

‘Know Before
You Go’ to the
2026 Dutchess
County Fair



The 180th Dutchess County Fair, running Aug. 25-30, is just around the corner and organizers are feverishly preparing for opening day, Tuesday, Aug. 25, at 10 a.m.

Highlighted below are just a few helpful hints to prepare for your day at the Fair. Fully detailed information of “Things to Know Before You Go” can be found at <https://dutchess-fair.com/visitor-info/>.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

All Rides Run Daily, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. until closing
Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

The commercial buildings close each night at 10 p.m.

Please note: The following buildings close earlier than 10 p.m.:

9 p.m. - Century Museum Antique Village (Map #40)

9 p.m. - Arts & Crafts Building (Map E)

8 p.m. - Bentley Schoolhouse (Map #43)

** Pleasant Valley Train Station (Map #42)

**Fireman’s Museum (Map #41)

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DC Fairgrounds landscaping
rooted in family tradition

By Kaeleigh Banda

Local landscaper Tony Capalbo has been taking care of the Dutchess County Fairgrounds from a landscaping perspective since 2003. Instead of hiring a team to assist him, he enlists the help of his family to make the visions come to life. Every flower planted and every weed pulled is the work of three generations of Capalbo’s family.

Capalbo said he has been bringing his now 13-year-old son to the Fairgrounds since he was an infant.

“I used to bring him to the horticulture meetings in his car carrier,” Capalbo said. “He’s grown up on this property. He loves this place.”

The landscape planning process for the fair begins every year in February. Then, flowers are ordered and grounds are freshened up in April. Planting begins around Mother’s Day, and maintenance extends past the fair’s conclusion into October. This year’s fair runs from Aug. 25 to 30. Visit dutchessfair.com for information and tickets.

Capalbo said he and his family take care of all the gardens and plant all of the flowers. The grounds they cover total 162 acres. The grounds are regularly maintained through watering, weeding and pruning.

“Today [my son] was here with my parents, and it rained yesterday, so [the plants] didn’t need the water, so they were weeding and trimming hedges,”



Tony Capalbo and Melody Moore are seated in the gardens near the Tom Odak Horticulture Building at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Capalbo said during an interview near the end of July. “And he was calling me, naming off all of these shrubs, and I’m like, ‘He’s 13!’ ”

From a young age, Capalbo was interested in landscaping. His parents started a business about 46 years ago, so like his son, he grew up around landscaping.

“My dad worked for the town of Rhinebeck Highway Department full time and then started doing stuff on the side just to make extra money,” Capalbo said. “My interest just grew from there. I now have my bachelor’s degree in landscape design and plant science.”

In addition to working with his family, Capalbo is the co-owner of The Phantom Gardener in Rhinebeck. Capalbo said he looks forward to working with a team from The Phantom Gardener on the landscape competitions in the Thomas J. Odak Horticulture Center at the Fair.

Every year, the

competition has a different theme. The 2026 theme is “Celebrating America” for the 250th birthday of the United States. Capalbo said he also used that theme to influence his designs for the Fairgrounds’ landscaping. He used red, white and violet flowers to create the patriotic color palette.

Melody Moore, co-chair of the Horticulture Center, said the designs for the exhibits in the Horticulture Center are created by the individual landscaping teams, which is not typical for most landscaping jobs.

“Most of the time, the landscapers are implementing the client’s vision of what they want to see,” Moore said. “I think it’s one of the few times they just let their own creative juices flow and have fun.”

Moore said the unique landscape of the Fairgrounds also gives the Fair a reputation of being one of the nicest-looking fairgrounds in the country. Capalbo said the area is park-like with all of the trees, which is more interesting than other fairgrounds.

“It’s not just a parking lot or big blacktop area,” Capalbo said. “It’s not just a bunch of buildings. You can really walk around and enjoy it here.”

Moore said the landscapers do not receive proper recognition for the work they do.

“They fly under the radar,” Moore said. “They do all the magic before. A lot

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The Memorial Garden offers a quiet, peaceful space for visitors to rest and reflect during their busy day at the fair. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. They are standing in a line, holding a long red ribbon that stretches across the frame. In the background, a large, dark-colored building with a green roof is visible. A sign on the building reads "Celebrating 20 YEARS" and "DS HOME SERVICES". To the left of the building, a tall flagpole holds an American flag and a red flag. The scene is set outdoors on a paved area, with trees and a clear blue sky in the background.

‘Know Before You Go’ to the 2026 Dutchess County Fair

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Vassar Brothers Medical Center ranked No. 1 hospital in Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Metro Area by U.S. News & World Reports

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 third consecutive year. VBMC was also ranked No. 20 (tie) in New York state and recognized among the best hospitals in the Hudson Valley. Northwell Health was the most awarded health system in the New York tri-state area for the sixth consecutive year, according to the 2026-27 U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings.

VBMC, a premier regional hospital serving Dutchess, Ulster and Orange

counties and beyond, was recognized as “High Performing” in 16 Common Adult Procedures and Conditions, up from 15 last year. These include:

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Colon cancer surgery
- Diabetes
- Gynecological cancer surgery
- Heart arrhythmia
- Heart attack
- Heart failure
- Hip fracture
- Kidney failure
- Leukemia, lymphoma & myeloma

- Lung cancer surgery
- Pacemaker implantation
- Pneumonia
- Stroke
- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)

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.

“Being named the No. 1 hospital in the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh region for a third consecutive year reflects the dedication, expertise and compassion of our team members throughout the organization,” said Susan Browning, Regional President of Northwell Health and President of Vassar Brothers Medical Center. “We are also proud to be part of Northwell Health, the most awarded health system in the New York tri-state area for the sixth consecutive year. Together, these recognitions demonstrate our commitment to delivering exceptional care close to home for the communities

we serve across the Hudson Valley.”

“When patients face a major surgery or a chronic medical condition, having access to clear, quality data is vital,” said U.S. News’ Managing Editor and Chief of Health Analysis Ben Harder. “A ‘High Performing’ rating means that Vassar Brothers Medical Center outperformed a national threshold, giving families a reliable starting point as they consult with their doctors to choose the best place for care.”

U.S. News evaluated nearly 4,500 hospitals across 14 adult specialties and 23 procedures and conditions; less than half earned recognition in any of those 37 areas of care. 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 patient experience. The Best Hospitals Specialty rankings methodology and Procedures & Conditions ratings methodology measure patient outcomes using data from over 800 million records of patient care.

For more information, visit Best Hospitals.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to the Labor Day holiday on Sept. 7, the Sept. 9 issue of the Northern Dutchess News will have an early deadline. All ads and editorial must be received by Thursday, Sept. 3. Contact cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com for more information.

AI-powered virtual phone assistant to improve SNAP customer service

County reports

The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) has been piloting EVA, an artificial intelligence-powered virtual phone assistant designed to help clients apply or recertify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. EVA provides quick, convenient, around-the-clock customer service and helps DCFS staff better serve residents seeking assistance. DCFS Commissioner Sabrina Marzouka presented an update about EVA to members of the Dutchess County Legislature recently; the presentation is available online.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, “Efficient and responsive customer service is a priority for us, and EVA is one example of how Dutchess County continues to use new technology to make services easier and more accessible. By helping our neighbors find reliable information quickly and making the application process more efficient, we are enabling our team to spend more time focusing on the unique needs of the people and families we support.”

EVA is an AI-powered phone system with specialized components designed for Social Services Districts. Over the past two years, 17 New York counties have begun using EVA components with great success. DCFS is currently piloting two EVA components for the SNAP program : the EVA Phone system and the EVA Rights & Responsibilities (R&R) module.

EVA Phone answers inbound calls 24/7/365 and can speak in more than 30 languages, reducing barriers for clients and helping them get answers more quickly. EVA can handle multiple calls at once, ensuring callers are not left waiting on hold or hearing a busy signal. Since

testing began on July 1, EVA has handled nearly 1,200 calls, saving more than 23 staff hours and providing frequently requested information, including:

- Office hours and locations
- Where to find or submit forms and verification documents
- General program information for SNAP, HEAP, Medicaid, and more
- Answers to frequently asked questions about DCFS services

The EVA R&R component recites the federally required SNAP Rights & Responsibilities script to clients following their eligibility or recertification interview. Clients hear the script in their preferred language and verbally attest to understanding it, improving both compliance and quality assurance. This allows DCFS staff to use the time previously spent reciting the script to complete interview notes and process applications more quickly. DCFS has been testing this component since mid-June and has already assisted more than 900 clients.

As a result of EVA’s efficiency, DCFS improved its SNAP application timeliness rate — applications processed within 30 days — from 74 percent in July 2025 to 83 percent in July 2026 during the test period. Feedback from clients and staff has been positive. DCFS expects to fully implement both EVA components by the end of the summer.

DCFS Commissioner Sabrina Jaar Marzouka said, “Our department is thrilled with the positive results EVA has brought our clients and staff during the testing phase. This innovative tool assists many in our community who turn to DCFS for SNAP support. EVA gives our team more time to focus on the individuals and families who need personalized help and enables us to deliver faster, more efficient, higher-quality service.”

Implementation of EVA comes at a

critical time for DCFS, as staff help SNAP recipients navigate new federal requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD). Expanded age ranges and mandated monthly work or training hours have significantly increased staff workloads, making workflow improvements even more essential.

DCFS Social Welfare Manager II Janet McLain said, “I am very excited to utilize EVA. We are finding that EVA is saving valuable time. By reducing time spent reading rights and responsibilities, our staff can dedicate more attention to accuracy, case processing and providing quality services to our community. We hope continued use of EVA will help reduce heavy workloads and improve morale for our dedicated staff.”

EVA meets all New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) standards and does not have access to confidential information. Its security and privacy protections comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP). EVA does not make decisions; it only relays general information publicly available through DCFS or the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

To learn more about the benefits and services available through the Department of Community & Family Services, visit www.dutchessny.gov/DCFS.



Studio Views

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Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

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Addressing the need for
workforce housing in Hyde Park

To the editor:

Last year while campaigning for (Hyde Park) Town Board I spent months doing door-to-door walking through neighborhoods to speak with residents. One issue that came up constantly was the increasing cost of living. I often heard stories from neighbors that were finding it increasingly difficult to afford staying in our community. I listened to each person and assured them that, if elected, I would work to address this issue.

During a special board meeting recently that opportunity presented itself, and I along with the board took action. Crofton Mews, an apartment complex received its initial approvals over two decades ago, back in 2003. Located at 1269 Route 9G, right behind the Moose Lodge and just north of the East Park traffic light, this development will bring 250 much needed apartments to our town. The new units will feature a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments to support local families. The original resolution did not include any language addressing the high cost of living. However, the Town Board successfully worked with the builder to agree that 20% of the apartments will be designated as “workforce housing.”

Workforce housing refers to residential units targeted at middle- and moderate-income working households. This includes jobs such as: teachers, nurses, municipal employees, police officers, as well as young families whose incomes are too high for traditional low-income housing subsidies. Furthermore, workforce housing is designed for households making 60% to 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI), which translates to a standard local household income of about \$70,000 to \$140,000. By including workforce housing in this development we are helping ensure that the people who serve Hyde Park have an opportunity to live here as well.

Addressing this issue is important because the board wants to help young families starting off as well as seniors who may want to remain in the community but struggle with rising costs. It’s imperative that the town helps give its residents options for people at different stages of life and income levels.

As your Town Board member, I will continue listening to residents and working collaboratively with all stakeholders to find the right balance between economic development, responsible growth, and protecting the historic character of Hyde Park. My goal is to help build a Hyde Park that people can afford to live in today and that our children and grandchildren can afford to live in tomorrow.

Paul Donnelly
Councilman
Hyde Park Ward 3

Reader: TV commercials equals wasted time

To the editor:

Casual conversations held when at appointments, grocery lines, calls, there is agreement expressed. Too many commercials on TV at every turn. Recently, during the show, “The View,” host Whoopi Goldberg calmed a clapping audience, “Hey, you all, what a great welcome, but let’s get started, you have us for the next hour.”

No they don’t. I clocked that day 25 minutes of commercial time, leaving 35 minutes to say their thing. No wonder they all talk at the same time or speak so fast.

My senior mind scrolled years of past viewing. I recall with pleasure the “I Love Lucy” Show, “The Sid Caesar Comedy Hour,” “Leave It To Beaver,” “Twilight Zone,” “The Ed Sullivan Show,” Peter Jennings and Walter Cronkite on the news, to name a few. Yes, commercials, but tastefully done, and very few. Left time for quality content.

Twice, in years past, I gave up the TV. Once for 7 years, another for 3. Read more, spent more time outdoors, felt more at peace. I am soon ready to make a third decision, shut it off again. My finger that works the mute button at every commercial will be happy. What with insurance policies for almost everything these days, I thought soon I’d need to take out a policy for kinks/arthritis pains caused by an over worked finger.

All those hours of muted time. Adding up I think I could have obtained a Master’s Degree to improve my income. So much wasted time.

Joyce Benedict
Hyde Park

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.

