

NORTHERN
DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

Volume 18, Issue 8 • February 18-24, 2026 • 50¢

A division of The Southern Dutchess News ~ Entirely produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959 ~ www.sdutchessnews.com

Ryan stresses
 affordable, safe,
 free Hudson Valley

Congressman Pat Ryan delivered his annual State of the Hudson Valley address on Sunday, Feb. 15 at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie. Ryan focused on the work he's doing in Washington to deliver a more affordable, more safe, and more free Hudson Valley, and thanked the entire community for their help in that fight.

"My mission, every single day, is to deliver the more affordable, more safe, and more free Hudson Valley that all of our families deserve. The last year hasn't been easy, but I want to be clear: The State of the Hudson Valley is strong. It is proud. And it is unapologetically Patriotic," said Ryan. "Strong in the face of harm. Proud of neighbors who refuse to turn their backs on each other. And Patriotic for the country we know to be the greatest in the history of the world - for everything we know American can be. It's the honor of my life to represent this community, and there's no one else I'd rather fight alongside. Now let's get back to work."

In his speech, Ryan recommitted to passing his Affordability Agenda - his very first legislation introduced this Congress. The agenda is a comprehensive package of bills that fights the affordability crisis across the board:

- The Lowering Grocery Prices Act, to hold corporate price-gougers accountable and bring down food prices for consumers.
- The Stopping Pharma's Rip-offs Act, to make it easier and cheaper to produce and access the medication you need.
- The Bold Housing Agenda, a four bill package to cut through red tape and government waste to build more housing you can afford.
- The Protecting Social Security Act, to ensure your earned benefits are protected and that you can access

continued on page 4

National event sparks progress
 for Wappinger United girls

By Morgan E. Maier

Sixteen teams were invited to participate in the U.S. Youth Soccer (USYS) Winter Invitational Jan. 30 - Feb. 1, and one mighty 15U squad from the Hudson Valley especially made waves in the American Southwest. The Wappinger United Elite Spartans girls soccer team returned with their ever-burning competitive fire stoked, as Dutchess County welcomed them home from a job well done.

Players within Wappinger United Soccer Club hail from various corners of Dutchess County, Wappinger and Hyde Park to Poughkeepsie and more. On Feb. 9, the county celebrated the team's return from the invite-only weekend of competition. The club's volunteerism and contribution to community sport was honored with a special nod to the dedication of Coach Eli Lopez.

The Spartans had a special sendoff by the Town of Wappinger on Jan. 28, complete with a "National Elite Spartans Day" proclamation. With the entire Wappinger United Soccer Club and community behind them, Spartans touched down in Mesa, Arizona. A weekend of competition against fierce, nationally-ranked talent awaited them there.

The growth is one of the more remarkable achievements - not only of season, but all six that the team has spent together.



Members of the Wappinger United Elite Spartans girls soccer team pose for a team photo at the U.S. Youth Soccer Winter Invitational on Jan 30 in Mesa, Arizona. *Courtesy photo*

er. At one match in Mesa, the Spartans found themselves down some goals, but they were not out. Fighting as one unit, Spartans remained in the game. That became one of Lopez's most proud moments as a coach.

"Playing in a small town, we don't have all the facilities that the big guys do, but for them to march along and just keep that was really amazing to see. I keep

watching the games from the last weekend, and it just inspires me more," said Lopez.

The work to position a homegrown program on the national map happens year-round. Fall and winter practices call for floodlights in the bed of Lopez's truck, the team continuing its grind as

continued on page 3

Torreggiani emphasizes communication,
 progress on projects at Chamber Breakfast



Compiled by Curtis Schmidt

Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani brought a message of working together and communicating with residents at last week's Breakfast Meeting of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, held at Coppola's Italian American Bistro.

Torreggiani said he ran for office with the plan to create an open-door policy and promote government transparency.

"People are in shock when they leave a message ... and I return their call. Some so shocked they

forgot what they wanted," he said.

He said the Town Board was intended to be a "Town Board Team" and "Politics should never play a role in decisions regarding what is best for the Town."

Torreggiani emphasized points such as "stopping wasteful spending, completing projects with appropriate foresight, building the police force and providing them with tools to properly protect and serve our community and supporting and attracting small businesses."

continued on page 2

Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce President John Coppola, left, is pictured with Town of Hyde Park Supervisor Al Torreggiani at the Chamber Breakfast on Feb. 12. *Courtesy photo*

INDEX

Community Calendar	10
Creative Living	12-17
Hudson Valley Naturalist	14
Suguru	16
Crossword Puzzle	16
Sudoku	16
That's Italian!	17
Obituaries	18
Public Notices	19-21
Classifieds	22-23

• OPEN FOR BUSINESS •

Brookmeade Community p 24
 Center for Physical Therapy p 5
 Coppola's of Hyde Park p 7
 Dutchess Scuba p 2
 Impact PR p 3

Nuvance Health p 13
 Pleasant Valley Department Store p 12
 The Ridge School p 6
 Roosevelt Cinemas p 8
 WKZE 98.1 p 4

INSIDE:
 Adams Fairacre Farms



SAR Chapter honors Coppola



Chapter President Timothy Middlebrooks of the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, center, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to John Coppola, president of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 12. Coppola also received a white cap designed by organization Treasurer Richard Wambach for the Empire State Society. *Courtesy photo*

Chapter President Timothy Middlebrooks of the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAT) presented John Coppola with a Certificate of Appreciation, as well as a 250th anniversary pin and the Saratoga 2027 Commemorative coin on Thursday, Feb. 12.

The organization meets twice a year with luncheon meetings at Coppola's Italian American Bistro in Hyde Park. Coppola also received a white cap designed by organization Treasurer Richard Wambach for the Empire State Society.

The Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) was established in 1971. The chapter serves Dutchess, Columbia, Greene and Ulster counties. It is part of the larger National Organization of SAR, which was founded in 1889 as a non-profit and non-partisan entity. The national organization is committed to

promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and fostering educational opportunities for future generations.

The Empire State Society SAR, which includes the local chapter, consists of 20 chapters throughout New York State and has 1,142 members. The chapter is comprised of approximately 60 members. Every member is able to trace their ancestry back to a male relative who participated in the American Revolution.

The organization is currently preparing for several events involving the 250th Anniversary of the United States being celebrated this year, as well as the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga, which will take place in September 2027.

The Empire State Society will host a National Event on Surrender Day weekend in October 2027. Around 100 SAR members, including National officers, are expected to gather in Saratoga for a series of events during that weekend.

Guardian Revival, Ryan's office bring Valentines cheer to Castle Point residents

Guardian Revival brought an afternoon of live music and connection to the residents of the Castle Point VA Medical Center, while Congressman Pat Ryan's Office brought handmade Valentine's cards to veterans as part of his fourth-annual Valentine's for Veterans Card Drive on Feb. 9.

The event included room-to-room delivery of Valentine's cards to veterans receiving care at the facility. The cards were collected through Ryan's initiative, which engages students across the district to write messages of appreciation to veterans. Since its inception, the drive has delivered thousands of cards to local veterans.

Guardian Revival partnered with Ryan's office to enhance the visit with live performances from its music division, Encore, along with outreach from its peer services division and the Joseph

P. Dwyer Peer Support Project of Putnam County. Together, these efforts created an afternoon centered on connection, gratitude, and well-being.

The combination of Guardian Revival's programs and Ryan's Valentine's initiative created a shared experience for local veterans that was centered on personal connection, gratitude, and well-being.

"As a nonprofit, our mission is rooted in service — just like the veterans we're honored to support," said Aaron Leonard, Guardian Revival's CEO. "The simple act of playing a song and delivering a handwritten card can remind veterans that their service is seen and remembered, not just on holidays but all year long. We're grateful to Congressman Ryan's office and the Castle Point VA team for helping make these moments of connection possible."

Torreggiani emphasizes communication, progress on projects at Chamber Breakfast

continued from cover

He said, "My hardest (goal), however not dead by far, is working on the creation of our sewer system." In that regard, he said he changed the system to a ground base with (The Inn at Historic) Bellfield to allow the Town to have a 114,000-gallon system. This will allow future growth to 352,000 gallons per day expansion.

Additional points included the following:

- Hackett Hill Pool will be a total renovation. All upgrades, safer, as well as handicap accessibility. This project will start at the end of 2026 camp season and includes plans to renovate and update the pool house.

- Working on trails to make them safe and cleaner.

- Working on grants to add pickleball courts.

- Cleaning up Pine Woods Park, making it safer, as well as a consideration for a dog park.

"We also have a team collaborating with us to reapply for a grant to update our Comprehensive Plan," Torreggiani said. "We will be taking input from residents, as well as agencies like Scenic Hudson and National Parks. We will keep the charm and history of this town, while bringing it into this century."

Hyde Park obtains permission from state to reduce speed limit on East Dorsey Lane

HYDE PARK – Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani announced last week that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has officially approved a speed limit reduction on East Dorsey Lane. After two years of persistent coordination with state and county officials, the limit will drop from 45 mph to 35 mph.

Torreggiani also confirmed a new 25 mph limit for the St. Peter's School zone.

"Public safety has been a top priority, and while the process to secure this reduction was extensive, I am gratified to see these efforts come to fruition," said Torreggiani. He also credited former Town Councilman John Lombardi for his early collaboration with the county and

state in initiating this change.

Torreggiani recognized Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, County Public Works Commissioner Bob Balkind, County Traffic Engineer Stephen Gill, and former Town of Hyde Park Highway Superintendent Howie Fisher for their collaboration and efforts in getting this speed limit reduction accomplished.

The Supervisor concluded with a firm message for motorists:

"Drivers must slow down," he said. "I am encouraging the Town Police to actively enforce these new limits to ensure the safety of our residents and students."

send us your news cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Dutchess Scuba Diving LLC

FULL SERVICE SCUBA DIVING CENTER

1164 Rte. 9G · Suite 3
Hyde Park, NY 12538

• TRAINING • SALES
• REPAIR • TRAVEL

845-444-9015 · 845-444-9016 fax
DutchessScubaDiving.com

Where your underwater adventures begin!



RETURN THE FAVOR.

Proud Business Supporter of Our Veterans

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.



National event sparks progress for Wappinger United girls

continued from cover

days grow shorter. The winter season got them to the top of state, regional, and national leader-boards, earning the right to play against Arizona's rolling landscape.

The development of the team comes with big-ticket experiences and training without the heavy price tag on Dutchess County families. Each coaching certification elevates the club, aimed to blip the radars of prospective collegiate programs. All are self-funded by the volunteer coaches at Wappinger United Soccer Club. Such resources come standard for many of the Spartans' competitors, those elite soccer academies and private clubs scattered across the country. Yet 2011 Elite Spartans, the small team among giants, proved its mettle in its inaugural National League season.

"They got the taste of what that stage looks like, and their dream is really being at the top of their game," said Lopez.

The squad hones its craft, driven anew by the cross-country showcase. Spartans could earn another seat at nationals in July with a strong spring campaign, which starts March 8. Dutchess County will watch and root for its hometown soccer team.

Team members include Stephanie Lopez, Casey D'alessandro, Jackie Avila, Juliette Honovic, Josephine Ragusa (Aka JoJo), Khole Bradley, Madison Booth, Olivia Krstovich, Megan Hurley, Emliy Olenik, Giavanna White, Cecilia Galati, Daphne Pouani, Makayla Blau and Tatiana Johnson. The Team Manager is Jennifer Lopez.



Members of the Dutchess County Legislature welcome the Wappinger United Elite Spartans girls soccer team on Feb. 9. *Courtesy photo*

'SHREK THE MUSICAL' SET MARCH 13-15 AT STISSING MOUNTAIN JR/SR HIGH

The Stissing Theatre Guild presents "Shrek The Musical" March 13-15 at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School. "Shrek The Musical" is the stage adaptation of the DreamWorks film. The show tells the tale of an ogre named Shrek who embarks on a journey with Donkey to rescue Princess Fiona from the diminutive Lord Farquaad. Their journey is full of fun and surprises that are sure to keep the audience laughing throughout.

Performances will take place on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m.;

Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 15, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available for purchase at SeatYourself Tickets or by calling the Stissing Theatre Guild box office at (518) 398-1272. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for students and seniors (62+). All performances will take place in the auditorium at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, 2829 Church St., Pine Plains. Visit <https://stissingtheatreguild.org/> for more information.

Special Olympics New York launches 3-day Dutchess County Polar Plunge series

A Hudson Valley winter tradition is back and bigger than ever. Beginning Friday, Feb. 27, hundreds of brave participants will take the plunge during the 28th Annual Polar Plunge, a signature fundraising event benefiting local athletes of Special Olympics New York.

New in 2026, Special Olympics New York will debut a brand-new mobile plunge unit - one of the first in the state, allowing the Polar Plunge to expand into a three-day, multi-location experience across Dutchess County. The enhanced format increases visibility, excitement, and fundraising impact throughout the Hudson Valley.

All funds raised directly support year-round sports training, competition, leadership, and inclusion opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities at no cost to athletes or their families or caregivers.

POLAR PLUNGE WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Advance registration check in and day of registration: 10-11:30 a.m.

Plunge Time: Noon

Day 1 - Friday, Feb. 27

Marist University
3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie

The mobile plunge tank will be located in the McCann Center parking lot, with additional festivities taking place inside the McCann Center.

Day 2 - Saturday, Feb. 28

Heritage Financial Park
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls

Features include music, heated event tents, portable restrooms, changing areas, vendor stations, food trucks, s'mores and campfire stations, and ample parking for team tailgating before or after the plunge.

Day 3 - Sunday, March 1
Eastdale Village Town Center

10 Otto Way, Poughkeepsie

Includes music, a heated event tent, portable restrooms, and changing areas. Ample parking throughout the vicinity. Select Eastdale Village storefronts will be offering discounts to participating plungers in support of the event.

How to participate

All are welcome to participate in the Polar Plunge with a donation. Participants may register as individuals or form teams with friends, classmates, coworkers, or community groups. Advance registration is encouraged, though same-day registration will be available. All participants must complete required waivers prior to plunging and youth under eighteen must be accompanied by an adult.

What to bring & what to expect
Participants should bring a towel and a

change of clothes. Designated heated changing areas will be available on site. The event will take place rain, light snow, or shine.

Fundraising incentives & challenges

Participants are encouraged to collect donations in advance to support Special Olympics New York.

- \$25 minimum to participate in the plunge

- \$125 to participate and receive a 2026 Polar Plunge hoodie

- \$500 and participation all three days to complete the Trifecta Challenge

All Trifecta participants receive a Polar Plunge finisher medal

Individuals and teams can sign up at PolarPlungeNY.org/DutchessCounty. For more information, contact Susanne O'Neil at soneil@nyso.org or (914) 489-3301.

Northern Dutchess News & Creative Living is a division of the Southern Dutchess News, produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959. The Southern Dutchess News is an official newspaper of Dutchess County, as voted by the Dutchess County Legislature. The Northern Dutchess News is the official newspaper of the Towns of Amenia, Millbrook, Union Vale, Stanford and Rhinebeck.

Submit all legal notices
to sdnlegals@aol.com.

Publisher
Albert Osten

General Manager
Curtis Schmidt
cschmidt@sduchessnews.com

Editorial/Creative Director
Kate Goldsmith

Reporters
Kristine Coulter

Contributing Writers
Jim Donick
Morgan E. Maier

Advertising Representative
Richard Wambach
845-417-5377
richardlw47@gmail.com

Advertising deadline: Friday, noon

To submit news and letters to the editor:
cschmidt@sduchessnews.com
Deadline is Thursday at 3 p.m.

To submit arts-related news
and calendar events:
creativeliving@sduchessnews.com
Creative Living deadline is Thursday
at 3 p.m. for publication the following week.

Northern Dutchess News serves the towns of Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Milan, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale and Washington; the villages of Millbrook, Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Tivoli; and the hamlet of Salt Point

The Southern Dutchess News
84 East Main Street
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
845-297-3723

Chair Valdés Smith announces \$7 million for Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund

Chair Yvette Valdés Smith has announced that the Dutchess County Legislature has taken a major step towards finalizing the allocation of \$7 million for projects in the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund. Built in collaboration with local developers, these projects will provide hundreds of additional housing units, including affordable housing, across the county.

Valdés Smith (D-Fishkill) said, "Last week's unanimous Environment Committee vote demonstrates the Legislature's unwavering commitment to our affordability agenda and the residents of Dutchess County. I have been a proud member of the Housing Trust Fund advisory group, which works to ensure all our residents can afford to live here in

Dutchess County today and into the future."

