

Red Hook Rotary welcomes all for Apple Blossom Day

By Cynthia Baer

Red Hook Rotary will host the annual Apple Blossom Day on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. within the Village of Red Hook.

For more than 50 years, on the Saturday before Mother's Day, Red Hook Rotary has hosted a festival for the town and local community, appropriately called, the Apple Blossom Festival, as a nod to the ample apple industry in this region. It is a day packed with activities, music, entertainment, and food. But above all, it's a time to reconnect after a long winter inside.

Rotary Club member Dave Wright has chaired the festival for the last 25 years. He grew up in Red Hook and has fond memories of attending the event as a kid. He says, "The success of it all really relies on the weather. It's weather driven, but after that, it's just a great day. For me, the reward of organizing this event is to have great attendance and see everyone walking around outside enjoying themselves."

He adds, "People have been cooped up all winter long and are ready to get out. The crowd is mainly local but everyone is welcome. The community looks forward to it. I really get a kick out of walking around town all day seeing familiar faces. Participants include a lot of the businesses in the village, a lot of the service organizations like the Fire Dept., VFW, and of course, The Rotary."

A new feature this year is that there will be remote parking and a shuttle between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to the heart of the Village. Simply park at the Linden Avenue Middle School on West Market Street and a shuttle,

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Youth cadets build valuable skills, thrive with DC Sheriff's Office

By Morgan E. Maier

Strengthening a community's future begins with its younger members. Within its Youth Cadet Program, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office engages directly with young people interested in law enforcement and community service. This is not a police academy or basic training. In connecting officers and the communities they serve, the program prioritizes team building, leadership and skills that can translate to other professional settings.

From October to June, the program emphasizes hands-on service, physical fitness and community betterment. Reality-based scenarios train in topics of conflict resolution, crime scene and criminal processing. Trips to local offices promote field learning and career exploration, while activities like rock climbing to escape rooms develop problem-solving and team cohesion.

The program was originally meant to offer field experience, according to Sgt. Jeff Cohen, who co-leads Youth Cadet Post 108 of the Northeast Regional Law



Members of the Youth Cadet Program of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office are pictured during an intern meeting at the Dutchess County District Attorney's office. Courtesy photo

Enforcement Education Association (N.E.R.L.E.E.A). Through a hands-on curriculum, N.E.R.L.E.E.A aims to bridge gaps between police officers and the communities they serve.

"I had seen too many individuals go through a police academy chasing a

childhood dream, only to realize afterward that it wasn't the right fit for them. Many of our cadets say becoming a police officer has always been their dream. Through this program, they're able to gain meaningful, hands-on expo-

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'Our Renaissance Man' - A tribute to Gary Veeder

By Curtis Schmidt



The Encyclopedia Britannica describes Renaissance Man as "a person with diverse talents, expertise and knowledge across many fields ... and that individuals should learn and try to embrace all knowledge and develop their own capacities as fully as possible."

On the local level, that is an apt description of Gary Veeder of Pleasant Valley, who passed away on April 15. A celebration of life for Veeder will be held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in the Welcome Center on Monday, May 11, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Close friends Caroline Dolfi of the Pleasant Valley Department Store and Bob Beckmann of Matt's Auto Body both termed Veeder as "our Renaissance Man."

"Gary loved his community and he was not limited to just a few areas. He did everything to the fullest of his abilities and he enjoyed every minute of it," said Beckmann. "If he saw a need, he did something about it. He was always a helper and encouraged others to do their part. That was his personality."

For Dolfi, Veeder was "the real deal!" She added, "I feel so fortunate to have

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On stage at the "Make It With Wool Fashion Show," Gary Veeder was one of the stars of the New York State Sheep & Wool Festival. He wove this scarf himself with fleece from sheep at his daughter's family farm. Courtesy photo

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County announces Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling events

Registration for June event in Poughkeepsie opens May 6

POUGHKEEPSIE – Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced the County will once again host three Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling events in 2026, including a collection event at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck for a second straight year.

Serino said, “Keeping our community clean and safe is something we all share responsibility for. Our annual events make it easier for our neighbors to properly dispose of materials that can’t go in the regular trash. By offering convenient opportunities throughout the year, including our return to northern Dutchess in September, we’re helping protect our environment while giving our neighbors a simple way to do the right thing.”

Dutchess County’s Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling events will take place from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Saturday, June 6
 Dutchess County Department of Public Works
 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie
 Online registration opens Wednesday, May 6

Saturday, Sept. 19
 Dutchess County Fairgrounds
 6636 Route 9, Rhinebeck
 Online registration opens Wednesday, August 19

Village of Rhinebeck wins award for comprehensive plan

RHINEBECK – The Village of Rhinebeck’s 2024 Comprehensive Plan received a national Honor Award from the American Planning Association’s Small Town and Rural Division – the highest award presented this cycle.

“The recognition reflects more than two years of community-driven work,” said Mayor Gary Bassett. “Hundreds of residents and volunteers helped shape this plan, and the result is something the nation’s planners are now holding up as a model.”

Bassett noted, “What distinguished Rhinebeck in reviewers’ eyes was not just the quality of the plan, but the fact that it is already being implemented. The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee, seated since October, is

Saturday, Oct. 17
 Dutchess County Department of Public Works
 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie
 Online registration opens Thursday, Sept. 17

These popular events are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and residents should anticipate wait times upon arrival. Participation is limited to the first 400 households per event, and pre-registration is required. A \$10 registration fee applies, and these events typically fill quickly, so residents are encouraged to register online as soon as possible.

Beginning Wednesday, May 6, residents can register online for the June 6 event using a credit card or register and pay by check by calling (845) 486-2841. Checks should be made payable to “Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance” and mailed to the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management, 96 Sand Dock Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

These events provide residents with a safe and responsible way to dispose of household chemicals, electronics and other materials that require special handling, helping to prevent harmful substances from entering the environment. The program is part of the County’s ongoing efforts to reduce waste, protect natural resources and promote sustainable practices across Dutchess County.

Additional details about the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management’s Household Hazardous Waste Disposal & Electronics Recycling Events, included accepted items, is available online via www.dutchessny.gov.

actively prioritizing Plan goals, researching grant opportunities, and advancing implementation strategies and conversations with stakeholders. A comprehensive zoning code overhaul supported by a New York State Smart Growth grant is already well underway. Adaptive reuse projects, new housing, infrastructure investments, and successful grant awards are among the early outcomes.”

Reviewers specifically flagged the implementation process as a model that other communities should replicate. Follow their work at villageofrhinebeck.gov/cpic.

“This award belongs to the community that shaped it,” said Bassett. “Thank you.”

Red Hook Rotary welcomes all for Apple Blossom Day

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which will run regularly throughout the day, will transport festival goers between the middle school and Red Hook Village Hall on South Broadway. Pickup back to the remote lot will be at the Municipal parking lot until 4 p.m. There is no charge for the parking or the shuttle. Street parking will still be available, as well.

The event includes a whole spectrum of vendors, both new and old. According to Wright, a fan favorite is Voices of the Stone.

“This vendor travels all over the United State,” he says. “They have been coming here for about 10 years.”

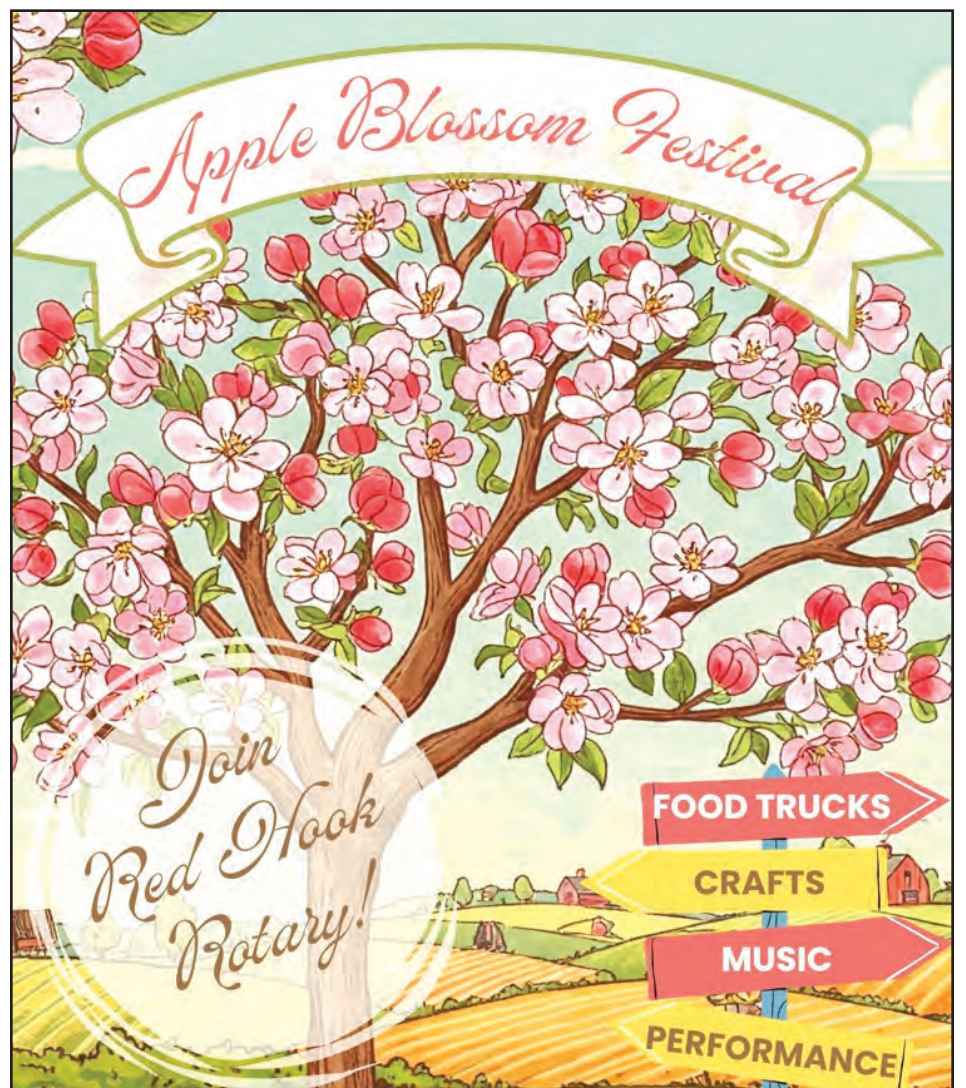
The booth features a wide selection of crystals, minerals, fossils and handmade

jewelry using high-quality, ethically sourced stones and beads.

“There will also be many vendors with handmade options of quality gifts, just in time for Mother’s Day,” adds Wright.

If you are coming for the entertainment, the music offers a taste of local talent. The McCann Band is a local band of Red Hook residents that has been a regular for over 15 years at Apple Blossom Day. The Local Jam is also a local band of Red Hook residents that arrived on the scene four years ago and has been back ever since. Lastly, The Stringmasters are a local country band that has been with Apple Blossom Day for 20+ years. They

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Red Hook Rotary welcomes all for Apple Blossom Day

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have a local following and are true crowd pleasers. They are scheduled to close the festival. The band area is set up with hay bales and picnic tables to sit, relax and enjoy the music and food.

Speaking of food, the main places to get a good meal at a reasonable cost are at St. Christopher's Church, located on the corner of Garden Street and Route 9. This local favorite has been serving hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage and peppers and fries. And St. Paul's Church, located across the street from St. Chris. Both churches have also been involved in the Apple Blossom Festival for over 40

years. Red Hook Responds will also have a table in front of Christ Church and will offer pre-packaged goods for sale. Fair food such as cotton candy and kettle corn will be offered near the municipal lot.

New vendors are always welcome. It's the day before Mother's Day, giving everyone a chance to find something special and spend some quality time together at the Apple Blossom Festival. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, please visit www.redhookrotaryclub.org and complete the application under the Apple Blossom Day link.

The Local Jam will return to the Apple Blossom Festival for their fourth year. *Courtesy photo*



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Advertising in the Northern Dutchess News is a key element for Two Of Us Productions

To the editor:
Now that the dust has settled from our recent production of "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson -Apt. 2B," I wanted to write to tell how valuable your publicity support is to our theatrical work.
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Stephen Sanborn
Producing Director
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Copake

'Our Renaissance Man' - A tribute to Gary Veeder

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known Gary. He was our Renaissance Man - one who was interested and involved in so many walks of life - making an impact wherever he went," she said. "He's a tough act to follow - he was the epitome of a loving, concerned and active citizen and family man. He approached all he did with dedication, respect and humor."

Indeed, Veeder cared deeply about his community and when he took part, he was fully involved. He served as Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor from 1976-80, while also running the family business, Veeder Pharmacy, for many years with his wife, Pamela.

He was an active member of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society (DCAS) and never missed the Dutchess County Fair - always volunteering in the Information Booth and was a constant promoter of agricultural activities. He founded and ran the New York State Fiddling Contest at the Fair for many years.

Fair CEO and Manager Andy Imperati commented, "Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pam, Meegan and the entire Veeder family for their loss. Gary was a long time member of the Ag Society. He helped coordinate the volunteers for the Main Information Booth, helped out in the Arts & Crafts Building during the Fair, and was a familiar figure at many of the events here at the Fairgrounds."

DCAS member Suzanne Rajczi stated, "Gary was such a dedicated and familiar presence at the Fair, always willing to step in, lend a hand and support the Ag Society in so many meaningful ways. I especially appreciated his willingness to speak up, share his perspective, and stand

behind the DCAS all in the true spirit of strengthening and celebrating the Fair. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him."

Veeder was all about volunteering and even worked as a high school crew coach and had an active role every year with the New York State Sheep & Wool Festival. In his later years, he discovered the forgotten Badgley Cemetery in Salt Point and spent years restoring the Revolutionary Era grave stones and grounds. He was instrumental in the placement of a historical marker honoring patriot graves at that site.

