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Darryl Strawberry to headline
MARC Foundation Awards Dinner

By Matthew Fetzer

Darryl Strawberry spent many years in the spotlight as one of Major League Baseball's (MLB) biggest stars. Now the four-time World Series champion is using his experiences with addiction and recovery to help inspire others, as he will be the keynote speaker for the MARC Foundation's annual Awards Dinner Sept. 22 at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie.

Started in 1993, the foundation's mission has been "to aid individuals with a substance abuse disorder by generating financial support to provide prevention and residential treatment," according to its official website. They are known to provide grants that expand and improve sober housing in the Hudson Valley. The awards dinner highlights these efforts.



Former MLB star Darryl Strawberry will deliver a message of inspiration and encouragement at the MARC Foundation Awards Dinner on Sept. 22 at the Grandview in Poughkeepsie. *Courtesy photo*

The event overview states, "In conjunction with National Recovery Month, the MARC Foundation will host its signature fundraising event, created to inspire hope, raise critical funds, and bring awareness to the ongoing substance misuse crisis affecting individuals and families across our community."

'I'm way past the uniform. I'm way past Darryl Strawberry, the Major League Baseball player that had success. I'm a totally different man. I want to be known for my post-baseball ministry work.'

Former MLB star Darryl Strawberry
on speaking about addiction
and recovery

Michael Carber, MARC Foundation board member, and New York State Sen. Pete Harckham will both be presented with the Champion of Recovery Award, as well as keynote speaker Strawberry. This award goes to individuals who are making an impact in the recovery community.

"I heard what the foundation was about and that they were looking for a speaker," said Strawberry. "I wanted to speak and really come to encourage people that are hurting. I wanted to encourage other people to always get involved, because this life is all about

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68th Stanford Community Day
marks Rev250 with events galore



Students from the Pine Plains Central School District in the History class of Neil Murray will be dressed in period costumes for Stanford Community Day. *Courtesy photo*

The 68th Annual Stanford Community Day on Saturday, Sept. 19, will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth.

"We're continuing our year-long celebration of our nation's semiquincentennial," said Stanford Grange Secretary and Community Day Chairman Ryan Orton. "We began with Community Day 2025 as the kick-off for our Town's celebration. It continued with several programs sponsored by the Stanford Historical Society at the Library throughout the year. Then, on July 4th, the Town celebrated with Rev250 Trivia sponsored by the Stanford Grange, a delicious Chicken Barbecue coordinated by the Stanford Fire Company, and a brilliant fireworks display that evening. Community Day will begin the culmination of our Rev250 cel-

ebrations. It's all been town-wide efforts."

All events for Community Day will take place at the Stanford Grange Hall, Stanford Free Library, and surrounding Town of Stanford Recreation Property. Civic booths from many town organizations will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Stanford Business Association is organizing the 10th Car Meet on the Recreation Fields behind the Grange Hall. A Bounce House, sponsored by the Stanford Business Association, will be on the Rec Fields from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Grandstand Program at noon will feature music by the Stissing Mountain High School Chorus, as well as the presentation of the 2026 Community Citizen Award to a deserving Stanford resident.

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Doc Gooden Meet & Greet
tops Millbrook Community Day

A special Meet & Greet with former Major League Baseball star Doc Gooden will be held during Millbrook Community Day on Saturday, Sept. 19.

This special appearance will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. in front of the Millbrook Deli on Franklin Avenue. This event is sponsored by Ruge's Auto and VFW Post 9008 ad benefits Wreaths Across America.

Millbrook Community Day, the Millbrook Business Association's signature annual event, will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free, family-friendly event brings residents, local businesses, and visitors together in the heart of the village for a day built around music, food, contests, shopping, and community spirit.

This year's celebration includes live

musical performances, strolling musicians from the Millbrook Arts Group, the Bubble Bus, a bounce house, pumpkin decorating, food and ice cream trucks, and sidewalk sales throughout the village. The Millbrook Farmers and Makers Market will run alongside the festivities on Church Street for the day, featuring local vendors and artisans.

Two community favorites return with new details for 2026. The Scarecrow Contest invites residents to build and display original, freestanding scarecrows along Franklin Avenue, with entries judged on creativity, design, and durability. The Great Millbrook Bake Off calls on amateur bakers 18 and older to submit stone fruit desserts, with a panel of

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Former Major League Baseball pitcher Doc Gooden will sign autographs from noon to 1:30 p.m. during Millbrook Community Day on Sept. 19. *Courtesy photo*

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Retired Battalion Commander offers message of 'community helping one another' during 25th Patriot Day Memorial of 9/11 attacks



From left, Retired Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Battalion Commander Keith E. Cartica of Pleasant Valley speaks at the Dutchess County Patriot Day Memorial Ceremony on Sept. 11. Rev. Dr. Desiree S. King sings the Stars Spangled Banner, Oliver Mackson plays "Taps" and a large crowd listens in silence. *Photos by Curtis Schmidt*

By Curtis Schmidt

Retired Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Battalion Commander Keith E. Cartica of Pleasant Valley gave a message of “a community coming together to help one another” during his address at the annual Dutchess County Patriot Day Memorial Ceremony on Sept. 11.

Cartica related his experiences of that September morning 25 years ago, when the World Trade Center Towers were attacked. He noted that it happened to be the first day of a vacation and he was at home with his children. Upon hearing of the attacks, he went into “first responder mode” and headed down the Taconic State Parkway and was soon joined by a group of NYS Trooper vehicles to form a motorcade traveling to the scene.

On that day and the days that followed, Cartica said he was struck by the “out-pouring of individuals helping one another” in a myriad of ways. “We showed that

we are strongest when we come together and help each other in any way we can," he said and pointed to many acts of kindness, consideration and compassion.

Cartica served the FDNY for 42 years, holding various supervisory and leadership positions of Fire Marshal, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief and Battalion Commander.

Dutchess County Family Court Judge Tracy C. MacKenzie gave the welcome and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino also offered remarks during the event. Rev. Dr. Desiree S. King sang the Stars Spangled Banner and God Bless America. Dean Anderson of the Dutchess County Department of Public Works lowered the flag and “Taps” was performed by Oliver Mackson and Charlotte Fenichel. The closing Prayer for the Community was given by Rev. Fr. Michael Connelly, pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Poughkeepsie.



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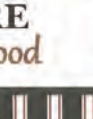
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Flags, lights in Stanford honor all those lost 25 years ago on 9-11



A special ceremony put together by volunteers of the Town of Stanford Fire Department was held on Sept. 11. On the hillside in front of the Stanford Town Hall are 2,955 flags to recall each person who died that day in 2001. Additionally, and special this year, ribbons have been attached to round cork name tags on the fence. Those tags each have the name of one of the victims. Each of the classes in the Pine Plains Central School District took some of the names and students hand-wrote the cards, one at a time. Co-Chairman Ed Zick led the effort. The flags and cards will be on display through Stanford Community Day on Sept. 19.

Courtesy photo

Music, community and history - It's Hardscrabble in Red Hook

Hardscrabble, Red Hook's music festival and community day, is set for all to enjoy on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Leading the musical performances on the Main Stage in the Municipal Lot across from Village Hall will be "The Big Shoe" from New Paltz at 5 p.m., followed by the "Brule County Bad Boys" from Troy at 6:30 p.m. and "Saints in the City" tribute band at 8 p.m., featuring the music and spirit of Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band.

Here is a look at events for the day.

Municipal Lot Schedule

- KidScrabble: 10 a.m. – Noon - Featuring food trucks, booths of local organizations offering games and activities, a massive Touch-a-Truck display, and multiple "Story Time Reading Circles". Story times are every 20 minutes starting at 10:20 a.m.

- TeenScrabble: 1 – 4 p.m. p.m. - Come hear the future headliners of Hardscrabble perform during the afternoon, as we feature the incredible teen talent from our local music academies, the Rhinebeck School of Music and Red Hook's Community Music Space. Closing out the TeenScrabble festivities

is Chocolate Jam.

- Hardscrabble Main Stage and Beer & Cider Tent: 5-10 p.m.

Community-Wide Events

- CarScrabble Classic Car Show: Noon - 3 p.m. - Join us at Memorial Park and admire a collection of some of the area's finest classic cars. Get ready for the smell of the leather and shine from the chrome. At 3 p.m., the cars will parade down Broadway toward the Hardscrabble stage for the closing of the TeenScrabble concert.

- Historic Red Hook Open House Elmendorph: 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Step inside Red Hook's oldest public building for a special Hardscrabble Day Open House and be among the first to experience Historic Red Hook's new immersive tavern exhibit. ?

- Retail Vendors: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Visit the lawns at St Paul's Lutheran Church and St. Christopher's Catholic Church for amazing retail vendors.

- Local Shops & Restaurants: All day - Red Hook is full of shops and eateries. Stroll through the village and look for that special and/or tasty item.



"The Big Shoe" from New Paltz has built a local following and currently play most weekends throughout the Hudson Valley including Poughkeepsie, New Paltz and Kingston and as far south as Lower Westchester. They will be performing on the Main Stage at Hardscrabble in Red Hook at 5 p.m. Saturday. Set. 19. Courtesy photo

Community gathers at Tegtmeier Memorial to remember those lost on 9/11

*From the Roosevelt Fire District
Facebook page*

The Paul Tegtmeier Memorial in Hyde Park held the 911 Ceremony on Friday to mark the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The ceremony opened on schedule with Lew Darrow of the Roosevelt Fire Department introducing the bagpipers, led by Ed Murray, a retired member of the LaGrange Fire Department.

Color guards from several fire departments and Boy Scout troops took part in the observance. The flag was raised in memory of Paul Tegtmeier and the firefighters who lost their lives on September 11.

The program included the National Anthem, performed by Theresa Gasperri, followed by an invocation from the Rev. Meredith Kadet Sanderson, pastor of St. James Church. Darrow, president of the Tegtmeier Committee, then addressed those in attendance before introducing the evening's speakers.

Speakers included Town of Hyde Park Supervisor Al Torreggiani, former Legislature Chair Will Truitt, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, former committee member Sal Incorvaia and keynote speaker William Beale, commissioner of DCDER. Roosevelt Fire Department Assistant Chiefs Ryan Dupilka and Kyle Humenick read the names of the deceased and tolled the bell.

Wreaths were presented and laid in honor of the fallen by representatives of the Tegtmeier family, FDNY, Roosevelt Fire Department, PVFD, Milan Fire Department and Hyde Park PBA. Darrow offered closing remarks before Gasperri performed "God Bless America," followed by a benediction.

The ceremony concluded as the bagpipers and Color Guard proceeded down the walkway. Organizers thanked the Boy Scouts, firefighters, police, community members and the Paul Tegtmeier Committee for their participation and support.

Photo Credit: Joan Goldhammer.



NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.
Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

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Safe staffing means safe care at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital

To the editor:
When nurses and technicians at WMC Health’s Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie take to the picket line, the community should pay attention. Last month, I joined SEIU 1199 healthcare workers on the picket line as they rallied for a new contract that recognizes the critical work they do every day. What I heard from these workers was deeply concerning. They described workplace violence and unsafe staffing conditions, including reports that patients experiencing behavioral health crises may not have access to a psychiatrist or social worker on site in the emergency room during overnight hours. These are serious allegations, and they deserve serious answers. In my capacity as county legislator, I wrote to Mid-Hudson Regional leadership to request more information about the concerns raised by healthcare workers and to better understand the hospital’s overnight staffing and behavioral health services in its emergency department. I am glad that hospital leadership has responded and offered to meet with me to discuss the issues raised in my letter. I welcome that conversation. But a meeting should be the beginning of a dialogue, not the end of one.

A regional hospital must be prepared to care for every patient who walks through its doors, including patients in the midst of a psychiatric emergency. That means that we need to understand what resources are available to patients and emergency room staff around the clock. Nurses and technicians should not be expected to manage potentially dangerous or complex mental health situations without access to the appropriate expertise and support.

Safe staffing also means better patient care. When there are too few nurses, technicians and qualified clinical staff, the burden falls on the workers who are there and ultimately on patients. Overstretched healthcare staff cannot be expected to provide the level of care that patients deserve. Adequate staffing also helps create safer working conditions for the people responsible for caring for us when we are at our most vulnerable.

Our nurses and technicians should not have to choose between protecting themselves and providing care to their patients. That is why the concerns raised by Mid-Hudson Regional’s nurses and technicians should not be dismissed as just workplace demands. The conversation with Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital is an opportunity to better understand what is working, where gaps may exist and what can be done to address them. Mid-Hudson Regional is an important regional hospital, serving patients and families from across the area. Anyone who has needed emergency care, taken a loved one to this hospital, or relied on a healthcare worker during a crisis has a stake in making sure this institution has the resources and staffing necessary to meet patients’ needs. When we protect the people who care for us, we protect the quality and safety of care for everyone in our community.

Lisa Kaul
Dutchess County Legislator, District 6

Do you qualify for childcare assistance? The answer may surprise you

To the editor:
New York has some of the most expensive childcare in the country. Most families pay 15.5% of their income per child – more than double the federal government’s 7% affordability threshold. But what does that actually mean? A family of four can expect to spend \$31,000 per year on childcare. MIT’s Living Wage Calculator finds that such a family would need to earn about \$141,000 annually (\$117,400 after taxes) to cover basic expenses (food, housing, transportation and medical care) in New York. Dutchess County’s median household income is over \$40,000 less, at \$99,478. This gap leads to an impossible choice:
• Pay for childcare so you can work, but fall behind on rent or other bills?
• Pay the rent but lose your job because you can’t afford childcare?
• Ask your partner to stay home, hoping you can get by on one income?

