

# LaGrange sets Town Center hearing Dec. 10

By Alexander Tsahalis

The Town of LaGrange will be holding a special meeting of the planning board regarding the planned Town Center Project and the permits that have been requested. This meeting will also be a public hearing and give citizens a chance to have their voices heard.

The meeting and public hearing will be held at LaGrange Middle School on Dec. 10 beginning at 6 p.m.

The Town Center plan is being developed by Rieger Homes under the name BRH Land LLC. Rieger Homes is a developer based in Newburgh and has developed several properties in Dutchess County, including Beacon Knoll in Beacon, Cliffdale in the Town of Poughkeepsie and Hidden Glen at Millbrook.

The Town Center would be situated on roughly 194 acres of land bordered by Todd Hill Road, Lauer Road, and Route 55. According to the Final Environmental Impact Statement filed with the Town of LaGrange, the development would include retail/commercial space, homes, two clubhouses/recreation areas, office space and a green area. Roughly 119 acres would be open space, with 105.1 acres left as natural space and 13.7 acres landscaped. The houses would be a combination of rented and owned homes, with 260 multi-family attached dwellings, 147 single-family detached homes, and 201 apartments, including ones over retail spaces.

The homes would house roughly 1,500 people, an approximately 10% increase over the current population. The development will be divided into two sections, referred to as Town Center-Business and Town Center-Residential, in the FEIS. New sidewalks are planned across both sections to improve walkability. Additional parking is also planned for the business area, capable of

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## TREES FOR TROOPS [www.treesfortroops.org](http://www.treesfortroops.org)

# Volunteers load 780 holiday trees for military families

## Gold Star Mother honored

By Curtis Schmidt

Donna Yurista doesn't like to be the center of attention. She just likes to volunteer and help out – especially when it comes to the annual "Trees for Troops" gathering at the Hahn Farm in Salt Point.

"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, both nationally and locally.

On Saturday, Nov. 29, Donna was right there in the cold and wind with approximately a hundred other volunteers, mostly from area volunteer fire departments. They tagged and loaded a total of 780 trees into a Federal Express trailer.

And when it came time to load the final tree, the honor went to Donna. Mind you, she had already carried more than a dozen trees to the trailer.

Donna is a Gold Star Mother. Her son, U.S. Marine Corps Captain Trevor Jon Yurista served two tours of duty in Iraq and another in Afghanistan. He died in Afghanistan on Oct. 27, 2008.



Preparing to load the final tree during Saturday's "Trees for Troops" effort at the Hahn Farm in Salt Point are, from left, local founder and host farm owner Tom Hahn, "Uncle Mike" Hansen of WRWD radio, Gold Star Mother honoree Donna Yurista, local coordinator Jeff Cady and Matt Cady of the Salt Point Fire Company and Assistant County Executive Gregg Pulver. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

"This is not about me," she said. "It's about my son and his service to our country. I just like to take part and give back to my community."

Donna, a former resident of Pleasant Valley, now lives in Highland. She is friends with Linda DiFrenza of the Salt Point Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary and is also connected with the Cady family of Pleasant Valley. Jeff Cady is the local Trees for Troops Coordinator

and president of the Salt Point Fire Company.

"Volunteering is also about teaching the younger generation about the value of helping out in the community," said Donna. "They won't learn unless we teach them."

As such, she was happy to see several teenagers and younger members of the local fire departments helping out on

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# DC Sheriff's Office Youth Cadets raise \$10,000 for 'Hope for Holidays' program



Members of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Youth Cadet Program are joined by County Executive Sue Serino, Sheriff Kirk Imperati and additional members of the Sheriff's Office. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Approximately \$10,000 worth of groceries, personal hygiene items and cash donations were collected for Family Services by members of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Youth Cadet Program on Saturday, Nov. 22 at ShopRite on North Road in Poughkeepsie.

The cash donations will go toward Family Services Center for Victim Safety and Support "Hope for the Holidays Program." This program provides holiday gifts and festive meals to families and children during the upcoming holiday season.

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Youth Cadet Program is a chartered Northeast Regional Law

Enforcement Education Association (NERLEEA) Youth Cadet Post that provides training and experiences in the field of Law Enforcement to Dutchess County youths. It is designed for Dutchess County Youth aged 14-20 who are interested in the criminal justice field.

The program runs during the school year and has an emphasis on developing an understanding of the roles and responsibilities for law-enforcement, as well as developing positive mentorships between our youth and advisors with an emphasis on the youth themselves becoming positive influences and role models within their respective communities.

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|                                                  |      |                                               |      |                      |     |
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# Democratic legislative majority selects leaders for 2026 term

During a Nov. 17 meeting of incoming Democratic county lawmakers, the new Democratic majority unanimously selected current Assistant Minority Leader Barrington Atkins (City of Poughkeepsie) to become Majority Leader and Legislator Kristofer Munn (Red Hook) to become Assistant Majority Leader for the 2026 legislative term.

The Democratic caucus also voted unanimously to support current Minority Leader Yvette Valdés Smith for Chair of the Legislature at the official chair vote in January.

Control of the 25-member Dutchess County Legislature flipped from a 15-10 Republican majority to a 15-10 Democratic majority following the November election. This will be the first Democratic majority since the 2008-2009 term.

“Leader Valdés Smith helped make these electoral successes possible by working closely with all our members to ensure we focus on the people of Dutchess County,” said Legislator Munn. “It is only natural that she should lead the Legislature to continue that work.”

“Leader Atkins’ has worked tirelessly for the residents of Dutchess County in his current position,” said Valdés Smith. “Legislator Munn’s energy, experience, and a long track record of supporting his fellow legislators make him a perfect fit to return to leadership.”

“We have an amazing group of legislators - both newly-elected and incumbent - with a diverse set of skills and experiences,” said Munn. “I can’t wait to see what we can achieve together.”

# Arnoff announces candidacy for NY Senate District 39

Social worker and small business owner Emma Arnoff has officially announced her candidacy for New York State Senate, District 39.

Arnoff is the owner of The Sensory Space located in Poughkeepsie that supports neuro-divergent children and their families through play therapy and psychotherapy.

“My top priorities will be driving down our cost of living,” said Arnoff. “That means expanding mental health services, advocating for housing that’s affordable, and taking on the corporate monopolies such as Central Hudson, that are taking advantage of working families across the Hudson Valley.”

Arnoff aims to use her experience as a local business owner and social worker to address the issues that Hudson Valley families are facing on a daily basis.

“I have seen firsthand how the growing expenses of daily life are impacting my clients and the bottom line of my small business,” she said. “We need new leaders who will work diligently to find new ways of supporting local business growth and bringing costs down for our community.”

Arnoff added, “From raising my children here to running a business that serves families in need, I’ve built my life here in the Hudson Valley. Now, I’m running to ensure that those same families won’t get left behind.”

Arnoff lives in LaGrange with her husband, Dan, and their twins, Miles and Henry.

Senate District 39 includes parts of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam counties



Emma Arnoff

including the towns of Poughkeepsie, Lagrange, Union Vale, Beekman, Pawling, Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappinger, Montgomery, Newburgh, Philipstown, Putnam Valley, and the cities of Beacon, Poughkeepsie and Newburgh.

In 2024, former Democratic Senate Candidate Yvette Valdes Smith came within 2,074 votes or less than 1.5% points of ousting Rob Rolison. This Senate district is one of three in the state that was won by Presidential candidate Kamala Harris but held by a Republican incumbent Senator, making it a top pick up opportunity for the New York State Democratic Senate Campaign Committee (NY DSCC).

# Village elections set March 18

By Kate Goldsmith

The 2026 Village elections will take place on Wednesday, March 18. That’s a change from the usual third Tuesday in March.

Rhinebeck Village Clerk Martina McClinton was able to shed light on the anomaly. In an email responding to this paper’s query, McClinton quoted part of a passage from NYS election law that was enacted in 2014:

“Election Law 15-104 on General Village elections states ‘In any village election in which the general village election ... is scheduled to be held on the third Tuesday of March, for any year in which the seventeenth day of March shall fall on such Tuesday ... such election shall be held on the eighteenth of March,’” McClinton wrote, adding “This is because of the St. Patrick’s Day holiday.”

Since the law went into effect, Village elections have only been held twice on Wednesday, in 2015 and 2020.

“It’s a bit of a recent change, so I anticipate more confusion,” McClinton said.

In the Northern Dutchess News readership area, residents of the villages of Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Tivoli who need to register to vote in the election must contact the County Board of Elections prior to March 6, 2026. The Village of Millbrook holds its elections during the General Election in November.

## Red Hook

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m., in the Village Courtroom at Village Hall, 7467 South Broadway; Red Hook.

There are two Trustee positions to be filled, each a one-year term to fill a vacated term (term of office ends April 4, 2027).

March 2026 Absentee Ballot Applications and Early Voting Ballot Applications are now being accepted by the Village Clerk.

A Sample March 2026 Ballot will be at the village’s website (<https://www.red-hookvillage.gov/260/Village-Elections>) for public review when available.

## Rhinebeck

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m. upstairs at the Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market St., Rhinebeck. The Village Hall is handicapped accessible and a lift is available.

There are two Trustee positions to be filled, each for a two-year term.

Absentee Ballot applications are available at the Village Clerk’s Office, 76 East Market St., Rhinebeck, or on the Village website, [www.villageofrhinebeck.org](http://www.villageofrhinebeck.org), on the Village Clerk’s page. Applications can also be requested by phone at (845) 876-7015, option 3.

Contact Village Clerk Martina McClinton at [mmcclinton@village-ofrhinebeckny.gov](mailto:mmcclinton@village-ofrhinebeckny.gov) for more information.

## Tivoli

Voting will take place at the Tivoli Firehouse, 2 Tivoli Commons, Tivoli, from noon to 9 p.m.

There are two Trustee positions to be filled, each carrying a two-year term.

Absentee ballot and early mail ballot applications may be accepted by the Village Clerk. For more information, contact Village Clerk Kris Cleaveland, [clerk@tivolinyny.org](mailto:clerk@tivolinyny.org).

# Comptroller releases final report in 3-part series on open major capital projects

The Dutchess County Comptroller’s Office has completed the third and final report in a three-part series dedicated to examining all open major capital projects. The first part was released in May 2022 and focused on major Department of Public Works Buildings and Parks projects over \$1 million. The second part, released in 2024, assessed the effectiveness of the County’s current capital project planning and methods of execution.

This third part of the capital projects audit series reviews the servicing of debt and capital project-related activities from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2024. Debt service payments are funded by using taxpayer dollars and allocated during the annual budget process. In 2024, total debt service payments from the General Fund amounted to \$25 mil-

lion, representing 4.5% of the County’s adopted budget. Of this amount, nearly \$15.8 million was applied to principal payments, reducing the County’s long-term debt obligations. \$9.2 million was used to cover interest expenses.

“I am pleased to announce the completion of this series of special reports and hope that the County utilizes our Office’s Findings and Recommendations in pursuit of making sure that our crucial and expensive capital projects continue to make the best use of taxpayer dollars,” said Comptroller Aymar-Blair.

The Comptroller’s Office would like to thank the Department of Finance for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

The Capital Project Status Review, Pt. 3: Servicing Debt Special Report can be found on the Comptroller’s website.

# LaGrange sets Town Center hearing Dec. 10

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accommodating up to 997 vehicles. Several new roads will be built in the development, and the current plan is for many of the residential streets to be private and under the control of a homeowners’ association. The HOA would also be responsible for snow removal and street maintenance. The buildings would be served by public water and sewer from the Town of LaGrange, with an estimated daily water usage of 200,000 gallons.

Several concerns have been raised regarding the project, with the main ones relating to wildlife impacts, increased traffic, and additional students in the Arlington Central School district. The

wildlife located at the proposed development are the Indiana Bat and the Blanding’s Turtle. The Environmental Impact Statement outlines plans to mitigate impacts on wildlife, including working with The Wetland Trust and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

Plans to help combat the increased traffic include widening Lauer Road and trimming vegetation to improve visibility. According to comments in the document that the developers responded to, the increase in students at the school should be offset by the additional taxes raised by the new buildings.

# NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

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See story,  
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TOMPKINS



## Trees for Troops: Volunteers load 780 holiday trees for military families

*continued from cover*

Saturday.

Members of local volunteer fire departments assisting on Saturday included those from Pleasant Valley, Salt Point, Milan, Millbrook, Pine Plains, Red Hook, Castle Point and Glenham.

Volunteers from the local fire departments have been one of the keys to the growth of the “Trees for Troops” project.

In a 2019 interview, farmer Tom Hahn remembered the birth of “Trees for Troops” in the area. He’s the one who started it all. He recalls attending a New York State Christmas Tree Growers Association meeting in Syracuse. “They were looking for volunteers to start ‘Trees for Troops’ programs in different areas and I volunteered for this area,” he said.

Then, about three or four years later, he connected with Jeff Cady, who also brought connections with several other area fire departments.

“That was a godsend,” said Hahn. “It opened up a whole new world of donors. Most of the firefighters volunteered, but they all had connections, too. That’s when things really took off and it’s been getting bigger and better every year.”

He added, “The point is – everybody knows somebody. This is a great cause and most of the donors just needed to find out about it. The volunteer fire departments have played a huge role in spreading the word.”

Another big find in that particular area was “Uncle Mike” Hansen with WRWD Radio who spread the word on the air waves.

On Saturday, Cady announced that this year’s major donor was again Williams Lumber and Home Centers with 250 trees. “We are deeply thankful to Kim Williams and her family,” said Cady. “Over the last three years, they have donated 550 trees to our cause.”

This year’s trees from the local effort will be sent to military families stationed at U.S. Marine Corps Camp Lejeune, N.C., Fort Campbell Army Base, KY and the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla.

