

Renegades, PSC set Seasonal Job Fair Saturday

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, and Professional Sports Catering (PSC) have announced that they will be holding a seasonal job fair at Heritage Financial Park on Saturday, March 7 in anticipation of the 2026 season and other Heritage Financial Park events.

From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Renegades and PSC staff will be conducting on-site interviews for part-time seasonal employment for the 2025 season. Candidates must be 16 years of age to apply, must be able to pass a background check, and must be able to work all home games (April-September) and additional events as needed.

Job seekers should anticipate filling out a short candidate form onsite and the interview Attendees for the job fair may park in the Legends Lot at Heritage Financial Park no charge. Follow the signs to the left of the main gate to access the entrance to the WMCHHealth Club Lounge.

Dutchess County Public Transportation Bus Route B both Northbound from Beacon and Southbound from Poughkeepsie stops at Heritage Financial Park. See schedules and routes at dutchessny.gov/Departments/Public-Transit/Routes-Schedules.htm.

The Renegades will be interviewing for the following positions: Box Office Staff, Ushers & Guest Services, Front Gate Ticket Takers, Heritage Financial Credit Union Fun Zone Attendants, Security, Parking Attendants, Cleaning Team, Landscaping, Grounds Crew, Pregame Stadium Operations Staff, Game Entertainment Staff (Pinstripe Posse, Music Operator, etc.), Broadcast Production Staff and Team Store Staff.

PSC will be interviewing for the
continued on page 2

Caroline Dolfi of Pleasant Valley earns award for ‘Dedicated Service’

By Curtis Schmidt

Caroline Dolfi is the epitome of an individual who loves and supports her community on a daily basis – and she has done just that for many years.

For all of her efforts, the owner of the Pleasant Valley Department Store has been named the recipient of the “Gary Veeder Award for Dedicated Service for 2025.” Veeder, the first winner of the award, recently presented the plaque to Dolfi and noted that it is “given annually to a person that has improved our community over the years.”

The plaque reads: “The hamlet of Pleasant Valley has had a varied history, Talbot’s Inn, Masten’s Feed Store, Shekomeko Lodge of FM and the Pleasant Valley Mill. Currently, the Pleasant Valley Department Store is one of the landmarks that reminds us of our past. Caroline Dolfi has been quietly active in keeping these memories alive and volunteering and wearing different hats for many years. For this the committee adds your name to the Gary Veeder Award for the year 2025.”

“Pleasant Valley is my town. I’ve lived here most of my life and I love it,” said Dolfi. “My business is in the center of the hamlet, so I am in touch with the community on a daily basis. We have the most wonderful people living and working here – concerned, dedicated citizens always trying to make our town better.



Caroline Dolfi, owner of the Pleasant Valley Department Store, accepts the plaque from Gary Veeder as winner of the “Gary Veeder Award for Dedicated Service.” *Courtesy photo*

I’m happy to be serving on numerous boards and committees – working to keep our community strong and vibrant. I truly appreciate that I was selected among many worthy candidates and I will keep working for our town!”

Among Dolfi’s many volunteer activities are the following: President of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Association, Trustee of the Pleasant Valley

Presbyterian Church and Trustee of the Dorothy E. Albertson Foundation. She has also served on Pleasant Valley Weekend and Red Park Committees.

Two of her most cherished awards include (1) being named an Honorary Life Member of the Pleasant Valley Fire Company #1, and (2) Recipient of the

continued on page 5

Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Parade set for March 7



Bagpipers from the Hudson Valley Regional Police play their musical instruments during the 2025 St. Patrick’s parade in Wappingers Falls. *Archival photo*

By Morgan E. Maier

A month full of Saint Patrick’s Day celebration has begun, as Dutchess County’s 31st annual parade will stream through Wappingers Falls on March 7. In line with the past green-soaked iterations, it will be a joyous day for all ages, with some first-time marchers who especially hint at the parade’s promising future.

The parade will kick off at 1 p.m., with lineup beginning at noon. St. Mary’s Church, 11 Clinton St., will hold 9 a.m.

mass with a dedication to committee members lost this year, including parade founder Kevin Barry; Jane Schimpf; and Michael Kelly. Celebrations of culture and heritage will adorn the parade route as homes and businesses are decked in Irish decor for the annual contest. Decorations will be judged on March 6.

Among scouts, fiddlers, and first responders marching, a new band emerges in the parade line. The Roy C. Clinton St., will hold 9 a.m.

continued on page 3

INDEX

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Letters | 4 |
| Community Calendar | 6 |
| Creative Living | 9-13 |
| That’s Italian! | 9 |
| Hudson Valley Naturalist | 10 |
| Suguru | 12 |
| Crossword Puzzle | 12 |
| Sudoku | 12 |
| Obituaries | 14 |
| Public Notices | 15-17 |
| Classifieds | 18-19 |

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| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|
| Coppola’s of Hyde Park | p 2 | The Ridge School | p 7 | INSIDE: |
| DC Soil & Water Tree Sale | p 5 | Roosevelt Cinemas | p 6 | Adams Fairacre Farms |
| Impact PR | p 3 | St. Paul’s Episcopal Church | p 10 | |
| Northern Dutchess Symphony | p 11 | Ulster Savings Bank | p 20 | |
| Pleasant Valley Department Store | p 10 | WKZE 98.1 | p 4 | |



Anderson Foundation for Autism leads national dialogue with rebranded podcast

Anderson Foundation for Autism's executive leadership team has announced that it has developed a new strategy and brand for its long-standing podcast.

Hosted by Eliza Bozenski, LMSW, Chief Development Officer of Anderson Foundation for Autism, the radio show, named for autism incidence rates since its inception in 2012, will now be called "1 in 31: Autism Today." Produced by Pamal Broadcasting in Beacon, NY, episodes have featured celebrity guests such as Dr. Temple Grandin, renowned doctors like Dr. Kristin Sohl, local professionals such as Ashley Quitoni (Adaptive CrossFit 845), along with families, advocates, behavioral therapists, educators, documentary filmmakers, and more.

Patrick Paul, CEO/Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism, said "Over the past decade-plus, Eliza's interviews have helped raise tremendous awareness about autism, from how it presents to what programs can optimize the quality of life for those diagnosed. The show provides a unique platform for us to highlight experts, thought leaders, families, and so many others who are working to advance our mission. As the audience has grown, particularly more recently, it started to become clear to

Eliza and her development team at Anderson that the show was ready for a more comprehensive strategy."

Bozenski added, "So many listeners have commented on how much they have learned from our podcast; we believe that we have a responsibility to get this content in front of as many people as possible and knew it was time to think about ways to expand our reach. Renaming the show 1 in 31: Autism Today will help those searching for podcasts specific to autism more easily find us."

She continued, "Given the fact that Anderson Center for Autism has become a resource for people from all over our country and the world, it is time we position the podcast to play a more prominent role in the national and international conversation about all things related to autism."

Examples of upcoming guests include Lauren Allen from SUNY Empire and author Brigitte Shipman, who is also a parent of an autistic child. "1 in 31: Autism Today" airs on Pamal Broadcasting stations in the Hudson Valley region of New York, such as WGHQ, WBPM, WHUD, and WGNY. It can also be streamed on Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, Boomplay, iHeart, Podbean, Podchaser, Spotify, and



Eliza Bozenski, LMSW, Chief Development Officer, Anderson Foundation for Autism, hosts the "1 in 31: Autism Today" podcast. *Courtesy photo*

YouTube.

In addition to serving as Chief Development Officer at Anderson Foundation for Autism and host of 1 in 31: Autism Today, Bozenski serves as a trustee on the Boards of RUPCO and the Mead School. The resident of Rhinebeck,

New York holds Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Miami University of Ohio, and a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work from Columbia University.

Learn more about the 1 in 31: Autism Today podcast by visiting andersoncenterforautism.org/1in31.

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- Help for VETERANS: Veterans can press "1" after dialing 988 and be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.

Renegades, PSC set Seasonal Job Fair Saturday

continued from cover

following positions: Concessions Associates (Cashier, Food Runner, Food Prep, Food Delivery), Suite Attendants, Picnic Attendants and Warehouse.

The ideal candidates must be fun-loving, outgoing, reliable and service-oriented. All applicants must be 16 years of age or older by March 31 to work for the Renegades and Heritage Financial Park. Previous employees need not apply.

To learn more about opportunities available visit: milb.com/hudson-valley/about/employment or follow the QR Code at right.





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**Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley,
Ulster Savings Bank Launch Loan Initiative**

See story, page 8




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NYS Department of Veterans' Services hosts 'Purple Heart State' program

The New York State Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) hosted a kick-off program on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, to commemorate New York State's official designation as a "Purple Heart State." The event celebrated the history, meaning, and enduring legacy of the Purple Heart while honoring the service and sacrifice of New York Service Members who were awarded the nation's oldest military decoration presented in the name of the President of the United States.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded or killed by enemy action, symbolizing extraordinary sacrifice in defense of

the nation. An estimated two million Purple Hearts have been awarded since the award's inception.

From its earliest days, the Purple Heart has stood as a symbol recognizing service and sacrifice, tracing its origins to Aug. 7, 1782, when George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit for a "singularly meritorious act" among enlisted soldiers during the American Revolution. All but forgotten after the war, it was revived in 1932, transforming Washington's vision into the modern Purple Heart. Over time, the Purple Heart has evolved to reflect the realities of modern warfare – expanding across all branches of service, recognizing posthu-

mous sacrifice, and encompassing all those wounded or killed by enemy action.

The date of the modern Purple Heart's creation, Feb. 22, 1932, coincides with the 200th birthday of George Washington, further underscoring the deep historical roots of the medal and its enduring significance in American military tradition.

Tony Lassister, a Beacon resident, Vietnam War veteran and recipient of a Purple Heart, during the "Purple Heart State" program at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor. *Courtesy photo NYS Dept. of Veterans' Services*



Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade set for March 7

continued from cover

Ketcham and John Jay high school music programs teamed up to create a collaborative squad, representing Wappingers Central School District for the first time in the parade. While high school club members have long supported parade efforts, this band is the first to sashay down village streets. Such a debut was made possible through coordination of longtime parade chairman Gene Noone, district superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk, and the schools' program leaders.

"The groups that want to get into it [the parade] are multiplying every year, the local community getting bigger and better involvement in the parade. It is a good thing that we are getting younger. In fact, our committee is getting younger," said Noone, noting that older members like himself can gear up to retire.

The parade will also honor grand marshal Dr. Dennis J. Murray, president emeritus of Marist University (1976-2016 and 2019-2021). The school was Marist College during Murray's 40-year tenure, which saw the school grow from Poughkeepsie's hometown liberal arts college to an institution of worldwide renown. Murray long petitioned for Marist's university title, granted in 2025.

The grandson of Irish-Catholic immigrants, Murray's roots lie in County Cork and County Mayo. Murray holds an "unwavering commitment to his Irish heritage", as stated in his nomination, he and is the latest in a long line of parade grand marshals representing such values. And parade day is more than an expression of heritage, as several locations around Wappingers Falls will host entertainment and other festivities for the



Dennis J. Murray is announced as the 2026 grand marshal at the annual Emerald Ball. *Courtesy photo*

whole family.

For elderly parade-goers and those with disabilities, there will be a wheelchair accessible space in front of Grinnell Library, to prioritize comfort and easy viewing for all. Parking at The Shoppes at South Hills (the former South Hills Mall), 838 South Road, and Wappingers Junior High School, 30 Major MacDonald Way, is suggested, as village parking is limited. Before and after the parade, shuttles are available to drop folks wherever they'd like to go.

There will be plenty to celebrate at this parade that each year gets bigger and better, according to Noone. "There's thousands of marchers, so let's hope we have thousands of people spectating and having a good time," he added.



