



Board of Elections staff, county partners express confidence in voting process

Compiled by Kate Goldsmith

For the last few weeks, the Dutchess County Board of Elections and its county partners have been proactively distributing information to the public to ensure a smooth process this election cycle and to maintain voter confidence in that process. Early voting gets under way this week on Saturday, Oct. 24 (details at the end of this article), followed by the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

The Dutchess County Board of Elections met earlier this month with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Emergency Response as part of its ongoing coordination with county partners in preparation for the 2026 General Election.

"These planning conversations are a standard part of election administration – ensuring that all county agencies are aligned, communication channels are established, and that everything is in place for a smooth Election Day experience for Dutchess County voters," said Democratic Elections Commissioner Lisa Jessup.

The Board distributed a recent advisory from the NYS Attorney General's office regarding voting

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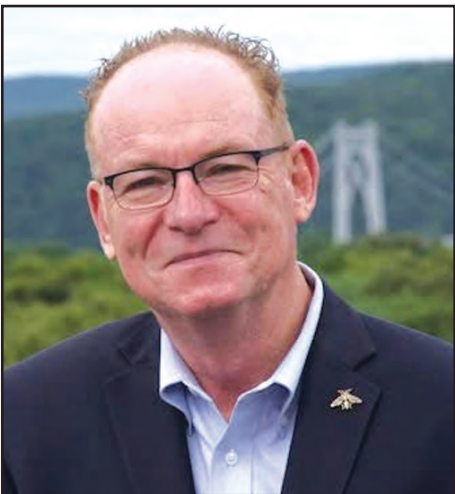
Rolison faces challenge of Kaul in race for District 39 senate seat

By Curtis Schmidt

Incumbent New York State Republican Senator Rob Rolison (39th District) faces the challenge of Democrat Lisa Kaul in the upcoming election.

Rolison is currently serving his second full term, having won re-election in November 2024 for the 2025-2026 legislative session. After a career in law enforcement, he served in the Dutchess County Legislature for several years and as mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie.

Kaul has served in the Dutchess County Legislature for nearly three years, since January 2024. She won election in November 2023 for District 6 (Town of Poughkeepsie), took office in January 2024 and won re-election in November of 2025.



Rob Rolison



Lisa Kaul

Both Rolison and Kaul gave responses to questions via email.

Kaul lists qualifications

Kaul gave the following responses when asked about her qualifications for the role.

"As a new American and a mother who chose to make the Hudson Valley home, I understand the importance of knowing that your voice matters and that you can use it to shape your community's future. That belief has guided my work as an educator, community organizer, and county legislator, bringing people together

to solve problems and deliver results.

"My work in the County Legislature has given me firsthand insight into the infrastructure needs and services that require greater state investment. I have a record of building coalitions and working across the aisle to get things done. As a member of the Senate Majority, I would be better positioned to advocate for our communities and secure the resources they need.

"I am running because the Hudson Valley families need leadership that understands their challenges and has the vision and ability to deliver. I am ready to hit the ground running in Albany to lower

utility costs, expand affordable housing, strengthen our infrastructure, protect our environment, defend workers' rights, and improve access to healthcare. I've spent my career turning community needs into action and I'll bring that experience to Albany to build a Hudson Valley where every family can thrive."

Rolison lists accomplishments

When asked about his major accomplishments over the last term, Rolison gave the following responses.

"I'm proud of several accomplishments, particularly our work to make

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Hinchey, Sheehan reprise contest for 41st State Senate seat

Compiled by
Kate Goldsmith



Michelle Hinchey



Patrick Sheehan

Once again, Democratic incumbent Michelle Hinchey and Republican challenger Patrick Sheehan are competing for the New York Senate 41st District seat. The two last vied for the position in 2024.

SD-41 includes all of Columbia and Greene counties, part of Ulster County and most of Dutchess County.

Michelle Hinchey appears on the Democratic and Working Party ballot lines. The Northern

Dutchess News asked the senator two questions. Her responses follow.

What do you see as your main accomplishments over the last term?

My time in the State Senate has shown that I bring the energy and creativity to get things done and improve life for Northern Dutchess residents. This year, 61 of my bills passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, and throughout my tenure I've had 123 bills signed into law. I'm fighting for what

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No family should have to choose between putting food on the table and paying the bills. I will expand access to nutritious food, and support solutions that help families make ends meet.

✓ Road Safety

I will push for stronger traffic enforcement, action against speeding, and practical measures to protect pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

✓ Housing that's affordable

I will champion housing solutions that expand affordability, protect working families, and help our seniors and young people remain in the communities they call home.

**Early Voting Starts October 24th
Election Day – November 3rd**

***Trish*
PRUNTY**
Democrat for
Dutchess County Legislature
Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley

County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

Compiled by Curtis Schmidt

Control of the Dutchess County Legislature has always been a game of numbers. This year, that “game” (election) has several interesting numbers.

The Legislature is divided into 25 districts. This year, legislators face challenges from opponents in 17 districts and eight have no opponents. The unopposed are all Democrats. Democrats have candidates in all 25 districts, while Republicans have candidates in 17 districts.

In District 6 (Town of Poughkeepsie), the position is currently held by Democrat Lisa Kaul; however, she is running for NYS State Senate, District 39. The Democratic candidate in District 6 is Tonya Speed and Republicans do not have a candidate - making it an open seat. The other open seat (no incumbent) is in District 10 (City of Poughkeepsie) where Democrat Nakia Simmons faces Republican Shanta A. Persad Saeteros. Incumbent Randy Johnson is not running.

Early Voting begins on Saturday, Oct. 24. The general election is Nov. 3.

Last year, Democrats won control of the Legislature by a 15-10 margin. Before that, the last time the Democratic Party held a majority in the County Legislature was in 2008 and prior to that was in 1977.

But New York's Even Year Election Law made that win for Democrats a one-year win. Candidates are running again this year for two-year terms.

For this report, incumbents and challengers were asked to provide information on their background and why they are running for election/re-election and what they see their major goals for the upcoming term.

Incumbents are listed first. In open districts (no incumbent), candidates are listed alphabetically. In the Northern Dutchess News, we are providing information on candidates for districts representing in the towns of Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Milan, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale, Washington and the villages of Millbrook, Millerton, Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Tivoli, plus the Town and City of Poughkeepsie. Information on the remaining districts is given in the Southern Dutchess News.

TREVOR REDL – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 1, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE
 What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

Here's what I've campaigned on in 2025: Countywide Housing Plan and Accountability Framework; More walkable, bikeable, safe streets; Invest in skills and trades of tomorrow at DCC, including increased access to special education; A healthier environment.

Here's what I've accomplished:
Passed the Dutchess County Housing
Plan & Accountability Framework;

Passed tax incentives for Accessory Dwelling Units; Deployed \$7 million from the housing trust fund; Secured hundreds of thousands for veteran housing; Tens of thousands of dollars in state grants secured to install pedestrian safety upgrades; Increased compensation for early childhood special education preschool providers.; Supporting DCCs mission to expand and invest in skills and trades; Supported a grant that would preserve hundreds of acres of land.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My goals are to create a county we can all afford, safe & productive streets, better EMS coverage, and protecting our environment. Talking with my constituents, their top priority is housing affordability and options. It's not just availability of homes, but ensuring we can offer diverse types of residences. From apartments for seniors to age in place to single-family starter homes — these are all in high demand. To be an area where everyone can thrive, we need to plan accordingly, so I put forward legislation to create a county-wide Housing Plan and the Housing Working Group. Housing is inextricably linked to our other priority issues, and it's critical to the economic success of our region.

I'm running for re-election because there is so much more to be done. I know my district street-by-street and will continue delivering for my constituents. I'll always fight to solve issues and be transparent about challenges.

**BOB GORMAN – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 1, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE**
What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I have been a local business owner for many years. I know the opportunities and the challenges that come with running a business and making a life in our community. Having previously served for two years in the Dutchess County Legislature, I have also gained a keen understanding of the issues that face this community. My experience in the community, as a public servant, and as a small business owner uniquely prepare me to tackle the challenges that we will face in the coming years.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

Cost of living, taxes, and affordability are the top issues facing our community today. As the cost of living continues to rise, local government must do what it can to help ease this burden. As a small business owner, I know the challenges that are presented by ever increasing costs. This is why in my time in the Legislature, I voted to reduce the property tax rate in the 2025 and 2026 budget. At the same time, I voted to invest significantly in programs to tackle affordability, including allocating more than \$2 million to our Housing Trust Fund.

Communities across New York State

are facing an EMS crisis, and in Dutchess County, we took action to address this issue. When I was a member of the Legislature, I voted for a first of its kind program that invested \$2 million annually in supplemental EMS coverage in Dutchess County. The program has been successful, putting ALS and BLS units on the road and transporting more than six patients a day at present. If elected, continued investment in this program, as well as exploring long term solutions, will be one of my top priorities.

I am also a strong proponent of public safety. In my time in office, I voted for crucial funding for our Dutchess County Drug Task Force. We must continue to invest in the Drug Task Force and our law enforcement personnel to ensure that our community is safe and that people are able to thrive.

EMMA ARNOFF – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 2, LAGRANGE, PLEASANT
VALLEY, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE
What do you see as your major accom-
plishments during the most recent term?

In my first year in office, I am proud of what our Legislature has accomplished to make Dutchess County more affordable, safer, and more supportive. As Chair of the Family and Human Services Committee, I have focused on issues that directly impact children and families.

I spearheaded a resolution increasing pay for 4,410 Preschool Special Education Related Service Providers to bring compensation in line with surrounding counties. This will help us

recruit and retain providers in Dutchess County, where nearly 200 children are currently on a waitlist for mandated special education services.

I also spearheaded a resolution expanding Domestic Violence education for elected officials, ensuring those entrusted with serving our communities are better equipped to support victims and survivors and help prevent further violence.

When we support our youngest residents and their families, we strengthen our entire community and build a better future for Dutchess County.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

I am running for re-election to continue delivering real, tangible improvements in people's lives - from lowering costs and expanding affordable housing to strengthening public safety and supporting families.

Working with first responders, service providers, and community leaders, I will strengthen emergency preparedness and public safety while ensuring people experiencing mental health crises receive appropriate care. I will work to protect the stability, accessibility, and affordability of the communities we call home.

I will hold county government accountable, protect residents' privacy, and ensure new technology serves the public—not works against it.

Together, we can build a Dutchess County where families can afford to live and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Recent U.S. moves favoring Russia are decisions that ‘will live in infamy’

To the editor:
In betrayal of everything this nation has ever stood for, this President - enabled by Republicans in Congress and the Oligarch Elon Musk - has turned America into an ally of Russia and an enemy of the democratically-elected country of Ukraine, which was attacked and has been fighting for its life against Russia for the last four-and-half years.
That we have been starving Ukraine of Patriot missiles is bad enough and nothing new - we’ve been doing this for the entirety of this administration, but now - in a decision which will live in infamy - we’ve crippled the Starlink system specifically over Ukraine with speed limitations rendering their home-grown drone defenses ineffective.
Putin’s goal is to make Ukraine unlivable this winter thereby prompting a migration crisis that will take down the rest of Europe, and America is helping him do this (even though Europe has been a committed ally of ours and that we know that Russia has been helping Iran in the war with America).
Add to this the deal to allow Russia to sell its diesel fuel, which will not affect the prices paid by Americans at the pump, and Trump’s exempting Russia from the sanctions recently passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, we see a damning portrait being painted of what was once called, “The Leader of the Free World.”
This is the polar opposite of American Greatness, and Republicans are enabling this. Until we vote them out, we will continue to behave in this shameful manner. The mid-terms are upon us. You know what you must do.

Mark Lagus
Town of Northeast

Reasons to vote for Urban-Mead for Hyde Park Town Supervisor

To the editor:
It’s understandable that most of the attention this election season is focused on races for the Senate and House of Representatives, but those elected to local offices will have just as much, if not more, effect on our daily lives. To that end, I’m writing to recommend voting for Russell Urban-Mead for Hyde Park Town Supervisor.
I’ve known Russell for 25 years, and have always been impressed with his thoughtfulness, dedication, and desire to hear all options and opinions before making a decision. His work experience as a project manager, has shown him to be adept at organization, budgeting, and leadership. His desire for open governance, where every voice can be heard, is shown by his commitment to bring back workshop meetings, where issues before the town can be openly discussed by the Town Board and the public can have a chance to comment on pending decisions.
He is also committed to having all state-required financial reporting submitted on time and available to the public. Maintaining and improving public infrastructure is one of town government’s most important jobs, and to this end Russell will focus on upgrading water systems along Route 9G, and to conferring with business owners along Route 9 on bringing a long-proposed sewer district to a vote.
When voters in Hyde Park vote this November, I hope they will seriously consider voting for Russell Urban-Mead.

David Lund
Staatsburg

Michelle Hinchey ‘brings sanity, caring and responsible ideas’

To the editor:
In the midst of the political chaos we have been witnessing on the national stage, we can take a deep breath knowing that we, in our area, have a leader who brings sanity, caring and responsible ideas that help all of us. We are lucky to have Michelle Hinchey representing our 41st District in the New York State Senate. She has proved herself a leader who gets things done.
She has expanded access to healthcare and mental health services, created more affordable housing, upgraded aging infrastructure, and protected the Hudson River from corporate polluters. This is not a woman who sits still.
One of her current priorities is addressing data centers and the effects of AI. She is opposed to data centers that would increase utility rates and negatively affect our local resources, particularly our water. She helped pass legislation that created a statewide moratorium on building new data centers. Michelle was also one of the first legislators in the country to call out the corporate expansion of AI, again protecting us from being laid off and replaced.
There is only one other politician that has had this kind of drive to protect us, and that is Michelle’s late father, Congressman Maurice Hinchey. Compassion and commitment floods the veins of these two, who leave us stronger even in the days of great difficulty. I hope you will get out and vote for Michelle.
Looking forward to better days,

Judith Garten
Port Ewen

Russel Urban-Mead has wealth of experience to lead Town of Hyde Park

To the editor:
Russell Urban-Mead, the Hyde Park Democratic Committee’s candidate for Town Supervisor, served on the Town Board over 20 years ago as a young father and busy professional. He is now ready to continue his heart for service to the people and place of Hyde Park.
Russell has held senior management roles in the corporate world. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the private sector, managing projects, people and fiscal outcomes. I believe he will be a superior town supervisor, bringing practical problem-solving, common sense, civility and good governance procedures to the office. I am ready for a supervisor who has respect for residents during board meetings and practices transparency in local government. We are fortunate to have such a worthy and valuable candidate in Russell Urban-Mead.
Nancy Keeney
Staatsburg

POLITICAL LETTER GUIDELINES

Deadlines for ads and letters are always the Friday prior to the Wednesday on which you want ther letter to run. All papers are published on Wednesdays.
Please note - We will NOT accept negative letters (criticizing opponents) on the final publication date prior to the election.
Letters should be 300 words or less and must include the phone number of the writer for verification purposes (we will not publish phone numbers).

Renegades clubhouse manager Ryan Shute named SAL Home Clubhouse Manager of Year

Major League Baseball announced last week that Hudson Valley Renegades clubhouse manager Ryan Shute has been selected as the 2026 South Atlantic League Home Clubhouse Manager of the Year.
“It’s an honor to be named the 2026 South Atlantic League Home Clubhouse Manager of the Year. It’s another reminder of just how fortunate I am to be able to do what I do and show up to work everyday at a baseball field,” said Shute.
“I’d like to thank the New York Yankees for continuing to trust me year in and year out with their players and coaches. I’d like to thank those players and coaches, not just from this season, but all

of them over the course of my time in this organization, for making my time easier and more enjoyable. And lastly, a big thank you to the Hudson Valley Renegades front office for being so supportive of our players, coaches and staffs throughout the first six years of this partnership.”
The 2026 season was Shute’s sixth year as the Renegades Home Clubhouse Manager and eighth in the Yankees organization, previously working for the Short-Season A Staten Island Yankees in 2019 and Rookie-level Pulaski in 2018. Before joining the Yankees, Shute was the Visiting Clubhouse Manager for the Carolina Mudcats during the 2017 season.
A native of the Hudson Valley and

2011 graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Shute spent four summers as a Stadium Operations and Groundskeeping Assistant for the Renegades from 2012-15. He graduated from Saint Leo University in Florida with a bachelor’s degree in Sports Administration.
“This is such a well-deserved honor for Ryan. His positive impact goes way beyond the clubhouse,” said Renegades manager Aaron Bossi. “His care for our team is evident every day, and he takes tremendous pride in making the clubhouse a place where everyone feels at home and has what they need to succeed. We’re fortunate to have him and proud to

see his hard work recognized.”
The winner of the award was selected by Major League Baseball with nominations made by individuals across the industry, including field managers and general managers.
Shute becomes the third member of the Renegades support staff to garner a major South Atlantic League award, joining Jonathan Becker who was named 2022 SAL Athletic Trainer of the Year by the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society (PBATS) and Danny Smith who was named 2022 SAL Strength & Conditioning Coach of the Year by the Professional Baseball Strength & Conditioning Coaches Society (PBSCCS).

