

Historic exhibit
‘Horseback to
Horsepower’
set Aug. 10 in PV

By Morgan E. Maier

Before the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) and the ferry, transportation in Dutchess County meant using hooved and hooded carriages. Not to mention a much slower journey and transfer of information, of goods, of travelers than are seen today, in 204 years



Photos of Sandy Williams' collection of miniature antique firefighting apparatus will be included in the historic exhibit at the Mill Site Museum and Fire Station in Pleasant Valley on Sunday, Aug. 10. *Courtesy photo*

since Pleasant Valley’s establish- ment. Such an operation made one real form of livelihood possible: Farming. New industries, interests, and freedoms rose with the arrival of automobiles. Thus began an awaken- ing for rural communities, as the pos- sibility of travel became reality.

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society will unveil “The Road Through Pleasant Valley: From Horseback to Horsepower” on Sunday, August 10, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Mill Site Museum at 1624 Main Street (Route 44).

The exhibit was born in conjunc- tion with the REV250 campaign, a celebration of the county’s advance- ment from the moment the ink first dried on the Declaration of Independence. From the spread of technology and goods to increased diversity of labor, this free exhibit will showcase the impact that trans- portation developments have had in the past 250 years.

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179TH DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

Antique broom-making will be
focal point of Century Museum

By Curtis Schmidt

The broom has long been a common household tool, but have you ever wondered how brooms were constructed over a hundred years ago?

Visitors to the 179th Dutchess County Fair, set Aug. 19-24, will be able to learn those facts and many more from historians at the Century Museum Village.

And this year, the art of broom-making – circa 1890-1929 – will be the central focal point at the entrance of the main museum building.

Fred Widman, his wife, Molly, Diane Steubing, and Sophie Michaelis form the knowledgeable and hard-working team that will construct, demonstrate and sell approximately 65 antique brooms during the Fair.

But it’s not about selling, it’s all about the history of constructing of brooms using hand (and foot) oper- ated machinery – no electricity.

Fred says he and his team are “carrying on a valuable tradition” that was started by broom squire Bill Smith Jr., who learned the art in the Pennsylvania Dutch area.

Fred and Molly have been involved in the broom-making shop for about nine years. Diane Steubing and Sophie Michaelis have been stitching brooms for approximately six years.

“I call it life before K-Mart,” Fred said of the demonstration process. “This is from the time period when people constructed most household items themselves.”

The broom-making process begins with corn straw and lots of it. “You have to soak the straw in a bucket of water for about a half- hour, so it becomes malleable,” he said. “Then you gather about four layers of the wet straw and wrap it around the broom handle. The chuck of the ‘broom kick winder’ holds the handle, and feeds wire with the use of a foot peddle. The wire is fastened around the straw and keeps it in place.”

Once the straw dries, it can be placed in a broom stitching vise. The vise allows the broom to be flattened and the broom to be sewn with a large needle. Hemp threading is used to stitch and hold the straw in place.

After the stitching process, each

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Volunteer historian Fred Widman gathers corn straw around a broom stick in the first step of the antique broom-making process. This year, the art of broom-making – circa 1890- 1929 – will be the central focal point at the entrance of the main building at the Century Museum Village at the Dutchess County Fair. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

Rooted in the Fair tradition:
Every Wednesday is for fun

By Curtis Schmidt

They haven’t missed a Wednesday night gathering in 20-plus years and chances are “awfully good” that you won’t find a happier group.

They – and even previous generations of their families – have all been associated with the Dutchess County Fair in one way or another. And this friendship is all about sharing, caring – and most of all – laughing.

The group of eight includes Vicki and Andy Imperati, Andrea and Joe Kirchhoff, Barbara and Ed Hackett and Gina and Bob Beckmann.

The theme of this year’s Fair “Rooted in Tradition, United by Agriculture” is also a great fit for this group.

Andy Imperati’s father, Andy Sr., served as a director, had a long history with the Fair and promoting “Live- stock Hill” events and was great friends with Tom Kirchhoff, Joe’s dad. Andy and Joe can trace their friendship back to their child- hood days.

Vicki and Andy even met at the Fair and have been mar- ried for 32 years. “That’s how many years most of these friendships go back, if not longer,” said Joe.

“We’ve all had generations of our families’ raising animals and showing them at the Fair,” said Andy. “The friendships just grew from living and working together – and seeing each other at

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The “Every Wednesday night” group includes from left, Bob and Gina Beckmann, Barbara and Ed Hackett, Vicki and Andy Imperati and Andrea and Joe Kirchhoff. *Courtesy photo*

Renegades coverage ... pages 6-7

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Historic exhibit ‘Horseback to Horsepower’ set Aug. 10 in PV

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Historical Society President Suzanne Horn saw an opportunity for this exhibit to impact visitors across generations. From increased transportation of farm products to the journey of traveling musicians, this exhibit tells a tale of 200 years of growth.

Travel back in time to see the signs that lined Main Street, back when business ownership first began flourishing in Pleasant Valley. From hairdressers to inns and lodging, the advent of automotive bred new modes of livelihood.

The exhibit will feature a model P&E Railroad and artifacts that can be handled by the smallest of curious palms. Parts of the story will be told through photographs and digital displays, including a presentation from David Turner, local collector of postcards. Turner’s collection displays the impact that cars had in shifting the landscape in Dutchess County.

For automobile enthusiasts, antique and model cars will be on-site as well. Horn recognized Sandy Williams of Williams Lumber & Hone Centers for allowing historians to photograph his collection of miniature fire apparatus.

Horn said members of the Mid

Hudson Region Antique Automobile Club are bringing vintage autos to display. This is possible because the PV Fire Dept. is allowing the group to use their parking lot that fronts Main Street across from the museum.

The exhibit will be open rain or shine. Admission is free for all who wish to step backing time 200 years ago.

Next year commences America’s semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the consequential Revolutionary War. Pleasant Valley is just one of many communities preserving history — and our present — in Dutchess County’s REV250 campaign.

“We can open a path to a wealth of future experiences, just as we have enjoyed the path from the past,” said Horn.

Members of the Mid Hudson Region Antique Automobile Club are bringing vintage autos to display. This is possible because the PV Fire Dept. is allowing the Historical Society to use its parking lot that fronts Main Street across from the museum.



From top: Among the antique autos on display will be a Ford Model T that Bill Bryant has owned for 75 years. He is a founding member of the Mid-Hudson Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (MHRAACA). Another club member, Steve Mac Nish will display his 1960s era Corvair. Photos of Sandy Williams horse-drawn firefighting apparatus will also be on display. *Courtesy photos*



County seeks proposals for 2026 Youth Team Sports Program Funding

Grant workshops set for Aug. 26, 27

Playing sports helps children develop important life skills like teamwork, discipline and perseverance while also supporting their physical health, boosting self-confidence and encouraging friendship and good sportsmanship. The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services’ Division of Youth Services is requesting applications for youth team sports (YTS) programming from local community-based organizations and nonprofits for the program year Jan. 1, 2026, to Sept. 30, 2026.

Youth team sports funding is grounded in the principles of positive youth development. It is intended to provide support to local team sports programs in communities where such programs may be scarce or under-resourced. Youth devel-

opment through team sports aligns with Dutchess County’s “Path to Promise” domains: Learning, Material Basics, Safety, Family/Relationships, Mental Health and Physical Health.

Local youth-serving organizations that provide free team sports opportunities to youth under age 18 are encouraged to apply for grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. A total of \$129,716 is available through the New York State Children and Families Services Youth Teams Sports Reimbursable Grant*. This funding opportunity defines a “team sport” as an organized physical activity in which groups of two or more individuals compete with two or more opposing individuals.

Eligible applicants should be either a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or other community-based organization with a federal identification number, operating in Dutchess County with the ability to meet the county’s insurance requirements. All funding

requests must be for a program that provides free, direct services to all youth.

2025-2026 Youth Development Programming (YDP) or Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding (YSEF) awardees are not eligible to apply for the same program for 2026 YTS funding.

Funding may provide general operating support to give agencies the flexibility to efficiently allocate resources for quality programming. This may include educational instruction necessary to prepare youth to participate in team sports.

Agencies are strongly encouraged to attend a grant workshop specific to this YTS funding opportunity. The Division of Youth Services has scheduled grant workshops at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, 392 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie. Workshops are expected to last about two hours.

- Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 12:30 p.m.

They will review the requirements to apply, the step-by-step process of applying online, and address any concerns or questions. Please contact Doreen Clifford at 845-486-3663 or Doreen.Clifford@dfa.state.ny.us to register for a workshop.

The application period for the Youth Team Sports grant opens Tuesday, Aug. 26 and closes on Friday, Sept. 19.

All grants are due to the Division of Youth Services through the County’s online grant portal on or before Friday, Sept. 19, by 1 p.m. Please visit the Division’s NYS Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) Grant Funding webpage for more comprehensive information regarding this program and how to apply.

*Total funding amount subject to change based on final allocation from New York State Children and Family Services.

179th Dutchess County Fair: Antique broom-making will be focal point of Century Museum

continued from cover

broom gets a flat cut –or “crew cut,” as Fred calls it.

He handles the first step of the broom-making process. Molly, Diane and Sophie do the stitching. “They make my work look great,” said Fred.

The team constructs about 15 brooms per day, depending on the number of volunteers.

They will be joined in the museum

along with their friends - “storytellers” in costume who will take you back to a quieter, simpler time. Stroll past a printer’s shop complete with a working 1900 printing press, marvel at a living room filled with Victorian furniture, view a rural kitchen and watch as repairs are done in a Model-T-era auto shop.

Take a step back in time and learn about life a hundred years ago.



Left: Diane Steubing stitches a broom with hemp threading. Above: Molly and Fred Widman display finished antique brooms. Courtesy photos

291 acres added to Minnewaska State Park Preserve in Ulster County

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced the addition of 291 acres to Minnewaska State Park Preserve in Ulster County, helping conserve an important section in the northern Shawangunk Mountains. The protection of these lands as part of the New York State Park system provides an opportunity to safeguard natural resources and represents a valuable addition for accessibility and future recreational improvements.

The addition of these acres also advances the State's goal to conserve 30 percent of its lands and waters by 2030, in line with the global 30 x 30 Initiative to protect the world’s lands and waters. Under Governor Hochul’s leadership, over 4,000 acres have been added to lands managed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

“Our State Parks are some of New York’s most-treasured resources, and I’m

excited to expand Minnewaska State Park Preserve to better connect future generations with New York’s parklands,” Hochul said. “Protecting open space and expanding our parks helps to improve the environment and create much-needed space for outdoor recreation.”

The completed acquisition in the Town of Rochester was made by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation from the Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. using the State’s Environmental Protection Fund for a total of \$641,000. These latest acquisitions continue to enhance, expand, and protect biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as important wildlife habitat and preventing fragmentation of the forest in the northern Shawangunk Mountains. These parcels also increase recreational opportunities on the north end of the park and protect important views both from the park and the adjacent Rondout Valley.

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Eminent domain affecting Town of Red Hook

To the editor:
There are signs throughout Red Hook opposing the Town takeover of the Red Hook Boat Club property and an excellent article in the Northern Dutchess News July 23-29 issue. I am a Red Hook Resident – a former Engineer and Land Surveyor - who was involved in making appropriation maps and other activities for eminent domain property acquisition for the New York State Department of Transportation.
The reaction to the signs and the public hearing make it evident a highly charged emotional issue exists and should give pause and reviewing other possibilities. The fact that the Red Hook Boat Club does not want to negotiate under duress or threat makes the proceeding like having the Sheriff or Troopers carry out an eviction from your home.

The article quotes Mr. McKeon (Town Supervisor) as maintaining his conviction that the Boat Club properties are the only location suitable for a “public waterfront park.” The boat club property (parcels 897893 and 897911) have 2.37 acres of land, valued at \$800,280 with total \$1,228,560. and about 424 feet of frontage.

We then wonder what makes this so special. In the same area at the upper end of Steam Boat Dock Lane is Casella Wood LLC vacant parcel (935022) having 4.24 acres, valued at \$1,532,400 - and about 603 feet of frontage. The possibility of “shared use” of New York State Land on Cruger Island listed as NYS (Primary) Tidal Bay Bureau (additional) “of surplus Land” could be explored that has access over Cruger Island Road. There is parcel (003131) having 16. Acres on the north valued \$463,200. and parcel (980975) valued \$634,00 on the south having 35.7 Acres.

David F. Queen
Red Hook

we're on the web!

www.sdutchessnews.com

Thanks for supporting inspiring Ukraine fundraiser

To the editor:
On behalf of its sponsors and organizers, I am writing to thank the Northern Dutchess News and this community for its support of the “Words to America from Ukraine” fundraiser held Sunday, July 27th, at The Stissing Center.
From both the enthusiastic audience in the hall, and from those who could not attend yet were moved to donate to the event, we raised nearly \$32,000 for Razom for Ukraine with the money going towards Razom Relief which provides food, shelter, psychological support for children, and Razom Heroes which delivers life-saving aid to first responders and front-line medics.
Both of our keynote speakers—Maria Genkin from Razom’s board and Jed Sunden founder and director of American Ukraine Political Action Committee—were moved and inspired by the event; it was a great opportunity to demonstrate to all that this Northern Dutchess community still supports Ukraine.

Mark Lagus
Town of Northeast

OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

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

Businesses, organizations can apply for
‘Think Accessible Community’ certification

Training sessions set for
August & September

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino urges local businesses and organizations to apply for the Think Accessible Community Certification, a new program recognizing those who go above and beyond to create inclusive, accessible spaces for individuals of all abilities.

Since its launch earlier this year, the County has already received several nominations for community-minded organizations taking steps to make Dutchess County more welcoming for everyone.

“Our Think Accessible Community Certification celebrates those who are

taking concrete steps to make Dutchess County a more inclusive place for all,” said Serino. “This program not only recognizes these efforts but also encourages others to follow suit, ensuring that everyone in our community – residents and visitors alike – has the opportunity to fully participate in all we have to offer.”

The Think Accessible Community Certification is part of the County’s broader ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative to promote accessibility and inclusion. The program awards gold, silver, and bronze certifications based on an organization’s progress toward ADA compliance and additional accommodations made for individuals with disabilities. Certified organizations will appear on a public map at ThinkDIFFERENTLY.net and will receive a window decal to showcase their commitment to accessibility.

Organizations countywide, from local shops and restaurants to libraries, community centers and large institutions, are encouraged to apply now to be part of the first round of certifications, which are expected to be announced in September.

To help make the community more inclusive for all individuals, the County invites municipal officials, organizations, businesses and residents to attend an upcoming training, which will offer specific guidance on meeting ADA standards and implementing meaningful accommodation. Attendance at these workshops will aid those seeking Think Accessible Community Certification. Workshops will be held at the County’s Department of Mental Health Training Room, 230 North Road in Poughkeepsie, on the following dates:

Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 8:30 a.m. or 4 p.m. - Creating Inclusive Small Businesses: An Intro to the Welcoming Customers Toolkit

This training is specifically for local

businesses

Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 10:30 a.m.
The ADA and Local Government: Key ADA Requirements
This training is specifically for local government officials

Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 2:30 p.m.
Barriers to Accessibility: Understanding Codes, NYS Law and the ADA

This training is specifically for municipal building inspectors and code enforcers, who can receive training hours for attendance

Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 9 a.m.
Title II of the ADA and Website Accessibility

This virtual training is open to all residents; log-on credentials will be supplied to those who register

Space is limited. To RSVP or request more information, email kplace@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-3568.