But there is another option: subsidized childcare, contrary to popular belief, is available to most New Yorkers and can change lives. Families earning below 85% of the state’s median income are eligible for childcare assistance.

For example, a family of four can earn up to \$113,567 per year, or \$9,463 per month, and still qualify. These limits are above the average wages in Dutchess County.

Because income is only one of the requirements, it is best to connect with your local Department of Social Services to confirm your eligibility. Visit the Office of Children and Family Services’ website (ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/ccap/help.php) to apply online or download an application. You can also pick one up at a local office or call 845-486-3190 to have a packet mailed to you.

Approved families often pay less than \$15 per week for care. For a family of four, a \$31,000 bill drops to \$780 or less. This accessibility opens the door to stable employment, financial security and even continued education. It also gives children access to structured environments that support healthy development and early learning.

These benefits ripple outward: employers gain a more reliable workforce, families become resilient, and communities grow stronger. Childcare assistance is more than help — it’s an investment in New York’s future.

Jaime Hyla
CEO of Community Family
Development and a member of
the Poughkeepsie, NY community

See our
**COMMUNITY
CALENDAR**
on page 5 for events in
your community

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.

LOSAP Public Comment at Sept. 22 Village of Rhinebeck meeting

Rhinebeck Village Clerk Martina McClinton announced that public comment on the Length of Service Award Program or LOSAP will be held immediately following the Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 3:30 p.m. This program is a pension-style retirement and reward system established to provide tax-deferred income benefits to active volunteer members of the Fire Department. This public comment will be held in person at the Village Hall: 76 East Market St., Rhinebeck.

Contact McClinton at mmclinton@villageofrhinebeck.gov for more information.

Reading water meters in Millbrook

The Village of Millbrook would like to inform residents that VRI will begin reading water meters this week and will continue through the end of the month.

During this time, VRI personnel may be seen walking on or around your property to access and read your water meter. Please do not be alarmed if you see someone on your property during this period. They are conducting routine meter readings for water and sewer billing.

Village officials appreciate your cooperation and understanding while VRI completes the meter readings throughout the Village.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact VRI at 845-677-3839.

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Free events offer opportunities to honor our local veterans

Dutchess County is an amazing place to call home for so many reasons, chief among them the way this community truly honors our heroes who have protected our freedom for generations.

County Executive Sue Serino and our Office of Veterans Affairs take pride in offering opportunities to recognize our for local veterans for their service and bring them together to meet one another, swap stories of their military past and make lasting connections. Those connections are so vital to our veterans, as is their knowledge that their community fully supports them and their families.

That's why we have several more free events for our veterans planned for the coming weeks that I want to share with you.

- **Red, White & You Veterans Picnic** - Our annual picnic takes place this year on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at James Baird State Park in Pleasant Valley. Always a favorite with our vets and their guests, this free, rain-or-shine event brings together veterans of various eras to enjoy delicious barbecue food, compliments of Tavern 23; live country

music from a local band, the StringMasters; and the chance to rekindle old friendships and foster new ones. It's a great opportunity for Dutchess County to thank our veterans for their service and for attendees to enjoy a day outside in autumn, with all the scenery our area has to offer.

- **Veterans Pasta Dinners** - Years ago, as a member of the New York State Senate, County Executive Serino began a tradition of partnering with MHADC to host our veterans to a series of free pasta dinners, a practice she has continued since taking office in 2024. This year's first will take place on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Red Hook VFW Post 7765, 30 Elizabeth Street in Red Hook; the second will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1 – with two seatings, at 2 and 4 p.m., respectively – at the East Fishkill Community Center, 890 Main Street in Hopewell Junction. These events not only show appreciation for our veterans' sacrifice, they give them the chance to meet those who serve them.

Each of these events is free, but advance registration is required. I invite

you to register yourself and one guest to attend our picnic and/or the pasta dinner of your choice by emailing the County Executive's Office at countyexec@dutchessny.gov or calling 845-486-2000.

- **Dutchess County Veterans Day Ceremony** - Each year, at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, County Executive Serino leads the community in a solemn Veterans Day commemoration at the Dutchess County War Memorial in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The purpose is simple: to pay our deepest respect to the courageous service members who have kept our nation safe for centuries. We come together as a community to show our appreciation for our veterans, laying a wreath at the foot of the memorial and paying tribute to the selflessness and dedication to duty that everyone who has ever worn the uniform has displayed.

In addition to these upcoming gatherings, we also bring the community together from April through November to celebrate the lives of veterans still among us, as well as recalling the legacies of those who have passed.

- On the second Tuesday of these

months, County Executive Serino and Veterans Affairs host our "Veteran of Distinction" ceremonies, in which we thank a local veteran, nominated by the community, for his or her distinguished service. At our "Honor-A-Veteran" remembrances, held the third Thursday of the month, we come together to commemorate veterans who are no longer with us. These dignified observances are always moving and inspiring, and I invite you to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/dutchessveterans to learn about next ceremonies.

Whether you served in Armed Forces for a year or two, or you spent your entire career in the military, Dutchess County thanks you for your service and sacrifice. Your community will always remember all you've given to our country. We at the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs look forward to personally thanking you at one of our upcoming events, and we are always available to you and your family by calling our office at 845-486-2060 or emailing us at veterans@dutchessny.gov. Thank you, as always, for your service.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Vendors sought for Freedom Plains rummage sale
Flea Market Vendors wanted for the Freedom Plains Fall Rummage Sale and Flea Market, Oct 3 2026, from 9am-3pm. For \$25, you can reserve a generous space on our front lawn. To fill out an application and pay the \$25 fee online, go to our website www.fpupchurch.org or call the church office weekdays from 9am-3pm (845-452-0684).

Rhinebeck Garden Club to host Plant & Bake Sale Sept. 19
Mark Your Calendar: Rhinebeck Garden Club's annual plant and bake sale Saturday, September 19, 10am-2pm. Rain or shine. The Rhinebeck Reformed Church is located at the corner of South Street and Mill Street (Route 9.) A huge selection of divided perennials, including shrubs in 10-gallon pots, mostly from members' gardens, will be for sale, along with house plants, garden books, yard and gardening items. Expert guidance from members. The bake sale includes muffins, quick breads, cakes, pies, and cookies. Donated plants from non-member or area nurseries are always welcomed. Cash or check only. Proceeds benefit the community. For information about this sale, or to become a member, contact president Sue Carlson at (845) 797-3226, or email her at scarlsonrgc@gmail.com.

Flag Changing Ceremony set Sept. 20 on Walkway
On Sunday, Sept. 20, from noon to 12:30 p.m., The American Legion Post 739 will present its monthly Flag Changing Ceremonies on the Walkway Over the Hudson to honor our region's veterans and their service to our country. These events are open to all who wish to attend.

Vassar Temple High Holy Day Services
Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie, invites the community to worship on the upcoming High Holy Days. Yom Kippur begins the evening of Sept. 20. The congregation's clergy Rabbi Jeffrey Stombaugh and Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann will officiate. Most of the High Holy Day programming will be hybrid (available both in person and on Zoom,) and there will be professional security present.

Please visit the website www.vassartemple.org for the complete service schedule. No fee is involved, but everyone wishing to attend must contact the Temple and register in advance, and donations to help defray our expenses are appreciated.

Vassar Temple is a welcoming, inclusive congregation located in Poughkeepsie and is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism. For further information, and to sign up to attend, please contact office@vassartemple.org or 845-454-2570.

Introduction to Small Fruits Workshop set Sept. 21
Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County will host an Introduction to Small Fruits Workshop on Monday, Sept. 21, from 6 to 7 p.m., at Dutchess County Farm and Home Center, 2715 US-44, Millbrook. Heather Kase, Berry Specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern New York Horticulture, will discuss small fruit establishment, production, and management. Any questions should be directed to Agriculture/Horticulture Program Leader Dr. Isabella Yannuzzi at imy3@cornell.edu.

Presentation Partner: Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture (<https://enych.cce.cornell.edu>)

The cost is \$15 per person. Register at cce-dutchess.org.

LaGrange Fall Senior Social set Sept. 23
The LaGrange Fall Senior Social will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Main Pavilion at Freedom Park, 212 Skidmore Road. The event is for LaGrange residents ages 55+. The cost is \$10/person (registration required).

Sponsored by Sheriff Kirk Imperati and Landmark Grill, register for this fun-filled afternoon featuring a delicious buffet prepared by Landmark Grill, music, raffles and giveaways.

Register at www.lagrangeparksandrec.com or in person in the Recreation Office at LaGrange Town Hall, 120 Stringham Road, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Registration is NOT available at the Senior Drop-In Center. Proof of residency through a property tax or utility bill is required if not already supplied for 2026. Contact the Recreation Office at 845-452-1972 or recreation@lagrangenyc.gov with any questions.

Rhinebeck Garden Club presentation set Sept. 23
September 23, 10am. Rhinebeck Garden Club, Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. Program: "Planting and Caring for Spring Bulbs", presented by Master Gardener and Member Linda DiGasper. Autumn is all about planting spring-blooming bulbs like daffodils, tulips and hyacinths, but the beauty of bulbs is

that there are so many more species that store up delightful displays for year-round enjoyment. Proper siting in the garden and tips on selection, installation, repelling unwanted critters and coaxing bulbs to bloom indoors will be discussed. The meeting is open to the public but guests are asked to join after attending two meetings. For more information about this program, the RBGC, or upcoming programs, please contact Sue, 845-797-3226 or Hannah, 914-263-5298

Clinton Historical Society fall events schedule
Sept. 26: Wine & Cheese Fundraiser
Oct. 2: October First Friday Talk: How Omega Became Omega
Oct. 11: Quaker Meeting House Tour at Creek Meeting House
Oct. 30-Nov 1 TENTATIVE: Tag Sale
Nov. 6: November First Friday Talk: "The Brave Montgomery"
Nov. 8: Quaker Meeting House Tour at Creek Meeting House
Visit clintonhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

In Flight, inc. announces 5th annual Cornhole for a Cause & Community Festival
In Flight, Inc. will hold the 5th Annual Cornhole for a Cause, presented by Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, on Saturday, Sept. 26 from noon-8 p.m., at Dutchman's Landing Park in Catskill. This free event has become a full community festival, drawing hundreds of families, friends, and supporters for a day of fun while raising essential funds to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the Hudson Valley.

This year's celebration is surrounded in magic as the community is invited to step into a world of wizardry. With walkabout magician Sean Doolan, enchanting wares from local vendors, food trucks with their very own potions, and more spellbinding activities, every aspect is tailored to transport you into a world of magic. Closing out the evening with a dazzling, sensory-friendly drone show featuring magical characters above the Hudson River, the show promises to be an unforgettable

continued on page 6



DUTCHESS
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68th Stanford Community Day marks Rev250 with events galore

continued from cover

The 2025 Community Citizen Award Recipient was Jim Myers, Stanford Highway Superintendent, for his dedication to keeping the Town’s roads safe and maintained for many years.

The evening program will feature the Red Barn Band performing at the Recreation Pavilion from 6 to 8 p.m. Consisting of several local residents, this band has quite the following, and Community Day is the perfect opportunity for people to hear their wonderful sound.

The Grange will host a free ice cream social with ice cream donated by Stewart’s Shops during the band’s performance at the pavilion during this time as well, and From the Ground Up Food Truck will be present serving up delicious food.

A new activity for Community Day is the Stanford Community Day Talent Show from 10 a.m. to noon, coordinated by Nicole Clanahan. What better way to celebrate community than to showcase the talent of our town. Sign up for a 15-minute time slot and show us your best! Whether you play a great Cat Stevens cover or write your own songs on the ukelele, share what you’ve got at Community Day. Lacking musical ability? No problem! Sign up for a slot and send 3-4 of your favorite non-explicit songs (about 15 minutes) along with a brief introduction as to who you are and what talents you’d be psyched to share with the community. Participants and their corresponding write-up will be featured in the Stanford Talent Directory along with preferred contact methods. Questions about the Talent Show should be e-mailed to Nicole at ndclanahan@gmail.com.

A returning feature for this year’s Community Day is the Dessert Contest sponsored by Taconic Distillery. This year, the Dessert Contest is cherry-themed. Town residents are invited to bake a cherry dessert – it can be a pie, cake, crisp, crumble – literally anything involving cherries. No mixes or prepared fillings may be used; it must be made from scratch. Include a list of ingredients, and note your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address on an index card or on your recipe. There will be two categories and two winners: Age 21+ and Under Age 21. Judging criteria will be based on General Appearance (20%), Appropriate Texture (20%), Taste &

Flavor (20%), Creativity (20%), and Overall Impression (20%). Entries are due to the Stanford Grange Hall (upstairs in the meeting room) by 10 a.m. on Community Day. Judging will take place at 11 a.m., and the winner will be announced during the Grandstand Program at noon.

Another returning activity is the Stanford Lions Club’s Annual Pickleball Tournament beginning at 8:30 a.m. Registration Forms can be found at the Stanford Free Library, Stanford Town Hall, or by e-mailing Kate Inzerillo at inzerillo@optonline.net. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club’s Scholarship Fund.

Other activities include the Grange’s Lloyd Woodcock & Ken Straley Memorial Chicken Barbecue at 1 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869. The Grange Snack Bar will offer breakfast sandwiches and coffee in the morning as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and drinks for lunch. Free apples will be given out by the United Church of Christ, and the Bulls Head – Oswego Quakers will have their famous homemade oatmeal cookies free of charge. The Historical Society will have information on Wreathes Across America, Veterans Banners, a Revolutionary War Memorabilia Display, and Historic Quaker Information. The Stanford Garden Club will have their Annual Fall Bulb & Mum Sale, and the Stanford Free Library will have raffles, a bubble machine, and patriotic face painting. The Recreation Department will have a new event for the kids – a Rev250 Patriotic Duck Hunt with prizes.

