

Local employers wrestle with 'crazy' labor market

by Rich Thomaselli

Last week, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a new state-wide initiative to help connect job seekers with employers.

It's a noble effort considering the world is still very much in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially with the news that, at press time, the state of New York had confirmed eight positive cases of the Omicron variant.

But as far as local business owners are concerned – particularly restaurateurs and manufacturers where employees can't work remotely and need to be on-site – Hochul's project is a moot point.

"We are severely understaffed," said Luigi Coppola, owner of the Coppola's Italian American Bistro that he and his brothers run in Hyde Park. "I've never seen anything like it in all my years in the business. We are basically hiring anyone with a pulse, and once people are hired, they don't last."

There has been a sea change, employers say, ever since the pandemic hit in early 2020. And "sea change" is a polite description. In actuality there has been a seismic shift in attitude due to a variety of reasons.

To wit:

- Some people have been content with simply taking unemployment benefits, even though the extra benefits finally ran out in September.
- Some have decided to retire early.
- Some accepted buyouts.
- Some have shifted career perspectives and moved on to other fields.
- Still others have used the time to go back to school and/or learn a new trade.

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Bean 'Jets' from original to new 'West Side Story'

Family now home in Clinton Corners

by Jim Donick

One doesn't expect to find a product of the Renaissance in Clinton Corners, New York - maybe at the Metropolitan Museum, but certainly not in a deli in Clinton Corners. Never-the-less, the Beans, David and Jeanie, are indeed just that. One suspects that they can do nearly anything they put their minds to - and do it exceptionally.

The Beans were not always in the food service business. They have enjoyed long and storied careers in the entertainment world. They met in England during the London production of "West Side Story." They've also done a whole pile of other things. David notes that they have had 26 career changes between them. One suspects he's missed a couple.

David's latest triumph can be seen in the new Steven Spielberg production of "West Side Story." Bean had been one of the legendary dancers, known as "Tiger," in the original Broadway production and then in the movie version that starred Natalie Wood and damned near everyone else in the musical theater who mattered at the time.

Spielberg wanted some of the "magic" from the first movie for his own. Casting Bean in a small part and the legendary Rita Moreno in a larger one allowed him to - borrowing a bit from Bean's first Broadway show, "Peter Pan" - to sprinkle some faerie dust on the production. Initial reviews indicate that it must have helped.

Bean muses that, when he first went on the set and met the dancers for the new movie, they were so excited about doing the parts that he had created that "I felt like a rock star."

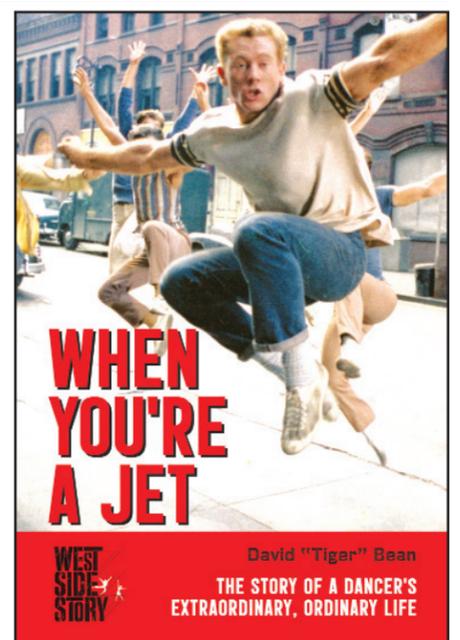
The 180 percent theory

The David Bean story is the stuff that, in another time, legends would have been made from. His father, a junk dealer in Los Angeles, encouraged David to approach every task with a commitment to giving it 180 percent. That seems a bit much for a small kid, but it worked. He started tap dance lessons early. His mom was a piano player. Being the youngest of the kids, he stayed on the truck while his father and elder siblings would clean out people's stuff.

"I had to take my tap shoes, though," he says. "Dad would often say, 'these people would like to see you dance,' so I'd dance right there in the street. It seemed perfectly normal to me."



David Bean leans on a piano with a copy of his new book "When You're A Jet." Bean, who now lives and works in Clinton Corners, was a "Jet" in the first Broadway production of West Side Story. *Courtesy photo.* Right: David Bean is shown as "Tiger," one of the Jets in the original "West Side Story." The role took him all over the world and shaped much of his life. *Photo courtesy of MGM Archives*



Thus, Bean's career went from tap dancing off a junk truck in the street to being one of the top dancers on Broadway. At 14, he was given a role as one of the "Lost Boys" in the Mary Martin production of "Peter Pan." That took him to New York and to an ever-unfolding world.

By the age of 18 or 19, he was already a veteran dancer. He was a "Jet" in the

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Area businesses join PV Festival of Lights parade



Merry & Bright Holiday in Hyde Park



Pleasant Valley's annual Festival of Lights parade always features trucks and equipment from many of the local industries and businesses decorated for the season and sharing holiday wishes with the community. The above machine in the lead was from Peckham Industries, one of the town's larger employers. Gilmore Trucking from Hyde Park brought a few trucks in various decorations. One was a truck on top of a truck and the one above, a more traditional Christmas toy float. It's hardly a Christmas parade without Santa. Photos by Jim Donick.

Left: Dr. Seuss holiday characters come to life with Jimmy Albrecht as The Grinch and Jenn Adams as Cindy Lou. Courtesy photo



The Town of Hyde Park's Merry & Bright Holiday Kickoff Parade of Lights event took place on Sunday, Dec. 5. Residents with candles lined Route 9 in front of Town Hall to view the parade and Christmas Tree lighting. Above, a fire truck displays a snowflake and lights. Children gather around Santa inside Town Hall. Supervisor Aileen Rohr welcomes guests. The event also included Councilman Ken Schnieder reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas. Wreaths were presented to business and resident decoration winners from 2020. A Pop-Up Market greeted guests from 3-8 p.m. Photos by Curtis Schmidt





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

County Legislature's Minority leader: Republican Majority 'rubber stamp' for County Exec

To the editor:

At a recent meeting of the Dutchess County legislature I said, "This legislature is doing nothing." A letter to your newspapers last week questioning that statement provides a welcome opportunity to explain.

The work of a normal (County) legislature - such as Ulster County's - centers on standing committees, small bipartisan groups who research and develop policy in discussion with key staff. In the Dutchess County Legislature, standing committees don't do that. They just meet briefly to rubber-stamp whatever the (County) Executive sends over. In 2020, the Family and Human Services Committee deliberated for less than 30 minutes total, during the year, and the Environmental Committee for less than 18 minutes.

Our (Democratic) caucus has proposed three dozen bills on a range of topics, from extending line-of-duty benefits to probation officers, to setting fossil-fuel reduction targets. The Chair blocked almost all from being discussed. In response to the hardships brought by COVID-19, our caucus proposed funding for a Poughkeepsie non-profit that was expanding free WiFi access for schoolchildren. The Republican caucus asked for revisions to the bill, which we promptly provided, but at meeting time they hadn't read the revised bill, so they voted it down.

Many appointments on community task forces have lapsed. The Airport Committee, on which I serve, has met once in four years. Republican legislators appointed to the Criminal Justice Council and Police Reform Task Force, among other special committees, rarely attend. (The claim that no Democratic legislators attended a recent budget meeting, by the way, is false. At least two, and up to eight, lawmakers in our caucus attended each budget meeting. On several occasions recently, legislators who were in quarantine requested that a remote-participation option be restored, as permitted under New York emergency orders; the Chair denied those requests.)

In July 2020, when we discussed cost-effective community-based alternatives to incarceration, the Chair promised to appoint a bipartisan committee to research options. We are still waiting.

In 2021, the Chair never bothered to ask the legislature to adopt rules for the year.

Republican legislators have raised no substantive questions about the 2022 budget, which sharply increases spending and engineers a "dip" in debt service for 2022, kicking repayment down the road until the current Executive is out of office. (Debt service—including on the exorbitant new jail, by far the county's largest current investment—will now peak at over \$37 million in 2027, more than triple the amount in 2010.)

All these things seem to indicate a legislature that is doing nothing.

It's possible that the Republican majority is having extensive policy debates. If that's the case, they are doing so behind closed doors, holed up in their caucus room with the Executive. That is worse than doing nothing. It's secret decision-making that is not accountable to voters. That's not how democracy should work.

Any member of the public can watch the online meeting videos and decide for themselves: Is this legislature doing nothing? Or is the Republican majority pre-arranging everything secretly with the Executive, on a partisan basis, before voting in lockstep? Whichever it is, Dutchess residents deserve better.

Rebecca Edwards
Minority Leader
Dutchess County Legislature

AFD commissioner candidate states goals

To the editor:

I am asking for your vote in the Arlington Fire District commissioner election. I am running for the unpaid job of Arlington Fire District Commissioner, a five-year term. The election will be held Tuesday, December 14 between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at Red Oaks Mill firehouse (213 Vassar Road for Wards 1, 2, and 5) or District Headquarters (11 Burnett Boulevard for Wards 3, 4, and 6).

All district residents who live in the Arlington Fire District and are registered with the County Board of Elections for general elections are eligible to vote.

About 45% of my land taxes go to the Arlington Fire District (AFD). It is not reasonable that we pay more in Fire Taxes than we do in Town or County taxes to the AFD.

I think it is possible to make a difference. Please elect me so that I can work to use the fund balance applied to reduce taxes. I want to continue high-quality safety and fire protection without spending on privately-owned firehouses so that the landlord can raise the rent. We need to spend wisely.

AFD has been run by commissioners who have been associated with individual fire companies. Now that AFD is staffed by professionals, AFD needs to be run like a \$20 million business that it has grown to be. Contracts should not be prematurely revised. Penalty clauses should be enforced, not canceled.

Please vote for me on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Thank you!

Phil Van Itallie
Poughkeepsie, NY

Van Itallie would work on behalf of AFD taxpayers

To the editor:

Phil Van Itallie is running for commissioner in the Arlington Fire District on December 14. Taxpayers need to vote for Phil to help stop the run-away costs, nepotism and shady deals that are being approved by the current, devious and incompetent board. Put this on your calendar now.

In the Arlington Fire District, in Poughkeepsie, we pay more in fire taxes than we do in Town or County taxes.

The current board added \$2 million in spending over the past two budget cycles: A ten-percent increase in taxes driven by a sweet labor contract, for the 77 union firefighters, that was approved eighteen months before the previous contract was due to expire. They also approved giving \$350,000 in taxpayer dollars to the Croft Corners Fire Company, where two AFD commissioners are members, for construction on a building privately owned by that fire company.

Phil Van Itallie has taken a personal interest and has attended district meetings this year to educate himself. He spoke at the budget hearing in defense of taxpayers. Phil has been a district resident since 1970. He's willing to do this unpaid job of commissioner and is asking for our vote.

All district residents who live in the Arlington Fire District and are registered with the County Board of Elections for general elections are eligible to vote.

The election is on December 14 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The two voting locations are Red Oaks Mill firehouse (213 Vassar Road for Wards 1, 2, and 5) and District Headquarters (11 Burnett Boulevard for Wards 3, 4, and 6).

We taxpayers have a choice this year. Let's not miss an opportunity to save ourselves from out-of-control spending. Let's get out and vote Van Itallie.

Jim Beretta
Poughkeepsie

Sharpe emphasizes solutions

To the editor:

At least as far back as 2012, political candidates have strongly urged people to vote against opponents. Think back to that presidential election, and you'll remember that the Obama/Romney camps warned their respective bases to vote against the other guy. Fast forward to 2020's presidential race, and the respective campaigns' main message to voters was that the other guy would wreck the country. From voting "for" the lesser of two evils, we've fallen just to voting against evil, which means that every election we're asked to vote by our hatreds.

There is a better way, and a Bronx native running for New York Governor has found it. Larry Sharpe, 53, is running on a platform which emphasizes solutions rather than demonizing opponents. Whereas other candidates talk about the harm their opponents would cause if elected, Sharpe focuses on actual policy, going so far as to post white papers on his website. In this context, anybody attacking Sharpe ad hominem has to counter with competing proposals. This shifts discussion back to actual solutions, which is Sharpe's only focus on campaign.

Some may call Sharpe's policies "radical," but I challenge critics to contrast his website with those of other gubernatorial hopefuls. Absent are the vague platitudes about "supporting and caring," replaced by Sharpe's detailed plans. Though professional political consultants nowadays advise candidates just to bad-mouth opponents, the only radical thing about Larry Sharpe is that he's offering actual plans New Yorkers can vote for!

Daniel Donnelly
Amenia
Dutchess County Libertarian Party Chair

Man arrested in Amenia after alleged break-in, assault of victim

On Dec. 2, the New York State Police from the Dover barracks arrested Thomas E. Ryan, age 54, of LaGrange, for Criminal Sex Act in the first degree, a Class B felony; Burglary in the second degree, a Class C felony; and Sexual Abuse in the first degree, a Class D felony.

On Nov. 1, at approximately 10:50 p.m., troopers were dispatched to a residence in the Town of Amenia for a report of a burglary in progress. Investigation determined Ryan illegally entered the residence through a window and sexually assaulted the victim.

Ryan was arraigned before the Town of Dover Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$20,000 cash bail or \$50,000 bond. He was scheduled to appear before the Town of Amenia Court on Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.

Bean 'Jets' from original to new 'West Side Story'

continued from cover

first Broadway production of "West Side Story" and went with much of the cast to bring the show to London.

A chance meeting

That would have been in 1959. The show was a smash, but the personal impact on Bean was even greater. It was in that show he met a new English dancer. Her name was Jean Deeks. Jean notes today, "We had never seen dancing like these Americans did. It was simply so much more dynamic."

This young graduate of the Royal Academy decided this sort of dance might make a more interesting career than ballet, her original genre. It took a few months for the two of them to actually figure out that they had been made for each other. But today, they've been married the better part of 60 years and the partnership begun on that London stage has seen countless stages, countless shows, and those 26 or so career changes between the two of them.

How great is that? Little did the lovely young Miss Deeks realize that going from the ballet to the musical theatre would open up a most amazing set of vistas.

David and Jean came back to USA shortly after their wedding. There was a show that wanted them. One show led to another but, not always in the most timely manner.

It's a bit of theatre lore among Equity Actors that, after one's stage talents, it isn't a bad idea to be able to do a good job waiting on tables between gigs. One year around Christmas, the two of them were between shows and a bit short of cash, so David became the manager of the department store Santas for Abraham and Strauss in Brooklyn. Jean worked in the jewelry department peddling bling. With that they were able to have a good Christmas.

Somewhere along the line, David learned to be a pressman. He loved working the printing presses and, to this day, he's perfectly capable of running the press that prints this very paper.

"Whatever you do," his dad demanded, "do it at 180 percent."

Today they own a farm in Dutchess County with livestock and a view that one would die for. During the day for many years now, they are running Jeanie Bean's Cafe in Clinton Corners. Their

daughter, Jennifer, works with them. Jennifer, they say, keeps an eye on the front counter, Jeanie runs the kitchen. (David says, "We keep her chained to a table back there.") David "works the crowd."