Salt Point neighbors Gretchen and Blaine Burnett said, "Gary was a one-man show cleaning up the headstones, as well as cleaning up the cemetery as a whole.

It is very cool driving on Fox Run Road and now seeing the historical marker thanks to Gary." They added, "Gary was always a great support system to his family and he could always be found supporting his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters with all of their various tasks at the Sheep and Wool Festival."

Claire Houlihan, President of the Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Growers Association, said, "Many will recall Gary as a fixture in the Breed Barn at the Festival, helping to educate the public about Corriedale sheep. I can also clearly picture him walking the Fair with his wife, Pam, or in the Sheep Barn with his granddaughters. More than anything, he was a devoted family man."

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Gary didn't just live in our community, he helped build it. His life was a master-class in public service. Gary was always motivated by a deep love for his neighbors and a desire to make Pleasant Valley and Dutchess County a



Gary Veeder enjoyed taking part in agricultural events at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. His favorites were the Fair itself and the New York State Sheep & Wool Festival. Courtesy photo

better place for everyone." She added, "The Fair simply won't feel the same without him."

John DelVecchio, former Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor, recalls Veeder with heartfelt respect.

"When I served as Town Supervisor," he notes, "I could always count on Gary's thoughtful counsel. One of my favorite things about Mr. Veeder was his honesty. He always let you know exactly how he felt. If he liked you, he would do anything he could to help you. Like so many folks, I was fortunate to call him my friend."

For Dolfi and many others, Veeder was a role model.

"We could all think about Gary and how he lived his life and learn from him," Dolfi said. "He took great joy in helping others and serving the community, and he would love knowing that we followed in his footsteps. I'm going to try my best."

"We all learned so much from Gary - he will be sorely missed," said Beckmann.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to a holiday press schedule for Memorial Day, the May 27 issue of Northern Dutchess News will have early deadlines for all departments. Editorial and calendar submissions must be received by Thursday, May 21, at noon. Advertising must be received by Thursday, May 21, at 5 p.m. Contact cschmidt@sducthessnews.com for more information.



Resumes:
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Youth cadets build valuable skills, thrive with DC Sheriff's Office

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sure that helps them decide if this is truly the path they want to pursue - before committing their college years to a profession they may not fully understand," said Cohen.

Dutchess County's program, alongside others in the Hudson Valley, is leading the charge in New York State. The program uses a paramilitary style, according to Sergeant Alonzo Montanya, which is critical to the education. Experienced cadets are appointed squad leaders, and conduct smaller group lineups. Learning is led by Sergeants Montanya and Cohen, joined sometimes by guest instructors.

Sgt. Cohen and Sgt. Montanya are the main instructors and they meet with other Deputy Advisors.

N.E.R.L.E.E.A. curricula are effective because they are age- and skill level-appropriate. Cadets advance to higher level material upon completing years of the program. With widespread interest from cadets, the program aims to continue activities through summer, so the group can stay busy while school is out of session.

"Our program creates an environment for cadets to thrive like young adults - that's what they are," said Sgt. Montanya. "We push people past what their minds tell them they can't do."

Cadet Hayden Miller, who plans to be a crime scene investigator, has enjoyed an "amazing" experience in the program, and would recommend it to anyone able and interested in joining.

Cadet Damien Hague has learned proper professional methods from public speaking to conducting traffic stops. Arrays of knowledge - and new friends - will support Cadet Hague as he continues to learn different career paths.

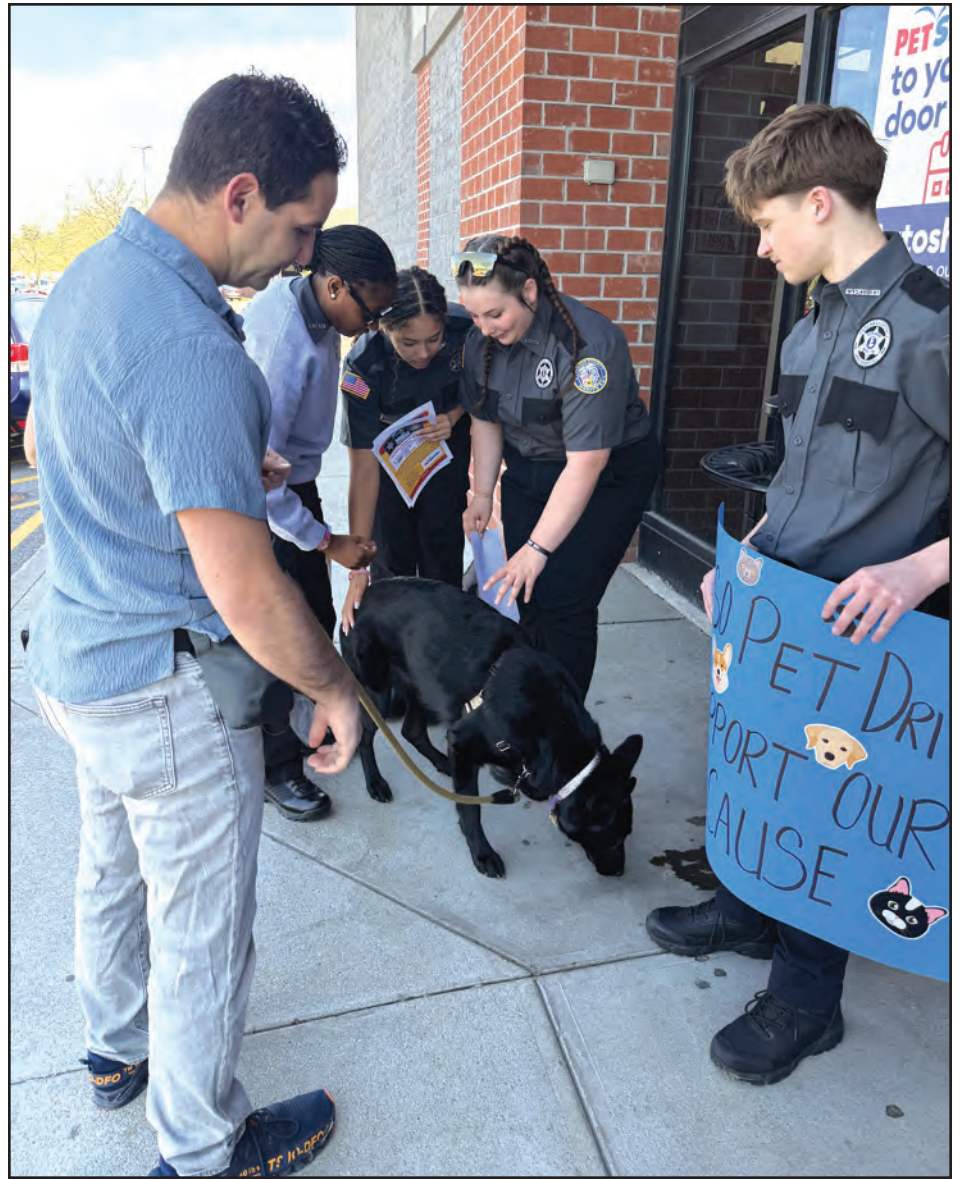
Cadet Tiffany Loo sees her confidence grow with every opportunity. "Through the different drives and activities, I've had to talk to new people and step outside of my comfort zone. When I first joined, I was very anti-social, but over time I started talking more and made new friends. The cadet program has really helped me improve my social skills, and I enjoy being a part of it," she added.

Doors open 30 minutes before the meetings so cadets can catch up with their peers. When the clock hits the hour, it is time to work. Sessions begin with celebrating the cadets' achievements collectively. Maybe one got a new job or a driver's license, overcame a personal challenge, or reached a fitness milestone. Cadets are also expected to share negatives, like receiving disciplinary action at school, privately. And they do, because accountability is also part of the program.

"The impact of the program goes far beyond career exploration. The camaraderie, confidence and leadership skills these cadets develop - and bring back into their communities - are lasting qualities that I hope will continue to guide them throughout their lives," added Sgt. Cohen.

Police departments are deeply affected by the risks officers meet head-on, every day. N.E.R.L.E.E.A. offers the opportunity to channel that experience, and embrace a new community role. At the core is a reminder that young people are not just kids; they are capable of enacting change with service and character.

"It should absolutely be adopted by other agencies across the state and country with the right staff and oversight in place. While the main focus is to build bridges and teach about law enforcement,



Cadets with the Youth Academy of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office take part in a fundraising event where they gathered pet supplies. *Courtesy photo*

we also encourage the youth to become young leaders and/or positive role-models in their communities, as not all choose to go into the criminal justice field. That's what separates our program from others. The legacy and impact transcends beyond our office and directly into the communities the youth call home," said Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati.

Sgt. Montanya has been with the program each of its seven years. His mission is reaffirmed with every reference letter and recommendation he pens - when a returning cadet influences their first-year peers through positive leadership, and by the parents who, inspired by a child's service, begin volunteering at their side.

Cadets currently serve alongside their former post leaders, intern at the District Attorney's office, and serve globally in

the armed forces. Post 108's impact echoes outside Dutchess County's bounds; alumni have graduated from police academies and served communities outside the Hudson Valley. Some will not follow a police officer's path, but are nevertheless equipped for whatever the future entails.

"Regardless of their avenue of life, the goal is to build positive communities and role models. We prepare them with things translatable to everyday life," said Sgt. Montanya, noting public speaking and team-building as a few examples.

With plans to expand the curriculum to corrections, Post 108 is continuously evolving its modes, connecting cadets with experience and confidence to thrive as young adults.

Hinchey calls for Governor to support proposal for farm resiliency grant program

ALBANY, NY - New York State Senator and Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Food Committee, Michelle Hinchey, issued the following statement on the recent freeze across New York and much of the Tri-State area, which has dealt a blow to crops and orchards across the region:

"Last week, the late freeze wreaked havoc on farms across our state, with specific and catastrophic damage occurring in the Hudson Valley," said Hinchey. "The unprecedented plunging temperatures decimated crops, with our small and mid-size grape, apple, and stone fruit producers facing devastating losses. This is heartbreaking on so many levels. We are extremely concerned for what this means for this year's harvest and are monitoring the situation closely with our friends up and down the region."

She added, "What's clearly apparent is that we don't have a strong enough safety net system for these farmers when catastrophic and unexpected weather events decimate their seasons and even put the

solvency of many of these farms in jeopardy. In the current budget negotiations, I am fighting for our proposal to create the Farm Security Resiliency Grant Program, which would help New York farms recover from major climate events like this freeze, and buoy them to the next season, so that they can keep their doors and their fields open for business. I'm hopeful the Governor sees this opportunity to help the folks who grow our local food supply and supports our proposal in this moment of necessary aid."

Youth Baseball Game on Memorial Day to benefit veterans outreach

Hudson Valley Heroes Youth Baseball Club presents the inaugural Memorial Day Salute to Service Youth Baseball Game on Monday, May 25, at Stanford Rec Park, 40 Creamery Road, Stanfordville. The Hudson Valley Heroes face off against the Marlboro Marlins. The pre-game ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m. There will be a live national anthem and honorary first pitches.

There is free admission, but donations are welcome. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Mental Health Association Veterans' Outreach Program. For more information, call or text Tom at (845) 401-3526.

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What's in a name? Here is the story of 'Renegades'

By Morgan E. Maier

Baseball teams create nationwide followings for unique nicknames ranging from mollusks to natural phenomena. Existing alongside the Dragons, precious Emeralds and prospecting RockHounds, the Hudson Valley Renegades are one of two teams represented by a raccoon. The Frederick Keys are Minor League Baseball's only namesake for a lawyer. But what are the Renegades named for?

Francis Scott Key was no more a baseball player than he was a songwriter. Yet Key's presence swirls through every pre-game playing of the Star-Spangled Banner, based on a poem the Maryland native wrote in 1814. The National Anthem holds special meaning at Nymeo Field, home again to an Orioles' affiliate for the first time since 2019.

Hudson Valley has known the same team for more than 30 straight seasons, and Renegades fans can thank local resident Yvette Cruz for the suggestion.

"Renegades" emerged among over 5,000 entries in the great team-naming contest of 1993, then beat out three

other finalists: Venom, Vipers and Hawks. The name was inspired by Yvette's brother and his passion for local Native American and Hudson Valley history.

"To me, it was a fluke picking that name. I was out with my friends, and the three of us were going back and forth about this contest," said Yvette. "And I thought, 'Well, I'll just put this one down, it reminds me of my brother.'"

As outlined in Clifford Trafzer's "Renegade Tribe: The Palouse Indians and the Invasion of the Inland Pacific Northwest," 'renegade' was a name given to indigenous people who resisted hostile land takeovers and relocations of their people, often resulting in conflicts with settlers arriving on the frontier. Such resistance continued for centuries, as recently as the 1980s in the Midwest, according to a 1985 New York Times article, "Around the Nation: 143 Renegade Kickapoos Accept Citizenship."

Hudson Valley's name honors this history and a sister's love, both relentless through time. Majority ruled on the Renegades before the inaugural 1994 season. Yvette's phone rang

incessantly the evening it was decided. Her first of 10 years as a Renegades season ticket holder began with a 9 p.m. whirlwind of reporters, officials and two complimentary seats.

Those tickets came with community. Section 101 became Yvette's support outside of baseball, from baby showers to surviving breast cancer. When the family catches a game now and again, always on the first base line, they look for familiar faces. Often there, sitting with now-grown kids and grandkids, are these friends that would be strangers if not for the team.

Players write their stories with Hudson Valley's unwavering support through affiliation changes. First the Texas Rangers, then the Tampa Bay Rays and now the New York Yankees. "They've stood the test of time, even though it has changed from major league organizations. Part of it is the name, that stands for fighting for it and keeping it going. It's always been



Yvette Cruz is pictured with her son in this vintage photo with Renegades mascots. She was the winner of the great team-naming contest of 1993. *Courtesy photo*

about supporting players, regardless of what organization they belong to," said Yvette.

