HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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Village elections set March 18

Compiled By Kate Goldsmith

This year, village elections will take place on Wednesday, March 18 – instead of the normal third Tuesday in March – due to a New York State law that says elections can't be held on St. Patrick's Day. In the Northern Dutchess News readership area, elections will take place in the villages of Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Tivoli. The Village of Millbrook holds its elections at the same time as the General Election in November.

RED HOOK

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m. at Village Hall, 7467 South Broadway, Red Hook.

Three candidates are vying for two Trustee positions, both one-year terms (to fill vacated terms ending April 5, 2027). Candidates on the ballot include incumbent (appointee) Anthony Maccarini as well as Perry Allen and Craig Rothstein.

This newspaper contacted the candidates to request information about their goals, experience and more. Allen and Rothstein responded via email; portions of their statements are printed below.

Perry Allen

"Since moving to the Village ten years ago, I have been actively involved in various municipal and community projects," Allen stated. "I deeply care about this place, and believe I have experience and skills that could be of use. With the Village on the cusp of a few major developments, coupled with the national discord at large, I am called to put my hat in the ring."

Allen's relevant professional experience and projects include:

• Red Hook Village Library: grant writing and concept design for pollinator garden and wetland rehabilitation area;

• Village of Red Hook Public Spaces Committee: founded under his direction to develop park, art, and

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Whalen Real Estate in Millbrook: 100 years of trust and dedication

By Curtis Schmidt

How many family businesses can you name that have survived and thrived for over 100 years - particularly those that have involved no more than four to six individuals at any time during that period?

Say hello to George T. Whalen Real Estate in Millbrook, now in its 101st year.

A century ago in 1925, George T. Whalen Sr. opened the doors of George T. Whalen Real Estate on Franklin Avenue in the Village of Millbrook. The journey began with a simple promise: To provide exceptional service and deep local expertise. What started as a vision has grown into a four-generation legacy helping generations of families, friends, neighbors and newcomers find their homes in Millbrook and the surrounding communities. In 1955, George Whalen Jr. joined his father in the family business. In 1969, the brick building next door to Reardon Briggs was built and remains the home of the firm today.

George T. Whalen III joined the family business in 1986 and is currently owner and principal broker. He is involved with many local organizations and is also the third generation President of the Bank of Millbrook.

"The extraordinary milestone is a testament to the trust placed in us by thousands of clients. We are deeply grateful for that," said Whalen. "As we honor our history and the stories built within these 100 years, we remain dedicated to the future of real estate with the same integrity and passion George Sr. founded the company on."

He said the business has always involved "building relationships with passion, honesty, hard work, integrity, dedication, embracing change – and most of all – trust."

But he is quick to add, "Those can't be just words and you can't rely on the past for success – you have to earn trust every day. You have to develop your own reputation for service."

And in real estate, that means "dropping what you are doing and being available almost 24/7," he said. "Real estate is

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George T. Whalen III, left, is pictured with his wife, Susan, and their son, George Whalen IV. George T. Whalen Real Estate in Millbrook, now in its 101st year, began with a vision in 1925 and has grown into a four-generation legacy. *Courtesy photo*

Serino highlights key issues in State of County address

From County reports

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino presented her 2026 State of the County Address on March 3 to residents, County legislators and other elected leaders as well as community business and nonprofit partners in the Legislative Chambers in Poughkeepsie. Serino outlined many of her strategic priorities including affordable housing, childcare, EMS service, older adult fraud prevention and more, while emphasizing fiscal responsibility to be ready for unforeseen challenges and ensure County Government continues to provide the high-quality essential services that residents depend on.

"The state of Dutchess County is strong. We are working for our neighbors every day … modernizing government, strengthening essential services, and investing in people with a wide range of priorities from childcare to housing to EMS and more," said Serino. "We are acting with fiscal responsibility and leading with compassion, planning with purpose for the future but ready to meet the moment when the unexpected arises."

Among the key accomplishments and initiatives highlighted:

Housing Investment

• Over $14 million invested in the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund, with $12.3 million already committed to create or preserve 370 affordable homes, with several projects under construction or beginning construction this year.

• Launching a new Own-and-Rent Duplex Program, enabling residents to purchase or construct two-family homes, live in one unit and rent the other to build long-term financial stability and add to rental availability.

• Expanded home-repair support for low- and moderate-income residents through the Owner Occupied Property Rehabilitation Program, and through partnership with Rebuilding Together, funding for critical repairs, including roof replacements and boiler upgrades, to keep homes safe and prevent further strain on housing inventory.

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Hinchey announces March Mobile Office hours

KINGSTON, NY – New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey recently announced that her office will hold mobile office hours throughout March, providing residents across Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, and Ulster counties with one-on-one support from her constituent services team to help them access state programs and other essential services.At select office hours in March, Hinchey's team will partner with Congressman Josh Riley's office, the New York State Comptroller's Office, and NY Connects, offering expanded state and federal services, including support with Social Security, Medicaid, unclaimed funds, state retirement benefits, and guidance on long-term care services.

The March Mobile Office Hours schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 12, 1-3 p.m.
Hyde Park Library, 2 Main St., Hyde Park

Thursday, March 19, 1-4 p.m.
Germantown Library, 31 Palatine Park Road, Germantown
*In partnership with Congressman Josh Riley's Office

Tuesday, March 24, noon-3 p.m.
Highland Public Library, 14 Elting Place, Highland
*In partnership with NYS Comptroller's Office

Bridge to be replaced in Town of North East

The Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) has announced work will begin on or about Monday, March 16 to replace a bridge on Rudd Pond Road (CR-62) over Webatuck Creek, near Boston Corners Road (CR-63), in the Town of North East. Rudd Pond Road will be closed near the work zone, with a detour posted along Boston Corners Road and State Route 22.

The project will include replacing the existing structure with a new, wider bridge that includes a 5-foot shoulder on the south side due to the road's proximity to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, and a 2-foot shoulder on the north side. The span will also be raised about one foot to better accommodate the potential for future flooding as part of the County's ongoing Resilient Ways Forward infrastructure initiative. The project is anticipated to be complete by the end of this summer.

This section of Rudd Pond Road averages approximately 400 vehicles per day.

Motorists are advised to plan for additional time and to exercise extra caution near the construction site and on the detour, obey the posted speed limits, and traffic advisory signs and the directions from flaggers near the work zone to ensure the safety of workers and other motorists.

For more information, please contact the Dutchess County Department of Public Works' Engineering Division at (845) 486-2925.

Staatsburgh Mansion celebrates restoration of historic kitchen

Members of Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh cut the ribbon to celebrate the completion of the historic kitchen restoration at the Staatsburgh State Historic Site on Feb. 27. *Courtesy photo*

A ribbon-cutting was held on Friday, Feb. 27 by the Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh and the Staatsburgh State Historic Site to celebrate the completion of kitchen restoration project.

The basement kitchen and service areas of the Gilded Age mansion - once the country residence of Ruth and Ogden Mills - were the hub of activity for the creation of haute cuisine serving weekend parties for the elite of New York society. Three chefs and their staff labored to create culinary perfection for each meal served to the family's guests in a palatial, marbleclad dining hall, with meals of 8-10 courses.

However, in recent decades, the kitchen and surrounding rooms have been in great need of restoration, which has now been completed, thanks to funding from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, via grants administered by Parks and Trails New York, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The newly-completed work repaired the walls of the kitchen, the butler's scullery, and a hallway leading to the servants' dining hall, with replica tile, where the original tile had for many years been falling, making the rooms unsafe and unsuitable for interpretive use.

"The completed project includes retiling the walls and repainting the ceilings of these spaces, which were peeling; modern lighting and office hardware was removed, so that these spaces more closely reflect their historic appearance," said site manager, Pam Malcolm. "We are very grateful to The Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh for working with us to secure funding to complete this project, which will allow the site to include these very important spaces in our tours and interpretive programs."

Diane Topkis, president of the Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh said "The organization has partnered successfully with the site on many conservation and restoration projects focused on collections items, but the kitchen restoration was the first capital project we have collaborated on with the site in many years, and it was a very ambitious project for an all-volunteer organization. We felt strongly that the restoration of these important spaces needed to happen, so the site can make productive use of them."

Project funding of $300,000 was provided by Parks and Trails New York, as part of the 2023, Round 9 "Stewardship and Public Access Capacity" Program, and another $30,500 was awarded by a $30,500 New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant in 2021, through the Consolidated Funding Application process and administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh provided matching funds for both awards.

"The site is very excited to bring these rooms online with our various thematic tours. The repair of the walls and ceilings also allows us to start planning to reinstall surviving artifacts from the collections that were originally part of the kitchen suite," said Malcolm, The historic estate grounds surrounding the mansion, now Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills Memorial State Park, offer scenic walking paths as well as woodland trails. Staatsburgh State Historic Site is open for guided mansion tours by reservation; to attend a mansion tour, please make advance reservations on www.Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS .

Information provided by Staatsburgh State Historic Site

send us your news
cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Hinchey launches personal care supply drive to support Hudson Valley families

KINGSTON, NY – State Senator Michelle Hinchey has launched a personal care supply drive to help Hudson Valley families access everyday essentials. New, unopened personal care items will be accepted by the Senator's office through April 9 and distributed to families in need served by the Institute for Family Health.

Most needed items:
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss
- Menstrual products
- Deodorant
- Soap and body wash
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hand and body lotion
- Hair brushes
- Shaving cream and razors
- Socks (all sizes)
- Shower shoes

Drop-off location:
Senator Hinchey's Kingston Office:
721 Broadway, Suite 150
Kingston, NY 12401
Hours: Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Phone: (845) 331-3810

IMPACT
PR & Communications

KDD Marketing Earns Two Awards, Cementing Firm's Hospitality Expertise

See story, page 8

IMPACT
PR & Communications

Anderson Foundation for Autism sets 2026 grant-making guidelines

The executive leadership team and Board of Trustees of Anderson Foundation for Autism has announced that applications for its 2026 grant-making cycle will be available online from June 1-June 30. Among other qualifying criteria, those pursuing grants from the Foundation must have 501(c)3 status (preferably for at least 3 years) and demonstrate a commitment to furthering Anderson Center for Autism's mission of "optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism."

Grant recipients will be notified of award decisions on or before Dec. 31, following review by a subcommittee of Anderson Foundation for Autism's Board of Trustees (Anderson employees are excluded from the selection process).

Patrick Paul, CEO/Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism, said "We first established Anderson Foundation for Autism in an effort to build a 'rainy day fund' which could be used to help bridge the gap between financial needs and resources for Anderson Center programs. This proved to be helpful, for example, during the pandemic. But thanks to our generous donors, the Foundation has grown to a point where we can now pay it forward a bit too, which is why we decided to start accepting grant proposals from nonprofits who share a commitment to our cause. It is deeply rewarding to expand our impact beyond the work we do here at Anderson, and we are in awe of the many worthwhile projects that are brought to our attention through the grant applications that are submitted each year."

Eliza Bozenski, Chief Development Officer of Anderson Foundation for Autism, continued, "In the past, the Foundation has awarded grants to nonprofits such as Arcadia University, Autism Society Greater Hudson Region, BluePath Service Dogs, Bring On The Spectrum, Eastern Marshall County Ambulance, Flower Petals Adaptive Dance Studio, Rock Autism, and Project Ready, among others; they represent an inspiring group who all work tirelessly to enrich the lives of autistic and neurodivergent individuals. We learn so much from each proposal, and look forward to seeing what applicants are hoping to achieve in 2026."

Susan Brune, Vice Chair of Anderson Foundation for Autism's Board of award grants in the range of $500 to $5,000. All grant recipients will be required to provide outcome updates." Grant applications can be found and submitted online between June 1-June 30, 2026 at andersoncenterforautism.org/afagrants.

Ellie and Maeve, *Photo courtesy of BluePath Service Dogs (Anderson Foundation for Autism grant recipient)*

Whalen Real Estate in Millbrook: 100 years of trust and dedication

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unique. The schedule is unpredictable with long hours. You really have to have your head in the game and be truly engaged with the market."

And with an obvious wide array of clients, Whalen emphasized, "You have to be a good listener. Clients love to talk. So just listen and you'll learn what types of properties or homes to show them. If you don't listen, you won't be able to ask the right questions."

He said while Millbrook looks very similar to the way it did years ago, "the real estate market (Millbrook included) has changed dramatically over the years. Embracing change is the key to surviving and thriving. Whether it's technology and better ways of getting things done or all types of new ideas, you have to want to adapt."

For him, it's a philosophy of going above and beyond in all areas to gain and maintain the trust of clients.

"Trust is a very powerful word," said Whalen. "It means everything in a relationship. People rely on us for sound advice and they trust that we are doing the work to gain that trust."

Then he added, "And don't ever be afraid to answer a question by saying 'I'll need to do some homework on that.' It's never a problem to admit a mistake."

These are all characteristics that each member of the family passed down to others through the years.

Whalen said his grandfather "was quite an entrepreneur." He was a prominent local businessman, had a great knowledge of the community and built the real estate firm with an accompanying insurance business. Whalen's uncle, Dick Whalen, was also involved by managing the real estate office in the 1980s.

Whalen's father, George Jr., learned many of his skills from his father, and passed those on to George III.

"I grew up in the business and absorbed a lot as kid," he said. After earning his bachelors and masters degrees, Whalen said, "I had the great opportunity to step into the real estate business when I was just 26 years old."

His wife, Susan, has also been involved as an agent for many years, and he said, "Susie is my right arm."

And now, their son, George Whalen IV, is involved in the firm.

"He is developing his own style. He grew up in our household, listening to us talk about real estate all the time, just like I did when I was growing up with my parents," said Whalen. "He absorbed a lot of knowledge naturally and is a very good 'people person.' He's gaining a great understanding of the business."

Experienced agents Edward C. Hackett III and Therese Cox complete the current staff of five as George T. Whalen Real Estate remains true to its original form.

"It's a great team and we all know each other and our special skills very well," said Whalen.

In 1969, the brick building next door to Reardon Briggs in Millbrook was built and remains the home of George T. Whalen Real Estate today. Below: Agents Edward Hackett III and Therese Cox of George T. Whalen Real Estate. *Courtesy photos*

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Publisher
Albert Osten

General Manager
Curtis Schmidt
cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Editorial/Creative Director
Kate Goldsmith

Reporters
Kristine Coulter

Contributing Writers
Jim Donick
Morgan E. Maier

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

Advertising deadline: Friday, noon

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cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com
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creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com
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The Southern Dutchess News
84 East Main Street
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
845-297-3723

County to host rabies vaccine clinic for local pets on March 28

Online registration opens Wednesday, March 11

POUGHKEEPSIE – The Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) will partner with the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary (HVARS) to offer a free rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the HVARS clinic at 9 Barnes Drive in Poughkeepsie. The event is open to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets 3 months of age and older. Advance registration is required and will open on Wednesday, March 11, at hvars.org.

The clinic is free for Dutchess County residents and $15 per pet for non-residents. All dogs must be on a leash, and cats and domestic ferrets must be in carriers. Vaccinations will be good for three years with proof of prior vaccination. For those without proof, the vaccination will be good for one year. Microchipping will also be available at a cost of $45 per pet, and a one-year distemper vaccine for $25 per pet.

In New York State, rabies vaccinations are required for all cats, dogs, and domestic ferrets by the age of 4 months. Revaccination is then required on a regular schedule to keep the animal properly immunized against the rabies virus. Owners can be fined up to $200 if they fail to get their pets vaccinated and keep them up to date.

