tilt left, with its apex pointing toward the left side of the chest, making it appear off-center. The lopsided, asymmetrical

shape allows the powerful left side to handle systemic circulation and the weaker right side to manage pulmonary circulation.

### Blood flow through the heart

As blood leaves each of the heart’s four chambers, it passes through a valve. Heart valves prevent blood from flowing in the wrong direction. The tricuspid and mitral valves lie between the atria and ventricles. The aortic and pulmonary (semilunar) valves lie between the ventricles and the major blood vessels leaving the heart. Coronary arteries on the surface of the heart supply oxygen-rich blood to the organ, itself, since the blood that is within its chambers does not provide it with nourishment.

**Blood Flows in a Continuous Pattern:** Oxygen-poor blood from the body enters the right atrium. It travels to the right ventricle and then goes to the lungs (the pulmonary circuit) to become oxygenated. Oxygen-rich blood then enters the left atrium of the heart. The blood then travels into the left ventricle. The blood then leaves the heart for the rest of the body to complete the systemic circuit. Blood travels to the all of the body’s cells and exchanges oxygen and nutrients for wastes, which it returns to the right atrium.

### The heart beat

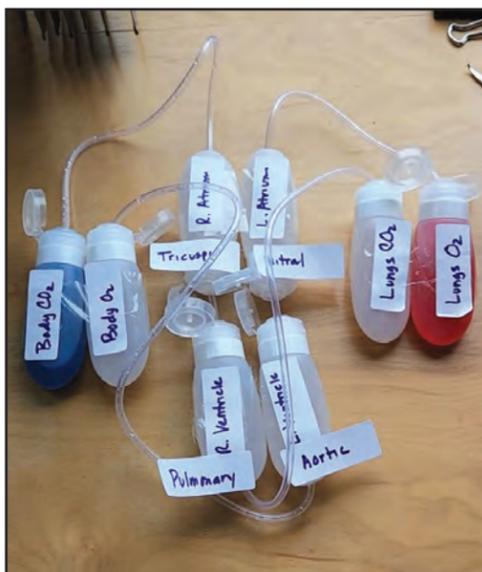
The atria and ventricles work together, alternately contracting and relaxing to pump the blood through the circuit. Heart contractions are triggered by electrical impulses from specialized bundles of cells within the organ. The heart’s natural electrical pacemaker coordinates the beat to deliver blood to the body, depending its state of activity, health, emotion, or rest.

### Celebrate Valentine’s Day by building a model heart

I can’t remember if it was the month of February when I built my first heart model, since it was nearly 50 years ago. But, a classmate and I built it using a kit in sixth-grade science. We pumped water through a bunch of interconnected plastic cylinders as we explained what was happening in each of the “chambers.”

Creating your own DIY model using some commonly found materials is cheaper than buying a kit. Plus, it’s a fun way to celebrate the holiday. I’ve experimented with different “chamber” options and I have found that silicone travel bottles work best because they are more flexible than hard plastic bottles.

To construct the model, participants will need eight small bottles with caps. Four bottles will represent heart chambers; two bottles will represent the lungs; two bottles will represent the body. Clear plastic tubing is also necessary: four pieces (6-18” long) will represent valves leading to and from the pulmonary and systemic circuits; two pieces (4” long) will represent valves between the atria and ventricles. Red and blue food coloring added to water will represent oxygenated and deoxygenated blood. Clear packing tape is



A DIY heart model can be constructed from plastic bottles and tubing. Squeezing the bottles demonstrates how the heart pumps blood through its chambers. Photos by Francine Wizner



Medieval love: A fair lady accepts Alexander the Great’s heart. From “The Romance of Alexander,” scribe-compiled legends and historical accounts by unknown authors. Illustration by Jehan de Grise, from the University of Oxford’s Bodleian Library digital collections (<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>)

needed to bind heart chambers, lungs, and body to each other. Also necessary are objects for poking holes, such as a large needle or skewer, a pen, or a drill.

Once the parts of the model are labeled, participants should demonstrate the pumping action as they describe what is happening aloud. An organized write-up of the activity is available here: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HOW-THE-HEART-WORKS-ACTIVITY-HUMAN-BODY-SYSTEMS-9103596>. A video of the model construction can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAkykZXLJTU&t=322s>

Those interested in checking out more

images from the historical manuscript can visit the University of Oxford’s Bodleian Library digital collections (<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>).

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

Answer to this week’s Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 10)

By David Kalvitis © 2005 Monkeying Around



# Simply sweet

Chocolate pudding is perfect for Valentine's Day – or any day.

Whether it's Valentine's Day or any old day, chocolate is a pretty perfect way to say I love you. Over the years, I've shared dozens of chocolate recipes with you, because I'm not sure there's such a thing as too much chocolate and there are so many things you can do with it. It's easy to take it for granted because it's everywhere now, especially this time of year. But once upon a time only a small corner of the world knew about it at all.

We owe a debt of thanks to the people of ancient Mesoamerica for bringing chocolate's magical, mystical, exotic, even healthful, delicious decadence to the world. They used the beans of a small evergreen tree native to South America – Theobroma cacao (literally food of the gods) – to make a sacred beverage used in rituals and as medicine, and cacao was so prized its beans were even used there as currency. It's worth noting that the earliest uses of chocolate were not what we think of today and were, in fact, not sweet but often mixed with chilies. The Spanish brought drinking chocolate to Europe in the 1500s where it was commonly mixed with sugar or honey to offset its natural bitterness and it became immensely popular with royalty and the very rich, no surprise given that the beans could only be processed in small batches laboriously by hand.

Things changed during the Industrial Revolution with the invention of the chocolate press, which squeezed cocoa butter from the roasted cacao beans, leaving a rich, bitter powder that could easily be mixed with milk and sugar for either drinking or pouring into molds to make bars. After that, the love affair with chocolate was world-wide and you could find it everywhere in many forms and used in the thousands of ways it is today.

And what ways? Cakes, truffles, ice cream, muffins, mousse, hot chocolate, brownies, fondues, sauces, custards, fudge, cookies, pies, tortes, tarts, ganache, cupcakes, all of which I've shared recipes for in the past. Then there's the savory side: mole, barbecue sauce and chili to name a few. Given the many forms chocolate takes, like unsweetened, dark, milk and bittersweet, it isn't surprising that there are so many ways to enjoy it. But looking over my recipes, I noticed one I hadn't shared, and it's one of my very favorites that anyone can – and should – make: chocolate pudding.

How could I have overlooked such a simple thing, especially when it's one of my favorites? I'm not sure, but I'll make up for it now and give you a new way to say I love you with chocolate.

## SIMPLY LOVELY CHOCOLATE PUDDING

Because chocolate is so special, my favorite ways to use it are often the simplest, with few ingredients so it shines through like the velvet-clad star it is. This is a perfect example. I use both unsweetened cocoa powder and bittersweet chocolate (you could also use semisweet chips) for this, because there's no such thing as too much chocolate.

### INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 3 cups milk
- 4oz bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift or whisk cocoa powder and corn starch together in a medium saucepan. Whisk in sugar and salt. Pour in milk, whisking to blend, and set over medium heat. Cook just until starting to thicken and bubbles start to form around the edges, stirring occasionally with the whisk, about 8 minutes. You do NOT want it to boil. Remove from heat and add bittersweet chocolate pieces. Stir until melted and smooth. Stir in vanilla. Allow to cool slightly.

Transfer to a bowl or divide evenly

between 4 ramekins, cups or small bowls. If you don't want a skin to form on top, place plastic wrap so that it touches the surface. Chill at least 2 hours. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream if you like.

It's hard to imagine a world without chocolate, but knowing its history has played a big part in my revering it as the sacred, exotic wonder it is. If I think about it too much, I might be inclined to use it only in sophisticated ways to honor it, but then I remember that to love and savor anything is to truly honor it, so I can do just that every time I enjoy this luscious pudding. Love, and those we attach to it, are worth celebrating every day, especially when we can see and appreciate them for how amazing they really are. Happy Valentine's Day.

*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.*

## A & E CALENDAR

**Through Feb. 21: "A Few Good Men,"** County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; with matinees on Sun., Feb. 15, & Sat., Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. Aaron Sorkin's courtroom drama is directed by Michael J. Froehnhoefer. Tickets \$26 adults, \$24 senior 60+, military, students (with ID at the door) and children under age 12. [www.countyplayers.org](http://www.countyplayers.org). More info: (845) 298-1491.

**Through Feb. 21: Murder Cafe's "A Recipe to Die For,"** various venues. In celebration of its 28th year in operation Murder Café will be offering a new version of its popular Valentine themed whodunit. Four celebrity chefs will create original Valentine's Day desserts to be tasted and rated by a celebrated food critic and audience members. However, a murder mystery will unfold, requiring local CSI investigators to uncover the motive behind it. Guess whodunit, enjoy your just desserts and win prizes. **Feb. 11:** The Venue Uptown at the Best Western, Kingston. **Feb. 13:** Curry Estate, Hopewell Junction. **Feb. 15:** Historic Hotel Broadalbin. **Feb. 21:** Hudson House Distillery, West Park. Tickets at [www.murdercafe.net](http://www.murdercafe.net). The entertainment is suitable for all ages, costumes are encouraged but not required. More info: (845) 475-7973.

**Feb. 12: Free Film Screening,** Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Bardavon Presents, in collaboration with the Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission, will screen "love jones" (1997, R), a sweet, comic romance set against the jazz rhythms of Chicago, following a struggling photographer and an unemployed writer navigating the highs and lows of modern love, 7:30 p.m. Free; tickets available at the door. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. (845) 473-2072

**Feb. 13: Natalia Zukerman,** The Grace Note at Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org) or (518) 771-3339.

**Feb. 13-15: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe,** 379 Main St., Beacon. Feb. 13: Soul Purpose Mardi Gras Celebration with guest What? Band, 8 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. Feb. 14: Home Again: The Carole King Tribute, 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Feb. 15: Guy Davis, 7 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. (845) 855-1300 or [www.townecrier.com](http://www.townecrier.com)

**Feb. 13-22: "Water for Elephants: High School Edition,"** The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Presented by Teens on Stage. Book by Rick Elice; Music and Lyrics by PigPen Theatre Co. Based on the bestselling novel by Sara Gruen, "Water for Elephants" is a dazzling, heart-filled musical about Jacob, a young man desperate to escape his past, who jumps aboard a moving train uncertain of the road ahead. Finding himself on the ride of a lifetime, Jacob joins the colorful company of a traveling circus and is hired by the imperious ringmaster, August, as caretaker to the animals. Jacob soon develops an unspoken attraction to the star performer and August's wife, Marlena. A last-ditch effort to save their struggling show brings an elephant into the troupe, drawing Marlena and Jacob dangerously close, forever changing the circus's fate. Directed by Lynne Czajka with choreography by Cedric James. Recommended for ages 9+. Content Warning: This production explores sensitive topics such as domestic violence, sexual infidelity, and animal cruelty. It also contains references to and depictions of murder. Sensory Warning: This production utilizes gunshot sounds, haze, and strobe. Run time: Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes plus a 15 minute intermission. Performances: Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$19. (845) 876-3080 or [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)

**Feb. 14: Miss Lindy's Dance Hall,** Morton

Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Partner Dance, also known as Social Dancing, with beginning lesson and practice space for all, 2 p.m. These steps and moves can be used with many musical genres (6-count single step and 6-count triple step). Learn leader and follower roles. No partner needed for class, invite your friends. Beginners and all levels of experience welcome. (845) 876-2903

**Feb. 14: Film Screening, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois,"** Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library & Home, Hyde Park. Presidents Day Weekend screening of FDR speechwriter Robert E. Sherwood's Academy Award nominated film, 2 p.m. "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" (1940) brings Robert E. Sherwood's beloved play of the same name to the screen, taking a thoroughly human look at the early years of our 16th President. Best Actor Oscar nominee Raymond Massey (who originated the role on stage) plays the future Great Emancipator in a chronicle of his backwoods childhood through his first romance with Ann Rutledge (Mary Howard) to his phenomenal rise to President Elect, besting the great orator Stephen Douglas (Gene Lockhart). Ruth Gordon plays the driven, ambitious Mary Todd Lincoln, whose vision of Abe's leadership destiny will not be denied by anyone - including her often reticent husband. Free, but registration is required via [fdrlibrary.org](http://fdrlibrary.org).

**Feb. 14: Movies with Spirit, "Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song,"** Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston. A documentary about Leonard Cohen's artistic evolution and lifelong search for meaning, 7 p.m. using Cohen's most famous work as a lens on his creative life – tracing how he spent years writing and rewriting the song before it became a global anthem. Run time: 1 hour 55 min.; rated PG-13. Discussion to follow screening. Refreshments served. Suggested donation: \$10 (ages 13 and up). More info: [tinyurl.com/MoviesWith](http://tinyurl.com/MoviesWithSpiritFacebookPage)

[SpiritFacebookPage](http://SpiritFacebookPage), (845) 389-9201, [gerryharrington@mindspring.com](mailto:gerryharrington@mindspring.com)

**Feb. 14: "The Sound of Spring" Chinese New Year Concert,** Sosnoff Theater, Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. Conductor Jindong Cai leads The Orchestra Now in a vibrant East-West musical dialogue, joined by suona virtuoso Yazhi Guo and his protégé Hiu Man Andrew Chan; two prizewinning young artists from the Central Conservatory of Music, Jin Zhicheng (French horn) and Luo Chaowen (violin), both award winners of international competitions including the Tchaikovsky Competition; and rising pipa soloist Xiaoyan Zoey Luo, winner of the Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition, 3 p.m. Chinese instrument demonstrations and New Year activities begin in the lobby at 2 p.m. Tickets: From \$15. [fishercenter.bard.edu](http://fishercenter.bard.edu) or (845) 758-7900

**Feb. 14 & 16: Family Fun Activities,** National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, 374 Temple Hill Rd., New Windsor. Kids ages 8-12 can explore & learn about George Washington and the Purple Heart medal; and can try on military uniforms, 1 p.m. Reservations required. (845) 561-1765