In choosing a name, the fans owned a piece of the team. They still do, because the Renegades would not be the same under any other name. Or in any other place.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT	16	11	.593	-	5-5	W2
Wilmington WSH	15	11	.577	0.5	7-3	W3
Jersey Shore PHI	14	12	.538	1.5	5-5	W4
Hudson Valley NYY	14	12	.538	1.5	5-5	L4
Frederick BAL	14	12	.538	1.5	6-4	W1
Brooklyn NYM	7	19	.269	8.5	3-7	L1

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB	17	10	.630	-	6-4	L1
Winston-Salem CWS	16	11	.593	1.0	4-6	L2
Rome ATL	14	13	.519	3.0	6-4	W1
Hub City TEX	13	13	.500	3.5	6-4	W4
Greenville BOS	13	14	.481	4.0	5-5	L4
Asheville HOU	6	21	.222	11.0	2-8	L3



May			
05/06/26	vs. Winston-Salem	11:05 AM	Education Day presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/07/26	vs. Winston-Salem	06:35 PM	Country Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/08/26	vs. Winston-Salem	07:05 PM	Newburgh Gorhams Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/09/26	vs. Winston-Salem	05:05 PM	Irish Heritage Night presented by Leprechaun Lines WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/10/26	vs. Winston-Salem	02:05 PM	Mother's Day at the Ballpark WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/12/26	vs. Frederick	06:05 PM	70s Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/13/26	vs. Frederick	11:05 AM	Education Day presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/14/26	vs. Frederick	06:35 PM	Healthcare Appreciation Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/15/26	vs. Frederick	07:05 PM	In Our Baseball Era WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/16/26	vs. Frederick	05:05 PM	Military Appreciation Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/17/26	vs. Frederick	02:05 PM	Pirates Day WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets



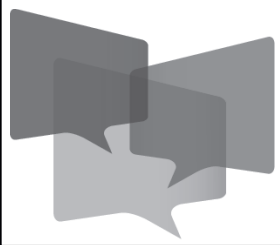


Renegades Extra!



IMPACT
PR & Communications

**Vassar-Warner Home Executive Director,
Ericka Von Salews, Named to New York's 2026
Above and Beyond Women List**



**See story,
page 8**



IMPACT
PR & Communications

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades only 'claw' to two wins at Jersey Shore as BlueClaws roll

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades (14-12) had sunny outings turned sour at ShoreTown Ballpark from April 28 to May 3, dropping four straight games to end the week. By the end of the week the Jersey Shore BlueClaws (14-12) withstood the Renegades' late cracks at a comeback and earned a second-place tie with Hudson Valley.

The series started with two consecutive successes, and the first late-inning awakening that would define the Hudson Valley effort. They would lead the opener wire-to-wire, bolstering an early advantage with three runs scored in the 7th and 8th frames. Kaeden Kent was 2-4 with 4 RBI, including a three-run blast in his final at-bat of the 9-5 win. Another strong start by Luis Serna (5.2 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 6 K) got Hudson Valley nearly to a win, before the BlueClaws' ninth inning rally forced some free baseball. Core Jackson broke through in the 11th with an RBI single, then Roderick Arias worked a bases-loaded walk for the insurance. The BlueClaws put one up in the bottom, but

Hudson Valley held on for the 5-3 win.

Things spiraled out of hand for Hudson Valley on May 1, not only for the two BlueClaw runs that scored on a wild pitch. The BlueClaws exploded for seven runs in the fourth inning, then were held scoreless the rest of the way. As the Renegades bullpen put up zeroes the rest of the way, the offense took a crack at the 6-run deficit, including a 3-run rally in the ninth inning. Hudson Valley would fall 8-7, the second of three straight one-run losses. The Renegades' 9th-inning rally fell just short the night before, as Kyle West's fielder's choice brought in the Renegades' third run of the game. Jersey Shore would prevail 4-3. Cam Troyer hit an early 2-run home run to equalize it 2-2. Troyer later knocked in an extra-inning run with a sacrifice fly, but Jersey Shore erased that one, too, and won the game 5-4 on a passed ball.

The Renegades were quiet in the Sunday slate until the top of the 7th inning, where they exploded for five runs. Cam Troyer had another blast – 3 runs to take the lead – but the home team had 4 of their own and negated Troyer's

3-run blast to take the lead in the top. This time, Jersey Shore would go on to win 7-6 to take the series win.

Next week, the Winston-Salem Dash (16-11) will visit town for the first matchup of the season. The High-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox comes off their own series split against the Greensboro Grasshoppers (16-11), who have taken a slight lead atop the South Atlantic League North. The top five spots in the division are separated by a game and a half, while the Brooklyn Cyclones (7-18) are on the outside looking in. On the promotion slate for the latest homestand, Hudson Valley hosts 70s Night on May 5;



Kaeden Kent was 2-4 with 4 RBI, including a three-run blast in his final at-bat of a 9-5 win for the Renegades last week. Photo by Dave Janosz

Education Day on May 6 (11:05 a.m. start time), and Newburgh Gorhams Night on May 8 to celebrate Black history in local baseball.

RENEGADES FEATURE

May marks McGinnis' improvement at the plate

By Morgan E. Maier

Connor McGinnis hit the first home run of his career on May 3, and though the Hudson Valley Renegades lost the game – and series – to the Jersey Shore Blue Claws, McGinnis continues to settle into High-A.

This former University of Houston Cougar likes it on the road. McGinnis has five hits in eight games played at opposing ballparks. Where McGinnis hit .171 in April, offensive production maximized with a few 'season firsts' in his first two games of May.

The former 314th draft pick had an RBI in back-to-back games on May 1 and May 3. The latter saw McGinnis' first professional home run, a solo shot in the fifth inning to get the Renegades on the board. McGinnis appeared in four games

against Jersey Shore, splitting time between second base and left field. McGinnis had a two-out, two-strike single to maintain the Renegades' comeback hopes on May 1, as he scored Josue Gonzalez to cut the BlueClaw advantage to one run. McGinnis represented the tying run at first, but no Renegade could knock him in.

The New York Yankees selected McGinnis in the 10th round of the 2025 draft. The draftee out of Houston played 17 games in Hudson Valley to close the season. McGinnis knocked 11 hits and drove in 6 runs while also scoring 6. In his shortened junior campaign at the University of Houston, McGinnis was reliable at the plate, hitting .343 across 31 games played. He had eight multi-hit games, including four before injury sidelined him for 24 games. With fewer than

40 games of professional experience (as of May 3) over the past two seasons, McGinnis has yet to play half a season, but the end of spring seems bright for the 23-year-old lefty, who throws righty.

McGinnis finished his series on the Shore 3-14 with three runs scored and a pair of RBIs. Both came with two outs; McGinnis begins to showcase the ever-reliable contributions that Houston misses from him.



Connor McGinnis has five hits in eight games played at opposing ballparks for the Renegades so far this season. The New York Yankees selected McGinnis in the 10th round of the 2025 draft. Photo by Dave Janosz

AT YOUR LIBRARY

MORTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show
Friday, May 15, 8 p.m.
Featuring: Fisher & Kean, Tina Pierce, Barry Adelman with Kurt Henry, and more. Donations to benefit Morton are suggested.

Rhinebeck Grange #896 & Morton Seed Library Present: Community Plant Swap & Wattle Fencing

Saturday, May 16 2-4 p.m. (Firemen's Field)

Have extra plants and looking to share? Ready to divide your peonies? Bring your plants to Firemen's Field Picnic Shelter and swap with your neighbors. Come play with Rudy and we will all participate in creating a wattle fence as we learn about the history behind this amazing and ancient fencing method.

Do you have bamboo to spare and live in the hamlet? Please contact the library and we'll help to take it off of your hands. Interested in assisting with the "harvesting" of the bamboo? Also let us know and we'll get you in touch with the wattle master himself!

Also feel free to harvest and bring to the pavilion at Firemen's Field prior to Saturday, May 16.

Morton Day

Saturday, May 16; 3-5 p.m.

Saturday afternoon we celebrate Levi P Morton's birthday with the hamlet! This year The Epicurean will have delicious food available for purchase at the

store and picnic tables set up for enjoying your luncheon. Kips Tavern will supply yummy cookies, and Morton will be giving out free ice cream - just like Levi used to do. Back by popular demand is the dunk tank, lawn games and our amazing face painters. This is a rain or shine event. For more information, call (845) 876-2903.

Oblong Books Presents: Cynthia McVay, "Under the Crucian Sun: A Memoir of Place," In conversation with Joseph Luzzi

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. (at Morton)

Environmentalist and creative Cynthia McVay sets foot on the island of St. Croix in 2018 for the first time. She arrives with an adventurous partner and her heart set on purchasing and renovating an abandoned plantation house. Things do not go as planned. By the end of the week, she has fallen in love with a skeletal wreck of a home, with iconic stone walls and mid-century lines, allegedly built by German photographer Fritz Henle. With the help of dozens of islanders, Cynthia spends a year artfully coaxing this hidden gem back to life.

This collection of stories, essays, poetry and 150+ lush photographs offers a personal portrayal of a coy, complex and layered island. At its heart, Under the Crucian Sun is a love story, an ode to the island of St. Croix and its many peoples.

Tickets Required. Admission with book: \$54 - includes one paperback copy of UNDER THE CRUCIAN SUN and

sales tax. Admission only: \$10

Art Auction

Featuring the photography of Paul Elfenbein

Friday, May 22, 7 p.m.

Paul T. Elfenbein graduated from the Pratt Institute with a degree in graphic design. Soon after, Paul enlisted in the Army, serving for two years, during which time he used his education to illustrate training manuals.

He also taught himself photography while serving. He spent much of the rest of his life taking pictures. He worked commercially in New York City; taught at the School of Visual Arts for over 30 years, inspiring generations of photographers; and developed a love of fine arts photography that he explored later in life.

Join us for an evening of fun, photography, and frivolity, and go home with a piece or two of art. Our auctioneer will be friend of Morton, actor and screenwriter, Mr. Donald Corren.

Proceeds benefit Morton Memorial Library & Community House.

MAY SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT PLEASANT VALLEY LIBRARY

All programs are free, unless noted. Please visit pleasantvalleylibrary.org to register and for more information on these and also on our monthly occurring programs.

Friday, May 8, 6-7 p.m.

"The Timeless Spoon River" poetry & classical guitar with Prudi Gardia-Renart and Terry Champlin

"The Timeless Spoon River: combines classic poetry from "Spoon River Anthology" read by Prudi Garcia-Renart with classical guitar music written to accompany them by Terry Champlin. These little vignettes by Edgar Lee Masters were considered a major event in American literature when they were first published in 1915 and resonate as strongly today. Prudi's many years as an actress allow her to capture the universal aspects of the characters.

Tuesday, May 12, 6-7 p.m.

Grow Your Own Cocktail Garden with Jessica Williams

Join local gardener Jessica Williams and discover how easy it is to grow the herbs that make unique and delicious summer cocktail and mocktails. She'll teach how to grow fresh lemongrass, ginger, basil, and lavender, and how to propagate by taking cuttings and dividing herbs. Most are critter resistant and have wonderful scents in addition to being easy to grow, even if you just have a pot on the patio. You'll also learn how to make your own bitters and infused simple syrups. Participants can take home a cutting to start their garden.

Wednesday, May 13, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Senior Movie Morning: "Nomadland"

Seniors (ages 50+) are invited to attend this special seniors-only movie matinee. Light refreshments will be provided, but feel free to bring your own snack or lunch to enjoy. Our movie for May is the 2020 award-winning drama "Nomadland." A woman in her sixties (Frances McDormand) embarks on a journey through the American West, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad after losing everything in the Great Recession.

Saturday, May 30, noon-1:30 p.m.

Hudson Valley Women of Mystery

Join us to celebrate May's Mystery Month with Hudson Valley's Women of Mystery - a three-author panel featuring Julie Doar (author of "The Gallagher

Place"), Jodé Millman (author of the "Queen City Mystery" series) and Jennifer Sadera (author of "I Know She Was There") - whose lives and books are connected to the Hudson Valley. Each author will share their perspectives on the Hudson Valley as a fitting place for mystery/crime/suspense/thriller stories; the appeal of this genre to women creators and readers (and why men should read them too); and inspiration for writing their novels. They'll each read excerpts from their books, and signed copies will be available to purchase, with a portion of the sales donated to Pleasant Valley Library.

STANFORD FREE LIBRARY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration required for events unless noted otherwise. Please register via the online calendar at www.stanfordlibrary.org or call 845-868-1341

Framing The Landscape: An Exploration In Art History

Friday, May 8th, 6 PM

Art historian and painter John McGiff will talk about works of art ranging from paintings of the Hudson Valley School to nature installations by Andy Goldsworthy, all of which invite us to look more closely and with greater reverence at the world around us. McGiff is an art historian and painter who currently teaches at Vassar College's Lifelong Learning Institute.

From Mickey Mouse to Star Wars & Beyond

Tuesday, May 12th, 6PM

Join us on ZOOM for a presentation examining how the Walt Disney Company grew from a small cartoon studio in 1923 to become the most powerful force in worldwide entertainment. Presented in partnership with the Kent and Reed Memorial Libraries, Brian Rose presents a program about how the Walt Disney Company conquered the entertainment universe.

Teen Night

Friday, May 29th, 6PM-8PM

Join your friends for a night of fun. Ages 13+

Visit With Therapy Dog Jambo

Tuesday, May 12th, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

He's a gentle giant who loves to make new friends. People of all ages are welcome to come and visit with him. Sign up for a 15 minute slot with Jambo.

Dutchess County Office for the Aging

Wednesday, May 20th, 2PM

DCOFA will be giving a talk on the importance of physical activity as we age

Diaper Drive

Stanford Free Library is partnering with the United Way of Dutchess-Orange County to collect diapers for families in need. Drop off diapers between May 11th-June 20th

Music in the Library

Saturday, May 30th, 12-1pm

Local Musician Walt Otto returns to play his much loved standards, early pop tunes and classic country songs for us. Just drop in and enjoy the music.