County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

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**ANNE BURGER – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 2, LAGRANGE, PLEASANT
VALLEY, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE**
What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

My experience in serving the Town of Poughkeepsie as a board member for four years is a major qualification that I will bring to the role of legislator. I bring an understanding of the realities of creating legislation, working with the varied stakeholders involved and the true implications to all people in the community.

I voted on and extensively researched several important issues during my time on the board including, battery energy storage, EMS solutions in a town of 45k, dispensary legislation, workforce housing zones and good cause eviction just to name a few. I sat on the town budget and personnel committees which included robust salary negotiations and difficult decision making.

Moreover, I am an independent thinker and bring an objective lens to decision making. I try to look at all outcomes and perspectives of a situation before coming to a conclusion. I'm pragmatic and sensible and I have no agenda.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My major goals coming into the legislature are to find ways to control county spending and find ways to offer tax relief to residents. People are looking for more ways to keep money in their pocket so they can spend on things that matter to them. This tax relief can be tackled in different ways, increase tourism tax perhaps, decrease utility tax, eliminate spending on programs that aren't working. However, none of these ideas will work without both sides of the political aisle working together. Just tune into a legislature meeting now, the division is palpable and counterproductive.

Secondly, the county needs to address housing costs and lack of housing. As Dutchess County continues to grow in population the need for housing continues. This means we need builders to build so there is an opportunity to streamline permitting processes, offer incentives to builders and rehab old buildings.

**MICHAEL POLASEK – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 3, LAGRANGE**

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

One of my proudest accomplishments was sponsoring the successful amendment to the 2026 County Budget that preserved the sales tax exemption on clothing and footwear under \$110, protecting valuable savings for Dutchess County families.

I also supported the bipartisan gas tax cap and a county budget that reduced the property tax rate while maintaining essential services. Locally, LaGrange received \$125,000 for ADA-accessible bathrooms at LaGrange Park.

I was also proud to support funding for Dutchess County's REV250 initiatives, including a grant to the LaGrange Historical Society for its Freedom Day celebration, helping bring our nation's history to life for local families.

As Minority Leader, I've remained committed to fiscal responsibility, government transparency, and ensuring LaGrange residents have a strong voice in county government.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My top priority will be responsible financial management. That means carefully reviewing spending, setting priorities, and ensuring county government delivers essential services efficiently while remaining mindful of taxpayers.

I will continue supporting economic development that creates jobs, strengthens small businesses, and encourages investment in Dutchess County. This includes supporting expanded skilled trades and workforce training programs at Dutchess Community College.

Public safety will remain a priority, including road safety and emergency services.

I also want to build on investments in our parks and recreational facilities, improving accessibility for residents of all ages and abilities.

Government transparency, accountability, and balancing the needs of residents and businesses will continue to guide my decisions.

Most importantly, I will remain accessible to constituents, listen to their concerns, and work toward practical solutions that preserve the quality of life we value in Dutchess County.

**DAVID SIEGEL – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 3, LAGRANGE**

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I'm running for the Dutchess County Legislature in District 3 because our community deserves a voice that listens and delivers. I've lived in LaGrange for 32 years. I've watched our town grow — more families, more traffic, more needs — and I know firsthand that what worked even 5 years ago won't cut it anymore. I have been attending Town meetings for several years and provide a newsletter regarding Town and County issues to 300 subscribers. LaGrange has seen its fair share of controversy in recent years and it continues. As County Legislator, I'll stand with the residents of our town to demand responsible development. I'll fight to lower the cost of living, strongly support our first responders, work to address the housing affordability crisis, and advocate to expand social services so everyone has a fair chance. I'll make sure LaGrange is never an afterthought at the County Legislature.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If elected, I look forward to being a good steward of our tax dollars. I'll work to help create a responsible budget that works for the people of Dutchess County. I'll push for financial transparency to ensure our taxpayers are getting maximum value. I'll support funding for public health and safety programs. I'll work to secure funding for district initiatives and specifically look for solutions regarding the serious traffic problems that plague the county and state roads in LaGrange. I'd like to try and expand public transportation in LaGrange, which many people, particularly seniors could benefit from. Additional goals of mine are working to expand the county's Mental Health Services and make improvements to the county's EMS services. Finally, I want to listen to my constituents by building a strong 2-way communication channel to keep them informed, listen to their concerns and address local problems and issues.

**BRENDAN LAWLER – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 4, HYDE PARK,
TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE**
No opponent – Did not respond.

**ANNA SHAH - DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 5, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE**

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my first term, I have focused on delivering results, protecting taxpayers, and holding government accountable.

When the Town of Poughkeepsie Police were improperly billed \$315,000 for VESTA 911 upgrades, I challenged it and fought for grant funding to protect taxpayers from that expense.

Recognizing the documented connection between animal cruelty, domestic violence, and other crimes against people, I established and co-chair the Animal Welfare and Community Stewardship Committee to strengthen humane law and animal cruelty coordination to protect people and pets.

I supported \$7 million for affordable housing, sponsored property-tax relief for

accessory dwelling units, sponsored increased preschool special education reimbursement rates, and authored legislation challenging ICE and reaffirming Dutchess, as a welcoming community for all, which received bipartisan support.

Beyond legislation, I am proud of being a fearless, independent voice who asks difficult questions, works across party lines, and regularly recognizes the contributions of community partners such as law enforcement K9 partners, Dutchess Co. Interfaith Council and animal rescues among others.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My priorities are affordability, protecting taxpayers, and strengthening public safety through meaningful animal welfare reforms.

I am particularly committed to improving humane law enforcement efforts. Recognizing the documented connection between animal cruelty, domestic violence, and other violent crimes, I am working closely with the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, animal control, and rescue organizations to address significant gaps. My goal is to establish coordinated protocols and standard operating procedures that promote early intervention, accountability, and prevention of animal cruelty to protect both people and pets.

I will also advocate for responsible spending, expanded housing opportunities, and greater government transparency.

As an attorney, I bring the ability to scrutinize complex records, do my due diligence, and am not afraid to ask difficult questions. My first-term record reflects that commitment, both on and off the legislative floor.

I value collaboration across party

lines, but remain willing to challenge questionable decisions and stand alone when necessary if it is best for my constituents. I will listen to my constituents, my door is always open.

**TONY D'AQUANNI – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 5, TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE**

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

For over 30 years, I have been a homeowner and award-winning businessman right here in the Town of Poughkeepsie. I am a compassionate and common-sense leader, and have championed our environment, public safety, our veterans, and our seniors.

I believe in putting money where it belongs; back in our communities so that our citizens and small businesses can flourish.

When I previously served in the legislature, I was part of the caucus that: Lowered County Property Tax Rate by 2.7%; Sponsored local law to protect local aquifer and water sources; Voted for \$millions in EMS services; Supported \$150,000 in microgrants and transportation funds for our veterans; Voted in favor of \$500,000 in Municipal Innovation Grants for programs for our seniors; As chairman of the Environment Committee, championed \$75,000 for waste reduction.

When I previously served in the legislature, I was proud to be chair and serve in the following committees: Environment Committee, Chair; Budget, Finance & Personnel Committee; Family & Human Services Committee; Airport Advisory Committee, Nonvoting / Ex Officio Member; Veterans Affairs Committee, Member

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County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

continued from page 5

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If re-elected, I pledge to continue to represent Dutchess County residents with the same common-sense approach to decision making that serves the best interest of all of our neighbors.

TONYA SPEED – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 6 – TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE
No opponent – Did not respond.

Note: The position is currently held by Democrat Lisa Kaul; however, she is running for NYS State Senate, District 39.

LEW DARROW – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 7 – HYDE PARK,
PLEASANT VALLEY

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my first term, I have focused on practical improvements that serve our residents. I supported updating the county’s 911 emergency communications system. As a longtime volunteer firefighter and past chief, I understand how critical reliable communication is when seconds count.

I also supported the bipartisan creation of the Animal Welfare and Community Stewardship Committee. With the Dutchess County SPCA located in my district, this issue has particular importance to our community.

Closer to home, I have helped residents navigate concerns about rising utility costs and brought attention to speeding concerns on county roads in Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley.

I’m proud to have brought my lifelong commitment to community service into this role—being accessible, responding to concerns, and working across party lines. For me, accomplishments begin with listening to residents and making sure their voices are heard.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If reelected, my major goals are to ease the burden on taxpayers, strengthen public safety, and ensure residents have a voice in county government.

I will advocate for responsible spending and careful review of county expenses while protecting essential services. As a longtime first responder, I will continue

making emergency communications and the challenges facing our EMS system priorities.

I also want to strengthen support for seniors and veterans, encourage opportunities for our youth, and work with local officials to address speeding and other concerns affecting everyday life in Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley. **Seniors:** I will work to make sure seniors are aware of and able to access the programs and services available to them. That includes helping residents navigate county resources, transportation options, property-tax relief programs, and other assistance. I will also advocate for policies that allow seniors to remain safely and independently in their homes whenever possible. **Veterans:** I will work to improve awareness of veterans’ benefits and make it easier for veterans and their families to connect with county, state, and federal resources. I will also support local organizations that provide services, camaraderie, and assistance to veterans in our community. **Youth:** I want to encourage positive opportunities through recreation, sports, mentoring, job-readiness programs, volunteer opportunities, and partnerships with local organizations. Giving young people constructive opportunities helps build stronger communities and gives them reasons to stay connected to where they live.

County government should work for the people who live here, not operate behind closed doors.

I will make accessibility and communication a priority. Residents should know what their county government is doing, why decisions are being made, and how those decisions affect their families and communities. Above all, I will remain accessible, follow through on residents’ concerns, and work across party lines to find practical solutions. My approach is simple: our community, my priority.

TRISH PRUNTY- DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 7 – TOWN OF
PLEASANT VALLEY, HYDE PARK
What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I have extensive experience as a non-profit leader and have a sense of what’s important to people in Dutchess County.

I’ve supported many organizations through community advocacy, fundrais-

ing and public policy helping those that need it most. I’ve spent years working on the county’s most pressing challenges, including affordability of our community college, mental health, youth services, women’s reproductive health, domestic violence and the needs of vulnerable families.

As a fundraiser, I know how important it is to have a realistic budget and make sound funding decisions. I’ve advocated for public funding, managed complex initiatives and found solutions to difficult problems. My time on the Planning Board in Pleasant Valley helped me see the steps needed to make a vision come to life.

Most importantly, I am committed to listening to residents and will work to make Dutchess a more affordable place to live.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

After talking with residents in my district, I have learned that food insecurity is a major issue. Our seniors are struggling and don’t have enough to eat and 4,500 children in our county don’t know where their next meal is coming from. If elected, I will propose legislation to create a program to recover and resource food from grocery stores and restaurants and get it to families in need.

Affordable housing is the foundation of a thriving County, and we must act now to create more housing that working families, seniors and young people can afford. We must cut barriers and incentivize responsible development.

Public safety on our roads is a huge problem. Many families live along busy streets, and we must do more in conjunction with the sheriff’s and local police to slow down traffic and make the roads safe. I will work diligently on this issue with the Public Safety Committee of the Legislature.

CRAIG BRENDLI - DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 8 – CITY, TOWN
OF POUGHKEEPSIE
(Running unopposed)

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

Our greatest accomplishments reflect a shared commitment to making Dutchess County Government more accountable and responsive to the people that

we serve.

Working with my legislative colleagues, I have advocated for meaningful changes to address homelessness, including a future street outreach team to connect people with services and address community concerns. I also supported increased compensation for preschool special education providers to help recruit and retain the professionals children and families depend on.

To help residents facing rising costs, I supported capping the county’s sales tax on gasoline and continuing that relief. I also supported additional funding for our Housing Trust Fund to create and develop affordable housing throughout Dutchess County.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

As the legislator for District 8, I believe delivering results starts with listening and serving with compassion, empathy, and flexibility. I am committed to responsible spending, effective services, and a government that puts residents first.

BARRINGTON ATKINS - DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 9 – CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

As Majority Leader, I’ve worked to make sure Poughkeepsie has a strong voice in decisions affecting all of Dutchess County.

One of my proudest accomplishments was introducing four resolutions addressing homelessness. The Oakley Street shelter was moving forward, regardless of my vote. I fought to secure protections for the surrounding community, while requiring the County to take responsibility for homelessness beyond Poughkeepsie. My resolutions established a county-wide shelter study, expanded street outreach, required a written action plan, and created a long-term homelessness council.

I’ve also been part of a legislative majority that advanced affordable housing, property tax relief for accessory dwelling units, protections for working families, investments in early childhood services and greater government oversight.

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Board of Elections staff, county partners express confidence in voting process

continued from cover

rights and the 2026 election, information on all polling locations as well as the different types of observers allowed in polling locations. Visit <https://ag.ny.gov/> to learn more.

Sheriff Kirk Imperati said, “As Sheriff I take my public safety responsibilities very seriously, and that includes helping to ensure that every voter in Dutchess County is able to exercise their right to vote in a safe and peaceful manner. I am proud to partner with the Board of Elections and Department of Emergency Response in this effort, and as a result a well-coordinated plan is in place to protect the safety and security of Dutchess County voters as they head to the polls this fall.”

“Dutchess County voters should feel confident that their elections are well-organized, well-supported, and in good hands,” said Republican Commissioner Erik Haight. “We are proud to work alongside outstanding county partners who share our commitment to making sure every voter has a safe, accessible, and positive experience at the polls.”

The meeting also addressed early voting and election day security as well as contingency plans for any interruption at a polling site.

“The Department of Emergency Response proudly partners with the

Board of Elections and the Sheriff’s Office ahead of each general election to ensure that all aspects of public safety are well coordinated,” said Commissioner William H. Beale.

“We are proud to be the only county in the state with vote centers, meaning voters can vote at any polling location within their city or town on Election Day,” said Jessup, “This is not only a convenience for voters, but a built-in back-up plan in case of any emergency where a poll site experiences a disruption for any reason.”

Early voting in Dutchess County begins Oct. 24 at seven sites around the county. Voting in the general election will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Voters are encouraged to visit <https://elections.dutchessny.gov/> for more information.

The last day to register to vote in the 2026 election is Oct. 24.

DC Board of Elections offers guidance to absentee and vote-by-mail voters

The Dutchess County Board of Elections is emphasizing, for absentee or vote-by-mail voters, alternative methods for delivering completed ballots, beyond the United States Postal Service, such as using drop boxes at early voting sites and poll sites on Election Day and over-the-

counter absentee voting at the Board of Elections.

“Nothing has changed in New York State election law or at the post office with respect to voting by mail in New York State, but we do want to encourage those who can, to use other methods of returning their ballots,” said Jessup. “Postal delays have been an ongoing concern and we want to make sure that voters understand the alternatives. Voters who must mail back their ballot should do as soon as possible and do so at a post office where they can obtain a postmark.”

Haight added, “I’ve always encouraged voters to show up in person either during Early Voting or on Election Day. Once the voter’s ballot is inside the voting machine it is 100 percent secure.”

Voters may also request an absentee ballot over the counter at the Board of Elections during business hours, fill out the ballot, and return it over the counter. The Dutchess County Board of Elections is located at 112 Delafield Street, Poughkeepsie and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Absentee ballots may also be dropped at the Board of Elections or at any Dutchess County poll site during early voting or on election day and may be dropped by anyone.

Said Jessup, “There are no restrictions

on who can drop off your sealed ballot, so if you are unable to get to a ballot drop location, it is fine for you to give your ballot to someone you trust to drop it for you.”

Visit elections.dutchessny.gov for sample ballots, polling locations and more information.

Early Voting information
Saturday, Oct. 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 26, noon-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28, noon-8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Drive, Rhinebeck
Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill
Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie
Cornell Cooperative Extension, 2715 Route 44, Millbrook
Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie
Board of Elections Training Center, 4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park
Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls

County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

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Leadership isn't simply about casting votes. It's about making difficult decisions, holding government accountable, and ensuring the people you represent aren't forgotten in the process.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My priorities remain focused on public safety, affordability, housing, education, and government accountability.

I want to see Dutchess County make meaningful investments in neighborhoods, expand affordable housing opportunities and address the rising costs facing working families.

As an educator and licensed social worker, I understand that public safety requires more than enforcement. We must invest in prevention, mental health services, youth programming and opportunities that keep young people on a positive path.

