

NORTHERN
DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

Volume 15, Issue 50 • December 13-19, 2023 • 50¢

A division of The Southern Dutchess News ~ Entirely produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959 ~ www.sdutchessnews.com

Holiday Time in NYC offers many new & traditional venues

"Silver Bells, Silver Bells,
It's Christmas time in the City. . ."
Old Holiday Carol

By Jim Donick

This is the time of year when Dutchess County families often think that it might be a good time to travel into New York City to admire the lights and that most famous of trees, the Christmas Tree in Rockefeller Center.

For those who seldom travel to the city and may even find the prospect daunting, we can offer the thought that the trip is anything but difficult.

The only good way to go down is via MetroNorth train. Weekends offer free parking at all of the local MetroNorth stations. Parking for the day downtown NYC is likely well over \$50. There's also the traffic to consider. The trains run pretty much on time and are a lot less expensive than driving and parking. One can also relax on the way home after a day of walking around Manhattan.

NYC is even more full of life at the holiday period.

The Christmas Tree in Rockefeller Center is a short walk uptown from Grand Central Terminal. It's at least as magical today as when the first one was put up in 1931 by Irish-American construction workers building the Center. They decorated a smaller 20-foot balsam fir with "strings of cranberries, garlands of paper, and even a few tin cans" on Christmas Eve. The tree became official two years later with the lighting of a 50-foot-tall tree that was the first of now a 90-year tradition of trees that have been a holiday beacon for New Yorkers and much of the rest of the world.

If one is feeling adventurous, it's possible to rent skates and enjoy the experience of ice skating on the rink



The traditional Christmas Tree in Rockefeller Center is a short walk uptown from the Grand Central Terminal in New York City.

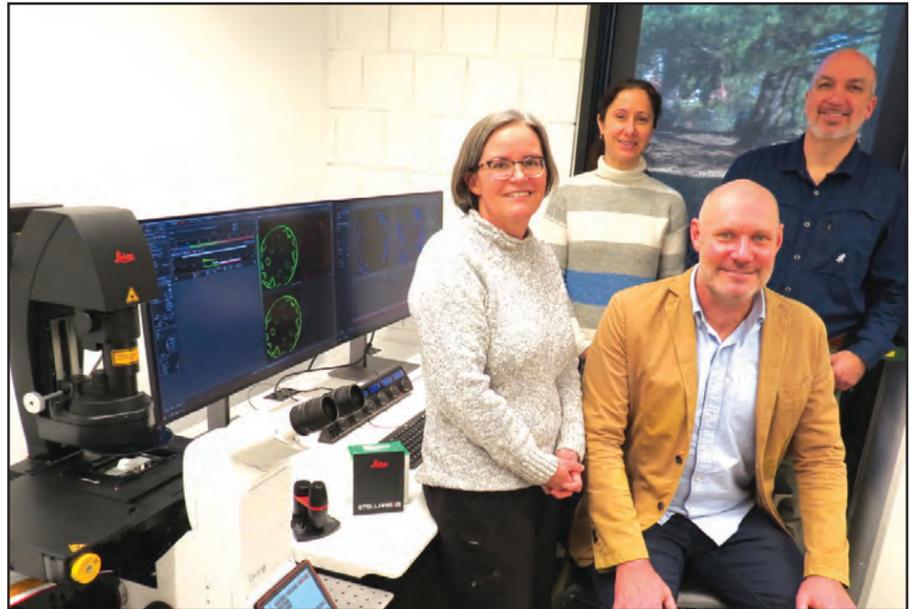
Photo by Jim Donick

below the tree. A reservation is generally required for skating at this time of year. Renting equipment is an additional \$11 over the cost of the ticket to skate.

Across Fifth Avenue is St. Patrick's Cathedral. Admission is free and the inside is particularly beautiful at this time of year. Their Crèche is large and worth a visit.

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Vassar team: Confocal microscope to revolutionize scientific research



Vassar College associate professors, from left, Jennifer Kennell, Bojana Zupan, Hadley Bergstrom, seated, and microscope manager Dave Lewis are pictured with the school's new Leica Stellaris 8 confocal microscope.

Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Faculty to share instrument with area colleges

By Rich Thomaselli

If they seem a little excited and giddy at Vassar College these days, there is good reason.

Researchers have finally received a state-of-the-art, million-dollar microscope that will be used by Vassar, SUNY New Paltz and Marist.

The arrival of the microscope represents year's long effort by Vassar Associate Professor of Psychological Science, Hadley Bergstrom, and his colleagues to receive a grant from the National Science Foundation to help purchase the instrument.

But it was worth the wait.

"The more publicity we can get out

there about this means the more researchers and students can use it," said Bergstrom, who added that he hopes other schools like Bard, Mount St. Mary and Dutchess would like to become involved in using the microscope.

The new instrument is expected to help professors and students alike to enhance their research opportunities. A confocal microscope uses a laser to create a 3D image of very small biological structures.

Yes, the days of looking at a strand of hair or a drop of blood under a microscope are long over with.

"Well," Bergstrom said with a laugh, "maybe not over, but it sure is a lot more powerful."

The Leica Stellaris 8, as the confocal microscope is known, is a next-generation piece of equipment that is

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Legislature adopts 2024 County budget

The 2024 Dutchess County Budget was adopted by the County Legislature by a bipartisan vote of 15-9 Thursday evening (with Legislator Giancarlo Llaverias absent for the vote), passing a \$601 million spending plan that provides sustained property tax relief for residents and maintains the County's high-caliber services and programs for children, families, veterans, seniors and vulnerable populations, among others.

The 2024 budget includes the 11th straight property tax rate decrease and the 10th consecutive property tax levy reduction and maintains the sales tax exemption on clothing and footwear items under \$110 each. As previously announced, the 2024 County Budget focuses on serving the needs of Dutchess County residents, including funding to address housing and homelessness, enhance public safety, support law

enforcement, expand composting opportunities, and continue critical partnerships with community collaborators. Legislative amendments further increased funding for veterans, law enforcement, at-risk youth, and tourism among other initiatives.

County Executive William F.X. O'Neil said, "This is a reasonable budget that not only takes into consideration the needs of all our residents, but funds

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INSIDE:
Adams Fairacre Farms





Vassar College Associate Professor of Psychological Science Hadley Bergstrom instructs student Abi Tramell, a sophomore majoring in Biochemistry.

Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Vassar microscope

continued from cover

expected to revolutionize research. Or as one professor told Vassar College magazine, what now takes an hour-and-a-half to do could be done in eight minutes with the new microscope.

Moreover, the microscope is not something you can just carry around. The entire apparatus, including monitors, takes up about half a room.

Bergstrom said that 12 faculty members just from Vassar alone across five departments contributed to writing the proposal. Jennifer Kennell, Associate Professor, in the department of Biology and Bojana Zupan, Associate Professor, in the department of Psychological Science were co-Principal Investigators on the grant.

“One of the things we talked about was using the piece of equipment

across several disciplines and how we could get funding that way,” said Zupan. “We looked at what the possibilities were for our type of institutions.”

The collaborative effort is consistent with what other Vassar faculty have done in trying to further scientific research in the region among faculty and students as well. The grant proposal took three years to write. In fact, it was rejected two years in a row before finally being accepted by the National Science Foundation.

Zupan said that once the language in the proposal was mastered, it simply became a matter of the funds opening up.

“This was a piece of equipment that was going to be used by other faculty in our area in their research,” she said.

“The other institutions understood what their research needs were and incorporated that.”

“We call it a regional resource,” Bergstrom said. “It’s the most advanced microscope of its kind in the region.”

Lydia Bright, Professor of Biology at SUNY New Paltz, told Vassar magazine that the new microscope is ideal for looking at live cells and will further enhance her own research.

Confocal Microscopy. Who knew it could be so sexy?

Now a whole region of college students – and more – is about to find out.

“Now, undergraduate students can train on this kind of advanced microscope,” Bergstrom said. “We’re very excited.”



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(Published weekly)

Northern Dutchess News & Creative Living is a division of the Southern Dutchess News, produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959. The Southern Dutchess News is an official newspaper of Dutchess County, as voted by the Dutchess County Legislature. The Northern Dutchess News is the official newspaper of the Towns of Amenia, Millbrook, Union Vale, Stanford and Rhinebeck.

Submit all legal notices
to sdnlegals@aol.com.

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Advertising deadline: Friday, noon

To submit news and letters to the editor:
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Deadline is Thursday at 3 p.m.

To submit arts-related news
and calendar events:
creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com
Creative Living deadline is Thursday
at 3 p.m. for publication the following week.

Northern Dutchess News serves the towns of Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Milan, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale and Washington; the villages of Millbrook, Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Tivoli; and the hamlet of Salt Point

The Southern Dutchess News
84 East Main Street
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
845-297-3723

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.

Baxter Building sets charitable events

To the editor:

Baxter Building Corp, leading contractor and developer, and advocate for community engagement and charitable activities, is thrilled to announce its annual giveaway event. This year, Baxter is focusing on supporting local non-profits every Friday throughout December, leading up to the Christmas holiday. This initiative is not only a celebration of the holiday spirit but also a call to action for community members to contribute to meaningful causes.

Understanding the importance of community support, Baxter has pledged to match donations in a unique way. For every new follower Baxter gains on its social media platforms during December, the company will match this with a monetary donation to the featured nonprofit of the week, up to \$1,500. This year, we are proud to partner with four outstanding organizations: Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum, the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, and Access Supports for Living

"Our mission at Baxter extends beyond our day-to-day operations. We are committed to building stronger communities, not just through our projects but also through our support for vital local organizations. This annual giveaway is a testament to our dedication to making a real difference," says Patrick Moore, Director of Construction at Baxter. "We're harnessing the power of social media to foster a community of support and generosity. Your follows, likes, and shares have the power to make a tangible difference."

Baxter encourages everyone to participate in this season of giving. Follow us, share our content, and help us support these essential organizations that are the backbone of our community.

Weekly Nonprofit Spotlights

- December 1st: Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, known for their incredible work in building and repairing homes for families in need.
- December 8th: Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum, which has been enlightening young minds through interactive and educational exhibits.
- December 15th: Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, a lifeline for families facing food insecurity in our region.
- December 22nd: Access Supports for Living, an organization dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities and mental health issues.

Baxter Building Corporation
Poughkeepsie

Stanford Lions say 'Thank You' to all for help with Holiday of Lights event

To the editor:

The Stanford Lions Club wishes to thank the Stanford community for their helping make the Holiday of Lights possible!

Please thank and support the restaurants in town for their generous food contributions: Coyote Flaco provided tacos and fixings, Peyo's donated the penne a la vodka pasta and Three Brothers provided the pizza.

The Bank of Millbrook donated financially and the Stanford Fire Company provided the venue, Santa, the Grinch and the Sparkle Tree, plus cider and donuts. They also staged the flat

line-up, and the Stanford Highway Dept. participated and decorated for the occasion. In addition, Stanford Grange #808 helped with the food service and Duffy Layton contributed his parking area for the vent.

The Holiday of Lights parade would not be possible without the wonderful display of floats, vehicles and "walkers" for this parade! In addition - a very special "thank you" to the community for coming out on that winter evening. The Lions Club appreciates the community camaraderie!

Thanks again.

The Stanford Lions Club
and

The Holiday of Lights Committee

Honest two-state solution to Israeli-Hamas war

To the editor:

I see the Israeli - Hamas (Palestinian) war like a festering wound and the only solution being an honest two-state solution. The wound was opened with what I consider a justified establishment of Israel in May 1948 by the United Nations world body in response to the horrendous holocaust carried out on the Jews by Nazi Germany and their cohorts.

This was done with 750,000 Palestinians being driven out of their homeland and 531 villages destroyed (Washington Post). The closest thing in American history was the "Trail of Tears" forced displacement of about 60,000 people of the Indian "five civilized tribes" between 1830-1850 by the US Government.

The count of killed since October 7, 2023 is about 1,332 Israelis (Wikipedia) and 17,177 Palestinians and we see no end to the "blood lust," but we do see our country being torn apart by groups choosing up sides. The Hamas attack on Israel was a horrendous atrocity and Israel has a right to self-defense, but does not have "clean hands" in this problem.

The Palestinian territory has been under Military occupation by Israel for over 55 years while taking land by Israeli Settler occupation and fragmenting the Territory by forcing Palestinians into enclaves reminiscent of the Gettos that Nazis forced Jews into before WWII. Since Israel occupied the West Bank in 2008, there have been 6,665 Palestinians killed (OCHA). In 2017, Israel stripped 14,595 Palestinians of their residency status in East Jerusalem. There was a time when Jews and Palestinians lived peacefully together in this land (M. Klein "Lives in Common: Arabs and Jews in Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Hebron").

My version of a two- state solution would be both Israel and West bank Palestine having access to the Mediterranean Sea. The Gaza strip being given to Israel in exchange for a perpetual easement strip from the West Bank to and along the Mediterranean, possibly near Netanya Israel, for width equivalent to the present Gaza strip water frontage. This would include a right to develop and specified area for commercial development together with right of Palestinians to jointly settle in the easement strip. The Gaza strip population as of 2023 was 2.1 million (CIA gov). The rights of Palestinians to East Jerusalem,(holy to Jew, Muslim, Christian) should be included.

David F. Queen
Red Hook

Lois releases 2023 Q3 update on allocation and spending of ARP funds

The Dutchess County Comptroller's Office has released its Q3 Special Update Report on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) federal funding, the "Dutchess Invests" spending plan, and actual expenditures/obligations of the County as of September 30, 2023. The County has received a total of \$57,148,397 in ARP funds and has since spent \$25,111,702, of which \$2,297,254 was spent in the 3rd quarter. The remaining \$32,036,695 must be incurred or obligated by December 31, 2024.

The five largest expenditures from Q2 were for: (1) County Payroll and Benefits - \$919,988; (2) Architectural planning and design of the Youth Opportunity Center - \$304,943; (3)

Mechatronics lab equipment at Dutchess County Community College - \$267,912; (4) Infrastructure improvements to Hillcrest and Hudson River Lodging homeless shelters - \$197,339, and (5) Playground equipment for Hackett Hill playground in the Town of Hyde Park - \$170,000.

