

County Legislature requests investigation on Camp Nooteming

County reports

Dutchess County Legislature Chair Yvette Valdés Smith is calling for a deeper investigation into the County's purchase of Camp Nooteming and its relationship with the for-profit Pathfinder Academy. Following the release of a special report from the Dutchess County Comptroller's Office, Chair Valdés Smith and county legislators have questions regarding the camp, which was purchased in 2022 for \$4.2 million under former County Executive Marcus Molinaro.

"In 2022, when the County moved to purchase Camp Nooteming, then-County Executive Marcus Molinaro assured the legislature that the property was being acquired to increase free outdoor opportunities for Dutchess County youth," said Valdés Smith. "From the very beginning, the County Executive's office misrepresented the nature of the purchase and minimized and outright hid the extent to which taxpayer dollars were being used to prop up a financially unstable for-profit entity. I want to thank Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair for his office's thorough audit."

The report found that, since 2022, the County has subsequently spent upwards of \$600,000 for upgrades to the property, with an additional \$1.2 million appropriated to pay Pathfinder for professional services and rental fees related to the operation of the Camp.

Speaking on behalf of the Republican caucus of the County Legislature, Minority Leader Mike Polasek (R-LaGrange) said, "Camp Nooteming was purchased to protect an important community asset and preserve it for public and youth use instead of allowing it to be lost to private development. When it became clear that the operator was not fulfilling its contractual

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'Spring Fling' at the Fairgrounds – super shopping, plus food & wine

Over 200 vendors to greet visitors Friday - Sunday

By Curtis Schmidt

If you're a bargain hunter and a foodie/wine lover, this one's for you.

A shopping extravaganza – plus plenty of food, wine and much more – is coming to the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck on May 15-17 in the form of the "Spring Fling Bazaar."

Organized by Tori's Company of Delaware, the Bazaar marries multiple concepts with more than 200 vendors from across the country – all selling items on the spot from everything for the home and outdoor living, to jewelry to handmade products to specialty foods and New York Wines and distilled spirits.

Veteran showmen Charley Dooley and Al Larkins call the Bazaar "a hybrid show," due to the remarkable variety of vendors. Dooley has been producing shows all over Vermont and the Northeast since the 1970s and is

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Variety is the name of the game with over 200 vendors coming to the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck this coming weekend for the "Spring Fling Bazaar." Courtesy photos

FDR Winners Circle students to host Car Show & Flea Market



The retro "Brittany Blue" Factory Five race car built by this year's FDR students in the Winners Circle program will be the star of the "Live Life in the Fast Lane." Car show and flea market set Saturday, May 16, at the school in Staatsburg. Courtesy photo

Roosevelt Racing at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School is hosting a car show and flea market on Saturday May 16 (rain date May 17) called "Live Life in the Fast Lane." The event will be held FDR High School, 156 South Cross Road, Staatsburg from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is designed to bring the community together, while also supporting student-led programs. Attendees will be able to explore a variety of vehicles, including the retro "Brittany Blue" Factory Five race car built by this year's FDR students in the Winners Circle program, shop from different flea

market vendors, and enjoy food, live music, and activities throughout the day.

Roosevelt Racing students and teachers will be on hand to talk about their "life in the fast lane" journey this year and answer any questions. The race team will also be representing their support for Autism Awareness through the selection of this year's car color, an information station featured at the event, and a donation made in benefit of The National Autism Association (NAA).

"Events like this help students gain experience in planning and organizing, while also creating a

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DC Dept. of Health to offer Community Drowning Prevention Seminars

With the summer swimming season quickly approaching, the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) is hosting a series of Drowning Prevention Seminars to raise awareness about how quickly identify a swimmer in distress. These seminars are open to lifeguards, people who have supervision responsibilities for swimming activities, as well as residents interested in protecting loved ones.

Dutchess County Health Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado said, "Every year, drowning happens faster and more quietly than most people expect. These seminars give our community the knowledge to recognize trouble early and respond with confidence. Whether you're a lifeguard, a parent, or simply someone who spends time near the water, understanding what drowning really looks like can save a life."

Drowning is often silent, with little splashing or calls for help. A swimmer in distress is usually unable to shout or wave because they are struggling to breathe, and their movements follow predictable – but easily overlooked – patterns. The DCDOH Drowning Prevention Seminars teach participants how to recognize these subtle signs and respond quickly to assist a swimmer in danger.

Each session covers best practices for supervising swimmers, how to identify distress behaviors, and includes an instructional video on drowning-victim recognition. Attendees will also review

lifeguard duties and responsibilities under DCDOH regulations. Participants who complete the program will receive a certificate of attendance.

2026 Drowning Prevention Seminar dates are as follows:

Friday, May 22, 3 p.m., Freedom Park, 212 Skidmore Road, LaGrange

Friday, May 22, 4 p.m., Town of East Fishkill Community Center, 890 Route 82, East Fishkill

Wednesday, June 17, 6 p.m., Pawling Recreation, 2 Lakeside Drive, Pawling

Thursday, June 18, 2 p.m., Ramapo for Children, 22 Camp Ramapo Road, Town of Rhinebeck

The schedule can also be found online; residents are encouraged to check back often as additional dates may be added or locations/times changed after publication.

Seating for the seminars is limited. To make a reservation, please contact Joy from DCDOH, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (845) 677-4001 or by e-mail to jmass@dutchessny.gov.

DCDOH asks that reservations are made at least two days prior to the event and that all information requests be directed to the department, not the individual seminar sites.

Facilities interested in setting up a training session for lifeguards or members of a homeowners' association may also contact DCDOH.

Additional information about the Dutchess County Department of Health is available at dutchessny.gov/health.

Shanta A. Persad Saeteros announces candidacy for County Legislature District 10

Shanta A. Persad Saeteros, a City of Poughkeepsie homeowner and mother, officially announced that she has been confirmed to appear on this year's ballot as a candidate for the Dutchess County Legislature, representing District 10.

A newcomer to the political arena, Persad Saeteros is stepping up to provide a courageous and transparent voice for a community that she believes has been overlooked. Driven by the challenges she sees daily as a resident, her campaign is built on the foundation of confronting systemic issues that she asserts are not currently sufficiently being addressed or seem to be actively obscured.

"I am not a career politician; I am a mother and a neighbor who is dismayed by seeing our city's potential stifled by silence and 'business as usual' policies," said Saeteros. "For too long, the issues facing the City of Poughkeepsie have been swept under the rug. I'm running for Dutchess County Legislature - District 10 to pull back that rug, to do the hard work and to be the voice for my constituents. We need to stop the revolving door of temporary fixes and start building a city where every resident, from our toddlers to our business owners, feels safe, seen, and supported."

Persad Saeteros's campaign will focus on:

- **Public Safety:** Ensuring that all residents feel secure in their neighborhoods and on their doorsteps by supporting public safety initiatives and advocating for and securing funding and resources for law enforcement, firefighters and EMS services.

- **Affordability:** Working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the County Tax Rate remains



Shanta A. Persad Saeteros

low and exploring every available initiative to make Dutchess County more affordable for families, seniors, veterans, residents with exceptional abilities, businesses and working class residents.

- **Economic Resilience:** Supporting local businesses as the backbone of the City of Poughkeepsie economy.

- **Advocacy for Children:** Prioritizing educational resources and specialized support for children of all abilities.

- **Accountability:** Preserving integrity - A real plan for Accountability, Transparency and Efficiency

Persad Saeteros is ready to bring a fresh perspective to the Dutchess County Legislature and fight for the residents of District 10.

FDR Winners Circle students to host Car Show & Flea Market

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positive and engaging environment for the community. There is a strong sense of pride when students vividly describe to spectators the car they built together that started out as a bunch of boxes with parts in them," commented FDR Build Teacher, Shawn Christensen. "This is not

your average car show."

The car show and flea market will also feature Ford vehicle innovations from program sponsor, Healey Ford.

Entry fee is \$20 per car, accepted at the gate; spectator entry is free.

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@sutchessnews.com for more information.

County Legislature requests investigation on Camp Nooteeming

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obligations, the County acted appropriately and terminated that relationship. Our focus now is on ensuring the property is used to expand opportunities for Dutchess County youth while maintaining full transparency and accountability to taxpayers throughout the process."

Legislator Brendan Lawler (D-Hyde Park) and Chair of the Legislature's Budget Committee said, "It is abundantly clear that County Republicans can't miss an opportunity to squander taxpayer money. Camp Nooteeming is just the latest example of poor decisions made out of public view and which offer little to no benefit to residents. The public demands

a full accounting of what happened and who's responsible."

"This report makes it abundantly clear that the Legislature was sold a bill of goods. What remains less clear is who really benefited from the public purchase of a property that most residents aren't allowed to use," said Legislator Brennan Kearney (D-Rhinebeck) and Chair of the Legislature's Government Services and Administration Committee. "Since local use of this Park by Pleasant Valley or any other Dutchess County residents was obviously never the point, as revealed in this report, it's time for some answers - honest ones, this time."

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OBSESSION ^R

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Sunrise Rotary Club of LaGrange presents \$10,000 to Tunnel to Towers



Members of the Sunrise Rotary Club of LaGrange hold an enlarged check for \$10,000 to be presented to the Tunnel To Towers Foundation. *Courtesy photo*

Members of the Sunrise Rotary Club of LaGrange, golf sponsors and potential members gathered on April 28 at Simply Gourmet restaurant.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of a donation in the amount of \$10,000 to the Tunnel To Towers Foundation.

Many thanks to Greg Bolner (Club President) and McKinley Buttinger (daughter of two members) for providing a video stream of all of the projects/accomplishments from the past year.

Thanks to Simply Gourmet for providing the meal.

A member's mother who is visiting from England in attendance to celebrate.

LaGrange Sunrise Rotary meets at the Daily Planet on Tuesday mornings at 7:30. On the last Tuesdays of the month, they have an evening social at varying venues.

'Spring Fling' at the Fairgrounds – super shopping, plus food & wine

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mentoring Larkins, a vendor/producer who travels to more than 40 shows each year.

While shopping is the focus of the "Spring Fling Bazaar," visitors will also find a food court and a NY wine and spirits sampling area where customers can sample hundreds of products with small sips before buying and taking home bottles and cases.

"Visitors are purchasing directly from the makers and producers and avoiding mark ups from the middleman," said Larkins. "The Bazaar is not limited to home and outdoor living exhibits; there are several jewelers, furniture makers, personal care products, and specialty food producers – all showcasing their latest creations. And if you want to get away from it all, there are even vendors marketing vacations and cruises."

Larkins urges patrons "to bring money for this shopping extravaganza" because the variety is exceptionally unusual. He added, "Cash is king, you always get better deals when the vendors see green."

The famed Pompanoosuc Mills Furniture Store, with locations all over

the Northeast, leads the furniture vendors. And Dooley says visitors will find "a plethora of jewelers."

He added, "We'll have everything from pickles to RVs." Visit springfling-bazaar.com for a full list of vendors.

Dooley says he and Larkins are "happy to bring the Spring Fling to the best venue in Hudson Valley – the Dutchess County Fairgrounds – where there is plenty of free parking."

Andy Imperati, President/CEO of the Fairgrounds, stated, "We are excited to have the Spring Fling Bazaar as part of the Fairground's lineup of events. As we do for any event, we wish them success and hope that the 'Spring Fling Bazaar' becomes a staple here at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds."

While the rain or shine event will be mostly indoors, Dooley notes that many vendors will also choose to be outside – depending on the weather. Hours are Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information and to buy tickets in advance for only \$10, visit springfling-bazaar.com. No pets, please.



While shopping is the focus of the "Spring Fling Bazaar," visitors will also find a food court and a NY wine and spirits sampling area where customers can sample hundreds of products with small sips before buying and taking home bottles and cases. *Courtesy photo*

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The Southern Dutchess News
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Local developers can apply for Housing Trust Fund Grant funding

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino has announced that applications are now being accepted for the latest round of funding from the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund (HTF). \$1 million is available for projects that create or preserve affordable housing. Developer applications are now being accepted through Dutchess County's online grant portal until Monday, June 15th.

Serino said, "The Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund is about people, not just funding. It helps families, working people and our older neighbors afford to stay in the communities they love. We support projects that add affordable housing and fit the character of our towns and neighborhoods. We welcome developers of all sizes to use this funding and help meet the need."

This current round of HTF funding focuses on the program's Housing Creation and Preservation (HCP) component, which supports affordable rental housing through new construction, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, property acquisition and preservation of existing units. Priority will be given to projects with 10 or fewer units. Application instructions and guidance are available online.

Both private for-profit and non-profit developers are eligible to apply. The

Department of Planning & Development will host a workshop for applicants on May 7 at 10:30 a.m. at the Dutchess County Farm and Home Center, 2715 Route 44 in Millbrook. Applicants can register online to attend the workshop.

The County's Housing Trust Fund was established to provide a flexible and nimble funding source to help a variety of affordable housing efforts become a reality by:

- Providing financial assistance to develop affordable housing across Dutchess County;
- Enhancing the competitiveness of affordable housing initiatives to secure additional funding;
- Supporting housing projects that align with County priorities but have limited or no funding options; and
- Focusing on projects that create housing with deeper affordability levels.

Eligible HCP projects may be fully affordable or mixed-income, including single-room occupancy rentals. HCP also funds property acquisition for affordable rental housing by non-profit developers and the preservation or rehabilitation of existing affordable units to ensure long-term affordability. Affordable units created through the HTF are to be available to households with incomes up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) for

Dutchess County, or a portion (no more than 20 percent of the units) with incomes up to 80 percent AMI.

Dutchess County has committed over \$14 million to the HTF, including \$2 million in the 2026 County Budget. To date, \$12.3 million has been awarded to twelve rental housing projects over two funding rounds in 2023 and 2025, to create or preserve more than 500 affordable rental units. Later this year, a new Housing Trust Fund initiative will be launched aimed at supporting income-eligible, first-time homebuyers with the purchase or development of a two-family home, with one unit occupied by the buyer and the other unit available for rental, helping to expand homeownership opportunities while increasing the supply of affordable rental housing.