The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Color Guard carries the colors during the 2025 parade. *Archival photo*

(Published weekly)

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

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

To the editor:

Every March, communities across the country recognize Brain Injury Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing understanding of traumatic brain injury and the lasting impact it can have on individuals and families.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, millions of Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury each year, and more than five million people live with long-term disability related to brain injury. Despite how common these injuries are, many effects remain invisible and widely misunderstood.

Brain injuries can result from falls, motor vehicle accidents, strokes, overdoses, sports injuries, or other medical events. While some individuals experience physical impairments, many face cognitive and emotional challenges such as memory difficulties, fatigue, sensory overload, and changes in emotional regulation that significantly affect daily life.

For the past seven years, I have worked with participants in the New York State Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Program. One lesson stands out: no two brain injuries are the same. Survivors are often misunderstood or judged because their challenges cannot be seen, even though their brains are working harder just to complete everyday tasks.

Awareness begins with understanding. Simple actions — offering patience, communicating clearly, or showing empathy when someone appears overwhelmed — can make a meaningful difference.

This March, I encourage our community to learn more about brain injury and recognize the strength it takes to live with an invisible injury. When we choose understanding, we help make recovery less isolating and our community more compassionate.

Ashley Gutierrez
Hudson Valley

The year America switched sides

To the editor:

This past Tuesday, February 24, marked the fourth anniversary of Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine, which began with an assault which few expected Ukraine to survive. That Ukraine did survive that initial onslaught was due in equal measures to their own courage and resolve, and the support of an international community rallied by our President Joe Biden.

With images of Russian barbarity and medieval cruelty streamed into our homes, our communities too joined that rally of support of Ukraine with all sorts of outpouring of generosity from money, winter clothing and sleeping bags to lifesaving emergency equipment.

In the four years since waking up to explosions and breaking glass on that awful morning 2/24/22, Ukraine has shown us what it means to fight for freedom from tyrants, what it means to for a people to hold fast to their right to determine their fate, and to defend the values that this country was founded upon.

The full scale invasion's fourth year, which just concluded has been the most bitter—and for civilians the most deadly—as this was the year America—led by a friend of Putin—switched sides stopping all aid and instituting the farcical and endless series of negotiations for peace, which are nothing but obvious masquerades for coercing capitulation from Ukraine and handing Putin a victory that Russia cannot achieve on the battlefield.

Nothing better exemplifies just how far America has strayed from its core values and interests than this President's embrace of our enemies and abandonment of our friends. We are now waking up on a February morning to learn that another illegal onslaught has begun, except this time it is America and Israel bombing Iran. Yes, the regime in Tehran is reprehensible, and yes, the Iranian people deserve an opportunity to chart their own course to freedom, but it's hard to see how this blatant breach of International Law expending American lives and treasure to do the bidding of a genocidal regime in Israel and weakening our posture versus China will end well, and one cannot but help to see this War in Iran as a tail wagging distraction from deeply unpopular, illegal, cruel, corrupt, and—in the case of the Epstein files—horrific practices at home.

No matter what was said last Tuesday evening, no amount of bombing in Iran can distract from the true State of the Union.

Mark Lagus
Town of Northeast

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

Residents invited to serve on County Advisory Boards

Legislature Chair Yvette Valdés Smith is inviting Dutchess County residents to serve on volunteer boards and committees that advise County government on a range of important policy issues.

Valdés Smith said, "As the new Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature, I welcome interested residents and stakeholders from across the County to take a seat at the table by joining one of the County's many advisory boards and committees.

"Dutchess County is at a pivotal moment, with numerous challenges and opportunities facing both our communities and residents. We are stronger together, which is why I am seeking input and insights from those who live here so we can build a thriving community for everyone who calls Dutchess home."

Seats are available on the following advisory committees:

- Airport Advisory Committee (must reside near the Dutchess County Airport)
- Community Services Board (Formerly Mental Hygiene Board)
- Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council
- Citizens Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence
- Commission on Human Rights
- Dutchess County Fire & Safety Advisory Board
- Fish & Wildlife Management Board (must be a landowner who resides on rural lands that engage in production of ag commodities or forest products)
- Soil & Water Conservation Board

Residents interested in serving on any of the above committees, please email your resume and a brief statement of interest to Countylegislature@Dutchessny.gov; include the name of the committee in the subject line.

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Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley honors community leaders at annual Partner Breakfast

Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley (RTHV) honored outstanding community leaders and partners at its annual Community Partner Breakfast held February 11 at The Heartwood at Vassar College.

Centered around the theme “Our Spokes of the Wheel,” the event celebrated the volunteers, donors, contractors, sponsors, board members, and community leaders who work together to advance safe and healthy housing across the Hudson Valley.

Since its founding in 1992, RTHV has invested more than \$8.6 million in capital repairs throughout Dutchess and Ulster Counties. In 2025 alone, the organization engaged 104 volunteers, contributed 1,563 volunteer hours, completed over \$300,000 in market-value repairs, and served 33 residents across 18 homes — including seniors, veterans, and families with children.

“Safe housing is not a luxury — it is foundational,” said Darcy McCourt, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley. “When every spoke in our wheel is engaged, lives change. The partnerships we celebrated today make it possible for families to

remain safely in the homes they love.”

The 2026 Honorees include the following:

Ron Stein Volunteer Award

Karen Foerst, Loss Mitigation & Credit Recovery Manager, Walden Savings Bank.

The Ron Stein Volunteer Award honors RTHV’s founding father, Ron Stein, who established Christmas in April in Dutchess County in 1992. Foerst was recognized for her long-standing commitment as a volunteer, advocate, sponsor, and community partner who embodies the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors.

Tradesperson of the Year Award

Consigli Construction

Since 2017, Consigli Construction has partnered annually with RTHV to complete critical home repair projects. This year, the firm led a fully volunteer and 100% in-kind renovation that prevented the condemnation of a senior homeowner’s residence — restoring safety, stability, and dignity through donated labor and materials.

Building Strong Communities Award

Central Hudson Gas & Electric

For more than 25 years, Central Hudson has supported RTHV through

volunteer engagement and home sponsorships, helping repair one to two homes annually with employee volunteer teams. In celebration of its 125th anniversary, the company also helped revitalize RTHV’s Home Safety & Fire Prevention Program in partnership with the American Red Cross, expanding the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to protect vulnerable households.

“What I admire most about Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley is that your work is grounded in dignity — in meeting people where they are, in making sure every family has a safe and healthy home, and in bringing communities together to lift each other up,” said Eric Kiszkiel, Vice President of Operations & Safety at Central Hudson.

Cornerstone Award

Marvyn James, Director – System Operations & Emergency Management, Central Hudson Gas & Electric

A member of the RTHV Board of Directors since 2022, Marvyn James was honored for his leadership, volunteerism, governance, and support of the organization. His professional expertise in safety and infrastructure resilience strengthens

the organization’s strategic direction and long-term stability.

The program also featured remarks from Perry Bird, Senior Director of Network Advancement with Rebuilding Together, and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. Commendations were presented on behalf of Rob Rolison recognizing each honoree for their service and impact. The Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie was also in attendance.

“Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley does truly vital work to ensure our neighbors have safe, stable homes and the support they need to thrive,” said Senator Rolison. “Their commitment to strengthening housing and building meaningful community partnerships makes a lasting difference across the Hudson Valley. Our team is honored to show up, support their mission, and stand alongside them in this important effort.”

RTHV will host National Rebuilding Day on Saturday, April 25, 2026, continuing its commitment to repairing homes, revitalizing communities, and rebuilding lives.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.RTHudsonValley.org.

Comptroller releases special report on county’s approaches to sheltering homeless individuals

The Dutchess County Comptroller’s Office has completed a special report detailing the County’s efforts to develop sheltering solutions for its homeless population between 2019 and 2024. During this period, Dutchess County provided shelter to the homeless through independently-operated shelters, motels, and temporary structures. The Comptroller’s

Office has provided a timeline for taxpayers pertaining to local sheltering solutions with their associated costs.

According to a 2025 report from the Office of the State Comptroller, Dutchess County experienced an overall 11% increase of homelessness between 2022 and 2024. Within this period, homelessness among individuals under 18 increased by 30%, and homelessness among families rose by 40%. At the end of 2024, the homeless population was 705 people.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, former County Executive Marcus Molinaro announced that temporary housing facilities (known as the PODs) previously used for overflow inmates from the Dutchess

County Jail, would now be used to shelter the homeless. Since then, the County pursued a variety of permanent sheltering solutions, including the 2022 purchase of 26 Oakley Street in the City of Poughkeepsie for \$2.1 million, and for which the County was awarded a \$13 million Homeless Housing and Assistance (HHAP) grant. In 2024, Dutchess County spent \$8,340,232 on temporary shelter expenditures, including motel costs.

As with previous reporting, the Comptroller’s Office observed a notable lack of due diligence prior to the purchase of a large, expensive property for what would be a long-term, costly project. The Comptroller’s Office strongly recom-

mends that the County develop a formal policy for property acquisition, including a substantive cost analysis of potential properties that are presented to the Legislature for public review and comment.

“It is in the best interest of us all to adequately address the needs of our community’s homeless,” said Comptroller Aymar-Blair, “and in pursuit of this admirable and necessary goal it is imperative that County government do so with the same kind of careful planning afforded in the pursuit of any public project.”

The ‘Sheltering the Homeless in Dutchess County’ Special Report can be found on the Comptroller’s website via www.dutchessny.gov.

Caroline Dolfi of Pleasant Valley earns award for ‘Dedicated Service’

continued from cover

2020 Larkin-Vanamberg Memorial Award - presented to a citizen of Pleasant Valley who shows the same unselfish giving of himself / herself to our community as Ken and Bert did. This award is in memory of two brother firefighters who gave their lives in the line of duty.

The “Gary Veeder award for Dedicated service” was created by committee members during the administration of Supervisor John Delveccio.

“It was a complete surprise to me when it was presented at a Pleasant Valley Days,” said Veeder, who served as Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor from 1976-1980. He noted that the award is non-political and the committee views a recipient that has been active for a relatively long time. “In some cases, their contributions are quiet and not well known, which doesn’t decrease the recipient’s value to our community,” said Veeder.

In addition to Veeder and now Dolfi, previous recipients of the award include Jean Curlee and Dieter Friedrichsen.

Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District presents the Annual Bare Root Tree and Shrub Sale Happening Now!

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Pick up days are April 24-25, 2026



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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: Butternut Squash (March 6), Black Bean (March 13), Split Pea (March 20) and Soup Buffet Night (March 27; selections TBA). Email pleasantvalleyunitedmethodist@gmail.com or call (845) 635-3022 for more information.

Friday Fish Fry at East Clinton Firehouse

The Clinton Volunteer Fire Department will be holding its Annual Fish Fry every Friday through 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.

Clinton Historical Society program set March 6

Clinton Historical Society will hold its First Friday Program on March 6, at 7:30 p.m. "The Lady Doctor Will See You Now": Early Female Physicians of Poughkeepsie will be presented by Shannon Butler, Historian, Poughkeepsie Public Library District. The program will be held in person at the Creek Meeting House (2433 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners) and available via Zoom. Butler explores the lives and work of some of the female physicians in late 19th and early 20th century Poughkeepsie. Known by its nicknames "Sickly City" and "Queen City," Poughkeepsie was a source of inspiration and a wellspring of possible clients—and, as a result, a very attractive place for women physicians to set up shop. Some remained successful here while others moved on to bigger places and causes.

Refreshments will be available after the talk. Zoom info: Meeting ID: 883 7958 6832 Passcode: 724793

Morton Library's Talent Show set March 6

Morton Memorial Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) will host its 2026 Celebration of Community Talent show on Friday, March 6. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. and doors open at 6 p.m. This is an evening to celebrate the talents of the community, friends and family. Refreshments courtesy of the library's culinarily talented friends. Suggested: \$5 donation. Contact sandy@morton-rhinecliff.org for more information.