The ARP Strategic Plan was updated on June 30, 2023, and no changes have been made since the last report from the Comptroller's Office dated August 2023.

The ARP Update report can be found at www.dutchessny.gov; select Departments, then Comptroller.

OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
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- The Northern Dutchess News will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

Legislature adopts 2024 County budget

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them in the most responsible manner possible. This budget upholds more than a decade of competent stewardship of residents' hard-earned dollars, which they entrust to their County Government, while ensuring they are spent in the most cost-effective way. I thank our partners in the County Legislature for their earnest scrutiny over the past month, culminating in this adoption."

The 2024 budget deals with the multi-million-dollar impact of ever-increasing mandated costs that New York State requires counties to pay. For 2024, additional costs from New York State added more than \$16 million of expenses to the County's budget and these cost increases are certain to continue as State officials warn of mounting budget deficits. To offset added costs from the State, counties must either identify additional revenue or reduce program and services expenses, which would have to come from non-mandated areas, such as mental health services, 911 emergency dispatch, road and bridge maintenance, parks and recreation or law enforcement, and for the 2024 Dutchess County Budget, such service reduction would equate to over 70 layoffs.

To fund the added State mandated costs and avoid layoffs and service reductions, the 2024 budget will adjust Dutchess County sales tax from 3.75 percent to 4 percent, slated to be effective June 2024, pending approval by the State Legislature. This change will generate an additional \$8.3 million in sales tax revenue for 2024 and provide annual revenue of \$14.2 million to offset state cost shifts. The sales tax rate change will also result in additional County revenue to local municipalities – as Dutchess County shares its sales tax revenue with its 30 towns, cities and villages – providing an additional \$1.7 million to offset local budgets in 2024, and approximately \$3 million annually thereafter.

The budget also increases the County's hotel tax, paid primarily from visitors to Dutchess County, from 4 to 5 percent, estimated to result in \$4.8 million in total revenue in 2024.

County Executive O'Neil submitted his Executive Budget proposal to the County Legislature on Nov. 1, and over the past five weeks, the Legislature's Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee has held budget review meetings and made several changes to the budget proposal. The final legislative changes were made through a series of amendments to the Executive's proposal.

Legislator Michael Polasek said, "As Chair of the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee, I am proud of the work that was done to help craft the 2024 Budget and to have cast my vote in support. Our committee spent countless time meeting with departments to ensure that each dollar allocated was spent responsibly and best serves the taxpayers. Not only does this budget continue to fund essential services, but it continues to offer property tax reductions and

expand resources for our community."

Legislative Amendments to the 2024 County Budget include:

- \$500,00 delineated in contingency funding specifically for Board of Elections expenses;
- \$417,587 to adjust the salaries of County elected officials;
- \$350,000 for the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office for road patrol overtime;
- \$200,000 in reclaimed funds from Agency Partner Grant program for the Department of Planning and Development for a competitive grant program;
- \$100,000 for the Division of Veterans Services for a competitive grant program for nonprofit organizations or municipalities to make general capital infrastructure investments to facilities that serve veterans or for therapeutic animal programming for veterans;
- \$50,000 for the Department of Planning and Development for the creation of a "Stay Local" promotional campaign through Dutchess Tourism, Inc.;
- \$45,000 for the Department of Community and Family Services to provide grant funding for after-school programming for at-risk youth;
- \$25,000 for the Department of Community and Family Services in additional Path to Promise mini grants;
- \$20,000 for additional Human Rights Commission activities;
- \$26,560 for the Department of Behavioral & Community Health to hire a part-time Recovery Coach to work with young adults ages 18-25;
- \$3,000 for enhanced communication for domestic violence victims;
- \$2,000 for the Department of Behavioral and Community Health to expand existing compliance checks of under-age sales of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis; and
- \$2,000 for the Division of Veterans Services for the development of a Veteran Challenge Coin program.

The above amendments were funded with appropriations from the County's general fund balance, the County's debt reserve, Department of Motor Vehicle fees and State reimbursement for under-age compliance checks.

Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver said, "I am proud to have voted in favor of the 2024 County Budget - and my last one as the Legislature Chairman. After an extensive review process, I believe this budget best prepares Dutchess County for not only the next fiscal year but sets us in a position for success in future years. By making meaningful decisions, the Dutchess County Legislature reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing the life of all our Dutchess County residents."

The budget, with amendments, will now be forwarded to O'Neil for review and signature. The final step in the 2024 Dutchess County Budget process, override consideration of any amendment vetoes by the County Executive and the adoption of the tax levy, will take place on Monday, Dec. 18 at the Dutchess County Legislature's Board Meeting.



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- NYS Troopers
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As people make travel plans to celebrate with family and friends this year, the American Red Cross asks donors to set aside time to give blood or platelets for patients waiting for care over the holidays.

From a record number of people expected to travel to seasonal illnesses and the potential for hazardous winter weather, it can be difficult for the Red Cross to collect enough blood for patients during the winter months. When donors come to give the gift of a blood or platelet donation in December, the Red Cross will say thank you with several exciting opportunities:

- Thanks to Prime Video and their new film, "Candy Cane Lane," featuring an all-star cast, including Eddie Murphy and Tracee Ellis Ross, and directed by Reginald Hudlin, those who come to give blood, platelets or AB Elite plasma through Dec. 31 will automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card and a 65-inch Omni QLED Series Amazon Fire TV. Details available at RedCrossBlood.org/Amazon.

- Those who come to give blood, platelets or AB Elite plasma through Dec. 17, will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Details available at RedCrossBlood.org/Amazon.

- Those who come to give blood, platelets or AB Elite plasma Dec. 18, 2023-Jan. 5, 2024, will receive an

exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Making and keeping appointments throughout the month can help safeguard the national blood supply into the new year. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in December

Fishkill
Dec. 22: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., I-84 Diner, 853 NY-52

Hyde Park
Dec. 16: 9:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m., Hyde Park Elementary School, 4327 Albany Post Rd

Dec. 29: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 4526 Albany Post Rd.

Millbrook
Dec. 20: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Millbrook Fire House, 20 Front St.

Pawling
Dec. 13: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Lakeside Park, 2 Lakeside Dr

Poughkeepsie
Dec. 26: Noon - 6 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road

Rhinebeck
Dec. 20: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Northern Dutchess Hospital, 6511 Spring Brook Ave

Tivoli
Dec. 28: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Masonic Lodge in Tivoli, 7 N. Rd.

Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park's Inn at Bellefield opening Jan. 2024

Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park, a \$1 billion, world-class hospitality, agritourism and residential destination located directly across from the Culinary Institute of America, will soon conclude construction of its first structure, the Inn at Bellefield Residence Inn by Marriott International, a 137-room all-suite hotel with sophisticated amenities that will provide an elite lodging experience.

The Inn at Bellefield is now accepting reservations starting January 14, 2024 and expects to welcome its first guests shortly thereafter. The Inn at Bellefield is a \$55 million project developed by T-Rex Capital Group, LLC, in partnership with Shaner Hotel Group, LP, an award-winning international hotel owner and operator. It is the first of two hotels the completed development will offer.

Located at 25 Old Vineyard Place on a natural rise with sweeping vistas, the Inn at Bellefield will feature full kitchens, ergonomic workstations, an upscale fitness center, crisp linens and distinct living and sleeping rooms. The Inn at Bellefield also will offer 3,180 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting space with full audio/video and culinary services. The hotel's Grand Ballroom will accommodate events of up to 150 guests. Guests will be able to dine at The Storyteller, a farm-to-table lounge serving delicious meals, local craft beers and specialty cocktails, or grab a quick bite and sundries at Eleanor's Market, named after the former Hyde Park resident, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

"We are very excited to welcome our first guests to the hotel in January 2024," said Lance T. Shaner, chairman and CEO, Shaner Hotel Group, LP. "With an unmatched location in the heart of Hyde Park, the Inn at Bellefield is designed to appeal to both business and leisure travelers seeking a truly unique experience. From the signature sycamore wood throughout our lobby to the Franklin D. Roosevelt fireside-chat recordings playing alongside our outdoor fire pits, the hotel design and layout spotlight the region's illustrious history to create a standout property unlike anything else in Dutchess County."

The eco-conscious Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park property is situated between Rhinebeck to the north and Beacon further to the south. This ideal location is close to international attractions such as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, Walkway Over the Hudson, Vassar College, Marist College, Bard College, the United States Military Academy at West Point, Legoland New York, Woodbury Common Premium Outlets, Brotherhood Winery (America's Oldest Winery) and numerous other scenic and historic attractions throughout the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains.

"The Inn at Bellefield looks forward to becoming a true member of the community as we continue to cultivate working relationships with local farmers, distilleries and brewers such as the new Asahi Shuzo Dassai Blue sake brewery," said Inn at Bellefield General Manager Adam Pregno. "Additionally, after supporting almost 200

construction jobs, the Inn at Bellefield is proud to create as many as 35 new jobs for our extraordinary hotel associates. At least 80% of the construction jobs went to people residing within the nine, local counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester. We eagerly anticipate the Inn at Bellefield becoming a compelling destination for both guests unwinding after a day of adventures and locals enjoying our beautiful grounds and views."

"We're gratified that the debut of the Inn at Bellefield is approaching and that it will play a significant role in advancing Hyde Park's reputation as a world-renowned tourism destination," said Thomas Mulroy, chairman and CEO, T-Rex Capital Group, LLC. "This milestone, one of many to come at Bellefield, is the culmination of a decade of methodical development and perseverance, including through the Covid 19 pandemic. We will be thrilled to say hello to guests and showcase all that Bellefield, Hyde Park and the Hudson Valley have to offer." When Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park is completed, residential space will comprise 60% of the development and commercial space will make up the remaining 40%. The site will help preserve the region's natural beauty by ensuring that more than half of the property's 340 acres remain as undeveloped woods. The next phases of construction include:

- 430,000 square feet of retail and commercial space that will include restaurants, breweries, a high-end grocer, day care, co-working space, a film production studio and agriculturally themed specialty shops

- 400,000 square feet of tourism and hospitality space, including a second luxury hotel

- Approximately 801 residential units, of which 344 will be rental units

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "The Inn at Bellefield will showcase the Mid-Hudson as an amazing place to live, work and visit. Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park will represent the best of the Hudson Valley, with its rich food, history and natural beauty, and bring jobs and tourism that will help to grow the regional economy."

New York State's Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council and Empire State Development have played a vital role in facilitating Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park, supporting the project with a \$2.25 million capital grant from Empire State Development. Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park was twice designated a regional priority project by the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council. Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park appreciates the ongoing support from the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency, the Town of Hyde Park and the Hyde Park Central School District.

To learn more about the Inn at Bellefield Residence Inn by Marriott International or make reservations, please visit the Inn at Bellefield's [Marriott Bonvoy](http://MarriottBonvoy.com) web page.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES

Northern Dutchess News will be on a holiday schedule for the December 27, 2023 and January 3, 2024 issues.

Editorial and Advertising deadlines for the December 27 issue is Thursday, December 21, at 5 p.m.

Editorial and Advertising deadlines for the January 3 issue is Thursday, Dec. 28, at 5 p.m.

Email cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com for more information.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

HV Young Professionals' Toy Drive runs through Dec. 14

The Hudson Valley Young Professionals, a committee of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, is once again holding its annual Toy Drive to benefit local families. All toys donated will go to families served by Angels of Light, based in Millbrook. The public is encouraged to donate new, unwrapped toys through Dec. 14 at any of the following locations:

- Foam & Wash Shell Express & Car Wash, 1942 South Road, Poughkeepsie
- Foam & Wash Car Wash & Laundromat, 1520 US-9, Wappingers Falls
- Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 400, Poughkeepsie

Those that donate will receive a free Simoniz Hot Wax & Shine car wash for use at any Foam & Wash location.

New Chess Club in Hyde Park

Every first and third Tuesday of the month, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the new Hyde Park Chess Club meets at the Hyde Park Library Annex on 2 Main Street. Players of all levels and ages are welcome for friendly games. If you have it, please bring your own chess board and pieces. Free admission. Any questions, please email Steve at ssofer@gmail.com.

Land Bank sets two meetings

The Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13 and Wednesday Jan. 10 in person at Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie in the library. Members of the public are encouraged and welcome to attend.

To submit comments, for more information, including any requests for reasonable accommodation, including Sign Language Interpreters (requires 5 days' notice), call (845) 293-3547 or email info@dcpoklandbank.org.

Red Hook Chamber Holiday party

The Red Hook Chamber of Commerce is hosting a holiday party on Thursday, Dec. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Elmendorph Inn. We'll have holiday treats from local vendors including: Food from Brigitte Bistro, Misto, and The Corner Counter, Hot mulled cider and pies from Migliorelli Farm, Beer from Lasting Joy Brewery and Wine from Sipperley's. Tickets are \$15 for Chamber members and \$25 for the general public.

Rhinecliff Soup Sale on Dec. 14

Rhinebeck Grange #896 will sponsor one more Fall Rhinecliff Soup Sale this year on Thursday, Dec. 14. \$10/quart, takeout only, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell and Orchard, Rhinecliff. Pick up at the side window on Orchard. Email JoBaer2@gmail.com to get the soup choices; or call Joe Baer at (845) 876-6488 for more information.

Ray Joyce Memorial Blood Drive

Clinton Alliance Church along with help from our Clinton friends, Seniors Helping Seniors, is holding the 3rd Annual Ray Joyce Memorial Blood Drive on Wednesday, Dec. 27, from 3 to 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Center located at 1192 Centre Road in the Town of Rhinebeck. We ask folks to call the NY Blood Center at 800-933-2566 or visit the New York Blood Center website at NYBC.ORG to sign up. Walk-ins are always welcome.