The regulars swear the coffee and tea are first-rate and the overall ambiance well beyond that.

"It's just a happy place," one customer noted.

Now, with the latest Spielberg version of "West Side Story" bringing back a focus on this most wonderful of musicals, the world is again taking a well-deserved interest in David and Jean.

The Beans were in New York as Spielberg's guests for the premiere. He rates the choreography as outstanding.

The Beans note that their world has all but come full circle. His career really took off with "West Side Story" and now he has been brought back to be a part of it yet one more time.

Tom Sipos of local radio station WKIP is a fan.

"I had David and Jeanie on my show a few weeks ago," he said. "It was one of those dark grey gloomy mornings and raining. We had a ball together. Later I heard from one of my listeners, a woman named Sue. She told me she graduated from Lakeland High School in 1969 and Jeanie Bean used to come there to teach ballet. 'Hearing her voice again and remembering the impact she had on us brought brightness to my whole day,' she said. These two have that kind of effect on people."

The new "West Side Story" movie will debut in the Hudson Valley on Friday, Dec. 10, so Sipos will be doing his morning broadcast from Jeanie Bean's Cafe from 6 to 9 a.m. that day.

"I call my Friday shows 'Family, Friends, Fun, Food Fridays.' This one with the Beans covers all of those bases," said Sipos. Everyone is welcome to stop in during the show for a bite of breakfast.

David Bean has just published his autobiography. He calls it "When You're a Jet," reflecting the well known song of that name from "West Side Story." He sang it in various productions and in the movie. The book is a collection of short chapters relating memories of life events, of people he and Jeanie worked with, and



On Opening Night in New York City for the new "West Side Story," Director Steven Spielberg is flanked by the only two original "Jets" he cast into the new movie - David Bean, "Tiger," on left and Bert Michaels as "Snowboy." Both were inspirational forces for the current young dancers re-creating their roles. Below: The Bean Family is pictured in 1966 shortly after Jennifer Bean's birth. David, sporting a beard at the time, Jean in ballet slippers, and the baby, Jennifer, were about to set out on the grand adventure that became the life of the Bean family. All three are working together these days at Jeanie Bean's Cafe in Clinton Corners. *Courtesy photo*

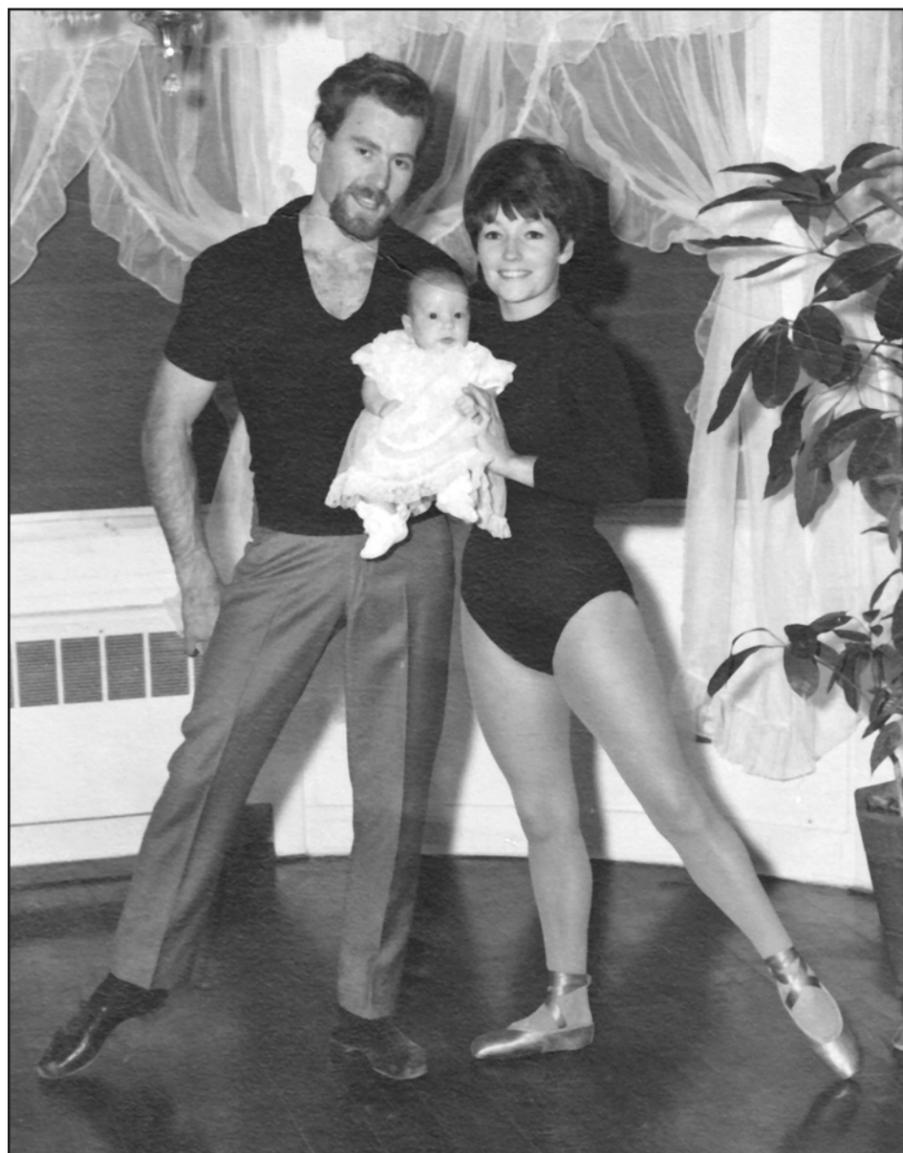
reflections on living one's life dedicated to always performing at the 180 percent that his father encouraged in everything he did. One reads about going to Broadway from California at the age of 14, joining the cast of "Peter Pan" with Mary Martin. Stories of Martin, Rita Moreno, Cyril Ritchard, Noel Coward, Chita Rivera and a most amazing collection of fascinating people are included. He also relates the story of coming to Dutchess County and of settling into Clinton Corners. It is wonderfully read-

able. Written in the first person, the book is almost as good as spending an evening swapping stories with David and Jeanie.

"When You're A Jet" is available from Amazon but it's also available at Jeanie Bean's Cafe if one acquires it there, David just might be convinced to sign it.

"When you're a Jet, you're a Jet all the way - from your first cigarette to your last dying day."

If the lyricist was right, then David Bean's days as a Jet should continue for many years to come.



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Local employers wrestle with 'crazy' labor market

continued from cover

Nationwide, unemployment figures continue to drop incrementally, but the number of workers is also less. In essence, the labor market is upside down.

"The numbers just don't add up," said Sandra Jackson, who owns the Poughkeepsie office of Express Employment Professionals, a staffing agency and career counseling service.

Jackson's business caters to both employers looking to fill positions, and potential employees looking for jobs.

Jackson called it a "talent war." Employers are having to re-think the packages they offer to prospective employees, including wages - and workers are holding out for the best deals. Where Jackson was once able to place people at jobs paying a \$14 or \$15 hourly wage, she now says people won't even talk to her unless a position has a starting pay of \$18 an hour.

"The labor market is crazy," she said. "In September after the unemployment benefits expired, we thought we were going to have an influx of people. We didn't. There's been a big uptick in early retirement. Then, we have another group who were re-assessing their jobs. Some went back to school, some took up another trade. Then we have the childcare issue. The uncertainty is big there. Someone has to be home to take of their kids. And then you have COVID, which is not over. A lot of people are looking to still work remotely and workers are waiting it out. And frankly, they can be a little selective."

Coppola knows that all too well. Simply put, a restaurant offers no remote option. You can't serve Tortellini Alfredo via a computer screen.

"We've tried everything we can think of," Coppola said. "We are hiring full-time and part-time, and we've tried to become very flexible with schedules. We have found that people are filling out applications in order to fulfill their unemployment requirements, but not wanting to work. People are either afraid, lazy or both."

Coppola said he is one of the lucky ones, with brothers and other family members who have picked up the slack on a family-run business.

But not everybody can do that, hence Hochul's plan.

The initiative will build upon exten-

sive efforts already under way by the New York State Department of Labor to connect job seekers to the record 220,000-plus available jobs in the state through tools and training resources.

"After the hardship New York's workforce has experienced as a result of COVID-19, it is crucial that we connect individuals looking for jobs with businesses looking to hire," she said in a statement. "Streamlining the recruitment process benefits everyone involved, as well as the state as a whole. I look forward to seeing the good that will stem from this initiative as we build New York back better and stronger than it's ever been before."

The Department of Labor will expand existing services to collaborate with additional community partners across the state to educate New Yorkers about no-cost resources available to connect them with jobs.

The Department of Labor will also partner with Community Based Organizations, including those who assisted New Yorkers through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to connect those in need to jobs, training and other resources.

State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon said, "The COVID-19 pandemic has created a massive shift, not only in the type of jobs that are available, but also who is looking for work — when, where, and how — and the systems and programs needed to assist them. We have to reimagine how we connect job seekers to these jobs while also meeting the needs of our employers and we need all of our partners, from workforce development to our local community organizations, to help us educate New Yorkers about these critical resources."

It sounds good in theory, but employers remain skeptical when it comes to putting in practice given what they've seen in the recent past.

"We have been trying to fill out our staff for over a year now. It is very, very difficult," Coppola said. "I have friends who own restaurants who have had to close altogether or have closed two days a week because they can't find staff."

Count fellow restaurateur Paul Iannucci among them.

Iannucci owns two successful busi-



Sandra Jackson owns the Poughkeepsie office of Express Employment Professionals, a staffing agency and career counseling service that caters to both employers looking to fill positions, and potential employees looking for jobs. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

nesses — Nooch's Pub and Grill in the Village of Millbrook and the Fireside BBQ & Grill in Salt Point. Both places are now closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Iannucci is desperately seeking two hostesses and a cook at Fireside.

"It's a complete nightmare. It's been 20 months of a nightmare," he said. "I've never seen anything like it in the 20-plus years I've been in the business. Finding front-of-the-house staff used to be easy. Now it's hard. And back of the house? Forget it."

Iannucci agreed with Jackson as to the reasons why there is such a staffing shortage — flexibility, the ability to work remotely, wages.

Especially wages, he said, noting that chain restaurants owned by corporations have deeper resources and are offering far more money than he can.

As far as restaurants go, Iannucci also has another theory.

"The pandemic is uncharted territory. A lot of people just don't want to deal with the public," he said. "There are a lot of triggered and entitled people out there."

Jackson said there needs to be a happy medium between what employers can offer and what employees will accept.

"People are demanding flexibility and work-life integration. So people are looking at time-off policies, vacation, career development, training, and wellness programs," she said.

For some, that might be a lot to ask for. But Jackson said she thinks it will resolve itself.

"This too will pass," she said. "It's cyclical. It's not going to stay the way it is."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

United Way offers free transportation for COVID-19 vaccine appointments to Poughkeepsie residents

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is partnering with Lyft to offer free rides to individuals needing transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments and COVID-19 booster vaccinations. The program covers up to \$50 round trip. The individual must cover any expenses beyond \$50.

The program is open to residents in Newburgh and Poughkeepsie. It cannot be used for drive-thru vaccination sites. Medicaid recipients are not eligible for this program. Sign up to receive your unique code by at uwdor.org/vaccinerides and click the "apply" button. You can apply the code to a round trip. Users can apply for a second code to use for transportation to and from a second shot.

Penny Social in Stanfordville

Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Holiday Penny Social on Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and calling begins at 7 p.m. Christmas 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 served by the Grange Youth. For more information, contact Therese Fallon at (845) 868-1700 or Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Hudson Valley Women in Business party and fundraiser set Dec. 13

Hudson Valley Women in Business 7th anniversary Party and Fundraiser will be held on Dec. 13 at Seasoned Delicious Foods in Lake Katrine, to connect and celebrate. Ticket includes: Entry into the party, first drink (wine, beer, iced tea or lemonade), hors d'oeuvres, a donation to HUGSSAV, a "swag bag" filled with gifts from 20 of one's fellow business owners. Tickets are \$50/\$40 for Premium Members. To receive the discounted price, become an "In It Together" or

"Dedicated & Driven" member at <https://hudsonvalleywomeninbusiness.com/membership>.

Board of health meeting Dec. 16

The Dutchess County Board of Health will be holding its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m. virtually using Microsoft Teams. To listen to the meeting, call 1 516-268-4602 and enter the Conference ID number: 187 762 93#.

Rhinebeck Chamber's Holiday Breakfast set Dec. 16

The Rhinebeck Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its Holiday Breakfast on Thursday, Dec. 16, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., at Terrapin in Rhinebeck. The event will feature festive music by the Rhinebeck High School Men's & Women's Choir. Tickets are \$10, and advance reservations are required via <https://rhinebeckchamber.com/>. Face masks are suggested for all attendees.

Rhinecliff Fall Soup Sales are back

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. and Rhinebeck Grange #896 will hold their Fall Soup Sales on Dec. 16, as well as on Jan. 27 and Feb. 24 in 2022. From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on those dates, a choice of soup or chili will be available for take-out at the cost of \$10 per quart. To order ahead, email Joe at baerhands@aol.com or call the firehouse at (845) 876-6149 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, on the corner of Shatzell Avenue and Orchard Street in Rhinecliff. Pick up at side window on Orchard.

Rhinebeck church announces Christmas Eve Service, upcoming course

Grace Bible Fellowship Church, 6959 Route 9, Rhinebeck, will hold its Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m. There will be singing of Christmas carols, Lighting of the Candles and more.

The Grace Bible Institute will offer a course, "Overcoming Obstacles," for the winter term. The 12-week course will begin on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, from 7 to 8:20 p.m. Call (845) 876-6923 or email cdcfirone@aol.com for more information.

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COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

Omicron officially arrives in NY; Dutchess active cases jump

by Kate Goldsmith

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the inevitable arrival of the Omicron variant to New York last week. An individual from Minnesota who attended a conference at the Javits Center in Manhattan tested positive in their home state, and the Minnesota Department of Health notified New York of the result.

"The information is still evolving, but we understand that this individual, while they were vaccinated, they have very mild symptoms. And in fact, those symptoms have already resolved," Hochul said at a press conference on Dec. 2.

Hochul advised the public not to be unduly alarmed by the news.

"It's not unexpected," she said. "It was literally six days ago when I instituted an executive order to give me the powers I would need to deal with the current situation, but also a future situation, which could arise if Omicron ended up showing up in the state of New York."

Unsurprisingly, more cases have been confirmed throughout the state.

"I want all New Yorkers to know that their state government, in collaboration with our local governments, our cities and our counties, are prepared for this," said Hochul, adding that the state has ordered one million tests to be distributed to local health departments (giving priority to those in school environments), plans to launch 40 new vaccination pop-up sites by the end of the year, and has developed new marketing efforts to promote boosters and vaccines (see related story on this page to learn about one of these).