The resolution passed unanimously at the Dutchess County Legislature's Board meeting at 22 Market Street in Poughkeepsie on Monday, February 9th.

"At a time when all Americans are facing rising costs," Chair Valdés Smith continued, "this major investment in affordable housing units proves that local government can and will play a pivotal role in combating New York's housing crisis. I look forward to the completion of these projects and to continuing to work with my colleagues to deliver on our affordability agenda through housing, public transit, EMS, and mental health programming."

Lisa Kaul (D-Town of Poughkeepsie)

said, "Our seniors deserve to age in place, and our young people deserve the chance to build their futures here in Dutchess County. As Chair of the Environment Committee, I strongly support allocating funds for this diverse array of affordable housing that gives our residents real options to live and thrive in the community they love."

The \$7 million allocation will support the following projects: 9-13 Noxon Street (City of Poughkeepsie), Wallace Campus (City of Poughkeepsie), The Clinton Crest (City of Poughkeepsie), Morgan Avenue Apartments (City of Poughkeepsie), Two Cross (City of Beacon), Locust Hill (Town of Rhinebeck) and Powder House Road (Town of Amenia).

Senate Republican leader Ortt adds Rolison to Anti-Semitism Working Group

New York State Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt has announced the addition of Senator Rob Rolison to the Senate Republican Conference's Anti-Semitism Working Group. The group, established in February 2023, meets with stakeholders across the state to make recommendations on ways to best address the alarming rise in anti-semitic incidents in New York State.

The group is chaired by Senator Jack M. Martins, and includes Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Peter Oberacker, and Senator Bill Weber as members.

"Anti-Semitism continues to be on the rise and efforts to protect our Jewish neighbors continue to be a priority for our Senate Republican Conference. Our Anti-Semitism working group consists of Senators from all different areas of this

state who have put forward common sense legislative proposals to battle anti-semitism at all levels. I'm proud to add Senator Rob Rolison to the working group, who is a true defender of public safety and has demonstrated throughout his career he will always protect New Yorkers from hateful acts of violence," said Ortt.

"Anti-Semitism has no place in New York — or anywhere in the world. This hatred remains far too prevalent in our society, and we must stand united against antisemitism and all forms of hate wherever they exist. As the ranking member of the Crime Victims, Crime and Correction committee, we know that hate has consequences, and I'm proud to join the Senate Republican Conference's Antisemitism Working Group as we explore solutions to make our state a safer, better place for

all," said Rolison.

The threat of anti-semitism that led to the creation of the group in 2023 is still very real for members of the Jewish community. Just recently, slides and playground equipment at Gravesend Park in Brooklyn were vandalized with swastikas, the second time this park had fallen victim to anti-semitic attacks in as many days.

In March 2024, following a series of roundtable discussions, the working group released its report consisting of legislative recommendations to address anti-semitism in New York State. The Senate Republican Conference will continue to be a strong voice and advocate of the Jewish community and ensure that the freedom of religion remains intact.

Millbrook sets Feb. 25 public hearing on CDBG application for accessibility improvements to PD

By Kate Goldsmith

At its Feb. 11 board meeting, the Village of Millbrook set the date for a public hearing on its decision to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to make ADA-related improvements to the Village Police Department to enhance public access.

The public hearing will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m., at Village

Hall, 35 Merritt Avenue, Millbrook.

The Village has received approval from the Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development to submit a full application for 2026 CDBG funding, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

A public hearing is required as part of the application process.

Ryan stresses affordable, safe, free Hudson Valley

continued from cover

them right in your own community

Ryan also commended his casework team for closing more than 5,000 cases helping members of the Hudson Valley community navigate federal programs and access their benefits. To date, Ryan and his team have returned more than \$43 million from federal agencies, right back into the pockets of Hudson Valley residents.

During his time in office, Ryan has secured more than \$700 million in federal funding for community projects across Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties. That funding has built community centers, fixed roads, pipes, and bridges, purchased new fire engines, and bolstered law enforcement capabilities across the Hudson Valley.

NORTHERN
DUTCHESS NEWS
ALL LOCAL ~ ALL THE TIME
www.sduchessnews.com

Now Hiring For Our Sales Department!

CELEBRATING
MUSICAL DIVERSITY

KZE

WKZE.COM

98.1

Resumes:
gm@wkze.com

Chili Mac event at Red Hook Community Center March 11

Red Hook Community Center (59 Fisk St.) will hold its Chili Mac Warm Up on Wednesday, March 11, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Snow date: March 19.

Choose the take out option to eat at home, or join friends and neighbors for an evening of lively conversation and connection. RHCC will feature a variety of chili and mac 'n' cheese recipes prepared by members of the community. Dinner will include vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. Each dinner also includes cornbread and dessert.

A selection of the handcrafted bowls will be available for purchase, with proceeds supporting RHCC programs.

Meal options and prices

\$40 - Chili Pepper Supporter (Dine-in

or Take Out)

\$20 - Dine-in, includes two hearty servings of chili, cornbread, dessert, and drinks.

\$10 - Dine-in Kids (12 and Under), includes chili, cornbread, and dessert.

\$10 - Take Out, includes one serving of chili, cornbread, and dessert.

Purchase tickets at <https://redhookcommunitycenter.org/>.

Volunteers needed

Do you have a great chili and/or mac 'n' cheese recipe? RHCC is looking for volunteers for this event.

For questions and more information, contact Sara Ugolini at (845) 758-0077 or email director@redhookcommunitycenter.org.

Kim Williams to receive 'Good Egg' Award

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce and Six Senses Hudson Valley will present the 2026 "Good Egg" Celebration on Thursday, March 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Beekman Arms, 6387 Mill St., Rhinebeck. This year's honoree is Kim Williams, CEO of Williams Lumber & Home Centers.

"Kim has been a steady force for good – supporting local businesses, investing in the community, and leading with integrity, vision, and heart," the Chamber said in a statement on its website. "Her service and dedication continue to inspire those around her, making Rhinebeck a stronger place to live, work, and do business."

Tickets are \$105 for members, \$125 for non-members.

The ticket price includes a three-course, seated dinner (cash bar available); an inspiring tribute honoring Kim Williams' accomplishments and contributions; a silent auction featuring offers from Rhinebeck Chamber member businesses; live music, and the opportunity to connect with Rhinebeck's leading business owners and community leaders.

Proceeds benefit the annual Chamber give-back programs, including the Rhinebeck High School Senior Scholarship Fund, coat drive, school supplies drive, and food drives throughout the year.

Visit www.rhinebeckchamber.com to purchase tickets and for more information.

'Bright Smiles, Bright Futures' dental clinic to be held Feb. 21

The Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with Colgate's "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" program, will host a free Children's Dental Health Event on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton St. in Poughkeepsie, providing children ages 1-12 the opportunity to receive professional dental screenings and access educational resources promoting lifelong oral health. The event is open to all families; advance registration is not required.

DOH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado said, "Maintaining good oral health is a vital part of children's overall health and development. We are proud to work with Colgate to host this family-friendly event that will bring essential dental services directly to our community, to help ensure every child has the opportunity for a healthy smile."

Dental screenings will be conducted in Colgate's Mobile Dental Van and will take approximately five minutes. Each child will receive a personalized dental report card and a Colgate oral care kit,

including a toothbrush and toothpaste.

As they await their screening, families can enjoy fun activities and learn about available dental health resources in the FPC auditorium including:

- Watch informational cartoon series
- Enjoy light, healthy refreshments
- Receive educational oral health materials

- Meet the Tooth Fairy and Mr. Tooth.

Colgate's "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" program is a global oral health education program that aims to support children in developing healthy oral care habits. Since its launch, the program has reached millions of children and families worldwide, providing educational materials, preventive screenings, and resources to help improve oral health and reduce cavities, with a focus on supporting underserved communities.

To learn more about "Bright Smiles, Bright Future," visit: <http://www.colgate.com/en-us/mission/oral-health-commitment/bsbf>. To find out more about the Dutchess County Department of Health and its offerings visit: dutchessny.gov/health.

DC Transportation Council opens public comment period on Draft 2026-27 Unified Planning Work Program

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) initiated a 15-day public comment period for our Draft 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on February 11. The Planning Program identifies the federally funded planning activities that they expect to work on between April 1 and March 31, 2027.

The public comment period ends on February 25. Comments can be submitted by mail, email, or phone, using the

contact information below:

Dutchess County Transportation Council, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or call 845-486-3600 or email dctc@dutchessny.gov. For more information, once can go to www.dutchessny.gov/dctc,

All comments will be summarized and presented to the Council prior to action. Please contact us with any questions about the proposed Planning Program.



Now opened

in our Hyde Park location

**BALANCE, AND
FALL PREVENTION
LAB**

To help you achieve your goals

(845) 233-4960 4353 Albany Post Rd. Hyde Park

www.centerforphysicaltherapy.com

Central Hudson, Mid-Hudson Libraries expand free home energy help program

Central Hudson Gas & Electric and the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) have announced that the free, do-it-yourself home energy assessment initiative is growing, bringing increased access to Hudson Valley residents looking to lower energy use and reduce monthly costs.

Launched on August 1, 2025, HomeBoost gives Central Hudson customers the opportunity to borrow an energy assessment kit from participating MHLS libraries. Each kit includes a smartphone-compatible thermal imaging camera and step-by-step instructions to help users identify areas in their homes where energy efficiency can be improved. Within days of completing the assessment, customers receive a free, personalized digital report with tailored recommendations and information about available rebates to help improve efficiency and reduce monthly bills.

"We're thrilled that our community is taking a strong interest in the HomeBoost program," said Lauren Preston, Central Hudson's Chief Customer Services Officer. "In just six months, the

HomeBoost program has continued to grow and now accounts for 10 percent of the energy assessments performed in our service area since launching. The early success has allowed us to expand access quickly — bringing this valuable energy-saving resource to even more communities throughout our service area."

Upon launch, the HomeBoost program distributed 24 kits across 10 library locations. Since then, demand has only grown, leading to the expansion of the program to 30 additional locations, including expanding into the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS), with another 100 HomeBoost kits added to circulation in response to demand.

To participate, residents must have a library card from an MHLS or RCLS member library and be an active Central Hudson customer. HomeBoost kits are compatible with both iPhone and Android devices. For the most accurate results, users should have basic home details available, such as the year their home was built, square footage, type of heating system, and window type.

DC Comptroller's Office releases first audit of 2026 for Grace Smith House

The Dutchess County Comptroller's Office has completed its audit report of Grace Smith House, Inc. (GSH) for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. Grace Smith House is a private not-for-profit organization that provides residential and non-residential services to victims of domestic violence and their families in Dutchess County. The last audit of the non-profit conducted by the Dutchess County Comptroller's Office was released in 2015 for year-ended 2014 financials.

Grace Smith House, Inc. received approximately \$3.8 million in contracted County funding during the 2022-2024 period, with additional funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS) from various counties, government and private grants, and community contributions. The Comptroller's Office identified no significant deficiencies but made

recommendations for improvement regarding timeliness of contract execution and claim submissions, regular updates to financial Policies and Procedures, and maintaining FDIC limits on bank balances when feasible.

"Grace Smith House provides an invaluable service to the taxpayers of Dutchess County," said the Comptroller. "Our Office was grateful for the opportunity to verify the success and competence of this crucial agency partner providing life-saving services to victims of domestic violence."

The Comptroller's Office would like to thank the team at Grace Smith House, Inc. for their assistance in the preparation of this audit.

The Grace Smith House, Inc. Audit Report can be found on the Comptroller's website, accessible via www.dutchessny.gov.

Friends of the Walkway receives grant for signage at Walkway Over the Hudson

Friends of the Walkway has been awarded a \$62,350 grant from the Environmental Protection Fund's Park and Trail Partnership Grant Program to design a comprehensive interpretive and wayfinding signage system for Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park.

Friends of the Walkway will undertake a project to create a cohesive signage plan that enhances access, education, and visitor engagement throughout the park. This initiative will lay the foundation for the future implementation of inclusive and accessible interpretive and wayfinding improvements that align with New York State Parks branding and values. The plan will ensure the visitor experience is welcoming and accessible to everyone, will offer meaningful learning opportunities, and allow guests to interact in different ways based on their interests and needs.

"This grant provides vital funding to begin reshaping how visitors experience the Walkway and understand its surroundings," said Lori Robertson, Executive Director, Friends of the Walkway. "We look forward to developing a cohesive signage system that blends physical and digital elements, improves navigation, and brings forward the many stories of the Hudson Valley - especially those that have been historically under-represented."

The grant is one of 27 awards totaling \$2.25 million made to organizations dedicated to the stewardship and promotion of New York's state parks and historic sites, trails, and public lands. The grants will be matched with private and local funding

and will support projects to strengthen Friends groups and enhance public access and recreational opportunities.

Friends of the Walkway's signage plan to improve access, learning, and engagement is supported by funding from the NYS Park and Trail Partnership Grants and New York's Environmental Protection Fund.

The Park and Trail Partnership Grants program, celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2026, is administered by Parks & Trails New York, a statewide non-profit organization, in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

"New Yorkers statewide are experiencing the benefits of restored trails, enhanced visitor centers, and engaging programs that foster a deeper connection with the outdoors," said Paul Steely White, Executive Director, Parks and Trails New York. "For the past decade, Park and Trail Partnership Grants have been instrumental in making these experiences possible by supporting the dedicated local organizations that steward our public lands. This year's record-breaking awards will ensure that these vital sites continue to educate, inspire, and warmly welcome all who visit."

To view a list of all Round 11 awardees, please visit: ptny.org/ptpg-round-11-awardees/.

More information on Park and Trail Partnership Grants can be found at ptny.org or by calling 518-434-1583 x3.

Stanford Free Library upcoming events

Registration required for events unless noted otherwise. Please register via the online calendar at www.stanfordlibrary.org or call 845-868-1341

Just For Teens It's Trivia Game Night
Friday, February 27, 6 PM- 8 PM

Come join other teams for a night of trivia board games, card games and fun ages 13+

March Book Club
Monday, March 2nd, 1:00 pm-2:00pm
This month's selection is *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore

Visit With Therapy Dog Jambo
Tuesday, March 10th, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

He's a gentle giant who loves to make new friends. People of all ages are welcome to come and visit with him. Sign up for a 15 minute slot with Jambo.

Tame Your Paper Piles and Files
Saturday, February 21, 1 PM

Does the thought of tackling your paper piles keep you up at night? Seasoned, Certified Professional Organizer, and Certified Senior Move Manager Colleen Ash will share her smart tips and proven strategies for finally taming the paper piles and files.

Yo-yo club
Saturday, February 28th, 1p-2pm

Open to students grades 4+
Join us at yo-yo club with Marc Smith. Have hands-on fun while learning about different types of yo-yo's including fixed axle, responsive, and unresponsive. Yo-yos will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Space is limited so register early.

Rigid Heddle Loom Demonstration

Wednesday, March 11, 5pm-7pm
The Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Growers have donated a rigid Heddle loom to our library. This tabletop loom is easy to set up and use. Instructor Lydia Leete will have you weaving in no time.

Warming Winter Soups With Holly Shelowitz

Thursday, February 19, 6pm- 730pm
Online Only

Get cozy this winter with delicious soups, focused on nutritious ingredients and maximum flavor. Throughout the class, you will receive lots of helpful information, time saving tips and knife skills to make it easier for you to get dinner on the table and lunch in your bowl.

Music in the Library
Saturday, February 28th, 12-1pm

Local Musician Walt Otto returns to play his much loved standards, early pop tunes and classic country songs for us. Just drop in and enjoy the music.

ONGOING EVENTS

Qigong
Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm
Why consider the practice of Qi Gong? Empower yourself, improve your physical and mental health. Create a state of balance/strengthen your will power

Story time at the Library
Tuesday Mornings through June 9th
Toddlers (18mos-2 years), 10:30am-11:15am
Preschoolers (3-4 years) 11:30am-12:15

Home School Stories and STEAM
Students in Grade K-3:Thursdays, 12:45pm -1:45pm
Students Grade 4-6 (STEAM only) Thursdays, 2pm-3pm

Case Management Services
Tuesday 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Free and available to anyone in our community. North East Community Center's case management services can help clients meet emergency needs and provide ongoing support. For example, we can assist with food rent and utilities.