Housing affordability continues to be a critical priority for Dutchess County, with the Housing Trust Fund one of several efforts to expanding affordable housing supply. Other efforts include working with local municipalities on strategies to meet the unique needs of their community with the new Affordable Housing Strategies series with practical tools communities can utilize. Information about other tools and programs is available on the Department of Planning & Development's housing webpage.

Barrett, Skoufis pass bill to protect manufactured home residents

ALBANY – Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-Dutchess/Columbia) and Senator James Skoufis (D-Orange County) announced their legislation, A.340-A / S.228-A, which would require manufactured home park owners to provide written justification for rent increases above three percent, passed in both houses. This closes a loophole in the law that already limits rent increases above three percent by making sure park owners provide clear, written justification and documentation explaining the reason for an increase.

"In rural communities, manufactured and mobile homes are often the only affordable housing available, and I have been committed to ensuring these residents have the same protections and

rights as other tenants," said Barrett. "For far too long, residents of manufactured homes have been subject to unreasonable rent increases without a clear explanation or justification. This common-sense legislation will protect tenants from bad actors and unreasonable rent increases and ensure that park owners are transparent and accountable to their tenants."

"For residents of the nearly 85,000 households who reside in manufactured homes, unexpected rent increases can be devastating," said Skoufis. "Even with previously enacted legislation designed to protect residents, the large, multi-state corporations acquiring manufactured home parks across New York have found loopholes through which to extract additional profit. This bill closes those loop-

holes and further safeguards the communities who rely on this vital source of affordable housing."

"This legislation will bring much-needed transparency to 85,000 families living in manufactured housing communities across New York State. It ensures that residents have the right to request documentation that clearly justifies any lot rent increase exceeding 3 percent," said Yvonne Maldonado of Manufactured Housing Action. "In doing so, this measure represents a significant victory for residents, strengthening their ability to hold park landlords accountable and promoting greater fairness in housing practices."

The bill now awaits final action by the governor.



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REV250 JULY 4TH CELEBRATION SET IN STANFORD

Stanford will celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's independence with an event organized by the Stanford Fire Company, in coordination with the Town of Stanford and Stanford Grange #808. The celebration will take place at the Stanford Recreation Center (40 Creamery Road). The Festivity Tent opens at 5 p.m. with a reading of the Declaration of Independence by Stanford Grange #808 Secretary Ryan Orton. A Chicken BBQ Dinner (includes half chicken, salads, and dessert) begins at 6 p.m. There will be fireworks at dusk (approximately 8-8:30 p.m.)

Prices for the BBQ Dinner are \$12 for adults, \$8 kids (ages 6-16) and free for children under 5.

Tickets must be purchased by Monday, June 22. A limited number of tickets will be available the day of for \$15.

Tickets available by calling (845) 868-7320 (Kathie) or (914) 456-9846 (Doreen) or by asking a Fire Company member you may know.

Please note: As this event is held on Town property, alcohol will not be permitted.

SCHOOL BUDGET ROUNDUP

Pine Plains proposes tax levy increase over cap

Compiled By Kate Goldsmith

This year's school budget vote and Board of Education (BoE) elections will take place on Tuesday, May 19. Each district has specific poll hours; see below for more information.

Seven out of eight districts in the Northern Dutchess News readership area are proposing budgets with tax levies that meet or are less than their state-mandated limit, requiring only a simple majority to pass. The Pine Plains Central School District proposed tax levy is over the limit, and will require a 60-percent approval from voters.

Originally called the 2-percent tax cap, the actual number varies by district depending on several variables.

If any of the budgets fail, the districts have two options: put up a second budget or go straight to a contingency budget. If the second budget is defeated, the districts must go to contingency, which carries a zero-percent levy-to-levy increase.

The tax levy increases listed for each district represent an average. The actual tax impact will vary from town to town, based on assessed values, STAR values and equalization rates that will be finalized in August. In addition, residents should know that there is no direct correlation between the tax levy increase and the amount of the increase in their individual tax bills.

Qualified voters will be U.S. citizens at least 18 years old by May 19; a resident of the school district for 30 days immediately preceding the vote; and be registered either with the school district's board of registration, or be on a current voter list maintained by the Dutchess County Board of Elections.

ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Arlington District proposes a budget of \$278,650,000 for the 2026-27 school year, an increase of 3.96% over the current year. The proposed tax levy increase is 3.51% and exactly meets the district's mandated limit.

There are two additional propositions on the ballot, one for transportation purchases and another to establish a reserve fund for buildings and facilities improvements.

- Purchase of new buses/maintenance vehicles totaling \$3,400,000. This is part of the District's replacement cycle for vehicles that reach 10-12 years of age or show significant mileage and rust. This year's proposed purchase includes: 10 seventy-one (71) passenger propane buses; four 30- to 34-passenger vans; four 18- to 20-passenger vans; four seven-passenger minivans; two wheelchair vans; two transit maintenance vans with uplift; and one Ford F-350 truck or equivalent with plow. The total proposition would be bonded over five years. Note: Bus costs totaling \$3,194,000 qualify for a 65% State Transportation Aid reimbursement. The net local share is \$1,108,318.

- Create a Buildings and Facilities Improvement Reserve Fund 2026. Approval would allow the Board to fund for up to \$20 million to be used during the next 20 years. (Note: This proposition will not result in any tax increase.) Any monies to be used from this fund will need to be approved by the voters in a subsequent vote.

School Board candidates: Arlington voters will elect three members to the Board of Education. Current trustees Linda Gaines, Ed.D.; Jeff Haight; and Eileen Snook are seeking re-election. They are the only candidates on the ballot. Those elected will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Visit www.arlingtonschools.org to locate your polling district and additional

information.

DOVER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Dover proposes a budget of \$46,620,208, a 3.45% increase over the current year. The proposed tax levy of \$17,585,473 reflects a 1.7% increase, below the mandated cap.

School Board candidates: Two candidates are running to fill two seats on the Board of Education, each for a five-year term expiring June 30, 2031. Incumbent Board members Samantha Masterson and Natasha Merritt are running for re-election.

Voting will take place from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Dover Middle School Gym, 2368 Route 22, Dover Plains.

Contact District Clerk Nicole Wilkinson at (845) 877-5700, ext. 1282, or email Nicole.Wilkinson@dover-schools.org for more information.

HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hyde Park proposes a \$131,150,274 budget, a 4.10% year-to-year increase. The proposed tax levy of \$74,366,172 represents a 2.92% increase, below the allowable 3.34% tax cap increase.

A transportation proposition would replace several school buses at a total of \$1,090,913. These include four 66-passenger buses (diesel) and three 30-passenger buses (gasoline). The purchases qualify for 59.4% State Aid, bringing a net cost to taxpayers of \$442,911.

School Board candidates: Two seats open due to the term expirations of Edward Spence and Michael Tibbetts, which end on June 30. Spence and Tibbetts are running for re-election, and community member Cheryl Frazier-Woods is seeking a seat on the Board. Elected candidates will serve from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

Voting will take place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Haviland Middle School, 23 Haviland Road, Hyde Park.

Visit www.hpcsd.org for more information.

MILLBROOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Millbrook is presenting a \$37,992,751 budget with a year-to-year increase of 10.3%. The proposed tax levy is \$29,733,237 a year-to-year increase of \$1,951,101 or 7.02%, within the mandated cap.

School Board candidates: Incumbent Board of Education members Howard Shapiro and Chris Rosenbergen are running unopposed for re-election.

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m. in the Millbrook Middle School Band Room (next to the Auditorium), 43 Alden Place, Millbrook.

Visit www.millbrookcsd.org for more information.

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pine Plains proposes a budget of \$40,778,791, a year-to-year increase of \$2,066,455 or 5.34%. The proposed tax levy is \$29,122,160, an increase of 4.43%, which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 3.4% and must be approved by 60 percent of the qualified voters present and voting.

Also on the ballot is a proposition to purchase two 71-passenger school buses, including cameras and necessary equipment; and three 35-passenger school buses. The total sum of \$750,276.55 would be paid for through the district's "Bus Purchase Reserve Fund," which was approved by the voters in 2022.

School Board candidates: Three candidates are vying for two seats on the Board of Education for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2029. The candidates are James Griffin (incumbent), Amie Buehler and Brooke Brown.

The vote will be held from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior

High School, 2829 Church St., Pine Plains.

For more information about the vote or the voting process, contact District Clerk Julia W. Tomaine at (518) 398-7181, ext. 1408, or j.tomaine@ppcsd.org.

RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Red Hook proposes a budget of \$67,376,076, an increase of \$2,377,920 or 3.66%. The projected tax levy is \$42,761,251, an increase of 3.61%, within the cap.

There are several additional propositions on the ballot:

- High school technology facilities upgrades: The district is asking voters to approve a \$1.16 million capital project to reconstruct, renovate and improve Red Hook High School's technology classrooms, including ventilation and electrical upgrades and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment and machinery.

- Bus garage renovation and expansion: The district is asking voters to approve a \$14.725 million capital improvement project to renovate and expand the existing district bus garage located at Linden Avenue Middle School. Details are available at the district's website. This proposition also requests the use of \$1 million from the capital reserve to reduce the amount to be borrowed to \$13.725 million.

- Vehicle purchases: The district is asking voters to approve up to \$530,000 to purchase a utility truck with plow and salt spreader, two 16-passenger gasoline buses, and three hybrid SUV school buses. Financing of these vehicles does not impact the 2026-27 budget.

The following propositions for funding the Red Hook Library and Tivoli Free Library are separate and apart from the school district's annual budget. Because these funds are raised annually by a tax on the taxable property of the school district, by law they must be included as part of the school tax bill if approved by the voters.

- The Red Hook Library requests that its annual appropriation be increased by \$35,000 to the total amount of \$269,400.

- The Tivoli Free Library requests that its annual appropriation be increased by \$7,944 to the total amount of \$115,364.

Board of Education candidates: Four

candidates are running to fill two vacant seats on the Board of Education. They are Paul Byrne, Troy Haley, Dave Mergendahl and Robert Tynes. Candidate profiles are available at the district's website.

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m. at Mill Road Elementary School's 3-5 cafeteria, 9 Mill Road, Red Hook.

Visit www.redhookcentralschools.org for more information.

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rhinebeck's proposed \$42,308,013 budget reflects a year-to-year increase of 2.01%. The proposed tax levy of \$36,069,876, a 2.69% increase over the current year, complying with the tax cap.

School Board candidates: Two candidates are running to fill two seats on the Board of Education, with terms commencing on July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2029. The candidates are incumbent members Benjamin Moffat and Rose Ann Serpico.

Voting will take place from 2 to 9 p.m. at Bulkeley Middle School Cafeteria, 45 North Park Road, Rhinebeck.

Visit www.rhinebeckcsd.org for more information.

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Webutuck will offer voters a proposed budget of \$29,941,252, a year-to-year increase of 4.45%. The proposed tax levy is \$19,665,251, a budget-to-budget increase of 1.35%, which is the allowable limit.

A transportation proposition includes the purchase of two 64-passenger school buses and one Bobcat Multipurpose Vehicle, at a cost not to exceed \$429,327.

School Board candidates: There are three seats available; all seats are for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2026, and expiring June 30, 2029, to fill the vacant seats of incumbents Judy Moran, Jerry Heiser and Aimee Wesley. (Candidates' names were not posted on the district's website, and a response to our email query had not been returned in time for publication.)

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Gym, 194 Haight Road, Amenia.

Visit www.webutuckschools.org for more information.

'Hyde Park in Bloom' Garden Tour set June 20

The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee will hold its bi-annual "Hyde Park in Bloom" Garden Tour, taking place on Saturday, June 20, rain or shine. This event invites residents and visitors to explore a stunning array of local gardens, each showcasing the unique creativity and dedication of community neighbors. From vibrant pollinator-friendly native plantings and a scenic meadow on a former farm, to tranquil oases nestled within residential neighborhoods, every garden reflects the passion and hard work of its proud owners.

Attendees will also find inspiration for

their own outdoor spaces.

The event kicks off with check-in from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Regina Coeli Church, Albany Post Road, Hyde Park. Self-guided garden tours will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., giving visitors plenty of time to enjoy each site and meet fellow gardening enthusiasts.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online or by mailing payment to Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee, P.O. Box 125, Hyde Park, NY. For more information and ticket purchase options, visit www.hydeparkvec.org or send email to hpvecboard@gmail.com.



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RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Hudson Valley grabs four wins in series vs. Winston-Salem

By Morgan E. Maier

In their first of two straight home-stands, the Hudson Valley Renegades won four of six from the Winston-Salem Dash. With the series win, the Renegades improve to 14-17 on the season and sit in fourth place in the South Atlantic League North.

Cold Cole Man

Gerrit Cole was back on the bump for another rehab start on May 5; the Dash were quick to pounce. The visitors tagged Cole for five runs, including two in the first inning. Roderick Arias hit a solo shot, one of two Renegade hits on the day, and was the only Renegade to reach base twice (1 H, 1 BB). On Thursday, May 7, the country dances were knocking boots as Hudson Valley pitching got knocked for a 7-3 loss. Wilson Rodriguez and Josh Moylan each had two hits. Moylan hit a two-run blast in the seventh inning, but the two runs were immediately returned in the top of the 8th inning.

Go West!

Kyle West was a one-man RBI production factory on May 11, show-

ing his strongest work for the Mother's Day crowd. West knocked in his third home run of the season, a solo shot in the fourth inning. As a solid Franyer Herrera start was holding a 1-0 lead for the Renegades, West went yard in the following inning. West knocked in four more on a slam to right field, his team-leading fourth homer of the year. West leads the team in RBI (24), followed by Kaeden Kent. Herrera improved to 2-0 on his season as four relievers produced an inning apiece to close the game. Chris Veach earned the save.

