

## Serino appoints new medical examiner

POUGHKEEPSIE – Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has appointed Andrew R. Guajardo, M.D. to serve as Medical Examiner within the County's Department of Health. The Dutchess County Legislature unanimously approved the appointment at its March 9 board meeting.

Serino said, "I am pleased to welcome Dr. Guajardo as Dutchess County's new Medical Examiner. We are grateful he has accepted this important responsibility, and I am confident that his professionalism, experience and commitment to public service will serve the residents of our community well in this new role."

Dr. Guajardo, who grew up in the Hudson Valley, will return to the region to join Dutchess County Department of Health after serving with the Utah Office of the Medical Examiner, where he served as Assistant Medical Examiner starting in 2019 and has most recently served as Deputy Medical Examiner since 2024.

Dr. Guajardo holds triple board certifications in Anatomic Pathology, Neuropathology and Forensic Pathology. He earned his M.D. from New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY in 2013, after earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry with a concentration in Forensic Science and Toxicology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, NY. He completed his post-graduate medical training from 2013-2018 at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD and later completed a fellowship in Forensic Pathology for the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator from 2018-2019. He is

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## RHINEBECK CHAMBER'S 'GOOD EGG' AWARD

# Family history, building bonds are catalysts for Kim Williams

By Dina Pace

For Kimberley Williams, community involvement has never been something separate from her professional life - it is simply part of who she is. As the Senior Vice President of Retail Operations and Marketing for Williams Lumber & Home Centers, a third-generation family business serving the Hudson Valley and Catskill Region for nearly 80 years, Williams has spent decades supporting both customers and communities across the region.

When asked about the organizations she has supported, Williams is quick to point out that the list reflects the many communities her company serves. Williams Lumber itself regularly supports a wide range of local causes, including regional charities, first responder organizations, and community initiatives such as Trees for Troops, which helps provide Christmas trees to military families, and Girls and Boy Scout troops throughout the region.

"Our communities are the reason our company has been able to thrive for eight decades," Williams says. "Supporting the organizations and people who make this region so special has always been part of our mission."

That philosophy, she explains, was shaped early in life by watching the



A large crowd was on hand at the Beekman Arms Inn in Rhinebeck on March 12 to congratulate Kim Williams on winning the annual Good Egg Award. From left are Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce President Luciano Valdivia, Chamber Executive Director Liana Galardi, Williams, and Rhinebeck Mayor Gary Bassett. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

example set by her parents and grandparents. The Williams family story began in 1946 when her grandfather, Stan Williams, purchased Gibson Lumber on East Market Street in Rhinebeck. What started as a single location eventually grew - under the leadership of her father, Sandy Williams - into a network of seven

stores serving communities throughout the Hudson Valley and Catskills.

"My parents believed deeply in showing up for your community," Williams explains. "My father not only helped grow the company, but also volunteered

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# Cary-led study reveals ticks carrying more than one pathogen are on rise

Tick-borne diseases are on the rise in the northeastern U.S., with many ticks carrying more than one pathogen. So reports a recent analysis published in "Ecosphere" by researchers at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook and the SUNY Center for Vector-Borne Diseases at Upstate Medical University.

As part of the study, led by Cary Institute disease ecologist Shannon LaDeau, more than 2,000 black-legged ticks were screened for a suite of 16 pathogens at the Upstate Tick Testing Laboratory. Ticks were collected over nine years from forested plots at the Cary Institute's campus. The site is home to a long-term research project on the ecology of tick-borne disease.

The study focused on nymphal ticks, the life stage most likely to spread tick-borne diseases to people. "Rates of infection tend to be even higher in adult ticks because they have more opportunities to feed and acquire pathogens," LaDeau notes. "But they are also bigger and so easier for people to detect and remove before they spread disease."

A key finding is that more nymphal ticks are carrying multiple pathogens. Of the thousands of ticks that were collected between 2014 and 2022, roughly 1 in 10 tested positive for at least two disease-causing pathogens.

"Overall, it's a concerning co-infection rate that has been increasing over time," LaDeau noted.

Most commonly found together were

*Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, and *Babesia microti*, a parasite that causes a malaria-like disease known as babesiosis. Co-infection with these two pathogens was more frequent than expected, approaching 11% by the end of the study.

These results have important public health implications because the two pathogens require different treatments. Lyme disease is treated with antibiotics such as doxycycline, while *Babesia* infections are treated with antiparasitic medications.

"In the Northeast, when someone gets sick after a tick bite, medical professionals should be testing for both pathogens to ensure proper diagnosis and

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## • OPEN FOR BUSINESS •

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# FDR Museum & Artists Collective present at Hyde Park Chamber breakfast



Members of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce heard presentations from Jeffrey Urbin from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Artists' Collective of Hyde Park at their March 12 meeting.

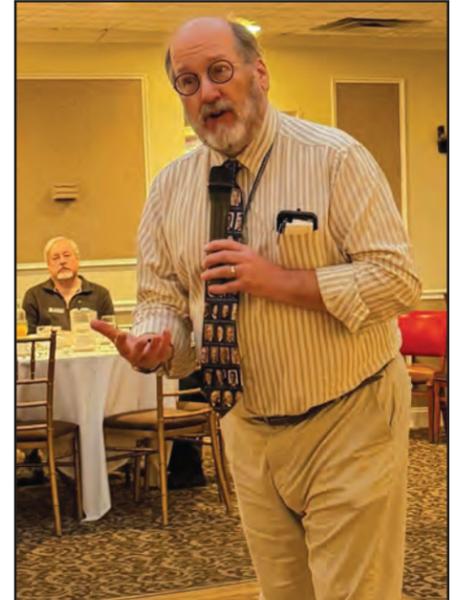
Urbin (right) shared his knowledge and insights on the Museum and the talented artists (left) shared many of their works.

Members thanked Eveready Diner for hosting the breakfast meeting. Sponsors were Sweet's Funeral Home and DACK Consulting.

The next Chamber Breakfast will be Thursday, April 9 at Coppola's Italian American Bistro, with special guest speaker Robert Pollard from Hyde Park Recreation.

"Thank You" to Ron & Cathy Lane and DACK Consulting Solutions for sponsoring the April breakfast!

- Courtesy photos



## Serino appoints new medical examiner

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also an accomplished instructor, presenter and author of numerous publications.

Dr. Guajardo said, "I am honored to serve as Dutchess County's Medical Examiner, and I thank County Executive Serino for this appointment. Throughout my career, I have worked with care, professionalism and respect for the families I've served. I'm grateful for the opportunity to return to Dutchess County and bring my experience to this role. I look forward to working with the County team to ensure this important work is carried out with compassion, integrity and a strong commitment to our community."

The Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) investigates deaths that are sudden or unexpected, as well as natural deaths when the individual was not under a doctor's care, and deaths resulting from homicide, suicide, or accidents. These investigations determine how and why a person died, providing families with clear and timely answers.

In 2025, the MEO handled more than 1,500 cases, including 409 scene investigations and 450 cases requiring further review. The office conducted 53 autopsies, 75 external examinations, 119 death certifications, and three consultations.

Dr. Guajardo will officially begin as Medical Examiner on Monday, March 23. He replaces former Medical Examiner Dr. Dennis Chute, who retired



Andrew R. Guajardo, M.D.

last year. Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Mary Grace Centeno has served as Medical Examiner during the interim.

Dr. Guajardo grew up in Hudson Valley, living in both Westchester and Dutchess counties. He returns to the area with his wife and daughter and their dogs to enjoy favorite pastimes of hiking, photography, road cycling and cooking.

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## Barrett announces 2026 Women's History Booklet

Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-Dutchess/Columbia) announced the 2026 edition of "Women's History in the Hudson Valley - Ten Stories from Columbia and Dutchess Counties," an annual booklet created by her office highlighting the stories of 10 trailblazing women from the Hudson Valley. Assemblymember Barrett has produced this booklet every year for Women's History Month in partnership with the Mid-Hudson Library System, and this year's edition is now available at libraries and high schools across the 106th Assembly District.

"We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and young people growing up today deserve to know more about the lives and achievements of extraordinary women who lived in their own communities," said Barrett in a release. "I'm so proud to share these stories each year as part of our Women's History Month celebrations and thank our

Mid-Hudson Library System for their partnership in distributing our annual booklets."

This year's highlighted women include civil rights advocates, artists, authors, community leaders, and businesswomen from the 18th to the 21st century. Included in this year's booklet is Laurie Quinn, a leader in the recovery community who helped create Columbia County Pathways to Recovery and trained countless Certified Recovery Peer Advocates across the Hudson Valley. Eunice Mauwee, another woman profiled, served as a respected knowledge keeper, safeguarding the stories, lineage and cultural traditions of her people and ensuring that generations of Mahican and Schaghticoke history – including those deeply rooted in the Hudson Valley – would endure. You can learn more about these extraordinary women and others in this year's edition.

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### CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE TO RECEIVE \$31.6M FOR WATER, SEWER PROJECTS

The City of Poughkeepsie will receive \$31.6 million in State grant and interest-free financing, including loan forgiveness LIFT grants to aid in water and sewer infrastructure improvement projects.

The financing part of a \$250 million effort by Governor Kathy Hochul announced last week to help communities statewide afford water and sewer infrastructure improvement projects.

The two projects in the City of Poughkeepsie are aimed at replacing a total of 766 lead service lines. The Environmental Facilities Corporation Board of Directors previously approved an additional \$2.9 million in federal grants to inventory lead service lines.

The goal of the program is to provide low-cost financing and State and federal grants that empower local governments to advance crucial upgrades — such as replacing lead service lines, treating harmful emerging contaminants, mitigating flooding, and modernizing aging systems — without passing high costs on to local ratepayers.



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## Rhinebeck Chamber's 'Good Egg' Award: Family history, building bonds are catalysts for Kim Williams

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Good Egg Award recipient Kim Williams of Williams Lumber and Home Centers accepts a Proclamation of Honor from Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

as a first responder and played a vital role in bringing 911 emergency services to our region. That kind of commitment to helping others was something we grew up seeing every day."

Those early examples created a lasting impression. For Williams, volunteering and supporting local organizations has never felt like an obligation - it simply feels like the right thing to do.

"You help because someone needs help," she says. "If you're fortunate enough to have the ability to contribute - whether that's time, resources, or simply bringing people together - you should."

While she is honored to receive the Good Egg Award from the Rhinebeck Chamber of Commerce, Williams says the recognition really belongs to the many people who have worked alongside her over the years.

"This award reflects the efforts of so many people - our associates, our family, and the countless volunteers who quietly make our communities stronger every day," she said.

For Williams, the most meaningful part of volunteering is not the recognition, but the relationships it creates.

"One of the greatest gifts of being involved in community organizations is meeting people you might never have met otherwise," she says. "You get to work alongside individuals and families who care deeply about making things better for others."

Over time, those shared efforts often turn into lasting friendships and connections. "When you work together toward something positive - whether it's supporting a local charity, helping a family in need, or strengthening a community organization - you build bonds that go far beyond the moment."

For Williams, that sense of connection is what truly defines community - and why she remains committed to giving back.

"At the end of the day," she says, "being part of a community means helping to take care of it."

## With unanimous vote, DC Legislature opposes proposed immigration detention facility in Chester

At its March Board meeting, the Dutchess County Legislature passed a resolution opposing a proposed federal immigration detention facility in the Town of Chester. The resolution passed 20-0 (5 absent) with unanimous bipartisan support, and cites concerns around due process, transparency, and potential impacts on public health, infrastructure, and community stability.

Chair Yvette Valdés Smith stated, "Tonight, the Legislature issued a powerful and unified rebuke of federal immigration policy. I was proud to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand in solidarity with Orange County in opposing this facility and to reaffirm Dutchess County's identity as a welcoming community. While federal leaders fail to live up to the ideals enshrined in our Constitution, this body voted to recognize the rights and dignity of all people, and will continue to resist any effort to violate the liberties which define our nation."

"Dutchess County is a welcoming community, and we are proud of that," said Legislator Anna Shah (D-District 5). "But we are also a Legislature that takes our responsibility to govern very seriously. This resolution makes clear that we will stand up for constitutional principles, community stability, and the promise of liberty and justice for all that we commit to every time we pledge our allegiance to

the American flag. There is no controversy; we stand for humanity and the rule of law."

Legislator Chris Drago (D-District 19) said, "Dutchess County does not want an ICE Mass Detention Facility or increased ICE activity. When law-abiding Dutchess County residents are abruptly taken by ICE, the harm extends beyond the individual, causing trauma to children and families and the destabilization of local businesses. Our priority is public safety, which means all our neighbors are safe in their homes and communities, able to travel without fear, work, and raise their families."

Building on these points, Legislator Lisa Kaul (D-District 6) said: "Let's be clear about what is happening: Illegal incarceration without due process. People are being held indefinitely, with no legal protection. There is no oversight. There is no accountability, and people, including children, are dying inside from lack of medical care and outright physical abuse. There is only one way to stop this: prevent it from happening in the first place."

When contacted by email, Michael Polasek, minority leader for the Republican caucus, replied, "Thank you for reaching out. Our caucus doesn't have any comments at this time."

## Cary-led study reveals ticks carrying more than one pathogen are on rise

*continued from cover*

treatment," said LaDeau.