Yoga with Mia
Saturdays, 10am-11am
Bring your own mat and blanket. One time waiver must be signed prior to first class.

Water Color Workshop
First, Third, and Fifth Tuesday of each month 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Using the Basic Watercolor Techniques: A Flat Wash, Graded Wash, Wet-In-Wet or Drybrush

We will be happy to provide guidance but this is a Watercolor Workshop not a Watercolor Class. Supplies are not provided, a list of needed materials is available at the library.

Literacy Connections Classes for English Language Learners
Mondays 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
All levels are welcome.

Knitting
First, Third, and Fifth Thursday of the month 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Come for knitting, tea and conversation.
All levels are welcome. Advanced knitters will teach beginners.

Brain Games
Thursdays 10:30 - 12:00 pm
Calling all seniors! Join in the fun and laughter of our brain games! Fun, stimulating, invigorating word games, board games, card games, conversation and laughter!

Mahjong for Intermediate Players
Fridays 10:00 am - noon
Come and play Mahjong with this fun, friendly group. Are you a beginner or want to learn the game? Ask at the library for more information.

Now accepting students for the upcoming spring semester!

Giving back through life-changing experiences!

The Ridge School is a New York State Board of Regents Accredited School, Not-for-profit organization located in Dutchess County, New York dedicated to the creation of a rich and positive setting for students who are not succeeding in their current educational placements. The Ridge School is a day school for students who are diagnosed with High Functioning Autism.

845-505-5483

845-266-4283

The Ridge School

www.ridgeschool.org

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

& Creative Living

All Local ... All the Time

www.sdutchessnews.com

Recognizing accomplishments, sacrifices of Black veterans



As we celebrate Black History Month, we honor and recognize the contributions and achievements that Black Americans have made throughout the history of our nation, particularly the accomplishments and sacrifices that for far too long went unnoticed.

In particular, at our Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, we are proud to commemorate the Black Americans who have served in our Armed Forces for centuries. Since Peter Salem of Massachusetts first served in the Continental Army in 1775, fighting during the American Revolution, countless Black service members in every branch of our military have faithfully served and protected this country. We are grateful to them all for defending our freedom since our nation's founding.

Of particular note to those of us in Dutchess County is the life and service of Army Private First Class Charles Johnson, a Millbrook native whose selfless duty posthumously earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award for valor, more than 70 years after his bravery in the face of an enemy attack saved the lives of nine of his fellow soldiers during

the Korean War.

The third of Robert and Pearl Johnson's six children, "Charlie" attended Millbrook High School for three years before transferring to Arlington High, where he graduated in 1951, renowned as a three-sport star athlete and Senior Class Vice President, who also took part in the school's chorus and band. Following his freshman year at Howard University, Charlie was drafted into the Army in 1952 and deployed to South Korea.

A Browning automatic rifleman with Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Charlie and his unit defended Outpost Harry, a remote outpost on the Korean Peninsula, on the night of June 11, 1953, as some 3,000 Chinese soldiers attacked. Realizing they could not hold their position, and without thinking about his own safety, Charlie, already wounded by gunfire and a grenade, left the bunker, stood between the enemy and his wounded comrades, telling them he would do everything he could to stop the enemy before succumbing to the attack. This final act of heroism cost Charlie his life at the age of 21, but it saved the lives of nine fellow soldiers, including 1950 Arlington graduate Donald Dingee.

More than seven decades later, on Jan. 3, 2025, President Joe Biden presented Charlie's sister, Juanita Mendez, the Congressional Medal of Honor in his honor during a White House ceremony that similarly recognized six more Korean War heroes. The next day, the Pentagon inducted Charlie into its Hall of Heroes.

I'm proud to say that Dutchess County has never forgotten Charlie, his courage or his legacy.

In 2010, for example, Arlington honored Charlie and fellow alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation by dedicating Johnson Hall and a Wall of Remembrance, following years of students' research into Charlie's life. Arlington also unveiled a statue showing Charlie rescuing Dingee, created by retired art teacher Arden Witherwax and donated by Arlington graduates. The statue embodies eight qualities that defined Charlie: loyalty, brotherhood, selflessness, courage, compassion, responsibility, patriotism and integrity. This past spring, County Executive Sue Serino and I were honored to attend the school's stirring musical

salute honoring Charlie and other fallen Arlington alumni.

County Executive Serino and I also had the privilege of joining the Johnson family, friends and a military honor guard at the Nine Partners Cemetery in Millbrook last spring for a solemn graveside ceremony, dedicated a plaque and flags that will forever mark this hero's final resting place. If you're ever in eastern Dutchess County, I urge you to stop by Nine Partners Cemetery, take a moment to find Charlie's grave and pay your respects to this true American hero.

The life and sacrifice of PFC Charles Johnson are remarkable; so, too, are the call to duty and desire to serve of every Black service member who has taken up arms in defense of our freedom. While not all receive a hall or statue in their honor, and they might not each earn a presidential commendation, every one of these brave men and women have earned our eternal gratitude and respect for risking their lives so we can enjoy ours.

May we hold these veterans' service, sacrifice and stories in our hearts – not just during Black History Month, but every day.

Dutchess expands textile recycling partnership with Helpsy

Free curbside pick-up available in participating municipalities

Recycling unwanted clothing and other textiles is easier than ever in Dutchess County, thanks to the County's expanded collaboration with Helpsy, a leading national textile collection and reuse organization. Residents in 11 participating Dutchess County municipalities can take advantage of free, convenient curbside textile pick-up to sustainably dispose of unwanted clothing, shoes, linens and other textiles. Additionally, Helpsy collection bins can be found throughout the county for textile drop-off. These efforts help keep textiles out of the waste stream and enable them to be responsibly reused or repurposed.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "When Dutchess County and our municipalities work together, we can achieve our goal of a more sustainable community for our children and future generations. Our new partnership with Helpsy expands textile recycling access across Dutchess County, helping communities reduce waste and giving residents an easy, practical way to make a positive change. This partnership is a win for everyone involved, and I hope our neighbors take full advantage of it."

The Helpsy program accepts clothing, shoes, linens and accessories in any con-

dition. Items are sorted for reuse and recycling, significantly extending their life cycle and diverting materials from landfills. There is no cost for towns, villages or cities to participate, and Helpsy provides equipment and services as part of the partnership.

Residents in participating municipalities can schedule no-cost curbside appointments on designated service days online at helpsy.com/pick-up. Helpsy crews will collect bagged textiles directly from homes, making donations simple and accessible.

Municipalities offering home pick-up include Town of Amenia, Town of Clinton, Town of Dover, Town of Hyde Park, City of Poughkeepsie, Town of Red Hook, Village of Red Hook, Village of Rhinebeck, Village of Tivoli and Town of Wappinger.

Additionally, Helpsy drop-off bins are located throughout Dutchess County for any residents to drop off textiles. Bins are available in the Town of East Fishkill, City of Poughkeepsie, Town of Poughkeepsie, Village of Rhinebeck, Town of Red Hook and the hamlet of Wingdale (Town of Dover); bins will soon also be available in the Town of Rhinebeck and Town of Milan.

Nationally, textiles are one of the fastest-growing components of the waste stream. The vast majority of all unwanted clothing and household fabrics, which can be reused or recycled, are thrown out as trash. When disposed of as trash, these

materials take up valuable landfill space and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. By diverting textiles from the waste stream, Dutchess County and its municipal partners can reduce landfill disposal and associated costs; minimize waste by keeping materials in use through reuse and recycling; lower greenhouse gas emissions; and extend the lifespan of County waste management infrastructure.

Helpsy accepts items in any condition, whether worn or reusable, and directs usable items toward resale and donation markets; damaged textiles are responsibly recycled into secondary products, including insulation, wiping cloths or

industrial materials.

Residents in non-participating communities are encouraged to contact their municipal leaders (i.e. mayor or supervisor), who can reach Deputy Commissioner Russell at (845) 486-2826 or krussell@dutchessny.gov and learn about joining Dutchess County's partnership with Helpsy.

More information about Dutchess County's environmental and sustainability program, including recycling education, home composting and related resources, can be found on the Division of Solid Waste Management's webpage, accessible via www.dutchessny.gov.

BRUNCH DISCOUNT
\$5.00 OFF BRUNCH
Get \$5.00 off Sunday Brunch on a table of 2 or more.
Limit one per table. Not valid with any offers, specials or coupons.

Impact PR & Communications Founder Filomena Fanelli to be inducted into DCC Alumni Hall of Fame

In recognition of her exceptional professional achievement, leadership in her field and meaningful community contributions, the Dutchess Community College Foundation will induct Filomena Fanelli, founder and CEO of Impact PR & Communications, into its prestigious Alumni Hall of Fame. Fanelli will be formally recognized at the Foundation's annual Our Community's Bridge to the Future Gala, on Saturday, March 28 at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie. The event honors and celebrates alumni and community leaders whose achievements exemplify excellence, leadership and service.

"Receiving this alumni award from the college that shaped my professional foundation is a meaningful milestone," said Fanelli. "The education and confidence I gained at DCC made it possible to build my PR agency, and the recognition carries special significance as my mother is also a graduate. Being acknowledged by an institution that has influenced multiple generations of my family underscores its lasting impact."

Founded by Fanelli in 2014, Impact

PR & Communications has grown under her leadership into an award-winning strategic public relations agency with a national client roster, serving organizations across industries including banking and financial services, real estate, construction, tourism, hospitality and non-profits. The agency aids clients in strengthening brands and reputations, creating thought leaders, building public trust and deepening community connections. Impact PR & Communications has earned national recognition, including being named the "Nation's #1 PR Agency" in CommPro's influential industry ranking in August 2025, the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2024 "Women Owned Business of the Year," multiple Mercury Awards by the Public Relations Society of America Greater Connecticut Chapter and more. Fanelli has previously been recognized as a Hudson Valley Magazine Women in Business Honoree, a Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 Mover & Shaker and an Athena award honoree.

"Filomena Fanelli's journey is a

powerful reminder of what is possible through hard work, perseverance, and service. Her induction into the DCC Alumni Hall of Fame is a well-deserved recognition of her remarkable legacy," remarked the Foundation's Interim Executive Director, Anna Parra.

The "Our Community's Bridge to the Future Gala" raises critical funds for the Dutchess Community College Foundation, supporting scholarships, emergency assistance, academic programs and student success initiatives. The event brings together alumni, community leaders and partners to celebrate achievements while investing in the next generation. Additional gala honorees include Raymond J. Freda (posthumously); Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee, Samuel and Gail Simon, recipients of the Bridge to the Future Award, for their lasting contributions to education and quality of life throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley; and G. Angela Henry, recipient of the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award for exemplary leadership, volunteerism and service across Dutchess County.

For more information on Impact PR & Communications, including its clients



Filomena Fanelli

and capabilities, visit www.prwithimpact.com.

To attend the Our Community's Bridge to the Future Gala or support the Dutchess Community College Foundation, visit www.sunydutchess.edu/alumni-giving/foundation/

Writer-Director Noah Baumbach '91 to deliver Vassar's Commencement Address

Noah Baumbach '91, a four-time Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, will address the Class of 2026 at Vassar College's 162nd Commencement exercises, President Elizabeth H. Bradley announced.

Vassar College's 162nd Commencement Ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at 10 a.m. on the Vassar College campus.

Baumbach's films include Jay Kelly, White Noise, Marriage Story, which received 6 Academy Award nominations

including Best Picture, The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected), While We're Young, Mistress America, Frances Ha, Greenberg, Margot at the Wedding, The Squid and the Whale, for which Baumbach received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay, Kicking and Screaming, and the documentary De Palma. He co-wrote Barbie with Greta Gerwig, which received eight Academy Award nominations including Best Adapted Screenplay, as well as Fantastic Mr. Fox and The Life Aquatic with Steve

Zissou with Wes Anderson.

Baumbach said, "Vassar was and continues to be an important part of my life. It has informed my movies in both subject matter (Kicking and Screaming), location (Frances Ha and White Noise). But, most significantly, it's many of my life-long friends from Vassar who have acted in my films or worked behind the scenes with me throughout my career. I'm excited and honored to return for commencement."

President Bradley said she was look-

ing forward to welcoming him back to campus. "Noah Baumbach's work is marked by intellectual rigor, emotional honesty, and a deep curiosity about the human experience," she said. "As an alum, he embodies the enduring value of a Vassar education, and I know our graduates will benefit from his perspective as they prepare to shape lives of purpose and creativity beyond Vassar."

More information on the commencement ceremonies can be found at vassar.edu/commencement/weekend.

ROOSEVELT CINEMAS Rte.9 Hyde Park 229-2000		LYCEUM CINEMAS Rte.9 Red Hook 758-3311	
--STARTS THURSDAY--			
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE 2 PG		HOW TO MAKE A KILLING R	
Psycho Killer R		HOW TO MAKE A KILLING R	
--HELD OVER--		--HELD OVER--	
Solo Mio (PG)		Solo Mio (PG)	
GOAT (PG)		GOAT (PG)	
Send Help (R)		Send Help (R)	
Wuthering Heights (R)		Wuthering Heights (R)	
Crime 101 (R)		Zootopia 2 (PG)	
Crime 101 (R)		Crime 101 (R)	
BEST ENTERTAINMENT VALUE			
 <p>DISCOUNT CARD</p> <p>Good any time for any movie</p>		<p>\$69 *REFILLABLE* DISCOUNT CARD</p> <p>Discount Cards can be used ONLINE or at the Box Office to purchase seats at "Member" price of just \$6.50! (Recliner and transaction fees extra)</p> <p>PLUS get a FREE large bag of popcorn with every purchase!</p>	
WWW.GREATMOVIESLOWERPRICES.COM			

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.



FFA students from Pine Plains attend Leadership Experience

New York State FFA (Future Farmers of America) hosted its annual State Leadership Experience in Albany on Feb. 2-3. During the event, students are trained in the workings of state government, discuss a variety of agricultural issues and meet/network with other FFA members from around the state.

Dutchess County was represented by Pine Plains and John Jay High School FFA chapters. Specifically, Jenna Lawrence and Hrudya Talasila, Chapter President and Vice-President, respectively, from John Jay, and Hope Miller and Coghlan Mullen, Chapter President and Vice President, respectively, from Pine Plains made the trip.

On Monday afternoon, students were involved in meetings providing guidance for interacting professionally with legislators, panel discussions with career professionals about such key agricultural issues as food insecurity, getting new farmers started, tariffs, labor, and the future of agriculture education in the state.

On Tuesday, the FFA students fanned out en masse to the Legislative Office Building. Students met with representatives from their particular part of the state. Lawrence and Talasia, along with Matt Mulligan (State FFA officer), met with Assemblyman Anil Beephan, based in Hopewell Junction. A brief but fruitful discussion of issues facing agriculture, agriculture education, and the value of FFA in particular, was had. It was learned

that, thus far, all items affecting agriculture education in the current governor's budget remained intact.

According to Jenna Lawrence, "It was a great learning experience that helped train us in how to get our point across to our elected leaders." Hrudya Talasila concurred, adding that she met lots of interesting people and she was able to improve her communication skills.

Hope Miller and Coghlan Mullen met with Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, based in Hudson. FFA members discussed chapter updates and upcoming events. Barrett hopes to attend the Pine Plains FFA Toy Show and annual Banquet. Pine Plains FFA members also met with Senator Michelle Hinchey, also based in Hudson. The meeting was also attended by the Taconic Hills, Coxsackie-Athens, and Greenville FFA chapters. Hinchey gave agricultural updates and an overview of her work as the chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

Coghlan Mullen stated that the overall experience and meetings with legislators taught him how to have a professional conversation with those who can influence the future of agriculture. Hope agreed and said it was amazing to talk directly with FFA supporters.

Students witnessed a variety of groups making their cases to our state representatives and got a realistic taste of how the state government works on a day to day basis.



From left, Pine Plains FFA members Hope Miller and Coghlan Mullen are pictured with NYS Assemblywoman DiDi Barrett and FFA advisor and instructor Stephanie Rhoades. *Courtesy photo*

Regional Food Bank kicks-off ReStock Our Pantries program

The Regional Food Bank has launched a first-of-its-kind ReStock Our Pantries program this winter in an effort to refill empty shelves for Food Bank community partners including pantries, soup kitchens, youth and senior programs and so many more across a 23-county service area.