Residents who see an animal acting strangely are advised to contact their local police agency. If a person or a domestic pet is bitten or is in contact with any animal, please contact DCDOH at (845) 486-3404 Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or (845) 431-6465 on nights and weekends. Staff will investigate and advise the pet owner of any necessary steps to ensure the safety of their animal.

To learn more about rabies, visit dutchessny.gov/rabiess or contact DCDOH at ehs@dutchessny.gov.

'No Kings' rally set March 28 in Rhinebeck

Hudson Valley Strong–Indivisible is organizing a No Kings Rally and March on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Lions MiniPark located at South Parsonage Street and North Park Road in Rhinebeck.

The event, one of more than 2,000 planned nationwide, will include a community rally, speakers, signs, and a peaceful march to a high-traffic area.

According to organizers, all No Kings events adhere to a shared commitment to nonviolent protest and community safety. Organizers are trained in de-escalation, every local event has a safety lead, and organizers are coordinating closely with local partners to ensure powerful, nonviolent local actions.

For more information about the Rhinebeck event, visit https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/787686/.

For general information, visit www.NoKings.org.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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Serino highlights key issues in State of County address

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Strengthening EMS

• Ensuring an ambulance is available to respond to every call with the County's supplemental EMS coverage, which launched last year and responded to nearly 3,000 calls and transporting more than 800 patients in 2025.

• Awarded more than $330,000 through the Fly Car Grant Program to local fire departments, rescue squads and ambulance corps to purchase life-saving equipment that allow EMTs to begin patient care before an ambulance arrives.

• Strengthening EMS workforce development with support for youth mentorship programs and certification and degree programs at Dutchess BOCES and Dutchess Community College.

• Launching HeartSafe 2.0, a $100,000 initiative that provides automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and emergency training to local youth sports leagues and recreation programs.

Expanding Childcare Access

• Selected as one of three counties statewide by Gov. Kathy Hochul to receive over $20 million in proposed state funding for a pilot program expanding affordable childcare for infants and toddlers.

• Enhancing childcare workforce development through DAY ONE Early Learning Community and continued partnerships with the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam and the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum to support in-home childcare providers.

Government Efficiency

• Advancing modernization efforts across County government through enhanced technology systems: Lean Six Sigma training for staff across multiple departments and streamlined interdepartmental operations to improve service delivery.

• Establishing an AI Committee to ensure new technologies are used responsibly, securely, and transparently.

• Partnering with Marist University to again host the Hudson Valley Artificial Intelligence Summit on April 9, bringing together leaders to discuss how AI can help employees work smarter and improve community services.

Addressing Homelessness

• Utilizing the New York State $13 million grant to replace the aging, temporary emergency housing shelter ("PODS") with a permanent Housing Support Center at 26 Oakley Street in Poughkeepsie to expand the model of comprehensive case management, mental health support, and substance use services that has helped nearly 80 people move toward stability, independence, and permanent housing in the last 16 months.

• Partnering with local municipalities who want to establish homeless beds in their community through the implementation of a $200,00 grant that the Legislature added to the 2026 budget.

Retaining, Supporting County Workforce

• Nearing completion of a multi-year contract with the County's largest employee union, the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), that includes fair cost-of-living increases to all CSEA employees, with the largest percentage increases going to those who earn the least.

• Utilizing tools to recruit and retain employees including New York State's Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide (HELPS) program and targeted outreach for opportunities such as the CDL training program in Public Works.

Older Adults, Veterans

• Protecting older adults with the launch of an Elder Justice Task Force, in partnership with the Dutchess County Sheriff's and District Attorney's Office, that will expand education, strengthen investigations into suspected fraud, and ensure that those who target seniors are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

• Continued expansion of the "Friendly Calls" program to reduce the isolation that often makes older adults vulnerable to fraud.

• Providing greater service accessibility for seniors and veterans through mobile outreach through the Office for Aging's Ambassador and the Office of Veterans Affairs' "Operation: Mobile Outreach" programs, connecting with seniors and veterans in their local communities for direct one-and-one assistance.

Full text and video of County Executive Serino's 2026 State of the County Address is available on Dutchess County's website, dutchessny.gov/2026SOTC.

Village elections set March 18

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Perry Allen. *Courtesy photo*

Craig Rothstein. *Courtesy photo*

Anthony Maccarini. *Photo from Village of Red Hook website*

community spaces;

• The Lyceum: spearheaded and designed a new park for the City of Phoenix, a monumental project that merged private, corporate, and public interests;

• Sustainable Landscape Design: certified by Cornell University to work with municipalities to develop green infrastructure;

• Film Program Director at the Phoenix Art Museum: highly collaborative, public facing, community engagement, and team leadership responsibilities;

• High School Educator: over 5 years experience in both general and exceptional classrooms;

• Death Doula: serving his community at the end of life, certifications for this included trainings in active listening to generate plans to meet someone's needs.

Allen's vision for the Village includes:

• Improved vehicular and pedestrian flow through the village: ensure safety for cyclists, young families, students, the elderly, and disabled;

• Supporting healthy growth and development: thinking outside the box to create diverse, accessible, and interconnected housing options that enhance the natural beauty and character of the village;

• Managing a functioning sewer system: facilitating public conversation about Phase 2, especially cost increases and environmental concerns;

• Securing water supply for the future: "Infrastructure must be built to protect and diversify our access to clean water for the Village and the Town," he said.

• Growing community spaces, including Abrahams Park;

• Actively engaging the public in conversation and awareness campaigns, "developing new means of communication that do not put the responsibility on each individual to access the website in order to stay in the loop."

Allen said, "I have learned so much over the past few weeks. Meeting with neighbors, representatives, business owners, and other community members - it has been an inspiring and invigorating process."

This outreach has highlighted residents' concerns about sewer, traffic, overall affordability, water management, the need for better communication between the board and the public, the need to update the comprehensive plan, and more.

"I cannot say that I have all the answers, but I want to be a part of the solution," said Allen.

Craig Rothstein

"I moved [to the Village] with my wife-to-be and stepdaughter in June, 2010," said Rothstein. "I have worked professionally as a journalist, an advertising copywriter, and an educator, as well as an academic."

Rothstein has a doctorate in a social science field called Science and Technology Studies, which focuses on how the scientific production of knowledge and technologies is dependent upon social context, and how it produces social forms.

"For example, the ways in which the Covid virus was perceived by the public and the reaction of the public to policy efforts to quell the pandemic were all part of a particular social milieu that led to public and political perspectives on vaccines and the responsibility of individuals and institutions towards community health," he explained. "Another example would be cell phones and the mutual effects on how social media has adapted to user preferences, and how social media has impacted our children. I have done a great deal of research on the public policy surrounding psychoactive drugs and medicines, court decisions on drug control, and the effects of psychedelics on the field of neuroscience."

Rothstein noted this experience matters because "My policy and Supreme Court decision research has given me a broad and specific view of how public policy is developed, how it impacts society, and how it is shaped by citizen action. This is directly relevant to the issue of the Red Hook Wastewater Treatment Plant, which desperately needs improved public policy to produce change in its management and expansion.

"[The] same can be said for the affordable housing and sewer projects, both of which have deeply mutual relationships with the way the Red Hook community envisions its identity, and its desired future."

Rothstein was inspired to run for Village Trustee for other issues, including the "need to repair the relationship between the village government and all our residents, regardless of politics. At the end of the day, there is more that binds us as a community than separates us, and the local government should reflect that." He said there is a "perception among some residents that the village treats businesses differently depending on the political and social perspectives of owners."

He'd also like to see "local policy reflect a more pro-business ideology. In my own experience as husband to a business owner here, I would like to see an update to our signage ordinance, which would help the visibility of our businesses while respecting the aesthetic history of the village. I would also like to see more efforts towards ensuring post-snow cleanup of local sidewalks, and improvement of traffic issues on major roads and on small residential streets."

Rothstein also wants generally "to improve communication from the board to the public and vice versa. We need more transparency on the board and vis a vis how it operates and makes decisions. We absolutely must resolve the Wastewater Treatment Plant problems by adopting effective and evidence-supported remediation. And I would like to see us implement both the affordable housing project in the north part of the village, and the extension of the sewer, in ways that both solve the issues of affordable housing and business needs and maintain the respect for the cultural and aesthetic qualities of the village we all love so much."

Anthony 'Tony' Maccarini

Red Hook Mayor Karen Smythe appointed Maccarini to the Village Board in August 2025 to replace Trustee Kym Bradley-Rickard, who resigned in May of that year. The appointment was effective through this year's election.

In her announcement dated Aug. 6, 2025, Smythe noted, "Tony is a lawyer in private practice focused on matrimonial and family law. He has significant experience in governmental law. He was the County Attorney for Putnam County and the Putnam County Legislature. He was Deputy Counsel to the NY State Assembly Speaker, as well. He continues his private practice [in Carmel, Putnam County] and serves as a Law Guardian for children. Tony lives on Graves St., is a member of the Rotary, a successful wrestling coach, and a voracious reader."

Maccarini didn't respond to an email request to participate in this roundup.

RHINEBECK

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m. upstairs at the Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market St., Rhinebeck. The Village Hall is handicapped accessible and a lift is available.

There are two Trustee positions open this year. Incumbent Eleanor Pupko and Rhinebeck native Jennifer Neufeld are on the ballot. Both candidates are Democrats.

The following information appears on the Rhinebeck Democrats website, https://www.rhinebeckdemocrats.org/2026-village.

Eleanor Pupko

Eleanor Pupko has been a resident in the Village of Rhinebeck for 25 years and is completing her first term on the Village Board. She is present in the community as a renter, birder, bocce player, book club member, Rhinebeck at Home member and hiker. After successfully operating a family dairy farm with her brother for 20 years, she became a recognized high school mathematics teacher.

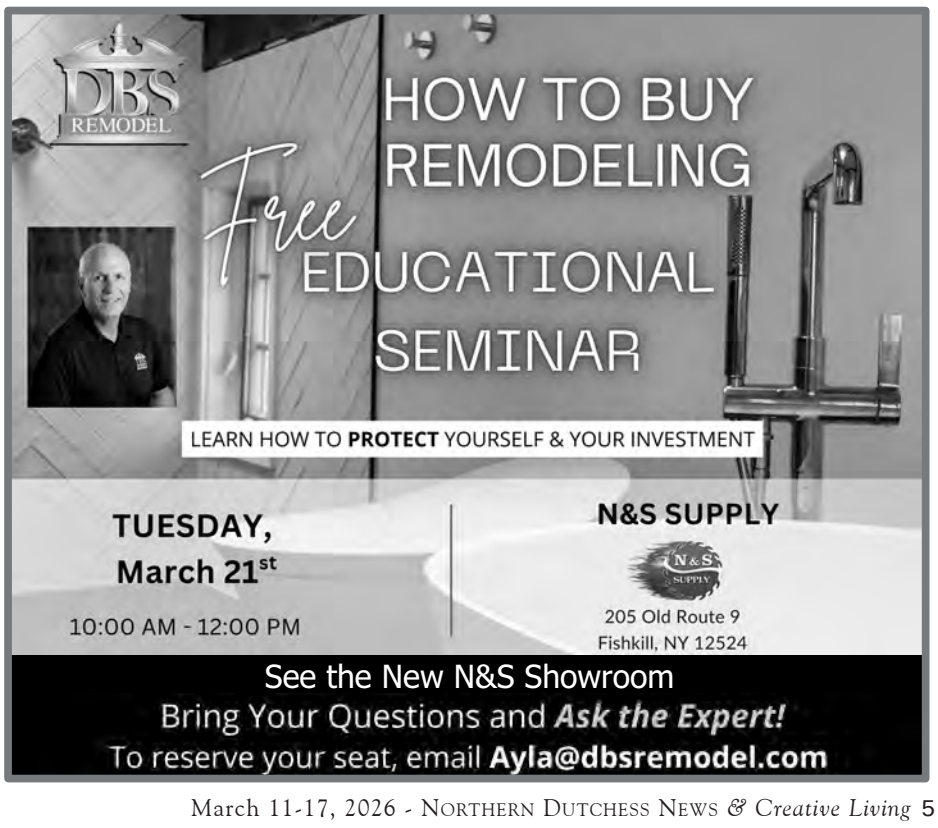
[Pupko] served on the Main Committee and two Subcommittees that developed the award-winning Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan. In her first term on the Board, she established herself as an independent Trustee, prioritizing principles over politics. [Pupko] has been active on many fronts such as championing renter protections, reporting errors in vendor contracts, uncovering a substantial billing error, serving as liaison to the newly formed Parks Committee, and promoting Town and Village cooperation. She has advocated for good practices such as publishing policies and procedures, and for clearly written criteria to assure that employees are treated equitably.

[Pupko] is running for re-election to help maintain [the village's] history, charm, and sense of community. Some of her priorities include developing a Master Plan for each of [the village's] parks, improving the Lions Mini Park playground, controlling the highly invasive tree of heaven, supporting the work of the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee, improving pedestrian and

continued on page 7

Eleanor Pupko. *Photo from Rhinebeck Democrats website*

Jennifer Neufeld. *Photo from Rhinebeck Democrats website*



Community Calendar

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.

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 informations.

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.

'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. Patrick's Day Dinner set March 14 at Copake Grange

There will be a St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday, March 14, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Copake Grange, 635 Empire Rd., Copake. The menu will feature the traditional corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, plus soup and salad bar, Irish soda bread and dessert. Reserve your seat, $15 each. Please RSVP at: copakegrange.org/stpatricksdinner. There will be plenty of vegetarian choices.

Dirty Gaia to present Growers' Roundtable March 15 at Morton Library

Dirty Gaia will present the 2026 Growers' Roundtable: Feed the Earth So the Earth May Feed You, on Sunday, March 15, from 2 to 4 p.m., at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff.

In the natural world, there is no such thing as waste. A healthy ecosystem operates as a "closed loop" where the byproducts of one organism become essential nutrients for another. How can we bring this circular approach to our gardens and farms, and move away from "throughput" systems that create garbage?

Join local experts to dive into the wild world of composting, nutrient cycling, and regenerative agriculture. They will each present a different aspect of a "circular economy." A Q&A will follow.

This event is free and open to all, but a donation of $1-$25 would be appreciated. Registration is requested. Call (845) 876-2903 or go to the calendar at https://morton.rhinecliff.lib.ny.us/.

'Garden Matters' talk set March 14

The Millbrook Garden Club in partnership with Stonewood Farm and the Friends of the Millbrook Library presents "Garden Matters," a series of talks, walks and workshops focused on native plants and best practices for eco-friendly gardening. The next event, "Grocery to Garden with Odd Duck Farm," will be held Saturday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to noon. Jessica Williams of Odd Duck Farm will share how to grow flowers from carrot tops, microgreens from soup mix, tomatoes and potatoes for your garden from the produce aisle. Save money and learn how you can enjoy fresh herbs on your windowsill, grow your own cat grass, garlic, and ginger all from your local grocery store.

All "Garden Matters" programs are free and open to the public and take place at the Millbrook Library (3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook). For more information, visit millbrooklibrary.org.

St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie ets 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 at161 Mansion St., Poughkeepsie.

Red Hook VFW to host St. Patrick's Day Dinner

VFW Post 7765 will host its St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Sunday, March 15, from 3 to 7 p.m., in the VFW Hall, 30 Elizabeth Street, Red Hook. The cost is $28 for adults, $25 for seniors and veterans, $10 for kids, and free for kids younger than 5. Come enjoy step dancers and bagpipes plus delicious food. Pay at the door or get advance tickets at The Canteen, or call the Post (845) 758-6212.