More than 38% of the ticks tested were capable of spreading at least one disease-causing pathogen to people.

"The probability of being exposed to a pathogen by a single bite from a nymphal tick is approaching 40%," said coauthor Richard Ostfeld, a disease ecologist at Cary Institute who has been studying tick-borne diseases for decades. "That seems uncomfortably high. These ticks are so small, most people don't even realize when one is feeding on them."

Babesia microti, the parasite behind babesiosis, was the most common, found in more than 21% of the nymphal ticks that were tested. Babesiosis is characterized by fever, chills, sweating, muscle pain, fatigue, and anemia. Most cases are mild, but occasionally, babesiosis can be fatal. Babesia was more widespread than the researchers expected; past research had placed this parasite's prevalence at less than 10%.

Borrelia burgdorferi, the bacterium

that causes Lyme disease, was found in 19.3% of nymphal ticks and was the only pathogen detected in all the study sites and in every year. It is also becoming more common: The odds of a nymphal tick carrying Borrelia burgdorferi increased by an average of 5.7% each year during the study period.

"Babesia infection rates in ticks bounce up and down from year to year, but our results show it is quite common. In the final two years of the study, it was more prevalent than Borrelia," said LaDeau. "The rise in Babesia infection in our study is consistent with rising numbers of human babesiosis cases in the Northeast."

Ostfeld was surprised by the yearly variation in infections. "These results further support our contention that the risk of tick-borne disease varies considerably between years," he said. "Long-term monitoring is the best current method for predicting which years will be really bad and which years not as bad."

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### Trump's miscalculation and the lives that will be lost

To the editor:

In 2003, America invaded Iraq because we thought it would be easy to topple that regime and build a nation. That hubris led to the deaths of five thousand U.S. service personnel, hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths, and the addition of four trillion dollars of debt which we carry today.

Twenty-three years later, our President has launched an illegal war on Iran because he thought it would be easy to topple a hostile regime and replace it with one which would answer to him. Instead, we have a colossal miscalculation which has spiked gas and food prices here at home and provided hundreds of millions of dollars a day of oil revenue for Putin, enabling the Russian economy to fund its barbaric terrorism in Ukraine and allowing it to prepare more effectively for war with Europe.

People - what on earth are we doing in Iran other than serving Netanyahu in Iran and Putin in Ukraine while Russia is providing intelligence to Iran in the targeting of U.S. Troops? We have helped Russia kill Ukrainians by starving their air defenses, and we now blow through more Patriot missiles in the first three days of this conflict than Ukraine has used in four years of war using these very expensive and precious missiles against very cheap and plentiful drones? We've been attempting to force capitulation upon Ukraine and now we are asking them to help down these drones as if we did not expect any of this to happen before launching the stupidest of wars in our nation's history with no rationale, no imminent threat, and hence, with no legal cover?

Our troops and their leaders swore oaths to defend the Constitution and are trained that they must disobey illegal orders. Instead of legal authority, it is being widely reported that there are hundreds of complaints that military commanders are invoking the Book of Revelations and the Second Coming. We now know that our strikes killed 160 girls when we targeted their school in a double tap strike, which likely claimed the lives of first responders - eerily similar to Russia's methods in Ukraine. That U.S. lives have been lost in this pointless and ridiculous cause is heartbreaking for their families and loved ones. None should have had their lives so ended.

To those who say that we need to support the troops, I answer, we must support the troops by impeaching and removing those who have given these illegal orders starting at the top.

Mark Lagus  
Town of Northeast

### Rolison working on solutions to battle high utility bills

To the editor:

Hudson Valley families and small businesses are struggling with skyrocketing utility bills, and I hear their concerns every day. About one-third of what residents pay for electricity and gas isn't for the energy itself—it comes from taxes, fees, and government charges.

Senate Bill S8463, which I sponsored, was designed to provide immediate relief. It would have temporarily removed certain charges from utility bills for one year and paused specific green energy taxes for two years. This isn't just a paper promise—it's real help that would put money back in the pockets of hardworking New Yorkers when they need it most.

What's perplexing is that, despite the clear need for relief, every single member of the Senate majority recently voted against this common-sense measure. I spoke on the Senate floor about the calls I receive from residents struggling to keep up with rising costs, and it's hard to understand why practical, immediate relief for families and small businesses was turned

down.

Even though this legislation did not advance, I will continue to fight in this legislative session to get this bill passed and my commitment remains unchanged: bring practical solutions that ease financial burdens and support families and small businesses across the Hudson Valley and New York State.

Senator Rob Rolison  
(39th Senate District)

### Germany over all in the world; Now it's happening in America

To the editor:

"Deutschland, Deutschland über alles, über alles in der Welt." So began the original German national anthem, which was used by the Nazis as a declaration of world hegemony. No international laws could hold Germany back. No sense of decency or morality would alter its drive for military dominance.

The same ultra nationalist thinking now controls our own White House. We bomb, we starve, we invade any country that gets in our way. We laugh at the rules that have held us back since World War II. Any world leader who resists will be assassinated or captured. With 800 military bases in the rest of the world, we will crush all dissent both home and abroad.

How did Germany think it could control the world? Racism convinced Hitler that Germany would prevail against all other ethnicities. Also, Hitler ruled by hunches and constantly went against his own generals. By the time he invaded Poland, there was nobody in the press, or the courts, or the universities who could stand up against him.

Our own Hitler is busy crushing dissent and destroying our Constitution. His billionaire class has bought up all the media. He controls what is taught in our colleges, and simply ignores the courts when they urge caution. Finally, he is deeply racist and has energized the white Christian nationalists.

He is talking about taking a third term, and has ICE as his private Storm Troopers. Unless we stop Trump now, we will have to fight him in the streets.

Fred Nagel  
Rhinebeck

### Propaganda on Iran haunts Trump

To the editor:

In war, it is important not to believe your own propaganda. Or the caricature of the enemy fed to the public.

But the Trump administration has done both regarding Iran. Like many nations, Iranian society is an imperfect construct. There are many dissatisfied with policies of the Iranian government. And many dissatisfied with their economic situation, although much of that pain has been imposed by the U.S. via sanctions and economic warfare.

There is a dissident group of refugees in the U.S., many who regard the pre-1979 monarchy that gave rise to the Iranian revolution as the golden days. Obviously vast numbers of Iranians disagreed.

There were also agents, from the U.S. and other nations, in place in Iran to trigger and fan dissatisfaction into violent unrest.

But the hoped-for counter-revolution against the current Iran regime did not happen, leaving the huge fleet of our warships, put in position to aid any rebellion, stranded.

But surely, in the administration's eyes, its great armada could do what popular unrest could not – overthrow the Iranian Islamic Republic, and bring in a government friendly to the U.S. After all, just recently, a similar fleet and U.S. Special Forces had overthrown Venezuela's president with little effort.

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## Certified Arborist Training set March 30 -April 2 at CCEDC

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist Training is scheduled March 30 -April 2 at Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) Farm and Home Center, 2715 Route 44 in Millbrook.

The training program is designed to assist green industry professionals in obtaining the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist designation. All sessions are in person.

Attendees of this program will gain an increased knowledge of practices pertaining to the care of trees including tree biology and identification, proper prun-

ing, and safety, soils, tree health and diagnosis. DEC pesticide recertification credits have been approved for categories 2, 3a, 10, and 25 for all four sessions. ISA Continuing Education Units (CEUs) have been applied for but have not yet been granted for sessions. This training may be eligible for Landscape Architect CEUs. A Certificate of Attendance will be issued.

Join speakers Barb Neal, Mark Chisholm, Steve Chisholm, Amy Mackenzie, Don Gabel, and Isabella Yannuzzi.

For more information, contact contact Yannuzzi at [imy3@cornell.edu](mailto:imy3@cornell.edu) and 845-677-8223 ext. 118.

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# Hyde Park Town Board honors veteran bus driver, unveils historical study of New Guinea Community

During its March 9th meeting, the Hyde Park Town Board celebrated community service and local heritage, honoring a long-time school bus driver and presenting a major archaeological study on one of the Hudson Valley's most significant African-American historical sites.

Honoring 20 Years of Service, the Board awarded Thomas Germano Sr. a certificate of appreciation for his 20-year tenure as a school bus driver. Supervisor Al Torreggiani commended Germano for his unwavering commitment to the safety of the town's children and the broader community.

Preserving the New Guinea Community, Heritage Hartgen Archeological Associates presented the findings of a multi-year study on the New Guinea Community site, located near Hackett Hill Park. This historic settlement, which thrived from the late 1700s through the mid-1800s, was home to free and formerly enslaved Black residents and served as a vital refuge for those traveling the Underground Railroad.

Explorations have revealed house foundations, ceramics and stone walls along Fredonia Lane.

The Town has secured a \$33,750 Development of Cultural Resource Grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway to fund this research. Artifacts including tools, maps, and original deeds are cur-

rently on display at the Hyde Park Historical Society.

"This site remains one of the most important early African American historical sites in the Hudson Valley," said Torreggiani. The full presentation video may be accessed through this link: <https://youtu.be/T4X1m6ldw6o>

In other updates, Public Safety Legislative Aide John Lombardi reported on several key initiatives:

- Road Safety: New reduced speed limit signs will be installed on Dorsey Lane by March 13th. Strict enforcement will follow.

- Infrastructure: Survey work has begun to address flooding in Staatsburg near the Library and River and Post Restaurant.

- Emergency Response: The West Clinton and Roosevelt Fire Districts were thanked for their response to a fire at Quaker Hill Estates. Jay Marshall and his sons were commended for their quick action in containing the blaze, as well as Chief Dingee for his swift response.

- Grants & Improvements: The Town Court received a \$24,000 grant for a new video interpretation system, at no cost to taxpayers. Renovations for the Hackett Hill pool and pool house are moving forward following the acquisition of a \$1,000,000 grant, at no cost to taxpayers.



Hyde Park Supervisor Al Torreggiani presents a Certificate of Appreciation to school bus driver Thomas Germano Sr. at a meeting of the Town Board on March 9. *Courtesy photo*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*continued from page 4*

So our mighty armada and forces based in nearby countries attacked Iran.

But Iran did not collapse. Instead, it attacked our regional bases. And the president's most vulnerable points: oil prices and the U. S. stock market, by closing the Strait of Hormuz and sending oil prices skyrocketing.

Perhaps seeking an off ramp, President Trump declared that the war is almost over, there is not much left to attack (in a nation one third the size of the U. S.). Perhaps some military historian in the Pentagon gently reminded Mr. Trump that a much smaller Vietnam endured U. S. bombing from 1965 until 1973.

Our leaders (President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, General Caine) are incompetent and should resign and be replaced.

Frank Stoppenbach  
Red Hook

**MLB ticket program unfair to non-smart phone users**

To the editor:

On March 25th the 2026 Major League Baseball season starts, and some fans are not able to purchase tickets and go to the games.

If you do not have a smart phone, you

are frozen out as far as purchasing tickets are concerned. The idiot commissioner for the past few years has decreed that he is biased against some fans, especially older ones.

You used to be able to purchase tickets and go to the game no problem. Not anymore. If you purchase tickets online you have to have a smart phone. If you have a computer, they will not send the tickets so you could print them out.

I used to have for over 20 years the Saturday package for the Yankees, but without a smart phone I am unable to go to a game.

The commissioner wants to make it easier for the young people to go to the games. The problems with that are that the young people might go to one or two games a year. An older fan can go to many more because we have the time and money that the young do not have. Also, if you go to a game, you will see most of the young people on their phones and not watching the game.

Does anybody else think this is total unfair? At least let us print tickets from our computers so we can enjoy the greatest game ever.

Marc Savino  
Tivoli

## DC Parks celebrates maple season

A series of maple-syrup-themed events and educational programming are scheduled this spring to celebrate the annual sap harvest from maple trees throughout Bowdoin and Wilcox Parks to make Dutchess County Parks Pure Maple Syrup, as well as the local history behind the syrup-making process.

The schedule of events includes:

Residents of all ages are invited to the Maple Open House on Saturday, March 21, to join Parks Naturalists and learn about how ancient civilizations made maple syrup with primitive tools compared to modern techniques. Free sessions will be offered at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and will be held outside near Pavilion 5 at Bowdoin Park in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Sessions are rain or shine, so participants should dress for the weather. Registration is not required.

Senior Pancakes in the Park, in partnership with the County's Office for the Aging, will offer older adults, ages 60 and up, a free pancake breakfast at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday March 26, at Bowdoin Park and at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, at the Pavilion at Brookmeade in

Rhinebeck. Registration is required by calling the OFA during regular business hours at (845) 486-2555. Participants can choose one date to attend.

The Community Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 28, at 9:30 a.m., will be in the Community Auditorium at Bowdoin Park and will feature pancakes made by Parks staff and Dutchess County Parks Pure Maple Syrup. Tickets are \$5 per person (cash only at the door, no large bills, please); children 6 and under are free. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Abbreviated, walk-up Maple Education workshops with the Parks Naturalists will also be held (weather depending) and are included with pancake breakfast entry.

Event information, including registration and updates are available on the Dutchess County Parks Facebook page and at [dutchessny.gov/parks](http://dutchessny.gov/parks).

