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Stakeholders move forward with Red Hook wastewater issue

By Cynthia Baer

Since 2015, the Saw Kill Watershed Community (SKWC) has advocated for the ecological health of the Saw Kill stream and its surrounding watershed. By uniting residents, community leaders, and Bard College faculty and students, the organization promotes science-based conservation, water quality monitoring, and educational advocacy to protect local water resources and habitats. Their work has been instrumental in bringing back ongoing water quality monitoring on the Saw Kill. In 2015 volunteers began working with the Bard Community Water Lab. A monthly water sampling program was re-ignited at 14 sites along the Saw Kill. This program restarted a long-running volunteer program that began in the 1970s, providing an extraordinarily complete data set recording water quality over time.

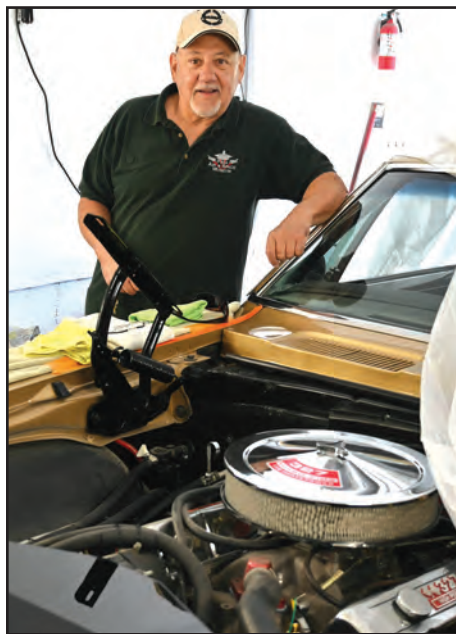
Sheila Buff is one of the chairs for the SKWC who works closely with the Bard College Lab.

“What we hear most from the community is concern about expanding the village wastewater treatment plant,” said Buff. “The earlier serious problems with malfunctions seem to be under control, but minor issues keep coming up and residents are concerned about what could happen if the plant is expanded.”

Red Hook Mayor Karen Smythe is paying close attention to the wastewater issue and reviews the database results regularly. As of April 15, she summarized progress saying, “Malfunctions are being rectified. The sewer is in operation, wastewater is being treated, we are in compliance with our SPDES [State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System] permit. It is a process that

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Car show excitement builds as vintage autos head to Rhinebeck



By Jim Donick

Once again the annual Rhinebeck Car Show kicks off the Hudson Valley’s vintage car calendar as the first big show of the season. It will be at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds from May 1 to 3.

“We expect a great turnout this year, if the weather cooperates,” says Mike Butler, the president of the event. “There could be as many as 600 cars on both days. We have some very special cars coming, as well, including the General



Car restoration specialist Johnny Morris has been busy in his shop all winter and is looking forward to this year’s Rhinebeck Car Show, set this coming three-day weekend at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. *Photo by Jim Donick and courtesy photo*

Lee from the ‘Dukes of Hazzard’ and the Ford Grand Torino that was featured in the TV program ‘Starsky and Hutch.’ Additionally, we’ll be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the iconic Ford Bronco.”

The annual Rhinebeck Auto Show promises three days of automotive activity with something for any automotive taste, lots of food and vendors who attract even those not bringing a car. Owners displaying a vehicle will be vying for First, Second and Third Place awards in 56 classes.

The first of the three days is Friday. It

is the opening of the weekend-long swap meet. People in search of a particular part will be there for the opening. With well over 200 vendors expected, one can likely find nearly any needed part for any automobile. There will also be vendors with tires, garage equipment, tool storage solutions, automobilia, and even just the latest style of sweatshirt or jacket to display one’s enthusiasm. There will also be a car corral where one might find a special car to drive home.

Saturday is for Hot Rods, Customs and

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Focus on each shot leads young Vilardi to golf’s dream courses

By Morgan E. Maier



For generations of golfers, even stepping onto Augusta National’s grounds is a dream. At just 10 years old, Hopewell Junction’s Mario Vilardi did just that recently - competing in the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals on national television, in front of large crowds, and finishing just one point shy of the title. Now, just weeks later, Mario is already setting his sights on international competition.

The Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals bring together the top junior golfers from across the country during

Masters week at Augusta National. Mario scored 28 out of a possible 33 points in the competition. Strong driving earned him valuable points, and a first-place finish in the chipping discipline kept him in contention heading into the final putting discipline, where he ultimately finished just one point behind Texas’ Stephen Sanders, who won the national title in the Boys 10–11 division

“I was just thinking that I always had a chance to win, and I had to focus on this next shot,” said Mario.

Beyond its pristine appearance, Mario

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Hopewell Junction’s Mario Vilardi took 2nd place in the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals at Augusta National two weeks ago and is now heading to the 17th annual U.S. Kids Golf European Championship in Scotland. *Courtesy photo*

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Stakeholders move forward with Red Hook wastewater issue

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needs monitoring daily. We hired H2O (a Canadian-based water and wastewater treatment company), and Les Coon, the Senior Area Manager for H2O, is on-site four hours a day. We have a sewer team that meets every other week to review where we are, and what we can improve. We've added an early warning alarm system so adjustments can be made to address issues before things happen. This new system was installed March 6 and it has gone off only once since."

With regard to the future expansion, the Mayor states, "I fully understand everyone's concern regarding the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. We put in the plant we have now and we had design issues, construction issues and operator issues. It really was a perfect storm and deeply frustrating. And, it has made us much more careful in how we are looking forward. The proposal for the expansion includes different technology that will make it much harder to have issues of non-compliance in the future. We are at capacity with the plant we have now. By expanding the wastewater treatment plant, it provides the infra-structure that we need to add the kind of housing to the village we would like to add. We are working on zoning to keep the character of the village."

Today, the Center for the Study of Land, Air, and Water manages water quality monitoring on the Saw Kill, in conjunction with the SKWC and the Bard Community Water Lab. Student volunteers continue to collect samples from the 14 sites on the Saw Kill. The temperature and conductivity data are gathered at each collection site.

Lilly Griffin is a Lab Technician at the Community Sciences Lab at Bard College. She also helps coordinate the monthly water sampling fieldwork.

"We have a loyal group of student volunteers that come out each month. We split up into two teams: one sampling on-campus sites and the other off-site," she said. "Once we are back at the Bard College lab, the water is analyzed for sewage-indicating bacteria, turbidity, chlorophyll a, colored dissolved organic material, phycocyanin, and optical brighteners."

In February, the SKWC and Bard College launched a new public database digitizing 50 years of water quality data. This tool allows residents to track trends in bacteria, nutrients, and salinity within the Sawkill Watershed on a monthly

basis. The database and its capabilities are meant to be a "living document" and will expand as Saw Kill Watershed communities engage with it. The website states "Our goal is to provide publicly accessible, actionable watershed data to community members, to keep them informed on the health of their local watershed, and to answer community questions and concerns." To use the database, go to https://cesh.shinyapps.io/skw_community_database/

Runhee Hegde is a freshman at Bard College interested in taking advantage of opportunities to pair coursework with applying it to community problems. She volunteers as a sample collector each month.

"I have always been concerned about how [my generation] can steward resources for future generations and how we can help maintain the conservations that have already started," she said. "I think Gen Z is very compelled to at least make people be more aware and concerned for what their environment means for them. With the database release, I think Red Hook residents gain the ability to steward their own data, know what's in their own water and feel equitable in the movement to help keep their water safe. Obviously there are concerns. We make this data available so people can be more confident in what is in the water by seeing the facts for themselves."

Mayor Smythe added, "The thing to know about the water samplings is that the wastewater treatment site has other run offs that join into that area." Recent monthly samplings indicated that runoff from agriculture, road salt (conductivity) and failing septic systems are contributing to watershed stress.

"I am currently researching for a grant to take a broader look at how we can improve the health of that whole area of the wetlands. The stream has a whole set of other issues and history that are contributing to the water quality we are experiencing now," she said.

So what can every household do to be a part of the solution? Says Buff, "A key thing for avoiding environmental impacts on wastewater is to flush or put down the drain only what belongs there. No wet wipes - even the so-called flushable type, condoms, diapers, cat litter, feminine hygiene products, medicine, obvious stuff like paint, antifreeze, etc. No FOG: fats, oil grease. Get rid of the garbage disposal and compost food scraps instead.

Both the town and the village have free household food scrap composting bins for residents. For now, keep an eye on the wastewater treatment plant as they continue repairs and upgrades."

Sampling is done from 14 sites on the Saw Kill stream banks, culverts, and bridges by Bard College student volunteers. Shown here are Lilly Griffin (right), Ruhee Hegde (wearing parka), and Tariq Ghaforri. Photo by Cynthia Baer



Bard College volunteers gather at the Bard College Lab. Left to right are Field Coordinator Basil Aldarondo, Lilly Griffin, Tariq Ghaforri, Riley Mabrey, Fuhna Feng Wu, and Ruhee Hegde. Photo by Cynthia Baer. Right: Congressman Pat Ryan recently visited the Red Hook Village Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ryan (left) is seen here with engineer Robert Flores of Delaware Engineering and Mayor Karen Smythe in the background. The Village has requested funding from him for the expansion project. Photo courtesy of Red Hook Village Hall



NYS offers funding for septic system replacement

By Cynthia Baer

Old septic systems play a significant role in the health of our environment. There are several things that homeowners can do to keep the water table safe. There are a variety of Grant programs available for private septic systems primarily managed at the state and county levels to protect local water quality.

"Most people don't think to inspect their individual septic systems." Says Mayor Karen Smythe. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends septic systems "be inspected by a professional every 3-years. Systems with mechanical components (pumps, floats) should be inspected annually. Household size, water usage, and tank size affect this frequency, with larger households requiring more frequent checks." Be aware of what is going into your septic. Stick to the Three P's - Poop, Peep, and Paper.

If your septic is in need of repair or replacement, Dutchess County has received funds from New York State to participate in New York State's Septic System Replacement Fund (<https://efc.ny.gov/septic-replacement>) to improve water quality. The program financially assists homeowners in replacing existing cesspools and septic systems that may have a negative impact on local

water bodies. Homeowners can receive up to 50% of the cost (up to a maximum of \$10,000) of their eligible septic system projects located within 250 feet of a priority water body.

While availability varies significantly by location, many programs offer reimbursement for replacing or upgrading failing systems, particularly those near protected water bodies. There are a few steps to take before applying. First go to <https://efc.ny.gov/septic-replacement> to determine if your project qualifies as this program. Dutchess County requires a two-step process for any residential sewage disposal repair, regardless of grant status:

1. Step 1 (SAN36A): You and your contractor must complete the Notice of Intent Form located at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/Docs/SAN36-A.pdf> and submit it for DBCH review before work begins.

2. Step 2 (SAN36B): Once work is finished, you must file a Completion Form, also located on the [dutchessny.gov](https://www.dutchessny.gov) website to confirm the exact location and construction of the system.

Applicants can expect a response between 2-3 weeks. The grants end in March, 2027. To learn more about the program and qualifying locations, call the Department of Health at (845) 486-3404 or email ehs@dutchessny.gov

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!



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Car show excitement builds as vintage autos head to Rhinebeck

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Race Cars. One can expect to see wild custom paint jobs in colors the factory never dreamed of. Some will have engines putting out well over 500 horsepower. Hot Rods and Customs are the domain of owners who want their cars to be unique and to reflect their own tastes and imagination.

Sunday brings the vintage and classic cars. These are generally unmodified from new and are often shown with an eye to original details that may rival the efforts of the people who actually built them. These cars will represent everything from the car your grandparents or parents drove to the one that you could only dream of as a youth.

Being the first big show of the season, preparation for the Rhinebeck event has the midnight oil burning in garages all through the area. Enthusiasts are anxious to begin a new season. Noted local vintage car restorer Johnny Morris said, "We sit around all winter without an event and then the spring comes and we get to go to Rhinebeck. We're waiting all winter without driving our cars. When this show comes up, it's like a big-time automobile concert with all the right sounds and sights."

Morris will be going with half a dozen of his buddies, several of whom will be bringing cars that Morris restored for them.

"I'm finishing up this '68 Camaro RS. It's almost ready to go and will be when I

get the hood mounted," he says. "The paint came out beautifully and the guys who did the mechanicals are geniuses."

Many of Morris' customers think of him as a bit of a magician when it comes to the aesthetic restorations he turns out.

Shawn Christensen, who is the advisor to the FDR High School Winners Circle team creating a racing car in competition with a number of other high schools around the state, remarks that he and his team of students are "super excited" about showing their car in Rhinebeck this year.

"We're working pretty hard right now to finish up some details, but we will be ready in time. This year, we're even more excited that several other local high schools will be bringing their cars, too. People will be able to see and admire the work of the FDR team as well as those from John Jay, Pine Plains and Arlington high schools."

The schedule for the event reflects a very full and exciting weekend.

Friday, May 1: Swap Meet setup and opening (Noon-5 p.m.)

Saturday, May 2: Rod & Custom Show (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Sunday, May 3: Antique & Classic Car Show (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

For registration and specific vendor inquiries, visit the official Rhinebeck Car Show website, <https://rhinebeckcarshow.net>



Above: Students at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park prepare their Winner's Circle car for this year's Rhinebeck Car Show. Below: Sunday's Sports and Imports class always has a big turnout of two-seat roadsters, and the Morgans are often there in large numbers. *Courtesy photo and photo by Jim Donick*



Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale Fundraiser returns May 15 & 16

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) Master Gardener Volunteers will conduct their 33rd Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser on Friday, May 15, from from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center on Route 44.

