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Aymar-Blair declares victory in Comptroller race; Pulver concedes

By Curtis Schmidt



Dan Aymar-Blair

In the tight race for Dutchess County Comptroller, Democrat challenger Dan Aymar-Blair has declared victory and incumbent Republican Gregg Pulver has conceded.

A press release from the Dutchess County Democratic Party on Friday, Nov. 15, stated, “Dan Aymar-Blair won the Dutchess County Comptroller special election following the counting of absentee and affidavit ballots this week. Unofficial results provided by the Dutchess County Board of Elections place Aymar-Blair ahead of his opponent Gregg Pulver by 931 votes. According to updated unofficial results from the Dutchess County Board of Elections after counting affidavit and absentee ballots, Aymar-Blair has 72,624 votes and Pulver has 71,693 votes.”

In an email to the Southern Dutchess News Group on Monday, Pulver said, “I am conceding. (There will be) no manual recount because (the) margin is above (the) threshold.”

County Democratic Elections Commissioner Hannah Black told the Albany Times Union on Friday afternoon that Aymar-Blair led Pulver by more than 900 votes - a

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‘Trees for Troops’ to load record 900 trees on Nov. 30

By Curtis Schmidt

The local “Trees for Troops” effort just keeps growing – and this year Volunteer Coordinator Jeff Cady says a new record of approximately 900 trees will be sent to military families around the globe.

That’s a huge jump over the 500 trees that were loaded on FedEx tractor trailer trucks last year. 2024 marks the 13th year for local volunteers doing their part in the national effort.

“Trees for Troops” provides free, farm-grown Christmas Trees to U.S. armed forces members in all branches of the military and their families through donations, sponsorships, grants and the work of many volunteers. November is the busy month when farmer Tom Hahn, the local “Trees for Troops” founder, and Cady gather volunteers together, raise funds and load trees for shipment.

This year’s loading date is set for Saturday, Nov. 30, at 9 a.m., at Hahn Farm, 1697 Salt Point Turnpike. Everyone is invited to come out and help in the effort.

This year’s major donor for the second consecutive year is Williams Lumber & Home Centers, who will be donating 150 trees.

“The Williams family has really come through for us and we can’t say enough to thank them for coming on board to help out. They have become a major sponsor,”



Volunteers help to unload Christmas trees during the 2023 “Trees for Troops” collection effort at Hahn Farm in Salt Point. Archive photo by Curtis Schmidt

said Cady. “Tom Hahn usually gets donations to cover between 125 and 150 trees. So yes, this year will be the biggest year to date for the number of trees collected.”

He added that the Salt Point Fire Company has collected donations to cover 600 trees this year.

“We had two coin drops this year and have received many other donations,”

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Germania of Poughkeepsie sets Christkindlmarkts Nov. 22-23

By Curtis Schmidt



From left, Germania of Poughkeepsie members Pat Kemmerer, Annelise Kreig, Joan Siebert and Joan Magee display a variety of German baked goods for the annual Christkindlmarkts on Nov. 22 and 23. Courtesy photo

Germania of Poughkeepsie will host its annual Christkindlmarkts on Nov. 22 and 23 in a heated tent and hall on the grounds at 37 Old DeGarmo Road. Hours are 4-9 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday.

The history of Christkindlmarkts or “Christ Child Markets” can be traced back to the Middle Ages in Saxony, Germany.

Sylvia Reuter, president of Germania of Poughkeepsie, said the local organization held its first Christkindlmarkt in 2008 with a handful of vendors selling mostly handcrafted goods from knitted blan-

kets, hats, and scarves to amber and silver jewelry.

Grete Licis, a lifetime Germania member, started the market and it has grown over the years. This year, over 30 vendors will be on hand, selling handmade wooden crafts, pottery, jewelry, homemade fudge and candies, wine, dog treats and shirts, soaps, lotions, minerals an fossils, and much more.

Boy scouts will be selling Christmas wreaths, and for the second year in a row, Crazy Over Art on Tour will be participating. It is nonprof- it that encourages and teaches art to local communities with limited access to the arts.

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'Trees for Troops' to load record 900 trees on Nov. 30

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Volunteers will be loading the trees on three tractor trailer trucks provided by FedEx.



"We are again very happy with all of the support we have gotten from the fire companies around the county and from Uncle Mike with WRWD Radio," said Cady.

A full list of donors will be printed in the Northern and Southern Dutchess News in early December.



A volunteer helps to load trees during the "Trees for Troops" effort in 2023. Archive photo by Curtis Schmidt

Germania's Christkindlmarkts set Nov. 22-23

continued from cover



The annual Christkindlmarkts on Nov. 22 and 23 will feature a heated tent and hall on the Germania of Poughkeepsie grounds at 37 Old DeGarmo Road. Courtesy photo

Inside the Germania Hall, visitors will find the Germania Baked Goods Market where you can purchase homemade German cookies, stollen, apple strudel, bienenstich, gingerbread cake and much more.

Reuter said most of these treats are made in house by Germania volunteers.

"Take a break from shopping and you can enjoy German food, pastries, and a

mug of hot glühwein (German mulled wine), perfect to warm you up on a crisp fall day," she said.

Adding to the flavor of the event, the German Language Class, led by Frau Helga Nowak-Razey, will be singing Christmas carols in German and in English.

Parking and admission are free.

Aymar-Blair declares victory in Comptroller race; Pulver concedes

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margin she said Pulver would not be able to overcome given the number of outstanding ballots. She also noted that the apparent gap is large enough not to trigger an automatic recount, which state Election Law mandates if the margin is 0.5% or less.

In results from election night (Nov. 5) Pulver held a lead of 69,581 to 69,106 for Aymar-Blair.

In declaring victory on Friday, Aymar-Blair said, "I am humbled and honored by the trust Dutchess County residents have placed in me. This victory affirms that taxpayers want a watchdog who will make sure the county's budget is working for them. The people of Dutchess County want a Comptroller committed to transparency, accountability, and serving the public interest. I look forward to bringing independent oversight and a fresh perspective to the office, ensuring every dollar is used wisely and in service of the community."

Pulver released the following statement late Monday afternoon.

"I want to thank all those who supported our campaign over the last 10 months. This was an absurdly close race and it's clear that the work our office has done bringing true fiscal stewardship to the County was a strong message. I'm proud that our focus on eliminating wasteful spending and increasing our community outreach to help our neighbors resonated with the taxpayers of Dutchess County. Though we didn't win, our campaign over-performed the presidential ballot by a significant amount.

"We were out spent more than 2 to 1 and my opponent raised the most money by a comptroller candidate in county history. That proved to be just too much to overcome.

"I barnstormed across Dutchess County this year meeting so many neighbors, and I am thankful for the 71,000+ voters that put their trust in me. I have no regrets and I'm proud of everything my office accomplished this year. I hope to continue serving my neighbors in Dutchess County for years to come."

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**Millbrook Winery Offers Personal Touch
With Custom Wine Labels For Gifting Season**



**See story,
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Reflection, Remembrance and Hope: All welcome at Overdose Awareness Memorial

If you’ve ever entered the Dutchess County Rail Trail, behind Gold’s Gym in LaGrange, or exited there after a walk, run or bike ride, then you’ve likely seen the beautifully landscaped memorial with four pillars and a sitting wall surrounding it.

A bit closer, you’d notice the bricks leading up to it have names and dates or phrases like, “Reach out” and “Hope.” Toward the center, you’d see padlocks attached to a chain link fence. On those locks are names, dates and even inscribed pictures of people – individuals who have lost their battle to addiction.

In June 2022, the MARC Foundation, in partnership with the Mental Health America of Dutchess County (MHA - DC) and Gold’s Gym Dutchess County, who generously donated the land for this purpose, cut the ribbon on what is Dutchess County’s only Overdose Awareness Memorial. Since then, it’s become a sanctuary and place of reflection and hope for many.

“We created this memorial so that people have a place to honor those they’ve loved and lost, but also to bring awareness to the silent cause of struggle for many,” said Kristin Fountain, president of the MARC Foundation board. “There’s no cost to visit and everyone is welcome. The public is invited to place a lock on the fence or, if they’d like to remember their loved one and help us raise funds and awareness, they can purchase a customized brick to be installed at the entrance of the memorial. The bricks can have names, dates or even simply share a message of hope or support for someone who is living in recovery.”

Another key feature of the Overdose Awareness Memorial is the kiosk located just outside of the memorial, which holds a host of resources and information for anyone seeking support, whether it’s the individual themselves or a family member or friend looking for connections within the community. Inside the kiosk is a scannable QR code with information on how to purchase a brick or to donate funds to help with the upkeep of the

memorial. The holidays can be a difficult time for anyone who has lost a loved one. The Overdose Memorial welcomes you to share and cherish their memory through an engraved brick or a personalized padlock.

“Resources include information on suicide prevention, mental health support, 12-step groups, veteran’s services, addiction and recovery help lines and more,” said Andrew O’Grady, CEO of MHA - DC. “The important thing is that help is available and no one needs to struggle alone.”

To learn more about the Overdose Awareness Memorial, or upcoming events, resources and news, head to marc-foundation.org or follow the MARC Foundation on Facebook.

The mission of the MARC Foundation is to generate financial support to provide prevention and residential treatment for individuals with a substance use disorder. The Foundation accomplishes this mission by giving grants to expand and improve sober housing, which creates a safe and secure environment for people in recovery, and by supporting organizations that prevent or treat substance use disorders.

In addition to helping to create the Overdose Awareness Memorial, the MARC Foundation supports the annual Overdose Awareness Day and provides scholarships for recovering substance abusers who want to work as addiction counselors. It also creates transition funds for those moving from community residences to mainstream life, supports members of local Oxford Houses and improves local community residences.

In the over 30 years since this Foundation was founded, it has helped thousands of people who have become clean and sober, witnessing miraculous journeys of recovery from people who were often written off by their families, employers and, most importantly, by themselves as being beyond help. Sadly, countless others are still being caught in the grips of this devastating disease.



The Overdose Awareness Memorial on the Dutchess County Rail Trail includes a personalized padlock on the fence (free for anyone in the community to place in remembrance) and the memorial to which all are welcome. A ribbon-cutting event was held in 2022. *Courtesy photos*

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County to participate in statewide STOP-DWI Thanksgiving enforcement effort

**Impaired driving crackdown
runs Nov. 27-Dec. 1**

Law-enforcement agencies throughout Dutchess County will participate in a special enforcement effort to crack down on impaired driving to coincide with the national Thanksgiving holiday. The statewide STOP-DWI High Visibility Enforcement Campaign effort starts on

Wednesday, Nov. 27, and will end on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Various law-enforcement agencies will collaborate across the state and will be out in force in this coordinated effort to reduce the number of alcohol-related injuries and deaths during this period.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more impaired driving crashes occur on Thanksgiving day than the day before or

after the holiday. Of all driving collisions on Thanksgiving day, 31 percent are related to impaired driving. The NHTSA reported Thanksgiving car crash fatalities rose by 23 percent from 2019 to 2020, based on the most recent data available.

The STOP-DWI Thanksgiving High Visibility Engagement Campaign is one of many statewide initiatives promoted by STOP-DWI NY and the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee. The Statewide

STOP-DWI High Visibility Engagement Campaign also targets Super Bowl weekend, St. Patrick’s Day, Memorial Day, the 100 Days of Summer campaign in June through August, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Halloween and the winter holiday season. STOP-DWI New York urges residents to download its mobile app, “Have a Plan,” at <https://stopdwi.org/mobileapp/>.

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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.

Will our democracy survive 2nd Trump presidency?

To the editor:
The election is over - the United States chose a new president and gives him total control of the government – the checks and balances are gone. People do stupid things and probably this letter is mine. I write this before freedom of speech is taken away. “Absolute power corrupts absolutely” (British Lord Acton) and A dictatorship is a dictatorship by whatever name you call it. It is no longer “God Bless America.” It is now “God Save America.”
Trump controls with threats, fear, and chaos - that will not change and he will not change – a man of dubious character, misogynist, convicted rapist sexual assaulter, tax cheater, intelligence risk to this country, with over 30,000 fact-checked lies, a man filled with anger, and white supremacy leanings. Some call this 1930s Nazi Germany and I agree - history repeats itself.
Look at his picks to solidify his power and govern: They say “birds of a feather flock together” and we have sex offenders Hegseth (with a white supremacy tatoo) and Gaetz to head Department of Defense and Attorney General, neither with experience to do the job other than total loyalty to Trump - not to our nation; Robert Kennedy Jr. to head Health and Human Services (HHS), a Covid vaccination denier; and now a proposed military board to purge the generals to ensure loyalty to him, rather than their oath to defend our Country.
It is doubtful that Trump will have an epiphany and help an unbalanced nation where the upper 10 percent wealthy have more wealth than the lower 90 percent and the middle class has gotten smaller. His proposed tariffs that are inflationary taxes passed on to the consumer (us).
The AP group votes showed men about 55% for Trump and women 46% for Harris, which may be due to male bias against a black woman for president.
I see it as a sad message of male supremacy, to take back the rights of equality and protection of body that women won through their suffrage war and Supreme Court took away.
How this presidency will end is unknown, but in the “Dawn’s early light” I hope the flag of America will “still be there” - rather than the flag of Trump.

David F. Queen
Red Hook

GUEST COLUMN / OPINION

Can math fix your finances?

By Irvin Miller, Ph.D.

