

NORTHERN
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At 100, Grete Licis shares love for dancing, memories of WW II

By Cynthia Baer

On March 27, Grete Licis celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at the Brookmeade Community in Rhinebeck.

“Everyone loves Grete. She is always calm and has a good sense of humor,” said fellow Brookmeade resident, Jane Sanderson.

Named Grete Steten Furstenau on March 26, 1926, Grete was born to a street-builder and his wife, in a small village outside of Berlin called Wussow, in East Germany. By the age of 14, she had completed school and began working as a nanny for a neighbor, as was the custom for young girls at the time.

At 19, she found herself running from the terrors of World War II toward a new life. Says Grete, “After the war, we were thrown out of our houses. Most of the houses were bombed. My sister and I ran away. The American Government helped displaced people.”

She escaped to West Germany, where she lived in the city of Hamburg.

During WWII, dancing served as a vital form of spiritual resistance, cultural preservation, and psychological coping, helping people to maintain humanity, dignity and a sense of joy amidst immense suffering, fear and dehumanization. This was especially true within the war camps.

So it makes sense that Grete holds a special place in her heart for dancing. In fact, she met her husband, Ojars Licis, on the dance floor at a club in West Germany. Said Grete, “My husband Ojars came from Latvia and was living in a Displacement Camp. When we first met I had told him I was sick of dating younger gentlemen, so he lied about his age. Later, his mother confessed that he lied about his age so that he would not be taken into the German Army. He also thought I would not like him because he



was not German, but I could tell he had an accent from somewhere else right from the start. I liked him anyway.”

Grete and Ojars were married, but it took time for them to move to North America after the war.

“My husband had a brother in Canada and so he traveled there first. I came to Canada a year later,” said Grete. “We

were in Canada not too far from Toronto and moved to Niagara on the Lake, a village on the outskirts of Niagara Falls. Ojars had a boss that changed his name to Harry because he could not pronounce ‘Ojars.’ He became a foreman at the Niagara Power Station. Ojars was very smart and there wasn’t anything he

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Grete Licis celebrates as she blows out candles on the birthday cake at her 100th-year party at the Brookmeade Community on March 27. Above, Grete is pictured with her husband, Ojars. She met Ojars on the dance floor at a club in West Germany. He was from Latvia. *Photo by Cynthia Baer and courtesy photo*

America’s 250th, plus top talent highlight Renegades’ outlook

By Morgan E. Maier



Infielder Core Jackson is a returning performer and is expected to be one of the leaders for the Hudson Valley Renegades as they prepare to start the 2026 season on Friday at Brooklyn. The home opener at Heritage Financial Park is on Tuesday, April 7 vs. Wilmington starting at 6:35 p.m. *File photo by Dave Janosz*

Even though baseball weather may seem far away, the Hudson Valley Renegades’ return is imminent. It will be a year of celebrity sightings and one-of-a-kind promotions, plus a weekly pop of fireworks and fun for all ages at Heritage Financial Park.

Jersey days, free giveaways, and an elevated promotional schedule highlight affordable family fun. The Renegades minor league melange features treats for all, may they be a Yankees fan, baseball apathist, or somewhere between.

“There’s something for everybody out here having fun, so we offer a three-hour memory-making experience,” said Renegades general manager Tom Denlinger.

One guest appearance highlights one especially palatable experience. Joey Chestnut, competitive eater and undisputed GOAT of Coney Island hot dog competitions, will be in town on Friday, July 31, to display his prowess with a powder-filled challenge. The Renegades will have cider, spice, and everything nice

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couldn't do. But he smoked a lot and died young – at age 69.”

Together, the couple had four children. Today, Grete has nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Eventually, Grete and Ojars made their way to Poughkeepsie. Grete was a good cook and worked in meat/delicatessen stores and kitchens throughout her life. She worked at Karl Ehmer's for 30 years. A lover of traditional German foods, Grete's favorite meal is Rouladen, a thin piece of steak wrapped around onion, bacon and pickle. She also enjoyed arranging week-long group trips once a year.

In addition, Grete and Ojars were active members of the Germania Almrausch Schuhplattler Verein, a group that specializes in traditional Bavarian music and dance and Grete was one of the main dance instructors.

Grete was named a Life Member of Germania of Poughkeepsie in 2018. She has been a member since 1967. She served as a trustee for several years and was instrumental in running the German

Class dinners at the Church Street clubhouse. A constant volunteer, she assisted with bartending and cooking. She also took a lead role on the Wednesday Lunch Committee from 2009 until December 2014. Notably, Grete started the annual Germania Christkindlmarkt (Christmas Market), which has since grown into a beloved holiday festival in the Town of Poughkeepsie where you can find traditional German holiday pastries, food and drinks, as well as over 40 vendors inside a large, heated tent featuring local artisans, wine makers, distillers, crafts and a variety of unique gift items.

Additionally, Grete was a member of the Germania Singers, serving as president for seven years. She joined the Germania Almrausch Schuhplattler Verein in March 1974, where she held various leadership roles, including trustee, Trachtenmutter, and Vortänzerin. She performed actively at most engagements for 46 years, participated in several Gaufest competitions, and was named


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Grete Licis is pictured with the Germania Almrausch dancers on November 8, 2025 at the Meadows at Brookmeade. During the event, members shared memories of Grete's many years of service, including how she taught many of the dancers and her history of cooking and singing at Germania. The group performed several dances, including one of her favorites, the "Trauentaler." *Courtesy photo*

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Easter Services




ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA
Roman Catholic Church
Pleasant Valley

Invites you to join us as we commemorate the events of Holy Week and rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord!

PALM SUNDAY	(Sat) MAR 28	(Sun) MAR 29
Sunday Mass	5:30 PM	8:15 & 11 AM
HOLY THURSDAY	APR 02	
Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:30 PM	
GOOD FRIDAY	APR 03	
Passion of the Lord	3:00 PM	
Stations of the Cross	7:30 PM	
HOLY SATURDAY	APR 04	
Blessing of the Bread	10:00 AM	
Easter Vigil	7:30 PM	
EASTER SUNDAY	APR 05	
The Resurrection of the Lord	8:15 & 11 AM	

1590 Main St., Pleasant Valley • 845.635.1700

INFORMATION
visit:
saintstanislaus.net
or scan QR code:



CONFESSIONS
Before Easter
(Mon) MAR 30
2-4 & 7-9 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HOLY WEEK 2026



Tell me something good
Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent

MAUNDY THURSDAY
6pm service at First Presbyterian Church
Both in-person and on Zoom
For Zoom use meeting # 380 532 465
and password 6353289
Rev. Lynn Brown

GOOD FRIDAY
5:30pm gather at First Presbyterian parking lot to walk on the sidewalk to St. Paul's with the cross
6pm service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Rev. Lynn Brown & Rev. Heather Sisk

SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL
7pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Rev. Heather Sisk

EASTER SUNDAY
6:30am Sunrise Service at Mill Park
Rev. Heather Sisk & Rev. Lynn Brown
9:30am Lord's Day Service at First Presbyterian Church both in-person and on Zoom

At 100, Grete Licis shares love for dancing, memories of WWII

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a Life Member of Germania Almrausch in October 2016. Even into her 90s, she continued to perform occasionally at Germania's Oktoberfest with the Schuhplattlers.

Dancing has been a constant joy in Grete's life.

"I love to dance. I loved ballroom dancing and even taught it. I met my husband ballroom dancing. I loved to waltz and tango the best. I never liked the Foxtrot. Back in the day, Hitler banned the Foxtrot. So, of course, everyone had to dance the Foxtrot," she said with a smirk. She added, "I am happy to be 100. I have a lot of people to help take care of me. I'd like to thank everyone for that. I

wouldn't be here without them."

According to the Pew Research Center, "The number of centenarians in the United States has steadily ticked up since 1950, when the Census Bureau estimates there were just 2,300 Americans ages 100 and older. ... In the last three decades alone, the U.S. centenarian population has nearly tripled. The 1990 census counted around 37,000 centenarians in the country."

Although these statistics may be true, there is no doubt that Grete Licis is one of a kind.

Sylvia Reuter of Germania of Poughkeepsie contributed to this story.

All four of Grete Licis' children attended her 100th birthday party at the Brookmeade Community. From left are Irene Donner (Lake Worth, FL), Grete, Norman (Glenmont, NY). Standing are Edgar, (Poughkeepsie) and Norman (New Paltz). Photo by Cynthia Baer



RHINEBECK VILLAGE RESUMES BRUSH PICK-UP

The Village of Rhinebeck Highway Department will resume brush pick on April 1 and will be continuous until May 15.

Materials collected include sand (accumulated from being spread on roads), brush, limbs (up to 4 feet in length and 8 inches in diameter) and leaves. Materials not collected include garbage, building materials, stones, lumber and/or grass clippings.

All material should be placed in front of the property that generated the material and should not cover any storm water drain or impede the flow of traffic.

Easter Services

Holy Week St. Paul's Episcopal Church Pleasant Valley



Maundy Thursday, April 2nd
7:00pm Foot washing Eucharist & stripping the altar

Good Friday, Stations of the Cross April 3rd
5:30pm Gather at First Presbyterian & Process to St. Paul's
6:00pm Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at St. Paul's

Holy Saturday, April 4th
7:00pm The Great Vigil w/music and bonfire

Easter Sunday, April 5th
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Ecumenical Service at Mill Site Park
10:00 a.m. Sunday Easter Worship with egg hunt

808 Traver Road in Pleasant Valley



Grace Episcopal Church Holy Week & Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Liturgy
April 2 at 7pm

Good Friday
April 3 at 7pm

The Great Vigil of Easter
Saturday, April 4 at 7pm

Easter Sunday Services
Sunday, April 5
8am with music and sermon,
10am family service with choir and sermon

Easter Egg Hunt
Following the 10am service. Bags will be provided
for the egg hunt.

Grace Church, 3328 Franklin Avenue, Millbrook, NY
(845) 677-3064 www.gracemillbrook.org

Holy Week & Easter at Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church



4/2 Maundy Thursday @ 6 pm
Gather for a light meal and a service with
foot washing & the Lord's Supper

4/3 Good Friday 12-3 pm
Sanctuary will be open for personal
prayer time

4/5 Easter Sunday
7:30 am Greet-the-Morning Service in
Pleasant Plains Cemetery
8:15 am Pancake & Potluck Breakfast
9:30 am Celebration of the Resurrection
All are welcome!

Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church

2 Fiddlers Bridge Road, Staatsburg NY * 845-889-4019

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

Opressor vs. Oppressed

To the editor:
In recent years, various conversations have surfaced and receded about critical theory. To boil down much discussion and not go into philosophy, a lot of critical theory shows up as the oppressor versus the oppressed. Where are we today with it?
Within the state, I believe the biggest current day oppressor is government. What have we seen in recent years?
• Continuously increasing state spending with additional billions budgeted for next year.
• Approximately \$5B spent on illegal aliens in 2024.
• An affordable housing shortage significantly impacted by construction and finance overregulation.
• So-called green state programs mandated on utilities and schools. Schools are being forced to purchase \$450K buses and upgrade electrical systems.
• (NYC) Mayor Mamdani is taking taxpayers hostage with his tax threat. How long until that tax bill arrives in Albany for the rest of the state to pick up the tab?
• NY is either at the top or near it for taxation. Multitudes fled the state, to the point that the governor has made a public plea to have them send their money back to NY. Seriously?
• Locally, the government is attempting to takeover a privately-held boat club by eminent domain. The county legislature wants to inflict "free" busing on us. Again, seriously?
The governor and state legislature have run out of "other people's money" and have little to show for it other than a bloated bureaucracy. If we don't replace the Democrat politicians in Albany in November, you can expect more oppression.

Rex S. Bridges
Rhinebeck

Weatherization funding cuts

To the editor:
Dutchess County's most vulnerable residents could soon feel the impact of a quiet, but devastating budget decision. Across New York, including here in Dutchess County, Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) providers are speaking out against proposed cuts. Weatherization helps low-income households reduce energy costs by improving home efficiency through insulation, air sealing, and other improvements. The Governor's budget omits 10% of the HEAP funding usually dedicated to WAP - a reduction with far-reaching consequences for communities statewide.
That 10% represents as much as 60% of operating budgets for many local agencies delivering these services. In Dutchess County, this could mean fewer homes weatherized, reduced energy savings for vulnerable families, and potential layoffs for the skilled workforce that keeps these programs running. For example, our local program at Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County serves 70 -100 families annually and helps families lower their energy costs, on average, by nearly 30%.
WAP is one of the state's most effective tools for lowering energy costs while improving health and safety. Cutting this funding undermines both affordability and long-term energy solutions. State leaders must restore this funding in the final budget. Dutchess County families-and communities across New York--cannot afford to lose a program that delivers real savings and real impact.

Linda A. Haas Manley, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, Inc.

OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

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

Life, health coaches set Mid-life Wellness Series

On the heels of their first workshop together, Amy Novatt, MD and Marybeth Cale, Certified Life and Health Coach, have announced details of their "A Deeper Dive into Midlife Wellness Series." Six individual events are planned in this series, but guests can register for each one separately, thus there is no requirement to attend or sign up for all of them.

Each workshop will cost \$50 per person; advance registration is required. All workshops will take place at 6250 Route 9, Rhinebeck from 7-9 p.m.