This event features a wide selection of premium plants grown and curated by Master Gardener Volunteers, including annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs. Gardeners of all experience levels will find something to enjoy, with many new plant varieties available this year. To view what plants are available please visit the CCEDC website: ccedutchess.org

"We look forward to welcoming the community back for this annual event," said Heather Brenner, Community Horticulture Program Coordinator.

In addition to plant shopping, attendees are encouraged to visit the Master Gardener Volunteer Information Booth, where knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer gardening questions, provide research-based advice, and assist with plant selection.

Attendees also have the opportunity to purchase soil test kits for \$25.00 at checkout; making it easy to take the guesswork out of improving garden soil health.

In addition, the 2026 Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program will begin this summer, welcoming 22 new volunteers who will help expand outreach and strengthen community-based horticulture education across Dutchess County.

"This program offers a meaningful way for individuals to deepen their connection to gardening while giving back to their community," Brenner. "Each year, our volunteers contribute thousands of hours delivering research-based education, supporting food security initiatives, and promoting environmental stewardship. We are proud to provide programs and resources that create a lasting impact throughout our community."

Proceeds from the plant sale support community horticulture programming, educational initiatives, and outreach efforts throughout the county.

The Master Gardener Volunteer Horticulture Hotline is now open for the season. Available April through September on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon, the hotline (845) 677-5067 provides free, research-based answers to home gardening questions. Gardeners can connect with trained Master Gardener Volunteers for guidance on everything from plant care to pest and disease management.

send us your news

cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

Sports Museum of Dutchess County sets 2026 Opening Day celebration

The Sports Museum of Dutchess County has announced its 2026 Opening Day, taking place on Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Carnwath Farm Historic site, 81 Carnwath Farm Lane in Wappingers Falls.

This year's theme, "Come See What's New," invites visitors of all ages to explore the latest exhibits and discover fresh additions celebrating the rich history of sports in Dutchess County and beyond.

Guests will have the opportunity to

experience newly curated displays, revisit fan-favorite exhibits, and engage with the stories and achievements of local athletes and sports figures who have made a lasting impact on the community. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Opening Day promises a fun and welcoming atmosphere for families, sports enthusiasts, and history lovers alike. Whether you're a longtime supporter or a first-time visitor, there will be something new and exciting to enjoy.

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Rolison keeps fighting for lower utility bills

To the editor:

Across our communities, I continue to hear the same concern from families and small businesses: utility bills are simply too high, and the cost of taxes, fees, and surcharges exceeds the cost of the energy itself.

For the second time, in Albany, I introduced an amendment that would temporarily suspend utility bill taxes and surcharges, mirroring my legislation, Senate Bill 8463, and is designed to provide meaningful, immediate savings to New Yorkers during a time when affordability is a growing crisis, not relief in 5-10 years.

Unfortunately, the Senate majority voted against this amendment again, but this is not the end of the fight.

I brought this proposal forward because it is a practical, commonsense solution that meets people where they are right now. And while it was not adopted this time, I remain committed to pushing for policies that ease the burden on ratepayers and put money back in your pockets.

To the residents of our district: I hear you, I see the challenges you're facing, and I will not stop fighting for you. I will continue to advocate for real solutions that make everyday life more affordable and ensure your voices are heard in Albany.

Senator Rob Rolison
New York State Senate, District 39

Mid-Hudson libraries bring joy to all

To the editor

The staff of the Mid-Hudson Library System just completed their celebration of National Library Week (April 19-25). Our theme this year is "Find Your Library Joy!" to highlight how libraries strengthen communities and support lifelong learning.

When I think about how I find my "Library Joy," I just have to read a member library newsletter or scan their social media feeds. Our member libraries bring joy to so many, in so many creative, unexpected, and meaningful ways.

Recently I found joy in seeing the Pawling Library host "Anything Can Happen Day!" for students at Pawling Elementary School; watching the Reed Memorial Library in Carmel bring back the legendary local history walk with several beloved, retired 4th grade teachers in their community; receiving invitations to ribbon cuttings at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library for their new pavilion and the Woodstock Library to celebrate the completion of their new facility – all of these things bring me joy.

But what I am most joyous about is the everyday success I see exhibited by library directors, library workers, library trustees and Library Friends groups. From getting the right book into someone's hands; to teaching someone how to get an email address or decipher an online form; to creating programs that bring neighbors together to learn and be a community together – our library people are what makes me most joyous of all. Please thank your local library workers, trustees, and Friends Group members for all they do to bring Library Joy to their communities.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System

Non-response from Senator Rolison on ICE issues

To the editor:

I've been involved in group calls with our Senator Rob Rolison which I can only describe as 'defensive,' uninformative, non-collaborative. I know many others with similar experiences, especially as we press passing legislation like NY4ALL to protect immigrant neighbors and all of us from ICE's depredations.

Due to such evasion, I recently joined a group of Vassar students from the "For the Many" chapter to visit Senator Rolison's Poughkeepsie office. The students made 150+ calls, sent a 1/2 dozen emails to him requesting a meeting: no response.

We didn't expect to see him, but when we arrived, there he was. Our group started an impromptu meeting, desperate to get answers or support on the issues we feel must be resolved by these pending bills.

Several students and I spoke with Senator Rolison, looking for common ground, but it was no better than it had ever been. We know he was a cop for 26 years, we know he dealt with immigrant issues and communities many, many times. So, we asked him a simple question: politics aside, how does he feel in his heart about our immigrant neighbors, and what outcome does he want for them?

Based on his non-response, I can only assume Senator Rolison has no sympathy for their plight, and a thick skin and casual contempt for his constituent's well-being. My final request was simple, "Set a date to meet to get updates on these issues?" Providing these Albany updates to constituents is part of his elected role.

He failed us again, same answer: "I don't know, not sure." His secretary was there, so of course he could know a date/time to meet with us?

Well, I can say we will be back, invited or not. Our votes (some of our votes, anyway) put him in office, and all of our tax dollars pay for him. He KNOWS he hasn't much time left in office and will just run out the clock, do nothing, enjoying salary and benefits. He showed his contempt for the plight of our immigrant neighbors, and all who suffer from ICE's outrages.

What I took from this meeting is that Senator Rolison simply does not care, so I had to share what I know with my Hudson Valley neighbors. I hope you'll join me at the ballot box in November, vote for a State Senator who will respond to our needs and concerns.

Brian McElroy
Poughkeepsie

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- 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.

Ribbon-cutting, open house on May 8 to mark renovations at Hyde Park Library

A ribbon-cutting and open house will mark the renovations of the Hyde Park Library's construction project. The event is set on Friday, May 8, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the library at 2 Main Street.

Library Director Lisa Palmer said the project is nearing completion. Since last summer, contractors have worked to replace the library's failing HVAC system, install a lift, renovate the children's room bathrooms (adding an accessible

one with a changing table), install a sprinkler system, and much more.

The renovation was made possible in large part thanks to grants from Assemblymember Didi Barrett, Senator Michelle Hinchey, and the State Aid for Library Construction program.

The public is encouraged to attend May 8 event, which will include refreshments and a tour of renovated sections of the library.

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



Area 4-H Clubs to be featured May 3 at Hackett Farm Supply



Hackett Farm Supply in Clinton Corners will host a Children's Activities & Fundraiser event on Sunday, May 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The store is located at 2297 Salt Point Turnpike, just off the Taconic State Parkway.

The event is designed to support Dutchess County 4-H youths and the many different clubs and interests involved with the clubs. Everyone is invited to attend.

Included will be baked goods, arts and crafts, farm animals and more. Residents are encouraged to help the youths raise money for their clubs and fundraising projects.

For more information, call the store at (845) 266-3494 or text (845) 309-8686.



In the photos are members of the following 4-H Clubs (clockwise from top left): Homespun Hangout, Crafty Quilters and Legen-Dairy Moo Crew. *Courtesy photos*



Central Hudson invests \$200K in DCC green tech programming

By Kristine Coulter

Dutchess Community College (DCC) and Central Hudson announced the expansion of clean energy and advanced manufacturing workforce training programs on Wednesday, April 22 – Earth Day. The announcement was made at the DCC site on Route 9 in Fishkill where an investment of \$200,000 to DCC from Central Hudson was made for the Green Tech Program.

During his remarks, DCC President Dr. Peter Grant Jordan shared that he talks with alumni and members of the community. “It was clear to me that DCC had a powerful impact.” He continued, “It’s my honor to make sure I am perpetuating that legacy.”

According to officials, the development of a new, state-of-the-art HVAC and building trades laboratory within DCC’s Center of Excellence for Business, Industry and Innovation will be used with the funds by Central Hudson. The lab will provide hands-on training in modern, energy-efficient technologies, including heat pumps, mini-split systems, and high-efficiency electric equipment central to New York State’s clean energy transition, it was stated. The new 9,200 square-foot instructional space, it was remarked, “will replicate real-world working environments.”

Assistant County Executive Ron Hicks remarked during the presentation, “We’re competing against the world.” He

said this is a significant investment and shared when the Dutchess County Legislature years ago approved of the funds for the program at the Hudson Valley Regional Airport.

He said the students knowing they “can walk out of here with a job” is “phenomenal.”

“This work is my calling. The idea of getting students together with employers— the idea of living in this community ... we are about access to everyone,” said Jordan. He later stated that DCC is also ensuring students’ success and “that they leave [DCC] with skills” that are going to get them that job.

Wappingers Central School District Superintendent of School Dr. Dwight Bonk was in attendance for the announcement. “We’re ecstatic for this partnership. It’s going to provide many opportunities for our students. We’re very fortunate to have this facility right here in our back yard,” said the superintendent.

Bonk noted the Wappingers CSD is “beginning this whole career awareness ‘it’s not that early.’”

Wappingers Falls resident and DCC student Jonathan Nuñez said during the presentation that DCC courses are “absolutely amazing.”

“I thank DCC for everything they’ve done for me,” said Nuñez, who attended Roy C. Ketcham High School in the Wappingers CSD.

Anthony S. Campagiorni, Central Hudson Electric & Gas Corporation

Executive Vice President, Strategic Development, stated, “It’s about the people and good clean jobs.”

“We’re deeply rooted in this community. We’ve been here for 126 years,” remarked Campagiorni.

“There’s so much going on and there will be more innovation going on” at DCC, said County Legislature Chair Yvette Valdés Smith, who noted enroll-

ment at this DCC site has been growing.

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra remarked, “This is positive for the Town of Fishkill. It’s another tangible asset that makes the community great.” He added this will assist in getting people to continue investing in Fishkill.

For more information, visit <https://www.sunydutchess.edu>.

Yankees hurlers draw crowds as Renegades top Brooklyn

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades find themselves on the winning side of a polarizing series this week. Not particularly scandalous, unless you count the appearance of two top Yankees hurlers, but the 5-of-6 series win propelled the Renegades to the top division spot (.5 game lead), while the Brooklyn Cyclones (5-15) sank to the bottom in one fell swoop, which would have been a series sweep if not for a Sunday doubleheader split.

Who's (in) First? - While the Renegades are used to winning of late, this homestand marked many a first: The first walk-off home run, then the second. Kaeden Kent and Kyle West opened the series by taking Cyclone pitchers deep into the Dutchess night in back-to-back ninth innings. Next up, the star-powered

sellout(s). Hudson Valley hosted an uncharacteristically large weeknight crowd - 4,712, as reported by Renegades' own Joe Vasile - as the Yankees' Gerrit Cole took the mound on April 23. Yankee hurler Carlos Rodón commenced his own High-A rehabilitation the next night, offering 4.1 scoreless innings to the subsequent 10-2 Renegades victory. The Renegade bats showed out for the new pitching staff, as Hudson Valley went on to win the next two, outscoring Brooklyn 16-6.

Brooklyn got one back on April 26, the first of a doubleheader slate after Saturday's washout. Franyer Herrera put an end to the Cyclones' longest winning streak of the season with a quality start (5.0 IP, 1ER, 2 H, 3 BB, 5 K). The only earned run came off Corey Collins' second home run of the season. Collins' first

left the yard three days earlier, launched off 2023 Cy Young Award winner Cole.

There it goes, Cebert! - Jack Cebert continues to impress, lowering his earned run average (ERA) to a sub-1.00 mark. The scheduled starter on April 23, Cebert took over for Gerrit Cole after a 10-pitch, .2 inning appearance by Ben Grable. Zeroes across the board for another strong outing lowered Cebert's earned run average to .098. Minimal runs, maximum strikeouts. All efficiency. Cebert has thrown 69.8% of pitches for strikes across his first three outings.

Stop Your Pitchin' - The Renegades are bottom-three in a plethora of offensive categories. Hits, runs, RBIs, and batting average are a few of the most glaring. Enter the best pitching staff in the South Atlantic League. Hudson Valley allows

the fewest baserunners per inning (WHIP), while notching the second-most strikeouts. As a staff, they have allowed just 13 home runs - one for every long ball launched by the 'Gades hitters!

The Renegades (12-8) will go on a weeklong getaway to the Jersey Shore to face the BlueClaws (10-10) for the first time this year. It projects to be a battle of top pitching, as the two teams boast the division's lowest batting average against. Jersey Shore staved off its own series sweep with a Sunday win over the South Division-leading Bowling Green Hot Rods (14-7), and holds a third-place tie with the Wilmington Blue Rocks. The Atlantic Ocean will likely be too chilly for a dip during Hudson Valley's delayed spring break, but the first-place Renegades look to stay hot on the shore.