“Accessibility is a community effort, and this program is an important step toward ensuring Dutchess County is a place where everyone feels welcome,” said Dana Hopkins, Dutchess County’s All Abilities Director. “We look forward to partnering with businesses and organizations to celebrate their accomplishments and expand accessibility throughout the County.”

Think Accessible Community Certification applications and program details are available at DutchessNY.gov/ThinkDIFFERENTLY. For help with the application or more information, contact the All Abilities Office at 845-486-3434.

For more information on the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative, visit ThinkDIFFERENTLY.net.

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Online registration for next Hazardous Household Waste Disposal event opens Aug. 13

The next Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck. Online registration for the event will open on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at www.dutchess-ny.gov/solidwaste.

These popular events are first-come, first-served, and residents should expect to experience wait times when they arrive at the location. Registration is limited to the first 400 households; pre-registration is required for this event, and there is a \$10 registration fee. Registration often reaches capacity quickly, so residents are

encouraged to sign up promptly.

Acceptable items:

Product	Containers	Marked:
“Warning,”	“Hazardous,”	“Flammable,”
“Poisonous,”	“Corrosive”	

Lead-based paints (NO latex or oil based), stains, varnishes, photo chemicals, non-latex driveway sealer, pool chemicals, creosote, kerosene, flammable liquids, metal polish, turpentine, strippers, thinners, gasoline/oil mixture, brake fluid, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, chemical fertilizers, adhesives, resins, solvents, fluorescent tubes (tape together or put in box to prevent breakage), propane tanks, mercury con-

taining devices, computer monitors, CPUs, fax machines, printers, TVs, stereos, telephones, lithium & sealed lead acid batteries (no automotive)

Do not bring:

Latex or oil-based paints, ammunition or explosives, asbestos products, latex

driveway sealer &, building or construction debris, tires, furniture, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, air conditioners, radioactive materials, scrap metal, metal drums or empty containers, motor oil, car batteries, alkaline or rechargeable batteries

Poughkeepsie supervisor warns of scam

Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Rebecca Edwards alerted business owners and residents in an email on July 29 that a group has been impersonating “Town officials via email.” Edwards stated that various messages are being sent “in an attempt to solicit funds from companies and individuals.”

The supervisor noted, “In one email, payments are being requested via wire transfer under the guise of ‘fees necessary for permit approvals.’”

Edwards advises that The Town of Poughkeepsie “will never request a wire transfer payment for placement on an agenda or email someone in this manner to demand fee payments for permit approvals.”

Email correspondence from Town of Poughkeepsie employees will always come from an @townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov email address, it was stated.

If one receives an official-looking email from a different domain or suspects for any reason an email is not legitimate,

do not send money or respond. The supervisor noted that one can confirm the validity of any communication by contacting Town Hall offices directly at 845-485-3600.

“It is always best practice to follow up with a phone call to confirm, if you receive any email correspondence requesting personal information or payment,” remarked Edwards.

The Town of Poughkeepsie “is doing everything possible to deter these activities,” she remarked. “Your cooperation and vigilance in reporting suspicious emails is paramount in our fight against frauds and scams. Your help in reporting these incidents allows us to continue protecting our township from cyberattacks like these. We especially thank business owners and residents for informing us when suspicious activity is noticed.”

“Your support helps us keep our Town safe and secure in the face of rising threats,” said Edwards.

Impact PR & Communications welcomes Alli Long as account manager

Impact PR & Communications, Ltd., an award-winning strategic public relations and marketing agency, has announced the appointment of Alli Long to account manager.

Long rejoins the team after previously serving as an intern and senior account executive, during and following her time as a student at Marist College, respectively. In her new role at Impact, she will lead the development and execution of strategic campaigns for the agency’s clients across several industries, including banking, nonprofit, real estate and hospitality/tourism.

Her previous experience includes professional services marketing, where she served on the corporate communications team of a nationally ranked accounting firm. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Marist College, and two master’s degrees – a Master of Arts in English and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing – from Monmouth University.

“Welcoming Alli back to Impact PR, and in this elevated role, was a no-brainer,” said Filomena Fanelli, CEO and founder of Impact PR & Communica-



Alli Long

tions. “Her combination of client service skills, writing and editing expertise, media relations know-how, marketing and social media savvy, crisis management experience and undeniable embodiment of the values our agency holds dear, make her a perfect fit to help with our team’s continued growth, not just in the tri-state region, but nationally.”

Hudson Valley Hospice earns “Superior Performer” Award

Michael Kaminski, President and CEO, announced that Hudson Valley Hospice has been recognized by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) as a “Superior Performer” for achieving an overall caregiver and family experience score that ranked in the top 20% of all eligible SHP clients for the 2024 calendar year.

“The high scores given on this Medicare survey by the families of our patients is a tribute to our clinical and support staff’s dedication to the hospice mission of providing comfort and freedom from pain and anxiety during a patients’ final days,” said Kaminski.

Karen Roberts, Vice President Mission Quality and Corporate Compliance Officer added “We are honored to be recognized as a Superior Performer by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) for our outstanding Hospice CAHPS scores. This award reflects our unwavering commitment to delivering compassionate, patient and family-centered care. It is a testament to the dedication and excellence of every member of our team.”

The annual SHPBest™ award program was created to acknowledge hospice providers that consistently provide high quality service to families and caregivers of patients receiving hospice care. The 2024 award recipients were determined by reviewing and ranking the overall CAHPS Hospice caregiver experience score for more than 1,800 hospice providers. With one of the largest CAHPS Hospice benchmarks in the nation, SHP is in a unique position to identify and recognize organizations that have made the family and caregiver experience a priority and have been rewarded for their efforts with high marks on the CAHPS Hospice survey.

“SHP recognizes how much hard work is involved in providing excellent patient care, and we are proud to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our top-performing customers through our annual SHPBest award program. These organizations care deeply about the patient experience and they never stop striving to improve every single year,” said Kevin Vogel, President of SHP.

Rooted in the Fair tradition: Every Wednesday is for fun

continued from cover

the Fair.”

Andy has now been the President of Dutchess County Agricultural Society (DCAS) and Fair CEO since 2012. Vicki has been the Administrative Operations Manager since 2011. Bob Beckmann and Ed Hackett are both members of the DCAS Board of Directors. Joe Kirchhoff also served as a member of the Ag Society.

And the “every Wednesday night” dinners – yes, you guessed it, are also rooted in a Fair connection.

Vicki relates the story.

“I was Entry Superintendent at the time and Barb (Hackett) forgot to enter one of the family’s Brown Swiss cows that year. She panicked, thinking she missed the entry deadline and came in-person to the Fair office. Everything worked out, but Barb and Ed decided

they needed to take Andy and I out to dinner to say ‘thank you.’”

That turned into a weekly dinner for the four of them, and soon the other two couples joined the gatherings. They don’t miss a Wednesday night – even when someone can’t make it.

Topics of conversation? “Nothing is sacred,” laughed Vicki.

Ed chimed in: “We never run out of things to talk about and always end up laughing our butts off!”

The Wednesday gatherings have obviously led to many “epic parties” with their families. “Weddings, birthday parties, funerals, vacations, you name it, we do them all together,” said Andrea. “We share, we laugh, we cry.”

And like the song from the 1980s relates – “That’s what friends are for.”



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Versatile Colmenares gains Player of the Week honors

By Morgan E. Maier

Before Opening Day, Jose Colmenares had appeared in just 46 games since 2019, sidelined by injury for two full seasons. Against the Rome Emperors on July 22-27, the second baseman had the best week of his career, capturing the South Atlantic League Player of the Week award.

Colmenares is the fourth Hudson Valley Renegade this year to receive a weekly award. His presence proved instrumental in the series win over Rome, as the Renegades' sole defeat came on the second baseman's rest day. Over the next four games, Colmenares showed why he was missed in mammoth fashion.

Colmenares was instrumental in the Renegades series win over Rome, including a three-run home run on July 25 that was the only scoring play of the game. Colmenares was responsible for eight of the 27 Renegades runs. With seven hits over five games, he notched 16 total bases, including an RBI double that he stretched to an inside-the-park home run on an error. With two home runs and three doubles, he posted a 1.365 on-base plus

slugging percentage, the highest in the SAL during the stretch. Colmenares was perfect in stolen base attempts (2) on July 24, joining Kiko Romero as this week's only Renegades with multiple swipes in one game.

"Jose was very impressive this week at the plate," said Renegades hitting coach Tom DeAngelis. "He continues to improve week in and week out and his competitiveness continues to shine in big moments."

Colmenares has played second, third, and shortstop this season, spending nine games with AA-Somerset, in addition to 70 (and counting!) at the High-A level. At the plate, he's best with runners at the corners – in six games, he's hit .429 with runners at first and third, with three hits and four RBI.

Colmenares is hitting .225/.325/.387 as a Renegade this season. Early in the season's second half, his batting average is .257 from a .192 first-half average. If his strikeouts decrease as power and quality contact increase, Colmenares can stay hot as the calendar turns to August.

The Hudson Valley Renegades are one of two SAL teams to sweep the



Jose Colmenares was responsible for eight of the 27 Renegades runs in the recent series victory over the Rome Emperors. *Photo by Dave Janosz*

weekly awards this year. Jace Avina and Elmer Rodriguez-Cruz took the position player and pitching honors back in the fourth week of the season, then the Bowling Green Hot Rods swept the following week. Before Colmenares, shortstop Alexander Vargas was the Gades' most recent Player of the Week, earning the nod for June 23-29.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH		W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Greensboro PIT	26	10	.722	-	7-3	W1
	Hudson Valley NYY	23	12	.657	2.5	8-2	W1
	Jersey Shore PHI	19	16	.543	6.5	8-2	W3
	Aberdeen BAL	16	19	.457	9.5	5-5	L1
	Wilmington WSH	15	21	.417	11.0	3-7	L1
	Brooklyn NYM	14	22	.389	12.0	2-8	L3
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH		W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
	Hub City TEX	21	15	.583	-	6-4	W2
	Bowling Green TB	20	16	.556	1.0	5-5	W1
	Greenville BOS	18	17	.514	2.5	6-4	W2
	Asheville HOU	14	21	.400	6.5	4-6	L2
	Winston-Salem CWS	14	21	.400	6.5	4-6	L2
	Rome ATL	12	22	.353	8.0	2-8	L1



Home Schedule

August			
08/06/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Renegades Musical HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth)
08/07/25	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Copa De La Diversión: Caribbean Night Presented By Cafe Con Leche HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth)
08/08/25	vs. Brooklyn	07:05 PM	Make-A-Wish Night Presented By Mirabilio Energy Fireworks Friday
08/09/25	vs. Brooklyn	05:05 PM	Veterans Night HOPE Week Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth)
08/10/25	vs. Brooklyn	02:05 PM	Halloween In August Kids Eat Free Presented By Hannaford Supermarkets
08/12/25	vs. Aberdeen	06:35 PM	Autism Acceptance Night Presented By Greystone Programs Baseball Bingo Presented By PeopleUSA
08/13/25	vs. Aberdeen	06:35 PM	Wine Wednesday Presented By Benmarl Winery We Care Wednesday Presented By Westchester Medical Center Health Network
08/14/25	vs. Aberdeen	01:35 PM	Newburgh Gorhams Night Newburgh Gorhams Replica Jersey Giveaway Presented By Heritage Financial Credit Union
08/15/25	vs. Aberdeen	07:05 PM	Hudson Valley Big Apples Country Night
08/16/25	vs. Aberdeen	05:05 PM	Bhutan Night George Lombard Jr. Bobblehead Giveaway Presented By K104
08/17/25	vs. Aberdeen	02:05 PM	Internet Culture Day Sunday Family Funday





**Impact PR & Communications Named Agency of Record
for Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands**





See story,
page 8

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Renegades keep pace with series win over Blue Rocks

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades struck some streaky offense this week as they took a series win over the Wilmington Blue Rocks. Amid a roster shakeup stemming from the MLB trade deadline, Hudson Valley bookended the week's performance with two offensive masterpieces.

Overcoming shutouts on consecutive days, they scored 10 runs on Sunday to take four of six games from the Blue Rocks. Jose Colmenares continued his hot hitting, with his second consecutive series with six hits or more.

Every Hudson Valley player got a part of the action in the opener, a 13-6 rout to extend their winning streak to five. Hudson Valley scored nine straight before the Blue Rocks threatened to creep back. A three-run ninth inning all but sealed the victory with every starter contributing one hit or an RBI. Six Renegades finished with multihit games. Coby Morales and Dillon Lewis each

connected for three hits and three RBI apiece. Manuel Palencia finished his night 4-5 with two RBI, and the call from Somerset didn't take long to reach him. Palencia was promoted to AA before the Renegades left Wilmington.

In the series close, Josh Moylan got things started with a resounding shot to right, his fifth on the season. Colmenares reached on a seven-pitch walk, and led Moylan's trot home for the 2-0 advantage. Kiko Romero continued his production, extending the lead with a RBI single to score Alex Vargas, who had tripled in the previous at-bat. With no outs and three runs in, the Renegades were just heating up in the second inning. With a Dillon Lewis grand slam to cap the six-run sixth inning, Frawley Stadium was near silent the rest of the way. Wilmington got a run back to make it 10-1, but the solo shot hardly dented the dominant Renegades performance.

A pair of two-run shots from Morales and Lewis launched the Renegades to their sixth win in a row on July 30, the

final morning game of the season. Slotted in the second and third spots of the hitting order, respectively, the duo of Dillon and Coby adds a major spark to the front of this Renegades lineup. To complement the offensive burst, Hueston Morrill earned his sixth save of the year, lowering that minuscule earned run average to 0.24.

While the Renegades' winning streak ended at six, their scoring fizzled in the week's waning days. In three games from August 1-2, the Renegades scored just two runs. Hudson Valley split the doubleheader and faltered on Saturday's contest, twice shut out by the Blue Rocks.

Wilmington scored the first game's only run in the bottom of the first inning. In the second game, Hudson Valley also held Wilmington to just three hits and earned a 2-0 win. John Cristino hit his first home run of the season to get the seventh inning insurance run. Jackson Castillo opened the contest with a single to score Anthony Hall, his 45th RBI on the season.

Hudson Valley was victorious in the latter half of the August 1 doubleheader. In the first of two seven-inning contests, Wilmington scored the game's only run came in the opening inning, as Blue Rocks pitching allowed just three hits. In the second game, Hudson Valley also held Wilmington to just three hits, earning the 2-0 victory. Cristino hit his first home run of the season for the insurance run. Jackson Castillo opened the contest with a single to score Anthony Hall, his 45th RBI on the season.

The Renegades (23-12) return home for two straight series at Heritage Financial, holding the second-best record in the South Atlantic League. The Renegades need to make up ground against second-half division leaders Greensboro Grasshoppers (26-10). They will host a formidable, familiar foe in the Brooklyn Cyclones (14-22), who look to snap a three-game losing skid. In the last matchup between these teams, the Renegades took five of six from Brooklyn in a split home-and-away series.

RENEGADES FEATURE

Lefty Gilbert dazzles in Renegades' bullpen

By Morgan E. Maier

The Hudson Valley Renegades got more Geoff Gilbert in June than they did in all of 2024. He pitched just 7.0 High-A innings before being shut down last year. Now in his third professional season, the bullpen's lone lefty is dazzling the Valley.

Ahead of the August 5-10 homestand, Gilbert held a remarkable 1.23 earned run average in 11 home appearances. He's struck out 24 in 14.2 innings of work at Heritage Financial Park, nabbing all three of his season wins on Hudson Valley home turf.