DC Fairgrounds landscaping rooted in family tradition

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of the shows that go on here, the participants are right up front. They’re right there with their pig or horse, and they get applause. ... The fairgrounds wouldn’t look the way it looks if it weren’t for people like Tony and the other crews that come in to help.”

Moore said that at the Fair, she enjoys watching people step back and realize the beauty of nature.

“I hope that it transmits to them a sense of responsibility to care for all this,” Moore said. “Dutchess County is

rich in beautiful landscapes and open space, and I hope that people leave with a greater understanding of how much we should be appreciative of what we have and what it takes to bring it to them.”

As thousands of people flood the Fairgrounds this year, Capalbo said he hopes more people stop and see some-

thing in the landscaping that they would like to see in their own garden.

“I hope people get inspired,” Capalbo said. “Even if it’s one plant, one flower, a design, even just the layout. One of the things that is important to me is people coming through and seeing our work and what’s out there.”



Landscaping at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds is done by Tony Capalbo and his family. Photo by Curtis Schmidt



Resumes:
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we’re on the web!
www.sdutchessnews.com

Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation Community Walk for Breast Cancer to honor Dr. Lisa Curcio

The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation announced its 2026 Community Walk for Breast Cancer, an annual event that brings together breast cancer survivors, families, friends, healthcare professionals, and community members to support those affected by breast cancer throughout the Hudson Valley, will be held on Oct. 4.

This year’s Walk at James Baird State Park will honor Dr. Lisa Curcio, a breast cancer survivor and breast surgeon at Northern Dutchess Hospital, in recognition of her exceptional dedication to caring for breast cancer patients and her inspiring personal journey as a survivor.

Dr. Curcio has devoted her career to providing compassionate, expert surgical care while guiding patients through some

of life's most challenging moments, it was stated. Her own experience with breast cancer has strengthened her commitment to helping others navigate diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship with empathy, hope, and resilience.

“We are honored to recognize Dr. Lisa Curcio as the 2026 Community Walk Honoree,” said Pari Forood, Executive Director of the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. “As both a highly respected breast surgeon and a breast cancer survivor, Dr. Curcio embodies the courage, compassion, and strength that define our mission. She has touched countless lives through her exceptional patient care and serves as an inspiration to survivors and healthcare professionals alike.”

The Miles of Hope Community Walk for Breast Cancer raises critical funds to support local breast cancer programs throughout Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties. Funds raised remain entirely within the Hudson Valley, providing assistance through grants for support services, education, treatment support, screenings, and programs that improve the quality of life for those facing breast cancer.

“I am deeply honored to be recognized by the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation,” said Dr. Curcio. “Having experienced breast cancer from both the physician's and the patient's perspective has reinforced the importance of compassionate care, early detection, and commu-

nity support. Miles of Hope has made an extraordinary difference for so many individuals and families in our region, and I am grateful to be part of an organization that is committed to ensuring no one faces breast cancer alone.”

The Community Walk welcomes participants of all ages and abilities, including survivors, families, corporate teams, healthcare organizations, schools, and community groups. In addition to the walk, attendees will enjoy activities celebrating survivorship, remembrance, and the collective strength of the Hudson Valley breast cancer community.

For more information, to register, volunteer, or become a sponsor, visit <https://milesofhope.rallybound.org/community-walk>

GOLDEN LIVING

If you’ve never heard of “bungalow leg” before, join the club. This strangely named condition is new to us as well. It refers to the gradual weakening of leg and lower body muscles in people who live in homes without stairs, and who don’t get to climb stairs in other places.

Eventually, an older adult who doesn’t work the necessary muscles for climbing stairs may find themselves unable to climb stairs they once took for granted. They may even trip over low curbs.

Our leg muscles love stairs

A 2018 Duke University Department of Medicine study found that stair-climbing came with many benefits:

- There is a significantly lower risk of mortality when climbing more than 55 flights per week;
- Active stair climbers are more fit and have a higher aerobic capacity;
- Even two flights of stairs climbed per day can lead to six pounds of weight loss over one year;
- There is a strong association between stair climbing and bone density in postmenopausal women;
- Climbing stairs can improve the amount of “good cholesterol” in the blood;
- Stair climbing increases leg power and may be an important priority in reducing the risk of injury from falls in the elderly; and
- Stair climbing can help you achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

Climbing the stairs also involves the glutes, hamstrings, calves, as well as ankles that ensure feet land properly on each step. If you can climb stairs, you should. It’s one of the healthiest activities there is at any age - and it’s free.

Stairs aren’t for everybody, though

Single-story living may still be preferable for older adults with significant mobility and/or balance challenges, con-

ditions that affect the muscular or skeletal system, cardiovascular system, or neurological system.

I’m in a single-story home - now what?

Besides finding stairs and hills to climb in your day-to-day activities, physiotherapists and trainers offer plenty of practical, free alternatives that can be done at home to reduce the likelihood of bungalow leg:

While you make your morning coffee or tea, march in place while lifting your knees as high as they can safely go. Use the kitchen counter for support if you need it.

When you get out of a chair, stand up and sit down three times to work your quads. Stronger quads are an underrated key to independence. We need our quads in good working order to be able to safely sit on and get up from a toilet. Being unable to do so without help raises serious questions about one’s continued independence.

Toe and heel raises can help. Hold onto a sturdy chair or wall for balance. Raise your heels: Push up onto your toes as high as you can, hold for one second, and slowly lower back down. Next, raise your toes: Shift your weight back slightly, and lift your front toes off the ground to work the front of your shins. Aim for 10 to 15

slow movements per set, two or three times a day.

Older Adults Skills Fair –
Thursday 8/13 at John Jay High School

Older adults (55+) who are looking for full- or part-time employment, or volunteering opportunities, County Executive Sue Serino’s second free Older Adults Skills Fair is coming up this week!

It’s taking place from 2-4 p.m. on Thursday, August 13th at John Jay High School, 2012 NY 52 in Hopewell Junction. No advance guest registration is required. This event will include opportunities to:

- Meet local employers offering flexible, part-time positions;
- Connect with nonprofit organizations;
- Socialization with fellow older adults; and
- Enjoy complimentary light refreshments.

Bessie Riley, Poughkeepsie Supercentenarian (1914-2026) – In Memoriam

See www.darrowfuneralhome.org/obituaries/bessie-riley for the obituary for lifelong Poughkeepsie resident Bessie Riley, who passed away in July at the age of 112. Bessie was the fourth Dutchess County resident to have reached the age

of 110, and was the 15th oldest person in the United States at the time of her death. Bessie was remembered recently by County Executive Sue Serino.

August OFA events

To register for any of the August events below, contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 unless noted otherwise.

(Tuesday) 18th – Navigating Medicare at Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Rd., Poughkeepsie, 3 pm – click here to register, or call 845-485-3445 extension 3380

(Wednesday) 19th – Navigating Medicare at Poughkeepsie Galleria, Poughkeepsie, 10am

19th – Summer Picnic Series, Freedom Park, 212 Skidmore Rd., LaGrange, 11:30a-1p (for Town of Beekman or LaGrange seniors)

(Wednesday) 26th – Summer Picnic Series, Hopewell Rec Park, 392 NY 376, Hopewell Junction, 11:30a-1p (for Town of East Fishkill seniors)

(Thursday) 27th – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Amenia Library, 3309 NY 343, Amenia, 12 noon-2p

It’s another one of those Bad Jokes:
I was wondering why the frisbee kept getting bigger, and then it hit me.

COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS TO MEET AUG. 21

There will be a meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Ethics on Friday, August 21, from 10 to 11 a.m. The public has the right to attend at the Dutchess County Attorney’s Conference Room, 22 Market Street, 5th floor, Poughkeepsie.

Public comments will also be accepted verbally, up to three minutes per person, for a total of up to thirty minutes in the aggregate at the end of the meeting. Each person may only speak once up to three minutes. This meeting of the Board of Ethics shall be for the purpose of reviewing complaints received, if any, by the Dutchess County Board of Ethics.

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RENEGADES FEATURE

Renegades alum Lombard reaches big leagues

By Morgan E. Maier

When George Lombard Jr. arrived at the Hudson Valley Renegades in 2024, it was clear High-A would not have the shortstop for long. Since his promotion to Double-AA Somerset last May, Lombard has stormed through the Yankee organization, to the delight of New Yorkers. Lombard’s first week in the majors was marked by must-see milestones, patience at the plate, and maturity that stretches well beyond his 21 years.

Lombard needed just two at-bats to produce something special in his debut against the St. Louis Cardinals. His first career hit was a rocket to left field, leaving the park as the Yankees’ eventual winning run. He flashed plenty of leather in his debut, tested early on defensively — and answering the call with ease.

The Lombard bombardment on the Cardinals didn’t start with George that night. His brother, Jacob, a 2026 draftee of the Miami Marlins, made his professional debut the same night

against the Palm Beach Cardinals — and he went yard in his second at-bat, while the Lombard parents streamed the game from their seats at Yankee Stadium.

Where Yankee Stadium looked for a curtain call from its newest legacy shortstop, the game moved quickly on without it. Never to worry in the Bronx, there will likely be more chances soon.

Lombard began his career 3-for-7 in a remarkable start at the plate. Working at-bats with the same poise as he’d meet reporters with pregame, Lombard’s eye for the strike zone has set him apart from prospect counterparts. The glimpses of power-hitting are a bonus, the defense a much-needed relief for a Yankees infield that has struggled at times.

Lombard looks to be the key to a late postseason push. Whether he impacts the box score — and he has — the energy across Yankee faithful is palpable.

A similar story befell right field on August 8, as Yankee Old-Timers



George Lombard, Jr. Photo by Dave Janosz

looked on from seats and suites. This time, the Atlanta Braves would learn what the Lombard hype was about, as the youngster swung one into the right field seats. Again, the newest pinstriped phenom made a difference for the win, in the eventual 5-4 Yankees victory.

Lombard has many eyes on his ascent through the Yankees organization, the youngest shortstop to debut in the Bronx since Derek Jeter. Jeter changed New York for good in the six-spot; George Lombard seems likely to do the same.

League Standings

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE NORTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Frederick BAL +	24	16	.600	-	6-4	W6
Greensboro PIT	25	17	.595	-	6-4	L1
Wilmington WSH	23	18	.561	1.5	6-4	L1
Brooklyn NYM	21	20	.512	3.5	6-4	W1
Hudson Valley NYY	21	21	.500	4.0	5-5	W3
Jersey Shore PHI	14	27	.341	10.5	3-7	L6
SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE SOUTH						
	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STRK
Bowling Green TB *	27	15	.643	-	5-5	W1
Greenville BOS	21	21	.500	6.0	6-4	L3
Winston-Salem CWS	20	21	.488	6.5	4-6	L2
Asheville HOU	19	22	.463	7.5	3-7	W2
Rome ATL	17	23	.425	9.0	4-6	W1
Hub City TEX	15	26	.366	11.5	5-5	L1



August			
08/11/26	vs. Wilmington	06:35 PM	First Responders Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/12/26	vs. Wilmington	06:35 PM	Strike Out Cancer Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/13/26	vs. Wilmington	06:35 PM	Agriculture Night Jersey Thursday presented by Heritage Financial Credit Union
08/14/26	vs. Wilmington	07:05 PM	Make-A-Wish Night presented by Mirabito Energy Fireworks Friday
08/15/26	vs. Wilmington	05:05 PM	Union Appreciation Night Oasis Bottle presented by CSEA
08/16/26	vs. Wilmington	02:05 PM	Football Day WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/25/26	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	An Ode to Cream Cheese WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/26/26	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Welcome Back College Students WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/27/26	vs. Brooklyn	06:35 PM	Copa de la Diversión™ presented by Cafe Con Leche: Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/28/26	vs. Brooklyn	07:05 PM	Fan Appreciation Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/29/26	vs. Brooklyn	05:05 PM	Dino Night WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets
08/30/26	vs. Brooklyn	02:05 PM	WMCHealth Club Lounge Tickets Sunday Family Funday





Renegades Extra!



IMPACT
PR & Communications

**KDD Marketing Wins Big in
Hermes Creative Awards Competition**



See story,
page 8



IMPACT
PR & Communications

RENEGADES ROUNDUP

Hudson Valley wins 3 straight in Greenville

By Morgan E. Maier

It was a winning week down south for the Hudson Valley Renegades, who won three straight to clinch the road series against the Greenville Drive. After dropping two of the first three in South Carolina, Hudson Valley found the offensive outburst they've craved all second half, powered by a few well-rounded hitting and pitching performances, and a pinch hit from Mother Nature.

3 Strikes, You're Out

Lighting was an unwelcome player in the seven-inning shortened contest on August 5, but the Drive were happy to call it a night. The Renegades led 11-4 when it was called, thanks to a five-run fourth inning. Jackson Lovich and David McCann each had three runs batted in.

Upper Deck

Righty reliever Brandon Decker improved to a 5-1 season record with the August 7 win, leading the bullpen to the first of three weekend wins. After a shortened start by Pico Kohn, Decker led a four-man relief outing with 1.1 scoreless innings. Home runs by Cam Troyer and Eric Genter helped the Renegades to a 9-3 victory.