The schedule and topics are as follows:
• April 23 - Weight, Body Image, and

Cultivating Confidence

- June 18 - Bone Health + Reclaiming Power through Movement
- September 17 - Sex, Libido, and Reigniting Intimacy
- November 5 - Sleep + Tools for Restful Nights
- February 4, 2027 - Mood + Rediscovering Joy
- April 8, 2027 - Stress + Regaining Peace

Reserve your spot at: estuarycoaching.com/packages

According to Novatt and Cale, the objective is to offer this series in hopes of

continuing to empower and educate women navigating perimenopause/menopause (and their partners if/when applicable). At each of the six events, Dr. Amy Novatt will lead an informative discussion on the workshop topic, and certified life and health coach Marybeth Cale will facilitate activities designed to help guests uncover what action steps they need to take to optimize that area of their well-being.

Advance reservation and payment is required to attend any or all of the events, as space is limited. Visit estuarycoaching.com/packages to register.

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CORRECTION



In the photo above that also appeared in the March 25 papers, Mid Hudson Trout Unlimited President Mark Jones, left, and Secretary Pat Crisci, are pictured at "The Flybrary" on Wappinger Creek in Pleasant Valley. "The Flybrary," built by Caden Kellner as an Eagle Scout project, was sponsored in part by Mid Hudson Trout Unlimited. Photo by Curtis Schmidt



**Private Investments Allow
Vassar-Warner Home to Fully Reopen**









Miles of Hope awards grant to Casting for Recovery for fly fishing retreat

DOVER PLAINS, NY – The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation has awarded a grant to Casting for Recovery to support a three-day fly fishing retreat for women with breast cancer, to be held June 5-7, 2026, at the Ten Mile River Preserve in Dover Plains. The retreat will serve 14 women from the region and provide a unique opportunity for healing, connection, and outdoor recreation.

Casting for Recovery's retreats combine fly fishing instruction with peer support and wellness activities in a beautiful natural setting. Designed specifically for women with breast cancer, the program offers participants the chance to experience the therapeutic benefits of nature and community at no cost to them.

The June retreat will take place at the Ten Mile River Preserve, where participants will learn the basics of fly fishing alongside trained volunteers and medical professionals who help ensure a safe, supportive environment.

"Miles of Hope is proud to support Casting for Recovery and the extraordinary work they do for women living with breast cancer," said Pari Forood, Executive Director of the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. "This retreat offers more than a weekend away—it

gives participants a chance to regain confidence, find strength in community, and experience the healing power of the outdoors."

Casting for Recovery leaders say partnerships like this are essential to bringing the program to more women who can benefit from it.

"We are deeply grateful to Miles of Hope for their generous support of this retreat," said Candida Odde, Grants Manager at Casting for Recovery. "Their commitment helps ensure that women facing breast cancer can step away from the challenges of treatment and recovery to learn a new skill, build meaningful connections, and spend restorative time in nature."

Since its founding, Casting for Recovery has served thousands of women across the country through free retreats that combine education, support, and the joy of fly fishing.

The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation funds support services, education, and outreach for people affected by breast cancer throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. Grants such as this one help expand access to programs that promote healing and well-being for those living with breast cancer.

Hyde Park and county install new signs reducing speed limit on East Dorsey Lane



Hyde Park Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino stand by a new lower speed limit sign on East Dorsey Lane in Hyde Park. The NYS Department of Transportation recently approved a reduction of speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph on the road. *Courtesy photo*

Burn Ban in effect through May 14

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced the annual Burn Ban is in effect through May 14.



What is prohibited:

- Residential brush & debris: Burning leaves, branches, and trash is prohibited.
- Uncontained fires: Large, open fires are banned.
- Illegal burning: Burning trash is illegal year-round, regardless of a ban.

What is allowed (exceptions)

- Small, contained fires: Small campfires or cooking fires are allowed if they are less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length/width.
- Safety requirements: These small fires must be attended and fully extinguished.

For more information, see the NYS DEC website: <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/air-quality/open-burning>

HYDE PARK – Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani and County Executive Sue Serino announced the installation of new reduced speed signs and flashing STOP signs on East Dorsey Lane.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has officially approved a speed limit reduction on East Dorsey Lane. After two years of persistent coordination with State and County officials, the limit has dropped from 45 mph to 35 mph.

"Public safety has been a top priority, and while the process to secure this reduction was extensive, I am gratified to see these efforts come to fruition," said

Supervisor Torreggiani. He also credited early collaboration with the County and State in initiating this change. Torreggiani recognized Serino, County Public Works Commissioner Bob Balkind, County Traffic Engineer Stephen Gill, and former Town of Hyde Park Highway Superintendent Howie Fisher, for their collaboration and efforts in getting this speed limit reduction accomplished.

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



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Clinton Town Highway Department receives grant to upgrade radio system



From left are Town of Clinton Deputy Supervisor Eliot Werner, East Clinton Fire Department Chief Don Estes, West Clinton Fire Department Chief Brian Dingee, NYCOMCO Representative Kelly Variano, NY Assembly Member Didi Barrett, Town Historian Craig Marshall, Town Supervisor Michael Whitton, Highway Secretary Melissa Karchmer and Highway Superintendent Todd Martin. Photo by Patricia Hanna, Legislative Director for Barrett

By Craig Marshall

The Clinton Town Highway Department has received a \$125,000 grant through State Assembly Member DiDi Barrett to upgrade its radio system, enabling the highway department and the two Clinton volunteer departments to communicate with each other.

Previously, they operated on different fixed frequencies, and now operate on the same fire department frequency with the replacement of all highway radios in trucks and portables.

Clinton Highway Superintendent Todd Martin said, "As an example of a faster emergency response, before if a tree came down blocking a road, the call to our fire companies would require six men and fire trucks to get to the scene. They

would then call our highway department to have two men put up barricades and plan for clearing the road. Now instead, they can call us to directly respond, saving time and fire department resources."

An additional benefit is the operating range of the new radios. The previous radio system was limited to Clinton, whereas the new system range extends from Albany to New Jersey and Massachusetts, giving the ability to contact highway personnel going out of town for parts and other matters.

Attending the grant ceremony was Kelly Variano, owner of NYCOMCO which is the supplier of the new radios for the Hudson Valley region. The Town thanks Barrett for her support in obtaining this grant that will help improve resident safety.

Skilled Trades Fair set April 15 at RCK

On Wednesday, April 15, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino's Skilled Trades Fair, in partnership with the Wappingers Central School District, will return to Roy C. Ketcham High School, 99 Myers Corners Road in Wappinger, from 6 to 8 p.m. This free event is open to all Dutchess County residents and no RSVP is required to attend.

"Career paths are rarely one-size-fits-all, and it's important to know ALL of the options available, even if that might not be a college or university," said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. "That's why I started these Skilled Trades Fairs in my home school district: to help students and adults throughout Dutchess County explore options and chart a path that fits their goals. We are thrilled to once again return to where it all began in the Wappingers Central School District and to our partners in a wide range of industries. We will continue to host these events, as well as our Older Adults Skills Fairs, throughout the county to shine a spotlight on all the many rewarding, sustainable career opportunities available for everyone wanting to build new skills or put their skills back to work!"

Dr. Dwight D. Bonk, Wappinger Superintendent of Schools, said, "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome the Skilled Trades Fair back to our district this year! Events like this open our students' eyes to the incredible range of career pathways

available to them. By connecting directly with industry professionals and exploring hands-on opportunities, attendees gain real insight into futures that are engaging, meaningful, and in high demand. We're grateful to County Executive Serino for starting this great tradition in the Wappingers Central School District and for returning again this year to help inspire our students, and adults alike, to discover their passions and envision the many possibilities ahead."

The County Executive's Skilled Trades Fairs connect hundreds of students and their families, as well as adults seeking new career paths, with diverse job opportunities in the Hudson Valley in fields such as construction, electrical work, plumbing, masonry, aesthetics, lawn care, pet grooming and more.

Participating businesses will have a unique opportunity to engage with motivated students and adults, eager to explore careers in their trades. Local businesses and trade organizations interested in showcasing their opportunities at the fair are encouraged to register online at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/RCKTradesFair> or contact the Dutchess County Executive's Office at (845) 486-2000 or CountyExec@dutchessny.gov. There is no fee to participate, however space is limited, and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

send us your news

cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

America's 250th, plus top talent highlight Renegades' outlook

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for the final celebration of the Cider Donuts identity, and perfect for a mid-inning snack! Chestnut may be known for his July 4 antics, but the emiquincentennial (250 year) USA celebration will be massive for the Renegades. Fireworks and, naturally, hot dogs highlight a full homestand of Independence Day festivities.

This year's promotions highlight America, but also the Renegades' local roots. Alongside the Big Apple identity that honors Renegades' New York pathways, a few promotions tie back to the Hudson Valley. Halloween night will further feature the Headless Horseman of Dutchess County notoriety.

"At the end of the day, that's what minor leagues are built on: the community," said Denlinger.

The Renegades, known for fun from ages 2 to 102, have something in store for first-time baseball goers and fans of their golden years. A new tier for the kids' club offers free membership with 5 tickets to Sunday games and family fun days (dogs included!). After every game Wednesday through Sunday, the smallest Renegades fans can run the bases postgame.

The Silver Renegades program (\$79 membership plus fees) offers discounts for fans 55+ on Tuesday games, with bingo, and extra tickets for Grandparents' Night. Walkers may trade the mall route for a trip around the basepath, as the Senior Stroll follows every contest.

Players arrive soon

For Joe Vasile, Hudson Valley's director of public relations and broadcasting, there is much in store for this year's new-look Renegades roster.

"I'm really excited this year for a lot of

things baseball wise. The Yankees every year, especially since the affiliation here in Hudson Valley switched over, have done such a great job of not only player development, but stressing winning at the minor league level too. That's been great because we've won a lot of games and had some very competitive rosters," said Vasile.

The Renegades fell one game shy of the playoffs last year, as a late-season surge kept them in South Atlantic League contention.

Kaeden Kent and Core Jackson anchored the infield upon their arrival from Low-A Tampa, and could prove effective once again with a return to Hudson Valley.

The Yankees' off-season moves caused a farm system shakeup, as Hudson Valley anxiously awaits a whole new crop of position players. Some pieces of the pitching staff that led MiLB in earned run average last year should also return for 2026.

"I think it's going to be a really well balanced team this year and some really interesting players. I'm looking forward to seeing how all that comes together," added Vasile.

Headlining the dugout changes is manager Aaron Bossi. An assistant coach in 2021, he is no stranger to the Renegade ways. Though he may be pleasantly surprised at the changes made in his hiatus. From new locker rooms to turf and lounge upgrades, we may need to hear Aaron's take on his new Hudson Valley digs.

Will the present slate of promotions and prospects top last year's? Fans will have to get out to Heritage Financial Park and see!

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

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

Dialing 988:

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

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Mayor Flowers addresses key points in 2026 State of the City Address

From City of Poughkeepsie reports

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers presented the 2026 State of the City Address to residents, legislators and other elected leaders as well as community business and nonprofit partners in the auditorium at Poughkeepsie High School on Thursday, March 26.

She outlined a vision of "thriving city for all," emphasizing record investments in youth, public safety, housing, quality of life and street outreach, commercial development, and a long-term commitment to infrastructure and water safety.

Mayor Flowers underscored that Poughkeepsie's upward momentum is fueled by disciplined fiscal management and a commitment to breaking generational cycles. "Poughkeepsie is in motion, and we are moving forward with purpose," said Mayor Flowers. "From replacing lead service lines to reclaiming our Northside neighborhoods, our growth is deeply rooted in the needs of this community. We are preparing the next generation by providing better outcomes and opportunities through strategic improvement initiatives and ensuring our city is ready for them to return to work in, and raise their own families."

Among the key accomplishments and initiatives highlighted:

Investing in Youth and Education

- **Youth Leadership in Government (YLG):** Celebrated the launch of the YLG program in 2025, which provides high school students with firsthand exposure to municipal, state, and federal government, including internships and advocacy meetings with government representatives while visiting the NY State Capitol and the U.S. Capitol.

- **Cradle-to-Career Agenda:** Continued collaboration with the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet and Poughkeepsie City School District to connect over 5,000 families to coordinated resources by 2030, supported by a multi-million-dollar grant from the Wallace Foundation, received in 2025.

- **Expanded Grants:** Allocated over \$350,000 in funding for Youth Grants and local nonprofit partners to empower young residents through mentorship and extracurricular opportunities.

Rebuilding Essential Infrastructure

- **Water Safety Initiative:** Launched a \$150 million strategic plan to replace aging lead service lines citywide, with \$33 million in dedicated funding already secured to protect public health through a mix of grant funding and bond opportunities.

- **Bridge Connectivity:** Announced the Garden Street Bridge is expected to be completed in the spring and secured \$3.4 million in federal funding for the complex replacement of the Washington Street Bridge to restore deteriorating infrastructure.

- **Firehouse Restoration:** Secured critical funds through Congressman Pat Ryan to fully restore the city's firehouse

with structural improvements and facilities designed to support a modern, diverse workforce.

Public Safety, Emergency Services

- **Crime Reduction:** Reported double-digit decreases in crime citywide and a record low in citizen complaints through community-focused policing.

- **Advanced Technology:** Deployed Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) that has worked to avert suicides and safely locate suspects. Launched "Project Lifesaver" program to quickly locate neurodivergent neighbors and seniors during emergencies.

- **EMS Excellence:** Maintained the fastest EMS response times in Dutchess County through a high-quality public-private partnership with Empress EMS.

Neighborhood Revitalization

- **Northside Transformation:** Secured a \$500,000 HUD planning grant to develop a resident-driven Transformation Plan for the Northside, positioning the city for up to \$50 million in future implementation funding.

- **Digital Government:** Announced the mid-year expected launch of SeeClickFix, a mobile app for residents to report non-emergency concerns like potholes or streetlight outages directly to City Hall.