Gilbert drew the Yankees' attention in the Atlantic Coast Conference, spending three seasons at Clemson University. New York selected Gilbert with the 400th pick in 2022, one of 14 pitchers drafted that year. He and current AA-Somerset Patriot Will Brian were the class's only lefthanders.

He was twice on the watch list for the NCBWA Stopper-of-the-Year Award, awarded to the nation's best collegiate relief pitcher. In 2022, Gilbert made eight scoreless appearances, earning a 5-2 record over 19 outings. His career 10.76 strikeouts per nine innings pitched (K/9) is fifth all-time in Clemson program history.

In 2021, Gilbert's first full collegiate

season, he earned a team-low 2.23 ERA among qualified pitchers (40+ innings). He was the most familiar sight emerging from the bullpen, with five saves and 28 relief appearances to lead the team. He is well-prepared for the role of Hudson Valley's sole bullpen southpaw. It fits his style, too. Geoff won't shy from being called on for a stretch — or a start. July 6 marked his first Renegades start, setting up his fellow relievers with a hitless 3.0 innings. Allowing just one walk and one hit batter, Gilbert's strong opening led to the eventual 2-1 Renegades victory.

Gilbert rebounded in June after a rocky May. In four appearances, the 6-foot-1 slinger allowed just two hits in 7.1 innings, allowing zero runs with 13 strikeouts. Opponents hit .156 against Gilbert in July. As of August 2, it is the lowest across the entire Renegades pitching staff, who boast a collective .189 opponent batting average. At the turn of August, Gilbert has yet to earn a loss, posting a 3-0 record with a 2.51 ERA.

In 2023, Gilbert was brought up from Single-A for the decisive game against the Jersey Shore BlueClaws in the North Division series. With the bases loaded at the top of the 8th, Gilbert came on for the five-out save. He struck out two straight BlueClaws on seven pitches to dissolve the threat. With a three-up, three-down



At the turn of August, left-handed reliever Geoff Gilbert is posting a 3-0 record with a 2.51 ERA. Photo by Dave Janosz

ninth, Gilbert punches the Renegades' championship ticket.

As the Renegades push through the

second half, he'll be ready for the big moments. After all, Gilbert thrives when the lights are brightest.

Refundable farm employer overtime tax credit application period now open

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that eligible farm employers may now apply for the Farm Employer Overtime Credit Advance program and receive reimbursement for eligible overtime paid to employees since January 1, 2025. Now in its second year, the Farm Employer Overtime Credit Advance program is a part of Governor Hochul’s plan to support New York’s farmers through a series of new and increased tax credits and other initiatives and helps to ensure that farm employers can continue to support their workers while reducing their tax burden.

“Our farmers and farm workers are the backbone of New York, and I’m doing everything in my power to ensure that they can thrive in their essential work of bringing fresh, local products to communities across New York,” Hochul said. “The Farm Employer Overtime Credit Advance is a big part of that, reducing the tax burden for our farm businesses while helping them to continue supporting their hardworking staff, caring for animals and harvesting perishable products. I encourage all eligible farmers to learn more about this program and submit their applications now for a certificate of advance payment.”

The Farm Employer Overtime Credit is a refundable tax credit available for farm employers who pay overtime wages, based on the phase-in of an overtime threshold in New York State. Beginning today, farm employers may submit an application to the Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) for a certificate of advance payment of eligible overtime paid between January 1 and July 31, 2025 so they can receive reimbursement from the Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF).

Farms that used a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) in 2024 may also apply for certification for eligible overtime paid between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. Applications must be submitted to AGM by September 30. After eligibility review, AGM will issue a certificate of payment to each approved farm employer. With a certificate of advance payment, the approved farmer or business owners (for example, partners or shareholders) can then request their share of the payment from the Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF). This request must be made no later than November 1, using the online services account at DTF’s website.

Impact PR & Communications named Agency of Record for Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands



The team at Impact PR & Communications of the Hudson Valley is widening its media reach by becoming the Agency of Record for Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. *Courtesy photo*

Impact PR & Communications, Ltd. (IPR&C), an award-winning public relations and marketing agency, today announced the addition of an exciting new client to its roster: Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI). The team is tasked with executing a strategic public relations campaign for the nonprofit, which is the largest charitable organization in the Virgin Islands, to support its mission of connecting people and resources with community needs. The announcement marks both IPR&C’s first Caribbean-based account and its growing bench of nonprofit clients.

“We are thrilled to partner with Impact PR & Communications to share CFVI’s story more broadly, beyond the Virgin Islands,” said Dee Baecher-Brown, president of the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands. “We are excited to tap into their media relations acumen and creative approach to communications to highlight the meaningful impact our donors and partners have across the territory.”

For more than 30 years, CFVI has connected donors with community causes to enhance the quality of life for Virgin Islanders and protect the islands’ unique cultural heritage. The nonprofit stewards and grows resources from a network of donors, makes grants and supports programs to improve the educational, physical, social, cultural and environmental

well-being of the islands’ residents. Recognized for its excellence in nonprofit administration, CFVI is a trusted advocate and supporter of sustainable community programs.

“We’re passionate about the importance of telling CFVI’s story through clear, consistent messaging -- and widening its media reach -- so that its incredible impact is felt far and wide,” said Filomena Fanelli, founder and CEO, Impact PR & Communications.

With more than a decade in business and a team with strong nonprofit expertise, IPR&C has proudly represented several clients within the nonprofit space over the last several years, spearheading award-winning campaigns for organizations such as: Abilities First, The Arc of Dutchess, Astor Services, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, the Dutchess County SPCA, Dutchess Tourism (now Destination Dutchess), The Edna St. Vincent Millay Society at Steepletop, The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, Greystone Programs, Hudson River Housing, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, The Poughkeepsie Public Schools Foundation Think Dutchess and Vassar-Warner Home, among others.

For more information on IPR&C, including its current clients and capabilities, visit www.prwithimpact.com.

U.S. News & World Report ranks VBMC No. 1 in Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Metro Area

U.S. News & World Report has named Vassar Brothers Medical Center (VBMC), part of Northwell Health, the No. 1 hospital in the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Metro Area for the second consecutive year and the No. 19 hospital in New York State.

VBMC, a premier regional hospital serving Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties and beyond, was also recognized as “High Performing” in Pulmonology & Lung Surgery and in 15 Common Adult Procedures and Conditions — up from 11 last year.

This is the highest distinction a hospital can earn for U.S. News’ Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings, which are based entirely on objective measures of quality such as survival rates, patient experience and how successfully each hospital helps patients return home.

“We are proud to once again be recognized as the top hospital in our region and among the best in New York,” said Susan Browning, president of Vassar Brothers Medical Center. “This year’s expanded recognition across more specialties and procedures reflects our unwavering commitment to clinical excellence, innovation and compassionate care. It’s a tribute

to the extraordinary teamwork and dedication of our staff, who continue to raise the bar for healthcare in the Hudson Valley.”

For the 2025-2026 Best Hospitals rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,400 hospitals across 15 adult specialties and 22 procedures and conditions; only one third of them earned an award. To determine the Best Hospitals, U.S. News analyzed each hospital’s performance based on objective measures such as risk-adjusted mortality rates, preventable complications and level of nursing care. The Best Hospitals Specialty rankings methodology and Procedures & Conditions ratings methodology measure patient outcomes using data from over 800 million records of patient care.

VBMC is a 349-bed facility that has served New York’s Mid-Hudson Valley since 1887. Located in Poughkeepsie, NY, VBMC features a Level II Trauma Center, a cardiothoracic surgery center, and the region’s only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In 2021, the hospital opened a state-of-the-art, 752,000-square-foot inpatient pavilion with 263 private medical/surgical rooms and 30 critical care rooms.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Poughkeepsie Elks seeks vendors for Flea Market
The Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge will once again hold their yearly Flea Market on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors wanted. \$30 per site, which includes three 6-foot tables. Reserve a spot by calling (845) 453-7236

Montgomery House Museum in Rhinebeck open to visitors Aug. 9 & 16
The General Richard Montgomery House Museum-Chancellor Livingston DAR Chapter House will be open from 2pm-4pm Saturday August 9 and 16, 2025. The House, located at 77 Livingston Street, is the oldest clapboard house in the village of Rhinebeck. General Richard Montgomery and his wife, Janet Livingston Montgomery, resided there in 1773 while building Grasmere. The house belongs to the chapter and is an accredited museum on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Rhinebeck Village Historic District.

This is an opportunity to view the many items that have been donated over the years. Admission is free; donations welcomed. Open also by appointment. (845) 871-1777, or email darrhinebeck@gmail.com <https://sites.google.com/view/clcdar/>

Free Porch Concert: August 9, 6-7:30 pm.
The deacons of Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church (2 Fiddlers Bridge Road, Staatsburg) invite you to enjoy an evening of music from the 60s, 70s and 80s, performed by the wonderful acoustic trio We Three Unplugged. Free admission and refreshments; a freewill offering may be made to support the food pantry. Bring a chair, and a friend!

St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie to hold annual fundraiser Aug. 10
St. Paul's Church will host their Annual Fundraiser at Outback on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. An amazing lunch will be served for \$25. It will include an appetizer to share, salad, choice of 6 entrees including a side, plus dessert and beverage. Call the church at 845-452-8440 for tickets. St. Paul's Church - 161 Mansion St., Poughkeepsie. You may either eat in or take out. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Crafters Market at Ruby Hill Farm
Ruby Hill Farm, at 2325 Salt Point Turnpike in Clinton Corners, will host a Crafters Market from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 24. See beautifully hand-made items made by local artists and visit the farm store offering in-season goods. Entry for public is free. Vendors please register using the vendor ticket on Eventbrite. For questions, contact rubyhillfarm@yahoo.com. Visitor passes may be purchased for viewing the farm animals at the farm store. Vendors may sign up online at www.rubyhillfarm.com/events.

ONGOING
Men's fellowship and Bible study: Tuesday nights, 7-9 p.m., in the home of David Mahoney, 21 Mountain View Road, Staatsburg. Call (845) 797-4805 for more information.

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

GREETERS IN THE GARDEN: Visit the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield, located at 4097 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, on the FDR National Historic Site, any day from dawn to dusk. Entry is free. On the first and third Sunday afternoons, 1-3 p.m., Volunteers Greeters will be on hand to informally provide historic and garden information. The historic, walled garden was designed in 1912 by Beatrix Farrand, the first American woman landscape architect, making this Hyde Park garden very significant. The newer "Wild Garden" is a thriving demonstration garden featuring 140 native plants. Free parking and restrooms are available at Wallace Center, a few steps from the historic, walled Beatrix Farrand Garden garden. For information about the nonprofit BFGA, a Park Partner to the National Park Service, visit www.beatrixfarrandgardenhydepark.org.

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association is looking for volunteers to perform all tasks required to plant and maintain the garden. No gardening expertise is needed, we will train as we work. You need to be eighteen years old or older and be able to perform, at minimum, basic physical labor such as bending, kneeling and carrying buckets. Garden work is done during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon. You are welcome to work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, visit <http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org> or call 845-229-6432.

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

St. Paul's and First Lutheran churches hold Vacation Bible School



A three-day Vacation Bible School was held July 29-31 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie. It was a joint effort between St. Paul's and First Evangelical Lutheran Church, assisted by U.C.C. Congregational Church. The theme was "The Armor of God." The children enjoyed games, Bible stories and arts and crafts. Thanks was offered to all who participated and helped. *Courtesy photo*

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:

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The Ridge School

www.ridgeschool.org



HUNTING LICENSES AVAILABLE AT CLINTON CLERK'S OFFICE

Hunting licenses are available from the Town of Clinton Clerk's office, at 1215 Centre Road in Rhinebeck, which is open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Please note: There is no advantage to customers buying their licenses and applying for Deer Management Permits (DMPs) early. One has the same chance of being selected for a DMP throughout the entire DMP application period: Aug. 1 to Oct. 1.

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Bard Music Festival to open this weekend

The Bard Music Festival returns with an intensive two-week exploration of “Martinu and His World.” In 11 themed concerts, the festival’s 35th season examines the life and times of Bohuslav Martinu, the 20th century’s foremost Czech composer, whose music is nonetheless largely unfamiliar to U.S. audiences today.

Weekend One considers Martinu as A Musical Mirror of the 20th Century (Aug. 8-10), and Weekend Two investigates the stand he took Against Uncertainty, Uniformity, Mechanization (Aug. 14-17). Aside from Program Six, held in nearby Rhinebeck, all concerts take place in the Frank Gehry-designed Fisher Center for the Performing Arts and other venues on Bard College’s campus in Annandale-on-Hudson. Six programs will also stream live to home audiences worldwide on the Fisher Center’s virtual stage.

Presented as a centerpiece of the 22nd Bard SummerScape festival, the Bard Music Festival is set once again to prove itself “the summer’s most stimulating music festival” (Los Angeles Times).

Since its inception in 1990, the Bard Music Festival has enriched the standard concert repertoire with a wealth of important rediscoveries. This is owed in no small part to its founder and co-artistic director, Leon Botstein. “One of the most remarkable figures in the worlds of arts and culture” (NYC Arts, THIRTEEN/WNET), Botstein serves as music director of both the American Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and The Orchestra Now (TON), Bard’s unique graduate

training orchestra.

At this year’s festival, TON performs under his leadership in Weekend One, and the ASO in Weekend Two. As in previous seasons, the Bard Festival Chorale takes part in all choral works, under the direction of James Bagwell, and this year’s final program – a concert performance of Martinu’s eighth and most adventurous opera, Julietta – features vocal soloists including Erica Petrocelli, Aaron Blake, and Alfred Walker. Bard’s other orchestral, chamber, and vocal programs boast a comparably impressive lineup of guest artists.

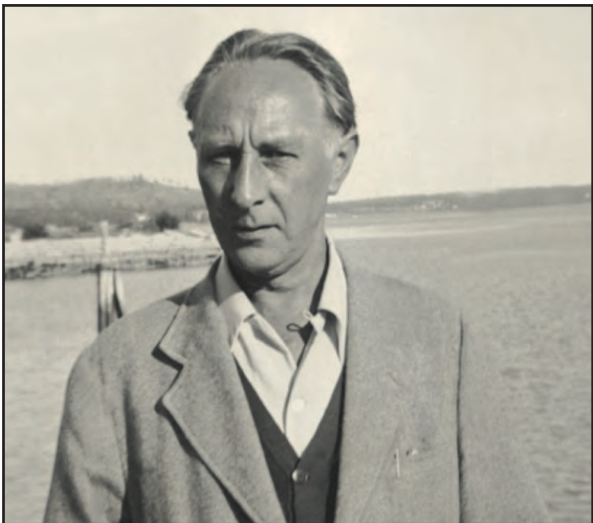
Martinu and His World

In the mid-20th century, Bohuslav Martinu (1890-1959) was considered one of the world’s leading composers. Unusually prolific, he wrote almost 400 works, including six symphonies, 14 operas, numerous ballets, close to 30 concertos, and a wealth of chamber, vocal, and instrumental music. As a prominent figure on the U.S. cultural scene, he held teaching posts at Princeton, Curtis, Mannes, and Tanglewood; received a string of prestigious commissions that saw five of his six symphonies premiered by either the Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, or Philadelphia Orchestra; and was elected to life membership in the National Institute of Life and Letters.

Rooted in the folk traditions of his long-lost homeland yet imbued with such recent innovations as neoclassicism and jazz, Martinu’s music is deeply cosmopol-

itan, registering the tensions of his complicated life and times. Born and raised in the Czech village of Policka, he studied in Prague and pursued his career in Paris before fleeing wartime Europe for the United States. Although he eventually found his way back to Western Europe, the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia prevented his returning, as hoped, to his homeland, and only posthumously were his remains restored to Policka. Today, his music is venerated in the Czech Republic and increasingly performed elsewhere. As BBC Music magazine writes, “His output is a veritable treasure-house of creativity, full of jewels which deserve to be displayed more often.”

