

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!

Southern Dutchess News

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VALENTINE’S DAY LOVE STORIES

‘Look forward,’ and have ‘commitment,’ advice from couples married for more than 5 decades



Above: Maureen and Raymond Norcross, residents of Wappinger, on their wedding day in Westchester County. The couple has been married for 51 years. Right: Agnes and Raymond Juback on their wedding day in October 1959.

Editor’s note: Each year for Valentine’s Day, we at the Southern Dutchess News interview couples who have been married for more than 50 years.

By Kristine Coulter Two local couples sat down with Southern Dutchess News to reminisce about the beginnings of their relationships. Each shared about their wedding day and the more than five decades of

marriage they have lived. Agnes and Raymond Juback Agnes and Raymond Juback have been married for 66 years. They were married in Yonkers, Westchester County, on October 10, 1959. They met when they were teenagers. “They were three or four girls, and she was, at that time, in a purple coat,” recalled Ray. “I told my buddy, ‘I think I

like that girl.” Agnes said, “He used to take me for ice cream.” She remarked, “I thought he was okay. He was more for me at the time. That’s how we started. We’d go for an ice cream.” They dated for six years before marrying each other.

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Local judge Chase recalls officiating at numerous weddings through the decades

By Kristine Coulter Local judge Raymond C. Chase Jr. recently shared some of his experiences of officiating thousands, he says, of weddings for decades. Does he remember the first wedding he presided over? “I was a rookie. They called me,” he said. The judge, who will be celebrating his 60th wedding anniversary with his wife on Feb. 19, said the wedding was in the town of Wappinger. “There were about four or five people there,” he recalled. “A guy comes running out. He says, ‘I hope you know what’s going on here.’ I said, ‘All I know is I’m here to make two young people happy.’”

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Judge Raymond C. Chase Jr. -Courtesy photo

Yankees select Bossi as new manager of Renegades, name 2026 field, support staff



Aaron Bossi -Courtesy photo HV Renegades

The New York Yankees have announced their 2026 player development staffs and Aaron Bossi will take over as the manager of the Hudson Valley Renegades, the Yankees’ High-A affiliate. Bossi becomes the 21st manager in team history, and the sixth in six years during the Yankees era. He replaces James Cooper, who guided the Renegades to a franchise-record 79 wins in 2025 and was named the new manager of the Double-A Somerset Patriots. Under his tutelage the Renegades had their 13th consecutive winning season, and 16th in the last 17 seasons. Since the beginning of the 2012 season, the Renegades have the best winning percentage (.577) in Minor League Baseball. Bossi is joined on the all-new field staff by Pitching Coach Ryan Mossman (1st season), Hitting Coach Scott Nestor (1st season), and Defensive Coach Chase Gerbick (1st season). The support staff features one returner in Clubhouse Manager Ryan Shute (6th season), and newcomers Athletic Trainer Maegan Manrow (1st season), Strength Coach Esteban Morales (1st season), Video & Tech. Assistant Robert Sieling (1st season), and Advanced Scouting Analyst Stephen Schuster (1st season). “I’m very excited to be back in Hudson Valley where my coaching career began, working with such a strong staff and an exciting group of players,” said Bossi. “We’re looking forward to what I hope will be a memorable season for both our players and our fans.”

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♥ VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE STORIES ♥

'Look forward,' and have 'commitment,' advice from married couples



Above: Maureen and Ray Norcross in their Wappinger residence last month.
Right: Agnes and Ray Juback at the East Fishkill Community Center in East Fishkill.
Each couple has celebrated more than 50 years of marriage.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

Continued from cover

"He went into the service. He didn't want me to have to travel," explained Agnes.

"I kept getting further away," recalled Ray, who wanted to get back east. So, he said he joined the 101st Airborne Division. He went back east and was at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

After he came home, the couple became engaged.

They were married in a ceremony in St. Peter's Church in Yonkers. Their reception was at the Polish Community Center in Yonkers. They had 12 people in their wedding party. Approximately 150 people attended their wedding.