Hochul encouraged anyone who attended a conference at the Javits Center between Nov. 18 and 22 to get tested. The state also has been contacting individuals who were known to attend the conference.

"We're not overreacting to this, but I want New Yorkers to have the confidence to know that we are ready to a deal to deal with this," she said. "Continue wearing your masks. We encourage everyone to wear their masks when they're out. Get those shots, get your children vaccinated."

During the Dec. 2 press conference, Hochul introduced Dr. Mary Bassett, the state's new health commissioner. Formerly, Dr. Bassett served as New York City's health commissioner, where she said "I encountered more microbes than I ever would have predicted."

She added, "In three decades of public health work, I've learned the impact of truth-telling. ... I'll tell the governor what we know, what we don't know and what

our best judgment is. And I'll tell the public the same thing."

Hochul closed the press conference on a positive note.

"We know how to do this. The answers are right before us. We've done it before. We'll do it again," she said. "And we're going to do everything we can to keep New Yorkers safe and keep our economy open."

Cases spike in Dutchess

On Dec. 2, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro held a brief Facebook event to update residents about COVID-19 data. On that day, there were 628 active cases in the county; that number has since risen to 922 by the week-end. The seven-day rolling average for infection rate was 5.31 percent.

Molinaro said the latest rise was "similar to the middle of October" and is part of the "seasonality we're experiencing," adding that he expects to see increases over the next two to three weeks as a result of holiday gatherings.

The largest number of new cases are among the 30-39 age group (17 percent). Of those interviewed, 69 percent were either unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

The "number we want to watch," said Molinaro, is hospitalizations, which are a lagging indicator.

"Those cases in hospitals are more severe," he said.

Over the last 14 day, 72 percent of those hospitalized have been either partially or unvaccinated, with 28 percent being fully vaccinated. Molinaro said, "Those numbers have pretty much held steady over time."

A little more than 71 percent of Dutchess residents have had at least one dose of a vaccine, with just over 63 percent being fully vaccinated. More than 80 percent of adults (18 and older) have had at least one dose, with the highest percent being 55 and older.

Sixteen percent of children ages 5-11 have had one or more doses; that number is 63 percent for ages 12-17.

Molinaro maintains his belief that vaccination is a choice, and for children it's a "decision to be made between parents, children and medical providers."

Briefly addressing Omicron, Molinaro said currently there is no data suggesting the variant is any more severe than other variants and recommended residents continue the mitigation steps that have long proven effective in reducing risk: washing your hands, social distancing, mask-wearing, choosing to be vaccinated; and, if you're not feeling well, try to isolate yourself.

DEC'S 'Take Your Shot for an Outdoor Adventure' sweepstakes aims to bolster COVID-19 vaccine rates

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos recently announced the new "Take Your Shot for an Outdoor Adventure" sweepstakes is open through Dec. 31. Launched last week by Gov. Kathy Hochul, the COVID-19 vaccine incentive is intended to bolster vaccination rates among New Yorkers who enjoy the great outdoors.

During the month of December, anyone that receives their first COVID-19 vaccine dose is eligible to enter the sweepstakes and a random drawing to win special prize packages tailored to anglers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Five entrants will be randomly selected to receive the Grand Prize and the opportunity to choose one of the following deluxe packages valued at approximately \$2,000:

- Fishing: Lifetime fishing license, fishing kayak, vest, rod and reel;

- Bow hunter: Lifetime hunter and bow-hunting license, high-quality crossbow package or compound bow package with half-dozen bolts or arrows, ladder tree stand, safety harness/fall arrest system, and 10x42 binoculars;

- Rifle hunter: Lifetime sportsman license, high-quality rifle scope, ladder tree stand, safety harness/fall arrest system, and 10x42 binoculars;

- Turkey hunter: Lifetime sportsman license, high-quality ground blind, turkey hunting vest, hen decoy pair, shotgun optical sight, slate call, and 10x42 binoculars; and

- Birding: 20-60x spotting scope, 10x42 binoculars, bird feeder, bird seed, bird house, deluxe birding guide, and I Bird NY materials.

Twenty-five entrants will be randomly selected to receive Second Tier prizes and the choice of one of the following packages, valued at approximately \$1,000:

- Fishing: Annual fishing license,

fishing kayak, vest, rod and reel;

- Bow hunter: Annual hunter and bow-hunting license, high-quality crossbow OR compound bow package with half-dozen bolts or arrows, a ladder tree stand, a safety harness/fall arrest system, and 8x42 binoculars;

- Rifle hunter: Annual hunting license, high-quality rifle scope, a ladder tree stand, a safety harness/fall arrest system, and 8x42 binoculars;

- Turkey hunter: Annual hunting license and turkey permit, high quality ground blind, turkey hunting vest, hen decoy, slate call, and 8x42 binoculars; and

- Birder: 8x42 binoculars, bird feeder, bird seed and I Bird NY materials.

The first 2,000 people to receive their first vaccination and enter the sweepstakes by Dec. 31 will receive a tree seedling from DEC's Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Tree Nursery in Saratoga, and their choice of either a \$25 gift card for a free night of camping at a DEC campground, or a \$25 gift card to a major sporting goods retailer. In addition, the 2,000 sweepstakes entrants will receive a one-year subscription to DEC's Conservationist magazine, which is celebrating its 75th year in publication.

Information about how to enter the sweepstakes is now available at www.dec.ny.gov.

Prior to fulfillment of a hunting license and any associated privilege (e.g., bow-hunting privilege), the recipient must complete a hunter education course and bow-hunter education course (in the case of the bow-hunter prize package) and present certificate(s) of completion.

All eligible, vaccinated entrants must adhere to all applicable requirements to receive a hunting or fishing license in New York State, including completion of required hunter education courses and other rules.

Holiday EVENTS IN THE CATSKILLS

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12/11 Victorian Stroll | **Athens**
12/18 The Scribner's Holiday Market | **Hunter**
12/18 Holiday Centerpiece Making | **Tannersville**
12/21 Cultivate Catskills Solstice Stroll | **Catskill**

See more at greatnortherncatskills.com/events

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A gift that will keep on giving

The holiday season is such a special time for so many folks here in the Hudson Valley. It's a time to celebrate family, of course, but it's also a time to be thankful for all the blessings we have experienced throughout the year by giving back to our communities and sharing our good will with others. Personally, that's my favorite part of the holidays: the chance to bring joy to our neighbors who might be struggling.

Thankfully, I'm not the only one who feels that way! Just last week, the Mullaney family at Hudson Cadillac Buick GMC stepped up with an amazing act of giving: They donated a beautiful vehicle to the VetZero Heroes ride program! Mike Mullaney had heard about how the veteran community really needs this service that gives free rides to Dutchess County veterans, and he decided to do something about it! If that's not the holiday spirit, I don't know what is!

It's no secret the VetZero Heroes ride program has been trying to add a second vehicle, to be able to give even more free rides to our local veterans to get to their doctor, pharmacy and other vital appointments. So far, the program has given an astounding 1,500 rides to veterans – and that's just with one car, and one driver!

The VetZero Heroes ride program

began in November 2019 when Christa Hines, Executive Director of Hudson River Housing, and myself came up with the idea to offer free rides to veterans in Dutchess County. Back then, we really didn't fathom how vital this simple program would become to so many local veterans who struggled to make their doctors' appointments.

As it turns out, the lack of transportation options is a huge obstacle for many of our veterans, especially those older vets who no longer drive, or those struck by financial hardship who don't have a reliable form of transportation themselves. We are so proud this program has been so helpful, and we are excited to expand the VetZero Heroes ride program in the future.

Enter Mike Mullaney and his team at Hudson Cadillac Buick GMC. In the spirit of the holidays, Mike decided to help those less fortunate by donating a wonderful new vehicle, which allows us to double the number of free rides we can offer our heroes. Mike said to me, "It's just the right thing to do." We couldn't agree more, Mike!

As soon as we can get the second VetZero Heroes vehicle wrapped and ready to go, you will probably see us a lot more on the roads here in Dutchess



The Mullaney family, owners of Hudson Cadillac Buick GMC recently donated a vehicle to the VetZero Heroes ride program. Pictured are (from left) Ed Reid, Veterans Coordinator of Hudson River Housing (HRH); Matt Mullaney; Tommy Zurhellen; Mike Mullaney; and Christa Hines, Executive Director of HRH. *Courtesy photo*

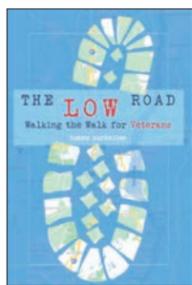
County! When you see one of the green and black VetZero Heroes rides in traffic, give them a wave or a friendly honk and let the driver know you support this important program!

The Mullaney family embodied the spirit of giving with their amazing donation of a vehicle to our VetZero Heroes ride program. But you don't have to donate a car to truly make a difference in the lives of our veterans, this Christmas! There are plenty of things you can do to get into that holiday spirit. A great start is contacting Hudson River Housing at (845) 454-5176 or www.hudsonriverhousing.org and asking how you can support local veterans through the VetZero program. It's easy, and we could really

use your help!

Thank you to the Mullaney family for their wonderful donation. And thank you, for listening! I wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah and a very Merry Christmas season. See you next time!

A Navy veteran, Tom Zurhellen has been Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Poughkeepsie for the past three years. In the summer of 2019, he walked across America from Portland, Oregon, to Poughkeepsie to raise awareness on veteran suicide and veteran homelessness in our country. He continues to work with local veterans in need through the VetZero Project, in partnership with Hudson River Housing.



TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AND BUY 'THE LOW ROAD'!

Tom Zurhellen chronicles his 2019 VetZero Walk Across America in his new book, "The Low Road: Walking the Walk for Veterans." The Walk raised awareness of the plight of many veterans in our country, and called attention to the fact that, every day, 22 veterans take their own lives. Proceeds from "The Low Road" will go directly to help local veterans in need through the VetZero Project at Hudson River Housing. The book costs \$22 and can only be purchased at www.hudsonriverhousing.org.

Delgado announces Holiday Cards for Heroes program

U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado (NY-19) recently announced his Holiday Cards for Heroes program for the 2021 holiday season. Residents of New York's 19th Congressional District are invited to create holiday cards for active-duty service members and health care workers. Delgado's office will share the holiday greetings with local heroes who have worked hard to keep us safe this year. Cards will be accepted starting today through Wednesday, Dec. 15.

Holiday cards should be placed in an unsealed envelope, addressed to the Congressman's Kingston office, 256 Clinton Avenue, Kingston, New York 12401.

This is the third year Delgado's office has conducted a Holiday Cards for Heroes Program. Over the last three years, Delgado's office has also collected and distributed Valentines for Veterans.

Call the Kingston Office at (845) 443-2930 with any questions.

VETERANS CORNER: NEWS YOU CAN USE

Deadline Dec. 9 to register for 'Holiday for Our Heroes'

Marist College, Mike Arteaga's Health & Fitness Centers, VetZero and MHA Dutchess Veteran Programs are sponsoring a "Holiday for our Heroes" event on Sunday, Dec. 12, in Poughkeepsie. The event will be completely free for all veterans and a guest, and will include:

2 p.m. Marist Men's Basketball vs. Navy at Marist College: Marist has donated free tickets for all veterans and a guest to attend the game. There will be a special halftime ceremony honoring our local veterans. Tickets can be picked up at the gate for veterans.

4 p.m. Holiday for our Heroes celebration at Mahoney's Irish Pub & Restaurant in Poughkeepsie, directly after the game. There will be a buffet and limited bar. There will be holiday gifts for veterans who attend.

This is not a fundraiser. It's just a fun way to bring some holiday cheer to our veterans, and bring the people who take care of them together.

Any organization that like to join the planning meeting on Zoom after Veterans Day is asked to send email to vetero@hudsonriverhousing.org.

Vet2Vet Support Groups set

MHA of Dutchess County's next Vet2Vet Support Group will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 3 to 4 p.m., at 515 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie. These groups serve as an outlet for veterans to discuss with peers their opinions, challenges, successes and anything else in order to regain balance in their lives.

The groups are free, confidential and judgment-free. They are open to all veterans despite discharge type, time in

services or period of service. Active and inactive and National Guard members are welcome, as well.

For more information, call (845) 473-2500, ext. 1306 or 1307.

VA Hudson Valley's Walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics offering boosters

Following CDC recommendations for those that would most benefit from the COVID-19 booster, the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System is providing booster shots for Moderna, and J&J COVID-19 vaccines to eligible veterans, as supply and capacity permits.

For people who received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated at least two months ago.

The VA Hudson Valley Health Care System is administering the COVID-19 booster shots at:

CASTLE POINT VA MEDICAL CENTER
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Multipurpose Room, Bldg. 19, Room 100

MONTROSE, FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL: Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Social Hall, Bldg. 15, Room 16

VA Hudson Valley Community Clinics are by appointment only. Eligible veterans can also call (845) 831-2000, ext. 217666, to schedule an appointment for their booster shot. Individuals can also receive their booster shot at no cost outside of VA by locating a vaccine site at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) - Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations. For more information about the status of vaccination throughout Dutchess County, visit DutchessNY.gov/COVIDvaccine.



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SUNDAYS AND FRIDAYS TOPPINGS EXTRA TAKEOUT ONLY

Maloney joins veterans to unveil Purple Heart Commemorative Coins at Castle Point campus

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) recently joined local veterans and leaders from the National Purple Heart Honor Mission and Purple Heart Hall of Honor at the Castle Point VA to unveil the design of the Purple Heart Commemorative Coins, which will be produced as a result of Rep. Maloney's bill, The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act.

"We can never do enough to thank the veterans who put their lives on the line to protect and defend our nation. But, we can ensure their service and sacrifices are never forgotten. That is why, for years, I have led the effort create the Purple Heart Commemorative Coins, which will ensure our veterans stories are preserved for generations to come," said Maloney. "Today, we finally unveiled the design of the Purple Heart Commemorative Coins which will forever honor the service of America's Purple Heart recipients and support the critical work done at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor to tell their stories."

Maloney was joined by local veterans and leaders. Among those who spoke or stood in support were:

- Retired Corporal Richie Lay, Board Chairman, National Purple Heart Honor Mission;
- Retired ANC 1st Lt. Edie Meeks, Board Secretary, National Purple Heart Honor Mission;
- Stephanie Keegan, Legislative Director, Purple Heart Hall of Honor;
- Retired Major General Glenn Lesniak, Chair, SASB;
- Andee Hidalgo, Veteran, Owner of

- Spearhead Construction;
- Peggy Kent, Member 2 years, SASB;
- Retired Major Beau Pendergraft;
- Shara Abraham, Staff Attorney, Legal Services for Veterans and Military;
- Lou Liotti, Former Naval Officer, Auxiliariast, U.S. Coast Guard;
- Jeff Lewis, Retired Air Force;
- Debbie Edelen, USMA 1992;
- Joe Colombo, Chief of Plans and Operations at West Point;
- Retired Colonel Glenn Goldman, Senior Civilian Advisor at CAPE;
- Jay Jaffee, Retired, NY Air National Guard, Employee, West Point Mint;
- Robert Anderson, Adjunct Professor, SUNY Maritime College;
- Retired Colonel Bob Philips, Consultant, UN Org & Gov Foundations
- Retired Marine Corp. James Maxwell

Live-stream footage from the event, featuring remarks by all speakers can be found on Maloney's Facebook page.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act was signed into law on Dec. 22, 2020.