On Friday morning, Feb. 13, the Regional Food Bank delivered 12 pallets of food to the Newburgh Armory Unity Center on S. Williams Street in Newburgh, where partner agencies were

able to pick up to restock their shelves. The pallets, unloaded by Food Bank staff and community volunteers, is the equivalent to approximately 15,000 additional meals that will be available to combat food insecurity in the region.

"The Regional Food Bank facilitated New York State's largest Thanksgiving meal distribution and had a hugely successful Holiday Hunger Appeal thanks to generous community support," said Tom Nardacci, CEO of the Regional Food Bank. "The holidays have notoriously

left our shelves and partner's shelves bare during the winter months. This much-needed distribution program will directly support agencies by delivering food to where it is needed and in turn benefit communities."

The Regional Food Bank hosts these distributions, delivering food to where it is needed in the Hudson Valley for agency partners to pick up resources and restock their shelves at no cost for our

neighbors in need.

"Last year we distributed over one million pounds of food to the needy people of Newburgh," said Paul Zalanowski, Director of the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry. "The ReStock Our Pantries Program gives us the opportunity to refurbish, replenish some of the things that we're low on like pasta, sauce and peanut butter. That's why this program is so outstanding."



On Friday morning, Feb. 13, the Regional Food Bank delivered 12 pallets of food to the Newburgh Armory Unity Center on S. Williams Street in Newburgh, where partner agencies were able to pick up to restock their shelves. *Courtesy photo*

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

Roof • Windows • Siding • Bathrooms • Heating & More

Is your home telling you it's time?

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

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

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

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

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

CALL NOW TO CHECK ELIGIBILITY
888-849-9991
or visit NyProgramFunding.com



APPROVED APPLICATIONS WILL HAVE THE WORK COMPLETED BY A QUALITY REPAIR CREW PROVIDED BY HOMEOWNER FUNDING. NOT AFFILIATED WITH STATE OR GOV PROGRAMS. LICENSE NY-RC-H-21274

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.

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

Pleasant Valley UMC hosts Lenten meal series

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, 92 Martin Road, Pleasant Valley, hosts a Soup & Roll Lenten Meal Series on Fridays in Lent through 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: 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; TBA).

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 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 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. 25, 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 certified 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.

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 Macdackb@gmail.com or Ryan Orton at orton808@yahoo.com. All are welcome.

Annual Chili Night set March 7

at Elmendorph Inn

Historic Red Hook presents its Chili Night on Saturday, March 7, at the Elmendorph Inn, 7562 North Broadway (Route 9), Red Hook. Join friends and neighbors for a cozy winter evening in the historic Elmendorph Inn enjoying homemade chili. Reserve seats for a seating at 5:15 or 6:30 p.m. Reserved tickets are \$15/ a person, but tickets will be \$20/ a person at the door. Tickets include a bowl of chili along with salad, corn bread, and a non-alcoholic beverage.

Space is limited, so guarantee your seat by reserving tickets in advance online at www.historicredhook.org. You can also make a reservation by calling (845) 546-9668 or emailing info@historicredhook.org.

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 for more information.

Rhinebeck Garden Club to meet March 11

On Wednesday, March 11, at 10 a.m., the Rhinebeck Garden Club's meeting will take place off site at Battenfeld's Wholesale Growers, 856 NY-199, Red Hook. Program: "History of Growing Violets and the Process of Harvesting Flowering Plant," presented by David Marker & the Battenfeld family. The meeting is open to the public, but guests are asked to join after attending two meetings. For more information about this program, or the RBGC or upcoming programs, please contact Sue, (845) 797-3226 or Hannah, (914) 263-5298.

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; 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

Note: Event is open to the public, but NYS law requires that you must be 21 years of age or older to drink alcohol.

Miles of Hope Spring Brunch set May 3

Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation will hold its 22nd Annual Spring Brunch on May 3, at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie. Guests will learn about the importance of exercise for a happy and healthy life from Dr. Jessica Scott, Director of the Exercise Oncology Program and Associate Attending at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Dr. Scott will discuss how exercise plays a vital role in living a happy and healthy life. The event will also feature raffle and auction items. Purchase tickets at www.miles-of-hope.org

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. 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.

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 or visit 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 or, contact Andrea Tkazyik at (845) 229-5896.

send us your news

cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

BUYING COMIC BOOK COLLECTIONS!

TOP PRICES PAID!

Honest and Reliable, 30+ years experience. Local Collector/Seller
Putnam/Westchester/Orange/Dutchess and more

Call or text: 917-699-2496 • email: smileLP@aol.com

Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

Stars
Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 111

By David Kalvitis © 2005 Monkeying Around

Garden Matters series starts Feb. 21 at Millbrook Library

The Millbrook Garden Club in partnership with Stonewood Farm and the Friends of the Millbrook Library presents "Garden Matters," a series of talks, walks and workshops focused on native plants and best practices for eco-friendly gardening.

Series speakers include certified forager and founder of Chicory Naturalist, Chris Baker (Kingston), Author Andrea Barnet (Ancram), Garden Designer Andrew J. Durbridge (Wassaic), Kristen Essig, Alex Kohler, and Maggie Thomas from Stonewood Farm (Millbrook), Dr. Joshua Ginsberg President of Cary Institute, Liselotte Vince from 80milesnorth Flower Farm (Millbrook), Jessica Williams of Odd Duck Farm (Highland) and more.

The "Garden Matters" series is scheduled to run February-December, with more details about Fall 2026 programs coming soon. All programs are free and open to the public and take place at the Millbrook Library (3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook). For more information, visit millbrooklibrary.org.

Garden Matters: Building Healthy Soil with Stonewood Farm

Saturday, Feb. 21, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
A healthy garden starts with healthy soil. Learn the basic principles of soil health and best practices for building

"closed-loop" regenerative soil fertility including spring bed preparations, tillage and alternatives, and putting your garden to rest at the end of the growing season.

Taught by Alex Kohler and Maggie Thomas, Farm Managers at Stonewood Farm.

Garden Matters: Grocery to Garden with Odd Duck Farm

Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.-noon
The perfect antidote to the gardener's winter doldrums! Discover how to grow flowers from carrot tops, microgreens from soup mix, tomatoes and potatoes for your garden from the produce aisle. Save money and learn how you can enjoy fresh herbs on your windowsill, grow your own cat grass, garlic, and ginger all from your local grocery store!

Taught by Jessica Williams, Odd Duck Farm

Garden Matters: Plant Communities in a Community Garden with Andy Durbridge

Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Join Garden Designer Andy Durbridge for an introduction to the Millbrook Library's Pollinator Garden project and plantings. Learn practical tips for selecting a mixed combination of plants to enhance growth and perform better as a plant community in your home garden.

This program is for all levels of gardening experience. It will include a garden walk-through (weather permitting) and Q&A to answer participants' own garden questions. In the event of rain, this program will move indoors.

Taught by Andy Durbridge, Andrew J. Durbridge Garden Design

Garden Matters: Root to Flower: Honoring the Whole Plant with Stonewood Farm

Saturday, May 9, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Explore the value of utilizing plants in their entirety, from underground roots to blossoms and seeds. We'll examine how whole-plant practices reduce waste, deepen our relationship with food, and support healthier soils, more resilient farms, and more equitable food systems. Learn practical ways that farmers, cooks, and communities can rethink abundance by honoring the full life cycle of the plants we grow.

Taught by Kristen Essig, Director of Culinary Outreach and Development, Stonewood Farm

Garden Matters: Nurturing Nature with Odd Duck Farm

Saturday, June 20, 11 a.m.-noon
Walk through the Pollinator Garden with Jessica Williams from Odd Duck Farm. Are you ready to embrace the con-

cept of inviting nature back to your garden? Even a tiny backyard can make a difference! Discover practical ideas for how to integrate your aesthetic desires with earth-friendly gardening. Learn which plants contribute the most to our local ecosystem and ways to create a more enriched environment by incorporating shelters and simple water features to attract frogs, birds and insects.

Taught by Jessica Williams, Odd Duck Farm

Garden Matters: Planting a Native Meadow at Cary Institute

Saturday, July 11, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Meadows provide many important ecosystem services including infiltration and filtration of stormwater, carbon storage, nutrient recycling, soil building, and provisioning of food and shelter for biodiverse communities of flora and fauna. Join Cary Institute President Joshua Ginsberg for a walk through Cary's native meadow project and learn best practices for establishing a meadow with native perennials and grasses and minimal maintenance requirements. This program will meet at the Cary Institute. Please register for directions and more information.

Taught by Joshua Ginsberg, President of Cary Institute

Millbrook Historical Society Feb. 19 event highlights 'Revolution's Longest March'

The Millbrook Historical Society's monthly meeting is set Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., at the Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. Local historian Tim Abbott will discuss "The Revolution's Longest March: Burgoyne's Convention Army in Dutchess County."

The talk will detail the route of Gen. John Burgoyne's captured army at Saratoga - the Convention Troops - from Massachusetts to Virginia in November and December of 1778, with emphasis on their travels through western Connecticut and Dutchess County. These included

both British and German troops who were escorted by various militia and Continental soldiers.

Bringing a real-life element to the program, re-enactors from the 24th Regiment of Foot, which was part of the army that surrendered and made the march south, will join the presentation in

correct period uniforms, while Abbott will be dressed in CT militia attire, as their guard.

Abbott is author of a forthcoming book on Spencer's Additional Continental Regiment.

Visit www.millbrookhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

EXHIBITIONS

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. **Feb. 24-April 12:** "Artists Respond to Poetry," Arts Mid-Hudson's ninth annual celebration of National Poetry Month, bringing together 20 poets and 20 visual artists in a collaborative exhibition exploring the dialogue between word and image. Opening Reception: Tues., Feb. 24, 5-7 p.m. Closing Reception Artist Talk: Sun., April 12, 1-3 p.m. RSVPs required to attend receptions. www.artsmidhudson.org or (845) 454-3222

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

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

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

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through June 7:** "Bunmei Kaika: Political Landscape in Early Modern and Modern Japan," the exhibition examines the drastic shift in Japan's national identity during the 19th and early 20th centuries. While this was a time of major political and social upheaval for the nation, it was also a time of expansion and modernization. Many artists responded to the shifting political and physical landscape by depicting it in woodblock prints and works on paper. **Opening lecture** on Sat., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. by Chelsea Foxwell, University of Chicago Professor of Art History, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, will bring context to the significance of works from this time period. **A reception in The Loeb's atrium** will follow at 3:30 p.m. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through July 7:** Special exhibition, "Signature Moments: Letters from the Famous, the Infamous, and Everyday Americans." During their extraordinary public careers, the Roosevelts interacted with a "who's who" of the 20th century. "Signature Moments" opens the FDR Library's archives and museum for an insider's view of the remarkable - and sometimes surprising - variety of personal exchanges with an amazing array of famous (and a few infamous) people, including golden age movie stars, queens and kings, scientists, and legendary military heroes. Visitors

will see signatures of literary giants, celebrated artists, world leaders, and, of course, prominent politicians and political activists - including seven American presidents. Regular Library and Museum admission applies to view the exhibit. www.fdrlibrary.org

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

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

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

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through 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. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

Be prepared before the next power outage.

**It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.**

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 877-516-1160 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.



GENERAC

Creative Living

celebrating all good things

Lehman Loeb showcases Japanese art from era of political & social upheaval

The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College presents the exhibition “Bunmei Kaika: Political Landscape in Early Modern and Modern Japan.” On view through June 7, the exhibition examines the drastic shift in Japan’s national identity during the 19th and early 20th centuries. While this was a time of major political and social upheaval for the nation, it was also a time of expansion and modernization. Many artists responded to the shifting political and physical landscape by depicting it in woodblock prints and works on paper.

Drawn largely from The Loeb’s permanent collection along with select loans, this exhibition sheds new light on landscapes from celebrated artists such as Hiroshige, Hokusai, Kunisada, Yoshitoshi, Kiyochika, and Ogata Gecko.

An opening lecture on Saturday, February 28 at 2 p.m. by Chelsea Foxwell, University of Chicago Professor of Art History, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, will bring context to the significance of works from this time period. A reception in The Loeb’s atrium will follow at 3:30 p.m.

The exhibition’s title, “Bunmei Kaika,” meaning “civilization and enlightenment,” explores the impact of the Edo period’s Tokugawa shogunate and the succeeding Meiji period’s government of Imperial Japan on political thought, nation building, and the dissemination of prints, from rural landscapes to urban cityscapes across thematic gallery spaces.

“On the Road: Tokaido and Beyond” contextualizes prints of famous places (meisho-e) of the Edo period within sociopolitical and visual discourse; “Philosophy, Religion, and Politics:



Yoshu Chikanobu, “A Contest of Ladies in Enlightened Fashion,” Woodblock print (nishiki-e); ink and color on paper, Gift of Robert S. Black, in memory of Barbara Bell Black, class of 1924, 1994.13.9. *Courtesy image*

Urban Planning in Edo” explores the role of Neo-Confucianism as an arm of the Tokugawa shogunate within the political landscape through the frameworks of ideology, infrastructure, and place; “Religion and Nationalism: Meiji and the Imperial Family’s Image” focuses on the relationship between religion and nation building during the Meiji period; “A City Transformed: Tokyo” introduces civilization pictures (kaika-e), a genre that emerged during the early and mid-Meiji periods in which artists captured dress reform and feats of urban engineering

orchestrated by the Meiji government; “Senso-e and the Concept of News: Colonization, Propaganda, and Censorship” examines how civilization pictures and war prints (senso-e) furthered Imperial Japan’s political agenda by simultaneously instilling national pride in its constituents and positioning the nation as an imperial power.

Plan your visit and learn more at: vas-sar.edu/theloeb/exhibitions/bunmei-kaika Admission to the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center is free and all galleries are wheelchair accessible. The Loeb is

open Tuesday to Sunday (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) and, from June through August, late nights on Thursdays (5-7 p.m.). The Loeb is located at 124 Raymond Avenue, near the entrance to the Vassar College campus. Parking is available on Raymond Avenue. Directions to the campus in Poughkeepsie, NY, are available at vas-sar.edu/visit/tour#directions. The Art Center is also accessible via Dutchess County Public Transit, Bus Route L. For more information, call (845) 437-5632 or visitvassar.edu/theloeb.

Pleasant Valley DEPARTMENT STORE
Shopping Local Never Felt So Good

Carhartt for Kids
the same great quality

Sweatshirts
Overalls
Tees
Pants
Hats

1585 Main Street • Pleasant Valley ☀️ (845) 635-2220
www.pleasantvalleydepartmentstore.com
email: PVMill2@aol.com

Creative Living
is the arts and entertainment section of
NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS
A division of Southern Dutchess News
84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
845.297.3723 • www.sdutchessnews.com

CANADIAN RIVER CRUISING VACATIONS

RIVER CRUISE VACATIONS
Experience the beauty and history of the St. Lawrence & Ottawa Rivers on a classic Canadian riverboat. Request our free travel brochure.
1-800-267-7868 www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com
253 Ontario St., Suite 200, Kingston, ON K7L2Z4 TICO #2168740

East Asian Culture Club sets Spring Festival Feb. 21 in Beacon

By Morgan E. Maier

The Lunar New Year began on February 17, marking the Year of the Horse, as it was in 1954, 1990, 2002 and 2014. No matter their sign, all people are welcome to join the Hudson East Asian Culture Club's celebration of Chinese and East Asian culture on Saturday, February 21.

This Spring Festival will immerse attendees in East Asian culture with a full slate of performances and activities celebrating traditional customs, food, and arts. Demonstrations on traditional Chinese and Eastern wellness practices, such as Tai Chi (known as "meditation in motion") highlight the interactive activities.

The celebration will take place at Industrial Arts Brewing Company, 511 Fishkill Avenue in Beacon. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. with performances from 3 to 5 p.m.

The performances are special highlights for East Asian Culture Club co-founders Pearly Huang and Yu Ling Zhang, who have backgrounds in the practices of Tai Chi and traditional dance. Among others, lion dancing and the ancient Japanese art of Taiko drumming, where music meets martial art will also be performed.

The refreshments will also highlight some authentic, delicious flavors not often found in the Hudson Valley. Spring

rolls, cookies, a tea tasting, plus other freshly made, preservative-free foods will be offered.

The club strives to provide a space for Asian and Asian-American individuals to create meaningful friendships. Through events like the spring festival, supportive networks can be created for those who share similar experiences, while they share traditions with other Hudson Valley neighbors.