"It was a beautiful day," said Agnes.

Ray was a carpenter with the local union in Yonkers. The couple had three children, two sons and a daughter. They now also have two grandsons.

After living in New York for more than two decades, they moved to Nevada, where the way of life was more economical, and settled in Las Vegas, where one of Agnes' sisters lived.

They moved back to Dutchess County and settled in East Fishkill about three years ago.

"We're very fortunate; we've had our ups and downs. We get along. We try not to get mad at each other," noted Agnes.

"Smile, be happy and have a positive attitude," said Ray.

Ray said his advice to couples getting married this year is to "look forward, be happy with your life and love."

Maureen and Raymond Norcross

Maureen and Ray Norcross met while in college. They both grew up in the Bronx.

They met while at a bar in Westchester County. "Somehow we got to know each other," said Ray.

Their first date was to a Chinese restaurant on Fordham Road in the Bronx, shared Maureen.

They dated for more than two years.

They were married on September 28, 1974, in St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Yonkers.

"The only time it didn't rain was when we came out of the church," recalled Ray, who was 22 when he got married. Maureen, who was 21 on her wedding day, noted rain on one's wedding day is supposed to bring luck.

Their cocktail hour was supposed to be outside, but because it was raining, the whole reception had to be held inside.

The couple has three sons and two grandsons.

Ray and Maureen are retired now. He worked for a company in Tarrytown when they were first married. He then was employed by IBM and then went into business for himself. Maureen worked for IBM. She retired from Vassar College (now Vassar University).

Ray's advice for couples is to "compromise" and to have "commitment." He also suggested being on the same page regarding finances.

Maureen said they are the "yin and yang" for each other. She said for couples to be "honest with each other."

Local judge recalls officiating numerous weddings through the decades

Continued from cover

Chase was trying to figure out something "good to say" during the ceremony. He told the couple, "I hope you have health and happiness in your life."

"I said, 'You can now kiss.' They looked at each other and she said, 'In front of everyone?'" Chase said that bride would later become his boss at Dutchess ARC.

Two other locations Chase has married couples are at the Chelsea Yacht Club and the New Hamburg Yacht Club.

Once he was called to perform a wedding at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in Brooklyn. The was an obstacle – he prefers

not to drive.

"They sent me a limousine. I felt like a rock star," he said. "It was gorgeous," he said of the site.

The longest distance he went to perform a wedding ceremony was to San Luis Obispo in California for a relative of his wife's ceremony.

"It was gorgeous. They wanted it outside... it never rains in California," said Chase, who noted weddings on the East Coast seem to be a bit more conservative than on the West Coast.

"I normally interview [the couple]," said Chase, adding that he "only thinks it's right they know who's marrying them." He said

he does his due diligence to give them the best he can.

There was once a wedding on Halloween that Chase presided over.

"They all dressed up," he said. The bride and groom were the queen and king. "He came in with a crown," said the judge.

Around the New Paltz area, a ceremony was near a waterfall. The judge was asked to move back more for a better shot for a picture. He recalled stating to the photographer, "No, you stand here."

There was another time, during a Jewish wedding ceremony, the glass shot out of the bag it was in when the groom stepped on it to break it, as is tradition.

Chase also appears in one of the wed-

dings, he said, in the movie "Four Weddings and a Funeral," that took place in Orange County.

Once he needed a witness for a wedding ceremony at the gazebo in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls. At the time, bass player and musician John Regan, who was the parks commissioner, was in the park. He asked Regan for a favor and to witness the ceremony.

Asked what advice he has for couples, Chase replied, "Advice? I don't give advice. What's good for me might not be good for you."

After experiencing more than six decades of marriage, he said he thanks his wife for picking up the slack.