- **Economic Development:** Recommended 16 transformative projects totaling \$15 million under the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), awaiting NY State selection. Moved forward with plans to develop the DeLaval parcel on the Southern Waterfront for public recreation and tourism.

- **Smart Fleet Management:** Upgraded the City's fleet with Samsara AI dash cams and devices, which utilize real-time data to optimize operations and improve driver safety. Within just four months of deployment, the City has seen a 25% reduction in vehicle accidents, resulting in safer streets and more efficient service delivery across all neighborhoods.

Fiscal Responsibility

- **Financial Stability:** Maintained a Standard & Poor's BBB plus credit rating with a positive outlook and successfully resolved union negotiations with the Police and Fire Departments to ensure long-term stability.

- **Strengthened Accountability:** Returned financial reporting to a timely schedule with one of the earliest Annual Financial Reports filed in recent years. All federal, state, and Joint Water audits were completed on time, with the final draft audit for late 2025 reflecting a positive General Fund balance.

The full text of speech and live recording of the presentation of Mayor Flowers' 2026 State of the City Address is available on the City of Poughkeepsie's website: cityofpoughkeepsie.gov/502/State-of-the-City-Address-2026



City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers presents her State of the City address on March 26 at Poughkeepsie High School. *Courtesy photo*

Workshops scheduled at Beatrix Farrand Garden

Register for these events at www.BeatrixFarrandGarden.org.

Saturday, April 18, 1-1:30 p.m., Ikebana with Lin. Cost \$75

In this hands-on class, Meei-Huey will begin with a brief introduction to Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arranging. She will then demonstrate two different styles of arrangement, after which participants will receive step-by-step guidance in creating their own piece to take home.

Sunday, May 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (Rain date) May 31, Drawing from the Garden: Mira Fink. Cost \$45

Connect with the beauty of nature while drawing what naturally attracts you in the garden. Observe a natural object, such as a flower or vine closely, then draw it slowly, following the unique contours to capture its essence. Allow yourself to mindfully draw while relying on your "artist's eye". Professional artist, Mira Fink will guide you in the process. No previous drawing experience needed. All materials will be provided.

Sunday, May 17, 1-3 p.m., Twiggy Pollinator Tower with Jessica Williams.

Cost \$50

Insects are essential for a thriving ecosystem. This rustic garden accent provides an excellent home for them. You'll also attract more birds and amphibians while benefiting from fewer pest problems and better harvests. The four foot tall tower is created using twigs to form a teepee style frame with a wood base. Weaving willow or vines thru the structure will contain the wonderful variety of natural materials including pine cones, bark strips and hollow stems of all sizes chosen for their ability to provide desirable housing. Ornamental vines can be grown up the sides. All materials and instruction are included, everyone will make their own unique tower to grace their garden.

Saturday, June 27, 2-5 p.m., Storytelling through Garden Photography with Lori Adams. Cost \$75

Learn how to create compelling botanical photographs in the beautiful setting of our garden. This workshop is open to all experience levels. Bring the camera you prefer to use, whether a phone, point-and-shoot, or 35mm, along with a willingness to experiment and explore.

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



we're on the web!
www.sdutchessnews.com

Private investments allow Vassar-Warner Home to fully reopen

After more than two years of navigating significant funding challenges and fighting to serve seniors in New York's Hudson Valley region, Vassar-Warner Home, located at 52 South Hamilton St. in the City of Poughkeepsie, will officially reopen its doors to residents on May 4.

Supported by transformative private investments, Vassar-Warner will once again operate as Dutchess County's only nonprofit independent senior living residence, providing high-quality care that meets the individualized needs of each resident inside a storied New York State landmarked Greek Revival building. Applications are now open and can be found at <https://vassarwarner.org/admission-process/>. If an applicant needs immediate placement or housing before the May 4 move-in date, Vassar-Warner's team will work with them individually.

"The past few years have been a journey, one full of highs and lows, but our determination to restore Vassar-Warner to what it has always been has never wavered," said Ericka Von Salews, executive director of Vassar-Warner.

A longstanding pillar for seniors in the Hudson Valley, Vassar-Warner will provide a nurturing environment designed to enhance the quality of life for up to 35 seniors. Each resident will benefit from services and programs tailored to their interests, health considerations, needs and dietary restrictions. Amenities include prepared meals, laundry services and housekeeping. To encourage connection and well-being, residents will also enjoy a variety of activities, including exercise and mobility classes, Mahjong, painting and crafts, educational lectures on diverse topics, book clubs and more.

"We are beyond grateful for the support from our staff, the community and generous donors, and we look forward to continuing to serve our seniors and provide them a safe and supportive home," said Richard Schuster, whose mother lived at Vassar-Warner before its closure and who currently serves as the nonprofit's board president.

Vassar-Warner's pivotal return will also ensure the continued operation of Vassar-Warner Home for the Day, the facility's social model adult day care



Supported by transformative private investments, Vassar-Warner will once again operate as Dutchess County's only nonprofit independent senior living residence, providing high-quality care that meets the individualized needs of each resident inside a storied New York State landmarked Greek Revival building. *Courtesy photo*

established in July 2025 that welcomes elders to interact with peers for a few hours or a full day.

To stay updated on Vassar-Warner and its grand re-opening, visit vassarwarner.org and follow along on

Facebook (@VassarWarnerHome). To support Vassar-Warner's work with Hudson Valley seniors and its continued legacy in the community, make a donation at vassarwarner.org/make-a-donation/.

Over 130 volunteer firefighters attend Dutchess County Weekend



Over 130 volunteer firefighters from all over Dutchess County took part dinners and training events at East Fishkill training center, New Hackensack Fire Department and Hudson Valley Regional Airport. *Photo by Vinny Galvin*

Dutchess County Weekend took place during the weekend of March 21, drawing more than 130 volunteer firefighters to events hosted at several locations, including the East Fishkill training center, New Hackensack Fire Department and Hudson Valley Regional Airport. The festivities began Friday night with a meet-and-greet and dinner at the East Fishkill Fire Department.

Throughout the weekend, participants were provided with meals. Saturday featured breakfast, lunch and dinner, while Sunday included breakfast and lunch, ensuring that everyone was well taken care of during the event.

Saturday marked the start of various classes designed to cater to all attendees. Topics included legal issues for commissioners and line officers, Firefighter 2

training, live fire exercises, school bus rescue operations, aircraft emergency procedures, highway safety, and EMS sessions for EMTs.

This event was organized by the Dutchess County Fire Chiefs Council. Support came from the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighter's Association, the Association of Fire Districts, and the East Fishkill Fire Department and their sup-

port group. Their collective efforts made the weekend a success.

The organizers hope to welcome participants again next year and encourage continuous learning. Photos from the weekend are available at DCVFFA.com. Everyone is invited to join the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighter's Association and participate in their website community.

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Village of Millbrook brush collection under way

The Village of Millbrook brush collection begins April 1 and continues through the end of May.

What's accepted: Branches less than 4 inches thick and up to 8 feet long.

What's not accepted: Leaves and leaf piles; logs and stumps; grass, dirt, or sod;

construction debris.

Limits: 1 pile per property; maximum size 10' L x 6' W x 4' H.

Storm damage pick-up: Within 2 weeks of a storm.

Call the Village DPW at (845) 677-3022 for more information.

Dutchess County, CSEA agree on 4-year contract

From County reports

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) announced on March 18 they have finalized a four-year collective bargaining agreement, completing the County's negotiations with the largest of its four labor unions. The contract is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2025 and will remain in effect through Dec. 31, 2028, providing stability for County employees. Pending a vote by CSEA membership to accept the agreement, the Dutchess County Legislature will consider the contract for adoption at its May 11 board meeting.

Serino said, "This agreement is good news for our employees and the residents we serve every day. It prioritizes our lowest-paid workers with the largest percentage increases for those earning the least, helps us compete in the local job market, and ensures we can retain the staff our residents depend on. I am thankful to CSEA President Andrew Calamari and his team for negotiating in good faith, as well as all of the members of the CSEA who are on the front lines everyday serving our community."

CSEA President Andrew Calamari said, "We're proud to have reached an agreement that reflects the value of the hardworking CSEA members who keep County services running every day. This contract provides fair wages and benefits for our workforce, and we appreciate the County's willingness to work collaboratively throughout the process. Our members are pleased to see it finalized."

The new contract includes wage increases each year of the contract, including flat dollar or percentage based raises in the first two years of the agreement; the elimination of the lowest job grade to remain competitive in the job market; and retroactive pay for eligible employees. The wage increases are as follows:

- \$2,250 or 3.25%, whichever is greater, for 2025
- \$2,000 or 3.25%, whichever is greater, in 2026
- 3.25% Cost of Living Increase (COLA) in 2027
- 3.25% COLA in 2028

The agreement also includes a series of updates that modernize County employment policies, including:

- Clarified and updated provisions for overtime, emergency call back, holiday work, longevity and on call compensation;
- Adjustments to vacation accrual caps, beginning in 2027;
- Elimination of the County contribution to New York State paid family leave premium;
- Updated health insurance contribution rules for surviving spouses of employees hired or re-hired after Jan 1, 2026;
- Increases to tuition reimbursement program and employee fitness program funding beginning in 2026;
- Sunset of COVID 19 related leave provisions in alignment with state law; and
- Implementation framework for a countywide Fair Labor Standards Act



CSEA President Andrew Calamari and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the new contract agreement. Photo courtesy Dutchess County Gov't

(FLSA) update, including resolution of past overtime calculations.

Serino said, "These updates make our policies clearer, fairer and more up to date for everyone. They standardize how we handle overtime, leave time, benefits and workplace flexibility, ensuring our policies reflect today's needs. By modernizing these areas and resolving past issues, we're supporting our employees, improving consistency across departments and building a stronger foundation for the future."

Once the contract is approved by the Dutchess County Legislature, the County will implement the new provisions, including updates to pay and benefits, as described in the agreement.

Under Serino's administration, agreements have been reached with the Dutchess County Police Benevolent Association and the Dutchess Staff Association; negotiations have begun between the County and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Employee Association.

April is National Volunteer Month!

Let's recognize the great volunteers in our communities!

Can You Recommend a Community Helper?

Who are the "Community Helpers" in your town?

Every community has individuals who always step up and help out, regardless of the need. They are the volunteers who get things done for the good of one or all.

In many cases, these individuals or groups work behind the scenes. We at the Northern Dutchess News want to recognize these "Community Helpers" - and we need YOUR help.

Please send your suggestions to Curtis Schmidt (cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com) or Richard Wambach (richardlw47@gmail.com).





Is it sauce or gravy?

Can Luigi find the answer to an age-old question?

As the winter's snow recedes and the ground gets uncovered, we begin thoughts of gardening and our tomato plants. Some of you may already be starting your tomatoes indoors in hopes of getting them in the ground the moment the threat of frost is gone. Others are keeping an eye open for the moment tomato plants are being sold at your favorite store to be placed next to your basil plants. Either way, tomatoes mean sauce or gravy.

In the beginning, Italians had tomatoes. Not really, though. The tomato originated in America and is believed to have been brought back to Europe by Christopher Columbus in 1493. Primarily used in flower gardens, it was not widely eaten and often used as an ornamental plant. Many people thought tomatoes were poisonous. The use of tomato sauce on pasta doesn't appear till the late 1700s. However, the question of sauce vs. gravy doesn't appear for another 300 years.

Growing up in a house with two "off the boat" Italians, we always called it sauce. My aunts, uncles and cousins also called it sauce. Pasta was pasta, not macaroni. Macaroni was elbows (an argument for another time). Everything else was pasta. Sauce went with pasta. Gravy was for turkey.

I remember being a teenager and going to a friend's house for dinner for the first time. When I asked him what was for dinner he said macaroni with gravy. I remember thinking that it must be an American dish, so I kept my mouth shut. When I saw bowls of pasta with sauce, I was really confused. So being the shy Italian boy that I was, I asked his mother what was going on. Joey said we were having macaroni with gravy. This was pasta with sauce. She then explained that

in their house, they called tomato sauce, gravy. When I said that gravy was for turkey, she told me to shut up and eat.

I went home confused. I told my mother what had happened. That Joey's family called sauce gravy. My mother wiped her hand on her apron, looked at me with the most serious look in her eyes and said, "Sauce is for pasta, gravy is for turkey! You capisce?" So began the "great" debate for me and the quest for the ultimate answer.

My quest began very innocently, by asking my Italian friends whether they called it sauce or gravy. Vinny Justibuono told me they called it gravy. Anthony Mustaccelli told me they called it sauce. I started noticing a trend that the further North on the boot that your ancestors came from, predicated how you termed sauce, or gravy. Northern Italians called it sauce. Southern Italians called it gravy. I had some of my friends tell me that if it's called gravy, then those people were not Italian. I had others tell me that only true Italians called it gravy. I also had a few people tell me to shut up and mind my own freakin' business.

I realized that a question that brought out such passion, and such anger was something that needed to be answered. To try to break the tie, I asked my non-Italian friends what they called it - sauce or gravy - and they just looked at me like I had three heads. I had reached an impasse.

I did a little internet research and found some comments on the "great" debate. Some folks attach "gravy" on a South Philly upbringing. Others say it's a Jersey thing. Still others say it's from growing up in the Bronx. One article said that it came from Long Island at the turn of the 20th century in the Port

Washington section.

While some Italian-Americans may call it gravy, people from Italy don't have the same habit. One Italian chef from New York, who was born in Naples, had this to say: "In an Italian family we make 'sauce' for a pasta meal. Gravy is brown and for turkey only." Another chef commented "My husband's family from Jersey says gravy, but I lived in Italy and can promise it was never referred to as 'gravy' by any Italians!"