The law authorizes the U.S. Treasury to mint \$5 gold coins, \$1 silver coins, and half-dollar clad coins at the United States Mint at West Point for the 2021 year. After production costs are recouped by the U.S. Treasury, proceeds from sales of the coin will be directed to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Inc.

The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most recognized American military medals, awarded to service members who were killed or wounded by enemy action. The National Purple Heart Hall of



Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney (right) unveils the Purple Heart Commemorative Coins during a ceremony held at VA Hudson Valley Health Care System Castle Point campus on Dec. 4. At left is Retired Corporal Richie Lay, Board Chairman, National Purple Heart Honor Mission. *Courtesy photo*

Honor's mission is to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across generations to ensure that all recipients are remembered and serves as a living memorial to their sacrifice.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is operated by the New York-New Jersey Palisades Interstate Park Commission. The hall's work is supported by the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, a 501c3 nonprofit organization

whose goal is to honor America's Purple Heart recipients, through various outreach and educational programs, including promoting visitation at the Hall of Honor. The National Purple Heart Honor Mission also undertakes other forms of outreach to honor the nation's estimated two million Purple Heart recipients, such as the Purple Heart Patriot Project that brings Purple Heart recipients from across the country to the New York for a multi-day tribute program.

FATAL CRASH IN RHINEBECK

On Nov. 27, the New York State Police in Rhinebeck began investigating a fatal motor vehicle crash on State Route 9G in the Town of Rhinebeck.

Initial investigation indicates Jared T. Hammerling, age 29, of Hyde Park, operating a 1997 Honda Civic northbound on State Route 9G just south of Slate Quarry Road, crossed the double yellow lines for unknown reasons and struck a southbound 2018 Subaru Outback.

The Subaru Outback was then rear-ended by a southbound 2019 Honda Ridgeline. The operator and passenger of the Subaru Outback were transported by EMS to MidHudson Regional Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

Unfortunately, Jared Hammerling was pronounced deceased on scene. This investigation remains ongoing.

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--STARTS FRIDAY--

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--HELD OVER--

Ghostbusters:

Afterlife (PG13)

Encanto (PG)

Resident Evil: Welcome

to Raccoon City (R)

House of Gucci (R)

Clifford the Big

Red Dog (PG)

--STARTS FRIDAY--

Don't Look UP R

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by mark adams



A Tourist Christmas

Tree farms attract many visitors to Dutchess during the holiday season.

James Bishop drove up from Sag Harbor, Long Island to cut down a Christmas tree. He does it every year, ever since his sister moved to Rhinebeck.

“Christmas has become too commercial,” says James. He enjoys the traditional Mid-Hudson Valley Christmas, especially the Sinterklaas event in Rhinebeck.

James and I were warming ourselves by the fire pit at Battenfeld’s Christmas Tree Farm in Red Hook (or more specifically, Rock City) early on a chilly Saturday morning. I was waiting to meet up with a film crew from Dutchess Tourism. James was about to set up a pop-up tent, where his extended family would be spending the day “tailgating” in the Battenfeld parking lot, and cutting two trees.

The film crew was late so I hunted down Fred, the “son” in the official company name – F.W. Battenfeld and Son Wholesale Growers. He was bunching anemones in a nearby shed, midst a cluster of ladies putting together holiday centerpieces and wreaths.

Battenfeld’s was a vegetable and cattle farm until Fred’s grandfather jumped into the violet craze that was sweeping the nation around 1907. Fragrant bunches of cut violet flowers were the fashion item of the day, and northern Dutchess County became the headquarters of an industry that featured hundreds of glass greenhouses up and down Route 9G, still called

Violet Avenue today. As the violet fashion waned (as all fashions do), Battenfeld’s pivoted to become a world-renowned grower and breeder of hybrid anemones. Fred’s dad started a Christmas tree farm, selling his first tree for a dollar in 1956. Nowadays the farm is home to 120,000 trees on 100 acres.

Which brings us to Saturday morning, December 3. When the film crew arrived, I met up with Melaine Rottkamp, president and C.E.O. of Dutchess Tourism. Her mission that day was to create a promotional film about cut-your-own Christmas trees to use in advertisements around the New York City area, and on the Dutchess County YouTube channel. Melaine (pronounced m’lane) is the new Mary Kay Vrba, having taken over the lead role at Dutchess Tourism in June, 2020. (She started as a volunteer 10 years ago).

Melaine is bubbling over with enthusiasm as she explains that tourism, which brings half a billion dollars of visitors’ money into the county every year, should be a year-round adventure – from maple syrup, to fresh vegetables, apple picking, leaf peeping, historic parks and estates, art galleries, to cut-your-own Christmas trees.

The film crew spent most of the day shooting families enjoying the views, riding the horse-drawn sleigh, listening to

continued on page 11



Dutchess Tourism President/CEO Melaine Rottkamp (left) is pictured with (from left) Fred, Lance and Morgan Battenfeld at their Christmas tree farm in Rock City. Facing page: Filming the model family at Battenfeld’s. Photos by Mark Adams

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 18 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)

THE GREATEST DOT-TO-DOT BOOKS!

Stars
Stop at each star (★), then skip to the next number and start your line again. End ★ 128

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Get Growing!

continued from page 10



bagpipers, visiting Santa and cutting trees. For close ups, they used a couple of families hired expressly for the film – no hassles with personal release agreements, plus the model families provided ethnic diversity, and you could tell they were having a blast.

By noontime the scene was really happening. Tractors were buzzing up and down the hills, hauling trees to be strapped to car roofs. Hot cocoa and cookies were a big hit. A dozen tents were set up in the tailgating lot, where people grilled hot dogs and relaxed in beach chairs. Fred came down from the anemone greenhouse with his son Lance, who is the farm manager, and daughter Morgan, to meet Melaine and the film crew. He told us that 2,500 families cut

trees on one day last week – the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Battenfeld's is open every day, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., until Christmas. For more info, look up www.christmastreefarm.us, or go to the Dutchess County Conell Cooperative Extension website for a list of all 18 Dutchess County cut-your-own tree farms.

By the way, I've heard that woodchucks are not a big problem during cut-your-own Christmas tree season, since they hibernate during the winter. Unless a tourist falls into one of their holes.

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

Local student to appear in Eastside Studio production of 'Miracle on 34th Street'

Lilly Martin, an 11-year-old experienced actress, is scheduled to play the part of Susan Walker in the Eastside Studio Theater production of "Miracle on 34th Street," being presented on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church on Rt. 55 in Lagrangeville.

Lilly has studied with several professional training programs, including Denise Summerford's Broadway Arts Collective Workshops. She has played major characters in over 10 productions, and she has appeared on Apple TV and Hallmark television. Some of her stage credits include the roles of Annie and Matilda in the Random Farms Theater, and The Cat in the Hat in the musical "Seussical" at the Beacon Performing Arts Center.

The role of Susan Walker is one that young actresses have always coveted since Susan is the major character who must come to believe in the magic of Christmas. Kris Kringle, played by John Paul Porter, is the unlikely Santa Claus who will create the miracle in this iconic holiday classic, and the joy of the story is how this child comes to love Christmas and all it stands for.

Joining Lilly is veteran Broadway

actress Nancy Auffarth. She is a favorite performer with Eastside Studio Theater, the recently activated company, originally known as the Queen City Stage.

Auffarth appeared on Broadway and the National Tour of "On the Twentieth Century" and in regional theaters such as Paper Mill Playhouse, St. Louis Muni Opera, The Actors' Theater of Louisville and many others. In "Miracle on 34th Street" she will play Doris Walker, another character who must eventually come to believe in Kris Kringle as the real Santa Claus.

The holiday classic will be performed by additional versatile actors, including Deborah Coconis, Andrew Joffe, Glen Macken, Deidre Sepp and Patrick Spaulding. In addition to Lilly, the children and teen roles will be created by Austin Miller and John Ryan.

Heading the production as director is Marie Hasenpflug. She is familiar to local theatergoers from the many roles she has played locally in regional theaters and a few Off-Broadway theaters. Currently she can be seen as Sadie in "Small Time" on Amazon under her professional name, Maria Hasen.

For more information see the company website: eastsidestudiotheater.com.



Lilly Martin



Nancy Auffarth

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Households adversely affected by COVID-19 can qualify for up to **12 months of past due rent, three months of future rent** and up to **12 months of overdue utility bills.** Applications accepted beginning June 1.

For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/ERAP

 Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



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Please contact us to schedule an appointment.
Phone: 845-452-5104
Email: info@dutchesscap.org
Online: www.dutchesscap.org Click "Apply for Services"

Sinterklaas Festival returns



Thousands of residents visited the Village of Rhinebeck on Saturday, Dec. 4 for the 2021 Sinterklaas Festival. In the photos, clockwise from the top left, performers from the Shinbone Alley Stilt Band stand above the crowd as they perform on Market Street. Olive Kolb and her father, Brian, of Wappingers Falls design decorations at the Crown and Branches Workshop. Rhinebeck Mayor Gary Bassett and his wife, Brenda, renewed their marriage vows during the opening ceremonies of the Festival. Michael Rosman of the Bindlestiff Family Cirkus performs on the high wire. Jonathan Kruk performs for children and parents. A member of the Hungry March Band plays the saxophone. Grumpuses dance for the crowd. Pokingbrook Morris Dancers entertain crowds on the lawn of the Beekman Arms. The Dancing Polar Bear takes part in the opening ceremony. Uptown Low Down Dancers join in the fun. *Photos by Curtis Schmidt*

to Village of Rhinebeck



NOV. 25th - Dec. 26th



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RHINEBECK, NY

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Arts Mid-Hudson event to highlight groundbreaking work of its first folklorist

As part of the 20th anniversary of the Folk Arts Program at Arts Mid-Hudson, the broad-reaching work of its first folklorist, Jean Crandall, will be the focus of a discussion. Join Arts Mid-Hudson on Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. as folklorists discuss the program that Crandall built from 1998 to 2004.

Register at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Crandall>.

Under the umbrella of Dutchess County Arts Council (now Arts Mid-

Hudson), Crandall became the first staff folklorist for the organization. Previously, Ellen McHale had done vital consulting work in the area laying the foundation for Crandall's work and that of subsequent folklorists Eileen Condon, Polly Adema and Elinor Levy.

Crandall built on that foundation, reaching out to the many ethnic communities in Dutchess County and beyond including but not limited to the Latino, Black, South Asian Indian and Ukrainian populations.

Join folklorist Elinor Levy along with folk artists Ray Watkins, Kantham Chatlapalli and others, as well as folklore colleagues as they remember and honor Crandall's legacy. This event will be recorded and uploaded to social media.

The Arts Mid-Hudson Folk Arts Program researches the arts and traditions of the region's rich cultural, ethnic, religious and occupational heritages. Through educational and public programs like Kakizome, the Folk Arts Program shares these traditions. The program is open to ideas and suggestions about how to assist in celebrating your community's heritage.

Arts Mid-Hudson is the pre-eminent nonprofit arts service organization serving the Mid-Hudson region. Since 1964 its initiatives have engaged and promoted the arts benefiting the region's artists, arts organizations and communities. Arts Mid-Hudson provides vision and leadership to support thriving and diverse arts in the Mid-Hudson region.

For more information about Arts Mid-Hudson and future art events, sign up for the monthly E-newsletter at www.artsmidhudson.org.



Jean Crandall was the first folklorist for Art Mid-Hudson, which was known at the time as the Dutchess County Arts Council. *Courtesy photo*

Lyceum to offer free Christmas movies Dec. 11

Lyceum Cinemas, Rhinebeck Bank and Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union along with local merchants of Red Hook are once again sponsoring free Christmas movies for children and their families on Saturday, Dec. 11, in conjunction with a food drive to aid needy families in the area.

Now in the 30th year of hosting this annual event, the Lyceum has once again decided to offer two films for attendees to choose from.

"Prancer," rated G, starring Sam Elliott and Cloris Leachman, is a story about a wounded reindeer and a precocious 8-year-old girl. They form an everlasting bond in this tender holiday drama about true devotion and friendship.

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," rated PG13, stars Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo and Randy Quaid. Clark Griswold (Chase) wants to have a perfect family Christmas, so he pesters his wife and children, as he tries to make sure everything is in line.

Both films will be offered at 10:15 a.m. on Dec. 11, and upon entry everyone

may choose which film they prefer to see.

Admission is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance from any of the following local merchants: Rhinebeck Bank (Red Hook branch), Minuteman Press, Subway, Mid-Hudson Valley Credit Union (Red Hook branch), Griff's Southside Deli, Red Hook T's, Village Pizza III, The Bagel Shoppe, Historic Village Diner, Ben & Gracies & Charlie O's Restaurant.

Santa will be on hand at the Lyceum when the doors open at 9 a.m. to talk to the children.

Everyone who attends the movie is asked to bring a non-perishable food item for collection by the Dutchess County Community Action Agency office in Red Hook for distribution to needy families in the area.

Those who do not plan to attend a movie, but might wish to donate food items, may do so after 12:30 p.m. on any day through Dec. 11.

Lyceum Cinemas is at 7270 S. Broadway in Red Hook. Call (845) 758-3322 for more information.

Creative Living

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Christmas dinner

Make it special, but leave time to savor the holiday as much as the meal.

In my family, we celebrate on Christmas Eve the way many do on Christmas Day: We go to church in the evening and go Home (that would always be my parents' house) to open our gifts. I love our tradition in all its warmth, exchanging presents by the fire, the glow of the tree, carols playing softly and the love and closeness of family.

Christmas morning is a special breakfast, again just with immediate family, and opening our stockings, which are always stuffed full and overflowing into bags set beneath them on the floor. The rest of the day is relaxing and then dinner together.

You might be thinking this is a bit of a letdown, that by cramming the best parts of Christmas into the night before takes all the magic and fun out of it. But the opposite is true. Having all of Christmas Day to just be together peacefully is absolutely a gift in itself. As children, the excitement that comes with the holiday is on a whole other level and the energy that results, while almost as fun for the grownups in the room, can be exhausting for everyone. And all the frantic shopping and preparing and chaos that seems to be the typical precursor for most people? At this point in my life, I'll take the quiet and togetherness.

Over the years the number of people we have for Christmas dinner has whittled down. The usual head count is now four to six. I have the pleasure of making that particular meal, and my menu has run the gamut from roast goose with fruit compote (never again) to classic crown roast (probably not again any time soon). But those were years ago when we had a slightly bigger crowd and I, frankly, had more ambition.

These days we keep things simpler. Not that it isn't still special, but the menu will be one that doesn't require hours in the kitchen, which was always kind of my thing. At my mother's insistence I've simplified things and, of course, she was right because now I get to relax, too.