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County offers tips, resources for cold-weather safety

Compiled by Kate Goldsmith

Winter 2026 has been one for the books so far, with cold snaps and snowfall accumulations not seen in a long time. While temperatures are forecast to rise above freezing during the day this week, we're still not out of the proverbial woods. Awareness of the various cold-weather risks will help us get through the next several weeks, and Dutchess County has been proactive in providing tips and resources to do exactly that on its website(www.dutchessny.gov/WinterPreparedness) and Facebook page (@DutchessCountyGovernment).

Below is a summary of information the county provides.

Winter-related health risks

- Frostbite: People work or play outdoors during the winter can develop frostbite and not even know it. Watch for these danger signs:
 - Skin may feel numb and become flushed (red). Then it turns white or grayish-yellow.
 - Get to a warm area. Cover affected area with something warm and dry.
 - Never rub frostbitten skin
 - Get the person to a doctor or hospital as quickly as possible.
- Hypothermia: Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures can cause hypothermia. Be aware of these symptoms: inability to concentrate; confusion; poor coordination; slurred speech; drowsiness; exhaustion; uncontrollable shivering, followed by a sudden lack of shivering.

Seek emergency medical assistance if your body temperature drops below 95 degrees. Remove wet clothing, wrap yourself in warm blankets and drink warm liquids until help arrives.

Avoid long periods of exposure to severe cold to decrease the risk of frostbite or hypothermia. Dress in layers of clothing and wear a hat and mittens.

- Physical exertion: Risk of a heart attack increases with activity like shoveling, clearing debris or pushing a car. You should:
 - Stay warm, dress warm and slow down when working outdoors.
 - Take frequent rests to avoid over exertion.
 - If you feel chest pain -- STOP and seek help immediately.

If you need emergency shelter

The county's CODE BLUE protocol is in effect for anyone who needs shelter when temperatures are 32 degrees or below. Dutchess County Department of Community & Family Services collaborates with community partners to ensure every resident is safe. Anyone who needs emergency shelter can call 2-1-1 after business hours/weekends and staff will help you to shelter placement.

Winter fire risks

- Kerosene Heaters: Follow these safety tips when using kerosene heaters:
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Use only the correct fuel for your unit.
 - Refuel outdoors ONLY and only when the unit is cool.
 - Keep the heater at least three feet

'Love Songs at the Howland' on Feb. 13

It's "Love Songs at the Howland" on Friday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. at 477 Main St. in Beacon. This is going to be a fundraiser for The Beacon Players.Come and see a snippet from their forthcoming show "Jekyll & Hyde-The Musical." They will present some beautiful love songs sung by Beacon Players members. The Beacon Players is the name for the Beacon High School drama organization, known for their knockout musical productions.

Get tickets at <http://www.howlandculturalcenter.org>.

away from furniture and other flammable objects.

- When using the heater, use fire safeguards and ventilate properly.
- Wood stoves and fireplaces: Make sure you are using your wood-burning stove, fireplace and heater safely.
- Always keep a screen around an open flame.
- Never use gasoline to start your fireplace.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Do not close the damper when ashes are hot.
- Make sure you have proper ventilation.
- Keep curtains, towels and potholders away from hot surfaces.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning: Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas created by car exhaust, home heating systems and obstructed chimneys that claims about 1,000 lives in the United States each year. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sleepiness, headaches and dizziness.

If you experience the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning get into fresh air immediately and call 911 for emergency medical help.

- Never run generators indoors. Open a window slightly when using a kerosene heater.
- Never use charcoal to cook indoors.
- Never use a gas oven to heat your home.

Protect pets

- Ingesting anti-freeze can be fatal for your pets. If you spill some, soak it up immediately.
- Pets that live outdoors should be fed a bit more in the winter (they need the extra calories to stay warm). Always have fresh water (consider a bowl that prevents the water from freezing).
- Pets can get frostbite easily on the ears, tail and paws – be aware of the temperature.
- Check your pets' paws to make sure ice or road salt is not building up between the toes.
- Keep your pet on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.
- When starting your car, honk your horn to make sure an animal has not found a warm spot to sleep under your hood.