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.fupchurch.org or call the church office weekdays from 9am-3pm (845-452-0684).

Sexual violence support

Swap the Shame, Shift the Blame will be hosted by Family Services of Dutchess County and the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). The free event is set Wednesday April 29, from 5:30 - 7:30pm at the Community Center in Brexel - Schlathaus Park, located 127 All Angels Hill Road in Wappingers Falls. The event is part of a series of community conversations designed to educate the public on sexual violence and support services.

Bingo in Rhinecliff April 29 & May 27

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company will host Bingo on Wednesday, April 29 & May 27, at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, 17 Shatzell Avenue, Rhinecliff. Doors open at 5:15 p.m., with Bingo from 6 to 8:30 p.m. To benefit the Rhinecliff Vol. Fire Company

Eight games, top prize \$250. Single card \$5, 3 pack \$10, 8 pack \$25. Limit 75 people. No admission without purchase. Must be 18+ to play.

Concessions will be available for purchase. No outside food. Arrive early to find parking. For more information, call (646) 537-5968.

USB to present free Homebuyer Seminar

Ulster Savings Bank will present a free Homebuyer Seminar on April 30, at 5:30 p.m. Learn about the many critical steps to owning your own home. You may be eligible for a \$750 Home Buyer Credit (certain conditions apply) just for attending. Sign up at <https://www.ulstersavings.com/personal/loans/seminars/>

Ulster Savings Bank is an Equal Housing Lender & Member FDIC. NMLS# 619306

Hyde Park Chamber's upcoming events

The Chamber's Business Of the Year Dinner will take place on Thursday, April 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. Location TBD.

The next Hyde Park Chamber Breakfast is set Thursday, May 14, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at Joseph's Steak House, 728 Violet Avenue, Hyde Park. The speaker will be the Hyde Park Superintendent of Schools. The cost is \$25 per member, \$30 per non-member.

For tickets and more information for these events, visit www.hydeparkchamber.org.

Spring Rummage Sale set May 1-2 at Salt Point church

The Spring Rummage Sale at Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 1872 Salt Point Turnpike in Salt Point, will be held on Friday May 1, from 3 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 2p.m., followed by a \$5 per bag sale from 2 to 4 p.m.

Featured will be perennial plants, spring & summer clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, luggage, linens, kitchenware, children's toys, puzzles, games, books, CD's and so much more at reasonable prices. Bake goods are available both days with lunch available on Saturday.

For information or directions, call Diana at (845) 656-9959.

Riverkeeper Sweep set May 2 at Rhinecliff waterfront

Join Morton Memorial Library, Rhinebeck Grange 896, Dirty Gaia, The Pollinator Patrol, Climate Smart Rhinebeck, and Riverkeeper for a river cleanup, site maintenance, and pollinator planting event for the 15th Annual Riverkeeper Sweep, a day of service for the Hudson River and its tributaries. The Sweep is set Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at the Rhinecliff Dock.

Organizers recommend that Sweep volunteers wear sturdy shoes or boots; clothing that they can get dirty; and to bring a hat, sunscreen, a full reusable water bottle, and work gloves. This site is suitable for elementary-aged children with proper adult supervision.

Advance registration is requested at <https://engage.riverkeeper.org/component/events/event/27>

Defensive Driving Course set May 2 in Stanfordville

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, May 2, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$38 per person. This course allows New York drivers to receive a 10% discount off their collision and auto liability insurance and remove up to 4 points on your license for any violations incurred in the last 18 months. The class includes festive classroom participation as well as a delicious homemade lunch served by the Grange Dinner Committee with a free will offering asked. For more information or to request an application for the course, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Free performance May 3 at Rhinebeck church

Sunday, May 3, 5 p.m. Rhinebeck Reformed Church, 6368 Mill Street. Come out to see the presentation of "How I Got To Broadway." Free. Donations welcomed. Email the office to be added to the list. office@rhinebeckreformed.org

Miles of Hope Spring Brunch set May 3

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

First-Time Homebuyer's Grant Seminar set May 5 at Adriance Library

The Poughkeepsie Public Library District will host a First-Time Homebuyer's Grant Seminar on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m., at the Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Registration required via www.poklib.org.

Plant Swap indoors set May 6 at Poughkeepsie library

The Poughkeepsie Public Library District will host an Indoor Plant Swap on Wednesday, May 6,

at 6:30 p.m., at Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market St., Poughkeepsie. No registration required. See www.poklib.org for more information.

LaGrange Library Book Sale set May 8-9

The LaGrange Library's Spring Book Sale will take place on Friday, May 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, May 9, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be thousands of books, CDs and DVDs, all priced at \$2 or less. Fill a bag sale for \$5 on Saturday, May 9, from noon to 2 p.m.

The library is at 1110 Route 55 in Lagrangeville. For more information, email rweiss@laglib.org or call the Library at (845) 452-3141

Fundraising dinner has '50s-'60s theme

St Paul's Church, 161 Mansion St., Poughkeepsie is holding a '50s-'60s dinner on Saturday, May 9, at 5:30 p.m. The dinner will be prepared and served by Dr JJ Manley and his students from the Culinary Institute of America. The menu includes: Tomato Bruschetta, Apple, lettuce & walnut salad, Chicken Cordon Bleu with green beans almondine & Pineapple upside down cake plus coffee, tea & water. Reservations required. Please call the church at (845) 452-8440 to make yours.

Plant Sale at Stanford Town Hall

The Stanford Garden Club will hold its Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the lower Town Hall parking lot, across from the Post Office.

Repair Cafe set May 9 in Rhinebeck

The Rhinebeck Repair Café will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, at the Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Drive, Rhinebeck. Get your "broken but beloved" stuff fixed free by a volunteer Repair Coach. People bring all kinds of things to the Repair Cafe to be fixed: lamps, small electrical appliances, digital devices, wooden items, ceramics, clocks, jewelry, textiles, etc. Available in May: welding and metal repairs (broken lawn chairs, anyone?) and mower blade sharpening and balancing (participants are encouraged to contribute to fuel and material expenses). Also in May: An Energy Advisor with Cornell Cooperative Extension will provide information on energy-saving strategies and how to apply for NYS energy-efficiency and energy-assistance programs. For further information, go to www.repaircafehvh.org/rhinebeck or email elaine.rhinebeckrepaircafe@gmail.com.

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.

Brookmeade Golf Classic set June 1

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

Aim for Gold Jamboree set June 13

The USA Archery Foundation will hold the Aim for Gold Jamboree, a fundraising event, on Saturday, June 13, from noon to 4 p.m., at Mashomack Preserve Club in Pine Plains. There will be a barbecue and the event includes archery lessons, 3-D targets, trick shooters, Kid Zone, and special guest coach Joel Turner.

Visit usaarcheryfoundation.org/aimforgold for tickets and more information.

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.

May program highlights at the 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.

Lotus Lantern Craft Workshop
Saturday, May 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join the Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project (KSCPP) for a hands-on workshop where participants will create a beautiful lotus flower lantern using colored paper and a pre-made wireframe. Along the way, they'll also discover Korea's rich history and unique cultural heritage. The program concludes with a short documentary film that offers a deeper look into modern Korea. Registration is required at millbrooklibrary.org.

Library Jam & Community Sing-a-Long; Wednesday, May 6 & June 3, 6:30-8 p.m., in the Fiction Room

Bring an instrument, or just your voice for singing, hands for clapping, or ears for listening. Eric Marshall will lead you through a myriad of memorable tunes. This group is perfect for beginner and advanced musicians. All ages and abilities are welcome. The Millbrook Library Jam meets the first Wednesday of each month - outside on the library porch or in the Fiction room, depending on the weather.

Millbrook Film Club: "Cielo"
Thursday, May 7, 6-8 p.m.

In honor of NASA's Artemis II mission to the moon, Millbrook Film Club presents "Cielo," a stunning documentary that explores the night sky, as experienced by astronomers, local farmers, and cowboys in Chile's Atacama Desert - known for its high-altitude, aridity, and near-complete lack of cloud cover and light pollution. The resulting meditation on the heavens is an inspiring vision of a universe that we both see and cannot see.

"Un Real" Exhibit Opening Reception
Friday, May 8, 6-8 p.m.

Millbrook Arts Project presents "Un Real," an exhibition of artwork by Fern Apfel, Betsy Brandt, Monica Miller Link, Kevin Mosca, Laura Von Rosk, and Daniel Walworth. "Un Real" brings together a group of contemporary artists that share a commitment to looking closely at the world, yet what emerges in their work is something far more complex than simple representation. Drawing from diverse source material - archival ephemera, woodland observation, cinematic landscapes and invented narratives - the familiar is rendered with such clarity that it slips into something less certain.

Related events include the Opening Reception on Friday, May 8, 6-8 p.m.; an Artist Talk on Saturday, June 6, 1-2:30 p.m.; and an Upstate Art Weekend Reception on Saturday, June 27, 5-6:30 p.m. The exhibit runs May 8-June 28 at the Library.

"Garden Matters: Roots to Blooms"
with Kristen Essig

Saturday, May 9, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Explore the value of utilizing plants in their entirety, from underground roots to blossoms and seeds. We'll examine how whole-plant practices reduce waste, deepen our relationship with food, and support healthier soils, more resilient farms, and more equitable food systems.

Learn practical ways that farmers, cooks, and communities can rethink abundance by honoring the full life cycle of the plants we grow. Taught by Kristen Essig, Director of Culinary Outreach and Development, Stonewood Farm

Volunteer Fair
Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Act locally! Looking for ways to give back to the community? Connect with amazing organizations that help our community and learn how you can get involved at the Millbrook Library's fifth annual Volunteer Fair. Learn about local volunteer opportunities including animal rescue, environmental and nature programs, food security, health and wellness, literacy and tutoring, local history, and more.

Participating organizations include: AARP, Dutchess County SPCA, Dutchess Outreach, Grace Smith House, Literacy Connections, Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue, Millbrook Historical Society, Dutchess County Office for the Aging, Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Puppies Behind Bars, Stonewood Farm, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, and more!

Office Hours with Dutchess County Legislator Eric Alexander

Tuesday, May 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Community members are invited to meet our local representative and receive help with questions and County services.

Spring Nature Journaling at Cary Institute; Wednesday, May 27, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Nature journaling is an accessible and enjoyable method of connecting with the local environment across all seasons. Join Ecology Educator Ashley Alred on this guided exploration of Spring at the Cary Institute and learn field-based techniques for capturing our outdoor observations with sketching and watercolor. All materials will be provided; however, you are welcome to bring personal supplies like a journal, pencil, and pen. Registration is required for this free program; sign up at millbrooklibrary.org.

Intro to AI for Beginners
Wednesday, May 27, 6:30-8 p.m.

Move beyond the hype and intimidation surrounding AI and learn to understand what it is, what it can and cannot do, and how to start using it practically and responsibly. Instructor Sergio Fernandes is an Instructional Technology Consultant at Pace University with over 28 years of experience helping people use technology more effectively. Known for his calm, clear, anti-hype approach, Sergio translates complex tools into plain language and real-world workflows that enable beginners to build confidence without sacrificing their judgment.

Millbrook Film Club: "A Man Named Pearl"; Thursday, May 28, 6-8 p.m., Bennett Room

For over three decades, Pearl Fryar dedicated himself to his yard work. This documentary follows this self-trained topiary sculptor, the son of a sharecropper, as he turns his garden into a fantastical wonderland, becoming an inspiration to his community and drawing visitors from around the world. This free screening is possible through the generous support of Film Director Scott Galloway.

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS AT THE ROOSEVELT INN



Members of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce were in attendance on Saturday, April 25 for the celebration of the 55th anniversary of the Roosevelt Inn. The family-owned business is operated by the mother-daughter duo of Raili and Karen Rudowski. They say "Thank You" to everyone who stopped by, particularly County Executive Serino, who also presented a proclamation during the event. *Courtesy photos*



CHURCH TO HOST SPRING RUMMAGE SALE ON MAY 9

The Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church Spring Rummage Sale and Flea Market will take place on May 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 1168 Route 55, Lagrangeville. The Flea Market will be on the front lawn with more than 45 vendors. Inside there will be a huge Rummage Sale. Breakfast, lunch and a bake sale, will also be inside.

The Rummage Sale items will be gently used clothes, furniture, toys, books,

household items, garage and attic finds. We accept cash or Venmo. There will be a \$5 Bag Sale at 1:30 for all Rummage items. The "Church Boutique" will feature New Items, jewelry and treasured antiques. At 1:30 p.m., the Boutique will have a Buy One/Get One Free sale. This is a rain or shine event.

For more information, visit the Church Website www.fpupchurch.org.

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



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



Feldman, Kleidman, Collins & Sappe announces addition of Jordan M. Gwynn

Feldman, Kleidman, Collins & Sappe LLP (FKC&S), a leading personal injury and medical malpractice law firm in the Hudson Valley, has announced that Jordan M. Gwynn of Fishkill has joined the team as an associate attorney. For more than 40 years, FKC&S has represented clients in complex matters in state and federal courts throughout the Hudson Valley and Capital Region.

"Jordan brings a strong litigation background and a thoughtful, disciplined approach to his work," said Jeffrey M. Feldman, founding partner of FKC&S. "His courtroom experience and commitment to public service make him a valuable addition to our team and to the clients we serve."