I will continue pushing for a county-wide approach to homelessness, with clear expectations and measurable results.

As Majority Leader, I also want to strengthen oversight of county spending, protect taxpayers, and ensure government resources reach the communities that need them.

My commitment is to the City of Poughkeepsie, but my responsibility extends to every community in Dutchess County. I intend to continue leading with that understanding.

**AARON SCOTT - REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 9 – CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE**
What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I am a lifelong Poughkeepsie resident with a background in business management, economics, and law.

As someone who has served our community on the local level, I understand that our residents don't need more empty promises - we need accountable, common-sense results.

At the County Legislature, I will use my business and legal experience to deliver real tax relief, make our neighborhoods safer, hold drug dealers accountable, and address homelessness with structured support and job training. I am running to ensure District 9 has a strong, pro-active voice fighting for our families every day.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

In the first 100 days as County Legislator for District 9, the priority is delivering accountable, common-sense results for Poughkeepsie.

The initial 30 days will focus on partnering with law enforcement to crack

down on street crime and drug trafficking, while conducting a thorough fiscal audit of county spending to target property tax relief for seniors and working families.

In the second month, efforts will pivot to the homelessness and addiction crises by advancing a framework for transitional housing that integrates mandatory mental health resources, addiction treatment, and job training.

By day 100, the focus will turn toward expanding county-funded youth development programs to keep kids engaged and safe, alongside securing capital investments to fix local roads, update water infrastructure, and address neighborhood blight.

Through this clear timeline, the goal is to replace rhetoric with real solutions that protect neighborhoods, respect taxpayers, and build stronger opportunities across the community.

**NAKIA SIMMONS – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 10 – CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE**
What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

My greatest qualifications for this seat are my lived experiences, my commitment to advocacy and my deep connection to the community I hope to represent. As a mother raising a family in Poughkeepsie, I understand firsthand the challenges working families face, from housing insecurity and rising living costs to concerns about public safety.

My experience advocating for individuals facing mental health challenges has taught me the importance of listening, compassion and connecting people with resources. As a family member of a victim of gun violence, I understand the devastating impact violence has on families and neighborhoods.

I believe effective representation requires more than understanding how government works. It requires understanding the people government serves. I bring a perspective shaped by real challenges, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to finding solutions. My goal is to ensure that everyday residents have a voice in county government and that their concerns are never overlooked.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My major goals for the upcoming term are to address housing affordability and homelessness, improve public safety, expand economic opportunities and make county government more accessible to the residents of District 10.

I will advocate for increased investments in the Dutchess County Housing Trust Fund to support affordable and

workforce housing. I also want to expand public transportation beyond the Route 9 corridor, connecting more residents to employment opportunities and essential services throughout the county.

Public safety will remain a priority, including addressing the conditions affecting our neighborhoods and ensuring residents and businesses feel safe. I will also support efforts to revitalize Main Street and strengthen our local economy.

Equally important is being an accessible and accountable representative. I plan to hold quarterly district meetings, attend city ward meetings, and maintain open communication with constituents. My goal is to deliver meaningful progress that residents can see and experience firsthand.

**SHANTA A. PERSAD SAETEROS – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 10 – CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE**
What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

As a homeowner and mother of two young daughters, I'm deeply invested in our community and along with my extensive experience in government, health-care leadership, human resources and business administration, I am dedicated to collaborating with colleagues on both sides of the aisle in reviewing, shaping and advancing legislation and investment, with thoughtful oversight of county infrastructure and capital projects that benefit all residents of Dutchess County.

My candidacy is a direct response to the concerns of neighbors who no longer feel safe walking their own streets, business owners struggling to maintain their livelihoods, and parents worried about the future of their children. Let's together build a city where every resident feels safe, seen and supported. A primary pillar

of my platform is a comprehensive and compassionate approach to the city's homelessness crisis. I'll move beyond band-aid solutions toward a model that confronts the issue head-on while focusing on healing. My vision includes breaking the cycle of "revolving door" policies by implementing long-term support systems that offer those in need a genuine path toward a healthy, stable and dignified life.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

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

Affordability: Working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the County Tax Rate remains low and exploring every available initiative to make Dutchess County more affordable for families, seniors, veterans, residents with exceptional abilities, businesses and working class residents. Top focus would be looking into ways we can assist with more affordable housing, easing the burden of high and rising gas prices, inflation and high utilities costs.

Economic Resilience: Supporting local businesses as the backbone of the City of Poughkeepsie economy. My top priority is to make our district and - by extension - our entire City of Poughkeepsie and County safe. If we make our city safer, we can all thrive, grow and our quality of life dramatically increases and we invite new businesses and patrons to enjoy all the beautiful things our city has to offer.

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Dutchess County Transportation Council to meet Oct. 28

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) will hold a virtual Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

They will have a presentation by

Dutchess County Public Transit, review local planning efforts, and discuss future presentation/training topics.

Please visit the calendar for meeting materials.

Village of Rhinebeck to hold special election Dec. 8 on LOSAP proposal

On Oct. 13, the Village of Rhinebeck Board of Trustees held a public meeting and passed Resolution#10132026-01 to establish a Service Award Program, known as LOSAP, for active volunteer firefighter members of the Rhinebeck Fire Department. The Board of Trustees then approved a date to hold a referendum to vote on the resolution, which is

required by law.

This special election will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from noon to 9 p.m. upstairs at the Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market St., Rhinebeck.

Program details can be found at <https://villageofrhinebeck.gov/> under "Announcements" on the main page.



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Four honors, one impact: Impact PR & Communications earns National Recognition with PR and Credit Union Industry nods



The team at Impact PR & Communications will be feted alongside fellow industry leaders at PR Daily's Top Agencies Awards Luncheon in New York City on December 2. *Courtesy photo*

Underscoring its growing national profile and expertise in working with financial institutions, Impact PR & Communications, Ltd. (Impact PR), an award-winning public relations and marketing agency based in New York, recently celebrated four distinct honors this fall. The agency was named among PR Daily's Top Agencies of 2026, a prestigious recognition of noteworthy public relations and communication firms across the country. Impact PR will be feted alongside fellow industry leaders at PR Daily's Top Agencies Awards Luncheon in New York City on December 2. "Impact PR earned its spot on this year's list the hard way, through work and leadership that stood out in another competitive year for this program," said Brendan Gannon, director of marketing for Ragan and PR Daily. "Congratulations to the entire team for landing among the best agencies in the

industry this year." Adding to the agency's distinctions, Impact PR has earned three honors for its work with credit unions:

- Marketing Association of Credit Unions (MAC) - Silver Award in the Public Relations category
- PRSA Colorado - Silver Pick Award in the Media Relations category
- Credit Union Times' Luminaries Awards - finalist in the Consulting Excellence – Organizations category

"Together, these four awards showcase the influence our work has nationwide, as well as our depth of experience representing numerous credit union clients," said Filomena Fanelli, CEO and founder, Impact PR. "More than any individual recognition, we're proud of the high bar we've set, our purpose-driven approach and of the results we get for the companies we work with."

Rolison faces challenge of Kaul in race for District 39 senate seat

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New York safer and more affordable for families. One that stands out is our progress on the Lethality Assessment Program legislation. This lifesaving bill gives law enforcement a proven tool to identify domestic violence survivors at greatest risk of being killed by their abuser and immediately connect them with critical support.

"I know it works because the program began right here in Dutchess County when I was Chairman of the County Legislature. This year, we passed the legislation in both houses, and it now awaits the Governor's signature. I won't stop advocating until it becomes law.

"I'm also proud of our work to support working families through a historic \$4.5 billion statewide investment in childcare and early education, including \$20 million for a pilot program right here in Dutchess County. Access to affordable, quality childcare is essential to helping parents remain in the workforce and giving our children the strongest possible start.

"These accomplishments reflect my commitment to delivering meaningful results that protect our neighbors, support families and make the Hudson Valley a better place to live, work and raise a family."

Rolison's goals

In looking at the next term, if re-elected, Rolison gave the following reply as to his major goals.

"Our priority is always to make the Hudson Valley safer and more affordable so families can build their lives here and our children and grandchildren can afford to stay here. That means continuing to fight rising energy costs and providing families with relief they can actually feel.

"One of my top priorities will be passing my utility tax holiday legislation, which would immediately lower utility bills by suspending state taxes and fees

that are passed along to ratepayers. The bill is currently in committee, and I've heard from colleagues on both sides of the aisle who agree that it is a good idea. Families struggling to pay their bills cannot wait five or ten years for relief; they need help now. This is the only proposal currently being considered that would provide immediate, direct relief on utility bills, and I'll continue working across the aisle to get it passed."

Kaul's goals

Kaul gave the following response when asked about her major goals if elected.

"From day one, I will be laser-focused on lowering the cost of living in the Hudson Valley – so that our elderly can afford to stay in their homes, and a new generation can afford to raise their families here. That means tackling the cost of housing by protecting renters, and incentivizing building homes that ordinary people can actually afford.

"It means stopping outrageous rate-hikes by corporate utilities like Central Hudson – and cutting red-tape, so that it's cheaper and easier for people to put money-saving solar panels on their roofs. It means creating an affordable, high-quality alternative to profit-driven health insurance, so that no one risks medical debt just by getting the care they need.

"We can make the Hudson Valley a better place to live and work by investing in workforce training, mental health resources, adding more sidewalks and bike-paths to our neighborhoods, and more frequent and reliable public transit. We must modernize our aging water and sewer infrastructure and build protections for our air and water – and say no to extractive data centers. And we can make our communities safer by investing in clean, money-saving technologies, so that we can leave our kids a safe, stable climate."

Primrose Hill Farm sets second Heritage Harvest Festival Oct. 24

Primrose Hill Farm, located at 203 Fiddlers Bridge Road in Staatsburg, is hosting its second annual Heritage Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24 to raise funds for the restoration of the Creek Meeting House. The theme of the event is Managing a Historic Rural Property and runs from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Cynthia Koch, President of the Clinton Historical Society explains that "The Heritage Harvest Festival is a wonderful educational opportunity for those interested in historic preservation and land conservation. Primrose Hill Farm has been in the same Clinton family for six generations and its owner, Bob Schoch, a trustee of the Trustee of the Clinton Historical Society, is donating the pro-

ceeds to support the restoration of the historic Creek Meeting House in Clinton Corners."

This day-long event will allow visitors to understand the past, present and future of agriculture in the Town of Clinton.

Festival activities will include hayrides stopping at the location of a beacon light that guided air traffic before the advent of radar, viewing a wetland that forms the headwaters of the Crum Elbow Creek, and acres of Christmas trees under cultivation. A tour of the Dutch bank barn built in the late 1700s will explain the hygienic advantages and the labor-saving efficiency of that design and show agricultural and household antiques.

The vision for the farm's future will be

explained by Schoch and others who have been involved in the farm's permanent preservation. A genealogy workshop will be conducted using various resources from the farm's collections and the archives of the Clinton Historical Society.

A presentation is planned at the social hour and dinner by Alexandra Carr, who works with her uncle, Greg Carr, and a team on the restoration of Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park. The park was severely destroyed and lost 95% of its large mammal population during Mozambique's prolonged civil conflict. Alexandra found her life's interest at age 10 by collecting insects and exploring the natural world. A week ago, Alexandra and the team received an award at

Harvard for Transformative Conservation Leadership.

A display of antique tractors and trucks, still in use, will be shown with their haymaking attachments and the decision-making for selection and pairing of newer implements with older tractors will be explained.

Town Historian, Craig Marshall, said, "I attended this event last year and it was great to be at a working historic farm and participate in hands-on activities. I see that this year's agenda of special events is quite varied and extensive."

Lunch will be available for \$12 and dinner for \$30. For more information, please check the Primrose Hill Farm website primrosehillfarm.com.

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County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

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**BRENNAN KEARNEY – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 11 - CLINTON, PLEASANT
VALLEY, RHINEBECK**
No opponent – Did not respond.

**CHRIS DRAGO – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 19 – STANFORD, PINE
PLAINS, MILAN, RED HOOK, NORTH
EAST, VILLAGE OF MILLERTON**
(Running unopposed)
What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

We adopted a new county-wide property tax exemption, capped the sales tax on gas and diesel and invested in our 911 infrastructure. We’ve strengthened the Cornell Cooperative Extension, expanded mental health services and opposed a local ICE mass detention facility. I’ve pushed for a countywide EMS plan to improve response times and cut costs for towns, and I helped secure a \$6 million housing grant when our county government refused to step up.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

The biggest challenges we face are EMS coverage, housing affordability and our rising cost of living. Our county government is not doing enough on any of these fronts. My goals are simple: Secure a county-wide EMS plan, renew funding for our Housing Trust Fund, increase funding for our libraries and protect taxpayer dollars. There’s so much more we can do as a county to fight our high cost of living and make our communities safer.

**KRISTOFER MUNN - DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 20 - RED HOOK, TIVOLI,
RHINEBECK**
(Running unopposed)

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

This year the Legislature capped the County’s sales tax on gasoline and diesel at \$3.00 per gallon to save residents money at the pump, and created a property tax exemption for accessory dwelling units to ease the housing shortage.

We banned concentrated and synthetic kratom products to protect residents from dangerous, highly potent substances while keeping natural leaf legal, and raised pay for preschool special education providers to help fill about 246 open placements.

The “Skip the Stuff” law cuts plastic waste and saves small businesses money by providing takeout utensils and condiment packets only on request.

The Legislature also created a committee on AI and technology to oversee fast-moving developments like data centers, formed an animal welfare committee to coordinate the care and protection of animals and got rid of the County’s Flock cameras to protect residents’ privacy.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

I will continue working to repair the fiscal damage Republicans have done to the County’s finances, so taxpayers get a budget that is honest and sustainable.

I will expand residents’ privacy by requiring any proposed surveillance contract to come before the Legislature for public review and a vote, so decisions about watching our neighbors are never made behind closed doors.

As the County adopts artificial intelligence, I will make sure it is used to improve services for residents, not just to cut costs or replace the people who serve them. And I will push for ethics reform with real penalties for corruption, so public officials who abuse their positions are held accountable. Residents deserve a government that spends wisely, respects their rights and earns their trust.

**JOE TRESCA – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 22 – BEEKMAN, UNION VALE**
What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

In my first 10 months in office, I’m proud of the progress we’ve made connecting Beekman and Union Vale with

county government. I regularly attend and speak at both towns’ board meetings, share updates through my newsletter and make myself available to residents throughout the district. I also arranged monthly visits with a local senior community and brought other local officials into those conversations.

I’ve worked with both towns and eligible organizations to connect infrastructure needs with funding opportunities. Through the county’s Municipal Investment Grant process, that work helped bring \$95,000 in awards to our district. I also worked directly with Beekman to support its vacuum sweeper truck grant application, which, if awarded, could save taxpayers almost half a million dollars.

These efforts reflect what I ran on: Listening, following through and making sure our district receives attention and support.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If re-elected, I will focus on responsible county spending, effective public services, and making sure District 22 has a voice in decisions that affect Dutchess County.

I will continue working to protect taxpayers, support our law enforcement and emergency services and ensure county resources are used effectively. I will also look for opportunities to bring grant funding and county resources back to our communities, while maintaining open communication with residents and local officials.

I believe county government should work collaboratively with our towns, not create unnecessary burdens for them. That means supporting local businesses and farmers, encouraging housing options that meet community needs and making responsible decisions about growth, while protecting farmland, open space and our rural character.

My goal is to be an accessible, accountable representative who looks at the bigger county picture, while making sure the needs of Beekman and Union Vale are not overlooked.

**HEIDI TUCCI – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 22 – BEEKMAN, UNION VALE**
What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I have lived in this district for close to 40 years and prior to that, I was born and raised in rural Vermont. I am a retired Public School Teacher who taught in this district for more than 20 years.

I know how to listen, assess, work hard, bring people together and try different things to create the best possible outcome. I do not leave problem-solving and hard work to others; I stay until the job is done. I will not just be a legislator who sits in a seat and votes along party lines. I will do the work to ensure that our district and our county get the resources and solutions needed for our residents and municipalities to succeed.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My overall goal is to do everything I can to help our citizens thrive. We live in a beautiful area. We want our adult children to be able to raise their families here and our parents/ grandparents to be able to stay in the communities they have worked hard to build.

I want to expand access to public transit, create incentives for affordable housing and green energy and build partnerships between schools and local small businesses.

I want to expand access to affordable childcare and offer education for adults who wish to retrain for better employment opportunities. I want to connect our residents to County services by communicating regularly.

County-wide, I want to make sure that Dutchess is a safe, welcoming place where people seek to raise their families and build their lives. In District 22, I want to make sure we get our fair share of

the pie.