The Stissing Theatre Guild, Pine Plains FFA, and Pine Plains Federation of Educators will represent the Pine Plains Central School District along with the Stissing Mountain High School Chorus. The Stanford Fire Company will have a Fire Truck at the Grange Hall and will have information on their new Beard Growing Contest! At the Stanford Town Hall, the Stanford Fire Company will have the Annual 9/11 Memorial placed on Town Hall Hill. The Dutchess County Mobile Health Unit will be at the Library Parking Lot with blood pressure screenings, tick removal kits, hands-only CPR demonstrations, Narcan training, and flu shots.



Rev 250 is the theme of Stanford Community Day. Above is a display of a Betsy Ross visit to the Cold Spring Early Learning Center on Flag Day in June. Photo courtesy of Krista Cerul

Serious motorcycle crash in Washington under investigation

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office reported an investigation into a serious two-vehicle crash involving a motorcycle, which occurred at the intersection of State Route 44 and Kennels Road in the Town of Washington at approximately 1:10 p.m. on Sept. 10.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a 2025 Kawasaki motorcycle was traveling eastbound on Route 44 and approaching a delivery truck traveling in the same direction. The truck started to make a left turn onto Kennels Road, at which time it was struck by the motorcycle. The motorcycle operator was then ejected and struck a nearby utility pole, resulting in serious injuries.

The motorcycle operator was initially transported to Mid-Hudson Regional

Hospital before ultimately being transferred to Westchester Medical Center. The truck operator was uninjured.

The investigation is being conducted by the Sheriff’s Office’s Detective Bureau and Crash Investigation Unit. Anyone who may have information on the crash is asked to contact Detective Kurt Twaddell at 845-486-3828 or ktwaddell@dutchessny.gov. Information can also be provided via the Sheriff’s Office’s tipline at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or dcsotips@gmail.com, and all information will be kept confidential.

The Sheriff’s Office was assisted at the scene by the New York State Police, Millbrook Fire Department, and Empress EMS.

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Impact PR & Communications to lead regional outreach for Hudson Valley Connected



Award-winning public relations and communications agency, Impact PR & Communications (Impact PR), has been selected to provide strategic communications and support for Hudson Valley Connected, a regional initiative expanding free technology assistance and digital literacy resources throughout the Hudson Valley. The project is funded through a \$500,000 grant awarded by Empire State Development's ConnectALL Office to the Westchester Library System, the lead financial partner and grant administrator for Hudson Valley Connected.

The initiative will grow the Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley program, originally launched in 2022, across Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. Working collaboratively with the Westchester Library System, Southeastern New York Library Resources Council, Mid-Hudson Library System and the Ramapo Catskill Library System, the program recruits and trains additional digital navigators, connecting residents with free one-on-one technology assistance through local libraries and community organizations. As part of the successful grant application, Impact PR will develop and implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign designed to increase visibility, community engagement and utilization of these free services.

"I'm incredibly proud of the work our Digital Navigators have done across nine counties in New York since 2022," said Carolyn Bennett Glauda, Digital

Navigator ambassador for Hudson Valley Connected. "Trained professionals who offer tech help to solve everyday problems are meeting a real-world need. Getting the word out will allow even more people to get the support they need to go online with confidence. Thanks to this grant, and the resources of Impact PR & Communications, who have deep non-profit expertise and roots in the communities we're serving, we can have an even bigger impact and grow this program for the long-term."

The expansion to the program comes as New York State continues investing in digital equity following the loss of comparable federal funding. According to New York State's Digital Equity Plan, 29% of New Yorkers need professional support because they cannot repair or troubleshoot their devices independently, while 23% of older adults and 20% of low-income households report low confidence using technology.

"We are honored to be selected as the communications partner for Hudson Valley Connected and are grateful for the opportunity to help drive awareness of these valuable services," said Filomena Fanelli, founder and CEO of Impact PR. "Libraries play a vital role in strengthening our communities, and New York State's continued investment in digital equity will help more Hudson Valley residents gain the skills and support they need to succeed."

To learn more about Impact PR & Communications, including its clients and capabilities, visit prwithimpact.com.

Course to explore strategies to protect farmland set Oct. 1

The Dutchess County Planning Federation will welcome the Department of State for an upcoming training, Farmland Protection and Agricultural Viability. This course explores tools and strategies to protect farmland, preserve rural landscapes, and strengthen local agricultural economies.

The program will be held on Thursday,

Oct. 1, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., at the Dutchess County Farm & Home Center, Millbrook. Cost: \$5, payable at door (cash/check/voucher), includes light dinner.

For more information and to register: go to <https://dcpf-100126.eventbrite.com>, DCPlanningFederation@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-3600.

Annual Rhinecliff Chili Cook-Off and Pie-Baking Contest draws a crowd



Winners Circle, from left: Emily Hart, Freddy Roy, Joe Baer, Wesley Cole, Clem and Zech Bendiner, Felix Schreiber, Lisa Gitelman, and Kate Cox. Below: It's all about community. The crowd partakes of Chili entries to choose the People's Choice Award after the official judging takes place. *Courtesy photos*

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. & Rescue Squad held its 15th Annual Chili Cook-Off and Pie-Baking Contest on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Firemen's Field in the Hamlet of Rhinecliff. Unlike years past, the weather was not a consideration as it was a bright and pleasant day.

While interest in the Cornhole Tournament waned, about 80 people gathered to partake in a total of 16 entries to be judged. The Chili Cook-Off started at 5 p.m. This year there were a total of nine chili entries. Judging them were Sandy Bartlett, Director of Morton Library; Beth Heady, member of the Rhinebeck Grange; and Patricia Wind, owner of The Epicurean and 2025 Rhinecliff Volunteer Firefighter of the Year.

Judges commented on how good all the selections were this year, but in the end, they based the winning selections on flavor, creativity and depth. First-time participant Wesley Cole of Hurley won 1st place for a chili named after his cat, Bibble Chili, with sausage, bacon and beef being the main ingredients. Second place went to Joe Baer, a long-standing member of the winner's circle for his Chicken Taco Chili over yellow rice. Third place went to a dynamic duo from Hamburg, NY, Emily Hart and Freddy Roy, with a Rootin', Tootin' 3-Meat Chili.

Said Freddy, "I was very surprised to win. This was the first chili I ever made!"

As tradition dictated, participants weighed in on their favorite chili after the official judging. This year with a total of

19 votes, Clem and Zachary Bendiner were the People's Choice with their North Rhinecliff Classic Beef Chili.

The Pie-Baking Contest was equally competitive this year. Judging this year's confections were long-time Rhinecliff residents Shannon Malone and Jen Mills, and Michaela Carpenter, the new owner and operator of the Rhinecliff Hotel. Judges said the pies were all delicious but they judged them based on a combination of the quality of the crust, filling, presentation and the overall impression of the dessert. Fruit pies ranged from traditional apple and cherry pies to more complex recipes such as Blueberry-Mango-Lemon Cream Pie.

First place went to Kate Cox for a Strawberry-Rhubarb Pie, second place went to Lisa Gitelman for a Paw-Paw Cream Pie, and third place went to Felix Schreiber for his Cinnamon Apple Spice Pie with a Brown Sugar Glaze.

The event concluded with the Third Rhinecliff Tug-O-War between North and South Rhinecliff, with the South continuing its reign as victor since its inception. The Hamlet trophy is displayed on the mantle in Morton Library for all to see.

Said Cynthia Baer, coordinator of the event, "The community never lets us down when it comes to this event. A lot of people come and let down their guard – they submit an entry of pie or chili, try new recipes, and talk with new people. Without a willing community, this event is nothing. It makes my heart light to see everyone enjoying themselves at Firemen's Field."

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‘Affordability Fair’ set Sept. 17 in Amenia

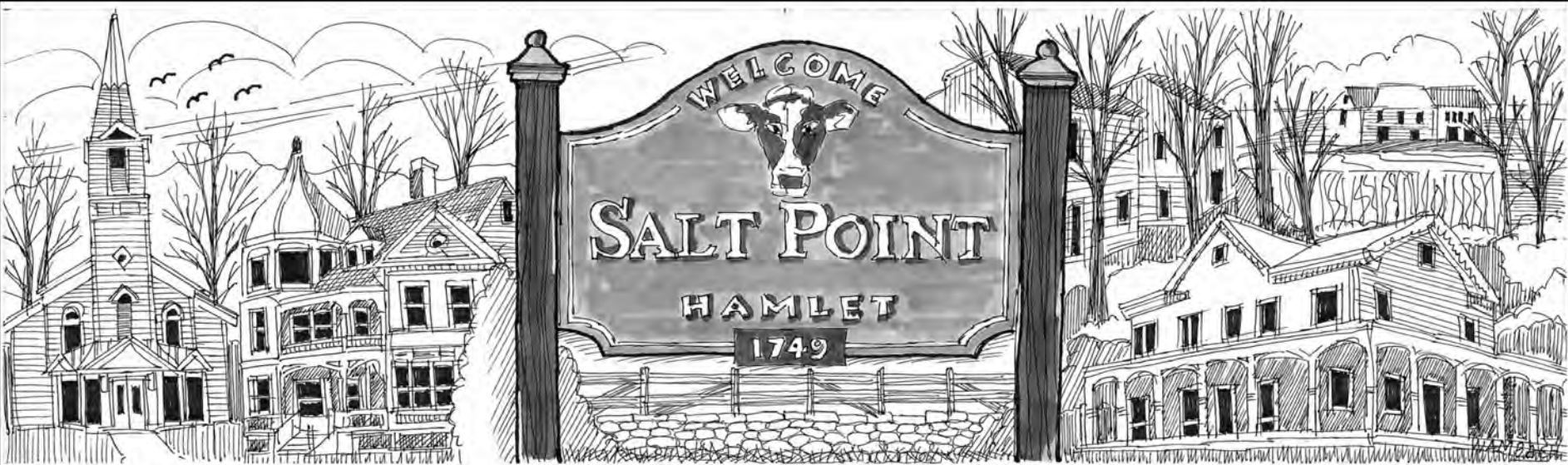
Following an announcement shared on his social media channels, Dutchess County Legislator Eric Alexander (D-District 25) is releasing details about his upcoming Affordability Fair at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, on Sept. 17. At the Affordability Fair, supported by many local elected officials including Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature, Yvette Valdés Smith, “local residents can sign up for free home delivery of hot meals, get help reducing their utility bills and ensuring their home are properly insulated, and countless other

free services/programs offered by county and state governments,” said Alexander. “Elected officials must do more than just talk about affordability. We must deliver to our constituents the full range of free and money-saving services and programs available through county and state government, as well as helping them access the discounts and savings from the utility providers we regulate.” “I’m thrilled to support Legislator Alexander on this endeavor,” said Valdés Smith (D-Fishkill). “Accessing these services or knowing how to access them

isn’t always straightforward. At the Affordability Fair, residents will have a one-stop shop opportunity to learn about and register for many of these services. This has been a bipartisan collaboration, with Legislator Alexander leading the way that empowers and educates. I hope to see the Fair packed with people on September 17th.”

Representatives from the offices of the Dutchess County Legislature, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assemblyman Anil Beephan, the Dutchess County Office of the Aging, the Cornell Cooperative Exchange, the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, and various local businesses are expected to join that day.

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Creative Living

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Movies with Spirit film series to open Sept. 19 with 'Waste Land'

A celebrated documentary about Brazilian garbage pickers who find dignity in art will screen at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, at Unison Arts, 9 Paradies Lane in New Paltz.

The showing kicks off the 21st annual season of the Movies With Spirit community film series.

In "Waste Land," Brooklyn artist Vik Muniz travels to Rio de Janeiro's Jardim Gramacho landfill — the largest in Latin America and one of the largest in the world — to collaborate with the catadores, the workers who mine recyclable materials from its vast trash heaps. His plan is to "paint" their portraits using garbage.

But as these inspiring people begin creating photographic images of themselves from the materials around them, something larger takes shape: a meditation on dignity, transformation and what it means to be seen.

The 2010 film, which earned 29 critic and festival awards, runs 1 hour 39 minutes. It is not rated. Its trailer can be seen on YouTube: tinyurl.com/WasteLand-MoviesWithSpirit.

The screening coincides with Unison's fall exhibition "Still Becoming: Arrivals and Afterlives," a multidisciplinary pro-

gram during Hispanic Heritage Month that honors immigrant voices and creative practices in the Hudson Valley. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early and take in the exhibition.

As "Waste Land" opens the 21st season, Movies With Spirit has also refreshed its logo. The new emblem features a stylized droplet with clean lines and a single, simplified ripple — a contemporary update on the original — with the addition of a tagline: "Where Films Connect Us."

The screening will be followed by a discussion. Refreshments will be served. Suggested donation is \$10 for ages 13 and up.

The Movies With Spirit series, organized by Gerry Harrington of Kingston, features films about connection, compassion and the search for meaning. It respects all cultures and beliefs but isn't bound to any one of them. It points instead to universal themes that connect us all.

Screenings take place across Ulster and Dutchess counties on the third Saturday of each month.

For more information: facebook.com/MoviesWithSpirit, 845-389-9201, or gerryharrington@mindspring.com.



A Brazilian recyclables landfill becomes an art installation of sorts in "Waste Land," a documentary that will open the 2026-27 Movies with Spirit film series. *Courtesy photo*

what's happening?

creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

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Sets

Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.

- 1 thru 32
- 33 thru 53
- 54 thru 58
- 59 thru 61
- 62 thru 116

By David Kalvitis

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Zero-dollar finds: They prompt irresistible purchases

The popular saying “the best things in life are free” has never been truer than here and now. And Dutchess County, NY, makes an incredibly compelling case for it. As an area balancing quiet green spaces with bustling towns, residents pay a premium to live in our vibrant Hudson Valley.