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.

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/>.

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.

Kim Williams to receive 'Good Egg' Award March 12

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.

Tickets are \$105 for members, \$125 for non-members. The ticket price includes a three-course, seated dinner (cash bar available); a silent auction, live music and more. Proceeds benefit the annual Chamber give-back programs. Visit www.rhinebeckchamber.com to purchase tickets and for more information.

Hyde Park Chamber Breakfast set March 12

The Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Breakfast Meeting on Thursday, March 12, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at the Eveready Diner, 4184 Albany Post Road (Route 9), Hyde

Park. The speaker will be Patricia Munk, Dutchess County Emergency Response. The cost to attend is \$25 per member, \$30 per non-member. Advance reservations are requested via www.hydeparkchamber.org; payment online or at the door.

'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 for 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.

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.

Documentary screening set March 15

On Sunday, March 15, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston, there will be a showing of "Mayor," a film about the Christian Mayor of Ramallah, whose life is focused on achieving freedom from Israeli occupation. Free admission and community reflection/discussion after the film. Cosponsored by: Middle East Crisis Response mideastcrisis.org, Columbia County for Palestine, JVP Hudson Valley, Mid Hudson Valley DSA, New Paltz Quaker Meeting, Peace Education Center, Rally Middletown, Veterans For Peace, and Women In Black - New Paltz. Contact: mecr@mideastcrisis.org or 845 876-7906

Winter Rhinecliff Soup Sales conclude on March 19

The last 2026 Winter Rhinecliff Soup Sales, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896, is on Thursday, 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 choice and pre-order online.

The Rhinebeck Historical Society announces upcoming programs

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.

St. Paul's in PV to present 'Godspell' March 20-21, 27-28

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pleasant Valley will present "Godspell" on March 20-21 and 27-28. All performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Parish Hall, 806 Traver Road, Pleasant Valley. This spiritual re-imagining of Godspell is directed by EMMY Award winner Rita Kogler Carve; conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak; and music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz.

Adult tickets are \$20 at door/\$15 in advance; 65+ or under 12 are \$17.50 at door/\$12.50 in advance. Purchase with cash, check or credit cards. Box Office hours are Sundays, noon-3 p.m. For credit cards sales only, call (484) 358-1624 on Sundays, noon-3 p.m.; Mondays, 6-8 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.

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.milesofhope.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.

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.

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.

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COLLEGE NOTES

KINGSTON, RI - The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Fall 2025 Dean's List. Among them are: Paige Arent of Clinton Corners, Hannah Ross of Millbrook, Ava Wilber of Red Hook, Lara Longman Azevedo of Rhinebeck, Ivy Malcolm-Light of Rhinebeck, and Rohm Ramsey of Rhinebeck.

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

SCRANTON, PA - MaryJayne M. Cipriano of Staatsburg was among more than 1,750 students who were named to The University of Scranton's Dean's List for the 2025 fall semester. Cipriano is a sophomore occupational therapy major in the University's Leahy College of Health Sciences.

The Dean's List recognizes students for academic excellence. A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the Dean's List. The list includes students from the Jesuit university's College of Arts and Sciences, Kania School of Management and the Leahy College of Health Sciences.

CLINTON, NY - Forrest Schmitt of Millbrook has been named to the Dean's List at Hamilton College for the fall 2025 semester. Schmitt, a junior majoring in Hispanic studies and world politics, is a graduate of Millbrook School.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be a current member of the Class of 2026 or 2027, have carried a course load of four or more graded credits throughout the semester, and earned an average GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.

FAIRFIELD, CT - The following Fairfield University students received Dean's List Honors for the Fall 2025 semester. Emma Oster of Holmes, Christopher Zimmerli of Lagrangeville, Thomas Zimmerli of Lagrangeville, Katelyn Wiehe of Pleasant Valley, Lauren O'Rourke of Poughquag, Kieran Hackmeyer of Red Hook, Grace Benziger of Rhinebeck.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

CORTLAND, NY - There are 843 SUNY Cortland students who earned President's List honors for the Fall 2025 semester. Among those honored were:

Kathryn Boyd of Red Hook - Sport Management
Nadiya Grossman of Rhinebeck - Political Science
Nuala Seabrook of Rhinebeck - Outdoor Recreation
Maeve Szwed of Rhinebeck - Physical Education K-12

Brady Wade of Rhinebeck - Sport Management

Aleksa Yambrick of Staatsburg - Adolescence Education: English

To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a grade of A- or better in each of their classes while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

CANTON, NY - Shelby Oken from Millbrook has been named to St. Lawrence University's Dean's List for achieving academic excellence during the Fall 2025 semester. Oken is a member of the Class of 2026 and is majoring in performance and communication arts. Oken attended Westminster School.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

OSWEGO - SUNY Oswego recently recognized several Dutchess County residents as high academic achievers on its President's List and Deans' List for the fall 2025 semester.

President's List students are those attaining semester grade-point averages of 3.8 or higher while carrying required academic credits. Students on the President's List include:

Benjamin C. Brooks, Poughquag, business administration

Ryan T. DeCesare, Hyde Park, finance
Alex J. Kemnitzer, Hyde Park, broadcasting and mass communication

Marissa M. Mendez Vazquez, Poughquag, business administration (online)

Melissa M. Mendez Vazquez, Poughquag, business administration (online)

Emily Seldin, Rhinebeck, adolescence education, mathematics

Joseph M. Sickler, Red Hook, illustration

Zachary G. Smith, Stormville, vocational teacher preparation

Kira N. Wright, Stormville, adolescence education, English

Deans' List students are those attaining semester grade-point averages between 3.3 and 3.79 while carrying required academic credits. Students on the Deans' List include:

Eric Bernabe II, Stormville, technology education

Evan M. Cancro, Lagrangeville, electrical and computer engineering

James R. Colaizzo, Hyde Park, technology education

Ben Dorner, Red Hook, adolescence education

Shaye N. Jasiel, Poughquag, health promotion and wellness

Dana C. Jeremiah, Lagrangeville, business administration (online)

John Kelly, Poughquag, criminal justice

Owen F. Kirschenheiter, Poughquag, technology education

Connor Knuschke, Red Hook, technology management

Kiera M. LaTuso, Poughquag, public relations

Melanie Lopez Perez, Tivoli, accounting

Rebecka S. Rodriguez, Hyde Park, broadcasting and mass communication

Jose A. Vazquez Nava, Millbrook, broadcasting and mass communication, cinema and screen studies

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

by Morgan E. Maier

Section 1, 9 basketball playoffs scheduled for area HS squads

The Arlington High School boys basketball team will vie for a spot in the Section 1 Class AAA basketball championships, squaring off for a semifinal match against the behemoth top seed, Mamaroneck (March 4, 8:15 p.m.). The winner of that match will face the victor of North Rockland and Mount Vernon (March 4, 4:45 p.m.) for the title on March 8, 1:30 p.m. All games to take place at the Westchester County Center.

The Arlington girls look to advance to their own championship final, but a surprise Storm stands in their way. Ally Kaminski scored her 1,000th career point (and counting!) for Ketcham this season, and looks to lead them to a section championship. The winner of the March 4 semifinal will face Mamaroneck or Albertus Magnus for the 'chip, also at the County Center on March 8.

Sectional play is also underway in Section 9, where Our Lady of Lourdes boasts 2-seeds in the boys' and girls' Class AAA competitions.

On another dominant season for the

Lady Raiders, Red Hook holds the top seed in Class A. Mid-Hudson Athletic League All-Stars Elenna Magee and Nina Kortbus look to lead the favorites to the title.

Beacon looks to break through the middle of the pack in Class A, while Spackenkill looks primed for an upset of Highland. Beacon, Highland, Red Hook, and Marlboro were hosting the quarterfinals on March 2. Pine Plains holds the 3-seed, looking to upset John S. Burke in Class C.

American Conference MVP and MHAL All-Star Bleck Ngon looks to lead Lourdes over the Newburgh Free Academy Goldbacks on March 5. The Warriors will have home gym advantage, tipping off at 5 p.m.

Meanwhile in Class A, Spackenkill squared off with New Paltz on March 2 for the rights to play the big, bad Beacon Bulldogs. Division champion and 2-seed Red Hook, led by All-Stars Rileigh Jackson and Matt Simmons, looks to make a push across the bracket.

State Meet helps FDR wrestlers to build on strong achievements

At MVP Arena in Albany, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidents proved their program's ferocity, with four wrestlers competing in the state tournament.

Natalia Quinteros Tejada burst onto the scene at FDR, earning her post at the state tournament. The Section 9 representative was seeded 16th among 16 wrestlers in the 100-pound class. Despite a first match loss, Tejada downed a trio of top-10 seeds in rapid succession. She would steamroll the consolation bracket for a sixth-place finish.

She competed against Alianna Lyon (Mechanicville-Stillwater) in the medal match, where Tejada was pinned at 2:43 to earn the FDR wrestler a sixth-place berth. The "freestyle phenom", as described by Coach Eric Scitutto, overcame rank for the Presidents' top tournament placement.

The state championship performance caps a historic year in FDR wrestling.

With his 100th career win in December, Luke Dakin became the first in program history to reach the milestone. At his opening state match, Dakin threatened the upset of his opponent, a 6-seed. He went six minutes with Loudon Elliot (Carthage), ultimately losing a 4-0 decision. On the other side of the bracket, Dakin won two straight decisions, 9-8 and 5-4, before falling 14-5 to Christian McCravey (Freeport).

Earning a first round bye at 175 pounds, Liam Dakin lost a 12-1 major decision in his first match. He was taken down 9-1 by Joe Dare (Whitesboro) in the second consolation round.

In the 285-pound class, Cashmiere Curtis advanced to the third consolation round with a 5-0 upset and fall on the 10-seed, Sean Pausley (Ballston Spa).

After another solid season on the mats for the young program, FDR looks to build the momentum of 2025-26.

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Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Ulster Savings Bank launch loan initiative

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) has announced the launch of the Local Impact Fund for Tomorrow (LIFT). LIFT, a new local impact platform, is designed to strengthen the region's nonprofit and community development ecosystem, beginning with a pilot low-interest bridge loan initiative serving nonprofits in Dutchess, Ulster and Putnam counties.

The LIFT bridge loan pilot is designed to address structural challenges by providing short-term, affordable loans tied to documented grants or contracts. Nonprofits often operate on reimbursement-based government contracts or delayed grant payments. While funding may be contractually committed, organizations must frequently cover expenses weeks or months before funds are received. These timing gaps can delay projects, strain operations, and limit impact. LIFT loans of up to \$50,000 will help eligible nonprofits move projects forward, maintain continuity of services, and stabilize cash flow while awaiting committed funding.

"Nonprofits are essential to the health and economic vitality of the Hudson Valley," said Laura Washington, President & CEO of CFHV. "Through LIFT, we're putting charitable dollars to work in a practical way — helping organizations bridge short-term funding gaps so important projects don't stall. And because these loans are repaid and reinvested, the same dollars can support multiple nonprofits over time."

"Community foundations were created to invest in the places we call home," said Robert J. Cotter, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "This bridge-loan program is a natural extension of our original mission that started us in 1969 as The Area Fund. By putting charitable capital to work locally, we can help keep important projects moving and strengthen the organizations that make the Hudson Valley a vibrant and resilient region."

At launch, CFHV has committed \$250,000 from its Trustees' Endowment to capitalize the pilot, joined by early fundholder support and the bank's participation. As loans are repaid, funds will be recycled to support additional nonprofits, multiplying the community impact of the initial investment.

"Launching this program required careful planning, thoughtful risk assessment, and the right partners," said Frances Barney Knutsen, CFA, vice chair of CFHV's Board of Trustees and chair of the LIFT Committee, who brings more than 30 years of experience in strategic development and investment analysis. "This pilot gives us a strong foundation for a robust and responsible impact investing platform — one that will allow CFHV to support high-impact projects while maintaining the financial stewardship our donors expect."