Gwynn earned his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Albany Law School, where he was a Dean's Scholarship recipient and served as an associate editor of the Albany Law Journal of Science and Technology. During law school, he gained experience through internships with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York, the Queens County District Attorney's Office, the Saratoga County District Attorney's Office and the Dutchess County Public Defender's Office.

Prior to joining FKC&S, Gwynn served as an assistant district attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. In that role, he managed a substantial caseload of felony and misdemeanor matters, handling cases from investigation through resolution. He regularly appeared in court for arraignments and hearings, presented numerous cases to the



Jordan Gwynn

grand jury and has meaningful trial experience. His work included prosecuting violent crimes, including assaults and weapons offenses, as well as domestic violence, sex offenses, child abuse and financial crimes. He worked closely with law enforcement on investigations and charging decisions.

A Hudson Valley native, Gwynn was born in Kingston and earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from The College of Saint Rose, where he served as assistant director of undergraduate admissions for more than a year following his graduation. He is admitted to the New York State Bar and enjoys running, boxing, volunteering with his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and occasionally performing stand-up comedy.

Focus on each shot leads young Vilardi to golf's dream courses

continued from cover

quickly learned that Augusta is even more challenging than it looks on television. Its dramatic slopes are difficult to see on screen, and the greens play far faster than they appear.

Mario's father, David Vilardi, walked alongside Mario on the lush Augusta grassgrounds, prepared as it would be for the 90th Masters Tournament. Large crowds lining the paths stunned the pair moving through the grounds. Fans' applause enveloped father and son's every step – Augusta's treatment for all golfers, 7 years old or 70. Personnel gave the juniors their spotlight, from the welcome dinner, interviews, and live broadcast coverage. Mario played in front of the masses in Georgia and the Golf Channel audience at home. With thousands watching, he delivered the timely, clutch shots that he has become known for making.

"It's great what the Drive, Chip and Putt program is doing, giving these kids an opportunity to compete at Augusta, which is incredibly difficult to experience otherwise. Every detail was so precise. It was an incredible experience for both the kids and the families," said Dave, noting the 'unbelievable' welcome that the 80 junior golfers and their families received.

At 18 years old, U.S. Amateur champion Mason Howell was the youngest competitor in the Masters field. A high school senior, Mason is closer in age to the oldest Drive, Chip, and Putt competitors than the bulk of his competitors, and a shining example of the possibilities for hard-working young golfers.

There were many sweet spots beyond the staple peach-laden menu and the ice cream sundae Mario enjoyed from his trophy. He met his favorite golfer, Bryson DeChambeau, preparing for a sixth Masters appearance. As anyone who has

met their sports hero knows, Mario's experience was exhilarating, fun, and mostly indescribable. Over dinner, Mario clicked quickly with Idaho native and fellow competitor Owen, over sports they enjoy and just being boys. After watching a Masters practice round, Mario's brush with the quick greens and green jackets came to a close.

Each moment—from the competition to the friendships he formed—was the result of a year of preparation and belief. For Mario, it was never a question of whether he would make it to Augusta, but when.

"A part of our brain is like, 'Okay, yes, we want that too, but gosh, we have to also keep realistic expectations,'" said David. "And then he was just a point away [from winning]. He knows how difficult it is to get back there and what it takes, but that's his goal for next year."

"Who wouldn't want to go back to Augusta, right?" said Mario's mother, Louisa Vilardi.

And it was there on the world's biggest golf stage that Mario's mindset shifted. He visualized winning it all.

The family journeys next to the Golf Coast of Scotland, where Mario will join other top juniors at the 17th annual U.S. Kids Golf European Championship. This invitational promises unfamiliar terrain and the signature windy, winding Scottish fairways. Neither fazes this young golfer.

"I never really know the course [where I play]. So I just think about playing my best," said Mario.

The Vilardis will continue to support Mario's dream at every turn. To take the flights, carry the bag, and witness each milestone alongside him. Especially if that means a return to next year's Drive, Chip, and Putt National Finals, where Mario plans to take the title.

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

ALL LOCAL ~ ALL THE TIME

www.sdutchessnews.com

Serino prioritizes highway & bridge infrastructure improvements

From County reports

POUGHKEEPSIE – Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has proposed a \$10.36 million bond resolution to fund the Dutchess County 2026 Capital Road and Bridge Improvement Program for ongoing improvements to the 395-mile County Highway system, which includes 375 bridges and major culverts, to ensure public safety and long-term infrastructure resilience.

Dutchess County Public Works Commissioner Robert Balkind outlined the plan for the Dutchess County Legislature's Public Works and Capital Projects Committee on Thursday, April 9. The total cost of the 2026 Capital Road and Bridge Improvement Program is \$16.88 million, with the County anticipating receiving annual funding from various New York State programs including Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), PaveNY, Extreme Winter Recovery, and Pave Our Potholes (POP) programs.

This year's request includes funding for the following programs:

- Bridge & Culvert Improvements – \$11.28 million
- Pavement Management – \$2.75 million
- Misc. Highway, Safety & Drainage Improvements (including guide rail replacement) – \$ 2.85 million

Major projects in the request include:

- South Mill Road Bridges (R-13 & R-14) over Landsburg Creek and Landsman Kill in the Town of Rhinebeck

- Barmore Road Bridge (L-8) over Sprout Creek in the Town of LaGrange
- Salisbury Turnpike Bridge (M-20) over Little Wappinger Creek in the Town of Milan

- North Jackson Street Bridge (F-2) in the Town of Fishkill

- Drainage improvement project on Osborne Hill Road in the Town of Wappinger

- Multiple culvert replacement projects in North East, Beekman, Dover, Pawling, Wappinger, Stanford, and Hyde Park

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.

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 17 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

Stars

Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 101

By David Kalvitis © 2007 Monkeying Around



DUTCHESS COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

OPERATION: MOBILE OUTREACH

SCAN TO GO TO
CURRENT DCOVA
CALENDAR ONLINE



Come to a Mobile Outreach Event in May:

SATURDAY, MAY 2—11:00AM-2:00PM—Dutchess County Y.O.U.R. Health Fair at DCC

MONDAY, MAY 11—12:30PM-3:30PM—Red Hook Village Hall, Red Hook, NY

FRIDAY, MAY 8—10:00AM-3:00PM—Veterans Memorial Building, Beacon, NY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13—4:00PM-6:00PM—VFW Post #9255, Rhinebeck, NY



GUARDIAN REVIVAL

Providing Hudson Valley Veterans and First Responders with free programs designed to enhance mental health and wellbeing:

Peer Services | Individual & group peer support for guardians by guardians

Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program of Putnam County | Providing events, information, and resources for veterans

Another Summit | Outdoor adventures — walking, hiking, backpacking, paddling, and fly fishing

Boots & Paws | Providing companion dogs & service dog visits

Encore | Learn, write, play, record, and share music

RISE | Wellness workshops, retreats, and resources

Visit us at:

www.guardianrevival.org
Say hello@guardianrevival.org
Call us at 845.617.6164



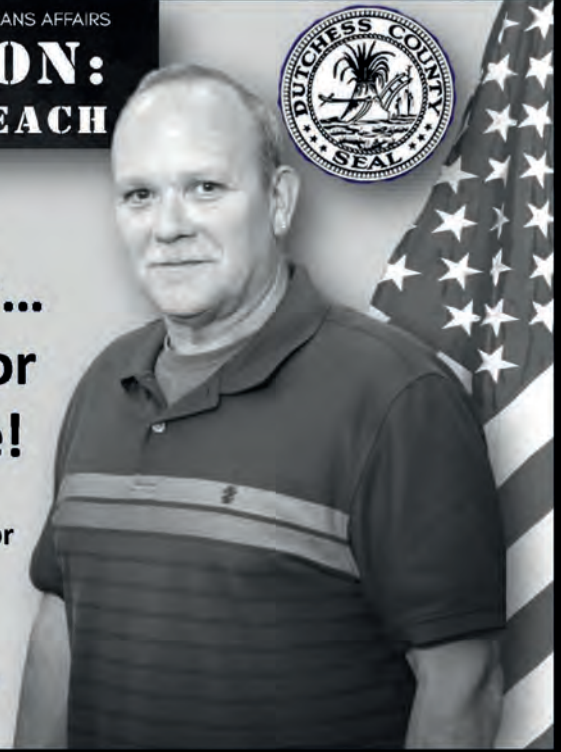
DUTCHESS COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
**OPERATION:
MOBILE OUTREACH**



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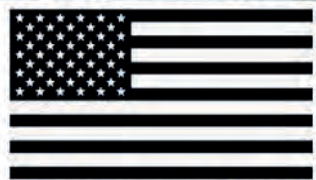
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Dutchess County Legislator
District 7
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A little neighing and braying about mules

Wild populations of horses and donkeys don't typically occupy the same territory. If they are in contact, behavioral differences usually prevent them from mating. Therefore, the product of their mixed parentage, a mule, is rare in nature. But, they are created through human intervention, since they are valued for being both strong and hardy.

Mules are built for packing. Their situational hesitation, mistaken for stubbornness, is actually caution. Mules are favored for their sure-footedness and calm demeanor on steep, narrow trails. Their genetic combination endows them with dense, resilient muscles, boxy hooves, and efficient metabolisms. They have high stamina for sustained work.

Math and Science

Mules are sterile because they have 63 chromosomes. Reproductive cell division in mammals can't be achieved with an odd number of chromosomes. Mules are offspring of female horses, with 32 pairs of chromosomes (64 total), and male donkeys, with 31 pairs of chromosomes (62 total). Mules inherit half from each parent—32 from the horse and 31 from the

donkey. They have 31 pairs, and one extra.

Even if mules had an even number of chromosomes, their "donkey chromosomes" and "horse chromosomes" are genetically incompatible for making eggs and sperm. That is what defines horses and donkeys as separate species from each other.

In fact, a species is a group of individuals that can breed with each other to produce fertile offspring. Mules are not a species. They are an equine hybrid resulting from a mare (female) and a jack (male). A hinny is another kind of equine hybrid resulting from a stallion (male horse) and a jenny (female donkey).

Horsing around

If two different chefs were to bake "hybrid bread" from a horse and a donkey, there would be two very different results. A "mare-chef" would bake a "mule-loaf," with her DNA as the "base" and a jack's DNA as the "mix-in." The result would have a sturdy crust and bold seasoning. A "jenny-chef" would bake a "hinny-brioche," with her DNA as the "base" and a stallion's DNA as the



Bailey, left, a standard mule (and a timid soul), with Zeus the donkey. They live in a small equine herd. Below: Chicklet is a young mini mule who is settling into herd life. Photos courtesy of 13 Hands Equine Rescue

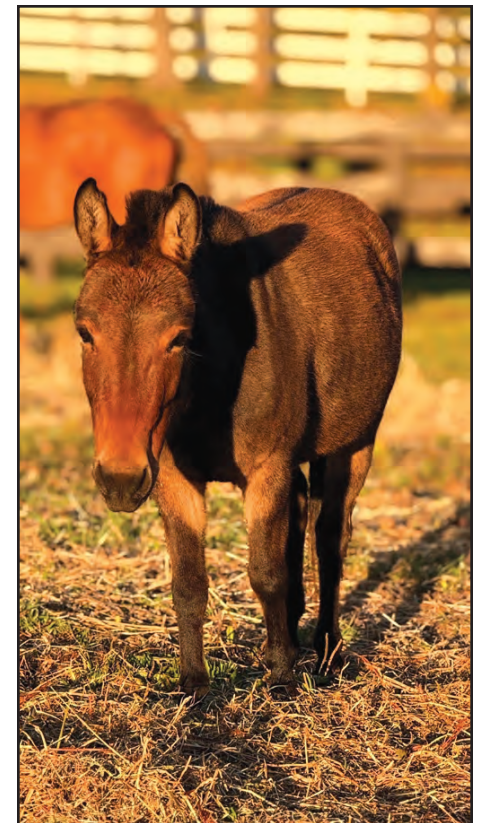
"mix-in." The result would be a finer crumb and mellow flavor.

A mother's womb and mitochondrial DNA have a massive influence on the offspring. A mare is larger and produces a more robust mule; a jenny, with a smaller uterus, will produce a diminutive hinny. (Important point: Hinnies are rare because of the size mismatch between stallions and jennies).

History

The first mules were bred in what is now Northern Turkey in c. 3000 BCE. Ancient Egyptian carvings show mules being commonly used as pack animals (c. 1350 BCE). Other cultures viewed mules as luxury items. The Hittites (c. 1700 BCE-1180 BCE) valued mules at three times the worth of a chariot horse. In Sumeria (c. 3000 BCE -2000 BCE), a mule cost seven times as much as a donkey!

continued on page 11



STISSING CENTER

	<p style="margin: 0;">Friday, May 1 in The Grace Note</p> <p style="margin: 0;">JODY REDHAGE FERBER TRIO</p> <p style="margin: 0;">JAZZ/CLASSICAL MUSIC 7:30PM \$20</p>
	<p style="margin: 0;">Saturday, May 2 in Banning Hall</p> <p style="margin: 0;">THE ARTIST</p> <p style="margin: 0;">FILM 7:30PM \$15</p>
	<p style="margin: 0;">Sunday, May 3 in Banning Hall</p> <p style="margin: 0;">PETER WILEY & ANNA POLONSKY</p> <p style="margin: 0;">CLASSICAL 3:00PM \$30-40</p>
	<p style="margin: 0;">Friday, May 8 in The Grace Note</p> <p style="margin: 0;">RACHAEL KILGOUR</p> <p style="margin: 0;">SINGER/SONGWRITER 7:30PM \$20</p>
	<p style="margin: 0;">Saturday, May 9 in Banning Hall</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TABLAO FLAMENCO</p> <p style="margin: 0;">LATIN MUSIC / DANCE 7:30PM \$30-40</p>
	<p style="margin: 0;">Friday, May 15 in The Grace Note</p> <p style="margin: 0;">AMANDA FORSYTH</p> <p style="margin: 0;">CLASSICAL 7:30PM \$20</p>
	<p style="margin: 0;">Saturday, May 16 in Banning Hall</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TAYLOR ASHTON</p> <p style="margin: 0;">SINGER/SONGWRITER 7:30PM \$30-40</p>

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Cloning mules advanced cancer research

Cloning occurs in nature. It is how bacteria and yeasts reproduce. Plant clones include runners, tubers, and bulbs. Some lizards and bees are clones. Less frequently, mammals have identical twins.