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



Clockwise from top, volunteers gather for a group photo after loading the 780 trees. Andrew Ludwig and Peggy Coons lift and tag trees. Loading trees in the Fed-Ex trailer are Daniel Cronk, left, and Billy Cummings. Linda DiFrenza carries a tree. A local resident has tags in his mouth while working with trees. Bringing trees to the trailer are Kenny Elliott, Bently Rabbett and Karl Wendel. *Photos by Curtis Schmidt*





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

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Some gullible Americans still believe  
Trump, regardless of fact checks

To the editor:  
A phrase attributed to P.T. Barnum “A sucker born every minute” or similar has been found as far back as 1806. The problem is that every time Trump opens his mouth – his followers’ minds apparently shut down and fact check does not follow. For example:  
1. He tells us that the Traditional Thanksgiving dinner was cheaper this year than last year, but does not tell us that the basket in 2024 contained 21 different products and 29 individual items, but the current 2025 basket contains only 15 different products and 22 individual items - 7.1% higher than 2024. Or, that “Food-at-Home” Consumer Price Index is up 3.7% from September 2024. (Factcheck.org). For me, it became noticeable with my personal treat of Nestles chocolate syrup, which is 28.6% higher since March due to his tariffs on major cocoa bean growers Ivory Coast (21%) and Ghana (10%), Indonesia, Ecuador, Brazil, Cameroon, Nigeria, or Peru, etc.  
2. If we look at new car purchases, the average price in March 2025 was \$47,962 and in November 2025 is \$50,000, a 4.3% increase in 8 months since Trump tariffs went into effect and metal prices went up. (Kelly blue book).  
3. If we look at housing and his proposed 50 year mortgages, the average age of a first time-home purchaser is 40 years (Realtor.com) and the average life expectancy is 78.4 years (Global Statistics). In Red Hook, the median home sale price (Sept 2025) was \$605,000, and in Rhinebeck was \$892,000. The local M&T mortgage rate is 6.92% APR. This translates for the \$605,000 loan to a \$3,603 monthly payment (not considering other costs); Interest paid \$1,556, 927 and total cost \$2,161,922. This is what Trump calls a solution for “Affordable Housing,” but who can find it affordable? Not the common family.

David Queen  
Red Hook

‘Raise the Age’ reforms needed

Dear Governor Hochul:  
I write to bring your attention to the growing concerns regarding Raise the Age. Numerous law enforcement and media reports have noted the sharp rise in youth crime since 2018. While there are many factors contributing to this increase, it’s clear that the Raise the Age reforms passed in 2018 are making our streets less safe – especially for our youth.  
As a former law enforcement officer, I worked with juvenile offenders and helped them any chance that I could. I believe in restorative justice and agree with much of the reasoning behind “Raise the Age” reform. However, the status quo is in dire need of significant changes. Repeat offenders, those affiliated with gangs, and offenders using a deadly weapon need to be held accountable and cannot be immediately released back into our communities.  
I’m respectfully requesting that you include common sense reforms to Raise the Age in your Executive Budget. I recently authored S.8531, legislation that gives more judicial discretion over the removal of cases to family court and makes illegally using or possessing a firearm an exception to a case being removed to family court. I believe any or all of the changes in my bill would go a long way to fixing the system and improving public safety. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

NYS Senator Rob Rolison  
39th District

Trump/Vance ‘peace plan’ in Ukraine  
only favors Putin and Russia

To the editor:  
What a couple of weeks it’s been when—above the baseline worries of hunger, access to affordable healthcare and ICE-induced chaos across our nation—a few noteworthy things occurred:  
1. One branch of our armed forces attempted to eliminate prohibitions on swastikas and nooses;  
2. Our President called for the execution of six members of Congress who—in fulfilling their oath to the Constitution—reminded our servicemen and -women of their sworn duty to disobey illegal orders like the ones given by our Secretary of War in our deadly attacks on vessels in the Caribbean;  
3. Our President is threatening escalation and war in Venezuela and pardoning the drug trafficking former President of Honduras;  
4. Our country—through our President and his minions—attempts to force the capitulation of Ukraine in order to hand Vladimir Putin the victory which Putin has been unable to secure in the four years of terror Russia has rained nightly upon Ukrainians simply because they do not want to live like their barbaric neighbors.  
We now know the 28-point Trump/Vance “peace plan” is anything but that and was largely crafted by Russia. It is a plan for Ukraine’s unconditional surrender consciously delivered with winter on the doorstep and deliberately weakened air defenses, so that America and Russia can get back to business deals. If enacted, it will embolden Russia who will continue to re-arm so that it can again attack the nations on its flanks, including members of NATO.

In every community in our region, the banners fixed to nearly every utility pole celebrate the men and women who served our nation, who fought and died to secure a world safe for democracy and its freedoms - a world where America stood for justice. We can all imagine their reactions to weeks such as these.

While I do not expect to see shame or remorse from our leaders, I refuse to believe that emotion to be absent from our community. There are many avenues to make America great, but these expeditions taken in our name funded by our taxes, which separate us from our core interests and values are not among them, and we should not allow them to pass unchallenged.

Mark Lagus  
Town of Northeast

Time to ‘settle the Ukraine Conflict’

To the editor:  
Rishi Sunak, Britain’s Prime Minister, declined to run in the July 2024 election. He was quoted as saying he did not intend to be a wartime prime minister, indicating possible Western Alliance plans to act militarily in Ukraine, directly or through long-range missiles against targets in Russia.  
His successor, Keir Starmer, came to Washington intent on authorizing long range strikes into Russia, a possible trigger for World War III. But the top U. S. military command refused to go along, despite President Biden’s inclination.  
So we dodged World War III.  
World War I started in the ethnic tinderbox of Sarajevo, with the assassination of the heir to Austria-Hungary’s throne.  
There are reports that Western agents were now trying to use those same tensions, made worse since the Bosnian War that ended with the 1995 Dayton Accords, to spark conflict between Russia and the West.  
The Dayton Accords partitioned the area into Bosnia (capital Sarajevo) and the Republika Srpska, populated by ethnic Serbs, with enforcement under a High Commissioner. That Commissioner removed the Serb leader from power, which could have triggered conflict.  
As it turned out, an election to replace him wound up electing his ally. What might have led to conflict, and possible Russian intervention and war with the West, was settled peacefully.  
Two World War III bullets dodged. Settle the Ukraine Conflict now, and use diplomacy for peaceful coexistence between Russia and the West.  
Frank Stoppenbach  
Red Hook

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NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to the Christmas holiday, the deadline for the Dec. 24 issue of Northern Dutchess News is Thursday, Dec. 18. E-mail cschmidt@sducthessnews.com for more information.

# Northern Dutchess Hospital achieves straight ‘A’ grade for patient safety

Northwell Health’s Northern Dutchess Hospital has earned an “A” hospital safety grade from The Leapfrog Group. For a third consecutive cycle, Northern Dutchess Hospital has achieved the gold standard of patient safety for U.S. health systems. This top-tier rating reflects the hospital’s dedication to preventing medical errors, implementing strong infection controls and fostering a culture that prioritizes patient well-being above all.

The Leapfrog Group is a national non-profit organization focused on advancing quality care in American healthcare. Quality at Nuvance Health, part of Northwell Health’s hospitals goes beyond meeting benchmarks; it means delivering healthcare that patients and their families can trust. From rigorous staff training to adopting the latest evidence-based practices, Nuvance Health designs each aspect of care to ensure patient safety at every step.

“Safety is at the heart of everything we do here,” said hospital President Dr. Andy Wilson. “This ‘A’ grade confirms the dedication of each employee that walks through these doors to serve our patients.”

The Leapfrog Group assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grade to all general hospitals across the country using evidence-based measures of patient safety focused exclusively on errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

### Consistently delivering quality healthcare for our patients and communities

Northern Dutchess Hospital has achieved numerous quality recognitions from reputable organizations that set healthcare standards. Most recently, they ranked #7 out of 243 community hospitals

in the nation by Vizient and ranked #15 out of 25 New York State hospitals by Newsweek. Last year they earned a five-star rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), scoring the highest level of recognition for quality of patient care. Northern Dutchess Hospital was one of 10 hospitals in New York to receive a five-star rating.

Northern Dutchess Hospital is an accredited Robotic Center of Excellence by the Surgical Review Corporation (SRC), recognized by U.S. News & World Report for high performance in heart failure and achieved The American Heart Association Get with the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus award for Type 2 Diabetes.

Northern Dutchess Hospital also achieved Surgical Quality Partner Status by The American College of Surgeons and CDC Full Plus Recognition for their Diabetes Prevention Program.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is a nationally recognized rating that provides patients and their families with objective data to make informed healthcare decisions. Updated biannually, this grade reflects over 30 safety performance measures, from hospital system efficacy to infection prevention and harm reduction strategies. The rigorous, peer-reviewed criteria Leapfrog uses ensure that an “A” grade is a distinguished indicator of quality and trustworthiness.

See our Holiday Happenings on pages 15-16 & 20 for seasonal events in our area

### LAGRANGE LIBRARY SETS ANNUAL MEETING

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the LaGrange Association Library Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11, at the LaGrange Library at 7 pm. All interested members of the public are welcome to attend. The Library is at 1110 State Route 55, Lagrangeville.

# 22-year-old man indicted by grand jury for 16 counts of alleged unlawful surveillance

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office announced last week that Kyle Petrozzi, 22, was arraigned in Dutchess County Court on an indictment returned by a Dutchess County Grand Jury charging Petrozzi with 16 counts of Unlawful Surveillance in the Second Degree, all Class E Felonies.

District Attorney Anthony Parisi stated, “This defendant’s alleged actions represent a serious invasion of personal privacy. No one should ever have to worry that a space as private as a bathroom is being monitored. Marist University responded quickly and worked closely with law enforcement throughout the investigation. We are grateful to the Marist community for their support and to the victims, whose cooperation was essential to the case.”

The alleged incidents charged in the Indictment occurred over a period between April 27 and May 10. Petrozzi, who was enrolled as a senior, is alleged to

have set up surveillance cameras in gender neutral bathrooms throughout Dyson Hall. Several people, both men and women, were allegedly filmed inside the bathrooms. Petrozzi was set to graduate in May 2025 but was expelled due to the allegations, according to the D.A.’s Office.

The case was investigated by the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department and is being prosecuted by Deputy Unit Chief Nicholas LaStella and Assistant District Attorney Samantha Rios. Under New York’s bail laws, the charges in the Indictment are non-qualifying offenses, according to the D.A.’s Office. Judge Jessica Segal presided over the case and ordered the defendant to be released under probation supervision and to surrender his passport.

As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely accusations, and Petrozzi is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Volunteer for Wreaths across America events Dec. 13

Wreaths across America is set Saturday, Dec. 13, at Stanford Cemetery and St. Mary’s Bangall. Help place wreaths on the graves of Veterans starting 10:30 a.m. at both locations. Ceremonies will take place at both locations at noon. Call (845) 868-7320 to volunteer.

### Rhinebeck American Legion seeks funds to rebuild after fire

Commander John Imperato of American Legion Post 429 in Rhinebeck recently sent out a call for support following what he called a “devastating fire” in the post’s building. A GoFundMe campaign is under way, with a goal of \$25,000. The immediate goal is to reopen the canteen and ballroom so the post can begin generating revenue and covering ongoing expenses, Imperato said. Phase 2 involves completing the repairs that would allow the post to fully restore the building. To donate, visit GoFundMe.com and search for “Join Us In Rebuilding Rhinebeck American Legion After Fire.”

### Conversation about Red Hook Town Comprehensive Plan set Dec. 4 at Elmendorph Inn

Kitchen Table Conversation –Red Hook Town Comprehensive Plan Update will take place on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Elmendorph Inn, 7562 N. Broadway, Red Hook. RSVP encouraged: [www.historicredhook.org/upcoming-events/kitchentable-conversation](http://www.historicredhook.org/upcoming-events/kitchentable-conversation). Survey available for those unable to attend.

What do we want our town to look and feel like now and in the future? Historic Red Hook invites town residents to a Kitchen Table Conversation on the Town of Red Hook’s comprehensive plan update. Share your ideas about quality of life, the built environment, economic resiliency, and natural resource protection. Discussion facilitated by a member of the Community Engagement Subcommittee with findings submitted to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

### County sets Pet First Aid Training Dec. 10

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Dutchess County will again offer its Pet First Aid Training on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the Town of Fishkill Recreation Center, located at

793 Route 52, Fishkill. The training is free, however seating is limited and registration is required and is available online at [DutchessNY.gov/PetFirstAid](http://DutchessNY.gov/PetFirstAid) or by emailing [mr@dutchessny.gov](mailto:mr@dutchessny.gov).

### Rhinecliff Grange Soup Sales set Dec. 18

Rhinebeck Grange #896 will sponsor the final Rhinecliff Soup Sales of the season on Thursday, Dec. 18. Soup is \$10, sold by the quart. Take-out only. Pick-up location at Morton Library between 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. Email: [JoBaer2@gmail.com](mailto:JoBaer2@gmail.com) to get the soup choices for each month and pre-order on-line.

### ONGOING

**Parkinson’s Support Group** - at Starr Library Community Room, third Monday of the month, noon-1:30 p.m. The monthly Parkinson’s Support Group is a gathering place for those with Parkinson’s and their loved ones to create community and share information. The group will meet each month to offer a space for everyone to discuss their challenges and successes, share stories, connect with others who are navigating similar issues, and sift through medical information and the latest news about available treatments. Refreshments and resources provided. Register via the online calendar at [www.starrlibrary.org](http://www.starrlibrary.org). The library is at 68 West Market St., Rhinebeck.

**Chess:** First & third Mondays, 7 p.m., at Clinton Town Hall, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck.

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

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



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# County officials' collaborative efforts help residents in need

During this season of gratitude, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino expresses her appreciation for the many collaborators who came together to support vulnerable County residents when the federal shutdown delayed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits earlier this month. Dutchess County Government stepped up to help provide immediate food resources to thousands of neighbors in need. That commitment continues as the County supports those impacted by the uncertainty surrounding the federal Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

Serino said, “When the federal government’s inaction threatened to let our neighbors in need go hungry or cold, Dutchess County moved fast. With our community partners, county departments, and my fellow County elected officials, we worked together to plan and take action with unprecedented speed, making sure our neighbors could feed their families and heat their homes. I am so grateful to all who helped make it all happen.”