Other group Maple Education experiences are available at Bowdoin and Wilcox Park by appointment. For more information on these or other Parks Naturalist programs, please call (845) 298-4600.

### 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](http://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.

## Now accepting students for the upcoming spring semester!

**Giving back through life-changing experiences!**

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

845-505-5483

845-266-4283

*The Ridge School*

[www.ridgeschool.org](http://www.ridgeschool.org)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## 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

## Millbrook Historical Society program on Millbrook Library set March 19

Sam Falk will present "The Story of Millbrook Library" at the Millbrook Historical Society's monthly meeting on Thursday, March 19. Since its establishment in the late 1800s, Millbrook Library has always been a vital part of life in the village. It has supported Millbrook's immigrant population, served as a patriotic hub through two world wars, and provided countless hours of enrichment to community members of all ages. Through the use of the library's extensive archives, and those of local newspapers, this presentation will discuss the origins of the library building, the people who were an integral part in making the library what it is today, and the role the library has played in the village throughout the years. Visit [www.millbrookhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.millbrookhistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

## 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: Split Pea (March 20) and Soup Buffet Night (March 27; selections TBA). Email [pleasantvalleyunitedmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:pleasantvalleyunitedmethodist@gmail.com) or call (845) 635-3022 for more information.

## Friday Fish Fry at East Clinton Firehouse

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

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.rhinebeckhistoricalsociety.org).

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

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

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

## 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.

## HP Chamber's Networking Bingo set March 26

The Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce will hold a Networking Bingo event on Thursday, March 26, at La Catrina on Route 9 in Hyde Park. Admission is \$20 a person. Cash bar with heavy appetizers. Bring a non perishable item for the Hyde Park Food Pantry. Visit <https://www.hydeparkchamber.org/online/> for more information.

## 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](http://www.historicredhook.org) for more information.

## '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, non-violent local actions.

For more information about the Rhinebeck event, visit <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/787686/>. For general information, visit [www.NoKings.org](http://www.NoKings.org).

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

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

at [hvars.org](http://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.

## 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](mailto:info@poughkeepsiereformedchurch.com) or visit [www.poughkeepsiereformedchurch.com](http://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](http://andersoncenterforautism.org/mranderson). Note: Event is open to the public, but NYS law requires that you must be 21 years of age or older to drink alcohol.

## Hyde Park Chamber sets April events

The Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce will hold its next Breakfast Meeting on Thursday, April 9, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at Coppola's in Hyde Park. The speaker will be Robert Pollard, director of Hyde Park Recreation. The cost is \$25- per member, \$30- non-member. Advance reservations are requested via [www.hydeparkchamber.org](http://www.hydeparkchamber.org); payment online or at the door.

The Chamber's Business Of the Year Dinner will take place on Thursday, April 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. Location TBD. For tickets and more information, visit [www.hydeparkchamber.org](http://www.hydeparkchamber.org).

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

## Chancellor Livingston Chapter NSDAR meeting set April 19

The next meeting of the Chancellor Livingston Chapter NSDAR will take place on Sunday, April 19, at the Chapter House, 77 Livingston St., Rhinebeck. The business meeting (members

only) is at 2 p.m., followed at 2:30 by a program, "A Revolutionary Kitchen Garden" with Barbara Hobens, that is open to the public.

Hobens has been an invited speaker at the Philadelphia Flower show and featured on two episodes of HYTV's Gardening By The Yard; has designed and installed backyard and roof gardens for residences, not-for-profits, public parks, and historic sites in NYC and the Hudson Valley. She served as Hyde Park Historian and president of the F.W. Vanderbilt Garden Association. Hobens was named a Harrison Fellow of the Historic Landscape Institute (Monticello/University of Virginia).

The program is free and open to the public. For information about this meeting or how to become a member, email Doris at [darrhinebeck@gmail.com](mailto:darrhinebeck@gmail.com).

## Garden volunteer information meeting set April 22

Learn about the many ways to be involved in the gardens at The Homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield and the Vanderbilt formal gardens. A volunteer information meeting will be held on 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.

## Rhinebeck Garden Club off-site meeting April 22

Rhinebeck Garden Club's off site meeting is set Wednesday, April 22, 10 a.m., at Northern Dutchess Botanical Gardens, 389 Salisbury Turnpike Rhinebeck. The program, "The Growing Experience," will be presented by Marcella Santini. The meeting is open to the public but guests are asked to join after attending two meetings. For more information about this program, or the RBGC or upcoming programs, please contact Sue, 845-797-3226 or Hannah, 914-263-5298

## 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.milessofhope.org](http://www.milessofhope.org)

## Brookmeade Golf Classic set June 1

The Brookmeade Community Foundation is hosting The 9th Annual Brookmeade Golf Classic. Golf Classic will be held on June 1 at the Red Hook Golf Club starting at 8 a.m. Breakfast, lunch and golf shirts provided. Raffles throughout the day, and top team awards. Hole-in-one contest and more. Player cost: \$175 per person. Proceeds to benefits the programs for senior citizens living in the Brookmeade Community. To sign up, contact us at [info@brookmeadecommunity.org](mailto:info@brookmeadecommunity.org). Sponsorship opportunities also available.

## Clinton Community Roadside Cleanup set April 18

Submitted By Rick McGlaufflin

The annual Town of Clinton Community Roadside Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day by walking Clinton's scenic Town roads and cleaning them up. It's a great way to get outside, get exercise and get involved. It's also an opportunity to involve children in their community.

Start at Clinton Town Hall where you will receive road assignments and bags. When you're done, bring the roadside garbage you've collected back to Town Hall.

Water and chips will be provided to participants. So will sunflower seeds for planting at home.

Free disposal of roadside garbage available on April 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. only.

Register to volunteer and/or nominate a road for cleanup by contacting Rick McGlaufflin at (845) 266-3003 or [ncouse330@gmail.com](mailto:ncouse330@gmail.com).

Let us know if your road needs to be cleaned up!

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

Dialing 988:

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

# Honoring the women who have served our nation



As we celebrate Women's History Month in March, we recognize the women who have helped shape our nation in countless ways. As a Marine and now the Director of the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, I'm proud to reflect on the remarkable role women have played in the U.S. Armed Forces. Women have defended our freedom, often quietly, often without recognition, but always with courage and commitment.

Throughout our nation's history, military service has been viewed through the lens of men's experiences. Women, though, also defended our country. Take the American Revolution, for example, when women supported the colonies' fight for independence as nurses, messengers, and cooks. Some even took up arms for the cause, including Massachusetts' Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man and enlisted in Continental Army, serving from 1782-1783 under the name Robert Shurtliff before being honorably discharged.

During the Civil War, thousands of women brought care and compassion to soldiers, tending to their injuries and saving lives on both sides of the conflict. While some had loved ones fighting in harm's way, others simply volunteered out of a sense of duty; no matter their motivation, every woman's service was heroic and appreciated.

The 1900s brought with them more formal roles for women in the U.S. military during World War I, whether they worked as translators, nurses, or telephone operators, among other key duties. Non-combat roles expanded for American women in World War II, as newly created units – such as the Women's Army Corps (WAC), the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) and the Coast Guard's Semper Paratus Always Read (SPAR) – attracted hundreds of thousands of women who took up critical roles like code-making, mechanical repair and aircraft ferrying.

The enthusiasm with which so many women served our country during these global military operations only reinforced that the strength of our Armed Forces has never been defined by gender, but rather by the ability and devotion of those who selflessly sacrifice to protect their neighbors.

Over the years, roles for women in the military have expanded in operations worldwide, including during the Korean and Vietnam wars. They later became pilots and engineers; and, as military policy evolved, women began to assume leadership roles like commanders and unit leaders. They continue to serve in every branch and career field with ever-increasing responsibilities.

Unlike in colonial days, women in our Armed Forces are no longer a novelty; they're a necessity, comprising approximately 16 percent of active-duty military personnel, flying combat missions, commanding ships, leading troops and helping shape the future of national defense.

Women's contributions to our nation's defense are all the more remarkable when you realize how many balance their military duty with responsibilities of family life. The uniform they wore during their military tenure did not define their commitment to serve; their dedication to make their community a better place is what makes them stand out.

The same is true at the County's Office of Veterans Affairs, where we're blessed to have two veterans, Deputy Director Julie Leslie and Veterans Service Officer Beth-Anne Canero, who continue to serve their fellow veterans.

Julie told me, "Being a female veteran means more than having worn the uniform—it means carrying a lifelong commitment to service, resilience, and leadership. We stepped forward in a place that once doubted us, proving that strength has no gender and courage has no limits. Even after the uniform comes off, the mission does not end. We continue to serve in our communities, our families



Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs Deputy Director Julie Leslie counsels a local veteran at the recent Dutchess County Veteran Town Hall at American Legion Post 1302 in Poughkeepsie. *Photo courtesy of Dutchess County Government*

and our country, showing the next generation that dedication, sacrifice, and patriotism are not moments in time but a life-long promise."

Added Beth-Anne: "We walked a road cleared by the courage of earlier generations whose service and sacrifices opened doors, forged a path, and lifted standards for every warrior who would follow. No matter who we were or what branch we served in, we took the same oath, executed with the same grit, and now have the same duty to pay it forward for our next generations of warriors. In the end, a veteran is defined not by identity, but by service, belonging, and a calling, a calling to once have served in uniform and now a calling to serve our communities as veterans."

Sadly, our nation hasn't always fully recognized the contributions of female veterans. Far too often, these women's brave sacrifices didn't receive the same appreciation as that of their male comrades. In Dutchess County, though, we honor all men and women who have kept us safe.

Last May during National Nurses Week, for example, County Executive Sue Serino and I celebrated City of Beacon resident Edie Meeks, one of approximately 9,000 women who served

in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and received no recognition for their sacrifice upon their return.

Do you know of a deceased veteran – male or female – worthy of Dutchess County's recognition? County Executive Serino and I begin our 2026 series of Honor-A-Veteran ceremonies next month, again celebrating the lives and service of local departed servicemembers. Last August, Air Force Sgt. Michele AnnMarie Swarner Kinsell, a former Wappinger resident, was the first female recognized through our "Honor-A-Veteran" program, and we look forward to commemorating more local heroes this year. You can learn more about the program, including how to nominate a veteran, at [dutchessny.gov/honoraveteran](http://dutchessny.gov/honoraveteran).

Every month, but particularly this March, I encourage you to thank the female veterans in your life and in Dutchess County. Take a moment and listen to their stories. Share their experiences with your children.

When we recognize the sacrifices made by our female veterans, we aren't just recognizing their past; we ensure their personal histories will continue to inspire the next generation of courageous young women who will keep us free.

## Lagrangeville National Guard airman receives new rank, new responsibilities

LATHAM, NY - Air Force Major General Gary Charlton, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, announced the recent promotion of members of the New York Air National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Mariatu Baker from Lagrangeville, assigned to the 107th Attack Wing, received a promotion February 8, 2026 to the rank of airman first class.

Air National Guard promotions are based on an Airman's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Airmen for a career in the New York Air National Guard, according to Charlton.

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

For more information about the New York Air National Guard or contact a recruiter, visit <https://dmna.ny.gov/ang/>.

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# Mountain View Strategic Wealth hosts inaugural MVP Awards Ceremony

In celebration of its commitment to its clients and the greater Hudson Valley financial community, Mountain View Strategic Wealth recently hosted the inaugural Mountain View Performance (MVP) Awards luncheon at Heritage Food + Drink in Wappingers Falls. Created by Founder and Chief Investment Officer John Morgan AIF®, APMA®, the MVP Awards recognized exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that achieved the greatest total return, within their respective categories, and were owned in client accounts for at least six months during 2025.

The first-ever recipients of the MVP Awards were:

- Domestic Equity: iShares S&P 100 ETF, which saw a 19.81% return in 2025.
- International Equity: Fidelity Enhanced International ETF, recognized for a 37.28% return.
- Risk-Managed Equity: Allianz U.S. Equity Six Month Buffer 10, a suite of six ETFs that utilizes option strategies designed to protect the investment from the first 10% of a market correction.
- Fixed Income: J.P. Morgan Active Bond, which realized an 8.22% return.

“Our partnership with global investment management firms is integral to our clients’ success in reaching their long-term financial goals,” said Morgan. “Celebrating four partners that were particularly important to the shared success of Mountain View Strategic Wealth and its clients in 2025 is an opportunity to reflect on our victories over the past year.”

Mountain View Strategic Wealth, a Dutchess County-based registered investment advisory firm, provides investment management, financial planning and estate planning services to clients from Buffalo to Florida and as far west as Illinois. To learn more about the firm and its partners, visit [www.mvswealth.com](http://www.mvswealth.com).

Founded in 2018 and built upon decades of experience, Mountain View Strategic Wealth, LLC is a Hudson Valley-based financial planning and registered investment advisory firm with a future-focused, long-term view, and clients who span from Buffalo to Florida and as far west as Illinois. The firm provides tailored investment management for individuals, families and trusts; retirement and college planning; estate, legacy and insurance planning and more.