Loans will be made by CFHV and originated and serviced by Ulster Savings Bank, which may purchase a participating interest in each loan and will manage loan administration. This partnership brings strong underwriting standards, financial expertise, and accountability to the program.

"Ulster Savings Bank is proud to partner with CFHV on this important initiative," said Bill Calderara, president & CEO of Ulster Savings Bank. "By combining philanthropic leadership with community banking expertise, we can help ensure local nonprofits have the tools they need to continue serving our region."

LIFT is designed to evolve to meet future community needs. While the pilot focuses on bridge lending, CFHV anticipates expanding the LIFT platform in the future to include additional local impact tools that complement traditional grant-making.

For more information about LIFT or to learn how to participate, visit CommunityFoundationsHV.org.



Laura Washington, President and CEO of Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, is pictured with William "Bill" Calderara, President and CEO of Ulster Savings Bank. *Courtesy photo*

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2026 Good Egg Celebration to honor Kim Williams

RHINEBECK, NY – At its 2026 Good Egg Celebration, the Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce will honor Kim Williams of Williams Lumber for her outstanding leadership and enduring contributions to the Rhinebeck community and regional business landscape.

This year's recognition comes as Williams Lumber & Home Stores celebrates its 80th anniversary, marking eight decades of family leadership, community investment, and commitment to local growth. Williams' stewardship and dedication continue that legacy, strengthening both the business community and the fabric of Rhinebeck itself.

The celebration, presented by Six Senses Hudson Valley and Williams Lumber & Home Stores, will take place Thursday, March 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Beekman Arms, one of America's oldest inns and a treasured Rhinebeck landmark.

The evening will feature live music, a seated three-course dinner in an elegant setting, and a tribute program highlighting Williams' leadership, dedication, and influence. Business owners, civic leaders, and community supporters will gather for an evening that blends recognition with meaningful connection.

For more than 15 years, the Good Egg Celebration has recognized individuals who exemplify service, integrity, and a deep commitment to the vitality of the Rhinebeck area. This year's event will bring together business owners, civic leaders, and community supporters for an elegant evening featuring a seated three-course dinner and a tribute program honoring Kim's leadership, impact, and continued dedication to the region.

Tickets are available through the Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce, www.rhinebeckchamber.com.

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GENERAC



Pedal to the metal

Mom wears down a policeman during a traffic stop.

The other day I was stopped by a police officer because I had a tail light out. As I was waiting for my ticket to be processed, I remembered when my mother was pulled over for speeding in front of Marist College (now Marist University) many years ago.

I was in the restaurant kitchen prepping something. I heard the kitchen screen door open and slam shut. My mother came into the restaurant and was mumbling to herself. She had a Price Chopper bag in her hand and threw the bag on my father's prep table. She was very clearly angry about something. Worried that she was angry with me, I chose to ignore her mood for fear of retribution. Something that I was very familiar with.

As she walked past me she continued to mumble about something and proceeded through the dining room and into the bathroom. Amazed that she didn't even say hello, I went back to work knowing full well that when she came out of the bathroom I would be told what was wrong. I also braced myself for what I was sure was going to be a great story.

When she came out of the bathroom, she marched through the dining room, into the kitchen, and through open the swinging doors that separated the kitchen from the dining room.

The door slammed against the wall. I knew I was in for a treat.

Apparently, Mom was just stopped in front of Marist College for speeding.

My mother had a bit of a lead foot. She was always in a hurry and always told us she had so much to do, even though she really didn't. Picture the scene if you would: My mother, who was a tiny, 5 foot 1 inch woman, is in her car, in a hurry of course, driving toward the Price Chopper

on South Road on a mission for my father. This time it was to buy fresh artichokes. She has her seat belt pulled tight, she is holding onto the steering wheel with her Vulcan death grip and is playing Mario Lanza on the CD player in the car.

Mom had a funny way of driving. She would constantly rock the steering wheel back and forth very slightly. Almost like you would shake your leg when you were nervous.

Anyway, she's driving South on Route 9, passes Marist College and goes through a yellow light. She is in a 30 mph zone and is probably doing close to 45. Naturally, there is a police officer nearby and he proceeds to pull her over.

This is how I perceived the conversation:

Officer: License and registration, please.

Mom: Why?

Officer: License and registration, please.

Mom: Ia no wuzza speeding.

Officer: License and registration, please.

Mom: You don't have to give me a ticket. That's OK.

Officer: License and registration, please.

Mom: That's OK. Listen, I gotta get the artichokes for my husband.

Officer: License and registration, please.

Mom: Listen, Pop is a gonna getta mad if I no get the artichokes to him on time.

Officer: Lady, please get out of the car.

Mom: Why?

Officer: Lady I'm getting mad, Please give me your license and registration or I'm gonna have to cuff you.

Mom: Why you getting so mad? Im a just going to get the artichokes for my husband? You don't have to give me a ticket. That's OK. Don't worry about it.

Officer: Lady, please. Just give me your freaking license and registration.

Mom: You no understand. You don't have to give me a ticket because Pop he's a gonna get mad if Ima not back fast with the artichokes.

Officer: Please get out of the car, I have to frisk you.

Mom: No you toucha me! I know what you have in mind. You leave me alone.

Officer: Please, lady, just give me your license.

Mom: I tolda you. You no have to give me a ticket. That'sa OK.

Officer: Lady, If you don't give me your license, I will have to arrest you.

Mom: OK. Im a gonna give you my license, but you no gonna give me a ticket, OK?

Officer: OK, Lady.

Mom: You gotta promise me. OK?

Officer: I promise! Just give me the freaking license!

After a few minutes the officer comes back to the car:

Officer: I just checked you out, Mrs. Coppola. Everything seems OK. You've got to make sure you drive slower, OK?

Mom: OK. You no giva me the ticket?

Officer: You going to drive slower?

Mom: Yeah. Don't worry.

Officer: Mrs. Coppola, please take it easy. Don't speed. I'm gonna let you go, but you take it easy, OK?

Mom: Come here. (she pinches his cheek) You a gooda boy. Your mother is a proud ofa you. I no gonna speed no more.

Officer: Thanks Mrs. Coppola. Just take it easy, OK?

Mom: Ya. Im a gonna take it easy as soon as I getta Pop his artichokes. Caio!

I can imagine the poor officer sitting in his car shaking his head as my mother

continued on page 13

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 17 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

THE GREATEST DOT-TO-DOT BOOKS!

Stars
Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 97

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Was Saint Patrick a snake whisperer?

Analyzing the legend behind Saint Patrick's Day

Even though it has the same number of days as six other months, March always seems like the longest of the year. Saint Patrick's Day Festivities offer a respite as we recover from the long, frosty winter. The Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee (DCSPPC, Inc. a 501(C)(3)) sponsors an Irish-themed decorating contest. Three businesses and three homes will be awarded top honors for their displays of Irish Spirit on March 6. The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be March 7. Further information about those events can be found at www.dcsppc.org and <https://www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyStPatricksParadeCommittee>.

Another fun and educational way to brighten things up is with themed activities for the upcoming Saint Patrick's Holiday on March 17. Making dyed carnations and fluorescent daisies are favorites. They're great for demonstrating plants' vascular systems.

Saint Patrick

For a multidisciplinary connection, I prefer to focus on eponymous reason for the day: Saint Patrick. The celebration

honors the missionary who converted Ireland to Christianity during the 5th Century A.D. According to legend, Saint Patrick (ca. 385-461 CE) used the three-leaf shamrock to represent the Holy Trinity, as well as chased serpents into the sea after they attacked him.

Neither shamrocks nor snakes

Although there are pictures of Saint Patrick holding a shamrock, there is no record of his involvement with the plant when he lived. The association of Saint Patrick with shamrocks is folklore. The same goes for the snakes.

It is true that there are no Irish Snakes. In fact, Ireland only has two species of land-dwelling reptiles. They are the Viviparous Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) and the Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*). The Viviparous Lizard has been in Ireland 10,000 years. The Slow Worm is actually a legless lizard that was introduced to Ireland in 1970.

An unlikely claim

Ireland's surrounding waters are impassable barriers for terrestrial reptiles. Although land bridges once connected



A stained-glass window at St. Benin's Church in Ireland pictures St. Patrick holding a shamrock. Photo by Andreas F. Borchert, CC. Left: The Northern Red-bellied Snake is harmless and is a friend of the garden. Photo by John P. Vanek.

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A Northern Water Snake in Clinton Corners. Photo by Glen White

Ireland and Britain to Europe, that was 8,500 years ago, and snakes colonize slowly. Also, the island-nation lacks fossilized snake remains, which have been found many other places. There is no trace evidence to suggest that snakes ever existed in Ireland; ergo, the claim that Saint Patrick gave them their “marching” orders is unsupported.

Another interpretation

Serpents are symbols of evil in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Genesis portrays a snake slyly convincing Eve to eat fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, despite explicit instructions against such action. In Greek Mythology, the Gorgons have hair made of venomous snakes, and looking upon them turns the viewer to stone.

Serpents are also linked to practices of “heathens.” Heathens were polytheistic early pre-Christian peoples who lived in the lands around what is now called the North Sea. They performed ritual sacrifices to honor gods or to gain their favor for purposes such as peace, victory, or good sailing weather.

Saint Patrick converted many heathens to Christianity. In this context, snakes are a metaphor for heathens. That is an opportunity to include cross-curricular English and History learning while celebrating Saint Patrick’s Day.

S-S-S-Speaking of snakes

It would be unwise for someone to release their pet snake in Ireland. Alien species present a risk to well-established fauna. The isolated nature of an island population makes Ireland highly vulnerable to an introduction of a non-native species.

It looks like a snake...

You can find out more about legless lizards (like the Slow Worm in Ireland) with the “Do Now” 4 New Legless Lizards Discovered in California. As with other exercises found in the book, Life Science “Do-Nows” and “Exit Tickets”:

180 Days of Warm-Up and Closure Activities, learners generate context-based guesses to fill in the blanks of a reading selection. The activity can be used to teach about classification, evolution, or Saint Patrick’s Day!

Snakes and legless lizards share a resemblance, but are only distantly related. If you trace their evolutionary history back far enough, snakes and legless lizards descended from lizards, but they each lost their legs independently.

Dutchess County is ‘Snake-Rich’

Regardless of any snake-chasing done by the saint, Dutchess County is “Snake-Rich” according to Zoologist John P. Vanek of New York Natural Heritage Program and SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry. Of the 17 snake species that occur in New York, 14 can be found in Dutchess. According to Vanek, our county is not home to legless lizards. If you do see one here, it might be an unusual happenstance ... or Luck O’ The Irish.

(Note: The majority of snakes in New York are harmless. Only the Timber Rattlesnake and Copperhead pose a risk to humans in Dutchess County. If you encounter a snake, give them space, walk around, and carry on. You can later reminisce about your encounter with one of the last truly wild denizens of the Hudson Valley.)

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>.

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Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra presents

AMERICANA 250



Featuring Premik Tubbs on the Native American flute and Master Storyteller Jonathan Kruk.

Celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary with a Tribute to Colonial life in the Hudson Valley.

Experience an unforgettable multimedia celebration of Colonial Hudson Valley life, featuring music, spoken word, and historic imagery projected above the orchestra. The program includes works such as “Colonial Dances” by Florence Price and “Appalachian Spring” by Aaron Copland.

Guest musician Premik Tubbs performs “Far from the Water” on Native American flute, honoring the legacy of Daniel Nimham. Master Storyteller Jonathan Kruk brings Colonial-era history to life with captivating tales including “Washington’s Spectacles,” “Sybil Ludington’s Ride,” and “The Origin of Yankee Doodle.”