When November's federal SNAP benefits were held up due to the shutdown, Dutchess County stepped in immediately, committing up to \$1.5 million, working with Dutchess Outreach, Inc. to mobilize a county-wide emergency food response with the weekly purchase of thousands of

pounds of food locally sourced from area businesses and suppliers. Thousands of local families were provided fresh, nutritious food groceries at multiple emergency food distribution events organized by Dutchess Outreach and at food pantries throughout the county until SNAP benefits were restored.

The County's quick, decisive action was made possible through the efforts of several key partners, including:

- Dutchess Outreach's Executive Director Renee Fillette-Miccio, PhD, who leads the County's Food Security Council, provided the necessary input on local need, informing the County's determination to invest \$150,000 a week for food distribution during the shutdown and worked with food pantries across Dutchess County.

Renee Fillette-Miccio, PhD, said, “I am thankful to County Executive Serino and our partners in Dutchess County Government for mobilizing the resources needed to provide steady, critical support for our food pantries. They listened to the realities on the ground and took swift, decisive action when thousands of families were at risk. This crisis also gave us the opportunity to demonstrate a more efficient and effective way to bring food to our neighbors — one that prioritizes local sourcing so we can support our local

businesses at the same time. By purchasing from local farmers and suppliers, we moved fresh food quickly to those impacted by the federal government's inaction on SNAP while reinvesting those dollars back into our community. It was smart, compassionate, and community-centered action, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who made it possible."

- The Dutchess County Legislature, including Chairman Will Truitt and Minority Leader Yvette Valdés Smith, who worked in a bipartisan manner to swiftly authorize the financial commitment to fund this vital initiative with unanimous support.

Truitt said, “In times of crisis, government must act swiftly and decisively, and that’s exactly what we in Dutchess County did. I’m proud to have worked alongside County Executive Serino and my colleagues in the Legislature to ensure no Dutchess County resident was left without food or heat. This bipartisan effort is the latest embodiment of our shared commitment to protecting our most vulnerable neighbors when they need us most.”

Valdés Smith said, “Dutchess County’s immediate mobilization of food and heating resources when local families were hurting shows how much can be accomplished when people work together. The speed and efficiency of this effort

is testament to the strong partnerships we have here in Dutchess County.”

- The Office of County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair, worked with the Department of Planning & Development and the County Attorney's Office for an expedited contract and payment process that allowed for immediate payment of the weekly food purchases.

Aymar-Blair said, "The Comptroller's Office was happy to be part of this collaborative effort. We took the necessary steps to be able to expedite the release of funds to pay for immediate food distribution, working together with the various county departments to help local families through a difficult time."

The County is now using the authorized funding to assist those who have been impacted by the uncertainty surrounding HEAP, which has not yet opened for the winter heating season. The County has been providing emergency, one-time support for HEAP-eligible individuals who have no fuel or have had their home heating source shut off.

In addition to these efforts, the County also re-established the “Dutchess Responds” fund through Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley for residents and businesses who want to make monetary donations to assist neighbors in need with food resources and home heating assistance.

# Stanford Free Library upcoming events

Registration required for events unless noted otherwise. Please register via the online calendar at [www.stanfordlibrary.org](http://www.stanfordlibrary.org) or call (845) 868-1341.

Author Talk: Music Mountain: History  
of a Dream  
Friday, December 5th 6pm

Join Author Anne Liebling as she discusses her book *Music Mountain*. Jacques Gordon left Ukraine as a teen and in 1930 went on to found Music Mountain on an idyllic mountaintop in Falls Village, CT. Learn how the music center now entering its 97th year survived against enormous odds.

Holiday Stories and Crafts  
Thursday, December 4th, 3:30PM-4:30PM for Pre-K-1st  
Friday, December 5th, 3:45-5pm for

Grades 2-5  
Join Miss Danielle for Holiday Stories  
and Crafts

Food Drive  
Through December  
Stanford Free Library is partnering  
with Willow Roots to collect Non-per-  
ishable goods to the library. Collected  
goods will benefit families in the Pine  
Plains CSD

Supper Club with Lenny  
Wednesday, December 10th, 6:00 pm  
– 7:00 pm

Enjoy a community tasting and sharing event with friends and family. This month the theme is: Pastapalooza. Bring a dish featuring pasta as an ingredient to share. Beverages, Paper plates, plastic ware will all be provided

December Book Club  
Monday, December 8th, 1:00 pm-  
2:00pm

This month's selection is *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry

Yo-yo club  
Saturday, December 27th , 1p-2pm  
Open to students grades 4+  
Join us at yo-yo club with Marc Smith.  
Have hands-on fun while learning about  
different types of yo-yo's including fixed  
axle, responsive, and unresponsive. Yo-  
yos will be provided but feel free to bring  
your own. Space is limited so register  
early.

## ONGOING EVENTS

Qigong  
Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm  
Why consider the practice of Qi  
Gong? Empower yourself, improve your  
physical and mental health. Create a state  
of balance/strengthen your will power

Story time at the Library  
Tuesday Mornings through Dec. 9  
Toddlers (18mos-2 years), 10:30am-11:15am  
Preschoolers (3-4 years) 11:30am-12:15

Home School Stories and STEAM  
Students in Grade K-3:Thursdays,  
12:45pm -1:45pm  
Students Grade 4-6 (STEAM only)  
Thursdays, 2pm-3pm

Case Management Services  
Tuesday 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM  
Free and available to anyone in our community. North East Community Center's case management services can help clients meet emergency needs and provide ongoing support. For example, we can assist with food rent and utilities.

Yoga with Mia  
Saturdays, 10am-11am  
Bring your own mat and blanket. One  
time waiver must be signed prior to first  
class.

Water Color Workshop  
First, Third and Fifth Tuesday of each  
month 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Using the Basic Watercolor  
Techniques: A Flat Wash, Graded Wash,  
Wet-In-Wet or Drybrush

We will be happy to provide guidance but this is a Watercolor Workshop not a Watercolor Class. Supplies are not provided, a list of needed materials is available at the library.

Literacy Connections Classes for  
English Language Learners  
Mondays 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
All levels are welcome.

**Knitting**  
First, Third and Fifth Thursday of the  
month 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Come for knitting, tea and conversa-  
tion. All levels are welcome. Advanced  
knitters will teach beginners.

**Brain Games**  
Thursdays 10:30 – 12:00 pm  
Calling all seniors! Join in the fun and laughter of our brain games! Fun, stimulating, invigorating word games, board games, card games, conversation and laughter!




Mahjong for Intermediate Players  
Fridays 10:00 am - noon  
Come and play Mahjong with this fun,  
friendly group. Are you a beginner or  
want to learn the game? Ask at the library  
for more information.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**27th Annual**  
**Homemade Cookie, Craft and**  
**Christmas Gift Bazaar**

**When:** December 6th  
**Time:** 10am to 3pm  
**Where:** Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
1872 salt Point Tpke, Salt Point

**All proceeds help the Board of Deacons with community mission projects.**

**Rows & Rows of Homemade Cookies Sold By the Pound**  
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**Diana at 845-635-3635**





# Contini family members join French citizens to dedicate monument honoring WW II squadron

Members of the Contini family of Salt Point, Clinton Corners and Beekman were in the Village of Mouacourt, France in October to dedicate a monument honoring the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of the 106th Cavalry Group.

They were joined by siblings from Ulster and Schenectady Counties, Washington State and Maine. Their father, Staff Sergeant Victor M. Contini, was a senior medic with the 121st Cavalry Medical Detachment. The unit liberated the village of Mouacourt in October 1944. Victor survived the war after participating in campaigns from Normandy to Central Europe. He lived in Ulster County.

The Contini Family commissioned the monument in cooperation with the Village of Mouacourt.

Ten members of Victor's family participated in the dedication ceremony. Alexander Contini (U.S. Army Retired) spoke for the family at the ceremony. He joined his siblings Michael, Richard and Katherina in presenting a wreath. Victor's grandchildren: First Sergeant Daniel V. Contini and his sister Katie Contini and nephew Donovan presented a second bouquet. They were escorted by a French re-enactor group of 121st Cavalry carrying the guidon of the medical detachment.

Alexander's son Sergeant First Class Robert J. Contini, a former military musician, sounded "Taps" and the French "Sonnerie aux Morts."

The monument which is located by the Mouacourt Cemetery honors all the troopers of the 121st Cavalry. Sixteen names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the battle of the Parroy Forest are inscribed on the monument. Philippe Sugg, a local historian, made the arrangements for the monument and the dedication ceremony. Mr. Sugg has worked to create 17 monuments to Americans throughout the Lorraine area.

Over 75 French re-enactors of American World War II units drove 35 vintage vehicles to the Village of Mouacourt to participate in the dedication. After the ceremony, the re-enactors and guests formed a convoy traveling the route used by the 121st Cavalry following the liberation of Mouacourt.

French soldiers from the 53rd Regiment Transmissions (Signal) formed a military color and honor guard. The village mayor expressed the gratitude of the descendants of the WWII villagers for the sacrifice made by Americans to liberate France. Dignitaries from several jurisdictions also spoke about the victory achieved by the American soldiers.



Clockwise from above, members of the French Color Guard salute while displaying flags. Wreaths were placed by the monument honoring members of the 121st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. French re-enactors drive a caravan of military vehicles. Grandchildren and children of Staff Sergeant Victor M. Contini stand at the service. Courtesy photos



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# Rolison and Serino join Spackenkill celebration

NYS Senator Rob Rolison and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino joined the Spackenkill School District's Board of Education in celebrating Spackenkill High School being named an Exemplary High Performing School by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

This is the second time that SHS has earned this high honor, qualifying it for the National Blue Ribbon Award, which it won in 2018. NYSED also nominated SHS for this year's National Blue Ribbon Award, making it the only high school in Dutchess County to be nominated twice. While the National Blue Ribbon program has been discontinued, NYSED has created its own recognition program and is honoring 19 schools statewide from more than 700 school districts.

Senator Rolison, a class of 1976 Spackenkill graduate, recognized the high school with an official Senate proclamation prepared in Albany "in recognition of this incredibly well-deserved award of excellence."

Serino also presented the District with a proclamation and said, "This really is a testament to the families, the teachers,



Surrounded by administrators and the Board of Education, Senator Rob Rolison and County Executive Sue Serino display proclamations. *Courtesy photo*

the students who really go above and beyond." She pointed out that Spackenkill is one of only 19 schools across all of New York State to earn this honor "and even more amazing is you've earned it twice."

Spackenkill Superintendent Dr. Paul Fanuele said, "This is an amazing accomplishment for the District. For the past year, we've been reflecting on and celebrating our origins in 1865, and to receive this honor during the year of our 160th

anniversary makes it that much more special. As a former principal of Spackenkill High School, this honor is especially meaningful for me. I'm really proud of the staff, students, and community for their dedication."

## Tompkins Community Bank delivers over \$1,500 in donations for local food pantries



For the second consecutive year, Tompkins Community Bank's (Tompkins) Acorn Community Alliance, the bank's team of community volunteers, supported local food pantries with more than \$1,500 in donated non-perishable food items, household essentials and personal hygiene products through its "Fill the Vault" donation challenge.

As families across the Hudson Valley continue to face food insecurity, these

contributions from Tompkins employees and customers will help Dutchess Outreach, Putnam Community Action Partnership and the Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown in Westchester bridge critical gaps caused by delayed SNAP benefits.

Together, Tompkins is filling the vault with generosity and helping nourish neighbors in need.

From left are Glenn Wu, Ford Young, Jenna Mazzacone, Kristen O'Keefe, Alison Romano, Deborah Callaghan, Patty Scharf, Kimberly Chadwell, Carol Schmitz, Tim Russell, David Carey, Catherine Conrad, Arthur Micol, and Sue Musumeci, rounding up the donations. *Courtesy photo*

## Millbrook 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.

Yarely Ramos Saavedra from Millbrook, assigned to the Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, received a promotion Oct. 2, 2025 to the rank of specialist.

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](http://www.dnna.ny.gov) or [www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com)

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--HELD OVER--

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**For Good** (PG)

--HELD OVER--

**Zootopia 2** (PG)

**Wicked: For Good** (PG)

**Now You See Me:**  
**Now You Don't** (PG13)

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# ND Symphony presents Dickens' holiday classic in concert Dec. 6

Join Ebenezer Scrooge and the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) as they tell the timeless tale of “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. “Sinfonietta, A Christmas Carol for Narrator and Orchestra” has previously been performed only in England. Now, it will make its U.S. premiere on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 4 p.m., in the Rhinebeck High School Auditorium, 45 North Park Road, Rhinebeck.

Local voice-over actor Jason Dempsey will narrate the tale, accompanied by familiar carols and original music. American and English holiday favorites round out the program to put you in the festive spirit, under the direction of Guest Conductor William Stevens.

With a rich, expressive voice that brings every story to life, Jason Dempsey captures audiences with warmth, humor, and depth. A longtime educator, Dempsey began his narration career recording books for his print-challenged students – a discovery that revealed his natural storytelling gift.

A lover of literature, Dempsey combines his background in philosophy, science and education to give each performance authenticity and heart. When he’s not behind the mic, you’ll find him riding his motorcycle through the Catskills, kayaking, or reading by the woodstove with a cat on his lap.

William Stevens is an active performer and conductor throughout the Hudson Valley. He is one of the band and jazz band directors at Union Vale Middle School in the Arlington Central School District in Lagrangeville. Stevens’ professional conducting experience includes numerous musical productions with the Admiral Players; principal conductor of the Hudson Valley Saxophone Orchestra; and guest conductor for the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra (NDSO) since 2014.