Artificial cloning is used to replicate agricultural crops and livestock to satisfy global food demand. Genes and stem cells are cloned to produce insulin, develop vaccines, and study disease. While human reproductive cloning is legally restricted, animal cloning is managed through food safety and welfare standards that vary by country.

The first cloned mule, named Idaho Gem, was delivered May 4, 2003. His creation was driven by the fact that mules are sterile hybrids. While seeking to replicate an elite racing mule, researchers discovered that manipulating calcium levels was the secret to successful embryo division. This breakthrough offered major benefits for cancer research, as equine resistance to tumors may be linked to how they regulate calcium during cell growth. Consequently, a project born from the desire for a faster racing mule provided a path for potentially suppress-

ing human cancer.

Mules of Dutchess County

13 Hands Equine Rescue cares for more than 150 miniature horses, draft horses, donkeys, and mules. They specialize in slaughter-bound, abused, or abandoned horses, including many wild Mustangs. The non-profit is dedicated to rehabilitating and rehoming horses in need. Check out their upcoming events: <https://13handsequine.org/upcoming-events/>

There is a common thread among mules, says Volunteer Adoption Liaison Angela Zappavigna: "They are tough. They require extra patience and time, as well as gentle and consistent handling."

One event the organization is hosting is Help a Horse Day 2026. Scheduled for June 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., guests of all ages and levels of horse experience are welcome to come meet the farm animals. It will be a day packed with fun, including live music, delicious food and drinks, local artisans and vendors, educational demonstrations, and of course: MULES!

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



Abby is quiet and curious, and will engage if you approach slowly, with patience. Below: Snookie, a mini mule, lives with Abby in a mixed herd with other mules, donkeys and miniature horses. Snookie will greet humans from a distance. *Photos courtesy of 13 Hands Equine Rescue*



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

Suguru

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

THEME: LEGENDARY ATHLETES

ACROSS

- Capital of Tibet
- Templeton of "Charlotte's Web"
- Maisie Williams on "Game of Thrones"
- Poisonous plant
- UN labor grp.
- George Orwell to Eric Arthur Blair
- Movie genre
- Shark part
- Ax mark
- *First Native American to win Olympic Gold
- *The Great One of hockey
- Be indisposed
- Disfigure
- Du Bois' initials
- Hoodwink
- Baking soda
- Bypass
- "Breaking Bad" product
- Spelunker
- Orchestra member
- Charles Dickens' "____ House"
- Family room staple
- Like United States Capitol
- "Cogito ____ sum"
- Tongue-____
- Stockholm dwellers
- *Tiger Woods has won this award the most times
- On the wagon
- Silage
- Almond-induced state?
- *Jordan or Phelps
- *Female player with most Open Era Grand Slams
- Infant's woe
- Seafood selection
- Practical
- Stopped sleeping
- Pigeon sound
- *Most decorated gymnast
- Red, or excessively bureaucratic, one
- End of a fuse?
- Balance sheet entry

DOWN

- Drug in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"
- John Mellencamp's "____ So Good"
- Nanny in East Asia
- Polynesian island country
- Tick or mite
- Abundant
- *Boxer a.k.a. The People's Champion
- Kingdom in South Pacific
- Loads (2 words)
- Nabisco cracker
- Noisy talk
- Like Zombie's skin color
- Low on hemoglobin
- Perfectly vertical
- Adam's body part
- Measured, like electricity on utility bill
- *Tied for most PGA Tour wins
- Curve like a bow
- Biotic community
- *O Rei of soccer
- Throw a line
- Steer clear of
- Send to a specialist, e.g.
- *NFL's 7-time Super Bowl champion
- Got ready to drive
- Old witches, usually
- Small steep-sided hill, in Africa
- Vandalize
- Johnny Nash's "I Can ____ See Clearly Now"
- West African people
- Choose by vote
- Abominable snowmen
- Med. sch. requirement
- *Hall of Famer Bob Feller's home state
- Hoofbeat sound
- Nature walk
- Narrow aperture
- Zilches
- Away from wind
- Many, many moons
- Approx.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 17

I Love My Park Day returns for 15th year

By Kate Goldsmith

Volunteers are key to maintaining New York's state parks and historic sites. I Love My Park Day, set this Saturday, May 2, celebrates the invaluable work they do to help park staff beautify trails, plant native flora, and prepare outdoor recreation spaces for the summer season.

I Love My Park Day is presented by Parks & Trails New York, in partnership with New York State Parks and Department of Environmental Conservation. Beautification events will be held at more than 100 state parks, historic sites and public lands in all of New York's regions.

In the Mid-Hudson region, the following sites are participating:

- **Bannerman Island:** Join the Bannerman Island spring-cleaning trail and garden maintenance team for a day of fun, camaraderie and environmental volunteerism. Sign up is requested at bannermancastle.org, or call the Bannerman Castle Trust office at (845) 831-1001 for more information.

- **Lake Taghkanic State Park:** Help clean up the park's pollinator garden, plant some flowers around the park or assist with some shoreline cleanup. The event starts at 10 a.m. Call (518) 851-3631 for more information.

- **Staatsburgh State Historic Site:** From 9:30 a.m. to noon, volunteers will assist the site with some landscaping and grounds tasks, including weeding and mulching around the mansion and gathering branches and debris in areas of the park. Up to 25 volunteers are sought. Registration required at

<https://www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day>. Volunteers receive event T shirts (while supplies last); a pizza lunch; and complimentary mansion tour is offered by the Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh.

- **Taconic State Park:** Starting at 11 a.m., volunteers are invited to participate in landscaping, gardening, cleanup projects and more. Sites with projects may include Copake Falls Campground, Copake Iron Works, Roe Jan Park, and the Harlem Valley Rail Trail. Registration is not required but highly encouraged. Meet at the Copake Falls Park Office. Bring work gloves, appropriate clothing for working outdoors, and water bottles. Register at www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day/ and search for Taconic State Park; or call (518) 329-3993.

- **Walkway Over the Hudson:** From noon to 2 p.m., participants will weed, prune, mulch and water beautification areas on either side of the Walkway. Additional projects including trash clean-up and painting may be offered as needed. Attendees young and old are welcome.

Volunteers should bring closed-toe shoes, layers, water and a snack. Bring gloves and small garden tools, as well, if possible. All participants will receive a special I Love My Park Day tote bag and sticker.

Sign up to volunteer on Walkway's East (Poughkeepsie) Approach: walkway.org/ILMPDEast

Sign up to volunteer on Walkway's West (Highland) Approach: walkway.org/ILMPDWest



Volunteers participate in beautification projects at last year's I Love My Park Day at Taconic State Park (above) and Walkway Over the Hudson State Park (below). Photos courtesy of NY State Parks & Historic Sites



EXHIBITIONS

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **May 1-June 30:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be photographer Joel Mason. At 12 Vassar St., Julian Allen will present his paintings in the Reception Gallery and Monika Kalra will display her multi-media work in the Hancock Gallery. **Free Public Art Opening Receptions** will be held in all three Art Galleries on Fri., May 8, 5-7 p.m. The Victorian Gallery is open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Hancock Gallery and Reception Gallery are open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. but visitors should stop by 9 Vassar St. first or call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. The 12 Vassar Street Galleries are also open during events at the VBI Theatre. More info about the artists at cunneen-hackett.org.

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

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

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

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through 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. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **May 1-22:** "The Collection," photography by Paul Eifenbein. **Art Auction:** Fri., May 22, 7 p.m. (845) 876-2903

Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through April:** "Remnants of Impermanence," photographs by Chad Kleitsch. **May 1-31:** The 20th Annual Rhinebeck Central School District Art Show. Students from grades K through 12 will present a body of 2-D and 3-D work containing a variety of media used in their academic classes. The show highlights the work of art by students studying with Fawn Johnson (CLS), Jennifer Famiglietti (BMS), and Kathryn Giles and Shannon Harris (RHS). **Opening reception:** Fri., May 1, 4-6 p.m. (845) 876-4030 or www.starrlibrary.org

Taste Budd's Cafe, 40 W. Market St., Red Hook. **Through April:** Drawings & paintings by youth ages 5-13 from iStation Art Studio. The artwork highlights their concern for global issues as international relations/peace, environmental stability, climate change, endangered ecosystem and species, and more.

Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. In the 1846 New Studio, **Through May 24:** "Hudson Talbott: Shining Objects, A Career Retrospective," the exhibition will celebrate the work of the late, award-winning artist Hudson Talbott, whose talents

have inspired audiences for decades through his children's picture books. Presenting more than 75 of Talbott's works, the exhibition will include a selection of his original paintings and sketches, his painting table, examples of his more than 30 books for young readers, and a selection of his early commercial work. **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 May 24:** "Sculpture, 3-D, and Relief," the artwork encompasses aspects of space, shape, texture and color in a variety of materials. From the realistic to the abstract, freestanding and relief, unique and exciting sculptural forms will be on display. Highlights will include an exploration of forms from clay, wax, wood, stone, glass, fabric, metal or found objects. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

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ANIMAL FARM PG

<p>DEEP WATER R</p> <p>--HELD OVER-- Michael (PG13)</p> <p>Over Your Dead Body (R) Project Hail Mary (PG13) The Super Mario Galaxy Movie (PG)</p>	<p>--HELD OVER-- Michael (PG13)</p> <p>A Great Awakening (PG13) Project Hail Mary (PG13) The Super Mario Galaxy Movie (PG) Normal (R) I Swear (R)</p>
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Miracle worker?

Luigi amazes Pop with his TV-fixing savvy.

I had to go to my father's house and reset his cable box. It reminded me of something that happened a few years ago.

A while back, Pop called me in a full-scale, five-alarm panic — the kind of panic where he skips hello and goes straight into screaming like the house is sliding into the Atlantic.

Pop (on the phone): LUIGI! THE TV — SHE'S DEAD! DEAD! COME QUICK!

I didn't hear him say TV. I'm thinking: stroke, fall, chimney collapse, Momma threw a shoe at him — something serious. I race over like I'm responding to a hostage situation.

I walk in ... and Pop is standing over the cable box like it owes him money.

The thing has no lights, no power, no nothing. It's not even pretending to be alive.

Pop is pacing the living room like he's waiting for Maury to reveal whether he IS or IS NOT the father. The second I kneel down, he's hovering over me like I'm performing open-heart surgery on the rug.

Pop: Maybe you gotta smack it. Maybe the electricity shes a stuck. Maybe the wire is ascared. Maybe the cable company isa closed. Maybe the Russians did something. Maybe the Pope shut it off.

I finally turn around and say, "Pop ... go to your bedroom. I need privacy." Like I'm about to crack a safe.

He stomps off, muttering about how "in my day, we fix-a everything with pliers and a prayer."

Mom is sitting in her chair, arms crossed, smirking, watching this circus like it's her favorite show.

Mom: He's gonna give YOU a heart attack someday, Luigi. The box shes a dead, HE'S the one having the funeral.

Pop yells from the bedroom: LUIGI! YOU NEED ANYTHING? A FLASH-LIGHT? A PRAYER? A SANDWICH?

Momma rolls her eyes so hard she almost sprains something. What Pop doesn't know is ... I've got an ace up my sleeve. I go to the spare bedroom, grab the backup cable box — the secret emergency unit — and swap it in.

Two minutes. Done. No drama. No CPR. No séance. Just plug-and-play.

I call out: Pop, it's fixed.

He comes marching back in like a general returning from war. Sees the TV working. His whole face lights up like I just resurrected Julius Caesar.

Pop: You're a genius!

Mom doesn't miss a beat.

Mom: Genius? He plugged in a box, Anthony. Relax.

Pop ignores her, pats me on the back like I saved his life, gives me a loaf of bread and sits down triumphantly. But here's where it gets good. Ten minutes later, BOTH my brothers call me — separately — because Pop has already phoned each of them with his version of events.

My phone rings. It's Brother #1.

Brother #1: "What did you do now? Pop said you performed surgery on the TV."

Before I can answer, my other brother calls on the other line.

Brother #2: "Luigi, Pop said you brought the cable box back from the dead. What the hell happened?"

I'm juggling calls like a customer service rep.

Me: "I swapped the box."

Brother #1: "That's it?"

Brother #2: "He made it sound like you rebuilt the Pentagon."

Meanwhile, in the background, Pop is yelling loud enough for BOTH of them to hear through the phone:

Pop (yelling): HE'S-A GENIUS! HE FIX-A EVERYTHING! LIKE Marconi!

Momma shouts from her chair:

Momma: Marconi? He plugged in a box, Anthony. Calm down before your topee falls off.