17 again

The Renegades 8-2 victory on August 8 saw each starter with at least one hit. All nine hitters combined for 17 total hits, a full production line on the



Saturday slate. Eric Genter had three and added three RBI. The middle hitters — Kyle West, McCann, and Willy Montero all had two hits to seal at least a series split for Hudson Valley.

Run it up

An extra inning slugfest in the finale saw 27 runs, 30 combined hits, and a Renegades' 15-12 win in their South Carolina sendoff. The Renegades offense combined for 32 bases in the victory, a



Above: Kyle West greets fans. West had 2 hits during the game on Aug. 8. Left: Cam Troyer and Eric Genter helped the Renegades win by hitting home runs. Photos by Dave Janosz

four-run 12th inning capping the offensive showdown. Maika Niu got it started with a two run blast; McCann matched it soon after, his second home run of the day. McCann was 4-7 with 5 and a stolen base.

Meet Renegades catcher David McCann

By Morgan E. Maier

On the heels of David McCann's red-hot week against the Greenville Drive, let's get to know a bit about the Hudson Valley Renegades' new catcher.

McCann, 22, boasts a .304 season batting average in 49 games since battling an injury this season. In that time, an on-base plus slugging percentage is .990, and he has 45 runs batted in.

A Virginia Tech alum, McCann is a reliable designated hitter, catcher and first baseman. McCann was noted for his defensive and multi-hit tendencies as a

Hokie, rated as the 54th ranked freshman to come into the Atlantic Coast Conference. McCann is currently the only lefty-swinging catcher on the Hudson Valley roster, adding versatility to the two-man right-handed duo of Josue Gonzales and Diomedes Hernandez, the latter of the two who is seeing extended reps in the outfield.

McCann, an Easton, Connecticut native, has played for three teams in the Yankees organization this season. McCann made his arrival known at his latest stop.

McCann began his High-A career 7-

for-19 in Greenville, including a monster offensive game on August 9. McCann took the Drive for 10 total bases, including a massive two-run, 12th-inning blast to ensure Renegade victory in the series finale. Five runs batted in capped McCann's nine RBI series.

Could the likes of McCann be the answer for the Yankees much-discussed trade deadline inaction behind the plate? With a projected arrival of a few years, McCann is the latest in a respectable string of catchers — past and present — in the New York prospect pipeline.



David McCann

KDD Marketing wins big in Hermes Creative Awards competition

KDD Marketing has cemented its position as an award-winning agency, recently earning recognition from the 2026 Hermes Creative Awards competition. The accomplishment comes on the heels of a first- and third-place win in the 23rd annual Service Industry Advertising Awards earlier this year, and joins a list of 2025 acknowledgments from the Davey Awards, American Graphic Design Awards and the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The agency was recognized with platinum and gold awards in the following categories:

- Platinum: Publications & Informational Materials / Annual Report
- Gold: Apparel / Branded Merchandise
- Gold: Website – Marketing, PR, Advertising, Digital Agency

“Our team is committed to the success of every client we work with,” said Katy Dwyer, founder and creative director of KDD Marketing. “Being recognized in an international arena for that dedication and our expertise across different industries is an honor.”

Hermes Creative Awards recognize outstanding creative professionals’ work on an international level. The program is administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, which, in 2026, reviewed more than 6,000 entries from 31 countries around the world. Platinum Winners, the



KDD Marketing of Kingston won the above trophies, signifying platinum and gold awards. *Courtesy photo*

highest level of recognition, are acknowledged for excellence in quality, creativity and resourcefulness, receiving an entry score of 90 – 100, while Gold Winners scored between 80 – 89.

To learn more about KDD Marketing and its team, visit teamkdd.com or follow along on Facebook (@KDDMarketing) and Instagram (@kddmarketing).

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Children’s Home introduces new Board and Committee members



From left: Michael Liguori, Andrea Massi and Christine Taylor

The Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie has announced the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors, the addition of a committee member, and the confirmation of its Executive Committee for the 2026-2027 term. With backgrounds in commercial banking, child development, engineering, and data analysis, these individuals will help strengthen the organization’s leadership and mission of serving children and families.

Michael Liguori, Senior Vice President, Commercial Lender for Rhinebeck Bank, joins the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie’s Board of Directors as its Assistant Treasurer, bringing expertise in lending and management. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from SUNY Oswego and is a 2012 Leadership Dutchess graduate. Mike has also received specialized training in commercial credit through the American Bankers Association. He is extremely active in the local community and is the Immediate Past President of the Kiwanis Club of Poughkeepsie, Treasurer of the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, and Board Member for MidHudson Works.

Andrea Massi joins the Board of Directors with a strong background in education, child development, and school leadership. A graduate of Dutchess Community College, where she earned associate degrees in Early Childhood Education and Liberal Arts, Andrea went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in English from SUNY New Paltz, master’s degrees in Education and Students with Disabilities, and an advanced degree in School Leadership. Throughout her career, she has worked with youth and families through a variety of roles, providing skill building, prevocational, crisis avoidance management and training, special needs community advocacy, and caregiver support. She currently serves as

Academic Support Center Coordinator at Oakwood Friends School, where she is the head of her department, teaches classes, and writes learning plans and 504s for students in need.

Christine Taylor joins the Children’s Home as part of the Resource Development Committee, with years of experience working in engineering, research, and data analysis. She holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and is currently a hardware developer at IBM. Christine is passionate about supporting local children and families through education, mentorship, and community support.

“We want to enthusiastically welcome new board members Andrea and Michael to our Board of Directors and Christine to our Resource Development Committee,” said Val Murphy, Chair of the Board of Directors. “They bring not only their extensive professional expertise and long-standing involvement in the Mid-Hudson Valley Community, but a strong desire to support and promote the mission of the Children’s Home to empower children and families to achieve optimal health and well-being.”

The Children’s Home would also like to recognize four members who have completed their board terms, Maureen Crush, Chris Downey, Rochelle Friedman, and Jessica Vinall. In addition, the Children’s Home announced its updated Executive Committee: Chair – Valerie Murphy; Vice Chair – Matthew Cruz; Vice Chair, Audit – Patrick Meaney; Vice Chair, Governance – Ian MacDonald; Vice Chair, Program – Kathy McCorry; Vice Chair, Resource Development – Jason Dewey; Secretary – Sean Manna; Treasurer – Mary Lou Davis; and Assistant Treasurer – Michael Liguori.

To learn more about the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie and its mission, please visit childrenshome.us.

send us your news
cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

Bowl for Community Action Partnership in October

Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County will hold a fundraising event at Spins Bowl in Wappingers Falls in October and wants you to take part in the action.

“Bowl for ACTION” will take place on Friday, October 9, and will feature team participants, raffle prizes, food and more.

To find out more about sponsorship opportunities and to register for the event, go to www.BowlforACTION.org.

“We know our local residents are aware that Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County helps individuals who struggle with strained resources or experience difficult financial circumstances,” said Dr. Linda Haas Manley, CEO. “Our solemn mission is to partner with individuals and families to eliminate poverty and identify resources

and opportunities to enhance their self-sufficiency.”

Manley noted CAPDC helps residents through food, rent and utility assistance for those income-eligible, plus other essential programs such as Dress for Success Dutchess County employment empowerment, free tax preparation, and weatherization assistance.

CAPDC announced that Fisch Solutions, which provides high-quality web and IT services to its customers and is based in the Hudson Valley has agreed to be the “Kingpin Sponsor” of the event.

Jason Fisch, founder and President of Fisch Solutions, said, “It’s our pleasure to partner with Community Action Partnership on such a worthwhile endeavor. Fisch Solutions recognizes many families in our community will benefit from the support we and others

give to the Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County. This promises to be a fun night with a great purpose.”

Bob Maslosky, general manager of Spins Bowl Wappingers Falls, said, “We are grateful to have the opportunity to host this community-minded event. Spins Bowl is a great space with more than two dozen bowling lanes and other fun activities, and we are confident attendees at this event will have a joyous evening.”

WALL Radio has graciously agreed to be the event’s media partner, and Michelle Taylor, On-Air Personality and Programming Specialist of WALL Radio said, “As someone who loves being part of this community, I’m proud that WALL Radio is able to support Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County. I truly believe strong communities are

built by all of us helping each other in any way we can. Their commitment to support individuals and families reflects the values we share at WALL Radio and being able to by giving their mission, a supportive voice.”

At the event, participants will get the chance to bowl two games, partake in a 50-50 raffle, prizes and surprises plus enjoy good food and drinks. Bowl for ACTION is a non-competitive event, open to all levels of bowlers, including beginners.

Check in for the event is 5:30 p.m. October 9 at Spins Bowl located at 1677 US-9, Wappingers Falls.

CAPDC has Family Development Centers in the City of Poughkeepsie, Dover Plains, Red Hook and Wappingers Falls. You can learn more at <https://www.dutchesscap.org>

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4-H youth gain valuable information at Multi-Species Showmanship Clinic

4-Her's from five different counties gathered to learn and grow their skills with over five different livestock species on July 12th at the 4-H Multi-Species Showmanship Clinic at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. The event provided space and opportunities for 4-H youth to experiment with showing different livestock species, as well as improving techniques with more familiar animals.

Over 20 4-H volunteers donated their energy and animals to the grant-funded opportunity hosted by Dutchess and Ulster County 4-H programs. More than 65 youth from Ulster, Dutchess, Suffolk, Columbia, and Greene counties registered to attend and selected at least four different livestock species to work with throughout the day. Livestock were provided by dedicated 4-H volunteers from Dutchess and Suffolk counties.

Throughout the day, educators observed and chose to select youth who exemplified 4-H sportsmanship and awarded them with grooming and fitting supplies for each species. These supplies will help 4-H members continue to improve their fitting and showmanship skills as they move upwards with their current animals or start fresh with a new species.

The Dutchess and Ulster 4-H programs would like to extend their extreme thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this happen, including the Dutchess County Fair staff, Zoe's Ice Cream Barn, Two Brothers Pizza of Rhinebeck and CMC Creations. The planning committee is hopeful to repeat this event on an annual basis and continue finding ways for 4-H youth to pledge their heads, hearts, hands, and health to better themselves and the world around them.

For more information about 4-H in New York State, go to <https://www.nys4-h.org>

For more information about Ulster County 4-H, contact the Ulster 4-H team at ulster4h@cornell.edu

For questions about the Dutchess County 4-H Program, reach their 4-H team by call 845-677-8223 or email ccedc4h@cornell.edu



More than 65 youth from Dutchess, Ulster, Suffolk, Columbia, and Greene counties registered to attend and selected at least four different livestock species to work with during a recent showmanship clinic at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Courtesy photo



Ode to Julia

Vicki honors the chef who made America love cooking.

“People who love to eat are always the best people.” – Julia Child

Without a topic in mind going into this article, I decided to see if August had any events or food days to inspire me. I discovered that Julia Child was born on August 15th, so I wanted very much to pay homage to the legendary chef, author and TV personality who made America love cooking and graced the world with her passion for food.

In the 1950s and '60s, post-war America discovered and relied largely on processed, packaged foods. Canned and frozen foods and TV dinners were seen as modern and the antidote to the work of farming and having to grow one's own food. 'Fresh' had lost its appeal and cooking had largely fallen by the wayside in favor of fast and convenient. Julia Child, who adored food, changed all that.

“To be a good cook you have to have a love of the good, a love of hard work, and a love of creating.” – Julia Child

The late Anthony Bourdain deeply revered her as the most important and influential figure in American gastronomy, a true pioneer who changed the world by teaching generations to eat and cook better. He also admired her spirit and integrity – she never gave in to commercialism or endorsed any products. She simply loved food, learned how to cook, believed in fresh ingredients and shared that with America and the world.

Born to wealthy parents in 1912 in Pasadena, California, Julia Carolyn McWilliams had a happy childhood and received an excellent education. She worked several secretarial jobs after graduating from Smith College in Massachusetts. In 1941 she volunteered with the Red Cross and wanted to join the military but, at 6'2", she was rejected because she was too tall (!). She was truly larger than life. Determined to help in the war effort, she moved to Washington, DC taking a job as a senior typist at the Research Unit at the Office of War Information and later held a variety of different positions with the Secret Intelligence Branch of the Office of

Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to the CIA. With the OSS she volunteered to go overseas, going to China and India.

“I was 32 when I started cooking; up until then I just ate.” – Julia Child

In 1945 she married Paul Child, whom she had met while working with the OSS in India where he was working for the US Foreign Service. Theirs was a deeply devoted romance that lasted almost 50 years. His job brought them fortuitously to Paris in 1948 where, at the age of 32, Julia enrolled in the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu cooking school. In 1961 she co-authored “Mastering the Art of French Cooking,” making complex French techniques and recipes accessible to, and clear for, everyone. Her groundbreaking cooking show, “The French Chef,” debuted on PBS in 1963, making her America's first major cooking star and showing the world how warm, funny, unpretentious and fearless she was. Her charming personality was accentuated by her nonchalance when making mistakes. She was talented, yes, and a pioneer, but she was also absolutely and adoringly human.