**Feb. 15: Howland Chamber Music Circle Piano Festival,** Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. Returning (for his 9th time) pianist Jeremy Den, 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musician and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. Tickets: [www.howlandmusic.org](http://www.howlandmusic.org)

**Feb. 17: Mardi Gras with Glen David Andrews,** The Local, 16 John St. Saugerties. Show & parade, 7 p.m. The Local brings the spirit of New Orleans to Saugerties on Mardi Gras day. Treme-born legend Glen David Andrews and his band deliver unforgettable Big Easy energy to the venue. (Parade is weather permitting.) Tickets \$29.87 (online cost w/fees included). [thelocalsaugerties.com](http://thelocalsaugerties.com)

# Rhinebeck HS student named national 'Artist of the Week' by Artsonia

In a press release distributed on Feb. 3, Artsonia.com announced that Corey Mullen, a talented sophomore at Rhinebeck High School, was named Artist of the Week in a nationwide voting competition on the website, which features the world's largest collection of online student art portfolios, featuring over 125 million works of art.

Mullen's scratch drawing of a raccoon, created on Claybord, captured the attention of voters nationwide, receiving over 500 online votes.

"I like the reverse technique with working on the Claybord, removing the black to reveal the white background," Mullen shared. "I also like how the fine line, dark parts really stood out in contrast with the white. It was an interesting technique."

When asked how it felt to be named Artist of the Week, Mullen said, "I was pretty excited. It was cool to hear."

Mullen's art teacher, Kathryn Giles, who has been teaching art for 25 years, said that "The diversity of projects that can be taught from year to year within each of the curriculums I teach" is what makes her passionate about art education.

Giles expressed pride in her student's Artist of the Week achievement.

"I was really excited to hear about this. I know Artsonia is a nationwide platform,

and to have one of my students' art recognized validates what I teach," she said.

Giles is one of thousands of teachers who use Artsonia, which enables teachers to digitally showcase student art, organize and plan art lessons, and fundraise for their classrooms. Artsonia allows family and friends of student artists to view the art online and create custom keepsakes from the student art. Artsonia donates 20 percent of its revenue to local art classrooms.

"We have been using Artsonia district-wide for over 10 years now. It is a great resource to show growth in students' work," Giles shared.

The Artist of the Week program was created by Artsonia 25 years ago to highlight student creativity and engage schools and communities in celebrating young artists. Each week, 12 student submissions are randomly selected from artwork submitted the previous week in four different age groups (PreK-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12) for public voting. Winners receive both recognition and prizes.

As part of the award, Blick Art Materials generously provides a \$100 gift certificate to the winning student's art program and a \$50 gift certificate to the student.

For more information, visit [artsonia.com](http://artsonia.com).

Rhinebeck High School student Corey Mullen's scratch drawing of a raccoon, created on Claybord, received over 500 online votes to be chosen as Artist of the Week by Artsonia.com. *Courtesy photo*



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.curiocabinetHV.com)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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. (845) 876-4030 or [www.starrlibrary.org](http://www.starrlibrary.org)

**Tivoli Artists Gallery**, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Feb. 13-March 15:** "Artist's Choice," exhibition featuring 20+ members of Tivoli Artists Gallery working across different mediums and approaches. Seen together, the works form a kind of conversation: about making, choosing, trusting one's instincts, and allowing space for difference. **Opening Reception:** Sat., Feb. 14, 2-5 p.m. (845) 757-2667 or [www.tivoliartistsgallery.com](http://www.tivoliartistsgallery.com)

E-mail exhibition listings to:  
[creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com](mailto:creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com)



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				2	6	8		
			3				6	5
8	5				7			
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

## Suguru

			3	5	
				4	
5	4				
2					3

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

## THEME: LOVE'S IN THE AIR

### ACROSS

- Biology lab supply
- Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
- \*Certain Courtney
- Tear violently
- Color of a bruise
- Al Roker's show
- Pupil control
- Any minute, to Shakespeare
- Sheep-like
- \*H. P. of science fiction fame
- Hibernation stations
- Boat station
- Tennis shot
- Packed in container
- User-friendly interface, acr.
- Genetic info carrier, acr.
- \*Love unquestioningly
- Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
- Not a minor
- Poem addressed to certain subject
- Hundred, in Italian
- Nothing
- Relating to clone
- Division, abbr.
- Sloughed off skin
- Fluffy dessert
- All good things come to this?
- Between Octs and Novs
- \_\_\_\_ Verde National Park
- \*B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
- Singing femme fatale
- Deed hearing
- Reverberated sound
- Blue-Green scum, pl.
- Misery cause
- Actress Perlman
- Scheme
- Right coast time
- Made by tailor

### DOWN

- Seed cover
- Biking helmet manufacturer
- Tel \_\_\_\_\_, Israel
- #64 Across, redone
- Like 1969 landing
- Laugh with contempt
- Fender-bender damage
- \*a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
- Norse deity
- "Off The Wall" shoe
- Needle hole
- Macy's Thanksgiving offering
- Commotions
- Silica variety
- NaOH
- Solder together
- Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative \_\_\_\_\_
- Pleasant Island
- Small songbird
- Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
- Bigfoot's cousins
- \*Hand cover, with love
- \*Lemming relative, or anagram of love
- Tokyo, formerly
- \*Couch for two
- Lumps in liquid
- Knave
- Unit of electric current flow
- Absurd
- Theater guides
- Nutritious beans
- Black tie one
- Grain grinder
- "Cogito, \_\_\_\_\_ sum"
- Stud site
- Occasional heart condition
- Prepare to swallow
- Riddle without solution
- Tree juice

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
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56						57				58			
59						60				61			
62						63				64			



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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 23

# COLLEGE NOTES

BRISTOL, RI - Sofia Mackey of Millbrook has been named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

TROY, NY - More than 1,000 students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Hudson Valley Community College.

The honored students include:

Liz Messina of Staatsburg, who is studying in the Surgical Technology academic program;

Mariah Oviatt of Hyde Park, who is studying in the Respiratory Care academic program;

Ella Rose of Staatsburg, who is studying in the Biological Sciences academic program;

Chelsea Smith of Pleasant Valley, who is studying in the Nursing academic program;

Mikayla Stout of Hyde Park, who is studying in the Welding and Fabrication academic program.

The college's Dean's List recognizes students each fall and spring term who earn a term GPA between 3.0 and 3.49 and receive no grades of D, F, I or Z, or their remedial equivalents. Fulltime students must successfully complete at least 12 college credits, and parttime students must complete at least six. A grade of W, remedial coursework and previously attempted courses do not disqualify a student as long as all other requirements are met.

TROY, NY - Nearly 2,000 students were named to the Fall 2025 President's List at Hudson Valley Community College.

The honored students include:

Grace Ames of Tivoli, who is studying in the Non-matriculated Student academic program;

Kaitlyn Cope of Millerton, who is studying in the Dental Hygiene academic program;

Annie Paranto of Hyde Park, who is studying in the Early Childhood Administration academic program;

Lorelei Schaefer of Red Hook, who is studying in the Non-matriculated Student academic program;

Anthony Schoonmaker of Staatsburg, who is studying in the Non-matriculated Student academic program;

Erica Tamburrino of Stanfordville, who is studying in the Community and Public Health academic program.