FARMERS MARKETS

Millerton: Millerton Methodist Church, 6 Dutchess Ave., Millerton. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through Dec. 30. paul@neccmillerton.org

Rhinebeck: Municipal Parking Lot, 61 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through Dec. 17. www.rhinebeckfarmersmarket.com



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Hochul highlights initiatives to keep highway workers safe

As construction throughout much of New York State begins to wind down with winter weather setting in, Governor Kathy Hochul highlighted the year-end results of several initiatives designed to keep highway workers and motorists safe throughout New York State. These include a new work zone speed enforcement pilot program, a partnership between state transportation agencies in cooperation with state and local law enforcement entities, and a new law designed to better protect motorists in disabled vehicles. The legislature worked hard to introduce and pass these essential measures over the last several years, and the initiatives were then implemented with the support and assistance of the state's partners in organized labor and the contracting industry, whose members also work in dangerous environments for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

"New York has zero tolerance for negligent or aggressive behavior that endangers our men and women in labor who work hard every day to keep us moving," Governor Hochul said. "Work zone speed limits and other restrictions protect highway workers making our roads safer for everyone, and the actions we have taken this year are proving to be effective."

Automated Work Zone Speed Monitoring Pilot Program

Speeding through highway work zones endangers workers and other motorists and is a common factor in dangerous work zone intrusions. In April 2023, as construction season was officially kicking off across the state, Governor Hochul announced the launch of an Automated Work Zone Speed Monitoring Pilot Program at 20 sites operated by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and 10 on the New York State Thruway. The Automated Work Zone Speed Monitoring pilot program was established by legislation signed into law by Governor Hochul and is intended to improve speed limit compliance and slow vehicles down in work zones. More information about the pilot program can be found [here](#).

Through November 22, 133,640 notices of liability were issued to motorists across the state, including 95,861 from work zones controlled by the State Department of Transportation and 37,779 from work zones along the New York State Thruway. Both agencies encountered motorists driving at speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour through monitored work zones.

Notices of liability by region were distributed as follows:

- Long Island – 41,709
- Rochester/Finger Lakes – 32,578
- New York City – 12,330
- Albany/Capital Region – 4,616
- Binghamton/Southern Tier – 1,200
- Syracuse/Central New York – 1,140
- Poughkeepsie/Hudson Valley – 1,016
- Buffalo/Western New York - 849
- Hornell/Western Southern Tier - 211
- Watertown/North Country - 113
- Utica/Mohawk Valley - 99
- Thruway - 37,779

Fines through the pilot program are issued as follows:

- \$50 for first violation
- \$75 for second violation
- \$100 for third and subsequent violations within 18 months of the first violation

Unpaid fines may result in a vehicle registration hold and drivers will not be able to renew their registrations without first paying their fines. Owners may contest a violation within 30 days of when they received notice. As required by law, 60 percent of the funds collected by NYSDOT and the Thruway Authority through the program will supplement work zone safety projects.

Of the approximately 4.9 million vehi-

cles that passed an automated work zone vehicle in a NYSDOT work zone during the first six months of the pilot program, less than two percent were issued violations. More than 7,500 or nine percent of all NYSDOT speed violations were repeat offenders.

Of the more than 2.3 million vehicles that passed an automated work zone vehicle in a Thruway work zone during the first six months of the pilot program, launched in May 2023, less than two percent were issued violations. During that period, the average speed in work zones with a posted 45 mph speed limit dropped from 47 mph in May to 43 mph in November. The average speed in work zones with a posted speed limit of 55 mph was approximately 50 mph. Despite the speed reductions, more than 1,500 or four percent of all Thruway speed violations were repeat offenders.

Operation Hardhat

Under "Operation Hardhat," State Troopers or local police officers are dressed as highway maintenance workers in active NYSDOT or Thruway work zones across New York, identifying and citing motorists for a number of violations, including disobeying flagging personnel, speeding through work zones, cell phone and seatbelt use, and/or violations of the State's Move Over law. In 2023, 2,919 tickets were issued by State Police and participating law enforcement agencies during 84 deployments across the state.

The 2,919 tickets issued during Operation Hardhat this year included the following violations:

- Speeding - 1,048
- Cell Phone Usage - 499
- Seatbelt - 353
- Failure to Move Over - 230
- Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device - 18
- Unsafe Lane Change - 3
- Failure to Obey Flagger - 1
- Other Violations - 767

Other violations may include but are not limited to tickets issued for cracked windshields, broken headlights, expired inspections, improper exhaust, and unlicensed operation.

Violations by region were distributed as follows:

- Utica/Mohawk Valley - 504
- Albany/Capital Region - 438
- Long Island - 378
- Syracuse/Central New York - 272
- Binghamton/Southern Tier - 272
- Thruway - 258
- Rochester/Finger Lakes - 222
- Hornell/Western Southern Tier - 198
- Watertown/North Country - 174
- Poughkeepsie/Hudson Valley - 105
- Buffalo/Western New York - 98

In September 2023, Governor Hochul signed legislation enhancing the existing "Move Over Law" to require drivers to exercise due care to avoid all vehicles stopped on the roadway, including by changing lanes. The Move Over Law has been in place since 2010 and was originally designed to prevent collisions with emergency vehicles. In the years since, the law was expanded to cover hazard vehicles and other responder vehicles. Nearly 300 drivers are struck and killed roadside every year nationally, and 37 people were struck and killed outside of a disabled vehicle in New York from 2016-2020. The most recent amendment expanded the existing law to cover all vehicles stopped on the road.

The State's Move Over Law is personal for Karen Torres, whose father was killed when he was struck by a cement truck while working as part of a NYSDOT road crew.

Motorists are reminded that fines are doubled for speeding in a work zone, and in accordance with the Work Zone Safety Act of 2005, zone.

Habitat helps veteran with grant from Lowe's



Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County recently a \$18,700 grant from Lowe's. A portion of the grant money was used recently to assist a local veteran with getting heat and hot water by installing a new boiler in his house. *Courtesy photo*

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County received a \$18,700 grant from Lowe's to help support repairs for eight homes and complete its revitalization project in Fairview Park.

With the support of this grant, Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County performed repairs for a local veteran, local seniors, and revitalized Fairview Veterans Memorial Park. Included in this grant, the team completed a critical home repair for a local veteran and his family. The family was without heat and hot water. The team worked diligently to repair the heating system and ensured this winter season the family will be warm and safe in their home.

In this veteran's words, "Thank you

folks for the help in getting the boiler installed! It's working great, and we are enjoying the warmth on cold nights. No more washing my hands in ice-cold water! Wow, it's so great."

The funding from Lowe's is part of a two-year, \$6 million donation to Habitat for Humanity International to support home repair and preservation efforts in owner-occupied homes. Through this partnership, more than 75 local Habitat affiliates will complete more than 480 projects this year to address critical health and safety issues in homes across the U.S. Since 2003, Lowe's and Habitat have worked together to help more than 18,000 people build or improve a place to call home.

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Hinchey bill to increase number of NYS Cuisine Trails signed into law

Cuisine Trail expansion boosts marketing opportunities for New York farms, restaurants, and craft beverage businesses

Senator Michelle Hinchey recently announced that her bill (S1054) increasing the number of cuisine trails in New York State from 15 to 25 has been signed into law, unlocking more opportunities to support local businesses and economies. New York's Cuisine Trails are curated

routes that connect and promote restaurants, breweries, distilleries, wineries, and agricultural retailers, providing unique and immersive experiences for visitors to explore the diverse culinary and agricultural offerings in specific regions.

Hinchey said, "Cuisine trails are like treasure maps, guiding people to some of the best spots for locally-grown food and crafted beverages. I'm proud to sponsor legislation to create more trails in New York State — it's a win-win that helps

people discover and support local food and craft beverage businesses while also attracting visitors, giving a boost to our Main Streets. Whether you're visiting the Dutchess Wine Trail or the Catskills Craft Beverage Trail, there's a plethora of local flavors to explore and ample room for innovation in developing new local trails! I look forward to seeing the addition of exciting new cuisine and craft beverage trails in communities across New York State."

There are 39 cuisine and beverage

trails in New York State. The designation of these trails is conducted via an application process by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets in consultation with the New York State Farmers Direct Marketing Association, the Advisory Council on Agriculture, the New York State Scenic Byways Advisory Board, and the Commissioner of Transportation.



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Crafty Quilters receive new sewing machines

There is a tremendous amount of excitement amongst the members of the Crafty Quilters 4H club!

This brand-new club recently received a Mid-Hudson Arts grant to support their quilting passion. This grant was used to purchase 10 brand new quilting machines. When members finally were able to "play around" with their machines and got a taste of what they could do, the excitement was palpable.

The club leader, Ms. Ginny spent her time at their first official meeting buzzing around to the kids and helping them work out the kinks. Some of the more experienced members were able to offer support as well.

These Crafty Quilters have many exciting ideas for projects this year. Be on the lookout for their creations at the DC Fair this summer!!!

Communication skills are the keys to success

At school, at home, in college and in life, communication skills are essential to both social-emotional well-being and academic success.

This year, the 4-H Public Presentation program has had its strongest start yet. With 12 youth participating in the Fall Food Festival, which took place on November 17th, 11 Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) enjoyed a fun workshop, and 17 youth participated by giving illustrated talks on December 2.

We are already on our way to helping these young people shine.



Crafty Quilters Lily and Makenzie are shown threading their new sewing machines. Courtesy photo

4-H CONNECTION



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The Dutchess County Horse Community Rocks!

On Sunday December 3rd, 4-H organized a Community Tack Sale at The Horse Institute, Finkle Road, Ancramdale.

After nearly 30 years at their beautiful farm, Larry and Marie Claude Stockl are moving on to new pastures. In the words of Marie Claude, "Doing this eased the pain of down-sizing. Kudos to Jane Rodd and Emma Kron (4-H staff) and the Equine Explorers 4-H Club members for being so organized and fun to work with."

Thanks to their generosity in donating hundreds of dollars' worth of quality accumulated horse equipment and hosting us, and the support of other local horse enthusiasts, we raised over \$1,200 for our 4-H program!

Special thanks go to Larry and Marie Claude and Diana King as well as all those who came as vendors and shoppers. We will be doing a second tack sale in the spring so start piling up those items and writing your shopping lists. Marie Claude has already volunteered to help!

Dutchess County 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor gains National Commendation

The Dutchess County Long Rifles 4-H Club supports youth as they learn life skills such as accountability, responsibility and citizenship through mastering skills such as archery and rifle.

The program is supported by a team of highly trained, dedicated volunteers, many who serve(d) in the military. At the helm is Robert (Bob) Jenks who donates hundreds of hours per year in service to our youth and the community at large.

Bob recently attended the National 4-H Shooting Sports training in Kentucky as a Level III Instructor. At the end of the training, each instructor receives an evaluation feedback sheet. We are proud, but not surprised, that Bob received a perfect score accompanied by the comment "Phenomenal information brought to the group; Teaching aids were great; EXCELLENT!"

The value of what leaders such as Bob give to the youth in our community is priceless.



Ariana Gentile and Petra Jevic of the 4-H Equine Explorers program. Courtesy photo

Three incarcerated individuals charged with violating court orders

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the arrests of the below individuals in connection with separate incidents at the Dutchess County Jail. All three were incarcerated at the jail at the time the incidents and arrests, and remain there at the time of this writing.

Bishmi Thrasher, age 32 of Poughkeepsie.

Saed Ramadan, age 45 of Wappinger
Michael Winchcombe, age 44 of Union Vale

All three have been charged with aggravated family offense (felony) and

criminal contempt 2nd (misd), and are accused of violating orders of protection by calling protected parties. Mr. Thrasher has been charged with 2 counts of each charge in connection with different incidents. All three were arrested on Dec. 8, 2023, and are due to appear before the City of Poughkeepsie Court on Dec. 18, 2023 for arraignment.

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

The Stissing Center launches construction program to finish renovations on Pine Plains Memorial Hall



The scaffolding that is currently enveloping three sides of the Pine Plains Memorial Hall is just the first step of the construction project. In the coming weeks, the HVAC system will be relocated, freeing up the rear of the building for future excavation. The septic system upgrade will begin in late February or early March. *Courtesy photo*

The Stissing Center, a distinguished nonprofit Arts and Culture organization based in Pine Plains, has announced the commencement of a groundbreaking construction program aimed at completing the renovation work at Pine Plains Memorial Hall. The initiative also includes the construction of a rear addition to enhance accessibility throughout all areas of the historic building.

Over the course of 12-18 months, The Stissing Center will embark on a transformative journey to breathe new life into Pine Plains Memorial Hall, preserving its rich heritage while ensuring a vibrant future for the community. The comprehensive renovation plan will not only restore the architectural history of the building but will also provide much-needed accessibility features, creating an inclusive and welcoming space for all.

To fund this ambitious undertaking, The Stissing Center will unveil a major Capital Campaign with a goal of \$9.4 million. The campaign will be officially launched at the highly anticipated Signature cocktail event, FIRE & ICE, scheduled for January 20, 2024 at The Stissing Center. The evening promises to be a celebration of art, culture, and community, featuring captivating performances, the unveiling of entirely new branding, an exclusive look into the 2024 season and an first-ever preview of the renovation plans.

"We are embarking on a mission to transform Pine Plains Memorial Hall into a beacon of culture, accessibility, and community engagement," said Brett Bernardini, Executive Director for The Stissing Center. "This construction program is a testament to our commitment to the arts and the vibrant future we envision for Pine Plains. We invite our community, supporters, and arts enthusiasts to join us on this exciting journey and contribute to the realization of this transformative project."

The scaffolding that is currently enveloping three sides of the building is just the first step. In the coming weeks, the HVAC system will be relocated, freeing up the rear of the building for future excavation. The septic system upgrade will begin in late February or early March. The historic Mansard roof, needs substantial work, both externally and internally to preserve and restore it.

"Doing these projects first, enables us to continue programming throughout 2024, without interruption" said

Bernardini. "Our 2024 season is beyond exciting and we are committed to making sure that our community, patrons, donors and friends experience it all year-long, without interruption."