Walkoff and Washouts

Connor McGinnis was the Gatorade-laden hero on May 8, a two-strike, two-out single that scored a pair of runs for the comeback. Trailing by one, the Renegades had the bases crowded for McGinnis when he came up huge in the bottom of the ninth. Kaeden Kent knocked McGinnis with an RBI single, innings earlier. On May 6, the Renegades needed just eight innings to get hot. It was hardly half that — as Hudson Valley exploded for 10 runs over the



Roderick Arias of the Renegades is safe at the plate with a head-first slide in a May 6 victory over the Winston-Salem Dash. Photo by Dave Janosz

first three innings. Luis Serna went 5.0 scoreless, with seven strikeouts and five walks. Arias was 3-4 with four RBI; Core Jackson was a perfect 3-3 with an RB. Kaeden Kent reached base five times, adding a stolen base to three walks, two runs and an RBI. The Renegades will stay home for

another week, as the Frederick Keys come in across the Hudson. As the Renegades look to push through the top half of the division standings Hudson Valley will hope to repeat the early successes it saw against Frederick.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Greensboro PIT	21	12	.636	--	8-2	W3
Frederick BAL	19	13	.594	1.5	7-3	W1
Wilmington WSH	18	14	.563	2.5	6-4	W1
Hudson Valley NYY	18	14	.563	2.5	4-6	W3
Jersey Shore PHI	15	17	.469	5.5	5-5	L1
Brooklyn NYM	8	24	.250	12.5	3-7	L3

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB	22	11	.667	--	7-3	W3
Winston-Salem CWS	18	15	.545	4.0	3-7	L3
Rome ATL	18	15	.545	4.0	6-4	W3
Hub City TEX	16	16	.500	5.5	7-3	L1
Greenville BOS	14	19	.424	8.0	1-9	L3
Asheville HOU	8	25	.242	14.0	3-7	L3



May			
05/13/26	vs. Frederick	11:05 AM	Education Day presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/14/26	vs. Frederick	06:35 PM	Healthcare Appreciation Night WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/15/26	vs. Frederick	07:05 PM	In Our Baseball Era WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/16/26	vs. Frederick	05:05 PM	Military Appreciation Night WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/17/26	vs. Frederick	02:05 PM	Pirates Day WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/26/26	vs. Bowling Green	06:05 PM	Women in Sports Night WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/27/26	vs. Bowling Green	11:05 AM	Education Day presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/28/26	vs. Bowling Green	06:35 PM	Beach Night WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/29/26	vs. Bowling Green	07:05 PM	Star Wars Night WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/30/26	vs. Bowling Green	05:05 PM	2026 Renegades Team Card Set presented by Dutchess Tire Center WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets
05/31/26	vs. Bowling Green	02:05 PM	Halloween in May WMHealth Club Lounge Tickets





Renegades Extra!



IMPACT

PR & Communications

Eastdale Village Unveils New Piazza - a Vibrant Gathering Space Ahead of Summer Programming

See story.
page 8



IMPACT

PR & Communications

Hobby to career – Passion for best photos drives Janosz

Jones' Mother's Day first hit leads former Renegades moving up to MLB

Editor's note: Pictures are worth a few thousand words...but what does it take to get the perfect sports shot? Writer Morgan Maier spent a ballgame with Hudson Valley Renegades photographer Dave Janosz to see how he prepares for game day – and getting the best shots.

By Morgan E. Maier

Below the sea of pinstripes and Hudson Valley Renegades tees, a purple spot in the field captures a perfect shot. You've seen him on the concourse, training a lens on the walkoff hero and one-in-a-million shots, but Dave Janosz is the guy in a signature purple palette, creating lasting moments from one shot. Except for when the Winston-Salem Dash are in town, of course, then Dave will be wearing anything but the opponents' palette.

Dave is in his fifth season photographing the Renegades, future Yankees and current Minor League baseball hopefuls.

Where art and learning exist, there is Dave Janosz, especially if baseball is involved. He quotes the architect Frank Lloyd Wright. He trains with wildlife photographers and MLB staffers to learn more about contrast and color, ready to implement the lessons at the first click.

Dave grew up in the age where posed cards were common to baseball fans as chewing gum. The signature swing pose and faux-home run smile that defines an era of baseball players and its fans. Dave captures the real thing at every Hudson Valley Renegades home game, his work living in media day promotions and social media drafts.

Like young fans swinging through air in their bedrooms a la Barry Bonds and Babe Ruth, Dave has seen enough baseball photos to replicate them, perfectly. It is within the last five seasons — his first in the industry, that he's begun to develop his own style.

Dave's season signature has shifted from getting the staple shots to seeking emotion. Early on, his concentration on new players, draftees and classic baseball card stock often missed emotion. Now, fans see the team awaiting a home run hitter at home plate, strings of water and Gatorade suspended in midair like a bouquet of "Welcome Home" balloons.

"I'll never forget the name of the player that hit the walk-off hit, that they celebrated around; those make for really memorable pictures and images. It's fun for me to be so close to it, making a picture of their excitement, their happiness. It's like they could be 12 years old the way they celebrate and I just, I feed off of that energy big time," said Dave.

The first inning he sees a new player,



Renegades photographer Dave Janosz is all over the field with players and fans during games at Heritage Financial Park. Courtesy photo by Matthew Turri.

Dave is learning the cues. Will a starter hurl with emotion? When he erases a leadoff double with a strikeout, is there a chance for celebration? If yes, he'll have a direct line of sight to the pitcher.

The players learn about Dave too, over the course of a season or a few. They can rely on his weekly provision of shots to send to family back home, or flicks worthy of a profile picture refresh. Though he's a sports-only photographer, he hasn't yet turned down a player request for a maternity or engagement shoot.

Dynamic Elements Photography is the brand. At Heritage Financial Park, clad in purple and a batting helmet in either baseline well, or combing the concourse for candid shots that scream "Minor League Baseball" without a single word, is the face.

Passion for photography came alongside a desire for change. A quarter century in the education field behind him, the self-stated hobbyist made the switch. Yet leaving the school didn't end Dave's learning, or yearn for creating something to smile about.

He knows the sound of a home run off the crack of a bat, and when the infield grass will get a sun-soaked inning of prime photo lighting.

Emotion tells the story, and a team's investment in its craft dictates the zeal for success. Everyone wants to reach the next level, just as much as they will go absolutely bonkers for whichever one of them gets the big hit.

"Every at-bat matters to them. And I feel like that makes for good pictures because they're invested in it. There would be no storytelling image to an emotionless team, but everybody here is trying to get to the next level to try to get

to the Yankees, to try to make their career. Everybody's invested, you know? And I feel like that helps feed my pictures," said Dave.

The same could be said for Dave's body of work. The reaction shots, responses to his work tell a story. Dave's field persona shows more. He's a lifelong baseball fan with a second career as a photographer (with a wealth of experience in the tri-state area), who got his start as the dugout's favorite dad with a camera.

In baseball leagues Little to big, players being themselves, to Dave, bodes for a more valuable shot. Those of parents and kids riddled with excitement on a travel team's media day, or Minor leaguers finding a mode to thrive off-field. A million words can be told in a single shot, but Make-a-Wish initiatives and clinic days tell a story no box score could. In one photo, a fan hugs his favorite 'Gade, his request for connection answered and enshrined, all in one moment.

"Some of the best images are of fans, just having a good time at the ballpark. That's very relatable because if you like baseball, if you like sports, you like the experience that it is to come here, you remember having a good time and how you felt when you were at the game. So if I can capture the picture that tells the story about how they're feeling when they're there, that's good," added Dave.

His work supplies motion, a pop of color to every baseball story written in black and white and etched in the memories of those who live them. "Thank you for capturing this moment," a player tells Dave Janosz, days removed from his first walk-off home run.

It was — is — the artist's pleasure.

By Morgan E. Maier

The New York Yankees opened the month of May with a roster shakeup featuring three Renegades alumni. With a combined jersey number of 238, Spencer Jones, Brendan Beck and Elmer Rodriguez-Cruz made long-awaited debuts with mixed results.

Jones had a quiet first week on the MLB roster, going 0-for-8 before finally punching through on the Yankees' Mother's Day slate. A 6'7" massive frame in the batter's box, the 24-year-old struck out five times before notching his first career hit. New York hopes it is first of many for its top prospect, whose arrival propelled rumor mills for the better part of two seasons. The Yankees were swept by the Milwaukee Brewers in Jones' debut series. You wouldn't know it looking at Jones' family, beaming from the seats as he found outfield grass for a second-inning RBI single.

Beck called his own May 7 debut a "dream come true" on a YES Network interview. After nearly five seasons in the system, Beck was critical in a Yankees' bullpen game, offering three steady innings against the Texas Rangers. A first career strikeout closed Beck's first inning of work, as he erased a two-out walk to Danny Jansen. Beck allowed two runs on as many hits, throwing 28 of 52 pitches for strikes. New York's bullpen barrage proved successful, as the Bombers held on 9-2.

After two big league starts, Rodriguez-Cruz is still working out his own mechanics. He did not display the controlled burn that's plagued so many hitters, from Low-A to Wilkes-Barre. In his first start, Rodriguez walked four batters in 4.2 innings, while giving up three earned runs. The Yankees would win 7-4, but Rodriguez's no decision leaves him seeking a win. He went 4.0 innings in his following start, allowing 2 runs to cross in the eventual loss.

The organization will likely see a further shakeup as once-injured, established Yankees prepare for their season debut. Anthony Volpe, Jasson Dominguez and Carlos Rodón will be at the center, as the former prospects and current second-rotation pitcher look to contribute to the AL East favorites. Some players will return to minor league assignments still savoring their taste of the majors.

Eastdale Village unveils new Piazza - a vibrant gathering space - ahead of summer programming

Eastdale Village announced the completion of its newest community amenity on May 5: a thoughtfully designed, open-air Piazza that will serve as the central gathering space within the popular live, work, play destination. Located on the south side of the community, the Piazza debuts ahead of Eastdale's signature summer programming.

Enhancing Eastdale's walkable, neighborhood-centered environment, the Piazza offers an inviting and inclusive space for residents and visitors alike. Inspired by the timeless character of European public squares, it reflects a vision of community living, where culture, connection and leisure intersect, a central focus of Eastdale's mission.

"The Eastdale Piazza is a fitting culmination to the construction along Eastdale Avenue South and is reflective of considerable input from many talented members of our design and construction teams, foremost among them Giovanni Palladino," said John Hettinger, President of Kirchoff, the real estate investment firm responsible for Eastdale Village. "The Piazza is intended to serve as a unique, active venue in the Hudson Valley, which our team will thoughtfully program throughout the year with wonderful events for the community."

Beginning early May and running through September, the Piazza will serve as a central hub for Eastdale's signature lineup of free community events, offering a consistent and recognizable destination for the season.



Beginning in May and running through September, the Piazza will serve as a central hub for Eastdale's signature lineup of free community events, offering a consistent and recognizable destination for the season. *Courtesy photo*

tion for the season. Featured events include Movies on Main, a recurring outdoor family-friendly film series under the stars; the Farmers' Market, featuring local vendors and fresh, seasonal offerings from Hudson Valley vendors; and Eastdale Unplugged, a new acoustic music series showcasing emerging, local talent in an intimate setting. Additional

events and programming will be introduced throughout the season, reinforcing Eastdale Village as a destination for community connection.

"From the outset, the vision for the Eastdale Piazza was to create the social heart of the community—a space where architecture and everyday life seamlessly come together," commented Giovanni

Palladino, Kirchoff's Director of Architecture & Design. "We approached the design as an architecturally framed civic living room, one that feels both intimate and open, inviting people to gather, connect and linger. By reinforcing Eastdale's commitment to thoughtful placemaking and pairing the space with dynamic, year-round programming, the

FDR High School junior earns first place in 'Escape the Vape' contest

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) have announced Fayza Sekatawa, 16, a Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School junior, has been selected as the winner of this year's "Escape the Vape" Anti-Vaping Art Contest, presented in partnership with Dutchess BOCES and The Art Effect. The new initiative invited middle- and high-school students to create original artwork that raises awareness about the risks of vaping. This year's contest drew many impressive submissions, each highlighting the creativity, insight, and powerful voices of young people across the county.

Serino said, "Dutchess County congratulates Fayza and all the students who took part in this year's 'Escape the Vape' art contest. By sharing their artistic talents, they helped spread the important message with teens that vaping is dangerous. Their participation highlights Dutchess County's efforts to help all our neighbors of every age make healthy decisions."

Sekatawa's winning submission, a descriptive storyboard, was chosen for its powerful message, clear narrative, and thoughtful use of local imagery. Judges chose the piece for its creativity, strong visual impact, and ability to connect with teen audiences. As the winner, Sekatawa will receive a paid summer internship

with The Art Effect, turning her concept into a professional video for use in a countywide media campaign and on social media platforms. Sekatawa was honored on April 24 during the PKX Festival, a two-day youth arts and media celebration in the City of Poughkeepsie, hosted by The Art Effect, featuring interactive art installations, youth-produced media, live performances, and hands-on creative activities showcasing the talent of young people across the region.

Dutchess County Health Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado said, "Fayza's work shows how powerful young voices can be in shaping healthier choices. Vaping poses real risks to teens, and when students speak directly to their peers through art, the message resonates in a way that adults alone cannot achieve. Her creativity reminds us that youth leadership is essential to building a healthier future for our community."

The inaugural "Escape the Vape" contest is part of Dutchess County's broader effort to combat youth vaping. Funding for the initiative comes from New York State's multistate settlement with JUUL Labs Inc., awarded to DCDOH and Dutchess BOCES to support youth education and prevention programs.

To learn about the Dutchess County Department of Health and its offerings and initiatives visit: dutchessny.gov/health.