"Even in the present day in 2026, we are an under-represented demographic in the Hudson Valley. We are hoping the East Asian Culture Club will support individuals who identify as Asian or Asian-American and also facilitate more meaningful connections between the Asian and non-Asian members in our local communities," said Yu Ling Zhang.

Since relocating to Beacon from Chinatown, where celebrations for Lunar New Year and other important occasions were common, Pearly Huang has looked for a platform to connect people with their heritage and community.

"Through community gatherings, cultural events and shared meals, we aim to introduce and celebrate East Asian traditions — including our food, festivals, and customs — so that people from non-Asian communities can better understand us," said Pearly Huang. "We also hope to help Asian and Asian Americans in the Hudson Valley rediscover and strengthen their cultural identity."



The Hudson East Asian Culture Club's Spring Festival will take place at Industrial Arts Brewing Company, 511 Fishkill Ave. in Beacon on Feb. 21. *Courtesy image*

what's happening? [creativeliving@sutchessnews.com](https://www.creativeliving@sutchessnews.com)



Minimally invasive cardiac surgery?

Yes.

At the **Heart and Vascular Institute**
Vassar Brothers Medical Center

When it comes to your heart, the right care makes all the difference. At the Heart and Vascular Institute at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, specialized teams of surgeons, cardiologists, and nurses work together on the most complex cases, close to home.

For advanced care you can count on, trust the Heart and Vascular Institute at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Specialized teams. Breakthrough treatments. Yes.



Nuvance Health is joining Northwell



Nearly 80% of K-12 teachers are women and half of them are menopausal

The title of this column headlines education. But women in all of their diverse roles are affected by “the change” at some point. Teaching is just one field that stands out as predominantly female.

When ovulation stops and the resultant hormonal changes occur, women often experience a variety of disconcerting symptoms that would be burdensome for anyone’s workday. I certainly found sleep interruptions and bodily temperature tantrums a challenge to my classroom management!

Health and productivity

Organizations where we are employed want everyone doing their best work. They know our health and productivity are fundamentally linked. At school, counseling is available, particularly in times of trauma or upheaval; PPE was provided to all at the height of COVID-19; and if a member of the community becomes hospitalized due to childbirth, injury, or illness, there are expressions of support and well-wishes.

Those acknowledgments and adjustments prompt my question: What accommodations are made to deal a universal female experience which impacts work-life? During my thirty-two years of teaching I could hear crickets chirp over the silent response. Menopause was simply not discussed.

More recently, here in Dutchess

Some employers have adopted formal menopause and midlife policies. Two organizations that responded to my query about these services were CVS and Nuvance Health, now a part of Northwell Health. CVS operates multiple pharmacies in Dutchess County. Nuvance Health

operates Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Northern Dutchess Hospital, and Putnam Hospital.

CVS was the first US company to earn “Menopause Friendly Accreditation” from MiDOViA, an organization that advocates for workplace menopause services. Dr. Joanne Armstrong, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Women’s Health at CVS Health, explains that, “Menopause is a life stage that impacts women in nearly every aspect -- heart health, bone density, mental well-being and much more. No two menopause journeys are the same; holistic, integrated care is needed.” To that point, CVS provides benefits for its colleagues, including in-person and virtual health care, counseling, and a Menopause and Midlife Care Support Guide.

CVS also provides menopause care to the public (in-person and virtual) through MinuteClinic. (MinuteClinic has telehealth and walk-in options at many pharmacies. Care is available every day; most insurance is accepted). And, for those insured through Aetna, a CVS Health company, members can access clinicians trained in menopause care and symptom management.

The Women’s Health Department at Nuvance has certified clinicians who treat community patients, as well as employees. The Women’s Wellness Center in New Milford, Connecticut provides care for anxiety, depression, body image concerns, or other life transitions. There is also a complimentary one-hour support group that meets both in person and online. Information can be accessed here: <https://www.nuvancehealth.org/>



Menopause is a life stage that impacts women in nearly every aspect - heart health, bone density, mental well-being and much more. Photo courtesy CVS

locations/new-milford-hospital-womens-wellness-center. Additionally, informational videos are posted on the Nuvance Health Facebook page. To find them, click on the three dots on the upper right and type “menopause” in the search.

New York

There are emerging NY State laws aimed at standardizing menopause support. Assembly Bill A5436 aims to provide legal protections and accommodations for employees experiencing menstrual and menopausal conditions. Senate Bill S7495 establishes mandated education and studies on the impact of menopause in the workforce to develop statewide best practices. The bills are part of a national push toward supporting women’s mid-life health.

Menopause vs Androgen Decline

There is no such thing as MANopause. “Male Menopause” (andropause) is a misnomer. More accurately, androgen decline is the gradual, age-related reduction in male hormones. It may lead to body composition changes, hair loss, decreased libido, depression, and other ailments. “Menopause” literally means a cessation of the monthly cycle. It involves a dramatic stop in estrogen and progesterone, which ends fertility. In males, testosterone peaks in the late teens and begins declining around age 40; male fertility is lifelong.

Seeing all aging with the same lens

Aging increases the risk of hypertension, cholesterol problems, heart disease,

and diabetes--all commonly discussed and normalized. Time off from a job for recovery, reduced work hours, and the expectation of lower performance are typical accommodations.

Yet, the mention of menstruation can still cause embarrassment. Once labeled “hysteria,” today’s characterizations of menopausal co-workers include vague descriptors like not being “collegial” or “collaborative.” Does the disparity in treatment of female aging conditions result from the lack of attention they receive? If a topic remains taboo, it can’t be addressed.

Education

I taught about menopause during the unit on reproduction. (If students noticed the frequency with which I put on and took off my sweater, the topic also arose!) Talking about routine hormonal changes that occur is one way to normalize them. Aging is a part of life. Menopause shouldn’t be embarrassing.

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

REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL SESSIONS

Register here for our February 25, 2026 session:
“And the Beat Goes on- Heart Disease and Menopause”



Virtual Session Only!

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/23253074977310?gc=1&SL3682n300A17Fu

5:30pm- 7:30pm

For more information, contact the New Milford Women’s Wellness Center at (860)210-5535, NWMenopauseEdTeam@NuvanceHealth.org

Register here for our February 18, 2026 session:
“And the Beat Goes on- Heart Disease and Menopause”



Virtual Only!

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/23253074977310?gc=1&SL3682n300A17Fu

5:30pm- 7:30pm

For more information, contact Norwalk Hospital OB at (203)852-3073 or email NWMenopauseEdTeam@NuvanceHealth.org

Have Computer Problems?

Get
\$20 OFF
Any Service

42513



Geeks OnSite

- ✓ 24/7 Emergency Service
- ✓ Data Recovery
- ✓ Virus Removal
- ✓ Regular Maintenance

866-848-0045

Use Coupon Code
Call Now Get a Free Diagnosis

Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts

HYDE PARK ROTARY SETS COMEDY NIGHT FEB. 27

Hyde Park Rotary will present Comedy Night, with dinner and cash bar, on Friday, Feb. 27, at Coppola’s in Hyde Park. Doors open at 6 p.m., and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$75 per person.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle.

Featured comedian Joshua Lyons Gondelman will be selecting a surprise comedian to join him for Comedy Night. Gondelman is an author, comedy writer, producer, and stand-up comedian. He was a supervising producer and writer for Desus & Mero on Showtime. He was previously a writer on Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.

All proceeds to benefit the Hyde Park Rotary Club’s programs. For more information visit Hyde Park Rotary on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryhydeparkny>; call (845) 758-6464 or email: dmeyerson@minutemanpress.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. More info: (845) 298-1491.

Through Feb. 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

Feb. 19: Live Music, 1915 Wine Bar, 40 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie. Bob Arthurs, trumpet & vocals; Steve Raleigh, guitar, 7-9 p.m. 1915.wine

Feb. 19: Oblong Books Presents John Sayles, "Crucible," Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Oblong & Morton Library present Oscar-nominated filmmaker and renowned author Sayles, whose latest book is complex and sweeping historical novel about Henry Ford and his attempt to rule not only an automotive empire but the rambunctious city of Detroit, 6:30 p.m. An epic tale ranging from the 1920s through the second World War, featuring violent labor disputes, misbegotten jungle expeditions, a tragic race riot, and the gestapo tactics of Ford's private army. Registration required. Admission with book: \$36 (includes one hardcover copy of "Crucible" + sales tax).

Admission only: \$10. (845) 876-2903 or <https://morton.rhinecliff.lib.ny.us/>

Feb. 20: The Bang Group, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, Studio 2/Horses, Studio Complex, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. New work preview from The Bang Group, 6 p.m. The Bang Group, directed by choreographer David Parker and dancer Jeffrey Kazin, are known to Kaatsbaan audiences for "Nut/Cracked," their uproarious retake on "The Nutcracker." During the rest of the year, the company produces works that reveal a vital and robust commitment to rhythm, using tap dance, body percussion, voice, and movement. Free General Admission with RSVP. www.kaatsbaan.org

Feb. 20: Duo Al Rouh, The Grace Note at Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Palestinian multi-instrumentalist Zafer Tawil, performs alongside friend, collaborator, and oud player Rabbi Zachi Asher a set of sorrow songs, traditional and new, 7:30 p.m. Cover charge \$20. Tickets: thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339

Feb. 20: Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Featuring Fisher & Kean, Betty & Phil Miller, Maureen & Don Black, Jasperoo, Cheryl & Kurt, 8 p.m. Donations to benefit Morton are suggested. More info: (845) 876-7007

Feb. 20-22: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Feb. 20: Cuboricua, 8 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. Feb. 21: SoulShine - The Allman Brothers Experience, 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Feb. 22: C.J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band, 6 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Feb. 21: Murder Cafe's "A Recipe to Die For," Hudson House Distillery, West Park. In celebration of its 28th year in operation Murder Café offers a new version of its popular Valentine themed whodunit. A celebrity chef 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. The entertainment is suitable for all ages, costumes are encouraged but not required. More info: (845) 475-7973.

Feb. 21: Musicians Showcase, Copake Grange Hall, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. A fantastic lineup of some of the best musicians in the are, 7-9 p.m. Slink Moss emcees the evening of blues to rock, country to folk, new wave to improv. Tickets \$20 each or pay what you can at the door. More info: copakegrange@gmail.com or www.copakegrange.org/events

Feb. 21: Ring Masters Championships, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Ring Masters Championships, sponsored in part by Madison Square Garden and City Limits, launched in 2018 with record attendance and outstanding amateur boxing. The tournament includes males and females ages 8 on up and, except for Senior boxers (elite or novice), is open to any USA Boxing member, 3 p.m. www.MJNCenter.org

Feb. 22: Book Event, "Eleanor Roosevelt's Nightly Prayer," St James' Episcopal Church, 4526 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. Reading & conversation with author Donn Mitchell, 3 p.m. St. James' was FDR's and ER's regular church during much of their lifetimes. Eleanor Roosevelt's faith nurtured a lifetime of courage and justice. The event will include a reading, presentation and Q&A, followed by a reception & book signing in the Parish Hall. Copies of "Eleanor Roosevelt's Nightly Prayer" will be available to purchase. Registration is not required, walk-ins are welcome.

Feb. 22: Free Film Screening, UPAC, 601

Broadway, Kingston. Bardavon Presents, in collaboration with My Kingston Kids, will screen Disney Pixar's "SOUL" (2020, PG), 3 p.m. Pixar's animated hit follows middle-school band teacher Joe Gardner (voice of Jamie Foxx) as he discovers the meaning of life and soul in a fantastical journey that bridges the worlds of the living and "The Great Before." Free; tickets available at the door. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. (845) 339-6088

Feb. 25: "The Devil's Disciple," Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. When Dick Dudgeon (Kirk Douglas) learns his father was executed by the British for treason at the onset of the Revolutionary War, he steals the body for a proper burial after minister Anthony Anderson's (Burt Lancaster) pleas for it are in vain. While visiting with the minister and his wife, the British mistakenly arrest Dick, who says nothing, choosing to stand in the minister's place. Can Anderson and the rebels convince Gen. Burgoyne (Laurence Olivier) to free Dick before he's hanged? 1959 film. Free, registration required via www.fdrlibrary.org

Dutchess County to sponsor virtual program in recognition of Black History Month

In recognition of Black History Month, the Dutchess County Department of History is sponsoring a free virtual historical program, hosted by the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS), on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m., focusing on the experiences of people of color in Dutchess County during the American Revolution.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Black History Month isn't just a chapter in history, it's the heartbeat of the American story. This important program dives deeply into the voices that built our country, bringing untold legends into the light. Let's learn from our past, celebrate our local and national heroes, and remember what freedom and equality mean for a brighter today."

The program, entitled "1776 to 1876: The Long Journey of African Americans & The Elusive Promise of Equality," will be presented by Bill Jeffway, DCHS Executive Director and member of the research committee for the Poughkeepsie-based Celebrating the African Spirit. Drawing on extensive research, Mr. Jeffway will examine the personal histories of Dutchess County men, women and children of color and their experiences within the broader context of the events surrounding the 1776 struggle for independence.

Registration for this free event is available at dchsny.org/2026-0226, and registrants will receive a Zoom link to join the event.

The presentation will explore the complex and often difficult choices faced by

people of color during the Revolutionary era, including why five times as many men of color joined the British in combat roles rather than choosing the American Patriot cause. These decisions will be examined through the lens of freedom, legal status and the pursuit of equality.

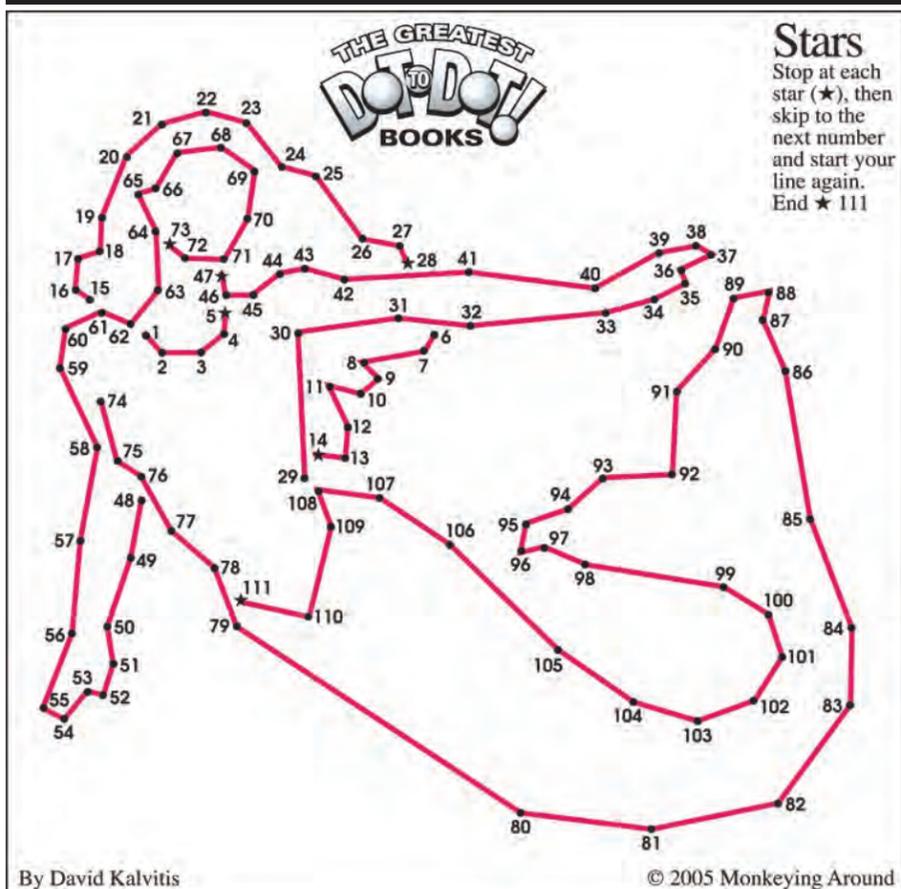
The program will further trace the long and challenging efforts of local individuals and families to realize the full legal promise of equality articulated in the Declaration of Independence. Using America's first century as a benchmark, the discussion will reflect on the significant progress achieved following the Civil War, as well as the early and enduring challenges to that promise that became evident by 1876.

County Historian William P. Tatum III said, "This program offers an opportunity for residents to gain a deeper understanding of local history and Black Americans' ongoing struggle to fully realize the nation's founding ideals."

For more information about the County's Department of History, including the ever-expanding availability of electronic records, such as the Ancient Documents Collection, please visit dutchessny.gov/history.