Saturday, March 21, 2026

7:30 p.m., The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park



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Come early for a pre-concert talk with award-winning historian Neil Murray in authentic colonial uniform, sharing stories, artifacts, and insights into the lives of Revolutionary War soldiers and the contributions of Dutchess County patriots.

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Our concert season is made possible, in part, through funding from the County of Dutchess and Destination Dutchess (formerly Dutchess Tourism, Inc.) and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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EXHIBITIONS

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. **Through 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. **Closing Reception Artist Talk:** Sun., April 12, 1-3 p.m. RSVPs required to attend reception. 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 April:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is Ivars Sprogis, whose works encompass oils and watercolors. At 12 Vassar St., mixed media painter Kevin Sterne is featured in the Reception Gallery and Shirley Tuttle brings her acrylic works of art to the Hancock Gallery. **Free Public Art Opening Receptions** will be held in all three Art Galleries on Fri., March 6, 5-7 p.m. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

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. (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. **March 6-28:** Art Blast, presented by the Millbrook School District, Dutchess Day School, and Millbrook Early Childhood Education Center. **Opening Reception:** Fri., March 6, 4-6 p.m. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through March 28:** Talent Show Art Exhibit, the visual component of Morton's Talent Show. The work will be on full display for the performance part of the Talent Show on March 6. Purchases benefit local artists and Morton. Free admission. (845) 876-2903

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

ATTENTION ART GALLERIES

E-mail exhibition listings to:
creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

That's Italian!

continued from page 9

sped off, thinking people shoot at me and it is less aggravating than that lady.

Needless to say, my mother sped to the Price Chopper got the artichokes for Pop and sped back to the restaurant. I have to say the artichokes were very good. Enjoy the recipe for Pop's Stuffed Artichokes.

STUFFED ARTICHOKEs

Ingredients

- 6 whole artichokes
- 3 slices Italian bread, cubed
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/8 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup grated Romano cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 5 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Cut the tips of artichoke leaves to take off the pointy tips, and cut off the stems. Peel the stem with a potato peeler. Fill your sink with water and soak the artichokes for about 20 minutes. Drain and shake off excess water. Holding artichoke firmly by base, firmly slap the top of it on a hard surface like a cutting board a couple of times. This will open the artichoke so it can be stuffed.

2. In a bowl combine bread cubes, garlic, parsley, Romano cheese, oregano, 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, salt and pepper; mix well by hand.

3. Press about 1/2 cup of stuffing into each artichoke center. Tightly pack stuffed artichokes together in a large pan or stainless steel tray. Add enough water to reach half way up artichokes and add 3 tablespoons oil and the stem. Cover the pan with aluminum foil or a cover

4. Bring to a boil over high heat; reduce heat to low and simmer, for 1 hour, or until leaves pull out easily.

Serve in a bowl with grated cheese and ladle the broth in the bowl pouring over the stuffing. Served with a wedge of Italian bread.

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.

A & E CALENDAR

March 6-22: "The Wedding Singer," Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Musical based on the hit New Line Cinema movie written by Tim Herlihy. Music by Matthew Sklar, book by Chad Beguelin and Tim Herlihy, and lyrics by Chad Beguelin. Directed by Randi Kiersnowski and Risa Petrone, Musical Direction by Paul and JoAnne Schubert, Choreography by Risa Petrone. It's 1985, and rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer. He's the life of the party until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection. As luck would have it, Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark, and, unless Robbie can pull off the performance of a decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever. Performances: Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., March 7 & 14, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., March 21, 2:30 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$29. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

March 6: "Art as Therapy & Healing," Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. Special event featuring local author Elizabeth Young and her experience of art & writing as tools in overcoming a traumatic childhood accident, 4 p.m. Her recent debut fictional tale, "Loose Limbs: a story of survival," is a jumping off point for discussion. The topic is appropriate for children (or anyone) facing recovery after a brain injury or other physical challenges - and how the art can be therapeutic in re-grabbing life. Fellow writer/artist Emilio Velez Jr. to appear with Young, who overcame a learning disability to publish an award-winning comic series for teens. Event to include discussion with Q+A. looselimbs.com

March 6: Galen Pittman Jazz Quartet, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Jazz standards, freshly re-imagined with original melodies and inventive lines by some of our favorite composers, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. www.thestissingcenter.org

March 6: Morton Community Talent Show, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. 17th annual evening celebrating the talents of the local community, friends and family, 6:30 p.m. Visual art, MC Richard, performances including but not limited to: singing, videos, performers with guitars, performers with pianos, and comedy. Refreshments. Suggested: \$5 donation. More info: sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org.

March 6-8: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. March 6: Gratefully Yours, 8 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance/ \$25 door. March 7: Ímar from Scotland, 8 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

March 7: "Cinema Paradiso," Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. Academy Award winning Italian-French coming-of-age comedy-drama from 1988, starring Philippe Noiret and Jacques Perrin, directed by Giuseppe Tornatore, 2 p.m. Rated G. The film will be followed by a potluck Italian dinner. All who want to stay afterward for dinner should bring an Italian-inspired dish to share. Grange member Lenny Barham will introduce the film and lead discussion after. Ticket prices are by donation. More info: lennybarham@gmail.com, (518) 325-5216 or www.copakegrange.org

March 7: Isle of Klezbos, Banning Hall,

Stissing Center, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Isle of Klezbos approaches Yiddish musical traditions with loving irreverence and profound respect, 7:30 p.m. tickets \$30-40 advance, \$40-50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org

March 7: Movies With Spirit, "Carmen," Kingston Library, 61 Crown St., Kingston. A woman's quiet church life bursts with new purpose when she's mistaken for a priest, 7 p.m. Inspired by true events, this comedy drama set in a picturesque Mediterranean village in Malta, follows Carmen (Natascha McElhone), who has spent her life since age 16 caring for her brother (Henry Zammit Cordina), the local priest. After his sudden death three decades later, a twist of fate leads villagers to mistake her for the new priest. Embracing the opportunity, Carmen challenges patriarchal norms, offers unconventional (and surprisingly effective) advice in the confessional and brings color to the village while discovering her own independence. The 2021 film, in English and Maltese with English subtitles runs 1 hour 28 minutes and is not rated. Screening followed by discussion. Refreshments served. Suggested donation: \$10 (ages 13 and up). More info: tinyurl.com/Carmen-Facebook-MoviesWSpirit, or email gerryharrington@mindspring.com.

March 8: Clarion Concerts: Amir ElSaffar New Quartet, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. The ensemble blends jazz instrumentation and Middle Eastern sounds guiding the new ensemble into unexplored musical territories, 3 p.m. Tickets \$15-40 in advance. www.thestissingcenter.org

March 9: Virtual Screening: "Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: Two Halves of a Whole." FDR Presidential Library's Jeff Urbin discusses one of America's foremost "Power Couples" as their relationship transitions from a secret engagement, to a marriage in crisis, to a political partnership, 6 p.m. Open to all. Register for this virtual program via your local library. Sponsored by Dutchess County Library Association

March 11, 27-29: "Kurtág Festival, Signs, Games & Messages," Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. Festival honors Hungarian composer György Kurtág's 100th birthday, highlighting the clarity, precision, and expressive depth of Kurtág's music, and places his work in dialogue with composers and traditions important to him, including both predecessors and contemporaries. The festival presents solo, vocal, and chamber works by Kurtág alongside music by Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Bartók, Benjamin, Abrahamsen, Adès, and others, including U.S. premieres of selections from the later volumes of *Játékok*. The programming brings together Bard faculty, students, and artists closely connected to Kurtág, reflecting the collaborative spirit that defines the festival. **Program One:** March 11, 7 p.m., "Kurtág and the Lieder Tradition," Olin Hall, Annandale-on-Hudson. **Program Two:** March 27, 7 p.m., "Abrahamsen's Schnee," Conservatory Performance Space, Annandale-on-Hudson. **Program Three:** March 28, 1 p.m., "Bach Inventions and Sinfonias," Conservatory Performance Space, Annandale-on-Hudson. **Program Four:** March 28, 7 p.m., "Songs, Laments, Dances, Games," Chapel of the Holy Innocents, Annandale-on-Hudson. **Program Five:** March 29, 3 p.m., "Kurtág, Mozart, and the Bach Family," Conservatory Performance Space, Annandale-on-Hudson. <http://bard.edu/conservatory>

POUGHKEEPSIE BOOK FESTIVAL SCHEDULED MARCH 28 AT DCC

The Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival 2026, scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at Dutchess Community College, will have over 100 authors and illustrators of children's and young reader books.

Readers can find books of all types - storybooks, chapter books, picture books, and graphic novels, both fiction and non-fiction. There will be opportunities to buy new books and get autographs.

The festival, organized by the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD), and supported by the Friends of PPLD, is an opportunity for children to find a deeper connection with books, and for the authors to make a personal connection with their readers. Some favorite book characters will be there, such as Biscuit, Paddington, Bad Kitty, and Red Crayon.

The book festival is a free event, open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will take place in Falcon Hall at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie. Parking will be available in Lot D at 95 Cottage Road. This is a free family event for ages 17 and under, no registration is required. Visit poklib.org for more information.

OBITUARIES

Preston Foulks

LAGRANGE – Preston Foulks, 90, a life long resident of the Town of Lagrange, NY, passed away on Friday January 30, 2026, at Vassar Brothers Hospital. Born August 4, 1935. Preston grew up and attended school in Beacon NY. Preston worked for the Ford Motor Assembly plant in Mahwah NJ for 25 years. Early working at Ford, Preston enlisted in the US Army 82nd Airborne division. Upon his discharge from the Army, Preston returned working at Ford until the plant closed early 80's. Preston later worked for Yellow Freight in Maybrook NY and as a machinist before retiring from the Ford Motor company in 2001. Preston had many hobbies. He enjoyed woodworking, electronics, building kit TVs, and sailing off the lakes around the Bear Mountain, Palisades Parkway. A route taken often traveling to work. Preston volunteered and helped with trips to Washington DC and summer camp with the Boy Scouts Troop 25 in Red Oaks Mill, Poughkeepsie, NY. Preston preceded in death by his beloved wife Glenda Foulks. Preston is survived by his two children Preston S. and Todd Foulks. Todd's wife, Eneida Foulks. and his grandchildren Brandon and Kyle Foulks. In Lieu of flowers donations to, ST Jude Children's Hospital, donation to Shriners Children's Hospital, donations to Mercy Ship's Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home, Poughkeepsie NY.

Clinton Thomas Hoffman

CLINTON CORNERS – Clinton Thomas Hoffman (aka 'Buddy') passed away on March 1, 2026.

Born in Shawangunk, NY on August 22, 1941, to Clinton F. and Madeline May Hoffman (nee Cornwell). He grew up in the areas of Clinton Hollow, Pleasant Valley, and Hyde Park. Following his graduation from Roosevelt High School in 1959, He enlisted and served in the Army. He enjoyed a life-long career in construction and general contracting and eventually worked for and retired from Arlington Central Schools.

On May 14, 1963, he married the love of his life, Regina Marie Parisen. They enjoyed travelling between New York, Cape Cod and Florida. Clint was an avid fisherman and loved collecting and repairing antique clocks and watches.

Clint was pre-deceased by his parents and his sisters, Marlene, Marilyn, and Melinda, and by his son, Clinton W. Hoffman.

He is survived by his wife, Regina Marie Hoffman, two daughters, May Gadonniex (Michael) and Regina Fillinger (David), brother, Jeffrey Hoffman (Sue) and by his grandchildren; Jonathan and Michael Fillinger, and Makayla, Lily, and Jonathan Gadonniex.

A celebration of his life will be held in the Spring.

Jeffrey Neilson

HYDE PARK – Jeffrey Stewart Neilson died February 23, 2026, in his 80th year. Born in St. Petersburg, Florida, he was one of 2 sons of Evelyn Keefer and David Neilson.