Dutchess County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago Rosado (left) joined those in congratulating 16-year-old Fayza Sekatawa (right), a student at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park who earned first place in the "Escape the Vape" Anti-Vaping Art Contest. *Photo courtesy of Dutchess County Gov't*



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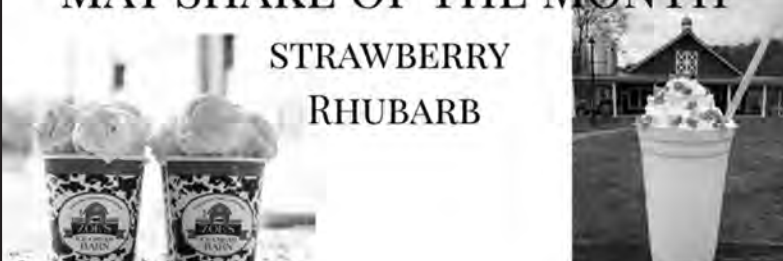
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Hackett Farm Supply greets 4-H clubs, visitors



Hackett Farm Supply in Clinton Corners hosted a 4-H Children's activities event on Sunday, May 3. The event was designed to support Dutchess County 4-H youths and the many different interests involved with the clubs. Baked goods, arts and crafts and a variety of animals were all included. Above, from left, are animals and displays from Northern and Southern Dutchess Dairy Clubs, Top Dogs and Homespun Hangout. The staff of Hackett Farm Supply thanks all 4-H youth and supporters who attended the event. Courtesy photos

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

Chili Fest set May 16 in Stanford

There will be a free Community Chili Fest at Stanford Town Hall on Saturday, May 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. Make and serve your favorite chili. Chili Fest is not a contest, just community fun. For more information, contact at info@stanfordcaring.org or (845) 453-0737.

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.

Rev 250 event set May 24 in Milan

The Rededication of the Rowe Church Cemetery to honor local Revolutionary War veterans will take place on Sunday May 24, following the Milan Memorial Day parade at noon. The church is at 1376 Route 199, Milan. Ice cream to follow.

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 miaeas@comcast.net or (609) 468-0165.

Stanford sets Memorial Day festivities

Residents are invited to join the Town of Stanford on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, as Stanford honors U.S. military personnel who died while serving in

the armed forces. Meet at the Grange Hall at 8:30 a.m. for parade line up and wreath laying at the Peter Miller Memorial. The parade begins at 9 a.m., proceeding to the Civil War Memorial at Town Hall for wreath laying, and the Veterans Memorial in Bangall for wreath laying and ceremony. Organized by the Stanford American Legion.

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.

Rev250 Summer Open House set June 6 at Elmendorph Inn

Historic Red Hook will host a Rev250 Summer Open House on Saturday, June 6, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Elmendorph Inn, 7562 N. Broadway, Red Hook (rain date June 7). Mark America's 250th anniversary

and explore an exhibit about the Revolutionary War's impact on Dutchess County, enjoy ice cream on the lawn, play lawn games, try family art activities, and explore the inside of the historic tavern building. Learn more at www.historicredhook.org/rev250

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.

Help A Horse Day set June 6 in Clinton Corners

13 Hands Equine Rescue will hold Help A Horse Day fundraiser on Saturday, June 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Meet the animals and enjoy a fun-filled day for the whole family, including live music, food trucks, demos, local artisans and vendors, NYS Trooper demos, kids activities and more. Admission is a \$20 donation; free for age 10 and younger. 13 Hands Equine Rescue is at 50 Tuscan Way, Clinton Corners. Visit www.13handsequine.org or email events@13handsequine.org to purchase tickets and for more information.

Film screening in Kingston on June 7

On Sunday, June 7, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston, there will be a screening of "Samidoun," a film about the strength and resilience of Palestinian women living under military occupation and patriarchy. Free admission and community reflection/discussion after the film. Cosponsored by: Middle East Crisis Response mideastcrisis.org, African Roots Community Center, Columbia County for Palestine, JVP Hudson Valley, Mid Hudson Valley DSA, Muslims4Muslims International, New Paltz Quaker Meeting, Peace Education Center, Rally Middletown, Veterans For Peace, and Women In Black - New Paltz. Contact: mecr@mideastcrisis.org or 845 876-7906

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.

Stanford Fire Company to host Blood Drive June 17

The Stanford Fire Company will hold a Blood Drive on Wednesday, June 17, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. The Fire House is at 6096 Route 82, Stanfordville. For an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-ins welcome.

EXHIBITIONS

Artists' Collective Gallery of Hyde Park (ACHP), 4338 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park. Through May: "Ernesto Pedrosa: Convergence," a series of abstract paintings exploring the nature of Afro-Cuban religious imagery where the blending of African markings, Catholic and Santeria symbolism converge with earthly forms into a single circular field of meaning. (845) 366-6856, artistscollectiveofhydepark.com

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. Through June 12. Dutchess Handmade Spring Pop-Up Shop, seasonal marketplace showcases the work of more than 60 talented artists and makers from across the Hudson Valley, including glass, jewelry, greeting cards, textiles, ceramics, woodwork, prints, paintings, home décor, and more. www.artsmidhudson.org or (845) 454-3222

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

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

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

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. Through May 24: "A Love Letter to New York State," photographs by Jane Haslam. www.landgalleryonline.com

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. Through June 28: "UN-REAL," works by Fern Apfel, Monica Link, Kevin Mosca, Laura Von Rosk & Daniel Walworth. Upstate Arts Weekend Reception: Sat., June 27, 5-7 p.m. www.millbrooklibrary.org

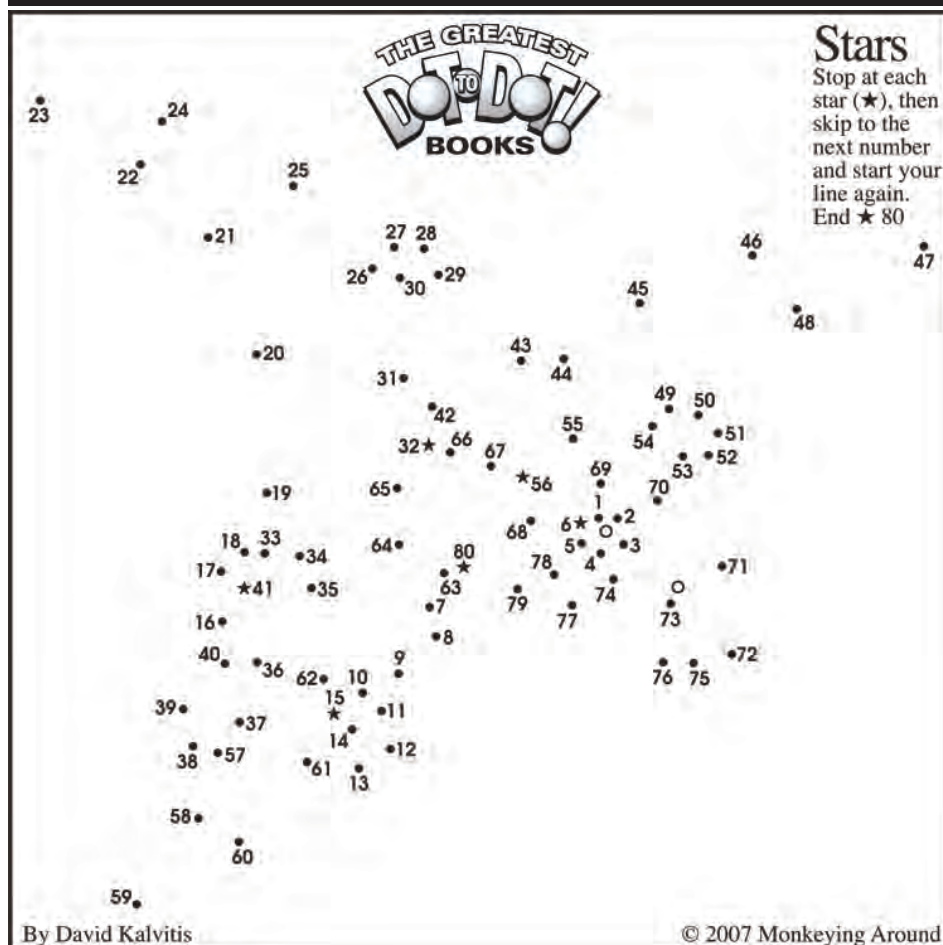
Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. May 14-21: Morton's MakerSpace Paper Mache Projects Show. **Reception:** Thurs., May 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m. **Through May 22:** "The Collection," photography by Paul Elfenbein. **Art Auction:** Fri., May 22, 7 p.m. (845) 876-2903

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

continued on page 14

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



By David Kalvitis

© 2007 Monkeying Around

Creative Living

celebrating all good things

World-class cellist to play The Grace Note May 15



By Kate Goldsmith

The Stissing Center for Arts and Culture recently unveiled a speakeasy-style performance space, The Grace Note, downstairs from its mainstage area. Offering Friday evening entertainment, it's an intimate listening room that widens the scope of talent that the Stissing Center presents at its beautiful historic building in Pine Plains.

This coming Friday, May 15, the incredible cellist Amanda Forsyth will grace The Grace Note along with pianist Danny Zelibor. A Canadian Juno Award winner, Forsyth is a compelling performer who has built an international reputation as a leading soloist and chamber musician with many world-renowned ensembles. A founding member of the Zukerman Chamber Players and cellist of the Zukerman Trio, Forsyth has performed on six continents and continues to appear regularly at leading international venues.

Friday's performance promises to reveal a different side of Forsyth, providing a unique cabaret experience that will allow both artist and audience the opportunity to breathe between the measures.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$20. Visit www.thestissingcenter.org to purchase.

"My whole career I've been a classical cellist, strict and searching for perfection," Forsyth said during a phone interview last week. "The concept of this show is to be free and live in 'Amanda Land,' population one."

Forsyth points out the contrast between the lone inhabitant of "Amanda Land" and the person her fellow Juilliard

students nicknamed "Demanda" back in the day.

"[As a] principal cellist for 26 years, everything had to be perfect; I had to follow all the rules all those years," she said. "Then I became a soloist and ended up quitting orchestra ... but being a soloist also requires following the rules."

Let it be known that "not following the rules" in no way detracts from Forsyth's marvelous tone and stellar musicianship. She performs on a rare 1699 Carlo Giuseppe Testore cello and makes it sing in a way few others could do.

The Grace Note gig will feature "beautiful things that I love to play - starting with classical and then moving into stories," she said. "I'm so excited because I don't always get to talk [at performances]."

The cabaret concept formed during Covid, when she started jamming with two of her New York City neighbors.

"I found playing with those guys so freeing," she said. "I loved that feeling."

Forsyth launched her cabaret show at Cafe Carlyle in New York City, a venue known for showcasing legendary jazz artists.

Asked what the audience can expect on May 15, she said, "I'm just going to see where it goes."

As anyone who's ever attended a classical concert knows, one doesn't dare clap until the very end of the piece, lest they be accused of boorish behavior. Forsyth said that rule won't apply on Friday.

"I hope for some 'bad behavior,' because it would be very refreshing for me," she said.

Amanda Forsyth. Photo courtesy of Curtis Brown

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You gotta seed it to bean-lieve it

Most plants make seeds as their basic reproductive unit. We eat a lot of them – including wheat, quinoa, and pecans – even though we may think of some of them as grains or nuts. Seeds are often small because they are easier to disperse. But some plants make big seeds with greater energy and vigor.

Bean there, done that

Beans are big seeds. Coffee, chocolate, and vanilla are called beans. But they aren't. Baristas extract their concoctions from big seeds of the Coffee Berry Tree. To make their sweets, Ghirardelli and Hershey use the big seeds that grow in pods along the trunks of Cacao Trees. Check the ingredients of your favorite ice cream to learn if its flavor is from pure seedpods of Vanilla Orchids, rather than artificial flavoring.

The seeds that produce coffee, chocolate, and vanilla are not true beans, because they are not part of the Legume (Fabaceae) Family. Their culinary name was bestowed due to their physical appearance. But those tropical seeds are not legumes because they lack some key characteristics.

Legumes have flowers that are commonly called "butterfly-like," though Carl Linnaeus, the architect of both modern botany and taxonomy, named one family genus *Clitoria* for a reason. I think Butterfly Peas, and all other legumes, look a lot like – *ahem* – something besides a butterfly.

Legumes have lots of protein. *Fabaceae*, whether eaten as a half-cup serving of rehydrated beans, lentils, or peas (pulses), or fresh, provides about 7

grams of plant-based protein. That is roughly equivalent to the protein in one ounce of meat. Legumes have more protein than other vegetables because they fix nitrogen.

Nitrogen isn't broken, it's loose

About three-quarters of our atmosphere is nitrogen gas. As a gas, nitrogen atoms are locked in a strong bond, making them chemically non-reactive. Plants and animals can't access the element, yet need it for life processes, such as genetics, creating proteins, chemical reactions, and photosynthesis.

In the same way that a house's foundation is fixed to the ground, atmospheric nitrogen is fixed into compounds that can be absorbed. Anchor bolts and footings hold the house to the earth; soil microbes perform most natural nitrogen fixation on Earth. Nitrogen-fixing microbes use an enzyme to break the chemical bonds of nitrogen gas and turn it into nitrogen compounds, dissolved in water, which plants can access.

Nearly all plants benefit from water-soluble nitrogen that various microbes make available. However, some plants have special relationships with nitrogen-fixing microbes. The most significant of those are legumes.