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

Garden volunteer information meetings set March 17, April 22

Learn about the many ways to be involved in the gardens at The Homes of Franklin and Eleanor Rosevelt, the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield and the Vanderbilt formal gardens. Volunteer information meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 17 or Wednesday, April 22, at 10 a.m., at the Wallace Visitor Center, Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, Hyde Park. No experience is needed, the schedule is flexible and there are many fun options for getting involved.

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.

Author Event March 19 in Saugerties

On Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m., at the Inquiring Mind Bookstore & Cafe, 200 Main St. Saugerties, there will be an interview and book signing for "Selling Israel" by Harriet Malinowitz, local American scholar specializing in women's, gender, sexuality and Palestinian studies. Free admission and community discussion. Cosponsored by: Middle East Crisis Response mideastcrisis.org, Veterans For Peace, and Women In Black - New Paltz. Contact: mecr@mideastcrisis.org or 845 876-7906

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 Donnelley 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 S20 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.

Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe set March 21

The next Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe will take place on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the old Town Hall, 1554 Main Street. If it is broken don't toss it have our fixers make it new again and while you wait grab a treat.

Tavern Night set March 27 at Elmendorph Inn

Historic Red Hook will present Tavern Night on Friday, March 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Elmendorph Inn, 7562 North Broadway, Red Hook. The event is an evening of tavern-style merriment with food, tavern games, local live music, and beer—good company and old-fashioned fun. Reservations are required; visit www.historicredhook.org for more information.

The Reformed Church presents the Living Last Supper

DaVinci's painting comes to life on Holy Thursday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the Reformed Church, 70 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie. Come and join us as the Apostles wrestle with Christ's fate and their lingering questions of the Messiah's purpose. Free will offering. For more information, please e-mail us at: info@poughkeepsiereformedchurch.com or visit www.poughkeepsiereformedchurch.com; or call The Reformed Church at (845) 452-8110.

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.

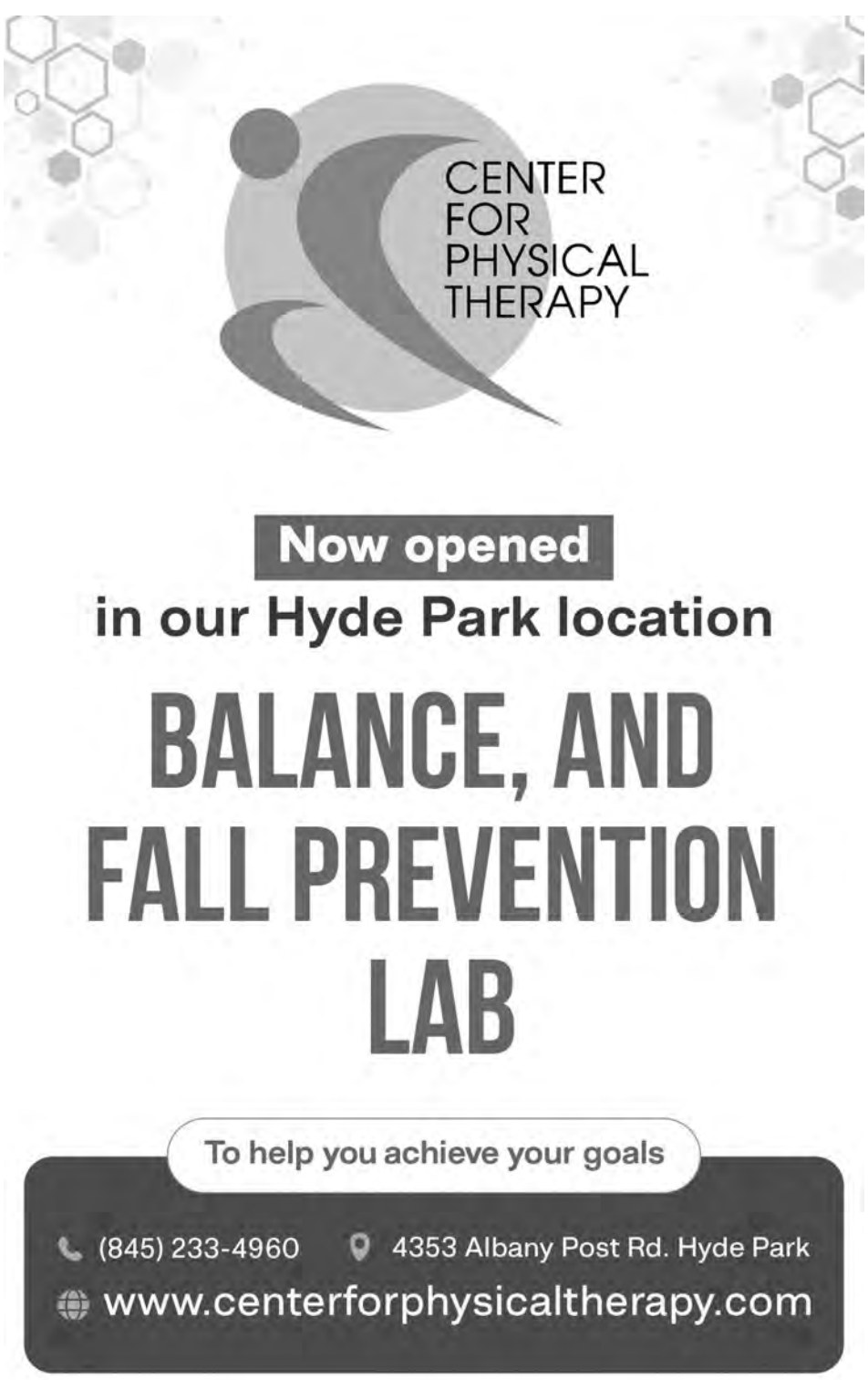
Pancake Breakfast in Rhinecliff set April 12

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad will host a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 12, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. 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.

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



Village elections set March 18

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bike safety, and improving the traffic flow and parking in the Village Center.

Jennifer Neufeld

Jennifer Neufeld grew up in Rhinebeck Village, where she first learned what community really means: showing up for one another, making decisions that matter, and living with the consequences of how a place is governed. She and her husband, Jamyang, chose to raise their family here so their children could grow up with that same sense of connection and belonging.

[Neufeld] spent much of her career working in complex, high-pressure environments where coordination and trust were hard to come by. In the 1990s, she built a strategic communications firm in Russia that grew from 15 people to more than 1,800 across 86 cities and 11 time zones. Later, working with USAID in Nepal, she coordinated communications among international organizations and the UN during the drafting of a new constitution in a post-conflict country. In each role, her work focused on aligning people with very different perspectives around shared goals before conflict took over.

Today, [Neufeld] applies that same approach in her family's Rhinebeck-based business, which is built around ethical sourcing, fair-trade partnerships, and environmentally responsible production. As the company works toward B Corp certification, sustainability is treated not as marketing, but as operations- measured, integrated, and communicated transparently.

[Neufeld] is running for Village Board because Rhinebeck has already done much of the hard planning work. The challenge now is implementation: making sure good plans guide real decisions in consistent, connected ways. She believes local government works best when communication is clear, process is fair, and residents feel heard.

[Neufeld] brings an independent voice, a deep love for Rhinebeck, and a practical, resident-focused approach to governance, grounded in the belief that strong communities are built through thoughtful leadership, collaboration, and follow-through.

TIVOLI

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m. at the Tivoli Firehouse, 2 Tivoli Commons.

There are two Trustee seats open. Incumbents Sarah Imboden and Emily Mangieri are running unopposed for re-election. This newspaper contacted both candidates to give them the opportunity to let voters know pertinent information, such as how long each has been a Trustee, major accomplishments in the current term, and top goals for the new term.

Imboden submitted a statement via email, portions of which are included below.

"I'm running ... for my first full two-year term. I was appointed to fill the second year of a two-year term when Emily Majer won election as Mayor in 2025," she said. "In the last year, I have enjoyed contributing to the work of the Board by regularly attending meetings, and helping to guide our process as we wrestled with the decision to go from providing our own trash/recycling service to contracting with the Village of Red Hook. This involved fact-finding, discussions with the board, two public forums, and public outreach before we came to a win-win solution that benefits both villages."

Since fall 2025, Imboden has served as Tivoli's liaison to the Town Comprehensive Plan process and helped conduct public outreach as part of that effort. She also worked with Deputy Mayor Bill Shilling and a local volunteer on consideration of a NY Forward grant (which the Board decided to table for the future) and I has supported the Village Clerk and Treasurer in various grant projects, related to the Tivoli Fire Department and the village's records management systems.

"Since before joining the Board of Trustees, I have helped organize Tivoli Street Painting Day (our popular annual arts festival) and continued to provide organizing support for that event this year," Imboden said.

"Being a Trustee has been one of the great honors of my public service experience so far," she added. "The best thing about serving in local government is that the impact of your service can be directly seen all around your municipality; and there are many opportunities for clear communication and feedback between residents and Trustees. That is even more so the case in a small village like Tivoli."

If elected, Imboden looks forward to working on the following:

• continue to improve Tivoli's communications (in partnership with the Mayor and the rest of the board) and the flow of feedback and information between the community and the board/village government. "This includes our proud tradition of community forums on issues that warrant further dialog and discussion within the community (and an opportunity for Village Trustees to practice active listening)";

• finish Tivoli's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). "We received a new grant from NYS and will continue this work and hope to finish our plan this year," she said;

• continue representing Tivoli with the Town's Comprehensive Plan Committee and build more community engagement with the plan as it is drafted;

• continue supporting expansion of Tivoli's firehouse and responsible stewardship of village resources to cut costs where needed, while not sacrificing services that residents depend on; this includes finding new sources of revenue, including grants;

• work with the Board and Mayor and volunteers to put Tivoli in the strongest position to apply for community development grants (like NY Forward), which includes public outreach and careful consideration of the vision for this community in the next 5-10 (and more) years;

• continue supporting the community events, including Yard Sale Day, Community Day, Tivoli Street Painting Day, and Winterfest.

"And of course, other duties and discussions as they arise!" she stated.

Background: Imboden started her public service in the Town of Red Hook, volunteering with the Conservation Advisory Council starting in 2011.

"At that time (and still today) it was one of the most active committees of the

Sarah Imboden. *Courtesy photo*

Town," she stated. "I ran for Town Board in 2015 and served a 4-year term until 2019. During that time, I served on the Intermunicipal Task Force (a committee that came out of Centers and Greenspaces focused on zoning review) and I also created and chaired the Town's Communications Committee, which I continued to serve on until 2022 and as part of that effort revamped the entire website to provide better service to the community. While on the board, I also led (with many other volunteers) the effort to upgrade and rebuild Red Hook Rec Park playground.

"In 2021, after moving to Tivoli, then-Mayor Joel Griffith asked me to chair the village's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Committee, and we were able to draft a little more than half of our LWRP before our grant funds ran out. I have also served on the Democratic Committee since 2018 which has brought me into contact with public servants from across the county and state. It has been my joy to bring all of this experience to Village Board service as a Trustee. Professionally, I am a grants and project manager, currently with the Research Foundation for SUNY, and previously with Bard College. I have worked in this field since 2018 and have a wide range of experience, including managing municipal and higher education-related grants and projects."

SEND US YOUR NEWS

cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Red Hook man arrested after investigation into fraudulent school residency

TROOP K NEWS RELEASE – Following an extensive investigation, the New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) at Rhinebeck announced the arrest of Michael Cola, 48, of Milan for Grand Larceny 2nd, a class C felony, and Falsifying Business Records 1st, a class E felony.

In December 2024, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation at Rhinebeck was notified of alleged falsifying business records that occurred in the Town of Red Hook.

The investigation determined that Cola provided documentation falsely indicating that he resided in the Town of Red Hook for the sole purpose of allowing his children to attend the Red Hook Central School District. Further investigation determined the children reside within the Pine Plains Central School District and should have been enrolled there. The Red Hook Central School District reported a total financial loss of $59,327.30.

Cola was arrested on March 5, 2026, and released on an appearance ticket returnable to the Town of Red Hook Court on March 28, 2026, at 4 p.m.

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MEMBER FDIC

Children's Book Festival to feature over 100 authors and illustrators

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

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 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.

"It connects our Poughkeepsie kids with the creators behind their favorite stories through personal author meetings and it ignites a passion for reading," said John Turro, Head of Youth Services for the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD).

The book festival, organized by 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.

"My favorite thing about Book Fest is meeting young readers who share my enthusiasm for books and animals, my two passions," said Nancy Furstinger, author of "Catskill Creatures." "Readers chat about their pets and which books they can't wait to read to them. I only wish I had that opportunity when I first learned to read!"

And excitement about reading is what the festival is all about. Children and parents will be surrounded by different genres and types of books, offering exposure to new authors and series. Being surrounded by so many different types of genres and books can help stories come alive for children.

"When communities and libraries work together to promote literacy, it's a win for all involved," said Nancy Viau, author of "Hanging Out with Gram." "From the smiling young faces that light up upon meeting an author or spying a favorite book, to the fun activities that surround the festival, it's a delightful, unforgettable day."

The interaction between reader and writer or illustrator is rewarding for both.

"I feel that the festival is important because it offers an opportunity to the public, especially the readers, to meet their favorite authors and illustrators and get to ask questions about their books," said Daniel Mahoney, author of "My Cat is a Secret Agent." "This kind of connection is so valuable and necessary!"

Some of your favorite book characters will be there, such as Biscuit, Paddington, Bad Kitty, and Red Crayon.

"I love how the Poughkeepsie Book Festival makes books come alive for children in so many ways," said Megan Litwin, author of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Winter Night." "I was honestly over the moon myself to get a photo with Elephant and Piggie last year! The whole day buzzes with joy."

In addition, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), will be helping to put on the festival.

Special thanks to the Friends of PPLD for sponsoring free Book Vouchers, which will be available to visitors at the Book Festival aged 17 or younger. Each child may receive one voucher, which is valued at $15. Some restrictions apply.

News release submitted by Poughkeepsie Public Library District

More than 100 authors and illustrators will be on hand to entertain and educate children of all ages at the Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival on Saturday, March 28, at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie. *Courtesy photo*

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

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KDD Marketing earns two awards, cementing its hospitality expertise

The staff at KDD Marketing is celebrating multiple honors at the 23rd annual Service Industry Advertising Awards. *Courtesy photo*

Continuing its streak of local and industry-level accolades, KDD Marketing recently earned two wins from the 23rd annual Service Industry Advertising Awards (SIA Awards).

Acknowledged for its work with The Emerson, a Catskills-based resort and spa, the team ranked first in the website category and third for its integrated marketing campaign. The SIA Awards build on the agency's recent industry recognition for its work with The Emerson, which also earned honors from the Davey Awards and the American Graphic Design Awards in 2025. Locally, KDD Marketing was named the 2025 Small Business of the Year by the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"Receiving multiple awards for our work with The Emerson is reflective of our team's deep and nuanced understanding of what makes a successful marketing campaign in the hospitality and tourism industries," said Katy Dwyer, founder and creative director of KDD Marketing. "We've worked hard to establish a specialty within this area, amongst others, and we're incredibly grateful to see our efforts recognized by fellow professionals in the industry."

The SIA Awards is the only program to recognize the achievements of advertising and marketing professionals within the service industry. Submissions are reviewed by a panel of industry specialists who evaluate creativity, execution, impact, innovation and more. With 48 award categories, the organization enables creatives to benchmark their work against other industry leaders.