Soon after, the young family moved to Hyde Park, where he spent most of his life. He was raised with his brother Martin Wade Neilson, who tragically died in an explosion in Poughkeepsie on January 14, 1982.

He was a F.D. Roosevelt High graduate, Class of 1965, and received a degree from DCC. Soon afterward, he began a 50-year career with Verizon. During that time, he worked throughout Dutchess County, including Millbrook and Pawling. Jeff's career even took him to New Orleans in 1978, where he worked with his Poughkeepsie colleagues. He also attended several advanced career classes in Manhattan. After his retirement, he worked for Dutchess County Government.

His sense of adventure was limitless: he raced motorcycles in Middletown, Madison Square Garden, Monticello and throughout New England. He was fearless...his 45 trophies proved it. His passion continued with dirt track racing and ultimately ended with owning 2 new Harleys, riding often with friends and various clubs, mainly for charity events. Even after he was the victim of a hit-and-run driver in Poughkeepsie and faced several major surgeries and prolonged recuperation, he continued to ride. His most innocuous passion was his daily dose of the crosswords in The Poughkeepsie Journal and The N.Y. Daily News

He crewed on the Sloop Clearwater in the Long Island Sound and was often seen sailing singlehandedly on the Hudson in his Hunter; he often sailed alone the entire way to NYC from Poughkeepsie!

He traveled with his family to Hawai'i, Florida, the Carolinas, Arizona, Seattle, The Cape, all of New England and California. A brief trip to Mexico was quite an adventure. He skied in Colorado, at Mt. Tremblant in Canada, and rented a ski house in Vermont as a treat for Matthew and his friends. He and his Family flew to The BVI where he chartered and captained a 48' sailboat for 2 months; he and his family lived on the boat, rarely going ashore except to replenish supplies. Using his favorite 35 mm camera, given to him by Susan on their first wedding anniversary, gave him the opportunity to take myriad photos of all the places they visited and all the people they met.

Jeffrey was a long-time member of The Poughkeepsie Yacht Club and the H.O.G. Organization. He donated generously to Holy Trinity Church Food Pantry and The Salvation Army. He was also an ardent supporter of all law enforcement. Most impressively, he helped Verizon Pioneers install private bedside telephones for Veterans at Castle Point when he and colleagues realized Vets had limited phone service access.

He had lifelong friends throughout the USA and remained in contact with them. He was sociable and personable and rarely went anywhere without meeting someone he knew. Jeff was quick to smile, often mischievously, and quick to help a neighbor or friend. Many would agree that Neilson always spoke his mind and was always tolerant of other points of view. He and his wife, Susan, attended almost every football and basketball game at Millbrook High School, and enthusiastically cheered very loudly for The Blazers.

On March 20, he would have celebrated 55 years of marriage to Susan Conforti, who survives, along with their Beloved Son, Matthew, Kea'au, Hawai'i. He is survived by Nephews Brian Anderson {Laurie}, Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, and Robert G. Anderson, Hyde Park and Niece, Deana Bryan {Sean} Collinsville, Oklahoma.

Additional 'Ohana include: Brandon Anthony and Family, Signal Mt., Tennessee, Michael Anthony and Family, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Lauren and Cash Toelle, Hayden, Idaho, Allyson and husband, Ethan, Bryan Scott and his beautiful Goddaughter, Lauren Anderson, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Brother-in-law, Frank and Sister-in-law, Anna Anthony, Ooltewah, Tennessee

He was predeceased by his loving Sister-in-law, Emily Conforti Hendricks on March 1, 2025, and two nieces: Gina Anthony and Michelle Riordan.

Relatives and friends may call from 4 pm to 7 pm on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park, NY.

The Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10 am on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Holy Trinity Church, 775 Main St., Poughkeepsie, NY, officiated by Fr. A. Wellington and Fr. G. Fernando.

If you are unable to attend, PLEASE join Family and Friends sharing stories and pictures of Neilson's legacy at Coppola's Restaurant immediately following the service.

Robert Allen Nellis, Sr.

STANFORDVILLE – Robert Allen Nellis Sr., 89, a long-time resident of Poughkeepsie NY, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, February 27, 2026. Robert was born in Johnstown, NY on April 29, 1936, to Anna Apolena (Goot) Nellis and Clyde Leroy Nellis. He graduated Johnstown High School, Class of 1953.

Robert married Dorothy Elizabeth (Keough) on August 30th, 1958, at St. Columban's in Arlington, VT. Their 65 years of marriage took them from their NY farm in Ephratah to Poughkeepsie. Dorothy predeceased him in 2023. Together they raised 6 children who all survive him, Dawn LaBarge and husband Randall, Robert Nellis Jr. and wife Joanne, Katherine Inserillo and husband Robert, James Nellis and wife Catherine, David Nellis and partner Trudy Lackner, and Jon Nellis.

Robert was blessed with 10 grandchildren: Brian, David, Daniel, Erin, Jacqueline, Elaina, Shelby, Cassandra, Katherine, and Anna-Mae; as well as 14 great-grandchildren with one more on the way: Mckenna, Conner, Angeline, Everett, Charles, Charlotte, Brayden, Madeline, Declan, Kaius, Mia, Strider, Jackson and Owen. He was predeceased by 3 of his siblings, Sr. Mary Cabrini (June), Clyde Leroy (Bud) and Carolyn Hermon (Baker). He is survived by his sisters Ann Culver, Margaret Handy, Priscilla Brown, Mary Smith and by 38 nieces & nephews.

In addition to being a loving husband, Robert dedicated his life to raising his six children. His love for his wife, family and church was demonstrated through his long participation with Marriage Encounter. Robert touched the lives of many. Professionally Robert completed an apprentice program at GE for Tool & Die making, he worked there for 5 years. He took those skills to IBM for 28 years working his way up to computer systems analyst, until his retirement in 1992.

Robert rarely hired any tradesmen, preferring like most farmers, to do his own construction, electrical, plumbing, excavations and auto mechanics, a true "Jack of all Trades"; he instilled these values upon his children. He took an amazing sense of pride in his home and property. He was an accomplished runner in HS and hunted as a young man. He played softball for IBM and was a golfer, a biker, a runner and played all team sports with his children. He played golf right up until the end of his life and the highlight was his hole-in-one. He loved to play cards, especially a good game of Pitch and often pushed his bids high.

Calling hours will be from 4-7:30 pm on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026 at the Wm G. Miller & Son FH, Inc., 371 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, March 5th, 2026 at 9:30 am at St. Martin de Porres Church, 118 Cedar Valley Road, Poughkeepsie. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery, 62 La Grange Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY.

If you wish to send an online condolence, please visit our website at www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com

Donations in memory of Robert A. Nellis can be made to Hudson Valley Hospice at www.hvhospice.org or Parkinson's Foundation at www.parkinson.org.

Helen Shewchesin

Helen Shewchesin went to be with the Lord on February 26, 2026 at home surrounded by loved ones. She was born on October 3, 1923 to the late Walter and Mary Szybinski. She was married to the late William Shewchesin who passed in 1990. She lived in Pine Plains for 75 years and enjoyed a quiet life. A woman of great faith, perseverance and strength. She was a remarkable mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend always helping, caring and teaching her family how to live a good life. She was always there for advice, love, comfort and encouragement. Helen enjoyed going out to eat occasionally, cooking, sewing, crocheting and watching the tv show 'Maine Cabin Masters'.

Helen is survived by her sister, Irene Dunajski of Illinois, daughters Maureen Geis, Brenda Roski (Don), and Nancy Halas. 10 Grandchildren Alex Halas (Kiersten), Dan Halas (Allie), Scott Geis (Gina), Michael Geis (Minna), Regina Stack, Karen Weisner (Scott), Donna Lehner (Norman), Sidney Garcia (Roberto), Natalie Ramiriz (Ciry), Michele Roski, 22 Great Grandchildren and 11 Great-Great Grandchildren.

Helen was predeceased by her sisters, Jean Rosenberg, Rose Burruso and brothers, Eddie, Chester and Julian Szybinski.

Family and friends are invited to share memories and offer condolences on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 7749 South Main Street, Pine Plains, New York. Followed by a short prayer service. Interment will take place at Evergreen Cemetery, Pine Plains. In lieu of donations, please give your family a hug. For directions or to leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Jaret Smith

HYDE PARK – Jaret Douglas Smith, 46, a lifelong resident of Hyde Park, passed peacefully at home with his family by his side on February 3, 2026, after a long and courageous

fight with cancer. Jaret was a graduate of F.D. Roosevelt High School and enjoyed his work in the summers as a camp counselor at Hackett Hill Day Camp. After high school, he was proud to have worked at D.C. BOCES as a Teaching Assistant for 14 years. Most recently, he was employed at Smith Environmental Laboratory. Jaret was also a proud member of the Ancient and Honorable Order of Turtles. His large heart, warm friendly soul and kind blue eyes will be remembered by many.

Jaret was predeceased by his father, Douglas Robert Smith in 2019. He is survived by his mother, Anne Gallagher Smith, sister, Aislinn Anne Smith, and niece, Samantha Eileen Vandenburg; along with many other family members; including uncles, aunts, and cousins. In addition, Jaret leaves a large network of friends and loved ones; including some in Ireland, a place he frequently traveled, and dreamt of moving to in his retirement.

At the time of Jaret's passing, he was in the process of designing a new home on the family farm in Stuyvesant. He loved the outdoors and animals, rescuing many over the years. Jaret never met a dog he didn't like. He was also an avid car enthusiast and artist; he enjoyed drawing, tattoos, and all types of model building.

Visiting hours are scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 1 pm to 4 pm at Sweet's Funeral Home in Hyde Park, NY. In keeping with Jaret's Irish spirit, a gathering of family and friends will follow at Mahoney's Irish Pub.

Arthur Joseph 'Junior' Tanner, Jr.

MILLERTON - Arthur Joseph "Junior" Tanner, Jr., 87, a lifelong area resident died peacefully on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Sharon Hospital in Sharon, CT, with his family at his bedside. Mr. Tanner worked as a truck driver and warehouse manager for Arnoff Moving and Storage in Lakeville, CT, for 35 years before starting his own business, Tanners Home Services, LLC in Millerton, NY, which is still in operation today.

Born June 13, 1938 in Sharon, CT, he was the son of the late Arthur Joseph and Bertha (McCauley) Tanner, Sr. Mr. Tanner was educated in Millerton Schools. On September 24th he married Roberta Gladys Twing. Mrs. Tanner survives at home in Millerton. Mr. Tanner was an avid hunter and fisherman and he enjoyed logging and spending time at his cabin. Mr. Tanner was a life member of the Millerton Gun Club and the North American Hunt Club as well.

In addition to his wife Roberta, he is also survived by four children, Arthur Tanner III and his wife Dorothy, Sheila Stickle and her husband Thomas, Joanne Sweeney and her husband Donald all of Millerton and Rita Ezersky and her husband Pat of Lakeville; three sisters, Gloria Stickle of Pine Plains, NY, Diane Baker of Dryden, NY, and Virginia Whitbeck of Lakeville; his brother, Charles Tanner of Cambridge, NY, his daughter-in-law Molly of Norfolk, CT, twelve grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews and many friends.

In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by his son, James A. Tanner, Sr., on July 13, 2020; six sisters, Alice Tweed, Lena Francis, Ceil Ralph, Carol Call, Bev Stickle and Shirley Rivard and one stepbrother, Robert Mayhew.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026 from 10am to 12pm at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A funeral service will take place at 12pm at the funeral home. Pastor Jan Brooks will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Gun Club, Inc., P.O. Box 720, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Mr. Tanner's honor, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

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Legal Notices

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT : COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

In the Matter of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens by
Proceeding In Rem Pursuant to Article Eleven
of the Real Property Tax Law by
DUTCHESS COUNTY

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

**PETITION AND NOTICE
OF FORECLOSURE**

Index No. 2023-54444

The above-captioned proceeding is hereby commenced to enforce the payment of delinquent taxes or other lawful charges which have accumulated and become liens against certain property. The parcels to which this proceeding applies are identified on Schedule "A" of this Petition, which is annexed hereto and made a part hereof. This document serves both as a Petition of Foreclosure and a Notice of Foreclosure for purposes of this proceeding.