Don't make lawn maintenance clover-whelming

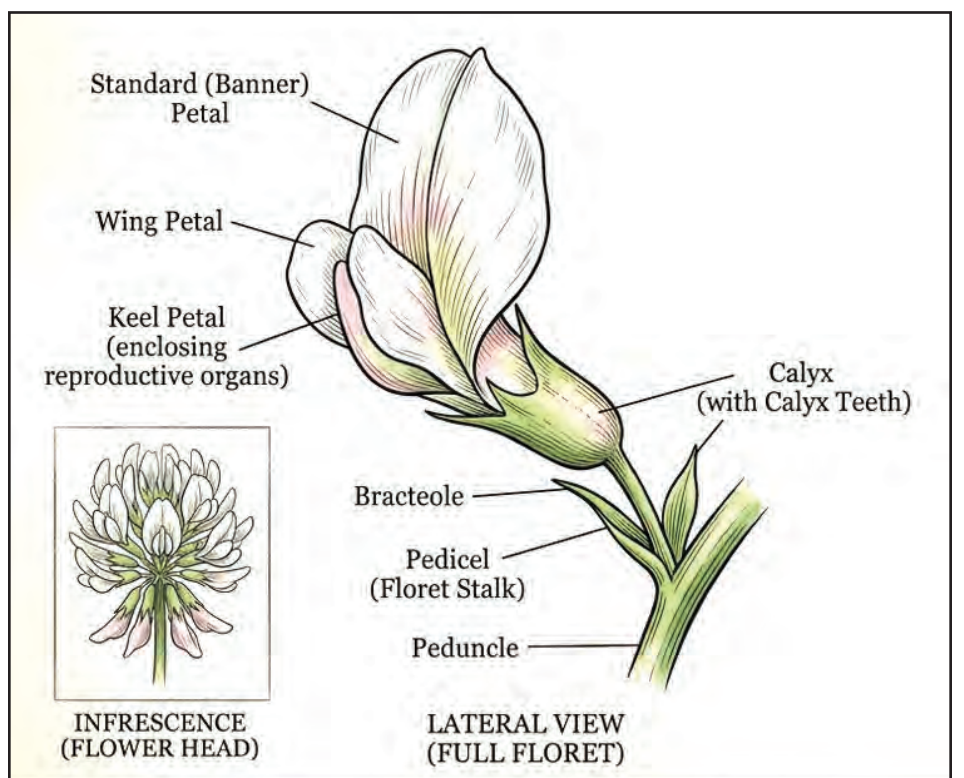
Legumes are varied. They are both herbaceous and woody. They provide food and forage; when they die, their nitrogen fertilizes surrounding plants.

A common legume seen in many lawns is clover. A lawn containing a

continued on page 13



"Butterfly Pea," *Clitoria ternatea*, can feature blue or white flowers. *Courtesy photos.* Below: AI-generated graphic of clover flowers shows front and lateral views. *By Francine Wizner*



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Hudson Valley Naturalist

continued from page 12

clover-grass mix strikes a balance. The grass provides a “skeleton” during the winter, when clover dies back. The clover provides “living fertilizer” and stays green in July and August when grass may brown from heat. If the clover is allowed to bloom, the bee population is supported. Clover also grows densely, which can help prevent other, less desirable, weeds from taking root.

Clinton Corners Clover Jelly

Foraging runs in Kathy Simon’s family. Her brother has made sauerkraut from edible wild greens, wine from flowers and berries, and hard cider and apple cider vinegar from apple scraps. Kathy, a Clinton Corners resident, was inspired by his foraged creations.

The many (herbicide- and pesticide-free) clover blossoms in her lawn prompted her to make clover jelly last season. YouTube taught her how! Kathy says it’s a great source for instruction on making jellies from non-traditional ingredients. This is the recipe she followed:

2 cups white clover blossoms, having as little brown in them as possible and no stems! (they impart a bitter flavor)

2 ½ cups boiling water

¼ cup lemon juice

1-4 cups sugar

1 package of pectin (Kathy used Pomona’s Universal Pectin for its lower sugar content)

Procedure: Wash and drain the blossoms and place them in a large heat-proof jar. Pour in the boiling water, cover, and allow them to sit overnight. Then, squeeze out the liquid so that you have 2 ¼ cups of “tea.” Next, follow the instructions for making jelly on your package of pectin. IMPORTANT: Add lemon juice to set the pectin, balance the flavor, brighten the color, and provide acidity for safer storage. Place the jar in a 212°F water bath for 10 minutes for shelf-stable storage.

Kathy has previously made jelly from dandelion flowers and lemon balm leaves. She gets satisfaction not just from growing and foraging her own food, but also from turning a “weed” into something delicious. When you make it yourself, you know all of the ingredients!

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



A common legume seen in many lawns is clover (top and left). Right: Kathy Simon’s white clover jelly. Photos by Francine Wizner

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Innisfree to host Northeast Dutchess Spring Community Day on May 23

Innisfree Garden will host Northeast Dutchess Spring Community Day on Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., offering free admission to residents of participating Northeast Dutchess County communities, along with free and discounted special programs throughout the day.

On May 23, admission to Innisfree will be free for residents of Amenia, Clinton Corners, Dover Plains, Millbrook, Millerton, North East, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Stanford, Washington, Wassaic, Wingdale, and their hamlets. Proof of residency is required upon arrival to receive free admission or discounted event tickets. Visitors from outside these communities are welcome to attend with regular garden admission: \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and free for Innisfree members. Advance registration is strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated, as it helps Innisfree prepare for the day.

"We are delighted to welcome our Northeast Dutchess neighbors to Innisfree for this special day," said Michelle Gervais, Innisfree's Public Programs & Outreach Manager. "Spring Community Day is an opportunity for more people to experience the garden, enjoy time outdoors with family and friends, and discover a landscape that is both peaceful and full of wonder."

Two special programs will be offered during Spring Community Day:

10:30 a.m. • Qigong with Cris Caivano
This beginner-friendly spring movement program will introduce participants to Qigong exercises and acupressure points designed to support health, flexibility, strength, circulation, and relaxed energy. No experience is necessary, and all ages are welcome. Discounted tickets are available for Innisfree members and Northeast Dutchess residents.

2:30 p.m. • The Great Pollinator Ramble

Created by Processional Arts Workshop, The Great Pollinator Ramble will bring larger-than-life pollinator puppets into the pathways, groves, and hidden pockets of Innisfree. Visitors can wander the garden in search of 10 different species of Hudson Valley bees, butterflies, beetles, and birds hidden among the greenery. Guided by a habitat map and "life list," aspiring naturalists of all ages can learn to identify key pollinators while experiencing the garden as a landscape buzzing with possibilities. Participation is included with garden admission.

Advance registration is recommended for special programs. More information is available at www.innisfreegarden.org/events/spring-community-day-2026.

Innisfree Garden is at 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook.

The event is supported in part by a grant from the Northeast Dutchess Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.



Innisfree Garden will host a Spring Community Day with free admission to residents of participating Northeast Dutchess communities. *Courtesy photo*

Weekend events at the Beatrix Farrand Garden

The "Welcome Spring!" Plant Walk is set this Saturday, May 16, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Beatrix Farrand Garden (BFG) Association presents a narrated plant walk through the spring seasonal displays of native plants in the Wild Garden with BFG Horticulturist Ashley Gamell. Explore the characteristics, care, and design features of this extensive native plant demonstration garden while experiencing its peak spring beauty. Space is limited. Advance registration is recommended.

There will be two events on Sunday, May 17. First, "Drawing from the Garden: Mira Fink," is set from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (Rain date May 31). Connect with the beauty of nature while drawing what naturally attracts you in the garden. Observe a natural object, such as a flower or vine closely, then draw it slowly, following the unique contours to capture its essence. Allow yourself to mindfully draw while relying on your "artist's eye". Professional artist Mira Fink will guide you in the process. No previous drawing experience needed. All materials will be provided. The cost is \$45, and advance

registration is required.

On Sunday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m., create a Twiggy Pollinator Tower with Jessica Williams. Insects are essential for a thriving ecosystem. This rustic garden accent provides an excellent home for them. You'll also attract more birds and amphibians while benefiting from fewer pest problems and better harvests. The four-foot-tall tower is created using twigs to form a teepee-style frame with a wood base. Weaving willow or vines thru the structure will contain the wonderful variety of natural materials including pine cones, bark strips and hollow stems of all sizes chosen for their ability to provide desirable housing. Ornamental vines can be grown up the sides. All materials and instruction are included, everyone will make their own unique tower to grace their garden. The cost is \$50, and advance registration is required.

The Beatrix Farrand Garden is on the grounds of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, 4097 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park. Visit <https://beatrixfarrandgarden.org/> for event reservations and more information.

LARGER-THAN-LIFE POLLINATOR PUPPETS BY PROCESSIONAL ARTS WORKSHOP WILL BRING THE GARDEN TO LIFE ON MAY 23

Innisfree Garden will welcome visitors of all ages to The Great Pollinator Ramble on Saturday, May 23, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., as part of its Spring Community Day.

Created in collaboration with Processional Arts Workshop, this lively, interactive experience will send a roving host of larger-than-life pollinator puppets into the pathways, groves, and hidden pockets of Innisfree's 185-acre landscape. Visitors are invited to wander the garden in search of 10 different species of Hudson Valley bees, butterflies, beetles and birds, each animated by volunteer puppeteers and tucked among the greenery. Guided by a habitat map and "life list" detailing each species, aspiring naturalists of all ages can learn to identify key pollinators while experiencing the delight of a landscape buzzing with motion, discovery, and surprise.

Processional Arts Workshop works with communities to create site-specific performances, art parades, and puppetscapes. Drawing from global Carnival and ritual theater traditions, their projects integrate pageant puppetry, mobile architecture, illuminated structures, and community participation, engaging volunteers and audiences around the world, including through their long-running work with New York's Village Halloween Parade and the beloved annual Sinterklaas parade in Rhinebeck.

Participation in The Great Pollinator Ramble is included with garden admission. While advance registration is not required, it is strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated, as it helps Innisfree plan staffing, parking, and visitor services for this special community event.

Innisfree is also seeking volunteer puppeteers, ages 13 and up, to help animate the pollinator puppets during the event. No experience is necessary, and volunteers will receive training, breaks, and refreshments. For more information, to sign up to volunteer, and to reserve tickets, visit innisfreegarden.org/events/great-pollinator-ramble-2026.

Exhibitions

continued from page 10

Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. In the 1846 New Studio, Through May 24: "Hudson Talbott: Shining Objects, A Career Retrospective," the exhibition will celebrate the work of the late, award-winning artist Hudson Talbott, whose talents have inspired audiences for decades through his children's picture books. Presenting more than 75 of Talbott's works, the exhibition will include a selection of his original paintings and sketches, his painting table, examples of his more than 30 books for young readers, and a selection of his early commercial work. **Through December:** "Emily Cole & Valerie Hegarty: LIFE CYCLES" presents a visual dialogue of two craft-based women artists across three centuries: 19th-century artist Emily Cole, daughter of Thomas Cole, and 21st-century artist Valerie Hegarty. The spotlight exhibition juxtaposes more than 30 works of painted porcelain and works on paper by Emily Cole (1843-1913) with a mixed-media installation by Hegarty. The work by Valerie Hegarty was made specifically for the Thomas Cole Site in 2025 and explores the connection between Thomas Cole and Emily Cole and their fascination with cycles of life, while considering Hegarty's own relationship with her mother. www.thomascole.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. Through May 24: "Sculpture, 3-D, and Relief," the artwork encompasses aspects of space, shape, texture and color in a variety of materials. From the realistic to the abstract, freestanding and relief, unique and exciting sculptural forms will be on display. Highlights will include an exploration of forms from clay, wax, wood, stone, glass, fabric, metal or found objects. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliantistsgallery.com

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. Through June 28: "Version/Vision," a national group exhibition celebrating LGBTQ artists. **Artists' Talk:** Sun., June 14, 1-3 p.m. www.womenswork.art

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.



Technical difficulties

Chaos in Mom and Pop's living room

We're living in a time where technology is sprinting ahead like it's late for a wedding. AI is writing novels, cars are driving themselves, refrigerators are sending us text messages – and somewhere out there, a scientist is trying to convince people that putting a computer chip in your brain is a good idea.

And every time I hear about some new invention, I think about my parents' generation and the absolute whiplash they must feel.

My father went from a town with no electricity to a world where every appliance screams at you like a needy toddler. He went from hand-carved wooden sandals to sneakers with air pockets, gel cushions, and Bluetooth — shoes that probably know your credit score. He went from crossing the ocean by boat to watching the Space Shuttle blast off like it was going to pick up groceries. He went from traveling to Naples just to make a phone call to having a cell phone in his pocket that can call anywhere ... even though he still talks into it like he's trying to shout through a brick wall.

Honestly, when Pop uses his cell phone, he yells so loud the neighbors think he's calling the Pope directly.

One time, I put together an exercise bike for Mom and Pop. I assembled it at my house, then dropped it off when they weren't home. I set it up in the family room so they could pedal while watching TV – you know, multitasking, Italian-style.

This bike had a tiny digital screen and a few buttons. Nothing complicated. But I still showed it to Pop beforehand, because I know how these things go. I wanted to protect myself from the inevitable interrogation, cross-examination, and emotional damage.

So I dropped it off ... and waited for the phone call.

RING! RING!
Me: Hello?
Pop: Luigi! Luigi! PRONTO! PRONTO!

Me: Yes, Pop, I'm here. Please stop yelling.

Pop: IMA NO YELLING! HELLO?! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

Me: Yes, Pop. I can hear you perfectly.
Pop: Listen! I see you brought the bicicletta! Grazie!

Me: Yes, Pop.
Pop: Howa she works?!

Me: You get on it and start pedaling.
Pop: WHAT?! LISTEN! YOU CANA HEAR ME, NO?!

Me: Yes, Pop.
Pop: Thisa phone isa no good. Maybe you gotta get me a new one.

Me: Pop ... the phone is fine. You just need to turn the volume up.

Pop: Thatsa why Ima talking loud — because Ia no can hear YOU too good.

Me: Pop ... yelling louder doesn't make me louder.

Pop: I no hava to press the buttons?!

Me: What? On the phone?
Pop: NO! THE BICICLETA!

Me: (sigh) No, Pop. Just pedal. Ignore the buttons.

Pop: What? Que es a readout?!

Me: Nothing, Pop. Don't worry about it. Just pedal.