I saw one theory that tomato sauce is a meatless marinara; when you add protein such as meat to it like meatballs and sausage, it becomes gravy. Sauce is made from just tomatoes. One friend of mine who owns an Italian restaurant in Jersey has had an ongoing argument with his "off the boat" grandmother. When he served her his baked ziti in red sauce, she demanded he call it gravy. Then, for Christmas, she got him an ornament that said "It's Gravy, not Sauce." Naturally, He didn't hang it.

Sauce vs. Gravy is the Italian version of "Less filling! Taste Great!", "Yankees vs. Mets" and "Giants vs. Jets" all rolled into one. Whole families have been ripped apart because of this argument. I've heard of people not talking for years because they believe it's sauce, not gravy.

One Philadelphia restaurateur remarks, "It's a South Philly thing to throw meatballs into your red sauce and overcook it and then call it gravy." After a little more internet research I found a historical article about the great debate. Our southern Italian ancestors prepared both salsas and sugos. A salsa is a vegetarian sauce with little or no meat that is not cooked very long. Sugo, or gravy, is a tomato and meat preparation that slowly cooks all day.

I remember going to my grandmother's house in Marlboro, NY after Sunday mass and watching her make her sauce. First she would fry a chunk of fatty pork meat in olive oil. She would then add sausages, meatballs, and braciolo with garlic, onions, spices, red wine, tomato paste and crushed tomatoes and let it simmer for 2-3 hours. All afternoon we would sneak onto the kitchen and tear off a hunk of bread and dip it in the sauce. We would have to be quick or Nonna would smack us with her wooden spoon. We would then have it with a hearty pasta, such as rigatoni, with loaves of home-baked crusty Italian bread and fresh shaved Reggiano Parmigiana cheese. We would have a chunk of cheese on the table with a cheese grater and pass it around to freshly grate cheese on our pasta.

I remember the taste of the sweet sauce combined with the sharp creamy cheese. We would ladle out the meat onto our plate right out of the pot. Those meatballs had to be handled delicately because they were sitting in the sauce for hours. They would just fall apart in your mouth. The addition of the homemade sausage to the sauce gave it just enough "kick" to tingle your tongue. It's amazing how well balanced those sauces were. You had sweet, sharp, and spicy flavors all coming together in perfect harmony.

If one accepts that gravy is basically sauce slow-cooked with meat, does it matter what kind of meat? Some say that if you don't add pork bones to it, it's sauce. Others say that the amount of time it takes to make, makes it sauce or gravy. As I said, there were more than a few arguments during my quest to settle the "great" debate once and for all. I, for one,

continued on page 15

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See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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By David Kalvitis © 2005 Monkeying Around



Home compost: expand and observe or set and forget?



As the size of the compost pile increases, volume grows faster than surface area. *Images generated by AI, courtesy of Francine Wizner*

I made a compost pile a few years ago in a shady, out-of-sight, yet convenient area. The mound contains leaves, referred to as “browns,” for their carbon content, as well as kitchen scraps, referred to as “greens,” for their nitrogen content. I checked moisture and rotated the pile regularly.

Since its formation, landscaping work has disturbed the mound. Trucks have dropped fill around the compost and wood chippers have thrown mulch over the area. The heap has been smothered, resurrected, smothered, and, again resurrected at least three times in as many years.

What I can and can't see

Since winter's snow has receded, I can now see rotting kitchen scraps intermixed within spongy earth. There are also residents that can't be seen. Psychrophilic bacteria, as well as fungi, are probably in the organic matter. They digest easily degradable materials like the simple sugars in our apple cores.

PSYCHRO-philic bacteria aren't crazy. They are cold-loving bacteria that are most active from 28°F to 55°F. If you ever had refrigerated meats that have gotten slimy or dairy that has soured, blame psychrophiles.

Another thing I don't see is “steam” (technically condensation). A visible mist forms in cool air that contacts heat generated by decomposition. My compost pile is certainly not steaming! It's cool enough that psychrophilic bacterial populations should increase.

There goes the neighborhood!

Bacteria release energy during rapid growth and when decomposing organic matter. If a compost pile is cool with plenty of nutrients, it's a boom for psychrophilic populations! Their numbers grow and their exothermic processes raise temperatures. Once the pile warms beyond 70°F, it's a bust for the psychrophiles; they've un-alived themselves.

Mesophilic bacteria burgeon in the newly temperate environment.

In contrast to cold-loving bacteria, mesophiles are active between 68°F and 113°F. As their populations grow, they, too, raise the temperature as they digest nutrients. The mesophiles will expire as the compost transitions to the thermophilic phase. When the pile exceeds 113°F, thermophilic bacteria “move in.” Thermophiles break down materials rapidly. But, their high-temperature environment requires observation and management.

Hot rot

Heat-loving (thermophilic) bacteria are found between 113°F and 130°F. “Hot Composting” occurs between 130°F and 140°F. But, to keep that temperature range, the correct carbon-to-nitrogen ratio must be maintained and the pile needs frequent turning to provide oxygen. If the mound gets too hot, there can be rapid moisture loss resulting in compaction, reducing oxygen circulation, producing foul odors and potential volatility.

Size matters

There is a marked difference between my compost's 48°F and temperatures that thermophiles prefer. My little mound of compost is unlikely to spontaneously combust. Small compost piles don't provide enough insulation for their core to reach high temperatures. If a big pile is the goal ... I must, I must, I must increase...

My compost heap can be used as an example in understanding the volume to surface area relationship. As a pile expands, its volume (which generates heat) grows much faster than its surface area (which loses heat to the environment). A mound needs to be a minimum of 27 cubic feet (3 ft3) to generate enough heat to steam. Expansive compost heaps that are 64 to 125 cubic feet (4 ft3 to 5 ft3) provide more insulation and higher



At 48°F, this small compost pile doesn't provide enough insulation for its core to reach high temperatures. *Photo by Francine Wizner*

temperatures, even in the cold of winter. It's not 'go big or go home'; it's 'do what you can do'

Big, hot compost piles need temperature checks, aeration, watering, maintenance of proper ratios, and a large, expansive mass. To achieve more efficient decomposition, I'll need some workarounds for our situation.

We produce few green materials for our heap. We have minimal food waste. Mowed grass is left in place to return nutrients to the soil. We lack farm debris (alfalfa, hay, or manure) -- no herbivores. AND, the garden weeds that are composted just grow anew because the pile isn't hot enough to kill their seeds!

We have plenty of brown material (dry leaves, pine needles, woody trimmings, paper products), but the quantity throws off the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of the pile. That nitrogen deficiency may mean that the heap won't ever get hot enough to produce “quick compost” in a few months. In the future, I may try adding alfalfa pellets or blood meal for a nitro-

gen boost.

But a small compost heap is still a valuable endeavor. It produces a nutrient-rich soil amendment that is a habitat for a variety of organisms. Small piles keep organic materials out of landfills, reducing methane emissions. They simply break down organic matter over time, rather than using heat. They require little maintenance or stress. You just set it and forget it. That's ideal if you have other things to do!

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

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World Peace, Earth Day & Luscious Desserts themes of youth art exhibit at Taste Budds

Students at iStation Art Studio have been drawing and painting thoughtful visual messages for World Peace and Earth Day paintings for Taste Budds Cafe in Red Hook. The show is set for the month of April and the children ages 5-13 are creatives who relish their time after school partaking in a session that encourages their artistic inclinations and talents.

Developing their voice so they can articulate their ideas in a visually compelling way, this body of work revolves around their concern for global issues as international relations/peace, environmental stability, climate change, endangered ecosystem and species, and more. Symbols for freedom/peace and a few recognizable individuals who fought for some of these causes will be included in

their paintings. Beloved animals on the verge of extinction, nature in all its glorious forms and the beautiful "blue marble" will be featured in others. Then our youngest, too, have indulged in thinking about the luscious desserts - as those at Taste Budds - with their thick impasto paintings.

The current show will be a rotating one, with works being exhibited at different times throughout the month.

Taste Budds is at 40 West Market St. in the Village of Red Hook.

Established in Red Hook in 2000, iStation Art Studio, is a year-round visual arts program that offers innovative art class for all ages. Learn more at imaginationst.com.

Submitted by Norine Nakao-Peyton



Young students from the iStation Art Studio in Red Hook will exhibit their drawings and paintings at Taste Budds in Red Hook throughout April. In the photo above are (standing, from left) Decker Allen, Alden Whittemore, Aron Huckman, Rudi Solomon. Seated, from left, are Max Halpern, Jarvis Taylor, Olive Auerbach-Edwards, Indi Solomon.



Standing, from left: Milo Fox, Kellan Boivin, Lily Sarandon, Sarah Zick, Enzo Cabral. Seated, from left: bottom row Sieger Haas, Owen Auerbach-Edwards, Cooper Solomon, Io Holl, Isabel Hughes



Standing, from left: Signe Hasselmark, Mira Lister, Brielle Boivin, Tadeo Costa, Vivian Petkos, Scarlett Robinson. Seated, from left: bottom row (l to r): Nora Saksa, Asimo Fernandez, Cora Antonell, Soraya Duncan, Leonora Rose-Cortina. *Courtesy photos*

A & E CALENDAR

April 2: Live Music, 1915 Wine Bar, 40 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie. Bob Arthurs, trumpet & vocals; Steve Raleigh, guitar, 7-9 p.m. 1915.wine

April 3: James McMurtry (Solo) plus BettySoo The Black Dog & The Wandering Boy Tour, Daryl's House Club, 130 Rte. 22, Pawling. A supremely insightful and inventive storyteller, James McMurtry teases vivid worlds out of small details, setting them to arrangements that have the elements of Americana—rolling guitars, barroom harmonies, traces of banjo and harmonica—but sound too sly

and smart for such a general category, 8 p.m. Tickets \$40.02 (including fees). www.darylshouseclub.com

April 3-4: "Beauty Lou and the Country Beast," Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Missoula Children's Theatre presents this original country western adaptation of the classic fairy tale "Beauty and the Beast." Beauty Lou is the oldest daughter of the broncbustin' balladeer Buck. At the local county fair, young Beauty Lou is upset by the ungrateful behavior of a miner who has won the blue ribbon for his beautiful roses.

She calls him a beast and wishes that he would look like one too. Years later, when in danger of losing the family farm, Buck meets the miner-turned-beast. Beauty Lou agrees to befriend the Beast to save her family. Beauty Lou and the Beast both learn to look beyond appearances and first impressions and to see the beauty that dwells inside. Performances: Fri., 5 p.m.; Sat., 2 p.m. Tickets \$10. www.thestissingcenter.org

April 3-4: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. April 3: Box of Rain - Grateful Dead Tribute, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. April 4: Robert Hill Band and The Traveling Riverside Blues Band, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

April 3-4: "Stars," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Celebratory, curious and passionately open-hearted, "Stars" is Twelfth Night's newest musical makeover. Illyria is lovesick, and community therapist Leslie is determined to explain it using logic and statistics—conducting a scientific study to determine the true nature of love. Her subjects include the incessant Orsino, the hopelessly passionate Malvolio, and plane-crashed twins Sebastian and Viola, whose identical faces and magnetic charisma cause all sorts of confusion. As Leslie's field studies run parallel to her clients' explorations of romance, identity, gender-expression, trauma, swing-dancing, and self-love, she's not the only one who finds herself at a loss for answers. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

April 4: Pasquale Grasso Trio, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Italian-born jazz guitarist Pasquale Grasso is one of today's bright-

est rising stars on the jazz music scene, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$40 advance, \$40-\$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org

April 4: Sensory-friendly screening of "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie," Roosevelt Cinemas, 4060 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park. Doors open at 9 a.m., and the movie begins at 10 a.m. 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. Registration is required and can be completed online at dutchessny.gov/mario2026.

April 4: Tales of the Titanic: Themed Mansion Tour, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburgh. 11: Mark the 114th anniversary of the sinking by touring the home of Titanic ticket holders, Ogden and Ruth Mills. This 90-minute themed mansion tour, led by a costumed guide, focuses on the legacy of the Titanic, offering tales of bravery and tragedy in a setting remarkably similar to first class on the Titanic, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cost: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors & students, children 12 & under are free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

April 6: Virtual Screening, "No Place for Saints: Mobs and Mormons in Jacksonian America." Author talk with Adam Jortner, 7 p.m. How and why did so many Americans flock to the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints, and why did so many others seek to silence or even destroy that movement? The author will speak to the history of events around the LDS movement; this is not a presentation on LDS theology. This is open to all. Registration required via www.poklib.org or (845) 485-3445. Co-sponsored by Dutchess County Library Association.

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Chicken Sliders with Kimchi gets our vote to lead snacks at Heritage Financial Park in 2026

By Morgan E. Maier

Play ball! It's the greatest two-word imperative, second only to "Let's eat." There will be plenty of both at Heritage Financial Park in 2026.

New this season, the Hudson Valley Renegades are partnering with New York City-based chain Shake Shack.

Just as that sandwich magnate began as a hot-dog cart, my journey through the 2026 WMCHHealth Club menu offerings begins with a small cabbage. Crunched for time, this author had time enough to cram a few bites; the aptly-sized Chicken Slider with Kimchi was the winner. A beautiful take on a favorite fermented Korean staple, Chef Mark Woinoski created a dynamite bite of spice and vinegar, cabbage and chicken.

My stomach fulfilled and revitalized from a sweet kiss of kimchi, this slider was just the size to tide me over ... and the perfect taste to have another one.