To get the best advice on how to live within your means, one should listen to someone like Suze Orman. As a mathematician, I concur with much that she says. If one understands the mathematics behind financial decisions, one can enjoy their life immensely more.
The first rule is that your expenditures should be less than your income. If you understood the rules of probability and realize that the provider of the gambling services is going to make a lot of money off your loses, you would not be so anxious to let this be a big expenditure. So, stop buying lottery tickets, going to casinos, and any other form of gambling. The providers of these services are masters at advertising a product that may only live up to its promises for others than you.
Next, consider your health. Forget about alcohol, coffee, drugs, and smoking. While these make you feel good, they can make a big dent in your financial health. But, that may not matter, [if you are] miserable and won’t live long enough to feel the full discomfort.
And finally, the big one: Do not borrow money and do not allow there to be a balance on your credit cards. You usually borrow money so that you can have something for today rather than waiting to have it tomorrow. Often you can be in

for big disappointments. You could go to a State College or you can go to a private university, but the debt you run up may be impossible to pay off because you do not earn sufficient money.
Usury used to be considered an interest rate above 12%. Because college loans are deferred, the interest rates are higher than paying the loan off as soon as you get it.
Credit cards can have interest rates as high as 100%. If you do not pay off a \$45 purchase, you can be charged \$45 penalty – which, in effect, is a 100% interest rate. Yet, government watch dog services do not recognize it as an interest rate.
Buying a home can be one of your riskiest adventures. Lenders have learned that if they can force a borrower to default on a loan with rising house costs, the lender can make a large amount of money on your misery. Balloon mortgages caused lots of people to lose their homes and equity in the beginning of this century.
People can be creative in living within their means. Young college graduates share apartments with friends or live with their parents. If you are retired and are an empty nester, you can rent out your children’s rooms. If you find someone with whom you are compatible, one could sell their home and live in someone else’s home, where the savings on taxes, main-

tenance and insurance are halved. With reverse mortgages you still have to pay taxes, maintenance, and insurance.
While you may not be so savvy on your finances, government officials can be worse. The government has an ever-growing debt that eventually has to be settled by your grandchildren.
If you were to increase taxes to pay off the national debt, would you charge the poor people or the wealthy more taxes? Cutting taxes sounds good, but it just makes the debt greater. It seems that since the wealthy have more to offer, you would want to increase their taxes, not cut them.
Other than Suze Orman, who can you trust? Banks use to have the word ‘Trust’ in their name. Most recently, one large bank was fined a three billion dollars for money laundering.
Maybe, you should have taken your math more seriously.

Irvin Miller is the owner of Imaginative Multi-Media & Math and Physics Exploration in LaGrange.
The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of Northern Dutchess News. To submit a column, write to us at creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

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Historic Marker of Patriot Burials unveiled at Rhinebeck Reformed Church

A dedication and blessing of a Pomeroy Foundation Historic Marker was held at the Rhinebeck Reformed Church on Sunday, Nov. 10. At right, Tim Middlebrook of the Sons of the American Revolution unveils the marker with Rev. Luis Perez of the Rhinebeck Reformed Church. The Patriot Burials marker notes that at least 24 patriots of the Revolutionary War interred here between 1783 and 1843. Special thanks go to the Sons of the American Revolution - Columbia Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter and members of the American Legion Montgomery Post 429, who served as honor guards for the ceremony. *Courtesy photo*



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Gov. Hochul announces new initiatives to support growth of agricultural education

Governor Kathy Hochul announced last week the launch of the new Blue-Ribbon Panel to Advance Agriculture Education and additional investments to grow agricultural education and support youth leadership following the state's first-ever Youth Agriculture Conference. The conference, which took place Wednesday and Thursday at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, brought together nearly 300 high school students from FFA, 4-H and the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. The students came from across the state to identify opportunities for youth engagement in agriculture that reflect the industry's future workforce needs.

In addition, the Governor announced \$50,000 will be provided to the statewide 4-H program at Cornell University, a part of Cornell Cooperative Extension, for strategic visioning that will bring together state staff, county leadership and youth to map out the key role 4-H will play in preparing New York's youth for the next 10 years.

As 4-H in New York continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of young people, including adapting to new times and spaces to mentor them, this process will allow 4-H to inventory its strengths and opportunities, identify the dynamic needs of today's youth, and create a plan to launch 4-H into the next decade of career and leadership develop-

ment in New York.

"As a former 4-Her, I understand the importance of youth ag education and how valuable it is to ensuring we have a strong, vibrant agricultural industry," Governor Hochul said. "With additional funding being provided to support critical programming and a new Blue Ribbon Panel that will tackle challenges and identify new opportunities in this area, we will pave a clear path forward for our next generation of agricultural leaders, bringing young people together from every corner of our New York State."

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball kicked off the conference, in partnership with the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences New York Agriculture Education and Outreach Program. The two-day conference consisted of breakout sessions and workshops to provide New York students with the opportunity to connect with state leaders and better understand how policy shapes the interconnected food, agriculture, and natural resource industries. Students explored the many challenges and possibilities within these industries, connected with other students and professionals regarding their own interests and discovered the diverse array of career possibilities in agriculture.

Following the first day of discussion, the Governor announced the establishment of a Blue-Ribbon Panel to Advance Agriculture Education, which will bring

together food and agriculture industry stakeholders, educational institutions, and educators to chart a course for strengthening agriculture education and supporting the multi-faceted needs of the workforce. The panel will work together, through their respective organizations, to assess the many opportunities to educate today's youth in our food and agriculture system; examine the barriers and opportunities to increase agriculture education in schools; review agricultural teaching certification; and support agriculture and food workforce systems. The Panel will issue a report to the Governor addressing these issues and providing next steps.

Ball said, "I am so pleased to be a part of this first-ever Agriculture Youth Conference, which is bringing together hundreds of our students from all corners of New York who have a passion and excitement for agriculture that is contagious. There is a tremendous momentum here at the State, led by our Governor, in investing in agricultural education and supporting leadership across all of our youth ag organizations. This conference is providing our young people the opportunity to meet each other, share their ideas, and help to chart a path forward for a strong, sustainable agricultural industry for many generations ahead."

State Senator Michelle Hinchey said, "The path to a strong economy and secure food supply is directly tied to how we, as a state, help the next generation

step in to drive New York's diverse agricultural sectors and industries forward. The ideas and conversations sparked at New York's first-ever Youth Agriculture Conference are critical to helping students discover how they can turn their individual passions into tangible careers. Together with the launch of the Blue-Ribbon Panel and direct support for statewide leadership programs, we're working to build a strong foundation for the future of New York agriculture and prepare the next generation to lead with purpose."

Cornell Cooperative Extension Interim NYS 4-H Youth Development Program Leader Alexa Maille said, "The New York Youth Agriculture Leadership Conference is a unique opportunity for championing youth sparks in agriculture and food systems. It's incredible to witness the joy of youth leaders from across the state gathering with each other and with adult leaders as they share their passion for food systems and work together to cultivate a thriving future."

New York FFA Director Juleah Tolosky said, "This event provides a foundation for New York youth from every community to come together to explore the future of food and agriculture in our state. The future belongs to them and will result from their actions, and it's been a privilege to partner with agencies and individuals who esteem the role our youth play in the success of our state."

Open Space Institute acquires 200+ acres of Amenia forest

The Open Space Institute (OSI) recently announced the acquisition of more than 200 forested acres in the Town of Amenia. The acquisition permanently protects dense forests that absorb and store atmospheric carbon, and safeguards fragile habitat that native and keystone species need to adapt and thrive in a changing climate.

Only half a mile from Connecticut's Macedonia Brook State Park, the 204-acre acquisition is part of a larger regional plan led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to expand the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Together with partners including

OSI, USFWS is working to conserve 2,000 acres within the Northern Housatonic Focus Area and create a corridor of protected lands across the New York-Connecticut state line.

"Protecting our state's environmentally significant properties is crucial to the well-being of our communities," said Tom Gravel, OSI's Northeast senior project manager. "OSI's land conservation successes help safeguard natural resources critical for the protection of wildlife, enjoyment of current and future generations, and the overall health of our world."

"The Bog Hollow property contains

habitat vital to the mission of Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge," said Mike Horne, one of the USFWS project leaders at the multi-state refuge. "Conserving it in perpetuity for the benefit of New England cottontail and other at-risk species would not have been possible without help from OSI."

"The Town of Amenia could not be happier that the Open Space Institute has been able to preserve more than 200 acres along Bog Hollow Road," said Town of Amenia Supervisor Leo Blackman. "By saving these two ponds and the wetlands around them, OSI has managed to permanently protect important habitat for native creatures. Thanks to the Open Space Institute for making this win happen for the Town."

The Bog Hollow property is within a region listed in New York State's Open Space Plan as a high priority for protection due to its exceptionally high levels of landscape diversity, climate resilience, and connections to other forested lands.

The property comprises wetlands, meadows, and forested slopes, and habitats on the property potentially serve a wide variety of species, including turtles, snakes, bats, and the New England Cottontail rabbit.

Native to the northeastern United States, the New England Cottontail is listed as a "vulnerable" species due to the loss of nearly 80 percent of suitable territory. This species depends on unfragmented forests with a well-developed understory for food and shelter from

predators. The Bog Hollow property has been identified as an ideal location for habitat restoration projects.

OSI's protection of the property also supports ongoing efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. Mature forests can sequester up to 35 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions each year. According to OSI's data analysis, the Bog Hollow property stores more than 18,825 metric tons of carbon, or nearly 98 metric tons per acre, in soils and trees.

The property contains two large ponds, totaling nearly 60 acres, that are fed by Bog Hollow Brook. These wetlands and forest lands naturally clean and purify water before it enters local waterbodies, including the Housatonic River roughly four miles downstream.

In 2016, the USFWS established the Great Thicket NWR to restore wildlife populations and manage shrubland habitat in the Northeast. The Great Thicket NWR spans six states and includes ten focus areas spread across New York, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Working with conservation partners, the USFWS seeks to protect 15,000 acres that provide food and shelter for vulnerable and endangered species.

OSI purchased the Bog Hollow Property for \$1.1 million from Bog Hollow Ventures, Inc., and intends to transfer the land to the USFWS as an addition to the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge.

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Serino outlines budget proposals

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino presented her 2025 Executive Budget proposal on Oct. 29 to county officials and community leaders in the Dutchess County Legislature’s Chambers in the City of Poughkeepsie. The County Executive’s budget plan is focused on “Building a Safer, Stronger, and Brighter Future” with key investments in public safety, youth services and support for seniors, veterans and families, while staying well under the New York State property tax cap.

“This 2025 budget, my first budget as County Executive, is focused on people – the lives we touch and the future we are building together,” said Serino. “Over the past year, I have met with neighbors across Dutchess County, listening to the needs of our community, as well as their concerns about affordability. With careful planning, we have delivered a responsible budget that makes essential investments in Dutchess County, provides the services our residents rely on, while limiting the impact to our taxpayers.”

The 2025 Executive Budget totals \$627 million, an \$18.3 million (3%) increase over 2024 modified spending, driven primarily by grant-funded costs and highly reimbursable State mandates. Without these new appropriations, spending would be up just 1%, primarily due to nearly \$9 million in health insurance and pension cost increases. The total number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions is unchanged from 2024 in the County Executive’s budget plan.

Despite the modest increase, homeowners and businesses will pay a reduced County property tax rate under the

Red Cross announces upcoming blood donation opportunities

- COLUMBIA**
Copake Falls: 11/23: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Our Lady of Hope, 8074 State Route 22
- DUTCHESS**
Poughkeepsie: 11/21: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road
Wappingers Falls: 11/21/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Grace Bible Church, 158 Myers Corners Rd
- GREENE**
Ashland: 11/22: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Town of Ashland Ambulance, 12094 Route 23
- ORANGE**
Harriman: 11/23: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., The Journey Church, 95 Maher Ln
Monroe: 11/27: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Monroe, 142 Stage Rd
Newburgh: 11/27: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Newburgh Armory Unity Center, 321 S William St
Port Jervis: 11/26: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Port Jervis Elks Lodge 645, 35 US-6
- PUTNAM**
Garrison: 11/21: 12 p.m.-5 p.m., Desmond-Fish Public Library, 472 NY-403
- SULLIVAN**
Livingston Manor: 11/21: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Livingston Manor Fire House, 93 Main Street
Rock Hill: 11/21: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Rock Hill Firehouse, 61 Glen Wild Rd
- ULSTER**
Cotekill: 11/23: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Marbletown Town Hall, 1925 Lucas Ave Ext
Gardiner: 11/22: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Town of Gardiner, 2340 State Rte. 55, PO. Box 289
Kingston: 11/25: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars, 708 E Chester St
Saugerties: 11/29: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Saugerties Public Library, 91 Washington Ave
Wallkill: 11/23: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wallkill Volunteer Ambulance Corp, 231 1st St
Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) for appointments.

Executive’s proposal, with the County property tax rate dropping to \$2.14 for 2025, down 4% from the \$2.23 property tax rate for 2024.

The total County Property tax levy is proposed at \$100,930,000, with sales tax revenues budgeted at \$267,980,000, a 2% increase over 2024 projected year-end revenue. Dutchess County’s sales tax rate remains one of the lowest rates in New York State, and the 2025 Executive Budget continues the exemption on clothing and footwear items less than \$110 per item. Dutchess County will share nearly \$46 million in sales tax revenue with local municipalities based on the 2025 forecast.

The County Executive’s 2025 budget plan allocates \$20 million of the \$85 million general fund balance, keeping the total projected available general fund balance well in-line with the County’s fund balance policy to maintain one to two months of general fund operating expenditures in unrestricted general fund balance to ensure financial stability. A strong fund balance is an important factor in Dutchess County’s AA+ credit rating by Standard & Poor’s. Dutchess County’s strong fiscal position is further evidenced by the lowest possible score of zero in the New York State Comptroller’s annual Fiscal Stress Score.

Serino has also established a Community Benefit Fund, a set-aside of fund balance from the drawdown of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding earlier this year. This funding is intended for one-time projects that have substantial community benefit and lasting positive impact. \$2.6 million from the Community Benefit Fund is invested in critical areas, including law enforcement, public safety and emergency medical services in 2025.

Key budget highlights

- Allocating \$100,000 to the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office through the Community Benefit Fund to continue enhancing community safety initiatives, such as Project Lifesaver, that greatly impact residents’ lives.
- Supporting the work of the District Attorney’s Office with \$100,000 from the Community Benefit Fund for initiatives that directly address crime and public safety, including expanding the strength of Dutchess County Drug Task Force with surveillance equipment and additional \$50,000 to target larger-scale dealers and dismantle drug networks, as well as a new campaign to promote the Drug

Task Force’s Tip Line (845-463-6040). A new full-time investigator will also be added to the Drug Task Force team.