Guided Walk at the Gary Lovett Nature Preserve

Saturday, May 30th, 9AM

Stanford Free Library in cooperation with the Conservation Advisory Commission is hosting a nature walk at this beautiful town preserve located on Salt Point Turnpike off of Rte 82. Participants should meet at the preserve parking lot.

Vassar-Warner Home Executive Director, Ericka Von Salews, named to New York's 2026 Above and Beyond Women list



Ericka Von Salews, recently named to New York's 2026 Above & Beyond Women list, is prepared to lead Vassar-Warner Home into its next chapter. *Courtesy photo*

Underscoring its leadership team's commitment to enhancing the lives of Hudson Valley seniors, Vassar-Warner Home announced that Executive Director, Ericka Von Salews, has been named to City & State New York's 2026 Above & Beyond Women list. Von Salews is one of 50 women recognized across various industries for her role in moving the state forward.

"Being celebrated alongside so many amazing female leaders is a highlight of my career," said Von Salews. "I've dedicated the majority of my professional life to the advancement of senior care, and it's a true honor to be recognized for the role this plays in shaping the future of the state."

For 10 years, Von Salews has been at the helm of Vassar Warner Home's mission to provide high-quality care and resources to seniors living in New York. Most notably, in response to the Home's sudden closure in 2024, Von Salews took on a pivotal role in the fight to reopen it,

working with local leaders and philanthropists to launch initiatives that garnered support and funding for the facility. Simultaneously, Von Salews successfully launched Vassar-Warner Home for the Day, a social model adult day care program, in 2025. Today, she not only oversees Vassar-Warner Home's day-to-day operations but is also preparing for the grand reopening of its residential program, which is set to welcome residents in May.

"As I lead Vassar-Warner Home into its next chapter, I'm proud to support my team as we give the facility our all," added Von Salews. "We are committed to making Vassar-Warner a home away from home, and won't stop until we reinstate our position as a pillar of the Hudson Valley community."

To learn more about Vassar-Warner Home, or to apply as a resident, visit www.vassarwarner.org. For additional updates, follow along on Facebook (@VassarWarnerHome).

send us your news

cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

Farm Tours & Fiber Arts across 7 seven farms to be held May 9

The Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Growers Association invites the community to experience the Hudson Valley region's rich agricultural heritage during its annual Spring Sheep & Wool Growers Farm Tours on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This self-guided tour, at seven farms across Dutchess County offers, visitors a unique opportunity to explore local farms, meet farmers, and learn about raising sheep and fiber production. Each participating farm will showcase a variety of activities and demonstrations including:

- Fiber arts such as spinning, weaving, and felting
- Guided and self-guided barn tours and opportunities to meet sheep and other livestock
- Educational displays and demos on wool processing and sustainable farming practices

Visitors will also have the chance to purchase a wide range of farm-produced goods, including yarn, wool products, handmade crafts and other locally produced items. As part of the event, visitors who sign in will be entered into a special raffle featuring a prize basket filled with farm produced items from each of the participating farms - offering a unique collection of local products.

The Sheep & Wool Growers Farm Tours provide a fun and educational outing for all ages, connecting the community with local agriculture and supporting small farms throughout Dutchess County. Additional event details, including participating farm locations, are listed below and can be found on individual farm websites.

• **Anchorage Farm** - 8 Mynderse Street, Saugerties - At Anchorage Farm you can meet registered Romney Sheep, pet lambs, feel - and purchase if you like - yarn and raw wool. Please park on Mynderse Street and walk into the farm. Visitors in need of special accommodations or transportation assistance, please contact us. Contact Rhonda Jaacks, 845-217-1974, anchorageromneys@gmail.com, AnchorageRomneys.com.

• **Clover Brooke Farm** - 175 Ruskey Lane, Hyde Park - Clover Brooke Farm will be offering minifarm tours, demonstrations showcasing wet and needle felting techniques using natural fiber. Visitors can shop at our farm store featuring locally milled yarn, handcrafted fiber goods and handmade small batch wellness products include moisturizing soaps, loofahs, lotion bars and body lotion made at the farm. Pleasant Land Farm will have a booth at Clover Brooke Farm - selling Farm Fresh- NYS Produced/Grown-Jellies, Hot Sauces, Honey & Syrups. Candles, Gardeners Hand Balm and Vegetable Seedlings: Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant and Squash. Contact Andrea Parent-Tibbitts, cloverbrookefarm@gmail.com, cloverbrookefarm.com, social: @cloverbrookfarmhydeparkny.

• **Nobletown Fiber Works** - 9221 St. Rt. 22, Hillsdale (look for the blue sign) - Nobletown staff will guide visitors through the mill, sharing insights into our process. A limited collection of yarns—made on site from locally sourced wool, mohair, and alpaca—will be available for purchase. Visitors should park in front of white buildings or in back and in front of the new barn under construction. Please do not park in front of house. Lewis Cleale, (646) 285-4207, nobletownfiberworks.com, social media: @nobletownfiberworks.

• **Patchwork Pastures** - 475 N Quaker Lane, Hyde Park - Contact Meegan Veeder-Shave, patchworkpastures475@gmail.com.

• **Point of View Farm** - 41 Ludlow Woods Rd, Standfordville - Point of View Farm will have an on going wool skirting demonstration. Get your hands in the wool with our friends from Stone Silo farm in Standfordville. Meet our spring finnsheep lambs and stop in our farm shop for unique wool products. We'll have fresh lamb sliders prepared by the DC Sheep & Wool Growers Lamb Cart and pure, non-superwash and non carbonized Merino wool products in 6 weights with 115 colorways, some packed into handy kits with instructions from Morehouse Farm in Milan, NY.



Clover Brooke Farm, located at 175 Ruskey Lane in Hyde Park, will be offering minifarm tours and demonstrations showcasing wet and needle felting techniques using natural fiber. *Courtesy photo*

DCfinnsheep.net.

• **Springhill Farm** - 379 Slate Quarry Rd, Rhinebeck - Contact Monique Marion, springhillfarm.org.

• **Stony Kill Farm and Environmental Center** - 79 Farmstead Lane, Wappinger Falls - At Stony Kill Farm, members of Stony Kill Foundation and the Stony Ground 4-H Club will offer guided tours of the historic barn and its flock of heritage Tunis sheep. Visitors can also enjoy fiber art demonstrations, including natural dyeing, felting, and fiber processing. Join the skirtathon (fleece skirting) and

help raise funds for the farm. Featured items for sale will include skeins of Tunis yarn, sheep tallow balm, spring seedlings and various farm-produced products. Contact Stacey Lynch Adnams, foundation@stonykill.org, 845-831-3800, stonykill.org, social media: @stonykillfoundation.

For more information about the Dutchess County Sheep & Wool Growers Association, as well as programs and events offered, contact Mary Stephens at mjstep@optonline.net or visit dcswga.org.

'Tackling Ticks on the Big Screen' part of Lyme Disease Awareness Month

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month, and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) continue to spread awareness and promote tick prevention tips, once again hosting "Tackling Ticks on the Big Screen" on Wednesday, May 20. This free evening of family fun will include a screening of the animated film, "DC League of Super-Pets," at the Overlook Drive-in Theater, 126 DeGarmo Road in Poughkeepsie. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m.; the movie begins at sunset. Registration is required and is available online at dutchessny.gov/tickmovie.

Serino said, "As the weather warms up and more people head outside, it's a great time to remember how to stay safe from ticks. Protecting our families and children is simple with a few easy tips to prevent Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. We invite our neighbors to join us, learn how to stay tick-free and enjoy a fun, family-friendly movie together."

DCDOH staff will be on hand with helpful tick safety tips and to explain how to avoid bites. There will also be free

giveaways, including tick removal tools and fun coloring books for children.

Health Commissioner Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD said, "Ticks have been a big health issue in New York State for a long time because so many types of ticks - and the germs they carry - live here. This event is a perfect chance to learn how to stop ticks from biting you and what to do if you find one on your skin. Knowing these steps is the best way to stay healthy, so we hope you'll come enjoy a fun movie and learn these helpful tips."

Admission to the movie is free; concessions will be available to purchase.

The Dutchess County Department of Health provides tick safety tips throughout the year. Residents can find the DCDOH staff and get expert advice at Mobile Health Unit (MHU) events held throughout Dutchess County. Information about the MHU's schedule and other helpful services that DCDOH provides is available at the Dutchess County Health Department's website: dutchessny.gov/health.

ROOSEVELT CINEMAS **LYCEUM CINEMAS**
Rte.9 Hyde Park 229-2000 Rte.9 Red Hook 758-3311

--STARTS THURSDAY--

MORTAL KOMBAT II R

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES PG

**BILLIE EILISH: HIT ME HARD AND SOFT-
THE TOUR LIVE (3D AND 2D)** PG-13

<p style="text-align: center;">--HELD OVER--</p> <p>The Devil Wears Prada 2 (PG13) Michael (PG13) The Super Mario Galaxy Movie (PG)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">--HELD OVER--</p> <p>Devil Wears Prada 2 (PG13) Michael (PG13) Project Hail Mary (PG13) The Super Mario Galaxy Movie (PG)</p>
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

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).

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

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.fupchurch.org.

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.repaircafehv.org/rhinebeck or email elaine.rhinebeckrepaircafe@gmail.com.

Hyde Park Library to host energy saving workshop May 11

The Hyde Park Library, 2 Main St., Hyde Park, will welcome Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County and the Hyde Park Climate Smart Communities Task Force at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11, for an energy saving workshop. Attendees will learn how to save energy at home, including basic air-sealing techniques that can be done with simple products. Also covered in this session will be heat pumps, insulation, federal tax credits, community solar options, and much more. Register at <https://hydeparklibrary.org/mc-events/save-energy-save-dollars/> while space is still available.

Hyde Park Chamber's upcoming events

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, visit www.hydeparkchamber.org.

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,

go to ccedutchess.org.

Baked Ham Dinner set May 16 at Stanford Grange

Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Baked Ham Dinner on Saturday, May 16, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. The menu will consist of baked ham, cheesy scalloped potatoes, bean salad, dinner roll, and homemade tomato soup spice cake with cream cheese frosting for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. The dinner will be take out only, and dinners will be available for pick up at 5 p.m. Drive up to the Grange Hall back door, pay for your dinner, get your dinner through your car window, and take it home to enjoy! For reservations, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Morton Community Day set May 16

Morton Day will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 3 to 5 p.m., in downtown Rhinecliff. This community celebration is held annually in honor of Levi P Morton's birthday. There will be fun for all ages.

Community Seedling Swap set May 16 in Rhinecliff

The Rhinebeck Grange and Morton Memorial Library will present a Community Seedling Swap & Wattle Fencing with Rudy on Saturday, May 16, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Picnic Shelter at Firemen's Field, Valley Way, Rhinecliff. If you have extra plants, bring them to swap. There will be fun for the whole family. All are welcome.

PV Repair Cafe set May 16

The Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe will be held on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the OLD Town Hall on Main Street. If it is broken don't toss it have our fixers make it new again and while you wait grab a treat. Our knife sharpener will be on hand to sharpen those knives. Email pvrepaircafe@gmail.com for more information.

Staatsburg Memorial Day Ceremony

A Memorial Day Ceremony will take place in the hamlet of Staatsburg on Monday, May 25, at 8 a.m. It will be held at the veterans' honor roll monument near the flagpole in Dinsmore Park on Old Post Road. The long-standing event is sponsored by volunteers from the community. The public is invited to help us remember those who have died in service to our country. In case of rain, the ceremony may be held inside the Dinsmore firehouse. For more information, contact Mary Alden mlaeas@comcast.net or (609) 468-0165.

Bingo in Rhinecliff May 27

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company will host Bingo on Wednesday, 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.

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.

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.

Celebrate Stanford Pride on June 6

Celebrate Stanford Pride with music, food and community on Saturday, June 6, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Bangallworks, 97 Hunns Lake Road, Bangall. Visit stanfordnypride.com for more information.

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.

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By David Kalvitis © 2007 Monkeying Around

Dutchess County launches youth contest to design 'I Voted' sticker

Dutchess County residents between the ages of 9 and 18 are officially invited to submit their designs for Dutchess County's first-ever custom "I Voted" sticker.

The "I Voted" sticker is a longstanding tradition of American democracy, with the small, round slogan given to individuals at polling sites across the country upon successfully casting their ballots. This year, Dutchess County is joining other localities throughout America in a growing trend of designing custom stickers for voters in their area.

The contest is being hosted by the Dutchess County Board of Elections, with County Legislature Chair Yvette

Valdés Smith, County Executive Sue Serino and County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair serving as judges. The deadline for entries is May 29, and must be submitted by email to stickercontest@dutchessny.gov.

Designs must be able to fit on a 2-inch sticker and feature the words "I Voted" in a prominent, legible fashion. Designs cannot include any type of political messaging, including candidate names or party logos.

The County Legislature will recognize the creator of the winning design with a special Proclamation at a County Legislature meeting later this year.

Jewish Federation sponsors free family fun for good causes



Many gathered with hearts forward on Sunday, May 3, at Congregation Schomrei Israel and satellite locations. The Jewish Federation of Dutchess County sponsored Mitzvah Day 2026, A Day of Caring & Service, that incorporated multiple fun activities all geared toward benefiting those in need. Participants of all backgrounds, abilities, and ages crafted, orga nized, baked, and gardened.

The intended beneficiaries include individuals with cancer, local food pantries, victims of domestic abuse, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and a local meal program.

The day concluded with a celebratory luncheon and musical entertainment.

(The benefit was partially underwritten by a grant from Ann and Abe Effron Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.)

- Photos by Francine Wizner



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Our Moms: 100 Mothers' Days

Honoring two special ladies

By Mark and Sue Adams

My mom and Sue's mom both would have been 100 years old this year, so it seems like a good time for a Mother's Day celebration.