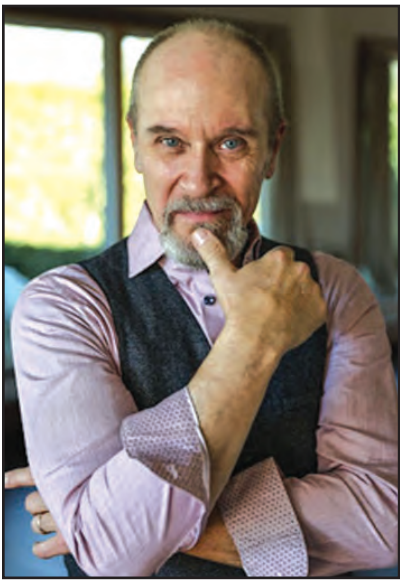
Tickets for the performance are \$38 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$10 for students. A family package (one adult and two students) is available for \$40.

Formed in 2006 to bring live orchestral music to northern Dutchess County and the surrounding Hudson Valley, the NDSO is now celebrating its 20th season. Recognized as the Arts Mid-Hudson 2025 Art Organization Awardee, the orchestra continues its mission of offering outstanding live performances of classical and popular music at family-affordable prices. Since its founding, NDSO has been under the dedicated leadership of Kathleen Beckmann, who serves as both conductor and artistic director.

For more information, call (845) 445-9606 or visit [www.ndsorchestra.org](http://www.ndsorchestra.org).



The Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra will present “Sinfonietta: A Christmas Carol for Narrator and Orchestra” on Saturday, Dec. 6. Local voice-over actor Jason Dempsey (below, left) will narrate the tale, accompanied by familiar carols and original music. Guest Conductor William Stevens (below, right) directs the orchestra in the U.S. premiere of the “Sinfonietta.” *Courtesy photos*






### Find us on Facebook: Southern Dutchess News Group



## DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 17 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



### Stars

Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 95

By David Kalvitis © 2005 Monkeying Around

### Historic Hyde Park Train Station to host ‘Polar Express’ reading

On Monday, Dec. 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the non-profit Hudson Valley Railroad Society (HVRRS) will host its annual holiday season-themed “Polar Express” Book Reading. Admission and refreshments are free for all attendees. The HVRRS is a group of volunteers who restore, maintain, and operate the Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum.

This year’s region-wide event will be at the historic, authentically restored Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum -- used by the Vanderbilts, and FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. The Station Museum is located at 34 River Road, Hyde Park.

This Christmas event for families and kids of all ages will include hot cocoa and cookies, a holiday sing along, and a visit from Santa. Several model railroad layouts will be running, including ones with hands-on operating features such as Thomas The Tank Engine®.

The station’s fenced-in rear patio offers wide-open views of the sky and the Hudson River, plus Amtrak trains passing in both directions.

All donations go to the continuing restoration and operation of the Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum. This is a Nationally Registered Historic Place open to the public by appointment and on Thursday evenings year-round, plus on Saturdays in summer, with free admission year-round, and which members of the HVRRS work to support.

Visit [www.hydeparkstation.com](http://www.hydeparkstation.com) for more information.

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# Killing Ladybugs

Large numbers inside the home can be worrisome, but these invasive beetles have their good points.

No, this is not the title of the latest Bill O'Reilly thriller. When I saw a pesticide labeled "LadyBug Killer," I did a double take. Wait, isn't the ladybug New York State's official insect?" Can't a single ladybug eat 5,000 aphids? Don't ladybugs protect crops and garden flowers from pests? Then I remembered an October visit a few years ago to John Boyd Thacher State Park west of Albany. Crammed into the rock crevices along the Indian Ladder Trail I saw thousands of ladybugs looking for a place to overwinter. It turns out that a particular species of ladybugs, the so-called Asian ladybug, has become an invasive pest, swarming into people's homes as cold weather approaches.

Asian ladybugs (they are actually beetles) were introduced to the U.S. a hundred years ago to help control agricultural pests, which they do rather well. They multiplied quickly, thanks to their foul taste and odor, which repels birds. Eventually, they began to out compete the several species of native ladybugs for food and habitat. Ladybugs don't bite or sting, but then again neither do cockroaches. People just tend to freak out when they see large numbers of insects inside their home.

Ladybugs go through a life cycle similar to butterflies. They hatch from tiny orange eggs, and start out as a larva that looks like a miniature gila monster. They

take a few weeks to mature. Once inside your house, ladybugs will not multiply, because there is no food for the larvae. The only way they "multiply" is if more come in.

I personally am quite fond of ladybugs. I even majored in entomology (the study of insects) at Cornell University, before dropping out. So I called my entomologist friend Samantha Willden, who is currently an assistant professor of Controlled Environment Insect Ecology at Cornell. She studies ways to keep pests out of greenhouses and high tech indoor farms. I wanted to know how Samantha felt about killing Asian ladybugs – she calls them "harlequin beetles," because they come in a variety of bright colors. She says:

"Harlequin beetles are more aggressive and can out compete other lady beetle species for resources leading to reduced biodiversity. However, harlequin beetles could fill important ecological gaps in pest control where native predators are absent due to factors such as habitat disturbance. So there is not a clear cut answer on whether the harlequin beetle is 100% a bad actor in the environment. There's some nuance to this issue from a pest control perspective. They can be unwelcome guests in domiciles and there are many excellent university extension guidelines for preventing them from taking refuge in your house.



Ladybug Killer with photo of invasive ladybug. A ladybug, which is actually a beetle. Photos by Mark Adams

Regardless, we don't recommend widespread management of harlequin beetles because they are very much naturalized in our environment."

I suppose Samantha means that we should not try to exterminate the Asian ladybugs, in the same way we are trying to get rid of Asian long horned beetles or spotted lantern fly.

Live and let live.

The label on the bottle of Ladybug Killer also mentions the boxelder bug, an

insect that attacks boxelders, maple and ash trees. These colorful creatures also seek shelter inside homes, sometimes in large numbers. I haven't heard about any redeeming qualities when it comes to boxelder bugs. But do they deserve to die?

Ask Bill O'Reilly.

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

## FREE HOLIDAY EVENTS AT FDR LIBRARY, HOME DEC. 13

On Saturday, Dec. 13, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Home of FDR National Historic Site in Hyde Park will host a full day of free holiday events. The Museum will be open to visitors free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Home of FDR (Springwood) will have self-guided tours available from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be holiday decorations, refreshments and special activities - including the Holiday Book Fair, Fala Impersonator "Dickens" and free photo time with Santa - beginning at noon in the Henry A. Wallace Center.

**Holiday Book Fair, Photos with Santa, and Holiday Cards for Sailors**

Beginning at Noon, children can make holiday cards for

sailors on the USS Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt ([www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/ddg80/](http://www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/ddg80/)) and meet with Dickens, a little black Scottie dog who loves to impersonate President Roosevelt's famous dog, Fala. There will be holiday music and free photo time with Santa from 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon.

The Holiday Book Fair - presented by the Roosevelt Library and the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District - will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Authors of children's books and family-friendly titles will visit with attendees and sign copies of their books. This year's authors will include Della Ferreri, Jonathan Hollingsworth, Barbara Ann Mojica, and A.J.

Schenkman. Featured books will be available for purchase in the New Deal Store in the Wallace Center.

**Holiday Open House at Roosevelt Library and Home**

The Holiday Open House on Dec. 13 is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Home of FDR National Historic Site and at the Roosevelt Library. Both the Home and the Roosevelt Library study will be decorated for the holidays as they were during the Roosevelt presidency. Admission is free to the Home and Library throughout the day.

For more information call Cliff Laube, Roosevelt Library, (845) 486-7745; or Franceska Macsali Urbin, National Park Service, (845) 489-8513.

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# Tivoli Winterfest set Dec. 6

The Village of Tivoli, along with the Tivoli Fire Department and Tivoli Merchants + Artists, announces their 2025 Tivoli Winterfest Celebration to be held Saturday, Dec. 6 - a day and evening filled with holiday festivities, family fun and community spirit. Holiday lights, Santa touring through the village, festive cheer, business and restaurant open houses and more will provide warm welcomes for the holiday season as the community and visitors experience the charm of Tivoli - a destination for art, culture, cuisine, connections and scenic outdoor enjoyment.

“Tivoli’s Winterfest is a celebration of families, kids and the community during this wondrous season. It’s a great way to explore our village as we welcome all to come visit,” says Mayor Emily Majer.

“This is the perfect time to experience the rich culture and charm of Tivoli” adds TM+A co-director/Tangent Theatre Company producer Andrea Rhodes.

The day begins at 2 p.m. with Santa’s tour through the village and neighborhoods, courtesy of the Tivoli Fire Department (and with use of a classic, vintage fire truck), where Santa will be seen engaging with kids and adults alike; Tivoli Free Library at Village Hall will host a crafty session for kids 3:30-4:30 p.m.; a “gazebo” lighting kicks off at 4:45

p.m. at the Village Hall/firehouse, along with treats for all; a bonfire will keep folks warm as horse-drawn wagon rides will delight revelers from 5 to 7 p.m. (starting at the firehouse; all welcome); finally, open houses will be peppered throughout the village, where shops, restaurants and arts destinations will offer a chance to meet and greet owners and artists, and share in cheer and conversation. Tivoli Artists Gallery in particular hosts their annual Holiday Show from noon to 8 p.m. - an intimate market of artisan wares for unique gift giving.

The day is a coming-together of a modern celebration, history and tradition, art and friendship. Tivoli’s premier destinations along its main Broadway thoroughfare, with distinct specials, include Available Items (offering holiday tunes and snacks, an array of locally made gifts for kids & adults, along with the Candy Cane Show, an exhibition of design objects made from candy canes!); Fortunes Ice Cream (offering hot chocolate with peppermint sticks); Kaatsbaan Cultural Park (with a jazz performance at 7 p.m.); Thrift 2 Fight (providing their gift card sale - buy a \$50 gift card, receive an additional \$10 gift card for free! - with lots of warm items perfect for season); Tivoli General (delivering S’mores kits for kids at the library); Tivoli Watermelon



Santa tours the Village of Tivoli in a firetruck during a previous Winterfest celebration. This year’s event is set Saturday, Dec. 6. *Courtesy photo*

Factory (pop-up artisan Sam Merritt to raffle handmade watermelon art); and The Corner @ Hotel Tivoli (offering dinner and holiday drink specials to warm up patrons). Bad Times Bar, Fabulous Yarn, The Corner Store @ Hotel Tivoli, Giobatta Alimentari, Osaka, Santa Fe,

Tivoli Wine & Spirits and Traghaven Whiskey Pub are also among the evening’s popular stops.

Tivoli’s Winterfest Celebration is free and open to the public. For more details, visit [tivolinow.com](http://tivolinow.com) or @tivolinow on Facebook and Instagram.



See **HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS** on pages 15-16 & 20  
for more seasonal events in our area





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

Suguru

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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: NURSERY RHYMES

ACROSS

1. Type of haircut, pl.  
5. Tiny helper  
8. \*What rain does in famous nursery rhyme  
12. What accomplices do  
13. Ring like a bell  
14. Sign of life  
15. Lascivious look  
16. Pretentiously artistic  
17. Tiny island  
18. \*Bring her back! (2 words)  
20. Nicholas II of Russia, e.g.  
21. Inmate with life sentence  
22. \*One for Sorrow (Two for \_\_\_\_)  
23. Melville's "Pequod," e.g.  
26. More fancy  
30. Request for tailor  
31. Encoded message  
34. Land measure  
35. Omit  
37. \*Hush-a-bye, baby. \_\_\_\_ still"  
38. Take a base  
39. Hokkaido native  
40. Veal serving  
42. Beehive State native  
43. What Cupid did (2 words)  
45. \*Tip me over!  
47. Lt.'s inferior  
48. Plant louse  
50. "Pay as you earn" tax system  
52. \*How do your ears wobble? (3 words)  
56. Sacha Cohen's middle name  
57. Render speechless  
58. Medley  
59. Apathetic  
60. Not tanned  
61. Nearly  
62. Bird's groomer  
63. It's open to interpretation  
64. #57 Down, pl.

DOWN

1. It's soothing  
2. Do as directed  
3. British Broadcasting Corporation, colloquially  
4. Take a leisurely walk  
5. Chill-inducing  
6. Procrastinator's word  
7. \*What the old lady swallowed  
8. \*She's been to London to visit the Queen  
9. Paella pot  
10. \_\_\_\_-friendly  
11. Expose to moisture  
13. One way to cook fish  
14. Mountain climber's spike  
19. Brother's daughter  
22. \*Who stole the cookie from the cookie \_\_\_\_?  
23. Semolina source  
24. Sunny prefix  
25. Kind of acid  
26. Perceive by touch  
27. Frost over (2 words)  
28. One of the Muses  
29. Find new tenant  
32. \*What Jack Horner pulled out  
33. Not miss  
36. \*\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_, he had ten thousand men  
38. Beer garden mug  
40. Post-Soviet Union alliance, acr.  
41. C2H6, flammable gas  
44. With regard to, archaic  
46. Software plug-ins  
48. Rose oil  
49. Young chicken  
50. Window glass  
51. Geometric calculation  
53. Buy and resell  
54. Baltic capital  
55. Sounds of amazement  
56. Baby's apron  
57. Self-care resort

CROSSWORD

|    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 19

12 NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living - December 3-9, 2025





# Chewy-crisp cookie

In the right hands, a craving can result in a delicious new recipe.

A craving, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is an intense, urgent or abnormal desire or longing. Medical News Today says a food craving is a sometimes-uncontrollable desire for typically unhealthy foods. The reasons we have cravings can be hormonal, stress-related or emotional. Sometimes it's simply the body's way of telling you what you need.

I'm a firm believer in listening to cravings. Not overindulging, mind you, but occasionally giving in to them. Many is the time I've had a hankering for something, given in to it and known it was the right thing to do. Often, I think, it's what the heart and soul need. Feeling under the weather? Nothing chicken soup can't "cure." Bruised heart? Warm, gooey brownies might just do the trick. And more often than not, a good, old-fashioned grilled cheese sandwich is just the soothing comfort you need.