Pictured, from left are Samuel Rothschild, senior regional vice president, Allianz; Nick Crowley, regional director, Fidelity; John Morgan AIF®, APMA®, founder and chief investment officer, Mountain View Strategic Wealth; Mike Yanocha, CFP® and executive director, J.P. Morgan; John Ecklund, managing director and investment specialist, J.P. Morgan; and Rachel Krall, VP and market leader, iShares. *Courtesy photo by Tom Moore*

## RED HOOK VILLAGE COURT OBTAINS \$10,000 GRANT



Red Hook Village Justice Jonah Triebwasser said the recent grant will fund court enhancements at no direct cost to taxpayers. *Courtesy photo*

The Village of Red Hook Justice Court has received a Justice Court Assistance Program grant of over \$10,000 to pay for court office furniture and equipment, as well as long-term records storage.

Village Justice Jonah Triebwasser said, “We are deeply gratified that we were able to obtain the funds for these important court enhancements at no direct cost to the Red Hook taxpayers. These grants were a team effort. I thank the court staff - Court Clerks Rebecca Kent and Madison Hart - as well as Mayor Karen Smythe, the Village Board and various members of the Village staff for their invaluable assistance in obtaining these funds.”

This is the 19th year that Judge Triebwasser has obtained court grants. Since 2007, the court has been awarded more than \$140,000 in grants, furniture and equipment for the Red Hook Courts from sources outside of direct Red Hook taxpayer funding.

## Village of Rhinebeck seeks members for Comprehensive Plan Committee

The Village of Rhinebeck is seeking residents and Village stakeholders interested in serving on the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC).

Those interested in contributing their time and expertise to help implement the Village’s Comprehensive Plan are encouraged to apply. Please submit a brief letter of interest and résumé (optional) to the Village Clerk at:

[mmclinton@villageofrhinebeck.gov](mailto:mmclinton@villageofrhinebeck.gov)  
by March 20, 2026.

The CPIC was established by the Village Board of Trustees following adoption of the 2024 Village Comprehensive Plan. The committee serves as an advisory body to the Board and helps guide the long-term implementation of the Plan’s recommendations.

Members of the CPIC work collaboratively to:

- Help develop and maintain an implementation action plan that prioritizes short-, mid-, and long-term goals from the Comprehensive Plan
- Coordinate with Village boards, committees, staff, and community stakeholders
- Monitor progress on implementation and provide periodic updates to the Board of Trustees
- Identify funding opportunities and support grant-funded initiatives
- Foster public engagement and trans-

parency around implementation efforts

- Provide guidance on policy or regulatory changes that may help advance the Plan’s goals

The CPIC also serves as the Village’s Zoning Advisory Committee for the New York State Smart Growth zoning code update grant. The technical drafting of the zoning code is being conducted by the Zoning Code Working Group, which operates as a subcommittee of the CPIC with support from the Village’s planning consultant.

The committee consists of 7–9 members appointed by the Mayor with approval of the Board of Trustees. Members include representatives from Village boards and community members with relevant experience or interest in areas such as Planning and land use, Architecture or design, Historic preservation, Sustainability and climate planning, Economic development and Community engagement

Members must be Village residents or owners/operators of a business with frontage in the Village Center. Preference is given to Village residents.

Members serve two-year staggered terms appointed by April 1.

The committee is currently meeting the first Thursday of the month at 6pm, with additional meetings as needed depending on project work.

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# Creative Living

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## Rehabilitation projects planned for historic landscapes in Hyde Park

Garden volunteer information meeting set April 22 at Wallace Center

By Anna de Cordova  
NPS Horticulturist

Landscape preservation is alive and well at the three Roosevelt and Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in Hyde Park. Living landscapes constantly evolve and change with age. The National Park Service (NPS) preserves the landscapes of the Vanderbilt Mansion, the Homes of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Roosevelt's neighbors at Bellefield Mansion to tell the story of a significant period in history for visitors to these homes.

This season, there will be a number of active landscape rehabilitation projects throughout the gardens in Hyde Park that visitors can witness firsthand.

The Gravesite at the Home of FDR is getting a major renewal to restore the crisp, neat character of Sara Delano Roosevelt's rose garden. The entire area will be graded to correct drainage problems and restore the level appearance of

the garden. New metal edging will be restored to paths and garden beds. Divisions of historic peonies will be replanted in the garden following the renovation. New sod will be installed in early summer, and new rose plants of historic varieties will be planted next spring.

Next door to the Roosevelt home, The Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield will begin work that addresses the rejuvenation of flower borders and gravel paths. The condition of the beautiful stone walls and hemlock hedges that enclose the garden will be assessed. The vines on the walls and buildings will be replaced.

The Vanderbilt formal gardens will have pathways improved between the mansion and the formal gardens. With years of use, the historic strolling paths have begun to disappear. Rebuilding and widening the paths will restore the Gilded Age experience of walking the grounds for pleasure.

In every case, these projects are designed to restore the character of the landscape that has shifted enough from the period of interpretation to require a re-set.

In the arc of time, plantings cycle through their natural lives in a single year, a decade or two, or even over a century or more. As trees grow, historic gardens may go from sunny to shady to

sunny again. Unlike a home landscape that adapts to shifts in occupants, uses and site conditions, the historic landscape has a "period of significance" that is supposed to be preserved to reflect the culture of that time. To accomplish the goal of preserving the historic landscape, there is a periodic renewal of elements using historic plant materials, structures and maintenance techniques.

When these projects are undertaken, the National Park Service considers more than just the preservation of the historic character. For example, the use of a slightly different gravel will allow access for wheelchairs and strollers. Invisible elements (irrigation to conserve water, metal edging to reduce wear and tear by maintenance, and underground pipes to correct a drainage problem) will build in resilience and improve sustainability without compromising historic character. Incorporating these improvements sets the stage for success for the next 75 years.



Guests of the Vanderbilts enjoy the Formal Gardens in Hyde Park ca. 1920s. The gardens are maintained by the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association.

Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

continued on page 14

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## DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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By David Kalvitis

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# Beatrix Farrand Garden Association to offer range of events this season

Register for these events at [www.BeatrixFarrandGarden.org](http://www.BeatrixFarrandGarden.org). Early registration is recommended, as space fills quickly.

**Saturday, March 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**, “Pruning Woody Shrubs Workshop” Anna DeCordova, MS, NPS Horticulturist. A hands-on workshop on the fundamentals of pruning woody plants. Participants will learn about the basic tools and principles of woody plant pruning. Participants will then practice technique in the Wild Garden’s wonderful collection of young, native shrubs and trees. This workshop is a great way to build skills and confidence before tackling home projects or planting new trees and shrubs. Fee \$15, BFGA Members free.

**Saturday, April 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**, “Plant This, Not That”: Author Book & Book Signing with local writer Elise Howards, in collaboration with Oblong Books, Rhinebeck. Howards will discuss some of the 200 native plants covered in her brand new release to help you create a more sustainable garden. She will be able to sign your books, available at Oblong Books. Reservations required. Free.

**Saturday, April 25, 8:30-9:30 a.m.** In celebration of Earth Day, “Guided Bird Walk on the FDR Historic Site,” with Bill Peterson of the Ralph Waterman Bird Club, a regional resource for information about Hudson Valley native and migratory birds. Fee \$15, BFGA Members free.

**Saturday, April 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**, “What to Plant in 2026: Beauty & Biodiversity for the Garden”: Join

Beatrix Farrand Garden Director of Horticulture Ashley Gamell for a tantalizing dive into the most exciting plant selections for 2026 - great design plants that offer beauty, but also support a dizzying array of diversity. From “chocolate cake” plants to gorgeous natives that are just hitting the commercial market, Gamell will share her favorites for a low-input, full-of-life garden in 2026. Fee \$15, BFGA Members free.

**Saturday, May 16, 1 p.m.**, “Welcome Spring! Plant Walk,” enjoy a “narrated plant walk” through the spring seasonal displays of native plants in the Wild Garden, with the BFG Horticulturist Ashley Gammel, discovering the characteristics, care and design features of the extensive native plant demonstration garden. Free.

**Saturday, June 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**, “Wild Pollinators: Diversity, Natural History, and Conservation” with Kyle Bradford, MS, Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Project. This talk will give an overview of some of our pollinating animals and highlight the groups of wild bees, their natural history, and conservation. Pollinator diversity and natural history are spectacular and easily observable wherever you find flowering plants. \$15, BFGA Members free.

**Saturday, July 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**, “Harvest & Arrange: Techniques for Natural Floral Arrangements”: Christine Fontana of Peony Design Studio will demonstrate how to gather seasonal stems from the garden and turning them



The Wild Garden at the Beatrix Farrand Garden in Hyde Park. *Courtesy photo*

into loose, organic designs. Guests will learn simple harvesting tips, conditioning basics, and natural arranging techniques that highlight each flower’s movement and character. Fee \$15, BFGA Members free.

**Friday, July 17, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**, “Golden Hour Plant Walk”: Enjoy a “narrated plant walk” through the mid-season displays of native plants in the Wild Garden, with the BFG Horticulturist Ashley Gammel, discovering the characteristics, care and design features of the extensive native plant demonstration garden. Free.

**Saturday, Aug. 1, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**, “Small Space - Serious Veg / Techniques from the Roosevelt Home Garden” with

Anna deCordova, MS, NPS Horticulturist. Whether you lack sun, soil, space, time, water, money, physical capacity or “all of the above” - we’ve got ideas for how you can still enjoy growing your own vegetables. Join us in the Small Space Garden Exhibit at the Home of FDR to explore creative ways to grow food when your garden resources are limited. We’ll explain the concepts and their many applications, and you’ll go home with a lot of big ideas for a little garden. Fee \$15, BFGA Members free.

**Saturday, Aug. 15, 10:30-11:15 a.m.**: Ashley Gamell, “Tiny Garden Wonders”: While plants stay rooted in place, the bounty of strange and colorful insects and

*continued on page 17*

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# This floral magnate is a gnat magnet

Jack-in-the-Pulpit is a tyrannical boss!

When I hiked more regularly with my retired friend Barbara, she used to point out the wildflowers along the way. She spotted Bluebells, Trilliums, and Lady's Slippers – and paid them homage before continuing the hike. I trekked along, with an, “oh, yeah” or “pretty,” in response to her glee. My purpose was the workout.

Since I've moved to a hermitage in Dutchess County, I enjoy more personal time, but I see Barbara less frequently. When she visits, I show her the enchanted woodland outside my door. I'm now excited by the displays of Trout Lilies and Wild Ginger Blossoms. How proud I am of the discoveries that I have learned to notice!

### A flower like a BOSS

One of our local ephemerals, Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), has a remarkable shape. The part that you might call a flower is a specialized structure. The central spike, or spadix, is “Jack”; the hooded canopy, or spathe, is the “Pulpit.” The spadix contains many tiny flowers at its base.

The spadix produces an aroma that attracts fungus gnats. The small flies are important pollinators in moist, shaded forest understories. Of course, pollinators are “working” for plants and are “compensated” with nectar as they assist

with plants' reproduction. But *Arisaema triphyllum* exerts more control over that relationship. *A. triphyllum* is a tyrannical BOSS.

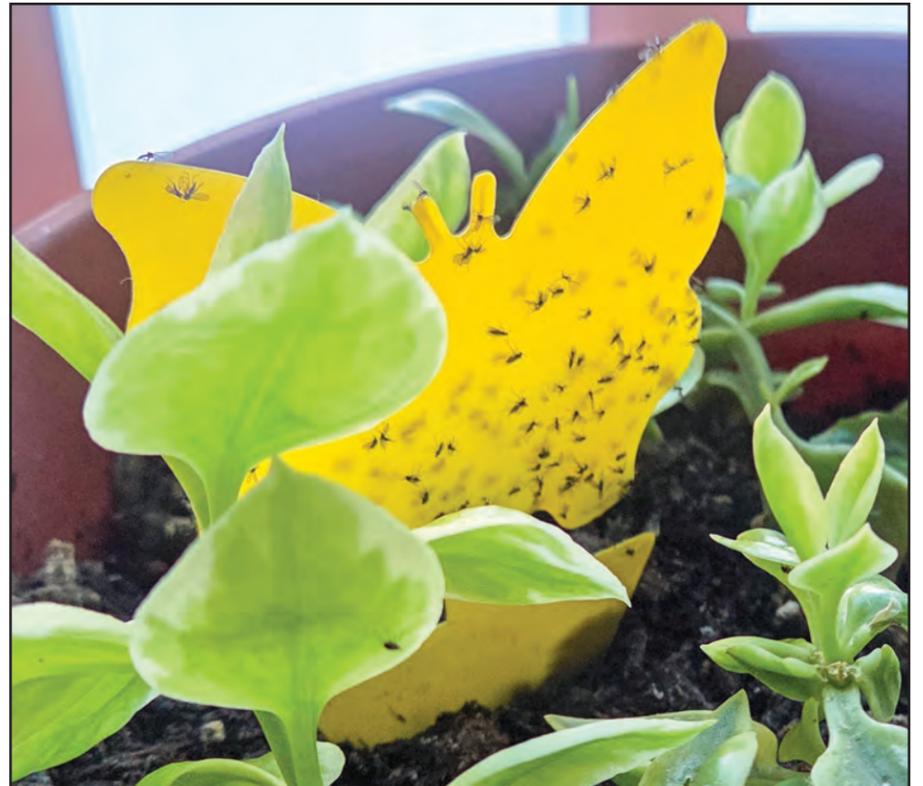
### Carnegie, Gates, and Triphyllum

CEOs like Andrew Carnegie and Bill Gates are magnates who built empires in the steel industry and personal computing. Carnegie controlled mines and railroads; Gates managed operating systems and digital applications. Steel continues to be instrumental in numerous industries; Microsoft and Windows continue to lead in the computing market. Both Carnegie and Gates prioritized growth and profit over employee well-being.