Winter safety on the road

If you must drive during a winter storm – preparation is key.

- Stock your car with blankets, a shovel, flashlight and batteries, extra warm clothing, tire chains, battery booster cables, quick energy foods and brightly-colored cloth to use as a distress flag.
- Keep your gas tank full to prevent gasoline freeze-up.
- Keep batteries charged if you have a mobile phone or two-way radio
- Make sure tires are properly inflated and have adequate treads.
- Make sure someone knows your travel plans.
- Listen to local news reports or call law enforcement agencies for the latest road conditions.

Dance at the Elks Lounge on Feb. 14

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, February 14 at 7 p.m. at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon. Attire is whatever suits your mood - from blue jeans to sparkles.

These dances are informal and even if you come alone, you can always find a friendly partner on the dance floor. Admission is \$15 and includes complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar.

For more information, call Rhoda at 845-765-0667 or email rhodaja@optonline.net.



Winter Safety Tip from Dutchess County is to keep home vents clear of snow.

-Courtesy photo Dutchess County Gov't

- Keep your vehicles clear of ice and snow (this includes your hood and roof). If you become trapped in your vehicle, here are some tips to follow:
 - Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow.
 - If you have access to a mobile phone or two-way radio, contact emergency services.
 - Stay in your car and wait for help to find you.
 - Run your engine for short periods of time to stay warm.
 - Keep your window open slightly to allow circulation.
 - Turn on the dome light at night when you are running the engine to signal rescuers.
 - Hang a brightly colored piece of cloth

or piece of clothing from your car.

- Move arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm. Plan ahead for winter safety

It might be tempting to block winter out of our minds once spring arrives, but that is the perfect time to prepare for next year.

- Develop a Family Emergency Plan - Be informed about plans at your workplace, and anywhere you and your family spend time. Ready.gov can help you develop a family plan should disaster strike.
- Stock Up on Emergency Supplies - During an emergency, electric, heat or phone service may not work. Make sure you're covered - download a checklist from Ready.gov.
- Be Aware - Local radio and television stations provide official up-to-date information during an emergency.
- Have a mechanic check the following items on your vehicle, before winter arrives: battery, wipers and windshield washer fluid, antifreeze, ignition system, thermostat, lights, exhaust system, flashing hazard lights, heater, brakes, defroster, oil level.
- Help your neighbor - If your neighbor is elderly or dependent on life-sustaining or health-related equipment, you can assist them now to ensure their needs are met during severe winter and power outages:
 - Help them stock a home disaster kit.
 - Check on them after a storm or power outage.
- Make sure they register as a special needs customer with their utility.
- Notify local emergency responders such as the fire department.
- Have a list of emergency numbers readily available for them.

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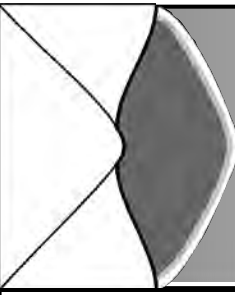
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Viewpoints



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. Deadline for letters is Friday at noon. Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to newsplace@aol.com, and the phrase “Letter to the Editor” should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published, with the exception of political figures.
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Southern 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 and 300 words or less.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Southern Dutchess News.

Pattern of 'subversion' by Town of Fishkill Supervisor

To the Editor:

I wanted to write about what I feel are a couple of disturbing trends in Town Hall to the Fishkill residents. A well-respected high-ranking officer of the Fishkill Police Department has recently filed a lawsuit against Supervisor Ozzy Albra, (plus the Fishkill PD, Town of Fishkill and some Town Board members) after he filed a notice of claim last June citing a hostile environment. This follows a lawsuit filed by the former HR director of Fishkill, for being improperly fired, and resignation of Mr. Albra’s former personal secretary also for being in a hostile environment. (Police lieutenant sues his department and town board - Mid Hudson News, Former HR Director sues town for violating Civil Service Law - Mid Hudson News, Supervisor Albra's assistant resigns claiming office was a hostile work environment - Mid Hudson News)