There have been many times for me that something I crave has turned into a go-to recipe. That was the case just the other day. I had a specific hankering for cookies, but not just any would do. What I craved were peanut butter cookies, but with a crispy-chewy texture. The recipe I had was for soft ones, but that just wasn't what I wanted. So, I put on my thinking cap, perused the pantry and – voila! – a box of crisped rice cereal left over from my last batch of treats said 'Hey girl!' Perfect!

Before we get to it, a little, overly simplified lesson on baking chemistry. What makes the texture of a cookie? (I consulted a few sources, including America's Test Kitchen, to find out.) To be clear, texture is affected by numerous factors:

the leavening agent used (baking powder (cakier results) vs. soda), the type of flour, baking time and temperature, whole eggs or just yolks, etc. But for a basic explanation: If you like crisp cookies, the best way is to use low moisture white sugar. Another is to ensure the dough spreads while baking, so use melted butter rather than cold or softened butter. Baking at a lower temperature for a longer time also helps. For chewier cookies, which is what I wanted, brown sugar is key. Its color comes from its molasses content, making it moister (that's why you can, and should, pack it when measuring). Softened, rather than melted, butter adds air and fluffiness to the dough when you cream it with the sugar, making the cookies rise as they bake. You'll still get cookies that spread, but they won't be as flat or crunchy but should have crisp edges. So, by using a certain combination of ingredients you can get the results you want, in this case chewy-crisp.

**PEANUT BUTTER CRISPIE COOKIES**

The simple addition of crispy cereal was just the thing and, I think, it puts these over the top. A sprinkling of potato chip crumbs made these not only crave-worthy, but downright addictive. I strongly recommend you try them!

**INGREDIENTS**

2 ¼ cups flour, sifted  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 cup (2 sticks), butter, softened (I used salted butter)  
1 cup creamy peanut butter  
1 cup brown sugar, packed  
1 cup sugar

2 eggs (preferably room temperature)  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 cups crisped rice cereal  
Crumbled potato chips

**METHOD**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda and powder and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream the butter, peanut butter and sugars until smooth and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Add vanilla and mix just to combine. Stir in crisps.

Drop generous spoonfuls of dough onto prepared cookie sheets about 2 inches apart (they will spread a little). Sprinkle tops with potato chip crumbs pressing gently (without flattening the cookies) so the potato chip crumbs stick. Bake until golden brown, 10-15 minutes. (I actually had to bake my first batch a little longer). Cool on the cookie sheet several minutes before transferring to a cooling rack. They need to set up a bit first or they'll fall apart on the rack.

Makes about 36 cookies.

Cravings are very personal. Everyone's are different and often depend on specific circumstances. I think from time to time it's OK to give in to them. If doing so makes you happy or soothes your soul, a little indulgence might just be worth it, especially if it inspires a new favorite recipe to share. I'm not even sorry if I just gave you something new to crave. Enjoy!



Peanut Butter Crispie Cookies. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

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](mailto:vickiloves2cook@gmail.com).

## A & E CALENDAR

**Dec. 4: Jazz Thursdays Hosted by Bob Arthurs**, 1915 Wine Cellar, 40 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie. Bob Arthurs, trumpet & vocals; with special guest Steve Raleigh, guitar, 7-9 p.m. No cover, no minimum.

**Dec. 5: Local Author Talk & Book Signing**, Stanford Free Library, 6035 Rte. 82, Stanfordville. Anne Liebling will discuss "Music Mountain: History of a Dream," 6 p.m. Jacques Gordon left Ukraine as a teen and in 1930 went on to found Music Mountain on an idyllic mountaintop in Falls Village, CT, a short drive from Stanfordville. Learn about Music Mountain, now entering its 97th year. Free. Coffee/tea and cookies will be served. Register via the online calendar at [www.stanfordlibrary.org](http://www.stanfordlibrary.org).

**Dec. 6: Aimée Allen Concert**, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, Black Box Theater, Studio Complex, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. With Chamber Music America, Kaatsbaan presents an evening of jazz performed by Rising Star jazz vocalist Aimée Allen, (DownBeat's Critic's Poll) with François Moutin (bass), Tony Romano (guitar), and Kenn Salters (drums), 7 p.m. In addition to

playing standards and bossa nova, the quartet will perform original songs by Allen, who is also an accomplished composer. Tickets \$30 GA, ?\$15 students with ID. [www.kaatsbaan.org](http://www.kaatsbaan.org)

**Dec. 6: Gary Lucas' Gods & Monsters + Mark Dziuba Trio**, Industrial Arts Brewing, 511 Fishkill Ave., Beacon. Lucas is a legendary guitarist who was a member of Captain Beefheart's band; he also collaborated with Jeff Buckley and countless others. His power trio features Ernie Brooks (Modern Lovers) on bass and G. Calvin Weston (Ornette Coleman, James "Blood" Ulmer, Painting with John) on drums, 8-11 p.m. Guitarist and SUNY New Paltz jazz program director Mark Dziuba opens with his trio. [www.industrialartsbrewing.com](http://www.industrialartsbrewing.com)

**Dec. 6: Miss Lindy's Dance Hall Swing Dance/Lindy Hop Lesson + Social Dance Party**, Hyde Park Library, 2 Main St., Hyde Park. 2 p.m. in the Library Annex. Friendly beginner lesson, no partner or experience needed. Then stick around to dance to toe-tappin' swing tunes. All levels welcome. (845) 229-7791

**Dec. 6: Sensory-sensitive Screening of Disney's "Zootopia 2,"** Roosevelt Cinemas, 4060 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino invites residents of all abilities, their families and support organizations to a free, inclusive morning of movie fun. Doors open at 9 a.m., and the movie begins at 10 a.m. Registration for this event is required and can be completed online at [dutchessny.gov/movie](http://dutchessny.gov/movie).

**Dec. 6-8: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe**, 379 Main St., Beacon. Dec. 5: Pedro Luis Ferrer, 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door. Dec. 6: Sloan Wainwright & Friends' 27th Annual Holiday Whiz-Bang, 8 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. Dec. 7: December 7: Music Cottage Holiday Showcase, 5:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 door. (845) 855-1300 or [www.townecrier.com](http://www.townecrier.com)

**Dec. 7: "TORA! TORA! TORA!"** Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. In commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day, the FDR Library hosts a film screening of the 1970 Academy Award winning film, 2 p.m. Billed as "the most spectacular film ever made," "TORA! TORA! TORA!" is a dramatic reenactment of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 as told from both American and Japanese perspec-

tives. Free, but registration required via [www.fdrlibrary.org](http://www.fdrlibrary.org) to attend in-person. Questions: Cliff Laube, (845) 486-7745

**Dec. 8: "Wrecked and Abandoned: History Talk with the Hudson River Maritime Museum,"** virtual event presented by the Dutchess County Library Association, 6 p.m. In the 19th century, Rondout Creek was a center of transportation and industry. The entrance to the over 100-mile-long Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Canal was accessed through Rondout Creek in Kingston, allowing barges carrying thousands of tons of Pennsylvania coal, Hudson Valley bricks, and other resources between the two ends of the canal. The Mary Powell, one of the "floating palaces," as these large passenger steamboats were called, had its home port in Kingston and brought thousands of passengers across the Hudson River to New York City and back every year. Hundreds of sloops and schooners sailed the Hudson River, many travelling back and forth in Rondout Creek. Over the years, many boats and barges have been neglected, left to rot on the creek. Accidents were unfortunately inevitable, and the Rondout Creek and Hudson River are home to a plethora of forgotten, wrecked, and abandoned vessels. Open to all. Register through your library.

what's happening? —————  
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## DECODING DUTCHESS PAST

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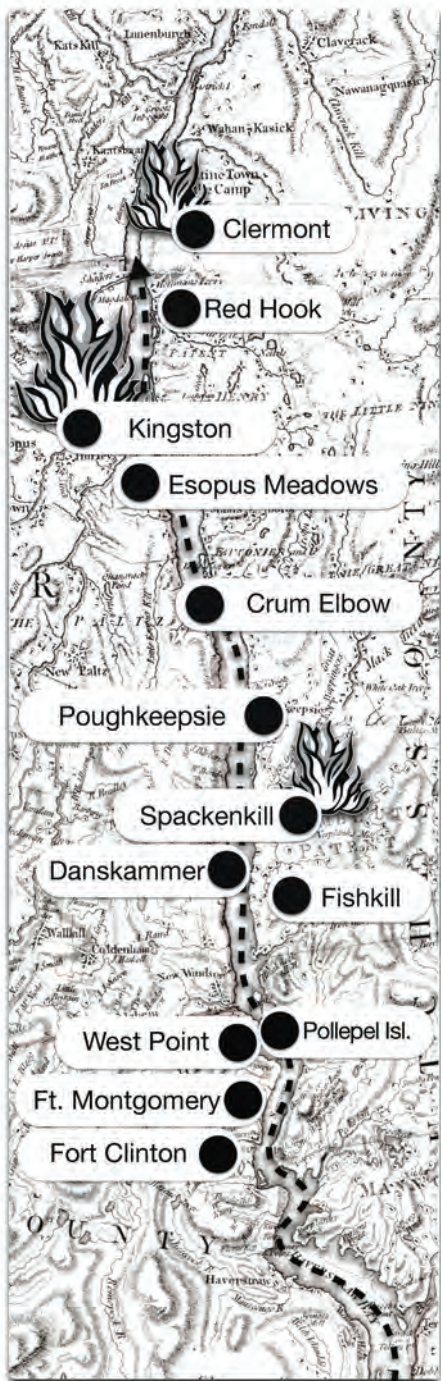
Dutchess County  
Historical Society

*Editor's note: Six retractable banners, supported with a 2025 grant from Dutchess County government for activities celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States, or "Rev250," are being published by the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS). There are two sets that can be loaned for periods of time depending on availability. They can be reserved through DCHS by email Bill Jeffway at [bill.jeffway@dchsny.org](mailto:bill.jeffway@dchsny.org) and viewed online at [dchsny.org/rev250-banners](http://dchsny.org/rev250-banners). Published here is the first of a two part summary of the history of local involvement in our nation's founding as revealed by recent research.*

By Bill Jeffway

During the Revolutionary War, General George Washington described the military fortification at West Point—and the Mid-Hudson in general—as the key to the North American continent. The centerpiece of the northern campaign (1775–1778) involved the British seizing the entire Hudson Valley. They controlled Canada to the north, and by September 1776, occupied New York City to the south.

The mountains of the southern part of Dutchess County (today known as Putnam County) helped protect against incursion. The Fishkill Supply Depot was established just north of the mountains, opposite Washington's headquarters at Newburgh. After the October 1777 British burning of Kingston, Poughkeepsie became the State Capital for the duration of the war.



The full demands of war fell on all of Dutchess County's people. Loyalists and Patriots targeted each other with barn burnings and murder. The influx of military forces (up to 3,000 at Fishkill alone), meant the Army required the crops, horses, and wagons of locals. Homes and churches were taken as quarters and hospitals. Iron mines and furnaces operated beyond capacity. Ultimately, the county met the demands of keeping the British at bay and contributed fully to the cause.

### Choosing sides

Choosing sides was not easy in the Revolutionary War. It was a civil war where the "enemy" could be a neighbor, an acquaintance, a relative or an in-law. At the beginning of 1775, Dutchess County was considered to be almost equally divided between Patriots and Tories, but by the spring the number of residents willing to rebel against England was beginning to increase. Still, by 1776 both John Adams and Alexander Hamilton felt that half the population of New York was Tory. While estimates vary as to the percentages it is widely believed that the Revolution was a war of thirds – 1/3rd Loyalists, 1/3rd Patriots, and 1/3rd unaffiliated. Some were described as occasional Patriots who switched allegiance based on changing circumstances.

### Zephaniah Platt (1735-1807)

Originally from Long Island, Zephaniah Platt moved to Dutchess County before the Revolution. In 1775, while serving as Poughkeepsie Precinct Supervisor, he was elected to the 2nd Provincial Congress. In March of that same year he and a few other firm, Whig Friends of Liberty erected a liberty pole with a flag emblazoned with the words "Congress and Liberty." When the sheriff arrived and ordered it away, Platt threatened to "knock his brains out." His hatred of the British was likely intensified by the 1778 death of his father who was imprisoned on a British "loathsome [sic] prison ship" where he contracted smallpox. A fairly large property owner in the county, he augmented his holdings by purchasing forfeited Tory estates after the war. In 1798 he resettled in, and helped found, the community of Plattsburgh. His former home still stands in Poughkeepsie at the intersection of Overlook and Old Degarmo Roads where the American Legion is located.

### John Kane (1734-1808)

An Irish immigrant, John Kane was an early supporter of the Patriot cause, as appointed Colonel. In 1775 he was elected to the Provincial Congress. After the first year of War he switched sides, convinced that the cause was hopeless. A descendant wrote that he "became disgusted at an insult to his Patriotism, abandoned his property to confiscation [in 1777], and moved into British lines."

War comes to Dutchess County! The October 1777 armed conflict in Dutchess County that lasted from the 6th to the 23rd, was the only local armed conflict. It was a remnant of the original three-prong British strategy that would have seen simultaneous approaches from the west from the Mohawk Valley, from the north from British Canada, and from the south from British occupied New York City. Among DCHS collections are the logs and ledgers of the British ships, requested of the British Admiralty in 1935 by then U.S. President (and local historian) Franklin Roosevelt. An example is among the images which appear on the banners (above). Courtesy DCHS

## FIRST OF TWO PARTS

# Dutchess County at crossroads of the American Revolution



Three of a total of six retractable banners that reveal the centrality and importance of Dutchess County during the Revolutionary War. They are available for loan through DCHS.

For eight weeks in 1778 his 350-acre Pawling estate, Sharvogne, was used by General Washington as headquarters. Like many Loyalists, he removed to Nova Scotia after the war. In 1783 he received a pension from the British and eventually returned to live with his children in Upstate New York. A portion of his original home with a beautiful Federal era addition is owned and maintained by the Historical Society of Quaker Hill and Pawling.