For information about other Black History Month and year-round events, visit Destination Dutchess's website, destinationdutchess.com, to check out these spotlights: "Celebrating African American History in Dutchess" and "Support Black-Owned Businesses in Dutchess."

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



20 poets, 20 visual artists to take part in 'Artists Respond to Poetry'
"Artists Respond to Poetry" is Arts Mid-Hudson's ninth annual celebration of National Poetry Month, bringing together 20 poets and 20 visual artists in a collaborative exhibition exploring the dialogue between word and image. Opening Feb. 24 in Arts Mid-Hudson's Poughkeepsie gallery, the exhibition features selected poems paired with original visual artworks created in direct response to them. Participating visual artists each selected a poem to interpret through their own work, resulting in a dynamic fusion of poetic language and visual expression that highlights the creative connections between literary and visual art forms. The exhibition will be on display through April 12, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Arts Mid-Hudson's Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. Admission to the gallery and events is free and open to all. RSVP for the opening reception via www.artsmidhudson.org.

Participating visual artists: Karen Allen, James Barrett, Chloe Blythe, Patricia Churchill, Helen Contino, Daisy de Puthod, Stasia Fernandez, Stacie Flint, Naomi Fujita, Mike Garda, Roy Gumpel, Barbara Holt, Clare Kirkwood, Jill Obrig, Mary-Anne Ramirez, Chanel Reed, Andrea Stanet, Allison Walker, Luke Whittaker, and Martha Zola.

Participating poets: Kat Anderson, Jeni Ascosi, Elana Bell, Jared Bertholf, Lisandra Carlomagno, Ariana Den Bleyker, Celeste Emmons, Gabrielle Garmon, Edgar Hartley, Andy Izenson, Mike Jurkovic, Aida Manduley Escribano, Kate Mitchell, Nirmala Nataraj, Lara Noël, Chris Pryslopski, Magdalen Radovich, Nancy Shih-Knodel, Laurie Treacy, and Sikoya Wood.

Diversions

SUDOKU

SPECIAL OFFER

Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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

© StatePoint Media

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

Suguru

2				4	
3					
		3			
					4
3					

© 2023 krazydad.com

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: U.S. PRESIDENTS

ACROSS

- Action word
- Sierra Nevada, e.g.
- Do like Lindsey Vonn
- Sheltered, nautically speaking
- a.k.a. Daminozide
- a.k.a. tangelos
- Ladder crosspiece
- Rigatoni relative
- Earth tremor
- *Buchanan's or Lincoln's birth place (2 words)
- Odds' partners
- Completely dedicated (2 words)
- Street in France
- *The Era of Good Feelings president
- Ground red peppers spice
- Paleozoic or Victorian, e.g.
- Talking pet
- Flock's affirmation
- Phonograph media
- It doesn't mix with water
- Key, in Spanish
- Letter before kappa
- Conjured
- Bathtub hooch
- "You don't bring me flowers ____"
- Silvery-white, in heraldry
- The night before
- Add something extra (2 words)
- Eye rakishly
- *Millard's last name
- Unwelcome software message
- Double reed woodwind
- Actress Sorvino
- Carell on "The Office"
- Falling out
- Grand in scale
- *Buchanan who ran for president in 1992 and 1996
- Dental school alternative to MCAT
- Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.

DOWN

- Variable, abbr.
- Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
- *Attorney General under Bill Clinton
- Panhandler
- "My wife can vouch for me", e.g.
- Ancient Romans' language
- Julia Roberts' Academy Award-winning role
- Went down slippery slope
- Gene Simmons' rock band
- Belief or philosophy
- Popular flowering shrub
- Deplete (2 words)
- *Eisenhower or Grant, pre-presidency
- Horse hoof sounds
- One in Dean Martin's pack?
- Means of mass communication
- Belted starman
- Highly unpleasant
- *Between Tyler and Taylor
- Visual representation
- Macaulay Culkin's famous character
- Beside, archaic
- *Karl _____, "The Architect" of George W. Bush's campaigns
- Grande or Bravo, e.g.
- *Nickname for Kennedy's presidency
- Read-only memory device
- Before, old-fashioned
- Aerie baby
- Blatant
- Mythological garden guardians
- Fibula's partner
- Marriott hotel brand
- "Blackfish" (2013) subject
- Small cave
- *Model T namesake or U.S. President
- Ready for picking
- Lake north of Cleveland
- Clairvoyance
- Acronym, abbr.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
15					16				17			
	18			19					20			
				21				22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39					40				41		42	
43				44					45		46	
				47				48	49			
	50	51				52				53	54	
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		



Off First Month of New Service!
USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

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



New menus

Luigi learns to curb his enthusiasm.

The other day, I was going through our restaurant menu, making sure that everything in it was selling. I was reading through my notes to be sure that the counts were correct and trying to figure out if I needed to recommend and changes to my brothers. This chore brought me back to when I wrote my first menu with my father.

It was 1987. I was 18 years old and so proud. I re-wrote the entire menu and put in new artwork and did it all myself on our new office computer, which I had to beg my father to buy. It was still new to have a computer in your office, and my father did not see the benefit of such a contraption, but he agreed because I told him I could make new menus myself without having to contract a specialist.

I invited my father into the office and sat him down next to my computer. I called up the menu with all its glitzy artwork and fancy fonts and its descriptive explanations. I was ready for my father to be wowed by how incredible and awe-inspiring my presentation was and prepared to be anointed the king of the earth for this amazing menu.

My father looked at the first words and stopped.

Pop: The writing. Isa to small.

Me: What? No, Pop. It's just deceiving. It's plenty...

Pop: What's all of this crap all over the menu?

Me: What crap? Ohh, that's some artwork I put in to...

Pop: Get rid of it and make the writing bigger.

Me: Huh? But? Wait. What?

Pop: You usa too many words. Youa

confuse the customer.

Me: Don't you need to describe...

Pop: Youa taka outa some words, you can maka the writing a bigger.

Me: OK. But...

Pop: Youa missing some entrees.

Me: I researched all our sales, tracked what sold and what didn't sell, and removed the items that weren't selling.

Pop: Whya you do that? The menu needsa to be como se dice (how do you say) Equilibrato (balanced). Theya donta sell alot, but they still needsa to be in there.

Me: Yeah, but Pop, the numbers...

Pop: Whata this. New Yorka Sirloin. That's it? Where isa the Pizzaiolla? Youa needsa to hava pizzaiolla on the menu.

Me: But Pop...

Pop: Writa thisa down. Newa Yorka Sirloin ala Pizzaiolla. Grilled and smoodered with...

Me: What's smoodered?

Pop: You know, smooder! Come on youa no understand? Smooder, smooder!

Me: What? Um. Wait...

Pop: Write ita down.

Me: Yeah, but I don't understand, Pop.

Pop: Nowa you maka fun of my English?! Smooder!

Me: OK. Sorry. Pop. Smooder, yes of course.

It was in that moment, as I wrote down NY Sirloin Pizzaiola, that I realized that my great accomplishment, my wonderful creation, was dead. My menu with all its glitzy artwork and fancy fonts and its descriptive explanations would not be praised by my father. He would not be wowed by how incredible and awe-inspiring my presentation was. I was not

going to be anointed the king of the earth for my amazing menu. Instead the menu was going to be...

Pop: OK. Nicea menu. Very nice Luigi. Youa did a nicea job.

Me: Wait. What? Huh?

The clouds of despair were disappearing. My menu with all its glitzy artwork and fancy fonts and its descriptive explanations, my incredible and awe-inspiring presentation might still get printed. I could still be the king of the earth. I sat a little taller, my chest puffed out a little bit, I looked bravely into my computer screen with a smile on my...

Pop: Justa donta puta all the pictures ona the menu, maka the writing bigger, add the Steak Pizzaiola, anda donta yousa too many words. OK?

And boom! It's gone.

Me: Yes, Pop.

As you enjoy this recipe for Steak Pizzaiola, SMOTHERED with a rich tomato, olive sauce, remember in life it's important to know your audience. My father taught me that lesson very well.

STEAK PIZZAIOLA

Ingredients

- 4 NY Sirloin Steaks, cut ½ inch thick
- 3 tbsp olive oil, plus extra
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 16 oz. Coppola's Marinara sauce
- 1 tbsp capers, drained and rinsed
- 8-10 black olives, smashed

- 8-10 green olives, smashed
- ½ small onion, diced fine
- 10 oz. white wine
- 1 oz. grated Pecorino Romano

Method

• Brush the steaks lightly with a little oil and season. Heat a cast-iron griddle over a high heat. Once smoking hot, add the steaks and reduce the heat to medium-high. Cook for 2 minutes on each side for rare, or 2 ½ minutes on each side for medium-rare. Rest the steaks somewhere warm.

• Put 3 tablespoons oil, onions and the garlic in a medium frying pan over a high heat. Once the garlic sizzles and begins to turn brown, add the white wine and allow to simmer for two minutes. Add the remaining ingredients and allow to simmer for 5 more minutes, shaking the pan every now and then.

• Spoon the sauce onto warmed plates. Slice the steaks and place on top and garnish with grated cheese.

• Serve with a hot loaf of Italian bread and a nice Chianti.

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

Millbrook Arts Group sets Winter Concert Series

The Millbrook Arts Group Winter Concert Series returns to the Millbrook Library, at 3 Friendly Lane. All programs are free to the public. A pre-show reception starts before each concert at 4:30 p.m. The concert runs 5-6:30 p.m.

The schedule:

Saturday, Feb. 28
Lost Radio Rounders

Acoustic Americana trio Lost Radio Rounders' deep repertoire of song is rooted in work of folklorists and musicologists such as John & Alan Lomax, Carl Sandburg, Irwin Silber and Harold Thompson. Featuring Tom Lindsay (Vocals, guitar & guitelele), Michael Eck (Mandolin, uke & percussion) and Paul "Bowtie" Jossman (Banjo & vocals)

Saturday, March 28
Hudson Valley Hot Club

Vintage jazz from the '20s and '30s played in the raucous swing style

developed by Django Reinhardt and other great gypsy jazz musicians. Featuring Luke Johnson and Eric Marshall on guitar and David Chernack on Fiddle/Mandolin.

Saturday, April 25
Musicians of Ma'alwyck

Founded in 2000 by violinist and artistic director Ann-Marie Baker Schwartz, the professional chamber music ensemble Musicians of Ma'alwyck is widely recognized for bringing history to life. The ensemble began with a specialization in pieces that may have been heard in New York State during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and has expanded their repertoire into twentieth century works, contemporaries, and commissions from emerging composers. Featuring Ann-Marie Baker Schwartz (violin), Sten Yngvar Isachsen (guitar), Norman Thibodeau (flute), and André Laurent O'Neil (cello).

Rhinebeck Historical Society announces upcoming programs

• Saturday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m., Third Lutheran Church, 31 Livingston St. The History of Third Lutheran Church as presented by Rev. James Miller, who is Pastor of the Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess. Third Lutheran Church was so-named because it was the third Lutheran Church which was formed in this area, following St. Peter's in Red Hook (1715) and St. Peter's (1756) now Wurtemberg on Route G Pastor Jim will speak about Third's history from its formation in 1842 through the present time as well as its presence in Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess: three united yet autonomous congregations.

• Friday, March 20, 7 p.m., Starr Library, Local History Room (entrance in the rear), 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck. "The History of the Sisters of St. Ursula at Linwood," Sister Kathy Donnelly will address the history of the stewardship of the site by the Sisters of Saint Ursula, their missions, and their community activities/outreach.

• Friday, April 24, 7 p.m., Starr Library, Local History Room (entrance in the rear), 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck.

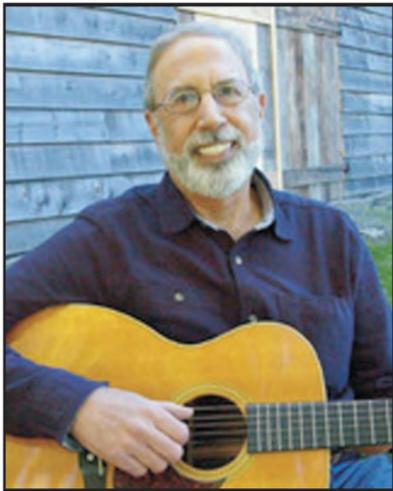
Dr. Mary Mistral will present "Ladies of the Valley." With names like Astor, Roosevelt and Livingston, the women featured in Ladies of the Valley were born to great privilege, and raised to be hostesses who would grace the drawing room. But they would often be called upon to take charge of the operation of their family estates. They also oversaw the welfare of the estate workers, the upbringing and education of their children, and created a tradition of women involved in the social issues of their times. As matriarchs of their families, these women played an important role in establishing the culture and society of the Hudson Valley for generations.

Anyone doing local history research can make an appointment to visit the Local History Room at Starr Library, which is available on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. throughout the year. Email michaelfrazier@earthlink.net or call 845-464-2015 to make an appointment or to ask questions about Rhinebeck history.

For more information about the historical society, visit www.rhinebeckhistoricalsociety.org.

OBITUARIES

RICHARD 'RICH' BALA



Richard "Rich" Bala, 74, passed away on Thursday, February 12th, at Saratoga Hospital, Saratoga Springs, NY, after a brief but courageous battle with cancer.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, he moved to the Mid-Hudson valley during his college years and was a resident of Dutchess County for over 50 years. Rich was a musician who performed songs about the history of New York State and the Hudson River Valley at schools, festivals, historic sites, museums, and community events throughout the Northeast. He released 6 recordings, including two solo works, two as a member of "The Barefoot Boys," and two award-winning albums with Jonathan Kruk as the "Hudson River Ramblers."

Rich is survived by his loving wife, Catherine Bala, of Latham, NY; daughter Rachel Mickle and husband John Mickle, of Delmar, NY; daughter Stacey Bala and fiance Eric Morphy of Raleigh, NC; sister Carol Castellano, of Brewster, NY; and grandchildren Charlie and Rowan Mickle.

Relatives and friends were invited to Applebee Funeral Home, Delmar, NY on Sunday, February 15th, to celebrate his life by sharing their favorite remembrances of Rich.

Rich was well-known in his later years for his insistence that gifts to him be in the form of donations to charity. In keeping with his wishes, please consider a donation to the charity of one's choice.

A full obituary and condolence page is available at applebeefuneralhome.com.

Corrine A. Becker

RHINEBECK – Corrine Ann Becker, a 47 year long resident of Rhinebeck, NY and formerly of North Haledon, NJ, entered into rest Monday, February 9, 2026 at home surrounded by her family. She was 93.

Daughter of the late John and Ann (Kooch) Ruzila, she was born on November 18, 1932 in Passaic, NJ. She was raised in Garfield, NJ where she met her beloved Raymond Francis Becker. They were wed on February 5, 1955 at Three Saints Russian Orthodox Church in Garfield. Mr. Becker survives at home.

In her younger years, Corrine worked for Bell Telephone Company in New Jersey.

Once she and Raymond started their family, she spent her years making a warm and loving home for her husband and three children. In her spare time, Corrine was an avid gardener; she loved visiting botanical gardens. She and Raymond also enjoyed listening to opera together. Corrine was a longtime member of St. Gregory the Theologian Orthodox Church in Wappingers Falls.

In addition to her beloved husband, Raymond, she is survived by her children, Kevin (Mildred), Larissa (the late Michael) and Christine (David); sisters, Arlene and Ellen; brother, Richard; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, John and her sister, Dorothy.

Family received their friends on Friday, February 13, 2026 at St. Gregory the Theologian Orthodox Church, 1500 Route 376 in Wappingers Falls. A Panikhida immediately followed at 7 p.m.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at the church. Interment followed in Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, Poughkeepsie.

Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, Wappingers Falls, NY. For directions or to send a personal condolence, please visit www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com.

Barbara F. Heermance

HYDE PARK – Barbara F. Heermance, 88, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2026, at Vassar Bros. Hospital in Poughkeepsie, NY, following a brief illness.

She was a lifelong resident of Hyde Park, NY. A graduate of Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, she worked in various secretarial and managerial roles with the Town of Hyde Park Zoning Board, the Town of Hyde Park Tax Assessor, and IBM Poughkeepsie.

Barbara had a sharp mind and was a true lifelong learner. For over twenty years after her retirement, she enjoyed taking courses at Dutchess Community College and the Marist College Center for Lifetime Study.