*Arisaema triphyllum* is an inconspicuous forest dweller that is one of the most efficient managers of unpaid labor in eastern North America. The plant's spadix mimics the smell of mushrooms, which is where fungus gnats lay their eggs. The fungal smell is concentrated within the striped spathe, which also acts as a visual lure to entice the gnats to enter the dark, damp crevice. Upon entry, gnats lose their footing due to the spathe's waxy coating; they fall to the bottom.

Distressed at not finding any fungus upon which their future larvae can feed, the flies continually bounce off of the

*continued on page 13*



Above: Fungus gnats are important pollinators in moist, shaded forest understories, where they have a dangerous attraction to the spring flower Jack-in-the-Pulpit (left). Below: Jack-in-the-Pulpit can change its sex to maximize energy. Once the male plants have stored enough nutrients in their underground corm, they transition to large, healthy females, capable of growing berries (on stem). *Photos by Francine Wizner*



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spadix as they struggle to escape. In so doing, they become covered with pollen. If they are lucky enough to find a hole at the bottom of the spathe, the gnat can fly off to pollinate the next *A. triphyllum*. However, sometimes there is no "escape hatch."

### Adaptive strategy

Andrew Carnegie embraced new technologies and controlled every step of production. Bill Gates prompted Microsoft to move from software to an internet cloud focus. Likewise, innovation is key to the *A. triphyllum* "business model." It changes its sex based on its "assets."

Young, small plants are usually male. It takes less energy to make pollen than fruit. Once the plants have stored enough nutrients in their underground corm, they

transition to large, healthy females, capable of growing berries. If a plant is damaged or the soil is poor, it can "downsize" back to a male, or even a non-flowering state, the following year to conserve resources.

Female *A. triphyllum* (Jill-in-the-pulpit) do not have a hole at the bottom of their spathe. Therefore, not only don't fungus gnats get "paid" with nectar, they toil to their death for the plant they were drawn to like a magnet. And *A. triphyllum* ensures their legacy survives the environment's harshest conditions.

### Who's your Daddy?

No doubt the empires built by Carnegie and Gates are impressive. They dominated in their respective industries. The early spring forest floor is a

specialized niche. And now we all know who commands fungus gnats.

*Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates*

*science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT BEATRIX FARRAND GARDEN

There will be two Volunteer Info Sessions at the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association at Bellefield, located on the FDR Historic Site, 4097 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park. The meetings will take place on the Beatrix Farrand Garden Terrace on Tuesday, April 7, 9:30-10:30 a.m., and Saturday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet the Director of Horticulture and Interpretation and learn more about volunteering opportunities at the Beatrix Farrand Garden. Stop by for an informal visit to check out the spring garden, ask any questions you may have, and see if this volunteer community is the right fit for you.

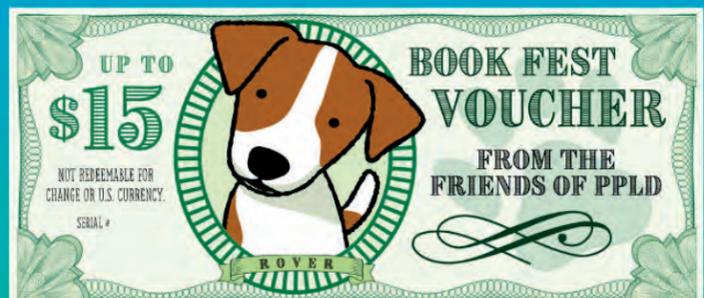


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# EXHIBITIONS

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

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

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

**Millbrook Library**, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through March 28:** Art Blast, presented by the Millbrook School District, Dutchess Day School, and Millbrook Early Childhood Education Center. [www.millbrooklibrary.org](http://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. **March 19 -April 19:** "Landscapes and Life: Three Artistic Visions," featuring works by Elisabeth Barnett, Janine Privratsky and Dan Shornstein. These 3 local Hudson Valley artists frequently paint together and their works include landscapes and other subjects from life including wildlife, people, local buildings, and still life composition. **Opening reception with the artists:** Sat., March 21, 5-7 p.m. (845) 757-2667 or [www.tivoliartistsgallery.com](http://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](mailto:info@womenswork.art)

**LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK  
IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE**

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.



## Rehabilitation projects planned for historic landscapes in Hyde Park

*continued from page 10*



Left: Garden gate, wall and vines at the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield in Hyde Park. Above: The funeral of Eleanor Roosevelt, November 10, 1962, in the Rose Garden at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt Hyde Park. Both gardens will undergo rehabilitation projects this year. *Photos courtesy of National Park Service*

**The Two of Us Productions**  
*in collaboration with*  
**Copake Grange & RARE Inc. present:**

**March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 7:30pm**  
**March 22<sup>nd</sup> 3pm**  
**March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm**  
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The gardens and landscapes at these three National Parks are all maintained with volunteer support. Anyone interested in caring for historic gardens, learning new skills and sharing the history of these beautiful places with visitors is welcome to join the effort. To find out more, attend a New Volunteer Information Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, at 10 a.m., at the Wallace Visitor Center at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Route 9, Hyde Park. No experience is needed, the schedule is flexible and there are many fun options for getting involved.

*Anna de Cordova is the horticulturist at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in Hyde Park.*

**SEND US  
YOUR EVENTS**

[creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com](mailto:creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com)

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

**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 21, 2:30 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$29. (845) 876-3080 or [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)

**March 19: Short Films & One-Act Plays, Speculative & Paranormal Works by Andrew Austin**, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Featuring sci-fi short films and original one-act plays exploring cryptids, time travel, and the unknown, 7 p.m. \$3 admission. (845) 876-2903

March 20: Celtic Angels Ireland, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St.,

Poughkeepsie. Get swept away in the enchanting harmonies of the Celtic Angels as they present an impassioned homage to their beloved Emerald Isle, 7:30 p.m. Over 30 Irish traditional and contemporary tunes masterfully intertwined and performed fully live by the Trinity Ensemble, the Celtic Angels, and the Celtic Knights Dancers. Tickets \$69, \$49 & \$39, with discounts available for Bardavon members. [www.bardavon.org](http://www.bardavon.org)

**March 20: Laura Zarougian**, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Zarougian and her band Little Tree (comprising of acoustic guitar, electric guitar, electric bass and drums) will perform an evening of original music from her debut album "Nayri" and selected cover songs by artists such as John Prine, Nanci Griffith, and Lucinda Williams, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. [www.thestissingcenter.org](http://www.thestissingcenter.org)

**March 20: Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show**, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Featuring Pat Lamanna, Lisa Dudley, Geri Loughery, Lynda Sales, Joann Chamberlain, 8-10 p.m. Donations suggested. More info: (845) 876-7007

**March 20-22: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe**, 379 Main St., Beacon. March 20: Cherish The Ladies, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$50 advance, \$55 door. March 21: The American Pink Floyd Show, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. March 22: Story Songs of the 70s: Gordon Lightfoot, Harry Chapin, Cat Stevens, 7 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. (845) 855-1300 or [www.townecrier.com](http://www.townecrier.com)

**March 20-21 & 27-28: "Godspell,"** St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 806 Traver Rd., Pleasant Valley. A spiritual re-

imagining of the joyful, inventive "Godspell" by Stephen Schwartz and John Michael Tebelak. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m. on March 20, 21, 27 & 28. Tickets in advance are \$15 adults, \$12.50 for seniors/children. Tickets at the door are \$20 adults, \$15 for seniors/children. The Box Office is open Sundays, noon-3 p.m. at the Parish Hall, and phone orders can be taken Sundays 1-3 p.m., and Monday & Wednesday evenings 6-8 p.m. by phoning (484) 358-1624.

**March 20-22 & 27-29: "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B,"** Copake Grange Hall, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. The Two Of Us Productions presents a thoroughly modern take on the classic Holmes & Watson sleuthing partnership. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 students & seniors (call for group rates). For advance reservations, visit [www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org](http://www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org) or call (518) 329-6293.

**March 21-22: Ars Choralis, "A Tapestry of Cultures,"** Kingston & Woodstock. Award-winning chorus led by Artistic Director Barbara Pickhardt, continues its celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with two concerts: March 21, 7 p.m., Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, Kingston; and March 22, 4 p.m., Overlook United Methodist Church, Woodstock. "A Tapestry of Cultures" honors the diversity of the American experience with music by composers from many of the same lands as those who fought for and supported the American cause. Featured pieces include Misa Criolla by Ariel Ramírez, O Ignis Spiritus by Michael McGlynn, Across the Vast Eternal Sky by Ola Gjeilo and many

more. Joining Ars Choralis will be soloists Maria Bedo-Calhoun and Laren Nash Silberstein, and Bob Shaut on saxophone. Tickets \$30 at the door, \$25 in advance and \$10 for students. [arschoralis.org](http://arschoralis.org)

**March 21: "Farm to Needle" Fiber Arts Workshop**, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Martha Belardo of Hudson Valley Fiber Arts leads a workshop to create a handcrafted hen and chicks to take home, 10 a.m. All supplies, tea and light refreshments provided. Beginners welcome. Register via [wilderstein.org](http://wilderstein.org). More info: (845) 876-4818

**March 21: Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, "Americana 250,"** Marriott Pavilion at The Culinary Institute of America, 1946 Campus Dr., Hyde Park. NDSO celebrates America's 250th anniversary with a multimedia tribute to Colonial life in the Hudson Valley, 7:30 p.m. Music Director Kathleen Beckmann conducts the program, which features music, spoken word, and Colonial imagery that will be projected above the orchestra. Featured guests include storyteller Jonathan Kruk & multi-instrumentalist Premik Russell Tubbs. Pre-concert presentation, "A Revolutionary War Soldier Comes to Life," 6:45 p.m. with award-winning educator and historian Neil Murray of Pine Plains. Tickets \$38; 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](http://www.ndsorchestra.org) or call (845) 445-9606.

**March 21: Movies with Spirit, "The Station Agent,"** Immanuel Lutheran Church, 22 Livingston St., Kingston. The

*continued on page 17*

## Celebrate the art of puppetry on March 21 in Poughkeepsie

Arts Mid-Hudson invites the community to A Day of Puppetry, a free, family-friendly open house celebrating the art of puppetry in the Hudson Valley. The event will take place on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Keepsake at the Academy, 33 Academy St., Poughkeepsie.

Serving as the kickoff event for the 2026 Hudson Valley Puppetry Festival, the open house will bring together regional puppeteers and theater artists for a lively, hands-on experience. Families and visitors of all ages can meet artists, explore a variety of puppet styles up close, and learn how puppetry produc-

tions come to life.

Throughout the day, participating artists and organizations will host interactive tables featuring demonstrations and simple make-and-take activities, giving both children and adults the opportunity to try puppetry themselves.

A Day of Puppetry is free and open to the public, offering an engaging introduction to an art form that blends storytelling, theater, and visual art.

To view the full 2026 Hudson Valley Puppetry Festival schedule and RSVP, visit [www.artsmidhudson.org/hvpf](http://www.artsmidhudson.org/hvpf).

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

**THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS!**

**Odd/Even**  
Connect Dots:  
odd numbers only  
▲ 1 - 69  
even numbers only  
■ 2 - 122  
letters only  
● A - G

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# Palm trees and problems

The Coppola clan ends their St. Thomas vacation with chaos at customs.

Some time ago, my wife and I went to the Millbrook DMV to get our "Real ID" drivers license. We had an appointment at 4:15 and showed up early. We got our number, and sat down. As we were waiting for our number to get called, the security guard got friendly with us and asked us if we had our info and reviewed what we had to make sure that we were ready for our turn. He asked us if we had a picture ID and naturally, we had our current drivers license. He spoke of being questioned about his ID in the summertime because he is Italian and gets very dark, and as such his picture doesn't match his face very well.

While we talked, it sparked a memory of when I was young and went on vacation to St. Thomas and the great Coppola international, domestic incident that occurred.

After New Year's my father would close the restaurant for two weeks and we would go on vacation. Somehow my father discovered St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands before it was a thing. He would rent a condominium on the beach,

and we would all go, my grandmother included. We had a great time, hanging out on the beach, snorkeling, fishing and swimming. Being on the beach so much, we would all get tanned very dark. In the afternoon, Pop would go up and cook us all lunch; and when it was ready we would enter to Italian music and a huge meal, usually followed by a nap then more beach time. It was great; while on the beach, my grandmother would sing Italian songs. If we went to a restaurant, she would find a piano and we would sing Italian songs. One time we were walking around the harbor and a homeless person played guitar and sang along to Italian songs he somehow knew.

The problems occurred when we were leaving St. Thomas.