### Rev. John Beardsley (1732-1810)

The Rev. Beardsley came to Dutchess County in 1766 to serve as the Rector of Christ Church in Poughkeepsie and Trinity Church in Fishkill. Upon his ordination in England he swore allegiance to the King and felt that taking up the Patriot cause was a sin. As the Revolution took hold and his unwavering support of the King became apparent, several of his Patriot congregants sought permission for him to be able to leave Poughkeepsie. The request was granted but he was arrested as a Tory and his property was confiscated. On December 16, 1777 he

removed with his family to New York City. Eventually he, like many others, made his way to New Brunswick, Canada where he served as the first clergyman to the local population. His former home in Poughkeepsie, known as Glebe House on Main Street, is owned by the City of Poughkeepsie and still stands.

The second and final part of this series will examine the many materials that locals had to provide in addition to military materials, such as food and clothing. We will profile some local persons who saw the American Revolution as a chance to launch millions of journeys toward personal freedom regardless of race, gender, faith or economic status.

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



### Virtual reading of 'A Christmas Carol' set Dec. 6

The Two Of Us Productions, the award-winning theater company based in Columbia County, will present a virtual-live staged reading of the wonderful Christmas classic "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. This performance, the fifth and final production of their 2025 Virtual Live-Staged Reading Series, will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.

In "A Christmas Carol," we meet the ill-tempered miser Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve 1850. The melancholy Scrooge finds himself alone at home when he sees before him the ghost of Jacob Marley, his long-time friend and deceased business partner. Marley warns Scrooge that in death he will be punished for all the suffering he has caused others and he has only one chance to escape his fate.

That night while Scrooge sleeps he is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge on a journey through Christmases from his own past, where Scrooge sees himself as an unhappy child and a young man more in love with money than his fiancé. The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the family life of his long-suffering clerk Bob Cratchit. There Scrooge sees Tiny Tim, who is very ill but full of brave spirit. The ghost then takes Scrooge to see his the Christmas celebration of his nephew Fred – to which he had been invited but that he gruffly declined to attend. Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Future terrifies Scrooge by showing him visions of his own death.

These journeys through time teach Scrooge the error of his ways. When he wakes up on Christmas Day he is full of excitement and buys the biggest turkey in the shop for the Cratchit family before spending the day with his nephew, full of the joys of Christmas.

R.S.V.P and get your access code by visiting [www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org](http://www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org). This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.





# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

## COMMUNITY FESTIVITIES

**Dec. 5: Festival of Lights**, Village of Millbrook. The Parade of Lights is a dazzling night-time procession brings together fire trucks, emergency vehicles, and community floats decked out in festive lights and holiday cheer, 6 p.m. Parade starts from the firehouse at 3208 Franklin Ave. Visit from Santa. Families, friends, and neighbors are invited to line the sidewalks, sip hot cocoa, and kick off the season with one of the town's most magical events. [villageofmillbrookny.com](http://villageofmillbrookny.com)

**Dec. 6: Dinner with Santa**, Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, 92 Martin Rd., Pleasant Valley. Enjoy a fabulous dinner, 4-6 p.m., before the Town's Parade of Lights (6:45 in center of town). This year we are offering a mouth-watering Spaghetti & Meatball dinner with salad, dessert and hot drinks. Picture taken with Santa with a treat. Free; donations accepted. Call (845) 635-3022 or email [pleasantvalleyunitedmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:pleasantvalleyunitedmethodist@gmail.com) for more information.

**Dec. 6: Pleasant Valley's Festival of Lights Parade**, along Main St., Pleasant Valley. Decorated vehicles, visit from Santa, hot cocoa and more, starts 6:45 p.m. (845) 635-1111, ext. 203, or [pvrecreation@pleasantvalley-ny.gov](mailto:pvrecreation@pleasantvalley-ny.gov)

**Dec. 6: Stanford's Holiday of Lights Parade & Party**, Stanfordville. The parade steps off at 6 p.m., goes up Route 82 and ends at Duffy Layton Contracting driveway, 12 Hunns Lake Rd. Following the parade, enjoy hot chocolate, coffee and cookies with Santa at the Stanford Town Hall, courtesy of the Stanford Lions Club, Stanford Fire Company, Stanford Grange and Duffy Layton Contracting. Santa will bring gifts for children. Please bring nonperishable or canned food items for the Stanford Grange's Little Food Pantry. (845) 489-7886

**Dec. 6: Tivoli Winterfest Celebration**, Village Hall and Tivoli Firehouse (@ Tivoli Commons/86 Broadway) and all along Broadway in the heart of the village. Santa visit, tree lighting, horse-drawn wagon rides, specials and promotions, Tivoli Artists Gallery holiday show and more, 2-7 p.m. Free and open to the public. [tivolinow.com](http://tivolinow.com)

**Dec. 6: Tree Decorating in Copake**. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the parking lot of the Copake General Store. Twenty trees will be decorated with lights and placed in front of businesses throughout the Hamlet of Copake. Rain date: Sun., Dec. 7.

**Dec. 7: Hyde Park's Tree Lighting & Candlelight Walk**. Parade at 5 p.m. will leave the Hyde Park Drive-In, and end at Town Hall, followed by holiday reading & music, tree lighting, refreshments, Merry & Bright Market, visit with Santa. Memory Stars for \$5 to support Hyde Park Lions Club. Sponsored by Hyde Park Recreation, Hyde Park Lions Club & Hyde Park PBA.

**Dec. 13: Holiday Open House**, Copake Grange 628 Empire Rd., Copake. Festivities include music, great gifts by local artisans, refreshments, and plenty of delicious cookies to eat and to take home, 3-5 p.m. Bring your neighbors, meet new people, find out more about the Grange, and relax at our warm, inviting holiday gathering. All are welcome. Free; donations encouraged to the Roe Jan Food Pantry & the Taconic Hills School District Care Closet. Details at [copakegrange.org/events](http://copakegrange.org/events).

**Dec. 13-14: Morton/Rhinecliff Holiday Weekend**, hamlet of Rhinecliff. **Dec. 13:** Join the Rhinebeck Grange & Morton Library to help make a giant wreath for the community to be displayed in the center of Rhinecliff. Meet at the Rhinecliff monument at 10 a.m. Dress warmly, bring gloves and prepare to have fun. **Dec. 13:** Concert by Driftwood, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., 3 p.m., featuring Georgian, Balkan, Serbian and Roma songs, and more. **Dec. 13:** Rhinecliff Festival of Lights, 5 p.m. Shine some literal and figurative light on the hamlet! Pick up luminaria kits at the library and then line the streets with candles. That evening, enjoy the sights by walking and visiting with neighbors while enjoying a complimentary hot beverage from the Epicurean and a holiday cookie at Kips Tavern. You can also stop and have your picture taken in front of the Rhinebeck Grange wreath. Luminaria kits (\$20 donation per kit) will be available at Morton for pick up beginning Wednesday, Dec. 3. The money will go to Red Hook Responds. More info: [sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org](mailto:sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org). **Dec. 14:** Holiday Cookie Swap, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., 2 p.m. Bring 3 dozen cookies and plan to swap. Join us as we taste, socialize, and drink hot cocoa. (845) 876-2903

**Dec. 19: Holiday Family Trivia Night**, Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Rte. 82, Stanfordville. Stanford Grange #808 welcomes teams of any size and ages to participate, 6-8 p.m. The donation per team regardless of size is \$5 to enter (to help cover costs of heat and electric for the Grange Hall). Advanced sign ups are helpful, but not required. There will be prizes for the top 3 teams. Refreshments of snack foods, homemade baked goods, and drinks (soda, water, coffee, hot chocolate) will be available for sale. To sign up or to request more information, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869 or [orton808@yahoo.com](mailto:orton808@yahoo.com).

## COOKIE SWAPS & DECORATING WORKSHOPS

**Dec. 13: Holiday Cookie Swap Party**, Pleasant Valley Library, 1584 Main St., Pleasant Valley. Share the sweetness of the holiday season at our first Holiday Cookie Swap, 12:30-2 p.m. Visit the website for details. [pleasantvalleylibrary.org](http://pleasantvalleylibrary.org)

**Dec. 14: Holiday Cookie Swap**, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Bring 3 dozen cookies and plan to swap, 2 p.m. Join us as we taste, socialize, and drink hot cocoa. Call 845-876-2903 for details.

**Dec. 18: Cookie Decorating Workshop**, Hyde Park Library Annex, 2 Main St., Hyde Park. Decorate your own sugar cookie with step-by-step instruction from culinary artist Theresa Corrigan, 6-8 p.m. Registration required. [www.hydeparklibrary.org/events](http://www.hydeparklibrary.org/events)

## HISTORIC HOLIDAYS

**Through Dec. 28: Holiday Tours**, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Wilderstein is open for guided tours this holiday season. Come and enjoy festive Yuletide decor showcased through the mansion. Tours: Fri.-Sun., at noon, 1, 2 & 3 p.m. Tour includes the history of the family, landscape, exterior design of the mansion, first and second floors, and video (there are multiple steps, not ADA accessible). Admission \$20 per person; purchase tickets upon arrival. Suggested arrival 15 minutes early. (845) 876-4818 or [www.wilderstein.org](http://www.wilderstein.org)

**Through Dec. 30: "A Gilded Age Christmas,"** Staatsburgh State Historic Site, Old Post Rd., Staatsburg. Guests can reserve a timed-entry stroll through two floors of the mansion at their own pace to enjoy the festive decorations. Docents will be stationed in the rooms to answer questions about the house and its residents, the Mills family. Special holiday programs include "Evening Hours" on Dec. 12 & 19, an evening of live music surrounded by the brilliant lights, seasonal displays and costumed guides in each room; and "Holiday Whodunit" (check website for dates), when children become detectives to solve a "history mystery" by interviewing costumed interpreters portraying Gilded Age houseguests and servants. Open for timed entry, by reservation only, on Thursdays-Sundays (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & New Year's Eve). Payment is at the door. Make reservations via <https://millsfriends.org/visit/>.

**Dec. 7: Holiday Open House**, Elmendorph Inn, 7562 N. Broadway, Red Hook. The historic Elmendorph Inn looks its festive best for the holidays. Historic Red Hook invites you to enjoy live holiday music, hot mulled cider, homemade cookies, and fresh-baked treats

from the beehive oven, 1-4 p.m. [www.historicredhook.org](http://www.historicredhook.org)

**Dec. 10-19: Holiday Tours**, Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., Beacon. The Dutch Colonial home of the Verplanck family invites the public for a close-to-home, relaxing time of good cheer and good company this holiday season. The site's historic rooms will be beautifully decorated in different styles: opulent Victorian style décor adorning the dining room; charming, rustic decor in the study; contemporary holiday displays embellishing the home's main room. Adding to the twinkle of holiday decorations, the museum's collection of fine decorative pieces will contribute to the home's comfort and cheer. Holiday Tours will be given on Wed., Dec. 10-Sun., Dec. 14; and Wed., Dec. 17-Fri., Dec. 19. Tours at noon, 1 & 2 p.m. Reservations are preferred but walk-ins will be welcomed if space allows. Reservations: (845) 831-8172 or [info@mountgulian.org](mailto:info@mountgulian.org). Payment may be made day of tour. Admission \$15 adult; \$12 senior; \$8 youngsters (6-18 years of age). Children under 6 and Mount Gulian members are free. [www.mountgulian.org](http://www.mountgulian.org)

**Dec. 13: Free Holiday Events**, FDR Library and Museum & the Home of FDR National Historic Site, Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park. The Museum will be open to visitors free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Home of FDR (Springwood) will have self-guided tours available from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be holiday decorations, refreshments and special activities - including the Holiday Book Fair (1:30-4 p.m.), Fala Impersonator "Dickens" and free photo time with Santa - beginning at noon in the Henry A. Wallace Center. Visit [www.fdrlibrary.org](http://www.fdrlibrary.org) for details. Questions: Cliff Laube, Roosevelt Library, (845) 486-7745; or Francesca Macsali Urbin, National Park Service, (845) 489-8513.

**Dec. 22: Children's Holiday Tea**, Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., Beacon. Always sold-out in advance, the Holiday Tea welcomes children and adults to an event that combines fun, good manners, and education about a bygone era, in an authentic location where social teas were once standard fare, noon-2 p.m. The Children's Holiday Tea will be held in Mount Gulian's two main museum rooms, beautifully decorated for the holidays with fresh greens and tables set with fine linens and china. Admission \$20 children, and \$30 adults. Prepaid reservations required by Dec. 15. For reservations & more information: (845) 831-8172 or [info@mountgulian.org](mailto:info@mountgulian.org)

## HOLIDAY AUCTIONS, BAZAARS, CRAFT FAIRS & MARKETS

**Dec. 5-6: Holiday Book Sale**, LaGrange Library, 1110 Route 55, Lagrangeville. Come shop our special selection of books, DVDs, and more. Hours: Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Library. <https://laglib.org>

**Dec. 5-6: Festival of Trees**, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. Festival of Trees is a winter wonderland of decorated trees and wreaths, all of which will be part of a silent auction to benefit Locust Grove. The event will also feature shopping, entertainment and more. Hours: Fri., 4-9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. [www.lgny.org](http://www.lgny.org)

**Dec. 6: Clinton Historical Society's Holiday Craft Fair**, Creek Meeting House, 2433 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners. Talented local crafters will be selling their handmade, one-of-a-kind items, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Historical Society will be selling holiday decorations, plus their famous homemade baked goods. There is also homemade soup for lunch, to eat in or take out. Proceeds from the sale go to support their mission: to preserve, educate and encourage an appreciation for the history of the Town of Clinton (founded in 1788) and its historic sites and structures with a focus on preserving and restoring the 1777 Creek Meeting House. More info: Cathy McMahon, (845) 266-0071 or [cmcmahon137@optimum.net](mailto:cmcmahon137@optimum.net)

**Dec. 6: Homemade Cookie, Craft and Christmas Gift Bazaar**, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1872 Salt Point Turnpike, Salt Point. Featured will be rows and rows of homemade cookies and fudge purchased by the pound. There will be lots of homemade gifts such as scarfs, hats, mittens, kitchen items, dog coats and treats, ornaments, Christmas wreaths, centerpieces, reasonably priced gifts for family and friends as well as decorations to make your home extra special this holiday season. Hours: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. More info: Diana, (845) 635-3635

**Dec. 6: Winter Craft Fair**, MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Get into the holiday spirit and support local Hudson Valley artisans, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Explore a variety of handmade items, unique gifts, holiday decor, yummy treats and more. Free admission. [www.MJNCenter.org](http://www.MJNCenter.org)

**Dec. 13: Holiday Penny Social**, Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Rte. 82, Stanfordville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and calling begins at 7 p.m. Holiday items will be featured. There will be penny prizes, homemade baked goods, \$1 table, door prizes, 50/50 raffle, and theme baskets. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information, call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

**Dec. 13: St. Nicholas Bazaar Fine Craft and Holiday Cookie Sale**, Grace Church, 3328 Franklin Ave., Millbrook. Shop from a variety of handmade crafts, confections, and decorated homemade cookies, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Two floors filled with gifts for your four-legged friends, your fashion-conscious family members and co-workers, and people with a sweet tooth. The cookies will be pre-boxed and will contain an assortment of festive cookies from the traditional to the decadent. The cost is \$15 per pound. To order cookies in advance (not required) call (914) 456-1097 or email [lboissey@aol.com](mailto:lboissey@aol.com). Handicap accessible. Free entry. [www.gracemillbrook.org/st-nicholas-bazaar.html](http://www.gracemillbrook.org/st-nicholas-bazaar.html) or (845) 677-3064

**Dec. 20: Christmas Cookie Sale**, Christ Episcopal Church, 7423 S. Broadway, Red Hook. 10 a.m. while supplies last. Snow date: Dec. 21, noon-2 p.m. A portion of proceeds will be donated to local food pantries.