He added, "We are moved to action by what we see: a need for social, emotional, and intellectual support for young people, our neighbors, our friends, and every one of our community-at-large members. This need – social, emotional, and intellectual support - is an essential element of an engaged and thriving community; something that rural America is deeply missing. By centering world-class arts and culture at The Stissing Center, we can begin the work of spotlighting and amplifying local culture, empowering community development, instilling civic pride, fostering critical thinking, and providing a forum for shared experiences and debate. Further, through a community culture of engaged philanthropy, we unleash ownership, enlarge placemaking, create belonging, and return meaningful investment to the community."

The building renovations is not the beginning of the end, but instead, a very small step of something much more significant. "We are at the very beginning of this much larger journey of focusing our work on Pine Plains and rural America. There is so much to understand and to wrap our minds around for us to make a lasting and significant impact on our community and a model of Arts and Culture that can be replicated throughout rural America" said Bernardini. "We are still learning and discovering. Yet, we do know that finishing the renovations of Pine Plains Memorial Hall is what we need to do, right now, to have value and impact here in Pine Plains and beyond! While we do not have the answers today to some of the most pressing questions, we have a clear and exciting vision of what things look like when our journey is done; these renovations are simply the very beginning of a much more impactful journey."

The project architect is Doug Larson of Larson Architecture Works (Manhattan, Ancram), the Contractor is Matt Soleau of Hyalite Builders (Millerton). Structural Engineering by DeStefano & Chamberlain (Fairfield, CT). Mechanical Engineering by Becht Engineering MEP/SEP (Warren, NJ). Septic Engineering by Taconic Engineering Inc (Chatham, NY).

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Prepaid reservations due by December 19
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\$25 Adults \$18 Children

Mount Gulian Historic Site 145 Sterling Street Beacon NY 12508 www.mountgulian.org

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Children's Holiday Tea set at Mount Gulian Dec. 27

Mount Gulian Historic Site will hold its popular Children's Holiday Tea on Wednesday, Dec. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. Always sold-out in advance, the Holiday Tea welcomes children and adults to an event that combines fun, good manners, and education about a bygone era, in an authentic location where social teas were once standard fare.

Offered during the holiday break and intended to bring families together, the Children's Holiday Tea will be held in Mount Gulian's two main museum rooms, beautifully decorated for the holidays with fresh greens and tables set with fine linens and china.

"Not having held this event since the pandemic, we are greatly looking forward to welcoming young visitors and their families to the homestead. Many of our young guests dress for the occasion, boys and girls alike. Everyone learns

about the tradition of afternoon tea, when Victorian ladies and their gentlemen met for tea, refreshments, and light conversation" says Elaine Hayes, Executive Director. "Afternoon teas were popular at many Hudson Valley homes, including Mount Gulian, home of the Verplanck family. This event replicates a once common tradition, when days were far less hectic."

The menu will include assorted Harney & Sons teas, dainty finger sandwiches prepared by The Bagel Shoppe, Fishkill and a selection of homemade desserts. A Victorian inspired craft project for the children will also be offered.

Admission is \$18 for children and \$25 for adults. Prepaid reservations are required by Dec. 19. For reservations and further information, call (845) 831-8172 or email at info@mountgulian.org.



Mount Gulian in Beacon will hold its popular Children's Holiday Tea on Wednesday, Dec. 27. Courtesy photo

MORTON LIBRARY TO FEATURE ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCES DEC. 15

Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show will take place on Friday, Dec. 15, from 8 to 10:30 p.m., at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. The show will feature the Mid-Hudson Classical Guitar Quartet, Pat Lamanna, Paul Clarke, and Lynda Sales with Bruce Engholm. Donations are suggested. Call (845) 876-7007 for more information.

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Holiday Time in NYC offers many new & traditional sights



When evening descends on the city the lights on fountains, trees, walkways, and buildings take on a whole new perspective, adding their own touch of magic and romance to a most wondrous time of year. This fountain in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art has the water looking almost as if it's made of pure light.

-Photos by Jim Donick



Much of Fifth Avenue offers a dramatic holiday glow after the sun has set. A little mist or snow added to the atmosphere turns the experience to something beyond compare. It could only be New York City, USA!



The Marble lions in front of the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue, with their holiday wreaths have been one of the iconic images of New York City at Christmas time for many years.

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from cover

From Rockefeller Center, it's easy to walk north toward Central Park, admiring the window displays at Saks and Bergdorf's as well as a few others. Fifth Avenue is closed to traffic on Sunday afternoons at this time of year. There are food vendors, pop up shops, and just the joy of soaking in the sights and sounds.

Some may find the walk all the way up to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to be longer than they would prefer. Grab a cab or an Uber. The Met is not to be missed during the holidays. The centerpiece of the museum at this time of year is its Christmas Tree in the Medieval court.

The magnificently lit 20-foot blue spruce looms over a vivid 18th-century Neapolitan Nativity scene, surrounded by an abundant array of lifelike figures with silk-robed angels hovering above. Many of those figures are fascinating scenes all by themselves.

A walk across Central Park, especially in the early evening, offers its own magic. The various buildings are lit as well as the pathways. In a light snow the experience can provide a visual memory to last through the season.

Further down Fifth Avenue and only a couple of blocks from one's return to Grand Central is the New York Public Library. Standing guard out front are its two lions. During the Great Depression, New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia dubbed them "Patience" and "Fortitude" after the qualities he felt New Yorkers needed to get through it.

The names have stuck ever since. They are decorated with appropriate holiday wreaths and have provided a welcome backdrop for souvenir photos for countless tourists and other visitors.

Behind the library in Bryant Park one can find the Bank of America Winter Village, containing a seasonal Christmas Market full of boutique gifts, crafts, clothing, and various offerings of food and drink. There is another ice skating rink here as well.

The Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park has been named the best Christmas market in the world for 2023 in a study from "Planet Cruise," unveiling the top must-visit Christmas Markets from across the world. It's the second year Bryant Park has been the top market. The other winners are all in Europe. One can visit this one without an airline ticket.

Aside from all of the possibilities outlined above there are countless shopping opportunities, places to eat, and entertainment. The Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall never disappoints.

The whole city is full of Christmas Trees and holiday music. Whatever planning goes into the adventure, it should prove time well spent.

Stay late enough to enjoy the magic of the lights. It gets dark early these days, so one can see holiday lights all over midtown and still catch a fairly early post rush hour train north again.

Resting one's eyes on the train home may be the perfect ending to the New York Christmas experience.

Arts Mid-Hudson, Mid-Hudson Japanese Community team up to present 'Kakizome' cultural program

The Arts Mid-Hudson Folk Arts Program and the Mid-Hudson Japanese Community Association present "Kakizome," a Japanese cultural program celebrating the traditional first calligraphy writing of the New Year, on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Arts Mid-Hudson, 696 Dutchess Turnpike (Route 44), Poughkeepsie. Registration is suggested; however, walk-ins are welcome.

Register at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Kakizome2024>

The new year is when we give voice to our hopes and desires for the future in the form of resolutions, wishes, and intentions going forward. The Japanese express this with "Kakizome," the ritualized first calligraphy writing of the year. "Kakizome," or "first writing," takes place within the first few days of the year, traditionally in a poetic calligraphic form expressing their hopes and aspirations for the coming year. The poems were later burned to seal the fate of the hope.

The "Kakizome" tradition continues, but these days practitioners write auspicious kanji (Chinese characters) rather than poems. Each guest chooses an idea or sentiment to carry with them into the

New Year. For example, if you hope for good health in the New Year, you would write a kanji for positive health; if you desire more patience, you would practice the kanji for tolerance or acceptance.

"Kakizome" is about positive wishes for the New Year. It is a reflective practice based on the belief that practicing one kanji over and over helps the writer focus on the hoped-for theme.

Volunteers from the local Japanese community will be on hand, offering guidance in choosing and writing your chosen kanji. Brushes, paper, and ink will be provided.

The Mid-Hudson Japanese Community Association (MHJCA) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to introduce Japanese culture to the local community, foster a sense of community among Japanese residents, and be a bridge for cultural exchanges between Japanese and non-Japanese residents of the Hudson Valley. MHJCA educational presentations and language classes are aimed at children and adults in the Hudson Valley area. The Association frequently collaborates with Arts Mid-Hudson to present interactive programs celebrating Japanese culture.

Movies with Spirit to screen 'Conversations with God'



Neale Donald Walsch (Henry Czerny) is an unemployed former radio DJ now homeless and with a broken neck who inadvertently becomes a spiritual messenger and best-selling author in "Conversations With God." The dramatic true story is to be screened as part of the Movies With Spirit film series on Dec. 16 at Woodstock Jewish Congregation.

Photo: Samuel Goldwyn Films

The dramatic true story, "Conversations With God," about a penniless man living on the streets who inadvertently becomes a spiritual messenger and best-selling author, is this month's Movies With Spirit screening at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Woodstock Jewish Congregation, 1682 Glasco Turnpike in Woodstock.

The film dramatizes the true story of Neale Donald Walsch (Henry Czerny), a former radio DJ who finds himself at the lowest point in his life. He is unemployed and homeless, and his head is immobilized by a large neck brace due to a serious car crash, which compounds Neale's difficulty in getting another job.

Living on nickels he gets from cashing in returnable cans and bottles, and feeling like a total failure, Neale writes an angry letter to God. (He had often written to CEOs after feeling wronged.)

Why isn't his life working? he writes. What will it take to get it to work? Why can't he find happiness in relationships? Is the experience of enough money always going to elude him?

Finally — and most emphatically — he asks: "What have I done to deserve a life of such continuing struggle?"

A moment later, he hears a voice over his shoulder: "Do you really want an answer to all these questions, or are you just venting?"

Startled and quickly looking around, Neale sees no one. Thinking his mind must have played a trick on him, he goes back to his legal pad and writes a

response: "Both. I'm venting, sure, but if these questions have answers, I'd sure as hell like to hear them!"

Thus begins an initially skeptical conversation and ultimately a dramatic journey of this down-and-out 50-year-old who inadvertently becomes a bestselling author and speaker who shares the messages he receives.

The 2006 independent film runs 109 minutes and is rated PG.

The screening will be followed by a facilitated discussion. Refreshments will be served. Attendees over age 12 are asked to contribute \$10 a person.

The monthly Movies With Spirit series, organized by Gerry Harrington of Kingston, seeks to stimulate people's sense of joy and wonder, inspire love and compassion, evoke a deepened understanding of people's integral connection with others and with life itself, and support individual cultures, faith paths and beliefs while simultaneously transcending them.

The films are screened in diverse places of worship and reverence across Ulster and Dutchess counties at 7 p.m., generally on the third Saturday of every month. Movies With Spirit has no religious affiliation.

For more information about the "Conversations With God" screening and the rest of the series, call Harrington at (845) 389-9201 or write to him at gerryharrington@mindspring.com. Details are also available at facebook.com/MoviesWithSpirit.

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		6						
		2	1	5				
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	9	7	2			5	3	

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

Suguru

2								4
			2	1				
	4							
			4				3	

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

THEME: MATH 101

ACROSS

1. Loaded up
6. Tube in old TV
9. Pouches
13. Tequila source
14. Stick in water
15. Jig's French cousin
16. TV's "____ Secretary"
17. Money in Myanmar
18. Photoshop maker
19. *Result of multiplication
21. *Whole number
23. *Say 2+2 is 5, e.g.
24. Arctic floater
25. Dashboard acronym
28. Fountain serving
30. Spanky or Alfalfa
35. Short for "hurry up"
37. Live bait
39. Turn upside down
40. Cassette contents
41. Retire from military, for short
43. Jason's vessel
44. Sicker
46. "Sight for ____ eyes"
47. Puppy cry
48. Denver option, at a diner
50. Apartment
52. Green turtle's domain
53. Final
55. Personal trainer's place of employment
57. *Venn ____
61. *Point in 2.5
65. Barrel racing meet
66. Gobbled up
68. On the rocks (2 words)
69. *Fields Medal to a mathematician, e.g.
70. Sports official, for short
71. 8 of something
72. Like Gulf Stream
73. Big bang maker
74. Required things

DOWN

1. "I lift my ____ beside the golden door"
2. Petri dish gel
3. Carpenter's groove
4. Dodge, as in tax bill
5. Takes exception to
6. Native Egyptian, in Roman times
7. *Line with one endpoint
8. Path in the woods
9. Left or right, e.g.
10. Awestruck
11. *Three-dimensional figure with 6 square faces
12. Palm reader, e.g.
15. Cake with filling
20. Three people?
22. Neither here ____ there
24. Subcontract (2 words)
25. *1:2, e.g.
26. Sacred song
27. Canada's favorite tree?
29. "Nobody ____ It Better"
31. Fix a cat
32. First discovered asteroid
33. *Measured in degrees
34. Parkinson's disease drug
36. Banana remnant
38. Between dawn and noon
42. Brown shade
45. Retread, past tense
49. Non-alcoholic brew
51. Rockefeller or Bezos
54. Like today's phone
56. Kind of pie
57. No-win situation
58. Wisconsin neighbor
59. Jewish month of Purim
60. Disease-causing organism
61. Clever
62. Indoor allergy cause
63. Crushed it, as in a test
64. "____ Make a Deal"
67. *X

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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The solutions to both these puzzles can be found on page 18



'May the Fork be with you'

Pop never could understand what Luigi saw in 'Star Wars.'

The other night I was channel surfing and I came across the movie "Star Wars." Seeing that movie brought back memories of 1977. I remember people lost their minds. No one had seen a movie like that before. I was a kid and I went crazy for it. I remember the Roosevelt Theater in Hyde Park ran it for over a year. I also remember my father thinking the movie was stupid.

Pop: I noa understand. Maya the forka be with you. Que cosa significa (What does that mean?)

Me: Pop, its may the FORCE be with you. It's like saying 'God Bless You.'

Pop: Howa come they no justsa say that? Howa come there is so many crazy people?

Me: Huh?

Pop: Youa know thata hairy one that

looks like a dog, who makesa the funny dog sound.