- Investing \$200,000 from the Community Benefit Fund to launch a Real Time Crime Center, a partnership with the District Attorney’s Office and the Sheriff’s Office which will elevate the County’s crime response capabilities and improve community well-being. The initiative will launch in late 2024, with significant federal funding allowing for the program’s expansion in 2025.
- Investing \$50,000 in expanding the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD) to expand street outreach services during evenings and weekends, ensuring help is available when it’s needed most.
- Historic \$2 million investment in Emergency Medical Services, providing supplemental commercial coverage in regions of greatest need, building public awareness about ambulance use and addressing workforce challenges to attract new emergency services workers and support the mental and emotional well-being of those already in the field.
- Expanding youth services with more than \$700,000 allocated as part of a reimagined Youth Opportunity Union (YOU) initiative, including YOU Drop-In Center grants, YOU mini grants, summer camp scholarships and expansion of the Youth Police Initiative (YPI).
- Using \$400,000 in funds from New York State’s Juul settlement to create a vaping prevention campaign to address a critical public health challenge affecting our youth in huge numbers, aimed at educating young people about the risks of e-cigarettes and curbing the rise in vaping-related health issues among young people.
- Utilizing \$1 million in New York State grant opportunities to protect young children and families against harmful lead exposure. A two-year grant will allow for permanent abatement of lead-based paint and other hazards in eligible multi-family housing units, while the second grant will identify lead hazards in rental buildings to ensure access to healthy, safe housing. These grants will fund new positions to undertake this inspection and remediation work, which will be done in partnership with the City of Poughkeepsie Building Department.
- Expansion of programs for seniors, including \$35,000 to expand the OFA’s successful “GoGo Grandparent” program, which addresses senior transporta-

tion, providing free rides to non-emergency medical appointments or to visit family members in hospitals, nursing homes or hospice centers.

- Investing \$100,000 from the Community Benefit Fund for the purchase of a refrigerated truck and development of a county-wide strategic plan to address food insecurity through the Food Security Council.
- Contributing more than \$400,000 to a partnership with Family Services, Inc. to address the critical need for children’s behavioral health programs with an expansion of children’s services in Poughkeepsie and the creation of new children’s programs in northern Dutchess County.
- Furthering the Think Accessible initiative, with trainings and education opportunities for businesses, organizations and municipalities, including a new certification program, to improve the quality of life for residents with disabilities, ensuring all can participate fully in community life.
- Addressing the nationwide housing crisis by launching a new round of Housing Trust Fund funding opportunities to increase the available housing stock and embarking on a “Housing Listening Tour” with a varied array of stakeholders to ensure projects that best blend into the communities are awarded through the Housing Trust Fund.
- Protecting the housing stock of Dutchess County for the future while supporting seniors as they age in their homes through the Housing Rehabilitation Program, which improves existing owner-occupied housing by aiding low- and moderate-income households complete rehabilitation projects. This program will have a renewed focus on senior citizens, prioritizing these households in need of support.

Serino concluded, “While budget process started with a \$47 million budget gap, through careful and smart decisions that safeguard our taxpayers’ dollars, we were able to overcome significant challenges and ensure the long-term stability of our services. I look forward working with Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee Chair Steve Caswell and the entire Legislature over the next several weeks to finalize a 2025 Budget that builds a safer, stronger and brighter future for Dutchess County.”

The 2025 Executive Budget documents are available online for review at dutchessny.gov/Budget2025.

When it comes to finances, it matters who has your back.

Meet Beth Coon, branch manager of our Pine Plains branch. If you ask her what she likes most about her job, she will say it’s all about the customers – from helping high school grads open their first bank accounts, to assisting older customers maneuver new banking services like Online Banking. With over 30 years of local banking experience, Beth says “it’s great to be part of a bank where family and community are so important.”

Stop by, say hi to Beth and tell her what financial services she can help you with. She’s a great listener!



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Beth Coon
Pine Plains Branch Manager

Millbrook Winery offers personal touch with Custom Wine Labels for gifting season


Just in time for the holiday season, Hudson Valley flagship winery Millbrook Vineyards & Winery (Millbrook Winery) is accepting custom wine bottle label orders. A perfect way to create personalized gifts, individuals and businesses have the opportunity to transform Millbrook wine into a sophisticated, custom gift ideal for family gatherings, corporate celebrations and employee recognition, among other milestones.

The process is simple – customers select from Millbrook Winery’s award-winning varietals and add a unique, professionally designed label, created by the winery’s graphic designer. Each bottle can feature the recipient’s name, a company logo or a special message on the selection of label templates or create your very own design.


“One of the things we love most about

being a premier hospitality destination in the Hudson Valley is helping our guests create long-lasting memories,” said David Bova, general manager of Millbrook Winery. “Whether commemorating an anniversary, showing appreciation to a valued client, or celebrating the holidays, our custom-labeled bottles provide a unique and personal touch, making each shared glass of wine even more memorable. We look forward to helping customers create the perfect meaningful gift – one that can be enjoyed now or cherished for years to come.”

Early orders are encouraged to ensure timely delivery for the holiday season. For more information visit <https://www.millbrookwine.com/labels/custom-label/>, email SHudson@millbrookwine.com or call 845.677.8383 ext. 17.



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Postal Service ready to deliver for holiday season

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is primed and ready to deliver exceptional service during the 2024 holiday rush, thanks to the substantial progress USPS has made under the Delivering for America plan — a \$40 billion investment aimed at revitalizing the national postal network.

By harnessing the power of network modernization, an upgraded delivery fleet and the successful launch of the USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Connect services, the Postal Service is building a re-energized, nationwide integrated mail and package network.

Key accomplishments and areas of progress ahead of the 2024 peak holiday season include:

- Increasing daily processing capacity to approximately 60 million: Since 2020, the Postal Service has nearly tripled its daily package processing capacity. Increased package processing capacity allows for packages to move through the postal network faster and USPS to lease temporary annexes to handle increases in holiday volume.
- Planning to hire only 7,500 seasonal staff: With a stabilized workforce and improved operating processes, the Postal Service plans to hire 7,500 seasonal staff, compared with 10,000 last year.
- Revamping the postal delivery and processing network: The organization has ded-

icated nearly \$17.3 billion from the plan’s \$40 billion self-funded investment budget to drive the transformation of the postal network. This commitment is fueling the ongoing development of a modernized, efficient and technologically advanced postal network.

• Enhancing the postal delivery fleet: USPS is significantly upgrading the fleet with the addition of 106,000 new, more reliable vehicles. This includes 66,000 zero-emission electric vehicles, demonstrating the organization’s commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility while ensuring reliable service.

• Offering new shipping services: The successful implementation of USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Connect has led to a notable surge in shipping volumes. These initiatives have not only expanded the Postal Service’s capacity but also improved its efficiency, ensuring a seamless shipping experience for customers.

USPS has also prioritized morning parcel delivery, enhanced scanning technology and extended retail and pick-up delivery hours at popular Post Office locations, while continuing to offer the lowest postage rates in the industrialized world.

For tips on preparing shipments, including recommended mailing and shipping dates, packaging guidelines, ordering free shipping supplies and information on local Post Office location hours, visit usps.com.

Barton Orchards takes DC Executive’s Award for overall excellence during annual Dutchess Tourism’s Awards of Distinction

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. (DTI) held its 11th Annual Awards of Distinction ceremony on Nov. 13, at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park. The Awards of Distinction continue to showcase the county’s tourism industry, from hotels and restaurants to attractions and experiences, and highlight the extraordinary work of those dedicated to enriching the visitor experience and promoting Dutchess County as a premier destination in the Hudson Valley. Spotlights about each winner and finalist can be found at www.DutchessTourism.com/awards.

“When Dutchess County Tourism was created 40 years ago to attract visitors to the area, I don’t think its first director, Karen Woods, could have imagined how our organization and Dutchess as a destination would evolve,” said current DTI President and CEO Melaine Rottkamp. “It’s such an honor for us to showcase and support these 22 incredible finalists and winners who expertly welcome and elevate the tourism experience for locals and visitors in our community. Congratulations to all!”

Dutchess County Sue Serino added, “Together, we are setting the standard for how tourism should be done — with dedication, heart, and a shared vision for making Dutchess County a truly remarkable destination. It’s that collective spirit that sets us apart and drives our success, reflected in another record-breaking year — over three-quarters of a billion dollars in visitor spending in 2023.”

Winners

The Dutchess County Executive’s Award for Overall Excellence: Barton Orchards, Poughquag

Finalists included: Mount Gulian Historic Site, Beacon; and Omega Institute, Rhinebeck

Newcomer Award of Distinction: Dassai Blue Sake Brewery, Hyde Park

Finalists included: The Inn at Bellefield, Hyde Park; and Willa Bar, Millerton

Event Award of Distinction: Folklorico de Poughkeepsie’s La Guelaguetza de Poughkeepsie, Poughkeepsie

Finalists included: Millbrook Vineyards & Winery’s Bernie Williams Jazz in the Vineyard, Millbrook; and Pawling Concert Series, Pawling

Collaboration Award of Distinction: Boutique Wines, Spirits and Ciders, Fishkill

Finalists included: Big Gay Hudson Valley’s Pride in the Sky Event, Poughkeepsie; and Howland Cultural Center, Beacon

Storytelling Award of Distinction: Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, Red Hook

Finalists included: The Dutchess County Historic Tavern Trail (Dutchess County Department of History), County-wide; and Vassar Alumnae House, Poughkeepsie

Accessible Hospitality Award of Distinction: Hudson Valley Renegades at Heritage Financial Park, Wappingers Falls

Finalists included: Fisher Center at Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson; and Trevor Zoo, Millbrook

Hospitality Service Award of Distinction:

Cheryl Brown, Executive Housekeeper, Hampton Inn Fishkill

Joseph Caster, General Manager, Shadows on the Hudson

Mary M. Hackett, Sales and Experience Coordinator, The Inn at Bellefield

Mary Kay Vrba Spirit Award Honoree: David Bova of Millbrook Vineyards and Winery, Millbrook

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Arlington girls lose in title game
Dreams die hard.
They die even harder when you get this close.
The Arlington High School girls soccer team lost the Class AAA state championship game Sunday to now three-time defending champion Ward Melville, 1-0.
Addison Tally got the clean sheet for the champs.
The Admirals advanced with a 5-0 win over Saratoga Springs in the semifinals on Saturday. Riley Pettigrew scored twice.
The Admirals finished the 2024 campaign at 18-4.

John Jay girls advance to state title tourney
The ride continues for the John Jay High School volleyball team.
The next and last stop is Glens Falls.
It's Cool Insuring Arena to be exact if you are setting the GPS coordinates.
The undefeated Patriots beat Monroe-Woodbury of Section 9 in straight sets to advance to the state championship tournament this weekend. Scores were 25-7, 25-8 and 25-21. The match was played at Mount St. Mary College.
John Jay and three other Class AAA schools will play in a four-team round-robin mini tournament on Friday, with the two teams with the best records playing for the state championship on Saturday.
And the way the Patriots have been playing all season, it would be hard to pick against them.
Dominant is a word that quickly comes to mind. The Patriots have faced 21 opponents this year; they have won all 21.
Against the Crusaders, John Jay's

Diya Biguvu had 17 assists and 11 digs, Lily Pugliese had 13 kills and 12 digs, Diya Biguvu handed out 17 assists and Peyton Kellam added 11 kills.
It was the first loss of the year in 17 matches for Monroe-Woodbury.

OLL boys soccer team falls in state semifinals
Like any good Academy Award nominee, the Our Lady of Lourdes High School boys soccer team was just happy to be here.
But, oh, what could have been.
The Warriors allowed a late goal and then just missed a game-tying opportunity with under a minute left and lost to Long Island's Floral Park, 3-2, in the Class A state semifinals last Saturday.
The game was played at Faller Field at Middletown High School.
Ned Devine scored with less than seven minutes to play to give the night the victory. The tally snapped a 2-2 deadlock.
Floral Park never trailed in the game.

Renegades set 'Big Apple' alternate identity
It worked so well last year, why not try it again?
The Hudson Valley Renegades, the High-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, have announced the Hudson Valley "Big Apples," an all-new alternate identity for the team to begin in the 2025 season.
The team adopted the alternate identity of the "Cider Donuts" last year.
The 2025 nickname is more than just a nod to the City.
The Big Apples is an identity centered on celebrating the state of New York and

all that it has to offer. Not only does it pay tribute to the nickname of New York City, the Big Apple, but also to New York State's apple farming and agricultural life. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York is the second-largest producer of apples in the nation.
The Big Apples logo features a smiling red apple mascot, named Empire – a nod to New York's status as the Empire State and to the popular apple variety developed at Cornell University in the 1940s.
The Renegades will transform into the Big Apples for three games during the 2025 season. The Big Apples will debut on the field on Saturday, July 26, coinciding with the day in 1788 that New York ratified the U.S. Constitution at the Constitutional Convention at the Dutchess County Court House in the City of Poughkeepsie and officially became a state. The remaining two Big Apples games will be held on Friday, Aug. 15 and Thursday, Sept. 4.

Rays, Yankees to share Tampa stadium
TAMPA – When the Hudson Valley Renegades minor league baseball team relocated to the area 30 years ago as the Erie Sailors, they were affiliated with the Texas Rangers for a season and then for decades with the Tampa Bay Rays before becoming a farm team of the New York Yankees five years ago.
The franchises appear to be intertwined again.
The Yankees' spring training home in Tampa, Steinbrenner Field, will serve as the home stadium for the Tampa Bay Rays in 2025 according to a published report.
The roof at Tampa's home stadium at Tropicana Field in nearby St. Petersburg was badly damaged by Hurricane Milton in October.
Although Steinbrenner Field is something of a downgrade for the Rays, with only just over 11,000 seats, the team is notorious for not drawing that many fans during the regular season. It could become something of a cozy homefield advantage, at least for a season.

Bridges reopened to traffic on Salt Point Turnpike in Stanford



The replacement of bridges over Willow Brook and the Wappinger Creek on the Salt Point Turnpike is complete and they are open to traffic. Courtesy photo

The Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) has announced the replacement of two bridges on Salt Point Turnpike (CR-17) in the Town of Stanford are complete and the structures opened to traffic.
Project work, which began in the spring, included replacing the previously steel-deck structures, located over the Willow Brook and the Wappinger Creek near the intersection of Meadowview Way, with new, wider reinforced con-

crete structures with four-foot shoulders.
The bridge closest to State Route 82 was also raised approximately 2.5 feet to reduce risk of flooding and potential damage to the bridge and roadway due to the increasing intensity and frequency of major storms. The project was completed on time and within budget.
This section of Salt Point Turnpike averages approximately 919 vehicles per day.