And that's how, in one night, I became: The Michelangelo of Cable Boxes
The Marconi of the Hudson Valley
And the family tech support hotline
All because Pop's cable box took a nap.

Enjoy this recipe for a special loaf of bread.

RUSTIC ITALIAN BREAD

Ingredients

4 cups Italian Type 0 flour or bread flour

1 3/4 cups lukewarm water, added gradually

2 tsp fine sea salt

2 tsp dry yeast

1 tsp sugar

1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Instructions

In a small bowl, dissolve the yeast in about 1/2 cup lukewarm water with the sugar. Let it sit 5-10 minutes until slightly foamy.

Place the flour in a large bowl. Add the yeast mixture and begin adding the remaining water gradually, mixing as you go. Add olive oil if using.

Stir until a shaggy dough forms, then add the salt. Continue mixing, adding small amounts of water as needed, until the dough is soft and slightly tacky.

Transfer to a lightly floured surface and knead 8-10 minutes until smooth and elastic. Adjust with tiny amounts of water or flour only if necessary.

Shape into a ball and place in a lightly oiled bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm spot for about 2 hours, or until doubled.

Gently deflate the dough. Shape into one large rustic loaf or divide into two smaller loaves. Place on a parchment-lined sheet or in a floured proofing basket.

Cover and let rise again for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Score the top of the loaf. For a crisp crust, place a small pan of hot water on the bottom rack. Bake 30-35 minutes until golden and hollow-sounding when tapped.

Transfer to a wire rack and let cool completely before slicing.

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.

send us your news

cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

Dutchess Handmade Spring Pop-Up Shop opens April 30

Arts Mid-Hudson will present the 2026 Dutchess Handmade Spring Pop-Up Shop, returning from April 30 through June 12. This seasonal marketplace showcases the work of more than 60 talented artists and makers from across the Hudson Valley, offering a vibrant and thoughtfully curated shopping experience for the community.

Visitors can explore a wide range of handcrafted goods, including glass, jewelry, greeting cards, textiles, ceramics, woodwork, prints, paintings, home décor, and more. The Pop-Up Shop is the perfect destination to find meaningful, locally made gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, birthdays, and all of life's special occasions or to discover something unique for yourself.

Shop Hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays, May 2, 9 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arts Mid-Hudson's Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie.

The Grand Opening Reception is on Thursday, April 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. Guests are invited to celebrate the opening, meet participating artists, and be among the first to shop.

Participating Artists include Amelia Acerra, Maryam Ali, Lucy Aponte, Carlise Azmitia, Roy Bartels, Janet

Baskerville, Deborah Bein, Suzanne Bonser, Susan Bores, Patricia Broun, Peter Brown, Celia Calvo, Donna Castelluccio, Beth Creighton, Helen Crohn, Madeleine Cutrona, Jamila Dawkins, Daisy De Puthod, Carolyn Dickey, Susan DiGilio, Melissa Earle, Jennifer Edwards, Marie Elliott, Angela Engongoro, Erica Everett, peggy farrington, Alice Fogarty, Isabella Gemmati, Ilene Goldman, Nereida Gonzalez-Bridges, Theresa Gooby, Eileen Hendriksen, Karen Heusel, Heaven Hudson, Nicole Hughes, Nikki Hung, Heather Iori, Lynne James, Vanessa Joy, Mike Jurkovic, David King, Paul Kmiotek, Linda Lau, Linda Lavin, Gillian Leslie, Rachel Lockett, Alexis Lynch, Diane-Ellen McCarron, Doreen Miller, Peggy Milone, Renee Pasquale, David Press, Marilyn Price, Nicole Puckette, Susannah Pugsley, Sonia Reynoso, Tammy Scotti, Veronica Spaziante, Elizabeth St. Leger, Kim Steinard, Ann Trocchia, Shirley Tuttle, Maureen Van Ackooy, Daniela Velez, Catalina Vilato, Cass Vincent, Ellen Weinstock, June Weldon, Phyllis West, Barbara Willmer, and Elizabeth Young.

For more information, visit <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/dutchess-handmade> or follow along on social media for updates and artist features.

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April 30: "Highlights of Dutchess County Sports," Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. The Sports Museum of Dutchess County, in partnership with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, will host a presentation by The Sports Museum of Dutchess County President Bill Ponte and Board member Morgan E. Maier, 7 p.m. Registration required. More info: poklib.org

April 30: "Killers of Kill Tony," MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Regulars and fan favorites from "Kill Tony," the #1 live podcast in the world, bring their standup show on the road with "Killers of Kill Tony," 7 p.m. Building upon the success and energy of "Kill Tony," "Killers of Kill Tony" showcases the diverse talent pool of comedians who have graced the stage of the original podcast with their wit, humor, and unique comedic styles. www.MJNCenter.org

April 30-May 3: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. April 30: Richard Shindell; special guest Jess Klein, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. May 1: Abbie Gardner & Marc Douglas Berardo, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. May 2: Big Yellow Taxi: The Music of Joni Mitchell, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. May 3: Steamroller - The James Taylor Tribute, 7 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

April 30 & May 5: Local Author Events, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly Street, Rhinecliff. Thurs., April 30: Emma Parry, "Mrs. Benedict Arnold: A Novel," in conversation with Jodie Patterson, 6:30 p.m. In her new novel, Parry takes a fresh provocative look at the young woman behind the most notorious treason in American History. Free. Registration requested. Tues., May 5: Francine Prose, "Five Weeks in the Country: A Novel," in conversation with Griffin Dunne, 6:30 p.m. Tickets required. Admission with book: \$33 - includes one hardcover copy of "Five Weeks in the Country," and sales tax. Admission only: \$10. (845) 876-0500 or oblongbooks.com.

April 30: "Modern Psychedelics: A Handbook for Mindful Exploration," Starr Library, 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck. Journalist Joe Dolce discusses his new book, "Modern Psychedelics," a judgment-free handbook that compiles contemporary research and ancient knowledge to guide adult readers who are interested in the mindful exploration of these misunderstood, extraordinary, and powerful substances, 6:30-8 p.m. For adults. Free. Registration required. (845) 876-4030 or www.starlibrary.org

May 1: Jody Redhage Ferber Trio, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Developed during her ongoing performance project EcoTones Concerts, Jody's compositions and arrangements live in a transition zone between chamber music and jazz improvisation, and are inspired by the concept of 'ecotones' from ecology—a transition zone particularly rife with life and biodiversity, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. www.thestissingcenter.org

May 1: Open Mic/Poetry Night, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. The Grange's traditional monthly open mic will

feature poetry this month to celebrate the completion of the National Poetry month of April, 7-9 p.m. Come read a poem of your own or of a poet you admire. Or just come to listen and be inspired. Free, donations appreciated. www.copakegrange.org/events

May 1-17: "Something Rotten!" A Musical Twist on The Bard, County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. The Bottom brothers, two struggling playwrights in Renaissance London, need a hit. Easier said than done when your chief competition is local rock star, William Shakespeare. The Bottom Brothers' plan: write the world's first musical! This rollicking song-and-dance extravaganza, nominated for 10 Tony Awards during its smash Broadway run, sends up the Bard and Broadway and everything in between. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sat., May 16, 2 p.m.; Sun., May 10 & 17, 2 p.m. Tickets: Adult \$30; Senior 60+, Military, Students (with ID at the door) & Children under 12: \$28. countyplayers.org

May 1-17: "Tick, Tick ... Boom!" The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Before "Rent," there was "Tick, Tick ... Boom!" This autobiographical musical by Jonathan Larson, the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning composer of "Rent," is the story of a composer and the sacrifices that he made to achieve his big break in theater. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

May 2: Crafty Kids Crafting Day: Welcome Spring, Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Dr., Germantown. Spring-inspired crafts in the Visitors Center. Make a bouquet of paper flowers for someone you love or try your hand at spring-themed origami, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. If the pre-planned crafts aren't for you, you can make whatever you can imagine using our craft supplies. Light instruction is offered, creativity is encouraged. Please note: This is a Family Program; all children must be accompanied by an adult and all adults must be accompanied by a child. Free. www.friendsofclermont.org

May 2: Film, "The Artist," Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. In the 1920s, actor George Valentin (Jean Dujardin) is a bona fide matinee idol with many adoring fans. While working on his latest film, George finds himself falling in love with an ingenue named Peppy Miller (Bérénice Bejo) and, what's more, it seems Peppy feels the same way. But George is reluctant to cheat on his wife with the beautiful young actress. The growing popularity of sound in movies further separates the potential lovers, as George's career begins to fade while Peppy's star rises. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15. www.thestissingcenter.org

May 2: Frederic Church's 200th Birthday Party, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rte. 9G, Hudson. Free day filled with the artist's favorite things, 1-6 p.m. Enjoy free access to Olana's historic house, free landscape tours, fun giveaways, art making workshops, musical performances, and special birthday treats. www.olana.org

May 2: I Love My Park Day. Parks & Trails New York, in partnership with New York State Parks and DEC, will provide the

opportunity for volunteers to participate in beautification events at over 100 state parks, historic sites, and public lands from Long Island to Western New York and covering all regions in between. From beach clean-ups to trail restoration and tree and flower plantings, hundreds of events are planned to spruce up our parks and get them ready for summer. I Love My Park Day is an annual event that brings together thousands of volunteers to enhance and celebrate New York's amazing parkland. https://parks.ny.gov/get-involved/i-love-my-park-day

May 2: James Mastro & Richard Barone, Bearsville Theater Lounge, 291 Tinker St., Woodstock. Hoboken-based rock/Americana singer-songwriter-guitarist James Mastro (Bongos, Ian Hunter) will team-up with original Bongos bandmate Richard Barone to play songs from their just re-released 1983 "Nuts & Bolts" album, 8 p.m. Tickets \$26.15. Ages 18+. https://bearsvilletheater.com/

May 2: Make a Fascinator Workshop, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. It's Kentucky Derby day, and what better way to prepare for the race than to make your own fascinator in this 2-hour workshop, 2 p.m. These small, striking hats have adorned the heads of fashionable women for centuries. All materials will be provided, along with light refreshments. Tickets required: https://staatsburghfascinator2026.eventbrite.com. Cost: \$12, plus Eventbrite fee.

May 2: Staged Reading, "The Totally Made-up True Story of the Baskerville Werewolves," Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. When Sherlock Holmes is presumed dead, it's up to Doctor Watson and his ally, Mycroft, to find out if a werewolf is wreaking havoc across the Carpathian Mountains, 7 p.m. Directed & written by Michael Curtis. Produced by Dan Landa. All are welcome. Free admission, donations accepted. (845) 876-2903

May 3: David Collier and Diane Chodkowski in Concert, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. David & Diane will play songs from David's new CD release, "When Summer Comes," 2 p.m. Lisa Klotz, a singer-songwriter from Woodstock, will open the show. Tickets \$10-\$20, a portion of which will benefit the library. (845) 876-2903

May 3: Peter Wiley & Anna Polonsky, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Classical performance with cello (Wiley) and piano (Polonsky), 3 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$40 advance, \$40-\$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org

May 3 & 10: Birding Walk, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. Experienced birders will enjoy a walk through several interesting environments; inexperienced birders will find encouragement and a helping hand; and newbies will be able to discuss equipment, apps, and techniques, 9 a.m. Volunteer

walk leaders, David and Linda Lund, have been birding Mills State Park daily for over 35 years. Cost: free. Reservations required at https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS

May 3, 17, 30 & 31: Tour, "A Life in Service," Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. It took a small army to run a Gilded Age estate. See the Mills family residence through the eyes of the domestic servants, providing exemplary service in the mansion, as they rose before dawn and toiled until after midnight. The tour, led by a costumed guide, will include visiting the servants' wing, a striking artifact of servant life and work that features the newly retiled and partially restored kitchen, and other rooms for servant use. Tours: May 3 & 30, 11 a.m. May 17 & 31, 2 p.m. Cost: \$12/adults, \$10/seniors & students, children 12 & under are free. Reservations required: https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS

May 3, 9-10 & 24: Tour, "Gilded Age Scandals!" Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. Ruth and Ogden Mills were paragons of respectability, but some of their Gilded Age peers were not! Learn about the scandalous behavior and intrigues of the very rich at the turn-of-the-century while touring the mansion with a costumed guide, 2 p.m. Cost: \$12/adults, \$10/seniors & students. This tour is not recommended for children. Reservations required: https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS

May 4: Author Event, Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home, Hyde Park; also streamed live on the official FDR Library YouTube and Facebook accounts. Talk & book signing by Christopher C. Gorham, author of "Matisse at War: Art and Resistance in Nazi Occupied France," 2 p.m. Drawing on intimate letters and a multitude of other sources, Gorham illuminates this momentous stage of Matisse's life as never before, revealing an artist on a journey of reinvention, wrenching meaning from the suffering of war, and holding up the light of human imagination against the torch of fascism to create some of the most exciting work of his career, of the 20th century, and in the history of art. Free, but registration is required to attend in-person via fdrlibrary.org.

May 6: Nosh & A Good Book, "Sabor Judío: The Jewish Mexican Cookbook," Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. Celebrate the delicious fusion of two culinary traditions with a lively discussion of, and sampling from, the flavor-filled cookbook, "Sabor Judío," 6:30 p.m. Culinary Institute of America Chef and Instructor Scott Swartz will touch on vibrant history of Jewish immigration to Mexico and how flavors and dishes evolved in Mexican and Jewish kitchens. A collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County and PPLD. Registration required via www.poklib.org

Stanford Rec Day set May 30

Stanford Rec Day, a collaborative event hosted by Stanford Recreation and the Stanford Recreation Campaign, will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Stanford Rec Park, 40 Creamery Road. Fundraising for the next phase of park improvements will kick off at the event.