The college's President's List recognizes students each fall and spring term who earn a term GPA between 3.5 and 4.0 and receive no grades of D, F, I or Z, or their remedial equivalents. Full-time students must successfully complete at least 12 college credits, and part-time students must complete at least six. A grade of W, remedial coursework and previously attempted courses do not disqualify a student as long as all other requirements are met.

VALDOSTA, GA - Steven Mauro of Stormville has earned the Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Valdosta State University.

Mauro is among the more than 1,000 students who achieved their academic goals and graduated from VSU at the end of Fall 2025.

CORTLAND, NY - There were 2,909 students recognized for academic excellence on the SUNY Cortland Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Among those earning the honor were:

Kathryn Boyd of Red Hook - Sport Management

Liam Boyd of Red Hook - Physical Education K-12

Jaden Delawder of Hyde Park - Psychology

Nadiya Grossman of Rhinebeck - Political Science

Morgan Hannon of Hyde Park - Physical Education K-12

Ginamarie Kirk of Stanfordville - Exercise Science

Kellee Knuschke of Red Hook - Criminology

Cory Murray of Red Hook - Physical Education K-12

Katharine Quinn of Millbrook - Communication Studies

Nuala Seabrook of Rhinebeck - Outdoor Recreation

Maev Szwed of Rhinebeck - Physical Education K-12

Brady Wade of Rhinebeck - Sport Management

Emma Wilson of Red Hook - Sport Management

Aleksa Yambrick of Staatsburg - Adolescence Education: English

The Dean's List is the highest ranking for undergraduate students in their respective academic areas of the university. Students must earn a minimum 3.3 grade point average for the semester to make the list. Each of SUNY Cortland's three schools publishes its own Dean's List. They are the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Professional Studies and the School of Education.

SPRINGFIELD, MA - Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of nearly 600 students who have been named to the President's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Among those earning this honor were Aislin Kellner of Pleasant Valley and Hunter Atkinson of Pine Plains.

Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

NEWPORT, RI - The following students were named to the Dean's List during the fall 2025 academic semester at Salve Regina University: Thomas Langan of Red Hook and Nathaniel Strassberger of Milan.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

PLYMOUTH, NH - Dominick Wisniewski of Clinton Corners has been named to the Plymouth State University Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Wisniewski is majoring in Criminal Justice at Plymouth State.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.69 for the Fall 2025 term, be a matriculated student with at least 12 credits, at least nine of which must confer grade points at the time the list is finalized.

WORCESTER, MA - Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Rhinebeck resident Grace Mahoney, a member of the class of 2027 majoring in Computer Science and Robotics Engineering, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2025 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean's List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

SPRINGFIELD, MA - Western New England University is proud to announce the outstanding academic achievements of nearly 800 students named to the Fall 2025 semester Dean's List including: Lucas Cardella of Pleasant Valley, and Kathryn Cimorelli of Hyde Park.

GARDEN CITY, NY - Danielle Digiaco from Hyde Park has been named to Adelphi University's Fall 2025 Semester Dean's List.

Digiaco was among a select group of outstanding students recognized by Adelphi's deans of Arts and Sciences, Education and Health Science, Business, Nursing and Public Health, Social Work and Psychology for superior academic performance. The list comprises full-time students-registered for 12 or more credits-who have completed at least nine graded credits who achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above for the semester.

TROY, NY - Nearly 600 students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Russell Sage College. The following local students made the list:

Samantha Cruz of Tivoli, Naiya Garvin of Hyde Park, Gabriella Grant of Tivoli, Peyton Grant of Tivoli, Elizabeth Mastrantuono of Pine Plains, Mia Merino of Red Hook, Meghan Weckesser of Red Hook.

To be placed on the Dean's List for the semester, a student must earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while carrying a minimum of 12 credits in courses graded A-F with no grades of Incomplete.

PURCHASE, NY - Purchase College announced that more than 1,300 students were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester, including Yazmin Cedeno of Pleasant Valley, Keara Nielsen of Clinton Corners, Caitlin Pfisterer of Clinton Corners, Rafael DiFrancesco of Clinton Corners, and Magdalena Ledkovsky-Plotnikov of Salt Point.

Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and taken a minimum of 12 credits. For BA and BS programs, a semester GPA of 3.50 is required. For BFA and MusB programs, a semester GPA of 3.75 is required.

ONEONTA, NY - Hartwick College congratulates approximately 400 students who were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. Local students on the list included Shane Baxter of Hyde Park, and Noah Curtis of Clinton Corners.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must complete at least 12 academic credits during a term with a grade point average of at least 3.50 and no incompletes.

ALBANY, NY - The Dean's List at the University at Albany recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of full-time undergraduate students. UAlbany is proud to announce the following students on the Fall 2025 Dean's List:

Brianna Mangione of Pine Plains, Gissel Oros of Amenia, Madeline Wesley of Amenia, Jaylyn Craven of Clinton Corners, Gregory Starzyk of Clinton Corners, Jack Meluson of Hyde Park, Christopher Wade of Hyde Park, Anastasia Gallagher of Hyde

Park, Emily Muraco of Hyde Park, James Iorio of Hyde Park, Qualiar Newton of Hyde Park, Nickolas Deacon of Hyde Park, Aaron Kflowitz of Hyde Park, Jordyn Jones of Hyde Park, Allison Desmond of Hyde Park, Jose Munoz of Hyde Park, Maher Fakhouri of Hyde Park, Olivia Jusino of Hyde Park, Diana Lopez of Millbrook, Raegan Smith of Pine Plains, Madeline Craven of Pleasant Valley, Gregory Guida III of Pleasant Valley, Nevaeh Pickett of Pleasant Valley, Christine Awaka of Pleasant Valley, Chinenye Ezeani of Pleasant Valley, Jiya Patel of Pleasant Valley, Cory Silvermail of Red Hook, Gabriella Ledenko of Red Hook, Frida Balloqui-Smith of Red Hook, Emily Brandt of Red Hook, Ryan Phillips of Rhinebeck, Onair Mattis of Staatsburg, Emma O'Sullivan of Staatsburg, Zoey Henderson of Stanfordville, Kaylei Murphy of Stanfordville, Kyle McCluskey of Tivoli.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in their first semester of study and a GPA of 3.50 or higher in subsequent semesters.

ALBANY, NY - The Dean's Letter of Commendation at the University at Albany recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of part-time undergraduate students. UAlbany is proud to announce the following students have received the Dean's Letter of Commendation for Fall 2025:

Audrey Bavis of Millbrook, and Christopher Lyons of Red Hook.

To qualify for the Dean's Letter of Commendation, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in their first semester of study and a GPA of 3.50 or higher in subsequent semesters.