To explore Martinu’s life and world in all their complexity, the festival presents a broad sampling of his oeuvre, including the Second and Sixth Symphonies, such choral masterpieces as The Epic of Gilgamesh and Field Mass, and the original version of his one-act opera Mariken de Nimègue, which receives its long-overdue world premiere. These will be heard alongside music by composers including Martinu’s predecessors Antonín Dvorák and Leoš Janáček, teachers Josef Suk and Albert Roussel, students Vítězlava Kaprálová and Jan Novák, compatriots Erwin Schulhoff and



Bohuslav Martinu Photo courtesy of Bohuslav Martinu Centre, Policka

Rudolf Firkušný, fellow École de Paris members Alexandre Tansman and Alexander Tcherepnin, American colleagues Aaron Copland and David Diamond, and successors, from Joan Tower to Frank Zappa. Two thought-provoking panel discussions and a series of informative pre-concert talks will illuminate each concert’s themes. There will also be two social events: an Opening Night Social at Bard’s picturesque 1916 Ward Manor House (Aug. 8) and a Summer Soirée at Blithewood, its turn-of-the-century mansion overlooking the Hudson River (Aug. 16).

For program details and to purchase tickets, visit fishercenter.bard.edu.

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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By David Kalvitis

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--STARTS FRIDAY 8/8--

WEAPONS R

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--HELD OVER--

the BAD GUYS 2 PG

the FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEPS PG-13

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Soda: A weighty, yet refreshing drink

August temperatures in the Hudson Valley can be in the eighties, which makes it the perfect time to enjoy a refreshing beverage. Of course, it’s also important to stay hydrated for nutrient transport, temperature regulation, blood pressure, and many other bodily functions. Plain water is always the healthiest option for quenching thirst, but I have a fondness for carbonated water.

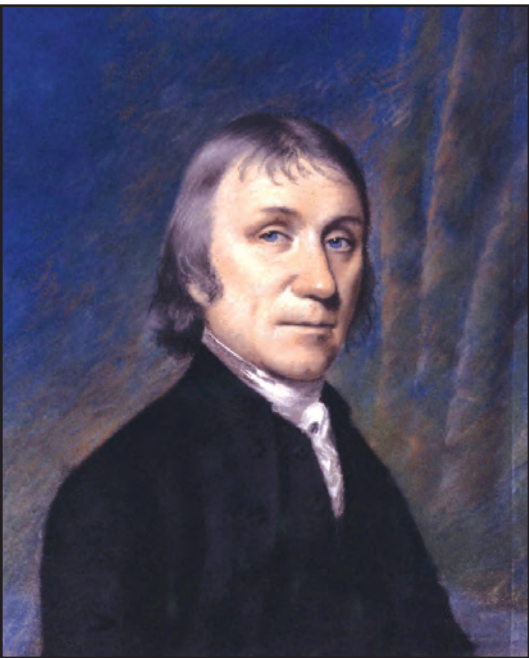
My motto: Don’t be still. Sparkle! And Joseph Priestley, a Renaissance man of the Enlightenment, must’ve thought so, too. Priestly was active in the fields of chemistry, theology, education, and political philosophy. He was a grammarian who helped establish modern English. He advocated for equal rights and opportunities for all, regardless of religious beliefs. He identified oxygen, nitrous oxide, ammonia, and carbon monoxide gases.

Priestly is also credited with the creation of carbonated water. He found that water infused with carbon dioxide was a pleasant drink. In 1772, Priestley published a paper entitled “Directions for Impregnating Water with Fixed Air.”

Within a decade, innovators had arranged various apparatuses, based off of Priestley’s idea, that made large quantities of carbonated water more quickly. One inventor you may recognize was Johann Jacob Schweppe. Other soda manufacturers of note included Dr. Pepper, Shasta, Coca-Cola, and Pepsi. Each added ingredients, such as lemon and ginger, and sweeteners, to concoct various flavored soft drinks.

A myriad of fizzy flavors

“Soft” drinks, as they began to be



called in the late 19th century, were not “hard” alcoholic beverages. They were sugary, with flavors of lemon-lime, orange, cola, grape, cream, ginger ale, and root beer. The chilled fizz of carbon dioxide, with its slight acidity, creates the refreshing sensation that sodas provide.

Sinking (or floating) soda

Here is a visually interesting activity that is perfect to do in the heat of summer. The exercise demonstrates the concept of density. It also presents an opportunity to talk about healthy diet choices. And, the activity lends itself to future experimental variations.

You likely have all the necessary materials on hand: a large bucket or container, water, and a variety of unopened room temperature soda cans that are all the same size, volume, and shape. To start, have participants observe how the cans of soda are alike, as well as how they are different. Then have them predict which cans will sink and which will float.

Slowly place each can into the water one at a time, tipping each on its side first to be sure that no air is trapped at the bottom. Observe the cans once they are in the water. Notice what commonalities exist among the floating cans, as well as the cans that have sunk. Typically, the cans that float will be “diet” sodas and those that sink will contain sugar. Although they may be similar, they have different densities.

Experimental variations and extensions

For older participants, this activity can be extended by using a formula to determine the density of each of the cans of soda. That will involve determining their masses with a scientific balance. The sugar in “regular” soda gives it the mass that causes the cans to sink in the container of water. The amount of artificial sweetener used in diet soda does not add much to its mass, enabling the can to float.

The over-consumption of sugar-sweetened soft drinks is associated with diseases, such as diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and cardiovascular risk factors, as well as dental decay.

A sugar packet contains about 4 grams of sugar and about 15 calories. A can containing 40 grams of sugar, that’s 10 sugar packets, has 150 calories, and a greater density than “diet” soda.

Although artificial sweeteners do not add much density to soda, that does not mean that consumption of them is without risks. Artificial



Both 12oz & 16oz sugar-free soda cans float. Photo by Francine Wizner. Below: Joseph Priestly. Ellen Sharples. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

sweeteners have no nutritional value and have been linked to various health concerns, including weight gain, disrupted hunger signals, and potential risks to heart health.

By far, plain water is the healthiest option for quenching thirst. But it is still, and I like to sparkle. Curious folks can investigate if a bottle of fresh water will float in the container, and yes, it will likely be less dense than the surrounding water and, will therefore, be buoyant.

Exploratory learning and play

The hands-on nature of this exercise makes it engaging, regardless of the ages of the participants. It reinforces learning through direct observation and experimentation. The activity can be further enhanced by changing the temperature of the cans of soda or the water in the container, using salt water (which is denser than fresh water) in the container, or by comparing the sinking/floating behavior of other objects with varying densities.

Even in the heat of summer, learning can be included as part of play. Sinking and floating soda lets everyone splash around while enjoying a fizzy, refreshing beverage. (Here is an organized version of the activity: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/SINKING-OR-FLOATING-SODA-BIOCHEMISTRY-GENERAL-SCIENCE-7520152>. Here is a video of the activity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cM6mkEHfTY>.)

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/>

AUTHOR TALK AT HYDE PARK LIBRARY ON AUG. 16

What was it like to live in World War II Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the world's first atomic bomb was built? What were the considerations that went into using the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? How did the use of the bomb influence nuclear policy after the war and to this day? Inspired by the research for her historical novel, “Hill of Secrets,” set in WWII Los Alamos, author Galina Vromen will bring alive that momentous period and discuss its impact on nuclear proliferation today.

Vromen spent more than a decade as a reporter, mostly for Reuters News Agency, in Europe, Mexico and Israel. After retiring, she harnessed her writing skills to release her debut historical novel, “Hill of Secrets,” set in WWII Los Alamos. The research sparked her interest in the aftermath of the use of the atom bomb, and she has become well-versed on issues of nuclear arms today.

For more about Vromen and her book see www.galinavromen.com.

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‘Kafkaesque!’ to take the stage

Aug. 9 at Stissing Center

Get ready for an evening of surreal hilarity and sharp-witted satire as “Kafkaesque!”, the acclaimed Off-Broadway musical comedy written by James Harvey, takes the stage at Stissing Center for a special concert performance on Saturday, August 9 at 8 p.m.

This one-night-only event features the original New York cast: James Harvey as Franz Kafka, Alexandra Nader (The Story Pirates, America's Got Talent) as Greta, Josh Nasser (Wicked Frozen, PharmaBro: An American Douchical) as Michael, Emily Olcott (Prime Day, Out of Touch, The Mysteries) as Karen/

Josephine, and Curry Whitmire (The Tower, An Axemas Story) as Gregor.

Praised for its bold humor and biting commentary, Kafkaesque! reimagines the famously brooding world of Franz Kafka as a wildly entertaining musical romp. With absurd bureaucracy, existential dread, and catchy tunes to spare, the show captures the chaos of modern life with humor that’s both timely and timeless.

“Kafka’s work is more relatable than ever—but when James Harvey adds music and laughter, the result is something disarmingly brilliant,” said Stissing Center Executive Director Patrick Trettenero. “We’re thrilled to host this witty, thought-provoking performance and bring Pine Plains a taste of Off-Broadway at its most original.”

This concert staging is part of Stissing Center’s mission to make the arts accessible to northeastern Dutchess County while supporting bold, original storytelling. Tickets are on sale now at thestissingcenter.org.

Stissing Center is at 2950 Church Street in Pine Plains.

Original New York cast members are featured in “Kafkaesque!” set Aug. 9 at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains. *Courtesy photos*



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LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.



Rhinebeck Porchfest set Sept. 13

Get ready for a day of music, community, and creativity as Rhinebeck Porchfest 2025 returns to the charming village of Rhinebeck on Saturday, Sept. 13. This beloved grassroots music festival transforms porches, front yards, and public spaces into intimate concert venues, showcasing the incredible talent of local musicians and performers.

Porchfest is a free, family-friendly event that invites residents and visitors alike to stroll through the picturesque streets of Rhinebeck while enjoying a diverse lineup of musical acts spanning multiple genres. From folk and bluegrass to jazz, rock, and classical, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

“We’re thrilled to bring Porchfest back for another year,” said Rick Nuzzo and Nancy McKay, event coordinators. “This festival is all about bringing people together through the universal language of music. It’s a chance for neighbors to connect, artists to share their passion, and for our beautiful town to come alive with sound.”

Celebrating Hudson Valley's rich musical heritage

Rhinebeck Porchfest is more than just a festival—it's a tribute to the Hudson Valley's deep-rooted musical legacy. From folk legends like Pete Seeger, who championed community music-making along the Hudson River, to the thriving

contemporary music scene, the region has long been a haven for artists and performers. Porchfest continues this tradition by providing a platform for local talent to share their artistry while celebrating the region's cultural vibrancy.

Event highlights

• **Dozens of performances:** Experience an eclectic mix of live music on porches and public spaces throughout Rhinebeck.

• **Local artisans & vendors:** Explore handmade goods, delicious food, and unique crafts from local businesses.

• **Family activities:** Fun-filled activities for all ages, including face painting, street performances, and more.

• **Community spirit:** A celebration of Rhinebeck's creative heart and welcoming community.

Rhinebeck Porchfest 2025 is made possible by the support of local businesses, volunteers, and community members. Attendees are encouraged to walk or bike to the event, as street closures and limited parking will be in effect. Sponsors contributions support the event itself as well as the continued development of the Tommy Thompson-Sally Mazzarella Community Park.

For more information, performer applications, or sponsorship opportunities, visit RhinebeckPorchfest.com or contact Nancy McKay at unmckay@gmail.com.

Art Gallery 71, 71 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Aug. 8-29:** “Ode to Provincetown,” watercolor artist Joanne Cuttler captures the charm of Provincetown’s buildings. **Reception:** Sat., Aug. 16, 4-6 p.m. www.artgallery71.com

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. **Through Sept. 7:** “Beyond the Rainbow: Highlighting LGBTQIA+ Stories,” group exhibition showcasing visual works across a variety of mediums that explore the diverse, complex, and deeply personal experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies. www.artsmidhudson.org or or (845) 454-3222

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 &12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Aug. 29:** Local artist Jenny Sweeney presents her solo show, “**Through the Eyes of a Child,**” in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St.; and internationally acclaimed artists Semine Hazar, Fatma Kadir and Ilhan Sayin are featured in a group art exhibition entitled “I Love New York” in the Reception and Hancock Galleries at 12 Vassar St. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Aug. 17:** “Great Green Hope for the Urban Blues,” exhibition that explores the art and myths of the Hudson Valley. The exhibition is part of a legacy that began 200 years ago as landscape painter Thomas Cole traveled up the Hudson River to paint the Catskill Mountains: a voyage that marked the mythical origin of the so-called Hudson River School of American landscape painting. Also on view: “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Black Space-Making from Harlem to the Hudson Valley,” installation related to “Great Green Hope” by Vassar student Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon ’26; and the second, “Water/Bodies: Sa’dia Rehman.” (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, 2026:** 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

Live 4 Art Gallery, 20 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through August:** Rock and A Soft Place Studios hosts the return of the all-sculpture show, “SCULPTURE V,” bringing together sinuous metal creations by Karen Madden, the evocative figurative mixed media wall-hangings of Lila Turjanski-Villard, and intricate stone sculptures by Bob Madden. Visit <https://rockandasoftplace.com/Sculpture5/Homepage.htm> or call (845) 206-3298 for artist and exhibit details.

Millbrook Arts Project, Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through Aug. 23:** “Generated Utility,” curator Sharon Bates brings together the work of Natalie Beall and

Kathy Greenwood, two artists who explore the regenerative possibilities of domestic forms and functions. Through material invention and abstraction, they reimagine familiar objects and traditions, shifting them from the realm of the functional into spaces of poetic ambiguity and formalist play. <https://millbrooklibrary.org/millbrook-arts-project/>

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through Aug. 30:** “Paradise” by Ian Hutton & Selva Ozelli. World renowned photographer Ian Hutton, the curator of the Lord Howe Island Museum, and award winning oil artist Selva Ozelli from the Hudson Valley teamed up to bring a taste of Lord Howe Island Group to the Morton Memorial Library. Lord Howe Island Group, an Australian island group in the Tasman Sea east of Port Macquarie, is one of the most beautiful islands in the Pacific and an iconic tourist destination. (845) 876-2903

Olana State Historic Site, Sharp Family Gallery, 5720 Rte. 9G, Hudson. **Through Nov. 2:** “What’s Missing?” site-specific artworks in the Olana landscape by Ellen Harvey and Gabriela Salazar. (518) 751-6879 or www.olana.org

Rhinebeck Bank, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. **Through Aug. 22:** A new photography exhibit by returning artist Arnie Goran focuses on capturing nature and landscape imagery, especially within the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through Aug. 28:** “Address Earth: Overstory,” art that reconnects us to the Earth and to each other. (845) 876-4030 or www.starrlibrary.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Aug. 10:** “Hudson Valley Towns: Interpretations of our Beautiful Hudson Valley Villages, Landmarks and Vistas.” (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

The Transverse Gallery for Contemporary Art, Locust Grove, 2683 South Rd., Poughkeepsie. **Through Sept. 14:** “Spirit Rising: Recent Works by Susan Miiller.” A resident of the Hudson Valley for over 25 years, Miller continues the tradition of fine landscape painting that dates back to the early 19th century in America. Her distinct style builds upon the innovations of the past. (845) 454-4500 or www.lgny.org. *Pictured: “Serendipitous Sunrise,” oil, 20x20. Image courtesy of the artist*

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. **Through August:** “Invoke & Imbibe,” a powerful exploration of feminine power and ecstatic transformation, drawing inspiration from the frenzied, experiential rituals of the Maenads—the wild followers of Dionysus. (845) 293-3660 or info@womenswork.art



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Our concert season is made possible, in part, through funding from the County of Dutchess and Destination Dutchess (formerly Dutchess Tourism, Inc.) and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Plein Air Plays returns to Ancram Center Aug. 7-10



Featured performances include Kate Douglas, “My Dog is Dead,” and Kyle Driggs, “Same Picture, Different Poses.” *Courtesy photos*

Ancram Center for the Arts announced the return of its Plein Air Plays, a triptych of short plays performed outdoors. First produced during COVID in 2021, the series has become a popular biennial event: audiences travel by car to different locations where the setting becomes one of the characters. This year’s performances run Aug. 7-10, and locations will be revealed to ticket holders at the time of performance. Each play has a running time of approximately 25 minutes, with the entire experience lasting about 100 minutes. Not recommended for children under 14.