Doris Adams (nee King) came from hardy farm stock in hardscrabble central New York, although her father was a doctor. Mom graduated from Cornell University, where she befriended the world-renowned physics Professor Richard Feynman, who even visited her at her parents' house in Dansville. (Feynman had a reputation for dating his female students). I guess my mom was more impressed by a fellow student who was majoring in pomology (the study of apples) named Ralph Adams. After raising her kids, mom went back to school and earned a masters degree in Sociology from Fordham. She was always a fantastic mother, which means, from a child's perspective, that she let us do whatever we wanted.

My mom didn't work on the family farm, but she always had a passionate love of gardening. The Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield was a particular passion. Doris was a founding member of the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, created in 1994 to recreate the original landscape by the famous horticulturist Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959). Of the more than 100 gardens designed by Farrand, only a handful remain, including Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. The restored garden at Bellefield is a rare treasure, and a major attraction to visitors at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home next door. I think it was fellow founding member Sarah Peacock who told me my mom referred to her "head weeder" job at the garden as "editing." Mom's granddaughter Becky Adams carries on the legacy as a current member of the Farrand Garden Association Board of Directors.

Music was another passion. We sang the "Messiah" together in the Camerata Chorale. Along with Lynn Burnstein and Joyce Ghee, Doris formed the band "The Merry Wives," performing at all the early Sloop Festivals, where Pete Seeger was

raising money to build the Sloop Clearwater. That was back around 1966, when mom would drag all four of us kids to a big open field in Garrison to hear Pete, Arlo Guthrie and a kid named Don McLean. Mom was a big fan of Joan Baez. We went to one of Joan's last concerts in 2019 when mom was 93 years old. We loved it.

When I mentioned to Sue that I was planning to write about my mom, she said, "What about MY mom?" Oh, yeah, Sue's mom was a great lady, especially since she was crazy about me. So here's Sue's version:

My mom, Frances, was born in Florida, New York, three days before Mark's mom, to parents who had emigrated from Poland (they met on the ship). She joined her father, three older brothers and sister in the onion fields when she was only eight years old. One year she grew popcorn and sold her bumper crop to a local store. After graduation from Newburgh Free Academy, Mom joined the AP company which trained her to become a bookkeeper, picking her up in a limousine every day!

Mom married my dad, Albert Gotthardt, in 1947. They always had a large vegetable garden. Mom not only helped in the garden, but also canned and froze lots of vegetables. Dad's parents lived with us, and I can still remember the smell when the four of them fermented cabbage. Mom also loved flowers and grew hollyhocks, geraniums and perennials. After Dad's passing in 1964, we moved to Bower Road, where mom not only continued to grow vegetables, but also grew beautiful hibiscus. Many motorists couldn't resist stopping to admire the large blooms.

Mom was one of the original staff members of the Grand Union in Pleasant Valley and worked there until her retirement. In her spare time she loved to bake (she was famous for her pies, and now granddaughter Becky is), sew and do crafts. Mom was a 4-H leader and active in Home Bureau and the Senior Center (serving as president of both).

Mom loved attending parties at my



Sue's mom, Frances (left), and Mark's mom, Doris (right), in 1998. Photo by Sue Adams

house where she would sit and smile as she watched her three daughters, granddaughter Becky and great grandchildren Ambika and Priya frolic in the pool. Every Mother's Day, I'd go to her house and plant the flower beds, always making sure I had red salvia for her hummingbirds. She'd comment that I worked too hard. Just following her example!!

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

Sue Adams is vice-president of Mark & Sue Adams Greenhouses, an award winning container designer, president of New York State Flower Industries and author of "What Do Your Flowers Say Today?"

Music meets history at Copake Grange 'Cabaret Night'

COPAKE – Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, presents Cabaret Night: "Stories in Song," on Saturday, May 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. Ticket are \$20 or pay what you can at the door.

Join vocalist Ilana Meredith and multi-instrumentalist Joseph Rutkowski (piano/accordion) for an immersive evening where music meets history. Guided by renowned local historian Jim Mackin, the trio presents a curated selection of narrative-driven songs from many composers, including Cole Porter, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Rodgers & Hart, John Kander and Kurt Weil. Through a seamless blend of live performance and historical commentary, guests will uncover the poignant tales woven into every melody.

All ages will be entertained and at the same time learn stories and history through music.

Meredith is a graduate of NYU, Tisch School of the Arts' BFA Drama program. She has performed on tours, at several regional theaters and summer stock companies. She received her master's degree in theatre education from City College of NY and currently teaches drama and directs the mainstage shows at Great Neck South High School. When not teaching, she continues to study acting in NYC and abroad. Since 2018, she has worked with Joe Rutkowski singing at venues in the Hudson Valley, Long Island, and NYC areas. To learn more about her work, visit www.ilana-meredith.com.

Rutkowski has entertained audiences

in the tri-state area for over 50 years. Performing his first gig on accordion at the age of 10, he has expanded his repertoire of styles to include classical Mozart and Beethoven to jazz classics, and from Polish and Ukrainian dances to bebop jazz and Jewish klezmer. As a combo player and soloist, he is a 48-year honorary member of Local 802 (American Federation of Musicians). He has performed dozens of jazz programs with his two sons, Ben and Daniel. As a young musician, he performed hundreds of club dates with his brother Andrew and their father, Joe, Sr. This pattern of a father and two sons goes back five generations in his family to the 1880s in Poland.

Mackin is a well-known historian and the author of Notable New Yorkers of Manhattan's Upper West Side: Bloomingdale – Morningside Heights. He lectures frequently and conducts historical tours for organizations such as the New York Historical Society. As former president of the Friends of Taconic State Park, he played a pivotal role in establishing the Copake Iron Works railroad, which opened to the public in 2023. Currently, he serves as co-director of the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group on Manhattan's Upper West Side and is working on a book about Harlem. Playing guitar and singing sparked his love of popular music and led to his interest in its rich and captivating history.

For more information, email info@copakegrange.org or visit www.copakegrange.org/events.



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Outdoor art exhibit honors Earth Day at Linden Avenue Middle School

RED HOOK – The earth delivered a beautiful afternoon for an outdoor art exhibit of print work, zentangle art and blackout poetry at the Linden Avenue Middle School (LAMS) honoring Earth Day on Friday, April 24. Crowds of students, friends and families gathered to admire the artwork and enjoy music from the LAMS music students.

For several weeks, LAMS students have worked with artists from ENTA – the Education Network for Teachers & Artists, Inc. – to create the outdoor installation. Featured were more than 40 nine-foot long cotton banners adorned with the

block prints hung in a circle of pine trees, creating a quiet sanctuary, where the breeze animated the banners as people walk among them. In another pine grove, 150 works of blackout poetry and colorful zentangle drawings of endangered animals created a maze of art to walk through.

ENTA teaching artists Christine Livesey and Ali Roland, with assistance from Joanna Hess and Pat Sexton, led the printmaking art with LAMS Art Teacher, Ana O’Keefe, and her art classes to create original block prints reflecting nature.

ENTA artists, Alyssa Greenway and Angela Basile, collaborated with LAMS teacher, Kelly Walker, to guide her ELA classes in writing blackout poetry, a form of poetry that artistically edits existing printed material to create a new message.

This Earth Day arts-in-education program, now in its second year, was generously supported by the Red Hook Education Foundation, The Thomas Thompson Trust, the Ascienzo Family Foundation, as well as the Red Hook CSD Arts-in-Education BOCES program.

For more information, visit www.enta4arts.org.



Clockwise, from top: Earth Day art exhibits on display outdoors at Linden Avenue Middle School in Red Hook included Zentangle Art of Endangered Species, Rows of Blackout Poetry in an Art Maze, and Circle of Pines with Block Print Banners. *Courtesy photos*

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Nobletown Fiber Works
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Springhill Farm
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Point of View Farm
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Please leave your pets at home and wear farm friendly shoes!

Germania of Poughkeepsie to present authentic Maifest



Above: Dancers in authentic German clothing will greet visitors at the Germania Maifest on May 15-17. Below: A German baker brings a large pan of Apple Strudel out of the oven. *Courtesy photos*

A fun, festive and authentic Maifest! will be held at Germania Festival Grounds, 51 Old DeGarmo Road, Poughkeepsie, on Friday May 15, 5-10 p.m.; Saturday May 16, 1-10 p.m.; and Sunday May 17, noon-5 p.m. The event features live German bands, German food, German desserts, traditional German beers, children's entertainment, Bavarian folk dancers, and singers.

Adult entry ticket is \$5 daily, \$4 Veterans and Active Military with valid ID, children under 16 with parents, no charge. This event will be held rain or shine under tents. Parking is free.

Germania of Poughkeepsie, founded 1850, is a benevolent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit and 509(a)(2) charitable organization committed to the education of German heritage and culture. Germania hosts various authentic cultural events throughout the year including an annual Maifest, Oktoberfest, Christkindmarkt, Heritage Bake Sale, Biergartens, authentic German Friday Night dinners, Tavern Trail historical events, Wednesday Stammtisch, along with other events.

Over the past 176 years, Germania has hosted educational programs in music, sport, dance, and citizenship. Germania sponsors numerous "Sister Clubs" who also promote many educational and authentic cultural events. These include

the Germania Singers, Germania Almausch Schuhplattler Verein, Steuben Society of America Dr. Charles Gilbert Spross Unit #167, and the Germania Blue & White Soccer Club. Germania also sponsors German Language Classes, Ballroom Dancing Classes, Senior Line Dancing Classes, and a Volkssport Club.

Throughout the year, Germania holds clothing, food, toy drives, as well as grants annual scholarships to BOCES CTI Culinary program graduates. Since the pandemic, Germania has donated more than 700 German Friday and Saturday Take Out Dinners to area first responders.

Germania supports the community by procuring goods and services through locally owned Hudson Valley businesses. The organization remains a 100-percent volunteer, private organization, and is actively looking to increase membership, along with Sponsorship and Event Vendors. Membership is open to individuals of all faiths and backgrounds.

Visit <https://germaniapok.com/> for additional details, and follow Germania of Poughkeepsie on Facebook. Contact Germania directly for further information: email president@germaniapok.com, call 845-471-0609 or visit Germania – Willkommen.





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True inspiration

Thanks Mom - You are the wind beneath my wings!

To my detriment, I am very hard on myself to the point of self-sabotage. Looking around, it's hard not to be. Not only am I dealing with personal things in my present and past but also what's being put out into the world. Social media has everyone posting beautiful photos of their beautiful lives, whether they're influencers or just people who want us to envy them or appear better than they are. Add to that filters and AI, and us ordinary folks don't stand a chance.

But although it gets harder every day to tell reality from fakery, it isn't a new thing. In my younger days it was magazines that inspired me by showing me the best lives of others, creating a longing in me that persists to this day. I still love lingering over pages depicting beautifully decorated rooms, porches, gardens and tables laden with exquisitely styled dishes. Martha Stewart was someone I aspired to be like, with her beautiful home and grounds, perfect food and seemingly endless energy to do it all. I know now, and did then, that very few people actually live that way every day, but it didn't make it any less appealing. And sure, I wanted that life. Still do.

But what do I have? NOT a perfect

house or endless energy or self-esteem for days. It isn't that it's a terrible life - I have lots of love and support - it's just not what I'd hoped it would be and I must be the reason. I have to believe that, because that means I can change it. Otherwise, I'll stay stuck and unhappy, and don't we all deserve to be happy?

So, here's what I do when I get really down on myself. I look to those I love and admire. No, not Martha Stewart. I look to my mother. She is a constant source of hope and love and strength. She has made a Home that, growing up, all our friends wanted to come to. She's done that not by making it impossibly perfect, but genuine, neat, comfortable and lovely. It's decorated mostly with treasured pieces that evoke warmth and welcome, while honoring the relatives they came from. There's love and meaning in every piece; and the whole is the story of not just one life, but many.

It's a house my father grew up in and made changes to over the years with my mother at his side, which kind of sums her up. She's always at your side, always has your back, always at the ready to step in with sleeves rolled up. She taught me the art of anticipating the needs of others

and how to love through actions as much as words. I've learned through watching her that little things aren't little at all. She has shown me that putting others before yourself is its own reward, which is a good thing since it's often thankless. I wish there was a way to convey to her how much we appreciate all she's done for us, but I suppose this article, which will likely make her uncomfortable, will have to do.

Now that we're older, I have even greater respect for her. I've watched her physical pain increase over the years along with her frustration at having it limit her. It would be easy not to know she's in constant pain because she soldiers through it with determination, incredible strength and often a sense of humor. Everything she does impacts those around her and makes a real difference.

To all you influencers out there, her optimism and desire to live life to the fullest in spite of the pain is the REAL stuff of inspiration. It isn't a false representation of a wannabe life. It IS a life, and a far better one than most of you will probably ever know, filled with genuine beauty, purpose and love. I would hate for you to stay in your bubble trying to make

others envy you with your 'Look at me Look at me' posts. I know you aren't living your best life and I feel sorry for you. I know where to turn for true inspiration and how fortunate I am because of it.

So when I feel I'll never be good enough, live up to expectations or make a difference, I stay well away from social media. I'm pretty sure I've never disappointed anyone more than myself, and there are plenty of days I wonder if I matter or should bother getting out of bed. Then I picture my beautiful mother and I know that, because of her, I DO matter, and it inspires me to share the gifts she gave me with a world that sorely needs them.

Thank you, mama. You are, as ever, the wind beneath my wings.

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



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News Group**





Follow the yellow brick road

SRO P.L.U.S., In Flight, Inc. to present 'The Wizard of Oz' May 8-9

On Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 9, at 2 p.m., In Flight, Inc. and Standing Room Only's SRO P.L.U.S. (Performing. Learning. United for Success) program will present "The Wizard of Oz - Youth Edition" at the Cunneen-Hackett Theater on Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie.