ONEONTA, NY - Alexandra Mccrudden of Tivoli was among the 43 SUNY Oneonta students who completed the requirements for a master's degree, Certificate of Advanced Study or Advanced Graduate Certificate following the Fall 2025 semester. Mccrudden completed the Literacy Education All Grades graduate program and earned a Master of Science in Education degree.

Family, friends, faculty and staff gathered on campus to celebrate the scholars, athletes, activists, artists and leaders who make up SUNY Oneonta's Class of 2025 during Fall Commencement exercises on Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Dewar Arena.

ONEONTA, NY - Alyssa VanPelt-Cathcart of Tivoli was one of 196 SUNY Oneonta students who completed the requirements for a bachelor's degree following the fall 2025 semester. Graduates were honored and recognized during Fall Commencement, held Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, in the Dewar Arena of the Alumni Field House. VanPelt-Cathcart earned a Bachelor of Arts in English.

The day before commencement, seniors took part in the Pass Through the Pillars tradition. With friends, family and faculty and staff cheering them on, seniors walked through the pillars a final time, representing the end of their Oneonta journey and transition into the alumni family.

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**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY  
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 160/2026  
RESOLUTION CLOSING TOWN HALL FOR THE MOVE TO 1903  
ROUTE 44**

WHEREAS, there's a need to relocate town offices from their current locations to 1903 Route 44, and  
WHEREAS, this transition will be smoother for both staff and the public if we temporarily close town offices to the public during this period,  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board:

1. Closes all town offices to the public except for the highway department and transfer station from February 5, 2026, through February 10, 2026.
2. Directs the Town Supervisor to promptly inform residents about this closure through the town website, town Facebook page, posting in the town hall lobby, and any other necessary means.
3. Directs the Town Supervisor to send an email to all department heads as soon as possible to ensure they're prepared for the move.
4. All town employees are required to come to work as usual to assist in setting up their new space at 1903 Route 44.

Dated: January 21, 2026

**MOTION BY:** Councilman Rifenburg

**SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Chapman

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Councilwoman Borland	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Councilwoman Chapman	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Councilman Degan	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Councilman Rifenburg	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Supervisor Albrecht	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Carried.		

**Legal Notices      Legal Notices      Legal Notices      Legal Notices**

**NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING AS OWNERS OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY HELD BY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE OF DUTCHESS COUNTY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 601 of the Abandoned Property Law of the State of New York that

The undersigned as Commissioner of Finance of the County of Dutchess has on deposit or in her custody certain moneys and property paid or deposited in actions or proceedings in court(s) in the said County.

The persons whose names and last known addresses are set forth below appear from the records of the said Commissioner of Finance to be entitled to certain such property of the amount of \$50 or more.

Deposited in Action of Proceedings in the City of Poughkeepsie Court			
People vs. Ahmed Shabazz El J	94 Manalay Drive	Poughkeepsie NY	12601
People vs. Tarell Heard	4676 Albany Post Road	Hyde Park NY	12538
People vs. Robert Isaacs	113 Garden Street, Apt 2	Poughkeepsie NY	12601
People vs. Shahmeem Ashley	82 S. Hamilton St.	Poughkeepsie NY	12601
Deposited in Action of Proceedings in Dutchess County Courts			
State of NY vs Daniel James Searles	1248 North Ave	Beacon NY	12508
State of NY vs Soren Clark Wilhelmsen	49 Mountain View	Hopewell Junction NY	12533
State of NY vs David Smith Daye	6 Mile Hill Road	Highland NY	12528
DCFS- Martin Brown	249 Mansion St.	Poughkeepsie NY	12601
DCFS- Wayne Brown Sr.	481 Main St. 2nd Fl	Poughkeepsie NY	12601
DCFS- Alyssa Curtis	4 Alan Road	Fishkill NY	12524
DCFS- Prot One	133 Federal St.	Boston MA	02110
DCFS- Eugene Reed	4631 14th Ave. S. St.	Petersburg FL	33711
DCFS- Christina Ruseskas	88 Fox Hollow Road	Rhinebeck NY	12572
DCFS- Gabriel Soto	200 S. Main St. C7	Ellenville NY	12428
DCFS- Robert Coletti	18 Continental Drive	Port Jefferson NY	11776
DCFS- Terrance Bellamy Sr.	Unknown		
DCFS- Eric Deuchar	286 E. 7th St.	Bloomsburg NY	17815
DCFS- Dwayne Gordon	11 Scuppo Road	Danbury CT	06811
DCFS- Daniel Maffei	46 Rosilia Lane	Fishkill NY	12524
DCFS- Consuelo Maldonaldo	11 Talmadge St. Fl. 3	Poughkeepsie NY	12601
DCFS- Marcos Martinez	221 Rhodes Ave #2	Hempstead NY	11550
DCFS- Christopher Murley	13 Commerce St.	Poughkeepsie NY	12603
Rocket Mortgage LLC vs Richard Holmes and Kelly DOE	Unknown		

WellsFargoBankNAvsDCFinanceasLimitedAdministratoroftheEstateofFrankJosephTorchia; Steffanee Murphy; Allison Hogan, Frank Torchia, Jr.; Christoffer Torchia; Jess Torchia; Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company; State of NY 16 Pebble Lane Waymart PA 18472  
81 E. Ramsey Canyon Rd. Hereford AZ 85615  
2317 Stoneborough Ct Fuquay Varina NC 27526  
28 Torchia Rd. Cold Spring NY 10516  
6 Nancy Drive LaGrangeville NY 12540

C. Maenza CORP d/b/a ASAP Electric vs DAK Homes LLC/ DAK Homes C/O Zuki Karagiozi  
788 Shrewsbury Ave, Ste 2225 Tinton Falls NJ 07924  
Catherine Oliva vs Christopher Oliva 28 Pocantico Rd. Ossining NY 10562  
JPMC Specialty Mortgage LLC vs Edward Kelland; Veronica Medina Kelland; Kyle Kelland; Colby Kelland  
762 Wolcott Ave Beacon NY 12508  
456 Maloney Rd. #5 Poughkeepsie NY 12603  
217 Stone Ave. Yonkers NY 10701

Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union vs Hector Ayala, Individually as Heir at Law to the Estate of William Ayala  
53 Beaumont Cir. #4 Yonkers NY 10710  
Christina Griffin, Architect PC vs Neeraj Hotchandani and/or Pretti Bhattacharji  
33 Lafayette Ave Beacon NY 12508

County of Dutchess vs Gloria B. Chambers 1539 Hollow Road Clinton Corners NY 12514

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT**  
(A) A list of names contained in this notice is on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Commissioner of Finance;

(B) Any such unclaimed moneys or other property will be paid or delivered by her on or before the thirty first day of March to persons established to her satisfaction their right to receive the same; and

(C) In the succeeding month of April, and on or before the tenth day thereof, such unclaimed moneys or other property still remaining will be paid or delivered to the Comptroller of the State of New York, and the undersigned shall thereupon cease to be liable therefore.