“This is my invariable advice to people: Learn how to cook, learn from your mistakes, be fearless and above all have fun.” – Julia Child

In honor of Julia, I decided to try a classic French dessert, clafoutis (pronounced KLA-foo-tee, French for “to fill”). It is described by Julia herself as “pancake batter poured over fruit in a fireproof dish, then baked in the oven” and as “peasant cooking.” It is fresh fruit in a part custard-part cake base, and simply elegant in a rustic way. There are many variations – berries, peaches, plums, even apples, to name a few - but the most traditional seems to be made with fresh sweet, dark cherries, because the recipe's origins as near as I can tell are from 19th-century Limousin by peasant farmers using the small cherries grown there. That's my inspiration for this recipe, adapted from Julia's but with my own touch, because she would have



Cherry Clafoutis. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

wanted me to play.

A note on cherries: Traditionally this was made with unpitted cherries, believe it or not, but that seemed a tad unpleasant and dangerous. Pitting cherries, however, is a VERY messy business (my kitchen looked like a crime scene), so I recommend pitting them in the sink because the juice will stain everything it touches. You may want to use gloves. If you don't have a cherry pitter, you can use a straw or the big end of a chop stick, inserting it into the end where the stem was and pushing the pit through. If you prefer to use frozen cherries, thaw and drain them.

CHERRY CLAFOUTIS

I did take some liberties with Julia's recipe and also drew inspiration from other recipes I found. As simple as it is, there were quite a few variations with differing ingredients and amounts. Some used heavy cream, while most used milk. Slivered almonds and almond extract were common, but I am not a fan of the extract, so I omitted both and opted instead for kirsch, a clear, dry cherry brandy to enhance the flavor along with vanilla. The eggs were another bone of contention: all whole or in combination with yolks. Because I'm a custard fan I went with 2 whole eggs and 2 yolks. The result was a little too eggy, so next time I'll either do one yolk or all whole eggs.

I did stick with Julia's method of pouring and baking a little of the batter before adding the cherries, which also helped prevent them from sliding around, a plus because, me being me, I carefully arranged the fruit concentrically. Duly noted, some did still wander when the rest of the batter was poured on top, but the effect was still there. Dusting the slightly cooled clafoutis with powdered sugar is not up for debate. (You may need to dust it again after it's sat a while since it will absorb the sugar over time). It can be served warm, at room temp or chilled. I served it with a dollop of whipped sour cream (mostly heavy cream with sour cream added, which I thought delightful, so I've included the recipe if you want to try it.

INGREDIENTS

Pitted sweet cherries, about 2 cups, halved (My dish wasn't overly large and

I arranged them carefully, so I used about 12 whole cherries, but use more if you like)

- 2 whole eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- ¼ cup sugar
- A generous pinch of salt
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon kirsch (or almond extract if you prefer)
- ½ cup flour
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- Powdered sugar for dusting

METHOD

Position oven rack to the center. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a (~9x9 or equivalent oblong) baking dish or deep pie dish with butter and set aside.

In a large bowl, beat or whisk eggs and yolks. Add sugar, salt, milk, vanilla and kirsch and whisk until smooth. Add flour (I sifted it right into the batter) and melted butter and whisk just until smooth.

Pour about ¼-inch of batter into the prepared dish and bake just until firm, about 8 minutes.

Remove from oven and gently pour the rest of the batter over the top.

Bake until puffed up, lightly golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 30-45 minutes (check after 30). It will start to deflate as soon as you take it out, but that's fine. Remove from oven and allow to cool slightly before dusting with powdered sugar. Serve warm or cool, with or without ice cream or whipped sour cream (recipe follows).

Serves 6-8.

WHIPPED SOUR CREAM

Slightly tangy and delightful. A perfect complement to the cherries.

Whip 1 cup heavy cream until just starting to thicken. Gradually add ¼ cup sugar and a pinch of salt and continue whipping until soft peaks form. Add ½ cup sour cream and whip until stiff peaks form.

“I don't think about whether people will remember me or not. I've been an okay person. I've learned a lot. I've taught people a thing or two. That's what's important. Sooner or later the

continued on page 13

Beatrix Farrand Garden

A Day of African Drumming & Nature Exploration for 9-12 yr olds

Date: Sat, Aug. 22
Times: Session 1: at 9am
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Enjoy a one-day program that will immerse children (ages 9–12) into the wonder of African drumming and nature exploration activities. Children may register for the morning session (9 a.m.–12 p.m.), which is the African drumming session, or the afternoon session (1–4 p.m.), which is the nature activities session, or enjoy the full day of discovery.

Families should register by August 15, 2026
https://www.viewcy.com/event/rhythm_nature_afri



Sunflowers Galore!

Mark will share the spotlight with a field of sunflowers at his gig this Friday.

Full disclosure – I’m playing music at Hudson Valley Cold Pressed Oils on Friday, August 14, so don’t pay any attention to this glowing review of the premier sunflower viewing venue in the Hudson Valley. Before I get too crazy, allow me to give shout-outs to a couple of other gorgeous sunflower farms run by my friends – Peter and Jen of Barton Orchards, Mark Doyle of Fishkill Farms, Mandy Dykeman of Dykeman Farm, Darryl and Debby Mosher of Brittany Hollow Farm, Chris Kelder of Kelder Farm in Kerhonkson, among others.

Hudson Valley Cold Pressed Oils boasts 100 acres of sunflowers on the 350 acres that used to be the Robb Brothers Farm on Sleight Plass Road in Pleasant Valley. The farm was worked by Bill and Hollie Plass up until Bill’s death last March at the age of 101. At one point, Bill was packing 6,000 eggs a day on his adjacent Hickory Ridge Farm. The Haight family bought the Robb Farm in 1999. Hudson Valley Cold Pressed Oils was founded by Kevin Haight and is now co-owned by Kevin, Traci, Jeff and Allison Haight. They all have experience in the food industry, developing their oil after extensive research and trials at the Culinary Institute of America.

During my visit last Friday, the sunflowers were just shy of blooming, but I was assured they’d be popping out by the time of my gig. Assistant manager (she just made up the title) A.J. Pittore drove me around on a golf cart to see the fields, all planted in stages, to assure continuing bloom until the autumn frosts of October. A big swath of the farm is field corn, part of a crop rotation scheme. A.J. explained

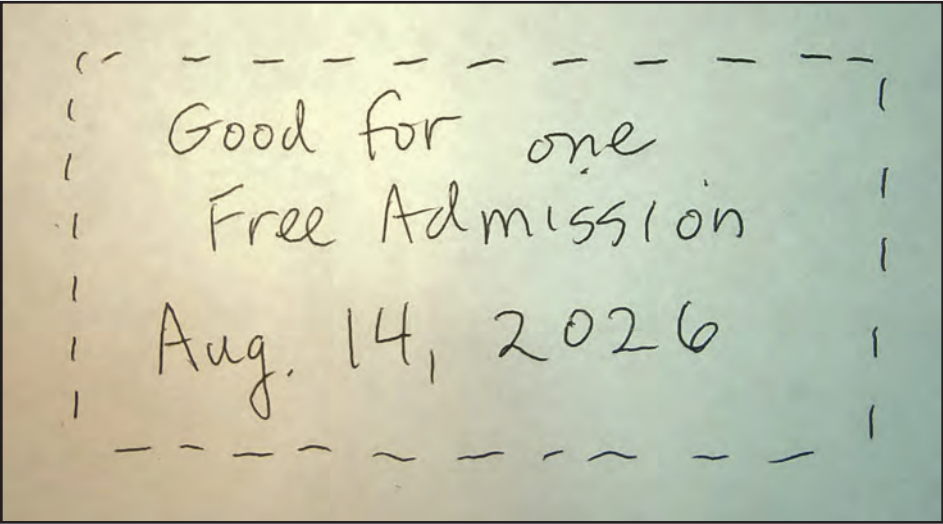
that the farm’s cold pressed sunflower oil retains the seed’s natural vitamin E, antioxidants and authentic flavor, which is mild and pleasant. It has a higher smoke point than olive oil, so you can bring the deep fryer up to 350 degrees. The farm includes a commercial certified gluten-free kitchen where the team produces sunflour, pancake mix, muffin mix, lotion, body wash, and lip balms, all available at their online store, or at the pop up shop at the farm on weekends. I just found out that their sunflower oil is also sold at Adams Fairacre Farms in Poughkeepsie.

As I explained in last week’s article, Sunflowers are native to the Hudson Valley, but only the dainty woodland sunflower (*helianthus divaricatus*) and possibly the showier swamp sunflower (*h. angustifolius*). The true sunflower (*h. annuus*) is native to the U.S. Midwest, but thrives in the Hudson Valley as an annual, best planted from seed sown directly into the soil in late May. Sunflowers attract bees, feeding on pollen – some of the newest varieties are bred to produce less pollen. Butterflies feed on the nectar, and birds, especially goldfinches, love the seeds.

New sunflower varieties include “Sunfinity” from Syngenta Flowers and “Suncredible” from Proven Winners. They keep on producing new blossoms all summer, as the older flowers fade. Although they are low on pollen, they attract swarms of bees that feed on the nectar. The new “Sunfinity Double Yellow,” I’ve observed at trials, has blossoms so dense that bees can’t get into them. Terrific choice for the garden, if



A sunflower in Sue's garden. Photo by Mark Adams



Bring this to Mark’s concert this Friday and receive free admission for one. Photo by Mark Adams

you happen to suffer from apiphobia.

Hudson Valley Cold Pressed Oils is open afternoons and evenings Thursday through Sunday, weather permitting. The sunsets over the fields are breathtaking. Local musicians perform regularly. There is a \$5 per car admission fee to pay the performers. I’m providing a coupon to my loyal readers that will get you free admission. The money comes out of my

pay (I bet you didn’t know I’m a professional musician). You can buy beer and delicious deep fried pulled pork, hamburgers and other goodies on site.

Hope to see you Friday evening, 5:30-8 pm! Bring your own chair.

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

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

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

Suguru

2

5

4

1

3

5

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

THEME: HISTORY 101

ACROSS

1. Charlie “Bird” Parker’s sax

5. Mary _____, businesswoman extra-ordinaire

8. Downloadable smartphone purchase

11. In _____ of

12. Greek salad staple

13. Appraisal

15. Law school prerequisite, acr.

16. “Once _____ a Time in America”

17. Dictum, pl.

18. * _____ press, Johannes Gutenberg’s invention

20. “Sittin’ On the Dock of the Bay” singer

21. In need of a muffler

22. Make a choice

23. *Genghis Khan’s _____ Empire

26. Intima, pl.

30. Fertility clinic stock

31. Tranquil

34. Famous Steeler coach, Chuck _____

35. Twisted cotton thread

37. Key next to spacebar

38. Like a gymnast

39. Naysayer’s favorite prefix

40. Develop, as in story

42. _____-AFTRA

43. Famous fox of fable

45. Like a smell of soil

47. *World’s first 24-hour TV news network, acr.

48. Molten rock

50. Smoke plus fog

52. *First Roman emperor

55. Part of foot, pl.

56. Chowder protein

57. Pelvic parts

59. Are not

60. *Homesteader’s purchase, sing.

61. “_____ the good die young”

62. *Pres. during the Cuban Missile Crisis

63. It is

64. Fermented rice brew

DOWN

1. Pledge of Allegiance ending

2. Talk like Daffy

3. Eye drop

4. Day trip

5. Flat-topped military caps

6. Lack of muscle tension

7. Opposite of yin

8. Mushroom spore sacs

9. Benatar and Morita, e.g.

10. Money in Myanmar

12. Pointless

13. Take as one’s own

14. * _____ Bull, Lakota’s famous leader

19. Gallows’ rope

22. *World War _____, 1914-18

23. Wisdom tooth, e.g.

24. Sheep-like

25. Highly unpleasant

26. “He’s Just Not That _____ You”

27. Damp

28. Islam’s Supreme Being

29. Lament for the dead

32. Writer Ayn

33. Rudolph’s friend Hermey, e.g.

36. *One of Mount Rushmore presidents

38. *First President in the White House

40. Cremation ashes container

41. Peanut or pea, e.g.

44. Emotional turmoil

46. 2:1 and 3:1, e.g.

48. Defraud

49. Petri dish jellies

50. Feudal lord’s servant

51. Humble and docile

52. Frozen bowl berry

53. Arm bone

54. *The _____ Road, ancient East-West trade route

55. Pilgrimage to Mecca

58. Pirate’s “yes”

CROSSWORD

1

11

15

23

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43

55

59

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2

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‘Groundhog Day, The Musical’ comes to Rhinebeck stage

Up In One Productions will present the iconic “Groundhog Day, The Musical” live, onstage at The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck from Aug. 14 to Sept. 6. Critically acclaimed on both the West End and Broadway, “Groundhog Day” is the story of one man’s journey of self-discovery, day after day. Inspired by the hilarious film starring Bill Murray, “Groundhog Day” features a book by original co-screenwriter Danny Rubin, and music and lyrics by Tony Award nominee Tim Minchin (“Matilda the Musical”).