For the second year running, it was a masterful meat preparation, knocked out of the park. And speaking of fermenting, wine - Benmarl Winery returns for another season. Nearly older than America and five years younger than cream cheese

(more on that later), the vino pairs nicely with the live music that will ring in every Renegades home contest this season. No. 1 in state wine licenses, No. 1 at Heritage Financial Park. I hear corned beef, also fresh sliced in the WMCHHealth Lounge, pairs nicely with a dry Riesling.

Grilled veggies are a delightful balance within the cornucopia of ballpark nosh, alongside a refreshing watermelon feta salad fit to hydrate any mid-inning craving. Also on display, an inside hint to the latest in incomparable stadium food pairings: the chicken and waffles cone. I'm absolutely here for it, because there's nothing better than a treat that satisfies the sweet and savory, all in one hand, in one dish.

It's true, baseball is a celebration of food, fun, and funky combinations. In New York, the pastime is best enjoyed with pizza. Ice cream, too. Plus chicken wings, Cracker Jacks, and ... cream cheese? Bagel's best friend was first created in Chester, N.Y., not Philadelphia as people think. In honor of the spread's Hudson Valley beginnings, the August 25 Ode to Cream Cheese kicks off the Renegades' final homestand.



Above: Chef Mark Woinoski created a dynamite bite of spice and vinegar, cabbage and chicken for Chicken Sliders with Kimchi. You can check this out along with other fan favorites this season while watching the Hudson Valley Renegades. Additional food favorites below include a Watermelon and Feta Salad, Crispy Chicken Bites in a Sweet Waffle Cone and Focaccia Pizza. Photos by Morgan E. Maier.





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That's Italian!

continued from page 10

agree to disagree. Either way, once you combine with pasta it's delicious.

So what have I discovered in my quest for the answer to the great debate? If you want to call it gravy, call it gravy. Want to toss in some pieces of chuck steak instead of pork shoulder, go ahead. Prefer spaghetti over rigatoni, you got it. For each and every Italian-American family, the spicy, thick tomato-based chili styled ragu that becomes the pinnacle of every Italian-American's Sunday dinner may be made differently, taste different and be called something different, but at the end of the day, no matter which way you stir the pot, it's really all the same. Pasta or Macaroni (debate for another day) sauce (or gravy), bread, cheese, wine (definitely).

To me, gravy isn't a food, it's a memory of good times, relatives and friends, and coming together. Memories of a meal so incredible and so tasty that even the most curious, wide-eyed Italian American boy can forget to worry about what's in a name and instead focus on more important things – like what's for dessert.

NONNA'S SUNDAY SAUCE OR GRAVY

Ingredients
 1 lb. pork shoulder meat cut into 1-inch cubes
 4 meatballs
 4 spicy sausage
 2 qts. crushed plum tomatoes
 ½ cup water
 ½ pint tomato paste
 1 small finely diced onion

4 cloves finely diced garlic
 10 oz. red wine
 1 tspn. sugar
 1 tspn. salt
 1 tspn. pepper
 1 tspn. oregano
 1 tspn. dried basil
 ¼ cup olive oil

Directions

In a large pot add olive oil, onions and garlic. Simmer on low heat until onions become translucent (about 10-15 minutes). Add pork meat and brown. Bring heat up to high.

Once ingredients begin to sizzle, add the red wine and scrape the bottom of the pot with a wooden spoon. Add in remaining ingredients except meatballs and sausage and return the heat to low.

Leave on the fire for two-three hours stirring occasionally, until sauce, or gravy, becomes thick. A half-hour before service add meatballs and sausage.

Serve over hearty pasta such as rigatoni with a loaf of bread, grated cheese and the rest of the red wine.

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.

LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.



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.

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

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

Stars
 Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 107

By David Kalvitis © 2005 Monkeying Around

Stargazing event set April 9 at Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum

On Thursday, April 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the non-profit Hudson Valley Railroad Society (HVRRS) will host a stargazing evening with an astronomer. See the universe through an astronomical telescope. Learn about the Hudson Valley skies, at a great spot to see the stars.

The HVRRS is a group of volunteers who restore, maintain, and operate the Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum.

This region-wide event will be at the historic, authentically restored Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum -- used by the Vanderbilts, and FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. The Station Museum is located at 34 River Road, Hyde Park.

Several model railroad layouts will be running, including ones with hands-on

operating features such as Thomas The Tank Engine ©.

The station's fenced-in rear patio offers wide-open views of the sky and the Hudson River, plus Amtrak passenger and CSX freight trains passing in both directions.

All donations go to the continuing restoration and operation of the Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum. This is a Nationally Registered Historic Place open to the public by appointment and on Thursday evenings year-round, plus on Saturdays in summer, with free admission year-round, and which members of the HVRRS work to support.

Visit hydeparkstation.org to learn more.

what's happening? — creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

EXHIBITIONS

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

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

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through April:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is Ivars Sprogis, whose works encompass oils and watercolors. At 12 Vassar St., mixed media painter Kevin Sterne is featured in the Reception Gallery and Shirley Tuttle brings her acrylic works of art to the Hancock Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through June 7:** "Bunmei Kaika: Political Landscape in Early Modern and Modern Japan," the exhibition examines the drastic shift in Japan's national identity during the 19th and early 20th centuries. While this was a time of major political and social upheaval for the nation, it was also a time of expansion and modernization. Many artists responded to the shifting political and physical landscape by depicting it in woodblock prints and works on paper. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theleob>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through July 7:** Special exhibition, "Signature Moments: Letters from the Famous, the Infamous, and Everyday Americans," During their extraordinary public careers, the Roosevelts interacted with a "who's who" of the 20th century. "Signature Moments" opens the FDR Library's archives and museum for an insider's view of the remarkable – and sometimes surprising – variety of personal exchanges with an amazing array of famous (and a few infamous) people, including golden age movie stars, queens and kings, scientists, and legendary military heroes. Visitors will see signatures of literary giants, celebrated artists, world leaders, and, of course, prominent politicians and political activists – including seven American presidents. Regular Library and Museum admission applies to view the exhibit. www.fdrlibrary.org

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

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through May 24:** "A Love Letter to New York State," photographs by Jane Haslam. **Opening reception:** Fri., April 3, 5-7 p.m. (845) 490-2281 or www.landgalleryonline.com

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **April 4-May 2:** The Millbrook Historical Society presents "Embroidery: A Living Tradition," a celebration of the Millbrook artisans who paved the way for the Embroiderers' Guild of America and their continuing legacy. The exhibit includes works on loan from the collections of the Thorne family, Grace Church (Millbrook), St Peter's Church (Lithgow), and the Skyllkill Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. **Opening Reception & Talk:** Thurs., April 9, 6-8 p.m. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **April 3-25:** "Jake Melley: ART," Rhinebeck born-and-raised Melley works in a variety of mediums. **Opening:** Fri., April 3, 5-7 p.m. Admission is free: purchases of art and donations for the library are welcome. (845) 876-2903

Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through April:** "Remnants of Impermanence," photographs by Chad Kleitsch. The images featured in this photographic essay between 1991-2001, taking 4x5" large format color photographs in the Hudson Valley region's abandoned industrial and other local sites. He has returned to these places many times to photograph, and they are always different from the times before. Everything changes but nothing is lost, nothing dies - it is just transformed. (845) 876-4030 or www.starrlibrary.org

Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. **Through December:** "Emily Cole & Valerie Hegarty: LIFE CYCLES" presents a visual dialogue of two craft-based women artists across three centuries: 19th-century artist Emily Cole, daughter of Thomas Cole, and 21st-century artist Valerie Hegarty. The spotlight exhibition juxtaposes more than 30 works of painted porcelain and works on paper by Emily Cole (1843-1913) with a mixed-media installation by Hegarty. The work by Valerie Hegarty was made specifically for the Thomas Cole Site in 2025 and explores the connection between Thomas Cole and Emily Cole and their fascination with cycles of life, while considering Hegarty's own relationship with her mother. www.thomascole.org

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

April program highlights at Millbrook Library

All of these events are free and open to the public and take place at the Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook (unless otherwise noted). For more information, visit millbrooklibrary.org.

"Embroidery: A Living Tradition" Exhibit Opening

Thursday, April 9, 6-8 p.m.

The Millbrook Historical Society presents "Embroidery: A Living Tradition," a celebration of the Millbrook artisans who paved the way for the Embroiderers' Guild of America and their continuing legacy. The exhibit includes works on loan from the collections of the Thorne family, Grace Church (Millbrook), St Peter's Church (Lithgow), and the Skyllkill Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. The exhibit runs April 4-May 2 in the Library Gallery with an Opening Reception and Talk on Thursday, April 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Open Mic Night

Wednesday, April 15, 6:30-8 p.m.

Everyone's welcome at the library's Open Mic Night. Performers of all ages and experience levels are invited to share your original work or a favorite cover or just come to listen and support our local artists. This event is free and open to the public. Meet by the fireplace in the Library's fiction room. Light refresh-

ments will be served.

Birding by Sight and Sound at the Sharon Audubon Center

Saturday, April 18, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Join us for a two hour beginner bird-watching workshop, where you'll learn how to identify birds by sight and sound on the beautiful grounds of Sharon Audubon Center in Sharon, CT. Geared towards adults and teens, this program will be led by our friends from Sharon Audubon and involve some light outdoor trail hiking. Please register for directions and more information. This program is sponsored by a Flight Path grant from STAR Net and Tangled Bank Studios.

Between the Stacks: An Evening of Library Stories

Wednesday, April 22, 6:30-8 p.m.

Storytime isn't just for kids! Celebrate National Library Week with Between the Stacks, an evening of stories brought to life by local talent. Featuring library-themed stories by Ray Bradbury, Susan Orlean, and more. Light refreshments will be served.

Meet the readers:

Stephen Paul Johnson is a 20-year veteran of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, where 50 roles have included King Lear, Prospero, Shylock, and Titus Andronicus. Other regional theaters

include The American Conservatory Theater (San Francisco), The Shakespeare Theatre (D.C.), The Denver Center Theater Company, and The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, as well as six years as Artist-in-Residence at California's PCPA TheatreFest, and two international tours with West Side Story. Television appearances include Boardwalk Empire, Law & Order, and Law & Order: SVU.

Banna Rubinow studied theater at Interlochen Academy and Brandeis University. She has channeled her theater background and love of books into a lifelong career as a storytime reader working with children and adults and as an audiobook narrator with Full Cast Audio. She currently works at Three Arts Bookstore in Poughkeepsie, introducing readers to new stories to love.

Hazel Waldron is a performer from Albuquerque, New Mexico currently pursuing a drama degree at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY. Recent credits include Dracula (Bosque School), A Wrinkle in Time (Bosque School), Till Death Do Us Part (Vassar College), and Kodachrome (Vassar College).

Millbrook Repair Cafe

Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Keep your beloved and broken stuff out of landfills and get to know your neighbors at this event - scheduled the

same day as the Community-Wide Yard Sale. Bring your broken lamps and small appliances, jewelry, mending, and darning, etc. to the Millbrook Repair Cafe and local repair coaches will help you fix them or provide advice on additional repair resources. Please limit repairs to two per person. Also available: knife sharpening, bicycle maintenance demonstrations, and plastic bag and battery recycling.

Millbrook Arts Group Winter Concert Series: Musicians of Ma'alwyck

Saturday, April 25, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Founded in 2000 by violinist and artistic director Ann-Marie Baker Schwartz, the professional chamber music ensemble Musicians of Ma'alwyck is widely recognized for bringing history to life. The ensemble began with a specialization in pieces that may have been heard in New York State during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and has expanded their repertoire into twentieth century works, contemporaries, and commissions from emerging composers. Musicians of Ma'alwyck are Ann-Marie Baker Schwartz (violin), Sten Yngvar Isachsen (guitar), Norman Thibodeau (flute), and André Laurent O'Neil (cello). This program is brought to you by the Millbrook Arts Group. A pre-show reception starts at 4:30 pm. The concert runs 5-6:30 p.m.

Webutuck soccer star Caldiero signs to play at SUNY Brockport

Alex Caldiero knew before the start of his senior year that SUNY Brockport was going to be the next stop on his educational and soccer journey. A signing ceremony celebrated this news with family, teammates, students and staff in the high school auditorium on March 25.

A reception followed in the high school cafeteria.

"I'm overjoyed with emotion," said the Webutuck High School senior.

A team captain, Caldiero led the Wildcats to Section IX Class C semifinal playoffs in each of the last two seasons. Coaches selected him to the Section 9 and Section 9 Class C-D all-star teams in 2025.

"Coming in as an eighth grader, it's been an amazing five years," he said of his varsity soccer career. "I wouldn't want it any other way at any other school. I'm so glad to be a part of it. I'm so happy to have met the people that I have, and I'm so happy as an upperclassman now to pass it down to the next generation."

Marco Reyes, who coached Caldiero for three seasons at Webutuck, said

Caldiero was a team leader on and off the field.

"Brockport is going to have an amazing player," said Reyes. "I'm sure Alex is going to grow in that program. Brockport is not only getting a good player, they're getting a great human being. They're getting the whole deal. I'm really proud of him."

SUNY Brockport finished second in the 2025 Empire 8 League standings and lost in overtime to SUNY Geneseo in the conference championship match. The college joined the Empire 8 for the 2024 season, finishing with a 5-3-3 record in conference play.

Caldiero will graduate in June and will leave this summer to begin his collegiate career, where he'll continue to wear green on the soccer field. He will study to be a social worker at SUNY Brockport.

"We're such a close, tight-knit community," said Caldiero of his Webutuck experience. "Everyone supports each other. It's why I love this place. I couldn't be more thankful for everyone and what they've done for me."