Keeping everyday cost-of-living expenses under control is a challenge. According to Zillow Housing Data, the median list price of a home here is \$562,000. Ownwell Property Analytics shows that our property taxes average over \$7,700 more than the national median. Even getting around the valley pinches the wallet, with gas prices averaging around \$4.17 per gallon, according to AAA New York Fuel Data. With overhead like that, local bargains and freebies are deeply appreciated.

The well-traveled paths

Locals are familiar with the area’s marquee attractions. Areaparks offer perfect vantage points to soak in panoramic views at no cost. Regional art centers provide excursions to see brushstrokes by masters like Picasso and O’Keeffe without touching your wallet. Dutchess denizens know that celebrated venues are gratis – from scenic overlooks to historic estates where you can meander the grounds like a Gilded Age millionaire.

Lesser-known free and low-cost treats

But when reality sets in and you realize you aren’t an 1860s captain of industry – yet still want to enjoy the finer things in life – where else can you look? While major landmarks are well publicized, a few unique, lesser-known spots offer exceptional value.

Spa days!

Inner Beauty Salon & Spa, located at 1 Bushwick Road, near the intersection of Titusville Road and Route 55, has served the Hudson Valley community since 2006. Longtime customers report that the spa’s licensed professionals deliver personalized attention and an elevated level of care during every session.

Says owner-esthetician Jacqueline Herriman, “The transition from summer to fall can dry skin. Now is the time to restore, hydrate, and prepare for the changing season. Professional treatments with organic products can make a huge difference in keeping your skin healthy, balanced, and glowing.”

Now through the end of this year, you are invited to schedule a complimentary skincare consultation with Jacqueline to determine what your skin needs for the season ahead. You’ll also receive free skincare samples to try at home for an entire week. Book a facial on the day of your consultation and enjoy 20% off. Call or text 845-625-9786, or visit organicinnerbeauty.com to book.

Free virtual learning activities

You don’t have to leave home for the next freebie. Parents, homeschoolers, and teachers can download over 400 instructional activities created by one of your Dutchess County neighbors. These classroom-tested, practical resources are available digitally at the GKatzChronicle Teachers Pay Teachers online store (<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/store/gkatzchronicle>). Simply select the “free” filter on the pricing menu to view zero-cost materials, and instantly download your chosen files. Many of the broader curriculum sets are bundled together to maximize your savings.

Outdoor Sports and Gun Show

The Dutchess County Pistol Association, located at 47 Saint Nicholas Road in Wappingers Falls, is hosting its annual Outdoor Sports and Gun Show on Saturday, September 26th. The event features a live appearance by CJ from Wolf Radio alongside music throughout the afternoon.

Attendees can browse vendor booths showcasing firearms, archery gear, fishing tackle, hunting equipment, and outdoor accessories. Hands-on activities like air pistol and rifle targets will be set up, and local food vendors will be on-site. A one-dollar donation is requested for entry; children are admitted for free. It promises to be an entertaining community gathering to exchange field insights and stock up on gear for autumn adventures.

Witchcraft District Bazaar: Autumnal Equinox Celebration

The Witchcraft District Bazaar at 8 Mt. Carmel Place in Poughkeepsie is hosting an in-store celebration of the

continued on page 13

Free product on TPT -GeneticsExtResponse. Image by Francine Wizner

High School Biology

3 Parts of a Nucleotide

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DS HOME SERVICES

Stissing Center’s annual fundraiser set Sept. 26 in Pine Plains

Stissing Center for Arts & Culture invites the community to its annual Harvest Sunset Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Globe Hill in Pine Plains. The signature fundraiser pairs sweeping views of the Catskills with an autumnal harvest dinner, wine and cocktails, and live music in support of the Center’s year-round arts performances, free youth and family programs, and community events.

This year’s celebration features a solo acoustic set by John Sebastian, the Greenwich Village-born singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose six-decade career has helped shape American popular music. As co-founder of The Lovin’ Spoonful, Sebastian wrote and performed era-defining hits including Daydream, Summer in the City, and Do You Believe in Magic. His solo career includes an iconic Woodstock appearance and the chart-topping Welcome Back, the self-penned theme song for the sitcom Welcome Back, Kotter. In 2021, Sebastian and guitarist Arlen Roth produced John Sebastian and Arlen Roth Explore the Spoonful Songbook, a reimagining of Spoonful classics.

Local bluegrass band Long Steel Rail

will also perform as musical guests, bringing a homegrown Hudson Valley sound to the evening. Bryce Edwards, who emceed the Hudson Valley Puppet Slam at the Center last year, will serve as emcee for the celebration.

“There is something truly magical about sitting on Globe Hill as the sun sets over the Catskills, sharing dinner with friends and neighbors, and listening to a musical legend play a solo acoustic set,” said Patrick Trettentero. “We are thrilled to have John Sebastian play for us this year. It’s going to be the kind of one-of-a-kind Hudson Valley evening that captures everything Stissing Center is here to celebrate: beauty, community, and unforgettable performances.”

Proceeds from Harvest Sunset Celebration support Stissing Center’s diverse arts programming, free youth and family programs, and year-round cultural experiences for all. Every ticket sold fosters access to the arts, builds community and strengthens Pine Plains as a vibrant destination for artists and audiences alike.

Globe Hill at Ronnybrook Farm, Schultz Hill Road, Pine Plains. Tickets are available at stissingcenter.org or by calling (518) 771-3339.



Stissing Center for Arts & Culture will hold its annual Harvest Sunset Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Globe Hill in Pine Plains. The event, a fundraiser for the center's programming, will feature singer-songwriter John Sebastian. *Courtesy photos*



**See our A & E
CALENDAR
on page 17 for
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**MORTON LIBRARY ISSUES CALL FOR ART
FOR HOMAGE TO FIBER CREATORS**

Morton Memorial Library & Community House in Rhinecliff is asking textile artists – knitters, quilters, rug hookers, embroiderers, crocheters, weavers, spinners, and others – to share their creations with the Morton community for an art opening and exhibition.

The opening will be the week before the Sheep and Wool Festival so there will not be a time conflict but will be an “appetizer” to the festival (which takes place Oct. 17-18).

The deadline to submit work is Oct. 3. The opening will be Friday, Oct. 9.

The Morton Fiber Show is open to everyone; kids’ creations are welcome.

Email sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org or call (845) 876-2903 for more information.

Paint & Sip to benefit Millbrook Library

Join local artist June Glasson on Thursday, Sep. 24, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., for an evening of painting, local wine, and light refreshments at the Millbrook Winery. Glasson will give a short watercolor painting demo, and then, alongside others, you’ll be invited to create some watercolor paintings that capture the beautiful location.

Tickets are \$80 per person, and all proceeds will benefit the Millbrook Library. Submit your payment after registering. Payment can be made via millbrooklibrary.org.

Glasson is a Millbrook-based artist/designer/teacher. She was born in Oyster Bay, NY in 1979 and received her B.A./B.F.A. from Cornell University in 2002. Her paintings have been exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London, Center for the Arts in Jackson

Hole, Nature Morte Gallery in Berlin, and she is represented by Kenise Barnes Fine Art on the East Coast and Visions West Contemporary in the Rocky Mountain West.

Her artwork has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, New American Paintings, The Paris Review, Guernica Magazine, People Magazine, Domino, Asymptote Magazine, SAND Journal, Diner Journal, and the Film My Idiot Brother and on numerous book covers.

Her collaborative and community-based projects include community workshops, art walks, murals, parade floats, and visual storytelling for marches, protests, and direct actions. With her paintings and socially engaged work, she is interested in thinking about how both individuals and communities are seen and see themselves.

Hudson Valley Gospel Festival set Sept. 26

Arts Mid-Hudson will present the seventh annual Hudson Valley Gospel Festival on Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie. Doors open at 2 p.m. and the program begins at 2:30 p.m.

The festival will bring together regional gospel musicians, vocal ensembles, and praise dancers from Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange Counties for an afternoon celebrating gospel music, tradition, culture, and community.

Pre-sale admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students (K-12 with ID), seniors, veterans, and active military. Children under 5 are free. At-the-door admission is \$30 for adults and \$25 for

students, seniors, veterans, and active military. Sliding-scale tickets are also available at the door, and no one will be turned away.

Featured performers include the Hudson Valley Gospel Festival Choir, led by Dinesa Hansen Johnson, and the Hudson Lily of the Valley Praise Dancers, led by Linda Molina, along with invited regional gospel artists.

The Family Partnership Center is at 29 North Hamilton St., Poughkeepsie.

For tickets, event updates, and additional information, visit www.artsmid-hudson.org/hv-gospel-fest or contact Arts Mid-Hudson at (845) 454-3222.

PV Historical Society to launch ‘Creative Revolution’ presentation on Sept. 22

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society will launch a unique three-part presentation series, “A Creative Revolution: 250 Years of Music, Craftsmanship, and Scientific Discovery,” with an engaging program featuring acclaimed jazz trumpeter and educator - and longtime Pleasant Valley resident - Bob Arthurs. This free event will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m., at the Pleasant Valley Mill Site, 1624 Main St. (Route 44), Pleasant Valley.

For more than five decades, Arthurs has performed, taught, and immersed himself in the world of American music. Now, as a longtime member of the Pleasant Valley community, he will bring that remarkable experience home for an evening that connects history, craftsman-

ship, and musical innovation.

During the presentation, Arthurs will explore the fascinating design of musical instruments from the 18th and 19th centuries, examining how their construction influenced the sounds they produced. He will then bring the story into the 20th century with live trumpet demonstrations illustrating the innovative jazz styles that helped shape American music. Music lovers, history enthusiasts, and community members are all invited to attend.

The Pleasant Valley Historical Society is dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and sharing the history of Pleasant Valley and its surrounding community through educational programs, events, and historical collections.

Hudson Valley Naturalist

continued from page 11



Priestess Renée Anderson and customer at Witchcraft District Bazaar. Courtesy photo

Autumnal Equinox on Saturday, September 19th. This seasonal event honors autumn folklore, harvest traditions, and regional magic. Visitors can explore a curated selection of fall gifts, custom candles, botanical oils, crystals, herbs, alternative books, and unique metaphysical items.

Celebration-day patrons can participate in a local raffle and pick up exclusive giveaways. Throughout the day, visitors are invited to take free photos with their shop Scarecrow. Local sorceress Debbie Ruxton will also be on-site offering traditional bone readings – a practice utilizing bones, shells, and charms to offer personal insights and guidance.

Finding value off the beaten path

By all means, keep visiting our famous local greenspaces, regional art centers, and sprawling historic manors. They are deeply restorative and an essential part of living in the region.

But when we observe Dutchess County through a lens of community connection and everyday sustainability, the lesser-traveled local venues shine just as bright. Luxuriating at a local spa, utilizing free digital resources, supporting heritage sports clubs, and visiting specialty storefronts are perfect ways to find immense value right in our own backyard.

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

‘Voices of Val-Kill’ to mark centennial of Hyde Park historic site

The National Park Service of Hyde Park and the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill will present “Voices of Val-Kill,” a special panel discussion celebrating the 100th anniversary of Val-Kill in Hyde Park, on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m., at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Albany Post Road, Hyde Park.

The program will tell the remarkable story of the people who came together to save Val-Kill from development—and whose tireless determination ultimately helped create the first and only National Historic Site dedicated to a First Lady, a leader at the United Nations and a world diplomat. Before the panel, we’ll also be

show a historical video retrospective that helps tell the story of Val-Kill’s preservation and introduces some of the people and events involved.

Through firsthand perspectives and reflections, the panel will explore why saving Val-Kill mattered, the obstacles and victories encountered along the way, and the enduring historical importance of preserving the place Eleanor Roosevelt called home. The conversation will also look beyond the preservation campaign to consider Val-Kill’s continuing role in the community and the organizations, programs, and opportunities that have grown from the decision to save this extraordinary place.



AMERICA 250

Little Nine Partners Historical Society presents

a staged reading of

Widow's Weeds

Written by Dyan Wapnick,
Directed by Robert Lyons

Tickets Here



Free Admission

Sunday, September 20
at Stissing Center for Arts & Culture
Pine Plains, NY

3:00PM Funded by Dutchess County

Rhinebeck Porchfest returns Sept. 19, celebrating music and community

More than 100 Hudson Valley musicians to transform Rhinebeck into one big front porch

Before the first guitar is tuned or the first audience gathers on Saturday, Sept. 19, one of Rhinebeck Porchfest's most beloved traditions will already be under way. A Hudson Valley chalk artist will transform the pavement at the heart of the event into an original work of art, continuing an annual tradition that has become a colorful centerpiece of the celebration.

By 11 a.m., the streets will come alive as more than 100 Hudson Valley musicians take to porches, lawns, churches and community spaces throughout the Village. This year's Porchfest will feature 45 performances from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., with musicians representing every generation and a wide variety of musical styles – from high school performers to seasoned professionals.

Visitors are invited to wander from performance to performance, discover new favorite artists, hear songs they haven't thought about in years, reconnect with friends and neighbors, and enjoy Rhinebeck's restaurants, shops and beautiful historic streets.

"What I love most about Porchfest is that it's a special day for everyone," said organizer Nancy McKay. "The musicians generously share their talent, hosts open their homes and lawns, and visitors spend the day discovering new music. If people leave having found a new favorite musician and with a smile on their face, we've

done our job." Rhinebeck Porchfest began in 2017 after Rhinebeck native Liz Mazzarella attended Ithaca's Porchfest and realized the concept was a perfect fit for a community with such extraordinary musical talent. The event was launched with an ambitious goal: to raise \$100,000 for the Tommy Thompson-Sally Mazzarella Park. Although the pandemic interrupted the original five-year timeline, that goal was achieved in 2024.