Effect of Filing: All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in this Petition are hereby notified that the filing of this Petition constitutes the commencement by the Tax District of a proceeding in the court specified in the caption above to foreclose each of the tax liens described by a foreclosure proceeding in rem.

Nature of Proceeding: This proceeding is brought against the real property only and is to foreclose the tax liens described in this Petition. No personal judgment will be entered herein for such taxes or other legal charges or any part thereof.

Persons Affected: This Notice is directed to all persons owning or having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in this Petition. Such persons are hereby further notified that a duplicate of this Petition has been filed in the office of the Commissioner of Finance, the Enforcing Officer of the Tax District, and will remain open for public inspection up to and including the date specified below as the last day for redemption.

Right of Redemption: Any person having or claiming to have an interest in any such real property and the legal right thereto may, on or before said date, redeem the same by paying the amount of all such unpaid tax liens thereon, including all interest and penalties and other legal charges which are included in the lien against such real property, computed to and including the date of redemption. Such payments shall be made to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. In the event that such taxes are paid by a person other than the record owner of such real property, the person so paying shall be entitled to have the tax liens affected thereby satisfied of record.

**LAST DAY FOR REDEMPTION: THE LAST DAY FOR REDEMPTION IS
HEREBY FIXED AS JULY 29, 2026.**

Service of Answer: Every person having any right, title, or interest in or lien upon any parcel of real property described in this Petition may serve a duly verified answer upon the attorney for the Tax District setting forth in detail the nature and amount of his or her interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure. Such answer must be filed in the Office of the County Clerk and served upon the attorney for the Tax District on or before the date above mentioned as the last day for redemption.

Failure to Redeem or Answer: In the event of failure to redeem or answer by any person having the right to redeem or answer, such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all of his or her right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcel described in this Petition and a judgment in foreclosure may be taken by default.

Dated: January 27, 2026.

Enforcing Officer:


HEIDI SEELBACH, Commissioner of Finance
County of Dutchess
22 Market Street, 4th Floor
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel. No. (845) 486 - 2025

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)ss:
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS)

I, HEIDI SEELBACH, being duly sworn, depose and affirm under penalty of perjury: I am the Enforcing Officer for the County of Dutchess. I have read this Petition and Notice which I have signed, and I am familiar with its contents. The contents of this Petition and Notice are true to the best of my knowledge, based upon the records of the office of the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance. I do not know of any errors or omissions in this Petition and Notice.


HEIDI SEELBACH, Commissioner of Finance
County of Dutchess

Sworn to before me this
27th day of January, 2026.


Notary Public

CAROL THOMPSON
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
04TH6151306
Qualified in Dutchess County
Commission Expires 7/1/26

Attorney for Tax District:
CAROLINE E. BLACKBURN, ESQ.
Dutchess County Attorney
22 Market Street, 5th Floor
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

| RECORD OWNER | SCHEDULE A TOWN OF AMENIA | SWIS CODE |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| COHEN, CHRISTI | 132000-7064-19-655163-0000 | |
| SILO RIDGE E14 LLC, | 132000-7066-02-675605-0000 | |
| SILO LL5 LLC, | 132000-7066-02-790811-0000 | |
| DUNLOP, KATHARINE C | 132000-7067-00-565360-0000 | |
| VOORHEES, PAUL | 132000-7165-01-010790-0000 | |
| SIMMONS, LOUIS | 132000-7165-01-133757-0000 | |
| WHEELER, RUTH | 132000-7165-01-185812-0000 | |
| DAISEY MAY REALTY LLC, | 132000-7167-13-110457-0000 | |
| KCD REAL ESTATE LLC, | 132000-7167-13-180478-0000 | |
| | TOWN OF BEEKMAN | |
| RODULFO, ENLETTA | 132200-6558-08-977836-0000 | |
| BEREND, ERIC | 132200-6558-12-991574-0000 | |
| DOMINGUES, ADELINO | 132200-6559-02-863697-0000 | |
| DOMINGUES, LUCINDA | | |
| FERRARA, LAURA | 132200-6657-08-928858-0000 | |
| TALLEYRAND TRANSPORTATION LLC, | 132200-6658-00-308998-0000 | |
| GOODWIN, JAMES | 132200-6659-00-705311-0000 | |
| SMITH, DAVIOT | 132200-6756-00-964329-0000 | |
| SCHWARTZ, TANNER | 132200-6757-00-406130-0000 | |
| DIAMOND HORSE DEVELOPERS INC, | 132200-6758-00-590688-0000 | |
| GREEN HILL FARM HOLDINGS LLC, | 132200-6759-00-912540-0000 | |
| ROBERTS, ALAN J | 132200-6859-03-048444-0000 | |

Legal Notices

ROBERTS, DONNAM
GOLDMAN, CHARLES TRUSTEE

TOWN OF CLINTON

132200-6959-13-234277-0000
BOGART, MATTHEW 132400-6266-00-709288-0000
HARRIS, JOSHUA 132400-6469-00-475702-0000
HARRIS, JOSHUA 132400-6469-00-493913-0000
BORZELL, KATHLEEN M 132400-6469-09-206613-0000
BORZELL, THOMAS J
KHOO, YU-PIN 132400-6568-00-094956-0000

TOWN OF DOVER

GOLDMAN, CHARLES TRUSTEE 132600-6959-13-242279-0000
CHALET, RENE SILVAIN RM 132600-7059-00-293975-0000
NELLI, DELFA LT
SOLAR HEIGHTS 1 LLC,
DUTCHESS COUNTY,
TAX SALE IN-REM 2017,
SMITH, ETHEL 132600-7059-00-535425-0000
SMITH, JAMES G 132600-7062-06-432843-0000
ARSENAULT, CATHERINE 132600-7062-06-434801-0000
PRECIADO, JESUS 132600-7063-00-657215-0000
PRECIADO, MICHAEL LEE 132600-7063-16-904325-0000
MILLER, EVELYN 132600-7160-01-404699-0000
MILLER, NICHOLAS
ALBA-PEREZ, CLAUDIO J 132600-7260-00-224025-0000
CABREJA, BILCENIAB
KELLOGG, DAVID C 132600-7264-00-338050-0000

TOWN OF EAST FISHKILL

TC 727 5TH LLC,
FRANK, ERROL 132800-6354-00-784879-0000
GREEN, LATAVIA 132800-6356-01-413831-0000
DEANGELIS, NINA MICHELE 132800-6356-04-611283-0000
RUBINO, THERESA 132800-6357-02-675690-0000
MARRERO, CARLOS O JR 132800-6357-04-712222-0000
GAUDINIER, MICHELLE L 132800-6358-02-503519-0000
SEKUNNA LAKE BEACH CLUB LTD,
MC GRATH, KEVIN 132800-6358-04-528249-0000
MC GRATH, MARGARET 132800-6454-01-060725-0000
IRV BROADWAY LLC,
IRV BROADWAY LLC,
IRV BROADWAY LLC,
RT 376 LLC,
FAY, JARRED 132800-6456-04-752118-0000
GOODWIN, JAMES 132800-6457-01-267699-0000
DIPARDO, NICOLASA 132800-6457-01-276729-0000
RILEY-BROWN, LAURELL 132800-6457-01-287774-0000
RILEY-BROWN, ROBERT F 132800-6457-01-315746-0000
RILEY-BROWN, ROBERT F 132800-6458-02-943653-0000
RILEY-BROWN, LAURELL 132800-6458-04-850107-0000
RILEY-BROWN, ROBERT F 132800-6459-19-639109-0000
RILEY-BROWN, LAURELL 132800-6459-19-643102-0000
RILEY-BROWN, ROBERT F 132800-6459-19-644107-0000
RILEY-BROWN, ROBERT F 132800-6459-19-645115-0000
RILEY-BROWN, LAURELL 132800-6459-19-647110-0000
RILEY-BROWN, ROBERT F 132800-6459-19-649106-0000
RILEY-BROWN, ROBERT F 132800-6459-19-673067-0000
SJSIP SIX LLC,
KHAN, ANWAR H 132800-6459-19-677204-0000
RAHMAN, SHAMIMA
KHAN, ANWAR 132800-6459-19-681201-0000
RAHMAN, SHAMIMA
SJSIP SIX LLC, 132800-6459-19-683069-0000
GREEN HUT DEVELOPMENT LLC,
SURPLUSASSET SPECIALISTS INC,
CHHATRALA, SOHIN 132800-6555-00-718544-0000
CHIN, SO MAE 132800-6556-00-908257-0000
CONSAGA, MARCUS 132800-6556-00-980296-0000
CANNIZZARO, FRANK A 132800-6558-01-249785-0000
CANNIZZARO, FRANK A 132800-6655-02-871859-0000
GREEN, LATAVIA 132800-6655-02-872892-0000
ROBINSON, IAKEEM 132800-6656-00-050352-0000
PILLA, JOHN 132800-6756-00-031125-0000
PILLA, JOHN 132800-6756-00-045105-0000
PILLA, JOHN 132800-6756-00-099113-0000

TOWN OF FISHKILL

ALL SEASONS EXPERTS HEATING,
BEHUNIAK, PATRICIA 133001-6155-08-836897-0000
BEHUNIAK, RONALD 133001-6156-20-961098-0000
FARRELL, MARIANNA
ROUTE 9D LLC,
NYS MATTEAWAN ST HOSP,
HP SANN LLC, 133089-6055-01-276811-0000
HP SANN LLC, 133089-6055-02-602827-0001
HP SANN LLC, 133089-6055-16-758457-0000
MORRIS, PETER R 133089-6055-16-769473-0000
MUSEILLO, ROBERT 133089-6154-00-170325-0000
KOZAK, DANIELLE 133089-6155-00-764735-0000
GRAY, JOSEPH 133089-6155-01-481858-0000
GRAY, KIMBERLY 133089-6155-01-487580-0000
PAPPAS, ROBERT A JR 133089-6155-02-596998-0000
EDMONDSON, BRIAN 133089-6155-17-086196-0000
EDMONDSON, JOAN
DUNCAN, ROY 133089-6156-03-415223-0000
TRAVER, EDWARD J 133089-6156-04-905261-0000
BEHUNIAK, PATRICIA 133089-6156-04-957109-0000
BEHUNIAK, RONALD
FARRELL, MARIANNA
MAEDER, SARAH 133089-6156-17-237099-0000
COLEMAN, LIONEL E 133089-6156-18-330122-0000
COLEMAN, MICHELE B
BARTUSIAK, EDWARD JOSEPH 133089-6256-02-592706-0000
BLAUSTEIN, BRUCE 133089-6256-02-897765-0000
GREEN, LATAVIA 133089-6356-01-141615-0000
DEANGELIS, GAIL

TOWN OF HYDE PARK

SLOBODIN, DIANNE 133200-6064-04-911268-0000
MARTIN, LYNNE MARIE 133200-6064-08-801968-0000
MARTIN, WILLIAM BENNETT
GORDINEER, CHRISTINE 133200-6064-08-854925-0000
HILL, GREGORY