Renowned illusionist Ryan Dutcher plays the leading role of Phil Connors, a seasoned big-city weatherman, frustrated to be to reporting on the annual Groundhog Day Ceremony in small town Punxsutawney, PA. His arrogance and cynicism are in direct contrast to the cheery townsfolk, who are eager for their favorite Groundhog to not see his shadow so they can welcome in an early spring. After disdainfully covering the rodent’s negative forecast, Phil awakens the next day only to discover it’s February 2nd once more. Initially in disbelief, he finally accepts he is doomed to repeat the

same day over and over again ... What ensues is witty, touching, insightful, and not to be missed.

The musical made its world premiere at The Old Vic in London in summer 2016 and was nominated for eight Laurence Olivier Awards in 2017, winning for Best New Musical and Best Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical for Andy Karl; it later opened on Broadway in 2017, and was nominated for seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical for Karl.

The Up In One Production is co-produced by Diana di Grandi and Peter Risafi, directed by Duane Joseph Olson with music direction by Paul and JoAnne Schubert and choreographed by Maria Coppola.

Performances are set Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$29 and can be purchased online at www.centerforperformingarts.org or by calling (845) 876 3080. Parental discretion is advised. Best suited for ages 13 and up

The Center for Performing Arts is at 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck.



Ryan Dutcher as Phil relives February 2nd over and over again with Rita (Brittany Baltay) in “Groundhog Day, The Musical,” opening Aug. 14 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. Photo by Olivia Bogert

what’s happening?

— creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

Love to Cook

continued from page 10

public will forget you, the memory of you will fade. What’s important is the individuals you’ve influenced along the way.” – Julia Child

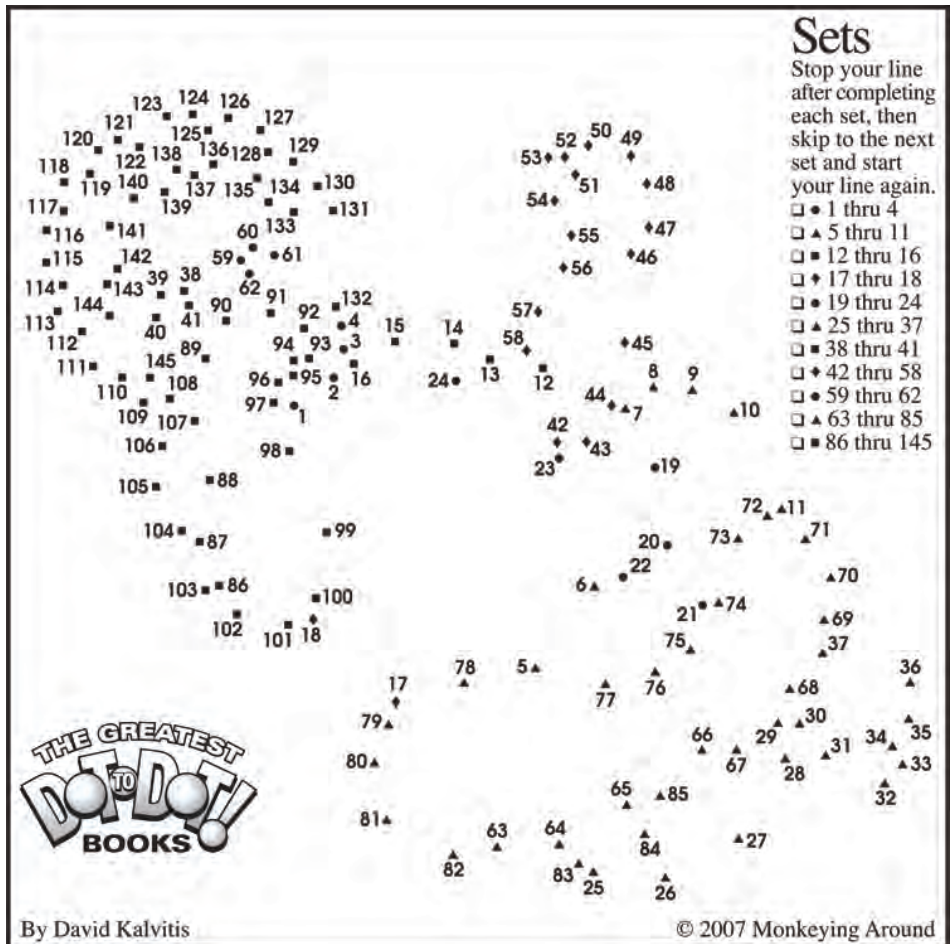
Well, Julia, as one of the many you have influenced along the way, I thank you most sincerely. A passion for food should lead to a love affair with cooking that never fades or ceases to be a fun adventure. We will never forget you.

“Bon appetit!”

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

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



Historic Red Hook announces slate of events

Historic Tavern Trail at Lasting Joy Brewery

Friday, Sept. 4, 6-7 p.m., Lasting Joy Brewery, 485 Lasher Road, Tivoli

Join Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum for “Escape from NY: 1776 Edition,” a dramatic retelling of the Continental Army’s defense and loss of New York City during the Revolutionary War. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Learn more at historicrodhook.org/upcoming-events/tavern-trail-lastingjoy-sep26

Immersive Tavern Exhibit Launch
Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Elmendorph Inn, 7562 North Broadway, Red Hook

Step inside Red Hook’s oldest public building during Hardscrabble Day and be among the first to experience a new immersive tavern exhibit featuring hands-on history, family-friendly displays, and stories of the Inn’s community life. Admission is free.

Learn more at historicrodhook.org/upcoming-events/rev250-openhouse26

2026 Cemetery Crawl Kick-Off
Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Hardscrabble Day, 7501 North Broadway, Red Hook

This event is both a competitive, month-long Scavenger Hunt and a self-guided tour of six Red Hook cemeteries that offers highlights of the lives of interesting individuals and their memorials. The Cemetery Crawl runs from Sept. 19 to Oct. 25. Pick up a scavenger hunt and receive a bonus-point stamp at the kick off event.

Learn more at historicrodhook.org/cemeterycrawl

Immersive Tavern Exhibit: Fall Open Hours

Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Oct. 8, 2-6 p.m.; Oct. 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Oct. 16, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Elmendorph Inn, 7562 North Broadway, Red Hook

Explore the Elmendorph Inn’s history as a tavern, workplace, gathering place, and center of community life through an immersive soundscape, hands-on activities, reproduction objects, and stories of the people who gathered there. Admission is free; drop in anytime during open hours.

Learn more at historicrodhook.org/upcoming-events/tavern-exhibit-open-hours1

Author Talk: Jack Kelly, “Thomas Paine in the Revolutionary War”

Sunday, Sept. 27, 4-5:30 p.m., Elmendorph Inn, 7562 North Broadway, Red Hook and on Zoom

Award-winning author and historian Jack Kelly explores Thomas Paine’s enormous influence on the early American Revolution, from the publication of Common Sense to Washington’s daring counterattack across the Delaware. Registration is required.

Learn more at historicrodhook.org/upcoming-events/kelly-26

2026 Cemetery Crawl Finale
Sunday, Oct. 25, 3-4:30 p.m., Elmendorph Inn, 7562 North Broadway, Red Hook

Celebrate the conclusion of Historic Red Hook’s sixth annual Cemetery Crawl. Every participant will receive a prize and a chance to win one of four grand-prize baskets.

Learn more at historicrodhook.org/cemeterycrawl



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Dutchess County
Historical Society

The preservation of place is the preservation of experience

By Bill Jeffway

Prompted by the numerous destructive fires decimating the post-Civil War-era buildings that formed the Hudson River State Hospital, here we examine what we gain from the preservation of historic sites such as the original main buildings.

We often don't use the word, but the preservation of historic buildings and sites is, fundamentally, the preservation of experiences. What survives in a historic building is not only brick, stone, wood, or architectural style. What survives is an experience of scale, proportion, light, texture, sound, movement, and setting. It is the experience of approaching it, entering it, looking upward or outward, feeling the temperature of the stone, hearing footsteps echo in a corridor, or discovering how a window frames a landscape. Preservation allows us (and future generations) to encounter history physically, while

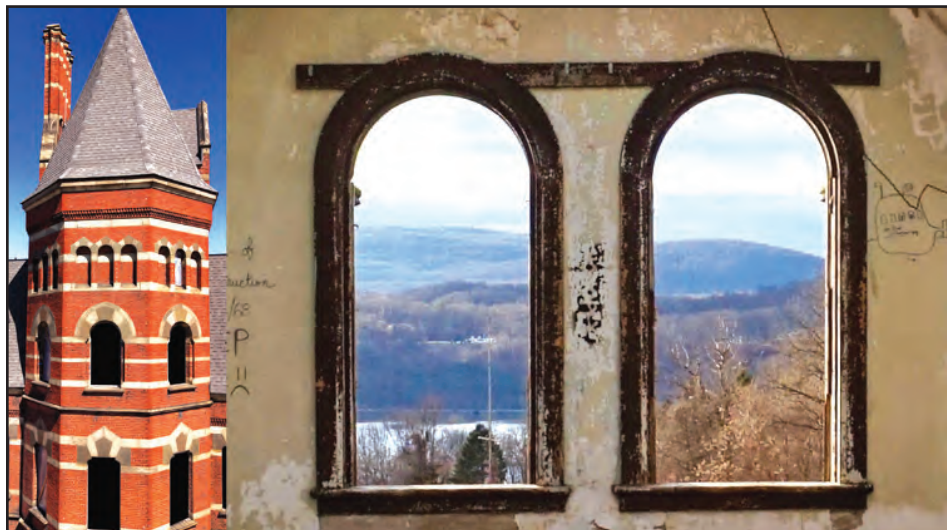
offering a powerful platform to encounter history intellectually.

A preserved place allows each generation to ask new questions. We can stand there (could have stood there) in the twenty-first century, knowing both the aspirations and failures of the institution, and experience it.

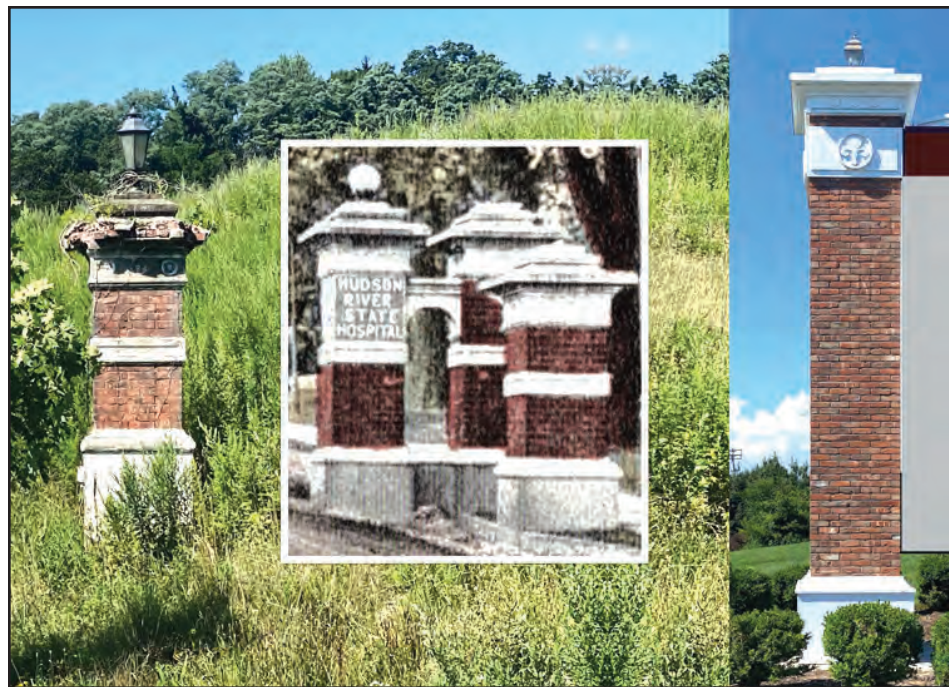
Place is important. "The things we can see and touch awaken the imagination to a degree not possible from that taken only from books and secondhand accounts." This paraphrases Lewis Mumford speaking to the DCHS membership at Troutbeck in Amenia on September 15, 1926, close to a century ago.

What might have been awakened in our imagination if we could have approached, entered, walked through, looked out from the unique buildings that were the Hudson River State Hospital?

When announced as a project, New York State declared that "the hospital in its structure and arrangements should



Above left: The architect Frederick Withers brought building materials from Ohio, the Susquehanna and more locally from Croton and the Catskills, to create a spirited, polychrome far-reaching facade. Architectural features inside were designed to be in the supporting role of drawing and framing the view of the outside. DCHS Image Collection



Above: A recent photograph of the single pillar left from what had been a group of eight pillars (four on each side of the entrance) to create a sense of direction and dramatic approach. Contemporary architectural pillars reference the older ones when people arrived by horse and carriage. Photos by Bill Jeffway

have every feature of convenience and utility that experience elsewhere has approved. It should be built on a scale of thoroughness and completeness commensurate with the immense resources and unquestioned liberality of the greatest State in the Union." New York State declared that it was hoped that those who find the doors open to them shall find that the site "shall lift dark clouds from their minds, and restore them to home, friends, society and usefulness."