Today, Porchfest continues to celebrate Hudson Valley musicians while bringing residents and visitors together through the shared experience of live music. Proceeds from the 2026 event, after expenses, will benefit both the Tommy Thompson-Sally Mazzarella Park Fund and Starr Library.

For many, Porchfest has become an annual Rhinebeck tradition: families settle into lawn chairs, children dance in the streets, neighbors reconnect, dogs tag along, and longtime attendees wear Porchfest T-shirts from years past. Yet every year brings something new – new musicians, new hosts and unexpected musical discoveries around every corner.

Set in the heart of the Hudson Valley, Rhinebeck Porchfest celebrates not only the region's exceptional musicians, but also the Village itself—its historic streets, welcoming neighborhoods, independent



Rhinebeck PorchFest is set this Saturday, Sept. 19. More than 100 Hudson Valley musicians will perform on various porches throughout the Village. *Courtesy photos from previous years' events*

businesses and strong sense of community.

Admission is free. The complete performance schedule, map and event information are available at rbkporchfest.com. Bring a lawn chair, wear comfortable shoes, and spend the day discovering the Soundtrack of Rhinebeck.



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The 26th annual:

Haitian Art & Handcraft Sale and Online Auction



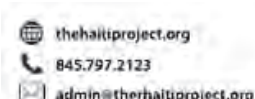
Proceeds to fund education for 200 primary school children

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

2nd floor, College Center

9/19-9/27	Online Auction	www.thehaitiproject.org
Fri. 9/25	In-person Sale	12 pm-6 pm
Sat. 9/26	In-person Sale	10 am-6 pm
	Presentation *	4 pm
Sun. 9/27	In-person Sale	9 am-2 pm

*** Insider's Perspective: "What's (really) happening in Haiti?"**
Pere Andre Wildaine, *Consultant and Partner in Haiti*



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Geeks OnSite



Mom's Bread

There was a little magic in every loaf.

Mom had a drawer next to the sink on the right-hand side of the kitchen. It was between the sink and the washing machine and it was right by the kitchen door. In that drawer she would store plastic bags from the grocery store that she would reuse, matches and hard crusted bread that she would bake every week. I know it sounds funny that bread, plastic bags, and matches were in the same drawer, but for some reason it made sense. Invariably that bread would sometimes turn a little stale, but because it was so crusty it would be fine for the week.

I can remember coming home from school. Hopping off the school bus with my brother Vinny and running up the driveway and into the house through the kitchen door like a maniac, starving of course, because well, school lunches were school lunches. Mom would tell us to change out of our school clothes and put our things away. While we did that she would take out a piece of the hard crusty bread from her drawer next to the sink and washing machine. A hunk for each of us. She would then run it under hot, hot water, to soften the crust, drizzle some olive oil over the top and sprinkle a little salt and pepper. We'd come out of

our room, and on the kitchen table would sit these bowls with our steaming bread in them. That would be our after-school snack.

That week-old bread was the best. Vinny and I ate it like we hadn't eaten in weeks. The memory of that flavor and the smell of warm olive oil lingers to this day. You see, Mom had a knack of taking things and making them into something awesome. She was Mom, and that's what Mom did.

That's how it was with her five boys. Mom was so very proud of us boys. Especially when we would go to church. All five of us, from the oldest to the youngest, lined up in the church pew. Mom would look down the pew at us, the proud mother hen looking at her chicks, or rather the proud baker looking at her loaves of bread. Mom baked a mean loaf of bread. She mixed and kneaded her dough. She would let it rise and then she would knead it again. She would bake it till it was crusty and only take it out of the oven when it was perfect. You see, Mom baked five loaves of bread. Even though we were a little crusty and stale, she still made us into something special. She made us into men. Thank you, Mom.

- MOM'S BREAD**
- Ingredients**
- 3.25 cups all-purpose flour, plus a little bit more for dusting
 - 1 tsp sea salt
 - 1 ½ cups warm water
 - 2 tsp active dry yeast

Instructions

In a large mixing bowl or a counter mixer, add the flour, salt and yeast. Use a spatula or the paddle attachment and mix to combine well.

Pour in the warm water and keep mixing until everything is incorporated, and a soft dough has formed. It will still stick to the bottom of the bowl and that is OK.

Cover the bowl with some plastic wrap loosely and a tea towel. Allow the dough to rise at room temperature for 2 to 3 hours until doubled in size.

Sprinkle some flour on your kitchen counter and dump the bread dough on it. Flour your hands to help it out of the bowl as it will be sticky.

With floured hands, fold the dough onto itself forming it into a round ball. Do not knead it, do not handle it anymore than you need to. Use a sharp knife and lightly carve an X in the top of the loaf or

just make a few cuts across.

Place the bread dough on top of a lightly floured parchment paper pan and allow it to rest while your oven is heating up.

Preheat your oven to 450 degrees F. Fill an oven-proof bowl with 2 inches of water and place it on the bottom rack. This will create the steam that will cause the crust to become crispy as it bakes.

Once your oven is up to temperature, place the bread in the oven. Bake the bread for about 30 to 45 minutes until golden brown all over and cooked through.

Turn off the oven, open the oven door slightly and allow the bread to cool. This will allow the crust to get a little thicker.

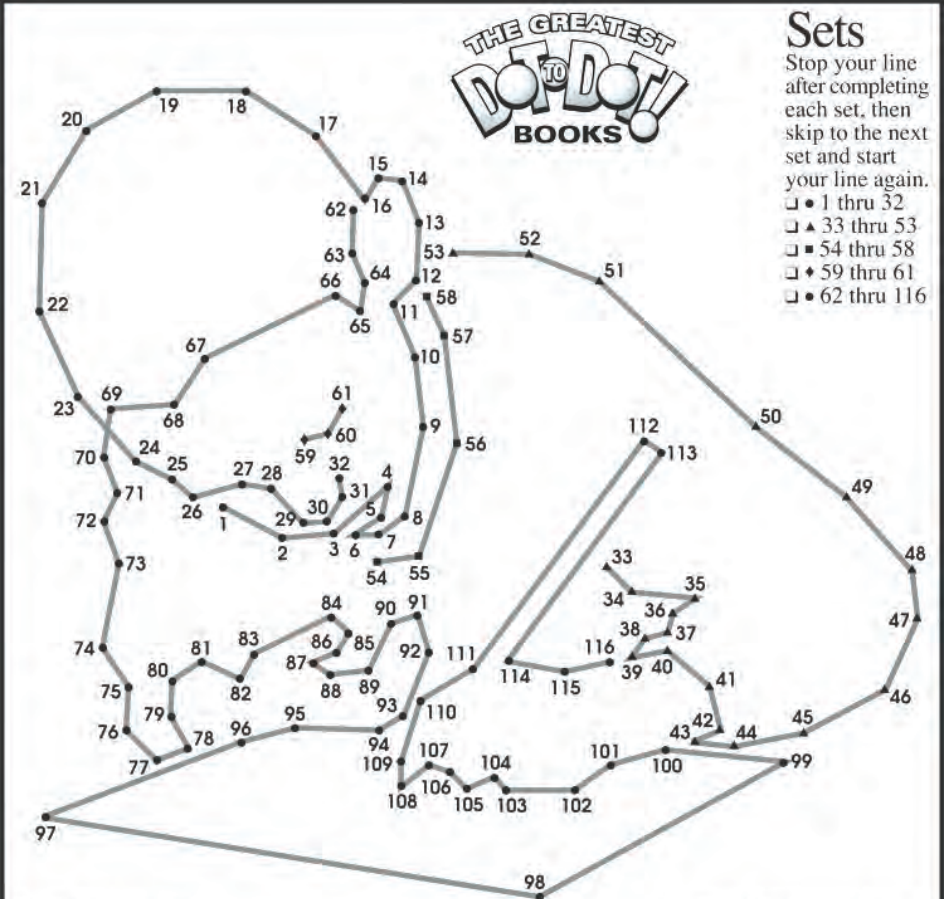
Luigi Coppola is one of five brothers born to Francesca and Antonio Coppola. The Coppola family came to America from Naples, Italy in 1954. Antonio and his brothers opened their first restaurant in Poughkeepsie in 1961. Luigi and his brothers Nick, John, Antonio and Vincent have carried on the family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



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



By David Kalvitis

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THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

Sets

Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.

- 1 thru 32
- 33 thru 53
- 54 thru 58
- 59 thru 61
- 62 thru 116

Revolutionary War play ‘Widow’s Weeds’ to be performed at Stissing Center on Sept. 20

The Little Nine Partners Historical Society of Pine Plains will present “Widows Weeds,” written by Dyan Wapnick and directed by Robert Lyons, at Stissing Center for Arts & Culture on Sunday, Sept. 20, at 3 p.m., in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

“Widows Weeds” tells the compelling true story of Mary Ingalls, who in 1842 at 84 years of age applied for her husband Elihu’s pension under the Pension Act of 1836, which extended pension benefits to Revolutionary War widows for the first time. Elihu had served in the NY militia and died in 1823 without ever receiving a pension. Unfortunately, nearly all his service papers and proof of their marriage

were lost, and Mary had to rely on oral testimonies to support her application.

Premiered last fall as one of Dutchess County’s REV250 grant projects and the recipient of another REV250 grant this year, “Widows Weeds” returns to Stissing Center to popular acclaim. According to Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum, “This play brings a vital type of primary source record to life, places a spotlight on the experience of Revolutionary War Veterans’ widows, and explores the lingering impact of our struggle for independence on our rural landscape.”

For more information, contact communications@thestissingcenter.org or call (518) 771-3340.

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

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

Suguru

4		1			
				3	
2					
		5	4	1	

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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: SOLAR SYSTEM

ACROSS

1. Ancient Peruvian

5. Hit the slopes

8. Bro or sis

11. Thomas the Engine's warning

12. *Sun, e.g.

13. Twist and distort

15. Carpenter's groove

16. *Jupiter's inner "ring"

17. MC Hammer's "2 ____ 2 Quit"

18. *It makes up the majority of Jupiter's mass

20. Narrative poem

21. "When ____ Cry" by Prince

22. Louisville Slugger

23. Chase

26. Puffy cloud

30. Nurses' org.

31. Frozen drink

34. Ricci of fashion

35. Same as climate

37. Buddy Holly's "Peggy ____"

38. Knight's breastplate

39. Flying toy

40. a.k.a. pennant

42. Possesses

43. Appetizer

45. Like certain pine

47. Large edible mushroom

48. ____-Arts, or fine arts

50. Disparaging remark

52. *The largest moon in the Solar System

55. *Jupiter's Great Red Spot

56. Up it in poker

57. Exclamation of disgust

59. Famous diarist Samuel ____

60. Like decorated cake

61. Reply from a tunnel

62. Tarzan's adoptive dad

63. Neither here ____ there

64. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, acr.

DOWN

1. It would

2. Master of ark

3. Buffalo Bill's last name

4. In conflict (2 words)

5. Coach-and-four

6. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.

7. *Reason for Mars' redness

8. Kind of palm

9. Author Murdoch

10. Sandwich with acronym name

12. Snow mover

13. Flash of light

14. *Farthest planet from sun in our Solar System

19. Make awake

22. Opposite of vend

23. Gets ready for a trip

24. Dark

25. Indian restaurant yogurt staple

26. ____ Zhen in "Fist of Fury"

27. *The Solar System spans roughly 1.6 ____-years

28. Uniate church member

29. Impudent

32. ____-friendly

33. *Center of the Solar System

36. *The smallest planet

38. Per ____, or yearly

40. Vigor

41. Approved

44. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.

46. Daisies

48. Bench in Mexico

49. Larger key on the right

50. Pas in ballet

51. Between trot and gallop

52. Effect of pain?

53. Mussolini, with II

54. Not counterfeit

55. Relaxation location

58. Ornamental pond dweller

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11					12				13	14	
15					16				17		
	18			19					20		
			21					22			
23	24	25					26			27	28
30				31		32	33			34	
35			36			37			38		
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55						56				57	
59						60				61	
62						63				64	

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The solutions to both the Sudoko & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 23

16 NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living - September 16-22, 2026

A & E CALENDAR

Through Sept. 26: “The Language Archive,” County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. Julia Cho’s fable about the limits of language in matters of the heart. Directed by Kit Colbourn. Will a man who speaks nine languages ever learn to communicate with his wife? Will the last two speakers of a soon-to-be dead language break their vow of silence? The lives of five people are imaginatively woven together as they discover that no matter how many words they can speak, it’s the heart’s language that matters most. Performances: Evenings at 8 p.m. on Fri. 9/18, Sat. 9/19, Fri. 9/25, Sat. 9/26. Matinee at 2 p.m. on Sun 9/20 & Sat. 9/26. Tickets: \$29 adult, \$26 for military, seniors age 60+, students w/ID at the door, and children under age 12. www.countyplayers.org

Sept. 17: “America250 Film Series,” Wallace Center, FDR Library and Museum, Hyde Park. A Constitution Day film screening of “A More Perfect Union” (1989), 2 p.m. This was the first comprehensive film enactment of the birth of the Constitution; it was shot on location at Independence Hall and other historic locations in Virginia. Free, but registration is required via www.fdrlibrary.org.