If you can, or want to, follow suit, I

suggest choosing recipes that can be made ahead or that can be cooked along with the main dish. A treat for us is beef since it's rare (no pun intended) that we have a roast any other time; and with so many cuts out there, you can get the size and quality that you need. Last year we had a pork roast, which only needed to be seasoned and put in the oven for a few hours and so fit the easy part. But this year I'm opting for some tender, flavorful beef. You might be thinking filet mignon, but you'd be off the mark.

Filet mignon is special, to be sure, and it's been the star of a few Christmas dinners past; but if I'm honest, it isn't the most flavorful cut out there. For tenderness and flavor without breaking the bank, spoon roast is the answer. It's so tender, in fact, that it's said you can cut it with a spoon, hence the name. It's actually a top sirloin roast, so if your butcher doesn't have it labeled as spoon roast, look or ask for that.

As far as prep goes, there's nothing fancy you need to do at all. Season with salt and pepper, maybe some garlic, place it in a roasting pan with some liquid (water is just fine) in the bottom and roast, uncovered, in a preheated 350 degree oven for 12-15 minutes per pound until done. And by done I mean medium-rare. This is a tender cut of beef and overcooking it won't do it any favors. Oh, and this might be a good time to remind you to put MEAT THERMOMETER on your Christmas list, because cooking any meat to a specific temperature is safest and best.

Back to medium-rare ... Most spoon (or top sirloin) roasts will be 3-5 pounds on average, so it should be to temp in under two hours. And the temp you want? A meat thermometer placed in the thickest part of the roast after cooking for 40-45 minutes should read 125-130 degrees. It will continue to cook after it's out of the oven. But just as important as cooking it to the right temperature is waiting before you jump in with the knife. When you remove it from the oven, place it on a cutting board (without puncturing it, so no



Spoon roast. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

meat forks please. You can leave it in the pan, too.) and loosely tent it with foil. Then let it rest that way for 15-20 minutes. No really. I mean it! You'll thank me if you didn't already know this.

Why rest? If you were to carve the roast when it's hot, all those lovely, flavorful juices end up being wasted on your cutting board. Great for making gravy, sure, but not for a tender, juicy roast. Resting, and therefore cooling slightly, gives those juices time to soak back into the meat and essentially being redistributed throughout. Don't worry – you'll still have enough to make a sauce!

If you want sauce, that is. Use some of that juice to make a gravy, pour it into a pitcher to serve au jus or add it to sauteed mushrooms with a little butter and red wine. Serve your roast with your favorite vegetables (I'll be making creamed spinach and roasted Brussels sprouts), potatoes your favorite way (I'll roast baby potatoes at the same time as the meat). For dessert we'll have crème brulee, which, in addition to being a

favorite, can be made days ahead.

I look as forward to our family Christmas now as I did when I was little, but for different reasons. It's not about the presents we wrap nowadays. For me, it's a different kind of gift, one that is lovingly made by hand and heart, is delicious without taken much time (if I do it right) and is the perfect ending to a perfect day spent with the people I love most. Have yourself a merry little Christmas!

Vicki Frank Day is a graphic artist with more than two decades of experience in different aspects of the food service industry. She is the Content Marketing Specialist for Adams Fairacre Farms where she has worked for 25 years, with in-depth food research being an integral part of her marketing position. She believes that cooking is for everyone and should be a pleasurable journey, that food should be experienced, not merely eaten, and that special occasions can be an everyday celebration. E-mail her at vfrankday@adamsfarms.com.

Hudson River Maritime Museum seeks winter wear donations

Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston is collecting winter accessories as part of the museum's annual Mitten Tree drive. For more than a decade, the museum has collected new or gently used winter wear. The items are hung on a 10-foot wooden tree structure built at the museum's Wooden Boat School. When the tree is full, donations are brought to

local adult and children's services organizations.

Donations sought include gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, socks, hand warmers, and umbrellas. Items can be for all ages and can be brought to the museum store which is located at 50 Rondout Landing in Kingston. The store is open Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and a designated

box will be available on the front porch to accept donations when the store is closed.

The Hudson River Maritime Museum is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the maritime history of the Hudson River, its tributaries and related industries. In addition to extensive collections documenting maritime transportation, industry, recreation, and natural sci-

ence, the museum offers classes and programs at its Wooden Boat School, Sailing and Rowing School, and aboard Solaris, the 100% solar powered tour boat and floating classroom. The museum is located along the historic Rondout waterfront in downtown Kingston. Visit www.hmmm.org for more information.

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Diversions

SUDOKU

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills.

The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers.

Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

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

Suguru

2									
				3					
	4	2	4						

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.

ACROSS

- Book of maps
- Falana or Glauini
- Govt. agency that protects workers
- Capital city
- Dark __
- Schoolmate
- Dairy product
- Betrayal
- Plato's T
- French region where cheese is made
- Grad exams, perhaps
- Unkind
- 4840 square yards
- Lido or Monte Carlo
- Self-assurance
- Young one
- Spanish love
- Set of fence steps
- Raw mineral
- Achieve a monopoly
- Nice season
- Radio navigation system
- Pierre's pate
- Start of Iowa's capital
- Make arrangements
- Sharper
- Shiny on top
- Haughtiness
- Señor's change
- Dog on "The Thin Man"
- Mont Blanc, for one
- Sailing ships
- Cake ingredient
- Brain passage
- Ending for Nan or Ann
- Habituate: var.
- Layers of turf
- Tobacco dryer
- Tall and slender

DOWN

- IRA, for one: abbr.
- Mr. O'Hara's place
- In __ of; as a substitute for
- Coach Parseghian
- Melancholy
- Caesar's tongue
- Monster
- __ Majors
- As red __ beet
- Yellow shade: var.
- Old Mets stadium
- Fling
- Grant and Carter
- Eye part
- Long-tailed rodent
- Time when poets arise
- Foreigner
- At peace
- Ran
- Shed crocodile tears
- Tender spots
- __ Allen
- Symbol
- Crest of a mountain
- Prevent
- Valuable violin, for short
- City on the Rio Grande
- Bread tray item
- Mailmen's beats: abbr.
- Caboodle's partner
- Boo-boo eliminator
- Impolite ones
- Thing worth having
- Fraternity letters
- External: pref.
- Storage building
- Liberal __
- Malarial fever
- Cooking fat
- Hunted animal
- Modern: pref.
- Greek letter
- French article

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
20					21	22					23				
					24					25	26				
27	28	29					30						31	32	33
34							35							36	
37					38	39							40		
41					42								43		
44					45						46	47			
					48						49				
50	51	52						53					54	55	56
57						58	59					60	61		
62						63						64			
65						66						67			

The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 18

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Through Dec. 19: "A Christmas Carol," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Dicken's classic tale, adapted and directed by Lou Trapani, stars Rik Lopes as Scrooge. With Jovan Bradley, Andy Crispell, Ellie DeMan, Joe Felece, Harriet Luongo, Duane Joseph Olson & Jody Satriani. Musical direction by Paul & JoAnne Schubert. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7 p.m. (no show 12/17); Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$25. Proof of vaccinations for all patrons 12+ will be required to enter the theater. Masks are required. (845) 876-3080, centerforperformingarts.org or boxoffice@centerforperformingarts.org

Through Dec. 19: Holiday Market, WomensWork.art gallery, 4 S. Clinton St., Poughkeepsie. "Spirit of the Season," a small works holiday show, with all works for sale. www.womenswork.art

Through Dec. 19: Holiday Show, Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. The show offers unique, handcrafted items such as ceramics, drawings, paintings, greeting cards, ornaments, jewelry, prints, sculptures and photographs. Fri., 5-8:30 p.m.; Sat., noon-8 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

Through Dec. 22: Theatre on the Road's "A Christmas Carol," various locations. Interactive dinner-theater performance of Charles Dickens' classic tale of transformation, brought to life by actors and carolers in authentic Victorian costume, and featuring merry songs, laughter and heartwarming nostalgia. Audience members are encouraged to interact with the characters throughout the performance. Each event includes a three-course meal followed by a reception where guests can meet the characters. Performances: Wed., Dec. 8, 7 p.m., The Venue Uptown (Best Western), Kingston. Wed., Dec. 15, 7 p.m., The Beekman Arms, Rhinebeck. Sat., Dec. 18, 5 p.m., Meadowbrook Lodge, New Windsor. Sun., Dec. 19, 5 p.m., The Beekman Arms, Rhinebeck. Wed., Dec. 22, 7 p.m., The Beekman Arms, Rhinebeck. Visit www.theatreontheroad.com/ for tickets and more information.

Through Dec. 26: The Wonderland of Lights, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck. Holiday drive-thru experience features dozens of dazzling displays to delight the entire family. Sun.-Thurs., 6-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 6-10 p.m. Enjoy a plethora of festive pageantry while journeying through more than a mile of spectacular lights and holiday wonder, from tunnel displays to towering structures and whimsical designs. Tickets & info at https://thewonderlandoflights.com/rhinebeck_show/#date

Dec. 9: Clinton Tree Lighting, Clinton Town Hall, 1215 Centre Rd., Rhinebeck. Tree lighting at 4 p.m., followed by cookies, hot cocoa and holiday stories at the Library. TownClerk@townofclinton.com

Dec. 9: Holiday After Hours, Hyde Park Brewing Company, 4076 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. Presented by the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, 5:30 p.m. Bring an unwrapped toy to be donated. RSVP by Dec. 6 at www.hydeparkchamber.org or email info@hydeparkchamber.online

Dec. 11: Morton/Rhinecliff Holiday Weekend / Rhinecliff Light Up Night, Morton Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Saturday evening we will shine some literal and figurative light on the hamlet, 5 p.m. 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. You can also stop and have your picture taken in front of the Rhinebeck Grange wreath. Luminaria kits will be available at Morton for curbside pick up beginning Dec. 1. Each kit will contain 10 candles, bags and sand; the library asks for a donation of \$20 per kit. The money will go to Rhinebeck and Red Hook Responds. For more information, email sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org

Dec. 11: Winter Wonderland Story Hour, Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. Kids and their adults will enjoy Winter Wonderland Story Hour. Our last story hour of the year, winter-themed stories will be read, 2 p.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult and all adults must be accompanied by a child. Free. www.friendsofclermont.org/events

Dec. 11-12: "Miracle On 34th Street: A Live Radio Play," Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1168 Rte. 55, Lagrangeville. Presented by Eastside Studio Theater. Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$20 general, \$15 student/senior. More info: (845) 471-0773, 452-0684 eastsidestudiotheater.com

Dec. 11-12: Handel's "Messiah," Sosnoff Theater, Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. Performances: Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Leon Botstein leads The Orchestra Now, soloists from the Bard Conservatory Graduate Vocal Arts Program, the Bard Festival Chorale, and the Bard College Chamber Singers in a performance of one of the most popular oratorios of all time. Tickets start at \$30 for in-person and pay what you wish for virtual live-stream. fishercenter.bard.edu, (845) 758-7900 or boxoffice@bard.edu

Dec. 11-19: Festive Holiday Tours, Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling Ave., Beacon. Mount Gulian, the Dutch Colonial home of the Verplanck family, will be beautifully decorated in different era's fashions: opulent Victorian style décor adorning the dining room; simple, 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 contribute to the home's comfort and cheer. Tours: Sat. & Sun., Dec. 11-12 & 18-19; also Wed.-Fri., Dec. 15-17. Tours at 1, 2 & 3 p.m. on all days. Masks required while in the homestead; advance reservations required. Complimentary refreshments will be available for all guests. Call (845) 831-8172, email at info@mountgulian.org or visit <https://mountgulian.org/holiday-tour/> to make reservations. Admission: \$12 adult; \$10 senior; \$6 children 6-18. Children under 6 and Mount Gulian members are free.

Dec. 12: "All My Boyfriends are Dead," Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave., Germantown. Visit with Janet Livingston Montgomery and try to answer the age-old question; was she cursed in love? 2 p.m. Free. www.friendsofclermont.org/events

Dec. 12: Shai Wosner Studio Class, The Stissing Center, Pine Plains. Shai Wosner, who recently amazed us with his performance of Diabelli Variation in October at TSC, has graciously agreed to relocate his December Studio Class from its home at Bard Conservatory to The Stissing Center. As many as six of his students will perform on the Steinway piano at the center. Shai will introduce the pieces and explain a few challenges and history prior to the performance, 1 p.m. Free public event for anyone who is interest-

ed in learning about music education and encouraging young students who are training to become the next generation of concert pianists. <https://thestissingcenter.org/>

Dec. 17: "The Nightmare Before Christmas," UPAC, 601 Broadway, Kingston. In this trailblazing claymation holiday hit from producer Tim Burton, Jack Skellington, the leader of Halloweentown, schemes to celebrate a very different Christmas, 7:30 p.m. All seats \$6; members get in free. (845) 473-5288, (845) 339-6088 or boxoffice@bardavon.org

Dec. 17-18: "The Bald Soprano," The Stissing Center, Pine Plains. Presented by The Stissing Theatre Guild: "The Bald Soprano" by Eugène Ionesco, 7:30 p.m. Purchase tickets via <https://stissingtheatreguild.org>

Dec. 17-19: Winter Music Concerts at Kaatsbaan, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. Superwolves and Bonnie "Prince" Billy & Matt Sweeney, with Emmett Kelly & David Pajo. Matt Sweeney and Will Oldham reunite 16 years after their original underground classic, for performances featuring an album that plays like the continuation of a decades-long conversation. Performances at 8 p.m. www.kaatsbaan.org

Dec. 17-19: Work-in-Progress Performances of SITI Company's "A Radio Christmas Carol," Sosnoff Theater, Fisher Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson. As part of the company's 30th anniversary celebrations, SITI Company returns to the Fisher Center to develop a new live, in-person performance based on Orson Welles' 1939 radio play of "A Christmas Carol." Reimagining the intimacy and alchemy of that recording studio, SITI conjures the ghosts of the past, present and future to speak to our society's immediate need for gratitude, charity, fairness, justice and equity. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25, with \$5 tickets for Bard students made possible by the Passloff Pass. fishercenter.bard.edu, (845) 758-7900 or boxoffice@bard.edu

Dec. 18: Handel's "Messiah," Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. The Hudson Valley Philharmonic's 61st anniversary season continues with a special holiday concert performance of Handel's beloved oratorio with guest conductor Christine Howlett, 2 p.m. Guest vocalists from Cappella Festiva will join the HVP. A pre-concert talk with Maestro Howlett will take place at 1 p.m. for all ticket-holders. Tickets start at \$26. (845) 473-5288, (845) 339-6088 or boxoffice@bardavon.org

Dec. 19: "Mr. Fullerton" by Local Produce Readers' Theatre, The Stissing Center, Pine Plains. "Mr. Fullerton" by Anne Undeland is a love story based on a true one. In 1909 while living in Paris, the 46-year-old Edith Wharton fell in love for the first and only time in her life. 3 p.m. Tickets \$5. <https://thestissingcenter.org/>

CLAUDIO CARES CAN DRIVE IS BACK



The Claudio Cares Can Drive is back for 2021. Students from Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, above, and other area schools are busy collecting non-perishable items. By design, the annual drive employs the efforts of business sponsors and volunteers with adults encouraging and teaching young people the value of giving back to their communities. "It's all about Claudio's caring spirit and we want his legacy to live on each and every one of these kids," said Luigi Coppola. "This is how you make a difference in the lives of others." To help out, just drop off donations at Coppola's Italian American Bistro at 4167 Albany Post Road (Route 9) in Hyde Park or call 845-229-9113. *Courtesy photo*

Troop K hosts Toys for Tots drive

Troop K is once again collecting new, unwrapped toys for the annual Toys for Tots program. Once again the New York State Police in Troop K have joined forces with the United States Marine Corps to collect donated children's toys as part of the national Toys for Tots program this holiday season. Between now and Dec. 17, people can drop off new, unwrapped toys at Troop K Headquarters, SP Poughkeepsie, located at 2541 Route 44 in Salt Point, or any of the local Troop K barracks. Representatives of the Marine Corps will pick up the toys for distribution to area children. All 18 Troop K stations located in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and Columbia counties are participating in the initiative. Contact information can be found at https://www.troopers.ny.gov/Contact_Us/Troop_Information/Troop_K/. *Courtesy photo*



Serino hosts 'Season of Giving' initiative

Sen. Sue Serino recently launched her annual "Season of Giving" initiative to provide community members with the opportunity to give back by supporting local organizations that work to support neighbors in need. Items will be collected for the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, North East Community Center, Project Oath Inc., St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor and the Putnam/Northern

Westchester Women's Resource Center. The following items are being collected this year:
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center and St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor (new or gently used):
• Men's winter jackets ranging in sizes from medium to extra-large
• Women's winter jackets (any size)

The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse (new):
• Hats, gloves, scarves and socks for children
The North East Community Center and Project Oath Inc.:
• Non-perishable food items (canned goods, cereal, pasta, etc.)
• Household items (laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, etc.)