Featured this year are a folk musical song cycle, a one-woman monologue about rural childhood, and a piece that blends physical storytelling, contemporary circus, and modern dance:

- “My Dog is Dead” by Kate Douglas, performed by Douglas, Ben Ferguson, and Luke Wygodny. In this part song cycle/part storytelling piece, a woman gains psychic abilities after her family dog dies. Her new abilities allow her to see the fates of others in her small town, leading to a whirlwind of conflicting emotions in the community.

- “Rupert’s Birthday” by Ken Jenkins, featuring Danielle Skraastad. While working in the barn of her family’s farm, Louisa recounts a story from her childhood when she helped birth a bull calf, Rupert, who was born on the same day as her brother, Orville. Filled with poignant insights about her rural girlhood, the monologue follows the thread of Louisa’s life—and makes it clear why the only birthday she acknowledges, or celebrates, is Rupert’s.

- “Same Picture, Different Poses,” created & performed by Kyle Driggs/Logan Kerr /3AM Theatre. A surreal duet blending physical storytelling, contemporary circus, and modern dance, where a couple revisit the unspoken dynamics of their relationship and confront the identities they project and conceal. Unfolding within the walls of an imagined living room, the piece explores intimacy, duality, and the versions of ourselves we carry.

Kate Douglas is an award-winning writer, composer, and performer who previously appeared at Ancram Center in The Lucky Few opposite co-writer Todd Almond, and Centuries opposite co-creators Matthew Dean Marsh and Raina Sokolov-Gonzalez.

Danielle Skraastad received a Best Solo Performance Award from The Berkshire Theatre Critics Association for her 2018 appearance in Tony Kushner’s Homebody at Ancram Center. She also appeared in Still Life at Ancram Center, which received a BTCA Best Ensemble nomination in 2022.

Kyle Driggs is a contemporary circus artist blending juggling, sculpture, and storytelling. A graduate of École Nationale de Cirque, he has performed with Cirque du Soleil, Big Apple Circus, Circus Roncalli, and The Seven Fingers, and earned a silver medal at Cirque de Demain.

Logan Kerr is a NYC-based tight wire dancer and circus artist. She began with Bindlestiff Family Cirkus and has toured nationally with Circus Bella, Cirque US, and Piccolo Zoppe. Logan is currently a co-operator and artistic associate at 3AM Theatre.

3AM Theatre blends contemporary circus, modern dance, and physical theatre with kinetic sculpture and innovative lighting design to create original works that encompass both visual art and live performance.

Ancram Center is committed to affordable theatre and offers student discounts and tiered pricing, where ticket-buyers can choose between community-supported, regular, and pay-it-forward rates. For more information visit ancramcenter.org.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary season, Ancram Center for the Arts is an award-winning theater located in New York’s Hudson Valley. Housed in an historic Grange Hall, Ancram Center is dedicated to presenting risk-taking productions and new work by nationally recognized theater artists in an intimate performance space. Ancram Center’s 2025 season is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Mural unveiling at DC Fairgrounds Aug. 7

Arts Mid-Hudson, Destination Dutchess and the Dutchess County Agricultural Society are excited to announce that Brian Zickafoose has been chosen to create a mural for the Dutchess County Fairgrounds Mural Project. The unveiling will take place at a public event at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds Welcome Center August 7, at 4 p.m. WRWD’s Beth Christy broadcasting live from 4-6 p.m.

This collaborative project invited artists to share their vision through the theme “How does agriculture unite us?” Zickafoose was selected from among nine artists who submitted proposals for his design, which captures Dutchess County’s agritourism by highlighting family farms, orchards, wineries, breweries, arts and the area’s natural beauty. Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, Executive Director of Arts Mid-Hudson, added, “We are thrilled to unveil Brian’s mural at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, which beautifully illustrates how agriculture unites us all. This stunning artwork celebrates the harmonious relationship between art and agriculture, showcasing how together they enrich our community and culture.”

Based in New York’s Hudson Valley, Zickafoose is an acclaimed illustrator, muralist, and artist known for vibrant works blending nature and spirituality. “It’s an honor to collaborate with the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Destination Dutchess and Arts Mid-Hudson,” said Zickafoose. “This mural celebrates the vibrant creative spirit of the Hudson Valley while honoring the region’s rich agricultural heritage. It’s designed to spark a sense of wonder and transformation in all who encounter it.”

Melaine Rottkamp, president & CEO of Destination Dutchess, expressed her enthusiasm. “Following our successful

partnership with Arts Mid-Hudson on the mural project adjacent to our tourism brochure racks at the Poughkeepsie Galleria, we looked for another opportunity to collaborate,” said Rottkamp. “We felt that commissioning a stunning mural showcasing agritourism - a key component of our diverse tourism offerings - created the perfect opportunity to celebrate our farms and farmers.” She added, “Working with the Fairgrounds to place it in an accessible location has been exceptional. Now, hundreds of thousands of people who flock there annually to be immersed in our agricultural heritage will be able to enjoy the artwork.”

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “Dutchess County’s farms and fairgrounds are at the heart of who we are, and this mural is a beautiful way to honor that legacy. We are so grateful to Brian Zickafoose for bringing his talent to this project and to our partners who helped bring it to fruition. This is a perfect example of how art and agriculture can come together to inspire everyone who visits the Fairgrounds and to celebrate all that makes Dutchess County special.”

Andy Imperati, President & CEO of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society, stated, “We take every opportunity to spread the word about the mission of the Dutchess Agricultural Society, which is to promote and educate people about agriculture. What better place to have this beautiful mural displayed than at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, where it can be viewed at one of the largest Agritourism venues in the Hudson Valley.”

Anyone interested in attending the free event should RSVP at artsmidhudson.org/dc-fairground-mural. Fair cuisine will be provided by Maxwell Catering and What’s Poppin’ Kettle Corn.

MILLBROOK ARTS PROJECT: CALL FOR VISUAL ARTISTS

As an expansion of the relationship and a commitment to support the visual arts in their community, Millbrook Arts Group and Millbrook Library have established Millbrook Arts Project, a community art space, in the newly renovated library gallery.

Millbrook Arts Project, a community art space, is committed to providing opportunities for visual artists to exhibit their work in the newly renovated Millbrook Library gallery. The selection committee will be reviewing submissions from which they will curate five exhibitions for the 2026 season.

If one is interested in exhibiting one’s work, please visit millbrooklibrary.org/millbrook-arts-project for more information. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Gallery Manager: Jen McCreery; Gallery Curator: Sharon Bates; Selection Committee: Sharon Bates, Wayne Lempka, Emi Night, Erik Daniel White, Courtney Tsahalís.

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A & E CALENDAR

Through Aug. 10: “Gypsy,” The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Up In One Productions presents a landmark show that explores the world of second-rate show business with brass, humor, heart and sophistication. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m. (except Aug. 9) ;and 3 p.m. on Sundays. There will be a 3 p.m. matinee on Saturday, Aug. 9. Tickets \$29. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Through Aug. 17: SummerScape, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. Bard SummerScape returns with opera, dance, Spiegeltent, and the 35th Bard Music Festival, “Martinu and His World.” Tickets & more information at fishercenter.bard.edu or (845) 758-7900

Through Sept. 26: Red Hook Eat & Go Free Summer Lawn Concert Series, Baright Associates, 7509 North Broadway, Red Hook. Purchase take-out from local eateries and bring it along to enjoy while a band performs. A tented area and tables with umbrellas are set up for comfortable dining. Concerts take place Fridays, 6-8 p.m. This week: Judith Tulloch Band, pop, soft rock & world music with vocals, guitar, flute, bass & percussion. More info on the Facebook event page.

Aug. 7: Movies in the Park, Crestwood Park, 22 Crestwood Blvd., Arlington. The Town of Poughkeepsie presents “Madagascar.” Free. poughkeepsieny.myrec.com

Aug. 8: Clinton Summer Concert Series, Clinton Community Library, 1215 Centre Rd., Rhinebeck. Grampa Joe’s Washboard Band, 6:30 p.m. Food trucks start at 6 p.m. Bring your own chair(s). Rain moves the concert under the pavilion. Sponsored by Clinton Community Library and Clinton Recreation Department.

Aug. 8-10: Live Entertainment at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Aug. 8: Feast of Friends: Doors Tribute, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. Aug. 9: “Timeless Singer Songwriters” performed by Anne Carpenter & Peter Calo, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. Aug. 10: Open Mic Invitational, 6 p.m. Tickets \$10. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Aug. 9: Movies Under the Walkway, Upper Landing Park, 83 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie. Free, family-friendly movie on the big screen beneath the Walkway Over the Hudson. This week: “Minecraft Movie.” Doors open at 7:30 p.m., followed

by the feature film at sundown at approximately 8:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs and picnics while viewing the movies. The events are sunshine only. Free parking will be available at The Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum, and Metro North parking areas. Up-to-date movie schedule information can be found at the Facebook pages @ Movies Under The Walkway, @DutchessCountyParks and @WalkwayOverTheHudson

Aug. 9-10: Dinosaur Adventure, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Family-friendly event features life-sized animatronic dinosaurs, interactive exhibits, and unforgettable activities that will transport you back to the Jurassic era. Kids can dive into fun-filled activities, including Jurassic scooters, themed obstacle courses, dinosaur rides, and more. www.MJNCenter.org

Aug. 12: “Movies Under the Starrs,” the pavilion at the Thompson-Mazzarella Town Park, Rhinebeck. Free outdoor screenings presented by the Rhinebeck Recreation Department, the Rhinebeck Lions Club & Starr Library. This week: “Inside Out,” starts at sunset (7:59 p.m.). Updates at the Facebook page, Rhinebeck’s Movies Under the Starrs; or for more information, contact Frank Intervallo at (914) 329-8615 or by email at frankintervallo@gmail.com.

Aug. 12: Rhinebeck Legion Band Concert, Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. Enjoy a free outdoor concert by this 40-piece symphonic wind band playing Broadway show tunes, classical music, marches & more, 6:45 p.m. If it rains, the concert will be canceled. For more info and updates, check rhinebecklegionband.org.

Aug. 12: Summer Concerts at Greenvale Park, 2260 New Hackensack Rd., Poughkeepsie. Harvest Band, 6:30 p.m. Presented by the Town of Poughkeepsie Recreation Dept. Free. <https://poughkeepsieny.myrec.com/>

Aug. 13: Music in the Parks, Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. Hyde Park Recreation presents free concerts held alternately at Vanderbilt Mansion and Staatsburgh SHS (a.k.a. Mills Mansion), Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. This week: Four Guys in Disguise. For inclement weather locations & other updates, call (845) 229-8086 or check Hyde Park Recreation on Facebook.

Oblong Books to host ‘50th Birthday Bash’ block party on Aug. 9

Oblong Books celebrates its 50th Anniversary on Millerton’s Main Street this month. Founded in 1975 by Dick Hermans & Holly Nelson, Oblong has grown to become the premiere independent bookstore in the Hudson Valley.

Over the years, Oblong has evolved to serve the needs of its community. The Millerton store now occupies three floors in two adjoined buildings, including Oblong Jr. with toys and children’s books on South Center Street. Oblong opened its second location at Montgomery Row in Rhinebeck in 2001. The business, which is now co-owned and operated by Dick and his daughter Suzanna Hermans, has become a household name in the Hudson Valley and is among the most successful independent bookstores in the country. A true community bookstore, Oblong partners with numerous local schools, libraries, and nonprofits, and presents and supports over 150 events each year. Oblong’s stores serve as a safe and welcoming space for all people.

To celebrate this milestone - Oblong is hosting a “50th Birthday Bash” block party on Saturday, Aug. 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on South Center Street in Millerton. There will be live music, food trucks, raffles and entertainment for all ages and everyone is invited to come and join in the fun. The Millerton Business Alliance will also be hosting its Summer Stroll that day so there will be lots of wonderful things to see and enjoy.

- Free Popcorn & Harney & Sons Lemonade (while supplies last)
- Stilt Dancing by Mortal Beasts & Deities
- Raffles - Everyone will receive 1 free ticket (at the Welcome table), and

will be eligible to win one of our fabulous raffle totes packed with exciting summer reads for kids and adults.

• Millerton Business Alliance Summer Stroll: Enjoy special sales, children’s activities, complimentary refreshments, and all-around good times.

- Food Trucks
- The Flavor Bandits
- Hudson Valley Falafel 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Live Music by Josh Driver
- Henna by Nicky
- Face Painting by Happy Cheeks Noon - 1 p.m. (inside)
- “A Toast to NY Cartoonists” - New

Yorker Cartoonists Liza Donnelly & Michael Maslin will create simple, impromptu drawings. You name it, they’ll try to draw it -- except for caricatures!

- Refreshments will be served 2 - 2:45 p.m.
- Live Music by The Joint Chiefs 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.
- Cake Cutting Ceremony & Remarks
- Raffle Winners Announced 3:15 - 4 p.m.
- Live Music by The Joint Chiefs.

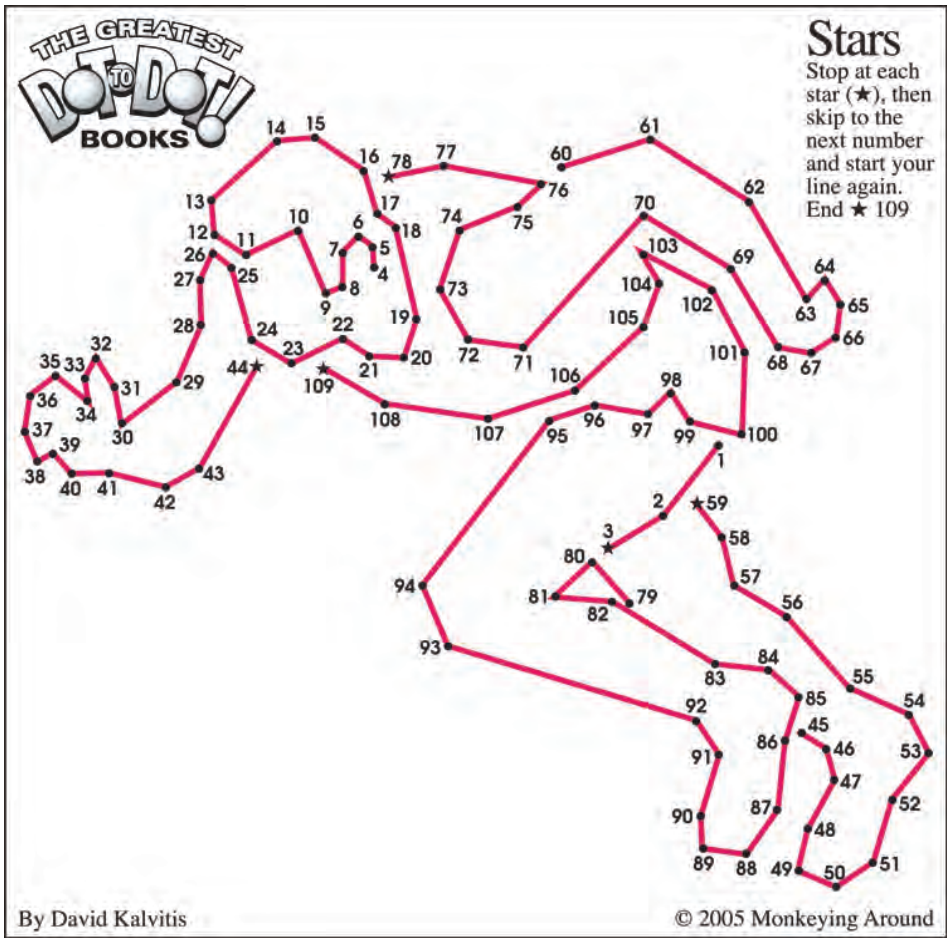
Dancing is strongly encouraged!