Sept. 17: Sunset at the Station Night, Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum, 34 River Rd., Hyde Park. The non-profit Hudson Valley Railroad Society (HVRRS) will host a free museum tours, 6-7:30 p.m. The Station Museum is right on the Hudson River, affording a wide-open view of the beautifully scenic river, busy boat traffic, Amtrak and CSX rail traffic, and the evening sky. Several model railroad layouts will also be running, including ones with hands-on operating features. Free admission. All ages welcome. Free parking. (845) 229-2338 or www.hydeparkstation.org

Sept. 17. Third Thursday Outdoor Evening, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rte. 9G, Hudson. Celebrate the end of summer with La Manga, an all-female band who combines the power of Afro-Caribbean Colombian traditions with vibrant contemporary energy, 6-7 p.m. Take in Olana's breathtaking views and honor the heritage of Colombia, a country that deeply inspired the artist Frederic Church. Free. www.olana.org

Sept. 18: Alex Edelman, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. One of the most critically hailed comedians of his generation is bringing his show, "What Are You Going to Do," to the Bardavon, 7:30 p.m. Tickets & more info: www.bardavon.org

Sept. 18: House of Hamill, The Grace Note, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. House of Hamill delivers a high-energy blend of original folk, Celtic influences, and tight three-part harmonies, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. www.thestissing-center.org or (518) 771-3339

Sept. 18: The Mercy Music Tour presents Mohammad Assaf, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. The Mercy Music Tour is a North American benefit concert series uniting communities through music while raising critical support for children worldwide. This special night blends world-class live performance with a powerful humanitarian mission in support of children in need through the tour's charity partner, Humaniti. Concert at 8 p.m. Tickets & more info at MJNCenter.org

Sept. 18: 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: T McCann Band. Bring a chair or blanket, some food and enjoy an evening of local bands performing live. Lineup may be subject to change.

Sept. 18: Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Featuring many talented local musicians, 8 p.m. Donations to benefit Morton are suggested. (845) 876-2903

Sept. 18-19: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Sept. 18: Chris Trapper, 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. **Sept. 19: Third World – Honoring Stephen ‘Cat’ Coore, 8 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com**

Sept. 18-20: "The Importance of Being Earnest," Wilderstein Historic Site, 330

Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Come to Wilderstein for an outdoor theater performance in partnership with the New Deal Creative Arts Center. Tickets \$20, show only; \$30 includes pre-show tour of the mansion. Reservations: www.wilderstein.org

Sept. 18-20: The Orchestra Now, “Gernsheim Festival: Rediscovering a Master,” Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. This fall, The Orchestra Now (TON) embarks on a multi-year project exploring the music of 19th-century German composer Friedrich Gernsheim. Once a leading figure of the European music scene, his legacy was all but erased by the Nazi regime in the 1930s, leaving his extensive body of work largely unheard today. TON seeks to help restore his legacy through a series of orchestra and chamber concerts featuring three U.S. premieres and one NY premiere, in addition to a panel discussion. Visit fishercenter.bard.edu for tickets and more information.

Sept. 18-27: Teens on Stage presents “Carrie The Musical.” The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Carrie White is a teenage outcast who longs to fit in. At school, she’s bullied by the popular crowd and virtually invisible to everyone else. At home, she’s dominated by her loving but cruelly controlling mother. What none of them know is that Carrie’s just discovered she’s got a special power, and if pushed too far, she’s not afraid to use it. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$19. Contains mature content and explores domestic violence, bullying, religious fanaticism, teen sexuality, animal cruelty, and murder. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Sept. 18 & 25: Guided Landscape Walk of Staatsburgh's Grounds: What You See and What You Don't See, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. A guided walk through the estate's grounds that explores how the landscape was designed to reflect the luxurious lifestyle of Staatsburgh's owners, while deliberately hiding the turn-of-the-century technology and labor that made the estate run. 10 a.m. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Sept. 19: A Closer Look: A Curator-Guided Exploration of the Hidden & Hard-to-See, Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. 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. Cost: \$12/Adults, \$10/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Sept. 19: Colonial Tavern Experience, The Elmendorph Inn, Red Hook. Explore tavern life in the years around the American Revolution at Historic Red Hook's Elmendorph Inn. This rare surviving Albany Post Road tavern in the Village of Red Hook will debut a hands-on experience featuring reproductions of common items found in taverns, immersive soundscapes to bring the tavern to life, and a talk-back station inviting visitors to reflect on how civic participation looks today in Red Hook. www.historicredhook.org

Sept. 19: Free Family Tour, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rte. 9G, Hudson. Experience learning, looking closely, and conversation as a family during this series of special museum gallery program at Olana State Historic Site, 1-2 p.m. Designed for families with children ages 3 and up. Free. Advanced registration required. www.olana.org

Sept. 19: NPC NYS Grand Prix National Qualifier, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Witness some of the nation's top amateur bodybuilding athletes compete for the opportunity to earn national qualification at the NPC NYS Grand Prix National Qualifier, noon. www.MJNCenter.org

Sept. 19: Judi Silvano's Garden Winds, VBI Theatre of Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. Elysium Furnace Works presents in concert the gifted vocalist and composer Judi

Silvano, leading her new, thoroughly unique trio Garden Winds, featuring Silvano on vocals and percussion, Haruna Fukazawa on flutes and Claire de Brunner on bassoon. Garden Winds will be celebrating the release of their first recording *First Flight*, capturing their original chamber sensibility deeply informed by poetry and improvisation. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$30 at the door; advance tickets on sale at <https://judi.eventbrite.com> until midnight Friday 9/18.

Sept. 19: Rhinebeck Porchfest, Village of Rhinebeck. The village's streets will come alive as more than 100 Hudson Valley musicians take to porches, lawns, churches and community spaces. This year's Porchfest will feature 45 performances from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., with musicians representing every generation and a wide variety of musical styles – from high school performers to seasoned professionals. Free admission. rbkporchfest.com.

Sept. 19: Summer Concert Series, Red Hook Library, 7444 S. Broadway, Red Hook. Music on the library's front lawn, 1 p.m. This month: Rob Benson & Roger and Lenny. www.redhooklibrary.org

Sept. 19 & 27: 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. The hike, which starts at 10 a.m., is approximately 1.5 miles of uneven terrain, requiring sturdy footwear. Free. Reservations required: <https://Bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS>

Sept. 20: Howland Chamber Music Series, Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. The MIRÓ Quartet opens the 2026-2027 season, 4 p.m. Following the concert, ticket-holders invited to a complimentary reception and opportunity to meet the artists. Tickets \$40 adults, \$10 students. www.howlandmusic.org

Sept. 20: Walkway Connections: Three Centuries on Historic Huguenot Street, Walkway Over the Hudson, Ulster Welcome Center, Highland. Learn all about Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, a 10-acre National Historic Landmark District, where visitors experience over 300 years of history, 2-3 p.m. Free to attend, appropriate for all ages. www.walkway.org

Sept. 20: “Widow’s Weeds,” Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. The Little Nine Partners Historical Society of Pine Plains presents a play written by Dyan Wapnick and directed by Robert Lyons in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, 3 p.m. “Widow’s Weeds” tells the compelling true story of Mary Ingalls, who in 1842 at 84 years of age applied for her husband Elihu Ingalls’ pension under the Pension Act of 1836, which extended pension benefits to

Revolutionary War widows for the first time. Elihu had served in the NY militia and died in 1823 without ever receiving a pension. Unfortunately, nearly all of his service papers and proof of their marriage were lost, and Mary had to rely on memory and oral testimonies to support her application. Free. www.thetissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339

Sept. 22: Conversation, Wallace Center, FDR Library & Museum, Hyde Park. “Thomas Paine, FDR and the Power of Words in Turbulent Times,” with Harvey J. Kaye, 6 p.m. Words have played a powerful role in the creation of the US and American ideals. Author and historian Harvey Kaye examines how Thomas Paine and Franklin Roosevelt used words to call a nation to action in times of crisis, and rally Americans to build a more promising future. Free, but registration is required at www.fdrlibrary.org. Also streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Sept. 22: Sunrise Stroll, Walkway Over the Hudson. Celebrate the start of a new season with a Sunrise Stroll on the World's Longest Elevated Pedestrian Bridge, 6:30-8 a.m. During the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, the sun rises in line with the Walkway deck, making for a spectacular photo opportunity. Gates open early at 6:30 a.m. on both approaches to allow everyone to enjoy this magnificent experience. There's no cost to attend Sunrise Stroll. www.walkway.org

Sept. 23: “Harlem Valley Glimpses,” The Preston Barn at Old Drovers Inn, 196 E. Duncan Hill Rd., Dover Plains. Dramatic production by the Town of Dover Historical Society, five stories from Eastern Dutchess County history bring little-known characters to life, opening up new perspectives on the deep history of the Harlem Valley during the Revolutionary War and offering an engaging experience at the historic Old Drovers Inn. 5:30 p.m. cash bar, mingling, exhibits; 6 p.m. dramatic production. Free, but tickets required. <https://www.ticketsource.com/town-of-dover-historical-society/t-oemnrea>

Sept. 23: Joshua Radin, Daryl's House Club, 130 Rte. 22, Pawling. Following a successful UK tour, acclaimed singer-songwriter Joshua Radin returns to U.S. stages this fall. The celebrated troubadour will perform career classics alongside selections from his latest album, "One Day Home," 7 p.m. www.darylshouseclub.com

Sept. 23: Leading with Artivism: an interview with Ayo Nish!, led by Poet Gold. This live stream and in-person event will start at 7 p.m. at Arts Mid-Hudson's Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie, and will also be live streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Ayo Nish! is an artist and cultural architect whose work lives at the intersection of music, storytelling, and community. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the streaming link. All who register are invited to submit questions that will be asked during the Q&A session of the event. RSVP at www.artsmidhudson.org/leading-with-artivism



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Dutchess County Executive's Arts Awards set for Oct. 7 in Beacon

The Dutchess County art scene is set to shine as Arts Mid-Hudson proudly presents the 40th Annual Dutchess County Executive's Arts Awards. This year's awards ceremony, to be held on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at The Roundhouse, will celebrate eight remarkable individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the arts in Dutchess County.

The event will begin with food and drinks at 5:30 p.m., followed by the awards presentation at 7 p.m. Attendees will gather to honor this year's awardees, each recognized for their unique impact on the local arts community.

The community nominates the recipients who are chosen based on their important contribution to the growth of Dutchess County's cultural life over a significant period of time, the extraordinary support they show for the arts, and/or their vision and leadership in using the arts to enhance community life.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "In Dutchess County we celebrate every form art takes, whether its music or dance, theater or poetry, or the visual arts, every creative spark shapes the heartbeat of our community. We are so grateful to Arts Mid-Hudson for continuing the Dutchess Arts Awards tradition, ensuring the arts remain a vibrant force throughout our region. This year's honorees stand as powerful examples of how creativity uplifts, connects, and strengthens residents and visitors alike. Congratulations to all of the honorees; thank you for the impact your work carries forward."

Arts Mid-Hudson Executive Director Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas said, "For 40 years, the Dutchess County Executive's Arts Awards have celebrated the artists, organizations, businesses, and community leaders whose creativity helps shape Dutchess County. Reaching this milestone is an opportunity not only to honor this year's remarkable awardees, but also to recognize the generations of people who have invested their talent, passion, and leadership in our creative community. This year's theme, 'Harvesting Creativity,' reminds us that a thriving arts and cultural landscape is something we cultivate together, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate those whose work continues to make Dutchess County a vibrant place to live, work, and visit."

Tickets are available at artsmidhudson.org/dc-arts-awards or by calling 845.454.3222.

son.org/dc-arts-awards or by calling 845.454.3222.

2026 AWARDS RECIPIENTS:

Art in Public Places: Art Day in the Village: Art Day in the Village is a grassroots celebration connecting artists and community members through local art. We exist to inspire everyday creativity and to offer local creators a welcoming space to share their talents through various mediums of creative expression.

Artist: Stacey Burgay: Stacey Burgay is a New York-based artist, creative producer, and Founder of That Creative Space. After years in television and advertising, Stacey—a lifelong maker—found herself disconnected after she stopped creating art. A continuing education mixed media class at Parsons became her path back to herself. After losing her job in 2024, she looked around Beacon and saw a need for affordable studio space and a welcoming place where adults could explore creativity. She opened That Creative Space in September 2025, believing creativity brings people together and strengthens community. Since then, the studio has welcomed more than 200 students and was voted Chronogram Readers' Choice #3 Best Art Class in the Hudson Valley.

Arts in Education: Nicole Asendorf: Nicole Asendorf is an artist, arts educator, and owner of Hoshyla Farms in Manorville, New York. Since 2007, she has inspired creativity through private instruction, public schools, and as an Art Specialist for the Department of Defense. Her work is known for its expressive use of color and texture, evolving from abstract painting to landscapes inspired by nature. Working primarily in oil and acrylic, she incorporates resin and organic textures to create richly layered pieces that capture the tranquility and energy of the outdoors. Through her art, Nicole invites viewers to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with nature.

Arts Organization: Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum: Founded in 1989, the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum has become a regional leader in youth arts programming and creative learning. For more than three decades, MHDM has helped children discover their voices through visual art, performance, storytelling, design, and imaginative play. Its Art Studio, interactive exhibits, school and library partnerships, community festivals, outdoor arts experiences, and

accessible family programs have brought high-quality arts education to generations of Hudson Valley children. From its beginnings as a small children's museum to its home on Poughkeepsie's waterfront, MHDM remains committed to making the arts joyful, inclusive, and central to how young people learn, connect, and see themselves.

Business: Hudson Valley Hospice Music Therapy Team: Founded in 2003 by music therapy pioneer Dr. Russell Hilliard, Hudson Valley Hospice's Music Therapy Program has become a hallmark of compassionate, innovative end-of-life care. Using the power of music to comfort, connect and heal, the program helps patients and families ease anxiety, foster communication and create meaningful memories.