"We're honored to see this work recognized with two SIA Awards," said Naomi Umhey, CEO of The Emerson. "We're grateful to KDD for their collaborative approach and for helping us tell The Emerson's story with clarity and purpose."

To learn more about KDD Marketing and its team, visit www.teamkdd.com or follow along on Facebook (@KDDMarketing) and Instagram (@kddmarketing).

Registration set March 17, 19 for Survival, Eaglet & Adventures

Featuring hands-on activities such as hiking, survival skills, tracking, Nerf tag, exploring nature and building group problem-solving skills, Dutchess County Parks' Adventure, Survival and Eaglet Adventures summer programs help connect youth ages 6-17 to nature. These popular programs are offered at Bowdoin Park in the Town of Poughkeepsie and Wilcox Memorial Park in the Town of Milan.

To help make the registration process more efficient, there will be two separate opening days for online registration at DutchessNY.gov/ParksEducation: 9 a.m. March 17 for Adventure Programs and 9 a.m. March 19 - Survival and Eaglet Programs

The Adventure and Survival programs are held Monday-Thursday, from 9:30am to 4pm, with early drop-off and late-pick up options available. Each session costs $200 per student, and due to the popularity of the programs, there is a limit of one program session per child.

Eaglet Adventures will be offered Monday-Thursday, August 3-6 from 10am-2pm at Bowdoin Park. Cost is $150 per student. Session is limited to 12 children.

Adventure Programs (Registration opens Tuesday, March 17)

- Adventure (ages 9-11): July 6-9 or July 20-23 at Bowdoin Park
- Adventure (ages 12-14): July 13-16 or August 3-6 at Bowdoin Park
- Living Adventure (ages 15-17): August 10-13 at Bowdoin Park

Adventure Program participants will spend the first part of the week working on group tactics, leadership and problem-solving skills in preparation for two days of gameplay, using foam weapons to battle monsters and bandits, solve puzzles and explore the woods to accomplish a quest that changes every summer. Living Adventure combines gameplay, survival skills and nature study as participants spend the four days of camp live-action role-playing a unique storyline, using their knowledge to solve mysteries, purify water, build shelters and maybe even save the day!

Survival Programs (Registration opens Thursday, March 19)

- Survival (ages 9-11): July 6-9 or July 20-23 at Bowdoin Park
- Survival Intensive (ages 12-15): July 13-16 at Bowdoin Park
- Complete Survival (ages 12-15): July 27-July 31 at Wilcox Park. This program requires previous participation in Survival Intensive and ends with an optional overnight stay.

Survival Program combines nature study and survival skills. Participants will explore forest habitats, hike and observe native wildlife. This summer will focus on shelter construction, camouflage, team building and other survival skills. Survival Intensive builds on that learning, blending survival techniques with an understanding of how prehistoric people lived in harmony with the land. Complete Survival ties together all the survival techniques learned and puts them to the test in a mock-survival situation, including an optional overnight stay.

Eaglet Adventures program (Registration opens Thursday, March 19)

- Eaglet Adventures (ages 6-8): August 3-6 at Bowdoin Park

This program gives children a chance to become better explorers and scientists. Participants will develop skills to identify animal tracks, discover pond life and begin to see the interconnection that keeps the natural world in balance. Program includes games, hands-on learning, crafts and adventure.

Other naturalist programming, including group weekday Archery, Junior Survival, Scout Programs and School Field Trips, are available by appointment and reservations can be made by calling the Parks office at (845) 298-4602.

For registration and programming information, visit DutchessNY.gov/Parks.

4-H CONNECTION

Top Dogs activities include training, breed education and variety of projects

Top Dogs 4-H club takes being a "dog person" to another level. Dutchess County's only canine 4-H club is Top Dogs, which is located in the Amenia-Wassaic area. Kids ages 10 and older can join the club and learn about canine care, training and handling.

Cathie Morton and Ann Sartori have served as volunteer co-leaders for Top Dogs and their goal is to guide the members of the club through their canine training and 4-H learning. Each month, the club holds two meetings: one includes members and their dogs working with a trainer, while the other focuses on a project or special event.

Leadership opportunities are also extended to students in the club.

Throughout the year, students participate in a variety of activities, including dog training, breed education, training tips, beaded projects, painting and scrap-booking. They also give back to others through community service, including a canine walk-a-thon, making handmade holiday cards for area nursing home residents during the holidays and volunteering at the "Fur the Love of Dogs" fundraiser benefitting Upstate Pups of NY and Bleu's K9 Rescue.

Morton said she was five years old when she joined 4-H, and now her daughter has joined 4-H as well. Morton started Top Dogs because two other canine groups at the time were full, and she wanted to get involved with canines within 4-H.

"Having been involved with 4-H now for almost 45 years, I can look back on the variety of skills I learned throughout my time as both a member myself and as a leader now," Morton said. "4-H has introduced me to many people and resulted in long-lasting friendships, as well as a sense of belonging to a larger community."

After a full year of hard work, the students in Top Dogs attend a culminating event at the Dutchess County Fair where they can demonstrate what they and their dogs have learned in the performance areas of agility, obedience, rally, and grooming/handling/showmanship. Morton said students can also take a costume class where they can create a themed costume for themselves and their dogs.

"I encourage people to join the 4-H community — it builds confidence with public speaking and community engagement," Morton said. "There is so much to learn and so many opportunities available no matter your interest."

Top Dogs members are shown at the Dutchess County Fair, where they demonstrate what they and their dogs have learned in the performance areas of agility, obedience, rally, and grooming/handling/showmanship. Courtesy photo

Creative Living

celebrating all good things

County Players' Readers Theatre Mini-Festival to run March 13-15

County Players will present Season 68 CP2 Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3 from March 13 - 15 at County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main, Wappingers Falls.

Reading #1- "Dear Jack, Dear Louise" by Ken Ludwig will be presented Friday, March 13 at 8 p.m., and Saturday March 14 at 2 p.m., and directed by Cynthia Topps. When two strangers meet by letter during World War II, a love story begins. Tony Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig tells the joyous, heartwarming story of his parents' courtship and the results are anything but expected. The talented cast features Kayla Collins, Aaron Heisler, and Henry Hernandez.

Reading #2- "Camping with Henry and Tom" by Mark St. Germain will be presented Saturday, March 14 at 8pm, and Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m., and directed by Matt Andrews, In 1921, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and President Warren G. Harding took a camping trip together into the Maryland woods to escape civilization. Inspired by an actual event, Camping with Henry and Tom is an exploration of friendship, politics, and leadership; a comedic and dramatic clash of two great minds and one great heart of the twentieth century. Delightful, rollicking, quintessentially American this reading features local actors Champ Knecht, John Leinung, David J. Ringwood, and Robert Yarnall.

CP2 Readers Theatre is a series at County Players that offers an opportunity for actors, directors, and audience members to experience theater in a fresh way: selected plays with full dramatic readings, no costumes, no sets, no props, and the actors perform with scripts in hand.

Reserved Seating is $15 per reading, and only $25 for both readings on the same weekend. Visit countyplayers.org and at the top of the main page select BUY TICKETS. Tickets are also available at the Box Office one hour before any performance. The final Main Stage production of Season 68 in May is the musical comedy "Something Rotten."

County Players 68th Season Sponsor is Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union. CP2 Readers Theatre Series is supported by Silver Sponsors: Powerhouse Theatre at Vassar College, Stewart's Shops, and Stissing Center. "Dear Jack, Dear Louise", and "Camping With Henry & Tom" are presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. concordtheatricals.com.

County Players Falls Theatre is equipped with an assistive listening system for the hard of hearing. If you require wheelchair accessibility, please contact the Box Office at 845-298-1491.

County Players will present the CP2 Series March 13-15. *Courtesy images*

WILDERSTEIN TO HOST FIBER ARTS WORKSHOP MARCH 21

Wilderstein Historic Site at 330 Morton Road in Rhinebeck will hold a "Farm to Needle" fiber arts workshop on Saturday, March 21, at 10 a.m.

Fiber arts were integral to both agricultural and domestic life at the great estates of the Hudson Valley. In that tradition but with a modern twist, join Martha Belardo of Hudson Valley Fiber Arts for this workshop to create a handcrafted hen and chicks to take home.

All supplies, tea and light refreshments will be provided. Beginners welcome. Register via https://wilderstein.org/ . Fo?r more information, call Wilderstein at (845) 876-4818.

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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

NDSO marks nation's 250th with multimedia tribute to Colonial Hudson Valley

HYDE PARK – Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) will celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a multimedia tribute to Colonial life in the Hudson Valley on Saturday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. The performance is at the Marriott Pavilion at The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. Conducted by Music Director Kathleen Beckmann, the program features music, spoken word, and Colonial imagery that will be projected above the orchestra. Tickets are $38, with discounts available for seniors and students. A family package is available for $40 (one adult and two students). For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.ndsorchestra.org or call (845) 445-9606.

The evening begins at 6:45 p.m. with the pre-concert presentation, "A Revolutionary War Soldier Comes to Life," included with admission. Award-winning educator and historian Neil Murray of Pine Plains will appear in authentic colonial uniform, complete with period muskets and swords, sharing vivid anecdotes and artifacts that illuminate the lives of Revolutionary War soldiers and the contributions of Dutchess County men and women to the cause of independence.

Featured guests include storyteller Jonathan Kruk, a nationally recognized teaching artist and author. Kruk has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning, The TODAY Show, and the BBC, and received an Exemplary Public History Award for his American Revolution presentations. Also joining NDSO, performing on a Native American Flute, is multi-instrumentalist Premik Russell Tubbs. Premik has performed and recorded with artists including Carlos Santana, Herbie Hancock, Ravi Shankar, Sting, Lady Gaga, and Whitney Houston, bringing expressive depth and global artistry to every performance.

The Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra's March 21 concert will feature guest narrator Jonathan Kruk (above, left) and guest artist Premik Tubbs. Left: Neil Murray will give a talk before the concert. *Courtesy photos*

NDSO was formed in 2006 to bring live orchestral music to northern Dutchess County and the surrounding Hudson Valley area. Now in its 20th season, the orchestra offers the best possible live performances of classical music at affordable family prices. Since the beginning, the orchestra has been under the dedicated leadership of Kathleen Beckmann, who serves as both conductor and artistic director.

Learn more about upcoming programs at www.ndsorchestra.org.

what's happening?
creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

Signs of Spring

Good news for the winter-weary

Surprise! 2026 did not produce the coldest February on record – that would be February 1934. Even February 2015 was colder, but I have a short memory. As soon as it started to warm up last Sunday, I went looking for signs of spring.

• Spring Peepers – These little frogs make a deafening roar when they emerge from the mud to start their mating ritual. As I was composing this article on Sunday evening, March 8, I strolled down to my pond in hopes of hearing some peepers. They were still asleep, but I bet you'll be hearing them by the time you read this. Last year, they emerged on March 10, and as early as February 27 in 2024.

• Witch Hazel – This native shrub sports its spidery blossoms in February, and sometimes all winter. You can see a small forest of witch hazel in Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan.

• Snowdrops – The earliest of the spring blooming native wildflowers, sometimes poking right through the snow. Snowdrops are in bloom now along the Priscilla Bullitt Collins trail at Vassar College. In a few days you'll be able to see real marsh marigolds, the ones sporting big five-petaled blossoms, not to be confused with the invasive lesser celandine.

• Ramps – The broad leaves of the wild leek – ramps – look like lilies or tulips when they shoot up in early spring, and in a few weeks they're gone, retreating to their underground bulblets. I see fields of ramps crowding the banks of Wappingers Creek in the town of LaGrange. I dare say they can be harvested for personal consumption, to make pesto or simply sauteed in olive oil and vinegar.

• Skunk Cabbage – It generates its own heat, to emerge from still frozen ground in February. The foul "skunk" odor is meant to attract flies for pollination, since bees aren't active yet. The broad leaves are supposed to be edible, but they're shot through with poisonous calcium oxalate crystals, which have to be dissolved by boiling multiple times. Why bother?

• Woodcocks – These relatives of the sandpiper are among the earliest migratory birds to return to the Hudson Valley in spring. They're almost impossible to find, camouflaged among the forest leaf litter and rarely venturing above the ground. But you can hear woodcocks in early spring, just as the sun is rising or setting, as they perform their bizarre mating dance, calling out a loud "bzzzzt!"

• Canada Geese – An unwelcome aspect of early spring, except for the pair that returns to my pond every year. Geese mate for life, and the two geese try valiantly to protect their territory from hundreds of intruders. Sometimes they need a little help from my array of bottle rockets. After a couple of shots clears out the crowd, I could swear I see my two resident geese nodding their appreciation.

• Salamanders – Laura Heady, a biologist with New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, told a crowd at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies that amphibians, including frogs and salamanders, start to migrate to vernal pools (pools that dry up in summer) at the first sign of spring. A couple of locations in Rensselear County, West Sand Lake and Grafton Lakes Park, for example, are hot spots for salamander migrations. The poor creatures are at the mercy of drivers as they try to cross Route 43, so please be careful. For a real amphibian experience, sign up for the March 22 (7-8 p.m.) "After Sunset with Salamanders" tour at the Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining.

• Woodchucks – Don't get me started.

Snowdrops at Vassar College. *Photo by Mark Adams*

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

RENEGADES FEST RETURNS TO HERITAGE FINANCIAL PARK ON SATURDAY, MARCH 21

The Hudson Valley Renegades have announced the return of Renegades Fest to Heritage Financial Park on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's event will be bigger than ever before as we celebrate the official countdown to Opening Night.

Renegades Fest celebrates the start of the 2026 Renegades season and the much-anticipated home opener on Tuesday, April 7, and features fun for the entire family. In addition to playing games to win Renegades prizes, fans can participate in mascot autograph sessions, play on the inflatables in the Heritage Financial Credit Union Fun Zone, watch local Little League Baseball games on the field, browse the Sports Memorabilia & Card Show, participate in an Easter Egg Hunt on the field, and have access to an exclusive in-person only buy one, get one free single game ticket deal (limit 10 tickets, July 2-4 games excluded).

The event is FREE and open to the public. Renegades concessions will be open with food and drink will be available to purchase. The Den Pro Shop will be open to stock up on all the great new Renegades gear with exclusive in-person only merchandise deals.Vanderbilt garden tours planned July 21

On Sunday, July 21, Vanderbilt Garden Association interpreters will offer free tours of the formal gardens at the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site on Route 9 in Hyde Park between 1 and 4 p.m. (weather permitting). Tours begin at the entrance to the gardens. The volunteers will discuss the history of the gardens, with a focus on the Vanderbilt ownership and the mission of the not-for-profit Vanderbilt Garden Association to rehabilitate and maintain the plants, shrubs, trees, and statuary in the gardens as they were in the 1930s just prior to Mr. Vanderbilt's death. They will also provide information about current garden projects

For further information, e-mail info@vanderbiltgarden.org, visit www.vanderbiltgarden.org or call (845) 229-6432.

Tea time treat

Scones can be sweet or savory and complement a nice cup of tea.

This has been a season of hibernation if ever there was one. For much of it, my house felt like a cave I was trapped in, and I tried to make the most of it. Tried and failed because there's so much more I should have accomplished with the time rather than wallowing, which is what I mostly did. I baked and cooked and ate and binge-watched shows, cleaned and caught up on reading and ate some more, but it all felt empty somehow, like my heart wasn't in it. I can't remember a winter seeming this long and I think it's just knocked the spark out of me. I crave spring's warmth and sunshine more than I ever have and hope it brings renewed energy and purpose. I'm pretty sure it will.