I feel just because employees of the Town are not members of Mr. Albra's inner circle or refuse to do his bidding for ethical reasons, they should not be subjected to bullying or retaliation tactics by the Supervisor. What further disturbs me is Mr. Albra and the board passed a resolution giving indemnification to all the plaintiffs in the officer's lawsuit, meaning they will not incur any personal legal expenses. Rather, the Fishkill taxpayers will foot the bill if the Town's insurance carrier refuses to cover the case, as they did when Mr. Albra lost the lawsuit against Continental Commons, resulting in the taxpayers having to pay \$68,645.50 for Mr Albra's attorney fees and \$70,030.24 for the defendant's fees for a total of almost \$140,000 on the taxpayer's dime. (FOIL).

I feel this officer is a good man, and ethical cop in a period when many people feel the FPD has declined, and I feel has been politicized with the Supervisor's personal friends. I feel he has a target on his back for the simple fact he is just trying to do his job.

To conclude, when you have key Fishkill Town employees that have had issues of a hostile environment and one for being improperly fired, I feel it's no longer an anomaly, but a pattern of bullying and subversion by Mr. Albra. Also, Fishkill taxpayers should not continually be expected to be Mr. Albra's "backup" plan for indemnification of defendants and himself if the insurance carrier rejects the lawsuit for his indiscretions.

John Namerow
Fishkill

Immigration and the rule of law

To the Editor:

A video has been “going viral”, as they say, of a speech President Obama made on July 1, 2010 in Washington D.C. He spoke against illegal immigration, saying that our nation “has the right and obligation to control its borders and set laws for residency and citizenship”, saying further that “.. no matter how decent they are, no matter their reasons, the 11 million who broke these laws should be held accountable." His total deportations totaled at least 3 million people, according to various online sources. His vice-president, Joe Biden, departed from Mr. Obama’s policy by allowing record numbers of illegal immigrants into the country, thus paving the way for Donald Trump’s decisive victory in 2024.

This idea of a nation’s right to control its borders has been recently emphasized in a paper from the Catholic advocacy group CatholicVote entitled “Immigration Enforcement and the Christian Conscience”, by Benjamin Mann. The paper reminds us of the Catholic teaching which states that nations have a moral obligation to accept immigrants, people who may be fleeing desperate living conditions. But along with that obligation exists the right of a host nation to decide how many people it can accommodate. Too many immigrants can, by over-loading a nation’s resources, re-create the difficult conditions in the host country that exist in the countries that immigrants are trying to flee from. Massive abuses have accompanied the open border policy of the last administration.

The paper points out that some well-meaning Church leaders are misleading Catholics by being too tolerant of unlimited immigration and open borders. They say that the teachings of Jesus oblige a nation to accept immigrants without any restraints, that this is part of “the preferential option for the poor” that the Church embraces. This, the CatholicVote document insists, is not in line with the Catholic teaching found in such authoritative resources as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Vatican II document “Gaudium et Spes” (Latin for “joy and hope”), and the Compendium of Social Doctrine. These sources declare that, again, it is up to a nation’s civil authorities to decide on immigration issues, that a nation’s first obligation is to its own citizens, and that the rule of law is essential in protecting the rights of those citizens. CatholicVote argues that deportation is a legitimate enforcement of immigration law that Catholics and all people of goodwill can support in good conscience.

Robert Crolius
Hyde Park

The Wappingers VFW Post 5913: Celebrating 80 Years of Service

To the Editor:

On February 18, 1946, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5913 was officially chartered at 8 School Street in Wappingers Falls, NY. This milestone year marks the 80th anniversary of Wappingers VFW Post 5913, a testament to our long-standing commitment to serving veterans and the broader Wappingers community.