She was deeply devoted to her family and took great joy in simple, meaningful pursuits. She was an avid tennis player, a dedicated gardener, a pro-level yard sale treasure hunter, a terrific cook and baker, and a fierce Scrabble competitor. She brought thoughtfulness, beauty, and quiet determination to everything she did.

To those who knew her, Barbara was a stalwart friend and trusted confidante--someone whose wisdom, loyalty, and steady presence were guaranteed.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 68 years, Clyde (Pep); her daughter, Dawn; her son, Brian, and his wife, Penny; her three grandsons: Bradley, Matthew, and Brendan; her brother-in-law, John; her niece, Beth; and her nephews, David and Steven.

Barbara will be remembered for her boundless energy, her selflessness, and the deep love she shared so generously with her family and friends.

John Segatti

STORMVILLE – John Segatti, a longtime resident of Stormville, NY, passed away peacefully on February 6, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 86 years old.

Born on January 1, 1940, in Prata, Italy, John was the beloved son of the late Paolo and Antoinette (Lisotto) Segatti. He came to the United States carrying with him a strong work ethic, deep faith, and a lifelong appreciation for craftsmanship.

John worked for many years at Coastal Tile & Marble in White Plains, NY, where he was known as a skilled and dedicated tile setter who took great pride in his work. His attention to detail and commitment to excellence were evident in everything he built, both professionally and personally.

On October 3, 1971, John married the love of his life, Ursula (Kolhosser), at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon, NY. Their marriage was one of devotion, partnership, and enduring love. Ursula predeceased him on May 5, 2025.

John was a longtime and active member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Fishkill, where his faith guided his life and strengthened his sense of community.

In his leisure time, John found joy in traveling to Ogunquit, Maine, cooking for those he loved, and working with his hands. A master craftsman, especially in woodworking, had a gift for creating beautiful and lasting pieces that reflected both his skill and his heart.

John is survived by his sons John Segatti (Mandy) and Eric Segatti (Michele) along with four grandchildren: Brittney, Jonah (Miranda), Eliana and Gemma, three great grandchildren: Lilliana, Corneilus and Kaylie. He is also survived by his sisters: Maria Segat and Norma Mazza as well as many nieces and nephews.

John will be remembered for his kindness, quiet strength, devotion to family, and the many ways he built a life rooted in love, faith, and hard work.

Calling hours were held on Friday, February 13, 2026, at McHoul Funeral Home Inc., Hopewell Junction, NY. A funeral service took place on Saturday February 14, 2026, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fishkill, NY.

Donations of blood, platelets urgently needed

The American Red Cross urges people to take action now to help offset the severe impact of recent winter storms on efforts to rebuild the blood supply during an ongoing blood shortage. Donors of all blood types are asked to make a blood or platelet donation appointment as soon as possible.

More than 500 blood drives have been canceled since the beginning of the year, causing more than 20,000 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected, including nearly 300 uncollected donations in the Eastern New York Region. In addition to the disruption of blood drives, dangerous weather conditions have also made it tougher to transport vital blood products, which could potentially affect deliveries to hospitals in some locations.

Patient care is at risk — donors in unaffected areas are asked to book an appointment to give blood or platelets now by using the Blood Donor App, vis-

iting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Those in areas facing extreme winter weather are asked to give when it's safe to do so. All who come to give through the end of February will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Heart for details.

Hospital impact

Shortfalls in blood and platelet donations caused by recent winter storms are putting further strain on the national blood supply, forcing some hospitals to cancel elective procedures due to blood product shortages. When supplies are critically low, trauma surgeons and other doctors face the real possibility that blood could run out when it's needed most. Now is the time to give blood or platelets before doctors have to face difficult decisions about which patients can safely move forward with treatment, and who will need to wait.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities COLUMBIA

Claverack: 2/25, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., A. B. Shaw Fire Company, 67 NY-23
Hudson: 2/19, 1-5:30 p.m., St. Mary's Academy, 301 Allen St

DUTCHESS

Hyde Park: 2/28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Hyde Park Elementary School, 4327 Albany Post Rd

Poughkeepsie: 2/19, noon-5:30 p.m., Marist College Student Center, 3399 North Rd

Poughkeepsie: 2/20, noon-5 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road
Poughkeepsie: 2/24, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., The Grandview, 176 Rinaldi Boulevard

Rhinebeck: 2/25, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Northern Dutchess Hospital, 6511 Spring Brook Ave

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

ORANGE

Monroe: 2/28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Paul

Lutheran Church, 21 Still Rd.

Montgomery: 2/26, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.,

Town Hall, 110 Bracken Road

New Windsor: 2/19, 1-5 p.m., New Windsor Community, 555 Union Ave

Port Jervis: 2/24, 1-6 p.m., Port Jervis Elks Lodge 645, 35 US-6

Washingtonville: 2/28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,

VFW Post 8691, 44 E Main St

PUTNAM

Patterson: 2/28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.,

Patterson Fire Department #1, 13 Burdick Rd

SULLIVAN

Monticello: 2/19, 1-6 p.m., Monticello Firehouse, 23 Richardson Avenue

ULSTER

Kingston: 2/21, 8 a.m.-noon, Kingston Mannerchor & Damenchor Inc., 37 Greenkill Avenue

Kingston: 2/23, noon-5 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars, 708 E Chester St

Wallkill: 2/19, 1-6 p.m., Wallkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge St



**Find us on Facebook:
Southern Dutchess
News Group**



COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD TO MEET FEB. 23

The Dutchess County Community Services Board (formerly the Mental Hygiene Board) will be holding their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, at noon at the Community Mental Health Center, 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie, or one may participate via Microsoft Teams Meeting. One may phone in by dialing 1-516-268-4602 and enter Conference ID number 130 029 923#.

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices
Legal continued from previous page			JESSUP, PATRICIA E		134400-6565-03-303432-0000
HILL, GREGORY			TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE		
RUNZA, JOSEPH S IV	133200-6064-08-877926-0000		RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		134689-5469-14-787650-9999
COSTA, KAREN	133200-6065-04-792368-0000		LAWLOR, JENNIFER L		134689-6057-07-692964-0000
BORSCHER, ERIC	133200-6065-04-800400-0000		LAWLOR, JOHN H		
OBSZARNY, CHRISTOPHER E	133200-6065-08-766893-0000		RABOY, SVETLANA		134689-6059-08-975877-0000
OBSZARNY, LINDAA			VISHNESKY, PATRICK		
DURMIAKI, SIMON	133200-6065-19-726225-0000		MONTGOMERY, CHRISTAL		134689-6060-04-921004-0000
CHHATRALA, SOHIN	133200-6065-20-839198-0000		MONTGOMERY, LORIN D		
RJA HOLDING INC,	133200-6066-02-989921-0000		DUTCHESS AVENUE RIVERWALK,		134689-6062-02-745510-0000
SPRINGHORN, KAREN TRUSTEE	133200-6163-01-388645-0000		POFF, SUSANA		134689-6159-02-720618-0000
LST ENTERPRISES LLC,	133200-6163-02-561569-0000		CANNIZZARO, FRANKA		134689-6159-02-803594-0000
LAUB, CRAIG B	133200-6163-03-484453-0000		DITTENHOEFER, JOYCE F		134689-6159-02-936506-0000
DOSIO, REBECCA	133200-6164-01-013987-0000		DITTENHOEFER, TIMOTHYA		
HAASS, JAMES			SHERBAN, GEOA		134689-6159-04-555075-0000
MAX DEVELOPERS LLC,	133200-6164-02-890593-0000		SHERBAN, GLORIAM		
CHHATRALA, SOHIN	133200-6164-03-417035-0000		WINKMAN PRODUCTIONS LLC,		134689-6159-04-700245-0000
CHHATRALA, SOHIN	133200-6164-03-428020-0000		HONEY DO ESTATES LLC,		134689-6159-04-969275-0000
TORRES, RAMON	133200-6164-13-052304-0000		HONEY DO ESTATES LLC,		134689-6159-04-986287-0000
DJERE, ONOME	133200-6165-03-416256-0000		RENZA, KRISTINE		134689-6160-01-087884-0000
MUSCAT, MICHAEL	133200-6165-04-898203-0000		RENZA, MICHAEL		
DILKS, AMY	133200-6165-04-945145-0000		JOHNSON-ODUMS, LENNICE M TRUSTEE		134689-6160-02-580559-0000
DILKS, HARRY			ABAO LLC,		134689-6160-03-031450-0000
FIGUEROA, VICTORIA MARIE	133200-6166-02-829548-0000		HUDSONVIEWS LLC,		134689-6160-04-625373-0000
WARD, MARY E	133200-6167-02-816507-0000		ALLEN, RICHARD RM		134689-6160-21-064989-0000
DABROS, MATTHEW	133200-6167-03-002389-0000		JOHNSON, LUCILLE LT		
AUTORINO, DANIELLE	133200-6167-03-018333-0000		KELLY, SEAN P		134689-6161-03-101167-0000
DURAN, JASON	133200-6167-04-852413-0000		PORRAZZO, COLLEENA		
WILDLIFE PROPERTIES LLC,	133200-6263-03-387480-0000		MALIK, DANIELLE		134689-6161-77-101112-0000
AHMED, FARHANA	133200-6263-03-461471-0000		MURASSO, KATHLEEN D		134689-6162-07-519750-0000
RASHIED, MOHAMMED			MURASSO, LOUIS D		
KR ELEANOR REALTY LLC,	133200-6265-04-721437-0000		THOMA, ROBERTA		134689-6162-10-373623-0000
SCHWARTZ, TANNER	133200-6266-01-167785-0000		THOMA, ROSE		
STEPNEY, KENNETH	133200-6266-19-619124-0000		MCCAULEY, KATE W		134689-6162-10-410749-0000
STEPNEY, MARY			MCCAULEY, VIRGINIA B		
557 EDVENTURE LLC,	133200-6266-19-654134-0000		ANDERSON, BLAISE		134689-6162-15-638417-0000
	TOWN OF LAGRANGE		BEVANS, CLYDE		134689-6162-15-639423-0000
YUSUPOV, HAIM	133400-6259-02-581943-0000		BEVANS-JENKINS, ARDEN		
JAMIESON, NAOMI W LT	133400-6260-04-656143-0000		SMITH, A TRUSTEE		134689-6162-15-665351-0000
MURPHY, CYNTHIA J RM			AUSTIN, KYLE L		134689-6162-19-679017-0000
MURPHY, MICHAEL L RM			AUSTIN, SHIRLEY		
C&S PROP 1 CORP,	133400-6359-02-941764-0000		AUSTIN, KYLE L		134689-6162-19-690015-0000
CHOICE, DEONDRA	133400-6360-01-209511-0000		AUSTIN, SHIRLEY		
SMITH, DELLORD			IGNATIUS, OLIVER		134689-6162-20-801103-0000
CAMILLUCCI, GREGORY	133400-6459-01-136994-0000		VU, KIRAPHUNG		134689-6162-20-924058-0000
CITIMORTGAGE INC,	133400-6461-01-019612-0000		VU, LIEM		
GEM MOUNTAIN INFANT HOME CORP,	133400-6559-02-829864-0000		WISE, NICHOLAS J S		134689-6259-01-062571-0000
MASHIAH, DANIELLE E			HONEY DO ESTATES LLC,		134689-6259-03-013310-0000
DJERE, ONOME	133400-6560-02-501748-0000		BEACH LINE PROPERTIES LLC,		134689-6261-01-217743-0000
THOMPSON, SEAN JOSEPH	133400-6560-03-371165-0000		DONAHUE, GOLDIE		134689-6262-01-019830-0000
THOMPSON, VIOR WARNER			DONAHUE, JOHN		
STANCIU, ANY	133400-6561-04-876127-0000		MC KEBE CORPORATION,		134689-6262-03-101380-0000
CARDINAL, HENRY	133400-6562-02-819904-0000		F I C A,		134689-6262-03-345435-0000
ORREGO, ROXANA	133400-6562-03-456442-0000		MALABAR REALTY LLC,		134689-6262-04-571014-0000
SCHWARTZ, KARL	133400-6562-04-978166-0000		AVEVALO, NINFA		134689-6263-03-342148-0000
	TOWN OF MILAN		MORA, ALFREDO		
CUI, THOMAS	133600-6473-00-914119-0000		BEMAG LLC,		134689-6263-04-665066-0000
RED WING PROPERTIES INC,	133600-6474-00-180320-0000		CORNELL, GEORGE M JR		134689-6362-01-082517-0000
RED WING PROPERTIES INC,	133600-6474-00-272168-0000		RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		134689-6469-09-787650-1882
SWARTZ, DONALD R	133600-6474-00-720241-0000		RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		134689-6469-14-787650-1884
SWARTZ, ROSEA			TOWN OF RED HOOK		
DIPPER, CAROL J	133600-6474-00-742230-0000		BAUER, DIANE L		134801-6272-06-380893-0000
DIPPER, JEFFREYA			BAUER, FRANK M		
MICHETTI, LIBERATO JR	133600-6571-02-866567-0000		YUDEKOVITZ, YSHAI D		134803-6174-02-643925-0000
MICHETTI, ROBERT M			MERRITT, SAMUEL ENG		134803-6175-04-583277-0000
	TOWN OF NORTH EAST		TAYLOR, AMANDA		134803-6175-18-469005-0000
FLOODS SPRAYING SERVICE,	133801-7271-13-199451-0000		COOKINGHAM FARMS INC,		134889-6272-00-906781-0000
FLOOD, PATRICIA	133801-7271-13-217424-0000		MOTTOLA, ROSALIE		134889-6272-12-957652-0000
FLOOD, THOMAS			ANGELIER, MARK W		134889-6371-00-118903-0000
FLOOD, LEOM	133801-7271-14-261411-0000		WILLIAMS, BRIANA		
ST JOHN, DEIDRE	133889-7171-08-944766-0000		21 & 23 AVE B LLC,		134889-6371-02-861900-0000
ST JOHN, ROBERT			MILLER, SAMANTHA C		
MILES, GEORGE T JR	133889-7271-09-023711-0000			TOWN OF RHINEBECK	
LSIM REALTY LLC,	133889-7273-00-197029-0000		GENTILE, CHELSEA		135089-6270-00-162735-0000
SCAFIDI, FRANKA	133889-7273-00-460873-0000		FINEST CONCERNS LLC,		135089-6271-00-546626-0000
	TOWN OF PAWLING		RUSSELL, EDWARD A		135089-6371-00-423606-0000
MEISSNER, PAUL	134001-7056-09-070731-0000			TOWN OF STANFORD	
MTA,	134001-7057-17-082121-0000		O'HARA, JOHN B		135200-6669-00-005313-0000
SLUK, LOUISE MAYER ESTATE	134089-6856-00-761085-0000		HR VAN NEST LLC,		135200-6669-00-518145-0000
TEDESCO, PAULA	134089-6856-13-164498-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL		135200-6670-00-525290-0000
HEINEMAN, ANDREW B	134089-7056-02-541594-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F		
SIMMONS, LOUIS	134089-7057-00-531965-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL		135200-6670-00-575194-0000
	TOWN OF PINE PLAINS		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F		
PULVER, ANTHONY GREGG TRUSTEE	134200-6871-00-416833-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL		135200-6670-00-609105-0000
SLEVIN, EMIL	134200-6872-00-098897-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F		
SLEVIN, MARY			FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL		135200-6670-00-610219-0000
SLEVIN, EMIL	134200-6872-00-140889-0000		FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F		
SLEVIN, MARY ELIZABETH			JACKSON, KATIMA		135200-6869-15-588479-0000
SLEVIN, RENEE MARIA			SWEENEY, EDWARD P		135200-6969-00-023536-0000
CROSBY, BRIANA	134200-6872-18-427157-0000			TOWN OF UNION VALE	
CROSBY, LYRICAL			D'ANGELO, CHRISTINE		135400-6660-00-590523-0000
COBBLE POND FARM,	134200-7072-00-772115-0000		D'ANGELO, CHRISTOPHER		
	TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY		KELLY, FELICIA A		135400-6661-00-517125-0000
KBL PROPERTIES LLC,	134400-6363-03-420035-0000		KELLY, KEITH S		
KBL PROPERTIES LLC,	134400-6363-03-447030-0000		JACKSON, KATIMA		135400-6662-00-492661-0000
WINGED LION MANAGEMENT LLC,	134400-6364-04-721413-0000		MADARAS, CYNTHIAL		135400-6761-00-013240-0000
SIMMONS, LOUIS	134400-6365-02-799610-0000		MADARAS, ERNEST J JR		
1777 ROUTE 44 LLC,	134400-6463-01-282818-0000		GARCIA, GLADYS E		135400-6959-00-109930-0000
65 67 69 PARKSVILLE LLC,	134400-6463-01-449612-0000		DUTCHESS COUNTY,		135400-6962-00-095617-0000
65-67-69 PARKSVILLE LLC,	134400-6463-01-460610-0000		TAX SALE IN-REM 2018,		
PATTERSON, RONALD	134400-6464-03-443044-0000			TOWN OF WAPPINGER	
PATTERSON, RONALD	134400-6464-03-447060-0000		MC CLUSKEY, CHARLES R		135601-6158-18-343127-0000
HUDSON VALLEY CHILDREN &	134400-6465-02-995821-0000		MC CLUSKEY, MARY C		
PHILIPBAR, DAVIDA	134400-6564-01-157797-0000		RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		135689-5569-14-787650-9999
PHILIPBAR, RITAA			KCDI INC,		135689-6057-04-933333-0000
ZACHARCZUK, GEORGE	134400-6564-01-229640-0000		PORTEUS & SON BUILDIERS,		135689-6156-02-822808-0000
LIO, DOMINICK	134400-6564-02-748535-0000		CHEAP LANDS INC,		135689-6157-01-276805-0000
LEA, TERENCE R	134400-6565-03-122099-0000				