**CHRIS ROLISON – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 23 - PAWLING, BEEKMAN,
EAST FISHKILL**

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my most recent term as your County Legislator, District 23, I have focused on protecting taxpayers, strengthening public safety and delivering results for our community.

In 2026 alone, I supported securing \$100,000 in grant funding for our district, helping bring valuable resources to local projects. I also worked to maintain a stable tax levy and supported budget amendments to provide additional resources for the District Attorney’s Office.

Additionally, I collaborated across party lines on a bipartisan animal welfare committee to address community concerns. Throughout my term, I have remained committed to fiscal responsibility, bipartisan cooperation, and putting residents first.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

If re-elected as your Dutchess County Legislator, my priorities will remain keeping taxes low, protecting taxpayers and ensuring responsible spending of public funds.

With families and businesses facing rising costs, I will continue to voice concerns over increasing utility rates and advocate for greater transparency and accountability from utility providers. I will also remain focused on strengthening public safety, securing additional grant funding for our district including for emergency services and supporting essential county services without placing unnecessary financial burdens on residents.

By working across party lines and listening to the concerns of our community, I will continue advocating for practical solutions that keep Dutchess County safe, affordable and a great place to live, work and raise a family.

**MARTY MYGAN – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 23 - PAWLING,
BEEKMAN, EAST FISHKILL**

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

As a longtime resident of Southern Dutchess, giving back to my community is important to me. Over the past 20 years, I’ve built strong relationships with neighbors, small business owners and community organizations.

I was elected to the Cedar Valley Homeowner’s Association Board in 2021, and as Treasurer, succeeded in eliminating thousands of dollars in unnecessary taxes on the townhome development’s common areas.

In 2023, I successfully ran for the Pawling Town Board to fight for greater financial transparency, ethics and accountability. Now, I am ready to expand my service and represent the residents of District 23 in Beekman, Pawling and East Fishkill.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My top priority is to work to solve the affordability crisis in Dutchess County. I will vote to keep the county gas tax cap and hold the line on utility rate increases. Most importantly, my goal is to end wasteful county spending.

Just a few years ago, County Legislators spent \$30 million on capital improvements to Heritage Financial Park (formerly Dutchess Stadium). That money could have been better spent on protecting vital services for our senior citizens and improving Dutchess Loop Bus service.

For example, in Pawling, there is a senior housing development with no access to public transportation. Residents are forced to walk down dangerous Route 22 to shop for groceries at Hannaford. I will work to ensure that the County Legislature will focus on funding pro-

grams that improve residents’ lives and provide the best return on their hard-earned tax dollars.

**ANDREW HOUSE – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 24 - DOVER AND PAWLING**
What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

During my first three years as Dutchess County Legislator for District 24, I have focused on responsible fiscal management of the county’s budget, helped Dover and Pawling secure municipal grant project funding, addressed some important situational needs of individual residents and supported the success of events and outreach of businesses and nonprofit groups in Dover and Pawling.

A major accomplishment of my term in the Legislature has been a reduction in the county property tax rate, while advocating and overseeing responsible budgeting and taxpayer accountability.

I worked collaboratively with fellow legislators and community partners to pursue grant funding that benefited our fire departments, youth and senior recreation programs and municipal facilities. Additionally, I’ve supported initiatives to assist vulnerable families and prioritize improvements to county roadways and infrastructure.

Recently appointed to the Artificial Intelligence and Technology Oversight Committee, I will help ensure emerging technologies are used responsibly and transparently.

As a lifelong Dover resident and small-business owner, I remain committed to listening and assisting residents, finding practical solutions to resolve issues, and improving the quality of life for my constituents of District 24 in Dover & Pawling.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My goal for the upcoming term is to turn community needs into measurable results, while keeping government accountable to the taxpayers it serves. I will continue working to control county property taxes, pursue state and federal grants, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely on projects that deliver tangible benefits.

I want to make it easier for residents, especially seniors and families on fixed incomes, to access programs that help manage rising costs of living. I will also champion our small businesses, strengthen support for our fire departments and community organizations and continue to support investing in infrastructure and recreational opportunities.

Preserving our rural character, scenic open spaces and natural resources of Dover and Pawling will remain central to my work. I will also promote transparency and responsible decision-making as county government adopts new technologies.

My lifelong Dover roots give me a unique appreciation for Dover and Pawling, the communities I serve in Dutchess County. If re-elected, I will remain focused on the work ahead - dedicated to making a lasting, positive impact for our communities today and building success for generations to come.

**AUGUST URIBE – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 24 - DOVER AND PAWLING**
What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

As a former auction house executive responsible for half a billion dollars in annual sales, I deeply understand the fundamentals of meeting budgets and controlling expenses.

Whether in the corporate or political arena, the goal remains the same: Delivering real success for clients and constituents. We achieve this by accurately identifying problems, aligning transparent solutions, executing with quality and keeping open channels for feedback.

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Hinchey, Sheehan reprise contest for 41st State Senate seat

continued from cover

matters to our communities - utility reform, housing, healthcare, emergency services, and making life more affordable. For local families, I led the charge to bring Universal School Meals to NY, a program that now supports every student and helps parents save money on groceries. I’ve also delivered significant investments in UPK and expanded child care slots through Day One. I believe we need true universal childcare, and this year, I advocated for Dutchess County to be selected by the state as one of three pilot counties.

Over the past several years, I’ve secured the best agricultural budgets in recent history, and this year, we’ve kept that going with a historic expansion of the Farm-to-Food Pantry Tax Credit, \$30 million in relief to help farmers offset rising costs driven by federal tariffs, and expanded food access through initiatives like Nourish New York. To support our workforce, we created SUNY Reconnect to provide adults with free access to training for in-demand careers, and it’s already helped people earn credentials or transition into new fields entirely. This year, we established the NYS Parks Trades Corps Pilot to give young adults hands-on experience and certifications in the skilled trades. We also secured transformative utility rate case reforms in the 2026 session, including my bill ending automatic rate increases during rate cases, which will help shift the balance of power back to consumers - among many other reforms to lower our utility bills. I’m ready to keep delivering solutions to make life better, and I hope to have that opportunity in another term.

What are your priorities for the next term if re-elected?

Healthcare and utility reform are among my top priorities for 2027. In the Hudson Valley, consolidation and monopolistic behavior have left patients with fewer choices, higher costs, and loss of access to local doctors who no longer

accept their insurance. Optum’s decision to withdraw from accepting Fidelis and Cigna plans is a prime example. I sponsor legislation to restore competition in healthcare and lower patient costs. This includes my bill to prohibit insurance companies and healthcare providers from owning one another to stop further corporate consolidation and improve access to services. I also sponsor legislation to lower prescription drug prices by addressing conflicts of interest that arise when a single company owns the insurer, Pharmacy Benefit Managers, and the pharmacy. These vertically integrated arrangements create incentives to inflate costs so the corporation can pocket the difference instead of passing savings on to patients.

To strengthen EMS, I’ve worked with providers to create new laws, including authorizing Medicaid to reimburse EMS for treating patients at the scene of an emergency and transporting them to other points of healthcare. We also created the Rural Ambulance Services Task Force, which is advising the state on how to improve EMS. In 2026, I’ll be pushing to make that Task Force permanent, designate EMS as an Essential Service, and advance my bill to establish the Volunteer and Municipal EMS Grant Program to help providers with capital needs. Utility reform will remain a top priority. I’ll be pushing to expand access to funding earmarked to help homeowners and renters make energy-saving home upgrades that reduce their energy costs. I’ll also keep working to further change how the PSC approaches rate cases through my bill to require the PSC to prioritize affordability by law in every rate case decision, along with other legislation to stop retroactive billing that hurts small businesses and eliminate excessive propane fees.

Visit <https://michellehinchey.com/> for additional information.

Patrick Sheehan appears on the

Republican and Conservative ballot lines. The Northern Dutchess News was unsuccessful in attempts to reach Sheehan or the Ulster County GOP requesting participation in this candidates roundup.

On his candidate page on Facebook, Sheehan indicates he is “a lifelong 41st Senate District resident, is a local business owner, former prosecutor, and volunteer firefighter.” According to Ballotpedia, Sheehan was born in Kingston and earned a bachelor’s degree from Boston College in 1993 and a law degree from Albany Law School in 1999.

In 2024, Sheehan responded to this paper’s request to participate. At that time, he was asked about his qualifica-

tions for State Senator. He replied, “I bring over 35 years of public service, rooted in leadership, problem-solving, and dedication to my community. As a volunteer firefighter, elected Fire Commissioner, and small business owner, I’ve faced challenges that demand quick thinking and accountability. As a former prosecutor in NYC, I gained first-hand insight into public safety and law enforcement by arraigning thousands of defendants. I understand the struggles facing local families and businesses, and I have the experience and determination to fight for meaningful change in Albany.”

COLLEGE NOTES

MANCHESTER, NH - Racquel Coke of Hyde Park has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s Summer 2026 Dean’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

DELHI, NY - SUNY Delhi celebrated the graduation of nearly 800 students at the commencement event held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, where certificates, associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees were conferred upon the classes of Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.

Leonardo De Anda of Stanfordville earned an associate degree in Electrical Construction & Plumbing.

Amanda Intrieri of Millerton earned an

associate degree in Veterinary Science Technology.

Paula O’Dell-Jackson of Wassaic, NY earned a master’s degree in Criminal Justice. Grainne Williams of Amenia earned an associate degree in Business Administration.

ADELPHI, MD - Luke Hobson of Red Hook was named to the Dean’s List for the summer 2026 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

POTSDAM, NY - Students from Clarkson University were awarded bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degrees this spring on May 9, 2026. Students included Maxwell Moore of Pleasant Valley, Kirby Davidson of Red Hook, and William Gieseler of Red Hook.

County legislators face challenges in 17 districts

continued from page 9

Above all, fiduciary duty and public trust demand the same standard - clean governance, responsible resource management and strict fiscal and ethical integrity. After a decade of significant fiscal waste, that mismanagement ended 18 months ago when a Democratic majority took office in the Dutchess County Legislature. By remaining focused on the evolving needs of our residents, I hope to continue delivering sustained, long-term oversight for our community.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

We are losing too many residents in Dutchess County due to a severe lack of affordable housing. Our seniors and neighbors living on fixed incomes lack the reliable public transportation required for basic daily tasks, such as visiting the local pharmacy or grocery store.

Our infrastructure is equally strained: Century-old culverts desperately need upgrades to prevent severe flooding from increased rainfall and snowmelt, and our roads are riddled with potholes. In addition to these problems, staggeringly high energy costs leave working families and seniors struggling to make ends meet, while utility providers report record profits at our expense.

These critical issues must be rectified NOW. To get eastern Dutchess County back on track, these urgent challenges require action. By prioritizing smart investments, transparent governance and responsible fiscal management, I would like to help modernize our local infrastructure and build a stronger, more resilient community.

ERIC ALEXANDER – DEMOCRAT
DISTRICT 25 - AMENIA,
WASHINGTON, PLEASANT VALLEY,
VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK

What do you see as your major accomplishments during the most recent term?

In my first nine months as a legislator, I accomplished a great deal in support of my goal to make Dutchess County safer, more affordable and an even greater place to live and raise a family.

I developed a collaborative framework for improving ambulance service in rural areas while reducing the cost significantly.

I organized and hosted a public forum that led directly to the termination of Flock cameras in Dutchess County.

I created an Affordability Fair that delivered free and cost-saving services to my constituents in Amenia.

I created an Animal Welfare Committee that is working to restore Humane Law Enforcement in Dutchess County.

I brought together a group of Pleasant Valley residents to meet with county, state and federal officials to identify and implement ways to reduce their sky-high wastewater bills.

If re-elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My major goals for the upcoming term include making life more affordable, assuring the ongoing viability of ambulance coverage and keeping taxes low by improving the performance of county government.

With taxes, gas, diesel, groceries and utilities at record high levels, I will continue to identify and implement programs

and ideas to help my constituents improve their standard of living.

As chair of the Public Safety Committee, I will continue my work in developing and implementing a dynamic, new county-wide approach to improving ambulance coverage while significantly reducing cost.

I will insist county government deal more effectively with long-standing problems, like the EMS crisis, homelessness and our housing shortage. By establishing clear priorities, focusing government spending and demanding accountability, we can keep manageable problems from becoming crises that are far more expensive to fix and lead to an even greater tax burden for residents and businesses.

STEFANIE HUBERT – REPUBLICAN
DISTRICT 25 - AMENIA,
WASHINGTON, PLEASANT VALLEY,
VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK

What do you see as your major qualifications for the seat?

I bring years of small-business experience, executive leadership and community service, along with a practical understanding of the challenges facing Dutchess County residents.

As a business owner, I understand firsthand how rising taxes, energy costs, regulations and inflation affect families, employers and our local economy. As Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County, I oversee multimillion-dollar budgets, manage staff, secure funding and work collaboratively with government officials, businesses and community organizations to deliver measurable results.

My experience has taught me to make difficult financial decisions, balance competing priorities, and stretch taxpayer and organizational dollars without sacrificing essential services.

I am not a career politician. I am a problem-solver who understands accountability, fiscal responsibility and the importance of listening to residents. I will bring independent thinking, common sense and proven leadership to the Dutchess County Legislature.

If elected, what are your major goals for the upcoming term?

My top priority is affordability. Dutchess County families, seniors and small businesses are struggling with rising property taxes, utility bills and everyday expenses. We cannot continue making it more expensive for people to remain in the communities they love.

I will advocate for responsible budgeting, greater scrutiny of county spending and policies that protect taxpayers, while maintaining essential services. I will push for transparency and accountability by demanding clear financial reporting, measurable results from taxpayer-funded programs and greater public access to government decisions.

I will also prioritize public safety by supporting law enforcement, first responders and emergency services. Protecting our farmland, supporting local businesses and encouraging responsible development that respects the character of our communities are equally important.

My goal is simple: Make Dutchess County more affordable, safer and better managed. Residents deserve a legislator who listens, asks tough questions and puts local priorities ahead of politics.

Bottini Waste Solutions brings a new local choice to the Hudson Valley

For Bottini Waste Solutions, being local means more than simply operating trucks in the Hudson Valley. It means building a company here, employing people who live here and being accountable to the same communities its employees call home.

“We live here. We work here. Our families are here,” said Mitchell Bottini. “When we started BWS, we saw an opportunity to give our neighbors and local businesses another choice for a service that every household and business depends on. We want to build the kind of company we would want to do business with ourselves.”

That philosophy is reflected in how BWS is building the company. The business is investing in new trucks and containers, hiring locally and using technology that gives customers better access to their accounts and timely service updates. At the same time, BWS is keeping its approach to customer service intentionally personal.

“When someone calls us, we want them to reach someone here who can actually help them,” Bottini said. “If there’s a problem, we want to know about it and fix it. If weather changes a collection schedule, we want our customers to hear it from us. And when we tell someone we’re going to be there, we want them to be able to count on us.”

BWS is emphasizing straightforward pricing, without credit-card fees, fuel surcharges or environmental surcharges, along with discounts for veterans and military members, first responders, teachers, healthcare workers and seniors.

BWS also believes that giving Hudson Valley residents and businesses more choice ultimately benefits the entire community.

“Competition is a good thing,” Bottini said. “Customers should have options, and they should expect a lot from the companies they choose to do business with. We know we’re the new company, and nobody owes us their business. We

have to earn it every week by providing great service, being easy to reach and giving people a fair, straightforward bill.”

For BWS, that means focusing on the details customers notice most: reliable pickups, clean and well-maintained equipment, responsive local customer service, clear communication when schedules change and pricing without unexpected add-on fees.

“We have an opportunity to build this company from the ground up around what customers actually want,” Bottini said. “That’s exciting for us. We can be responsive, make decisions locally and never lose sight of the fact that every account we have represents a neighbor, a local family or a local business that chose to trust us.”

BWS plans to grow throughout the Hudson Valley by adding residential and commercial customers while continuing to invest in local employees, equipment and community partnerships.

“We’re excited to grow, but we want to grow the right way,” Bottini said. “For us, success isn’t just how many customers we have. It’s whether those customers trust us, whether our employees are proud to work here and whether we’re making a positive contribution to the communities we serve.”

BWS enters a Hudson Valley waste market where many residents and businesses have relied on the same providers for years. The company believes there is room for another choice; one built locally, backed by significant investment in new equipment and focused on responsive service, straightforward pricing and accountability.

As its trucks begin rolling through neighborhoods and business districts across the region, BWS will look to build its customer base the same way it intends to build its reputation: one pickup, one customer and one community at a time.