Established in 2004, the Music Therapy Internship Program has mentored 75 students worldwide. Under the leadership of Terry Blaine, LCAT, MT-BC, since 2008, the program has grown to include ten board-certified music therapists and three interns providing care in homes, hospitals, nursing homes and the Hospice House, advancing Hudson Valley Hospice's commitment to comfort, dignity and compassion.

Individual Artist: Rachel Handler: Rachel Handler is a writer, filmmaker & actor known for her stint as Peg Leg Doris on AMC's "Interview With the Vampire" and her award-winning Slamdance films "Committed" and "HOW MUCH AM I WORTH?" Other acting credits include, "Best Foot Forward," "NCIS: New Orleans," "New Amsterdam," and "The Upside."

Handler became an amputee after a car accident. She believes deeply in the power of stories to create social change and is passionate about healthcare and human rights. Her awards include the AT&T Underrepresented Filmmaker Award, Best Writer, Best Awareness, and Best Actor in the Disability Film Challenge, and Best International Film in Focus on Ability. She is directing a fea-

ture documentary about health insurance. @bionic.brunette

ThinkDIFFERENTLY in the Arts: Andre West: Andre West is a talented artist whose creative journey has grown from drawing cartoon superheroes to creating a diverse collection of expressive characters. His dedication and artistic growth have earned him recognition in the community, including a featured two-month art exhibition at Adriaance Public Library in Poughkeepsie, where he was honored for his exceptional talent. Accompanied by a heartfelt story written by his mother, the exhibit celebrated both his artistic ability and inspiring journey.

Though quiet and soft-spoken, Andre communicates powerfully through his artwork, bringing joy to those who admire his creations. His passion shines from his personal art studio and in every work he produces. Andre's story will also be featured in an upcoming direct mail campaign, reaching thousands of homes and inspiring others to pursue their dreams. In recognition of his remarkable achievements and positive impact, Andre is proud to be honored with the 2026 Dutchess County Executive's Arts Award.

Youth with Exceptional Promise in the Arts: Jonah Sebastian P. Espinosa: Jonah Sebastian Espinosa is a recent graduate of Beacon High School and has been most involved with the Beacon Players, the school's drama program. He loves performing and has been involved in several shows for the Beacon Performing Arts Center and Beacon Players' productions. Some roles he's played include Chip (Beauty and the Beast), Troy (High School Musical Jr.), Jesus (Godspell Jr.), Enjolras (Les Misérables), the Phantom (Phantom of the Opera), Don Quixote (Man of La Mancha), Nathan Detroit (Guys and Dolls), Laurie (Little Women), Jekyll/Hyde (Jekyll & Hyde), and most recently Paul (A Chorus Line). Jonah plans to continue to pursue his passion of the arts through a BFA in Acting at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama.

Red Cross to release 'Iconic Excellence' documentary

Even as the seasons change, the need for blood does not. The mission of the Red Cross Blood Services remains constant — and carries on today as a result of the innovation and leadership of Dr. Charles R. Drew.

This year marks the 85th anniversary of Dr. Charles R. Drew's appointment as the first medical director of the Red Cross Blood Program. To commemorate his lasting contributions, the Red Cross is releasing "Iconic Excellence," a short documentary exploring Drew's life and steadfast influence.

Beginning Sept. 18, the film will be available to stream on the Red Cross YouTube channel. Community members can help carry Drew's legacy forward by donating blood or platelets, encouraging others to give or hosting a screening of the documentary to inspire lifesaving action. Learn more and get started at RedCrossBlood.org/IconicExcellence.

The American Red Cross urges people not to wait to make a lifesaving impact this fall by scheduling a blood or platelet donation appointment in September. The blood supply remains vulnerable after recovering from critically low levels dur-

ing a summer blood shortage, and now is the time for donors of all blood types to help patients who count on blood products for care.

Reserve a spot to give now. Visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App to schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment. Those who come to give Sept. 1-20 will receive an exclusive Red Cross x Hello Kitty ® plush mascot clip and surprise sticker pack, while supplies last! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/HelloKitty for details.

Those who come to give Sept. 21-Oct. 18, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Fall for details. Additionally, all who come to give Sept. 21-30, 2026, at Red Cross blood donation centers and mention the word "pickleball" to Red Cross staff or volunteers onsite can score a custom Red Cross pickleball paddle and ball (limited quantities available). Visit RedCrossBlood.org/FindADonationCenter for more information.

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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. www.artsmidhudson.org or (845) 454-3222

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Oct. 30:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be painter and illustrator Liliana Washburn. **Through Oct. 20:** At 12 Vassar St. there will be a group exhibition curated by artist Barbara Todd on sustainability entitled “What Comes Back: Renewal and Resilience” in the Reception and Hancock Galleries. 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 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/>

The Inn at Bellefield, 25 Old Vineyard Place, Hyde Park. **Through February 2027:** An exhibition of acrylic on canvas and framed giclée prints by Jim Bennett, an award-winning visual artist, author, and educator with BFA and MFA degrees and a long record of grants and honors, including the 2022 Millbrook Vineyards and Winery Art in the Loft Winner. **Immersive Artist Talk + Live Demonstration:** Wed., Sept. 16, 3:10-4:30 p.m. More info at www.artsmidhudson.org

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Through Oct. 17:** “The State We’re In,” exhibition by Brian Cirimo, June Glasson, Jeff Wigman & Yu Yan. 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

Rhinebeck Bank, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. **Through Sept. 18:** Artwork by local resident Tatiana Rhinevault. She works in several mediums, including watercolor, acrylic and oil, utilizing rich, dark colors in combination with diffused window light to create images that are simultaneously calming and magnetic to the eye. Learn more at www.TatianaRhinevault.com.

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

ATTENTION ART GALLERIES

E-mail exhibition listings to:
[creativeliving@
southdutchessnews.com](mailto:creativeliving@southdutchessnews.com)

Clinton Community Library to
present conversation with
former advisor to Kamala Harris

The Clinton Community Library (CCL) presents Conversations, a brand new guest speaker series featuring a variety of notable public figures and engaging global voices. For the inaugural event, CCL is partnering with Morton Memorial Library, Starr Library and Tivoli Free Library to welcome Opal Vadhan. Vadhan served as Senior Advisor to former Vice President Kamala Harris and prior to that as Executive Assistant and Trip Director to former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The event will take place on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 5:30 p.m. at Upstate Films’ Starr Cinema in Rhinebeck.

During a one-hour conversation titled “Women, Community and the American Dream,” Vadhan will share the stories of five women, their communities and the enduring promise of the American dream. She will reflect on the support of her personal and professional relationships, and the lasting lessons she’s learned from working alongside the only two women ever nominated for President by a major political party.

“My love of reading began at the Queens Public Library, sitting with my mom and getting lost in books together.

Over the years, I’d return stacks of books and be so excited to pick out the next, losing myself in new stories and learning about the world. Those books opened my eyes to what was possible and taught me to dream big. Libraries have always been a safe place where everyone is welcomed in and resources are available to all. I’m honored to speak at the Clinton Community Library’s Conversations series on October 1, in a community that believes in the power of these places,” said Vadhan.

“The Clinton Community Library and its patrons have always had a strong appreciation for learning through thoughtful conversation and the experiences of others. We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Vadhan and are excited to continue bringing engaging, meaningful programming to our community,” said Clinton Community Library Director, Carol Bancroft.

The conversation will then be followed with a 30-minute Q&A.

Event registration is now open. For more specific information or help registering, call (845) 495-0655 or email programs@clintoncommunitylibrary.org.

NAMI offers free
8-session educational
programs for families

National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session educational program created specifically for family members, caregivers, and loved ones of people living with mental health conditions.

Throughout the eight sessions, you’ll learn more about:

- Communicating and problem-solving more effectively
- Supporting your loved one with compassion
- Understanding mental health condi-

tions and current treatments

- Navigating crises and finding local resources
- Managing stress and taking care of yourself
- Understanding how mental health conditions affect the entire family

The class starts this month, running Tuesdays, Sept. 22-Nov. 10, from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m. The program is free, but registration is required and space is limited.

For more information, contact contact@namimidhudson.org.



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From County reports

Dutchess County has operated its 24/7 HELPLINE crisis line for decades. When 988 was launched in 2022 as the national crisis lifeline number, Dutchess County's HELPLINE integrated into the new system, with the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) experienced mental health professionals answering calls from both the 988 number and from the County's seven-digit 9700 legacy number. With 988 now widely recognized, Dutchess County DMH is retiring the legacy number and encourages anyone who needs mental health support to call 988 to connect with our dedicated team of mental health professionals.

Dutchess County's HELPLINE is one of 13 National Suicide Lifeline (NSPL) call centers in New York State, answering calls from Dutchess County as well as surrounding areas including Sullivan and Ulster counties. In 2025, the Dutchess County Department of Mental Health's (DMH) experienced professionals answered more than 35,000 calls, provid-

ing compassionate support to individuals facing mental health or substance use concerns, making connections to the County's 24/7 mental health services including the Dutchess County Stabilization Center, Mobile Crisis Intervention Team as well as other community resources. The Dutchess County HELPLINE team was recently recognized for achieving the best answer rate in New York State – with 93% of all calls answered.

County Executive Sue Serino said, “Having lost both my brother and nephew to their mental health battles, I know how important it is to have easy access to support when someone needs it most. That’s exactly what our dedicated HELPLINE team does, working around the clock to support our neighbors during some of their most vulnerable moments, and I can’t thank them enough for the compassion they show each and every day. To ensure a smooth transition, if you have the legacy line saved in your phone, please update it to 988 and help us spread the word!”

The retirement of the legacy numbers will be phased in to ensure callers have uninterrupted access to crisis services, with Phase One currently under way. The full transition is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

Phase One: HELPLINE staff are informing callers at the end of their conversations that the County is transitioning calls to 988.

Phase Two: callers to the 9700 number will hear an automated message explaining the change and the anticipated transition date prior to being connected to HELPLINE staff.

Phase Three/ Final Phase: individuals who call the 9700 number, will hear an automated message prompting them to dial 988.

While the legacy HELPLINE number will no longer accept calls once the transition is complete, the (845) 485-9700 line will continue to be active for text messages only, to ensure people connect with Dutchess County's local mental health team who are familiar with area services. Unlike phone calls, texts to 988

enter a national network and may be answered by NSPL centers outside of the area.

Department of Mental Health Commissioner Jean-Marie Niebuhr said, “Our goal has always been to make sure residents can easily access responsive, compassionate support when they need it. Transitioning all crisis calls to 988 makes that even easier, and we’re pleased that more people are recognizing 988 as HELPLINE — the same trusted local resource they have always been able to count on.”

DMH has also been working closely with schools, healthcare and service providers and other community partners to promote 988 and spread the word about this invaluable resource.

For easy access to mental health resources right from a cellphone, including 988, residents are encouraged download the Dutchess County HELPLINE app from their device's app store.

To learn more about DMH's full array of services and resources, visit: dutchess-ny.gov/behavioralhealth.

SEND US YOUR NEWS:

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OBITUARIES

Raymond L. Haviland , Sr.

AMENIA – Raymond L. Haviland, Sr., 88, a longtime resident of Amenia, NY, passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 6, 2026, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon, CT. Mr. Haviland worked as a supervisor of plant maintenance at St. Joseph's Hospital in Stamford, CT.

Born on December 13, 1937, in Stamford, CT, he was the son of the late William Haviland and Anna Mathiesen Haviland. On September 7, 1965, in Stamford, CT, he married Virginia Gill, who passed away on March 8, 2022.

He was a member of the Millerton American Legion and a former chief and commissioner of the Vista Fire Department in Lewisboro, NY. He loved spending time working in his garden,

where he was especially well-known for
and proud of his annual garlic harvest.

Mr. Haviland is survived by his son, Raymond L. Haviland, Jr., and his wife, Lynda Doyle, of Amenia, NY; his daughter, Jeanette Haviland, and her husband, Billy Fortis, of Fishkill, NY; and his brother, Ronald Haviland, and his wife, Jackie, of West Brookfield, MA. He is also survived by three grandchildren. Carol Agustin, and her husband, Criston Agustin, Michelle Haviland, and Peter Reagan, and two great-grandchildren, Thiago Agustin and Isco Agustin.

Besides his parents and wife, he was predeceased by three brothers, Hank, John, and Richard Haviland, and a sister, Barbara.

There will be no services. To send the

family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

Patricia Ann (Cole) Caswell

HYDE PARK – Patricia Ann (Cole) Caswell, 86, a longtime resident of Hyde Park, died September 2, 2026, at Yale Medical Center in New Haven. Born September 9, 1939, in Poughkeepsie, she was the daughter of the late William Cole and Grace (Place) Cole. Patty was raised in Hyde Park and graduated from Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in 1957. On June 20, 1959, she married Dean Charles Caswell at St. Paul's Church in Poughkeepsie. Together, Patty and Dean raised two daughters, Elizabeth and Jennifer, and shared 67 years of marriage, building a life centered around family and their vibrant Hyde Park community.

Patty worked for IBM in Poughkeepsie early in her career and later devoted many years to the Hyde Park Central School District, ultimately becoming secretary to the assistant superintendent. Later, she channeled her love of the area's history into a volunteer position with the National Parks Service at Val-Kill Cottage.

Music was an important part of Patty's life from an early age. She had been singing since childhood and sang in church choirs beginning at the age of eight. She was a longtime and devoted member of St. James' Episcopal Church in Hyde Park, which she joined in 1974. Over the years, she served her church in numerous capacities, including as a member and leader of the Vestry, a member of the choir, a founder of the St. James' Tea Room and Christmas Gift Donation program, a lay reader, and an outreach committee member.