Pop: WHAT?! LISTEN! YOU CANA HEAR ME, NO?!

Me: Yes, Pop.
Pop: Whata, you think Ima stupid?!

Me: No, Pop. You just don't need the extra features.

Pop: Tell me what this stuffa is! Ia paid for it, so Ia wanta to know!

Me: Okay. One shows how long you've been on the bike. One shows how many calories you're burning—

Pop: BURNING?! Ima rida the bicicletta, NOA COOKA THE PEPPERS! Que es this burning?!

Me: It's ... the amount of weight you're going to lose.

Pop: Hmm! What else?
Me: Your heart rate. And the last one is the distance you're covering.

Pop: Distance?! Shesa standing STILL! It's not going ANYWHERE! So I noa need that!

Me: Do you really need the other ones?

Pop: NO! Momma and me justa need to pedal!

Me: That's what I thought.

Pop: Okay! Ima gonna go! I gotta a nice Sardine in the oven for dinner!

Me: GRAZIE!
CLICK!

When I hung up, I had two headaches: One from explaining the bike ... And one from Pop yelling like he was calling me from a helicopter.

I sat there imagining the two of them taking turns on the bike, watching "Jeopardy," arguing about which button does what, Momma yelling, "Antonio, YOUA PEDALING TOO FAST, YOU'RE GONNA HITA THE TV," while Pop insists the bike is "trying to trick him."

I pictured Pop pressing every button at once, the screen flashing like a slot machine, Momma shouting, "STOP TOUCHING THINGS," and Pop yelling back, "IMA TRYING TO SEE HOWA SHE WORKS!"

And then, after all that chaos, the two of them sitting down to eat their fish like nothing happened.

Sometimes I wonder what they think of all this technology. Is it better now? Was it better when everything was simple? When the only button in the house was the one on the TV that you had to smack three times to get Channel 7?

All I know is ... the fish was definitely good. And the bike? Probably still sitting there, untouched, because Pop is waiting for "the manual in Italian."

SARDINES WITH ITALIAN HERB CRUST

Sardines
8 butterflied sardines
¼ tsp salt
? tsp black pepper
¼ tsp paprika
3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

Italian-Style Crust
½ cup light breadcrumbs
1 garlic clove, finely minced
2 tsp toasted pine nuts, finely chopped
2 anchovy fillets, finely minced (or

about ¾ tsp anchovy paste)
1 tsp capers, drained and finely chopped
1 tsp lemon zest
4 tbsp finely grated Pecorino
2 tsp fresh oregano, chopped (or ½ tsp dried)
1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

Topping
4 tsp finely chopped red onion (about ¼ of a small onion)
1 tsp finely chopped red chili, seeds removed
2 tsp chopped fresh parsley

Method
Prepare the Crust: Combine all the crust ingredients in a small bowl, mixing until everything is evenly distributed. Spread the mixture out on a plate so it's easy to press the fish into later.

Prepare the topping: In a separate small bowl, mix together the chopped onion, chili, and parsley. Set aside.

Season and coat the sardines: Pat the sardines dry with paper towels.

Lightly season both sides with salt and pepper.

Sprinkle a little paprika over the skin side only.

Press the flesh side of each sardine firmly into the breadcrumb mixture. The coating won't cover the entire surface — that's exactly what you want.

Set the coated sardines aside, crumb-side up.

Cook the sardines: Heat a bit of olive oil in a nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.

Place the sardines in the pan skin-side down and cook for about 1 minute.

Carefully flip them and cook the crumb side for about 1½ minutes, or until the crust is golden and crisp.

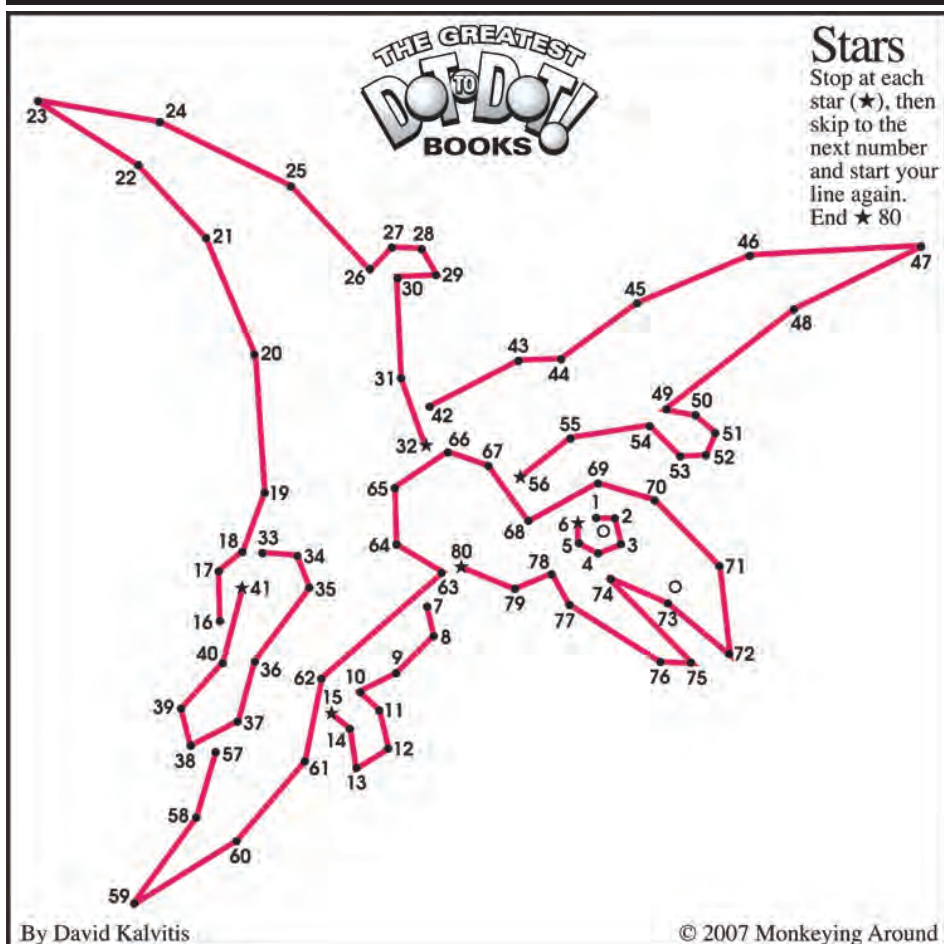
Finish with topping and oil: Transfer the sardines to a plate, crumb-side up. Sprinkle the fresh topping over the fish, then drizzle the hot oil from the pan over everything; it should sizzle a little as it hits the herbs and onions.

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

By David Kalvitis

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



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

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

Suguru

	4	1				1	
						2	
						5	
	2				3	1	
3	5						

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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: TV MOMS

ACROSS

- Ionic and Corinthian predecessor
- Good times
- AI fodder
- Offer two cents
- Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
- Interior designer's concern
- Not fiction, pl.
- Big head
- Fear-inspiring
- **"Good Times" mom
- **"The Sopranos" mom
- Possessive pronoun
- Gumbo pod
- Protrude
- Catcher's catcher
- *Marvelous Midge Maisel's first name
- "Metamorphoses" poet
- Chows down
- Millionaire maker
- Time for eggnog
- Sure sign of fire
- "Frasier" actress Gilpin
- TSA PreCheck alternative
- Mosque V.I.P.
- Arabian bigwig
- Received salary
- At the apex
- Masseuse's office
- "Where the Red ____ Grows"
- Likewise
- **"Arrested Development" mom
- **"Fresh off the Boat" mom
- Circumvent
- French vineyard
- Open disrespect
- Dewey Decimal System, e.g.
- 252-gallon cask
- Cause anxiety (2 words)
- Back talk
- Extra point
- Vanish without this

DOWN

- Take of a hat, e.g.
- Traditional October birthstone
- Puerto follower
- Opening, colloquially
- #55 on periodic table
- Part of an eye
- **"Married with Children" mom
- Investor's asset
- Hold as a conviction
- Unit of land often featuring a home
- Load sixteen tons, e.g.
- Geometry calculation
- Divert from course
- Between washes and styles
- Casino's pull
- Foot rest
- **"Stranger Things" mom
- Throat dangler
- Mosaic artist
- **"Friday Night Lights" mom
- Tug-of-War gear
- List entries
- Like anchor aweigh
- **"Schitt's Creek" mom
- Martin of Rat Pack
- 3-handed card game
- Bring character to life
- Response to stimulus
- Ctrl+Alt+____
- Lemony cream dessert
- Right-hand page
- Academy Award
- Orchid garlands
- Forearm bone
- Cow chow, pl.
- "Beware the ____ of March"
- **"The Handmaid's Tale" mom
- Letter before kappa
- Nile dweller, for short
- Writer Rice
- ____-D.M.C.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 21

A & E CALENDAR

May 14: "A play about now," Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. A one-man show by Ryan Skinner, performed by Brett Owen, 7:30 p.m. (845) 876-2903

May 14: Concert: Valley Chamber Winds, Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Woodwind instruments, 6:30 p.m. No registration required. www.poklib.org

May 14: Handprint Project / Proyecto Huella de Mano, Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market St., Poughkeepsie. The Handprint Project by artist Carmen Lizardo is a bilingual, community-centered art project that explores migration, ancestry, and cultural identity through collaborative storytelling, 3-6 p.m. You are invited to bring a small object that has personal or familial meaning for you. Carmen Lizardo will take a picture of your hands holding the object and a short voice recording of you saying why the object is significant. No registration required. www.poklib.org

May 14-16: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. May 14: Michael J. Miles: Great American Jukebox, 7 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. May 15: Lara Hope Band and Erin Harpe & Countryman Jim Country Blues Duo, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 door. May 16: Ian Flanigan; special guest Michele Gedney, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

May 15-17: Germania Maifest, Germania Festival Grounds, 51 Old DeGarmo Rd., Poughkeepsie. A fun, festive and authentic event featuring live German bands, German food, German desserts, traditional German beers, children's entertainment, Bavarian folk dancers, and singers. Hours: Fri., 5-10 p.m.; Sat., 1-10 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. Adult entry ticket: \$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. www.germania.pok.com or (845) 471-0609

May 15-17: Hudson Valley Spring Fling Bazaar, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. The Bazaar marries multiple concepts: home and outdoor living vendors selling everything from RV's to vodka. Food court, food trucks, NY wine and spirits sampling. Indoor & outdoor exhibits. Fri., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Adults \$12 at the gate, weekend pass \$15. Free admission ages 17 & younger. Free parking. No pets. www.springflingbazaar.com

May 15-17: "Something Rotten!" A Musical Twist on The Bard, County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. 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 17, 2 p.m. Tickets: Adult \$30; Senior 60+, Military, Students (with ID at the door) & Children under 12: \$28. countyplayers.org

May 15-17: "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 15: Cellist Amanda Forsyth, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Canadian Juno award winning cellist considered among her peers and critics alike to be one of the most dynamic cellists on the concert stage today, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. www.thestissingcenter.org

May 16: ACW Presents: Reckoning, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. In addition to the high-stakes action inside the ring, Reckoning will also feature a historic moment for wrestling fans in the Hudson Valley. ACW is honored to announce that Randy "Macho Man" Randy Savage Poffo will be posthumously inducted into the MJN Center Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame. Fan fest starts at 4:30 p.m. Shows starts at 6:30 p.m. www.MJNCenter.org

May 16: Cabaret Night: "Stories in Song," Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. Join vocalist Ilana Meredith and multi-instrumentalist Joseph Rutkowski (piano/accordion) for an immersive evening where music meets history, 7-9 p.m. Guided by renowned local historian Jim Mackin, the trio presents a curated selection of narrative-driven songs from many composers. Ticket \$20 or pay what you can at the door. info@copakegrange.org or www.copakegrange.org/events

May 16: gabby fluke-mogul / Charles Burnham, VBI Theatre of Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. Incendiary gathering of two contemporary violin virtuosos: educator and Creative Music Studio Executive Director fluke-mogul (Pauline Oliveros, William Parker, Ava Mendoza) joining forces with veteran Downtown musician Burnham (Ulmer, John Zorn, Medeski Martin & Wood), 8 p.m. Advance tickets on sale at https://gfmcb.eventbrite.com

May 16: Movies with Spirit, "Monsieur Ibrahim," Kerhonkson Synagogue, 26 Minnewaska Trail, Kerhonkson. A Jewish boy adrift in early-1960s Paris forms a life-changing bond with a Muslim shopkeeper who quietly teaches him joy, compassion and the art of living, 7 p.m. The 2003 film is in French and Turkish with English subtitles, runs 1 hour 35 minutes and is rated R. Suggested donation \$10 ages 13 & up. More info: (845) 389-9201 or gerryharrington@mindspring.com.

May 16: Taylor Ashton, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Vancouver-born, Brooklyn-based songwriter whose live shows unfold like a well-told play: tender, humorous, and full of surprises, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$40 advance, \$40-\$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339.