Dated: February 1, 2026  
Poughkeepsie, New York  
/s/heidi seelbach  
Heidi Seelbach  
Commissioner of Finance  
Dutchess County, New York

**REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE**

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-29-26

Qualified Elevator Inspection (QEI) Services

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 26th day of February 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and

RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

**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

**REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE**

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess,

Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-22-26

Rebid Cummins Engine Repair and Replacement Services

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 20th day of February 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD  
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 101A/2026  
RE: AMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWN BOARD  
MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026**

BE IT RESOLVED, that subject to the schedule set forth below the regular meetings of the Pleasant Valley Town Board will take place on the third (3rd) Monday of each month for the year 2026 at 7:00 PM in the main meeting room of the Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, New York; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that subject to the schedule set forth below the Town Board Workshops will take place on the first (1st) Monday of each month for the year 2026, at 7:00 PM in main meeting room, and that special meetings will be scheduled and advertised by posting the announcement on the front door entrance of the Town Hall, with notification to the press (time permitting); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2026 meeting dates are as listed below:

January 5	Re-Organizational Meeting
January 21 (Wed)	Regular Meeting
February 2	Workshop Meeting
<b>*EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2026, THE MEETINGS LISTED BELOW SHALL BE HELD AT TOWN HALL, 1903 ROUTE 44, PLEASANT VALLEY, NEW YORK, AS AMENDED*</b>	
February 18 (Wed)	Regular Meeting
March 2	Workshop Meeting
March 16	Regular Meeting
April 6	Workshop Meeting
April 20	Regular Meeting
May 4	Workshop Meeting
May 18	Regular Meeting
June 1	Workshop Meeting
June 15	Regular Meeting
July 6	Workshop Meeting
July 20	Regular Meeting
August 3	Workshop Meeting
August 17	Regular Meeting
September 9 (Wed)	Workshop Meeting
September 21	Regular Meeting
October 5	Workshop Meeting
October 19	Regular Meeting
November 2	Workshop Meeting
November 16	Regular Meeting
December 7	Workshop Meeting
December 21	Regular Meeting

And;  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any changes to the above-mentioned schedules will be posted at the Town Hall entrance as necessary, with notification to the press.

**MOTION:** Councilman Rifenburg  
**SECOND:** Councilwoman Chapman  
**DATED:** February 3, 2026

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Councilwoman Borland	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Council woman Chapman	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Councilman Degan	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Councilman Rifenburg	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Supervisor Albrecht	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Carried.		

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.

**SEND US YOUR NEWS:**

[cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com](mailto:cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.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.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess](http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess). Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is

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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.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess](http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess) or by using the link provided at [www.dutchessny.gov](http://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](mailto:dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov), or in person, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess

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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

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through Microsoft 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

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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](mailto: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 June 15, 2026; the anticipated substantial completion

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date is August 17, 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.

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NOTICE**

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New

**Legal Notices**

York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid RFQu-DCP-12-26

Pre-Qualified List for Medico-legal Death Investigative 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 19, 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.

# OBITUARIES

Carolyn B. Cookingham



Carolyn B. Cookingham, 96, a longtime resident of Staatsburg, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Baptist Home in Rhinebeck.

Born on March 1, 1929, in Burlington, Vermont to the late Clifford V.K. Barker and Grace Rumball Barker.

Carolyn was a devoted mother and a dedicated professional, serving for many years as Cook Manager in the Hyde Park Central School District's foodservice program.

Carolyn was deeply involved in her community. A life member of the West Clinton Fire Department, she was one of the first volunteers to alert firefighters of a call within the district and remained a loyal and dedicated supporter for many years. She was also active in the ladies Auxiliary. As a young girl, she was proud to be a girl scout and became a troop leader when her daughters were in scouting.

A woman of faith, Carolyn was a longtime member of the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church, where she served the church as both a Deacon and an Elder.

Following in family footsteps, Carolyn ran the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Cemetery for many years, often alongside her family. She was also a devoted member of The Grange for more than 80 years and was recently honored for her remarkable longevity and commitment. In addition, she was always willing to lend a helping hand on the family farm.

On May 10, 1947, at the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church, she married Donald C. Cookingham. Her husband predeceased her in 2000.

She is survived by her children, Betty McGlashan, and Sally Graybill and her husband, Dave; seven grandchildren, Melissa Montgomery, Jamie Riordan, Jason Mulford, Stacy McGlashan, Shawn Graybill, Christopher Cookingham and Carolyn May; and five great grandchildren, Shea Montgomery, Wade Bishop III, Savannah Bishop, Warren May, and Brealynn May.

She is also survived by her sister, Marion Jural, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, Carolyn was predeceased by her son, Donald Cookingham; her sister, Patricia Coon; and an infant sister, Barbara Barker.

Cremation has taken place. Calling hours will be from 4 to 7 PM, Thursday February 12th, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park.

A celebration of Carolyn's life at the Pleasant

Plains Presbyterian Church and burial of her ashes in Pleasant Plains Cemetery will be scheduled for the Spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully request memorial donations to the West Clinton Fire Dept., 219 Hollow Rd., Staatsburg, NY 12580 ([www.wcfdny.com](http://www.wcfdny.com)), or the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church, 2 Fiddlers Bridge Rd., Staatsburg, NY 12580.

To leave an online condolence or for directions please visit Carolyn's obituary page at [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

**Robert D. Fennell**

**BARRYTOWN** – Bob died at home on February 2, 2026. He was born in 1940 in Geneva, New York, the middle child and only son of Alice and Joseph Fennell.

His father Joseph died when Bob was 16 years old and his mother took him and his two sisters on an adventurous road trip from Geneva to California and back.

After a couple of years of college, he joined the Army and it was a very formative time for him. He graduated from Ithaca College where he met his wife, Cynthia. They soon welcomed daughter Alison and sons Bob, John and eventually Andy. After a couple of decades working for the State of NY, he started a second career as a zoning enforcement officer and building inspector for local Hudson Valley communities where he reveled in small town controversies. He was very proud of the 18th century Dutch style stone house that he built by himself in Barrytown, New York. Bob and Cynthia traveled frequently and lived in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico for a year.

He was an enthusiastic story teller and loved to tell stories about his idyllic childhood and his time in the Army. Bob was well known for his singing and amazing grasp of history and trivia. Among his many passions, he loved reading, writing, practicing his Spanish, genealogy, sailing: both hard and soft water, wood carving, and working on his Victorian house.

Bob is survived by Cynthia, his wife of 61 years, his children Alison Fennell Vaccarino, Bob (Dina), John (Sandy) and Andy (Jenna) and his much beloved grandchildren Joseph and Lia, Emma and Connor, Lily and Jane, Juniper and Fiona as well as many nieces and nephews. Bob's sisters Carol and Alicia predeceased him.

A celebration of life will be held in the Spring.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Hudson River Ice Yacht Preservation Trust.

Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 91 E. Market St. Rhinebeck, NY.

**Alphonso F. LaBarbera**

**FORMERLY OF TIVOLI** – Alphonso F. LaBarbera, 84 of Staten Island and a previous resident of Tivoli, NY, passed away on January 30th, 2026.

Born on November 9th, 1941, Alphonso was the son of the late Alphonso and Margaret (Fredericks) LaBarbera.