Bottini Waste Solutions (BWS)
Serving: Dutchess County
Services: Residential waste and recycling, commercial waste and recycling, front-load containers, and roll-off dumpsters
What sets BWS apart:

- Locally owned and operated
- Brand-new collection trucks and equipment
- New residential and commercial containers
- New roll-off containers
- Local customer service
- Modern customer portal
- Text/message service updates and communication
- No credit-card fees
- No fuel surcharges
- No environmental surcharges
- Competitive, straightforward pricing
- Discounts available for veterans/military, law enforcement/first responders, teachers/healthcare workers, and seniors
- Commitment to hiring locally and investing in the Hudson Valley

On what makes BWS different

“We’ve made a significant investment in new trucks, new containers and technology, but ultimately our biggest differentiator has to be service. Answer the phone. Communicate with the customer. Show up when you say you’re going to show up. And if there’s a problem, fix it. It is all about accountability.”

On being local

“We’re building this company here, hiring people here and serving the communities where we live and work. We want our customers to know the people behind the company that’s picking up their waste every week.”

On pricing

“We want pricing to be straightforward. That’s why we’re not adding credit-card fees, fuel surcharges or environmental surcharges. Customers should be able to understand what they’re paying for.”

On the competition

“We have a lot of respect for the established companies that have served this area for years. We’re not building BWS by talking negatively about anyone else. We believe competition is healthy, and our job is to give customers a strong local option and earn their business.”

FeedHV expands food rescue program with county fairs across Hudson Valley

For the past five years, FeedHV, in partnership with a fair food rescue team, has been working to collect and distribute food from regional county fairs each season. In 2026, FeedHV collected and distributed a total of 1,761 pounds of food from three county fairs. The rescue team included volunteers, fair managers, community leaders and partner organizations.

FeedHV, a program of the Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation, is the Hudson Valley’s app-assisted food rescue and harvesting network, dedicated to meeting the needs of neighbors while mitigating the impacts of food waste.

“Our fair food collection was such a success this year and we hope to work with more county fairs in years to come,” said Isabella Kemp, FeedHV program coordinator. “FeedHV is so grateful to

collaborate with such incredible organizations and volunteers. We appreciate all the vendors who donated and send a special thanks to the volunteers who helped move this food.”

FeedHV has been working with the Dutchess County Fair for the past five years and Ulster County Fair for three years. This year, the program added the Columbia County Fair to their efforts with a strong turnout and enthusiastic participation from vendors, volunteers and local pantries. As a result of the fair food rescue team collaboration, FeedHV served 17 local pantries and food distribution centers across Dutchess, Ulster and Columbia Counties.

“One of the things I’m most proud of about the Columbia County Fair is the way it brings people together and gives back to our community,” said Eric

Barnes, General Manager of the Columbia County Fair and Secretary of the Columbia County Agricultural Society. “To collect 638 pounds of food in our first year is a tremendous start, and it says a lot about the generosity of our vendors and the people who make the fair happen. We’re excited to continue this partnership with FeedHV and look forward to working together in the years ahead.”

The FeedHV program has grown exponentially since its inception due to its network of donors, feeding agencies and volunteers. In April, the organization celebrated its greatest milestone in the program’s history, reaching more than one million pounds of food rescued. In this year alone, FeedHV has saved more than 200,000 pounds of food that would have otherwise gone to waste.

The FeedHV network includes 507 volunteers, 268 donor organizations and more than 192 receiving agencies. Donors range from restaurants, farms and food makers to caterers, event venues and educational institutions. Since 2017, FeedHV has been using the ChowMatch app to match food donors with food assistance programs and direct food to those who need it most.

FeedHV is always looking for volunteer food drivers, food donors and receiving agencies in the counties it serves. Monetary gifts allow the program to purchase directly from local farms to augment the donations that run through the FeedHV rescue network, provide even more to our receiving agencies, and support local agriculture. To make a monetary donation to FeedHV, visit feedhv.org/donate-today.

celebrating all good things

The Anderson Brothers Jazz Trio will perform on Oct. 24 at The Smithfield Church in Amenia.
Courtesy photo

A toast to perfectly imperfect family holidays

Former Dutchess County resident to discuss funny and touching memoir Oct. 29 at Morton Library

By Kristine Coulter

A talk and book signing with Danny Lettieri about his newly published holiday memoir, “Ho Ho, OH NO! Twelve True Stories of Tinsel, Bedlam, & Unconditional Love,” will be held at Morton Library in Rhinecliff on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Lettieri, who grew up in Dutchess County, said he did not set out to write a book. He explained the book, which is a collection of holiday stories with his parents and four siblings (3 brothers and 1 sister) and into the present day with his husband, Vance, began when he started writing about tales from his childhood. Lettieri said it took about a year to write the book.

The book, whose chapters play on the “Twelve Days of Christmas” theme, is described as “Hallmark dreams collide with real life in funny (and true!) holiday tales.”

One of the recollections Lettieri shares is about his Aunt Connie. In the chapter titled “On the Second Day of Christmas, My Sister Danced with Me,” Lettieri describes his tough-as-nails aunt: “During the week, Aunt Connie worked at a factory called Ward Leonard in Bronxville – a job she had proudly held since World War II.” But come Saturday, she traded her workday clothes for glamorous outfits to go dancing with her date, Fred.

“It was amazing. During the week she was ‘we can do it,’ and on the weekend, the transformation, my sister, Kathy, and I would be in awe,” Lettieri recalled about his aunt.

As Fred whisked Aunt Connie off to the Roseland Ballroom, Danny and Kathy were inspired to imitate them in a nontraditional way.

“One might think that the role of Connie would be played by my sister and that I would take on the role of Fred. Guess again,” Lettieri wrote.

In another story, Lettieri recalls watching the holiday classic, “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” a show that held a very personal theme for him.

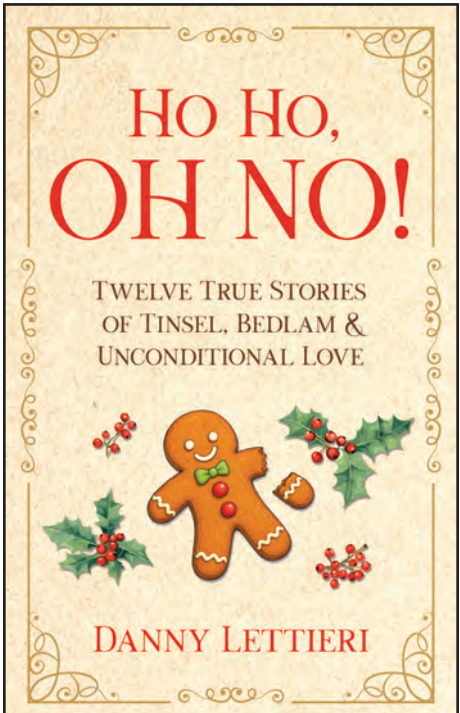
“Every Christmas season when I watched it, I fantasized about my own bullies realizing just how mean and hurtful they were,” he wrote. “In my dreams, when I walked into the classroom, they would all proclaim, ‘Merry Christmas, Danny Lettieri!’ and start singing in heavenly, innocent voices. Obviously, that never happened, but seeing Charlie Brown every year gave me some small hope that one day, it could.”

Describing the Christmases past when he was growing up, Lettieri said they were “very emotional, a lot of happy moments; but as we got older, the family drifted,” calling it a “free for all” during his high school years.

“I was afraid to show my family the book, but they all love it, especially the Aunt Connie stories. They were laughing. I was pleasantly surprised,” Lettieri replied when asked how his relatives reacted to his holiday memoir.

In one chapter, “On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, I’m Taking Down My Tree,” Lettieri describes how the action of putting up and taking down ornaments evokes special memories.

“During the Christmas season, I know



Danny Lettieri, author of “Ho Ho, OH NO! Twelve True Stories of Tinsel, Bedlam, & Unconditional Love,” will discuss, read from and sign copies of his book on Thursday, Oct. 29, at Morton Memorial Library in Rhinecliff. *Photo by Norm Yoshida and courtesy image*

that friends and family who are no longer with me are also looking down at the tree (and some are looking up!). In those moments, we are all together again celebrating,” he wrote.

Asked about the true meaning of Christmas, Lettieri replied, “For me the true meaning of Christmas is combining the past and the present. I remember the past – the people who made Christmas special when I was little. And then the present – I live in the moment, I try not to think about anything else.”

Writing the book gave Lettieri a gift, he said.

He explained, “For me writing this book, one of the best things that happened to me, I was able to resolve issues between me and my mom and dad.” He said he was not as close to his mom at the end of her life as when he was younger. As he wrote, Lettieri said

he saw how “amazing” his mother was raising five kids and seeing all she did to make each Christmas season special for them.

Lettieri said about “Ho Ho, OH NO!,” “I feel it’s a good combination of happy and bittersweet; it’s life.”

The Author Talk begins at 6:30 p.m. at 82 Kelly St. in Rhinecliff. Registration is requested via EventBrite: “Author event - Danny Lettieri Ho Ho, OH NO!”

Learn more about the author at www.dannylettieri.com.

Danny Lettieri is the brother of Northern Dutchess News Editor Kate Goldsmith - “Kathy” in his book.

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Trick or treat!

How candy became a Halloween staple

As we get closer to the magical night that is Halloween, we head to the stores to buy candy for the little visitors we'll likely get at our doors (and, let's be honest, for ourselves). While Americans shell out a lot of money for decorations (an estimated \$4.3 billion) and costumes (\$4.4 billion) – second in spending only to Christmas – sweets for trick-or-treaters are right up there at \$4.1 billion, according to the National Retail Federation. But why and how did it all begin?

The best place to start is why it exists in the first place, and the obvious answer is because of the custom of trick-or-treating. For that we have to go back about 2,000 years to the Celts and their pagan festival of Samhain when it was believed the veil between the living and the dead was at its thinnest and souls roamed the earth. To blend in with any evil spirits and avoid being dragged off by demons, villagers donned animal skins and masks and left food out to appease visiting spirits. By the Middle Ages, Christianity had largely overtaken pagan customs, and the

Samhain tradition basically became All Hallow's Eve. Children and the poor went begging door-to-door for sweet soul cakes in exchange for prayers for the dead. In Scotland and Ireland this became known as guising, with children dressed up and performing on doorsteps, demanding food or coins as payment. They eventually brought this custom with them to America, but by the 1920s it devolved into something far less innocent, and tricks and pranks and general violence became widespread. This led desperate townsfolk to come up with ways to keep their communities safe; and so in the 1930s parties in homes and schools, and trick-or-treating with imposed curfews became the standard.

The belief was that by giving would-be hoodlums something to do and treats to collect, the problem would go away, which for the most part worked. What sort of treats were handed out? Early on you might have gotten homemade

continued on page 22



A Halloween display. Photo by Vicki Frank Day



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Russell Urban-Mead
for Town Supervisor

Marc Prine
for Ward 1

Paul Donnelly
for Ward 3

Gregory Komar
for Ward 2

Rogerrio Rodriguez
for Ward 4



The Hyde Park Candidates: l-r Gregory Komar Ward 2, Marc Prine Ward 1, Russell Urban-Mead candidate for Town Supervisor, Rogerrio Rodriguez Ward 4, Paul Donnelly Ward 3

Had Enough?

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PAID BY HYDE PARK DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



Careers in Agriculture

Preparing the next generation of farmers

It's no big secret that farmers are getting older, me included. The average age of the 3.4 million farmers is 58. So who's going to grow food for my grandchildren? New York Farm Bureau organized a tour last week of 40 high school guidance counselors who visited an array of farming operations to see what kind of careers they might want to recommend to their graduates.

Mark and Sue Adams Greenhouse was one of the stops. I explained the different career paths involved in operating an Ornamental Horticulture facility:

- **Operations Manager** – responsible for maintaining the facility infrastructure, keeping the physical plant operating. May need to supervise maintenance, identify needed repairs and preventative maintenance.
- **Horticulture Production Planner** – Identifies products to be produced (grown), places orders for green goods, sets up production schedule, taking into consideration when product arrives, how long it will take to grow, and when it is to be sold.
- **Production Manager** – Responsible for carrying out the production schedule. This could include ordering supplies (pots and trays) and identifying staffing

requirements to get the job done on time.

- **Grower** – Manages the crop from when it is on the bench to when it is ready to ship. Includes maintaining adequate temperature and fertility, monitoring and treating pests and diseases.
- **Sales, Marketing** – Identifying potential customers, maintaining excellent customer relationships, advertising or marketing products, maybe seeking out new opportunities.
- **Shipping and Dispatching Manager** – Sets up a realistic shipping schedule. Responsible for assuring that customers receive product in good condition. Cusses out operations manager when a truck breaks down.

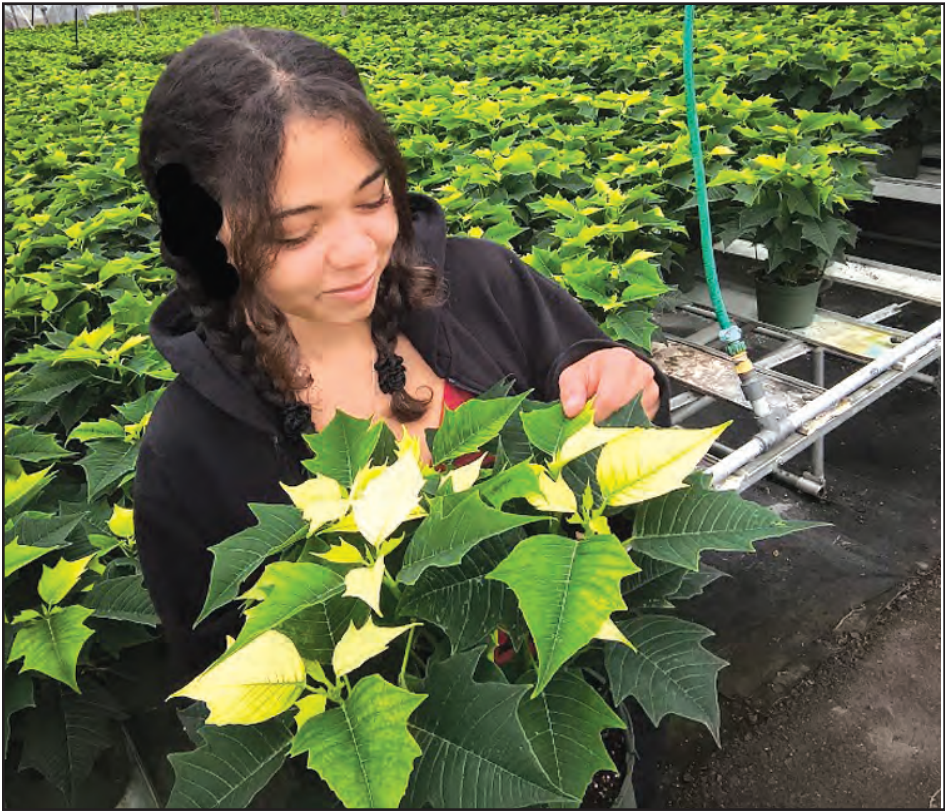
It turns out that for every traditional farmer, 20 people are involved in careers that support our food production system, from agronomist to zoologist. It's important to remind guidance counselors that a broad spectrum of careers is available to students interested in agriculture.

Rebecca Star is the agriculture teacher and FFA adviser at Dutchess B.O.C.E.S. She teaches the Careers in Animal and Plant Sciences programs, where she famously dissected a coyote on the first day of class, to show aspiring veterinari-

continued on page 19



Guidance counselors visit the greenhouse. Below: Future poinsettia grower Tabitha Smith-White. Photos by Mark Adams



STEFANIE HUBERT
Dutchess County Legislature
District 25

Early Voting: Oct. 24- Nov. 1
Election Day: Nov. 3

Paid for by Stefanie Hubert for Dutchess County.

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✓ Listen and respond to resident concerns

✓ Work across party lines for our community

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ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3

DEDICATED TO SERVICE. COMMITTED TO YOU.

Paid for by Lew Darrow for Dutchess County

Through Oct. 24: Historic Graveyard Tours, St. James' Episcopal Church, 4526 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. A tour guide leads you by lantern light through St. James' historic 200-year-old graveyard, where you will meet some of the more interesting "residents" who, from time to time, make an appearance. Tours Fri. & Sat., 6:30, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tours last 1 hour. Tickets \$25 per person (\$15 for children ages 12 & younger) and are non-refundable. Visit <https://stjameshydepark.org/graveyard-tours/> to purchase. All ages are welcome, but the tours are most suitable for ages 5 and over. Reservations are recommended, but walk-ins (payable by cash or check at the door) will be accommodated if there is room on the tour. Visit www.stjameshydepark.org or email stjamesoffice@stjameshydepark.org for more information; or call the Parish Office at (845) 229-2820.