The US Virgin Islands is a United States territory, so passports are not necessary. However, you still need to go through customs. So here we are, the Coppola Clan, eight persons strong, on line, in the sweltering heat, waiting our turn. Back then, customs in St. Thomas resembled a cattle farm, and we were

being rustled through. You could almost hear the cows mooing, and it didn't smell pleasant, either. Naturally, my brother Vinny and I were acting up, making the experience even worse than it should have been. \

So there we are: My father, my mother, both speaking with broken English; me and my brothers, sun-tanned dark; and my grandmother, who speaks no English at all, clutching her Nonna purse and her heavy winter overcoat. Get the picture?

First up my father and mother. My father hands over his papers, answers his questions in broken English, and is immediately flagged and has to go over to one side. My mother, seeing what has happened, grabs me and Vinny through the line. The officer asks me and Vinny our names, addresses, etc. We answer in perfect English and get waved through without so much of a mumble. As we were waved through, I asked my mother, "If Pop has to stay, who's going to make the Lasagna?" Naturally our big worry.

Next up: my brothers; again, no problem, and they escort Nonna through also. At this point they just want to get this huge group of people through and really didn't care about any of us ... except Pop.

My father, seeing this, starts cursing out the officers in half Italian, half English. Telling them, he wasn't Cuban, he was Italian. The officers, with their Caribbean accents, can't understand my father and my father can't understand them. Thank God, because at this point Pop was really cursing them out. My mother starts fumbling through her purse and pulls out Pop's passport or as they say "passaporta." Meanwhile, my grandmother is in the back praying the rosary.

When the officers were done interrogating Pop, he was waved through and rejoined the Coppola Clan.

Once we got on the other side, my grandmother removed the coat she had over her arm, revealing 6 bottles of rum she had sneaked through customs. Vinny and I were in shock. She came up to us as we had our mouths open; and as she laughed she gave each a smack across our cheeks.

With that, our flight was announced, just as we were making our way through. A five-minute routine checkpoint ended up being a hour-long ordeal. With that we

boarded our flight for New York, thus ending the great Coppola international, domestic incident.

I'm sure I'm not the only one that has had experience like that. I'm sure my children could tell stories of me getting through the airport. It was never easy.

Anyway, enjoy this recipe of Pop's lasagna.

## LASAGNA

### Ingredients

- 2 32 oz. jars Coppola's Tuscan Sauce
- 1 lb. meatloaf mix
- 15 lasagna noodles
- 2 lbs. ricotta
- 1 1/2 cups grated Parmesan
- 1 pound mozzarella, grated
- 4 egg yolks

### Method

In a large nonstick frying pan, brown the meatloaf mix. Drain the fat and add two jars of sauce and let simmer, being sure to stir and break apart the ground meat. Let sit.

Heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. In a large pot, boil water, and cook pasta close to al dente. In a large bowl, combine the ricotta and Parmesan and mix until well blended. Mix in egg yolks and set aside.

In a 13-by-9-inch baking dish, spread a thin layer of sauce and cover with noodles. Spread a layer of ricotta cheese mixture over noodles. Top with mozzarella, another layer of sauce, and repeat. The third layer should be topped with sauce and mozzarella. Cover and bake for 40 minutes; remove cover and bake for an additional 25 minutes. Remove from oven, and let stand for 20 minutes.

To serve, cut into squares, and serve with drizzled with more sauce. Add grated cheese to taste.

Serve with crusty Italian Bread and ice cold Pinot Grigio.

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

## SPRING FUN IN RENSSELAER COUNTY

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## Learn about volunteering at Vanderbilt Garden March 29

Those interested in finding out more information about volunteering at the F.W. Vanderbilt Garden in Hyde Park are welcome to attend a Garden Kick-off Meeting on Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m., at the Wallace Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Historic Site Visitor Center.

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association is looking for volunteers to perform all tasks required to plant and maintain the garden. No gardening expertise is needed, we will train as we work. You need to be 18 years old or older and be able to perform, at mini-

mum, basic physical labor such as bending, kneeling and carrying buckets, but there are other support tasks such as greeting the public that require no physical labor.

Garden work is done during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon. You are welcome to work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, e-mail [volunteers@vanderbiltgarden.org](mailto:volunteers@vanderbiltgarden.org) or visit [www.vanderbiltgarden.org](http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org).

# Sensory-friendly screening of 'The Super Mario Galaxy Movie' April 4 in Hyde Park

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino invites residents of all abilities, their families and support organizations to a complimentary, sensory-friendly screening of "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" on Saturday, April 4 at Roosevelt Cinemas, 4060 Albany Post Road in Hyde Park. Doors open at 9 a.m., and the movie begins at 10 a.m. Registration is required and can be completed online at: [dutchessny.gov/mario2026](https://dutchessny.gov/mario2026).

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Dutchess County is happy to invite our neighbors of all abilities to enjoy this brand-new movie in a comfortable and welcoming setting. We want everyone in our community to have the

chance to share in the fun of going to the theater and watching a movie together."

This special event, part of Dutchess County's ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative to foster inclusion and accessibility, is tailored for those with sensory sensitivities. The theater will have lights left up slightly and the volume reduced, ensuring a welcoming and comfortable environment for all attendees.

Refreshments will be available for purchase onsite; outside food and beverages are not permitted.

Information about upcoming sensory-friendly events and inclusive initiatives is available on Dutchess County's website, [thinkdifferently.net](https://thinkdifferently.net).

# Empire Training Center for the Arts opens applications for Arts Administration Program

Following the success of their Stagecraft and Technology program in 2025, Poughkeepsie-based workforce development initiative Empire Training Center for the Arts (ETCA) has announced the launch of their Arts Administration training program, now accepting applications.

The program is designed for adults interested in administrative careers in the performing arts and live entertainment, offering training in the areas of Fundraising, Communications, and Company Management. Applications are open to all adults ages 18 and over who have received a high school diploma or GED. No previous experience in performing arts or live entertainment is required.

The program runs from April 21, 2026 through August. From April through early summer, participants engage in training three days per week. As part of the program, participants then transition into a full-time, seasonal, paid employment opportunity with New York Stage & Film, working on their summer season at Marist University.

Empire Training Center for the Arts

(ETCA), co-founded by veteran arts leaders Trish Santini and Frank Butler, is in response to a longstanding need to provide professional training for communities historically underrepresented in the arts, to develop well-prepared technical and administrative employees, and to create a more equitable arts sector.

ETCA's inaugural training program launched in July 2025, with graduates entering the workforce this past December. To date, ETCA graduates have received work opportunities at PS21: Center for Contemporary Performance, Theater for the New City, Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra, Jazz in the Valley, Beacon Bonfire, The Stissing Center for Arts and Culture, and The Chance.

"The training at Empire Training Center for the Arts is first-rate, and we look forward to working with their graduates this summer as we produce and develop a full lineup of film, television, musicals, and plays for our 41st season in Poughkeepsie!" said Ian Belknap, artistic director of New York Stage & Film.

# A & E Calendar

*continued from page 15*

award-winning film stars New Paltz-area resident Peter Dinklage as Fin McBride, 7 p.m. In the film, Fin inherits an abandoned train depot in rural New Jersey and moves in to escape the world. He wants distance because people have often treated him unkindly due to his dwarfism. But his quiet life is interrupted by three other people: Olivia, a withdrawn painter played by Patricia Clarkson; Joe, a relentlessly friendly food-truck owner played by Bobby Cannavale; and Emily, a shy librarian played by Michelle Williams. The three form an unlikely bond in that forgotten depot, after slow and awkward first steps. Rated R, 1 hour, 29 minutes. Screening followed by discussion. Refreshments served. Suggested donation is \$10 for ages 13 and up. More info at (845) 389-9201 or [gerryharrington@mindspring.com](mailto:gerryharrington@mindspring.com).

**March 22: Darrah Carr Dance**, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the championship Irish dancers of Darrah Carr Dance, 3 p.m. Featuring live music on the fiddle and accordion, this spirited performance of Irish traditions features high-energy selections that are enjoyed by a broad audience. Lucky volunteers get a chance to join the excitement onstage. Tickets \$30-\$40

advance, \$40-\$50 door. [www.thestissingcenter.org](https://www.thestissingcenter.org)

**March 24: "Elmo's Got the Moves,"** MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. This exciting show will have kids and parents alike out of their seats and moving and dancing along with Elmo and his Sesame Street friends as they dance, stretch, and play along to fan-favorite songs, including "Sunny Days," "Elmo's Got the Moves," and "Letter of the Day," 6 p.m. Families will discover fun and playful ways to move—from yoga and jumping rope to cartwheeling and silly dance moves—all in a welcoming environment that brings the magic of Sesame Street from the screen to the stage. Tickets at (845) 454-5800, ext 1201, or [MJNCenter.org](https://www.mjncenter.org)

**March 25: "Leading with Artivism" featuring Poet Gold & Rock Wilk**, Arts Mid-Hudson, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie. An interview with Rock Wilk, led by Poet Gold, 7 p.m. Event will be held in-person & live-streamed. Free, but registration is required to receive the streaming link. All who register are invited to submit questions that will be asked during the Q&A session of the event. [www.artsmidhudson.org](https://www.artsmidhudson.org)

# Partners in the Arts funding available

For over 60 years, Arts Mid-Hudson (AMH) has taken a lead role in equitably distributing Dutchess County arts and cultural funds to Dutchess County arts organizations. Through the Dutchess Partners in the Arts (DPA) program, and in partnership with the Office of the County Executive and Destination Dutchess, AMH works with arts organizations to support capacity-building initiatives and implement arts and cultural programs.

Capacity-Building Initiatives support initiatives that grow the capacity of arts and cultural organizations in Dutchess County. This funding opportunity is made possible through funding from the County of Dutchess.

Programmatic Support funds may be used for new and existing arts and cultural events that engage visitors and residents of Dutchess County. All programs must have a stated focus on generating a measurable impact on tourism in Dutchess County. This funding opportunity is made possible through funding from Destination Dutchess, Inc. and the County of Dutchess.

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, April

21 at 11:59 p.m.

The application and complete program information are available at: <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/dutchess-partners-in-the-arts>.

An Information Session will be held to provide an overview of the Dutchess Partners in the Arts program and the application process. In addition, several Zoom Q&A sessions will be offered throughout the application period, providing an informal opportunity for prospective applicants to ask questions and hear questions from other applicants.

Arts Mid-Hudson states it provides comprehensive support for applicants to the Dutchess Partners in the Arts program. Applicants are encouraged to attend or view the Info Session, participate in a Zoom Q&A session, and/or schedule a one-on-one appointment with the Grants & Programs Manager to discuss their project ideas.

Visit <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/dutchess-partners-in-the-arts> to see the full schedule, RSVP for a Q&A session, or schedule an appointment with the Grants Team.

# Beatrix Farrand Garden Association to offer range of events this season

*continued from page 11*

other visitors they attract is an ever-shifting world of surprise and delight. Zoom in and tune into this world with our Director of Horticulture, then head out to explore it! The presentation will be followed by our annual Bioblitz citizen science effort - where you can help us gather photos and data on our insect visitors. Fee \$15, BFGA Members free.

**Saturday, Aug. 15, 11:15-11:45 a.m., "Annual Beatrix Farrand Garden Bioblitz"** with Ashley Gamell: Visitors of all ages please join us to photograph and report on all of the incredible forms of life we see in the garden, from tiny, gem-colored sweat bees to giant graceful butterflies. Our Director of Horticulture will help you report your findings on iNaturalist; a pen and paper option and a special observation sheet for younger visitors will be provided. All are welcome; lemonade will be served and shade parasols provided. (No registration required)

**Saturday, Sept. 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m., "Dahlias: Cultivation, Care and a Remarkable Hudson Valley Legacy"** with

Kate Cahill: Enjoy an introduction to growing dahlias -- from soil preparation, planting and staking to seasonal care, pest management, tuber digging and more. This talk also explores the rich local history of dahlias in Dutchess County, where enthusiasts helped shape America's early dahlia tradition. Ideal for both new and experienced gardeners, this program blends practical guidance with our regional horticultural heritage. Space limited. Fee \$15, BFGA Members free.

**Saturday, Oct. 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m., "Re-Thinking Fall Clean-Up"**: Join our Director of Horticulture Ashley Gamell for a presentation and garden stroll exploring the fall season and how we can best utilize it to boost garden beauty and extend the bloom season into winter, all while supporting a bounty of life. Ashley will highlight spectacular fall bloomers in the walled garden and the wild garden, and share her approach to fall gardening for a lush, earth-friendly garden. Fee \$15, BFGA Members free.