Guests are encouraged to park in the new parking lot off Route 22 at Eddie Collins Memorial Park and stroll down to Main Street. The Millerton Rail Trail parking lot will remain open but South Center Street will be closed to through traffic from the North East Community Center to Main Street, with no access and no parking from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For updates to the schedule and additional information visit: <https://www.oblongbooks.com/event/oblongs-50th-birthday-bash>.

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

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



VENTURE OUTDOORS AT WILDERSTEIN ON AUG. 13

Immerse your budding young explorer in a morning of art and discovery at Wilderstein, at 330 Morton Road in Rhinebeck.

Participants will create their own map and then venture outdoors to find and learn about the estate’s natural and historic features, and experience the joy of taking time to appreciate the beauty of the world around them.

The program is set for Wednesday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. until noon. The program is recommended for ages 7-10. All crafting supplies will be provided.

Registration fee is \$18 for one child and one adult (children must be accompanied by an adult). For more information, call 845-876-4818.

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!



What does ‘commission’ mean?

Young Luigi and Vinny don’t have the appetite for financial risk.

I remember when my brother Anthony went to college to study finance. He would come home and tell us that he was going to be a great investor. My brother Vinny and I had no idea what the word “investor” meant.

He would ask us if we were satisfied with how much money we were making at the bank. We didn’t know what the heck he was talking about. He would tell us that all we were getting was 2% interest and he could get us 5%. All that we knew was, that we had our little Poughkeepsie Savings Bank passbook and we would bring our quarters to the bank when we had some. It would print up how much money we had, and it would always go up when we put money in the bank.

After a few months, Anthony finally convinced us to invest in a mutual fund called American Capitol. He said the money we were saving for college would grow faster than it would in the bank. That we understood, so we jumped in with our entire life savings.

Vinny was 10 at the time and I was 13 and we were very excited that we would be “investing.” Anthony showed us where to look for the price quote in the paper so we could track the progress of our “investment.” I made up a little chart with a column for the date and the closing price of the day so I could watch my investment grow.

I imagined getting driven to school in a limousine because I was now an official investor. In my limousine would be a phone so I could call my brother to buy or

sell, depending on what the market was doing for the day.

When we got our first statement, Anthony had to explain what everything was. He showed us that after his commission what our mutual fund was worth. I followed his finger to the column and noticed that it was worth less than what we had given him to invest.

I stopped him and asked why it was worth less? I had been tracking the prices, and from what I saw it looked like it was going up. And what did that word “commission” mean? I was very confused. He then told me that commission was what I paid him to invest my money...

WHAT?! My 13-year-old mind exploded. I told him that I didn’t know I had to pay him. Vinny said the same thing. I told him I wanted to return my investment and get my money back.

I then had to listen to him tell us that he couldn’t do that, and that we would make so much money we wouldn’t care about the commission. So after listening to his spiel, we did what any other red-blooded Italian American boy would do. We went to Mom.

After complaining, rather whining, to Mom about how Anthony tricked us, Mom convinced us to let things stay as they were for four months, and if we still didn’t like what was going on we could sell our “stock portfolio.”

Well we weren’t exactly excited about it, but we listened to Mom.

I continued to track our mutual fund every day; and wouldn’t you know it, American Capital decided to take a

plunge. Every day I would read the Poughkeepsie Journal, and every day it would drop. I remember at one point it was half of what we bought it for.

Anthony decided to make sure he left early for school and got home after we went to bed to avoid us. Every day, Vinny would ask me what the paper said, and every day we plotted ways to get back at our brother. We were very creative. Itching powder in his shirt, Ben-gay in his underwear, and of course Tabasco on the toilet paper were all things that Vinny and I thought of to get back at Anthony.

But you know what happened? The price started to go up. The higher it went, the more we saw Anthony until eventually it rose above the original price. By the time four months passed, we had made back our commission.

One morning over a breakfast of spaghetti frittata, Mom asked us what we wanted to do. Vinny and I looked at each other and both said in unison “sell!”

I guess tycoons need to be older than 13 and 10. We just didn’t have the stomach to risk our life savings of ... \$45.

SPAGHETTI FRITTATA
Ingredients
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup green pepper, finely chopped
1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves
6 eggs
1/4 cup milk
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

1 cup cooked spaghetti
1 cup shredded mozzarella
1/2 cup diced tomato
1/4 cup cooked pancetta

Direction
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

In oven-safe heavy skillet over medium heat, heat olive oil.

Add green bell pepper, onion and garlic; cook over medium heat until tender.

Meanwhile, in large bowl, beat together eggs with milk, 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, salt, pepper, and oregano.

Add pasta to egg mixture and stir gently.

Add egg mixture to skillet.

Cook egg mixture over medium heat, lifting sides occasionally to let uncooked egg flow underneath. When egg mixture is almost set but still very moist, after about 5-8 minutes, top with diced tomatoes, pancetta, and mozzarella.

Place pan in the oven, and cook for 10-12 minutes until frittata is puffed, set, and beginning to turn golden brown. Remove from oven and let sit for 5 minutes.

Cut into wedges and serve.

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.

Purple Heart Museum display honors Henry Johnson and the 369th ‘Harlem Hellfighters’

In conjunction with the Hall of Honor’s rotating exhibit on the Harlem Hellfighters and our Purple Heart Appreciation Day program on Aug. 9, there will be a temporary exhibit of artifacts relating to Henry Johnson and the 369th Infantry Regiment, the “Harlem Hellfighters.” A centerpiece of the exhibit will be the Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to Henry Johnson in 2015. Please join us in honoring this veteran and all the men of the 369th.

The exhibit is on display through Sunday, August 10.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is located at 374 Temple Hill Road (Route 300) in New Windsor.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is New York State Museum under the jurisdiction of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission administers 29 parks, parkways and historic sites for the Office of Parks, Recreation and

Historic Preservation in New York as well as the Palisades Interstate Park and parkway in New Jersey. For more information about the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor visit our website

www.thepurpleheart.com or call 845-561-1765.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday and from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday.



The Purple Heart Museum will present a temporary exhibit of artifacts relating to Henry Johnson and the 369th Infantry Regiment, the “Harlem Hellfighters.” Pictured is former President Barack Obama posthumously recognizing Johnson in 2015 with the Medal of Honor during a ceremony at the White House. Courtesy photo Purple Heart Museum

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\$100K secured for Green Teen program

The Green Teen Poughkeepsie program, an initiative of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), empowers local youth to grow fresh produce for nearby food pantries while learning hands-on job and life skills. Thanks to the continued advocacy of Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-Poughkeepsie), the program has secured state funding to sustain and grow its community garden and greenhouse at Dutchess Community College (DCC). This investment helps ensure that the space remains a thriving hub for youth leadership, food justice, and agricultural education.

“I am proud to again secure \$100,000 in the State budget for Green Teen, which creates special opportunities for youth from the City of Poughkeepsie,” stated Jacobson. “The Poughkeepsie program builds on successes from the program in Beacon. It is more than teaching about nutrition and the local food system, or hands-on experience in farming — it shows young people the value of teamwork and exploring new experiences. The program also provides practical training in life skills like CPR and resume-writing. I look forward to seeing the progress made by these young people participating in Green Teen.”

“This kind of sustainable support from Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson doesn’t just allow us to plant vegetables, it helps us grow young leaders,” said Mary Lou Carolan, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County. “When elected officials invest in grassroots, youth-led programs like Green Teen, they’re investing in the long-term health, sustainability, and equity of our communities. We’re honored to work alongside partners who believe in that mission.”

Green Teen Poughkeepsie officially launched in 2023 and marked a major milestone in July 2024 with a ribbon-cutting for its new greenhouse. This tunnel-shaped greenhouse extends the growing season and introduces youth to hydroponic gardening. The space also serves as an innovation lab for trellising and other technical approaches that boost yields and deepen

learning. “Throughout the seasons, youth employed by Green Teen engage with unique workforce development opportunities through community partnerships, civic engagement, community service and teamwork,” said Carolyn McGraw, Program Leader for Youth Development at CCEDC. “Teens learn technical skills in the garden, but also life skills like resiliency, cooperation, leadership and problem solving.”

The garden currently spans 4,800 square feet, with 2,400 square feet under cultivation and 210 square feet of raised beds. Since planting began in May, youth have harvested over 350 lbs. of produce including cucumbers, yellow squash, zucchini, garlic, various herbs, tomatoes, and peppers. Additionally, the Green Teen program has pollinated a giant pumpkin that will be showcased and entered at the Dutchess County Fair this year.

“One of the most meaningful aspects of this collaboration is the opportunity it creates for high school students to connect not only with the broader community, but with DCC,” said Dr. Susan Rogers, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness. “Through this program, they build practical skills, earn paid work experience and get an early, welcoming introduction to college. Forming relationships with the people and resources that define DCC- and that will be here to support them if they choose to continue their journey with us. We are particularly grateful for the support of all of the partners involved, including Cornell’s Cooperative Extension in Dutchess County, our own internal DCC staff and Board of Trustees, and Assemblymember Jacobson, whose support makes this collaboration possible.”

Lacie Reilly, DCC’s Director of The Pantry and Human Services Program Chair agreed: “The community garden is more than a source of fresh produce- it’s an incredible example of what’s possible when local partners come together to meet basic needs. At our campus food pantry, we see firsthand how this collaborative effort nourishes our students, both physically and



Pictured at the campus of Dutchess Community College (DCC) are Green Teens with (center, holding check) Mary Lou Carolan of Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson and Dr. Susan Rogers of DCC. Photo courtesy of DCC

emotionally. When we have more than we can distribute, we share it with other local agencies, deepening our commitment to being part of the larger community solution.”

All produce supports The Pantry at DCC, providing access to healthy food for students, staff, and families. Any excess is shared with Dutchess Outreach and the Saint Thomas Episcopal Church Food Pantry in Amenia.

Green Teen, a long-running initiative based in Beacon since the early 2000s grew to its collaborative Poughkeepsie location at the campus of Dutchess Community College in 2023.

At its core, Green Teen empowers urban youth to step into leadership by immersing them in the local food system. Through hands-on gardening, farming, and community engagement, participants build real-world skills in nutrition, health, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. The youth hired by the Green Teen Poughkeepsie program work in one of two sessions: the Spring Session runs from April through June on Tuesdays through Thursdays after school and consists of setting up the growing space and preparing planting. The Summer Session runs from the beginning of July to the end of August right before

school starts.

In both sessions, participants work as a team with a crew leader. Each session has at least ten youth who are hired to maintain the grounds and hydroponic greenhouse. They plant, maintain and harvest all the produce generated for The Pantry at DCC and additional locations. Green Teen participants are also involved with several campus programs and classes that provide them with life skills and professional development like financial literacy, health and safety and college preparation. They contribute to field trips, career exploration and collaborative events with campus and Cornell Cooperative Extension programs. They also secure one college credit and are matriculated while involved in the program to receive the resources provided by the campus.

To learn more about the Green Teen program, visit ccedutchess.org/youth-4h or contact Program Leader Carolyn McGraw. Follow @greenteenpoughkeepsie and @CCEDutchess on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

To learn more about The Pantry at DCC and the other student support services, visit <https://www.suny-dutchess.edu/around-campus/student-services/support.html>.

COLLEGE NOTES

BRISTOL, RI - The following students received their degrees in May as part of the Class of 2025.

Talia Moine of Pine Plains received a B.A. in Marine Biology;

Nora Shanahan of Rhinebeck received a B.A. in International Relations.

OLD WESTBURY, NY - Jonathan Gomez of Dover Plains has been named to the Spring 2025 Dean’s Honor List at New York Institute of Technology.

OLD WESTBURY, NY - New York Institute of Technology salutes students who received degrees as members of the spring Class of 2025, including Nicole Ziminski, of Red Hook, who completed the Psychology, BS program.

ALBANY, NY - The Dean’s List at the University at Albany recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of full-time undergraduate students.

The following students have earned Dean’s List at the University at Albany in Spring 2025:

Madeline Anderson (Red Hook), Audrey Bavis (Millbrook), Emily Brandt (Red Hook), Abigail De Paola (Salt Point), Allison Desmond (Hyde Park), Kristen Fakhouri (Hyde Park), Madeline Feicht (Salt Point), Giancarlo Giammatteo (Hyde Park), Haley Kafowitz (Hyde Park), Gabriella Ledenko (Red Hook), Emily Muraco (Hyde Park), Qualiar Newton (Hyde Park), Daniel O’Sullivan (Staatsburg), Lorel Ross (Red Hook), Maarten Rosse (Millbrook), Trevor Samradli (Staatsburg), Cory Silvernail (Rhinebeck), Raegan Smith (Pine Plains), Nicholas Tsironis (Tivoli).

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in their first semester of study and a GPA of 3.50 or higher in subsequent semesters.

Red Hook VFW collecting school supplies for Kindergarten class

The VFW Post 7765 & VFW 7765 Auxiliary have launched a drive to collect school supplies for the Red Hook Central School District Kindergarten class.

Supplies may be dropped off from now until Aug. 20 at the following business sponsor locations:

- Better Lives Animal Hospital, Red Hook
- Catalina Italian Deli, Red Hook
- Conway’s USA - Lawn & Power Equipment, Red Hook
- CJs Pizza and Italian Restaurant, Rhinebeck
- Four Brothers Greek Pizza Inn, Rhinebeck
- Hannaford, Red Hook
- Historic Village Diner, Red Hook
- Kingston Fine Jewelry, Kingston
- Lyceum Cinemas, Red Hook

- Minuteman Press, Red Hook
 - MMA Martial Arts Academy, Red Hook
 - Rhinebeck Savings Bank, Red Hook Branch
 - Serendipity Hair Salon, Red Hook
 - Ulster Savings Bank, Red Hook Branch
 - VFW Post 7765 Canteen, Red Hook
- (The list is growing daily - thank you all Sponsors!!!)

To make a monetary donation for the VFW to purchase additional supplies, please make your check out to Red Hook VFW Post 7765 with “School Supplies” in the memo. You can mail it to PO Box 293, Red Hook, NY, 12571; or drop it off at the VFW at 30 Elizabeth St., Red Hook. Call (845) 758-6212 for more information.

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ONGOING PROGRAMS
Qi Gong with Vince (online)
Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:30 AM
Vince Sauter will teach you how to lower stress and keep calm with Tai Chi. Class will focus on breathing in the calm and breathing out the tension.