Follow the yellow brick road in this magical journey based on L. Frank Baum's classic story and the beloved MGM film. The Wizard of Oz Jr. tells the tale of Dorothy, a Kansas farm girl who dreams of a place "somewhere over the rainbow." When a twister sweeps her away to the Land of Oz, she sets off on an adventure to find the great Wizard who can help her return home. Along the way, Dorothy meets a Scarecrow in need of a brain, a Tin Man searching for a heart,

and a Cowardly Lion longing for courage. Together, they face challenges, outwit the Wicked Witch of the West, and discover the true meaning of friendship, bravery, and home.

SRO P.L.U.S. is an inclusive theater program created by In Flight, Inc. and Standing Room Only Theater Company, designed to provide meaningful, accessible performing arts experiences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while remaining open to all teens and young adults who wish to participate. The program emphasizes creativity, collaboration, confidence-building, and community through the arts.

This production of "The Wizard of Oz - Youth Edition" marks the third full-scale production since the program's launch in 2022, continuing its growth as a space where performers of all abilities can learn, create, and shine on stage together.

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Listening to the past: The value of oral history

By Olivia Bragitikos

There's something about listening to someone's voice that makes the story they're telling that much more compelling. When you're listening, you can pick up on the narrator's vocal inflections, pauses, and emotions. Each inflection, each pause, each emotion, carries its own story - one the listener might not have grasped had they just been reading it as a document text. This is the value of oral history.

To a historian, oral histories are a qualitative research method. It uses audio-recorded interviews to document and study personal stories, memories, cultural narratives, and lived experiences. For many decades, the Dutchess County Historical Society has been a repository for oral histories. Oral history is especially relevant for local communities to preserve the stories, legacies, and experiences of the people residing there. It provides another perspective on studying history and deeply and collaboratively engaging with communities. This article will touch on how oral history began, its importance, and its connection to

Poughkeepsie through examining an important interview of a Poughkeepsie resident from 1996, which is part of the Dutchess County Historical Society's Oral History Collection.

Libraries first used oral history sources in the early 1950s to "fill in" historical records that felt incomplete. This practice developed from the Columbia University Oral History Research Office, which was founded in 1948. It was one of the first and most notable programs during this time. Oral history was first dedicated to documenting influential historical figures, or the "movers and shakers" in society. It was, of course, met with skepticism from historians and archival researchers who were critical of oral history's reliance on faulty memory, a suspicion that has not totally faded even in the present day. It was therefore considered an auxiliary tool to support existing archival collections. However, it has been, and continues to be, conducted locally by institutions like Vassar College and the Dutchess County Historical Society as part of community-focused history initiatives.



The Society of American Archivists' inaugural dinner, June 18, 1937. *Courtesy of the Records of the National Archives*

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, oral history became more widespread as part of the social history movement that emphasized recovering history from the "bottom up." The Oral History Association was founded in 1966, and in 1969, the Society of American Archivists established an oral history committee to further promote oral history as an independent research method. The National Endowment for the Humanities also provided funding to inspire historians to use oral history to uncover the "forgotten" or "unacknowledged" history of underrepresented people, like minorities, women, and anyone from "ordinary life." These stories, like the ones collected at Dutchess County Historical Society, provide lived experiences and personal insights from local communities that might not have been fully documented in official written documents.

In 1968, library science professor Martha Jane Zachert contributed to the development of oral history by constructing a framework of creativity to engage with oral history. She believed that researchers could pull from their own public relations skills, research expertise, and knowledge of collection gaps to make a fruitful, creative, and intellectual contribution. It's important to acknowledge, however, that this method leaves room for biases by the researcher, which is a large part of why it's met with rejection. In this way, archives and oral histories are not neutral. The language, content, and the researcher's own culture will all influence the outcome of their studies. It's therefore important for the reader/listener to understand the structures in place and the researcher's biases that might have influenced their work.

If trained properly, historians, archivists, researchers, and anthropologists involved in creating an oral history can produce more authentic, collaborative, and holistic research that involves understudied subjects. This is especially important when studying local history, like in Dutchess County and Poughkeepsie, which have undergone many changes since the 1900s and are still rapidly developing. Oral history offers us a way to capture the Poughkeepsian narratives from the people who have been experiencing the changes directly.

An oral history tape from Dutchess County Historical Society from April 1996 serves as an important example; for the purpose of this article, we have chosen to keep the interviewee anonymous. Her interview was conducted by David Levinson, who explored the interviewee's opinions on the changes in Poughkeepsie from the time she grew up

to today (1996). She described early Poughkeepsie as a hub of industry and life, from sailing, whaling, and manufacturing, and thought, "there's nothing that they couldn't do!" According to her, Poughkeepsie was a place that held "angels," or large contributors to the community. They consisted of the Smith brothers, or the "cough drop men," manufacturers, and businessmen. These were the leaders of the community who emphasized civic responsibility and leadership in Poughkeepsie. Oral history here allowed the interviewee to engage with her relationship with the "movers and shakers" of the city and share their impact on her family and neighborhood.

In her words, "Poughkeepsie wasn't a place about money; it was a place about the community." It was abundantly clear that she loved the town she grew up in and wanted to build as many bridges between people as possible - "I love going down the street and having black, or white, or pink, or even green people [arm and arm] with me." Through oral history, she was able to explain her attitude about Poughkeepsie and how she personally impacted the community; she was all about inclusion, social cohesion, and uplifting people. She shaped the local society through her contributions to the Bardavon, being on multiple board positions at the YMCA, and local fundraising. This oral history provided insight into the lived experiences of a local Poughkeepsie resident that might have been lost in written documents. In this way, oral history allows us to explore people's stories within spaces from a "ground up" perspective that might not have come across as clearly in other academic forms of literature.

I believe that oral history is essential to understanding a full picture of local history. The local population of Dutchess County, for example, the interviewee in this article, has contributed greatly to the community, and oral history provides a way to connect to those figures and learn firsthand their contributions. Oral history complements, rather than replaces, written histories. It encourages local participation and community involvement, and encourages people to tell stories of their lived experiences. Preserving voices ensures that history reflects authentic, lived experiences of the "ordinary person," not just official records.

Olivia Bragitikos is a senior at Vassar College majoring in anthropology and minoring in Chinese language. At the Dutchess County Historical Society, Olivia is working as an archival intern. She indexes, transcribes, and analyzes oral histories conducted by the Dutchess County Historical Society in the 1990s.



The Panasonic tape recorder and the cassette from an interview with a Poughkeepsie resident from 1996, which is part of the Dutchess County Historical Society's Oral History Collection. *Courtesy photo*

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Through May 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

Through May 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 7: Faster Things Band - Allman Brothers Tribute, Daryl's House Club, 130 Rte. 22, Pawling. Featuring soaring dual guitars, searing slide guitar, Hammond organ, swirling Leslie, and the signature drum and percussion grooves, the band captures the electrifying energy of an authentic live Allman Brothers Band concert experience. Tickets \$40.02 reserved table seating, \$28.69 GA/Standing Room Only. www.darylshouseclub.com

May 7-9: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. May 7: Get On The Good Foot With DJs Rhoda & Al, 7 p.m. Tickets \$20. May 8: Jester's Edge & Snow White, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 door. May 9: Aztec Two-Step 2.0 featuring The Simon & Garfunkel Songbook, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

May 8: Rachael Kilgour, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Minnesota-born, Boston-based singer-songwriter whose music blends thoughtful storytelling with inviting indie-folk melodies, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. www.thestissingcenter.org

May 8-9 & 12: Local Author Events, Oblong Rhinebeck, 6422 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. **Fri., May 8:** Lindsey Danis, "(OUT) ON THE ROAD: The Radical Joy of Queer Travel," 6 p.m. **Sat., May 9,** Mothers Day Storytime & Book signing with Jessica Love, "Little Passenger," 11 a.m. For expectant families and children ages 5 & up. **Tues., May 12:** James Romm, "Since You're Mortal: Life Lessons From The Greek Plays," 6 p.m. Free. Registration requested. (845) 876-0500 or www.oblongbooks.com

May 8 & 17: Staatsburg Village Walking Tour. This two-hour walk in the village of Staatsburg will explore the estate's close relationship with the nearby village and its connection to the Mills family. A guide will discuss historic buildings and highlight hidden locations in the village that demonstrate Staatsburg's vibrant past and the legacy of Ruth and Ogden Mills beyond the estate walls. Times: May 8, 10 a.m.; May 17, 2 p.m. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

May 9: Cappella Festiva 50th Anniversary Concert, Vassar College Chapel, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. This milestone performance brings together generations of singers and audiences in a program that celebrates the enduring spirit of choral music, 4 p.m. The concert will feature a newly commissioned work by acclaimed composer Shawn Kirchner, created especially for this anniversary season. The program also includes a vibrant selection of masterworks spanning centuries, including Johann Sebastian Bach's exuberant "Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden" (BWV 230), Jan Dismas Zelenka's dramatic Dixit Dominus (ZWV 68), Morten Lauridsen's luminous Sure on this Shining Night, and Daniel H. Graves' arrangement of the beloved Quaker hymn "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Tickets

Premium Reserved Seating \$40; GA \$27 adv/\$30 door; Senior \$22 adv/\$25 door; Student \$10. www.cappellafestiva.org

May 9: Plantella, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Shop your way through a curated lineup of growers, makers, and plant obsessed vendors. Entry at 1, 2:30 & 4 p.m. (check availability at website). Bring your questions, they've got answers. General Admission \$15 +tax. Kids 12 and under are free. www.MJNCenter.org

May 9: Season Preview, Ancram Center for the Arts, 1330 County Rte. 7, Ancram. Meet the actors, designers, costumers, playwrights, and other creators behind the 2026 season, 2 p.m. Free. (518) 329-0114 or www.ancramcenter.org

May 9: Tablao Flamenco, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. The Stissing Center transforms into an Andalusian-style nightclub, offering audiences the opportunity to experience flamenco as it was meant to be felt, up close and alive, 7:30 p.m. This is flamenco at its most authentic—raw, thrilling, and rooted in history. Tickets \$30-\$40 advance, \$40-\$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339.

May 9: Tree Seedling Giveaway, Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. 10 a.m.-noon, or while supplies last. No registration required. www.poklib.org

May 9-10: The Orchestra Now, "Strauss's Alpine Symphony: A Carnegie Hall Preview Concert," Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. All-Richard Strauss Program features the orchestra conducted by Leon Botstein and includes Blair McMillen, piano; members of the Bard Festival Chorale (James Bagwell, choral director); and members of the Bard College Conservatory Orchestra (for "An Alpine Symphony"). Performances: Sat., May 9, 7 p.m.; Sun., May 10, 3 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$35. fishercenter.bard.edu or (845) 758-7900

May 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 9 & 22: "What You See and What You Don't See," the grounds of Staatsburgh's State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. A guided walk through the estate's grounds that explores how the landscape was designed to reflect the luxurious lifestyle of Staatsburgh's owners, while deliberately hiding the turn-of-the-century technology and labor that made the estate run, 10 a.m. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

May 9, 16-17, 24 & 31: "Tales of the Titanic: Themed Mansion Tour," Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post

Rd., Staatsburg. Mark the 114th anniversary of the sinking by touring the home of Titanic ticket holders, Ogden and Ruth Mills. This 90-minute themed mansion tour, led by a costumed guide, focuses on the legacy of the Titanic, offering tales of bravery and tragedy in a setting remarkably similar to first class on the Titanic. May 9, 17, 24 & 31: 11 a.m. May 16: 2 p.m. Cost: \$12/Adults, \$10/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

May 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: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

May 10, 16 & 30: "The REAL Gilded Age: America's Elite in the Downton Abbey Era," Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. This tour highlights the real-life characters and themes at Staatsburgh that parallel Downton Abbey and HBO's The Gilded Age. Led by a costumed interpreter, the tour shows how the Mills family and their servants conducted a busy weekend of high society entertaining, comparing Staatsburgh to what viewers saw on TV. May 10 & 16: 11 a.m.; May 30: 2 p.m. Cost: \$12/Adults, \$10/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Monday, May 11: "Thomas LoMedico: An American Artist," Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie. Learn about a prominent Italian-American artist of the 20th century and view samples of his work, 7 p.m. Registration required. www.poklib.org

May 13: Author Event, Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. Conversation and book signing with Mark Frost, author of "The Yankee Sphinx: An FDR Novel," 6 p.m. In 1934, Will Hassett is working as a journalist when he gets a call from an old friend who now works at the White House. He arrives expecting to catch up on old times but is instead brought right into the Oval Office to meet with Franklin D. Roosevelt. President Roosevelt needs help with his speeches; Will takes the job on the spot. For the next twelve years, Will is at FDR's side through the worst of the Depression, three re-election campaigns, and World War II. "The Yankee Sphinx," a novel inspired by Hassett's real diaries, focuses on the last few years of FDR's life. The war is raging in Europe and FDR's good friend, Winston Churchill, begs for America's help. But Roosevelt knows he can't bring the country in until it's ready, an opportunity that won't arise until the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in 1941. The event will be held in-person and streamed live to the official FDR Library YouTube and Facebook accounts. Free, but registration is required to attend in-person via www.fdrlibrary.org.

CLINTON HISTORIC PRESENTATION SET MAY 8

The Clinton Historical Society's First Friday program is "Quakers & Antislavery in the Era of the American Revolution," presented by Sarah Gronningsater, University of Pennsylvania. The event is set Friday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m., in person at the Creek Meeting House and on Zoom.

Drawing on primary sources from throughout the Hudson Valley, as well as from the wider eastern seaboard and Atlantic World, historian Sarah Gronningsater discusses the history of Quakers in the American Revolution and the antislavery movement. She highlights some of the hidden stories behind major events and shares new findings on the history of enslaved people and their Quaker partners in the abolitionist movements of the 18th century.