Legal continued on next page

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices
Legal continued from previous page					
BLAUSTEIN, BRUCE		135689-6157-01-296777-0000	KBL PROPERTIES LLC,		135689-6259-04-509245-0000
DATRES, MAY ANN		135689-6157-01-422693-0000	PALUMBO, JULIE		135689-6356-01-188875-0000
POUANI, LAZARE		135689-6157-02-582728-0000	ABRAMS, ANNETTE		135689-6357-01-034557-0000
2345 LLC,		135689-6157-04-573456-0000	ABRAMS, BRUCE		
OLD POST COMMONS LLC,		135689-6157-04-625489-0000	CORBIN, DONALD M		135689-6359-02-685574-0000
1147 ROUTE 9 LLC,		135689-6157-04-649068-0000	CORBIN, MILDRED		
MEDINA-NUNEZ, MADELYN		135689-6157-16-866487-0000	PORTEUS & SON BUILDERS LLC,		135689-6359-02-770582-0000
NUNEZ, JOSE L			RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES,		135689-6569-14-787650-1883
MEDINA-NUNEZ, MADELYN		135689-6157-16-894424-0000	TOWN OF WASHINGTON		
NUNEZ, JOSE L			WINCHELL, CATHERINE E		135889-6566-00-955197-0000
HAJIANI, SALIMAS		135689-6157-16-898428-0000	BROWN, ERNESTINE		135889-6566-02-627814-0000
LUND, BARBARA TRUSTEE		135689-6158-03-117060-0000	MIGLIORE, CARMELAG		135889-6863-00-981632-0000
PROGRESSIVE REALTY,		135689-6158-04-620288-0000	MIGLIORE, RICHARD F		
GREEN, LATAVIA		135689-6256-02-901774-0000	MERCER, C DOUGLAS		135889-6963-00-315813-0000
HIRSCH, LORRAINE		135689-6257-01-042944-0000	MERCER, CAROLANN		
HIRSCH, MICHAEL			OLEAGA, DALINDIANA		135889-6965-00-840867-0000
STEUER, DENIS J		135689-6257-01-109690-0000	SCORES, ROBERT M		133400-6560-01-181887-0000
STEUER, KIMBERLY M					
BECKFORD, ROCHELLE R		135689-6258-02-901653-0000			
POUANI, LAZARE		135689-6259-02-554893-0000			

| Legal Notices |
---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

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

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2026, THE MEETINGS LISTED BELOW SHALL BE HELD AT TOWN HALL, 1903 ROUTE 44, PLEASANT VALLEY, NEW YORK, AS AMENDED

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

ROLL CALL:

	AYE	NAY
Councilwoman Borland	X	
Council woman Chapman	X	
Councilman Degan	X	
Councilman Rifenburg	X	
Supervisor Albrecht	X	
Carried.		

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFB-DCP-18-26

Compliance Inspection, Record Management, and Training Services for Petroleum Product Tanks

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., March 11, 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.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-28-26

Rebid for Air Compressor Preventive Maintenance and Repair

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 5th day of March 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

Legal Notice 2/12/2026

Call of Election

RESOLUTION BY THE Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Wappingers Falls, New York, as follows:

SECTION 1: That pursuant to Section 504 of the Election Law, the general Village Election of and for said Village will be held on the 18th day of March 2026, and that the polls shall be open for voting between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M.

SECTION 2: That said Village has been divided into three (3) election districts and that a description of said districts, together with the polling place for each such district is as follows:

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1: All that portion of said Village lying North and West of the Wappinger Creek; the polling place in District No. 1 is the Village Hall 2582 South Avenue in said Village.

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2: Election District No. 2 is comprised of all that portion of said Village generally bounded as follows: on the South by the Village boundary line, on the North by East Main Street, on the East by South Avenue and on the West by the Wappinger Creek and the polling place is the Village Hall, 2582 South Avenue in said Village.

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3: All that portion of the Village lying outside the two districts above described; the polling place is the Village Hall, 2582 South Avenue in said Village.

SECTION NO. 4: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following are names, addresses, offices, and term candidates are nominated for:

DEMOCRATIC PARTY		
Rick Cerino	15 Church Street. 2 Yrs 1st Ward	Trustee
Liz Cummings	24 West Academy 2 Yrs 2nd Ward	Trustee
John Tyliczszak	26 South Mesier 2 Yrs 3rd Ward	Trustee
REPUBLICAN PARTY		
Jennifer Niznik	3 Carmine Drive. 2 Yrs 2nd Ward	Trustee
John Tyliczszak	26 South Mesier 2 Yrs 3rd Ward	Trustee
VILLAGE FIRST PARTY		
Rick Cerino	15 Church Street. 2 Yrs 1st Ward	Trustee
Jennifer Niznik	3 Carmine Drive. 2 Yrs 2nd Ward	Trustee
Stephen Maher	1548 Rte. 9 2 Yrs 3rd Ward	Trustee
CITIZENS FIRST PARTY		
Christopher Morris	17 South Remsen Avenue 2 Yrs 3rd Ward	Trustee
COMMUNITY FIRST PARTY		
Liz Cummings	24 West Academy Street 2 Yrs 2nd Ward	Trustee
John M. Karge, RMC, CMC.		
Village Clerk & Chief Election Officer		
Village of Wappingers Falls		

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

NOTICE TO BIDDER
R S - RFB-DCB-03-26
NAME OF PROJECT: Wilcox Park Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank Replacement **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank Replacement located at Wilcox Park, 1737 Rte. 199, Stanfordsville, NY 12581. 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. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended 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 call-

Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids due on or before 11:00 AM, Wednesday, March 18, 2026, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. **Bids for the above project will be received by:** Caroline A. Miller, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike, 1st Floor Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended 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 call-

ins will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 177 533 697#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. A Walkthrough is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 11:00 am at Wilcox Park (Maintenance Garage), Rte. 199, Stanfordsville, NY. All parties interested in bidding are encouraged to attend and apprise themselves of the site conditions prior to bidding. If you cannot attend the scheduled Walkthrough, you can contact Caroline Miller at dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov. Questions will be accepted by the close of business Wednesday, March 11, 2026 and emailed to Caroline Miller at dpcwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The "Anticipated Start of Construction" will be around April 25, 2026, and the "Anticipated Completion Date", August 2026. This RFB may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #2026003470. **IMPORTANT: Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Sub-Contractor Registry Requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding the APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable.** The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

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.

Classified

Place your ad today! Call 297-3723

Deadline Thurs at 3 p.m • Publication Wednesday

Fax your ad today! 297-6810

Classified Rates

Classified Line Ads
20 words \$12.50; each additional word 20¢

Classified Display Ads
\$14.50 per column inch

If submitted by deadline, ads appear in three newspapers:
Northern Dutchess News,
Southern Dutchess News
& Beacon Free Press

We are not responsible for typographical errors.
A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

- 100 Help Wanted
- 105 Employment Opportunity
- 106 Business Opportunity
- 107 Situations Wanted
- 120 Schools
- 121 Special Instruction
- 122 Musical Instruction
- 140 Nursery Schools
- 141 Child Care
- 142 Day Care
- 143 Baby-sitting
- 145 Adult Care
- 150 Announcements
- 151 Adoption
- 152 Novenas
- 154 Lost & Found
- 155 Personal
- 200 Services

- 201 Home Improvement
- 202 Cleaning Services
- 203 Lawn Services
- 221 Professional Services
- 222 Tax Experts
- 223 Beauty Services
- 225 Business Services
- 226 Travel & Services
- 227 Bridal Services
- 295 Financial
- 296 Mortgages
- 300 Real Estate
- 301 Townhouses & Condos
- 302 Commercial Property
- 304 Mobile Homes
- 305 Lots & Acreage
- 400 Townhomes & Condos for rent

Classified Index

- 401 Apartments for Rent
- 402 Rooms for Rent
- 403 Furnished Rooms
- 404 Furnished Apartments
- 405 Wanted to Rent
- 406 Garages for Rent
- 407 Vacation Rentals
- 408 Houses for Rent
- 420 Commercial Rentals
- 500 Musical Merchandise
- 501 Kid Stuff
- 502 Clothing
- 503 Furniture
- 504 Appliances
- 505 Free Items
- 506 Computers
- 507 Sports Equipment
- 508 Exercise Equipment

- 509 Office Equipment
- 510 Firewood
- 511 Lawn & Garden Equip.
- 512 Winter Merchandise
- 516 Misc. Merchandise
- 700 Pets & Supplies
- 701 Free Pets
- 702 Lost & Found Pets
- 703 Pets for Adoption
- 710 Garage & Yard Sale
- 711 Tag Sale
- 712 Moving sale
- 713 Rummage Sale
- 714 Flea Market
- 715 Craft Corner
- 716 Barn Sale
- 717 Estate Sale
- 718 Auctions
- 719 Antiques

- 720 Vendors Wanted
- 721 Wanted to Buy
- 722 Bazaar
- 723 Consignments
- 724 Farmers Market
- 725 Collectibles
- 750 Events
- 800 Boats
- 801 Campers & Trailers
- 802 Motor Homes
- 803 Recreational Vehicles
- 900 Autos for Sale
- 901 Vans/SUV's
- 902 Trucks
- 903 Motorcycles
- 904 Auto Parts & Tires
- 905 Autos Wanted

Contact Us

Call:
845-297-3723

Fax:
845-297-6810

E-Mail:
sdnadvertising@aol.com

Monday-Friday
9 am-4 pm

200 Services

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-833-549-0598 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

201 Home Improvement

Do you need a Roof or Energy Efficient Windows & Help paying for it? **YOU MAY QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS** (800) 944-9393 or visit NYProgramFunding.org to qualify. Approved applications will have the work completed by a repair crew provided by: **HOMEOWNER FUNDING.** Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a **FREE 5-Year warranty** with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-516-1160 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move

Do you know what's in your water? Leaf Home Water Solutions offers **FREE water testing** and whole home water treatment systems that can be installed in as little one day. 15% off your entire purchase. Plus 10% senior & military discounts. Restrictions apply. Schedule your **FREE test today.** Call 1-866-247-5728

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-888-605-1496

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In-Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our **FREE shower package** and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-916-5473

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-833-880-7679

201 Home Improvement

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as **ONE DAY!** Superior quality bath and shower systems at **AFFORDABLE PRICES!** Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-833-807-0159

204 Health

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. **FREE information kit.** Call 1-833-661-4172

Attention: **VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!** A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! **50 Pill Special - Only \$99!** 100% guaranteed. **CALL NOW: 1-833-641-6397**

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.

1-855-225-1434

Dental50Plus.com/NYPres

SAVING A LIFE EVERY 11 MINUTES!

I'm never alone

Life Alert® is always here for me.

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

Batteries Never Need Charging

For a **FREE** brochure call:
Life Alert 1-800-404-9776

219 Attorney Legal

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-323-0318. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider



226 Travel Services

SAVE ON YOUR TRAVEL PLANS! Up to 75% More than 500 AIRLINES and 300,000 HOTELS across the world. Let us do the research for you for **FREE!** Call: 877 988 7277



300 Real Estate

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-704-5670



516 Misc. Merchandise

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-919-1682

Real Estate SHOWCASE

Get ready to welcome Spring. Here's to fresh air and sunshine.

Kimberlee Markarian

"I treat each & every one of my buyers & sellers like family."

Associate Real Estate Broker
m. 845.505.9174 | d. 845.244.2188
kmarkarian@bhshudsonvalley.com
kimberleemarkarian.bhshudsonvalley.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | Hudson Valley Properties
11 months experience

Let me show you the way home.

892 Main Street, Fishkill, NY 12524

521 Internet

AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-833-323-0160

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Direct and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-782-4069

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-329-9391

905 Autos Wanted

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-484-3467 today!

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-403-3374

GOLDEN LIVING

SCAM PREVENTION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Protecting ourselves from scams and fraud is difficult enough; but for the deaf and hard of hearing, communication barriers and a lack of inclusive practices present additional challenges.

That's why OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones will give a presentation on scam and fraud protection for members of the hearing loss community and their caregivers on Tuesday, March 17, at 5:15 p.m., at the Pleasant Valley Library, 1584 Main St. (US 44) in Pleasant Valley, for the Hearing Loss Association of America's Mid-Hudson chapter.

The presentation is open to the public and recommended for people with hearing loss and/or family members with hearing loss. To register, visit hearingloss-midhudson.org, email hearingloss.midhudson@gmail.com, or call (845) 489-7008. Can't make it to the presentation, but want some close-athand scam prevention resources? Visit dutchessny.gov/ofaprintable for important strategies and contact information.

OFA MOBILE OFFICE HOURS

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 voicemail, email, or text.

Here's the schedule thus far:

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

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

Thursday, March 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tri-Town Friendship Center 1576 Main St. (US 44), Pleasant Valley

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

We're planning more throughout the year. For the latest information on OFA events, follow us on social media at facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA to get the latest on OFA events, tips on successful aging, and much more.

If your Dutchess County civic organization wants to host a Mobile Office Hours event, email 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.

UPCOMING 'NAVIGATING MEDICARE' CLASSES

Need to find out more about Medicare, without sales pitches? Save yourself a set at one of OFA'S "Navigating Medicare" classes:

Monday, Feb. 23, 4 p.m. – Starr Library, 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck

Thursday, March 5, 9:30 a.m. – Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie

Wednesday, March 18, 10 a.m. – Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room

Monday, March 23, 4 p.m. – Starr Library

OFA hosts "Navigating Medicare" classes on the third Wednesday of every month at the Galleria, and on the fourth Monday of every month except May at Starr Library.

To reserve a seat at the Galleria or Starr classes, call OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555. To reserve a seat at the Boardman Road Library class, call (845) 485-3445, ext. 3380.

See dutchessny.gov/calendar for a searchable list of OFA activities.

'A MATTER OF BALANCE' CLASSES STARTING IN MARCH

"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 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.

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. Click here for a full description of requirements and qualifications.

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

NEW MEMBER OFFER

Paradise Trip

TO RESORTS WORLD BIMINI BAHAMAS



FREE round-trip flight for two, four complimentary night stays, and resort credit!





LEARN MORE





[@resortsworldhv](https://www.instagram.com/resortsworldhv)
RWHudsonValleyNY.com

MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO PLAY THE NEW YORK LOTTERY GAMES. PLEASE PLAY RESPONSIBLY. 24-HOUR PROBLEM GAMING HOTLINE: 1-877-8-HOPENY (846-7369)

FREE FILE AN OPTION FOR MANY NEW YORK TAXPAYERS

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

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

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

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



"5 Star Rated"- medicare.gov



Brookmeade Rehabilitation Center

Your Recovery is Our Mission

We provide top-notch care in a comfortable setting for post surgical recovery as well as short-term health challenges, including:

Hip and Knee Replacement * Stroke * Post Surgical Recovery □
 Cognitive and Speech Disorders * Osteoarthritis * Shoulder Injury
 Neurological Disorders * Spinal Injury

46 Brookmeade Drive, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572 (845) 876-2071

communityatbrookmeade.org