Throughout this long winter there has been a comforting constant: a cup of tea. At least one a day. I sipped it while reading or crafting, doing crossword puzzles or watching a favorite movie. There were days it even replaced my morning coffee and many a night I sipped Sleepy Time right before bed. I grew up drinking tea and always have an assortment in the house, but I don't think it was ever an everyday ritual like it has been this winter, a soothing balm or reward I looked forward to, savored and, apparently, needed.

I wrote an article about tea, its many qualities and benefits just a few years ago, so I'll not be repeating myself. What I will do is give you a scone recipe that traditionally goes with tea because a.) I wanted to make up for my winter of gluttony with something a little sophisticated and (most importantly) b.) my mother said she would like some.

Scones are slightly sweet and biscuit-like with a tender, crumbly texture, thanks to using butter and cream with baking powder as a leavening agent. They likely originated in 16th-century Scotland as oat-based griddle cakes. In 19th-century Great Britain, a lighter, sweeter version became a staple for Afternoon Tea, which had become a popular daily small meal meant to stave off hunger until a usually late dinner. Whether round or wedge-shaped, dotted with berries or raisins or plain, they are typically served warm with jam and clotted cream and, of course, tea. They can also be drizzled with icing, dusted with powdered sugar, served with lemon curd or made savory with herbs and cheese.

You may have heard that these deceptively simple treats are difficult to get right, and that isn't untrue. The key to success, i.e. perfect texture without being dry, is to use cold ingredients (butter, egg and cream) and to chill the dough prior to baking, which prevents overspreading. As with most baked goods, you also want to avoid over-working the dough for that desirable tenderness. Going in knowing that means you can be fearlessly on your way to successful scones. You can do it!

DELIGHTFUL DELECTABLE SCONES

This recipe is adapted from and inspired by America's Test Kitchen. By using cold ingredients, not over-working the dough and chilling before baking, you'll get moist, flaky, tender scones with crisp edges and buttery flavor, not the flat, dry lumps I used to think were scones. Mix in fresh (or frozen unthawed) berries, chocolate chips, nuts, raisins, lemon or orange zest, dried cherries or cranberries if you like. If making a savory version, omit the vanilla and add herbs, cheese and/or finely diced ham.

A quick note: my dough was a little too sticky and I didn't chill it enough, so it was a bit hard to transfer to the baking sheet and spread more than I would have liked. My scones were a tad misshapen as a result. Even so, the texture of the finished scones was pretty perfect. They were not overly sweet and could have benefited from a drizzle of icing, but I opted to let the jam I added later sweeten them instead.

INGREDIENTS

2 cups flour, sifted (more for working dough)
1 tablespoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
¼ cup sugar
8 tablespoons (1 stick) cold butter (cubed)
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup cold heavy cream (more for brushing tops)
½ cup raisins, nuts, dried fruit, fresh (or frozen thawed) berries
Coarse sugar for top (optional but recommended)

METHOD

Place oven rack in middle position. Preheat to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and sugar. Add cold butter and mix with pastry cutter, fork or fingers just until you get pea-sized crumbs.

In a medium bowl, whisk egg, vanilla and cream together. Pour into flour mixture, add fruit if using and mix just until moist and combined. Dough will be sticky, but if too wet and sticky, add a little more flour. You can pop dough into the fridge or freezer at this point for a bit to firm it up enough to work with.

Transfer dough to a lightly floured work surface and work into a ball with floured hands (dough is sticky). Ten seconds ought to be enough – you don't want to overwork it. Flatten into an 8-inch round about ¾-inch thick. Cut into 8 wedges and place on prepared baking sheet 2 inches apart. Chill or freeze at least 15 minutes or overnight.

Brush tops with heavy cream and sprinkle with sugar (if using). Bake until lightly golden brown, 12-15 minutes (mine were perfect in 14 minutes). Cool on a wire rack. Serve warm with jam, clotted cream or lemon curd.

Scones and tea are a good pairing. Below: Scone dough should be well chilled before baking to avoid spreading. *Photos by Vicki Frank Day*

Winter hibernation is thankfully on its way out and spring's sunny warmth just around the corner. I can't wait to get back outside, but there's still plenty of time to enjoy a cozy cup of tea and a lovely scone or two, which I sincerely hope you do! Enjoy!

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

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DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

www.DCHSNY.org/ddp

DCHS Dutchess County Historical Society

FDR's private letters touch on larger issues

By Bill Jeffway

The recent acquisition of personal letters that range in date from 1913 to 1944 between Franklin D. Roosevelt and Beacon's Morgan Hoyt reveal the extraordinary capacity of FDR to lead the world through a global economic depression and World War -- and maintain meaningful local contacts.

Hoyt was the newspaper publisher of the only Dutchess County paper that leaned Democratic. He was a political supporter of FDR from his first 1910 campaign for NY State Senator when Hoyt introduced him in Beacon. FDR asked Hoyt to introduce him at all his subsequent campaign speeches in Beacon through and including this successful race for Governor and four U.S. Presidential campaigns.

The letterhead and dates of the letters reveal all the major stages of FDR's political life, from time as Assistant Secretary to the Navy, to his polio recovery years when he worked in his law office, to the Governor's mansion, to the White House and time at Warms Springs, Georgia.

This provides a quick snapshot of some of the letters and context for the time. The letterhead and date are in italics. FDR's words in quotation marks.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., November 28, 1913: "Dear Morg, The matter of the post office at Beacon is giving me considerable concern, but I hope before we get through with it, we will be able to get it fixed up the way it should be. Much obliged for the information you gave me, which will be of considerable service when we come to fight the matter out."

Beacon had just become a city in 1913, combining the villages of Fishkill Landing and Matteawan, as well as a small portion of the hamlet of Glenham from the town of Fishkill. At the time, Beacon residents were lobbying for a new federal Post Office to be built for $50,000. It is notable that the Assistant Secretary of the Navy was taking an interest in the local building of the post office, as this is well outside the remit of that position. This reveals the thoroughness of FDR's complex relationships. Hoyt was not only an important newspaper publisher, but a proud Irish Catholic Democratic, an important constituency for FDR. A new post office was not built until 1937 for a cost of $100,000. By then, FDR was able to painstakingly oversee its historically sensitive design and construction, as he did in Wappingers Falls, Hyde Park and Rhinebeck.

Under the heading "Morgan Hoyt reads a letter from friend FDR," Yank magazine published a profile of local mourners in Beacon as FDR's funeral train passed through that included this photo. Yank magazine, May 11, 1945.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.
WASHINGTON.
November 28,

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Vice President
FIDELITY AND DEPOSIT COMPANY OF MARYLAND
55 Liberty Street New York City

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
At Warm Springs, Ga.,
November 24, 1928.

ROOSEVELT & O'CONNOR
COUNSELORS AT LAW
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE MANSION
ALBANY, NEW YORK

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
GOVERNOR

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PERSONAL

Dear Morg:

The range of letters reveal the full course of FDR's political life, with the exception of his term in 1911 and 1912 in the NY State assembly; although FDR references events from that period in his 1933 letter to Hoyt. *Courtesy of DCHS*

Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, 55 Liberty Street, New York City. January 6, 1926. "I am delighted to hear of your newspaper at Mount Dora, the copy of which has not yet come, but I feel certain that with your long experience, you will build up a successful and popular paper. I wish I could get to Mount Dora when I am in Florida this winter, but will have to spend all of my time on a small houseboat along the keys south of Miami."

The fact that Hoyt bought a newspaper in Florida was important for FDR politically in 1926. As subsequent letters reveal, FDR was spending a good deal of time in Florida campaigning for NY Governor Al Smith's Presidential run. Hoyt was helpful by having the Florida newspaper publish FDR's letters of support for Smith.

Roosevelt & O'Connor, Counselors at Law, Broadway, New York City [letterhead], 49 East 65th Street [typed home address], December 22, 1928. "Many thanks for your letter and the account of the meeting of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Club. I wish I could have been with you. Phil Mylod has just sent me your list of friends whom you wish to have sent invitations to the reception at Albany."

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Club was a club of local supporters that formed to ensure a warm local reception for the Governor, then President. It is well known that FDR never carried Dutchess County, whose voters were strongly Republican and opposed not only to the Democrat, but his policies including the New Deal. Phil Mylod was the son of John Mylod (of Poughkeepsie), who was an early supporter of FDR who was active in the Irish Catholic community.

Undated handwritten note. Likely 1928. "I am off on Monday for Warm Springs, Georgia for 2 weeks – address me there if anything turns up. I have prepared two other articles and will send them in a few days." This refers to FDR's articles in support of Alfred Smith for President mentioned earlier.

The Executive Mansion, Albany, November 17, 1932. "Now that the election is over our entire efforts must be devoted to the reestablishment of a better ordered economic life and in this happy task of restoration I invite and shall be deeply grateful before your cooperation yours."

This is an interesting articulation of FDR's intention to shift from a posture of campaigning – to governing – a distinction often pointed out as distinctly different by successful politicians.

The White House, October 31, 1933. "Dear Morg, You are certainly entitled to a letter not only in your capacity as the first casualty of the Sheehan fight in 1911, but also as one of my oldest friends in Dutchess County. Someday when you are in Washington you must run in, shake my hand and see the executive offices. I am delighted to know that things are going well in Beacon and I shall look forward to the news on November 8th."

The Sheehan reference is notable because immediately after taking the oath of office for his first political responsibility, as NY State Senator he nominated Hoyt to be a clerk in a committee FDR served on. This was one of the fewer instances where FDR lost to pressure from the political machine known as Tammany, that FDR had taken on as an "insurgent." It was indeed good news on November 8th as the local election in Beacon was a sweep for Democrats.

The White House, January 17, 1939. "That is a mighty interesting letter of yours and I greatly appreciate your very generous suggestion about those letters of mine which I have been writing you over a period of years. It would be a grand thing if the new library at Hyde Park could have those letters because they fill

continued on page 16

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 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. 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. **Through March 28**: Art Blast, presented by the Millbrook School District, Dutchess Day School, and Millbrook Early Childhood Education Center. 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. Purchases benefit local artists and Morton. Free admission. (845) 876-2903

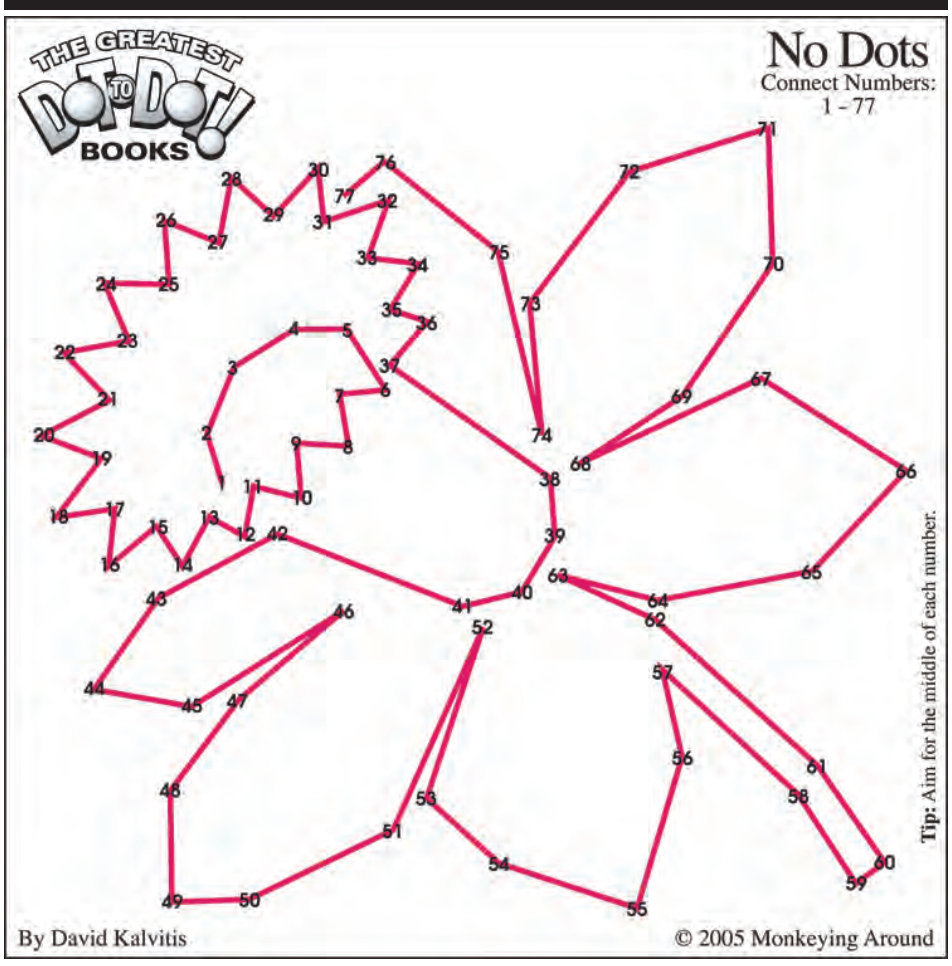
Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through March 15:** "Artist's Choice," exhibition featuring 20+ members of Tivoli Artists Gallery working across different mediums and approaches. Seen together, the works form a kind of conversation: about making, choosing, trusting one's instincts, and allowing space for difference. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. **Through March 28:** "Echoes of Esther: Women Who Changed Their Corner of the World." **Artist talk:** Sat., March 28, 1-3 p.m. info@womenswork.art

ATTENTION ART GALLERIES

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

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



A & E CALENDAR

Through March 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 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 13: RiverBlue, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Ron Minkoff (vocals/rhythm guitar/percussion) & Dan Blum (lead guitar/vocals), both long-time veterans of the Hudson Valley music scene, will play original and cover songs from their two CDs, combining rock, folk, bluegrass and country into something entirely new and exciting, 7:30 p.m. Tickets $10. www.thestissingcenter.org

March 13: Almost Queen: A Tribute to Queen, Ulster Performing Arts Center (UPAC), 601 Broadway, Kingston. Almost Queen does more than pay tribute to the legendary band; they transport audiences back in time to experience the essence and energy of Queen, 8 p.m. This ensemble delivers iconic four-part harmonies, expertly executed musical interludes, and meticulous attention to detail in both performance and costume. Tickets $35.50-$75.50. (845) 339-6088 or www.bardavon.org

March 13-15 County Players' CP2 Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3, County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. Reading #1- "Dear Jack, Dear Louise" by Ken Ludwig will be presented Fri., March 13 at 8 p.m., and Sat. March 14 at 2 p.m. When two strangers meet by letter during World War II, a love story begins. Tony Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig tells the joyous, heartwarming story of his parents' courtship and the results are anything but expected. Reading #2- "Camping with Henry and Tom" by Mark St. Germain will be presented Sat., March 14 at 8 p.m., and Sun., March 15 at 2 p.m. In 1921, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and President Warren G. Harding took a camping trip together into the Maryland woods to escape civilization. Inspired by an actual event, Camping with Henry and Tom is an exploration of friendship, politics, and leadership; a comedic and dramatic clash of two great minds and one great heart of the twentieth century. Reserved Seating is $15 per reading, $25 for both readings on the same weekend. countyplayers.org or (845) 298-1491.