Activities will include the Kids Fun

Run, game stations hosted by local businesses and organizations, food, music and more.

The Kids Fun Run is for ages 2-12. It includes a 100-yard dash, 0.3 mile lap and 0.6 mile lap. The course will be set within Rec Park. Check-in begins at 12:45 p.m. Registration is required at stanfordny.myrec.com.

LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK
IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.



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OBITUARIES

Donald Eagen

PLEASANT VALLEY – Donald “Don” Norris Eagen, age 91, of the Town of Pleasant Valley, NY, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 20, 2026 in Poughkeepsie, NY. Don was born on January 30, 1935, in the Town of Wappinger, the son of the late Raphael and Helen (Hasbrouck) Eagen. He grew up in the Hudson Valley, graduated from Arlington High School, where he was a proud member of the football and basketball teams.

Don lived with the effects of childhood polio, yet he never once made it the headline of his story. He got up and embraced each day with a determination and a spirit that left an impression on everyone around him. His resilience was remarkable; perhaps only surpassed by his unfailing sense of humor. No matter the situation, he never missed an opportunity for a well-timed comeback, a gift that kept those around him laughing until the very end.

Don is survived by his sons, James Eagen and his wife Ellen, and William Eagen and his wife Janice; his cherished grandchildren, Benjamin, Sarah Rose, William, and Kaitlin; and his brother, John “Terry” Eagen and his wife Chris. He was predeceased by his wife Marion, his parents, his son Donald, and his siblings Joyce McElmeel, Jacqueline Tompkins, Patricia Nelson, Nancy Holbrook, and Raymond Eagen.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Pleasant Valley, NY. Interment followed at St. Peter’s Cemetery in Poughkeepsie, NY. To read Don’s complete obituary, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Pleasant Valley.

Edward F. Gyger

LAGRANGE – Edward F. Gyger, aged 91, passed away on April 18, 2026, in the Town of LaGrange, NY. Born on June 3, 1934, in Queens, NY, he was the cherished son of the late Frederick and the late Florence Fletcher Gyger.

Edward married the love of his life, Barbara Ann Rudtke, on October 5, 1957, at Sacred Heart Church in Long Island. The couple settled in Lagrange in 1964 after moving from Long Island, marking the beginning of a deeply rooted life in the community. Edward was a respected Senior Manager at IBM East Fishkill, retiring in 1993, and taught at Dutchess Community College and Downstate Correctional Facility for 17 years. His commitment to education and leadership left a lasting impact on many.

An active member of the Poughkeepsie ELKs Lodge 275, Edward also dedicated himself to various pursuits outside of his professional life. He was an accomplished artist, particularly in oil painting, and enjoyed playing tennis and golf. A former water polo player at Fordham University, he maintained a lifelong passion for swimming.

Edward served honorably in the United States Army, reflecting his dedication to both his country and community. His faith was an integral part of his life, actively participating in the Holy Trinity Church.

He leaves behind a loving family, including his wife, Barbara Ann Gyger; children, Stephen E. Gyger and wife Maureen, Frederick E. Gyger and wife Deborah, Ann F. Musa and husband Daniel, and Jennifer L. Gyger; 10 grandchildren; Sean, Darragh, Rebekah, Matthew, Bryan, Dominic, Thomas, Stephaine, Andrew, Nicolas, and 16 great-grandchildren. His family and friends will miss his wisdom, compassion, and unwavering support.

Calling hours were held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home, Poughkeepsie, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial took place on Friday, April 24, 2026, at Holy Trinity Church, Poughkeepsie, NY, with burial following with military honors at St. Peter’s Cemetery, Salt Point Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Edward’s name to Holy Trinity Church, 775 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. The Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home in Poughkeepsie, NY, is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Barbara Ann Murphy

AMENIA – Barbara Ann Murphy, 93, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of faith, devotion, and unwavering love for her family.

Born on January 5, 1933, in Poughkeepsie,

NY, Barbara was the daughter of Wallace and Catherine Schaffer. She dedicated her early life to caring for others, graduating from St. Francis School of Nursing in Poughkeepsie and later earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Her calling to serve led her to the Army Nurse Corps, where she proudly served as a First Lieutenant during the Korean Conflict, stationed at Walter Reed Hospital.

It was through her work as a nurse that Barbara’s life took a beautiful turn; she met her future husband, William E.P. Murphy, while caring for him as a patient at St. Francis Hospital. Their love story blossomed into a marriage that began on September 20, 1958, and endured until his passing in 2000.

Barbara was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who built a life centered on faith, family, and service. After raising her children, she returned to nursing at the Wassaic Developmental Center, where she worked until her retirement in 1990. She also served her community as a member of the Amenia Fire Company, volunteering as an EMT and offering care and comfort to those in need. Service was not just her profession, it was a defining part of who she was.

She spent over 50 years in Amenia, NY, a place she proudly called home before moving to Geer Village in Canaan, Connecticut in 2013.

A deeply devout Catholic, Barbara lived her faith daily. She was a dedicated member of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, faithfully attending daily Mass and serving as a lector. Her commitment to her faith extended beyond routine; it was a guiding force in her life, one she instilled in her children and grandchildren. Whether it meant finding a church in an airport during travels or sharing quiet moments of reflection, she ensured that faith remained at the center of family life.

Barbara is survived by her children: Christopher Murphy (Tamara) of Clermont, FL; Maureen Morley (Thomas) of Lake Ariel, PA; Eileen Ehlers (Richard) of Olathe, KS; Leah Rost (Ernest) of Brick, NJ; and William Murphy, Jr. (Mary) of Amenia, NY. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Richard Ehlers, Jr., Elyse Colon, Hillary, Lauren and Kurt Bennett, William Rost, Abbey, Krista and Liam Murphy, and Owen and Connor Lynch, along with ten great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister-in-law; Veronica Rosen of Poughkeepsie, NY; and Sandra Murphy of Simpsonville, SC, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, William E.P. Murphy; her grandson, Gregory Rost in 2018, her sister, Joan Post in 2017.

Barbara’s life was a testament to faith, service, and love, a life well lived and deeply cherished by all who knew her.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at Immaculate Conception Church, Amenia, NY. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia, NY, with Standard Military Army Honors. Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Road, Amenia, NY 12501. To read Barbara’s complete obituary, to send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Barbara’s memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements were entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, Millerton, NY.

John David Nothnagel

John David Nothnagel, husband, father and lifelong Hudson Valley resident, died April 14, 2026 as a result of esophageal cancer. He was 77.

He was born in Poughkeepsie on July 16, 1948 to Oskar and Helen (Martin) Nothnagel. He grew up in the Arlington area of Poughkeepsie. John spent his early and teenage years working for Frank Brothers Dairy Farm, the Poughkeepsie Police Department and the Poughkeepsie Sewer Department. He served as a volunteer firefighter for the Arlington Fire District at their Rochdale fire house. Although John was never able to become a fireman, he enjoyed listening to the chatter on his Plectron fire radio throughout his life.

John would visit his aunt and uncle, who lived on East Cedar Street, for family picnics and holidays. It was there that he met and fell in love with the girl who lived next door. He and Janet Thygeson were married on May 8, 1971 and settled in Hyde Park to raise their two sons.

John graduated from Arlington High

School in 1966 and went on to earn an associate’s degree from Dutchess Community College. He worked for IBM for 23 years, retiring in 1992. Company-sponsored trips to New York City at Christmastime are among the Nothnagels’ fondest memories, as are the times they spent visiting John’s brother and sister-in-law on New Hampshire’s Goose Pond. The family also took two trips to Disney World that John would enthusiastically recall even decades later.

In retirement, John took a series of jobs including selling Chevrolets at dealership in the Hudson Valley — a perfect arrangement given his love of cars. He and Jan were regulars at vintage car shows, sometimes arriving in the 1962 Chevy Super Sport Convertible.

Beyond cars, John pursued several other passions during his life. He built a sprawling and lovingly maintained display of 1/64th gauge farm tractors and equipment, developed skills as an amateur chef and kept close tabs on the birds, squirrels and occasional black bears who visited the Nothnagels’ well-kept back yard. Nothing, however, eclipsed his love for German food. He especially loved eating at the Mountain Brauhaus, where he first visited as a boy with his grandfather.

Later in life, John enjoyed monitoring (and discussing) the weather, watching cooking shows and following professional golf, especially Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Phil Mickelson. It was therefore fitting that John spent his final weekend watching the 2026 Masters on a big-screen TV with his family.

He is predeceased by his parents, his sister-in-law Theodora “Teddy” Nothnagel, and his prickly-but-beloved cat Shadow. Survivors include Janet, his wife of 54 years; sons Michael and Brian and their partners Barry DeCoster and Meg Heckman; his older brother Frederick “Rick” Nothnagel; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dutchess County ASPCA; Hudson Valley Hospice, where John received excellent care in his final days; or the charity of your choice.

A private burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

Frieda Popp

PLEASANT VALLEY – Frieda Popp, 90, of Pleasant Valley, NY, passed away on April 16, 2026, surrounded by her grandchildren and loved ones.

Frieda was born October 29, 1935, in Feketic, Yugoslavia, to the late Karl and Susanna Jung. During the Second World War, her family resettled in western Germany, in the city of Bretten. In 1952, Frieda emigrated from Germany to the United States, residing in Ridgewood in Queens, NY where she worked in a knitting mill. On May 21, 1955, she married the love of her life, George Popp and together they built a beautiful life centered around family and friends. They made their home in Pleasant Valley, where Frieda created a warm and welcoming space where they proudly raised their two children, Harvey and Karen.

To many, Frieda was known as “Oma”, but she also held the titles: mother, loving wife, daughter, sister, aunt, Uroma, and friend. She had a gift for storytelling, a deep appreciation for life’s simple joys, and an unwavering pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and was also deeply considerate of others. Her love and kindness were infused in everything she did, whether she was sewing or crocheting something new, clipping coupons, teaching someone how to play Rummikub or Gin Rummy, or baking countless German cookies, cakes, and/or bread for any given day or celebration.

Frieda loved living life. She found joy in connection, tradition, community, and family. She was a devoted member of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie, the German-American Society, and The Steuben Society. She was a longtime member of the First Lutheran blanket sewers and helped make hundreds of quilts for those in need. She also cherished her time at Germania in Poughkeepsie, where she celebrated through polka dances, German dinners, Jägermeister toasts, and lifelong friendships that brought her so much happiness.

She will be missed beyond words and remembered always. Frieda is survived by her son Harvey Popp and wife Janet Konyon, her son in law Richard Streifeneder, her grandchildren Chelsea Streifeneder and husband Cameron, Shannon Schober and husband Andy, Dillon Streifeneder and wife ElizaBeth and her two darling great grandchildren Jacob and Eli Schober. Frieda was predeceased by

her husband George and her beloved daughter Karen.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Frieda’s memory to First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 325 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, or Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation.

Visitation was held Friday April 24th at Allen Funeral Home, 1605 Main Street, Pleasant Valley. The Steuben Society conducted a service during the visitation. Funeral services were held at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 325 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery, Coxsackie.

Elizabeth Shequine

MILLBROOK – 95 years and 4.5 months of life! A Most wonderful and Vibrant Life filled with hard work, leadership, and strong friendships.

Elizabeth K. Shequine passed away peacefully in her sleep after a hip injury complicated by COPD on March 25, 2026.

A resident of Millbrook, Elizabeth practiced law in Poughkeepsie, NY. She held a B.A. degree from Pembroke College in Brown University. She attended Villanova University Law School in Villanova, Pennsylvania, and held a J.D. degree from Albany Law School of Union University. She was a member in good standing of the Bar of the State of New York, having been admitted to practice on May 30, 1975.

She was admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, having been admitted on August 12, 1975; of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, having been admitted on September 11, 1975. She was also admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, having been admitted on May 15, 1978. Mrs. Shequine has also been Town Justice of the Town of Washington, Dutchess County, for the past 40 years and is a member of the Training Program Planning Committee for Town and Village Justice Certification of the Office of Court Administration for the State of New York. She completed the Harvard Negotiation Workshop under Roger Fisher at Harvard Law School in June 1986. She was a Director of the Mid-Hudson Divorce & Family Mediation Center and has been an active Family Mediator since September 1990. She was a Practitioner Member of the American Academy of Family Mediators. Mrs. Shequine held advanced practitioner status in the Academy of Family Mediators since 1991, and since the AFM merger with The Association for Conflict Resolution, she has maintained Advanced Practitioner Status with ACR.

She served for almost 20 years as a Director of the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank, and served on the Advisory Board of its successor, Hudson United Bank. She has served as a Board Member of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, the STOP DWI Board, and has served as a Director and Chair of the Vassar Brothers Medical Center Foundation Board. She has also been Chair of the Ethics Subcommittee of Health Quest, the parent organization of the Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She has also served on the Board of Governors of the Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club. She was a member of the Millbrook Garden Club, and the Local Stitchers Group in Millbrook. Mrs. Shequine has served on the Vestry of St. Peter’s Church, Lithgow, where she has also served as Senior Warden. People that made the greatest impression on Betsy during her life were Regis Ryan, Brewster Beach, Albert Ogle and Richard Mckeeon. Betsy is pre-deceased by her husband James F. Shequine in 2018. Betsy is survived by her son Frederick G. Shequine, and her nieces Anne Cannard, Claire Whistler, Colleen Kissane, Eileen Kissane Muench, and her nephew Timothy J. Whistler and grand niece and nephew Grace and Andrew Cannard. She is also survived by her housekeeper and friend of over 40 years, Jody Fischl.