Hyde Park National Guard soldier receives new rank, new responsibilities

LATHAM, NY - Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.
Jesse Campbell from Hyde Park, assigned to the 1156th Engineer Company, received a promotion October 28, 2024 to the rank of staff sergeant.
Army National Guard promotions are based on a soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.
These promotions recognize the best qualified soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.
Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers

who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).
For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit www.dnna.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com
The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state's executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York's Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

Holiday
AUCTION

Annual Holiday Auction
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Float entries needed for LaGrange Festival of Lights

The Town of LaGrange Festival of Lights parade returns to town center this year and is planned for Saturday, Nov. 30. The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. Line-up takes place at Arlington High School beginning at 5:30pm. The parade will exit the high school and travel West on Route 55 to its end at Freedom Road.

Organizers are looking for parade entries with anticipation of this being the largest parade to date. Floats must be holiday themed in nature and family friendly. Walkers are not allowed and nothing can be thrown from floats. Past participants have wowed the crowds with elaborate lighting, music and fun holiday themed displays. Businesses, teams, families, fire departments, etc. are encouraged to enter a float or lighted vehicle!

The parade is organized by the town's highway and parks departments and has become the hall-mark event of the year. With businesses, organizations and individuals decorating their vehicles and floats to the max, it is always fun to see the creativity of displays. Law enforcement and local fire departments also participate, with LaGrange Fire District in the lead.

For information on how you can be part of this year's parade, email Recreation@lagrangenyny.gov or call the Parks & Recreation Office at 845-452-1972. All participants must register to participate and agree to all parade rules. Staff will be on hand inspecting floats at line-up.

For detailed information about the parade, including rules, parking and travel information, follow Town of LaGrange Parks and Recreation on Facebook, or visit the town website at lagrangenyny.gov/parks-rec.

Clinton participating in Toys for Tots drive

The Town of Clinton is accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages, as part of the annual Toys for Tots holiday toy drive. Drop toys off by Dec. 11 at the Town of Clinton Supervisor's Office, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck. For questions, call Cathy Gallinger at (845) 266-5853, option 2, or email supervisorsec@townofclinton.com

we're on the web!
sdutchessnews.com

Coat Drive set in Town of Clinton

The Town of Clinton's Town Clerk is holding the annual Coat Drive through Dec. 6. Donate new or gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves for men, women and children. Drop off at the Town Clerk's office, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Email townclerk@townofclinton.com for more information.

Last scheduled Town Hall Forum on 2025 Executive Budget in Pine Plains

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino's series of Town Hall Forums to discuss the 2025 Executive Budget kicked off in Beekman for residents to learn more about the budget as well as ask questions and offer comments. The town hall series continues with the last forum on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pine Plains Library, 7775 S Main St., Pine Plains.

Each forum will feature a "County Government on the Road" informational fair starting 30 minutes prior to the start of the town hall forum. The informational fair will feature multiple county government departments providing information on services and programs. Department representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

Following the information fair, County Executive Serino will offer a recap of the 2025 Budget Address and then lead a question-and-answer session. The forums are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Questions and feedback from residents regarding any aspect of County government are welcome and encouraged.

Watch a replay of County Executive Serino's full 2025 Budget Address and learn more online at dutchessny.gov/Budget2025.

Next Rhinebeck Historical Society Program set Nov. 22

The Rhinebeck Historical Society will hold its next program on Friday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m., at the Starr Library, Local History Room (entrance in the rear). Gene Bullock – The Lane Family Legacy - In 1876, Benjamin Brown Lane was born in Rhinebeck and lived with his parents and older sister at 23 and 25 Oak St. What follows is the story of a family—that of Deputy Sheriff of Dutchess County Benjamin Lane—which provides better insight into the lives of Rhinebeck's residents during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Indeed, the legacy of the Lane surname persists to this day! Join Gene as he explores the heartfelt moments, grand achievements, and tribulations which were lived through by families during this time, as told through the lens of the Lane family's own experiences. Starr Library is at 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck.

Thrift Shop Christmas Sale Nov. 22-23 in Millbrook

Uncle Al's Thrift Shop will have its annual Christmas Sale on Friday and Saturday (Nov. 22 & 23) at St. Joseph School gym (lots of room to shop; ample parking), 25 St. Joseph Drive, Millbrook. The event will feature numerous Christmas and holiday items: decorations for your home (inside and outside), gift items, new and like-new toys & games, and more. Hours for the sale are Friday (Nov. 22) and Saturday (Nov. 23) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds from the Christmas Sale and from Uncle Al's Thrift Shop benefit St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church in Millbrook.

Holiday Book Sale at LaGrange Library set for Nov. 22-23

A Holiday Book Sale will be held at LaGrange Library from Nov. 22-23. The hours are from 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. on Nov. 22. The book sale hours are 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Nov. 23.

One may come and shop for special selection of books and media for gifts and treasures! All proceeds benefit LaGrange Library.

The library is at 1110 Route 55 in Lagrangeville.

Holiday Auction in Pleasant Valley

The First Presbyterian Church, 1576 Main Street, Pleasant Valley will present its Annual Holiday Auction on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. with Jeff Traver calling. Silent Auction bidding and live auction viewing will be from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Items will include Annalee dolls, child's rocking chair, quilt,

themed baskets, gifts from local businesses, home-made baked goods, and more. Free refreshments.

Regina Coeli sets Craft Fair Nov. 23

Regina Coeli Parish on Route 9, Hyde Park will host their 50th Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 23, from 9am to 3pm. There will be almost 60 vendors displaying their handmade craft items. The parish will sponsor several booths including the "Craft Boutique" with various handmade items; "The Bake Booth" with delicious pies, cakes and cookies; "Santa's Closet" which will sell new or nearly new merchandise; "The Promise Tree" featuring discount merchandise gift certificates from local merchants; the "Vendor Raffle" with merchandise from vendors; "Raffle Baskets" which is an assortment of 10 themed raffle baskets and "Refreshments" which will be available throughout the day. "Santa" promises to make an appearance for photos from 10am-2pm. Admission is \$2 which will get you a ticket for entry into our door prize raffle.

Free Community & Historical Thanksgiving Dinner set at Stanford Grange

Stanford Grange #808 and Stanford: A Caring Community will sponsor a Free Community & Historical Thanksgiving Dinner at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82; Stanfordville, from 1 - 3 p.m. Enjoy traditional Thanksgiving foods as well as foods original to the first Thanksgiving including indigenous foods shared by our first peoples. A brief historical presentation about the First Thanksgiving will be given at 2 p.m. The community is cordially invited to attend. For more information, call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Red Hook Library Friends group to hold first book sale Dec. 7

The newly launched Friends of the Red Hook Public Library will host their first book sale on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations will be accepted on Friday, Nov. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Friends are only accepting donations of Mysteries & Thrillers, Biographies & History, and Children's Graphic Novels & Chapter Books in good condition. Limit one box of each genre/person/donation day.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Library group may contact circulation desk@redhooklibrary.org.

Cookies, crafts and more at Salt Point church on Dec. 7

Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at

1872 Salt Point Turnpike in Salt Point, will host their 26th annual homemade cookie, craft and gift bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featured will be rows and rows of homemade cookies sold by the pound, crafts of all kinds including wreaths, knitted apparel, dog coats, jewelry, Christmas decorations etc. all at reasonable prices. All proceeds support our Board of Deacons reaching out to church members as well as many in our community needing assistance especially during the holiday season. For more information or directions, call Diana at 845-635-3635.

LaGrange Library annual meeting set Dec. 12

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the LaGrange Association Library Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, December 12, at the LaGrange Library at 7 p.m. All interested members of the public are welcome to attend.

Rhinecliff Soup Sales set Dec. 19

It's time for Fall Rhinecliff Soup Sales, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896. Mark your Calendar for Thursday, Dec 19, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sold by the Quart. \$10. quart. Take Out Only. Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell Ave. and Orchard, Rhinecliff. Pick up at side window on Orchard St. NEW! Pick up also available at Morton Library between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Proceeds go toward the General Fund of Rhinebeck Grange #896 to support community events.

Email: JoBaer2@gmail.com to be emailed the soup choices for each month and pre-order online.

ONGOING

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

The New to You Thrift Shop at St. Christopher's in Red Hook has cold-weather clothing, with everything from shoes to coats, bags, scarves, hats...Come in and outfit yourself for the chillier times. The prices are amazing. And while the ladies are browsing clothing, we have children's clothing and toys and games. The shop is at 30 Benner Road in Red Hook by St. Christopher's School.

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Dec. 7 performance in Rhinebeck will ‘leave a light on’ for Sinterklaas

Even though Sinterklaas has been canceled this year, there will be a special performance on Saturday, Dec. 7, to keep the beloved festival front of mind and close to the heart – or, as organizers say, they are “leaving a light on” with the hope of its eventual return.

“Into the Light” is an all-ages, family-friendly performance that weaves the magic of Arm-of-the-Sea Theater’s giant puppets into The Vanaver Caravan’s global dance repertoire.

The show tells the story of Lucia, a young girl who embarks on a journey around the world to find light during the darkest time of the year. Featuring giant

puppets, holiday songs, dances, and music, the performance celebrates the world’s traditions of bringing hope, joy, and beauty into the season. Through dance and music, “Into the Light” honors holidays such as Christmas, Chanukah, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Sankta Lucia, Yule, and Winter Solstice.

There will be performances at 1:30, 2:45 and 4 p.m., at Rhinebeck Reformed Church (6368 Mill St., Rhinebeck). Admission is free with advance reservations.

Visit <https://sinterklaashudsonvalley.com/> for reservations and more information.



The Sinterklaas festival has been canceled this year, but Arm-of-the-Sea Theater and The Vanaver Caravan will present a Sinterklaas special performance on Saturday, Dec. 7 to “leave a light on.” *Courtesy photo*

Panel to explore roles of journalism and social media in digital age

The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill (ERVK) will present “Is the Truth Dead? The Press vs. Social Media in the Digital Age,” a lively discussion on how journalism and social media shape truth in the digital era, on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Henry A. Wallace Center at FDR Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park. Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$20 students (current students only).

The event is presented to honor International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10.

The rise of social media has brought an explosion of information and opinions, making it harder to sift through the noise

and find the truth amidst misinformation. Bloggers, influencers, politically driven media, and politicians now wield the power to influence without evidence. How does traditional journalism rise to meet this challenge?

The panel will include:

- S.E. Cupp, TV host, columnist, author and podcast host;
- Andy Ostroy, film and TV producer and director, writer and podcast host;
- Brian Rooney, former correspondent for ABC News, “The Rooney Report”;
- Dewey Lee Esq., moderator.

Purchase tickets at <https://ervk.org/panel-discussion/>.

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DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 23 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

By David Kalvitis

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Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main St., Beacon. **Through January 2025:** “The True Story of Bannerman’s Island,” Bannerman Castle Trust’s 30th anniversary exhibition featuring fine art, historic & contemporary photographs, Bannerman Island antiques & artifacts. www.bannermancastle.org

CCS Bard’s Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. **Through Dec. 1:** Ho Tzu Nyen: Time and the Tiger, the first in-depth examination of Ho Tzu Nyen (b. 1976, Singapore) in the United States. Widely considered one of the most innovative artists to emerge internationally in the past 20 years, Ho works across a variety of media, including film, video, installation, painting, writing, and performance to critically examine how histories—be they state, cultural, or personal—are continually imagined, negotiated, and performed. **Through Dec. 1:** Carrie Mae Weems: Remember to Dream, exhibition revisits the range and breadth of Weems’ prolific career through rarely exhibited and lesser-known works that demonstrate the evolution of her pioneering, politically engaged practice. <https://ccs.bard.edu/museum>

CO, 6571 Spring Brook Ave. (Rte. 9), Rhinebeck. **Through Dec. 13:** “Axial Dakini Drawing with paint,” exhibition featuring Guggenheim Fellow and local artist/poet/musician George Quasha.

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 27:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be Lala Montoya, and at 12 Vassar St., John McGiff will showcase his work in the Hancock Gallery and Logan Lapointe will be featured in the Reception Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 2, 2025:** “Reproductive: Health, Fertility, Agency,” an exhibition that brings together diverse artistic perspectives to address critical issues including birth, miscarriage, pleasure, access to abortion, trauma, and the loss of fertility. Through a range of media and approaches, the artists provide a space for reflection and dialogue on these vital topics, challenging viewers to engage with the complexities of reproductive experiences and the pursuit of agency. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through December:** Developed in collaboration with a distinguished committee of scholars, “Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, 1932-1962” centers the historical voices of many Black community leaders, wartime service members, and ordinary citizens who engaged the Roosevelt administration directly and who pushed for progress. Within this context, the exhibit examines the political evolution of both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt regarding racial justice. www.fdrlibrary.org

Hyde Park Library Annex, 2 Main St., Hyde Park. **Through December:** Wildlife Photography by Daniel Schoonmaker from September to December. Proceeds from the sale of the photos will benefit the library’s accessibility project. (845) 229-7791

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through Dec. 30:** Holiday Show, new photographs by Jane Haslam, Phyllis Chadwick, Linda T. Hubbard and Rebecca Tocci, as well as handcrafted woodwork by Ed Bryan, handmade soap by Genevieve St Louis Jan, jewelry by Karen Ostrom and pottery by Ann Heywood. **Artists’ reception:** Sat., Nov. 23, 5-7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. www.landgalleryonline.com

Live 4 Art Gallery, 20 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through Dec. 1:** The Sherman Artists Association presents “Earth, Wind and Fire,” artwork themed and inspired by the effects humans have had on the urban and rural environment, both good and bad. There

are paintings, photographs, glass and pottery. Facebook @Live4ArtGallery
Mildred I. Washington Gallery, Dutchess Community College, 53 Pendell Rd., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 13:** “The Art of Tarot,” an exhibit commemorating the life, art and writing of longtime Rhinebeck resident Rachel Pollack. (845) 431-8612

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Dec. 21:** Annual Holiday Show, exhibiting handmade gift items in a variety of media including jewelry, prints, paintings, ceramics, cards, ornaments, small works and handcrafted pieces. **Closing Cookie Reception:** Sat., Dec. 21, 4-6 p.m. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com. *Pictured: One of the many items available to purchase during the Holiday Show. Courtesy photo*

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. **Through Nov. 24:** “The Last Breath: Death & Contemporary Art,” celebrate the art of Death, Memento Mori and its impact on women/femme artists and their interpretations of the subject matter in their artwork. **Artists’ Talk/Closing Reception:** Sun., Nov. 24, 1-3 p.m.