Life Maintenance Exercise (Senior Exercise)
Tuesdays & Thursdays at 9:30 AM
This guided class will stretch, strengthen, balance and help keep your body moving. Exercises include: chair based stretching, calisthenics, and light weight lifting. Join every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 AM - 11 AM.

Story time on the Dot (in-person)
Tuesdays at 10:30 AM
Join us every Tuesday at 10:30 for Story time! Listen to fun stories, sing songs, and have fun, all centered around a different theme every week.

Mah Jongg (in-person)
(Optimistic Aging)
Tuesdays & Fridays 2:00-4:00 PM
If you're looking for a game to keep your mind sharp, or if you enjoy games that make you think strategically, you'll want to give Mah Jongg a try! Players of all levels are welcome.

All Level Yoga (in person & online)
Wednesdays (online)
Sundays 10:00 AM (in person or online)
Join Mia Tomic and explore classical seated, standing and supine yoga poses linked with breath in a creative way to stretch, strengthen, and rejuvenate your body, breath, and mind. You may also participate online. Please plan according to your comfort and needs as class is held indoors.

Chair Yoga, (in-person or online)
(Optimistic Aging)
Fridays at 11:00 AM
Join Samantha for Chair Yoga for ALL. Learn the basics of breath, meditation, and movement. This class will help you stretch and strengthen. Registration required so that you can get the link. Please register online or call the library at (845)-495-0655.

Zumba, (in-person)
Saturdays at 9:00 AM
Join Ginny Morrow for a fun fitness routine every Saturday at 9 AM. Pre-registration is not required. You may sign in at the door.

Free Tech Help (in-person)
Check online for weekly schedule
Do you need help with your Kindle, tablet, smart phone or computer? Drop-in anytime during tech help hours or call the library at (845)-495-0655 to book an appointment.

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS & MONTHLY PROGRAMS
Tea Time Book Club (in person)
Second Thursday of the month

Join Tea Time Book Club the second Thursday of every month. Come talk about the monthly selection and enjoy tea and a snack with members of the club.

Global Literature Book Club (on Zoom)
Third Monday of the month
The Global Literature Book Club focuses on exploring the world through literature. We discuss novels from around the globe, selected by members of the club. These works provide insights into a wide variety of nations, cultures, and styles of writing.

Crafts & Coffee
Second Monday of the month (crafts vary)
Join us for a lovely afternoon of coffee, crafts (and conversation!) On the second Monday of the month at 1:30, Diane will guide you as you create a project covering a wide range of techniques, from card making to book crafts to stitchery and more. Audience: Adults & Seniors

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS
Meet the Writers: ROJA by Tommy Newman and Jaime Lozano
Saturday August 9th, 5-6:30 PM
We are excited to host Tommy Newman and Jaime Lozano who will be presenting work from their musical-in-progress entitled ROJA! Tommy and Jaime have been working on the play during their residence at Rhinebeck Writers Retreat.
Please RSVP to RSVP@rhinebeck-writers.org to let us know you're coming!
Show Synopsis can be found on CCL's Website listing: <https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsExtended.cfm?SiteID=5061&EventID=562295&PK=>

Sensory Friendly Library Hour
Fridays 9:30 - 10:30 AM
Clinton Community offers a sensory friendly library hour every Friday morning! Community members with neurodivergent backgrounds, sensory processing challenges and all other developmental differences are welcome to come to the library, before we open up for the day! From 9:30am-10:30am stop by to browse books, do a craft, or just stop in and enjoy the space. The library lights will remain off, we will offer crafts, coloring or other fun activities.
Kids, teens & young adults of all ages are welcome. Parents & caregivers must stay in the library during the program.
*Important note: the library space is reserved only for sensory friendly hour during this time, not for regular library activity. Please be mindful of this time and place returns in the book drop or stop in for all other library operations we open at 10:30am!

Lunch & Learn: Birds of the Hudson Valley Thursday August 28th at 12:30 PM
The Hudson Valley is full of beautiful wildlife! Come learn about the birds you will see and hear in the upcoming seasons.
Lunch typically consists of a sandwich, chips, and a cookie. CCL cannot accommodate specific dietary requirements or allergies. If this is a concern, you are welcome to bring your own bagged lunch. Presented by Alan

Peterson, Waterman Bird Club
Please call the library to register. All online registration opens August 7th.

STARR LIBRARY
68 West Market St., Rhinebeck
(845) 876-4030
www.starrlibrary.org

LIBRARY ADVOCACY POSTCARD WRITING PARTY
Saturday, August 9th, 11am-1pm
This summer, while our elected officials are back at home in their districts, we are encouraging all library stakeholders to reach out and remind them how important libraries and the Mid-Hudson Library System are to their constituents. Join us for a postcard writing party and help us get the message across. Registration required

COOKING CLUB: FAVORITE COOKBOOKS
Tuesday, August 12th, 5-6:30pm
Bring your favorite "go-to" cookbook along with a dish you prepared from one of the featured recipes. We will not only have a wonderful tableful of delicious foods to sample, but some great cookbook recommendations to get us through the rest of the summer! Please remember to bring whatever serving utensils your dish requires and the library will supply the rest. Registration required

RHINEBECK LEGION BAND CONCERT
Tuesday, August 12th, 6:45pm
Join us outdoors on the lawn for this annual performance! Free and open to the public. Bring your own seating. Canceled if it is raining at concert time.

ASK US ANYTHING: COMPUTER HELP
Wednesday, August 13th, 11am-12pm
No question is too weird! Drop in during this open session to ask us anything technology-related. We'll do live demonstrations of the solution and work with participants closely to help make sure everyone knows the answers to their questions when they leave. Registration required

ROGER PHILLIPS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS THE EAST RIVER BLUES BAND
Saturday, August 16th, 4:30pm
The East River Blues Band features hypnotizing harmonica, soul-filled guitar, soaring fiddle and lots of singing in their energetic and eclectic sets of blues and Americana.

HILL OF SECRETS: AUTHOR TALK WITH GALINA VROMEN
Monday, August 18th, 2-3pm
Los Alamos, 1943. Nuclear scientists and their families face the toll of keeping secrets from the world and each other in this gripping, historical wartime novel which is sure to attract readers of Kate Quinn and Rhys Bowen. Registration required

THE SELF-WORK SHELF:
"The Other Significant Others" by Rhaina Cohen
Thursday, August 28th, 6pm
Why do we assume romantic relationships are more important than friendships? What do we lose when we expect a spouse to meet all our needs? And what can we learn about commitment, love, and family from people who put deep friendship at the center of their lives? Join in the discussion led by LMFT

Jennifer Uhrlass to explore alternative ways of structuring and nurturing our relationships. Registration required
HOUSEPLANT SWAP
Friday, August 29th, 11am-1pm
Come with a cutting or two, and leave with something new to add to your collection! Drop in anytime between 11am and 1pm! Please remember to label your plants and provide care/rooting instructions.

Plus our monthly recurring programs:
Insight Meditation Sitting Group, Memoir Writing Workshop, Starr Stitchers, Good Vibrations Sound Meditation, Nerds at Nite, The Laughing Stocks Finance & Investment Discussion Group, Navigating Medicare, and more.
Weekly recurring programs including:
Chair Yoga, Scrabble Club, and Mahjong. Brain Games is on break for August.

CONNECT & PLAY
Monday, August 25th
10:30-11:30am
Join Jane Korn and other parents, caregivers, and children (ages 3 mo-4 yrs) for a child play group at the library! This is an opportunity for parents to connect and share ideas while their young ones interact, play and grow. Space is limited. Registration is required each week through our online calendar. Registration required

MUSIC & MOVEMENT WITH TERRY WATSON
Thursdays, August 14th & 28th
Session 1: 11:15-11:45am
Session 2: 12-12:30pm
Back-to-back sessions! Licensed music therapist Terry Watson delights with songs, chants, puppetry, instruments, storytelling and movement/dance with a focus on child development and early literacy. Registration required
RHINEBECK FAMILIES PLAY & HANG
Fridays, 10am-11:30am

An informal meet-up in the playroom in the children's wing for parents and caregivers of children 0-3 years old. Come play with new friends and hang with other local parents navigating early childhood.

MYSTERIES AROUND THE WORLD BOOK CLUB
"Down the River Unto the Sea" by Walter Mosley
Tuesday, August 12th, 1pm
Joe King Oliver was one of the NYPD's finest investigators, until, dispatched to arrest a well-heeled car thief, he is framed for assault by his enemies within the NYPD, a charge which lands him in solitary at Rikers Island. A decade later, King is a private detective, running his agency with the help of his teenage daughter, Aja-Denise.

STARR BOOK CLUB:
"This is Happiness" by Niall Williams
Tuesday, August 26th, 7pm
Harking back to a simpler time, This Is Happiness is a tender portrait of a community – its idiosyncrasies and traditions, its paradoxes and kindnesses, its failures and triumphs – and a coming-of-age tale like no other. Luminous and lyrical, yet anchored by roots running deep into the earthy and everyday, it is about the power of stories: their invisible currents that run through all we do, writing and rewriting us, and the transforming light that they throw onto our world.

Serino first speaker in ‘Know Your Local Government’ series at Hyde Park Library

The Hyde Park Library is presenting a speaker series entitled, "Know Your Local Government," and the first guest will be Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, on Aug. 18 at 5:30 p.m.
If one would like to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of one's elected officials, don't miss these sessions. Other guests will include:

- Aug. 25 - Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair
 - Sept. 1 - County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt and County Legislator Brendan Lawler
 - Sept. 8 - Hyde Park Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani
- Registration is required - visit hydeparklibrary.org/events to sign up.

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OBITUARIES

Joseph L. Hall

Joseph L. Hall, 80, passed away peacefully on July 28, 2025, in Poughkeepsie, NY. Born on February 3, 1945, in the Bronx, NY, Joe lived a full and vibrant life marked by dedication to family, service to his country, and a lifelong passion for athletics.

Joe proudly served in the United States Navy, before moving on to pursue a higher education at Dutchess Community College. He later built a meaningful career at Wassaic Developmental Center, retiring at the age of 55. His early retirement allowed him to spend 25 cherished years surrounded by those he loved most—his wife, children, and grandchildren.

A true athlete at heart, Joe was a former Golden Gloves boxing champion whose competitive spirit never waned. He found joy in playing tennis and basketball, riding his bike, lifting weights to stay strong, and passionately supporting his children and grandchildren from the sidelines—often with spirited commentary directed at referees.

Joe’s life was shaped by deep love and resilience. He was predeceased by his first wife, Donna, who passed away in 1984. In time, he found love again with Florence, his devoted wife who survives him. Joe is also survived by his children Kristin, Jason (Melissa), Josh, and Kylee; his beloved grandchildren Ryan, Julia, McKenna, and Luke and his step-children Paula and Olivia.

He lives on in the laughter of his grandchildren and in the timeless stories he so vividly shared—threads that continue to weave the family together. May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him and continue to inspire strength and joy in those he leaves behind.

Calling hours were held on Monday, August 4, 2025 at Hufcut Funeral Home, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services took place on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at the funeral home with Rev. Thom Fiet officiating. Burial followed at St. Charles Cemetery in Dover Plains, NY. To send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

Anthony George Herles

Anthony George Herles “Tony”, 89, July 27, 2025 at home. Tony was the son of Joseph Emil Herles and Ruth Ada Barker Herles.

On January 3, 1959 he married the love of his life Barbara Germiller in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Pleasant Valley.

He graduated Poughkeepsie High School in 1954 and SUNY New Paltz in 1964. He taught English for forty years in many schools including Highland High School, Wappingers Falls Middle School, Dutchess Community College and EASL in Poughkeepsie High School. Volunteered with LLI Bard.

He received an honorable discharge from the US Army where he was on active duty at Ft. Sill, OK from 1959 to 1961.

Along with parenting, teaching and his own schooling, Anthony continued to write poems and short stories his entire life. He was published often and won several poetry contests. A proud moment was when he discovered his poem was published in 1978 in the NY TIMES, Metropolitan Diary.

Surviving are his wife of 67 years at home, sister Barbara Hagen, Lakeland FL, sister-in-law, Monica G Maher, Beacon, New York and sons Christopher Alan Herles, Queens, New York, and Andrew John Herles (Sherri Kelly Herles) Pleasant Valley. grandsons Anthony J. Herles (Chrissy Sparks Herles) Pacolet, SC; Robert R. Herles and Nicholas J. Herles, Pleasant Valley, four great-grandchildren: Caleb R. Herles, Pink Hill, NC, Henry May, Addalynn Jean and Theodore Quinn Herles, Pacolet SC. Also many nieces and nephews he very much enjoyed being with on special occasions.

He was predeceased by his oldest son Jeffrey J. Herles in 2006.

Services were held Friday, August 1 at Allen Funeral Home, 1605 Main St., Pleasant Valley, followed by burial at Calvary Cemetery, LaGrange Avenue, Poughkeepsie.

Memorial donations may be made to Highland High School Retired Teachers Scholarship Fund, Pleasant Valley Library, or a charity of your choice.

Alexis A. Hermance

Alexis A. Hermance, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, 69, passed away on July 27, 2025, she courageously fought a battle after a double lung transplant.

She was born on October 5, 1955, in Rhinebeck, NY, to the late Foster and Ermine (Loomis) Tetro. Alexis married Michael Hermance on Nov. 17, 1984 at the Red Hook United Methodist Church.

Alexis began working at a young age and was known throughout her life for her incredible work ethic and dedication. She held a variety of jobs over the years — working first at a pie factory, then spent many years working as a certified nurses aid. The she operated her own cleaning business, and later was a dedicated employee for a well known art collector/dealer in Milan NY until her retirement. No matter the role, Alexis approached her work with pride and determination.

She was a huge NY Yankees fan and most particularly loved Derek Jeter.

After retiring, she and her husband, Michael, moved to Murphy, North Carolina, and later lived in Hyde Park and Lake Pleasant before settling in Nassau, NY, where Michael still resides. Alexis found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She loved attending flea markets and treasured every moment spent with her grandchildren. Most of all, she cherished the many adventures she shared with Michael. The two enjoyed riding motorcycles, camping — especially during their time in Vermont — and taking their memorable cross-country road trip in 1992.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Michael Hermance; her daughter, Tiffiny Burpo; her son, Leon Smith; her stepchildren, Michael Hermance (Tasha), Eric Hermance (Jessica) and Lena Ahern; along with her twelve grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Friends and family were received on Friday, August 1, 2025, at Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook.

A graveside service took place on Saturday, August 2, 2025 at Red Church Cemetery in Tivoli, NY.

Memorial donations may be made in Alexis' memory to American Cancer Society or the American Lung Association.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Burnett & White Funeral Homes – Red Hook, 7461 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571.

Dr. Michael Spitzer



Dr. Michael Aaron Spitzer, 83, passed away on July 11, 2025, in Mooresville, NC.

Born on June 23, 1942, Dr. Spitzer pursued a lifelong commitment to learning and service. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School and continued his education at the City College of New York, Wagner College, and NYU College of Dentistry. A proud veteran, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves in 1968, serving aboard the L.Y. Spear in Norfolk, VA.

In 1974, he opened his dental practice in Rhinebeck, where he cared for generations of patients with compassion and skill until his retirement in 2018nearly 44 years later.

Beyond dentistry, Mike was deeply involved in his community. He was a Mason for over 50 years, a dedicated member and past president of the Rhinebeck Rotary Club, and active in the Clinton Historical Society. He also held memberships in the 9th District Dental Society and the American Dental Association.