Note: This talk will not be recorded, so please plan on attending in person at the Creek Meeting House or on Zoom on May 8. There are two ways to join the meeting:

- In person at the Creek Meeting House, 2433 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners. Stay for refreshments after the talk.
- Join the Zoom Meeting:
Meeting ID: 847 9983 8042
Passcode: 084730



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Suguru

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

THEME: THE 1970s

ACROSS

- Verbal abuse
- *Failed constitutional amendment, acr.
- Google _____, navigation aid
- Strip of roadway
- Dripping faucet sound
- Chef's headgear
- Tel _____, Israel
- Prima donnas' problems
- Occupied (2 words)
- *1974 scandal
- Flight-related announcements, acr.
- Attempt again
- Male aristocrat's honorific
- Town, in Spanish
- Recitation of wedding vows, again
- Santa _____ winds
- Apnea, in U.K.
- Operatic solo
- _____ or do nothing
- Finish line
- *1976 Woody Guthrie biopic: "Bound for _____"
- Field worker
- Avian rest stop
- What lintel and mantel have in common
- Ring-shaped
- *1979 Nobel Prize-winning nun
- *Alfa Romeo Giulietta, e.g.
- Italian bowling
- Type of tournament
- *#33 Down Oscar winner
- Lie in wait
- Place one's stake
- Skin woe
- *"Roots" by Alex _____
- House of Lords member
- Chalupa alternative
- Hoopla
- "Right" coast time
- *"The Barbara _____ Show"

DOWN

- Deli side
- *_____ lamp, 1960s invention popular in 1970s
- Newton, e.g.
- Echo
- "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
- _____ Tooty Fresh 'n Fruity
- Cathedral part
- *1976 Summer Olympics location
- Caribbean color
- Boot-wearing cat
- *Johnny Nash's "I Can _____ Clearly Now"
- Spinning toy (2 words)
- Make a logical connection (2 words)
- 4 x 4 race
- Dead one or Black one, e.g.
- Ottoman Empire bigwig
- Teamsters, e.g.
- Consumed
- *"Sanford and Son" star
- "That's all she _____"
- Buenos follower
- *Eric Clapton's 1970 hit
- Not ever, contraction
- *1975 movie "_____ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
- *Kung Fu movie star (2 words)
- Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El _____
- Away's partner
- Old master print maker
- Scrawny
- Feel sympathy
- Common hops
- Eight performers
- No problem
- Cheap reads
- Back of neck
- a.k.a. horse mackerel
- *Jacqueline Susann's best-seller "_____ Is Not Enough"
- Noble gas
- "Zip it!"

CROSSWORD

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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 20

Beekman Highway Dept. helps to save ducklings



Editor's note: On April 28, the Beekman Highway Department shared a heartwarming post on their Facebook page, and we want to share it with our readers.

"It's an eventful day in Beekman this morning. A wonderful concerned citizen from Chelsea Cove walked his daughter to the bus stop this morning. On the walk, they discovered 11 ducklings stuck in a catch basin. They contacted the authorities and the Dept of Environmental

Conservation along with the Beekman Highway Department we're able to lift the grate and scoop the ducklings out all while the mom was circling, concerned for her babies. The rescue was made and the ducklings were reunited with their mom and waddled along on their way. Thanks to all involved."

Photos courtesy of the Beekman Highway Department's Facebook page

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LEARN TECHNIQUES OF COLCHA EMBROIDERY ON MAY 13

A program on Colcha Embroidery will take place at the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Route 55, Lagrangeville on Wednesday, May 13. Skylkill, a local chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America, presents Annette Gutierrez Turk, the Colcha Embroidery instructor for the Sandia Mountains Chapter, EGA.

Annette will discuss the techniques of Colcha embroidery, which are similar to Chinese silk embroidery with the laid stitch techniques. This embroidery followed early Spanish settlers to the southwestern United States. The designs and motifs reflect traditional Spanish and Mexican embroidery styles.

The program begins at 12:30 p.m. Join other needleworkers for learning beginning at 10 a.m., or come for this program only beginning at 12:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/SkylkillEGA or email to EGASkylkill@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

Alexia Doyle

RED HOOK – Alexia Doyle, of Red Hook, NY, passed away peacefully on April 24, 2026, at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, NY. She was 78 years old.

Born on July 31, 1947, in Poughkeepsie, NY, Alexia was the beloved daughter of the late Allan and Genevieve (Caven) Traver.

Alexia dedicated many years of service as a secretary with the New York State Department of Transportation at their Poughkeepsie location, where she was known for her reliability, kindness, and quiet dedication to her work.

A devoted parishioner of St. John's Reformed Church, Alexia found comfort and community in her faith throughout her life.

After her retirement, Alexia found great joy in the simple pleasures of life. She was an enthusiastic member of a Mahjong club, where she cherished both the game and the friendships it brought. Alexia also had a deep love for knitting and sewing, spending countless hours creating beautiful pieces for family and friends. She was actively involved in several knitting groups, where her creativity and warm spirit made her a treasured companion.

Alexia is survived her children, Michael Donohue and his spouse Jamie, Christopher Donohue, and his partner Nora, and Karen Ellard and her spouse Charles; her grandchildren, Michael Donohue, Zachary Donohue, Daniel DeShetler, and his spouse, Jovana, Morgan DeShetler, Kelsey Ellard, and Rachel Ellard; her great-grandchildren, Theodore and Penelope, as well as many friends and extended loved ones who will miss her warm presence.

In addition to her parents, Alexia is predeceased by her spouse, John Doyle.

A funeral service was held at St. John's Reformed Church on Friday, May 1, 2026. Burial immediately followed at St. John's Reformed Church Cemetery.

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

Henry Francis Ferguson

MILLBROOK – Henry F. Ferguson (February 19, 1930 – April 29, 2026), 96, of Millbrook, NY, passed away peacefully Apr. 29, 2026, at Vassar Hosp. Born in the Bronx to Bertha & Henry J. Ferguson, he was a man of profound intellect & discipline. He studied at Fordham Prep, attended NYU, and earned two master's degrees from Columbia Univ. & RIT.

Henry spent 30+ yrs as a Prof. of Electrical Eng. at Westchester Community College. A standout chapter in his career occurred in the summer of 1968 in Houston, TX, where he took great pride in assisting NASA with preparations for the moon landing that took place the following year.

Affectionately known as "the Professor" or "Buddy," he was at times serious but gentle, esp. with his grandchildren. He loved nature—studying the stars, birdwatching, painting, & fishing. He never lost his sense of adventure,

whether he was leading his family on a cross-country camping trip in 1976 or enjoying many a sun-drenched summer at "Bromica" on North Spectacle Lake in Kent, CT.

In his final yrs, he enjoyed the Hudson Valley and companionship with friends at the Fountains at Millbrook. The family is grateful for the care he received at Taconic Rehab. in Hopewell Junction, NY.

Predeceased by his wife, Edna Ferguson. Survived by children Thomas Ferguson (Lisa) & Anne Johnson (Thomas); grandchildren Scott (Jaclyn), Amie, Ryan, Mara (Ryan), & Carly; great-granddaughter Summer; and siblings Barbara, Margaret & James.

Funeral Mass at OLPH, Ardsley, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Audubon Society are suggested.

Philip R. Martin Jr.

HYDE PARK – Philip Richard Martin Jr., age 82, of Hyde Park, NY, passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at home with his family by his side.

Born on December 27, 1943, in Peekskill, NY, he was the son of the late Philip Richard Martin, Sr. and Regina (VanDerwerker) Martin.

After graduating high school, Philip went on to proudly serve his country in the United States Army from 1965 to 1967, where he was stationed in Germany as an intelligence specialist with the Third Cavalry Regiment Armor.

Upon returning home, he met the love of his life, Elizabeth A. Behrens. They were married on June 8, 1968, in Mt. Kisco at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Mrs. Martin survives at home.

Philip went on to work for IBM in Poughkeepsie in 1967. At the time of his retirement in 1993, he had advanced to the position of Systems Analyst. In 1995 he went to work for Hyde Park Motors, and was there until 2007. His next job was his best job... taking care of his grandchildren and held the honorable title of Poppy!!!

My husband, our Dad, our Poppy, left behind a legacy of love. He cherished time spent with his family. He loved sharing and incorporated teachable moments into almost everything without you even knowing it. He was goofy and silly and could make you laugh with a classic one liner. He was always there and knew exactly what to do. You could find him by looking for a trail of Cheerios, or his all time favorite chocolate chip cookies. He loved being outside, especially washing cars. This was his happy place. He was the center of our whole world. He loved his family dearly. Until we meet again, he is now at peace and in the arms of Jesus.

In addition to his wife, Philip is survived by his children, Jennifer Ruedebusch and Patricia Ackley and her husband, Norman; his beloved grandchildren, Joshua Ackley, Colby Ackley, Katelyn Ackley, Faith Ruedebusch, and Ryan Ruedebusch. All of whom he was

most proud of.

Calling hours were held on Monday, May 4th, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, NY. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, May 5th, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wurtemberg, Rhinebeck, NY. Burial followed at St. Paul's Wurtemberg Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home. To send an online condolence, or for directions, please visit www.sweetsfuneralhome.com

Robert Elmer Paradis



Robert Elmer Paradis (1943-2026) passed away at the age of 82 years and 9 months at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Poughkeepsie, NY on April 28, 2026.

Born in Hoyt, New Brunswick, Canada in 1943, Robert was the son of the late Edward Paradis and Mildred Ryan.

He is survived by his forever love, wife of

28 years, Joy, step daughter Jessica and her husband Tom of New York. Brother Fr. Paul Paradis, Falls, NB. Sisters Carol McIver (Bill), Susan Daneluk (George) all of Canada. As well as nieces and nephews in Canada and the US. His dear friend Bill Harding and several lifelong friends. He was Predeceased by his parents, brother Edward, Jr. (Lucy), sisters Theresa Tillotson (Paul), Donna Slevin and Janet Radakowski (Alan).

Soon after Bob's graduation from high school his dad arranged for a farmer in Maine to sponsor his immigration to the US and Bob proudly became a US citizen. He worked for IBM where he had a successful career in engineering.

Bob was a member of Dutchess Golf and Country Club. He achieved 5 holes in one during his golf career and was known as "The Machine."

He generously gave his time to family, friends and neighbors, helping with large and small projects in and outside the house. He was very talented with his hands and loved seeing projects come to life.

Bob cared deeply for those he loved and lived simply and honestly, expressing himself through his actions.

May God Bless you and Keep you Bob, until we meet again.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE: Due to a holiday press schedule for Memorial Day, the May 27 issue of Northern Dutchess News will have early deadlines for all departments. Editorial and calendar submissions must be received by Thursday, May 21, at noon. Advertising must be received by Thursday, May 21, at 5 p.m. Contact cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com for more information.

**NORTHERN
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ALL LOCAL ~ ALL THE TIME
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Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 10)

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS!

Odd/Even
Connect Dots:
odd numbers only
▲ 1 - 71
even numbers only
■ 2 - 118
letters only
● A - M

By David Kalvitis © 2007 Monkeying Around

Suguru solution

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

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

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 18)

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL
Pursuant to Section 506 & Section 526 of the Real Property Tax Law: NOTICE is hereby given that the Assessor of the Town of Pleasant Valley, County of Dutchess, has completed his tentative assessment roll for the current year, a copy of which is filed with the Town Clerk. The Assessor or designee will be in attendance with such tentative roll at 1903 Route 44 Pleasant Valley, N.Y. on the following days:
May 18, 2026 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.
May 20, 2026 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.
May 21, 2026 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.
May 23, 2026 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.
Written complaints with respect to the assessments may be filed with the Assessor any time prior to or on Grievance Day and shall be transmitted by the Assessor to the Board of Assessment Review on or before Grievance Day.

A publication containing procedures for contesting an assessment is available at the Assessor's office or online at: www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpts/grievancebooklet.pdf

Pleasant Valley Assessor

GRIEVANCE DAY

Notice is hereby given that the BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW for the Town of Pleasant Valley, County of Dutchess, shall hear and determine complaints in relation to assessments at 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. Telephone # 845-635-1111 Ext. 208.

The BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW will be in attendance on the following day:

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.

The BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW will then file a copy of the determination with Town Clerk to become a matter of public record.

Board Chairman

Request for Proposals From Qualified Individuals or Firms To Perform Construction Management Services For the East Clinton Fire District, Town of Clinton, New York

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that Proposals will be received by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Clinton Fire District, Town of Clinton, New York.

The East Clinton Fire District invites construction management firms or individual construction managers to submit proposals to perform construction management services for an upcoming capital project.

PURPOSE

In accordance with General Municipal Law and Local Finance Law of the State of New York and the Purchase Policy of the East Clinton Fire District is seeking proposals from qualified vendors with significant experience interested in providing Construction Management ("CM") Services as described in this document. The Contract terms shall be for a period of (2) years or upon final completion of the East Clinton Fire House to be constructed adja-

cent to the existing East Clinton Fire House, with an entrance and access on the Salt Point Turnpike based upon certain plans and drawings by District Architect firm Liscum, McCormack, VanVoorhis as well as completion of all Construction Manager duties, responsibilities, obligations on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreeable to the parties, and more particularly described herein. Additional documents that describe the scope of the work that the Fire District and its consultants anticipate will be involved in the process may be obtained by contacting Carol Mackin, Secretary of the East Clinton Fire District.

The tentative scope of work for this project will include construction management services for the excavation & grading, site work and construction of a Fire House Building and parking lot. Ultimately, the CM will be part of the Architectural/Engineering team acting as a representative of the District who can oversee the construction and installation of all build components, and manage the different trades during construction, leading to a

project that is delivered on time and on budget.

The scope of work for this project shall not exceed \$6.0 MILLION DOLLARS.

The minimum qualifications that will be considered by the District as a basis for selection of a construction manager are as follows:

1. Responding firms must have a minimum of five years of experience providing professional construction management services as described in the RFP.

2. Firm's experience as a construction manager should include the last five projects in New York. Only firms that meet or exceed the above minimum selection criteria set forth by the District will be seriously considered. The selected CM firm shall not bid or perform any of the trade construction work.

CM SERVICES OUTLINE

For contract purposes, the District anticipates using the AIA Document C132 - 2009 contract for construction management services. This document is to be used as a guide for defining services to be provided by the Construction Manager. The following is an outline of those serv-

ices, it is not meant to be all-inclusive.