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‘Food and Country’

A film that provides plenty of “food for thought.”

Our broken food system. The food desert. Food insecurity. Empty calories. Ultra-processed. Factory farms. Skyrocketing prices. Price gouging. Monsanto. It seems like everybody has some kind of complaint about the food we eat. Never mind that America in the 21st century has the most abundant food supply the world has ever known.

Last Wednesday, a sold-out crowd packed the Upstate Films theater in Rhinebeck to watch “Food and Country,” a new documentary put together by the author and restaurant critic Ruth Reichl, who traveled from her home in Stehentown, N.Y. to watch the film with us. On the one hand, it was encouraging to see so many people at an actual movie theater. On the other hand, I was dreading yet another movie bashing the 7 percent of hard-working farmers who supply the rest of us with our daily bread.

But “Food and Country” was different. Conceived during the pandemic, when our food system actually was severely challenged, the film explores the connection, or disconnection, between the producers and the consumers. Reichl

interviews farmers, and not the ones she refers to as “boutique farmers.” She talks to large-scale farmers, and uncovers a disturbing trend that is threatening our food supply:

Angela Knuth grows corn, soybeans and wheat in Mead, Nebraska with husband Kerry and their two sons, who both have part-time, off-the-farm jobs. The farm struggles with debt, borrowing from the bank in the spring, hoping to pay it back after the harvest. The audience at Upstate let out an audible gasp at the sight of one of the farm’s \$500,000 tractors. Angela converted part of the farm to organic production, not out of some philosophical convictions, but in an attempt to make more money.

She’s hoping that the 4th generation Knuth Farm will transition to the 5th.

Steve Stratford runs thousands of Angus on his cattle ranch in Pratt, Kansas. He paints a bleak picture of the future, as the beef industry consolidates. Small ranchers are at the mercy of the four big beef packers – Cargill, Tyson, JBS and National Beef. As the small ranches disappear, rural towns will empty

out, youngsters will take jobs in the city and all our eggs, so to speak, will be in one basket.

That’s exactly what happened to Bob Jones of The Chef’s Garden in Huron, Ohio. He relied exclusively on sales to restaurants. When COVID shut the restaurants down, Bob sat by helplessly as acres of cauliflower rotted in the fields. He couldn’t pay his 120 workers, and had no money to harvest and store the crops, or to package and send them to food banks. The system was truly broken, showing how vulnerable we are to a crisis. A poignant moment in the film – Bob broke down and cried. Then he pointed out that we need people to harvest crops, or we will import our food from overseas.

Karen Washington, a hometown hero, so to speak, runs Rise and Root Farm in Chester, N.Y. Her operation is large enough to “rise” above the “boutique” category, providing thousands of pounds of fresh produce and thousands of seedlings to food pantries and community gardens from New York City to Kingston. The farm, at the Chester Agricultural Center on the rich black dirt in Orange County, is a training ground for hundreds of potential new farmers.



Author and restaurant critic Ruth Reichl recently attended a screening of “Food and Country” at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck. In the documentary, Reichl talks to farmers about threats to the country’s food supply. Below: Distributors pave the way for food to reach the public. *Photos by Mark Adams*



Ruth Reichl lets the voices of the farmers themselves address possible solutions to the challenges facing our formidable agricultural juggernaut. One of the forward thinkers is Will Harris, of White Oak Pastures in Bluffton, Georgia. The little town, population 113, was on the ropes until Harris transformed the 3,200-acre operation into one of the most respected organic farms in the world, raising grass-fed beef, butchered on site with full transparency. Now his hundreds of employees have revitalized Bluffton with new parks, schools and churches.

At one point, the film seemed to be blaming distributors, singling out Sysco, for the high price of groceries. I talked to

a few of the folks who distribute to our family supermarkets, and I’m convinced that they are not responsible. If anything, distributors economize the food system by smoothing the path from producer to consumer. And the grocery stores themselves? Just take a look at my cousin Pat Adams, the CEO of our family’s markets. If he owns a private jet, I’ve never seen it.

“Food and Country” is available on streaming services Google Play, Fundango at Home and Amazon Prime Video.

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

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

Nosh & Noise set at Boardman Road Branch Library on Dec. 1

The Poughkeepsie Public Library will be hosting “Nosh & Noise” on Sunday, December 1 at 2:30 p.m. at Boardman Road Branch Library. The event will feature holiday sweet treats from around the world, including such popular favorites as traditional Mexican wedding cookies, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), Hamantashen, Pfeffernusse, biscotti, and cannoli from popular local bakery La Deliziosa.

The event will begin with a performance by The Big Galut(e), a klezmer band featuring Sasha Margolis on violin and vocals, Robin Seletsky on clarinet, Michael Leopold on lute and guitars, and Richard Sosinsky on double bass that perform a unique repertoire of Jewish music spanning five continents and six

centuries. They are known for classical folk programs such as Shostakovich, Brahms, and Mussorgsky. The band is the winner of the Simcha Prize at the 2017 International Jewish Music Festival in Amsterdam and has performed on American Public Media’s Performance Today, PRI’s The World on NPR, and WNYC’s New Sounds as well as numerous radio and television outlets.

The performance will be followed by a cultural cookie walk with treats from different cultures, complete with information explaining the history of each dessert, as well as holiday cookies representing dreidels, Christmas trees, and more.

The event is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County.

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Suguru

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

THEME: FAMOUS ACTORS

ACROSS

1. QA's focus, pl.

5. "Swan Lake" steps

8. Evite request, acr.

12. Long stories

14. Final, abbr.

15. Opposite of neo-

16. Synagogue scroll

17. Poseidon's domain

18. One-eighty

19. *Mary Poppins and Maria von Trapp

21. *Vivian Ward and Erin Brockovich

23. Kum Ba follower

24. Cry out loud

25. Stolen, slangily

28. Greek salad cheese

30. Popular clubs of the 1970s

35. Chimpanzees, e.g.

37. Porcine fat

39. Great divide

40. Cat o'how many tails?

41. Podium, pl.

43. Dead against

44. Work the dough

46. Urban haze

47. Manner of walk

48. Parlor piece

50. Riyadh native, e.g.

52. Sixth note

53. Common fairway club

55. Brewed beverage

57. *"Red" Redding and Nelson Mandela

61. *Ricky Bobby and Buddy

65. Beat the Joneses

66. Outrage

68. Adjust, as laces

69. Tears violently

70. Anointment liquid

71. Talks and talks and talks

72. a.k.a. Operation Neptune

73. "Just kidding!"

74. Billy Joel's "____ Always a Woman"

DOWN

1. Between Phi and Kappa

2. Second word in a fairytale

3. Encircle

4. Like Freddy Krueger, e.g.

5. Boot-wearing feline

6. Draft pick

7. Impolite look

8. Miles per hour, e.g.

9. Insult

10. Between bleu and jaune

11. Connection between brain and spinal cord

13. Bundle of wheat

15. Like certain libraries

20. Pup

22. Hemingway's "The ____ Man and the Sea"

24. Railyard worker

25. *Forrest Gump and Jimmy Dugan

26. Offer two cents

27. Doctrine

29. New Mexico town

31. Deep pile carpet

32. Atlantic Ocean/Pacific Ocean waterway, e.g.

33. Ostium, pl.

34. *Violet Crawley and Minerva McGonagall

36. Center of authority

38. "The New Look" main character

42. September stone

45. Phobos' brother, Greek mythology

49. Time period

51. *Catwoman and "Jinx" Johnson

54. Vidalia one

56. Regions

57. *Han Solo and Indiana Jones

58. Wished undone

59. Europe's highest volcano

60. *Nelson, star of 8 films with Jeanette MacDonald

61. Matted wool

62. Write on tombstone, e.g.

63. Facebook button

64. More is ____?

67. Duran Duran's 1982 album

CROSSWORD

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

16 NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living - November 20-26, 2024

Through Dec. 14: Dutchess Handmade Holiday Pop-Up Shop, Arts Mid-Hudson, 696 Dutchess Turnpike Suite F, Poughkeepsie. Featuring unique creations from more than 65 artists and makers from the Hudson Valley, including locally made glass, jewelry, greeting cards, textiles, ceramics, wood products, prints, paintings, home decorating items and more. Open Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (845) 454-3222 or <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/>

Nov. 21: “Premier Performances” Film Series, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Series focuses on legendary stars of stage and screen in some of their most memorable roles. This month: “On the Waterfront” (1954), 7:30 p.m. No reservations required. Pre-show concert by Juan Cardona Jr. on the Bardavon’s Mighty Wurlitzer organ, courtesy of the New York Theatre Organ Society, 7 p.m. www.bardavon.org

Nov. 21-23: Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre Fall Concert, Vassar College, Frances Daly Fergusson Dance Theater in Kenyon Hall, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. Enjoy jazz, ballet, modern and contemporary choreography by faculty and students, 7 p.m. The world premiere of guest choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie will also be showcased. Free. Reservations required. www.vassar.edu

Nov. 21-24: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Nov. 21: Latin Dance Latin Dance with Beacon Dance Beat, 7 p.m. All seats \$10. Nov. 22: LaMP (Russ Lawton, Scott Metzger, Ray Paczkowski), 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Nov. 23: Cuboricua, 8 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. Nov. 24: Steve Forbert Trio, 7 p.m. Tickets \$40 advance, \$45 door (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Nov. 22-23: Christkindlmarkt, Germania of Poughkeepsie, 51 Old DeGarmo Rd., Poughkeepsie. Holiday market with authentic German cuisine and baked goods, gifts and crafts from local vendors, German potato salad, sauerkraut, herring salad and red cabbage, all for sale by the pound. Enjoy indoor dining and an enclosed, heated vendor tent. Hours: Fri., 4-9 p.m.; sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (845) 471-0609 or <https://germaniapok.com/>

Nov. 22-23: “Perfect Arrangement,” County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls. Contemporary comedy by Tophier Payne. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 17 & Sat., Nov. 23, 2 p.m. It’s 1950, and new colors

are being added to the Red Scare. Two U.S. State Department employees, Bob and Norma, have been tasked with identifying sexual deviants within their ranks. There’s just one problem: both Bob and Norma are involved in a carefully constructed cover-up. Inspired by the true story of the earliest stirrings of the gay rights movement, Perfect Arrangement merges madcap sitcom-style laughs with provocative drama as two U.S. State Department employees struggle to maintain their cover – and their sanity – in mid-century America. Tickets \$26 Adult, \$24 Senior 60+, Military, Students (with ID at the door), and Children under 12. (845) 298-1491 or countyplayers.org

Nov. 22-24: Friends of PPLD Holiday Book Sale, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. Browse a large number of gift-quality books and media, most priced at \$4 or less per item, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. All items will be half-price on Sunday. An additional room will offer specially priced vintage items, books of local interest, collectible books, and books signed by authors. There will be an Early Bird Sale (paid admission) on Friday. For ticket information and details, visit poklib.org/holiday-book-sale.

Nov. 22-24: “Spring Awakening,” The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Up In One Production presents the landmark, coming-of-age, Broadway musical based on the controversial 1891 German play of the same name. It follows Melchior Gabor, a German schoolboy, and his classmates as they navigate puberty, academic rigidity, and the insensitivity of the adults around them. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.’ Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$29. www.centerforperformingarts.org or by calling (845) 876-3080.

Nov. 23: Crafty Kids Story Hour, Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. Thanksgiving story hour, sit in Clermont’s cozy children’s space and listen to stories about grand feasts, funny turkeys, historical perspectives, and being thankful, 1 p.m. Stick around after the story time and make a paper bag turkey — the perfect DIY centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table. Visitors must register in advance at <http://booqueo.com/Clermont>. Free. (518) 537-4240

Nov. 23: ICON Independent Artist and Comic Book Convention, Fishkill Recreation Center, 793 Rte. 52, Fishkill. Enjoy a fun-filled, family-friendly event that

supports local comic book artists and stores, collectible toy sellers, and other comic-related businesses in the Hudson Valley, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Come dressed as your favorite comic book character or cartoon character, add to your comic collection and find your favorite childhood toy or that one collectible you have been searching for! <https://iacon.com/> or ceavengers@gmail.com

Nov. 23: Lecture & Book Signing with Author Pieter Estersohn, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Acclaimed author, photographer, and Hudson Valley resident Pieter Estersohn will share stories and insights from his most recent book, “Back to the Land: A New Way of Life in the Country,” 2 p.m. Cost: \$12 per person. After the one-hour lecture and slideshow, refreshments will be served, and the author will sign books. Books will be available for purchase. (845) 876-4818 or <https://wilderstein.org>

Nov. 23: Red Hook Elks Holiday Bazaar, Red Hook-Rhinebeck Elks Lodge #2022, 7711 Albany Post Rd., Red Hook. This holiday market features a diverse group of local vendors selling their handicrafts alongside locally sourced, farm-fresh foods, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (845) 758-2022 or <https://www.redhookelks.org/holiday-bazaar-2024>

Nov. 23: Saturday Morning Family Series, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Two by Two Animal Haven, 11 a.m. Embark on an exciting journey around the world with live animals like kangaroos, parrots, ball pythons, and more, as you learn about their habitats, diets, and conservation efforts in this engaging, no-contact show suitable for ages 5 and up. Tickets \$10. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Nov. 23-24: The 47th Group Holiday Sale, Delamater Inn and Conference Center, 27 Garden St., Rhinebeck. This show features a collection of 17 artisans

offering blown glass, textiles, pottery, baskets, jewelry, felting, wood, paper and polymer clay, all in a gallery setting. Hours: Sat., Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (845) 876-4151 or grace@gracegunning.com

Nov. 23-24: Vassar College Fall Concerts, 124 Raymond Ave., College Center, Poughkeepsie. Nov. 23: Vassar College Orchestra, 8 p.m. Nov. 24: Vassar College Chamber Singers, 3 p.m. (845) 437-7294 or www.vassar.edu

Nov. 24: 41st Annual Noxon Road PTA Holiday Craft Fair, Arlington High School, 1157 Route 55, Lagrangeville. More than 70 local artisans will be selling all sorts of handmade items, such as candles, soaps and skincare products, jewelry, wooden items, holiday decor, pet items, stationary, knitted items and more, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Enter the raffle for the chance to win a prize. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Admission: \$2; children 12 and under are free. <https://www.facebook.com/noxoncraftfair/>

Nov. 24: An Afternoon of Mozart in the Carriage House, Wethersfield Estate & Garden, 257 Pugsley Hill Rd., Amenia. Enjoy an afternoon of Mozart with the Terra String Quartet and clarinetist Oskar Espina Ruiz in the Wethersfield Carriage House, 2:30-5 p.m. The reception begins at 3 p.m. Cost: \$50 (845) 373-8037 or www.wethersfield.org

Nov. 24: Author and Meditation Expert Dan Harris, Troutbeck, The Ballroom, 515 Leedsville Rd., Amenia. Acclaimed journalist, former news anchor, and meditation champion, Dan Harris, will give a talk and introduction to guided meditation, 2 p.m. Harris’ story and perspective on the benefits of practicing meditation are told in “10% Happier,” a #1 New York Times bestseller. Talk will be followed by a Q&A and a brief meditation. Cost: \$35-\$45. (845) 789-1555 or <https://troutbeck.com/>

Love to Cook

continued from page 12

spreading evenly to cover caramel. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

METHOD for cinnamon streusel

In a small bowl, whisk together flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add butter and use a pastry cutter or fork to incorporate butter until crumbly. If the butter warms up it may clump, but that’s OK too. Transfer to a zip top bag and refrigerate until ready to use.