Mike’s zest for life was contagious. Whether sailing or scuba diving, fixing up his home or riding his John Deere tractor, he embraced every moment. He loved social gatherings where he couldn't wait to share a corny joke, his morning coffee, beach trips to his Calabash vacation home, and cruising with the top down in his convertible on warm afternoons. His gin and tonics were legendary among friends.

Above all else, Mike cherished time with his family: his beloved wife Ann; daughter Johanna Banks and her husband Cale; sons Matteo and Adam; and his adored grand-

daughter Paisley Banks. His four-legged "crew" includes Stevie Ray, Frankie Roundbottom, and Penny Lane were at his side constantly.

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 6, 2025, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion, 6361 Mill St., Rhinebeck, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Glio Leo, a charitable organization aimed at Glioblastoma awareness and support for the families it affects. You can donate at <https://glioleo.com/donate>.

Mike often said, “We’re all in this together!” May we honor him by living that truth each day.

Virginia Young

Virginia “Ginnie” Young, 80, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, July 31, 2025, following a courageous journey through cancer.

She was born on November 4, 1944 in Franklin, New Jersey to Rev. George S. and Mrs. Virginia Daumann Christian where her father served as the pastor of a Presbyterian Church. She graduated from high school in Pompton Plains, New Jersey in 1962, then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1966.

In 1967, Ginnie married the love of her life John Young. Together they raised their two children, Christian and Amanda, in LaGrangeville, New York. Ginnie's pride and delight in her children and grandchildren-Anthony and Nicholas-shone through her stories and prayers.

A born encourager and lifelong learner, Ginnie poured her energy into education and social work. She began as an elementary school teacher, blessing countless students for

over 21 years with her warmth, humor, and creativity. After earning her Master of Social Work from Adelphi University in 1987, she continued her calling as a social worker for the Wappingers Central School District, where she became a trusted advocate for middle school students navigating life's challenges.

Ginnie’s faith in Christ was the center of her life. She brought joy and compassion to every circle she joined-whether leading Christ Care small groups, serving in prayer ministry at Hopewell Reformed Church, encouraging women through Aglow International, sharing her heart at Tres Dias retreats, or participating in the Reformed Church in America’s women’s ministry programs. She lived her faith out loud: vibrant, prayerful, welcoming, and full of laughter.

Those who knew Ginnie will remember her as a vibrant soul, full of spark and spirit whose contagious joy was rooted deeply in her trust in God. She saw people, loved them fiercely, and drew them closer to Christ by the way she lived.

Ginnie is survived by her husband John of 57 years; her children Christian (Marcella) Young and Amanda Young; her cherished grandsons, Anthony and Nicholas; and her sister, Faith Schoon (Eugene). She is preceded in death by her parents, George and Virginia Christian.

A service of celebration and thanksgiving for Ginnie's life will be held at Hopewell Reformed Church, 143 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction, NY, on Saturday, August 9, at 11:00 AM, with a reception to follow.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hopewell Reformed Church in her memory.

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SUDOKU

This week's answer

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Suguru solution

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Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 16)

Hochul releases ‘Master Plan for Aging’ final report

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently released the final report for New York’s first-ever Master Plan for Aging (MPA). The MPA Final Report contains more than 100 proposals directed toward all levels of government, the social sector and private enterprise, all with the aim of helping individuals age with dignity, independence and the support they need and deserve to thrive.

“Every New Yorker should be able to age with dignity and independence,” Hochul said. “The Master Plan for Aging builds on our ongoing efforts to empower older adults and advance New York’s status as an age-friendly state. I thank the hundreds of stakeholders, state agency staff and partners who worked to develop these proposals and look forward to reviewing the report.”

The report’s release was accompanied by a newly unveiled MPA website featuring the complete report and a sortable library of its 100-plus proposals, available in multiple languages at <https://planforaging.ny.gov/>.

The MPA advances goals outlined in the Governor’s 2022 State of the State Address and Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Executive Budget. It was formally established by Executive Order No. 23, signed in November 2022.

The Master Plan for Aging, led by the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office for the Aging, and the New York State Department of State is the product of a collaborative effort with dozens of stakeholders inside

and outside of government.

New York has the fourth-largest population of older adults in the U.S., with 3.2 million individuals – about 16 percent of the population – over age 65. The state’s population of those over the age of 60 is projected to grow to 5.3 million by 2030, with those over 80 years of age exceeding 1.2 million – growing faster than any other age group in some areas of the state. By 2030, older adults will make up 25 to 30 percent of the population in most New York counties.

New York State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, “The Master Plan for Aging was created by New Yorkers, for New Yorkers, so we can age successfully and independently—on our terms – right here in New York.”

New York State Office for the Aging Director Greg Olsen said, “The final Master Plan for Aging is a true triumph of collective problem-solving. Under the vision of Governor Hochul, the MPA has brought together hundreds of the brightest and most accomplished minds from diverse fields and sectors – all contributing their talent to create this historic roadmap for an age-friendly New York. The Master Plan for Aging outlines over 100 proposals, each holding the promise to make a real difference in the lives of individuals as they age. Just as importantly, this document assesses the potential challenges, opportunities and pathways for action on each proposal, making it both visionary and practical. I applaud Governor Hochul, our state agency part-

ners, the stakeholders and the public for their contributions to this historic outcome for older adults in New York State.”

Nine ‘pillars’ cited in report

Hundreds of stakeholders participated in a process of MPA workgroups to develop the MPA Final Report proposals. Organized into eight subcommittees and over 34 workgroups, the stakeholders coalesced around nine overarching pillars, which were:

- Affordability of Basic Necessities
- Informal Caregiver and Workforce Support and Modernization of Community-Based Aging Network Service
- Modernization and Financial Sustainability of Healthcare, Residential Facilities and Community-Based Aging Network Service Providers
- Prevention, Wellness Promotion and Access
- Housing Access and Community Development
- Access to Services in and Engagement with Historically Underserved Communities
- Social Engagement of Older Adults
- Combatting Elder Abuse, Ageism, Ableism and Stigma
- Technology Access and Development

The 100-plus proposals presented in the MPA Final Report explore multiple approaches that address the built environment and infrastructure, transportation and transit, financing of care and services, recruitment and retention of the long

term care workforce, licensing and training, pilot initiatives that can bring together providers and community services, innovations in care and service delivery, public-private partnerships, and many more.

The MPA process is already having an impact. The FY 2026 Enacted State Budget includes \$45 million in additional funds to expand community-based aging services offered through area Agencies on Aging — a critical priority identified by the MPA. This funding will help to reduce waiting lists for services such as home-delivered meals, assistance from personal care aides for activities of daily living, transportation assistance, home adaptations, case management to assist with person-centered resources, and other community-based supports. Going forward, the MPA provides a range of strategies for state agencies, the Legislature, stakeholders and partners to consider as New York pursues policies, programs and collaborations that will benefit older adults and their families.

The MPA Final Report builds on the MPA Preliminary Report issued in August of 2023 and Interim Report issued in October of 2024.

The MPA Council, which is made up of New York State executive agencies, will continue to engage stakeholders from groups and communities across the State and coordinate efforts across state agencies to ensure that policy and programs supporting New York’s aging population are moving forward.

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\$34.4M Mid-Hudson Bridge construction project to run Fall 2025 through Summer 2027

The New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) announced upcoming work on the east end of the Mid-Hudson Bridge as part of its robust maintenance program designed to keep the bridge safe and in good condition for all users. The east approach rehabilitation project will take place starting the fall of this year through summer of 2027.

“This project is a strong example of how the New York State Bridge Authority reinvests toll dollars to maintain our infrastructure in exceptional condition,” said New York State Bridge Authority Executive Director Dr. Minosca Alcantara. “The rehabilitation of the east approach complements the paving work completed on the bridge and the west approach in 2023. As we approach the Mid-Hudson Bridge’s 100th anniversary in 2030, we take pride in the ongoing care and investment that ensure this vital connection remains safe, dependable, and well-maintained for the thousands of people who rely on it every day.”

This necessary work will include filling viaduct sections with lightweight concrete to enhance structural support, installing new precast deck

systems on five approach spans to provide a smoother driving surface, utilizing a Class “A” containment system for lead abatement, as well as repainting the arch bridge over Metro-North Railroad tracks to preserve the structural steel.

The \$34.4 million construction contract was awarded to Michels Construction, Inc. during the July 17, NYSBA Board of Commissioners meeting, following a competitive bidding process.

The project area is located on the east side of the bridge, between the middle of the Route 9 on/off ramps and the former “toll house” on the Poughkeepsie side. This section of the approach consists of five mini-spans crossing over local roadways and railroad tracks, as well as viaducts and anchorages that support the suspension cables.

Motorists should expect minimal disruptions to traffic, especially during peak travel times. Most of the work scheduled for 2025 will take place beneath the bridge deck, with no changes to existing traffic patterns. The bridge’s current two-lane configuration—including the reversible two/one lane configuration during

morning and evening rush hour—will remain in effect throughout the duration of the project. Any surface-level work will be conducted during off-peak hours, with at least one lane open in each direction. Alternating lanes and nighttime detours may be used at certain times, but the Authority remains committed to mitigating major traffic disruptions.

The Bridge Authority encourages all motorists to stay alert, follow posted signs, and reduce speed when driving through the work zone to help ensure the safety of both workers and fellow travelers.

Project updates will be shared on the New York State Bridge Authority’s social media channels @NYSBridge on Facebook and X as well as on local variable message signs (VMS) near the vicinity of the bridge. In addition, motorists are encouraged to visit www.511ny.org or download the 511NY mobile app to get traffic alerts for the bridge and other local roads.

Opened on August 25, 1930, the “Franklin D. Roosevelt” Mid-Hudson Bridge is the second-oldest of the Authority’s vehicular spans and continues to serve as a vital connection for the Hudson Valley region.

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-23-25
Heavy-Duty Transit Buses for Dutchess County Public Transit
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 8th day of August 2025 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING

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.

Legal Notices

**BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD
Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, NY**
Please take note that the Planning Board of the Town of Pleasant Valley, NY, will hold a public hearing on the following proposition:
South Avenue - Michael Schroeder II - Multifamily
Grid #: 6363-12-980586
Applicant would like to build a 4 unit building – 2 bedrooms in each unit.
SAID Meeting will take place on August 13, 2025 at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y., and begins at 6:30 p.m.

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GOLDEN LIVING

Let's use our imaginations for this week's issue.

Imagine two tomatoes. The first one is sitting in a bin, along with hundreds of tomatoes exactly like it, at your local mega-colossal supermarket. The tomato looks flawless, because it was bred to endure thousands of miles of travel from whatever farm grew it. It's tough. You could throw it at a brick wall and it might bounce back like a tennis ball, in which case it might also taste like a tennis ball. Maybe the dog can play fetch with it.

The second tomato was grown locally, the way your grandfather grew his. He showed off his tomatoes to anybody who cared to have a look. And he'd grow enough that every home in the neighborhood could each have a bucket of tomatoes at harvest time. The tomatoes weren't perfectly symmetrical, but the taste was unbeatable.

What if we told you it's possible to find local tomatoes a lot like your grandpop's, for free? Go on, you say.

This year, OFA has a bumper crop of free coupon booklets valued at \$25 for income-qualifying Dutchess County older adults, from New York State's Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). Each booklet contains five \$5 coupons, good at participating farmers markets throughout New York State. Wondering if your income qualifies you? Get in touch with OFA, or consult the highlighted section of this chart from the US Department of Agriculture.

We need to get these free booklets into the hands of as many qualifying Dutchess County older adults as we can. In the meantime, tell your friends!

Ways to Apply for SFMNP Coupon Booklets

1. At OFA, Thursday and Friday Afternoons: The Office for the Aging will

distribute a limited number of SFMNP booklets from our main office at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie, while supplies last, only on Thursdays and Fridays from 2:30-4:00pm.

2. At Any OFA Friendship Center: Not able to travel to Poughkeepsie? SFMNP coupons can be had by appointment at any of OFA's other seven OFA Friendship Centers. Call before visiting to make your appointment, to be sure someone will be around to help you:

Beacon, 1 Forrestal Heights, Beacon - 845-838-4871

East Fishkill, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction - 845-226-3605

Millerton, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton - 518-789-3081

Pawling, 154 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling - 845-855-9308

Pleasant Valley (Tri-Town), 1576 Main St., Pleasant Valley - 845-275-8565

Red Hook, 59 Fisk St., Red Hook - 845-475-1129

South Amenia, 229 South Amenia Rd., Wassaic - 845-373-4305

3. For Low-Income Senior Housing Residents: You should be able to find out how to apply for SFMNP coupons from your site manager.

4. At An OFA Summer Picnic: Older adults who live in the following communities can apply for SFMNP coupon booklets while they're at the OFA Summer Picnic serving their community. Picnics tend to reach capacity, so reserve a seat by calling 845-486-2555 during business hours.

August 13 - City of Poughkeepsie, Stitzel Field, 10-14 Lincoln Ave.

August 20 - Towns of Beekman and LaGrange, Freedom Park, 212 Skidmore Rd., LaGrange

August 27 - Town of East Fishkill, Hopewell Recreation Park, 392 NY 376

All picnics take place on Wednesdays and begin at noon, typically wrapping up just after 1 pm. Many thanks to 2025 picnic season supporters - Central Hudson, The Pines at Poughkeepsie, Hudson Valley Medicare Group, and AccentCare - for their valuable help.

WHEN'S THE PROM?

First things first: We're still in the "save-the-date" stage of OFA Senior Prom planning, and you haven't missed anything.

The OFA Senior Prom, co-hosted by The Pines at Poughkeepsie, takes place on Monday, October 20th, noon-4pm, at Villa Borghese, 70 Widmer Road in Wappinger. It's open to all Dutchess County residents over age 60, while seats remain available.

Registration opens on Thursday, August 28th. The \$20 price of admission has stayed the same since at least 2015, and includes lunch and an afternoon of dancing and fun with the full Bob Martinson Band.

Registration forms will be emailed to everyone on the OFA email list. If you subscribe to this email, you'll get one. The form will also be included in the Fall 2025 THRIVE60+ OFA newsletter.

IF YOU MISSED THE JULY 10TH OLDER ADULTS SKILLS FAIR...

If you couldn't make it to County Executive Sue Serino's "Putting Your Skills To Work" Older Adults Skills Fair, see the contact information for all participating vendors online via www.dutchessny.gov.

We expect that there will be additional Older Adult Skills Fairs in the future as more employers and volunteer-supported agencies take notice of the outstanding response to the first fair.

TAKE THE DUTCHESS TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

Every five years, the Dutchess County Transportation Council issues a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, aimed at improving the mobility of older adults and persons with disabilities in Dutchess County. The last DCTC report was issued in 2021; with the next version of the plan to be issued in 2026, a new survey is being conducted now.

You can take the survey at <https://www.transpogroup.com/dutchesscoordinatedplansurvey>, and provide information to help meet our transportation needs as we age.

EMAIL SCAM ALERT

This one comes to us from the Town of Poughkeepsie, but it'll apply to any government email services you subscribe to.

One such scammer group is impersonating Town officials, trying to solicit funds from their targets, sometimes using phrases like "fees necessary for permit approvals."

Our guidance remains the same for such scams: Do not engage. That means don't answer the email, and don't call any phone number in the email. Do not respond. Use your email program's spam reporting feature. Also, report the scam attempt to law enforcement. dutchessny.gov/scamprevention has details and contact information. Every reported scam attempt can help investigators put together an idea of the scam's origin. Reporting a scam attempt can also protect you in case you are erroneously billed because of somebody else's fraud.

Share this with your less tech-savvy friends too.



THE 179TH DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

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SAT., AUG. 23 • 7:30 PM
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