Through Oct. 25: "The Crucible," Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Set in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" captures a horrific chapter of New England history in its dramatization of the Salem Witch Trials. The plot focuses on the hysteria that develops in the intersection of rumors, fear, and religion. A group of girls are thought to practice witchcraft, alongside Tituba, an enslaved Indigenous-American, as they dance in the woods. In order to save themselves, they turn the accusations towards an ever-widening circle of adults in the community.

Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$25. Content Warning: This production contains themes of religion, death, grief and guilt. It also contains references to and depictions of murder, manslaughter and witchcraft. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Through Oct. 30: Haunted Fortress of Stanford, 11 Creamery Rd., Stanfordville. Since 1997, the Haunted Fortress of Stanford has been scaring guests who are brave enough to walk the swamp walk. Come and join us for an evening of fun and creepiness. Fri. & Sat., 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Sun., 6:30-8:30 p.m. CLOSED on Halloween so our young actors can trick or treat. Admission: Adults \$15, children age 12 & younger \$10, seniors \$10. Cash only. No open toed shoes. For foul weather cancellations: Call (845) 868-7782 or see the Facebook group.

Through Oct. 30: "Death Valley Beauty Pageant," various locations. Murder Cafe's spooktacular Halloween mystery dinner offers a fresh twist with eerie charm. Step out in your finest ghostly glamour and be part of the fun as a number of contestants fight to be crowned King or Queen of the Crypt, while another one will die trying. Whodunit? Grab your tickets if you dare, and prepare for a night of killer entertainment. All shows include a three-course dinner, cash bar, music, comedy and prizes. Shows: Wed., Oct. 21: The Beekman Arms, Rhinebeck. Sun., Oct. 25, Historic Hotel Broadalbin, Broadalbin. Wed., Oct. 28: The Phoenician Steakhouse,

Phoenicia (a fundraiser for Safe Haven). Fri., Oct. 30: Hudson House Distillery, West Park. www.murdercafe.net

Through Nov. 24: 2026 Poughkeepsie Big Read. Annual program intended to encourage the community to read, discuss, and participate in thematic events. This year's Big Read theme is Revolutionary New York. PPLD notes that the Big Read title is "Fire and Freedom" by Thomas Wermuth. There are additional Little and Middle Read titles with a focus on heroes, including Sybil Ludington and forgotten founders. A full list is available on the library website, www.poklib.org

Oct. 24: Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light, Banning Hall, Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Boston-based string band makes music that blends folk tradition with feminist storytelling, poetic detail, and a little grit, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$40 advance, \$40-\$50 door. www.thestissingcenter.org or (518) 771-3339

Oct. 24: T-Trak Contest, Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum, 34 River Rd., Hyde Park. The non-profit Hudson Valley Railroad Society (HVRRS) will host its annual T-Trak Contest, 1-3 p.m. The contest will be judged experienced model railroaders. Certificates of award will be given in several categories. But win or lose, entrant or spectator, come to the Hudson Valley T-Trak Contest, and take in each module and the complete layout made up of all the modules connected together. Admission and parking are free. The HVRRS is a group of volunteers who restore, maintain, and operate the Museum. More info: (845) 229-2338 or www.hydeparkstation.com

Oct. 24: Virtual Staged Reading of "Dracula." The Two Of Us Productions will present the fourth installment of their 2026 Virtual Live-Staged Reading Series at 7 p.m. This reading is a Halloween special production of "Dracula" by Bram Stoker, adopted by Orson Welles for the Mercury Theater Of The Air. "Dracula" is presented

with a combination of live action interspersed with a narrative, related in the form of letters, diary entries and newspaper articles. It has no single protagonist and opens with solicitor Jonathan Harker taking a business trip to stay at the castle of a Transylvanian nobleman, Count Dracula. Harker escapes the castle after discovering that Dracula is a vampire, and the Count moves to England and plagues the seaside town of Whitby. A small group, led by Abraham Van Helsing, investigate and hunt down the cunning Dracula, finally cornering him in his last remaining hiding place and killing him in the last rays of the setting sun. RSVP to www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org. Free to the public; donations are gratefully accepted.

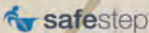
Oct. 24-25: ArtEast Open Studios October Tour, eastern Dutchess County. This year, ArtEast proudly celebrates the 20th anniversary of the ArtEast Open Studio Tour. This year's tour features 19 participating artists at 11 studio locations (with several artists sharing studio or gallery spaces). Visitors will discover an exciting variety of artwork spanning a wide range of media and styles, including painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, assemblage, woodworking, fiber arts, and pottery. Tours 11 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Brochure and more info at www.arteast-dutchess.com.

Oct. 24-25: Garden Conservancy's Open Days, Dutchess County. Garden lovers can explore The Brine Garden in Pawling, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This naturalistic, 6-acre garden connects diverse topographical areas of a former dairy farm. With an ecological approach, mature native communities of shrubs and trees combine with select non-native plants with meandering paths. Tickets are \$10 per person; \$5 for members of the Garden Conservancy. Children 12 and under are admitted for free when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Visitors are reminded that no pets are allowed. All registrations must be processed online through gardenconservancy.org/opendays.

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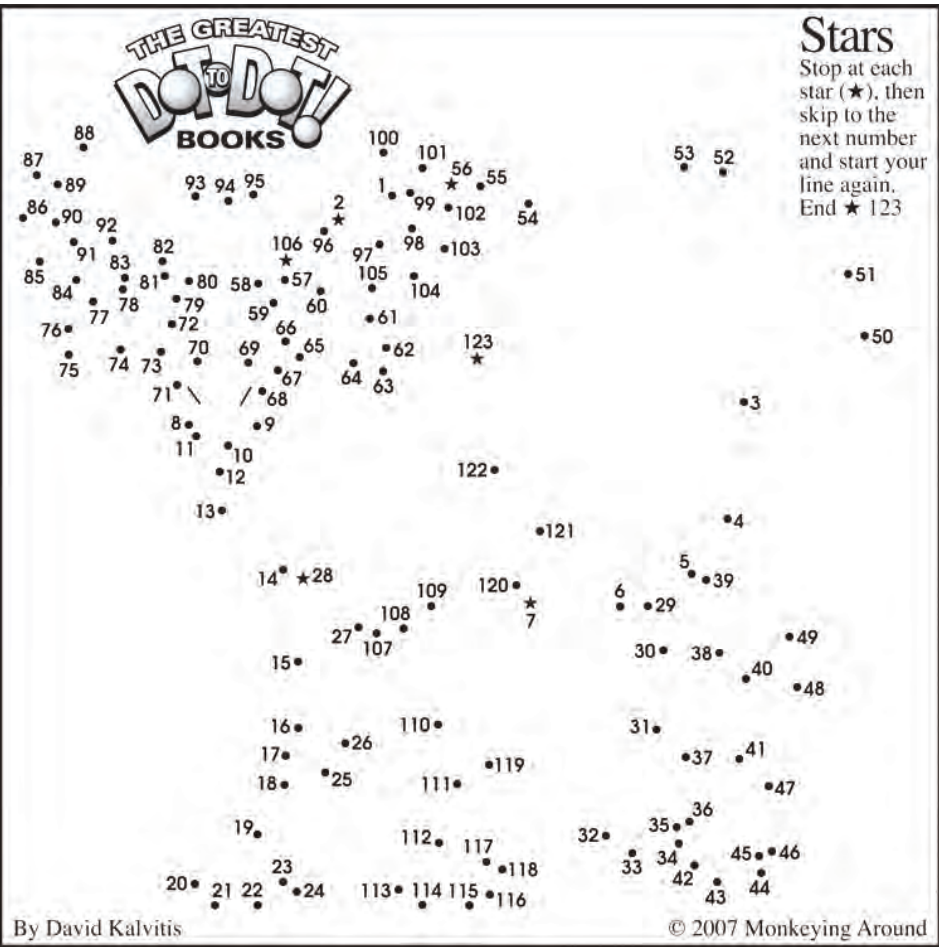
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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 21 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

THE GREATEST
DOT-TO-DOT
BOOKS



Stars

Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 123

By David Kalvitis

© 2007 Monkeying Around

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for excavation and site work for two affordable housing projects - a five home development in Poughkeepsie, NY and a single home in Amenia, NY.

Additional requests for proposals (RFPs) for trades such as electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and other construction services will be released in the coming weeks.

Interested contractors are encouraged to review the RFPs and submission requirements on our website:

<https://habitatdutchess.org/rfps-and-proposals/>.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Todd Bowen, Construction Director
Todd.bowen@habitatdutchess.org
845-490-1894

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Dutchess County
Historical Society

Apple cider: Commonplace to criminal & back again

By Bill Jeffway

The Poughkeepsie Journal of the 1790s shows how common cider was. In every one of these instances the cider is the hard kind, as we would call it today. Farms were advertised by their cider the way they were advertised by their hay: an Amenia farm with “two good orchards in prime bearing, that will make from one to two hundred barrels of cider yearly” in 1793; the farm of William Ely, a prominent medical doctor, east of the courthouse, with its “large Dutch barn and cider-mill” in 1795; Henry Livingston’s seat near Tivoli, “one hundred barrels of cider, a new cider mill and press,” in 1798. A barrel held about thirty gallons. Nearly every farm had an orchard, nearly every orchard was planted from seed, and a seedling apple is small, sour, and good for one thing. The barrel in the cellar was not a vice. It was the water supply.

In 1916 the Dutchess County Historical Society published its first “occasional publication” outside its annual Yearbook, called “Historical Monographs No. 1, a

study of Troutbeck.” Charles E. Benton wrote about the Benton homestead at Amenia near the Connecticut line. One passage has nothing to do with the house, but it reminds us how commonplace cider was, whether made at home with small presses or in large cider mills.

Benton’s mother was born in 1800, and she remembered that in her girlhood rural Dutchess County roads carried a certain kind of homeless wanderer. “Tramp” was the word of the day for the destitute. They were depleted, discouraged old men who asked for food, or for the privilege of sleeping in the barn, but they never failed to ask for one thing: “just a drink of cider, Ma’am!” People called them “cider tramps,” she said. Everyone understood who they were. They were Revolutionary soldiers, paid off in Continental currency that became worthless at once, who had come home to lose their farms and drifted into homelessness. Nobody refused them. As the veterans died off, the “cider tramps” vanished from the roads. “This is not a pleasant thought upon which to dwell,” Benton wrote, “but it is best to



Above top left clockwise: From the “Cider Mill Friends” an old label showing a depiction by Vassar College’s Henry Van Ingen. Kimlin Cider mill was a popular spot for Vassar College students to visit. A promotional piece from the period of prohibition when Kimlin focused on “sweet cider” and created a kind of museum of interesting objects from DCHS Collections. The title page of the Poughkeepsie Safeguard, the tip of the rising tide that would eventually lead to a US Constitutional Amendment banning the of intoxicating spirits between 1920 and 1933. *DCHS Collections*

The Appleknockers
CHORUS By PHILIP A. MYLOD

We're Leg-ion-aires from Dutch-ess and we'd like to have you know, That
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call us Ap-ple-knock-ers and they.
Ap-ple-knock-ers are the boys who have the ap-ple jack.

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(Apple Jack)

Dutchess County Cider Corp.
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Regional FRUIT DISTILLERY, No. 2 Plover Valley, N. Y.
Bottling Plant 218 UNION STREET Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

NOTICE TO DEALERS — If our representative has not called on you as Prime Your Order in Dutchess County Cider Corp. Poughkeepsie, or Phone 1607. Check in the large number of orders being placed at the time. Orders will be filled at the price that they are marked.

Above inset: A 1934 ad in the Poughkeepsie Journal, a year after the end of Prohibition, promoting Apple Brandy or “apple jack.” In 1937, Poughkeepsie’s WW1 veteran Philip Mylod wrote a song Legionnaires sang “from Paris to California” that acknowledged Dutchess apples not so much for pie, but as “intoxicating spirits” or apple jack. *DCHS Collections*

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read history truthfully.” It also illuminates the simplicity and centrality of cider at the time. “Cider was then the common beverage in the country.” A drink of cider was what you asked a stranger for, the way you would ask for water.

However, on Saturday morning, October 21, 1843, a newspaper called The Safeguard, and General Temperance Advocate went to press on behalf of the County Temperance Society and “all the Washingtonian and other total abstinence societies in the County of Dutchess.” Its masthead promised “Total Abstinence, Useful Arts, Morals, Miscellany, and General Intelligence.” The copy that survives at DCHS has a subscriber’s name written across the top in ink: A. Shear. Inside is the Washingtonian Pledge, for readers to sign: “We ... do pledge ourselves as Gentlemen, that we will not drink any Spirituous or Malt Liquors, Wine or Cider.”

Most of the first temperance societies of the 1820s had gone after rum and whiskey and left the farmer’s cider alone. The Washingtonians, a movement of reformed drinkers that swept out of Baltimore in 1840, drew the line at everything that fermented. In Dutchess, that meant the barrel in the cellar. The drink the “cider tramps” had begged for was now, by name, a thing a gentleman pledged never to touch. The Safeguard newspaper did not last long, but the idea was just getting started.

Prohibition of the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquor went into effect in 1920. The county’s early target was not whiskey. It was cider. On Wednesday, April 27, 1921, District Attorney Raymond E. Aldrich called the county’s enforcement officers to Poughkeepsie to decide how hard to push New York’s brand-new Prohibition enforcement law, the Mullan-Gage Act, passed that spring. Around the table, as the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News reported the next morning under the headline “Dry Crusade,” were the city’s police and municipal leaders and a delegation from Beacon: Mayor Irving Stafford, Corporation Counsel John T. Kelley, City Judge Ferdinand Hoyt, John D. Cronin, the commissioner of public safety, and Robert Doughty.

Beacon was the county’s newest city, eight years old, formed in 1913 from the river villages of Fishkill Landing and

Matteawan, and its factories made it among the county’s thirstiest. Its saloon keepers would be called “on the carpet” in Poughkeepsie the following Monday “to have the law laid down to them in no uncertain terms,” and the interim, the officials stressed, “is not to be regarded as a period of grace.” Poughkeepsie’s saloon men would get the same lecture afterward. The aim was to make the county “as dry as Sahara.” Nothing stronger than one-half of one percent could be sold. Judges would be asked for jail sentences, not fines, first offender or not. “No quarter,” the paper said, “is the shibboleth of the campaign.”

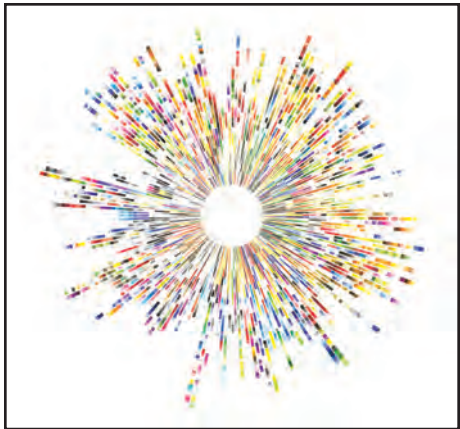
Then came the sentence that would have astonished Dr. Ely and Henry Livingston: “Particularly the attention of the county officials will be directed to those selling hard cider. In the opinion of the authorities this is a more flagrant violation of the law than selling whiskey, due to its diversified effects.” The drink the whole county had once made at home was now worse, in the eyes of the law, than the whiskey the temperance movement had started out to stop. The paper summed up the campaign in six words: “No booze, no quarter, no fines.” Within ten days the sheriff’s party was in the saloon cellars of Pine Plains and Rhinebeck, knocking the heads in on barrels of cider.

From commonplace to criminal took roughly a century: the drink you gave an old soldier in 1810, the drink a gentleman forswore in 1843, the drink the county’s own officials ranked below whiskey in 1921. New York gave up enforcing in 1923, and Prohibition ended in 1933. In 1937 Philip Mylod wrote a song for the county’s Legionnaires about going down to New York for the big parade expecting applejack and being served gin. The implication was that during prohibition the bootleg drink of choice was gin in the city and apple jack in Dutchess County. Today orchards and mills from Staatsburg to Fishkill press hard cider again and sell it by the bottle, and the barrel is back in the cellar — this time with the state’s blessing and a tax stamp.

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



Millbrook Arts Project features four artists in ‘Patterns of Life’ exhibition



Above: Richard Garrison, “Circular Color Scheme.” Right: Shari Diamond, “The 60 Year Project.” *Courtesy images*



Millbrook Arts Project presents “Patterns of Life,” an exhibition of artwork by Shari Diamond, Richard Garrison, Paul Lewandowski and Jim Morris, curated by Sharon Bates. The exhibition opens Friday, Oct. 23 and runs through Saturday, Nov. 28, at the Millbrook Library, located at 3 Friendly Lane.