May 16: "Those Who Served: The Enslaved and Paid Servants of Clermont," Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. Over the course of three centuries, hundreds of people worked at Clermont to keep the Livingston family comfortable, 2 p.m. For nearly 100 years, the mansion was run by a mostly enslaved staff. By the 1830s, this staff was completely replaced by paid labor. Though many of their stories were lost, recent research has revealed new details about those who worked for the Livingston family. Note: This tour begins in the Visitor Center. Reservations not required but appreciated. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/students, children under 12 are free. www.friendsofclermont.org

May 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 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

May 16-17: Open Studios by Upstart Art Weekend. An intimate, yet region-wide initiative where 240 artists across the Hudson Valley and Catskills open their studios to the public – strengthening visibility, access, and connection to art, people, and place, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. www.upstateartweekend.org

May 16-17: "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. Sat., 2 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. \$12/Adults, \$10/Seniors/Students, Children 12 & under free. Reservations required: https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS

May 16: Guided Hike: History Hidden in the Woods, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. This 90-minute guided hike will lead visitors through the park, exploring the history of three historic estates: from Staatsburgh's founding as a gentleman's farm in the 1700s to the development of The Point and Stonehurst estates in the 19th century. Free. Reservations required: https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS

May 17: "America 250: The Livingston's Landscape Walking Tour," Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. Uncover the relationship the Livingstons had with the land and those living on it, 2 p.m. This guided landscape tour will look back through generations of the Livingston family and explore how their role as landowners shaped the land and local communities. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Inclement weather postpones tour. Free. Meet at the Visitor Center. www.friendsofclermont.org

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

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

May 19: Author Event, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Cynthia McVay ("Under the Crucian Sun: A Memoir of Place") in conversation with Joseph Luzzi, 6:30 p.m. Tickets required. Admission with book: \$49, includes one paperback copy of "Under the Crucian Sun" and sales tax. Admission only: \$10. https://www.eventbrite.com

N. Dutchess Symphony Orchestra announces board member retirements



Dave Baxter

After 20 years of dedicated service, Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) announces the retirement of two board members who are long-time leaders of NDSO, effective June 30, 2026: Dave Baxter, President of the Board of Directors and Debbie Contini, NDSO Board Member and Treasurer.

In a release to the press, NDSO noted, "Dave and Debbie have both played a major role in guiding and supporting the not-for-profit organization since its inception in January of 2006. Through their leadership, vision, and commitment to the arts, they have helped shape the orchestra's growth, strengthen community presence, and ensure continued success.

"Their collective contributions span countless performances, initiatives, and milestones throughout 20 years of incredible growth. During our 20th season, NDSO will entertain, educate and inspire almost 3000 attendees at six public concerts and more than 1000 students at two children's concerts.

"Whether working behind the scenes or leading from the front, their passion for music and dedication to our mission



Debbie Contini

have left a lasting impact that will be felt for years to come. NDSO extends their deepest gratitude for their years of service and unwavering support. While they may be stepping away from their official roles, their legacy remains an enduring part of our orchestra's story. Please join NDSO in thanking Dave and Debbie for their extraordinary contributions and in wishing them all the best in this next chapter."

The NDSO Board of Directors has appointed Jennifer Henion as the new President of the Board of Directors effective July 1, 2026. She is currently the Vice President of the Board. Christopher Wyble has been appointed Vice President and Interim Treasurer of the Board of Directors effective July 1, 2026. He is currently a member of the Board.

Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra was formed in 2006 to bring live orchestral music to northern Dutchess County and the surrounding Hudson Valley area. Completing its 20th season, the orchestra offers the best possible live performances of classical music at family-affordable prices.

Couch for Sale

- * 76 inches long x 36 inches wide
- * Gray/Brown fabric
- * Cost - \$150

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Two Red Hook High students win Ruge Family scholarships



Prestin Welch



Chase Wilbur

Ruge's Automotive has announced the winners of its 2026 Ruge Family Scholarship Fund. Recipients were chosen following an application process with criteria stipulating that students must have plans to pursue further education or training in automotive studies or engineering, and in addition, that they demonstrate an ongoing commitment to community service.

The 2026 Ruge Family Scholarship award recipients are as follows:

- Prestin Welch, Red Hook High School, who plans to go study at Alfred State University (Major: Diesel and AutoTech)
- Chase Wilbur, Red Hook High School, who plans to study at the University of Northwestern Ohio (Major: Automotive High Performance Motor Sports)

Each student will receive a one-time scholarship of \$1,000.

Said Kristin Ruge Hutchins, President/CEO of Ruge's Automotive,

"After careful consideration of all submissions, it is our honor to share that Prestin Welch and Chase Wilbur, both graduating seniors at Red Hook High School, have been named our 2026 scholarship winners. In addition to being beautifully aligned with our eligibility criteria, their essays eloquently captured their capabilities to make a meaningful impact - personally and professionally - as they build their adult lives ahead. We extend warm congratulations and our very best wishes - to Prestin, Chase, and to all local graduates about to embark on the exciting next chapter of their lives."

In addition to its scholarship program, Ruge's Automotive has supported a wide range of other initiatives designed to enhance life for community members, including Northern Dutchess Hospital Foundation, American Legion Post 429, Rhinebeck Rotary, and Taconic Little League, among many others.

For additional information about Ruge's Automotive, visit rugesauto.com.

Dutchess Dairy Committee Agricultural Scholarship applications now available

Through the proceeds from the sale of the milkshakes at the Dutchess County Fair each year, the Dutchess County Dairy Committee (a not-for-profit organization) provides undergraduate, agricultural scholarships to Dutchess County students.

The Dutchess County Dairy Committee Agricultural Scholarship provides \$2,500 for the first year and \$1,500 for each academic year thereafter, (for a total of 4 years). Priorities are given to but not limited by those students pursuing a career related to agriculture. Those careers may include Ag Education, Ag Engineering, Agronomy, Ag Economics, Animal Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Ag Communications, and Environmental courses of study.

Criteria for the scholarship are as follows:

- The Applicant must be a Dutchess County High School senior accepted to an undergraduate 2 or 4-year program at an accredited institution of Higher Learning. Also, consideration will be given to Dutchess County returning college students.
- Must include the applicant's current transcripts.
- A completed 2-page application form and
- Provide a handwritten paragraph as requested on the application form.

All forms must be completely filled out and received no later than May 20th, 2026. Scholarship applications are available by emailing Jim Barey (jrb556@cornell.edu) at the CCEDC Office or emailing ccedc4-h@cornell.edu.

Miles of Hope awards scholarships

The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation recently announced \$54,000 in scholarship awards to Hudson Valley students.

"Each year, a scholarship committee, made up of members of our Board, former and current teachers, and the two co-founders of the foundation, reviews applications and reads heartwarming essays from students whose lives have been impacted by breast cancer. This is one of the most rewarding things we do," explained Executive Director, Pari Forood.

The Miles of Hope mission is to fund support services, education and outreach for people affected by breast cancer within the nine counties of the Hudson Valley. In 2026, the foundation received 60 scholarship applications from seven counties; 21 students were awarded between \$2500 and \$5000 for their college/university expenses.

"We work with Guidance Counselors in 24 school districts to make sure that any student whose life has been affected by breast cancer has the opportunity to apply for this scholarship. The process is relatively easy: students submit their grades, class rank, and volunteer activities as they relate to breast cancer, as well as an essay telling us how breast cancer has impacted their lives," Ms. Forood said.

In 22 years, Miles of Hope has given

away over \$4 million to programs such as scholarships and helping breast cancer patients with their bills and finances.

"Oftentimes, a breast cancer diagnosis comes with ancillary costs and patients will delay or forgo treatment. Miles of Hope steps in and pays for food, gas, transportation to and from treatment, housing, utilities, car payments, cell phone bills, etc.," Ms. Forood added.

"When a family member is diagnosed with breast cancer, the entire family is affected. We are honored to award scholarships to these high school and college students whose lives were turned upside down sometimes when they were quite young."

Local scholarship recipients are listed with their current educational institution:

Quinn P. Boyd, Red Hook High School; Brady P. Doherty, Franklin D Roosevelt High School; Anna M. Gatta, Arlington High School; Celeste E. Gorres, Franklin D Roosevelt High School; Caitlin M. Hammond, Millbrook High School; Dutchess County BOCES for Plant & Animal Sciences (half time Millbrook, half time BOCES); Annika P. Hietanen, Franklin D Roosevelt High School; Meghan Ostine, Arlington High School; Connor Peyton, Arlington High School; Samantha Sleight, Arlington High School; Olivia Valencia, Our Lady of Lourdes High School; Addison Zittel, Arlington High School.

Students announced as Roger Rees Award nominees



Dutchess County high school students have been nominated for the Roger Rees Award Outstanding Performers. *Photo courtesy Rebecca J. Michelson*

The Broadway Education Alliance Inc. announced the 50 nominees who will compete for the title of Outstanding Performer in the 16th annual Roger Rees Awards for Excellence in Student Performance on Sunday, May 17, at Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway (at 95th Street), in New York City.

Dutchess County student nominees for Roger Rees Award Outstanding Performers will take to the stage in the final round of the competition: Jonah Sebastian Espinosa, Beacon High School; Molly Lyons, Beacon High School; Julia McAlpine, John Jay High School; Austin Miller, Arlington High School, and Madisyn Spagna, Roy. C. Ketcham High School.

Roger Rees Awards Outstanding Performer nominees were selected from over 500 students throughout the region who were initially adjudicated by local teams of independent theater professionals.

This year's nominees performed in a qualifying role in an officially licensed high school production presented by 104 high schools located across 13 counties throughout the Greater New York area including the Bronx, Dutchess,

Kings (Brooklyn), Nassau, New York (Manhattan), Orange, Putnam, Queens, Rockland, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester, during the 2025-2026 academic year.

The top two scoring students from all participating schools were invited to participate in the Roger Rees Awards Next Step Nominee Selection Event led by award Artistic Director Theo Lencicki, Broadway performer Shannon Mullen, Music Director Shane Parus and a representative from the host institution.

The Roger Rees Awards recognize the importance of theatre arts education and celebrate the exceptional life and career-long artistic excellence of Broadway's beloved actor/director, Roger Rees.

Two students selected by a panel of Broadway experts will represent the Greater New York region at The Broadway League Foundation's The Jimmy Awards® (also known as the National High School Musical Theatre Awards®) on Monday, June 22 at the Minskoff Theatre.

For more information about the program, visit www.rogerreesawards.com.

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Geeks OnSite

Upton Lake Christian School students take part in project helping area widows

By Rex S. Bridges

Elisa DeWitt, principal of Upton Lake Christian School, was trying to think of a local mission project for her students.

"I actually thought of my dad who puts action to the Bible's words of looking after widows and orphans. He takes care of several widows in his area so this inspired me. I also grew up helping out the widow who lived next door to us."

With those thoughts in mind, she reached out to the school and church community, looking for widows for which they could provide assistance, and found nine ladies. The mission was strictly to carry out the Bible's command and teach students the values of hard work and service to others, going beyond ourselves.

On Friday, May 1, teams of 7th-12th graders, supervised by teachers and DeWitt, dispersed to the various homes, from Poughkeepsie to Stanfordville, to provide the muscle needed to accomplish tasks the widows needed to have done - assorted yard work, trimming bushes, washing windows, stacking wood, helping unpack/organizing, cleaning out the garage and power washing.

It was an enjoyable day for both the ladies and the students. The ladies liked having the young people around, especially as a lot of labor took care of tasks they would have had a difficult time doing.

The students found satisfaction in giving of themselves, seeing completed jobs done well, and having fun at the same time. Sam said it was a positive time seeing something getting done and done well, and liked how the students worked together as teams. Taylor found the ladies to be sweet and felt badly for them that they are unable to do tasks they used to be able to do. Gianna's work on cleaning windows and power washing was a big help and the ladies were very appreciative of the work done. She also liked the teamwork.

All in all, nine widows were recipients of the students' work. Ms. Rose commented on how excited she was for all that was done and how wonderful everyone was. Ms. Andrea was sick that day and wasn't able to interface with the students; however, her sons were impressed by the students' work. Ms. Rosalie was very appreciative of the work and provided a surprise detail when she mentioned her nephew had graduated from Upton Lake a number of years ago. Some of the students struck gold when Mrs. Lynda Lee provided chocolate brownies to her helpers.

It was a good day for the widows and students alike. The widows received some much-appreciated labor. Caroline said the day was "goated," and she and Sheldon commented they would be glad to help out again, noting a day out of school was pretty good.



Students from Upton Lake Christian School went to various homes on May 1 to provide assistance to widows in the area. Clockwise from top right, Lacey helps Ms. Rosalie. Sheldon and Isaac work in a yard. Jacob and Caleb clean a shower. Carter, Angelica and Sophie assist with stonework. *Courtesy photos*

Rhinebeck Garden Club enjoys a busy year

Submitted By Brenda Klapproth

Our calendar has been packed with learning opportunities and social activities. We kicked things off in February with Ashley Gamell's presentation on the planned new village pollinator conservation garden. Two outstanding offsite visits followed: Battenfeld's Wholesale Growers in March and the Northern Dutchess Botanical Gardens in April.

Meetings are usually held at the Rhinebeck Village Hall at 10 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. On September 23, RBGC member and Master Gardener Linda DiGasper will give a talk on spring bulbs. In October, we'll gather at the Rhinebeck Reformed Church for a potluck fall harvest lunch. November's program will be a "Make & Take" hands-on workshop featuring creations made with pressed flowers and leaves from our gardens.

Two field trips are also scheduled for members. In May, we'll travel to Skylands Botanical Gardens in New Jersey. Closer to home, in July, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the Burbee Experimental Garden at Montgomery Place.

In addition to lectures and garden

tours, the Rhinebeck Garden Club has, for over a decade, cared for the flower beds at the DeWitt Gurnell "Doughboy" Park. Visitors and residents alike often stop to compliment our efforts as we plant, deadhead, water, trim, and weed the beds. The Club also maintains the spring border garden on Rockefeller Lane.

Work has begun on our annual plant sale, which will be held at the Rhinebeck Reformed Church on September 19. An assortment of houseplants and hundreds of perennials from members' gardens will be available, along with delicious home-baked goods. If local gardeners have ceramic pots, garden art, or gently used garden tools they'd like to donate to the sale, please contact Diane Britton at Dbrit34@gmail.com to arrange for pick-up or drop off. Proceeds help fund stipends for speakers from nonprofit organizations, support maintenance at the DeWitt Gurnell garden, and contribute each year to a different gardening-related community project.

Our membership continues to grow, and we are now 70 members strong. For information about upcoming meetings or to become a member, please call Sue at (845) 797-3226.