From left are Tony Caldiero, Alex Caldiero, Carrie Havranek and Bill Havranek. Alex Caldiero, who gained Section 9 All-Star honors at Webutuck High School, recently signed to attend play soccer at SUNY Brockport. *Courtesy photo*

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Renegades & Heritage FCU announce Youth Field Betterment at Stanley Still Park

The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, and Heritage Financial Credit Union have announced that Town of Poughkeepsie Softball's Stanley Still Park has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Youth Field Betterment refurbishment.

The program began in 2023 with the mission to award one youth baseball or softball organization with a refurbishment of a field used within their community. Applicants are evaluated on several criteria, including increasing the access of youth participation and improving the quality of youth baseball, and developing life skills of all those who have access to the facility.

"We're all about showing up for our community, and teaming up with the Hudson Valley Renegades helps us to do just that," said Chad Beach, Community Development Officer at Heritage Financial Credit Union. "From improving local fields to supporting little leagues, it's all about giving kids a place to play, grow, and make great memories."

"We are extremely excited to continue the Youth Field Betterment Program in 2026 with the support of Heritage Financial Credit Union," said Jessica Levinson, Renegades Manager of Community Relations & Ticket Operations. "This incredible initiative allows us to continue creating lasting, positive change in the lives of young athletes across the Hudson Valley. By select-

ing Town of Poughkeepsie Softball as this year's recipient, we're not just improving a field — we're providing more children with the opportunity to experience the joy of softball and the valuable lessons that come with it."

"We are honored to be chosen as this year's field renovation project and deeply appreciate the Renegades for their dedication to improving local fields and creating opportunities for young athletes across the Hudson Valley," said Janine Masopust, Board Secretary of the League. "This generous partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening our community and investing in the future of our athletes — not only as softball players, but as confident, hardworking individuals. On behalf of our players, families, and volunteers — thank you for believing in our program and helping us build something special for our girls, both on and off the field."

Stanley Still Park (also known as Jackson Road Park) is located on Jackson Road near the Dutchess County Airport. The park has a senior size baseball field, two girls softball fields, a basketball court, a 1/3 mile walking track, a playground, a creekside nature trail and is known as a great place to fish. The Town of Poughkeepsie Little League Girl's Softball league operates a youth girls softball program of the Town of Poughkeepsie Recreation Department at the park.

The Town of Poughkeepsie Girls Little



Stanley Still Park in the Town of Poughkeepsie is the recipient of the 2026 Youth Field Betterment refurbishment by the Hudson Valley Renegades and Heritage Financial Credit Union. *Courtesy photo*

League Softball (TOPGLLS) program consists of dedicated players, managers, and coaches. They welcome players of all ages and abilities who live or attend school in the Town or City of Poughkeepsie. Players exhibit a willingness to learn, to compete to the best of their ability, and above all, to have fun.

The vision of the softball league is to provide quality coaching, to provide an opportunity for players to reach their full potential, and help them gain an understanding of the game of softball. We do this in an environment that promotes teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship and respect. The goal of TOPGLLS is to create long-lasting memories and friendships, win or lose.

Representatives from the Renegades Front Office and Heritage Financial Credit Union will spend a day this spring refurbishing the field led by Renegades Manager, Field Operations Tanner Puff.

Stanley Still Park represents the first Youth Field Betterment project renovation of a softball field as the program helps support youth baseball and softball programs throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley. It joins Sauter Field at Spratt Park in the Town of Poughkeepsie (2023), and Lee Town Recreational Park, part of East Fishkill Babe Ruth League (2024), and Town of Crawford Park, part of Pine Bush Little League (2025) as recipients of the renovations since the program's inception.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SET APRIL 25 IN RHINEBECK

The Town of Rhinebeck will host an Earth Day celebration at the Thompson-Mazzarella (aka Starr Park) on Saturday, April 25, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. There'll be a big tent and a food truck, wildlife shows, hands-on activities, a clothing swap, a "recycle-a-palooza" and more. Free and family-friendly, zero-waste (BYO water bottle).

The town is challenging the community to start collecting these hard-to-recycle items and bring them out to the event: used plastic wrap/film for the NexTrex Challenge; dead batteries; brown paper grocery bags. Donations for the Red Hook Responds food pantry will be collected; and the Rotary Club will accept donations of used bikes.

The Village of Rhinebeck Tree Commission will give out seedlings, and the Village Compost Subcommittee will be giving out finished compost to registered participants.

More information is available at <https://villageofrhinebeck.gov/> (under Announcements) or at the Village of Rhinebeck Facebook page.

Staatsburgh SHS to offer spring school recess programs



STAATSBURG – Staatsburgh State Historic Site is a time capsule of an earlier age; and this April 2 and 3, two hands-on programs will bring that history to life for children ages 9 to 12. In the April 2 program, "Service to Society: Life at Staatsburgh," children will take on the roles of servants and high-society guests and learn how life was lived in a Gilded Age mansion more than 125 years ago. Families may attend one, or both programs, as tickets are sold separately.

Staatsburgh's owners, Ruth and Ogden Mills, held tickets for the fated ship, Titanic. The April 3 program will feature an interactive, creative writing and drawing workshop, "Surviving the Titanic." DC comics editor and writing instructor, Alisa Kwitney, will offer written and visual prompts inspired by Titanic passengers' tales of survival and courage.

Both programs require children to be accompanied by an adult and tickets are required. The cost is \$8 to \$10 for children and accompanying adults are free. To purchase tickets, visit <https://SpringbreakStaatsburgh26.eventbrite.com>. Eventbrite's fees are waived for Friends members. To become a member visit <https://millsfriends.org/become-a-friend/>.

Staatsburgh's 79-room mansion overlooking the Hudson River is in the hamlet of Staatsburgh, between Hyde Park and Rhinebeck. A time capsule of the Gilded Age, Staatsburgh retains its original furnishings and opulent décor. The historic estate grounds surrounding the mansion, now Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills Memorial State Park, offer scenic walking paths as well as woodland trails.

Youth ages 9-12 can take part in programs at Staatsburgh State Historic Site April 2-3. *Courtesy photo*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Vendors wanted for Freedom Plains flea market

Flea market vendors wanted for the Freedom Plains Fall Rummage Sale and Flea Market, May 9 2026, from 9am-3pm. For \$25, you can reserve a generous space on our front lawn. To fill out an application and pay the \$25 fee online, go to our website www.fpupchurch.org or call the church office weekdays from 9am-3pm (845-452-0684).

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.

The Reformed Church presents the Living Last Supper

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

Good Friday Observance set at Rhinebeck church

Rhinebeck Reformed Church invites all to a Good Friday Observance with violin, organ musical interludes and Bible readings. The observance will take place on Friday, April 3, at 4 p.m., with selections from Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Allegri's Miserere and Bach Sonatas and Partitas.

The church is at 6368 Mill St., Rhinebeck (corner of Route 9 and South Street). Call (845) 876-3727 or email office@rhinebeckreformed.org for more information.

Live theater presentation set April 3 in Kingston

Friday, April 3 at 7 p.m., at the Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston, NY. Live theater presentation of "One Family in Gaza," a screenplay that follows the emails of a family caught in the Gaza Genocide. Written by Crystal Zevon. 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

Easter Egg Hunt on April 4 in Stanfordville

Stanford Recreation will hold an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4, at Stanford Rec, SPARC Park, 40 Creamery Road, Stanfordville. The hunt will begin at 10 a.m. All ages welcome.

Blood Drive set April 4 in Clinton Corners

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the East Clinton Fire District, 9 Firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners. New donors are needed. Schedule to donate at RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: ECFD. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

Ale Launch at Mill House to benefit Anderson Center

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

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

Hyde Park Chamber Breakfast 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; 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.

Burying the Hatchet: The Tom Quick Story

The Copake Grange and the Town of Copake Conservation Advisory announces the screening of "Buying the Hatchett: The Tom Quick Story", followed by a panel discussion led by Bradley Pitts, Chair of the Mohican Allyship Committee, and including Producers of the film, Sean Strub, and Associate Producer, Daniel Strongwalker Thomas, as well as a member of the Stockbridge Munsee Community. The event will take place at the Copake Grange, 628 Empire Rd., Copake on Saturday, April 11, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Hyde Park Repair Cafe

Get ready for spring at Hyde Park's Repair Cafe and Recycling Event set Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 1 Church Street, Hyde Park. Bring in your beloved but broken items for free repairs and advice. Recycle old batteries, air conditioners, and mini refrigerators. For

more information: ClimateSmartHydePark.org

Penny Social at Stanford Grange set April 11

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Spring Penny Social on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and calling begins at 7 p.m. There will be penny prizes, \$1 table, homemade baked goods, theme baskets, 50/50 drawing, and door prizes. Spring and early Summer items will be featured. Refreshments will be available for sale. Proceeds will benefit the Grange Scholarship Fund and continued maintenance for the Stanford Grange Hall. For more information, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Film & discussion April 12 in Kingston

On Sunday, April 12, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston, there will be a screening of "Jenin's Freedom Theatre," a film about actors who put their safety at risk in order to envision a future beyond Israeli occupation. Includes live interview with General Manager Mustafa Sheta. Free admission and community reflection/discussion after the film. Sponsored by: Middle East Crisis Response mideastcrisis.org and cosponsored by African Roots Community Center, Columbia County for Palestine, JVP Hudson Valley, Mid Hudson Valley DSA, Muslims4Muslims International, New Paltz Quaker Meeting, Peace Education Center, Rally Middletown, Veterans For Peace, and Women In Black - New Paltz. Contact: mecr@mideastcrisis.org or 845-876-7906

Pancake Breakfast in Rhinecliff set April 12

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad will host a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 12, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a pile-high of "Rhinecliff's Best" pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. It's all-you-can-eat, so bring your appetite and your friends! Breakfast is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children (children under age 6 eat for free).

Breakfast is held at the Rhinecliff Firehouse (corner of Shatzell & Orchard, Rhinecliff). Proceeds Support the Rhinecliff Vol. Fire Co. Call Cynthia at (845) 876-5738 or e-mail csaniewski1@gmail.com for more information.

Blood Drive set for April 13

American Legion Post 1466 will host a blood drive at the Post, 50 Legion Road, in Poughkeepsie on Monday, April 13, from 1-5 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code Legion1466.

Historic Tavern Trail at Lasting Joy set April 17

Join Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum on Friday, April 17, for the next installment of his "Revolution in Real Time" series, exploring events in New York as they unfolded 250 years ago. The event will take place from 6 to 7 p.m., in person at Lasting Joy Brewery in Tivoli and on Zoom.

The Historic Tavern Trail brings history and local beverage culture together at distinctive community gathering places across the county. RSVP required, more details to come.

Clinton Community

Roadside Cleanup set April 18

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. 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 McGlauffin at (845) 266-3003 or ncouse330@gmail.com.

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.

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

Anderson Connects Career Fair Day

Anderson Connects Career Fair Day will be held Thursday, April 23, 12:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton, 40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. For more information, visit andersoncenterforautism.org/careerfair. This event is supported by the Barry and Holly Feirstein Endowment Fund and hosted in part by Dutchess County Works.

Rhinebeck Historical Society program set April 24

Friday, April 24, 7 p.m., Starr Library, Local History Room (entrance in the rear), 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck. Dr. Mary Mistral will present "Ladies of the Valley." With names like Astor, Roosevelt and Livingston, the women featured in Ladies of the Valley were born to great privilege, and raised to be hostesses who would grace the drawing room. But they would often be called upon to take charge of the operation of their family estates. They also oversaw the welfare of the estate workers, the upbringing and education of their children, and created a tradition of women involved in the social issues of their times. As matriarchs of their families, these women played an important role in establishing the culture and society of the Hudson Valley for generations.

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

Red Hook VFW Civilian Military Ball

The Red Hook VFW Post 7765 will hold its Civilian Military Ball, commemorating 80 years of faithful service to veterans and the community. The event will take place on Saturday, April 25, from 6 - 10 p.m. at The Red Hook Community Center, 59 Fisk Street, Red Hook. This special evening will bring together community members, veterans, and supporters to honor the legacy of service and sacrifice. Guests will enjoy a night of camaraderie, entertainment, and recognition of those who have served our nation. Information or sponsorship inquiries or more information, contact: Jon Conroe, Post Commander: (619) 855-6099 | Jon@vfw7765.org or Red Hook VFW Post 7765: (855) 758-7765 | info@vfw7765.org

Pleasant Valley Lions to host 2nd Pocketbook Bingo fundraiser

Come join the Pleasant Valley Lions at Gold's Gym LaGrange for a fun filled afternoon of Bingo on Sunday, April 26. Guests play 10 rounds of Bingo for designer pocketbooks and door prize drawings. There will be tickets available for the raffle table and 50/50. Bring your own food and beverage. Only 100 seats will be pre-sold, ages 18+. Doors open at 1 p.m. Bingo 2 p.m. Tickets available at PV Lion Club 2026 Pocketbook BINGO - zeffy.com or call Pam at (845) 453-0023 for purchase options or more information.

LaGrange Rotary club to hold meet-and-greet April 28

The Rotary Club of LaGrange Sunrise will hold a meet-and-greet event on Tuesday, April 28, at 5:30 p.m., at Simply Gourmet, 399 Manchester Road, Poughkeepsie. The purpose of the event is in appreciation to the Rotary's golf tournament sponsors (the tournament is its major fundraiser) as well as to share information regarding all that the organization does in the community. In addition, the group will present a check to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation. RSVP to Rose by April 21 at SALMONROSE41@GMAIL.COM.