## HOLIDAY DRIVES

**Through Dec. 7: Online Holiday Auction & Candy Gram Drive**. Sponsored by In Flight, Inc., a nonprofit organization that empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live independent and fulfilling lives. Auction features a variety of unique gifts, including a David Yurman bracelet graciously donated by Frank Adams Jewelers in Albany, spa baskets, restaurant gift cards, family activities, and more, giving the community a chance to find meaningful holiday presents while supporting a vital cause. Participants can browse item descriptions and place bids from anywhere. Visit <https://givebutter.com/HolidayAuctionIF> for details. Certain conditions may apply.

**Through Dec. 12: Holiday Giving Drive**. NYS Sen. Michelle Hinchey's office is collecting the following items for families and pets in need across the 41st Senate District: unwrapped gifts for kids 1-17; unwrapped cat and dog toys; wet and dry food for cats and dogs. Drop-off locations: Sen. Hinchey's Kingston Office, 721 Broadway, Suite 150, Kingston, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sen. Hinchey's Columbia Office, 160 Fairview Ave., Suite 92, Hudson, Wed., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For questions, call Senator Hinchey's office at (845) 331-3810.

**Through Dec. 12: Toy Drive in the Town of Clinton**. Drop off your donation of new, unwrapped toys to the Supervisor's Office, 1215 Centre Red., Rhinebeck, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. Toys for older youth are greatly needed. Part of the U.S. Marine Corps' Reserve Toys for Tots drive.

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# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



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**Through Dec. 19: Donations of pet food, supplies, treats, etc.,** are requested for the Stanford Grange Pet Pantry & the Dutchess County SPCA. Please drop off donations of food, toys, collars & leashes, clean blankets and towels at the Bangall Post Office (105 Hunns Lake Road, Bangall) Stanford Town Hall (26 Town Hall Road, Stanfordville), and Stanford Library (6035 Route 82 Stanfordville).

**Through Dec. 22: Food Drive,** Red Hook Firehouse, Firehouse Lane, Red Hook. Red Hook Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary is holding a food drive. Bring your non-perishable, non-expired food donations to support St. Christopher's Food Pantry. Let's fill the bins and share the holiday spirit with families in need. Larger donations can be dropped off on Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m.

**Through December: Food Drive to support Willow Roots,** bring non-perishable goods to Stanford Free Library in the months of November and December. Collected items will benefit families in the Pine Plains Central School District. Stanford Free Library is at 6035 Route 82 Stanfordville. Visit [www.stanfordlibrary.org](http://www.stanfordlibrary.org) or call (845) 868-1341. Direct donations to Willow Roots ([www.willowroots.org](http://www.willowroots.org)) can be left anytime on the porch at 23 North Main St., Pine Plains.

**Autumn Food Drive for Clinton Food Pantry:** The Town of Clinton is holding an Autumn Food Drive to benefit Clinton's Food Pantry. Suggested items include: condiments, spices, cooking oil, shelf-stable milk or powdered milk, boxed cake and cookie mixes, sugar, flour, coffee, tea bags, hygiene products, kitchen utensils, plastic containers for food storage, can openers, cleaning supplies, sponges, paper towels, and liquid soap. Other donations welcome also. Drop items off at the Clinton Town Clerk's Office Mondays-Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

**Through Dec. 28: Wonderland of Lights,** Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. Drive-through experience featuring hundreds of dazzling displays to delight the entire family. Hours: Thurs. & Sun., 5-9 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 5-9:30 p.m. Tickets are available online or at the gate. [www.thewonderlandoflights.com](http://www.thewonderlandoflights.com)

**Through Jan. 3: "Winter Glow,"** Heritage Financial Park, 1500 Rte. 9D, Wappingers Falls. Mile-long drive-thru journey of dazzling holiday light displays is perfectly synced to festive music. Open daily, 5-9 p.m. (except Christmas Day). Tickets & more info: <https://winterglowexperience.com/wappinger/>.

**Dec. 5: A Happy Holiday Show: Songs, Humor, and Poetry to Celebrate the Season,** Morton Memorial Library & Community Room, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Rhinebeck Grange 896 presents a fun-filled night of entertainment highlighting the wonder of the season and celebrations throughout the world through a variety show of songs, humor, poetry, and stories, 7 p.m. Come sing a-long to favorite holiday songs with celebrated pianist, Raymond Erickson. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the event. Show is FREE but please bring a non-perishable food item to help our local food pantries. For more information call Sandy Bartlett at (845) 876-2903.

**Dec. 5-21: "A Christmas Story,"** The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. CENTERstage Production presents the play adaptation of "A Christmas Story" by Philip Grecian. Based on the motion picture of the same name, written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark; and on the book, "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash," by Jean Shepherd. Directed by Rik Lopes. Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Performances: Fri., & Sat., 8 p.m.; matinees on Dec. 6 & 20, 3 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$25. [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org) or (845) 876-3080

**Dec. 6: "A Christmas Carol" Virtual Live-Staged Reading.** The Two Of Us Productions will present a the Christmas classic by Charles Dickens, 7 p.m. R.S.V.P and get your access code by visiting [www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org](http://www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org). This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.

**Dec. 6: Christmas Concert & Tea,** Smithfield Church, 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. (Rte. 83), Amenia. 20th annual holiday concert, presented by the Bang Family Concert Series, 3 p.m. The 15-piece Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley will perform an eclectic mix of classical, pop, and jazz with an emphasis this year on jazz versions of holiday favorites. Open to the public. Suggested donation: \$20. Children free. All invited to tea and refreshments following the concert. Accessible accommodation. Donations at the door go toward producing more concerts at The Smithfield Church. <https://thesmithfieldchurch.org/concerts>

**Dec. 6: Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, "A Christmas Carol,"** Rhinebeck High School, 45 N. Park Rd., Rhinebeck. Holiday concert features the U.S. premiere of Sinfonietta: "A Christmas Carol" by composer Lawrence Killian, whose music has delighted audiences across the U.K. This evocative score pairs beloved carols with fresh, expressive writing that captures the heart of Dickens' timeless tale, 4 p.m. Local voice actor Jason Dempsey will bring the narration of Scrooge's Christmas Eve transformation to life. The festive fun continues with familiar carols, original music, "kiddie conductors" leading Jingle Bells Forever, and a joyful audience sing-along — all under the direction of Guest Conductor William Stevens. Tickets \$38 Adult, \$30 Senior, \$10 Student. Family Package \$40 (One adult & two students). [www.ndsorchestra.org](http://www.ndsorchestra.org)

**Dec. 6-7: Ars Choralis "Welcome Yule: Holiday Sampler,"** Kingston & Woodstock. Concert weaving holiday music and traditions developed in the American colonies with the sacred Christmas music of Europe. Joining Ars Choralis will be the Hudson Valley Youth Brass Ensemble led by Harvey Boyer. Performances: Sat., Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, 30 Pine Grove Ave., Kingston. Sun., Dec. 7, 4 p.m., Overlook United Methodist Church, 233 Tinker St., Woodstock. Tickets \$30 door, \$25 advance; \$10 students. [ArsChoralis.org](http://ArsChoralis.org).

**Dec. 6-7: Ulster Dance Company's "A Christmas Carol,"** UPAC, 601 Broadway, Kingston. Heartwarming ballet interpretation of Charles Dickens' classic tale has been a local favorite for more than 26 years. Performances: Sat., Dec. 6, 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 7, 2 p.m. Tickets \$30 adults, \$24 seniors, \$18 children/students, available through

Ticketmaster and in person at the Bardavon (845-473-2072) or UPAC (845-339-6088) box offices.

**Dec. 6-7 & 13-14: Saturday Morning Family Series,** The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. **Dec. 6-7:** "A Merry Starlight Surprise!" a new magical musical by Starlight Studio, 11 a.m. Come along as we prepare for a royal holiday celebration with your favorite festive sisters, Elsa and Anna. When plans take an unexpected turn, some familiar royal friends come together to ring in the season together! Children are encouraged to sing along to beloved songs and are invited to help the princesses along the way. Audiences are invited to stay after the show for a meet-and-greet with the princesses in the lobby and opportunities for photos and autographs. All seats \$15. **Dec. 13-14:** Kids on Stage presents "A Christmas Carol," a musical version of the holiday classic, written by Lou Trapani and inspired by the story by Charles Dickens. Performed by The Center's Kids on Stage workshop participants. Performances: Dec. 13, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.; Dec. 14, 11 a.m. All seats \$10. [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org) or (845) 876-3080

**Dec. 6-20: "A Christmas Carol" Interactive Dinner Theater,** various locations. Murder Cafe presents its 26th annual dinner theater production of the Charles Dickens' holiday classic. Picture yourself whisked away to the charming streets of Victorian England, where the air is filled with the sweet melodies of carolers singing merry tunes, and the sight of actors clad in magnificent costumes brings the era to life. As you savor a delightful meal alongside the Cratchit family and the endearing Tiny Tim, you'll find yourself fully immersed in this captivating tale, witnessing the awe-inspiring Ghosts of Christmas and the heartwarming transformation of Scrooge right before your eyes. Performances: Sat., Dec. 6: VFW, Kingston. Tickets available at Kingston VFW on By-Pass or American Legion on Broadway in Kingston. Sun., Dec. 7: Sunday, Dec. 7, 1 & 5:30 p.m., Best Western, Kingston. Sat., Dec. 13, Historic Hotel Broadalbin, Broadalbin, 6 p.m. Sun., Dec. 14, Curry Estate, Hopewell Junction, 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 20, Soyuzivka Heritage Center, Kerhonkson, 1 p.m. Sat., Dec. 20, Hudson House Distillery, West Park, 7 p.m. [www.murdercafe.net](http://www.murdercafe.net)

**Dec. 6-31: Holiday Performances,** Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Dec. 6: Sloan Wainwright & Friends' 27th Annual Holiday Whiz-Bang!, 8 p.m. Dec. 7: Music Cottage Holiday Showcase, 6 p.m. Dec. 12: Spending Christmas with Alicia Witt, 8 p.m. Dec. 20: Slambovian Circus of Dreams: "A Very Slambovian Christmas," 8 p.m. Dec. 21: The Costellos Annual Christmas Show with special guests, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Celebration featuring Kelli Baker Band, Gabe Stillman Band & Boom Kat, 9:30 p.m. Tickets & info at [www.townecrier.com](http://www.townecrier.com)

**Dec. 7 & 20: "A Christmas Carol" Interactive Dinner-Theater,** Kingston & West Park. Murder Café's presents its annual performance, where audience members are encouraged to interact with the characters throughout the performance. Adapted from Charles Dickens' classic, this production is a tribute to the spirit of a traditional holiday, with script written by Frank and Kristen Marquette. Performances: Sun., Dec. 7, 1 & 5:30 p.m., at the Venue Uptown at the Best Western in Kingston. Both will include a buffet dinner and cash bar. Sat., Dec. 20: "A Christmas Carol" will be performed during a three-course plated dinner, at the Hudson House Distillery in West Park, 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit [www.murdercafe.net](http://www.murdercafe.net); for information, call (845) 475-7973.

**Dec. 10: Senior Movie Morning, "White Christmas,"** Pleasant Valley Library, 1584 Main St., Pleasant Valley. Seniors (ages 50+) are invited to attend this special seniors-only movie matinee, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. This 1954 holiday musical classic starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and VeraEllen; directed by Michael Curtiz and featuring songs by Irving Berlin. Light refreshments provided, but feel free to bring your own snack or lunch to enjoy. Free; registration required. [pleasantvalleylibrary.org](http://pleasantvalleylibrary.org)

**Dec. 12-13: Everett Bradley's "Holidelic,"** Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, Black Box Theater, Studio Complex, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. Sensational holiday-themed funk band featuring Everett Bradley. Known for his work with Bruce Springsteen and Bon Jovi, Bradley takes on the role of Papadelic, Funk's Father Christmas, an amalgamation of Funkadelic's George Clinton and Santa Claus. Performances at 8 p.m. both days. Tickets \$45 GA. [www.kaatsbaan.org](http://www.kaatsbaan.org)

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## Christmas concert at historic Amenia church set Dec. 6

The historic Smithfield Church in Amenia will host its the 20th annual Christmas Concert & Tea, presented by the Bang Family Concert Series. The 15-piece Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley will perform an eclectic mix of classical, pop and jazz with an emphasis this year on jazz versions of holiday favorites.