Marcella Santini, co-owner of Northern Dutchess Botanical Gardens, gives a presentation titled "The Growing Experience." Fred Battenfeld talks to Rhinebeck Garden Club members at their March tour. *Courtesy photos*



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

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

Dialing 988:

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

Northern Dutchess Hospital achieves straight 'A' grade for patient safety

RHINEBECK – Northwell Health's Northern Dutchess Hospital has earned an "A" hospital safety grade from The Leapfrog Group. For a fourth consecutive cycle, Northern Dutchess Hospital has achieved the gold standard of patient safety for U.S. health systems. This top-tier rating reflects the hospital's dedication to preventing medical errors, implementing strong infection controls and fostering a culture that prioritizes patient well-being above all.

The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization focused on advancing quality care in American healthcare. Quality at Northwell Health's hospitals goes beyond meeting benchmarks; it means delivering healthcare that patients and their families can trust. From rigorous staff training to adopting the latest evidence-based practices, Northwell Health designs each aspect of care to ensure patient safety at every step.

"Achieving this recognition for the fourth consecutive cycle speaks to the consistency and dedication of our team," says hospital President Dr. Andy Wilson. "Their commitment to high-quality care is evident in every patient experience."

The Leapfrog Group assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" grade to all general hospitals across the country using evidence-based measures of patient safety focused exclusively on errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

Northern Dutchess Hospital has achieved numerous quality recognitions from reputable organizations that set healthcare standards. Most recently, they have been recognized by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) as a Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: Smoke Evacuation, earn-

ing the prestigious Go Clear™ Award.

They also ranked #7 out of 243 community hospitals in the nation by Vizient and ranked #15 out of 25 New York State hospitals by Newsweek. In 2024, they earned a five-star rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), scoring the highest level of recognition for quality of patient care. Northern Dutchess Hospital was one of 10 hospitals in New York to receive a five-star rating.

Northern Dutchess Hospital is an accredited Robotic Center of Excellence by the Surgical Review Corporation (SRC), recognized by U.S. News & World Report for high performance in heart failure and achieved The American Heart Association Get with the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus award for Type 2 Diabetes.

Northern Dutchess Hospital also achieved Surgical Quality Partner Status by The American College of Surgeons and CDC Full Plus Recognition for their Diabetes Prevention Program.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is a nationally recognized rating that provides patients and their families with objective data to make informed healthcare decisions. Updated biannually, this grade reflects over 30 safety performance measures, from hospital system efficacy to infection prevention and harm reduction strategies. The rigorous, peer-reviewed criteria Leapfrog uses ensure that an "A" grade is a distinguished indicator of quality and trustworthiness.

To view Northern Dutchess Hospital's full grade details and to access hospital safety grades for facilities nationwide, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

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Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-33-26

Parts for Heavy-Duty Vehicles for Dutchess County Public Transit Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 26th 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.

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW OF

Legal Notices

THE YEAR 2026 "A LOCAL LAW CHANGING THE DATE FOR THE TOWN OF PLEASANT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW TO HEAR REAL PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS TO THE WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING THE FOURTH TUESDAY IN MAY OF EACH YEAR AND SO MANY DAYS THEREAFTER AS THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW DEEMS NECESSARY"

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Pleasant Valley will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York on May 18, 2026 at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., on Local Law B of 2026, "A Local Law Changing the Date for

Legal Notices

the Town of Pleasant Valley Board of Assessment Review to Hear Real Property Tax Complaints to the Wednesday following the Fourth Tuesday in May of each year and so many days thereafter as the Board of Assessment Review deems necessary".

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law will be available for examination at the office of the Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, at the Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, New York between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing.

Legal Notices

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that all persons interested and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary.
Dated: May 4, 2026

Debra Dugal, Deputy Town Clerk

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-62-26

Specialty Paper Bids will be received until 11:00 a.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

Legal Notices

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-51-26

Equipment Replacement Parts Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 28th 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.

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE BE ADVISED that at a Special Meeting for the Town of Milan the Town Board authorized the Town Clerk to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the Northern and Southern Dutchess News for roof replacement on Milan Town Hall per architectural plans, project management construction manual and bid form from Optimus Architecture available through the Office of the Town Clerk and hereby authorizes the Supervisor to submit required paper work and Optimus Architecture plans packet to Dutchess County Shared Services Procurement Assistance Program to post the RFP on BidNet. Sealed bids must be

Legal Notices

delivered to the Clerk's office at Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY 12571 no later than 2:00 pm June 12, 2026; to be opened at the Milan Town Board meeting on June 15, 2026.

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

PUBLIC HEARING
Please Take Notice the Milan Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on changes and additions to Milan Town Law 200-36. Short-term rental on Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6:55pm at the Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Barbara Jean Haight

RHINEBECK – Barbara Jean Haight, age 88, of Rhinebeck, NY passed away on November 10, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born June 8, 1937, to Albert and Mildred Duntz of Poughkeepsie, NY. She is survived by her son Albert Haight, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren and many close family and friends. Barbara was predeceased by her daughter Gail, late husband Robert and her special friend Jim Rosell who passed away in June 2025. She created lifelong friendships and lasting memories after a 33-year career at Central Hudson.

Barbara will be remembered for her loving spirit, quick wit, high energy, and organizational skills. She shared her passion for cooking with those she loved always making sure to follow each recipe exactly, because there is "no willy nilly" in cooking. She loved her trips with the girls, shopping and spending quality time with Jim.

Close family and friends are invited for the interment at the Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY on May 16th at 11am. All are invited to join us for a celebration of life at the Pine Plains Lions Club 101 Stissing Avenue, Pine Plains, NY at 2pm.

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered.

Adelaide Alice Jasmine

MILLBROOK – Adelaide Alice Jasmine 90, a longtime Millbrook resident died on April 14, 2026, at Archcare at Ferncliff in Rhinebeck.

Born in Poughkeepsie on March 5, 1936, she was the daughter of the late John and Alice (Van Valkenburg) Erikson. Adelaide

retired from the Cardinal Hayes Home for Children and was a very involved parishioner of the Loyal Memorial Federated Church. Adelaide had a big heart and was caring, generous, and giving.

In 1957, in Sharon Connecticut, she married Francis Louis "Frenchy" Jasmine who predeceased her on December 23, 1991. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her sister Lenora S. Hicks and brother-in-law Raymond D. Hicks.

Survivors include her daughter, Elizabeth Phillips (Geoffrey) of Ijamsville, Maryland and son Ronald Jasmine of Millbrook; her grandchildren, Christopher Jasmine (Stephanie), Amber Jasmine (Randy), and Isabella Bourne (Jason), great granddaughter Elizabeth; and family friends Debi Casucci and Allison Hulst.

A celebration of life service will be set for a later date.

Rev. Canon James Elliott Lindsley
MILLBROOK – The Rev. Canon James Elliott Lindsley D.D. of Millbrook, NY. Born March 17, 1930, Morristown, NJ. Son of James MacIntyre Lindsley and Alice Elliott Lindsley. Graduated St. Bernard's School, Gladstone, NJ 1948; Bard College 1952 and General Theological Seminary 1955. Ordained priest Episcopal Diocese of Newark 1955. Rector St. Stephen's Church, Millburn, NJ and subsequently priest of a number of parishes in Dioceses of Newark and New York. Historiographer Episcopal Diocese of New York; author of numerous parish histories, including St. James NYC and St. Peter's Morristown, NJ. Author of several books including THIS PLANTED VINE, history of the Diocese of New York and A CERTAIN SPLENDID HOUSE, history of

Washington's headquarters in Morristown. Member Century Association and the Morristown Club. Married Barbara Spencer Newberry 1960.

Survived by his wife, and son Peter K. of Houston, TX, daughters Sarah E. and her husband John Mattes of Guilford, NH and Alice T. of Olympia, WA., and two grandsons. Memorial service June 13 at 11 AM Grace Church, Millbrook, NY. Internment in Morristown, NJ.

Mary Veronica Stritt



HYDE PARK – Mary Veronica Stritt, 100, a longtime resident of Hyde Park, passed away peacefully at home on May 8, 2026.

Born, January 1, 1926, in Utica, NY, she was the daughter of the late George and

Bronislawa Sobjak Bagiackas.

Mary devoted her life to her faith and family. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she was the heart of her family and took great pride in caring for those she loved.

On September 13, 1947, she married Albert Stritt at St. John's Church in Utica. Albert predeceased her in 1997.

Mary was a devoted catholic and a longtime member of Regina Coeli Church, where she was active in the Legion of Mary, the Altar Rosary Society, and served as a Eucharistic Minister. In recent years, she attended Mass at St. Peter's Parish. Her faith was a guiding force throughout her life.

She is survived by her children, Mary

Roussey and her husband, George, of Hyde Park, Elizabeth Lottey of Hyde Park, Monica Crolus and her husband, Robert, of Hyde Park, Clare Ring and her husband, Walter, of Hyde Park, Margaret Stritt of Branford, Connecticut, Zoë Salvia of Bethel, Connecticut, and Eric Stritt and his wife, Karen, of Poughkeepsie. She is grandmother to 15 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her sister, Jane Dupuis, of Massachusetts.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by 6 siblings.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, May 12, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel of St. Peter's Parish, 185 Hudson View Dr. Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Burial will follow in the family plot at St. Peter's Cemetery, Poughkeepsie.

In lieu of flowers, the Stritt family respectfully requests memorial donations be made to Regina Coeli Church, 2 Harvey St. Hyde Park, NY 12538, or St. Peter's Church, 6 Fr. Cody Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105 (www.stjude.org), Eternal Word Television Network, 5817 Old Leeds Rd., Irondale, AL 35210 (www.ewtn.com), or the National Shrine of Divine Mercy, Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263 (www.shrineofdivinemercury.org).

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

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Suguru solution

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SUDOKU
This week's answer

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Answers to this week's diversions
(puzzles on page 16)

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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
226 Travel & Services
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725 Collectibles
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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

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All positions require related degree and/or experience and/or skills. Multiple open positions. For full information, incl any travel reqs, remote work options & to apply online, visit our careers page at <https://www.amd.com/en/corporate/careers> and click the FIND JOBS button or search ref#.

TOWN OF STANFORD is looking to fill the position of Clerk to the Town Justice.

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Contact the Town Clerk for complete job description at Rbell@stanfordny.gov or 845-868-1366, option 5.

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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.

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Regional Food Bank representatives join Ag Dept. to explore Fresh View discussion

A panel of Hudson Valley farmers and Regional Food Bank CEO Tom Nardacci and moderated by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball, explored the essential partnership between the agricultural sector and the charitable food system during a Fresh View discussion last month.

Hosted by the Regional Food Bank Hudson Valley at its Orange County Distribution Center in Montgomery, the panel emphasized how these partnerships are creating innovative ways to support New York farmers while at the same time expanding access to nutritious foods and combating food insecurity in the region.

Joining Nardacci on the panel was Mira Miller, owner and operator of Row By Row family farm in Ulster County, Jeff Crist, owner and operator of Crist Brothers Orchards, a multi-generational apple farm in Orange County and Gibson Durnford, Executive Director of Tenmile Farm Foundation in Dutchess County.

Commissioner Ball emphasized that the Department is proud of the collaborative partnerships it has with the Regional

Food Bank, and all the emergency food providers across the State.

“Thanks to our Council on Hunger and Food Policy, these relationships were firmly in place when the pandemic hit and we were able to quickly pull together our Nourish NY program, which benefits both our families in need and our farmers looking for new markets for their products,” said Commissioner Ball. “I’m grateful to the Regional Food Bank for bringing us all together for this important panel discussion, to talk about our successes but also to talk about what the needs are going forward. The Food Bank does tremendous work for the communities they serve, and we appreciate their commitment and dedication to our shared mission to increase food access and support New York farmers.”

Since opening the Hudson Valley Distribution Center in Montgomery, the Regional Food Bank has worked to expand its relationship with the agricultural community in the Hudson Valley. In launching the Micro Purchasing Program, the Food Bank partners with small farmers to purchase fresh produce and have it distributed to area pantries to



Members of Regional Food Bank Hudson Valley explore an essential partnership between the agricultural sector and the charitable food system during a Fresh View discussion in Montgomery. *Courtesy photo*

increase the quantity of fresh produce they’re able to distribute. The Regional Food Bank is also a participant in the State’s Nourish New York program, which provides food banks and other emergency food providers with funding to purchase food, such as produce, dairy, meat, eggs, and more, from local farmers.

“The partnership that connects the food grown by the farmers in the Hudson Valley and Catskills to food banks helps ensure that we provide fresh local produce to our pantries and community partners, said Nardacci. “Agriculture is a vital part of the local economy, and it is essential that we recognize and address the challenges our farmers face. This collaboration will expand the access to nutritious food.”

New York’s agricultural industry has experienced a 2400% percent growth rate over the last ten years, and generates \$1.7 billion dollars in total economic impact annually. It ranks in the top ten in the country in the production of well over 30 different commodities: First nationally in the production of cream cheese, cottage cheese, sour cream, yogurt, and beets; second in maple syrup, apples, cabbage, and snap beans; third in grapes and squash; fourth in floriculture and fifth in milk production, total cheese production, green peas, and squash.

“I’m inspired by the work that the Regional Food Bank is doing to help bridge the gap between farms like mine and communities in need,” said Miller. “The consideration for the health and well-being of the farm partners is meaningful and will create lasting and productive relationships.”

Durnford, whose Tenmile Farm Foundation grows food specifically for donation to emergency food providers in our region, said policies and programs that strengthen partnerships between farmers and food providers help ensure families in need consistently receive fresh, nutritious food while supporting local agriculture. “The Regional Food Bank has been a leader in advancing these efforts, and Tenmile is proud to support their work to ensure equitable access to fresh, locally grown food across our region.”

More than 355,000 people, 12.2% of the population in the Regional Food Bank’s 23-county service area, are food insecure, meaning that they don’t always know where they will find their next meal. A staggering 15.4% of children in the region experience food insecurity. The data shows that food insecurity continues to grow with an additional 23,210 individuals in the Regional Food Bank’s service area.

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