Miles of Hope Spring Brunch set May 3

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

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals theme for 2026 is

"The Year of the Humane Child." This year's event will be held at the Third Lutheran Evangelical Church, 31 Livingston Street, Rhinebeck on Saturday, May 30 from noon - 4 p.m. Rain Date, Sunday May 31, 1-5 p.m. The goal of the event is to promote kindness as a habit in our homes and in our lives. Kindness costs nothing and is truly a superpower since all living things depend on each other. Come mingle with or without a pet. Enjoy this connection with nature, neighbors and numerous local animal charities.

Free rabies clinic May 30

The Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary (HVARs) is holding a free rabies vaccination clinic for local pets on Saturday, May 30, Noon - 4 p.m. at the Third Lutheran Evangelical Church, 31 Livingston Street in Rhinebeck. The clinic is open to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets 3 months of age and older. Pre-registration is strongly suggested and is available online at hvars.org. Walk-ins will be accommodated on an available basis. The clinic is free for Dutchess County residents and \$15 per pet for non-residents. Please bring proof of residency. All dogs must be on a leash, and cats and domestic ferrets must be in carriers. Vaccinations will be good for 3 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 one-year distemper vaccine for \$25 per pet.

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 benefit the programs for senior citizens living in the Brookmeade Community. To sign up, contact us at info@brookmeadecommunity.org. Sponsorship opportunities also available.

Stanford Fire Company

golf tourney set June 12

The Stanford Fire Company will hold its 7th Annual Golf Tournament on Friday June 12, at James Baird State Park. There will be a Shotgun Start at 9 a.m. (registration begins at 8 a.m.). The outing includes 18 holes golf with cart, hole in one prize, prizes for top three teams, long drive men and women, closest to the pin, lunch/beer on course, raffle prizes, silent auction, dinner following tournament.

ONGOING

Parkinson's Support Group

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

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

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

Volunteer at Vanderbilt Garden: 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 minimum, 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 or visit www.vanderbiltgarden.org.

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

Registration now open for Anderson 2026 Golf Classic

Anderson Foundation for Autism has announced details of the 2026 Anderson Golf Classic, an annual event that is expected to raise over \$125,000 to support Anderson's mission of optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism.

Sponsored by Oldies 98.9 (among others), the outing, which will be held on Thursday, June 11 at The Links at Union Vale (Lagrangeville) attracts golfers from all over the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and as far away as the West Coast. The registration fee of \$300 per person includes golf (shotgun start / scramble format), raffles, prizes, breakfast, lunch, a cocktail hour, and an awards dinner. All golfers also receive a gift and favor bag.

Advance registration for the 2026 Anderson Golf Classic is required. For more information, call 845.889.9208, email events@andersoncares.org, or visit andersoncenterforautism.org/golf.

"Everyone loves a day out on the course," said Patrick Paul, CEO of Anderson Center for Autism, "but even more so when there is a meaningful cause

behind it. This event always sells out; families, trustees, businesspeople, philanthropists, and so many others who support our mission, enthusiastically travel from near and far to participate. We are so grateful to everyone who makes the Anderson Golf Classic successful each year, and really look forward to our 2026 event."

Founded in 1924, Anderson provides award-winning educational, vocational, residential, clinical, and training programs for people locally, regionally, and all over the country. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 1 in 31 are now diagnosed with the neurological disorder, which presents with a wide range and various combinations of communication, sensory processing, behavioral, and socialization differences.

Through fundraising, marketing, and grantmaking initiatives, Anderson Foundation for Autism helps sustain and expand upon Anderson Center for Autism's efforts to optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism.

Reflected Eliza Bozenski, Chief

Development Officer of Anderson Foundation for Autism (AFA), "The funds we raise support Anderson's educational, vocational, residential, clinical, and consulting services; every dollar makes a difference and we are incredibly grateful to all who participate in this outing! And in addition to the fundraising component, of course, is the sense of purpose that is palpable throughout the day - and especially during the awards dinner. I think everyone who attends our Golf Classic feels inspired by the fact that they're part of something bigger than themselves, a collective effort to make a difference in the lives of autistic and neurodivergent individuals. We are always moved by the heartfelt response we get from golfers to that end, and awestruck by how many of them find ways to continue getting behind our work well beyond the event."

Also worth noting, said Bozenski, "is that there are other ways to help us hit our fundraising goals. We have all kinds of sponsorship options for businesses who are seeking brand visibility, and who understand that doing so in the context of

a philanthropic opportunity also showcases their commitment to corporate citizenship."

Bozenski added that this is one of many fundraising events that she and her AFA team coordinate throughout the year, should companies have interest in exploring other events and sponsorship packages as well.

Said Marybeth Cale, Chair of Anderson Foundation for Autism's Board of Trustees, "Event sponsorships are a meaningful way to support the vital services which Anderson Center for Autism provides. They are more than a donation; they reflect a mutually beneficial partnership that we value deeply. The funds we raise through sponsor packages help our team at Anderson amplify impact, and sponsors likewise benefit by gaining visibility while aligning with our important mission. As is the case with our golfers, most return year after year, which speaks volumes about the experience - and we are always welcoming new sponsors, so we encourage anyone who is curious to reach out anytime to inquire."

SEND US YOUR NEWS:

cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

County, DCC connect local students with high-demand tech careers

The Dutchess County Division of Youth Services and Dutchess Community College (DCC) partnered to host a first-ever "Digital Dutchess" career exploration event, welcoming high school students from across the community for a full day of hands-on learning and career discovery on Friday, March 27.

Held on DCC's Poughkeepsie campus, the interactive event introduced some 50 local students to emerging fields, such as computer science, artificial intelligence, information technology, cybersecurity and quantum computing.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, who offered welcoming remarks, said, "Digital Dutchess" is all about opening doors for Dutchess County students, giving them a hands-on look at high-tech careers to help them build the skills they need to succeed right here in our community. Introducing high-school students to careers in computer science equips them with the problem-solving and technical skills; broadens their future job opportunities and allows them to stay here locally to pursue their careers; and helps them become informed content creators, not just consumers of technology."

Through interactive sessions, panel discussions and experiential activities, students from Arlington and Pawling high schools, as well as Dutchess BOCES, gained valuable insight into career pathways and the skills needed to succeed in today's rapidly evolving tech-

nology landscape.

A featured panel of technology and education leaders - including Steve Oscarlece, Commissioner of the County's Office of Central and Information Services (OCIS); Matt Ganis, Professor of Computer Science Professor at Pace University; and Frank Whittle, DCC Professor of Computer Science - shared their perspectives on industry trends, educational pathways and real-world experiences in technology-focused careers.

Students also participated in a cybersecurity workshop led by DCC's Associate Director of Cybersecurity, Joe Falcone, as well as an interactive session with DCC Esports Coach Jesse Navarra and DCC esports student-athletes, highlighting the growing intersection of technology and competitive gaming.

The strong turnout and enthusiastic engagement from students and partners underscores the success of the inaugural "Digital Dutchess" event.

Serino said, "Dutchess County is proud to invest in our youth and prepare the next generation for the jobs of tomorrow. Today's collaboration with DCC, and our future 'Digital Dutchess' events, are just the latest examples of that commitment."

Additional information about Dutchess County Youth Services is available online at dutchessny.gov/youthservices.



Dutchess County OCIS Commissioner Steve Oscarlece explains how computer science has evolved from the punch cards of previous generations during the event held at DCC. *Courtesy photo*

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF DUTCHESS INDEX NO. 2025-51087 Date Filed: 03/12/2026 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Plaintiff designates DUTCHESS County as the Place of Trial Designation of Venue is based upon the situs of the Subject Property. Subject Property: 2440 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners, NY 12514. DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF SAXON ASSET SECURITIES TRUST 2006-1 MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2006-1, Plaintiff, against BEVERLY BROWN A/K/A BEVERLY L. BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; MICHELLE	BROWN PAULA/K/A MICHELLE BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; REGINALD BROWN A/K/A REGGIE BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; MARGARET WILLIAM BROWN A/K/A MARGARET W. BROWN A/K/A MARGARET BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ANTHONY BROWNA/K/ATONY BROWN, WHO WAS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; CHELSAY BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ANTHONY BROWNA/K/ATONY BROWN, WHO WAS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE BROWN; DARIA S. BROWN, AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ANTHONY BROWNA/K/ATONY BROWN, WHO WAS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF ERNESTINE	BROWN; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF ERNESTINE BROWN and UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF ANTHONY BROWN A/K/A TONY BROWN, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; DUTCHESS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; NEW YORK STATE	DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; and "JOHN DOE" and "JANE DOE," the last two names being fictitious, said parties intended being tenants or occupants, if any, having or claiming an interest in, or lien upon the premises described in the complaint, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to an-	swer for the said United States of America shall not expire until sixty (60) days after service of the Summons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE: YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE	ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Maria G. Rosa, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Dutchess County, granted on the 10th day of March, 2026, and filed with the Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Dutchess County. The object of this action is to foreclose a consolidated mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by ERNESTINE BROWN to SMI HOME MORTGAGE, bearing date January 26, 2006 and recorded in Document Number: 01 2006 2950 in the County of Dutchess on February 23, 2006, which was modified a loan modification agreement dated January 27, 2017,	which was assigned to DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED HOLDERS OF SAXON ASSET SECURITIES TRUST 2006-1 MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2006-1 by instrument executed February 7, 2020 and recorded March 13, 2020, in Document Number: 01-2020-50421A. Said premises being known as and by 2440 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners, NY 12514, bearing tax map designation Section: 6566, Block: 02, Lot: 627814, which is more fully described in the Schedule "A" attached to the Complaint. Aldridge Pite, LLP, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 File 1221-4175B

OBITUARIES

Kathleen DeNunzio

Kathleen Mary Griffin DeNunzio, 62, passed away on March 24, 2026 at home. Kathleen was born in Poughkeepsie, NY on June 16, 1963, the youngest child of Selah and Mary Fitzgibbons Griffin. Growing up she attended St. Joseph's School in Millbrook and graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes in Poughkeepsie. After high school she worked at De's Jewelry Store in Millbrook. She then worked at Abilities First for many years until her cancer diagnoses.

In 1998, Kathleen married Vinnie DeNunzio who predeceased her. She then met her life partner Steve Sackett. Steve and Kathleen enjoyed going to places she loved in the summer to Saratoga and the racetrack. She loved going to concerts, Neil Young being one of her favorites. Best of all was 3 weeks in Puerto Rico every January. She loved the beach and her cats. Her latest one "Cloudy" which was a feral cat Pat gave her, grew to sit on her lap and loved her too!

Kathleen is survived by her partner Steve Sackett; her brothers, Michael Griffin and Patrick Griffin (Judy); nephews, Robert Griffin (Cary) and Paul DeNunzio; her step daughter Dana Chadwell and children; sisters in law Lorraine and Christine; brother in law Phil DeNunzio; and cousins Rory, Margaret and Rhoda. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by sister Elizabeth Bogart (Griffin), sister in law Karen Griffin and cousin Tom Fitzgibbons.

Kathleen's family would like to thank her "forever" friend Reesa Murphy as well as many others and grateful for her care at Sharon Hospital as well as Hospice in her final hours.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook. For condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com

Maria C. Rautenstrauch

Maria C. Rautenstrauch, 78, of Poughkeepsie, NY, passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck. Born in Poughkeepsie, NY at St Francis Hospital to Doris Valastro (Manning) and Alfred Valastro.

Maria was a Roman Catholic and received her baptism, first Holy Communion and Confirmation at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church here in Poughkeepsie. Her faith was important to her and she taught Religious Education at Mount Carmel/ St Mary's and Holy Trinity Churches for over 15 years. She was an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, a Lector and a past Parish Council member. Maria attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Notre Dame College in Wilton CT, and Dutchess Community College.

She was employed by Dr. George Englert III for over 25 years as a chair side Dental Assistant and Office Manager. She always said these were "the golden years" in den-

istry and patient care. Maria was a past president of the Italian Center Ladies Auxiliary She was a member of the Mid-Hudson Opera Company and sang in the choruses for "II Pagliacci" and "Hansel and Gretel". She loved music and also sang in church choirs throughout her life. Her interests were sewing and photography. She was active making church vestments for several years.

In photography, she won a Blue Ribbon in the first Vanderbilt Gardens Photography contest. She loved gardening and flowers of any kind, but especially Dahlias.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, John P. Rautenstrauch and her little companion Lena. John was the strength and light of her life. They were married in Saint Columba Roman Catholic Church on May 28th, 1995. She was also predeceased by her mother and father and her infant sister Frances, along with her Aunt Angelina Valastro-LaFalce and Frank LaFalce.

Survivors include her brother Joseph Valastro and his wife Jeannine, and her spe-

cial niece Nicole Valastro and her partner Joseph Florio. There are also several surviving dear cousins and many lifelong friends. These she considered her special gifts in life as family and friends are most important.

Services have been entrusted to the Wm. G. Miller & Son FH, Inc. Calling hours were held on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at the Wm. G. Miller & Son FH, Inc. A Mass of Christian burial was held at St Columba Church, Hopewell Jct., NY on March 30, 2026. Burial was at St Peter's Cemetery in Poughkeepsie.

To send an online condolence, please visit www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com

Donations may be made to St Judes Children's Hospital or The Little Sisters of the Poor in the Bronx. Please, no flowers. Memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 11 Mount Carmel Place, Poughkeepsie NY 12601 or to Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, 4597 Warren Road, Ann Arbor MI, 48105.