March 13-15: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. March 13: KJ Denhert Presents All About the Song: From Brooklyn to Bassano to Beacon, 8 p.m. Tickets $25 advance, $30 door. March 14: Tom Chapin's Birthday Bash, 8:30 p.m. Tickets $30 advance/ $35 at the door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

March 14: Makin' Cake, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Through powerful storytelling, Dasha Kelly Hamilton takes the stage to slice into history, unpacking race, class, and culture in a way that's as thought-provoking as it is engaging, 3 p.m. Tickets $30-$40 adv/$40-$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org

March 14: Author Event, Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, 4079 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. In honor of Women's History Month, Shannon McKenna Schmidt, author of "The First Lady of WWII," will discuss her new book, "You Can't Catch Us: Lady Bird Johnson's Trailblazing 1964 Campaign Train and the Women Who Rode with Her," 1:30 p.m. The program will include a presentation by the author, during which she'll highlight some connections between Lady Bird Johnson and Eleanor Roosevelt, followed by an audience Q&A and a book signing. Free to attend. A donation of $10 is appreciated. www.fdrlibrary.org

March 14: Dean Friedman & Vance Gilbert, The Colony, 22 Rock City Rd., Woodstock. Enjoy an evening with these two celebrated singer-songwriters, 7 p.m. Tickets $35.49. (845) 679-7625

March 14: Family Craft Program: Irish Soda Bread in a Jar, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. Celebrate the Irish connection to Staatsburgh with a family craft and story-time, 3-4 p.m. Learn about the Irish immigrants who came to work in domestic service for the Mills family, as well as the family's personal connection to Ireland. Children and their caregivers can see how one of the Irish maids lived in the mansion; listen to an Irish folk tale; and assemble the ingredients to make their own Irish soda bread at home. All craft materials will be supplied. The 60-minute workshop is appropriate for children ages 4 and up, accompanied by an adult. Tickets are $5/child; purchase at https://staatsburghsodabread2026.eventbrite.com.

March 14: Miss Lindy's Dance Hall, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Partner dance beginning lesson and practice space for all, 2 p.m. Also known as social dancing, with origins in swing dance, these steps and moves can be used with many musical genres. Learn leader and follower roles. No partner needed for class. Beginners and all levels of experience welcome. (845) 876-2903

March 14: Elysium Furnace Works Presents Tyshawn Sorey/Cooper-Moore, VBI Theater at the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. The season kicks off with the first-ever appearance together of Pulitzer Prize-winner and MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" fellow, drummer, composer and University of Pennsylvania professor Sorey, teaming up with the multi-instrumentalist, instrument builder, educator and creative music titan Moore for this historic encounter, 8 p.m. www.cunneen-hackett.org

March 18: "Hollywood Goes to War" Film Series - "Hollywood Canteen," Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library and Home, Hyde Park. A musical set in the USO nightclub where the biggest names in show business entertained the troops during World War II, "Hollywood Canteen" boasts an all-star cast of dozens, 2 p.m. Corporal Ed Slim (Robert Hutton) develops a crush on one of the show's stars, Joan Leslie (as herself). Knowing he is merely an enlistee, he thinks it is unlikely he could ever successfully woo her. However, he is lucky enough to win a night out on the town with her when he's named the canteen's millionth visitor. Free, but registration required at fdrlibrary.org.

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Two of Us Productions to present modern take on classic sleuthing partnership

COPAKE – The Two Of Us Productions, the award-winning theater company based in Copake, will present "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B," a thoroughly modern take on the classic Holmes & Watson sleuthing partnership. Performances will take place Friday-Sunday, March 20-22 and 27-29.

"Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B" is an irreverent, darkly comic, modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth and sidekick. This fast-paced romp re-examines the world's most famous detective story with a bold new feminist lens. In this highly theatrical, small-cast escapade, oddball female roommates Sherlock (yes, it's also a girl's name—wait, is it a girl's name? Is it even a name?) Holmes and Joan Watson join forces to emerge from pandemic fog as a deeply codependent, quasi-dysfunctional Odd Couple adventure duo – solving mysteries and kicking butts, until they come face to face with a villain who seems to have all of the answers.

This fast-paced production of "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B" features Constance Lopez as the hyper-intelligent Sherlock Holmes, Leigh Fisher-Troch as Dr. Joan Watson, Karissa Payson as the villainous Irene Adler, Diane Boice Yorck as the anxious Mrs. Hudson and the oddly composed Mrs. Drebber, Mason Lowe as the techno-billionaire Elliot Monk, and Benjamin Kirk as Inspector Lestrade and others.

Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m., at the Copake Grange Hall, 628 Empire Road in Copake, right around the corner from the clock tower in the center of town. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for students & seniors (call for group rates). For advance reservations, visit www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org or call (518) 329-6293.

Notes on the production, provided by Stephen Sanborn and Constance Lopez:

This year we decided to find an interesting twist in theater and that led us to 'Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B.' This is a recent play by Kate Hamill and presents the iconic duo of Holmes and Watson as two women sharing an apartment in modern-day London, grappling with and navigating through their dysfunctional, codependent relationship and ultimately solving a dastardly criminal challenge. This is a fast-paced comedy blending physical comedy and contemporary themes. Not only is it a fresh look at gender dynamics, but also the many changes we're all grappling with in the digital age. And of course, there's a villain who seems to outsmart them at every turn.

We are fortunate to have a cast that is up to the challenge of presenting this new work with fresh eyes and a sense of humor. One of the interesting challenges in this play is the various dialects of the characters.

Holmes, Lestrade, Mrs. Hudson and Irene are British. Watson is a New Yorker and Elliot Monk is a Texan. While our Watson (Leigh Fisher Troche) is a native New Yorker and our Monk (Mason Lowe) has had some exposure to a Texan dialect, neither Holmes (Constance Lopez), Lestrade (Ben Kirk), Mrs. Hudson (Diane Boice Yorck), or Irene (Karissa Payson) are British.

We were lucky enough to know a few experts on British dialects. Enter Liz and Alan Perkins, natives of Ye Olde Merry England. Liz and Alan recount that they met Connie and Steve (Sanborn) on their 25th wedding anniversary cruise (which is coincidentally the same cruise on which

Cast members of "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B" rehearses for their upcoming production set March 20-22 and 27-29 in Copake. *Courtesy photo*

Connie & Steve were married). They were living in Whitstable, UK at the time, but after returning home from the cruise, they accepted a job offer to run a company in the USA. They moved to New Jersey, then Pennsylvania eventually becoming US citizens in 2010. All during that time, they remained friends with Connie and Steve and celebrated annual Thanksgiving adventures here in snowy New York State. Their daughter eventually joined them here and is now married, living in Charleston, SC with a daughter of her own. Liz is also the author of a book of poetry "Waves of Creativity" which is graced with the photography of Alan.

So, what to do now that Liz and Alan are living in Florida. Why, Zoom, of course (Ah, modern technology; just don't tell Holmes)! They joined the cast on two Zoom rehearsals in which they read the cast's lines themselves. Our cast was able to record the lines and practice their dialects as they were learning their lines. Then we were able to have another rehearsal in which the cast delivered their lines in their attempts at dialect with Alan and Liz listening in to help tweak and refine the performances. They were able to give us detailed corrections that we were able to incorporate not only in what we were delivering at the time, but in the development of the rest of the material. I know whenever I go to approach one of my monologues, I can see Liz, nodding or indicating I might want to try it again. This has been invaluable to me and I so appreciate my friends from "across the pond", although at this point they are "down the road."

I always appreciate how wonderful it is to team up with and learn from people who are from different backgrounds than ourselves.

Decoding Dutchess' Past

continued from page 14

in what are undoubted gaps and because they were personal letters, I doubt whether any copies of them were kept in my correspondence. I am asking several friends who have similar letters to look through them and see if there is anything of real interest which would help make the collection more complete. We hope to get the building underwritten and started next spring and I know you will watch its progress with interest. I hope to see you in person when I get back to Hyde Park. As ever yours."

DCHS is just beginning to review another set of personal letters from FDR to a local cousin, in which we find FDR's extraordinary attention to detail to his new Presidential library. In one letter he explains that he will be writing explanatory descriptions that will be shown next to certain objects in the library. We hope to be able to share more news about those letters later in the year.

The White House, May 18, 1944. "Dear Morg, Many thanks for your note. It is grand about Jim Forrestal. Do you realize that two of my Cabinet come from southern Dutchess? I hope to see you one of these days, My best, to you, as ever yours…"

Hoyt would have known well that the newly appointed Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, was from Beacon as Forrestal had worked for Hoyt in the local newspaper publishing business. Hoyt would have also known that Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau was from Fishkill.

The White House, November 30, 1944. This is the last letter in the series in DCHS Collections. FDR thanked Hoyt for sending him a letter and a newspaper article which FDR said he had read and found valuable.

Although not part of the DCHS collection, there were published reports of FDR's last letter to Hoyt when FDR returned from Yalta in February of 1945. FDR died two months later. As always, DCHS keeps an eye out for items that help us piece together the local aspects of this global leader's most amazing life and contributions.

In 2022, DCHS published Band of Locals which launched at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum which can be found online: dchsny.org/band-of-locals. As we develop a better understanding of these letters and new acquisitions related to FDR's local relationships, we will keep this page updated.

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

NDSO to present educational children's concert for local schools

HYDE PARK – Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) continues its tradition of offering an engaging and educational children's concert for local school districts. This year's concert will take place on Wednesday, March 11, with two performances welcoming elementary students from across Dutchess, Putnam, and Ulster counties for an immersive orchestral experience that combines live performance with multimedia elements. It is hosted by the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) and will take place in the Marriott Pavilion on the CIA's campus in Hyde Park. Please note that tickets for this performance are limited to participating school districts and are not available to the public.

The concert offers an engaging, educational experience designed to inspire students to explore music. The program includes videos demonstrating how orchestra instruments are played and highlights the works of composers who have shaped American music, including John Philip Sousa, Scott Joplin, Aaron Copland, and John Williams.

Interactive and solo performances include "The Homework Blues" by Lucas Richman, which introduces the blues note in jazz and features audience participation, performed by vocal soloist Madelin Morales and student guest soloist Jack Poole-DiSalvo on violin for "Fiddle Faddle" by Leroy Anderson. Adding a visual dimension, student-created artwork will be projected above the orchestra during an excerpt from "Appalachian Spring" by Aaron Copland, allowing students to see their own creativity come to life alongside live music.

Student soloist Jack Poole-DiSalvo is an 11th grader at Arlington High School in LaGrange who began playing violin at age 7. He performs with the Arlington Philharmonia, Stringendo Vivace Orchestra, and Strawberry Hill Fiddlers, and has appeared as a soloist in multiple ensembles. Jack enjoys chamber music, orchestral performance, traditional fiddling, and pit orchestra work for school productions. He has received honors including Concertmaster for the Area All-State Orchestra and First Violinist for the NYSSMA All-State Symphony Orchestra.

Learn more about NDSO and its programs at www.ndsorchestra.org.

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra's upcoming educational children's concert will feature student violinist Jack Poole-Di Salvo and guest vocalist Madelin Morales. *Courtesy photos*

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'Prepare ye the way' for Godspell at Pleasant Valley church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Pleasant Valley, along with parishioner and EMMY Award winner Rita Kogler Carver, are preparing to share a spiritual re-imagining of the joyful, inventive "Godspell" by Stephen Schwartz and John Michael Tebelak.

Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on March 20, 21, 27 & 28 at the Parish Hall, 806 Traver Road, Pleasant Valley.

Tickets in advance are $15 adults, $12.50 for seniors/children. Tickets at the door are $20 adults, $15 for seniors/children.

An exuberant celebration of storytelling, community, and the transformative power of love, "Godspell" invites audiences into a theatrical experience that is at once playful and profound. Conceived as a series of parables drawn primarily from the Gospel of Matthew, "Godspell" unfolds not as grand pageantry but as an intimate gathering. A company of performers creates a world from the ground up—turning timeless stories of seeds and prodigal sons, debts forgiven and lamps kept burning into vivid, immediate theater. Through humor, improvisation, and heartfelt connection, these ancient teachings emerge with striking clarity and contemporary resonance.

At the center stands a charismatic teacher who leads not with thunderous decree but with warmth and invitation. Around him, a diverse ensemble of followers discovers wisdom through fellowship, laughter, and song—reminding us that joy and insight are often companions.

Featuring an unforgettable score by Stephen Schwartz, who breathes new life into traditional hymn texts, setting them to melodies that are spirited, soulful, and deeply moving. Songs rise organically from the storytelling, transforming reflection into celebration and solemnity into shared experience.

Structured less as a conventional plot and more as a communal journey, "Godspell" builds toward the poignant depiction of the Passion. Rendered with simplicity and sincerity, this moment underscores the cost of compassion and the depth of commitment at the heart of the story. Yet even in its quiet sorrow, the production affirms hope—suggesting that love, once kindled, cannot easily be extinguished.

Parishioners and community members have come together to bring this production to life, from a classically trained opera singer to a person with one lung; actors from ages 16 to 85 come together in this labor of love.

The Box Office is open Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. at the Parish Hall, and phone orders can be taken Sundays 1-3 p.m., and Monday and Wednesday evenings 6-8 p.m. by phoning (484) 358-1624.

Submitted by Ellen Ann Kafkalas on behalf of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Diversions

SUDOKU

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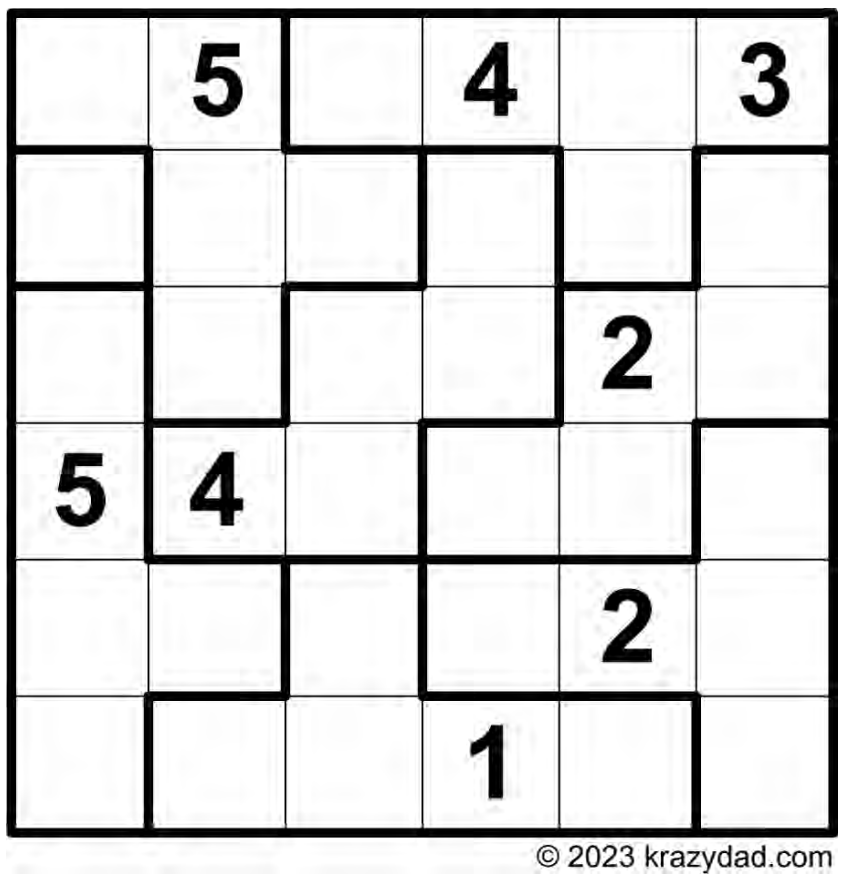
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru



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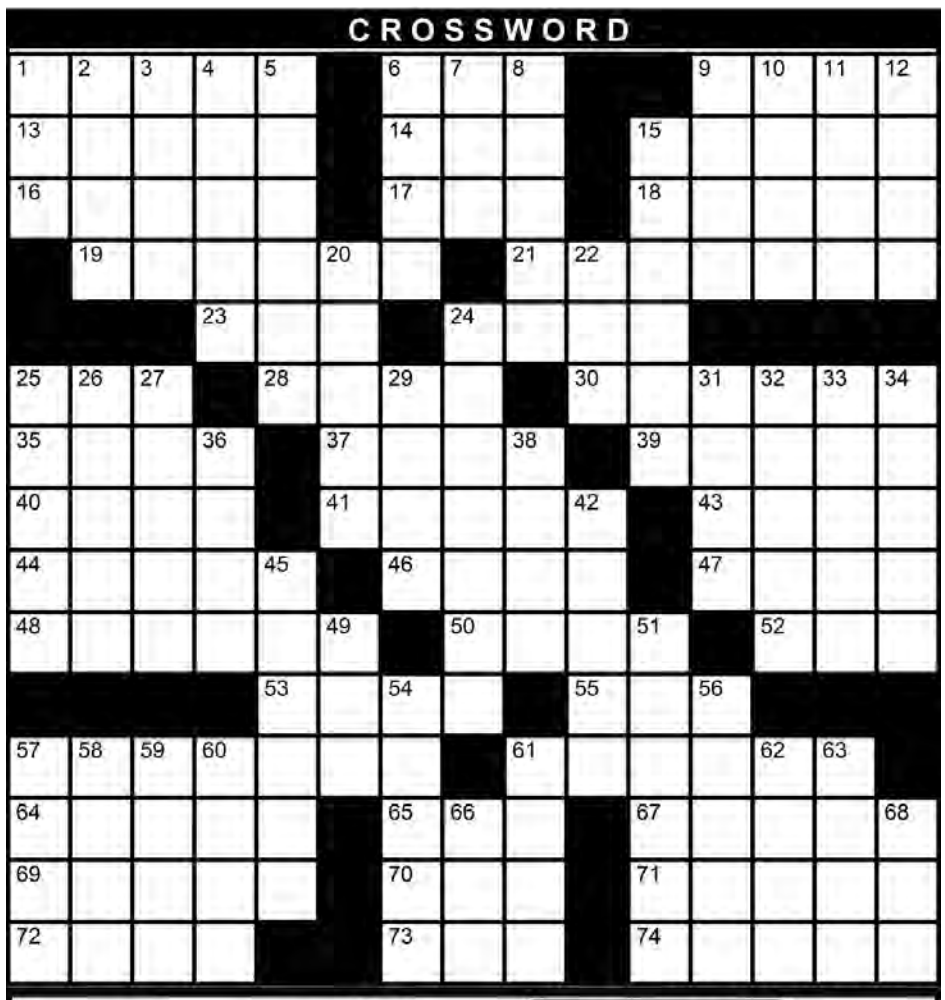
The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally,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

THEME: THE OSCARS

ACROSS
1. Traction aid
6. Freddy's street
9. Reach a high
13. Italian bowling
14. Entrepreneur Gary Vaynerchuk's alias, Gary ____
15. Jolly good one
16. Parallel grooves
17. Many, many moons
18. "Take it back!"
19. *"Song Sung Blue" Best Actress nominee
21. *Movie with most 2026 Oscar nominations
23. Make a seam
24. Vampire's tooth
25. Tai's partner
28. South American monkey
30. Naphthenic acid + palmitic acid
35. Pilot's stunt
37. Forbidden, to a baby
39. Vampire of Greek mythology
40. Italian wine region
41. Not Astroturf
43. Alpine lift
44. Sports figures, e.g.
46. Cantina pot
47. Email folder
48. Not vivid and bright
50. Nessie's abode
52. *Jamie Foxx won for his role in this 2004 biopic
53. Eagle's nest
55. Unreliable newspaper
57. *2026 nominated film with Stone and Plemons
61. *Chloé Zhao's nominee
64. Newton or Stern
65. Romanian money
67. Star-crossed one
69. To the point
70. a.k.a sodium hydroxide
71. Novelist Zola
72. Formerly, formerly
73. Aye-aye
74. "He ____ it like it is"

DOWN
1. Not NBC or ABC
2. Reluctant
3. Pantyhose hue
4. DNA and RNA, e.g.
5. Cups and saucers
6. 20-20, e.g.
7. *"One Battle After Another" Best Actor nominee
8. High IQ society
9. *#7's nominated co-star
10. "Anything ____?"
11. Wing-shaped
12. K to Romans, pl.
15. Like athlete's foot
20. Behind on rent, e.g.
22. Night spot
24. At last
25. Necklace fastener
26. Popular garden perennial
27. I to Greeks, pl.
29. *2026 nominated Benicio del ____
31. Benatar and Morita
32. Fly in ____, or a reminder of the past
33. Tarzan's swing rope
34. *Fictional table tennis champ
36. *Nominated "F1" star
38. Nobel Peace Prize capital
42. Sacrum, pl.
45. Communicating with spirits event
49. Hawaiian flower garland
51. *Inspiration for #61 Across
54. Pep gathering
56. Lawn ornament
57. Angler's hope
58. ____-friendly
59. Needlefish, pl.
60. Brewer's kiln
61. Color wheel elements
62. Like fairytale stepmothers?
63. Be a snitch
66. Payment for an eye
68. Hi-____ graphics

CROSSWORD



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

Events celebrate Women's History Month at DCC

Dutchess Community College celebrates Women's History Month this March with a diverse lineup of performances, lectures, panel discussions and community events honoring the contributions, creativity and leadership of women.

A gallery talk on March 12 at 12:30 p.m. in the Mildred I. Washington Gallery will explore "The Role of Euthenics in the Architecture of Vassar College." Nathanial Craig, an art history graduate student at Binghamton University, will examine the legacy of trustee Minnie Cumnock Blodgett and Blodgett Hall, considering how the early 20th-century euthenics movement expanded women's education while reflecting the social expectations of its time.

A Women's Wellness Market will take place March 22 from 1–5 p.m. in the Greenspan Dining Room, Drumlin Hall. Presented in collaboration with The Brain and Body Coalition, the market features small businesses offering wellness-focused products and services designed to celebrate women and expand wellness practices across the community.

On March 26, two events highlight literature and leadership. From 12:30–1:45 p.m. in the Writing Center, Hudson 503, novelist Adelle Waldman will offer a reading and Q&A as part of the "Process to Text" series, presented in partnership with the DCC Writing Center. Waldman is the author of "Help Wanted" and "The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P."

That evening, from 6–7 p.m. via Zoom, biochemist and health coach Nicole Glaser Boeck will lead "Health-Centered Leadership" as part of DCC's "Zoom in with the Experts" series. The interactive session will provide practical tools to strengthen resilience and manage stress in educational settings.

The celebration continues March 31 with a Women in STEAM Panel from 12:30–1:45 p.m. in Dutchess Hall, Room 101. Industry professionals and current students will share insights and advice about careers in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Programming extends into April with two additional events. On April 15 from 7–9 p.m. via Zoom, the annual "Celebration of Black Women Writers" will showcase poetry, prose and literary excerpts. Presented in partnership with the DCC Writing Center and the Association of Women at DCC (AWDCC), it will support the AWDCC Scholarship.

The series concludes April 22 at 7 p.m. in Dutchess Hall, Room 101, with "Hope Made Bread: una historia sobre Las Patronas," a live dance performance honoring Las Patronas of Veracruz, Mexico, who have supported migrants for more than 30 years. Blending contemporary dance, percussive footwork and Son Jarocho, the piece reflects on migration, resilience and collective care.

DCC's Women's History Month events were curated and organized by the Women's Activity Committee led by Human Services Instructor and Diversity Council Co-Chair Tomasine Oliphant and Professor of Physical Science Susan Conrad. All events are free and open to the public thanks to the support of the DEI Funding Committee.

For a full schedule and additional details, visit sunydutchess.edu/whm.

Poughkeepsie Library District highlights March programs

The following events will be held at the Poughkeepsie Public Library District in March.

Beginning Quilling Workshop
Thursday, March 12, 3:30 p.m.
Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library
Registration required.

Author Talk: Calligraphy for Dummies with Jim Bennett
Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.
Adriance Memorial Library
Registration required

Travelogue: Living in Antarctica 66 Years AgoSaturday, March 14, 10 a.m.Adriance Memorial Library
Registration required.

Concert: Harmonica and String Quartet
Saturday, March 14, 2:30 p.m.
Boardman Road Branch Library
No registration required.

From Uptown Girls to Downton Abbey: How American Gilded Age Heiresses Invaded the British Aristocracy
Monday, March 16, 7 p.m.Virtual. Registration required.

Housing: Know Your Rights
Tuesday, March 17, 2 p.m.
Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library
Registration required.

Franklin & Eleanor: Two Halves of a Whole
Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.Virtual. Registration required.

Yankee Stargazers: A Semiquincentennial Tribute to American Astronomers
Monday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.Virtual. Registration required.

A Virtual Trip to 19th Century Main Street pt. 2
Wednesday, March 25, 6 p.m.
Boardman Road Branch Library
Registration required.

Femme Fatales of History
Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.
Boardman Road Branch LibraryRegistration required.

Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival
Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Dutchess Community College, Falcon Hall
Free, no registration required.

The Adiance Memorial Library is located at 93 Market Street in Poughkeepsie. Boardman Road Branch Library is at 141 Boardman Road in Poughkeepsie.

For more information, visit https://poklib.org/adriance-memorial-library.

what's happening?
creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

Tours, presentation set to recognize America's 250th anniversary

This is the Semiquincentennial Year: the 250th Anniversary of the Formation of the United States! There are many local history opportunities ahead. Here are a few highlights of what is coming up this week and next:

Saturday, March 15, 1 p.m. - In person tours at the Mesier Homestead, 2 Spring St., in Wappingers Falls. Take a walk back in time as you tour this 1741 home of the original settlers of the area that is now the Village of Wappingers Falls! Docent led tours of the Mesier Homestead will take place at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults; $7 for Seniors; $5 for youth age 7-18. Wappingers Historical Society members are free. Advance tickets can be purchased online.

Thursday, March 19, 7 p.m. - At the Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, in Millbrook, join the Millbrook Historical Society for a presentation on the history of the Millbrook Library with Sam Falk. Program is free, in-person at the library.

Big events this year

Saturday, June 13th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.- RevCon: Dutchess County in the Revolution returns to the FDR Library and Museum, 4079 Albany Post Road, in Hyde Park. Join your friends at this free event to learn about General Richard Montgomery, the first military martyr of the Revolution from New York, who fell leading American troops against the City of Quebec on New Year's Eve 1775. See reenactors including indigenous interpreters and a cannon crew offering firing demonstrations throughout the day. Learn about how eighteenth-century cooking techniques compare to the modern kitchen and be glad of all those food processing options. Visit our history fair, with hands-on activities for the entire family! This event is free, open to the public, and happens rain-or-shine!

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.- Revolutionary Cider Celebration at Fishkill Farms, 9 Fishkill Farm Road, in East Fishkill. Enjoy a taste of Dutchess County's modern agricultural offerings alongside some farm history. Learn about the secrets of apple cultivation, how the bounty of Dutchess County farms changed from the eighteenth century to the modern day, and hear storytelling by the renown Jonathan Kruk. Renown culinary historian Sara Evenson will be on hand to demonstrate what farm to table meant 250 years ago.

Obituaries

Susan Lee Dingee

HYDE PARK – Susan Lee Dingee (or Susie Q, or Aunt Oo-ie, depending on who you ask) was born on March 14, 1961, in Poughkeepsie, NY and died on February 27, 2026, in her colorful, love-filled room surrounded by family at Meadows at Brookmeade in Rhinebeck, NY.

Susie is survived by her brother, Chris Dingee; sister-in-law, (the other) Susan Dingee; niece, Sara Dingee Considine; nephew-in-law, Dan Considine; and their dog, Kita; and mother, Ann Dingee; as well as her dear friends, Sandy Rogers and Jim Hedden. She joins her father, Harold Allen Dingee, and her beloved beagle, Daisy, in heaven.

Susie lived a life of service, working for three decades in the cafeteria at St. Francis Hospital, where she found a permanent home in the hearts of all who met her.

Susie's life was full of joy, kindness, creativity, and light. She loved animals, angels, crafting, baking, and spending time with her loved ones. All who met her are better for it; she loved and was loved instantly and wholly. The world was a better place with her in it.

Thank you to the truly incredible staff at Brookmeade, who became her family, to the medical teams who matched her courageous spirit and helped her live life to the fullest, and to Mother Meredith and St. James' Episcopal Church for keeping Susie in their prayers and hearts.

Susie was a generous and giving soul—please donate to a cause of your choosing in her honor.

In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place.

Calling hours were held Friday March 6th at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park. A Funeral Service took place on Saturday March 7th at St. James' Episcopal Church, Hyde Park. Rev. Meredith Kadet Sanderson officiated. Burial will be private.

To send an online condolence or for directions please visit Susie's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Edith Joan Hill

STAATSBURG – Edith Joan Hill, 86, of Staatsburg passed away on March 3, 2026, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Poughkeepsie following a brief illness.

Born May 6, 1939, in Hudson, NY, she was the daughter of the late Theodore and Martha Lauster.

Edith worked at the former Merritt Sample Company and Kem Cards, both of which were in Poughkeepsie.

She was the beloved wife of Melvin R. Hill, who predeceased her in June 2019.

Edith was the devoted mother to Colleen and Steven, both of Poughkeepsie, Alan of Staatsburg, and Sheri of Los Angeles, CA; and loving grandmother to Allison (Peter) Hill-Hudson of East Greenbush, NY.

She is also survived by her brother, Harold (Mary Ann) of Aiken, SC, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by several brothers and sisters.

In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place. Funeral services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the Hill family respectfully requests memorial donations to the Alzheimer's Association, Hudson Valley Chapter, 2649 South Rd., Suite 101, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (www.alz.org) or the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. (www.hvhospice.org)

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park.

To send an online condolence, please visit Edith's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Barbara Ann Lape

RED HOOK – Barbara Ann Lape (84) a longtime resident of the Hudson Valley passed away in Red Hook NY on Friday, March 6th, 2026. Barbara was born on July 15th, 1941 in Peekskill NY to the late Charles Nicholas Lape and Alice Marie Lape (Haight).

Barbara was a devoted Homemaker, an avid Geneologist, loved gardening, crafts, antiques and flea markets. She had a natural talent for furniture and home restoration and beautification, and always had lovely gardens. She was devoted to the Savior, and served faithfully in many callings within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She treasured the relationships she established with those she served and served with. She especially loved helping others find their ancestors with her innate talent for research and family history. Most of all, she loved her family, and gained the most joy as she found ways to help them.

Barbara is survived by her two brothers, Charles Thomas Lape and Robert Edward Lape (Sharon), and her children, Doreen Michele Stone and Timothy Charles Cotter (Gail). Barbara was predeceased by her son James M. Cotter Jr. in 2022. Barbara had four grandchildren - Timothy Howard Cotter (Amanda), David Andrew Cotter (Katherine), Matthew Austin Cotter (Alexis) and Shannon Elizabeth Farnung (Patrick); she had seven great grandchildren - Max, Charlotte, Heslington, Abigail, Mickey, Wesley and Dashiell. Barbara, Aunt Jo, Jo-Jo enjoyed a large extended family of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and more; she was much loved and will be missed by many.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 204 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie. A funeral service will begin at 11:00 AM, with burial to follow at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Those wishing to honor Barbara's memory with flowers may have them sent directly to Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 7461 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY.