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5				3				
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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

									2
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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: SINGERS & SONGWRITERS

### ACROSS

- Comprehend
- It has no staying power?
- Auditioner's hope
- Prevention measure?
- Ill temper
- Poetic although
- Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
- Downhill equipment
- Beau
- "What Was I Made For?" singer
- "Fast Car" singer
- Part of URL
- Peephole glance
- Morning drops
- 1920s art style
- Reduce, as in standing
- Big Bang's original matter
- Lad's counterpart
- Connection
- Milton Bradley's game
- Tea from certain region of India
- Some bent pipes
- Rose oil
- Zeus' wife
- Remove from a manuscript
- What bird did, homewise
- Hyperbolic sine
- "\_\_\_\_\_ and the City"
- Prejudice
- "Wow!"
- "Song Sung Blue" singer
- "I Just Called to Say I Love You" singer
- Barrel racing meet
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maria
- Shockingly graphic
- Not upright
- Bathtub libation
- Food contaminant
- W on a light bulb
- Consume
- Ayes

### DOWN

- Former Portuguese colony in India
- Deceptive maneuver
- Naysayer's favorite prefix
- Upbraid
- 1/3rd of a hockey game
- Phish homophone
- One of Indiana's quests
- Prepare for winter takeoff
- Alka-Seltzer sound
- Nucleus plus electrons
- Actress Perlman
- Tattered's partner
- Rouse
- Inscribed pillar
- He had
- Own
- "Hurricane" singer
- Like March Madness' eight
- Hair extensions
- "Folsom Prison Blues" singer
- "Walk on the Wild Side" singer
- Wheel shafts
- Tutu fabric
- English county
- Source of protein
- Delhi wrap
- Popular lassi fruit
- Restart computer
- Clamor
- "The Boys of Summer" singer
- "Bad news travels fast", e.g.
- Draw a conclusion
- Pull out a pistol
- Letter before kappa
- Type of mine passage
- Cheesy sandwich
- Hit the road
- Cupid's counterpart
- Rub the wrong way
- Road, in Rome
- Bad-mouth, slangily

## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
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72							73			74				

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

# Rhinebeck HS Drama Club presents 'Into The Woods'

By Cynthia Baer

The Rhinebeck H.S. Drama Club presents "Into the Woods," a musical by Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine, directed by Tiffany McGehee this weekend, Friday, March 20-Sunday, March 22.

"Into the Woods," a two-act play, begins with a fairy tale feel... "Once upon a time..."

Cinderella pines to go to the ball, Jack (of beanstalk fame) tends to his pet cow, Little Red Riding Hood sets off toward her grandmother's house and a baker and his wife yearn for a baby only to find they are barren thanks to a curse from a cranky witch. Together they head 'into the woods' and embark on some enchanting journeys.

However, as in real life, just when all their wishes appear to be granted, the storyline changes. A stray magic bean sprouts a second stalk and a giant's vengeful wife disrupts everyone's happy ending. In essence, "Into the Woods" deconstructs the "happily ever after" to show that life is about navigating challenges, making difficult choices, and finding wisdom and community after initial wishes are realized.

Says Director Tiffany McGehee, "By the end of the musical, the characters explore the complexity of the systems in which they live. "Everybody makes one

another's terrible mistakes." We need each other, yet our actions have consequences, good or bad. The story also makes you think about how we decide what is right and wrong, and when we have the power to question and change what we are told is right. For a story about fairy tales, it is very deep and complex."

This performance has a few surprises in store for the audience. When asked about costuming and set decisions, Co-Stage Manager, Mason Decker shared that, "The steampunk theme came from wanting a unique telling of the story and hopefully encourages the audience to not think of "The Woods" as literal woods, but to appreciate their abstract meaning." He added, "Because of the way our trees work, they're great for characters to appear and disappear convincingly, allowing for a deeper immersion into the story."

Featured musical numbers include "I Know Things Now," "Giants in the Sky," "Agony," "Ever After," "No One Is Alone," "Children Will Listen" and of course, the opening title number.

Adds McGehee, "The students are working so hard to learn some very challenging music! Stephen Sondheim is famous for his genius as a musical composer and lyricist, and with that genius comes complicated melodies, harmonies,



Anna Quattrone and sophomore Daphne Tamm rehearse lines for Into The Woods, to be performed this Friday, March 20 – Sunday, March 22 at the Joseph L. Phelan Auditorium at Rhinebeck High School. *Courtesy photo*

musical timing, and tongue-twisting lyrics.

"I think people will enjoy the music, the story, the set and costumes, and mostly the performances. These students have talents to share, and Rhinebeck should not miss out!"

In the Woods will be performed at the Joseph L. Phelan Auditorium at

Rhinebeck H.S., 45 N. Park, Rhinebeck, NY, Friday, March 20 at 7pm, Saturday, March 21, Matinee at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday Matinee, at 2 p.m.

Purchase tickets on-line at: [onthestage.tickets/show/rhinebeck-hs-drama-club](http://onthestage.tickets/show/rhinebeck-hs-drama-club) or at the door. For more information email Laura Natalie at [LNatalie@rhinebecksd.org](mailto:LNatalie@rhinebecksd.org).

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## COLLEGE NOTES

**TAMPA, FL** - University of Tampa has honored 2,444 students who were named to the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester. Local students include Sophia Gareri of Pleasant Valley, a senior majoring in Marketing BS; and Charles Kahlenberg of Hyde Park (12538), a sophomore majoring in Computer Science BS.

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

**DELHI, NY** - SUNY Delhi congratulates over 900 students who achieved the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Local students include Gina Coluccio of Hyde Park, Leonardo De Anda of Stanfordville, and John Farrell of Hyde Park.

The Dean's List is a recognition of academic achievement for students who enrolled in six or more credits and earned a 3.5 or higher grade-point average for the semester.

**LOUDONVILLE, NY** - Brooke Pociask was named to the Siena University President's List for the Fall 2025 Semester. Pociask is from Rhinebeck.

The President's List requires a 3.9 grade point average or higher.

**LOUDONVILLE, NY** - Siena University names students to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Local students include Riley Constable of Hyde Park, Sophia Conway of Hyde Park, Leandra Costa of Clinton Corners, Alex Hart of Hyde Park, Trayse Kasnia-

herman of Rhinebeck, and Molly Leary of Rhinebeck.

**MADISON, NJ** - Cassandra Gallagher of Poughquag, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck, NJ, has been named to the Honors List for the Fall 2025 semester.

To qualify for the Honors List, a student must carry a 3.5 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

**WORCESTER, MA** - Julia Biamonte of Hyde Park was named to the College of the Holy Cross Fall 2025 Dean's List. A member of the Class of 2026, Biamonte was named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

**LOUDONVILLE, NY** - Siena University names students to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. The list includes Gianna Dellevigne of Wingdale, Emilia Fanelli of Lagrangeville, Sarah Freer of Lagrangeville, Jennifer Gerace of Holmes, Braden King of Lagrangeville, Jayden Sleight of Holmes, Megan Stowell of Wingdale, Andrew Valeri of Lagrangeville.

## DCC gains \$1.99M P4P Operating Grant from NYS

*From State reports*

Dutchess Community College (DCC) has been awarded a \$1.99 Million P4P Operating Grant through the Empire State Development's Office of Strategic Workforce Development.

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced last week that more than \$15 million has been awarded to 13 workforce development projects across nine regions of the state.

In the DCC project, funding will help to expand micro-credential pathways for electrical, advanced manufacturing, and HVAC careers at the new Center of Excellence for Business, Industry and Innovation (COEBII) in Fishkill. Developed in partnership with Dutchess County and reutilizing space in an abandoned mall — made possible with capital support from ESD and SUNY's Future of Work Center — DCC will expand credentialing opportunities by supporting instructor training and certification to provide more varied and advanced modules in advanced manufacturing and clean technology. Trainees are supported via case management, stipends, transportation assistance and academic assistance, including job placement assistance with a strong network of industry partners.

Hochul said the grants will support the training of more than 5,700 New Yorkers through collaboration between training providers and more than 40 employer partners in high demand fields such as construction and advanced manufacturing. Through nine rounds of funding, more than \$83 million has been awarded to 91 projects through the Office to support training for over 20,000 New Yorkers.

Hochul first established the Office of Strategic Workforce Development at ESD in April 2022 to support industry-driven workforce programs to ensure that more New Yorkers have the skills for in-demand jobs that pay a living wage in the state's high-growth industries. Pay for Performance (P4P) Operating Grants offer flexible funding to help providers cover programmatic expenses like curriculum development and wraparound services to prepare New Yorkers with in-demand skills and industry-recognized credentials. Workforce Development (WFD) Capital Grants support the capital needs of workforce training providers that seek to enhance or expand their offerings. These programs allow training providers to expand the capacity of successful programs with high placement rates and effective wraparound services.

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# GOLDEN LIVING

## Medicare annual wellness visits mark 15 years

Just as we at the Office for the Aging advise older adults to “get to know us before you need us,” so should older adults get to know their health situation before serious issues arise, whenever possible.

There can be misunderstandings between a patient and their primary care physician (PCP) as to the difference between a regular checkup (sometimes called a “physical”) and an “annual wellness visit” (AWV), which is a specifically defined event approved by Medicare once yearly. Your doctors should make it clear to you what you do and don’t get at a wellness visit.

### What an annual wellness visit is...

Introduced by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2011, annual Medicare wellness visits start at age 66, or the year after you start using Medicare. When you become eligible for Medicare at age 65, you’ll have a “Welcome to Medicare” visit, which can be performed any time after your 65th birthday but before you turn 66. The next year, you’ll have an annual visit. Medicare wellness visits are recommended every year, and focus on prevention, health goals, and advance care planning.

### ...and what the wellness visit isn’t

It’s not a full physical exam. It’s not intended to manage chronic conditions. Instead, the visit is an opportunity to discuss health concerns, get preventive care recommendations, and develop a plan to improve overall health and well-being.

### What to expect at a wellness visit

The visit may include a health risk assessment, advance care planning, a review of family history, an assessment for medical conditions (including falls, alcohol use and cognitive function), and some prevention like counseling, immunizations, and screening for cancer.

### Why not combine both types of visits?

It’s tricky to achieve, but not impossible. The answer comes down to a growing number of older adults, a shortage of physicians to meet that growth, and only so many hours in a day.

A study published last fall in the *Annals of Family Medicine* tested the theory of combining wellness visit and traditional physicals. The typical 20-minute wellness visit was extended to 40 minutes, with the extra time used to cover both wellness-visit issues as well as patients’ more immediate complaints.

While the study made no blanket recommendations, the study’s lead author noted one unusual finding: that screening rates increased significantly after combined visits.

### The cost factor

Under Medicare, annual wellness visit costs are covered for:

- One wellness visit each year. This visit can happen once every 366 days. On a Medicare Advantage plan, this visit can happen any time each calendar year.
- A discussion with your provider about topics related to preventive care and advance directives.

### If you need to ask about something else

When you make your annual wellness visit appointment, you can ask about the possibility of combining it with a traditional physical, while checking to see what additional copays could be required.

Alternately, you could make a separate appointment to discuss those concerns.

For general Medicare and health insurance counseling questions, call OFA at (845) 486-2555 or visit [dutchessny.gov/hiicap](http://dutchessny.gov/hiicap).

## Introducing ‘Silvershield’ Scam Prevention (Tue 3/24, Poughkeepsie)

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](http://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., which means the next Rhinebeck class is taking place on Wednesday, April 8.

To sign up for these regular “Navigating Medicare” 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 specifically, 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 now open and seats are going fast! 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.

## Tech Support Day at OFA (Tuesday 3/31)

Keeping up with technology can be hard for all of us, but a chance to get some help with the tricky parts is on the way. We at Office for the Aging are excited to work with New York State Senator Rob Rolison’s office to host a Tech Support Day for Older Adults at OFA’s Poughkeepsie Friendship Center at 114 Delafield St., 2:30-4:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 31.

Sign up by calling OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555.

## ‘CarFit’ for mature drivers, at Marist (Saturday 4/11)

The Marist University Doctor of Physical Therapy program and Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital present the CarFit Program. It’s a free, interactive educational program designed to improve older driver safety. Trained volunteers provide information ensuring the safest “fit” for older drivers and their vehicles.

The event takes place on Saturday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Marist University Allied Health Building, Parking Lot 18, Beck Place, Poughkeepsie.

Appointments are required. To make an appointment, contact Lynn Matthes at (845) 786-4155 or [lynn.matthes@helenhayeshosp.org](mailto:lynn.matthes@helenhayeshosp.org).

## OFA Nutrition volunteers wanted (Poughkeepsie, East Fishkill)

OFA’s Nutrition Services division is looking for dedicated volunteers who can assist our Home Delivered Meals program:

- At our central kitchen at OFA headquarters in Poughkeepsie; and
- As drivers for our Home Delivered Meals program’s East Fishkill hub, which operates out of the East Fishkill

Community Center in Hopewell Junction.

See [www.dutchessny.gov/ofavolunteer](http://www.dutchessny.gov/ofavolunteer) for more information including a printable volunteering form. Mileage reimbursement is available for Home Delivered Meals volunteers who make deliveries using their own vehicle.

## 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:

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

Tuesday, March 31, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. (new time) – Beekman Town Hall, 4 Main St., Poughquag

April dates are coming soon.

If your Dutchess County civic organization wants to host a Mobile Office Hours event, email [ofa@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov) or call (845) 486-2555 during business hours.

At OFA, we’re also available for presentations to groups on OFA Services, successful aging, scam prevention, home safety, caregiving, and much more. Contact us to find out more.

## 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. To learn more about the classes, visit [www.dutchessny.gov/seniorexercise](http://www.dutchessny.gov/seniorexercise).