Park) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations can also be dropped off to the Putnam Valley Office (117 Town Park Lane, Putnam Valley) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
COVID health and safety protocols will be observed for anyone entering the buildings. Those who would prefer not to come inside can call the Hyde Park Office at (845) 229-0106 and a team member will meet them at their car for a contactless drop off. For a contactless drop off at the Putnam Valley Office, call (854) 528-0417 to schedule a drop-off time.

Donations will be accepted through Wednesday, Dec. 15. Those interested in donating items can deliver them to Serino's Hyde Park Office (4254 Albany Post Road, Hyde

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

Fatal crash in Dover

On Nov. 30, the New York State Police in Dover began investigating a fatal motor vehicle crash on State Route 22 in the Town of Dover at approximately 6:30 p.m. Initial investigation indicates a 2012 Hyundai Accent operated by David C. Elwell, age 51, of Pawling, was northbound on State Route 22 south of North Nellie Hill Road and entered the southbound lane for unknown reasons. Elwell struck a southbound 2003 GMC Envoy which was subsequently rear-ended by a 2019 Hino truck. Unfortunately, David Elwell was pronounced deceased on scene by responding paramedics. Three occupants of the GMC Envoy were transported to MidHudson Regional Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The Hino truck operator was evaluated at the scene by Northern

Dutchess Paramedics. This investigation remains ongoing. The Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross announced that volunteers provided immediate emergency aid to two people after one of the vehicles smashed into their home on Brady Place in Dover Plains. The Red Cross provided financial assistance which can be used for necessities such as shelter, food, and clothing to two adults. Volunteers also offered emotional support. In the coming days, Red Cross staff and volunteers will remain available to help those affected by the incident as they navigate the road to recovery.

Answers to this week's diversions (puzzles on page 16)

Suguru solution

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

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

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

Visit us on Facebook!
Southern/Northern Dutchess News Group

Jan. 4 new deadline for FEMA assistance for Hurricane Ida recovery application

The deadline for homeowners, renters, and businesses to apply for Hurricane Ida recovery assistance from FEMA has been extended until Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Those who have already applied need not apply again. One should apply to FEMA even if one has insurance. Disaster assistance may include grants to help pay for temporary housing and essential home repairs as well as other serious disaster-related needs such as medical and dental expenses, transportation, childcare, and moving and storage expenses.

To apply for FEMA assistance, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov), use the FEMA mobile app or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

FEMA's Individual Assistance pro-

gram includes grants for repairs and for rent of alternative housing, low-interest disaster loans from the SBA and grants for other serious unmet needs. Learn more at [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

Dutchess County received a major disaster declaration in late September, following Hurricane Ida's estimated \$2.5 billion in damage to public assets and municipal facilities earlier that month. The County received the additional Individual Assistance declaration in October, which will help homeowners and businesses recover from more than an estimated \$1 million worth of damage to private homes, apartments, and businesses so far.

County residents, businesses urged to take internet speed survey

As part of "Dutchess Invests," Dutchess County Government's program announced in June to prioritize the one-time funding allocated through the Federal Government's American Rescue Plan (ARP), Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro announced the county's High-Speed Internet Access Survey is the county's first step in investing \$1 million of the funds in critical communications infrastructure.

Dutchess County residents, nonprofits and business owners, whether with or without Internet access, are asked to complete the survey to help determine the quality and quantity of high-speed internet, often referred to as broadband, available throughout the county.

High-speed internet technology has revolutionized the way services are provided and business is conducted globally by improving communication and the speed at which information flows. From school districts adopting hybrid learning to healthcare offices offering virtual telehealth visits to government and nonprofit agencies providing the high-quality critical services many Dutchess County residents rely on, high-speed internet's utility touches all aspects of residential and commercial life.

Due to numerous Internet Service Providers serving different parts of Dutchess County, reliably identifying gaps in service is challenging. Similar surveys, such as those conducted by New York State and the Town of Stanford, are being circulated; however, it is important to also complete the county's survey to help build a more comprehensive map

and identify under-served and un-served areas as well as barriers that may be preventing access to high-speed Internet service.

After collecting basic information such as address and type of location (home or business), the survey will ask users with Internet access to complete an optional "speed test" that will accurately measure the upload and download speeds in their home or office. The speed test should be completed on a device connected to the internet or wi-fi at the location to be tested. For those without Internet access, the survey can be completed without the speed test on any connected device, or a paper version of the survey is also available.

Additionally, to assist those with limited or no Internet access, the county is partnering with local libraries as well as Senior Friendship Centers. Contact the Department of Emergency Response at (845) 486-2080 or email broadband@dutchessny.gov for assistance or to obtain a paper copy of the survey.

The survey is being conducted in coordination with NYSTEC, an independent technology consulting firm. The firm will use results from the survey to develop a strategic plan, which will be released in summer 2022 and will be used as an investment road map for the county to address infrastructure and access needs and areas for improvement.

To take the survey and learn more about the County's High-Speed Internet Access Initiative as well as the importance of broadband access for all, visit [dutchessny.gov/highspeedinternet](https://www.dutchessny.gov/highspeedinternet).

December programs at Red Hook Library

DECEMBER PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Virtual Anti-racism Discussion Group
Thursday, Dec 9, 7 p.m.

The Anti-Racism Reading Group is an ongoing forum where we will be having honest, non-judgmental conversations about what we're reading & learning about race, racism and anti-racism. We will discuss how we might apply these lessons to how we live and what we advocate for in our community. Email Amy at amy@redhooklibrary.org if you're interested in participating in this virtual group.

All Abilities Adults

Fridays, Dec 10 & 17, 12:30 p.m.

All Abilities Adults is an hour of social fun in the Community Room for adults with intellectual, cognitive and/or developmental disabilities. Our activities range from seasonal crafting to scientific experiments, but friendship and community are constant. In person program, limited spots available, registration required. For more information and to register, email Amy at amy@redhooklibrary.org.

Narcan Training

Monday, Dec 13, 5:30 p.m.

Learn how to use Narcan and potentially save a life by knowing how to respond when you suspect an opioid overdose. All participants will be given a Narcan kit after completion of training. Training will take place at the Red Hook Village Hall. Email Renee at programcoordinator@redhooklibrary.org to register.

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

Tuesday, Dec 14, 2:30 p.m.

This month the group will meet to discuss "Selected Poetry." The discussion will be held on Zoom. Contact Paul at assistant@redhooklibrary.org for the Zoom link and questions regarding the discussion.

Knitting Group

Tuesdays, Dec 14 & 21, 4-6 p.m.

Meet in the library Community Room for weekly knitting, crocheting, spinning, quilting, and crafting. Email Dawn at director@redhooklibrary.org if you are interested in attending.

The Monday Evening Book Group

Monday, Dec 20, 7 p.m.

This month the group will meet to discuss "A Long Petal of the Sea" by Isabel Allende. The discussion will be held in

the Library's Community Room. Contact Paul at assistant@redhooklibrary.org for questions regarding the discussion.

Sign up for adult programs by emailing Renee at programcoordinator@redhooklibrary.org.

DECEMBER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Does your high school student love video games? RHPL is forming high school and middle school E-sports teams. The initial information meeting for the High School team is this month. If your child is in middle school and interested, email Amy at amy@redhooklibrary.org. The Spring E-sports season starts in late January so it's time for us to organize our roster and choose which games we'll be competing in.

Teen Takeover continues in December, every Sunday 1-4 p.m. except for Dec 26. Youth in grades 7th and higher are invited to take over the library. There's food, gaming, hanging out, and activities.

All Abilities Teens have two after school Crafternoon sessions this month and will be making cards to give warm winter wishes to recipients of cooked meals from Red Hook Responds.

DECEMBER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

New this month is the Among Us Club! Kids ages 5+ will be getting together to do Among Us themed crafts, activities and then play the game together on library-supplied devices. This is a bilingual English/Spanish program with Yادira.

Preschool morning programs continue until the last week of December. Our Winter Nature Walks will be at Montgomery Place, Blithewood and Poet's Walk this month. We walk as long as it's above 30 degrees and not raining hard. Given the weather, however, Wednesday Storytime has moved indoors.

Email Amy at amy@redhooklibrary.org for more information about any of the programs or events listed above.

All indoor library programs require masks at this time.

For more information and to register for programs, call the library at (845) 758-3241, email director@redhooklibrary.org, or visit www.redhooklibrary.org.

Lacan Reading Group returns to Morton Library Dec. 10

After a two-year hiatus, the Lacan Reading Group will return to Morton Memorial Library with a reading of Jacques Lacan's Seminar of 1971-1972, which he titled, not without humor, "...Or Worse: The Knowledge of the Psychoanalyst." The reading will be held on Friday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m., at the library, located at 82 Kelly St. in Rhinecliff.

This seminar combines the weekly readings given at the Pantheon to a large audience, with a private seminar given the night before to a select group at Saint Anne Hospital. Together the seminar marks a turning point in Lacan's thought. In these later teachings Lacan has abandoned his efforts at revisioning Freud's own more didactic teachings – which had gone so awry in their dispersal to the next generation of followers – and is working through his own more radical position regarding the human subject. At the heart of Seminar XIX emphasizing "Oneness"

is the explosive aphorism "there is no sexual relationship."

As Jacques Alain Miller says in his introduction to the English edition, "Everything he has already taught you is here, and yet everything is new, overhauled, topsy turvy."

This is a fun ride; delightful, and at the same time resounding with insight in the workings of the human subject.

The group will be reading Lacan's two weekly seminars in chronological order, so they will hear both his overview as well as what is reserved for his private audience.

The meetings, held Fridays at 4 p.m., are open to those interested. In addition to the weekly meetings, Dr. Anna McLellan will create a blog, building it around key points addressed each week as well as other readings that complement Lacan's teachings.

Call the library at (845) 876-2903 for more information.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

northerndutchess@sdutchessnews.com

Hyde Park man charged with sexual abuse of child

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the arrest of Areze D. Washington, age 36 of Hyde Park, in connection with a month-long investigation into the sexual abuse of a child.

Washington was arrested on Dec. 3 and has been charged with having sexual contact with a child victim several years ago in the Town of Pleasant Valley. No further details about the case or the victim will be released at this time in order to protect the victim's privacy, and at this time there does not appear to be a danger to the community as a whole.

At this time, Washington has been

charged with sexual abuse in the first degree, which is a felony. After being processed he was arraigned before the Town of Pleasant Valley Court and released to probation.

The investigation is continuing and anyone with information about this incident or similar incidents involving Washington is urged to contact Detective Sistarenik at (845) 486-3833 or bsistarenik@dutchessny.gov. The Sheriff's Office can also be contacted via the tip line at (845) 605-2583 or dcsotips@gmail.com, and all information will be kept confidential.

Legal Notices

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
Index No:
2021-54028
Plaintiffs designates
Dutchess County as the
place of trial.
SUMMONS
The basis of the venue is
the location of the subject
real property.

-----x
NEMESIO SANTOS AND
AUTUMN THARPE,
Plaintiffs,
-against-
JOHN DOES 1-100 and
JANE DOES 1-100, being
all the heirs at law of
FREDERICK C.
THOMANN and W.O.K.
THOMANN, the UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, the
NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TAXA-
TION, JUAN ORDONEZ,
MICHELLE CENTENO,
DANIEL GUNN, 40 EVER-
GREEN AVE LLC, THE
PRIVATE EQUITY
EXCHANGE GROUP INC.
and ET QUIETE LLC,
Defendants.

-----x
TO THE HEIRS AT LAW
OF FREDERICK C.
THOMANN and W.O.K.
THOMANN:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUM-
MONED to answer the
complaint in this action.

Plaintiffs Nemesio Santos
and Autumn Tharpe have
commenced an action in
the Supreme Court of
Dutchess County (Index
No. 2021-54028) to deter-
mine claims under RPAPL
Article 15 to a .12-acre
service road adjacent to 36
Evergreen Avenue,
Poughkeepsie, New York
(SBL: 6160-01-167836).
Plaintiffs seek to establish
that they are the sole own-
ers of the title to the stated
real property in fee simple
absolute, and to forever bar
the Defendants, their heirs,
successors and/or assigns
or any persons claiming
any interest in the stated
real property by, through or
under such Defendants to
the stated real property
more fully described in the
complaint of this action,
and that full possession of
the stated real property be
exclusively granted to the
Plaintiff, and for such other
and further relief as the
Court deems just and prop-
er. Any such heirs or other
interested parties are
required to file responsive
pleadings on or before
1/21/2022. Upon your fail-
ure to appear, judgment will
be taken against you by
default and bar any right,
title or interest you may
have or had in and to a por-
tion of the property
described in the complaint.

McCABE &
MACK LLP
Attn: DANIEL C.
STAFFORD
Attorneys for
Plaintiffs
63 Washington Street
P.O. Box 509
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602-
0509
Tel: (845) 486-6800

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF WAPPINGER DUTCHESS COUNTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Town of Wappinger Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the 14th day of December, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall of Wappinger, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappinger Falls, NY pursuant to Section 240-37 of the Zoning Law of the Town of Wappinger to consider the following area variance:
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, the Zoning Board of Appeals has not made a

Legal Notices

determination of signifi-
cance pursuant to the State
Environmental Quality
Review Act and hereby
reserves its right to make
such determination after
the conclusion of the public
hearing.