Legal continued on next page

| 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, TIMOTHY A | | |
| 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 WLT | 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 | | FICA, | | 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, ROSE A | | | TOWN OF RED HOOK | | |
| DIPPER, CAROL J | 133600-6474-00-742230-0000 | | BAUER, DIANE L | | 134801-6272-06-380893-0000 |
| DIPPER, JEFFREY A | | | 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, LEO M | 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 | | | | |
| LSIM REALTY LLC, | 133889-7273-00-197029-0000 | | GENTILE, CHELSEA | | TOWN OF RHINEBECK |
| SCAFIDI, FRANKA | 133889-7273-00-460873-0000 | | FINEST CONCERNS LLC, | | 135089-6270-00-162735-0000 |
| | TOWN OF PAWLING | | RUSSELL, EDWARD A | | 135089-6271-00-546626-0000 |
| MEISSNER, PAUL | 134001-7056-09-070731-0000 | | | | 135089-6371-00-423606-0000 |
| MTA, | 134001-7057-17-082121-0000 | | | | TOWN OF STANFORD |
| SLUK, LOUISE MAYER ESTATE | 134089-6856-00-761085-0000 | | O'HARA, JOHN B | | 135200-6669-00-005313-0000 |
| TEDESCO, PAULA | 134089-6856-13-164498-0000 | | HR VAN NEST LLC, | | 135200-6669-00-518145-0000 |
| HEINEMAN, ANDREW B | 134089-7056-02-541594-0000 | | FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL | | 135200-6670-00-525290-0000 |
| SIMMONS, LOUIS | 134089-7057-00-531965-0000 | | FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F | | |
| | TOWN OF PINE PLAINS | | FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL | | 135200-6670-00-575194-0000 |
| PULVER, ANTHONY GREGG TRUSTEE | 134200-6871-00-416833-0000 | | FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F | | |
| SLEVIN, EMIL | 134200-6872-00-098897-0000 | | FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL | | 135200-6670-00-609105-0000 |
| SLEVIN, MARY | | | FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F | | |
| SLEVIN, EMIL | 134200-6872-00-140889-0000 | | FRASCATI-ROBINSON, COREY NEIL | | 135200-6670-00-610219-0000 |
| SLEVIN, MARY ELIZABETH | | | FRASCATI-ROBINSON, SANDRO HOWELL F | | |
| SLEVIN, RENEE MARIA | | | JACKSON, KATIMA | | 135200-6869-15-588479-0000 |
| CROSBY, BRIANA | 134200-6872-18-427157-0000 | | SWEENEY, EDWARD P | | 135200-6969-00-023536-0000 |
| CROSBY, LYRICAL | | | | | TOWN OF UNION VALE |
| COBBLE POND FARM, | 134200-7072-00-772115-0000 | | D'ANGELO, CHRISTINE | | 135400-6660-00-590523-0000 |
| | TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY | | D'ANGELO, CHRISTOPHER | | |
| KBL PROPERTIES LLC, | 134400-6363-03-420035-0000 | | KELLY, FELICIA A | | 135400-6661-00-517125-0000 |
| KBL PROPERTIES LLC, | 134400-6363-03-447030-0000 | | KELLY, KEITH S | | |
| WINGED LION MANAGEMENT LLC, | 134400-6364-04-721413-0000 | | JACKSON, KATIMA | | 135400-6662-00-492661-0000 |
| SIMMONS, LOUIS | 134400-6365-02-799610-0000 | | MADARAS, CYNTHIAL | | 135400-6761-00-013240-0000 |
| 1777 ROUTE 44 LLC, | 134400-6463-01-282818-0000 | | MADARAS, ERNEST J JR | | |
| 65 67 69 PARKSVILLE LLC, | 134400-6463-01-449612-0000 | | GARCIA, GLADYS E | | 135400-6959-00-109930-0000 |
| 65-67-69 PARKSVILLE LLC, | 134400-6463-01-460610-0000 | | DUTCHESS COUNTY, | | 135400-6962-00-095617-0000 |
| PATTERSON, RONALD | 134400-6464-03-443044-0000 | | TAX SALE IN-REM 2018, | | |
| PATTERSON, RONALD | 134400-6464-03-447060-0000 | | | | TOWN OF WAPPINGER |
| HUDSON VALLEY CHILDREN & , | 134400-6465-02-995821-0000 | | MC CLUSKEY, CHARLES R | | 135601-6158-18-343127-0000 |
| PHILIPBAR, DAVID A | 134400-6564-01-157797-0000 | | MC CLUSKEY, MARY C | | |
| PHILIPBAR, RITAA | | | RELIANCE GLOBALCOM SERVICES, | | 135689-5569-14-787650-9999 |
| ZACHARCZUK, GEORGE | 134400-6564-01-229640-0000 | | KCDI INC, | | 135689-6057-04-933333-0000 |
| LIO, DOMINICK | 134400-6564-02-748535-0000 | | PORTEUS & SON BUILDIERS, | | 135689-6156-02-822808-0000 |
| LEA, TERENCE R | 134400-6565-03-122099-0000 | | CHEAP LANDS INC, | | 135689-6157-01-276805-0000 |
| | | | | | 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, MAYANN | 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 | |
| HAIJANI, 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, DALINDADIANA | 135889-6965-00-840867-0000 | |
| STEUBER, DENIS J | 135689-6257-01-109690-0000 | | SCORES, ROBERT M | 133400-6560-01-181887-0000 | |
| STEUBER, KIMBERLY M | | | | | |
| BECKFORD, ROCHELLE R | 135689-6258-02-901653-0000 | | | | |
| POUANI, LAZARE | 135689-6259-02-554893-0000 | | | | |

| Legal Notices | Legal Notices | Legal Notices | Legal Notices |
|---|---|--|--|
| REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-27-26 Freightliner OEM Replacement Parts for Dutchess County Public Transit Vehicles Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 24th 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 RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613. | York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-07-26 After-Hours Telephone Answering and Messaging Services Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 17th 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 RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613. | Replacement Service Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 19th 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 RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613. | This information which will be used to establish the assessments on the Tentative Assessment Roll of The Town of Pleasant Valley which will be filed on or before May 1st, 2026. To set up an appointment to review this information, please call the assessor at 845-635-1111 Ext. 208, Monday through Friday between the hours of 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. Dated: March 1, 2026 Garth J. Slocum, Assessor |
| REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-38-26 REBID Cummins Engine Repair and | REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-38-26 REBID Cummins Engine Repair and | PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING THE EXAMINATION OF ASSESSMENT INVENTORY AND VALUATION DATA (Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law) Notice is hereby given that Assessment Inventory and Valuation Data is available for Examination and Review. | 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. |

GOLDEN LIVING

LESSONS ON AGING WELL FROM A 193-YEAR-OLD TORTOISE

Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise who was born in 1832, is the world's oldest living land animal, going by the best available conservative estimates. Jonathan lives a leisurely life on the British Overseas Territories island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic. His caretakers say he's doing remarkably well for his age, although he does contend with age-related conditions like cataracts. When Jonathan hatched is unknown, but he was brought from the Seychelles to St. Helena in 1882 as a gift to the island's governor. At the time, he had already reached maturity, which for tortoises of his species is around age 50. Their typical lifespan is closer to 150.

What's his secret? He's not telling us directly, but there are plenty of signs he's living his best, and most extended life:

- **Good nutrition, and make it local.** Jonathan's diet consists largely of cabbage, carrots, and lettuce — and his personal favorites are the island's own bananas and guavas.
- **Resilience and adaptation.** A few years ago, caretakers noticed that Jonathan was eating a lot of grass, leaves and twigs, but only because he was having trouble seeing other suitable food sources. As a result, he was losing weight and growing weaker. Adjusting Jonathan's diet to his reduced eyesight has enable him to maintain a healthy weight.

We humans can likewise adjust our diets to improve our chances of successful aging. As clients of the OFA Home Delivered Meals and/or Friendship Center program, you receive monthly issues of OFA's Nutrition News, and Nutrition Services Coordinator Nimesh Bhargava gives regular presentations at Friendship Centers on the science behind good nutrition. Find out more at dutchessny.gov/ofanutrition.

- **Stay physically and socially active.** Jonathan lives with two slightly younger tortoises, Emma and Fred. Before their arrival, handlers say he was exhibiting signs of loneliness, like breaking out of his paddock and interrupting nearby croquet games. His veterinarian tells the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) that Jonathan enjoys leisurely strolls and time with visitors, especially when the sun is out, and still has a healthy libido. We won't presume to pry into Jonathan's social life beyond that.

A low-stress life

We can be more like Jonathan. "Slow down and smell the roses" is great all-purpose advice. Jonathan lives likewise, at tortoise speed. Caretaker Teeny Lucy of the local SPCA tells the CBC, "Tortoises, they don't move fast, and they contemplate everything. When I go up [to visit], it definitely reduces the anxiety that you might be feeling."

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.

OFA MOBILE OFFICE HOURS - MARCH

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

continued on page 20

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 9)

By David Kalvitis © 2005 Monkeying Around

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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 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
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902 Trucks
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Mary Reedy is hosting by-appointment OFA Mobile Office Hours around Dutchess County.

Appointments are 30 minutes long at each Mobile Office Hours event. Appointments can be made by calling (845) 486-2555 during business hours. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text. Here's the schedule:

Monday, March 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., South Amenia Friendship Center, 229 South Amenia Rd., Wassaic

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

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

Monday, March 23, Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center, 14 Abe's Way, Poughkeepsie

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

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

SCAM PREVENTION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (Tue 3/17)

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 at 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-at-hand scam prevention resources? Visit dutchessny.gov/ofaprintable for important strategies and contact information.

VOLUNTEER OFA EXERCISE INSTRUCTORS WANTED

We've been getting a lot of inquiries lately about exercise classes for older adults in Dutchess County, but have you ever thought about teaching an exercise class?

No experience is necessary. We provide all training. And our exercise classes are decidedly not a "go for the burn" type of experience.

To learn more about the classes, visit www.dutchessny.gov/seniorexercise.

OFA AT ALZHEIMER'S MINI-CONFERENCE IN MILLERTON (Wed 3/18)

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

Wednesday, March 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Millerton-NorthEast Library Annex (OFA Friendship Center), 28 Century Blvd., Millerton.

It's essential learning for older adults and caregivers of all ages. Sign up by calling OFA at (845) 486-2555 or

emailing ofa@dutchessny.gov.

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

GET CAUGHT UP ON VACCINATIONS (Tue 3/24)

If you've been meaning to get caught up on necessary vaccinations and are available on Tuesday, March 24th between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., OFA and Walgreens are offering a chance to get up-to-date for Dutchess County older

adults (60+) at the main OFA office at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie.

Available vaccines: COVID-19, RSV, Influenza, Tetanus, Shingles, and Pneumonia

For more information and to set up an appointment, call OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text message.

Have your Medicare/insurance card handy when you arrive for your appointment.

Auchincloss leads Mid-Hudson Library System 2026 Board of Trustees

The Mid-Hudson Library System has announced its Board of Trustees for 2026. Stuart Auchincloss, representing Ulster County (Woodstock) will lead the board as President.

Executive committee members include Vice President, Barbara Swanson representing Greene County (Haines Falls); Treasurer, Kevin Finnegan representing Putnam County (Brewster); Secretary, Jill Leinung representing Columbia County (Valatie); and Member-at-Large, Carla Taylor of Putnam County (Carmel).

With board trustees typically serving five-year terms, much of the board remains the same in 2026, with two new members joining: Dr. David Lavallee,

former board president of the Starr Library in Rhinebeck and a former trustee of the Croton Free Library and Mary DeBellis, who has resided in Dutchess County for nine years and has a librarian career spanning over 30 years.

The remainder of the Board Trustees includes Janet Schnitzer and Jenny Post of Columbia County, Mark Williams of Dutchess County, Charles Kutcher and Thomas Silvius of Greene County, Peter Carey of Putnam County and Leslie Gerber and Kenneth Goldberg of Ulster County.

Trustees of the Mid-Hudson Library System are elected by its sixty-six (66) member libraries at the Annual Membership Meeting held each fall.



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