Me: Chewbacca?

Pop: Bacala? That's at Christmas. I didn't know cerano (there were) Italians in thisa stara wars.

Me: No, Pop, Chewbacca is a character. He is Han Solo's partner.

Pop: Partner? This movie noa lika 'The Godfather.'

Me: What?

Pop: I noa see Marlon Brando.

Me: No, Pop.

Pop: Youa thinka ima stupido?

Me: No, Pop. Wait...

Pop: Next time Ima picka the movie.

Me: Pop ... (sigh) OK.

I went to see that movie 15 more times. Never with Pop. The next movie I saw with him was "Oh God!" with George Burns. He liked that one. Since

it's almost Christmas, please enjoy this recipe for Chew-baccala salad. Oops, Baccala Salad.

BACCALA SALAD

Ingredients

- 2 pounds salt cod cut in 3-inch pieces
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic diced fine
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 cup Kalamata olives
- 1/4 cup capers
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

Soak cod for 2 to 3 days, refrigerated, changing water regularly.

In large pot, bring 6 quarts of water to a boil, add cod and cook until fish breaks off easily. Strain and cool. After it cools, remove skin and bones, if there are any,

and break by hand into bite-size pieces. In medium sauté pan, heat oil and sauté garlic for 2 to 3 minutes. Let cool.

In a bowl, add cod; pour oil and garlic over; add lemon juice, olives, parsley and salt and pepper, to taste. Let rest over night in the refrigerator to let it marinate. Place in serving platter and serve at room temperature.

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

'The Polar Express,' 'Frozen' and Santa Dec. 23 at Lyceum Cinemas

Lyceum Cinemas 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. 23, in conjunction with our food drive to aid needy families in the area.

Now in the 32nd year of hosting this annual event, the Lyceum, 7270 South Broadway, Red Hook, has again decided to offer two films for attendees to choose from.

"The Polar Express," rated G and starring Tom Hanks, has become a Christmas classic based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg.

"Frozen," rated PG, is an animated tale about two sisters, Anna and Elsa, and how they save their kingdom.

Both films will be shown at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 23, 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: MHVFCU, Red Hook branch, Minuteman Press, Subway, Red Hook T's, Village Pizza III, Savona's Restaurant, Red Hook, Historic Village Diner, Ben & Gracies, Charlie O's Restaurant and The Red Hook Diner.

Santa will be on hand at the Lyceum when the doors open at 9:30 a.m. to talk to the children.

Everyone who attends the movie is asked to please 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. Now more than ever many families are struggling this holiday season due to the high cost of everything. If you can, please help.

Those who do not plan to attend a movie, but might wish to donate food items, may do so any day between now and Dec. 23.

Roosevelt Cinemas to show 'Polar Express,' 'Elf' Dec. 16 in Hyde Park

Hyde Park Roosevelt Cinemas, I Heart Media and the Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union are joining forces to host free Christmas movies and a food drive on Dec. 16 for children and families.

"The Polar Express" is Rated-G and stars Tom Hanks in a Christmas classic based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg.

"Elf," Rated-PG stars Will Ferrell, Bob Newheart and James Caan. This is the story of Buddy, who was raised in the North Pole as a full-sized elf. He embarks on a journey to NYC to find his dad and to teach him the true meaning of the Christmas spirit.

The doors will open at 9 a.m. when Santa will be on hand to visit with the children. Both films will begin at 10:15 a.m.

Admission is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance from the Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union on Barnegat Rd. in Poughkeepsie or at the theatre.

Everyone who attends the movies is asked to please bring non-perishable food items for distribution through a local food pantry. Food donations may also be dropped off at the theatre at any time after 3:30 p.m. any day before Dec. 16.

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dec. 16: Tivoli's Winterfest Celebration, Village of Tivoli. All-day community event, 2-7 p.m. Events include Santa visit, tree lighting, horse-drawn carriage rides and more. Free. Presented by Tivoli Village and Fire Department, and TM+A (Tivoli Merchants + Artists) tivolinow.com or tivoli.org

Dec. 16: Wreaths Across America Event, Stanford. The town will honor its vets with wreath-laying ceremonies at the following locations: St. Mary's Cemetery, wreath laying 11 a.m., ceremony at noon; Sutherland Cemetery, wreath laying and ceremony at 11:30 a.m.; Stanford Cemetery, wreath laying at 10:30 a.m., ceremony at noon. All volunteers are invited to an informal lunch at 12:30 p.m. at the Stanford Free Library's Community Room. Call (845) 868-7320 to volunteer and register for the free lunch.

HISTORIC HOLIDAY EVENTS

Through Dec. 23: Guided Holiday Tours, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Enjoy festive yuletide decor showcased throughout the mansion. Tour includes the landscape, history of the family, exterior of the mansion, first and second floors, and video (there are multiple steps, not ADA accessible). Tours offered Fri., Sat. & Sun., at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. Admission \$18 per person. Advance reservations are not required. Please arrive about 15 minutes early. (845) 876- or www.wilderstein.org

Dec. 16: Winter Solstice Celebration, Olana State Historic Site, Hudson. A series of free opportunities to experience the Hudson Valley's beautiful winter landscape and explore some of the countries that inspired the artist Frederic Church and his family, 1-5 p.m. The Winter Solstice Celebration will include free access to the historic interiors, a bonfire, drop-in activities and games, seasonal refreshments by Frankie's nomadic bar and coffee shop, a special visit from everyone's favorite miniature donkey, Hank, back by popular demand, and much more. Visit OLANA.org/solstice for more information.

Dec. 16 & 23, 26-30: Holiday Tours of the Mansion, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. Tickets available on a first come, first served basis in the Museum Shop only, on the day of each tour. The first tour each day starts at 10:15 a.m. and the last tour of the day starts at 3:15 p.m. www.lgny.org

Dec. 17: Holiday Hunt in the Mansion, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. Family program featuring an entertaining and educational scavenger hunt inside the almost 200-year-old Mansion for hobbies, toys, and games the Young Family enjoyed at Locust Grove in the years 1895-1920. Find ice skates, skis, tennis racquets, a saddle, card games, a doll house, musical instruments, and more among the 20 decorated Christmas trees in the mansion. First tickets at noon; last tickets 3 p.m. Holiday Hunt is best suited for kids ages 4 and older. Reservations of timed tickets recommended. The hunt is not wheelchair or stroller accessible. Cost \$10/person in advance, \$15 at the door if tickets are available; children under age 4 are free. www.lgny.org

Dec. 27-29: Arts and Crafts Family Program, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. Enjoy two of Annette Young's favorite arts and crafts at Locust Grove; painting and embroidery, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Enjoy looking at Annette's sketches, watercolor paintings, and embroidery samplers from the early 1900s, and then, make

some of your own. Participants will learn basic watercolor and needle work skills to make a special Locust Grove piece to take home. Ages 5 and older. Cost \$17.50/person. Everyone needs a ticket, as this is a fundraiser for Locust Grove. This program is wheelchair and stroller accessible, so are the restrooms and visitor's center. www.lgny.org

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

Dec. 14-15: Theatre on the Road presents "A Christmas Carol," various locations. Dinner theater production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." You'll be transported back in time to Victorian England, where you'll be greeted by carolers singing merry songs and actors dressed in amazing costumes. Get ready to be fully immersed in the story as you dine with the Cratchit family and beloved Tiny Tim, be in awe of the Ghosts of Christmas, and witness Scrooge's transformation firsthand. Don't miss out on this heart-warming and unforgettable experience that's perfect for the whole family. The schedule: Dec. 14: The Venue Uptown at the Best Western, Kingston. Tickets and information via EventBrite. Dec. 15: The Meadowbrook, New Windsor. Tickets and information: 845-562-5918 or 845-475-7972

Dec. 15-16: Holidelic, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. GRAMMY-nominated performer and percussionist Everett Bradley brings a sensational holiday funk revue, 8 p.m. Critics have described Holidelic as "a flashy, bass-heavy retro-futuristic take on the holidays" (The New Yorker) and "a holiday funk-tacular" (Time Out New York). Bradley, known for his work with Bruce Springsteen and Bon Jovi, takes on the role of Papadelic, Funk's Father Christmas, an amalgamation of George Clinton and Santa Claus. Features original songs and an ensemble of top-notch musicians. Tickets \$45 General Admission (seats and dance floor space). www.kaatsbaan.org

Dec. 15-23: "Little Women," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Rhinebeck Theatre Society's new adaptation of the beloved and timeless coming-of-age novel (featuring familiar Christmas carols). Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$27. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Dec. 16: "A Celtic Christmas" by A Taste of Ireland, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Featuring a powerful mix of traditional tunes, heartfelt ballads and all your favorite carols, "A Celtic Christmas" combines incredible red-hot rhythms with jaw-dropping talent in an unforgettable night of storytelling, Irish charm and spectacular entertainment. Show time 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$65, \$55, \$45. (845) 473-5288, (845) 339-6088 or boxoffice@bardavon.org.

Dec. 16: "A Very Slambovian Christmas," Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St. Beacon. The Slambovian Circus of Dreams presents its annual holiday show, 8 p.m. With a rootsy psychedelica that hints at Dylan, Bowie, Neil Young, The Beatles, Incredible String Band, The Waterboys, and Jethro Tull, the Slambovian Circus of Dreams' 'Very Slambovian Christmas' show is guaranteed to "flip your switch" and spark the holiday spirit. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door. (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

EXHIBITIONS

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 29:** Three new art exhibitions in their Visual Art Galleries. Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is painter Arlene Seymour; and at 12 Vassar St. is photographer Lijah Friedman in the Reception Gallery and painter Rachel Williams in the Hancock Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Jan. 28, 2024:** "Silver Linings: Celebrating the Spelman Art Collection," the inaugural show in a five-stop, nationwide tour, made possible through the Art Bridges Foundation. Through the work of nearly 40 artists, Silver Linings uplifts the legacy of artists of African descent spanning the 20th Century through the contemporary moment, many of whom have been overlooked by mainstream art museums. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, 4097 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. **Through Dec. 2024:** Developed in collaboration with a distinguished committee of scholars, "Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, 1932-1962" centers the historical voices of many Black community leaders, wartime service members, and ordinary citizens who engaged the Roosevelt administration directly and who pushed for progress. Within this context, the exhibit examines the political evolution of both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt regarding racial justice. www.fdrlibrary.org

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through Dec. 30:** "Holiday Show." (845) 490-2281 or www.landgalleryonline.com

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through December:** "Saundra Fraiman: It's A Family Affair," affordable collages for children and adults. (845) 876-2903

Olana State Historic Site, Hudson. **Through March 24, 2024:** "Spectacle: Frederic Church and The Business of Art," a 21st-century way of viewing Frederic Church's great masterwork, "The Heart of the Andes," and this exhibition highlights the showmanship and marketing that Church used to promote the debut of this work in 1859. For more information and to purchase tickets visit olana.org/spectacle

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Dec. 17:** Holiday Show, featuring work by gallery members as well as other local artists, featuring smaller, affordable items suitable for gift giving. www.tivoliaristsgallery.com

The Two Of Us Productions to present virtual, live-staged reading of 'A Christmas Carol'

The Two Of Us Productions, the award-winning theater company based in Columbia County, will present a virtual-live staged reading of the wonderful Christmas classic "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. This performance, the fourth and final production of its 2023 Virtual Live-Staged Reading Series, is being presented on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.

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

That night while Scrooge sleeps he is visited by three ghosts: the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge on a

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

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

R.S.V.P and get your access code by visiting www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org. This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.

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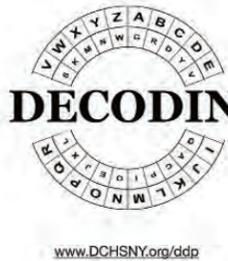
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Reversal of fortune in the wake of the Revolutionary War

By Bill Jeffway

The story of two persons living locally during the colonial and the early American period in northern Dutchess County (the area that by 1824 became the town of Pine Plains) reveals the positive and destructive power of the 1776 American Revolution.

Both men were born at the Manor of Morrisania, today known as the Bronx. Morris Graham (1747–1804) was born into a wealthy, well connected family. His father was one of the nine partners granted thousands of acres of land in both the Upper Nine Partners of northern Dutchess, and the Great Nine Partners, which is a large chunk of central Dutchess County.

Andrew Frazier (ca. 1742–1846) was a person of color tied closely to the Graham family. His name and birth were noted in the family Bible, as enslaved persons sometimes were. A 1755 survey of enslaved persons at Morrisania did not include children under 16 years old, so we can not be certain that he was enslaved. But it is most likely. Andrew Frazier moved from Morrisania to northern Dutchess County at the same time as Morris Graham.

Both served in the Revolutionary War. Morris Graham was made Colonel. And Andrew Frazier served as a wagon driver, and at times, body servant to Col. Graham. He also patrolled to capture and jail persons thought to be loyal to the King of England.

Morris Graham never married. He had no children. By 1903 Graham's headstone was reported as not found in the small family plot in Deerfield, Oneida County, upstate New York where he moved in 1798 when his farm was sold to pay debts. Today the whole plot is overgrown, lost in a suburban development. Andrew Frazier had so many

descendants, some of whom remain living locally, he was known as "the ancestor." His great-granddaughter, Susan Elizabeth Frazier, was a national voice and advocate for the equal opportunity of women, and persons of color based in New York City.

Andrew Frazier's headstone stands proudly at the family plot in Rhinebeck, visited and cared for today by veterans groups. Several years ago, a group raised money to raise a headstone at the grave of Susan Elizabeth Frazier.