Funeral arrangements were trusted to Burnett & White Funeral Homes - Red Hook.

Wilfred H. Roehe

PLEASANT VALLEY – Wilfred H. Roehe, a resident of Dutchess County since 1964, passed away at the age of 91 on March 5, 2026.

Born in Bremen, Germany, in November 1934, Wilfred became a cabinetmaker before immigrating to Canada. He came to the United States in 1964, made Dutchess County his home, and later became a proud naturalized citizen. After settling in the United States, Wilfred founded his own construction company, which he owned and operated successfully until his retirement.

Wilfred was the son of the late Frieda and Karl Roehe. He was predeceased by his brother, Karl Heinz, and his stepdaughter, Kim. He is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia A. Roehe (nee Neuner); his stepdaughter, Kara, and her husband, Chris; and his step-grandchildren, Casandra, Meagan, and Jordan.

Wilfred lived a life defined by service, leadership, and devotion to his community. He had been a member of Lions Club International since 1967 and was a life member of the Amenia, New York Lions Club. His dedication to Lionism was extraordinary. He served twice as District Governor of the Lions Club, first from 1983 to 1984 and again from 2013 to 2014. He was also instrumental in raising more than $1 million to help fund the Lions Eye Institute in Albany, New York. In recognition of his leadership and commitment, he served as President of the Eye Institute from 2008 to 2009 and was named Chairman of the Board Emeritus on July 17, 2001.

In addition to his work with the Lions, Wilfred was a life member of the Roachdale Fire Company in Poughkeepsie, a member of the Poughkeepsie Elks, and a proud Mason. He also served several times as president of the local Shriners Club, reflecting his lifelong commitment to fellowship, charity, and service to others.

Wilfred will be remembered for his generosity, leadership, and unwavering dedication to helping others. Through his years of service, compassion, and charitable work, he touched countless lives, including the lives of many people who will never know his name. His legacy of kindness, service, and quiet impact on the world will not be forgotten.

In honor of Wilfred's memory, donations may be made to the Lions Eye Institute in Albany, New York, to one of the many above organizations he cherished, or to one of your own.

There will be no calling hours. A private family celebration of Wilfred's life will be held.

Lisa Marie Winters

STAATSBURG – Lisa Marie Winters, 60, of Staatsburg, NY, passed away on Sunday, March 1st, 2026. Born on Tuesday, August 17, 1965, in Poughkeepsie, NY, she was the daughter of John Guzzo and Rose Rinaldi Guzzo, her parents survive.

Lisa was outgoing and made friends everywhere she went. It was easy for her to strike up a conversation, and she was known for her warm personality and welcoming spirit. Her bright smile was infectious, and her sense of humor made everyone laugh. As a mother, she was loving and always went above and beyond for her sons.

At work, she was affectionately known as "the director," a testament to her leadership and confidence. Lisa worked as a Senior Loan Officer with TEG Federal Credit Union, where she worked for many years.

On September 20, 1991, at Holy Trinity Church in Poughkeepsie, she married the love of her life, Gregory Winters, Mr. Winters survives at home. Gregory's cousins became very special people in her life, and they created many fun and happy memories together.

Lisa enjoyed going to the gym, camping, and traveling up and down the East Coast, spending summers in Cape May, NJ and time at Lake George. Those were some of her favorite memories. She loved nature, being outdoors, and going out and about with family and friends. She also cherished her favorite camping spot, camping in Punta Gorda, FLa, where she created many special memories.

In addition to her husband Gregory, Lisa is survived by her son, Devin Scott, and his partner Catherine DeToma; her other son, Anthony Guzzo and her sister, Marie Guzzo. She is also survived by her dear friend, Teri Fedele.

In keeping with her wishes cremation has taken place.

Calling hours were held on Sunday March 8th at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, NY.

Lisa's family respectfully requests that memorial donations be made to the Dutchess County Stabilization Center, 102 Fulton Ave. Suite A, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (Peopleusa.org), or Dutchess County 10-13 Foundation of the Hudson Valley P.O. Box 352 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 (dc1013foundation.org), or Perfectly Broken Responders, 272 Rte. 308 Rhinebeck, NY 12572 (www.perfectlybroken.net)

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park.

Find us on Facebook: Southern Dutchess News Group

Free File an option for many New York taxpayers

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

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

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

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

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
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. 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-43-26
As-Needed Commercial Printing and Mailing Services
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 26th 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.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2026-05
NAME OF PROJECT: Replacement of Culvert M-29 Round Lake Rd (CR-52) over Tributary of Little Wappinger Creek, Town of Milan. Project Description: Removal & Replacement of Culvert M-29 on CR-52 round Lake Rd. in the Town of Milan, Dutchess County. The existing 72" pipe will be replaced with a 95" x 67" arch pipe. Existing wing walls will be replaced with precast concrete wing walls. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.
Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Diane McKenna, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00AM **Wednesday April 1, 2026**, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All call-ins will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID:570 111 200#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery.
Questions will be accepted by the close of business March 25, 2026 and emailed to Diane McKenna at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov and cc'd dmckenna@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is June 1, 2026; the anticipated substantial completion date is September 11, 2026. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC # 2026005035. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-25-26
Clinical Services for Juvenile Risk Intervention and Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., March 30, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-32-26
Equipment for EMS/Paramedic Instruction
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 25th 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.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-26-26
Collaborative Solutions for Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS)
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., March 30, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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.

HS students invited to submit works for 2026 Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Pat Ryan has announced that his office will begin accepting submissions for the 2026 Congressional Art Competition. High school students in the NY-18 Congressional District are encouraged to submit their original artwork to Congressman Ryan's district office at 29 N. Hamilton Street Suites 112 & 113 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

The winning artist's work will be displayed in the halls of the United States Capitol for one year. Full details and instructions can be found on Ryan's website patryan.house.gov/services/art-competition

"I'm thrilled to see the artistic talent, creativity, and skill of Hudson Valley students on full display again this year," said Ryan. "Especially as we celebrate America's 250th birthday this year, and given the Hudson Valley's rich history, I am more excited than ever to see what our talented young participants create. This is an opportunity for students across the region to express themselves through art, and I encourage all high schoolers in NY-18 to submit entries. I'm looking forward to seeing the winning artwork every day that I walk through the hallway on the way to the Capitol."

NY-18 students in grades 9 through 12 are invited to submit their original artwork for consideration for the 2026 Congressional Art Competition by dropping off their artwork and the completed 2026 Art Competition Student Release Form.

The winning artwork will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol Building and the winning artist and a guest will be invited to attend the 2026 Congressional Art Competition Winner's Celebration in Washington, D.C. on June 25, 2026. The top 5 ranked pieces will have their artwork displayed in Congressman Ryan's district office for one year.

Eligible artwork must be framed and may be up to 26 inches by 26 inches, up to 4 inches deep, and must weigh under 15 pounds. The first place winning artwork must arrive framed for display in the Capitol and still remain under the previous size and weight limits.

The following mediums are eligible for submission: Paintings - including oil, acrylics, and watercolor; Drawings - including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, and markers (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.); Collages - must be two dimensional; Prints - including lithographs, silkscreen, and block prints; Mixed Media - use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.; Computer-generated art and Photography.

All entries must be original in concept, design and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).

'Escape the Vape' art contest accepting submissions

The Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with Dutchess BOCES and The Art Effect, invites local students to creatively make a difference through an anti-vaping art contest, "Escape the Vape," designed to raise awareness about the risks of vaping while amplifying youth voices.

Students are invited to submit a short video or original visual art piece, with submissions accepted now through April 3 through the online portal at dutchessny.gov/antivape.

DOH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado said, "Vaping poses real risks to the health and development of our young people. This contest gives students the opportunity to use their creativity to educate their peers, start meaningful conversations, and help shape a healthier future for teens across Dutchess County."

The contest is open to middle- and high-school-aged students who live in Dutchess County. Submissions will be judged in a 14-18 age category. Each student may submit one original piece of artwork.

Students are asked to submit artwork that encourages teens to avoid vaping or quit using vape products, while highlighting Dutchess County by featuring local locations or communities. Accepted formats include:

- A video file (MP4 or MOV), 30–90 seconds in length
- A descriptive storyboard for a 30–90 second video script
- A piece of visual two-dimensional art
- A digitally designed graphic

Artwork may not be generated using artificial intelligence (AI). If selected, students will collaborate with a local media group to produce a professional version of their video or advertisement.

Submissions will be evaluated based on creativity and originality, strength of message, visual impact, and connection to teen audiences. Winning artwork will be used in a media campaign seen across social media platforms, in community spaces, and as television advertisements seen throughout Dutchess County. The first-place winner will earn a paid internship with The Art Effect to create a professional, polished version of their video or advertisement.

County funding for the contest is provided through New York State's multistate settlement with JUUL Labs Inc., to combat youth vaping. Settlement funds were awarded to the Dutchess County DOH and Dutchess BOCES to support education and prevention efforts aimed at reducing underage use of electronic nicotine products in Dutchess County.

To learn more about the "Escape the Vape" art contest visit dutchessny.gov/antivape.

· Southern Dutchess News
· Beacon Free Press
• Northern Dutchess News

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

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

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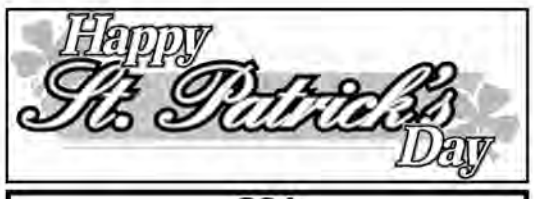

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2	5	2	4	5	3
1	4	1	3	1	4
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1	3	2	5	2	4
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SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 18)

I put my phone in the fridge – is that dementia?

Forgetfulness and "brain fog" are common signs of aging. You came home from the grocery store, put the carton of milk in the fridge … and your phone right next to it.

You drive to the hardware store; but when you arrive, you can't remember why you made the trip. Next time, I'm making a list, you think to yourself. It's a good idea at any age.

While these things can happen at any age, it does tend to become more common as we age. It's normal to walk into a room and forget why you're there. It's normal to forget a word or a name that's right on the tip of your tongue. It's a frustrating feeling, but there are few lasting effects on your day-to-day life.

Oregon Health and Science University lists some of the main causes of aging-related forgetfulness, many of which can feed off each other:

• Hormone changes during the transition to menopause

• Other hormone changes (for example, thyroid problems)

• Depression

• Stress

• Lack of sleep

• Vitamin and mineral deficiencies (such as vitamin B12)

The better news is that treating one issue can often resolve others; for example, treating depression can often result in improved sleep and lower stress. A change in diet and exercise aimed at improving your heart health is likely to also be good for your brain.

What's the difference between brain fog as described, and early signs of dementia or Alzheimer's disease?

Dementia - The warning signs

Dementia refers to a group of conditions that cause memory loss and cognitive decline, worsening over time. Alzheimer's disease is far from the only type of dementia, common though it may be. Common signs of dementia include:

• Forgetting names of close family members. It's one thing to forget the name of your neighbor's dog; but to forget a spouse or child's name is anything but normal forgetfulness. It indicates sufficient cause to get in touch with a medical professional for a diagnosis.

• Personality changes. Older adults in the middle stages of dementia can suddenly become more prone to paranoia, impulsiveness, and aggressive behavior. If this is new behavior, it's time to contact a doctor to learn what the next steps may be.

• Disorientation. Being in an unfamiliar setting can be challenging; but in an individual with dementia, these setting can induce anxiety, panic and even anger, along with confusion as to place and time.

The questions to ask your doctor

How can I tell what's what? Our brains are the biggest they'll ever be in our 40s, according to University of Utah neurologist Christine Claff Brown. After that there's gradual shrinkage. Your doctor can help you sort out what's out of the ordinary for your age.

Is an outside issue affecting my memory? Ask the doctor to check for signs of possible medication side effects, nutritional deficiencies, a thyroid issue, or a urinary tract infection (UTI), all of which can mimic dementia to at least some extent.

What kind of lifestyle changes could help? Dementia is at least somewhat preventable. Here are some factors that are within our control:

• Stay physically active;

• Eat a healthy diet, such as the Mediterranean diet, which includes leafy greens, whole grains, healthy fats, and low-fat animal proteins, such as fish or poultry;

• Get enough sleep each night;

• Limit alcohol and avoid smoking;

• Manage controllable risk factors that can increase the risk of dementia, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and sleep apnea;

• Wear your eyeglasses or hearing aids if you need them;

• Stay social, whether that be with family members, friends, neighbors, religious organization groups, or volunteering;

• Partake in a variety of activities you enjoy that also challenge you mentally, such as puzzles, reading, art, board games, or museum visits.

What's a cognitive screening all about? A visit to a neurologist might not be needed as the first option. Your physician may be able to start with having you take a short, basic cognitive screening that only lasts a few minutes. After that, brain imaging may provide some clues, such as whether there's been a previously undetected stroke.

I heard about a blood test for dementia. It's not usually the first option. The test does exist, but should be administered only to people with confirmed cognitive decline. Experts warn that the test can generate false positives in people with normal cognition, for the "tau" protein that's a key indicator that an individual has Alzheimer's.

Introducing 'Silvershield' Scam Prevention

As scams get ever more sophisticated, it can become more likely that a scammer will successfully trick you into giving up money and/or personal information. We can get scam prevention help from caregivers and loved ones; but they can't always be there in the moment, when the scam attempt is happening.

We need tools that can efficiently detect scams, report them to law enforcement agencies so that investigations can proceed with the speed they require to succeed.

That's where OFA's new partnership with "Silvershield" (www.silvershield.ai) comes in. It's a way to check suspicious communications quickly and get clear guidance on what to do next.

OFA is hosting an "Introduction to Silvershield" event for Dutchess County residents over 60, on Tuesday March 24, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the OFA Poughkeepsie Friendship Center at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie. Bring your mobile device if you have one.

Seating is limited, so book your spot by calling OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text message.

New day/time for "Navigating Medicare" classes in Rhinebeck

OFA's monthly "Navigating Medicare" classes at Rhinebeck's Starr Library have been rescheduled to the second Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m.

The monthly "Navigating Medicare" classes held at the Poughkeepsie Galleria community room remain on the third Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m.

To sign up for any of the above classes, call OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555.

We also have a "Navigating Medicare" class scheduled for Friday, April 10, at 9:30 a.m., at Adriance Memorial Library in Poughkeepsie (93 Market St., parking on Noxon St.). To sign up for this class, call (845) 485-3445, ext. 3380.

'Pancakes in the Park' returns

One sure sign of spring is when the sap in Dutchess County's maple trees starts running during the late winter and early spring. OFA and Dutchess County Parks mark the occurrence each year with our free "Pancakes in the Park" event for Dutchess County older adults.

By popular demand there are now two "Pancakes" events, both at 10:30 a.m.: one on Thursday, March 26, at the auditorium at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls; another on Tuesday, April 7, at the Pavilion at Brookmeade in Rhinebeck. Each participant gets a pancake breakfast accompanied by a splash of maple syrup tapped from Bowdoin's own trees. A limited amount of syrup will be available for purchase.

Seating is limited and advance registration with OFA is required. Registration is open; call us at (845) 486-2555 during business hours to register. Guests may register for only one event. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email, or text message.

OFA March Mobile Office Hours

If you have questions about aging services that would be best served by an in-person meeting, but travel to and from Poughkeepsie is a challenge, OFA Ambassador Mary Reedy is hosting by-appointment OFA Mobile Office Hours around Dutchess County.

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

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, 10 a.m.-1 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 24, 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.

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