Might not the same views, the feeling of breezes, the same changing color of the building materials as the sun progresses across the sky, suggest warmth and safety and inspire a visitor in the same way today?

The verticality of the high Victorian Gothic style prompts us to stop, to take in the full effect. It tells us something important is happening here.

The sprawling horizontality of the famous "Kirkbride plan" presents arms of equal size and style on each side of the main building. This comes from the thinking at the time that to get better we need space, air, and views. In what was seen as an innovation, instead of placing people in jails or crowded poorhouses, Kirkbride advocated purpose-built hospitals. Exercise, occupation, gardens, privacy and contact with nature were considered parts of treatment—not decorative extras. That beneficial experience can only truly come from being physically present while walking, seeing, breathing, touching.

The genius of the architect Frederick Clarke Withers does not come from understanding his technical skills but from experiencing his work. The painstaking selection by the architect of building materials does not need to be known to have its effect upon the viewer. But understanding its complexity can help us understand why the time and expense are often dispensed with today.

This reflects the complexity of the work that is seen sometimes today as too expensive, too complicated, too time-consuming. The technical aspects are amazing.

The Daily Eagle of December 28, 1868, reported on the building materials. A major component was "red Croton brick," which was a major local industry. Warm red brick was a product of the iron-rich clay of the Hudson Valley at a time when its brickyards employed thousands of persons and were a short trip from riverbanks just south.

The window trimmings are of "light

Ohio sandstone." The first trains arrived in Poughkeepsie in 1850, and the transportation revolution that included canals meant that it was feasible to send huge quantities of heavy stone hundreds of miles. By the late 19th century, Ohio sandstone was reaching the Eastern seaboard, the Midwest, Canada and even international markets.

"Deep bluestone from the eastern foot of the Catskills" in Ulster County was also used. Massive quarries around places such as Saugerties, Hurley, Woodstock, West Hurley and the Kingston area fed stone to yards along the Hudson and Rondout.

The roof was made of "black Susquehanna slate," which was from the Susquehanna River/Peach Bottom region of southeastern Pennsylvania and adjoining Maryland. This slate was regarded as the finest in the country, and its crisp black color created a sharp edge against the sky.

Equally, the work of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the celebrated designers of Central Park who planned the Hospital grounds, must be experienced in the first person and loses nearly everything in technical descriptions.

The fact that the building was the first major American institution built in High Victorian Gothic can be understood as a technical reason why the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is hard to read the June 13, 2004, Poughkeepsie Journal headline, "Development plans show great promise," without feeling a great sense of loss. In addition to preserving experience, the preservation of such buildings in our day-to-day environment tells us we live in a community that values more than the immediate and transactional. Strong visibility of the past affirms the importance of remembering, reflecting, and recognizing.

By definition, this description and these photographs fall far short of what could have been a lived experience, the sensation and stimulation of all senses. While less powerful, our understanding of the site can help us contemplate the present and future: what experiences are important enough for us (and future generations) to remember through preservation?

Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at bill.jeffway@dchsn.org or (845) 293-7711.



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Through Aug. 16: Bard SummerScape, Fisher Center & other locations on the Bard College Campus, Annandale-on-Hudson. Annual performing arts festival features music, dance, theater & more. Now playing: Aug. 13-16: “Mozart and His World,” The 36th Bard Music Festival, revisiting the life, times and work of one of the greatest classical composers. Weekend Two: “The Universal Musician.” Through Aug. 15: The festival’s majestic handmade mirrored pavilion, the Spiegeltent, with live music, performance, and dancing curated by Jason Collins, emceed by Spiegeltent darling Adrienne Truscott, with Andy Monk hosting the After Hours series. Tickets & more info at fisher-center.bard.edu or (845) 758-7900

Through Aug. 16: “I’m Almost There,” Ancram Center for the Arts, 1330 Co. Rte. 7, Ancram. Written and performed by Todd Almond (“Girl from the North Country,” “Gossip Girl”) and directed by Tony Award winner David Cromer (“Good Night, and Good Luck”; “The Band’s Visit”), “I’m Almost There” is a rueful, hilarious, and poignant modern love story in song about a man crossing a sea of doubts to find happiness ... and good coffee. Performances: Wed.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., at 3 p.m. (518) 329-0114 or www.ancramcenter.org

Aug. 13: Harmonies on the Hudson Concert, Arryl Lawn, Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. Cosby Gibson and Tom Staudle, award-winning singer songwriters from the Adirondacks, will perform, 6 p.m. Free. www.friendsofclermont.org

Aug. 13: World War II Night, Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum, 34 River Rd., Hyde Park. Celebrate the 81st anniversary of VJ-Day. Come as you are, or in era costume. Military vehicles will be on display. Enjoy Live WWII-era music, plus group socializing, museum tours and educational and fun for all ages, 6-8 p.m. Several model railroad layouts will also be running, including ones with hands-on operating features, such as Thomas The Tank Engine ©. Free. (845) 229-2338 or www.hydeparkstation.org

Aug. 13: WWE Presents NXT LIVE, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. See your favorite WWE NXT superstars live, 7:30 p.m. Tickets at www.MJNCenter.org

Aug. 14: Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association Monthly Star Party, Lake Taghkanic State Park, Ancram. The Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association hosts a monthly stargazing party in the West Beach parking lot, 7:30 p.m. Bring your own telescopes and binoculars or use those provided by members. You will be asked to provide your license plate number and make/model car, so park management and police have a record of who will be in park after hours. More info at

<https://www.spy-hill.net/myers/astro/ltsp/> Registration: RSVP is required at least one day beforehand.

Aug. 14: Red Hook Summer Lawn Concert Series at “Eat-N-Go,” 7509 N. Broadway, Red Hook. Free live summer concert series at Eat-N-Go every Friday night, 6-8 p.m. This week: The Chain Gang Band. Bring a chair or blanket, some food and enjoy an evening of local bands performing live. Lineup subject to change.

Aug. 14: Spencer LaJoye, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. With a weathered acoustic guitar and a loop pedal, they build songs in real time, layering crystalline vocals into arrangements that feel at once simple and expansive, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. www.thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339

Aug. 14-15: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Aug. 14: Superunknown: Solo Acoustic Chris Cornell Tribute, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Aug. 15: Manticore – The Tribute to Emerson Lake & Palmer, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Aug. 14-23: “Comedy of Errors,” Churchtown Dairy, 357 Cty. Rte. 12, Hudson. The Columbia County Players presents “The Comedy of Errors” at the Churchtown Dairy “Globe” at the round barn. Written around 1594, the play explores themes of displacement, identity, separation, and belonging that remain strikingly relevant today. As contemporary audiences witness the challenges faced by immigrants and displaced people around the world, Shakespeare’s comedy reminds us that beneath its mistaken identities and farcical humor lies a deeply human story of families searching for one another and for a place to call home. Performances: Fri.-Sun., 7:30 p.m. Free. ColumbiaCountyPlayers.org

Aug. 14-Sept. 6: “Groundhog Day The Musical,” The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Up In One Productions presents the critically acclaimed musical inspired by the hilarious film starring Bill Murray, and features a book by original co-screenwriter Danny Rubin and a sharp, witty score by Tony Award nominee, Tim Minchin (Matilda the Musical). The cheery townsfolk of Puxatawny, PA are ready for their favorite Groundhog to predict an early spring. After disdainfully covering the rodent’s negative forecast, Phil Connors, a seasoned, big-city weatherman, awakens the next day only to discover it’s February 2nd again. And again. And again. Will Phil accept that he is doomed to repeat the same day over and over? Or will he find the courage to change himself and his fate? Parental discretion advised (age 13+). Performances: Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 2:30 p.m.

Tickets \$29. (845) 876-3080 or www.cen-terforperformingarts.org

Aug. 14, 21: Guided Landscape Walk, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. “What You See and What You Don’t See,” a guided walk through the estate’s grounds that explores how the landscape was designed to reflect the luxurious lifestyle of Staatsburgh’s owners, while deliberately hiding the turn-of-the-century technology and labor that made the estate run, 10 a.m. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Aug. 15: “A Closer Look: A Curator-Guided Exploration of the Hidden & Hard-to-See,” In this special 90-minute tour, Staatsburgh’s curator will focus on a selection of objects that are not easily seen on tour or which tell a special story, 2 p.m. This version of the tour will focus on all things France including the French objects, furniture, and architecture in the house. Note: The Aug. 8 tour will be followed by a free concert of French music on the grand portico; see separate listing on this page for details. Cost: \$12/adults, \$10/seniors & students, children 12 & under free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Aug. 15: Millbrook Summer Concert Series, Bandshell, Franklin Ave., Millbrook. The Laura Evans Group, eclectic jazz, 6 p.m. Free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. www.millbrookartsgroup.org

Aug. 15: Presentation & Bioblitz, Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield, on the grounds of the FDR Library & Home, Hyde Park. Ashley Gamell presents “Tiny Garden Wonders,” 10:30-11:15 a.m. While plants stay rooted in place, the bounty of strange and colorful insects and other visitors they attract is an ever-shifting world of surprise and delight. Zoom in and tune into this world with our Director of Horticulture, then head out to explore it. Cost \$15. The presentation will be followed by the annual Bioblitz citizen science effort, 11:15-11:45 a.m., where you can help gather photos and data on the garden’s insect visitors. <https://beatrixfarrandgarden.org/>

Aug. 15, 22: Staatsburg Village Walking Tour. Staatsburgh State Historic Site offers a 2-hour walk in the village of Staatsburg, exploring the estate’s close relationship with the nearby village and its connection to the Mills family, 10 a.m. A guide will discuss historic buildings and highlight

hidden locations in the village that demonstrate Staatsburg’s vibrant past and the lasting legacy of Ruth and Ogden Mills beyond the estate walls. Free, but reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

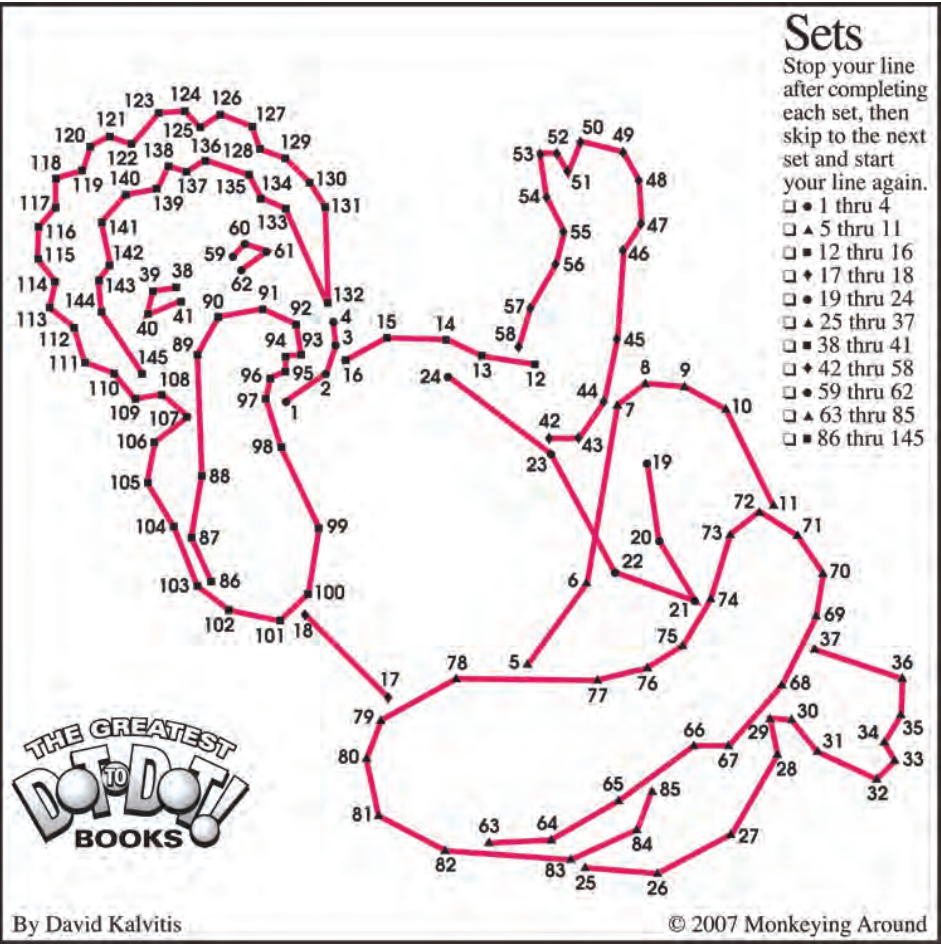
Aug. 16: Walkway Connections: The First Known African Residents of New Paltz, Walkway Over the Hudson Ulster Welcome Center, Highland. In July 1680, New Paltz Patentee, Christian Deyo, purchased an enslaved African man named Jack from New York City physician, Hartman Wessels. Nine years later, Christian’s son, Pierre Deyo, purchased an enslaved African girl named Betty from a trafficker in New York City named James Barré. These are the first recorded purchases of enslaved Africans in the community of New Paltz, and Jack and Betty are the earliest recorded African residents of the town. Ulster County Historian Eddie Moran will guide attendees through documentary sources to discuss what we know about Jack and Betty, and what their lives in New Paltz may have been like, 2-3 p.m. www.walkway.org

August 16, 23 & 30: Guided Hike: History Hidden in the Woods, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. Have you ever wondered what some of the ruins within Mills and Norrie State Parks might be? The beautiful park land was once the setting for grand Hudson Riverfront estates. This 2-hour guided hike will lead visitors through the park, exploring the history of three historic estates: from Staatsburgh’s founding as a gentleman’s farm in the 1700s to the development of The Point and Stonehurst estates in the 19th century. 10 a.m. The hike is approximately 1.5 miles of uneven terrain, requiring study footwear. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Aug. 17: Rhinebeck’s Movies Under the Stars, Thompson-Mazzarella Town Park, Rhinebeck. Free movie series; films start at sunset. Aug. 17: “Apollo 13,” 7:51 p.m. More info on Facebook; or contact Frank Intervallo at (914) 329-8615 or frankintervallo@gmail.com.weather permitting.