Graham family

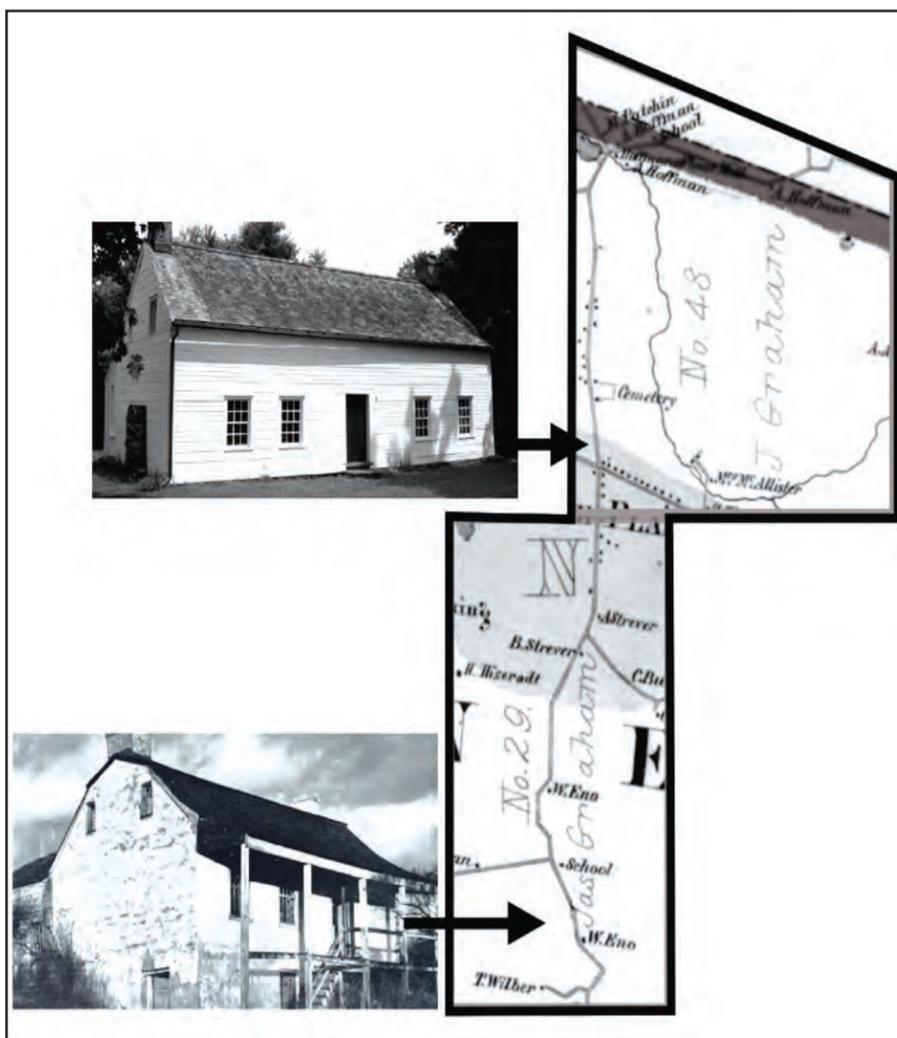
From both the earliest Dutch, and subsequent English period of the Hudson Valley, the wealthy elite were granted huge tracts of land. The highest form was the grant of a Manor. The Morris family (as in Morristown, New Jersey) and the Graham family, had intermarried in two successive generations and came to share the Manor at Morrisania.

James Graham, one of the nine Partners mentioned earlier, died at Morrisania in 1767. Upon his death, three of his children (one of whom was Morris Graham), along with Andrew Frazier, quickly moved to what is today Pine Plains to claim thousands of acres granted to their father.

Rectangular lots of roughly 900 acres were randomly allocated to partners. The Graham family was fortunate that two such parcels were adjacent to each other at what would become the center of Pine Plains. Two sons in particular were involved in building houses there: Lewis Graham built in the northern lot and Morris Graham in the southern lot. Both are still standing with the former restored, and the latter not habitable but stabilized.

Morris Graham

The Revolutionary War became a test of patriotism and many in the Graham family stepped forward as officers or in



The above map shows two adjacent lots of about 900 acres each that were owned by the Graham family at the time of the American Revolution. Lewis Graham built a house that still stands at the center of Pine Plains, while the house of his brother, Morris Graham, is shown in a 1942 photograph, and is located about one mile south of the village center. Courtesy of DCHS

one instance, an aide to Gen. George Washington.

Morris Graham became a colonel in the war but quickly had a setback. Perhaps driven by political motives, in October of 1776 at the famous Battle of White Plains, Graham was court-martialed when he was accused by a Colonel Reed of cowardice, of retreating without firing. Washington called for the court martial to happen quickly. It happened within a few days. Graham was quickly and fully acquitted. And he served in visible and active roles through to the very end of the Revolutionary War. But the incident must have haunted him.

The end of the war was not kind to Morris Graham. Like many wealthy individuals, Graham spent his own money in support of the war effort that was greatly under funded. By 1798, Morris Graham's stone house and 377-acre farm were being sold off.

He moved north to Deerfield New York where he lived with his sister Arabella and died shortly after, in 1804 at the age of 58.

Andrew Frazier

Frazier may have earned his freedom by serving in the Revolutionary War. Although it took ten years of petitioning, Andrew Frazier was successful in getting a significant pension for his war service, after Congress created the opportunity in 1833.

He became patriarch to a large family that included soldiers in the Civil War, WW1 and WW2.

Andrew Frazier had an extraordinary life after the war. He had 11 children.

He was able to buy farmland in Milan, a

strip of land that runs between what is now Willow Glen Road and Woody Row Road, building a house there in 1809. His son Robert was able to greatly expand the farm in size and acreage in subsequent years.

Susan Elizabeth Frazier, mentioned earlier, became the first person of color allowed to teach White students in New York City in 1896. She founded and led the Women's Auxiliary of the Harlem Hellfighters in WW2.

As was the tradition, he was buried on his Milan homestead in 1846 with other family members until around 1920, in an effort led by Susan Elizabeth Frazier, the family plot was purchased and set not quite within Section E, the section for persons of color, but adjacent to it, and overlooking it.

With the recent addition of a headstone for Susan Elizabeth Frazier, the family plot has grown to 19 headstones. Andrew Frazier's headstone reads "In the Revolutionary war 1776, In memory of Andrew Frazier who died June 2, 1846 aged 102 years 11 months and 18 days." The words "her voice endures" are engraved on the headstone of Susan Elizabeth Frazier.

These stories remind us that what the historical record maintains, and publishes, and what remains in the collective consciousness and memory of society, is affected by many factors.

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



Above right is the 1846 headstone of Andrew Frazier, which notes his Revolutionary War service. Immediately to the left and back is the newer memorial recently erected to recognize the grave of Susan Elizabeth Frazier, Andrew Frazier's great-granddaughter who became a national voice and advocate for women and persons of color at the turn of the last century. Courtesy of DCHS

Meadowland Restoration project launched at Boscobel

Boscobel House and Gardens—famous for its stunning views of the Hudson River, restored Neoclassical mansion, renowned design collection, exhibitions, and community programs—has launched a Meadow Restoration project with horticulturalist and designer Larry Weaner and nationally-recognized landscape architecture firm Reed Hilderbrand. Boscobel is at 1601 Route 9D, Garrison.

The project will convert a large area of non-native grasses and undesirable invasives into a Native Meadow that opens new opportunities to enjoy and learn Hudson Valley nature.

The plantings plan prioritizes plants that thrived in the Hudson Valley when the Munsee Lenape and Wappingers people were the region's primary stewards. Site preparation is underway and planting begins in early summer 2024. The Meadow will take 2-5 years to become fully established and will require a permanent program of careful management.

Leading the project is Larry Weaner, whose firm Larry Weaner Associates has won numerous awards for designing and managing complex ecosystems that self-propagate.

"Working on the Meadow at Boscobel," said Weaner, "has provided an outstanding opportunity to combine history, culture, and ecology."

Boscobel and LWA are collaborating closely with the local Conservation Board to ensure that the restoration process reflects the Hudson Valley's strong environmental standards, while also engaging with historians on Native

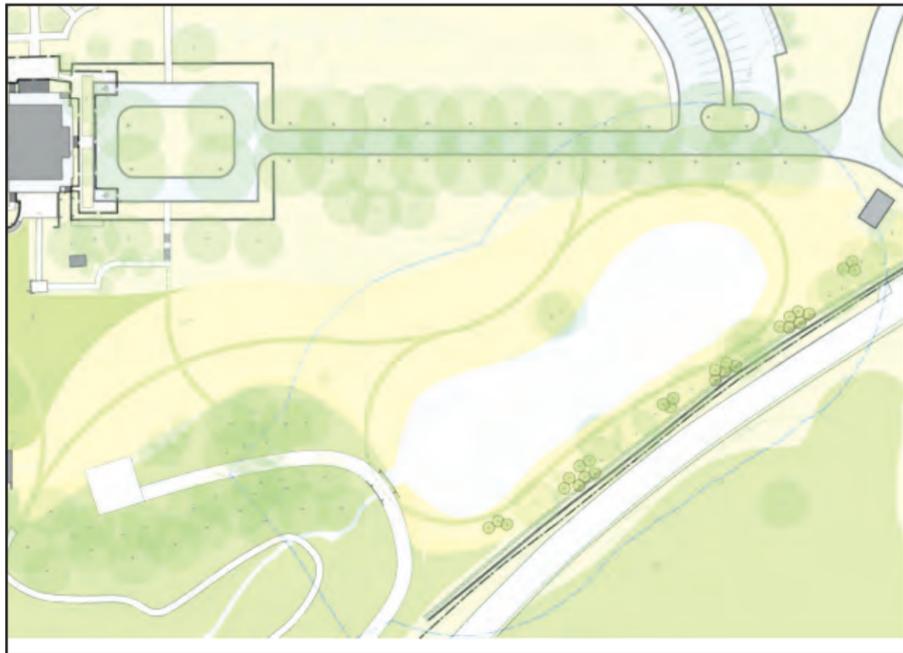
American cultivation practices. Boscobel also partners on landscape stewardship and interpretation with the Philipstown Garden Club, Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County, and Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary.

"Boscobel is on a mission to connect our Hudson Valley landscape's past to its future by enhancing our ecology and outdoor guest experience. The Meadow reflects a transformational commitment to do that through plants, programming, and partnership," said Executive Director Jennifer Carlquist.

The Meadow is one of several sustainability initiatives that extend Boscobel's impact beyond site boundaries. In October, Boscobel earned an "Excellence Award" from the Greater Hudson Heritage Network for the Boscobel Community Tree Initiative, which has planted more than two dozen trees in the nearby town of Cold Spring in partnership with the Cold Spring Tree Advisory Board, Town of Philipstown, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County.

Boscobel also supports local farms by subsidizing and hosting the Cold Spring Farmers Market along with Davoren Farm, which grows organic produce that it donates to local food pantries. As a non-profit dependent upon community support, Boscobel is actively fundraising to support all of these and other sustainability efforts.

Follow Boscobel House and Gardens at @boscobelhg on social media, or visit online at Boscobel.org. For further information, call (845) 265-3638.



Rendering of the Meadowland Restoration project at Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison, Putnam County. *Courtesy image*

Auditions set at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck

"The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark"—Saturday, Jan. 6, at 1 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. callbacks.

CENTERstage Productions announces open auditions for "The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark" by William Shakespeare. Adapted and directed by Lou Trapani.

"Little Shop of Horrors"—Saturday, Jan. 20, at 1 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 21, at 7

p.m.; Monday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. callbacks.

CENTERstage Productions announces open auditions for the musical comedy, "Little Shop of Horrors" with music by Alan Menken, book & lyrics by Howard Ashman. Directed by Cheyenne See. Musical Direction by Sean Matthew Whiteford and Choreography by Cedric James.

Visit www.centerforperformingarts.org for more information.

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Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 14)

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

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Linden Avenue Middle School Honor Roll

Grade 8

Principal's Honor Roll – Lily Ackerman, Emily Agustin, Melissa Anderson, Victor Baker-Bozskik, June Barker Canselier, Charles Barr, William Barton, Helene Brady, Aeden Brown, Claire Burns, Olivia Carney-Mathieu, Adeline Carr, April Evangeline Castelo Branco, Emily Coon, Zoe Costello, Lyla Cutting, Michael DeLango, Jacob Delbridge, Stella Donahue, Madison Fasce, Brady Faulkner, Axel Fenn, Natalia Fernandez, August Fox-Feuer, Lucy French, Stella French, Winnie Gao, Oliver Garrett, Brittany Goldfarb, Melanie Gonzalez, Gia Gould, Phineas Greenberg, Juliet Hagan, Marie Hagan, Yishai Hall, Coco Hamilton, Maximilian Hangac, Liam Harrison, Isaac Imboden, Miranda Jones, Eleanor Kanuk, Liam Kessler, Christopher Klump, Chloe Knecht, Riley Kovach, Jack Losee, Roger Loughran III, Isaiah Loyola, Anthony Lozito, Aleksandra Magun, Ayla McMeekin, Louis-Selassie Mengestu, Dylan Miles, Jackson Milroy, Camden Misasi, Jackson Morelle, Henry Moynahan, Noah Munn, Elizabeth Ng, Lily Oot, Jack O'Sullivan, Analiyah Otero, Hudson Payne, Scarlett Peacock, Cameron Pethic, Petra Rosemann, Lincoln Rupe DeCarolis, Mayle Sassano, Grace Schmidt, Otto Seixas Pereira da Costa, Lucca Shavelle, Hudson Slattery, Brodey Smith, Chloe Smith, Kaelyn Streib, Nikolaus Tanner, Logan Wenner, Emma Wiltsie, Mirielle Wisniewski, Stephanie Zarate

Honor Roll – Mason Benedict, Aleena Bijoy, Alexandra Brandes, Nygell Choinsky, Grayson Ewing, Edgar Farias-Morales, Alden Feller, Ema Garcia, Benjamin Godfrey, Braeden Kenny, Brian Kent, Ireland Kolbinskie, Morgan Lane, Elizabeth Lang, Justin Lopez-Perez, Wyatt Mesman, Kaylee Minn, Tia Mirones, Logan Misonznick, Jayden Pezze, Ceri Slattery, Haylie Walsh, Shane Walsh, Parker Welch, Lou Zeff