Appeal No.: 21-7742 (Area
Variance)
Jiffy Lube International,
Inc.: Seeking an area vari-
ance Section 240-37 of the
District Regulations in a SC
Zoning District.

-Where 75 feet is required
to a County or State road,
the applicant can provide
57.3 feet for the construc-
tion of a new building to
allow necessary circulation
and enhanced vehicular
safety, thus requesting a
variance of 17.7 feet.

The property is located at
1506 Route 9 and is identi-
fied as Tax Grid No.: 6157-
02-653974 in the Town of
Wappinger.

All interested persons will
be heard by the Zoning
Board of Appeals of the
Town of Wappinger at the
public hearing as stated
above.

Signed:
Peter Galotti,
Chairman
Zoning Board of
Appeals
Town of Wappinger
November 18, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF WAPPINGER DUTCHESS COUNTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Town of Wappinger Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the 14th day of December, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall of Wappinger, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappinger Falls, NY pursuant to Section 240-37 of the Zoning Law of the Town of Wappinger to consider the following area variance:

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, the Zoning Board of Appeals has not made a determination of signifi-
cance pursuant to the State
Environmental Quality
Review Act and hereby
reserves its right to make
such determination after
the conclusion of the public
hearing.

Appeal No.: 21-7741
(Variance)
Richard & Erika Garland:
Seeking an area variance
Section 240-37 of District
Regulations in an R20
Zoning District.

-Where 20 feet to the side
yard (left) property line is
required, the applicant can
provide 17.5 feet for the
installation of a 15 x 30 x
54 above ground pool, thus
requesting a variance of
2.5 feet.

The property is located at
110 Kent Road on 0.49
acres and is identified as
Tax Grid No.: 6258-04-
713096 in the Town of
Wappinger.

All interested persons will
be heard by the Zoning
Board of Appeals of the
Town of Wappinger at the
public hearing as stated
above.

Signed:
Peter Galotti,
Chairman
Zoning Board of
Appeals
Town of Wappinger
November 4, 2021

Beacon Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that
a public hearing will be
continued by the Planning
Board of the City of
Beacon, Dutchess County,
New York, in the Municipal
Center courtroom, One
Municipal Plaza, Beacon,
New York, on Tuesday,
December 14, 2021 imme-
diately following the train-

Legal Notices

ing session/workshop
which begins at 7:00 PM,
and prior to the Planning
Board's SEQRA determina-
tion, to hear and consider
comments related to any
environmental impacts of
the proposed Subdivision
of property located off
Conklin Street for construc-
tion of a townhouse devel-
opment with 40-single fam-
ily units "Beacon Views
Townhouses", identified on
the City Tax Maps as
Section 6055, Block 03, Lot
331123, submitted by
Beacon Views, LLC.

Said Planning Board will, at
said time and place hear all
persons in support of such
matter or any objections
thereto. Individuals may
appear in person, by agent
or by attorney.

E. Grogan
Secretary
Beacon Planning Board

Beacon Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that
a public hearing will be
held by the Planning Board
of the City of Beacon,
Dutchess County, New
York, in the Municipal
Center courtroom, One
Municipal Plaza, Beacon,
New York, on Tuesday,
December 14, 2021 imme-
diately following the train-
ing session/workshop
which begins at 7:00 PM,
on an application for
Special Use Permit and
Site Plan Approval for an
accessory apartment at
1080 Wolcott Avenue, iden-
tified on City Tax Maps as
Section 5954, Block 34, Lot
659817, submitted by
Catrinel Bartolomeu &
Bruno Maddox.

Plans and other materials
associated with the appli-
cation may be reviewed
and downloaded from the
City's website. The
Planning Board will, at said
time and place hear all per-
sons in support of such
matter or any objections
thereto. Individuals may
appear in person, by agent
or by attorney.

E. Grogan
Secretary
Beacon Planning Board

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF DUTCHESS SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Index

No. 2020-50267
BAYVIEW LOAN SERVIC-
ING, LLC,
Plaintiff,

v.

ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS,
DEWISEES, DISTRIBU-
TEES OR SUCCESSORS
IN INTEREST OF THE
LATE THOMAS PETTIT
A/K/A THOMAS JOHN
PETTIT, IF LIVING, AND IF
ANY BE DEAD, ANY AND
ALL PERSONS WHO ARE
SPOUSES, WIDOWS,
GRANTEES, MORT-
GAGEES, LIENORS,
HEIRS, DEWISEES, DIS-
TRIBUTEES, EXECU-
TORS, ADMINISTRATORS
OR SUCCESSORS IN
INTEREST OF SUCH OF
THEM AS MAY BE DEAD,
AND THEIR SPOUSES,
HEIRS, DEWISEES, DIS-
TRIBUTEES AND SUC-
CESSORS IN INTEREST,
ALL OF WHOM AND
WHOSE NAMES AND
PLACES OF RESIDENCE
ARE UNKNOWN TO
PLAINTIFF, UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA BY
THE INTERNAL REV-
ENUE SERVICE, NEW
YORK STATE DEPART-
MENT OF TAXATION AND
FINANCE, FIRST HORI-
ZON HOME LOAN COR-
PORATION, JODI WHITE,
DANTE SCHIAVO, KYLE
PETTIT, CHRIS ERAMO,
Defendants.

To the above named
Defendants:
You are hereby summoned
to answer the complaint in

Legal Notices

this action and to serve a
copy of your answer, or if
the complaint is not served
with this summons, to
serve a notice of appear-
ance on the Plaintiff's attor-
neys within thirty days after
the service of this sum-
mons, exclusive of the day
of service, and in case of
your failure to appear or
answer, judgment will be
taken against you by
default for the relief
demanded in the com-
plaint.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to
this summons and com-
plaint by serving a copy of
the answer on the attorney
for the mortgage company
who filed this foreclosure
proceeding against you
and filing the answer with
the court, a default judg-
ment may be entered and
you can lose your home.
Speak to an attorney or go
to the court where your
case is pending for further
information on how to
answer the summons and
protect your property.

Sending a payment to your
mortgage company will not
stop this foreclosure action.
YOU MUST RESPOND BY
SERVING A COPY OF
THE ANSWER ON THE
ATTORNEY FOR THE
PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE
COMPANY) AND FILING
THE ANSWER WITH THE
COURT.

This is an attempt to collect
a debt and any information
obtained will be used for
that purpose.

The foregoing summons is
served upon you by publi-
cation pursuant to an order
of Honorable Maria G.
Rosa, Justice of the State
of New York, signed the
19th day of November,
2021 at Poughkeepsie,
New York.

The object of this action is
to foreclose a mortgage on
the following property:
Tax I.D. No. 6156-02-
600977

ALL that certain piece or
parcel of land situate in the
Town of Wappinger, County
of Dutchess and State of
New York, bounded and
described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in
the middle of the Old Post
Road, now Osborne Hill
Road, and distant South 20
degrees 50 minutes West
128.23 feet and South 15
degrees 50 minutes West
147.60 feet from a new
division line through lands
of H. Osten forming the
southeast corner of Secor
and

RUNNING THENCE along
the middle of said Old Post
Road South 15 degrees 50
minutes West 100.00 feet;
THENCE leaving said Old
Post Road and through
lands of said H. Osten
North 63 degrees 38 min-
utes West 623.22 feet to a
point in the line of formerly
Grosvenor, now Windheim;
THENCE along said line
North 66 degrees 38 min-
utes East 128.85 feet;
THENCE through lands of
said H. Osten South 63
degrees 38 minutes East
521.66 feet to the point of
BEGINNING.
Subject to easements,
covenants, and restriction
of record.

These premises are also
known as 38 Osborne Hill
Road, Wappingers Falls,
NY 12590.
Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
500 Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, NY 14604

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCB-22-21

NAME OF PROJECT:
DUTCHESS STADIUM
IMPROVEMENTS PH II &
III, Prime Bids shall be
received for the following

Legal Notices

classes of work: General
Construction, Electrical,
HVAC and Plumbing. The
anticipated start of con-
struction is February 9,
2022; the anticipated com-
pletion date is December
30, 2022, respectively.
Beginning December 2,
2021 at 8:00AM: Bid
Specifications and
Drawings may be obtained
in person Monday through
Friday 8am to 5pm or by
mail (provide your FedEx
account number or SASE)
at: Dutchess County DPW,
Business Office, 626
Dutchess Turnpike,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.
Upon request, all interest-
ed parties may review the
hard copy of the Bid
Specifications and
Drawings by visiting the
above referenced address.
The bid documents will be
distributed on a USB Flash
Drive. You must give the
following information to
obtain the flash drive:
Company Name, Address,
Contact Name, Phone
Number, E-mail Address.

A refundable deposit of
\$15.00 in the form of a
check made payable to the
Dutchess County
Commissioner of Finance
or cash will be required for
each set of bid documents.
The deposit is refundable
in accordance with General
Municipal Law Section 102
and will be made by the
County upon receipt of a
written request accompa-
nied by said USB Flash
Drive. Bids due on or
before Tuesday, January 4,
2022, 11:00AM and at that
time publicly opened and
read aloud. Bids received
after that time will not be
accepted. Bids for the
above project will be
received by: Diane
McKenna, Contract
Specialist, Dutchess
County Department of
Public Works (DPW), 626
Dutchess Turnpike-1st Fl.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Due to COVID-19, the bid
opening for this solicitation
will be conducted through
Microsoft Teams Audio
Conferencing. Anyone who
wishes to hear bids read
aloud will need to call into
the phone number listed
below, in-person atten-
dance at a bid opening will
not be allowed. We ask that
you call in at least three
minutes prior to bid
due/time to ensure you are
connected properly. All call-
ins will be asked to identify
themselves by name and
organization. Join
Microsoft Teams Meeting,
+1 516-268-4602 United
States, Hempstead (Toll)
Conference ID: 215 932
239#. All Addenda will be
issued to Plan Holders via
E-mail, but also posted on
BidNet Direct (aka Empire
State Purchasing Group)
site. Each bid shall be sub-
mitted as one paper origi-
nal and one electronic copy
and be accompanied by
Bid Security (bid bond, cer-
tified check, official bank
check) or a Letter of Credit
(in a form agreeable to
Dutchess County) in the
amount of 10% of the bid
amount. Bidders' security
will be retained until the
successful bidder has
signed the Owner-
Contractor Agreement and
the County has finalized
the Agreement. Each bid
with Bid Security shall be
enclosed in a sealed envel-
ope bearing the name of
the Project, Name of the
Bidder, and the date and
hour of the bid opening,
which must be visible upon
delivery. A Walkthrough is
scheduled for Tuesday
December 7, 2021 at
11:00AM at Dutchess
Stadium, Main gate,
Wappingers Falls, NY. All
parties interested in bid-
ding must apprise them-
selves of the site conditions

Legal Notices

immediately prior to bid-
ding; if you cannot attend
the scheduled walk-
through, you can contact
Diane McKenna at
dcmckenna@dutchessny.gov,
to schedule one.
Questions will be accepted
by the close of business
December 28, 2021 and
emailed to Diane McKenna
at
dpwcontracts@dutchess-
ny.gov with the County's
response published in
Addenda prior to 48 hours
before the bid opening
date. This project may be
subject to NYS Department
of Labor Prevailing Wage
Rates PRC #: 2021011503.
APPRENTICESHIP PRO-
GRAM: Dutchess County
requires that any contractor
or subcontractor have,
prior to entering into a
Contract for the process of
building, renovating or
demolishing a public build-
ing, owned, operated and
maintained by Dutchess
County, with a value in
excess of \$250,000.,
apprenticeship agreements
appropriate for the type
and scope of work to be
performed and which have
been registered with NYS
Department of Labor in
accordance with Article 23
of the Labor Law. The
County reserves the right
to waive irregularities in
bids and in bidding and to
reject any or all proposals.

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF FISHKILL Local Law No. E-v2 [Introductory] of 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN, that the Town
Board of the Town of
Fishkill, New York, will con-
duct a continuation of the
Public Hearing at the Town
of Fishkill Town Hall, 807
Route 52, Fishkill New York
12524 on December 15,
2021 at 7:00 p.m. or as
soon after as the matter
may be heard to consider
Local Law No. E-v2
(Introductory) of 2021, Cell
Town Ordinance.

The Town of Fishkill will
make every effort to assure
that the public hearing is
accessible to persons with
disabilities. Anyone requir-
ing special assistance
and/or accommodations
should contact the Town
Clerk.

By Order of the Town
Board
Town of Fishkill
Becki Tompkins – Town
Clerk

NOTICE TO BIDDER S
RFB-DCH-2021-16
Name of Project: CR 21 at
Smith and Maloney Roads
Intersection Improvement
Project Description: This
project is intended to
improve traffic safety on
County Route 21 (Noxon
Road) at the intersection of
Smith Rd and Maloney Rd
by modifying the vertical
alignment of Noxon Rd.
The project is located in the
Town of LaGrange,
Dutchess County. The project
generally involves
asphalt milling, paving,
excavation, grading and
drainage work. Beginning:
Wednesday, December 8,
2021 at 8:00 AM: Bid
Documents may be
obtained in person or by
mail (provide your FedEx
account number or SASE)
at: Dutchess County DPW
626 Dutchess Turnpike,
Business Office, 1st Floor,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.
Upon request, all interest-
ed parties may review the
hard copy of the Bid
Specifications and
Drawings by visiting the
above referenced address.
The bid documents are
available on a USB Flash
Drive. You must give the
following information to
obtain the flash drive:

Legal Notices

Company Name, Contact
Name, Address, Phone
Number, E-mail Address.
All Addendums will be
issued to Plan Holders via
E-mail, but also posted on
BidNet Direct (aka Empire
State Purchasing Group)
site. A refundable deposit
of \$15.00 will be required
for each set of Bid
Documents, in the form of a
check made payable to the
Dutchess County
Commissioner of Finance.
The deposit is refundable
in accordance with General
Municipal Law Section 102.
(The refund must be
requested in writing). Bids
for the above project will be
received by: Denise Spens-
Gallagher, Contract
Specialist, Dutchess
County Department of
Public Works (DPW), 626
Dutchess Turnpike, 1st
Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY
12603.