METHOD for BLACKBERRY SAUCE

In a small saucepan, heat preserves over medium heat, stirring constantly. It will thin as it warms. Add water, starting with 1 tablespoon but no more than 2, to thin it enough so it won’t reset too firmly as it cools. I recommend doing this just before the pudding is done. It needs to be served warm. If making ahead, rewarm to make it pourable.

When it’s time to bake the pudding, preheat oven to 350 degrees. (If it looks too dry, add a little more cream before baking). Sprinkle top of pudding evenly with cinnamon sugar streusel. Bake uncovered until puffed up, set and golden, 45-60 minutes (check after 45).

TO SERVE

Cut into squares; plate and top with warm berry sauce and whipped cream. Serve immediately. Serves 10-12.

A note here: I recommend you eat this hot, or at least warm. If it isn’t, the caramel on the bottom gets pretty hard. To reheat any left over, pop in the oven for 20 minutes or so.

Easy, impressive, festive, comforting and luscious AND can be made ahead? It’s also versatile, being just as lovely for brunch as it is dessert. Sounds like the perfect thing to add to your holiday recipe box! Now you have it, so why not start making your holidays more special right away? Let’s be thankful for all we have, add to our traditions and celebrate family and togetherness. Enjoy!

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.

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Serino announces ‘America Recycles Day Art Challenge’ winners

Students’ artwork inspires community to be creative about recycling

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino congratulates the winners and runners-up of the County’s “America Recycles Day Art Challenge,” organized by the Division of Solid Waste Management with the purpose of teaching local students about recycling and encouraging them to reuse items that might otherwise be thrown away.

The art challenge celebrated innovative artistic creations made from recyclable and reusable materials, encouraging participants of all ages to reflect on the importance of recycling and sustainable practices. The contest was open to all elementary-, middle- and high-school-aged students in Dutchess County, with more than 50 students participating. The Division of Solid Waste Management has selected winners and runners-up in each of the following age categories:

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade

Winner: Luke Stouter, 1st Grade, Homeschooled, Battlebot, a sculpture made out of water bottles, cardboard, magazines, and other recyclable materials.

3rd Grade to 5th Grade

Winner: Ms. Melissa Cascio’s Class (Group 1), 4th Grade, Morse Elementary School, Fantastic Recycling Mid-Hudson Bridge: The 2-D Bridge, a recreation of the Mid-Hudson Bridge out of water bottles, tin foil, paper, and unused items that would have been thrown away.

Runner-up: Ms. Kathleen Orza’s Class, 5th Grade, Warring Elementary School, Until You Spread Your Wings, You’ll Have No Idea How Far You’ll Fly, a scene that depicts a group of butterflies fluttering about, made of seltzer bottles and press board that would have been thrown away

6th Grade to 8th Grade

Winner: Ms. Shanon O’Hearn’s Classes, 5th and 6th Grades, Tabernacle Christian Academy, Welcome to Recycleville, a town made out of cardboard, paper, tin foil, bottle caps, and more, depicting a town that is clearly very sustainable and eco-friendly

Runner-up: Mali Harris-Walting, 8th Grade, Homeschooled, The Owl, a collage made of paper, cardboard, magazines and other paper-materials, depicting the great horned owl, a bird that she volunteered caring for at a bird rehabilitation center

9th Grade to 12th Grade

Winner: Jace Wilcha, 9th Grade, Homeschooled, The Grand Samurai, samurai armor made of cardboard and twine, which Jace demonstrated is wearable.

Runner-up: Erika Villa Patino, 11th Grade, Dover High School, The Blender, a blender made of cardboard and paper, made using an excess amount of cardboard found in their school’s art room

Entries were judged on clarity, description and creativity. The winning artwork will be displayed at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Educational Center at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park through Dec. 4; they will also be displayed at the County Executive’s 2025 State of the State Address.

Serino reiterated the importance of raising awareness about environmental issues and waste management, particularly among younger generations. To that end, the Division of Solid Waste Management’s Recycling Educator develops, maintains, implements and educates the public and private entities on material management and recycling programs. Her job involves creative communication, working with local municipal governments, schools and not-for-profit entities in establishing waste-reduction programs. Schools, libraries and groups interested in hosting the Recycling Educator for a presentation can email solidwastemgmt@dutchessny.gov or call 845-463-6020.

Through the continued efforts of the Division of Solid Waste Management, Dutchess County has increased the recycling rate for municipal solid waste (MSW) in the county from 36 percent in 2012 to 43 percent in 2023, well above the New York State MSW recycling rate of 19 percent and the national average of 32 percent. The Division, for example, hosts three countywide electronics recycling events each year. For more information on the County’s continuing recycling and sustainability efforts, residents can visit the Division of Solid Waste Management webpage.

The County is also a sponsor of Repair Café Hudson Valley, which hosts walk-in events that provide residents the opportunity come together to share their expertise to repair beloved items. When they can’t fix an item, they troubleshoot and provide advice on how an item might be fixed. The goal is to extend the life of things one cares about, keep things out of landfills, preserve the art of fixing things, promote a circular and sustainable economy and build community.

“America Recycles Day” is a national observance on November 15 that promotes recycling awareness and encourages communities across the United States to adopt more sustainable practices. The art challenge provided a platform for young Dutchess County residents to showcase their talents while underscoring the importance of recycling, reducing waste and building a sustainable future.



The county’s “America Recycles Day Art Challenge” is organized by the Division of Solid Waste Management with the purpose of teaching local students about recycling and encouraging them to reuse items that might otherwise be thrown away. Winners, clockwise from above, included “Battlebot,” The Grand Samurai, “Fantastic Recycling: Mid-Hudson Bridge,” “Welcome to Recycleville” and some of the runners-up. *Courtesy photos*



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Hundreds attend annual American Heart Association ‘Go Red’ luncheon



Attendees at the annual Go Red for Women Luncheon in Poughkeepsie on Nov. 14. Below: Women of Impact were recognized during the annual luncheon. *Courtesy photos*

Two hundred women – and some men – gathered on Nov. 14 to fight the No. 1 killer of women, heart disease, at the 2024 Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Luncheon at the Double Tree by Hilton in Poughkeepsie.

The American Heart Association, a global force for longer, healthier lives, created the Go Red for Women campaign 20 years ago to save women’s lives. Since 2004, the Association has funded more research about women’s health, and offered programs to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease in women.

“Today, we celebrated what the Go Red for Women movement has achieved in our community, and we look to the future and what we can continue to accomplish,” said Susan Browning, chair of the 2024 Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Luncheon, president of Vassar Brothers Medical Center and western regional president of Nuvance Health. “We were all united by a shared commit-

ment to ending heart disease and stroke in women, and I know we made a difference in the work of the Go Red for Women movement.”

Jodi Hammell of Poughkeepsie shared her story of surviving a stroke a little more than a year ago.

“Everyone tells me I am a miracle,” Hammell said. “Many days, I feel like a miracle in progress. I know that the research of the American Heart Association helped my doctors save my life, and I was glad to give back today.”

The Luncheon included a silent auction, Hands-Only CPR demonstrations, and a panel of expert physicians from Nuvance Health who shared information about the ways women can care for themselves through the ages and stages of their lives.

To donate to the Go Red for Women movement in the Hudson Valley, visit www.heart.org/goredhv.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

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

Dialing 988:

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

GOLDEN LIVING

If you’re reading this at home, chances are you’re not one of the snowbirds who heads to points south for the winter. Not everybody is so fortunate as to experience all four seasons in Dutchess County. Or strong, for that matter!

Whenever the snow flies, the ideal place for you to be is home, fully stocked up on necessities. Take it from OFA’s Home Delivered Meals (HDM) drivers, who bring shelf-stable meals to homebound HDM clients in addition to regular meals, in case a future delivery is snowed out: The hours before a predicted snow can be frantic on the roads of Dutchess County. Being prepared means you and your caregivers don’t have to be part of that. You stocked up on batteries, ice-melter, an extra set of...

Uh-oh. Did I forget something?

We’ve all been there. That’s why there’s a Winter Checklist in this week’s column, so that you can better prepare for winter weather when it’s not messy outside and breathe easy when others are worriedly looking for the last shovels at the store.

Before it snows...

- Fresh batteries, and charger cables for mobile devices
- Canned goods, especially easy-to-prepare items like soups and stews
- Contact information for neighbors, friends, and family
- Disposable dishware
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Ice melter / rock salt
- Pet food
- Portable AM/FM/weather radio
- Snow shovels
- Winter clothing - boots, gloves/mittens, hats, thermal clothing

Have these, especially if the power might go out:

- Battery-powered lantern (NOT CANDLES)
- Board games
- Books
- Coffee and tea, and maybe hot cocoa
- A deck of cards
- Food and water for pets
- Fresh water, at least one gallon per person per day of anticipated outage
- Manual can opener
- Your medications, enough to last through the storm and outage
- Non-perishable high energy food - crackers, fruit bars, nuts (long as you’re not allergic)
- Shelf-stable snacks like dried fruit and nuts
- Paper towels and toilet paper

If your water needs an electric pump to flow, make sure to fill a bathtub and/or buckets you’re able to lift, so that you have water to refill toilets.

You can find a printable checklist at dutchessny.gov/ofawinter

How will I know if there’s been a weather-related cancellation?

Not every radio station broadcasts lists of snow closings, but we provide information to those that do. We also post cancellation information at facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA, and share it with the OFA email list.

To subscribe for cancellations and regular weekly newsletters, email ofa@dutchessny.gov.

OFA HOMEBOUND VACCINATION PROGRAM NOW OPEN

Are you a homebound older Dutchess County resident, or the caregiver for one? If the homebound individual in question is unable to get a COVID booster and/or influenza vaccine due to their condition, OFA can help. Our staff can arrange for in-home vaccinations, while supplies last, through Friday, January 31st, 2025.

Contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.gov to find out more.

OFA ‘HIICAP’ COUNSELING SESSIONS ARE FULLY BOOKED, BUT...

With the end of Medicare’s annual Open Enrollment period coming up on December 7th, are you still undecided or baffled by the insurance choices you may need to make for 2025?

While individual counseling appointments with local OFA counselors are booked through December 7th, OFA can still connect you with a counselor from the New York State Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP). Reach out to OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.gov for details.

OFA ‘NAVIGATING MEDICARE’ CLASSES FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT SEASON

The Office for the Aging has scheduled additional “Navigating Medicare” classes for open enrollment season at the Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room (2001 South Rd., Poughkeepsie), Adriance Library in Poughkeepsie (93 Market St.) and Starr Library in Rhinebeck (68 W. Market St.).

Here’s what’s on the fall schedule so far, along with how to call and register for a class:

- 11/25/24, 4pm Starr Library Call OFA
- 12/4/24, 3pm Adriance Library 845-485-3445 x3380
- 12/4/24, 10am Starr Library Call OFA

Medicare open enrollment closes on December 7th

- 12/18/24, 10am Poughkeepsie Galleria (Community Room) Call OFA

For the most up-to-date calendar listings, visit www.dutchessny.gov/calendar. We also hold Navigating Medicare classes year-round, on the third Wednesday of every month at the Galleria, and on the fourth Monday of the month at Starr Library.

NEXT YEAR’S TAX SEASON VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Hudson Valley CASH Coalition and AARP Tax-Aide provide free tax preparation to low-to-moderate income residents. Volunteers are needed to continue to provide this support. Tax Counselor and other volunteer roles are available. Free training is provided this fall and in the early winter of 2024-25.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda Eddy at 845.475.7500 or leddy@dutchesscap.org.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, telephone 845-486-2555, email: ofa@dutchessny.gov website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging Social media: www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA

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OBITUARIES

Ralph Alan Gardner

Ralph Alan Gardner, 79, a Tivoli resident for over 30 years and formerly of Dutchess County, died unexpectedly at home on November 7, 2024.

Ralph was born July 25, 1945; the son of the late Ralph F. and Blanche Swart Gardner. Born and raised in Poughkeepsie, he was a 1962 graduate of Arlington High School.

Mr. Gardner proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Ralph worked as a carpenter for the Hyde Park Central School District for over 30 years until his retirement. He was a self-taught carpenter who enjoyed working with his hands and liked to always keep busy, especially on a home project or tinkering with an old car.

Creative at heart, Ralph was a talented artist who liked to draw.