Her love of music extended well-beyond church. For many years she was a member of the IBM Mixed Chorus. She

loved theatre and the arts, and was proud to take each of her grandchildren to New York City on the train to see their first Broadway shows. The soundtracks of *Les Misérables*, *South Pacific*, and *Phantom of The Opera* were played and sung often in her home, as well as classical music and *The Three Tenors*. In 1999, Patty made a memorable trip as part of the Ecuinternational Chorale, performing in cathedrals across Europe. Patty was active with the County Players for many years, starring and participating in musical productions, and sharing a talent that brought her great happiness throughout her life.

Above all, Patty cherished her family. She is survived by her beloved husband, Dean Charles Caswell; daughters, Elizabeth (John) Canevari and Jennifer (William) Oppenheim; seven grandchildren, Gianna (Alexander) Kaloyeros, Hannah Oppenheim, Nicholas (Caitlyn) Canevari, Olivia (Jack) MacIntire, Samuel Oppenheim, Maryrose Canevari, and Jack Canevari; great-grandchildren, Francis and Giancarlo Kaloyeros, Claire and Elise Canevari; brother, Stephen (Yvonne) Cole; as well as nieces, nephews, and many beloved cousins.

Calling hours were on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Route 9, Hyde Park.

Funeral services was on Friday, September 11, 2026 at St. James' Episcopal Church in Hyde Park, with burial immediately following at St. James Churchyard Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Patty's family respectfully requests that memorial donations be made to Alzheimer's Association (alz.org)

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Route 9, Hyde Park, New York. www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

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REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE - SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF DUTCHESS - RHINEBECK BANK, Plaintiff - against - F R A N C O I S WEIGEL, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on July 22, 2026. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in the rear lobby of the Dutchess County Courthouse, 10 Market Street, City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York on the 30th day of September, 2026 at 3:30 PM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Red Hook, County of Dutchess and State of New York. Premises known as 300 W. Market Street, Red Hook, NY 12571. (Section: 6172, Block: 00, Lot: 682869) Approximate amount of lien \$567,071.79 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 2024-52999. Mark A. Siesel, Esq., Referee. Stein, Wiener & Roth LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 1400 Old Country Road, Suite 315 Westbury, NY 11590 Tel. 516-742-1212 WEIGEL-81219 Dated: July 27, 2026 During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the

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Terms of Sale. Auction Locations are subject to change.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-94-26

22 ft Power Tilt Deck-Over Equipment Trailer Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 29th day of September 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.

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-95-26

24 ft. Enclosed Equipment Trailer Bids will be received until 2:30 p.m. on the 29th day of September 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-14-26 NAME OF PROJECT: Airport Support Buildings. Multiple Prime Bids shall be received for the following classes of work: General Construction and Electrical Construction. Project Description: The project involves the construction of new airport equipment storage facilities adjacent to the Airport's operations (ARFF/SRE) building. The new storage facilities will include an airfield maintenance equipment cold storage building (approximately 3,500 SF) and a salt/urea storage facility (approximately 3,200 SF). The project will also include electrical service to the storage facilities, minor access paving, earthwork, minor drainage modifications, and site restoration. It is anticipated that work for this

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project will begin Spring 2027. 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.bidnetdirect.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.bidnetdirect.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, 8am to 4pm: 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 11:00am Thursday, October 15, 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: 225 125 31# Each bid shall be

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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, Classification of Work and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. A Walkthrough is scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2026 at 1:00pm, Hudson Valley Regional Airport Operations Building, Wappingers Falls. All parties interested in bidding must appear in person prior to bidding. Questions will be accepted by the close of business October 7, 2026 and emailed to Diane McKenna at dmckenna@dutchessny.gov or cc'dto@phludzen-ski@cscos.com 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#: 2026025597. 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.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS- RFB-DCH-2026-14 NAME OF PROJECT: Dutchess County Bridge Painting Project Description: Bridge Painting in Various Towns in Dutchess County. 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.bidnetdirect.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

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the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.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, 8am to 4pm: 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: Lorraine Grant, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before **3:00PM Wednesday, October 7, 2026**, and at that time publicly 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 via Teams, 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: 600 429 809#** 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

Legal Notices

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 Wednesday September 30, 2026 and emailed to Lorraine Grant at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is **April 5, 2027**; the anticipated substantial completion date is **July 2, 2027**. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2026022571. **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.

PUBLIC NOTICE TAKE NOTICE that tentative benefit assessment rolls for Dutchess County Water District Zones of Assessment 028AB, A, B, C, D, I, J, K, L, R, X, and Z in the Towns of Hyde Park, Rhinebeck, Beekman, Pawling, Red Hook, and the Village of Tivoli, Part-County Sewer District #1, #3, and #15 in the Town of Beekman, Part-County Sewer District #2 in the Town of Pleasant Valley, Part-County Sewer District #7 and #8 in the Town of Hyde Park, Part-County Sewer District #10 in the Towns of Rhinebeck and Hyde Park, and Part-County Sewer District #13 in the Town of Red Hook and Village of Tivoli in Dutchess County, New York, have been filed with the Clerk of the Dutchess County Legislature and are available for inspection at her office at 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, New York, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday starting September 14, 2026. Zones A, B, C, D, I, L, R, and 028AB cover the Hyde Park Regional Water System along Route 9, Route 9G, Harbour Hills and Staatsburg in Hyde Park and Mill Road in Rhinebeck. Zone J covers the Shore Haven Water System in the Town of Pawling. Zone K covers the Birch Hill Water System in the

Legal Notices

Town of Beekman. Zone X covers the Tivoli Water System in the Town and Village of Red Hook. Zone Z covers the Peach Road Water System in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Part-County Sewer District #1 covers the Chelsea Cove Sewer System in the Town of Beekman. Part-County Sewer District #2 covers the Valley Dale Sewer System in the Town of Pleasant Valley. Part-County Sewer District #3 covers the Dalton Farms Sewer System in the Town of Beekman. Part-County Sewer District #7 covers the Pinebrook Sewer System in the Town of Hyde Park. Part-County Sewer District #8 covers the Greenfields Sewer System in the Town of Hyde Park. Part-County Sewer District #10 covers the Vanderburgh Cove Sewer System in the Towns of Rhinebeck and Hyde Park. Part-County Sewer District #13 covers the Tivoli Sewer System in the Town and Village of Red Hook. Part-County Sewer District #15 covers the Alaina Estates Sewer System in the Town of Beekman.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Dutchess County Board of Benefit Assessment Review will meet to hear objections to each such roll at the Legislative Chambers of the Dutchess County Legislature, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, 12601, on the 13th day of October 2026, at 4:30 P.M.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone wishing to be heard must file a grievance application with the Clerk of the Legislature on or before the date and time above set forth for hearing objections by mailing to the Dutchess County Legislature, 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, by emailing countylegislatre@dutchessny.gov, or by hand delivering a complete application to the Dutchess County Legislature during regular office hours. Grievance applications may be obtained during regular office hours or sent via email by calling 845-486-2100.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT REVIEW
Dated: September 14, 2026
Poughkeepsie, New York
Julie Shiroishi, Clerk of the Legislature

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.

Comptroller releases audit report on maintenance in lieu of rent

The Dutchess County Comptroller's Office has released its audit report of the 2025 Maintenance in Lieu of Rent (MLR), as well as their report of the 2025 Indirect Cost Allocation Plan (ICAP). The MLR is produced annually by the Department of Public Works, providing occupancy related costs for the maintenance of County-owned buildings.

The information provided in the MLR contributes to the Comptroller's Office's preparation of the ICAP, which is used by the Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) to make a claim for federal reimbursement of indirect costs associated with federal grant programs the County participates in.

"In uncertain economic times, every dollar of revenue matters. Our work on Maintenance in Lieu of Rent and the Indirect Cost Allocation Plan ensures that the County is being reimbursed to the greatest extent possible," said Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair.

The MLR report concluded that a total of \$10.4 million dollars was identified as maintenance in lieu costs, and a total of \$2 million was billed. The ICAP anticipates \$1,759,954 in revenue in 2027 for DCFS based on 2025 percentages. The reports can be found on the Comptroller's website.

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Suguru solution

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

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

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

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 16)

One mile at a time: Guardian Revival rallies community for Suicide Awareness Month

On the heels of the 25th anniversary of September 11, and during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Guardian Revival is asking communities across the country to show up for the “guardians” who have shown up for them. For the Beacon-based nonprofit dedicated to the mental health and well-being of military members, veterans, first responders – known as “guardians” – and their families, this moment carries an added layer of significance to the organization’s annual month-long initiative, the One Mile Challenge.

Built around the idea that no guardian should feel alone, the One Mile challenge was created to raise funds and awareness to combat veteran and first responder suicide in the United States. The challenge kicked off in Beacon on Sept. 1 with participants committing to one simple act throughout the month: walk, run, roll or ruck one mile every day. It’s a commitment to showing up each day for people who too often feel they need to face their struggles alone.

Twenty-five years after 9/11, the organization’s message feels more important

than ever. The anniversary has renewed conversations about what service costs both first responders and military members, not just in the immediate aftermath of a crisis, but in the years and decades that follow. The numbers underscore the urgency. Nearly 17 veterans die by suicide every day in the United States, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and first responders are statistically more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty. Guardian Revival’s work, and the One Mile Challenge in particular, reflects just how critical support for guardians really is.

While official registration for the One Mile Challenge is no longer available, the invitation to walk in solidarity, spread the word or support Guardian Revival in other ways remains open. Strength can be found in movement and connection, and together we’re capable of making a meaningful difference for someone who needs to know they are never alone.

To learn more about Guardian Revival or the One Mile Challenge, visit guardianrevival.org.



Participants are pictured at Guardian Revival’s One Mile Challenge kickoff earlier this month in Beacon. *Courtesy photo*

send us your news —————
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988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

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

Dialing 988:

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

GOLDEN LIVING

Over 4,000 Dutchess County residents will have turned 65 by the end of this year. It’s the year they reach Medicare eligibility; and for this milestone they receive a stack of insurance and government jargon, every year for the rest of their lives. There’s Medicare, but there’s also Part A and Part B, Advantage, Medigap, Part D, plus the challenge of figuring out the acronyms: HMO, PPO, MOOP, AEP, IEP, SEP, IRMAA... OMG. Who understands this?

Office for the Aging (OFA) does. We can be the only acronym you’ll need. The rest can be translated back into plain language for you, with the help of our trained counselors in the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program, also known as

HIICAP. And that’s the only acronym we’ll mention in this article, from here on. **Confused? Frustrated? Reach out to us**

You aren’t alone. People with advanced degrees in accounting and finance can be puzzled by the choices they’re being asked to make as they plan their health insurance coverage for 2027. You’d like some solid answers, without being sold something, without having your minds made up for you.

Key questions we can help you answer It’s one thing to learn about an insurer that covers our area, but a far more important thing to know that the doctors and hospitals that already serve you are

in-network for the plan you’re considering. The coverage that works for your sister on Long Island might not be anywhere near the best plan for you. A “five star” online rating is all but meaningless, because it doesn’t measure what works best specifically for you.

Don’t drown in ‘Medicare Alphabet Soup’ Let us throw you a lifeline! Make an in-person or remote Medicare counseling appointment with one of our trained counselors. Medicare’s open enrollment season begins on October 15th every year. That’s just a month away, so call our HIICAP Hotline: 845-486-2566 and make the counseling appointment for yourself or a family member. We’ll help you understand your options and clear the air, so that you’ll feel confident about the choices you make for 2027.

Appointments with counselors during Open Enrollment (October 15 - December 7) fill up quickly, so don’t delay.

Coming in October: Our ‘Medicare Spotlight’ The 2027 edition of the annual “Medicare and You” handbook is mailed out to millions of American older-adult households this time of year. It’s supposed to be the condensed version of everything you need to know, but even the “short” version comes in at about 130 pages.

That’s why we publish an 8-page “Medicare Spotlight” every October, as an introduction to this often-complex subject.

It’s OFA Senior Prom Season (Monday 10/19) Hundreds of Dutchess County older adults attend each year’s Office for the Aging “Senior Prom” - it’s four hours of fun, taking place on Monday, October 19th, at Villa Borghese, 70 Widmer Rd. in Wappinger. The event begins with lunch at 12 noon, followed by dancing to the music of the full Bob Martinson Band. This year’s theme is “Hawaiian Luau,” if you’re thinking of dressing up. Admission

is \$25 (prepaid), which includes lunch, while seating is available. Guests must be Dutchess County residents over age 60. Registration closes on Friday, October 9th, or whenever the event reaches capacity, whichever comes first. Carpooling is strongly suggested.

OFA Public Comment Forums in September Our two annual Public Comment Forums offer a unique opportunity for older adults and caregivers to speak directly to OFA leaders and members of the OFA Advisory Board, about issues that matter the most to you, whether it’s housing, transportation, OFA services or another concern on your mind. Tuesday, September 22nd, 10:30 a.m., OFA Friendship Center – Poughkeepsie, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie Thursday, September 24th, 10:30 a.m., OFA Friendship Center - East Fishkill, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction If you are unable to attend a Public Comment Forum, you can email your comments to ofa@dutchessny.gov, or mail written comments to the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

All Public Comment Forum locations are handicapped accessible.

Join OFA at the ‘Golden Gathering’ (Sat 9/26) County Executive Sue Serino and her partners – NYS Senators Rob Rolison and Michelle Hinchey, as well as the Dutchess County Office for the Aging – invite Dutchess County’s older adults to the 2026 Golden Gathering on September 26th at Arlington High School in Lagrangeville (1157 NY 55 – carpooling strongly suggested).

The popular Golden Gathering is a free event offering older adults and their families easy access to dozens of services, resources and community organizations. It brings together more than 80 exhibitors to help attendees stay connected, healthy and informed. Learn more at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Dep.../County-Executive/47613.htm>.

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