A conversation with exhibiting artists Diamond, Garrison and Lewandowski is set for Friday, Oct. 23, 4:30-5:30 p.m., followed by a public reception from 6 to 8 p.m. at the library.

Whether found in personal histories, everyday surroundings, natural processes, or systems of information, patterns can shape how we experience the world around us.

“Patterns of Life” brings together four artists whose works suggest that patterns are more than repetitions of form; they can reveal connections and structures that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Diamond transforms photographs from her family archive into evocative

silhouettes, considering the relationship between memory and the traces of a life. Garrison observes the visual language of the contemporary American landscape, translating colors, forms, and the rhythms of ordinary places into systematic grids. Lewandowski explores pattern through fiber, knotting, and three-dimensional structures, moving between order and spontaneity, while Morris draws from maps, charts, diagrams, and other forms of visual information to investigate systems in states of transformation and flux.

The Millbrook Arts Project, a community art space, is a recent collaboration of the Millbrook Library and the Millbrook Arts Group (MAG). The project is dedicated to offering exhibition opportunities to visual artists and enriching the experience of visual art in Millbrook and surrounding communities.

For more information about upcoming exhibits at Millbrook Arts Project, visit: millbrooklibrary.org/millbrook-arts-project/.

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

Get Growing!

continued from page 16

ans that it’s not just about cuddling cute little kittens. Rebecca places her students as interns at local agricultural businesses.

Student Tabitha Smith-White works at my greenhouse a few hours per week, shadowing the crew busy raising 80,000 poinsettias for the holiday season. I was a little disappointed when Tabitha admitted that she’s not planning to become a poinsettia producer. Rather, she wants to work in genetics.

So who’s going to grow poinsettias for my grandchildren to enjoy? (By the way, both my grandchildren are in college. Priya is studying marine biology at S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook, and Ambika, at Bennington College, wants to be a professor).

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

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

EXHIBITIONS

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. 30:** Grace Smith House will bring The Clothesline Project exhibition to the Reception and Hancock Galleries. The Clothesline Project is not suitable for children due to explicit sexual messages on a collection of t-shirts being displayed. The **Grace Smith House will hold their reception** on Thurs., Oct. 22, 6-8 p.m. The Hancock Gallery and Reception Gallery are open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. but visitors should stop by 9 Vassar St. first or call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. The 12 Vassar 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 January 2027:** “Photo-Design: Persuasion, Critique, Fantasy,” exhibition will show visitors how experimental photography techniques have helped envision new possibilities and picture new futures. While photography is often associated with truth and documenting the world as it is, it is arguably more powerful and ubiquitous as a medium of persuasion, critique, and imagination. This exhibition looks at the role of photography throughout the 20th and 21st centuries as a valuable tool for creating, and sometimes selling, a vision of tomorrow. Family (845) 437-5632 or vassar.edu/theloeb (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. More info at www.artsmidhudson.org

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. **Oct. 23-Nov. 28:** Millbrook Arts Project presents “Patterns of Life,” an exhibition of artwork by Shari Diamond, Richard Garrison, Paul Lewandowski, and Jim Morris, curated by Sharon Bates. The work of these artists suggests that patterns are more than repetitions of form; they can reveal connections and structures that might otherwise go unnoticed. **Conversation** with Diamond, Garrison & Lewandowski: Fri., Oct. 23, 4:30-5:30 p.m., followed by a **public reception**, 6-8 p.m. www.millbrooklibrary.org

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

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through October:** Morton’s Homage to the Fiber Creators, join us to see the community’s fiber arts creations. We will have quilts, knitted animals, rugs, handmade garments, knitting, spun wool, felted pieces, and much, much more. Admission is free; art purchases and donations for the library are welcome. (845) 876-2903

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

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Nov. 15:** “Marie Cole: Escape Route.” Known for her large-scale oil paintings of the Hudson Valley, Jersey Shore, and Cape Cod, Marie Cole works from her studio overlooking the Hudson River in Germantown, capturing the light and changing weather of the Catskills. Her work also encompasses the farmland, fields, and barns of the Hudson Valley. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave., 2nd floor, Millbrook. **Through Nov. 15:** “Julia Whitney Barnes: Cyanopaintings and the Botanical World,” lush botanical paintings, inspired by the 19th-century cyanotype photographic process. Beginning with unique cyanotype prints on watercolor paper, the artist builds richly layered compositions using watercolor, gouache, acrylic, and ink, often incorporating plant species gathered from her Hudson Valley garden. (845) 677-6100 or www.tytegalleries.com

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. **Through Oct. 25:** “Arcane Bodies.” www.womenswork.art

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THEME: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ACROSS

1. Trampled
5. Dashboard unit, acr.
8. "Be quiet," onomatopoeically speaking
11. Clean the whiteboard, e.g.
12. Morally wicked
13. Former anesthetic
15. Bad luck precursor
16. Banned apple spray
17. *Ringo Starr's instrument, pl.
18. *Home of the bagpipes
20. Big one, at 7-Eleven
21. Contemplate
22. Jewelry stone
23. Hindu queens
26. Something earned
30. Tokyo, formerly
31. *Riddim pair music genre
34. Spock's famous body parts
35. *Animal, source of violin bow strings
37. Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf _____"
38. Away from port (2 words) _____
39. Not much (2 words) _____
40. Post-graduate journey?
42. Always, to a poet
43. Baby bear (2 words)
45. Beach-comber's collection
47. Cholera
48. Popular pie nut
50. Glazier's unit
52. *Flute player
55. Pointy teeth
56. 36 inches
57. Sticky stuff
59. Hot _____ buns
60. Code word for K
61. Mauritania's Eastern neighbor
62. Soda pop container
63. Ems follower
64. Highest point

DOWN

1. *Piano has at least ____ pedals
2. Part of a glass, pl. ____
3. Leading oil-producers' grp.
4. Indicate
5. Home to Teatro alla Scala
6. Popular core exercise
7. Deer social group
8. Synagogue
9. Cannabis plant
10. Store posting, abbr.
12. Old-fashioned carry-on bag
13. Straight ones in drafter's toolbox
14. *Louis Armstrong's instrument
19. "And Then ____ Were None"
22. "Wow!"
23. User's "getaway"
24. Sun-dried brick
25. Water wheel
26. Intense anger
27. Painter's prop
28. Angler's basket
29. Former Russian leaders
32. Snatch
33. Toothy fish
36. *Lute family instruments
38. "Perfect" Buddhist
40. Theatrical prompt
41. Former Portuguese money
44. Edible herb
46. Brain teaser
48. Like average Jane
49. British peers
50. Prefix for "beyond"
51. Any minute, arch.
52. Type of fish net
53. Daytime TV program
54. Enameled metalware
55. Federal Communications Commission
58. *Standard number of strings on guitar

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13					14			
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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page **27**

Hudson Valley artist's DIRT Project brings soil-inspired art to Poughkeepsie Farm Project

Two small doors have appeared on the grounds of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project (PFP), and visitors have been invited to find them. Called DIRTdoors, they are the newest installation from The DIRT Project, an artist-led initiative by Emilie Houssart, Adjunct Lecturer in the Art Department at SUNY New Paltz. They were installed at the farm for Harvest Fest on October 3.

The only clue offered to visitors: both doors are near a place that smells really good.

The DIRT Project offers experiential, collaborative workshops and interactive installations for all ages. Its work invites play with earth, linguistics and identity, and explores our relationships with the invisible life forms inside the body and underfoot.

The project began as a slow art project at PFP last year. Since then it has grown through wandering and sensing the land, working alongside farmers and volunteers, talking with community members, hosting interns and visiting artists for conversation around soil, and mentoring a student teacher through a public work-

shop that connects art with food, community and culture.

"Education gardens are created to be playful and to spark curiosity. Why is this growing here? How does it work? Can I eat it? Smell it? We want someone to meet a worm for the very first time, or lift a hidden door in the ground and discover how alive the soil beneath us really is. These are moments worth sharing, the kind that make you want to bring a friend and show them what you found. In the garden, we're never really alone. It's the ultimate connecting space." - Amanda Henson, Co-Director, Educational Programs, Poughkeepsie Farm Project

The DIRTdoors sit alongside the rest of PFP's programming at the farm, including workshops and weekly volunteering in support of its educational and food access efforts.

The DIRT Project is a collaborative art practice led by Emilie Houssart, Adjunct Lecturer in the Art Department at SUNY New Paltz and the SUNY Sustainability Faculty Fellow program. Learn more at emiliehoussart.com.



The DIRT Project is on the grounds of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project. Left: Two visitors at the DIRT Project. *Courtesy photos*



send us your news ————— cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Constitution Marathon reading set for Oct. 28

Arts Mid-Hudson will present Constitution Marathon Reading, a free community event hosted by Ruth Danon and Mike Jurkovic on Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 1-5 p.m. at the Cornell Creative Arts Center in Kingston. Participants will read the complete U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, creating space for reflection, questions, and discussion about the meaning of these founding documents in today's democracy.

Americans often speak proudly of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but how well do we understand what these documents mean for a challenged democracy? The Constitution Marathon Reading invites community members to read and listen to the words together, ask

questions, exchange ideas, and peacefully assemble. The event encourages participants to engage with these foundational texts and consider their continued significance in civic life.

The readings are a creative collaboration by Ruth Danon, Stephanie JT Russell, and Mike Jurkovic. Danon currently serves as Dutchess County Poet Laureate, while Jurkovic serves as Ulster County Poet Laureate.

Through this collaborative reading, participants of all ages are invited to take part in a shared experience centered on civic engagement, dialogue, and the rights of the people.

The event is free and open to people of all ages.

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 17)

By David Kalvitis © 2007 Monkeying Around

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PPLD Big Read presents Tanisha Mitchell with ‘Cotton: The Dream and Hope of the Slave’

Join the Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD) for their 2026 Poughkeepsie Big Read events, scheduled to run from Saturday, October 17 – Tuesday, November 24. The Big Read is an annual program intended to encourage the community to read, discuss, and participate in thematic events.

On Friday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m., the library will host Tanisha Mitchell Presents “Cotton: The Dream and Hope of the Slave” at the Beulah Baptist Church at 92 Catharine Street in Poughkeepsie, which honors the African-American experience during slavery through spirituals, art, and slave narratives. Mitchell, the soprano and librarian behind the popular Opera Talks, will present her research and perform two live spirituals.

Cotton’s presentation will run for three acts, with Act One highlighting enslaved children who witnessed families torn apart and auctioned off. Act Two will look at the role religion played in keeping slaves in a submissive position, and its

role in the practice of slavery being questioned, followed by a narrative of a slave, Uncle Silas, questioning his deliverance from slavery. Act Three covers emancipation, and the motivation for escape, as well as the role of spirituals in conveying codes for escape.

Mitchell is a soprano and librarian, and runs a popular program, Opera Talks, an arts outreach company that brings a new spin to opera lectures using technology, artifacts, and live performance to teach and inspire audiences. Mitchell was named a “Mover and Shaker” by Library Journal and is known for her work in the arts in New York City, Long Island, and beyond. She is the arts coordinator at the Freeport Memorial Library, where she brings a new perspective to classical music and archival programming.

For more information about these events, follow the Poughkeepsie Public Library District on Facebook and Instagram, visit the website at <https://poklib.org>, or call (845) 485-3445 x3707.

Tanisha Mitchell. *Courtesy photo*



Love to Cook

continued from page 15

caramel apples and popcorn balls from your rural neighbors, although candy was being commercially produced in the 1880s. Love it or hate it, candy corn is likely the oldest, originally called chicken feed to appeal to a largely agricultural America. Good & Plenty, Tootsie Rolls, Hershey bars and Hershey Kisses were the next on the scene. Innovations in the candy industry eventually led to smaller, individually wrapped options, which were welcomed as safer and more hygienic. Today, the sky’s the limit with thousands of options ranging from chocolate to sour fruit in a variety of enticing packaging that are admittedly hard to resist.

With so many choices, which do you each for? Everyone has their opinions and favorites, but when I did a little digging, it was clear that Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups top the list as the best, and I admit the pumpkin-shaped ones are my favorite with their perfect chocolate-to-peanut butter ratio. Also up there are Twix, Snickers, Kit Kat, M & Ms, Butterfinger and Sour Patch Kids. And at the bottom of the bag, the least popular include Circus Peanuts (not sure why these exist, to be honest), Necco Wafers, Candy Corn and black licorice. Feel free to disagree. This is America and you can like what you like and buy it, too. Growing up, my sister and I would sort through all the candy we collected and trade with each other, and I’ll bet you did, too. I’m pretty sure that’s still a thing, which makes me happy.

There are a few unspoken Halloween rules. Among them are that a decorated house is one open to visitors, and no porch or house lights means the opposite. As an adult who loves having trick-or-treaters at her door, I always strive to have one of the “cool” houses with spooky decorations and good candy. I do, however have an unspoken rule of my own. No costume means no candy (well, maybe a Dum-Dum). I found out a few years ago that there’s a house around the corner from me that is REALLY cool and hands out full-sized candy bars, which is amazing. I’ll not be doing that, but I’m delighted that someone is!

Each year we get fewer trick-or-treaters, although the number was slightly up last year. I attribute this to more parents taking their kids to venues and trunk-or-treat events that are prevalent now. I’m sure they’re likely seen as safer and more convenient, but that makes me sad. It’s just one more thing from childhood that’s been replaced by something less fun. When I was a trick-or-treater, we didn’t have many houses to go to, but that hardly mattered. It was being out at night, kicking up leaves as we went from house to house in our costumes to get whatever candy we could that was exciting. It felt a little rebellious and liberating, and looking back now I think it touched on something ancestral the younger me knew nothing about. I think it harkened back to the ancient days of its genesis, a darker, more mysterious time when we feared the shadows and respected things we didn’t fully understand. We believed there was something out there that could snatch us up if we didn’t take care to prevent it. But mostly we believed in the natural world and the spirit realm and trusted our primal instincts while revering both. How I hate to think that something so delicious is being taken away, one more ding on childhood wonder and imagination.

The main reason I so love being on my front porch on Halloween is the trick-or-treaters. I love their excitement, their wildness, their costumes (especially the scary ones) and their sense of wonder and remember how all of that felt when I was one of them. It makes my soul happy to see it and to reward them with sweet treats for continuing the tradition. Here’s to tricking the bad spirits and treating the good ones! Happy Halloween!

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

Free Virtual Homebuyer Seminar set for Oct. 21

Are you looking for the home of your dreams and don’t know where to start? Ulster Savings Bank invites you to a free homebuyer seminar on Wednesday, Oct. 21, starting at 5:30 p.m. They are hosting this event along with Community Housing Innovations to help one understand the critical steps to owning one’s own home. This seminar will be offered as an interactive live Zoom meeting. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions in real time.

They will discuss:

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- Low down payment options
- Choosing the right lender
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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF MEETING: Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of ROCK CITY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC. will be held at the office of the Cemetery, 858 NY-199, Red Hook, NY 12571 on Thursday, October 29th, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. for the purpose of electing Trustees and Officers, approving the renewal of its insurance policies, and the transaction of such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. Dated: October 17th, 2026 Sarah K. Hormans, Treasurer

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OBITUARIES

Maureen A. Moore

AMENIA – Maureen A. Moore, 79, a longtime resident of Amenia, NY, passed away on Sunday, October 11, 2026 at Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT. Maureen worked as a registered nurse at Taconic Developmental Disabilities Office in Wassaic, NY for 40 years retiring in 2008.

Born on August 12, 1947 in Poughkeepsie, NY, she was the daughter of the late Lawrence Quinlan and Jean (Martin) Quinlan. She was a graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School Class of 1965 in Poughkeepsie, NY and Villanova University School of Nursing in Villanova, PA. On October 5, 1975 in Hyde Park, NY, she married Norman Moore who survives at home.

Maureen was a member of the America Historical Society, the America Republican Committee and the Indian Rock Schoolhouse Association in America. For many years, she was also the court clerk for her husband, former Town of America Justice Hon. Norman Moore. A longtime active parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in America, she served as a Eucharistic Minister and assisted at the parish's thrift shop.

Maureen was better known as Mom, and in more recent years, Grandma. One of her great joys was sharing her delicious baked goods with others. She will be deeply missed by all of her family and friends.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons: Lawrence M. Moore, and his wife, Jessica, of Millerton, NY and Thomas Moore, and his wife, Laura of Newington, CT; a brother, Michael Quinlan of Bowie, MD and three grandchildren, Iris, Isabelle and Penelope Moore.

Calling hours were held on Friday, October 16, 2026 at Hufcut Funeral Home, Dover Plains, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, October 17, 2026 at Immaculate Conception Church, Amenia, NY. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Amenia, NY.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Rd., Amenia, NY 12501. To send the family an online condolence, please visit www.huffcutfuneralhome.com.