He enjoyed being outdoors, but really loved being a husband, dad, and grandfather.

On Saturday, September 5, 1970, in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie, he married the former Marie A. Gardiner. His wife predeceased him in 2022.

Survivors include his two daughters, Jacqueline and Melissa Gardner, six grandchildren, Auston, Juston, and Daniel Stanhope, Gavin and Maya Dixit, and Elias Maillet; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by daughter Kerianne Gardner-Dixit in 2016 and by his sister, Nancy Perotti in 2015.

In keeping with his wishes, funeral services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the Gardner family respectfully requests memorial donations to The Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region-Albany, 139 South Lake Ave., Albany, NY 12208. (www.rmhcofalbany.org)

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park. To send an online condolence, please visit Ralph's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Marcy Ann Gresch

Marcy Ann Gresch, age 60, of Pleasant Valley, N.Y., passed away surrounded by her loved ones. Marcy was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She was born with a compassionate and loving spirit that touched everyone around her.

Marcy is survived by her devoted husband Mark Gresch and her cherished children: Nicole Gresch (Kendric Turner), Kaitlyn Gresch, Mark Gresch Jr. and her brother-in-law and son Christopher Gresch. She was a proud and loving grandmother to Avery who brought her endless joy. Marcy's family was the center of her life, and she treasured every moment spent with them. She also leaves behind her sister, Margaret (Peggy) Ramon (David Ramon); her niece, Amanda and nephew, David. Marcy was preceded in death by her parents Jorg and MaryJane Fetzer.

Marcy's hobbies reflected her nurturing nature. She loved spending time with her family and grandson, baking, doing puzzles, fishing, and reading. Her love for animals was evident in the special bond she shared with her dog PJ, and her cat, Teddy, who brought her comfort and companionship.

Her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends, who will remember her for her kindness, strength, and unwavering love.

Mae M. Hamm

Mae M. Hamm, 90, a resident of Hyde Park for 64 years, entered into rest on November 4, 2024. Born in Hudson, NY on June 27, 1934, she was the daughter of the late John & Jennie Pulich of Germantown, NY.

She attended Germantown Central School, graduating in 1952 and upon graduation started working in the insurance field which she held for 44 years, working in Albany, Poughkeepsie, & Rhinebeck, retiring in 1996.

On September 17, 1955 she married Stanley E. Hamm. He predeceased her on December 1, 2011, after 56 years of marriage.

She was a member of Roosevelt Engine Co. #3 Ladies Auxiliary, holding many positions, Inspection Clerk for Roosevelt Fire Dept. Commissioners Election, "Dirty Dozen" Ladies club, Greenbush Women's Bowling League, AARP, Coordinator of Senior Citizens Trips for 5 years, and a Notary Public.

Mae was an avid Bingo player and loved going to casinos with her friends, and always ready & willing to give a helping hand to anyone.

Mae had no children of her own and felt so honored when her friends' children called her "Aunt" Mae. She was Godmother to Elizabeth Spence, Devon Chorney, and Daniel Nichols.

She is survived by her sister-in-law Betty-Ann Hamm of Dalton, MA, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins who she loved dearly, along with many dear friends whom she cherished.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her sister and "best friend" Anna Moore in 2012, sister-in-law, Jeanne Hamm, brother-in-laws: Donald Moore, Harold Hamm, Robert Hamm, and Erwin Hamm.

Calling hours were held on November 12th at Sweets Funeral Home, Hyde Park.

Funeral services took place at the Community Masoleum Chapel at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, Poughkeepsie. Entombment followed. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Roosevelt Engine Co. #3, 860 Violet Ave. Hyde Park, NY 12538, Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington St. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, or Meals on Wheels of Hyde Park, 1 Church St. Hyde Park, NY 12538.

Mae would like to thank her family and friends for all they did for her after her husband's death.

David Kaplan

David Kaplan died peacefully in his home on November 8, 2024 at the age of 97. He was attended by his daughter Suzanne and son in law Chuck as well as his caregiver David O.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Arlene of 61 years of marriage.

In addition to his daughter Suzanne, he leaves behind his daughter Debbie.

Dave was born to Abraham and Rebecca Kaplan of NYC. He spent his formative years in the Bronx graduating De Witt Clinton high school in 1946. He went on to graduate NYU with a Bachelor of Science in business in 1951.

Dave took over the ownership and operations of The Kaplan Press from his father. He ran a successful printing business until his retirement. He and Arlene then moved full time to the home previously owned by Arlene's parents in the Hudson Valley.

Dave and Arlene's life was defined by the outdoors. They were active members of the National Ski Patrol, The Professional Ski Instructors of America, the AMC and the ADK. Dave skied, paddled and swam into his 90s.

Dave loved reminiscing about his many adventures; from skiing Tuckerman's Ravine, paddling the many rivers and lakes including around the island of Manhattan, hiking and climbing mountains low and high.

It is important to express our gratitude to the many neighbors, community members and organizations that kept Dave successfully in his home as per his wishes.

Thank you, David O., From H.O.P.E. Agency. Your compassion, professionalism and dedication cannot be matched. Thank you, Eileen, whenever he needed you, you were there. Thank you, Bert and Karen, for the many dinners, the levity and friendship. Thank you, Marcia and Andy, Russell, Patrick, Frank and all the neighbors around Round Lake. Thank you, Linda, for your expertise and guidance. J.P. From Catamount Ski Resort, he loved your post ski day dinner chats. Thank you, Tommy and Olaf, for the many mountain adventures and friendship throughout his life.

We would like to recognize and thank the amazing staff of Hudson Valley Hospice and all the volunteers from Meals on Wheels.

There will be no service or visiting hours. Dave will join Arlene among the mountains and waters that sustained their lives.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home Rhinebeck, NY.

In their honor take a hike, go for a paddle or make some turns on your favorite trail.

"Go where you feel most alive" A.

Gerald E. Kelly

On Sunday, November 10, 2024, Gerald Edgar Kelly departed this life as we know it. He was a model of kindness, patience and positivity for all that knew and loved him. Those he leaves behind to join him later are his wife, Margaret, his children, Bridget and her husband Michael Coyne of Lake Oswego, OR and their children, Kendall, Charles, and Logan Coyne and Jack and Cole Houser, Matthew and his wife, Penny of Brooklyn and their sons, Shane and William, Elizabeth and her husband, Shaun McCavara of Staatsburg, and Catherine and her husband, Joshua and their children, Connor, Maisie, and Darby of Lewisburg, PA.

He was born on August 14, 1939, in Newry, PA, the son of Pius and Ethel Kelly whom he now joins. He was one of 15 sons and daughters. The 7 surviving brothers and sisters are Mary Hetrick, Sister Jane, R.S.M. (Louise), Constance Dolinski, Louis, Rebecca Elias, Eileen Hileman, and Richard. His sister, Charlene, began her beautiful new life at the age of 5. She was later joined by Patrick, Michael, John, Dolores Simpson, Gladys Glunt and Sister Charlene, R.S.M. (Betty).

Gerald studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH and was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1965. After his ordination he continued his Doctoral studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Upon completing his studies there in 1968, he returned to central PA where he served in the Catholic diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. In 1972 he resigned from the ministry in order to marry Margaret Champeno.

In 1972 they moved to Poughkeepsie and settled in Staatsburg in 1975. Their lives together were full of the ups and downs of married life and raising a family, and fulfilled by the lives and interactions of the children and grandchildren.

He lived his life very simply. Gardening, spending time outdoors, enjoying his family, and volunteering were where he found true happiness. He volunteered for many organizations

including the Lewis Gordon Norrie Playground, Inc., Hudson River Housing, Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee, and the Hyde Park Community Garden. He also was active at Regina Coeli Church/St. Paul's Parish as a Eucharistic Minister, Lecter, Cantor, member of the choir, and much more.

After thirty-five years of work as Director of Financial Aid at Marist College and Bard College, he began his retirement. At the urging of his son and friends he began writing. Retirement gave him time to reflect on his life and life around him. He has left these reflections in writing for his family.

Aside from writing, Jerry also spent his years of retirement volunteering. He was a Hospice volunteer for ten years and then began volunteering for "Friends of Seniors," where he drove local seniors to their doctor's appointments. In December of 2023, Jerry decided it was a good time to end his ten years of volunteering with this service. He referred to it as "Divine Irony," when that January he was then diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and his life dramatically changed. He soon received the services from the organization he once volunteered for, Hudson Valley Hospice.

His faith has been a great part of his life. His prayer in the latter part of his life was to have a joyful completion of his life's course, and his family can attest that he did. Jerry found joy and comfort in the recitation of the Rosary with others. Marge and Jerry recited the Rosary every day since his diagnosis, and he enjoyed saying it together to focus on the prayers and hearing others respond. His final wish was that his children would say the Rosary with him in his final days, and they did that. Repeatedly and with joy.

Memories were shared during the visitation on November 18th at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park. A celebration of Jerry's life was held on November 19th at Regina Coeli Church, Hyde Park. Cremation followed and his ashes will be buried at the family's convenience in St. Peter's Cemetery, Poughkeepsie.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Hudson Valley Hospice (www.hvhospice.org), Hyde Park Food Pantry (www.hpfoodpantry.org), or a charity of your choice. To send an online condolence, please visit Jerry's obituary at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Joanne Stile

Joanne M. Stile, 87, died at home on November 10, 2024. A longtime area resident, she spent over 20 years living in Little River, SC with her husband.

Born in Sassano, Italy on February 8, 1937, Joanne was the daughter of the late Michael and Pina (Tropiano) Benvenga. She was employed as a bookkeeper for many years until her retirement.

She was a parishioner of Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church in Little River, SC. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, and was a skilled seamstress. More than anything, she loved spending time with her family.

On April 18, 1964 in Staten Island, Joanne married Guy Stile who predeceased her in 2020. She is survived by her children, Gina Van Fleet and her husband Steven of Hopewell Junction, Diana Stile of Amenia, and Michael Stile and his wife Madelyn of Rock City Falls; her grandchildren, Danielle Dellavecchia and her husband David, Gabrielle Stoetzner, Sydney Van Fleet, Angelina Stile and Christopher Stile; her great-grandson, Roman Dellavecchia; her sister, Antonietta Ottana and her husband Ciccio; her sister-in-law, Maria; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband and parents, Joanne was also predeceased by her brother, Pino Benvenga.

Calling hours will be held on Friday from 3-7 pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday at 10am at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82, LaGrangeville followed by entombment in the Community Mausoleum at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Donations may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society. Please visit Joanne's Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Vernon James Traver

Vernon James Traver, 85, passed away on November 6th after a long illness.

Vernon was born in Poughkeepsie, NY June 10, 1939 to Reginald and Avis Traver along with siblings Reginald Jr, Richard, Joan, Fred, Alan and Sharon. He spent his whole life in Poughkeepsie and moved to Hyde Park when he married his wife Jean and started his family.

Vernon attended school until the 9th grade when he started work at the Fitchett Brothers Dairy while still a teenager and continued working at the Dairy for 35 years until it was sold and became Dairylee.

Vernon was no stranger to adversity and truly believed everyday was a gift after he was diagnosed at age 9 with a brain tumor and underwent extensive surgery at St Francis Hospital, where he was visited by some professional baseball players from the Boston Red Sox which made the local newspaper The Poughkeepsie Journal. Vernon then faced another medical obstacle

when he was 43 and needed a 5 way heart bypass which he conquered and lived for another 42 years cherishing friends and family.

Vernon and Jean traveled all over the United States from Maine to California, Colorado, Washington, Hawaii, Florida, Virginia and Alaska. When in Alaska he took a helicopter ride onto a glacier which he thought was pretty cool. One of his favorite trips was through the Canadian Rockies which he thought were absolutely breathtaking. He got to travel to Switzerland, Greece, Germany and Italy and enjoyed those countries as well.

His thirst for knowledge was unending he was always looking for books to read and could always come up with crazy facts. He enjoyed watching his favorite football team the Buffalo Bills and loved a good baseball game taking the train down to watch the Mets play. Spending time outside was one of his favorite hobbies either birdwatching, gardening, chopping wood or just visiting local sites like Minnewaska, Stissing lake, Vanderbilts or FDR estates.

Vernon is survived by his daughters Laurie and Kelly, grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Hudson Valley Hospice who did an outstanding job of allowing Vernon to stay in his home till the end. Nurses Kelly, Ricky, Pat, music lady Allyssa, social worker Chynna, doula Steve and pastor Julie we couldn't have done it without you and our appreciation is endless.

They say family are those you choose to surround yourselves with and those who will go the distance with you. Thank you Carl for popping over and keeping my dad informed of the neighborhood happenings while enjoying a glass of wine. Thank you to life long friends Robert and Sara Jane for the many meals and visits and emotional support over the last year and a half. Thank you to Cindy and Laura for home cooked meals, conversation and making my dad laugh which is always the best medicine you have been there for the duration and were there at the end, we are forever in your debt.

Rest easy now Vernon you were a devoted son, trusted brother, loving husband, hands on father and grandfather and cherished friend. We will miss your piercing blue eyes, patriarch presence and your laughter. Now you can indulge in endless NY cheesecake, Strawberry shortcake Italian cookies/cigars to your hearts content. You were a good man with a good heart and have been called home now to be with Jean and your family. In keeping with his wishes cremation has already taken place and his ashes will be scattered where he would go to watch the golden eagles fly.

Cynthia Marie Wheeler

Cynthia Marie Mancuso Wheeler, 79, a former longtime resident of the Town of Clinton, passed away on Monday, November 11, 2024, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

Born August 14, 1945, in Rhinebeck, she was the daughter of the late Angelo and Grace A. Hover Mancuso. Cindy was a 1963 graduate of F. D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park.

Along with raising her own family, Cindy babysat children in her home for thirty years. She was also very involved in her church, the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Salt Point. She found joy in baking for the church, taking care of fellow parishioners, and being a Deacon.

Mrs. Wheeler also loved taking care of her own grandchildren, going on walks, and being with family and friends.

On October 8, 1965, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, she married George Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler predeceased her on November 2, 2017.