# Tax Credits available to eligible New Yorkers

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance urged taxpayers to review their eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit. Both credits provide financial boosts to hardworking families.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable credit for working taxpayers who earn less than \$68,675. This means taxpayers get a refund even if the credit amount is more than what they owe in taxes. When combined, Federal, New York State, and New York City Earned Income Tax Credits can be worth \$12,873 for a family with three or more qualifying children.

Every year, thousands of New Yorkers qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit for the first time because of changes to their financial situation, filing status, or personal life. For eligibility requirements, see the Tax Department’s Earned Income Credit (New York State) webpage, [https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/earned\\_income\\_credit.htm](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/earned_income_credit.htm). For federal qualifications, see the IRS Earned Income Tax Credit webpage, <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc>.

## Expanded Empire State Child Credit

For tax year 2025, the Empire State Child Credit has been substantially enhanced. The maximum amount for the Empire State child credit for children under age four increased from \$330 to \$1,000 per child. This refundable credit

provides support to eligible families who file New York State income tax returns.

You are eligible for this refundable credit if you are a full-year New York State resident and have at least one qualifying child less than 17 years old on December 31 of the year you are claiming the credit for. For more information on this credit, visit Empire State child credit.

## File a tax return to claim these credits

Taxpayers must file a personal income tax return to receive both credits, even if they don’t owe any taxes. Most taxpayers who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit, are likely also eligible to take advantage of the free e-filing options available through the Tax Department. Visit [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) for more information.

## Need assistance?

For taxpayers who qualify, the Tax Department’s Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) can help electronically prepare and file their federal and state income tax returns at no cost.

During a scheduled session, Tax Department representatives will guide taxpayers through free tax preparation software, step-by-step, as they complete and file their own tax return. The Tax Department’s online tax software is a safe and secure way to file.

Visit <https://www.tax.ny.gov/tap/> to register for a session.

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## Legal Notices

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
PLEASE BE ADVISED that at a Special Meeting for the Town of Milan the Town Board authorized the Town Clerk to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the Northern and Southern Dutchess News for roof replacement on Milan Town Hall per architectural plans, project management construction manual and bid form from Optimus Architecture available through the Office of the Town Clerk; sealed bids to be delivered to the Clerk's office no later than 2:00pm, Friday, April 17, 2026; to be opened at the regular meeting of the town board on April 20, 2026.

By order of the Milan Town Board  
Ingrid Kulick,  
Town Clerk

**NOTICE TO OWNERS OF VIABLE FARMLAND IN DUTCHESS COUNTY**  
Pursuant to Section 303-b of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25AA, the Dutchess County Legislature has designated the period April 15 through May 14, 2026, during which Dutchess County landowners who own "predominately viable agricultural land" may request that their land be newly included in the County's Agricultural District 21. In order to be considered for such inclusion, an application must be made on or before May 14, 2026. Only parcels judged to be "predominately viable agricultural land" will be included. The application is to be completed online and is available at:

## Legal Notices

<https://gis.dutchessny.gov/ag-districts/>. If you require assistance with applying, please contact the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 845-677-8011 ext. 3 or apply in person at the Farm & Home Center 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY 12545. Landowners whose parcels are already included in an Agricultural District are not required to apply as part of the annual inclusion process. Inclusion in an Agricultural District provides potential right-to-farm protections for qualifying farm businesses, including protection against laws that unreasonably regulate farm operations in agricultural districts, limited protection from private nuisance claims, and notification of property buyers about farming practices prior to the purchase of property in agricultural districts. The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board will review applications and submit a report to the Dutchess County Legislature, which will hold a public hearing in July and forward any approved applications to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for certification. Only parcels judged to be "predominately viable agricultural land," pursuant to Section 303-b of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law will be included.  
GREGORY TOTINO  
DEPUTY CLERK,  
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-46-26  
Aging Health Promotion

## Legal Notices

and Development Contractor  
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 24, 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.

**WORKSHOP MEETING NOTICE EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners will hold a Workshop Meeting for the new Facility Project to discuss building details or their alternatives on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 7 PM.

The meeting will be held at the East Clinton Fire District Firehouse, 9 Firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners, NY.  
Dated:  
March 11, 2026  
East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners  
Carol Mackin,  
Secretary

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-45-26

## Legal Notices

Coached Visitation Services  
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., April 2, 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-30-26  
Uniforms and Accessories for Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Personnel  
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd day of April 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 BIDS NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-07-26  
After-Hours Telephone Answering and Messaging Services  
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 31st 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".

## Legal Notices

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-DCB-2026-06 NAME OF PROJECT: Concrete In-Place Project Description:**  
This project involves the furnishing and installing of hot mix asphalt (HMA) concrete overlays, shoulder back-up material, providing pavement milling services, traffic control services and providing other incidental services associated with installation of asphalt concrete overlays. These services will typically be used for highway and parking lot construction, reconstruction and/or repair. However, other similar projects could also be undertaken using these services. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the **Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System** at [www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess](http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess). Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at [www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess](http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess) or by using the link provided at [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov), selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities."

## Legal Notices

For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at [dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov](mailto:dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov), or in person, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess 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 due on or before 11:00 AM, Wednesday, April 15, 2026, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. Bids for the above project will be received by: Caroline A. Miller, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike, 1st Floor Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) **Conference ID:** 395 648 899#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified**

## Legal Notices

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 Wednesday, April 8, 2026** and emailed to Caroline Miller at [dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov](mailto:dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov) with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. **The "Anticipated Start of Construction" is May 1, 2026, and the "Anticipated Completion Date", is December 31, 2026. This RFB may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #2026007025. IMPORTANT: Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Sub-Contractor Registry Requirements.** View Bid Specifications regarding the **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

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

# OBITUARIES

## Dorothy Eileen H. Glass Knapp

Make me a song and let me singing go through every kind of day of sunshine or woe. Let there be rests and lilting melody- with words of grace that flow quite readily.

The song that is Dorothy was born to Frances Sarah and Wesley George Glass in Beacon, NY. She graduated from Beacon High School in 1951 and married Franklin Knapp of Fishkill Plains of that same year. Franklin predeceased her in February 2020. After college years and a brief stay with Franklin's parents they settled in Millbrook on a 6 acre homestead.

If you know the value of Dorothy's life-look at her children- 12 in all. They have made her extremely rich by themselves and their children and children's children. They are: Rebecca Thorpe (Barry-deceased); their children Matthew (Michelle) and Naomi (Tony Fata); Priscilla Stahl (George), their children, Josiah (deceased) and Caleb: Timothy (Pat), their children, Vanessa, Nicholas (Gabrielle), Isaac (Veronica); Philip (Concetta); Dorcas Lawrence her children, Jessica (Sean Cole), Ernest Jr., Liz (Angel Solo); Keren (Hilory Williams) their children Japhlet and Luke: Esther Gajtkowski (Thomas-deceased) their children, Jacob and Abigail: Caleb (Eileen) their children, Kevin, Nathaniel, and Alyzza: James (April), their

children Sarah, David (Stephanie), Hannah (Evan Griffen), Andrew, Samuel, and Noah: Ira (Joanna), their children Joshua (Sarah), Linneah, Elijah: Benjamin (Erika) children Megann and Kyle, step children Juliet and Henry: Daniel (Anne) their children stepson Frank Halstead, Austin (Kayla), Molly (Jake Johnson), and adopted children from Haiti Ronald and Ednel, as well as Mira through US adoption.

She is also survived by 20 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements by Allen Funeral Home. Services will be held March 21, 2026 at the Evangelical Free Church, 20 Shepherd's Way, Clinton Corners, NY. Friends may call at 1 PM. Service will be at 2 PM.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Hudson Valley Hospice, 374 Violet Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

## Richard J. Taylan

**HYDE PARK** - Richard Joseph Taylan of Hyde Park, NY, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on January 15, 2026, at age 82. He was born March 21, 1943, in the South Bronx, NY. He was the son of immigrant parents, Abraham "Buddy" G. Taylan of Dingras, Philippines, and Angela (Donato) Taylan of Palermo, Italy, and brother of Eleanor (Taylan) Koffler.

Richard graduated from Kings Park High

School on Long Island in 1960 and earned a Bachelor of Science in 1964 and a Master of Science in 1969 from SUNY New Paltz. He shared 53 years of loving marriage with his wife Linda S. (Thien) Taylan and raised two children, Justin and Lindsay, whom he cherished.

For 34 years, Richard inspired students as an earth science teacher at Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School, both at the original building, now Haviland Middle School, and the current high school building in Hyde Park. He also taught the Science Technology Entry Program at his alma mater. After retirement, he continued teaching as an adjunct instructor of geology at Marist College.

Known as "Mr. T" to his students, he inspired countless young people with frequent geology walks to see traces of glaciers and mastodon bones or by peering into a telescope on a cold night to catch a glimpse of Halley's comet or Hale-Bopp. He was always an early adopter of new technology and authored educational materials. Richard also served as a trustee of the Hyde Park Library for 13 years, received a National Science Foundation grant,

and was inducted into the Kings Park Hall of Science.

Rick lived by the motto, "Let my works speak for me." He was a problem solver who could tackle any home improvement project. As an artist, his creativity extended to carpentry, poetry, painting, and photography. He took pride in his community and role as an educator in service to others. He explored a lifelong interest in science and technology and was devoted to his family. He is fondly remembered as one of a kind by those who knew him. His curiosity, humor, and wisdom will be missed.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Linda; his children, Justin R. Taylan and Lindsay M. (Taylan) Beever; daughter-in-law, Aline Wilbert; and son-in-law, Kevin Beever.

The community is invited to join Richard's family on Saturday, March 21, 2026—what would have been his 83rd birthday—from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Sweet's Funeral Home in Hyde Park. In lieu of flowers, friends are invited to listen to The Beatles' "In My Life" and support an educational endeavor or donate to a charity of their choice.

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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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## Contact Us

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

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

### 219 Attorney Legal

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# Miles of Hope awarded grant to expand breast cancer education, care from Garnet Health

The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation has been awarded a grant to Garnet Health Medical Center to support “Transforming Breast Care Education: Bridging Gaps with the Free Breast Advocate App,” an initiative designed to expand access to breast cancer education and care navigation for patients across the Hudson Valley.

The grant will support the continued operation and expansion of an existing breast cancer education and care navigation program at Garnet Health Medical Center that addresses persistent gaps in access, education, and continuity of care for breast cancer patients throughout the region.

The program leverages a free, technology-based breast health platform—the Breast Advocate App—to provide accu-

rate, culturally appropriate, and multilingual education while guiding patients through every stage of the breast cancer journey, including screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.

Grant funding will help sustain platform operations, expand multilingual content integration, and further incorporate patient education resources into routine clinical workflows. By ensuring patients have access to clear, evidence-based information before and during medical visits, the program strengthens shared decision-making between patients and clinicians while reducing uncertainty and decisional anxiety.

Through the platform, patients are also connected with local breast surgeons, social work services, advocacy programs, and financial resources—helping to

reduce delays and fragmentation across the breast cancer care pathway.

“This program helps ensure that every patient has access to the knowledge and support they need to navigate breast cancer care with confidence,” said Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation Executive Director Pari Forood. “We are proud to support Garnet Health Medical Center’s efforts to improve education, coordination, and access to care for patients across the Hudson Valley.”

The initiative primarily serves breast cancer patients managed through Garnet Health’s breast surgery service, with a particular focus on individuals living in rural and semi-rural communities who often face long travel distances, language barriers, and limited access to specialty care.

According to officials, the program’s

effectiveness will be evaluated through patient engagement metrics, clinical feedback, and utilization of educational resources. Designed to integrate within existing clinical infrastructure, the program is structured for sustainability and will continue beyond the grant period.

“With our support, patients will be able to access breast cancer education in their own language, prepare for surgical consultations, better understand treatment options, and connect with local support services—without additional travel or cost,” Forood stated.

By strengthening patient knowledge and engagement, the initiative aims to improve continuity of care and enhance the overall breast cancer treatment experience for patients throughout the Hudson Valley, it was stated.

## MTA awarded \$1.5M to install bike racks at commuter stations

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has been awarded over \$1.5 million to install and operate internet-enabled, enclosed bike racks at the commuter rail stations so riders can securely store bikes and e-bikes. These innovative bike racks will be piloted at up to eight commuter rail stations across the MTA’s Metro North and Long Island Rail Road service areas, including sites in Dutchess County, Suffolk County, and Westchester County.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) today announced over \$4.5 million in funding awarded to two projects that will enhance zero-emission transportation connections in downstate New York. Through the State’s Clean Mobility Program, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Westchester County will launch affordable, on-demand electric micro mobility options and rideshare services to improve

first and last mile connections, serve transportation deserts, and connect more New York commuters and residents to jobs and local services, including in underserved communities.

NYSERDA’s Clean Mobility Program competitively awards funding to local governments, transit operators, and community-based organizations for demonstration projects that expand access to innovative clean mobility solutions including electric bicycles (e-bikes), elec-

tric scooters (e-scooters), on-demand electric vehicle (EV) rideshares or services, and charging hubs to support those services. The awarded projects include service in disadvantaged communities, as defined by the New York State Climate Justice Working Group, and all projects are required to comply with New York State safety standards, such as being UL-certified, and state and local transportation regulations.



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