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 14)

Suguru solution

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

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

SUDOKU

This week's answer

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

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www.sdutchessnews.com

Legal Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON MARCH 16, 2026 THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION: 221/2026

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXPENDITURE FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR NEW TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

WHEREAS, the Town has nearly completed work at the new Town Hall and will be moving to long-term financing; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that it is in the best interest of the Town to utilize funds set aside in the Capital Project Reserve Account to reduce the amount to be borrowed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes expenditure of up to \$1,000,000 from the Capital Project Reserve Account, account number A.0452.501 for expenses related to the new Town Hall; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution is adopted subject to a permissive referendum as provided by law.

DATED: March 16, 2026

MOTION: Councilman Rifenburg
SECOND: Councilwoman Chapman

ROLL CALL:

Supervisor Albrecht	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Councilwoman Borland	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Councilwoman Chapman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Degan	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Rifenburg	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Carried.		

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-50-26

Specialty Printing Materials

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 14th 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.

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW OF THE YEAR 2026 "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY BY ENACTING

A NEW CHAPTER 72 ENTITLED 'RESIDENTIAL RENTALS FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTING GOOD CAUSE EVICTION'

PLEASE

TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Pleasant Valley will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York on April 20, 2026 at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., on Local Law A of 2026, "A Local Law Amending the Town Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley By Enacting a New Chapter 72 Entitled 'Residential Rentals for the Purposes of Adopting Good Cause Eviction'".

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that

copies of the aforesaid proposed local law will be available for examination at the office of the Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00

p.m. Monday through Thursday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that

all persons interested and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary.

Dated: March 23, 2026

Mary Beth Muir, Town Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BRIDGE REPLACEMENT DUTCHESS COUNTY FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT TO REPLACE BRIDGE RH-16 ON RIVER ROAD (CR 103) IN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK
PIN 8763.09 Replacement of Bridge RH-16 (BIN 3343710), CR 103 (River Rd) Over the Saw Kill Town of Red Hook Dutchess

Legal Notices

County Public notification and solicitation of public comments for the proposed de minimis use of Section 4(f) resources Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DCDPW) is undertaking a federally funded project to replace bridge RH-16 on River Road (CR 103) in the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County. The purpose of this proposed project is to address the identified deficiencies with the existing bridge and pedestrian facilities along the above referenced route. The bridge carries both River Road and the Empire State Trail. The bridge replacement project proposes the installation of new sidewalks on each side of the bridge and widening of the travel lanes to 13' to accommodate both vehicle and bicycle traffic. The new sidewalk will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This project is being progressed as a Class II Categorical Exclusion in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as defined in 23 CFR Part 771.117(c) and as a Type II Action in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) as defined in 17 NYCRR, Part 15. Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation Act of 1966 protects publicly owned parks and recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic properties. Section 4(f) also requires transportation agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to consider all measures to avoid the use of 4(f) resources. If there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of a 4(f) property, all possible planning to minimize the use must occur. In cases where the proposed impacts are not adverse and are determined to be minimal, the FHWA can make a de minimis use determination after the public is afforded an opportunity to comment on the use of the park and recreation resources. This proposed undertaking will use an extremely minor portion of the Empire State Trail to construct the project. This area includes: the bridge and approxi-

Legal Notices

mately 500' of the highway approaches in both directions. A detour for the trail will be posted that will use Barrytown Road (CR82), Old Route 199, NYS Route 199, Meadow Dr, Trow Blvd, Colonial Dr, Manor Rd, Aspinwall Rd, and Kelly Rd. The Empire State Trail detour will be signed separately from the detour for motorists, and it's anticipated that this detour will be in place for 4-6 months during construction of the bridge replacement project. The DCDPW has evaluated alternatives which would minimize the impacts and use of these Section 4(f) properties and finds that these impacts would result in a de minimis use of this Section 4(f) resource. As stipulated in 23 CFR Part 774.5(b)(2)(i), public notice and an opportunity for public comment must be provided prior to making a de minimis use determination for these resources. The public may submit their written comments to the attention of Mathew Dutcavich, P.E., Director of Engineer, Dutchess County DPW, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Comments will be received until April 22, 2026. Related project documents are available as follows: Upon request to dpwengineering@dutchessny.gov, electronic copies will be sent in person at the DCDPW Engineer Division office at 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, M-F between 8A-4P at the DCDPW Engineering Division's website at: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Engineering.htm>

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-44-26

Annual Rental of Machinery and Equipment

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 16th day of April 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New

Legal Notices

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.

LEGAL NOTICE

The resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 16, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Town of Milan, in the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

INGRID KULICK

Town Clerk
BOND RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MILAN, NEW YORK, ADOPTED MARCH 16, 2026, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A TRUCK FOR USE BY THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$300,000, APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, INCLUDING THE APPROPRIATION OF \$15,000 FROM THE "HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND," AND AUTHORIZING THE IS-

Legal Notices

SUANCE OF \$285,000 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO FINANCE THE BALANCE OF SAID APPROPRIATION

The object or purpose for which the bond are authorized is the acquisition of a truck for use by the Highway Department, at the estimated maximum cost of \$300,000. The plan of financing includes the expenditure of \$15,000 from the "Highway Equipment Reserve Fund" to pay a part of the cost of the truck and the issuance of \$285,000 serial bonds of the Town to finance the balance of the cost of the truck.

The amount of obligations to be issued is \$285,000.

The period of probable usefulness applicable to the object or purpose for which said bonds are authorized is fifteen (15) years; however, the bonds authorized pursuant to this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, shall mature no later than five (5) years after the date of original issuance of said bonds or notes.

A complete copy of the bond resolution summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the Town Clerk, Town of Milan, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, New York.
March 16, 2026

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.

Red Cross: Give blood

The American Red Cross asks people to help patients in need by making an appointment to give blood or platelets now. Donors of all blood types remain critical to keeping momentum up and the blood supply stable as spring begins.

Those who come to give blood or platelets by April 12 will get an exclusive Red Cross x Life is Good T-shirt, while supplies last. See RedCrossBlood.org/LifeIsGood for details.

UPCOMING BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

COLUMBIA
Chatham: 4/8, 12:15-6 p.m., American Legion Post 42, 34 Woodbridge Ave
Hudson: 4/9, 1-6 p.m., Hudson Elks Lodge No. 787, 201 Harry Howard Ave.
Hudson: 4/10, 1-5 p.m., Livingston Hills Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2781 US-9

DUTCHESS

Clinton Corners: 4/4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,

East Clinton Fire District, 9 Firehouse Lane

Poughkeepsie: 4/2, noon-5 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road

Poughkeepsie: 4/10, noon-5 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road

Wappingers Falls: 4/7, 1-6 p.m., New Hackensack Reformed Church, 1580 Route 376

Wappingers Falls: 4/9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Grace Bible Church, 158 Myers Corners Rd

GREENE

Athens: 4/4, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 102 North Washington Street

Catskill: 4/4, 7:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Catskill United Methodist Church, 40 Woodland Avenue

ORANGE

Campbell Hall: 4/9, 1-6 p.m., Campbell Hall Fire Department, 13 Maybrook Rd

Goshen: 4/3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Goshen Christian Reformed Church, 2448 NY-17A

Highland Mills: 4/2, 8 a.m.-noon, Discovery Church, 654 NY-32

Port Jervis: 4/8, 1-5 p.m., Bon Secours Community Hospital, 160 E Main St

Port Jervis: 4/10, 1-5 p.m., St Peters Lutheran Church, 31 W Main St

PUTNAM

Carmel Hamlet: 4/2, noon-4 p.m., Kent Volunteer Fire Department, 2490 NY-301

SULLIVAN

Liberty: 4/6, 1-5:30 p.m., Achieve Rehab NY, 170 Lake Street

Mongaup Valley: 4/2, 2-6 p.m., Smallwood-Mongaup Valley Fire Department, 181 Ballard Rd

Wurtsboro: 4/9, 1:30-6 p.m., St. Josephs Church, 180 Sullivan Street

ULSTER

Kingston: 4/6, noon-5 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars, 708 E Chester St

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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Northern Dutchess News,
Southern Dutchess News
& Beacon Free Press

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A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

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

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203 Lawn Services
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802 Motor Homes
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901 Vans/SUV's
902 Trucks
903 Motorcycles
904 Auto Parts & Tires
905 Autos Wanted

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401 Apartments for Rent

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TWO (2) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$2,150.00 per month and one month security deposit. Tenant is responsible for electric, cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

DIMARCO PLACE I, WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,768.00 per month and a one month security deposit. Rent includes electric for lights, cooking, air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided), heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Tenant is responsible for cable, phone and internet service. All household members must be 55 years or older or disabled. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

MEADOW RIDGE FAMILY COMPLEX, Beacon, NY

THREE (3) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,764.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,540.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

MEADOW RIDGE II SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

One (1) bedroom apartment AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY, rent is \$1,507.00 per month or join SHORT WAIT LIST for Two (2) bedroom apartment, current rent is \$1,575.00. One month security deposit is required. Tenant is responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (wall-thru air conditioners provided) as well as cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

HIGHLAND MEADOWS SENIOR RESIDENCE, Beacon, NY

AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY. One (1) bedroom apartment, rent is \$1,247.00 per month and Two (2) bedroom apartment, rent is \$1,561.00. One month security deposit required. Tenant is responsible for cable, phone and internet service. Included in rent is electric, heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check is required. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions apply. Please call (845) 297-2004 for an application.

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Alzheimer's caregiver consultations with OFA

If dad asks me that same question one more time, I'm going to scream.

I'm so tired from caring for mom, I can't think.

I can't remember the last time I had "me" time.

What happens when he needs more care than I know how to provide?

I can't keep up.

If thoughts like these have been going through your mind as a caregiver for a person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, two things to remember:

You're not alone, and this isn't your fault.

Dementia progresses despite caregivers' best efforts, because that's what dementia does. We can't beat ourselves up about it; but we can set a goal to continue supporting someone going through these changes.

It's okay to ask for help

Caregivers who are feeling overwhelmed can reach out to the Office for the Aging to schedule a caregiver consultation. Additionally, a caregiver who's handling the burden at present, but knows what's to come for the person in their care, can also schedule a consultation. Caregivers can find compassionate, practical advice through OFA, by reaching out to us at ofa@dutchessny.gov, calling (845) 486-2555, or visiting our caregiver information page: dutchessny.gov/ofacaregiver

A message from

OFA Director Todd Tancredi

It's finally been warm enough to get Dutchess County's older adults wonder-

ing about the coming year's OFA Summer Picnic season.

We'll announce the official list of picnic dates and venues later in April, and we begin accepting picnic reservation requests on Friday, May 1, when we also announce each picnic's location. This will be our 34th year of picnics, supported again by The Pines at Poughkeepsie. If you haven't been to a Summer Picnic, you can see a recap of the 2025 season at dutchessny.gov/ofapicnics, which is also where the 2026 schedule will be posted.

Guests get a free lunch at the picnic that serves their community -and much more. It's a chance to tie up lots of loose ends all at once. Guests can talk with their local elected officials, find information about services available to them, and safely dispose of unneeded and outdated medications thanks to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, STOP-DWI, and Medical Reserve Corps. There'll also be live music courtesy of Bob Martinson and Dennis Blandino.

We're mailing about 50,000 picnic reminder cards to older adult households throughout Dutchess County. One should arrive in your mailbox 4-6 weeks before your community's picnic, but guests need not have received a card to make a reservation. We hope to see you this summer!

Still seats left at April 7 'Pancakes' in Rhinebeck

There are a few seats still available for the second "Pancakes in the Park" event, at the Pavilion at Brookmeade in Rhinebeck (34 Brookmeade Road., just off Route 308), scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7.

See more about the successful March

26th "Pancakes" event at OFA's Facebook page.

Dutchess County older adults can reserve a seat for the April 7 "Pancakes" by calling OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text message.

'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.

Also at Marist: 'Mobility Matters Poughkeepsie' (Sunday 4/12)

If you're 65 or older and want to know more about strength, endurance, flexibility, balance and general mobility, you'll want to sign up for "Mobility Matters Poughkeepsie" with the Marist

University Physical Therapy Program. It's taking place on Sunday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Marist University Science and Allied Health Building, room 202.

For more information and to register, email violetta.dekert1@marist.edu or call (845) 575-5037.

OFA Spring Mobile Office Hours

OFA Ambassador Mary Reedy is hosting by-appointment OFA Mobile Office Hours around Dutchess County. It's a chance to get your age-related questions answered in person, with considerably less travel on your part.

The next event is Tuesday, April 21, 1-4 p.m., Town of Wappinger Senior Center (note new location) Town Hall Senior Center, 20 Middlebush Road. Appointments are 30 minutes long at each Mobile Office Hours event. Appointments can be made for either session by calling (845) 486-2555 during business hours. We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail, email or text. If your Dutchess County civic organization wants to host a Mobile Office Hours event, email ofa@dutchessny.gov or call (845) 486-2555 during business hours.

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.

New pedestrian crossing completed on Rte. 9G



Hyde Park Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino stand near a new pedestrian crossing on Route 9G near Hyde Park Assisted Living. *Courtesy photo*

The Town of Hyde Park recently announced the completion of the Violet Avenue pedestrian safety project on Route 9 near Hyde Park Assisted Living. Previously, residents at the facility faced hazardous conditions attempting to cross Violet Avenue to reach local shops that resulted in several accidents, some of which were fatal.

The project, a collaboration between the town and Dutchess County, includes

high-intensity flashing safety lights, enhanced crosswalk signage and striping, and ADA-accessible curbing for mobility ease.

"This project is about more than just infrastructure; it's about dignity and independence," said Supervisor Al Torreggiani. "These improvements ensure that our seniors can safely enjoy the best of Hyde Park, from a morning coffee at Dunkin' to dinner at A Touch of Naples."

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