Aug. 19: Twilight Music in the Park, Walkway Over the Hudson’s Ulster Welcome Center, Highland. Featuring free acoustic music performances by local musicians from the Hudson Valley, 6-7 p.m. This week: The Crew Duo, classic sing-alongs. www.walkway.org

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



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EXHIBITIONS

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. **Through Sept. 27:** “Tensions & Triumph: Art Born from Resilience and Renewal,” a group exhibition featuring the work of Arts Mid-Hudson member artists exploring themes of resilience, transformation, and hope through a diverse collection of artistic perspectives. **Closing Reception Artist Talk:** Sun., Sept. 27, 1-3 p.m. The afternoon will also feature a special performance by Zelda, aka Judith Z. Miller, beginning at 1:10 p.m. www.artsmidhudson.org or (845) 454-3222

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through August:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is multidisciplinary artist Shirley Parker-Benjamin and photographer Onaje Benjamin. At 12 Vassar St., painter Meghan McDonough presents her artwork in the Reception Gallery, and visual artist Mukta is showcased in the Hancock Gallery. The Hancock Gallery and Reception Gallery are open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. but visitors should stop by 9 Vassar St. first or call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. The 12 Vassar St. Galleries are also open during events at the VBI Theatre. More info about the artists at cunneen-hackett.org.

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Aug. 30:** “Atelier 17: Myths in Motion,” part of “The Atelier 17 Project,” a series of exhibitions and programs commemorating the centennial of one of the 20th century’s most influential printmaking workshops, which was founded by Stanley William Hayter in Paris in 1927 and was renowned for its spirit of collaboration, experimentation, and technical innovation. **Through Sept. 20:** “A Living Legacy: Gifts from Lynn Gross Straus,” The exhibition celebrates the life and generosity of Lynn Gross Straus (1925–2023), Vassar Class of 1946, a philanthropist, adventurer, avid art collector, and champion of early childhood education. (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 Dec. 6:** Special exhibition, “Declaring the Revolution: America’s Printed Path to Independence -- Historical Works from the David M. Rubenstein Americana Collection.” Between 1765 and 1783, the 13 American colonies, once separate possessions of Great Britain, strove to become a self-governing, democratic alliance with a shared identity and destiny. This struggle is known as the American Revolution. In the process, 18th-century Americans defended their liberties as citizens, protested their second-class political status, organized economic boycotts, established fighting forces and shadow governments, and affirmed their legal bonds with one another. This was all done through “declarations” of various kinds, which were all expressed through the dominant medium of the time: print. The supreme example of printed democratic aspirations is the Declaration of Independence. Regular Library and Museum admission applies to view the exhibit. www.fdrlibrary.org

Hessel Museum of Art, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College (CCS Bard), Annandale-on-Hudson. **Through Nov. 29:** “Uman: In Between,” a solo exhibition exploring over two decades of creative practice by the painter Uman, marking the pathbreaking artist’s most comprehensive survey to date. Featuring more than 100 works, the exhibition will trace the evolution of Uman’s prolific painting practice from the intimate portraits she made in the 2000s to the commanding images she creates today, including two new murals developed for the exhibition. <https://ccs.bard.edu/>

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through Aug. 22:** “PLACE | MEANT,” exhibition by Laura Cannamela, Monica Church, Elisa Lendvay, Susan Newmark & Barbara Todd. www.millbrooklibrary.org

Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, 26 Wing Rd., Millbrook. **Through Nov. 15:** Arts Mid-Hudson and Millbrook Vineyards & Winery Present 2026 Art in the Loft, a juried exhibition and sale of fine art featuring 16 AMH member artists. Wine Label Competition: Visitors are invited to vote for their favorite piece to be featured on an exclusive wine label. www.artsmidhudson.org/art-in-the-loft

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through Sept. 4:** “Photos of Rhinecliff,” photographs by Bruce Murphy. (845) 876-2903

Thomas Cole National Historic Site, 218 Spring St., Catskill. **Through December:** “Circles of Influence: Thomas Cole and the American Landscape Movement,” In Thomas Cole’s Library Gallery. New exhibition explores the rapid influence that Thomas Cole and his work had on other 19th-century artists, including Susie M. Barstow, Albert Bierstadt, Ralph Albert Blakelock, Frederic Edwin Church, Mary B. Cole, Thomas Cole, Sarah Cole, Jasper Francis Cropsey, Asher B. Durand, John Frederick Kensett, Mary Josephine Walters, and Worthington Whittredge. **Through December:** “Emily Cole & Valerie Hegarty: LIFE CYCLES” presents a visual dialogue of two craft-based women artists across three centuries: 19th-century artist Emily Cole, daughter of Thomas Cole, and 21st-century artist Valerie Hegarty. The spotlight exhibition juxtaposes more than 30 works of painted porcelain and works on paper by Emily Cole (1843–1913) with a mixed-media installation by Hegarty. The work by Valerie Hegarty was made specifically for the Thomas Cole Site in 2025 and explores the connection between Thomas Cole and Emily Cole and their fascination with cycles of life, while considering Hegarty’s own relationship with her mother. www.thomascole.org

Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave., 2nd floor, Millbrook. **Through Aug. 26:** “Architecture of Awareness,” a solo exhibition by New York-based artist and architect Seth Howe, curated by Sharon Bates.

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. **Through Aug. 30:** “The Five Freedoms,” a national juried group exhibition highlighting the five freedoms outlined in the First Amendment: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of the Press, Freedom to Assemble, and Freedom to Petition the Government. **Artists Talk:** Sun., Aug. 30, 1-3 p.m. www.womenswork.art

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Poughkeepsie senior awarded scholarship to attend Tennessee State University



Poughkeepsie High School graduating senior Zoe King (center) received a \$2,000 scholarship (renewable for a second year) created to support an African-American Poughkeepsie High School senior who plans to further their education. Seen here with King is her mother (Nashon Anderson), grandmother (Michelle DeWitt), PHS College Readiness and Workforce Education Counselor (Kelly Semexant) and Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting Scholarship Committee members (from the left) Renelda Walker, Ann Costello-Rockrohr and Richard Mattocks. *Courtesy photo*

Poughkeepsie High School graduating senior Zoe King received a \$2,000 scholarship (renewable for a second year) created to support an African American Poughkeepsie High School senior who plans to further their education. Zoe King will attend the Historically Black University Tennessee State University in Nashville.

Ms. King’s goal is “to graduate college and come back to my community and educate the youth on the importance of education.” She will study health science in preparation for a Dentistry degree, having already interned in a Poughkeepsie dentist office.

“Her strong connection to her community, commitment to personal growth, and

dedication to giving back make her an outstanding candidate for scholarship support,” said Kelly Semexant, College Readiness and Workforce Education Counselor in the Poughkeepsie City School District

Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting (Quakers) was honored to present Ms. King the first scholarship award certificate at the June Poughkeepsie High School Awards Ceremony.

Poughkeepsie Friends (Quakers) Meeting meets for silent worship each Sunday at 10 a.m. at Oakwood Friends School, 22 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie. Find more information at <https://www.poughkeepsiequakers.org/>.

COLLEGE NOTES

BOSTON, MA - In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College has named more than 850 students to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2026 semester. Local students include Olivia Wynkoop of Clinton Corners and Sarah Marchant of Clinton Corners.

To earn a spot on the Dean’s List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

UNION, NJ - Amber Ortiz of Pleasant Valley has been named to Kean University’s Spring 2026 Dean’s List.

Amber, a Psychology student at Kean, is among more than 4,500 students recognized for academic achievement, discipline and dedication throughout the semester.

The Dean’s List honors undergraduate students who complete at least 12 credits and earn a semester grade-point average of 3.45 or higher.

SCRANTON, PA - Local residents were among nearly 1,900 students named to The University of Scranton’s Dean’s List for the 2026 spring semester.

Local students include: MaryJayne M. Cipriano of Staatsburg, a junior occupational therapy major in the University’s Leahy College of Health Sciences.

Ainsley J. Farrell of Hyde Park, a senior nursing major in the University’s Leahy College of Health Sciences.

The Dean’s List recognizes students for academic excellence. A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the Dean’s List. The list includes students from the Jesuit university’s College of Arts and Sciences, Kania School of Management and the Leahy College of Health Sciences.

WORCESTER, MA - Julia Biamonte of Hyde Park was named to the College of the Holy Cross Spring 2026 Dean’s List.

A member of the Class of 2026, Biamonte was named to the Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2025-26 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

MADISON, NJ - Students at Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Metropolitan Campus, located in Teaneck, NJ, have been named to the Honors Lists for the Spring 2026 semester.

Local students include Cassandra Gallagher of Poughquag and Kaiyla Gard of Stormville.

To qualify for the Honors List, a student must carry a 3.5 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Notices	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-84-26 Supplemental Equipment Replacement Parts Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 20th day of August 2026 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613. NOTICE TO BIDDERS- RFB-DCB-13-26 PROJECT: Quiet Cove Pickleball Court Milling & Resurfacing. Single Prime Bids shall be received for the following classes of work: General Construction. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnet-direct.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnet-direct.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Diane McKenna, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike-Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Bids due on or before 11:00 am Thursday, September 3, 2026, and at that time opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 476 876 566#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business August 27, 2026 and emailed to Diane McKenna at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov and dmckenna@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2026023097 Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-93-26 Aging Health Promotion and Development Contractor Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., September 3, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our web-site http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613. LEGAL NOTICE Take Notice that the Dutchess County Office for the Aging will hold Public Hearings on the proposed 2027-28 ANNUAL UPDATE for services provided under the OLDER AMERICANS ACT, NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM, NEW YORK STATE CONGREGATE SERVICES INITIATIVE, NEW YORK STATE EXPANDED IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM, NEW YORK STATE WELLNESS IN NUTRITION PROGRAM, New York State AA TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION, COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, and NY CONNECTS LONG TERM CARE POINT OF ENTRY PROGRAM. Public Hearings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 10:30 AM Poughkeepsie Senior Friendship Center 114 Delafield Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 Thursday, September 24, 2026 10:30 AM East Fishkill Senior Friendship Center 890 NY 82 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533	The public is invited to attend the Public Hearings, and at the aforementioned dates, times, and places, all persons interested shall be heard. An ABSTRACT of the ANNUAL UPDATE will be available for distribution at the Public Hearings as well as at Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 845-486-2555, after September 10, 2026. All Public Hearing locations are handicapped accessible. Persons requiring special accommodations in order to take part in the Public Hearings should contact the Dutchess County Office for the Aging no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled event. Parties unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments to be included in the record of the Public Hearing. Written comments should be mailed by September 15, 2026 to: Director, Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, 12601.					

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

OBITUARIES

Keith Burkhardt
FORMERLY OF RED HOOK – Keith Alden Burkhardt, age 78, was born on July 11, 1947 to Richard and Marion (French) Burkhardt, from Red Hook, and passed away in Cullman, Alabama on Friday July 3, 2026 after a long illness.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his sister, Carol Potts, Eva, AL and brothers, Brian E. Burkhardt, Stoney Creek, NY and Craig Burkhardt, (Dayle), Hyde Park, NY and daughter Laura Kindred from Maine. He is also survived by 2 nieces and 3 nephews.

He lived in the Red Hook area for most of his life until he moved to Alabama in 2009.

Charlotte DeGroff
HYDE PARK – Charlotte H. DeGroff, 91, of Poughkeepsie, NY, died on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at the Hudson Valley Hospice House in Hyde Park.