Grade 7

Principal's Honor Roll – Xavier Abuja, Vince Ackerman, Serena Amrod, Ashli Argueta Reyes, Elliot Arrabito, Bradyn Balacic, Maci Lee Barry, Daniel Bendix, Logan Bradley, Roniah Bucci, Ted Carl, Giovanni Chavez Zamudio, Aiden Chew, Gracyn Clements, Raina Cook, Clara Coonley, Sophia Crozzoli, Emory Crum, Devin DeCarolis, Daisy Denby Smith, Brennan Dickason, Ashlynn Dwyer, Nikko Edelman, Preston France, Logan Frettoloso, Valentina Friedman, Owen Giorgio, Elizabeth Gray, Clio Greenberg, Wilder Greenberg, Vito Grgas Tucilo, Skye Griffiths, Harry Griffiths-Caselli, Lumi Haas, Milo Haggard, Olivia Haley, Madelyn Hally, Peter Hamilton, Paisley Hartman, Theodore Heisler, Luke Hineman, Mia Hoffman, Lucy Huber, Ella Hughes, Travis Hughes, Ella Hutchinson, Norah Kaiser, Braden Kalinowski, John Kanuk, Margaret Keene, Kailyn Kilfoyle, Schuyler Kortbus, Jessica Kotler, Daphne Kurlander, Luca LaSalvia, Grace Lecours, Max Lloyd,

Camila Lopez-Leon, Joseph Lozito, Rayne Mallett, Kylie Manetta, Daniel McGlynn, Lydianna McIntosh, Anthony Mejia-Solorzano, Gabriel Mengestu, Lilianna Millan, Drew Monaco, Alice Moore, Audrey Moore, Lily Morelle, Emery Munger, Maeve Neilson, Taylor Neumann, Breana Nilsen, Ayden Otero, Daniel Pomerantz, Hannah Posner, Ashton Querrazzi, Jackson Renck, Marisol Reyes, Arianna Rhynders, Bella Richards, Avery Richardson, Diana Robles Cruz, Luke Roche, Anna Roomberg, Teagan Rose, Thalia Rubin, Kayley Scharschu, Travis Schneider, Jacob Sepesi, Lilah Shanley, Isaac Shapiro, Dea Shero, Gianna Shorter, Joshua Shultis, Chloe Siegel, Luke Simerly, Addison Simmons-Scribner, Aiden Skeen, Ruka Sniderheidt, Duncan Snykus, Samuel Solomon, Nathan Stafford, Tayler Sundheimer, Maxwell Szlaza, Stella Traudt, Isadora VanDerPutten, Bryce Vosburgh, Lillian Wenner, Delia Werner, Maya Williams, Chloe Williamson, Nikolai Wouffin

Honor Roll – Aiden Angier, James Bolde, Paolo Buitoni, Cooper Cronin, Chance Dayton, Keyla Garcia-Camacho, Kevin Hillery, Allen Huyck, Sebastian Link, Alexandra Malta Lavariega, Avery Marsh, Mariel Merino Aguilar, Koster O'Connor, Joshua Simmons, Caiden Staats, Reid Traudt, Payton Wagar

Grade 6

Principal's Honor Roll – Allegra Abuja, Avere Albrecht, Bayastan Asankaryev, Katherine Baldwin, Uma Bardfield, Stella

Benedict, August Benz, Mila Bluechel, Drew Carter, Taryn Cavanaugh, Nico Celestine, Caleb Cerulo, Valerie Chevalier, Caden Christensen, Ceili Craft, Ailyn Davison, Gabriela Diaz Celaya, Ashton Erickson, Logan Farris, Sage Fox, Aro Friedland, Sebastian Garcia, Skye Gog, Anderson Guerra Machorro, Isabella Gunzburg, Isabella Hilbrandt, Edith Imboden, Niko Iowa-Koga, Baheer Zahid Jalali, Thelonious Johnson, Bentley Killmer-Rabbett, Michael LaFratta, Rowan Lowry, Ian Magee, Iko Malikin, Massimo Mannino, Clara Mauney, Isaac Migdal, Chase Milroy, Charlotte Monaco, Elsa Mouligneau, Olivia Ng, Benjamin Nickerson, Amelia Petkos, Sophie Price, Liam Quaglietta, Anderson Josue Ramirez Flores, Elsie Rathmann, Piper Shute, Giavanna Slattery, Harrison Snykus, Rebecca Soper, Marcus Stephens, Theodore Tiberio, Aurelia Traudt, Gianmarco Verrilli, Ella Vickers, Cameron Wood, Jonathan Zapadinsky

Honor Roll – Junebug Aloï, David Argueta Sola, Sadie Arrabito, Christian Carreon Cruz, Hailey Castellanos, Arvine Coon, Bix Davis, Calder DeFraitess Scott, Kyleigh Frankowski, Colin Haines, Arianna Hannigan, Oliver Hart, Landon Hotaling, Avery Jackson, Mason Lukach, Kylie Minn, Carah Misonznick, Alexander Murray, Vianely Ojeda Leon, Nora Payne, Isabella Piazza, Carter Ricketson, Mya Stickle, Valeria Vazquez-Lucas, Henry Welch, Ava White

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Jan. 3rd deadline: Dec. 27th before noon.

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202 Cleaning Services
203 Lawn Services
221 Professional Services
222 Tax Experts
223 Beauty Services
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219 Attorney Legal

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NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINES:

DUE TO A HOLIDAY PRESS SCHEDULE FOR Dec. 27th & Jan. 3rd issues

The Southern/Northern Dutchess News will have an early deadline.

The Dec. 27th Issue. will be on Dec. 20th before noon.

The Jan. 3rd Issue will be on Dec. 27th before noon.

Email:
roxannesdn@aol.com
or

Call:
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FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Legal Notices

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF DUTCHESS SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE Index No. 2023-51168 Date Filed: 11/14/2023 Nationstar Mortgage LLC,

Plaintiff, -against- Andrea Gordon, if she be living or if she be dead, her spouses, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff, State of New York, and "JOHN DOE", said name being fictitious, it being the intention of Plaintiff to designate any and all occupants of premises being foreclosed herein, and any parties, corporations or entities, if any, having or claiming an interest or lien upon the mortgaged premises. Defendants. P R O P E R T Y ADDRESS: 96 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or notice of appearance on the attorneys for the Plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Maria G. Rosa, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Dutchess County, entered Nov. 6, 2023 and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Consolidation and/or Modified Mortgage (hereinafter "the Mortgage") to secure \$186,180.00 and interest, recorded in the Dutchess County Clerk's Office on December 27, 2012, in

Legal Notices

Document Number 012012 14101 covering premises known as 96 Creek Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 a/k/a Section 6162, Block 02, Lot 718719. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. Plaintiff designates Dutchess County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING 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. Dated: September 7, 2023

Frank M. Cassara, Esq. Senior Associate Attorney LEGAL GROUP LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 Telephone: (585) 247-9000 Fax: (585) 247-7380 Our File No. 22-092035 #100959

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF DUTCHESS INDEX NO. 2023-51579

Plaintiff designates DUTCHESS as the place of trial situs of the real property

Legal Notices

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Mortgages premises: 4335 ALBANY POST ROAD, HYDE PARK, NY 12538 Section: 6065, Block: 20, Lot: 855142 FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FREDDIE MAC SEASONED LOANS STRUCTURED TRANSACTION TRUST, SERIES 2019-3

Plaintiff, vs. DOLORES JAEGER-ALLT, if living, and if she/he be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; COUNTY OF DUTCHESS; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint, Defendants.

To the above named Defendants YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclu-

Legal Notices

sive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$142,500.00 and interest, recorded on May 28, 2003, in Document Number 01 2003 11883, of the Public Records of DUTCHESS County, New York., covering premises known as 4335 ALBANY POST ROAD, HYDE PARK, NY 12538. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

DUTCHESS County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the 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

Legal Notices

THE COURT. Dated: November 15th, 2023 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Plaintiff Matthew Rothstein, Esq. 900 Merchants Course, Suite 310 Westbury, NY 11590 516-280-7675

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2023-29 NAME OF PROJECT: Lake Walton Preserve Loop Trail, Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County. Project Description: This project involves the construction of approximately 1.1 miles of a stabilized stone dust path, precast concrete boardwalks in helical piles, and cast-in-place concrete structures with decorative custom formliner. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Christopher Sterbenz, Contract Specialist Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turn-

Legal Notices

pike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, on or before 11:00AM Tuesday, January 9, 2024, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All 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: 186 013 662#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business Wednesday December 27, 2023 and emailed to Christopher Sterbenz at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is March 11, 2024; the anticipated substantial completion date is September 5, 2025. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2023014072. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-70-23 Uniforms and Accessories for Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Personnel Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 22nd day of December 2023 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

EXTENDING LOCAL ORDERS 1, 2 & 3 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 5/2023 EXTENSION TO DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDERS DECLARED BY D U T C H E S S COUNTY EXECUTIVE: Please take notice that on December 9, 2023 at 12:00 am., pursuant to Article 2B of the New York State Executive Law, Article III of the Dutchess County Charter and Administrative Code Section 3.05, Acting Dutchess County Executive William F. X. O'Neil extended Local Emergency Order #1, Local Emergency Order #2, and Local Emergency Order #3 in furtherance of Executive Order No. 5 of 2023, dated May 18, 2023. The text of the declaration of state of emergency and local emergency orders is available at www.dutchessny.gov.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2023-28 Replacement of Bridge W-21 (BIN 3344060) Stanford Road Over Wappingers Creek East Branch, Village of Millbrook. Project Description: Removal of existing bridge superstructure and replacement with span B type unit with spread footings. Replacement of wing wall and connecting walls to dam. Partial and full depth asphalt approach construction. The County of

Legal continued on next page

Legal Notices

Legal continued from previous page

Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on Bid-Net Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Diane McKenna, Contract

Legal Notices

Specialist Dutchess County Department of Public Works 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Due on or before **11:00am January 3, 2024**, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All 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: 387 752 165#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon

Legal Notices

delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business December 27, 2023 and emailed to Diane McKenna at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is March 1, 2024; the anticipated substantial completion date is September 6, 2024. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2023013930. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2023-30 NAME OF PROJECT: Replacement of Bridge S-39 (Bin 3343870) CR 17 over Willow Brook, and Bridge S-40 (Bin 3343880) CR 17 over Wappinger Creek, Town of Stanford, Dutchess County. Project Description: This project consists of the Replacement of the existing bridge superstructure and abutments for two bridges. The existing piers for one bridge will also be removed and replaced. Minor approach roadway work and replacement of guiderail in the vicinity of the bridge are also included in this project. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Em-

Legal Notices

pire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on Bid-Net Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Christopher Sterbenz, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00AM Fri-

Legal Notices

day, January 5, 2024, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All 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: 146 253 180#. Each bid shall be submitted

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as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business Thursday December

Legal Notices

28, 2023 and emailed to Christopher Sterbenz at DPWcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is April 1, 2024; the anticipated substantial completion date is November 29, 2024. Failure to meet these dates will result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2023014276. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

Legal Notices

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-290 Resolution Recognition of IBT Local 456 for Representation of Certain Highway Department Employees

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, held at Francois R. Cross meeting room, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, New York, on December 6, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Ozzy Albra, Supervisor, and upon roll being called, the following were present:

- PRESENT: Supervisor Ozzy Albra
Council Members Louise Daniele, John Forman, Carmin e Istvan, Brian Wrye

ABSENT: The following Resolution was introduced by Supervisor Albra and seconded by Council Member Wrye.

BE IT RESOLVED that effective December 7, 2023, the Town Board of the Town of Fishkill hereby recognizes the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 456 as the employee organization with the exclusive right to represent for the purposes of collective negotiations and grievance representation a unit comprised of those Town employees of the Highway Department holding the titles of Foreman/Working Supervisor, Groundskeeper, Head Groundskeeper, Laborer, Maintenance Worker, Auto Mechanic and Motor Equipment Operator and excluding all other Town employees, including temporary and seasonal employees of the Highway Department.

- Supervisor Albra, Supervisor aye
Louise Daniele, Council Member aye
John Forman, Council Member aye
Carmine Istvan, Council Member aye
Brian Wrye, Council Member aye
Motion carried 5-0
Dated: Fishkill, New York
December 6, 2023
Becki Tompkins, MMC, RMC, CTO Town Clerk

Legal Notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS VILLAGE OF WAPPINGERS FALLS PURCHASE OF DUMP AND PLOW TRUCK

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Wappingers Falls invites sealed proposals for a Dump and Plow Truck for Highway Department. The specifications for the vehicle are as follows:

- Model Year: 2024
Make: GMC (or equal)
Model: 3500HD Sierra (or equal)
TK31043-Crew Cab Chassis, 4WD
Engine: L8T-Engine: 6.6L, Gasoline V-8, SIDI
Transmission: MKM-10-Speed Automatic
Options: 5N5-Rear Camera Kit for ZW9 Bed Delete or Chassis Cab (SEO)
9L7-Upfitter/Accessory Electrical Switches
DWI-Mirrors, O/S: Pwr Fold., Man., Ext., Heat, Turn Indicator
VYU-Snow Plow Prep/Camper Package
ZZT-Tire, Spare: LT235/80 R17 Al Terrain, Blackwall
G9Y-GVW Rating 14,000 lbs. Dual Rear Wheels
GT4-Rear Axle: 3.73 Ratio
Plow: Front plow, 8.5 feet, stainless steel, v-plow style
Sander: Sander, ploy type, hopper/spreader, 2.5 yard capacity

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal for Dump and Plow Truck" and shall bear on the face thereof: the name, address and phone number of the bidder.

All such sealed bids must be received by the Village Clerk at Village Hall, 2582 South Avenue, Wappingers Falls, New York 12590 on or before 12:00 P.M., January 3, 2024. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud with the contract being awarded as soon as practicable thereafter.