A man of many trades, Alphonso worked as kitchen help for Manny's Restaurant in Red Hook, NY, the Police Athletic League in New York, NY, Renew Carpets Company in Bronx, NY, and for John J. Doody and Sons Hardware Store in Staten Island, NY.

A devote Catholic, Alphonso held his faith close to him, keeping his relationship with the church throughout his life.

Alphonso is survived by his sister's Virginia

LaBarbera and Dorothy Armao, and his brother, James LaBarbera.

In addition to his parents, Alphonso is predeceased by his siblings, Mary LaBarbera, Irene LaBarbera, Margaret "Toni" LaBarbera, Rose Mergenthaler, John LaBarbera, Joseph LaBarbera, Charles LaBarbera, and Ronald LaBarbera.

Burial will take place in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Alphonso's memory to either St. Jude's Hospital or to St. Christopher's Church, in Red Hook. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 7461 S. Broadway, Red Hook, NY

**Maxine D. MacAdam**

**RHINEBECK** – Maxine MacAdam of Kingston NY and Rhinebeck NY, died January 30, 2026 at the age of 72. She passed unexpectedly.

Maxine was born June 3, 1953 to Roberta and David Bengelsdorf in Pleasantville, NY. Maxine is survived by her daughter Jessica and her husband Jeffrey, her granddaughter Olivia and her grand dogs. Maxine is also survived by her sister Alisa Bengelsdorf and brother Seth Bengelsdorf, his wife Diana Schaefer as well as their children Ted and Geoffrey, as well as her uncle Howard and his wife Myrna.

Maxine was a beloved mother, grandmother and sister who dearly loved her family and cats. Maxine loved reading her bible and daily devotions. She loved her family and friends very much, calling them often. She was an all-around person and loved music and being outside enjoying nature and all the cats.

Maxine was cremated at the Burnett and White Funeral Home in Rhinebeck, NY. There are no services planned at this time. A summer graveside service will be later determined. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Wags and Wiggles in Newport, NH <https://www.wagsandwiggles.org> in memory of Maxine.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 91 E. Market St. Rhinebeck, NY.

**Dennis John Parsons**

**ANCRAM** – Dennis John Parsons, 73, a lifelong area resident died peacefully on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Columbia Memorial Health Center in Hudson, NY. Mr. Parsons worked for ten years at the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Ancram Mill, in Ancram, NY as a manufacturing operator prior to a work injury that sidelined his career.

Born December 7, 1952 in Sharon, CT, he was the son of the late William Parsons, Sr. and Elizabeth A. (Milton) Swartz. He was educated locally and served his country in the United States Army as a helicopter mechanic during the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged following his service. Mr. Parsons was an avid deer hunter who enjoyed hunting with his son Kyle and playing pool in his spare time. He liked classic hot rod cars in his younger years, especially his VW Beetle and his red 1954 International pickup truck. He very much enjoyed socializing and spending time in recent years with his family and many friends at his garage, a social hotspot in Ancram. He will be dearly missed by his family and many friends.

Mr. Parsons is survived by his son, Kyle L. Burdick and his wife Melissa of Stanfordville, NY; three grandchildren, Jeremiah and Dylan Burdick of Elizaville, NY, and Dominick Burdick of Stanfordville; two brothers, William Parsons and his wife Rosie and David Parsons;

two sisters, Pamela Miles and her husband Michael and Kathleen Sigler and her longtime companion Don Bird; his brother-in-law Michael DeWitt and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two sisters, Donna DeWitt of Millerton and Lori Jean Parson of Pine Plains and several beloved pets.

Visitation, Funeral and Burial Information may be announced at a later date. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Dennis's honor please visit [www.conklinfuneralhome.com](http://www.conklinfuneralhome.com) Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

**Dr. Charles K. Pickering**

**HYDE PARK** – Charles Kilbourn Pickering, 94, of Hyde Park, NY, died peacefully at home, on February 4, 2026, 17 days before his 95th birthday. He was born in Corning, NY on February 21, 1931 to Lawrence and Jessie McBride Pickering.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Carole; and his three children and six grandchildren: Laurel Pickering (Fahad) and their sons, Alex and Max; David Creekmore and his daughters, Emma and Lily; and Stephen Kilbourn Pickering (Corey) and their sons, Bodhi Kilbourn Pickering and Cassidy J. Kilbourn Pickering.

In addition to his parents, Dr. Pickering was predeceased by a brother, Ronald Pickering.

Charles (Chuck) earned three degrees in music education: his Bachelors from Syracuse University, Masters from Rutgers University, and his Doctoral degree from New York University.

His professional career spanned over thirty years as a Teacher and Music Administrator in the New Milford, New Jersey public schools and as an adjunct professor at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, NJ. Upon his retirement, the school community honored him by dedicating the New Milford H.S. music wing in his name.

A second career followed as the Executive Director of the Arts Council of Orange County. Under Chuck's leadership, the 1929 Paramount Theatre in Middletown, NY was meticulously restored to its original beauty. Today, it continues to serve the Orange County Community in the Performing Arts.

He also honorably served in the US Army Reserves from 1948-1952.

Charles was a very active and involved volunteer his whole life. He served as President of the Middletown Rotary where he was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow. He also served as Financial Secretary in the First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, NY, and The United Methodist Church of Hyde Park, where he also delivered Meals on Wheels for a number of years.

The Pickering family gratefully requests memorial donations to Meals on Wheels of Greater Hyde Park, 1 Church Street, Hyde Park, NY 12538 ([www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org)), or the Hyde Park Food Pantry, PO Box 171, Hyde Park, NY 12538 ([www.hpfoodpantry.org](http://www.hpfoodpantry.org)), or the Salvation Army ([www.give.salvationarmy.org](http://www.give.salvationarmy.org)), or the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington St., Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 ([www.hvhospice.org](http://www.hvhospice.org)).

A celebration of the life of Dr. Charles K. Pickering will be held at a future date at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements by Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park. To send an online condolence, please visit Dr. Pickering's obituary page at [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

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

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

**SUDOKU**  
This week's answer

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

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 18)

# GOLDEN LIVING

*February Holiday Note: The Office for the Aging and all OFA Friendship Centers are closed for the following holidays in February: Thursday, Feb. 12 – Lincoln's Birthday (NY State legal holiday). Monday, Feb. 16 – Presidents Day (national legal holiday)*

## 'A MATTER OF BALANCE' SPRING CLASS OPENINGS

For older people who have never fallen, the idea of needing to pay attention to balance can seem distant. Falls only happen to really old people, they think. Old and frail, and that's not me...

And then, late one night, they get up to use the bathroom ... and down they go.

If they're lucky, they're not seriously hurt; but who wants to trust the rest of their lives to luck?

This doesn't have to happen. Falls are NOT inevitable as we age, and that's why the Office for the Aging offers "A Matter of Balance," a series of eight weekly classes that help older adults learn that fall risk is largely within their control.

**Proprioception - A meaningful mouthful**

Muscle mass tends to decline with age, and so does our sense of proprioception: your body's ability to sense its own position and movements without relying on vision. It's crucial to maintaining balance. Proprioception is the reason we can take it for granted that we can walk from the bedroom to the bathroom without having to think about every movement. We aren't born with it. We first learned it when we learned to walk as toddlers - and as we age, we can re-learn it.