The concert is set Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m. Suggested donation is \$20. Children free. All are invited to Tea and refreshments following the concert. Accessible accommodation available. Donations at the door go toward producing more concerts at The Smithfield Church. For more information, visit <https://thesmithfieldchurch.org/concerts>

In the Bang Family Concert Series tradition of hosting performances by gifted musicians from the region, the popular Smithfield Chamber Orchestra returns to The Smithfield Church to ring in the season every year with an eclectic musical menu with a holiday flair. This concert marks five years for the orchestra and more than 100 songs performed.

The program will include: "Waltz of the Flowers" (from "The Nutcracker") - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky "Christmas Time is Here" (Peanuts theme) - Vince Guaraldi

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (audience sing-along) - French traditional carol

"Legacy" - Chuck Mangione  
"Carol of the Bells" - Mykola Leontovich

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (arr. Dr. Hamson Sisler) - Felix Mendelssohn

"Deck the Halls" - Welsh traditional carol

"Last Day of Summer" - Matt and Denise Finley

"White Christmas" - Irving Berlin

The fifteen-strong instrumental ensemble includes: Walter Barrett, trombone; Lynnette Benner, flute; Jeff Ciampa, guitar; Michelle Demko, flute; Matt Finley, trumpet, arranger; Charles Gray, clarinet, sax; Larry Ham, piano; Alix Janove, clarinet; Denise Jordan-Finley, percussion; Piotr Kargul, viola; Milt Lee, conductor; Rob Murphy, violin; Lou Pappas, double bass; Jeff "Siege" Siegel, drums; Jean Vilkelis, cello.

The Smithfield Church is at 656 Smithfield Valley Road in Amenia. For more information, visit [www.TheSmithfieldChurch.org/concerts](http://www.TheSmithfieldChurch.org/concerts) or call (518) 598-8276.

To view videos including last year's Christmas Concert, visit <http://www.the.smithfieldchurch.org/videos>

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Legal Notices

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY Request for Proposals: AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT FOR TOWN HALL**  
Dated: November 13, 2025  
**SECTION I - INTRODUCTION AND INTENT OF RFP:**  
The Town of Pleasant Valley is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to supply and install audio-visual equipment for the new Town Hall, 1903 Route 44, Pleasant Valley, NY. Copies of the RFP are available at the Town Clerk's Office, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 and on the town's website at: [www.pleasant-valley-ny.gov](http://www.pleasant-valley-ny.gov).

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valley-ny.gov. Sealed proposals will be accepted until **December 1, 2025** at 12:00 noon at the Town Clerk's Office, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. Proposals shall be submitted on the attached forms furnished by the Town and shall be submitted in a sealed envelope identifying the Contractor's name, the RFP title, and the RFP due date on the face of the envelope. Submission of a proposal signifies the Contractor's agreement that its proposal and the content thereof are valid, and all pricing submitted with the proposal shall

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remain in effect for the contract period.  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-43-25 Inmate Telephone and Tablet Services  
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., December 19, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and

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RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.  
**REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-50-25 On-Call Commercial/Industrial Electrical Services  
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 16th day of December 2025 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information,

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call 845-486-3613.  
**REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-54-25 Vehicle Body Repair Services for Dutchess County Public Transit  
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 18th day of December 2025 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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**REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-62-25 Inmate Clothing and Supplies  
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 23rd day of December 2025 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications

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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.

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

OBITUARIES

Delia Davi

Delia W. Davi, 89, a long-time resident of Millbrook, NY passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loving family and friends on November 19, 2025. Please visit [www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com) to view Delia's obituary. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook.

Rebecca Doland

Rebecca Doland 74, of Hyde Park, New York, passed away November 21, 2025. Visitation will be held on November 29, 2025, from 2:00-3:30 p.m., followed by a service at 3:30 p.m., at Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home, 371 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. To read to obituary in its entirety please visit [www.Doylefuneralhome.com](http://www.Doylefuneralhome.com)

Dorothy Lehmkuhl

Dorothy F. Lehmkuhl, 88, of Owens Cross Roads, AL passed away peacefully at home on November 20, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Dorothy was born on April 2, 1937 in Lyndhurst, NJ to the late Thecla and William Supple, Sr. Dorothy graduated from St. Mary's High School in Rutherford, NJ. and worked for GE, the FBI and IBM before marrying Robert L. Lehmkuhl in 1962. They settled in Pleasant Valley, NY which would be their home for 64 years and where they raised their 4 children.

Dorothy is survived by her four children: Peter and his wife Lara Lehmkuhl; Thomas and his wife Kellen Lehmkuhl; Annie and her husband John Hendricks; Mary and her husband Tim Hayslett. Dorothy thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her five grandchildren: Lucas and Jacob Lehmkuhl; Sam, Abigail and Lance Hendricks. She leaves behind many beloved family and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 10 am at St Joseph's Catholic Church located at 15 North Avenue, Millbrook, NY 12545. Interment will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery. There will be no visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to your local hospice. Please visit [www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com) for condolences. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Pleasant Valley.

William Paden Jr.

William "Duke" Paden, of Hyde Park, NY, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. He was known for his humor, kindness, and strong work ethic, and lived with deep devotion to his family.

Born in Greenville, SC, and raised in the North Country of NY, Duke was an outstanding athlete who played football at Mineville High School. Following graduation, he honorably served in the United States Navy and the United States Air Force. He valued education and earned an associate degree in

Criminal Justice from Dutchess Community College.

Duke met the love of his life, Anne Marie Rice, in 1970, and together they built a home in Hyde Park where they raised their three children. He worked at Western Printing and later spent more than 25 years at IBM where he worked countless hours of overtime, always driven by his desire to care for his family.

He loved riding his Harley, studying Civil War history, cheering for the Dallas Cowboys, and staying active. He volunteered at St. Peter's School, coached basketball, and later helped care for a local slave burial ground. He also cherished visits to his childhood home in Witherbee, NY.

Duke is predeceased by his parents, Annie Mae and William Paden; siblings Sadie Mae, Geraldine, Alice, Ralph, and Clyde; and nephews Ralph Paden Jr. and Jeffrey Wood.

He is survived by his sister Joan Paden Lee of Rochester; his wife Anne Paden; his children Mark Morgan, William "Duke" Paden III, Justin Paden, and Jessica Paden; and his cherished grandsons Brandyn, Jayden, and Jayon. He also leaves behind nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held in March 2026, with details to be announced.

The family thanks Hudson Valley Hospice Nurses Chris, Donna, and Keesha, and private aides Monique and Amelia, for their exceptional care.

Donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice, the Dutchess County SPCA, or the Alzheimer's Association.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park. Online condolences: [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

William P. Timmons III

William P. Timmons III, 84, a lifetime resident of Hyde Park, died unexpectedly on November 23, 2025. He was known for his humor, kindness, and strong work ethic, and lived with deep devotion to his family.

Born May 10, 1941 in Beacon, he was the son of the late William P. Timmons Jr. and Shirley L. Blauvelt Timmons. Bill graduated from Poughkeepsie High School and was a proud member of the former Laborers' Local 1000. He dedicated more than 30 years of service to Idema General Contractors before retiring in 2001.

Bill was a communicant of St. Peter's Church and a Charter Member of the Knights of Columbus Council #6111, both in Hyde Park. He especially enjoyed cooking, the outdoors, growing his summer vegetables, and most of all, watching his grandchildren play their favorite sports.

From 1961 to 1964, Bill served his country honorably in the United States Army. He

recently had the privilege of traveling on the Hudson Valley Honor Flight Mission #37 to Washington, DC which was extremely meaningful to him and a memory he cherished.

On a blind date, he met the love of his life, Loretta J. Marinucci, who survives at home. They recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, Bill is survived by his daughter, Kelly Devens and her husband, William, of Wallkill; his son, Patrick Timmons and his wife, LouAnn, of Myrtle Beach, SC; grandchildren, Jennifer, Justin, Brandon (Alyssa), and Ashlie Devens, Scott and Stephanie Wehrung; his sisters, Patricia Towner (Harry) and Jean Hearn (Bruce), and several great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Bill was predeceased by his sister, Carolyn Decker, and nephew, Raymond Baright.

In keeping with Bill's wishes, cremation has taken place. Memorial calling hours will be held from 4 to 7 PM on December 12,

2025, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Fr. Daniel D'Alliessi at 10 AM on December 13, 2025, at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel of St. Peter's Parish, 185 Hudson View Drive, Poughkeepsie. Military honors will take place after the mass.

Inurnment will be in the mausoleum at St. Peter's Cemetery, Poughkeepsie at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, Bill's family respectfully requests memorial donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)), or Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10306 ([www.t2t.org](http://www.t2t.org)).

To send an online condolence, or for directions, please visit Bill's obituary page at [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 9)

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

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End ★ 95

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# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

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**Dec. 14: 10th Annual Holiday Concert,** The First United Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains, 3039 Church St. (Rte. 199), Pine Plains. The concert will feature many local musicians and festive organ music, 3 p.m. A free will offering will be taken for the continued maintenance of the Church's historic 1926 Estey Pipe Organ. Refreshments will be offered after the concert. For more information, call the Church at (518) 398-7117.

**Dec. 19-21: "Nut/Cracked,"** Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, Black Box Theater, Studio Complex, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. "Nut/Cracked" is The Bang Group's beloved, witty response to "The Nutcracker." Choreographer David Parker draws inspiration from across the dance spectrum, blending tap, ballet, disco, and even bubble wrap to create a unique performance that reimagines Tchaikovsky's iconic score. With renditions ranging from Duke Ellington to Glenn Miller, Nut/Cracked transforms the familiar into something delightfully unexpected. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Tickets \$45 GA, ?\$30 students with ID. [www.kaatsbaan.org](http://www.kaatsbaan.org)

**Dec. 22: Winter Holidays on the Cello with Alex Prizgintas,** Pleasant Valley Library, 1584 Main St., Pleasant Valley. Alex Prizgintas for a special holiday concert of seasonal, Christmas, and Hanukkah selections on his electric cello, 6-7:30 p.m. With jazz, rock, klezmer, and traditional styles, from "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and "The First Noel" to "Ma'oz Tzur" and "Hava Nagila," this program offers a wide palette for every listener. Accompanied with a narration that reveals some of the back stories of his selections, he immerses his audience in a journey through musical history. Free; registration required. [pleasantvalleylibrary.org](http://pleasantvalleylibrary.org)

### HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

**Dec. 6: Let's Create,** Copake Grange 628 Empire Rd., Copake. Make paper beads to create jewelry and ornaments, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Craft with up-cycled materials. Bring left-over papers, beads & string. We'll provide everything else. Tickets at the door. \$5 chil-

dren, \$10 adult; \$12 parent & child; \$25 families. [copakegrange.org/events](http://copakegrange.org/events)

### RELIGIOUS EVENTS/SERVICES

**Dec. 6: St. Nicholas Family Service,** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 808 Traver Rd., Pleasant Valley. A celebration of generosity and light with a lantern lit Advent spiral walk, 4 p.m., with traditional eucharist, special hymns, children's participation in the liturgy, pizza and fellowship afterward. Families, kids, neighbors, friends; all are welcome. In the Spirit of St. Nick, you are invited to bring an unwrapped Christmas Gift (price tag still on) for a child or teen of Rural and Migrant Ministry. [www.stpaulspv.org](http://www.stpaulspv.org)

**Dec. 6: Service of Lessons and Carols,** Vassar Chapel, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. An Advent service of readings, choral anthems, and congregational carols that culminates in a candle lighting ceremony, 7 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken to support the college's annual philanthropic campaign, Community Works, which provides funding to several Hudson Valley non-profit organizations (see [community-works.vassar.edu/](http://community-works.vassar.edu/)). [www.vassar.edu](http://www.vassar.edu)

## Friends of Millbrook Library Holiday Silent Auction running Dec. 5-20



Among the items for the Friends of Millbrook Library Silent Holiday Auction are a hand-sewn vest and an doggie care basket. Courtesy photos

Friends of Millbrook Library will conduct their 17th Holiday Silent Auction at the Millbrook Library from Dec. 5 to 20. More than just a fundraiser for the library and a great opportunity to find holiday gifts, the auction serves to put a spotlight on the local businesses that donate their goods, and to entice community members who may not be regular patrons to see the wonders that their local library has to offer.

Although Millbrook is small in population, it is a community that supports one another in a big way. Through the generosity of the businesses that donate items and services, and the people who bid on items, the auction has raised over \$25,000 for the library in the last two years. The benefit of those funds can be seen in physical additions to the library, such as the new native garden, and also in programs for teens and children, and museum passes that are all free for patrons to partake in.

For the 2025 auction, the Friends have collected over \$20,000 worth of items from 100 different area businesses and library supporters. Since bidding starts at 50% of an item's value, there are deals to be had. Higher-end items up for bid include a "paint and sip" with artist June Glasson, and a leather handbag from J. McLaughlin. For those looking for practical gifts, there are a wide range of items such as 100 gallons of fuel oil from Taylor Oil, a car detailing from Ruge's Chevrolet, and much more. Services such as horseback riding lessons, yoga sessions, and personal training sessions can be bid on to give as holiday gifts. There will also be a "buy it now" table of smaller items, and many gift certificates to area businesses that will go to the highest bidders.



Having the opening reception at the library on the same night as the village's Festival of Lights parade proved to be a huge success in past years, and will be repeated this year on December 5. After the parade it is a heartwarming sight to see families aglow with holiday spirit streaming into the library to peruse the auction items and partake in refreshments. More than just a building with shelves of books, Millbrook Library is a place that brings community members together.

The 17th Millbrook Library Holiday Silent Auction will be held in the library's upstairs gallery, following an opening reception that will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 5. The auction's closing celebration will be held at the library from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 20, with final bids accepted no later than 4 p.m. that day. These events are free and open to all. For more information visit <https://millbrooklibrary.org/holiday-silent-auction/>.

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