The Village Board reserved the right to accept or reject any or all portions of the bid and to re-advertise for same, should the best interest of the Village thereby be promoted.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES VILLAGE OF WAPPINGERS FALLS JOHN M. KARGE VILLAGE CLERK

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS VILLAGE OF WAPPINGERS FALLS PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Wappingers Falls invites sealed proposals for a Police vehicle. The specifications for the vehicle are as follows:

- Model Year: 2023
Make: Chevrolet
Model: Malibu1ZC69-LS
PEG: 1FL-1FL Preferred Equipment Group
Primary Color: GB8 - Mosaic Black Metallic
Trim: H1H - Dark Atmosphere / Medium Ash Cloth Interior Trim
Engine: LFV-Engine 4 cyl, 1.5L, Turbo
Transmission: MRG - Transmission, Automatic Continuously Var. Ratio

***For immediate delivery**

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal for Police Vehicle" and shall bear on the face thereof: the name, address and phone number of the bidder.

All such sealed bids must be received by the Village Clerk at Village Hall, 2582 South Avenue, Wappingers Falls, New York 12590 on or before 12:00 P.M., January 3, 2024. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud with the contract being awarded as soon as practicable thereafter.

The Village Board reserved the right to accept or reject any or all portions of the bid and to re-advertise for same, should the best interest of the Village thereby be promoted.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES VILLAGE OF WAPPINGERS FALLS JOHN M. KARGE VILLAGE CLERK

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

AT YOUR LIBRARY

December Events at Clinton Community Library

For more specific information about any library programs, or to register, please call (845) 495-0655 or email larnold@clintoncommunitylibrary.org

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Qi Gong with Vince (online)
Mon. 12/18 at 9:30 AM

Wed. 12/13, Wed. 12/20, Wed. 12/27
at 9:30 AM

Vince Sauter will teach you how to lower stress and keep calm with Tai Chi. Class will focus on breathing in the calm and breathing out the tension. No class December 25, 2023

Story time on the Dot (in-person)

Tue. 12/19, Tue. 12/26 at 10:30 AM

Join us every Tuesday at 10:30 for Story time! Listen to fun stories, sing songs, and have fun, all centered around a different theme every week.

Mah Jongg (in-person)
(Optimistic Aging)

Tue. 12/19, Tue. 12/26 at 2:00-4:00
PM

If you're looking for a game to keep your mind sharp, or if you enjoy games that make you think strategically, you'll want to give Mah Jongg a try! Players of all levels are welcome.

All Level Yoga (in person & online)

Wed. 12/13, Wed. 12/20, Wed. 12/27
at 6:00 PM (online)

Sun. 12/17, Sun. 12/24, Sun. 12/31 at
10:00 AM (in person or online)

Join Mia Tomic and explore classical seated, standing and supine yoga poses linked with breath in a creative way to stretch, strengthen, and rejuvenate your body, breath, and mind. You may also participate online. Please plan according to your comfort and needs as class is held indoors.

Chair Yoga, (in-person or online)
(Optimistic Aging)

Fri. 12/15, Fri. 12/22, Fri. 12/29 at

12:00 AM

Join Samantha for Chair Yoga for ALL. Learn the basics of breath, meditation, and movement. This class will help you stretch and strengthen. Registration required so that you can get the link. Please register online or call the library at (845)-495-0655.

Zumba, (in-person)

Sat. 12/16, Sat. 12/23, Sat. 12/30 at
9:00 AM

Join Ginny Morrow for a fun fitness routine every Saturday at 9 AM. Pre-registration is not required. You may sign in at the door.

Free Tech Help (in-person)

Sat. 12/16, Sat. 12/23, Sat. 12/30 9:00
AM- 1:00 PM

Do you need help with your Kindle, tablet, smart phone or computer? Drop-in anytime on Saturdays between 9AM-1PM or call the library at (845)-495-0655 to book an appointment.

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

Tea Time Book Club (in person)

December: Tea Time Yankee Swap (no
book selection)

Thursday December 14 at 2:00 PM

Readers will enjoy a fun book swap. Bring a wrapped book—new is not necessary—and then pick one that is a surprise for you. We'll have tea; we'll have treats, and we'll take home a book! Who's got the spirit!

Join Tea Time Book Club the second Thursday of every month. Come talk about the monthly selection and enjoy tea and a snack with members of the club.

Global Literature Book Club (in person)
December Selection: The Magician
by Colm Tóibín

Monday December 18 at 7:00 PM

The Global Literature Book Club focuses on exploring the world through literature. We discuss novels from around the globe, selected by members of the club. These works provide insights into a wide variety of nations, cultures, and

styles of writing.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Gingerbread House Decorating (in
person)

Saturday December 16 at 10:30 AM

Something sweet is coming back to the library! Gingerbread House Decorating! Our annual program will be on December 16th 2023. We will have kits and candies for you to decorate your very own gingerbread house. Join us for this sweet program that is surely to be a wonderful time!

Note: You must register for each individual who is attending and would like to

participate. Materials are limited and there will not be extra!

The Eight tells the story of Lemmon v. New York—or, as it's more popularly known, the Lemmon Slave Case. All but forgotten today, it was one of the most momentous civil rights cases in American history.

Clinton Community Library is located at 1215 Centre Rd. in Rhinebeck, adjacent to the Clinton Town Hall. For more information, call (845) 266-5530 or visit www.clintoncommunitylibrary.org.

Hooks & Needles, Yarns & Threads has Red Scarf project at Tivoli Library



This is the sixth year that the Hooks & Needles, Yarns & Threads crafting group, which meets weekly at the Tivoli Free Library, has rallied their community to create scarves for donation to the Red Scarf Project, a program sponsored by Foster Care to Success. Foster Care to Success is an organization that works with college-aged foster youth as they navigate the many issues involved with pursuing higher education. More information can be found on their website: www.fc2success.org. This year the group crafted and collected a record 34 scarves! From left are Chris Baker, Doris Formby, and Hildegard Edling outside the Tivoli Free Library on their way to the post office. Photo courtesy of Michele DelPriore

**NORTHERN
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OBITUARIES

John Kennedy

FORMERLY OF HYDE PARK – John Kennedy, age 89, former resident of Hyde Park and Rhinebeck, passed away in South Bend, Indiana, on December 5, 2023. He was surrounded by his children and family.

An accomplished public servant, he was Hyde Park Town Justice for over 10 years; Deputy Commissioner of Elections; Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature; an attorney for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and Dutchess County Attorney. John was a Notre Dame Graduate, Air Force Veteran and held a Law Degree from Fordham University. He moved to Dutchess County in the 1970s when he was offered a position as county attorney by Bill Bartles.

As Chairman of the Legislature, he was instrumental in the creation of Dutchess Stadium. Until August 2023 he lived in

Rhinebeck and Hyde Park. John was a member of the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, and multiple Catholic Parishes in Dutchess County during that time. He is survived by his wife Martha, 3 children, and 3 grandchildren and will be missed.

Friends and relatives called on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. The Requiem Mass was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at The Church of the Holy Trinity, 775 Main St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, followed by interment in the family plot at St. Peter's Cemetery, Poughkeepsie, NY with military honors.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. To send a condolence or for directions please visit us at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Kathleen Foerschler

PLEASANT VALLEY - Kathleen Foerschler, 70, of Pleasant Valley, NY, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Born on June 25, 1953, in Poughkeepsie, she was the daughter of the late Joseph Edward Foerschler Sr. and Angela Badami Foerschler.

Kathleen was a Dutchess County ARC resident.

Surviving are her brothers Ed (Corky) Foerschler, Pell City, AL, Michael (Laurie) Foerschler, of Poughkeepsie, NY. Nieces Nicole (Jon) Horn, Daniele (David) Durante, Sarah (Rob) Stroffolino, and nephew Jonathan Foerschler.

Also surviving are several great nieces and nephew and cousins.

Kathleen was predeceased by her beloved parents, Joseph Edward Foerschler, Sr. and Angela Badami Foerschler and several Aunts and Uncles.

There were no calling hours planned.

Graveside funeral services was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at St. Peters Cemetery, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Kathleen's family respectfully requests memorial donations to: Dutchess County SPCA 636 Violet Avenue Hyde Park, N.Y. 12538

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Rte. 9, Hyde Park. To send an online condolence, or for directions, please visit www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

GOLDEN LIVING

Holiday Hours – OFA and all Friendship Centers will be closed on Christmas Day (Monday 12/25) and New Year's Day (Monday 1/1/2024)

OFA GOALS FOR 2024

A hospital trip for a medical emergency may save a life, but do you or the person you care for want to repeat the experience? Probably not. That's why OFA wants to make an older adult's return home from the hospital less challenging, to break the pattern of return hospital trips. The Office for the Aging coordinates with care teams at local hospitals, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities and urgent care centers, to reduce the risk of return hospital trips.

You can take these four steps, whether your hospital visit was planned or not.

Ask about your risk: Older adults and their caregivers can advocate for themselves, simply by asking about the risk for repeat hospital visits. Health care professionals measure factors that can identify which older adults are most likely to return to an emergency department after leaving the hospital.

Have a care plan ready before discharge time: Don't go home from the hospital without asking health care providers about what kind of plan will meet an older adult's unique needs as they continue their recovery. The Office for the Aging can be a key part of planning a successful recovery, working with hospital care teams. Since beginning this effort in 2019, more Dutchess older adults have sought out OFA services. It's a trend we expect will continue in 2024.

Talk to your pharmacist: Anybody taking multiple medications is at risk of drug interactions that lead to serious side effects. The phenomenon is called "polypharmacy." To prevent it, a pharmacist can review medications and help align the timing and dosage of medications for desired effectiveness. If a change in medications is ordered, OFA can direct you to local resources where you can safely dispose of medications that are no longer needed.

Listen to that wake-up call: In the case of an unplanned hospital visit, a combination of lifestyle factors and undiagnosed ailments may have led to an older adult's current situation. It's never too late to quit smoking, improve diet and exercise, and eliminate other substance use, to improve your quality of life and reduce repeat hospital trips. OFA's website (www.dutchessny.gov/aging) has plenty of tips available in our "Nutrition Services" and "Health and Wellness" sections to find out more.

DECEMBER 'FRIENDLY CALLS' ORIENTATION SESSIONS AT OFA

It's easy to fit Friendly Calls volunteering into your schedule. All it takes is 20 to 30 minutes of your time, once a week. Make an appointment for a Friendly Calls orientation session at OFA, and we can answer your questions and get you connected with an older Dutchess County resident who's interested in hearing from you. We have Friendly Calls orientations available on the following dates and times. Pick one:

Thursday, December 14th – 2 pm

Monday, December 18th – 2 pm

If you're available to come to OFA, but at a time and date not listed here, please ask and we may be able to work something out. To make an appointment and ask any other questions, email bjones@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-2555.

If you are unable to come to Poughkeepsie for an orientation, send an email to the address above and we'll work with you on setting up a remote orientation.

OFA also offers onsite orientations for Dutchess County workplaces with group volunteering programs. Contact OFA to find out more!

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

Dutchess Ambulatory Surgical Center holds ribbon-cutting at Eastdale Village



Members of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce join the staff of Dutchess Ambulatory Surgical Center in ribbon-cutting ceremonies at their new location in Eastdale Village.

-Photo by Lauren DeWitt

Dutchess Ambulatory Surgical Center, a Poughkeepsie based outpatient surgical center, has recently relocated to Eastdale Village. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce was held on Friday, Dec. 8 at the new location.

The center, originally established in 1998, is multi-specialty, offering a variety of surgical services including but not limited to urology, pain management, orthopedics, gastroenterology, gynecology, ophthalmology including retina and oculoplastics. Dutchess Ambulatory expanded from a two (2) operating room center to five (5) operating rooms and plans to offer additional specialties. The center offers quality care, state-of-the-art equipment and advanced technology in a safe friendly environment. The Medical Staff consists of Board-Certified physicians and highly qualified clinical and support staff.

Kathleen Hickman, RN, MS, CASC, is a Certified Surgical Center Administrator and has been managing the center for 22 years. She was recently contacted by Newsweek Magazine who announced that Dutchess Ambulatory Surgical Center has achieved the rank of 10th Best Surgical Center in the State of New York, rising 3 ranks from 2023. The ranking is based on U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services data.

"We are extremely proud of this distinction. This achievement is only possible with a team like ours who truly cares for our patients and strives to provide the best care possible," said Hickman. "In the ever-changing healthcare environment, we have consistently been able to offer high quality care and will continue to offer the same quality care in our new location. It is an honor to be recognized by Newsweek Magazine."

Eleanor Roosevelt Banned Book Awards set Feb. 17

The Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill (ERVK) will hold the Eleanor Roosevelt Banned Book Awards on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024. This year, the organization is launching the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Bravery in Literature in direct response to the alarming rise of book banning in the U.S. and as an extension of its commitment to honoring leaders who advance human rights.

The event will be held at the Bard College Fisher Center for the Performing Arts in Annandale-on-Hudson.

The inaugural award-winners are a group of incredible authors who have championed intellectual freedom and the fight against censorship.

The evening will include a lively

discussion with the inaugural winners of the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Bravery in Literature:

Judy Blume, Lifetime Achievement

Maia Kobabe for "Gender Queer"

Alex Gino for "Melissa" (previously published as "George")

George Johnson for "All Boys Aren't Blue"

Laurie Halse Anderson for "SHOUT"

Mike Curato for "Flamer"

The new award is being designed by artist, author and creative director George McCalman.

Additional award-winners and speakers will be announced shortly, along with complete event details. Visit www.ervk.org for more information.

COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS TO MEET ON FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS, ANY COMPLAINTS ON DEC. 14

There will be a meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Ethics on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 5 p.m. The public has the right to attend the meeting at the Dutchess County Department of Law, 22 Market Street, 5th floor, Poughkeepsie.

Public Comments will also be accepted verbally, up to three minutes per person, for a total of up to 30 minutes in the aggregate at the end of the meeting. Each person may only speak once up to three minutes.

This meeting of the Board of Ethics shall be for the purpose of reviewing 2022 Financial Disclosure Statements and reviewing any complaints received by the Ethics Board.

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