Survivors include her four sons, John A. Wheeler of Poughkeepsie, Peter A. Wheeler, and his wife, Lucienne, and Wesley B. Wheeler, all of Land O' Lakes, FL, and Robert A. Wheeler, and his wife, Jessica, of Staatsburg; five grandchildren: Mary Pearson (Tyler), and Cameron, Teresa, Michael, and Abigail Wheeler; and two great grandchildren, Calvin and Jack Pearson.

She is also survived by sisters, Delia Ann Potenza - Makris (James) of Wappingers Falls, and Paula Lombardi of North White Plains; brothers, David Mancuso (Rose) of Poughkeepsie, and Wesley Mancuso (Rose) of the Town of Clinton; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband and parents, Cindy was predeceased by her son, Joseph Wheeler; and sister, Karen Molinaro.

In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place. Memorial calling hours were held on November 16th at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park. A memorial service took place on November 18th at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salt Point. Rev. Laurie Spencer officiated. The Wheeler family respectfully request memorial donations to the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1872 Salt Point Tpke., Salt Point, NY 12578 (www.wpcsaltpoint.org), or Shriners Hospitals for Children, P.O. Box 1525, Ranson, WV 25438 (www.shrinerschildrens.org), or the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington St., Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (www.hvhospice.org).

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

INDEX NO.:
2019-51306
Date Filed:
10/22/2024
**SUPPLEMENTAL
SUMMONS WITH
NOTICE**
**MORTGAGED
PREMISES:**
5108 Albany Post
Road, Staatsburg,
New York 12580 a/k/a
5108 Route 9, Staats-
burg, New York 12580
a/k/a 950 Route 9,
Staatsburg, New York
12580
SBL #: 6167-03-
014105
Plaintiff designates
DUTCHESS County
as the place of trial;
venue is based upon
the county in which the
mortgaged premises
is situate.
STATE OF NEW
YORK
SUPREME COURT:
COUNTY OF
DUTCHESS
U.S. Bank National
Association, as
Trustee, for MASTR
Seasoned Securitized
Trust 2005-1
Mortgage Pass-
Through Certificates,
Series 2005-1,
Plaintiff,
vs.
William Richardson
as Temporary Admin-
istrator of the Estate of
Anthony Mallardi; Un-
known Heirs of the Es-
tate of Mary Richard-
son Mallardi a/k/a
Mary Helen Richard-
son, as Heir to the Es-
tate of Anthony Mal-
lardi and all the heirs at
law, next of kin, distrib-
utees, devisees,
grantees, trustees,
lienors, creditors, as-
signees and succes-
sors in interest of any
of the aforesaid defen-
dants, next of kin, dis-
tributees, devisees,
grantees, trustees,
lienors, creditors, as-
signees and succes-
sors in interest of any
of the aforesaid
classes of person, if
they or any of them be
dead, and their re-
spective husbands,
wives or widows, if
any, and all of whom
and whose names
and places of resi-
dence are unknown to
plaintiff, except as
herein stated; Un-
known Heirs of the Es-
tate of Darlene Mal-
lardi Miller, as Heir to
the Estate of Anthony
Mallardi and all the
heirs at law, next of kin,
distributees, de-
visees, grantees,
trustees, lienors,
creditors, assignees
and successors in in-
terest of any of the
aforesaid defen-
dants, next of kin, dis-
tributees, devisees,
grantees, trustees,
lienors, creditors, as-

signees and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid classes of person, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, and all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to plaintiff, except as herein stated; Victoria Mallardi, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Wachovia Bank, National Association; New York State Department of Taxation and Finance; United States of America o/b/o Internal Revenue Service; American Express Centurion Bank; Citibank (South Dakota), N.A.; The People of the State of New York; Rosemary Cotter, as Heir, of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Jeanne Hurley, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Louise Betz, as Heir of the estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Elizabeth Rollins, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; William Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Kenneth A. O'Brien, Jr., as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Gerard M. O'Brien, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Mark H. O'Brien, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Edmund C. O'Brien, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Catherine "Casey" O'Brien Blondes, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richard-

son, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; James Girard, III, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Mary Ann Tagliavore, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Royal J. Dwyer, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi; Pauline L. Dwyer, as Heir of the Estate of Mary Richardson a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir of the Estate of Anthony Mallardi John Doe #1 through #6, and Jane Doe #1 through #6, the last twelve names being fictitious, it being the intention of Plaintiff to designate any and all occupants, tenants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises being foreclosed herein

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the attorneys for the Plaintiff within 20 days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS

FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME.

SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY.

SENDING PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$74,550.00 and interest, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Dutchess on June 4, 1996, in Liber 2270, Page 31 as Document No. 01 1996 3932, covering premises known as 5108 Albany Post Road, Staatsburg, New York 12580 a/k/a 5108 Route 9, Staatsburg, New York 12580 a/k/a 950 Route 9, Staatsburg, New York 12580, SBL #: 6167-03-014105.

There is relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. The Plaintiff also seeks a deficiency judgment against the Defendants and for any debt secured by said Mortgage which is not satisfied by the proceeds of the sale of said premises.

TO the Defendants Unknown Heirs of the Estate of Mary Richarda Mallardi a/k/a Mary Helen Richardson, as Heir to the Estate of Anthony Mallardi and all the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid defendants, next of kin, distributees, devisees,

grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid classes of person, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, and all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to plaintiff, except as herein stated; Unknown Heirs of the Estate of Darlene Mallardi Miller, as Heir to the Estate of Anthony Mallardi and all the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid defendants, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid classes of person, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, and all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to plaintiff, except as herein stated, the foregoing Supplemental Summons with Notice is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Maria G. Rosa, J.S.C. of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Dutchess, dated and filed October 4, 2024.

Dated:
October 31, 2024
/s/ Christina A. Incorvaia
Christina A. Incorvaia,
Esq.
McCalla Raymer
Leibert Pierce, LLC
420 Lexington
Avenue, Suite 840
New York, New York
10170
Phone:
347.286.7409
Fax: 347-286-7414
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
U.S. Bank National
Association, as
Trustee, for MASTR
Seasoned Securitiza-
tion Trust 2005-1
Mortgage Pass-
Through Certificates,
Series 2005-1

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SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.
The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure.

In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process.

To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or visit the Department's website at www.dfs.ny.gov.

FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS
Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services.

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed Bids will be received by the Town Clerk, MaryBeth Muir, of the Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York for Highway Materials and Supplies for the year 2025.

1) Stone, Gravel
2) Sand
3) Latex Bituminous Mix Hot
4) Bituminous Mix Hot
5) Plow Blades
6) Guide Rails
7) Street Sweeping

All Bid packets are available at the Town Clerk's office. Bids will be received until Friday, December 13, 2024 by 12:00PM at the Town Clerk's office, 1554 Main Street Pleasant Valley, New York at which time bids will be opened and read aloud.

If there are any questions please call the Town Clerk's office at (845) 635-1111 Ext. 201.

The Pleasant Valley Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

The Pleasant Valley Town Board will consider bids as soon as possible thereafter.

ALL BIDS MUST INCLUDE AN NON-COLLUSIVE BIDDING CERTIFICATE.

By order of the Pleasant Valley Town Board
Mary Beth Muir
Town Clerk

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-78-24

Leaf Springs

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd day of December 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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

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903 Motorcycles
904 Auto Parts & Tires
905 Autos Wanted

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Answers to this
week's diversions

(puzzles on page 16)

Suguru solution

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

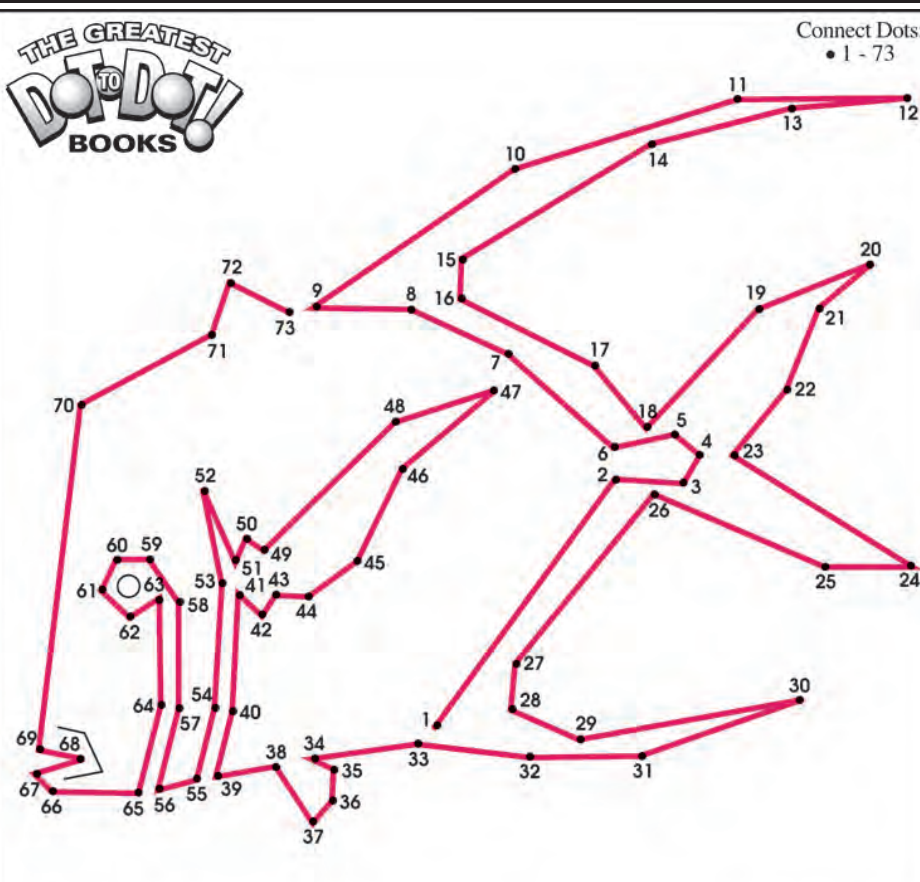
B	U	G	S		P	A	S		R	S	V	P		
E	P	I	C	S		U	L	T		P	A	L	E	O
T	O	R	A	H		S	E	A		U	T	U	R	N
A	N	D	R	E	W	S		R	O	B	E	R	T	S
		Y	A	H		Y	E	L	L					
H	O	T		F	E	T	A		D	I	S	C	O	S
A	P	E	S		L	A	R	D		C	H	A	S	M
N	I	N	E		P	O	D	I	A		A	N	T	I
K	N	E	A	D		S	M	O	G		G	A	I	T
S	E	T	T	E		A	R	A	B		L	A	H	
				I	R	O	N		T	E	A			
F	R	E	E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

SUDOKU

This week's answer

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

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 12)



Connect Dots:
• 1 - 73

By David Kalvitis

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Dutchess to launch Real-Time Crime Center by end of 2024

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, District Attorney Anthony Parisi and Sheriff Kirk Imperati have announced the creation of a new Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) to be located at the Dutchess County Law Enforcement Center in Poughkeepsie. The RTCC will serve as a hub for law enforcement to monitor video feeds and other technology to respond to evolving and active crime situations quickly and efficiently. In a unanimous vote earlier this week, the Dutchess County Legislature approved \$200,000 to launch the RTCC by the end of this year.

District Attorney Parisi said, “A Real-Time Crime Center is not just an investment in technology; it’s an investment in the safety and security of our community. By leveraging real-time data, we’re not just reacting to crimes, but proactively working to prevent them. Law enforcement will be able to utilize data, surveillance technology and predictive analytics to respond quicker to crimes, investigate crimes more thoroughly and identify patterns to prevent future crimes. This center will be the nerve center of our commitment to a safer, smarter, and more responsive justice system.”

County Executive Sue Serino said, “The RTCC will be a true game-changer for speed of response and police safety.

This cutting-edge initiative leverages technology for faster, more effective law enforcement response to protect our communities. We thank District Attorney Parisi for his leadership in moving this initiative forward and we are proud to support this important collaboration of community and law enforcement.”

Real-Time Crime Centers nationwide merge data from live video, cameras, license plate readers, body cameras worn by law enforcement, audio detection and other tools into a single cloud-based operational view to provide enhanced visibility and unified situational awareness. This unified view helps ensure appropriate law enforcement can respond more swiftly to incidents, in some cases potentially preventing crimes before they escalate. RTCCs promote better coordination among law enforcement agencies, emergency services and community organizations to ensure information is shared and resources are allocated effectively, where they are needed most.

The RTCC will be staffed by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Special Operation Bureau, along with a Crime Analyst from the District Attorney’s Office. Other area law enforcement agencies, including the New York State Police, will also have personnel at the RTCC.

Sheriff Kirk Imperati said, “Having a Real Time Crime Center is a force multiplier – giving us the ability to see, in real-time, what is going on to be able dispatch the right resources immediately and provide responding officers with visual support. As technology continues to advance and becomes more widespread through the community, the RTCC enables us to pull all of that information together, putting it to work to make our community safer. I appreciate the collaboration of District Attorney Parisi and County Executive Serino, as well as the support from the entire County Legislature, in making the RTCC possible.”

Serino has directed the initial \$200,000 to launch the RTCC be allocated from the Community Benefit Fund (CBF). The CBF was established by Serino as a set-aside of fund balance following the drawdown of American Rescue Plan funding. This funding is intended for one-time projects that have substantial community benefit and lasting positive impact. This initial funding will cover radio communications equipment, computer hardware, new cameras for high crime areas, as well as equipment to integrate existing municipal and community cameras throughout Dutchess County, as well as subscription costs for

the intelligence systems.

“The Real-Time Crime Center will also play a critical role in ensuring the security of our County employees as they come and go from County facilities,” said Serino. “This initial funding will provide for enhanced video surveillance of parking areas and rapid law enforcement deployment, adding a layer of protection for those who serve our community every day.”

Going forward, District Attorney Parisi has secured \$1.2 million in federal funding through the Department of Justice’s Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant to cover reoccurring costs for the operation of the RTCC over the next two years and will continue to pursue grant funding sources for future years.

Parisi concluded, “The creation of a Real-Time Crime Center is a crucial step in modernizing our criminal justice system. The unanimous bi-partisan support from our legislature this week shows their unwavering commitment to the public safety of Dutchess County. I am thankful for the continued support ensuring the implementation of a more informed, data-driven approach to criminal justice.”

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