Lelah M. Somers

DOVER PLAINS – Lelah M. Somers, 97, a longtime Dover Plains, NY, resident passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at Ferncliff Nursing Home in Rhinebeck, NY. Lelah was born on July 3, 1929 in Pawling, NY, to the late Byron and Lelah (Watts) Brill. Lelah grew up in Pawling and on November 22, 1946 in Pleasant Valley, NY, she married James F. Somers, Sr. Mr. Somers passed away on September 3, 1970. Lelah worked for New York State as a therapy aide for thirty-years and as a senior companion for New York State for thirty-two-years, with specific care provided to the mentally disabled.

She enjoyed taking care of the mentally disabled was a wonderful mother to her four children, always putting her family first. She is survived by her son, James F. Somers, Jr. and his wife Donna of Dover Plains; two daughters, Doreen Monica of Wingdale, NY, and Frances "Fran" Horton of Dover Plains who was also her caregiver for many years;

seven grandchildren, Debbie, Margie, Leah, Stephanie, Deirdra, Benji and Jimmy and several great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews and her step-son, Kenny Elliott. In addition to her parents and husband, Lelah was predeceased by her daughter and son-in-law, Carol “DeeDee” Maile and Gil Maile, her son-in-law, Stephen Monica and her son-in-law, Benny Horton as well as her companion of over forty-years, Andrew “Mac” McAlravey and her siblings, Ferris Brill, Eleanor Barryann, Richard Brill, William Brill and Barney Brill.

Lelah was a loving mother and a strong willed and hard-working woman. She was an avid NASCAR fan for many years and traveled with her companion "Mac" up and down the east coast following the sport. Her favorite track was the Daytona International Speedway in Florida that they went to every February to attend the Daytona 500 race. She loved her family so much and she will be dearly missed; she lived a long life and for that her family is deeply grateful.

Graveside services and burial took place on Friday, October 16, 2026 at Valley View Cemetery in Dover Plains, NY. Pastor Rick Totten officiated. A reception in Lelah's honor followed at the VFW Post # 5444, Dover Plains, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society or the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Lelah's honor, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, Millerton, NY.

Gwenyth P. Sperry

HYDE PARK – Mrs. Gwenyth P. Sperry peacefully passed away at home on October 11, 2026.

She was born in Amsterdam, NY, on February 2, 1929, and was raised in Canajoharie, NY, the daughter of Sanford Wesley Planck and Virginia Shaver Planck.

A graduate of Canajoharie High School, Mrs. Sperry attended Casanovia Junior College and then graduated from Plattsburgh State Teachers College, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education. She began her teaching career as a Kindergarten teacher in Delmar, NY, where she met a dashing young man named Page W. Sperry. They were married in Canajoharie on December 26, 1953, and enjoyed nearly 33 years of wedded bliss until his passing in 1986.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Mrs. Sperry is predeceased in death by her daughter, Pamela Bendyk, son-in-law, Gary L. Hagy, and sister-in-law, Leneta Planck.

Mrs. Sperry is survived by her daughters, Beth Sperry Hagy, LouAnne Sperry Scherb (Brian), her son Wesley Sperry (Dawn), and son-in-law, Mark Bendyk.

Affectionately known as "Gram", Mrs. Sperry is survived by her six grandchildren: Joshua Bendyk (Taylor), Caroline Bendyk, Sarah Nicolato Norcross (Phil), Bryan Sperry (Lucy), Erin Sperry Hogan (Clay), and Emily Hagv. She also has four great-grandchildren.

Survivors also include two brothers, Thomas W. Planck, Ronald Planck, and one

sister, Nancy Hoak. She also had many nieces and nephews, as well as many cherished friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

An active member of the Hyde Park United Methodist Church for nearly 70 years, Mrs. Sperry taught in the Hyde Park Central School District for over 30 years, mostly teaching second grade at North Park Elementary School. After her retirement in 1992, she was an active volunteer for more than 30 years with many different community organizations. These organizations included: Meals on Wheels in Hyde Park, the Mahwenawasigh Chapter of the DAR, the Northern Dutchess Hospital Women's Auxiliary, the Hyde Park Historical Society, and the HPUMC Marketplace.

Mrs. Sperry was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She enjoyed playing games (especially playing Bridge with several different groups), traveling far and wide, doing puzzles, reading, sewing, crocheting, knitting, and working on counted cross-stitch projects. She had a marvelous sense of humor with a boisterous laugh. Mrs. Sperry was known to all to have an upbeat, optimistic personality that was infectious to everyone around her. Her passions in life included time with her family and her treasured friends, and she was blessed with time spent with her grandchildren... as well as chocolate in all forms.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." We believe our mother did it both ways.

The family wishes to express sincere appreciation to My Angels Home Healthcare, particularly Shaun-Ti, Tammy, Lavonia, and Shanice, for their devoted and loving care of our mother.

Calling hours were held on Friday, October 16, at Sweets Funeral Home in Hyde Park. A Celebration of Life Service was held at the Hyde Park United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 17. Burial was at Union Cemetery, Hyde Park, NY the service.

The family suggests donations be made to the Hyde Park Meals on Wheels, 1 Church Street, Hyde Park, New York 12538, or the Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 1 Church Street, Hyde Park, New York 12538.

Cathy B. Sullivan

RHINEBECK – Cathy B. Sullivan passed on October 12 at age 79 in her home in Rhinebeck, New York due to the effects of dementia. Born January 22, 1947 to Henry and Dorothy McHale Brown in Queens, New York City, Cathy spent much of her adult life in New Jersey before moving to Rhinebeck in 2001. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Thiel College in Pennsylvania and a subsequent Master's degree from William Paterson University in New Jersey. Cathy taught in elementary grades and special education in Bernardsville and Harding, New Jersey before ending her professional career as a School Social Worker in West Milford, New Jersey. Cathy retired in 1996 to prepare for the adoption of Emily as her daughter and to care for her during Emily's formative years.

Cathy was predeceased by her parents, Henry and Dorothy Brown.

She is survived by her spouse, Edward, whom she married in a civil ceremony in

1983 and in a Catholic ceremony in June 2025. She is also survived by her stepson, Brian (Lorraine), who resides in Kuwait, and her daughter, Emily (Anton Hang,partner) who reside in Tivoli.

Cathy is further survived by her sister, Jeanne Caliguri (Frank), of Tangier, North Carolina; her brother, William (Barbara), of Manasquan, New Jersey; and her sister, Elizabeth Brown Ritterbusch (Eric), of Culpeper, Virginia. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

A viewing of urn and family memorabilia took place at Burnett & White Funeral Home on Monday, October 19. A Mass of Celebration of Cathy's life occurred at the Church of The Good Shepherd in Rhinebeck on Tuesday, October 20. Burial of remains follows at Rhinebeck Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Hudson Valley Hospice, 374 Violet Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, PO Box 1000 Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908.

Funeral arrangements were handled by
Burnett and White, Rhinebeck, NY.

Charles Van De Bogart

VERBANK – Charles F. Van De Bogart, 92, died peacefully surrounded by the love of his family at his home on October 10, 2026.

Born on August 20, 1934 in Sharon, CT, Charles was the son of the late Charles and Hazel (Melius) Van De Bogart. Charles was raised in Millerton and lived his adult life in Verbank.

He proudly served in the US Army from 1957-1959. He retired from the New York State Police in 1985 after 23 years of service. Throughout his career, he received numerous commendations. Among them was recognition from the NY State Police and the Dutchess County Legislature for his courage and bravery during a 1983 shooting incident in which his partner was shot and wounded. Charlie served as a board member of Verbank Cemetery.

On February 28, 1963, he married Joan (Fitzpatrick) Van De Bogart who predeceased him in 2009. Charles is survived by his children, Jodi Hackbarth and her husband Steven; Clinton Corners, Kim Watt and her husband Chip, Stanfordville, Charles S. Van De Bogart, Verbank and Kathleen DeNunzio and her husband Vincent, Lagrangeville; his grandchildren that brought him great pride, Charles S. Van De Bogart, Jr. and his wife Leighann, Brian Spaeth, Abigail Hackbarth and her fiancé Benjamin Yager, Cassidy Watt, Victoria and Kiersten DeNunzio, as well as Coleman, Tyler, and Quinn Van De Bogart, always in his thoughts and heart; his only great-granddaughter, Sawyer Joan, who brought him joy; his sister, Joyce Van De Bogart; many nieces and nephews; and his muffin sharing companion, Cooper.

Visitation was held on Friday, October 16th at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., Hopewell Junction. A funeral service was held on Saturday at the funeral home followed by burial at Verbank Cemetery with military honors.

Donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice. Please visit his full obituary at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

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OPERATING BUDGET OF THE PINE PLAINS FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED TO THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$231,000) ANNUALLY?

PLEASANT VALLEY

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY FIFTEEN THOUSAND (\$15,000) DOLLARS TO THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND (\$552,000) ANNUALLY?

RHINEBECK

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF RHINEBECK FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE STARR LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$48,000) TO THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED NINTY-FOUR THOUSAND AND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$594,800) ANNUALLY?

STANFORD

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF STANFORD FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE STANFORD FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY SIX THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$6,600) TO THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED AND SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$207,000) ANNUALLY?

WASHINGTON

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE MILLBROOK LIBRARY BE INCREASED FROM THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND (\$349,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO THREE HUNDRED NINTY-NINE THOUSAND (\$399,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY?

PLEASE NOTE THAT COMPLETE COPIES OF THE ABOVE PROPOSALS AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC AT THE DUTCHESS COUNTY COUNCIL OF ELECTIONS, 112 DELAFIELD ST SUITE 200, POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK (845) 486-2473

www.dutchesselections.com

LISA JESSUP and ERIK J HAIGHT, Commissioners of Elections

LEGAL NOTICE

DUTCHESS COUNTY EARLY VOTING FOR THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION POLLS ARE OPEN FOR EARLY VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

Saturday, October 24:	9AM – 5PM
Sunday, October 25:	9AM – 5PM
Monday, October 26:	Noon – 8PM
Tuesday, October 27:	9AM – 5PM
Wednesday, October 28:	Noon – 8PM
Thursday, October 29:	9AM – 5PM
Friday, October 30:	9AM – 5PM
Saturday, October 31:	9AM – 5PM
Sunday, November 1:	9AM – 5PM

At any of the following locations:

Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Drive, Rhinebeck

Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill

Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie

Cornell Cooperative Center, 2715 US-44, Millbrook

Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie

Board of Election's Training Facility, 4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park

Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappinger

LISA JESSUP and ERIK J. HAIGHT, COMMISSIONERS

DUTCHESS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

112 DELAFIELD STREET, SUITE 200 POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601 845-486-2473

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NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF QUESTION TO VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF STANFORD AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to	N.Y.S. Education Law 259(1)(b), and in accordance with the provisions of the N.Y.S. Election Law, the following question will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of Stanford at the Gen-	eral Election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026. SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF STANFORD FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE	STANFORD FREE LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$6,600) TO THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND DOL-	LARS (\$207,000) ANNUALLY? Further notice is hereby given that said election shall be held at the Stanford Town Hall in the Town of Stanford, on the 3rd day of November,	2026, and that the polls will be open on that day between the hours of 6am to 9pm in addition to Early Voting locations and options
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GOLDEN LIVING

It’s a good time to check with your heating vendors regarding any available plans for budget billing, especially since the price of heating fuel has been known to swing considerably in recent years. For Dutchess County older adults who qualify based on income, it’s possible to apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). The 2026-27 HEAP benefit is expected to open in New York State on November 2nd.

HEAP may be able to help if you heat your home by any of the following methods: electricity, natural gas, oil, coal, propane, wood or wood pellets, kerosene, or corn. You could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off.

The intent of the HEAP benefit is only as a one-time supplement to the payment of annual energy costs. It is not a replacement for your regular payment of heating bills.

If you've been helped by HEAP before: If you are 60 or over, approved for HEAP in 2025-26, and not in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance, by now you should have received an application for the 2026-27 heating season from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. If you haven’t already done so, please complete the application and return it to the location printed on the application, so it may be processed in time for heating season.

If you’re wondering about HEAP: New applicants can receive information and/or apply electronically after the HEAP program’s official startup date of November 2nd. You will be able to apply at that time through mybenefits.ny.gov, or request an application from the Dutchess County Office for the Aging at 845-486-2555. You can also call OFA for an appointment for help in filling out HEAP applications.

HEAP benefit levels are based on household size, with maximum gross* monthly incomes starting at \$3,563 for a one-person household. Consult the chart on this page for maximum incomes for larger households.

There are two other HEAP benefits for eligible homeowners.

The Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement and the Clean and Tune benefit are both open for the 2026-27 season, while funding lasts.

If you are a homeowner and eligible, the Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement benefit can help you repair or replace your furnace, boiler, and other direct heating equipment necessary to keep your home’s primary heating source working.

Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred to repair or replace your furnace, boiler, and/or other essential heating equipment, up to certain state-established limits.

Before work is started it must be approved and authorized by a HEAP Local District Contact. Payment is made directly to the vendor after all the work is completed.

As for Clean and Tune, eligible households can receive energy efficiency services, which includes the cleaning of primary heating equipment, but may also include chimney cleaning, minor repairs, installation of carbon monoxide detectors or programmable thermostats, if needed, to allow for the safe, proper and efficient operation of the heating equipment. Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred to provide clean and tune services, up to a maximum of \$500. No additional HEAP cash benefits are available.

You may be eligible for a benefit if:

- You are the homeowner;
- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines for your household size as posted on the table below;
- Your primary heating equipment is more than 12 months old;
- Your primary heating equipment or chimney has not been cleaned within the last 12 months; and
- You do not have a service contract with your vendor that includes clean and tune services.

2026-27 HEAP monthly income limits

Your total household gross* monthly

income for your household size must be at or below the following guidelines (Household Size - Maximum Gross Monthly Income):

1 - \$3,563
2 - \$4,659
3 - \$5,756
4 - \$6,852
5 - \$7,948
6 - \$9,045
7 - \$9,250
8 - \$9,456
9 - \$9,662
10 - \$9,867

Source: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)

* Gross income is your household's total earnings before any subtractions for taxes, benefits, or other deductions.

November County Government and OFA Holiday Schedule

The Office for the Aging and Dutchess County Government offices are closed on the following weekdays in November:

- Tuesday, November 3rd – Election Day (New York State public holiday). State and local government offices are also closed. Note: Many public schools that are used as polling places are also closed on Election Day.
- Wednesday, November 11th – Veterans Day (national holiday)
- Thursday, November 26th – Thanksgiving Day (national holiday)

OFA Friendship Centers are also closed on Friday, November 27th; but the OFA main office in Poughkeepsie will be OPEN that day. Clients of OFA’s Home Delivered Meals program receive shelf-stable meals in advance of each holiday, along with November 27th.

‘Mix and Mingle’ registration now open (Thu 11/5)

OFA is partnering with County Executive Sue Serino to offer another “Mix & Mingle” event, time time bringing the fun to northern Dutchess County! Since the first “Mix and Mingle” event in May was such a hit, we’re hosting a fall edition at the Pavilion at Brookmeade in Rhinebeck (34 Brookmeade Dr.). Join us for autumnal mocktails, games, and - of course – mingling.

This event is for Dutchess County residents 60+, register by calling us at 845-486-2555 during business hours.

Citizens Preparedness Training (Mon 11/9)

Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response, Medical Reserve Corps of Dutchess County, Dutchess County Office for the Aging and the Town of Fishkill invite Dutchess County residents over age 60 (and their caregivers) to participate in Citizens Preparedness Training on Monday, November 9. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the program begins at 1:30 p.m., at Fishkill Town Recreation Department, 793 NY 52, Fishkill.

- Acquire the tools and resources to better prepare for any type of disaster;
- Learn how to respond accordingly in a disaster, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions;

Each household will receive a free Citizens Preparedness Starter Kit. The event is FREE and open to the public, but space is limited. Preparedness kits are limited to one per household, while supplies last. Please register in advance by calling the Office for the Aging during business hours: 845-486-2555

‘Friendly Calls’ Orientations – Dates added and updated

Interested in becoming an OFA “Friendly Calls” volunteer caller? We have a volunteer orientation opportunity available at the OFA main office at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie:

Monday, October 26th – 10am

(UPDATED) Monday, November 9th, 23rd or 30th – 10am

To reserve your seat, call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

More OFA events near you

To register for these events, contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

October:

(Monday) 26th – OFA Mobile Office Hours, East Fishkill OFA Friendship Center, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction, 9-11 am

(Thursday) 29th – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Amenia Library, 3309 NY 343, Amenia, 12-3 pm

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