Born on August 6, 1934, in Huntington, WV, she was the daughter of the late Philip Bradley and Charlotte Brown Harder.

Charlotte earned her bachelor's degree from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Throughout her life, she carried a deep appreciation for learning, community, and meaningful connection.

She worked for many years as an assistant attendance director and a juvenile probation officer in Huntington. Later she worked at Hudson River Psychiatric Center in Poughkeepsie, serving in the Human Services and Rehabilitation Department until her retirement. Her work reflected her steady compassion, patience, and commitment to helping others.

Charlotte enjoyed playing bridge and was a communicant of St. James' Episcopal Church in Hyde Park.

She was predeceased by her first husband, Raymond M. Sloan, and her second husband, Willard J. DeGroff, as well as her son, Raymond M. Sloan III (d. 2022).

Charlotte is survived by her daughters, Charlotte P. Sloan of Rhinebeck, NY, and

Judith B. Henson and husband, Mike, of Huntington, WV; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and her sister, Judith H. Douglass of Hyde Park, NY.

She will be remembered for her gentle nature, her devotion to family, and the quiet strength she carried throughout her life.

Funeral services took place on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at St. James Episcopal Church, Hyde Park. Burial followed at Union Cemetery of Mellenville, Mellenville, NY. Charlotte's family respectfully requests memorial donations to St. James Episcopal Church in Hyde Park, NY.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park.

To send an online condolence, please visit Charlotte's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Samuel Hamill
HYDE PARK – Samuel Hamill passed away peacefully at home in Hyde Park on August 6, 2026 at the age of 93. Born on March 21, 1933 in Portrush, Ireland, Sam was the son of Samuel J. and Agnes Hamill. Sam and his family arrived in America in 1951.

On June 3, 1956 at the First Congregational Church in Poughkeepsie, NY he married the love of his life, Matilda (Tillie) Hamill, who predeceased him in May 2025. Together they built a life filled with love and cherished memories for 68 years. Blessed with three children; Brian (Susan) Hamill, Sharon (Robert) Foster, Donna (William) Ferrante, they also had 4 cherished grandchildren: Melissa (Ryan) Whelchel, Robert (Brianna) Foster, Craig Ferrante and Alexis Whelchel. Sam had 30 nieces and nephews and several great nieces and great nephews. He was the quintessential family man; hard working and dedicated in order to provide his family with the American dream.

After serving two years in the United States Army, he had a long career with the Postal Service, retiring in 1992. In retirement, Sam and Tillie moved to the Carolinas where

they lived and loved for more than 20 years. Sam had a passion for sports. It started in Ireland as a dream of being a professional goalie and continued on as a coach for the Poughkeepsie Soccer league. Beyond rooting for the Linfield football club in South Belfast, Ireland, Sam was an avid fan of the local sports teams, NY Giants, NY Rangers, NY Knicks and the San Francisco (formerly NY) Giants baseball.

The family would like to thank the staff at Hudson Valley Hospice, especially the nurses, music therapist, social worker, and chaplain.

Calling hours to honor and celebrate Sam's life were held at William G. Miller & Son FH, Inc., Poughkeepsie, NY on Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Hudson Valley Hospice in memory of our father.

To leave an online condolence, please visit wmgmillerfuneralhome.com

Diane Zipprich
BEEKMAN – Diane Hughes Zipprich, 84, a lifelong area resident, passed away peacefully on August 3, 2026 at the Paramount at Somers Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

Born at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie on August 31, 1941, she was the daughter of the late Eugene and Marion (Pike) Hughes. A dedicated student and passionate caregiver, Diane graduated from Arlington High School Class of 1958, St. Francis School of Nursing in 1961, and received her BS in Columbia University in 1966. Diane dedicated her life to the nursing profession, sharing her knowledge as a nursing instructor at St. Francis Hospital and serving with compassion at Butterfield Hospital in Cold Spring and St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, before retiring from the Elant Nursing Home in Wappingers Falls.

A lifelong parishioner of St. Denis Church in Hopewell Junction, Diane's unwavering faith shaped her life. She co-coordinated the Hearts and Hands Outreach program for many years and served as a Eucharistic Minister at both St. Denis Church and Vassar

Brothers Medical Center. Diane also completed 4 years of New York Bible School through the Archdiocese of New York.

Diane's greatest joy came from her family. She cherished every moment spent with her loved ones, especially her grandchildren. Beautiful memories were created through family trips, including cruises with her husband, Edgar, with whom she shared an enduring love of 60 years, having married on January 22, 1966, at St. Denis Church. Diane also found delight in the simple pleasures of life, from caring for her beloved cat, Minka, to observing the birds at her feeder and gathering for lunch with friends, particularly her fellow St. Francis alumni, as well as cooking meals for her family and listening to music.

In addition to her husband, Diane is also survived by her children and their spouses, Diane and Michael Greiner, Paul and Bonnie Zipprich, Rosanne and Mark English; her sister, Marion Dudek; her sister-in-law, Klara Laks (and family), brother-in-law, Ferdinand Zipprich, and brother-in-law, Alfred Zipprich (and family); and her cherished grandchildren, Emma Zipprich, Megan Zipprich, Luke Zipprich, Mikayla Greiner, Garrett Greiner, Jennifer Witter (and family), and Kristine Cuthren (and family).

The family would also like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all relatives and friends who provided Diane with comfort and encouragement during her illness, and gratitude for the extraordinary care the staff of the Essex Wing at the Paramount at Somers showed to Diane, especially Nurse Danielle Reaves.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026 from 2-4 and 6-8pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026 at 10am at St. Denis Church, 602 Beekman Road, Hopewell Junction followed by interment in St. Denis Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Denis Church, PO Box 10, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

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750 Events
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Hyde Park CSD transportation maintenance team recognized by trade magazine

Hyde Park Central School District's Transportation Maintenance Team was selected as a finalist for School Transportation News (STN) Garage Stars and is featured in the August edition of STN magazine.

The team was chosen as a top finalist out of more than 100 maintenance professionals nominated from across the country. Their hard work often happens behind the scenes, but it plays a critical role in keeping students safe and the district transportation fleet running smoothly every day.

"I couldn't be prouder of the team-work, adaptability, and commitment to putting students first that this team has demonstrated," said Supervisor of Transportation Nicole Arteta. "This recognition is a reflection of their dedication, professionalism, and the pride they take in serving our students, families, and district every day."

Members of the team are Donald Cuomo, Christopher Freer, Tyler

Lizewski, Craig Schriro, Raymond Shook, Michael Simek and James Watkins. Together, they possess over 45 years of experience.

"Our Transportation Maintenance Team plays an essential role in the safety and success of our students. From maintaining our buses to ensuring students arrive at school and return home safely, their hard work does not go unnoticed," said Hyde Park Superintendent Dr. Pedro Roman. "We are grateful for their commitment to keeping students safe and always putting them first."

School Transportation News is one of the leading organizations and publications in the school transportation industry. Submitted by school districts, private transportation providers, school bus dealers, and industry vendors, Garage Stars nominations are evaluated using a 10-point system to identify honorees. Learn more about STN here: <https://stnonline.com/>



Hyde Park Central School District's Transportation Maintenance Team was selected as a finalist for School Transportation News (STN) Garage Stars and is featured in the August edition of STN magazine. Pictured, from left, are Donald Cuomo, Raymond Shook, James Watkins, Christopher Freer, Tyler Lizewski, Craig Schriro, Michael Simek. *Courtesy photo*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

'A Day of Music & Nature' for children set Aug. 22 at Beatrix Farrand Garden

On Saturday, Aug. 22, the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association will present a one-day program that will immerse children (ages 9 to 12) into the wonder of African drumming and nature exploration activities. "Rhythm & Nature: A Day of Music & Nature," will be held at the Beatrix Farrand Garden, part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, located at 4097 Albany Post Road in Hyde Park. Children may register for the morning session, which is the African drumming session, or the afternoon session, which is the nature activities session, or enjoy the full day of discovery.

Families should register at https://www.viewcy.com/event/rhythm_nature_afri. Tuition is free due in part to the grant provided by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Reservations must be made by Aug. 15, and permission forms (required by Aug. 20) will be provided by emailing ExecDir@bfgahydepark.org.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to remain on site. Children attending both sessions must be accompanied by an adult and should bring a lunch to enjoy together during the break from noon to 1 p.m. in the lunch pavilion. Children should wear comfortable clothing suitable for outdoor activities. Children should bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a hat.

Rain or shine (covered space available if needed).

Clinton Food Pantry seeks donations

School's out! Your donations help local families feed their kids nutritious food all summer long. The Clinton Food Pantry, located at the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church at the corner of Hollow Road and Fiddlers Bridge Road, is open every other Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m., opening again on August 5. Drop off your donations to the Town Clerk's

office. If you have any questions, email Carol Mackin: townclerk@clintondcnyc.gov.

Open House set on Saturdays at Gen. Montgomery House Museum

On Saturdays through Aug. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m., The General Richard Montgomery House Museum-Chancellor Livingston DAR Chapter House will be open at 77 Livingston Street. 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. Admission is free; donations welcomed. Open also by appointment. (845) 871-1777, or email darrhinebeck@gmail.com or Facebook

Dutchess County to host second Older Adults Skills Fair on Aug. 13

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the County's Office for the Aging announce the return of the second annual "Putting Your Skills Back to Work" Older Adults Skills Fair. This dynamic, free event is designed for older adults, ages 55 and older, who are looking to stay active and are interested in meaningful volunteer opportunities or part-time employment. This year's fair will be held on Thursday, Aug. 13, from 2 to 4 p.m., at John Jay High School's gymnasium in East Fishkill.

There is no RSVP required for guest attendance. Businesses and nonprofit organizations interested in hosting a table can call the County Executive's Office at 845-486-2000 or visit dutchessny.gov/senior-skills to reserve a spot.

Repair Cafe set Aug. 15 in Pleasant Valley

On Saturday, Aug. 15, the Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the OLD Town Hall on Main Street. If an item is broken, don't toss it. Fixers will make it new again and while you wait grab a treat. A sharpener on hand all day. Bicycle

repairs in the afternoon.

LaGrange Library Fill-A-Bag Book Sale starts Aug. 15

The LaGrange Association Library will have a Fill-A-Bag Book Sale from Aug. 15 to 29 during our regular library hours. Come fill a bag full of goodies from the library's Book Nook for a donation of \$5 to the library.

Paper bags will be provided, or bring your own.

The library is at 1110 Route 55 in Lagrangeville. Call (845) 452-3141 or visit <https://laglib.org> for more information.

ERVK to present 'Skills for Disagreeing Better' on Aug. 15

The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill (ERVK) will host "Skills for Disagreeing Better," a workshop by Braver Angels, on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 12:30 to 3 p.m., at The Playhouse at the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, 106 Valkill Park Road, Hyde Park. The event is free, but registration is required at <https://ervk.org>.

This free workshop in collaboration with Braver Angels, a volunteer-led, cross-partisan movement that brings together Americans to bridge the political divide, reduce stereotypes, and practice civil dialogue. The "Skills for Disagreeing Better" workshop helps participants understand the values and concerns of those who differ from them politically, and teaches essential skills for communicating across differences and finding common ground.

Flag Changing Ceremony on Walkway Aug. 16

The American Legion Post 739 will present its monthly Flag Changing Ceremony on the Walkway Over the Hudson on Sunday, Aug. 16, from noon to 12:30 p.m. The ceremony honors our region's veterans and their service to our country. These events are open to all who wish to attend.

'Amenia's Spycatcher' set Aug. 21-23

The Amenia Historical Society presents "Amenia's Spycatcher," a new historical drama by local resident George Bistransin set during the American Revolution in Amenia, on Aug. 21 and 22 at 8 p.m., and Aug. 23 at 2 p.m., at the Amenia Town Hall Theater, 4988 Route 22, Amenia. The play takes inspiration from "Grandmother's Spy" by Judge Ephraim Paine's descendant, which tells how his wife Mary Paine caught a man who she believed was a British Spy. Admission is free. Reservations recommended at <https://ameniaspycatcher.eventbrite.com>

Grace Church Golf & Dinner benefit set Sept. 14 at Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club

On Monday, Sept. 14, Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook will host its annual golf tournament and dinner benefit. Each year, two noteworthy individuals are honored for their outstanding service to Grace Church (Pillar of Grace) and the community at large (Pillar of the Community). This year's honorees are Cathy Shanks and Skip Ciferri.

The event, which takes place at the Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club in Millbrook, includes 18 holes of golf, with tee times at either 8 a.m. or 1 p.m. Golf includes breakfast and lunch, on-course refreshments, golf cart, raffle, a 50/50 cash drawing, and valuable prizes. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour, silent auction, and an excellent meal.

Registration is now open for sponsorships, golf, and dinner. Attendance costs \$175 for golf, \$175 for dinner, and \$250 for golf and all meals. To register, contact the church office (845) 677-3064 or office@gracemillbrook.org or co-chair James Prudden (914-482-3525 or james.prudden@gmail.com). Registration can also be completed online at www.gracemillbrook.org. Registrations required by August 31.

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