On or before Thursday,
January 6, 2022 at
11:00AM, and at that time
publicly opened and read
aloud. Bids received after
that time will not be accept-
ed. Due to COVID-19, the
bid opening for this solici-
tation will be conducted
through Microsoft Teams
Audio Conferencing.
Anyone who wishes to hear
bids read aloud will need to
call into the phone number
listed below, in-person
attendance at a bid open-
ing will not be allowed. We
ask that you call in at least
three minutes prior to bid
due/time to ensure you are
connected properly. All call-
ins will be asked to identify
themselves by name and
organization. Join
Microsoft Teams Meeting
+1 516-268-4602 United
States, Hempstead (Toll)
Conference ID: 795 643
517#

Each bid shall be submitted
as one paper original and
one electronic copy and be
accompanied by Bid
Security (bid bond, certified
check or official bank
check) or a letter of credit
(in a form agreeable to
Dutchess County) in the
amount of 10% of the bid
amount. The successful
bidder's security will be
retained until he has signed
the Owner-Contractor
Agreement and furnished
the required 100% Labor
and Material Payment
Bond, 100% Performance
Bond and acceptable insur-
ance documentation. Each
bid shall be enclosed in a
sealed envelope bearing
the name of the Project,
Name of the Bidder, and
the date and hour of the bid
opening. Questions will be
accepted until 3:00 PM on
Thursday, December 23,
2021 and shall be emailed
to

dpwcontracts@dutchess-
ny.gov. The anticipated
start of construction is
March 7, 2022, the antici-
pated substantial comple-
tion date is September 2,
2022, and the anticipated
completion date of con-
struction including all
punch list work is
September 16, 2022.
Failure to meet these dates
will result in liquidated
damages and engineering
charges in accordance with
the NYSDOT Standard
Specifications dated May 1,
2021. This project is sub-
ject to New York State
Department of Labor
Prevailing Wage Rates
PRC # 2021012118. The
County reserves the right
to waive irregularities in
Bids and in bidding and to
reject any or all Bids.

"Bidders shall promptly
notify the County of any
errors, omissions, conflicts,
and/or ambiguity that they
identify in the contract docu-
ments by emailing dpw-
contracts@dutchessny.gov
."

56 firearms turned in during gun buyback

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced that 56 firearms were turned in to law enforcement at a gun buyback event hosted by her office and the Poughkeepsie Police Department. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) accepts — with no questions asked — working and non-working, unloaded firearms in exchange for compensation on site. Last week's event — which marks the last OAG gun buyback this year — is a part of Attorney General James' initiative to combat gun violence and protect New Yorkers throughout the state. In 2021, Attorney General James recovered nearly 2,100 guns from 18 buyback events and other measures that were held throughout the entire state. To date, Attorney General James has taken nearly 2,700 firearms out of communities through gun buyback events and other efforts since taking office in 2019.

Last week's community gun buyback resulted in the collection of 56 guns, including 15 handguns, 33 shotguns and

rifles, 6 assault rifles, and 2 non-working guns. Since 2013, the OAG has hosted gun buyback events throughout New York state and has successfully collected nearly 4,700 firearms.

In exchange for the firearms, the OAG offered monetary compensation, in the form of prepaid gift cards, when an unloaded gun was received and secured by an officer on site.

"Over the past year, areas throughout New York state have experienced record high levels of gun violence and devastation," said Attorney General James. "In an effort to crack down on this violence and protect our communities, we held 18 gun buybacks and successfully took nearly 2,100 guns off the streets. Every gun that is turned in at our gun buybacks is a potential tragedy averted and a potential life saved. I thank the Poughkeepsie Police Department and our other partners in law enforcement for their invaluable support and collaboration in keeping our neighborhoods safe."

COVID-19 vaccine questions?

> Get the latest info at [GetVaccineAnswers.org](https://www.getvaccineanswers.org)



OBITUARIES

Bruce V. W. Coons

MILAN — Bruce V. W. Coons, 57, of Milan, NY, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, November 28, 2021 at his home. Born on August 27, 1964, in Rhinebeck, NY, he was the son of the late Charles Coons and Margarete "Margie" (Wendover) Coons of Milan, NY. Bruce married the love of his life Renee Caporaletti on April 8, 1989 in Cliffside Park, NJ. Bruce's greatest joy in life was his family, all that he did was to provide for them. He is known for his enormous heart and the love he was able to spread. Bruce always enjoyed keeping busy on his property, whether it be doing the leaves, gardening or playing soccer with his beloved Bella Girl. He took great pride in his property and home he built for his family to live and grow. Bruce cherished the time he was able to go fishing with his son Ryan. He was a hard worker in and out of the home. He has worked as a laborer for Darlind Construction in Lagrange, NY for the past 15 years. In addition to his mother, Margie and wife, Renee, Bruce is survived by his pride and joy, his children, Ryan and Alexandria Coons of Milan, NY; Katarina Agate, Ryan's girlfriend whom he loved like his own; his brother, Brian (Jennifer) Coons; his nephew and niece, Andrew and Maribeth; in addition to countless aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook, NY. Burial will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Red Hook. Arrangements are under the direction of Burnett & White Funeral Homes 7461 S. Broadway, Red Hook, NY. To sign the online guest book, please visit www.Burnett-White.com.

Mary Helen 'Marie' Gallagher

RHINEBECK — Mary Helen "Marie" Gallagher, 90, of Poughkeepsie, NY, passed away Saturday, 27 November 2021, at Ferncliff Nursing Home, Rhinebeck, NY. Born in Northampton, MA, 7 March 1931, she was the daughter of Thomas Randall and Barbara Randall. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and aunt. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Timothy and Judy Gallagher of Milwaukee, WI; her brother-in-law and his wife Joseph and Flo Gallagher of Poughkeepsie; grandchildren Ian Gallagher, and Sean and Kerry Gallagher, her great-grandchild, Emily; several nieces and nephews. Marie was predeceased by her loving husband, Robert A. Gallagher; her son Kevin P. Gallagher; her two sisters, Barbara (Sissy) and Elizabeth (Betty); her two brothers, Thomas (Pete) and William Randall. There are no calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, December 6, 2021, at Holy Trinity Church, 775 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Burial will follow at St. Peter's Cemetery. If desired, please make donations to the

Alzheimer's Association or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Arrangements are under the direction of the William G. Miller & Son Funeral Home, Inc., 371 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com.

Robert Gile

STORMVILLE — Robert M. 'Bob' Gile of Stormville passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 27, 2021, at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital. He was 74 years old. Born in Peekskill in 1947, to parents Milton and Josephine Gile (Stanicek), Bob graduated from Pace University with a degree in Business Administration. He was a veteran of the United States Army and served a tour overseas in Germany. Upon returning stateside, he worked for US Alliance Federal Credit Union, where he retired after a 35-year career. An avid outdoorsman, Bob enjoyed spending his free time hunting, fishing, camping and playing golf. In his later years, he loved spending time with his grandchildren and supporting them in all of their various activities. Always willing to give back to his community, Bob served as baseball treasurer for the Beekman Little League for over 30 years. He is survived by his three children, Alicia Hunter (Dan), Denise Gile and Dan Gile (Jimelle); eight grandchildren, Gemma, Ronan, Gavin, Sullivan, Grace, Finley, Bronson and Savannah; six siblings, Joanne Gile (John Whitman), Shirley Sheridan (Dennis), Sandra VanScoy (Jack), Linda Sneddon (Robert), Richard Gile (Anne) and Ken Gile; and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents, Milton and Josephine, and his brother Ron Gile. Services were held at McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. Final interment will be in Oneonta, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Beekman Athletic Club (PO Box 364, Poughquag, NY 12570).

Jared T. Hammerling

HYDE PARK — Jared Thomas Hammerling, 29, of Hyde Park, died unexpectedly on Saturday, November 27, 2021, as a result of injuries sustained in an accident. Born January 24, 1992, in Poughkeepsie, he was the son of Stephen and Kelly Ann Sawyer Hammerling. His parents survive in Napanoch. Formerly of Red Hook, he attended Red Hook Schools. Jared did tree work since he was a teenager and eventually owned and operated his own business, Spittin Timber Tree & Land Services. An avid outdoorsman, he loved to fish and hunt with his friends and family, especially his three children. On July 26, 2014, in Port Ewen, he married the former Kelly Anne Hardinge. Mrs. Hammerling survives at home. In addition to his wife and parents, he is survived by his three children, Cody Hardinge, and Hunter and Faylynn

Hammerling; sister, Allie Garcia and husband, Luis, of Clinton Corners; and niece, Alina Garcia. He is also survived by his aunts and uncles, Kenneth Lee and Patti Sawyer of Hyde Park, Karen Sawyer of Port St. Lucie, Florida, Peter Hammerling Jr. of Florida, Fred and Andrea Hammerling of Poughkeepsie, and many cousins. On his wife's side of the family (whom he considered family), survivors include Kelly's parents, Walter and Theresa Hardinge of Poughkeepsie; aunts and uncles, John Robinson of Hyde Park, Randy and Duane Story of Columbia, South Carolina; two sisters-in-law, Susan Haywood and husband, Mark, of Ghent, and Samantha Hardinge of Milton, Florida, and their families. Jared was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Kenneth and Margaret Sawyer; paternal grandparents, Peter and Catherine Hammerling; and grandmother-in-law, Fay Robinson (whom his daughter, Faylynn, is named after). Cremation has taken place. Memorial calling hours were Saturday, December 4th at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. A celebration of Jared's life will take place during the visitation. In lieu of flowers, Jared's family respectfully requests memorial donations to either of the following [gofundme](https://gofundme.com/f/beloved-jared-hammerling) accounts to benefit his family: <https://gofundme.com/f/beloved-jared-hammerling> or <https://gofundme.com/c714d1fb>. To send an online condolence, please visit Jared's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Frank Surico Jr.

PINE PLAINS — Frank Surico Jr., 78 of Pine Plains passed away unexpectedly on November 30, 2021 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. Born on March 5, 1943 in Poughkeepsie, to Frank Sr. and Celeste Surico. Frank was a self employed roofer before becoming a car salesman. He enjoyed spending time in Long Lake, NY flying his friend's seaplane. Family meant the world to him. Frank is survived by his daughter, Kelly Surico-Hay, his granddaughter, Amanda Wyant and her husband Christopher. Two great granddaughters, Khloe MacDonald and Evalyn Wyant. Also surviving are his two sisters, Cathy Spross and Isabella Landers, in addition to several nieces and nephews. Frank is predeceased by his granddaughter, Ashley Rockefeller and his brothers; John, James, Donald, Gary, David and Joel Surico. Also by his nephew Frank Scott. Services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. To leave a message of condolence please visit www.peckand-peck.net.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF FISHKILL ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Fishkill will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, commencing at 7:00 PM in the Francois R. Cross Meeting room located in the lobby of the Town of Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, NY to consider an area variance for Louis Ferreira who seeks the following avenue of relief for the purpose of constructing a 480 square foot uncovered deck to service an existing kitchen door. A 7 ft. 5 in. left side yard setback variance where 20 ft. is the minimum setback requirement. Said request would result in a 12 ft. 7 in. left yard setback.

Legal Notices

The land affected by this application is shown generally on the Tax Map as Section 6256, Block 15, Lot 277635, is located at 15 Westview Drive, and consists of 0.61 acres in the R-20 Zoning District in the Town of Fishkill. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the Zoning Board of Appeals has not made a determination of significance pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and hereby reserves its right to make such determination after the conclusion of the public hearing. All interested persons will be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Fishkill at the public hearing as stated above. By Order Of The Zoning Board of Appeals
Of the Town of Fishkill,
New York

Legal Notices

Debbie Colonna, Secretary
REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-74-21
Heavy Duty Buses for Dutchess County Public Transit
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 30th day of December 2021 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 web site <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

Real Estate SHOWCASE

Kimberlee Markarian
 Associate Real Estate Broker
 m. 845.505.9174 | d. 845.244.2188
 kmarkarian@bhhshudsonvalley.com
 kimberleemarkarian.bhhshudsonvalley.com



Wishing you
**a Happy, Safe
 and Healthy Fall!**

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 are ready to **Buy or Sell!**

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HATHAWAY | Properties
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Personal

I believe that our country needs a new energy source, so I am going to suggest one. Stand, take a deep breath, and relax. Place your elbows by your sides, extend your arms, and let your fingers hang limply. Notice that you are still. Next, turn your head to the side and stare at the solid color red. After a few seconds most people will feel a force pushing them one yar or another.

When I do it, red pushes me away from the color as does yellow, but with less force. Green pulls me towards the color as does blue, but with less speed. Others have felt themselves going forwards or backwards. Still other people experienced nothing.

We should try to figure out how to harness this force. Maybe it would decrease our dependence on all the things that we are removing from the Planet. Once that occurs maybe our roads will stop cracking and our buildings will stop heaving.

Ethan Sherman (845) 452-5322

Place this size ad in the

Southern Dutchess News,

Northern Dutchess News and the

Beacon Free Press for only

\$43.75/week or 4 consecutive weeks for \$157.50 total.

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Legislature adopts 2022 Budget

The 2022 Dutchess County Budget was adopted with bipartisan approval of the Dutchess County Legislature on Thursday, Dec. 2, with more than \$20 million in annual tax relief, including the largest property tax decrease in county history, as well as the elimination of sales tax on clothing and footwear items up to \$110.

Several legislative amendments were made to County Executive Marc Molinaro's Proposed County Budget to further increase grant program funding, including not-for-profit infrastructure projects, Fire and Safety equipment for local emergency services as well as the popular Learn, Play, Create: Supporting Our Kids grant program.

As previously announced, the 2022 County Budget expands and enhances county services and programs that residents rely on. The budget includes new initiatives addressing mental health and substance use, among others, while continuing critical programs for children, families, seniors and veterans, as well as funding for County parks and other vital programming.

Legislative Amendments to the 2022 County Budget include:

- \$1 million increase to the Department of Planning and Development's Agency Partnership Grant Program (APG) for not-for-profit infrastructure projects.

- \$2 million increase to the Department of Planning and Development's Municipal Innovation Grant Program (MIG), including:

- Expanded Fire/Safety grant opportunities focused on one-time equipment and capital investments.

- Additional grant opportunities for community projects

- \$500,000 increase to the popular Learn, Play, Create grant program to provide opportunities for youth in sports, libraries and arts.

- \$500,000 increase to the Department of Community & Family Services Youth Services Division focused on youth violence in schools.

- \$88,000 increase to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health for additional recovery coaches.

- \$50,000 increase to the Department of Community & Family Services to create new competitive grant program to assist destinations with improving access and experience for those with special needs.

- \$50,000 increase to Division of Veterans' Services to expand the HERO program for housing, employment and events for Dutchess County veterans.

The above amendments, as well as additional staffing support to the Legislature, were funded with appropriations from the county's General Fund Balance. The county's unassigned fund balance increased more than \$3 million to just over \$60 million in the 2020 year-end audited financial statement and, because Molinaro's proposed budget did not appropriate any fund balance, the amended appropriations will have little impact, keeping Dutchess County's fiscal foundation solid for the future.

The adoption of the 2022 Dutchess County Budget followed several town hall forums, including a countywide telephone town hall, during which residents had the opportunity to speak with Molinaro to learn about the details of the budget, ask questions and share their feedback.

The budget, with amendments, will now be forwarded to Molinaro for review and signature. The final step in the 2022 Dutchess County Budget process – override consideration of any amendment vetoes by the County Executive and the adoption of the tax levy – will be on Monday, Dec. 13, at the Dutchess County Legislature's Board meeting.

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