**Use your balance, or lose your balance**

When we lose proprioception, we trip more. We stub our toes more. We bump into the door frame instead of walking through the doorway.

And we fall more. And even if we weren't hurt in the fall, we often reduce our activity out of a misguided fear that

it'll protect us from more falls. On the contrary: Reducing physical activity means less use for the muscles we need to keep us steady on our feet, and our risk of falls goes up. It doesn't have to be that way.

**Why 'A Matter of Balance' matters**

You don't have to limit your activity because of fear of falling. With OFA's "A Matter of Balance" class, you can:

- Make fall risk controllable;
- Set easy fall-reduction goals;
- Make simple changes around your home to reduce fall risk; and
- Practice exercises to improve strength and balance.

**Sign me up!**

"A Matter of Balance" is an eight-week series of classes that meet once a week for two hours each. Sessions typically take place in the spring and fall. While space is available, we have two sessions available, in the City of Poughkeepsie and Town of Beekman. The classes begin during the week of March 23.

Because "A Matter of Balance" cannot accept walk-in participants, specific information about class times and venues is provided once a participant's registration is confirmed. To start the process of getting into a class, contact the Office for the Aging at [ofa@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov) or (845) 486-2555.

At the end, you'll feel more confident in your daily routines, maybe even confident enough to be an "A Matter of Balance" volunteer instructor. The more volunteer instructors we have, the more classes we offer.

**OFA MOBILE OFFICE HOURS  
– FEBRUARY / MARCH**

If you have questions about aging services that would be best served by an in-person meeting, but travel to and from

Poughkeepsie is a challenge, OFA Ambassador Mary Reedy is hosting by-appointment OFA Mobile Office Hours around Dutchess County. Appointments are 30 minutes long at each Mobile Office Hours event. Appointments can be made by calling (845) 486-2555 during business hours. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text. Here's the schedule:

Wednesday, Feb. 18, noon-3 p.m. – Stanford Free Library, 6035 NY 82, Stanfordville

Thursday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Beacon Friendship Center, 1 Forrestral Heights, Beacon

Monday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – South Amenia Friendship Center, 229 South Amenia Rd., Wassaic

Tuesday, March 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Pawling Friendship Center, 154 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling

Tuesday, March 31, noon-3 p.m. – Beekman Town Hall, 4 Main St., Poughquag

If your Dutchess County civic organization wants to host a Mobile Office Hours event, email [ofa@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov) or call (845) 486-2555 during business hours. We're also available for presentations to groups on OFA Services, successful aging, scam prevention, home safety, caregiving, and much more.

## SUBSTITUTE OFA BUS DRIVERS WANTED

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging is seeking compassionate and responsible substitute Bus Drivers to transport older adults safely to and from OFA Friendship Centers, scheduled outings, and other destinations. An ideal candidate will prioritize passenger safety, and create a comfortable, friendly atmosphere for our senior community.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Safely operate a passenger bus or van, adhering to all traffic laws and safety regulations.

- Assist older adults with boarding and exiting vehicles, including those using walkers or wheelchairs.

- Follow scheduled pick-up and drop-off times.

- Maintain a clean and well-kept vehicle, reporting any maintenance issues as needed.

- Engage with passengers in a courteous and respectful manner.

- Monitor passengers for signs of distress or medical concerns, and respond appropriately.

**Qualifications & Requirements:**

- Valid New York State driver's license. Both CDL and non-CDL applicants welcomed.

- Clean driving record and background check.

- Previous experience driving older adults and/or individuals with mobility challenges is preferred.

- Ability to assist passengers with mobility aids (wheelchairs, walkers, etc.).

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.

- Patience, reliability, and a friendly demeanor.

To begin the application process, call (845) 486-2555 during business hours, or email [jnuccilli@dutchessny.gov](mailto:jnuccilli@dutchessny.gov).

**'HEAP' AND 'EAP' ... AND WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM?**

Two home energy programs that help thousands of Dutchess County older adults have similar acronyms. To avoid possible confusion, here's a quick explanation of the difference between HEAP and EAP:

HEAP = Home Energy Assistance Program, a federally funded and state-administered grant program that helps income-eligible New York residents pay their energy bills. Last winter, HEAP assisted over 12,000 Dutchess County households, according to the state comptroller's office.

EAP = Energy Affordability Program, for New York households with annual income levels at or below 60% of the State Median Income. The program aims to provide financial relief for low-income

consumers by making their electric and/or natural gas utility bills more affordable through monthly bill discounts.

If you're eligible for any of the following programs, you're also eligible to enroll in EAP:

- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

- Lifeline Telephone Service Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps)

- Medicaid
- Veterans Disability or Survivors Pension

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance

- Utility Guarantee / Direct Vendor programs

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- Safety Net Assistance

To enroll in EAP or verify your EAP enrollment, contact your utility company:

Central Hudson: (845) 452-2700  
NYSEG: (800) 572-1111

Beginning in 2026, EAP benefits are available to utility customers below median income who do not qualify for assistance under the existing EAPs.

## AN EARLY SIGN OF SPRING ... IT'S TAX SEASON

FREE tax preparation assistance for qualifying tax filers is available from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's IRS trained and certified volunteers and the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition.

Assistance is available to low to moderate income residents through April 10, 2026, by appointment only. There are over 30 tax sites in the Hudson Valley region, including many in Dutchess County and nearby. Appointments are available six days a week, days and evenings.

To schedule an appointment, call United Way's Hudson Valley Region Helpline, 2-1-1 (1-800-899-1479). The 2-1-1 Helpline is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In Dutchess County, tax prep venues are located in Beacon, East Fishkill, Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, Hyde Park, Millerton, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie (City and Town), Tivoli, Wappingers Falls, and Wingdale.

Filers do not have to be AARP members or older adults to receive service. 211 call specialists will review each caller's eligibility and, if within the scope of the program, schedule an appointment.

## OFA CENTRAL KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS WANTED

OFA's Nutrition Services division is looking for weekday volunteer assistance in our central kitchen, at OFA headquarters in Poughkeepsie (114 Delafield St.).

Every weekday morning, Nutrition Services volunteers help prepare and package hundreds of daily hot meals for OFA Friendship Center clients and home-bound older adults throughout Dutchess County.

If you are available any or all weekday mornings (roughly 9 a.m.-noon), and can stand while doing kitchen work, find out more about this volunteer opportunity by emailing [ofa@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov).

## 'SENIOR PARK PALETTE' RETURNS

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, Feb. 17, 2:30-3:45 p.m. – Millerton Friendship Center, 28 Century Blvd. (Library Annex)

Tuesday, March 10, 2-3:15 p.m. – Red Hook Friendship Center, 59 Fisk St. (Red Hook Community Center)

Tuesday, March 24, 2:30-3:45 p.m. – East Fishkill Friendship Center, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction (East Fishkill Community Center)

All supplies are provided. Each class size is limited to 12.

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