Donations in Betsy’s name can be made to Hudson Valley Hospice (<https://www.hvhospice.org/hospicehouse/>), though she never experienced Hospice Care, passed too quickly. The family had hoped there would have been time for a gentle end.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Betsy’s life will take place one June 6, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. from St. Peter’s Lithgow, Millbrook, A reception will follow at 2 p.m. at the Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL
Pursuant to Section 506 & 526 of the Real Property Tax Law, notice is hereby given that the Assessor of the Town of Milan, County of Dutchess, has completed the 2026 tentative assessment roll which will be available online at: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Real-Property-Tax/assessment-rolls.htm>
An Assessor will be in attendance with such

Legal Notices

tentative roll located at 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY during the following dates and times:
Monday, May 11th, Wednesday, May 13th & Monday, May 18th, between the hours of 10:00AM and 2:00PM - Wednesday, May 13th Night hours 6:00PM to 8:00PM
Saturday, May 16th, between the hours of 9:00AM and 1:00PM
Please call the office at 845-758-5133 ext.4, to schedule an appointment.
Written complaints with respect to the as-

Legal Notices

sessments may be filed with the Assessor any time prior to or on Grievance Day, May 26th, 2026, and shall be transmitted by the Assessor to the Board of Assessment Review on or before Grievance Day. All Grievance forms must be originals only. We cannot accept scanned or emailed applications.
Information on contesting an assessment is available from the Assessor online at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/contest/contest.htm>

Legal Notices

ELIZABETH BURNS, ASSESSOR
Pursuant to Section 508 & 525 of the Real Property Tax Law: **GRIEVANCE DAY** - Fourth Tuesday in May: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Assessment Review for the Town of Milan, Dutchess County, will meet at the Town of Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY 12571 to hear and examine all properly filed complaints in relation to assessments of Real Property on May 26th 2026 be-

Legal Notices

tween 10AM - 12 NOON; 1:00PM - 4:00PM; 6PM - 8PM. Contact the Town Assessor's Office prior to May 26th for details and to schedule an appointment. **ALL COMPLAINT FORMS MUST BE ORIGINALS (NO SCANNED OR EMAILED COPIES) AND BE FILED BY 8PM ON MAY 26th, 2026.** (Property owners wishing to appear before the Board of Assessment Review must have their grievance application, RP-524, and supporting documentation re-

Legal Notices

ceived by the Town Assessor by May 26th 2026 by mailing to: Board of Assessment Review, C/O Town of Milan Assessor, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY 12571. You may also drop off the application during regular business hours of the Assessor's office, which are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 9AM and 3PM.
The BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW will then file a copy of the determination with the Town Clerk to become a matter of public

Legal Notices

record.
WILLIAM GALLAGHER, BOARD CHAIRMAN

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.

Heart Walk aims to make one person per household CPR-ready

NEWBURGH - According to the American Heart Association, a relentless force changing the future of health for everyone everywhere, approximately 436,000 Americans die from cardiac arrest each year - most often outside a hospital. Bystander CPR can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival, yet fewer than half receive it, highlighting a critical gap in community preparedness. To support the Association's efforts to enhance CPR readiness and build a community of lifesavers in the Hudson Valley, more than 300 people gathered at the Hudson Valley Heart Walk™ on Saturday, April 25, at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, raising critical funds and learning lifesaving CPR skills.

This year's Heart Walk brought together heart disease and stroke survivors, participants from local companies

and other community members to learn the lifesaving skills of Hands-Only CPR, celebrate local survivors and support the mission of the Association.

"In a heartbeat, you could be the difference," said Amy Young, executive director of the American Heart Association in the Hudson Valley and Capital Region. "By equipping more people with the skills needed to save a life, we're working toward creating a culture where every home has someone confident and prepared to respond when it matters most. That's extraordinary."

Paul Craft, retired Ellenville Police Officer, shared his story about surviving sudden cardiac arrest. His future son-in-law, John Paulsen, started CPR while first responders were on their way. Craft received a Lifestyle Change Award for improving his health after his sudden car-

diac arrest, and Paulsen received a Heart Saver Hero Award at the Walk.

Gabe and Rei Saki, 10 and 6 years old, and born with congenital heart defects, were the Heart Heroes of the Walk.

Craft and the Saki children beat the Heart Walk drum on stage. Survivors also beat the drum at the end of the Walk, reminding everyone of the importance of keeping heartbeats strong.

This year's top fundraising companies included Ellenville Regional Hospital, Laerdal Medical and Medline. The newly introduced Torch Torphy will live at Ellenville Regional Hospital until next year's Heart Walk season.

According to the Association's 2024 CPR Perceptions Survey, 39 percent of respondents report feeling "extremely confident" or "very confident" when asked about their ability to perform CPR - an increase from 33 percent in 2021,

which equates to approximately 17.7 million more adults highly confident in their CPR skills. However, 61 percent of respondents still do not report high levels of confidence to act during a cardiac emergency, underscoring the critical need for continued CPR training and awareness.

Heart Walk is the Association's largest community-facing initiative, reaching more than 10 million people nationwide each year. Through fundraising, community education and corporate engagement, Heart Walk aims to enhance CPR training accessibility, bolster bystander preparedness, increase funding for cardiovascular research and drive equitable health for all people.

To learn Hands-Only CPR, donate or register for future Heart Walk events, visit www.heart.org/hudsonvalleyheartwalk.

Answers to this week's diversions
(puzzles on page 12)

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

Suguru solution

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

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 8)

Stars
Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 101

By David Kalvitis © 2007 Monkeying Around

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**Northern Dutchess News,
Southern Dutchess News
& Beacon Free Press**

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

100 Help Wanted	201 Home Improvement	401 Apartments for Rent	509 Office Equipment	720 Vendors Wanted
105 Employment Opportunity	202 Cleaning Services	402 Rooms for Rent	510 Firewood	721 Wanted to Buy
106 Business Opportunity	203 Lawn Services	403 Furnished Rooms	511 Lawn & Garden Equip.	722 Bazaar
107 Situations Wanted	221 Professional Services	404 Furnished Apartments	512 Winter Merchandise	723 Consignments
120 Schools	222 Tax Experts	405 Wanted to Rent	516 Misc. Merchandise	724 Farmers Market
121 Special Instruction	223 Beauty Services	406 Garages for Rent	700 Pets & Supplies	725 Collectibles
122 Musical Instruction	225 Business Services	407 Vacation Rentals	701 Free Pets	750 Events
140 Nursery Schools	226 Travel & Services	408 Houses for Rent	702 Lost & Found Pets	800 Boats
141 Child Care	227 Bridal Services	420 Commercial Rentals	703 Pets for Adoption	801 Campers & Trailers
142 Day Care	295 Financial	500 Musical Merchandise	710 Garage & Yard Sale	802 Motor Homes
143 Baby-sitting	296 Mortgages	501 Kid Stuff	711 Tag Sale	803 Recreational Vehicles
145 Adult Care	300 Real Estate	502 Clothing	712 Moving sale	900 Autos for Sale
150 Announcements	301 Townhouses & Condos	503 Furniture	713 Rummage Sale	901 Vans/SUV's
151 Adoption	302 Commercial Property	504 Appliances	714 Flea Market	902 Trucks
152 Novenas	304 Mobile Homes	505 Free Items	715 Craft Corner	903 Motorcycles
154 Lost & Found	305 Lots & Acreage	506 Computers	716 Barn Sale	904 Auto Parts & Tires
155 Personal Services	400 Townhomes & Condos for rent	507 Sports Equipment	717 Estate Sale	905 Autos Wanted
		508 Exercise Equipment	718 Auctions	
			719 Antiques	

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

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401 Apartments for Rent

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS, INC- WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY

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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GOLDEN LIVING

OFA SUMMER PICNIC REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1

More than 50,000 Office for the Aging Summer Picnic reminder cards are being mailed to older adult households throughout Dutchess County. Residents can generally expect to see a reminder card for their community's picnic between four and six weeks before that picnic.

Below is the 2026 picnic schedule. All of this summer's picnics are held on Wednesdays, with lunch starting at noon. Reserved guests should arrive by 11:30 a.m. to allow time for parking and getting to their seats.

The picnic schedule:

May 27 - Town and Village of Pawling, Towns of Dover, Amenia and Union Vale; Boyce Park, 6420 Route 55, Wingdale

June 3 - Village and Town of Fishkill; Geering Park, Fishkill

June 10 - Towns of Milan, Red Hook and Rhinebeck and Villages of Red Hook, Rhinebeck, and Tivoli; Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Springbrook Ave. (US 9), Rhinebeck

June 17 - Towns of Clinton and Hyde Park; Church of Regina Coeli (rear lot), entrance at 28 Harvey St., Hyde Park

June 24 - Town of Poughkeepsie; Bowdoin Park, 85 Sheafe Rd., Poughkeepsie

July 8 - City of Beacon; Memorial Park, 298 Fishkill Ave., Beacon

July 15 - Towns of North East, Pine Plains, Washington and Stanford, and Villages of Millbrook and Millerton; Stissing Mountain Jr./Sr. High School,

2829 Church St. (Route 199), Pine Plains
July 22 - Town of Wappinger and Village of Wappingers Falls; Recreation Park, 95 Robinson Lane, Wappinger

July 29 - Town of Pleasant Valley; West Road School, 181 West Rd., Pleasant Valley

August 12 - City of Poughkeepsie; Stitzel Field, 10-14 Lincoln Ave., Poughkeepsie

August 19 - Towns of LaGrange and Beekman; Freedom Park, 212 Skidmore Rd., LaGrange

August 26 - Town of East Fishkill; East Fishkill Recreation Park, 392 Route 376, Hopewell Junction

Every resident of Dutchess County over age 60 can make a reservation for themselves for the free picnic serving their community. Reservations must be made by calling OFA during business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays) at (845) 486-2555. We cannot accept voice mail or email reservation requests.

There is an \$8 per person fee for every non-resident guest, and for any guest age 59 or under, if space is available at the requested picnic. You needn't receive a reminder card to make a reservation, but you do need to make the reservation. Picnic seating space is limited; therefore, we cannot accept walk-ins.

Guests enjoy a nutritious lunch and can have their concerns heard by the Office for the Aging, various Dutchess County Government departments, as well as local government leaders and area nonprofit organizations.

Carpool to your picnic

With hundreds of guests attending each picnic, we strongly recommend car-pooling to your destination. It makes picnic parking considerably easier for everyone.

Many thanks to The Pines at Poughkeepsie and Westchester Medical Center Health Network for their support of all 12 picnics.

OFA 'MIX AND MINGLE' - STILL SOME SPOTS LEFT

New experiences are one of the keys to successful aging. That's why the Office for the Aging is trying out a new experience with the older adults of Dutchess County: a free, first-ever "Mix and Mingle" for Dutchess County older adults, on Tuesday, May 19, at 2 p.m., at the auditorium at Bowdoin Park, 85 Sheafe Rd. in Wappinger. It'll be a great opportunity to make new friends, learn more about the Office for the Aging, enjoy some wonderful Dutchess County scenery, and demonstrate the power of human connection as a great way for older adults to live their best lives. "Mocktails" and light refreshments will be available. Space is limited, so registration is required. Call OFA during business hours at (845) 486-2555 to save yourself a spot.

NY HEAP COOLING APPLICATION ASSISTANCE NOW OPEN

It did feel a little like summer for a few days this past week ... no better time to ask about New York State's Cooling Assistance Benefit. The benefit helps income-eligible households buy and install an air conditioner or fan to cool their home.

How does it work? If you are eligible, you may receive one cooling benefit per applicant household for the purchase and installation of an air conditioner or fan. In circumstances where an air conditioner cannot be safely installed, a fan will be provided.

How much can I receive in cooling benefits? The price cannot be more than \$800 with installation for a portable air conditioner, or fan, and not to exceed \$1,000 for an existing wall sleeve unit. Like heating assistance funding, cooling assistance funds are limited and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

For details on applications and eligibility, call (845) 486-2555 or email ofa@dutchessny.gov.

OFA AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON CAREGIVING IN HYDE PARK (Thursday, 5/7)

The annual Conference on Caregiving takes place on Thursday, May 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wallace Center on the grounds of the FDR Historic Site on Route 9 in Hyde Park.

This year's theme is "20/20 Vision - Planning for a Bright Future." Topics in support of caregivers will include estate and financial planning; caregiving and grief support; end-of-life doula services; and Tai Chi/wellness. OFA staff will be at the conference to answer guests' questions about aging services in Dutchess County.

Registration takes place through the Alzheimer's Association. Call their helpline to save yourself a seat: (800) 272-3900.

Breakfast and lunch are provided.

The Caregiver Conference is organized by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging with the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter, Parkinson's Disease Support Group of the Mid-Hudson Valley, Hudson Valley Hospice, and community members Cathy Regan, RN; Falisia Cotten-Swain, LCSW-R; and Eileen Hendriksen, LMSW.

And the Bad Joke!

A priest, a minister, and a rabbit entered a clinic to donate blood. The nurse asked what the rabbit's blood type was, and the rabbit replied, "I'm probably a Type O."

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