Preconstruction Phase

Bid Packaging and Procurement Strategy

Document review
Estimate preparation
Master scheduling
Value engineering
Cash flow analysis
Construction logistics planning
Phased construction planning
Procurement

Construction Phase

Provide full-time field coordination with on-site presence

Manage all construction contractors in the field

Cost estimating
Construction scheduling

Manage shop drawing and submittal process

Conduct all progress meetings

Prepare monthly status reports to the District

Review the safety programs of the trade contractors and ensure established safety practices and OSHA standards are followed

Track and review permits and approvals

Coordinate all close out documentation
Change order review and consultation with District

Independent evaluation and tracking of contractor performance

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

The respondent's proposal shall include the following:

a. Title page showing the proposal is for construction management services; the firm's name, name, address, and telephone number of a contact person, and the date of the proposal.

b. Table of Contents

c. Information described in the Proposal Format Section as outlined below.

d. Proposals are due by end of business on May 20, 2026.

e. Please send 6 copies of your proposal to:
East Clinton Fire District, Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 181
Clinton Corners, New York 12514

Legal Notices

-OR-

Send an electronic copy to:

Via E-Mail to Cmackin@eastclintonfd.com

If submitting via e-mail, please confirm receipt.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

1. Company Profile
This section should state the size of the firm, the type of firm, firm background, the location of the office from which the work on this project is to be performed.

2. Experience

The proposal should include details of experience with projects of similar size and complexity to the project described in this RFP. Please list **only those projects where your firm was the construction manager of record**, in which your firm's role was that of a pure Construction Manager and not a prime contractor, general contractor, architect/engineer, sub-consultant, or sub-contractor.

a. List your firm's experience with new/addition projects. Include Owner's name; contact's name, title and phone number; a brief description; contract amount; and completion date. Please limit experience to last five years.

b. List your firm's experience with renovation projects. Include Owner's name; contact's name, title and phone number; a brief description; contract amount; and completion date. Please limit experience to last five years.

c. List your firm's current CM projects including client names, contract amounts and completion dates.

3. References

A list of references whom may be contacted should be included in the proposal. This list should include past and present clients where your firm was the Construction Manager of record.

4. Specific Project Approach

Please provide details regarding your pre-construction and construction phase services and the approach

Legal Notices

your firm would use to achieve the owner's objectives.

5. Proposed Staff

Indicate the proposed team organization and identify key personnel including the project manager and field superintendent. Please include resumes for all key staff, outlining their roles on similar projects.

6. Fee Structure

Submit a proposed fee structure based on a percentage of construction cost. For comparative purposes, assume the construction cost to be \$6.0 MILLION DOLLARS.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The project outlined in this proposal shall be awarded by the East Clinton Fire District

2. The District is not liable for costs incurred in the preparation of this proposal and any other subsequent proposals or presentations.

3. The contents of the successful firm's proposal may become part of the contractual obligations if deemed appropriate by the District.

4. The District reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal when it is considered to be in the best interest of the District.

5. The successful Construction Manager shall not discriminate against any individual in accordance with applicable federal, state or local laws.

6. The contracts entered into as a result of this Request for Proposal, shall be between the selected firm and District.

For any questions regarding the project or the proposal submission, please contact Carol Mackin, District Secretary at Cmackin@eastclintonfd.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD
Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, NY**

Please take note that the Planning Board of the Town of Pleasant

Legal Notices

Valley, NY will hold a public hearing on the following proposition:

Jeremy Joyce - Subdivision

Parksville Road/Drake Road
Grid #: 6463-01-483516

The applicant proposes a 6-lot single-family residential subdivision on a 53 acre property. Two common driveways are proposed to provide Town road access: one to Parksville Road for lots 1 - 3 and the other to Drake Road for lots 4 - 6.

SAID Meeting will take place on May 13, 2026 at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. and begins at 6:30 p.m.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-54-26

Coached Visitation Services

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., June 1, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-34-26

Transportation of Voting Systems

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 19th day of May 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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.

Two culverts to be replaced in Dover

From County reports

POUGHKEEPSIE - The Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) has announced work will begin on or about May 11 to replace two culverts, one on Chestnut Ridge Road (CR-23) and one on Halls Corners Road (CR-24) in the Town of Dover. The roadways will be

closed one at time, starting with Chestnut Ridge Road, in the vicinity of construction as each culvert is replaced. The intersection will remain open and access to nearby driveways will be maintained. A detour will be posted directing travelers to New York State Route 343.

Project work will include the removal and replacement of both culverts, widen-

ing the road to include the addition of 4-foot shoulders, and installing new guiderail to increase safety for pedestrians and motorists. Construction is anticipated to be complete with the roads re-opened to traffic, by the end of 2026.

Motorists are advised to plan for additional time and to exercise extra caution near the construction site and on the

detour, obey the posted speed limits, and traffic advisory signs and the directions from flaggers near the work zone to ensure the safety of workers and other motorists.

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

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Place your ad today! Call 297-3723

Deadline Thurs at 3 p.m • Publication Wednesday

Fax your ad today! 297-6810

Classified Rates

Classified Line Ads
20 words \$12.50, each additional word 20¢

Classified Display Ads
\$14.50 per column inch

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

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

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

201 Home Improvement
202 Cleaning Services
203 Lawn Services
221 Professional Services
222 Tax Experts
223 Beauty Services
225 Business Services
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501 Kid Stuff
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505 Free Items
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711 Tag Sale
712 Moving sale
713 Rummage Sale
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716 Barn Sale
717 Estate Sale
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719 Antiques

720 Vendors Wanted
721 Wanted to Buy
722 Bazaar
723 Consignments
724 Farmers Market
725 Collectibles
750 Events
800 Boats
801 Campers & Trailers
802 Motor Homes
803 Recreational Vehicles
900 Autos for Sale
901 Vans/SUV's
902 Trucks
903 Motorcycles
904 Auto Parts & Tires
905 Autos Wanted

Contact Us

Call: 845-297-3723
Fax: 845-297-6810
E-Mail: sdnadvertising@aol.com
Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm

100 Help Wanted

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Looking for someone to sell my Antiques and Collectables on Ebay or online.
Call: 845-321-4911

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PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-833-549-0598 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

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219 Attorney Legal

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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.

Announcement

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES: HOLIDAY PRESS SCHEDULE ISSUE.

Southern/Northern Dutchess News and Beacon Free Press will have an early deadline for the May 27th ISSUE. Advertising must be received by: May 20th

CALL: 845-297-3723 for more information.

516 Misc. Merchandise

Pre Moving Sale
2, 32' Ext Ladders,
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521 Internet

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NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that Acura of Wappingers Falls, located at 1271 RT 9, Wappingers Falls, New York 12590, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, pursuant to New York Lien Law, the following vehicle to satisfy a garageman's lien:
Vehicle: 2016 Acura TLX
Vin: 19UUB3F50GA000960
Lien amount: \$4497.46
Stock Number: GP001
The auction will be conducted on the Acura of Wappingers Falls website on 5/15/26

521 Internet

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NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES:

Due to a Memorial Day Press Schedule Southern & Northern Dutchess News and the Beacon Free Press have the following early deadlines for Classified Display Ads:
May 27th Issue Deadline is as follows:
May 20th deadline before noon.
Email: roxannesdn@aol.com or Call: 845-297-3723 Ext. 1003 for more information.

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MAY IS LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

One of the few things Dutchess County would rather not be known for is our population of ticks. They can carry bacteria, viruses, and parasites, depending on species and life stage; and some ticks can carry more than one of the above. Ticks aren't born carrying germs, but become infected when they feed on the blood of infected animals. In Dutchess County, this most commonly happens when larval and nymphal ticks feed on small rodents like mice and chipmunks.

Ticks in their nymphal stage are the most likely to transmit disease to humans, and are among the hardest to detect since they're about the size of a poppy seed. Adult ticks can also carry disease; but at least they're larger, and thus easier to find and remove before they latch on.

In March 2026, the Millbrook-based Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies released its latest analysis of the evolving tick threat, based on nine years of tick collection (2014-22) from forested areas on the Cary campus. The analysis found that just under 40 percent of ticks were capable of spreading at least one pathogen to humans, most notably the bacterium that causes Lyme disease.

The analysis also found that 1 in 10 ticks were carrying more than one pathogen, and therefore recommends that healthcare providers who encounter a patient with signs of a tick bite test for multiple pathogens, and treat according to their findings.

Does this mean I'm stuck inside all summer?

You can enjoy exploring the outdoors with less worry of tick bites if you practice steps to keep ticks off you, starting with evaluating your risk.

People who spend time outside in grassy, brushy areas are more likely to be bitten by a tick. It's less common to be bitten by a tick in a regularly mowed backyard, but not impossible.

Examples of outdoor activities that can bring you in close contact with ticks include hiking, camping, gardening, playing in leaves, outdoor photography, and hunting. Reduce your risk with these precautions:

- When possible, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants to cover your skin and provide a barrier against ticks.
- Wear light-colored clothes to help you spot any ticks that might be crawling on you.
- Consider wearing clothes that are pre-treated with permethrin, a product that will kill or repel ticks as well as mosquitoes. You can buy permethrin spray to treat clothing yourself, but follow the precautions as described on the product's label: It's only for fabric, and not skin. In other words, don't spray clothes while you're wearing them. Hang your clothes outdoors and do your spraying there. Spray enough so that the clothing appears slightly damp, and allow it to dry completely. On a sunny day, this should take about four hours. You can spray hiking boots as well, but there's no need to spray

underwear.

• Cat lovers, take note: Permethrin spray is also highly toxic to cats while freshly applied. It's another reason to treat clothing while outside, and to change clothing when going back inside in case the cat wants to jump on your lap.

• Use insect repellent. Most of the chemicals that repel mosquitoes, like DEET, are also somewhat effective against ticks.

• Check yourself and others for ticks regularly while you are walking, hiking, or spending time outside, especially after brushing against tall grass and sitting on rocks or logs. Ticks can be hiding in hard-to-see areas like your back, behind your knees, under your arms, and in your hair. Ask for help checking the areas you can't easily see or reach. Help others check for ticks, too.

• Do another tick check when you return home. It's important to check pets and gear for ticks, as well, since ticks can ride into your living space on pets, backpacks, and coats, and then attach to a person later. Take a shower as soon as possible after you return indoors.

• Put the clothing you wore in the dryer first. Ten minutes on the hot cycle should kill off ticks; then wash the clothes and dry them as usual.

• A good pair of fine-tipped tweezers will come in handy, should a tick latch on. Grab the tick as close to your skin as possible. Slowly and steadily pull the tick up and straight out, away from your skin, without twisting or jerking the tick out. Wash your hands, then apply antiseptic or antibiotic ointment to the bite site.

Tick removal methods that DON'T work
Don't bother with nail polish, burning the tick, petroleum jelly (vaseline), soap, or whatever folk remedy your neighbor saw on social media.

Ugh -There's a rash

Keep an eye out for redness or irritation, and not just at the bite site. A tick can latch on, feed, and drop off without our noticing, especially the immature ticks we mentioned earlier.

Not every rash means a tick-borne disease, though. Check in with your healthcare provider as soon as possible, so that any testing and treatment plan can get under way.

VOLUNTEER EXERCISE INSTRUCTORS WANTED

OFA's Senior Exercise Program (www.dutchessny.gov/seniorexercise) is looking for volunteer instructors. No experience is necessary. OFA provides all training. If you'd like to combine volunteering with meeting your own goals of staying physically active, reach out to us at ofa@dutchessny.gov, or (845) 486-2555 during business hours.

STILL TIME LEFT TO SIGN UP FOR CONFERENCE ON CAREGIVING (Thu 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.

OFA PICNIC REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The 2026 OFA Summer Picnic schedule is available, including Google Maps links to each picnic venue, at www.dutchessny.gov/ofapicnics.

Seating is limited for picnics, which tend to reach capacity quickly, so reservations are required.

To reserve your spot for the picnic serving your community, call (845) 86-2555 during business hours (weekdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). We cannot accept reservation requests made by voice mail or email. The picnics are unable to accept walk-ins.

Over the next couple of months, OFA will have mailed over 50,000 picnic reminder cards to older-adult households throughout the county. The reminder cards are not formal invitations, just reminders to make a reservation. You can make a picnic reservation without having received a card.

On picnic day: We strongly encourage carpooling by picnic guests.

Many thanks to the Pines at Poughkeepsie and Westchester Medical Center Health Network for their support of the picnic program, now in its 34th year.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISPOSAL EVENTS

Dutchess County's Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling events will take place from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Saturday, June 6: Dutchess County Department of Public Works 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie Online registration opens Wednesday, May 6

Saturday, Sept. 19: Dutchess County Fairgrounds 6636 Route 9, Rhinebeck Online registration opens Wednesday, August 19

Saturday, Oct. 17: Dutchess County Department of Public Works 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie Online registration opens Thursday, Sept. 17

These popular events are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and residents should anticipate wait times upon arrival. Participation is limited to the first 400 households per event, and pre-registration is required. A \$10 registration fee applies, and these events typically fill quickly, so residents are encouraged to register online as soon as possible.

Beginning Wednesday, May 6, residents can register online for the June 6 event using a credit card or register and pay by check by calling (845) 4862841. Checks should be made payable to "Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance" and mailed to the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management, 96 Sand Dock Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

These events provide residents with a safe and responsible way to dispose of household chemicals, electronics and other materials that require special handling, helping to prevent harmful substances from entering the environment. The program is part of the County's ongoing efforts to reduce waste, protect natural resources and promote sustainable practices across Dutchess County.

Additional details about the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal & Electronics Recycling Events is available online.

And two special Bad Jokes for Mother's Day!

How do you know when something is officially lost?

When mom can't find it.

Mom's recipe for iced coffee: Have kids. Make coffee. Forget you made coffee. Put it in the microwave. Forget you put it in the microwave. Drink it cold.

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