According to previous Post Commanders, VFW Post 5913 was established in the aftermath of World War II to assist returning servicemembers and wartime veterans. As the organization grew in membership, its mission expanded beyond supporting veterans to also serving the greater Wappingers community. The Post's war veterans dedicated themselves to sharing their military and life experiences with younger generations, fostering American pride and patriotism. VFW Post 5913 remains steadfast in upholding the U.S. Constitution and the Government of the United States. The sense of duty and dedication to preserving freedoms did not end with our military service—our service to America continues without pause.

To commemorate this remarkable milestone, VFW Post 5913 members have organized several activities open to the community:

- *Spaghetti Dinner: Join us on Saturday, February 21, from 5-7 p.m. for a community spaghetti dinner. Families are welcome to attend this gathering of friends and neighbors.
- *Speaker Event: On Sunday, February 22, from 2:30 - 4 p.m., we will host a joint event with the Wappingers Historical Society. This interactive and informative discussion and presentation aims to engage and educate attendees about our shared history.
- *St. Patrick’s Day Parade Festivities: As part of the Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the Village of Wappingers Falls, we will offer breakfast sandwiches from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 7. Following the parade, a Post Lunch will be available after 2 p.m..

Throughout 2026, VFW Post 5913 will host a additional events to honor our 80 years of service and community presence. We invite all to join us as we celebrate our history, examine our legacy, and spotlight a Post that has been central to Wappingers for generations. We welcome all

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5913

Hughsonville Fire District hosts second annual Comedy Show

The Hughsonville Fire District hosted its 2nd annual comedy show on January 24. The event was a resounding success, selling out all available tickets and bringing together members of the community for an evening filled with entertainment and camaraderie.

The festivities began with a selection of food and drinks prepared by the departments own firefighters. Following the meal, the audience enjoyed performances by a lineup of comedians including John Iavone, Chris Monty, and Karen Margaret.

The success of the evening would not have been possible without the unwavering support of both the firefighters and the generous sponsors who contributed to the show. The Hughsonville Fire Department extends its sincere gratitude to all sponsors for their invaluable support.

Chief Sponsors: Tompkins Community Bank, Homestead Funding; Captain Sponsors: Root 9 Dispensary, N & S Supply; Lieutenant Sponsors: Home Depot, Wappingers Green Cleaners, Lucky Nails, Longobardi's Restaurant, Imperial Plaza Barbers, Gino's Restaurant, Renegades Stadium, Adams Fairacre Farms, Viscount Wines & Liquor; Additional Sponsors: Hannaford Supermarket, Rosie's Pizzeria, East Fishkill Provisions Smoke Haus & Deli.

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Albert Osten, President

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Dutchess County officials host annual Human Trafficking Awareness Forum



The annual Human Trafficking Awareness Forum was recently held at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie. From left: Michael J. Hall, DCC’s Behavioral Science Department; Tracy Connolly-Hart, Deputy Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services; Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino; David Garcia, Human Trafficking Coordinator-Safe Harbor, Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking; DCC Professor and retired Connecticut detective Matthew Greenstein.



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, left, and trafficking survivor Alicia McDonald, who shared her experience with forum attendees recently.
Courtesy photos Dutchess County Gov’t

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) recently hosted the County’s third annual Human Trafficking Awareness Forum at Dutchess Community College’s James and Betty Hall Theatre, bringing together more than 120 community partners, service providers, educators, healthcare professionals and law enforcement to strengthen local efforts to prevent human trafficking and support victims.

Serino said, “Human trafficking is a crime that often goes unseen, and awareness is one of our strongest tools. By continuing to bring people together for education and training, we are strengthening our community’s ability to recognize exploitation and connect victims with help. Dutchess County is eager to keep working alongside our committed partners, and we thank all who took part.”

Human trafficking, defined as the unlawful trade of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for exploitative purposes, includes crimes such as forced labor, sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude. The International Labour Organization estimates more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of

human trafficking; it remains a serious public safety and human rights issue nationwide, affecting communities of all sizes. In 2025, the Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking received 38 local referrals of suspected trafficking cases - including referrals received from probation officers, youth service providers and staff at shelters for runaway and homeless youth.

The Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking brings together professionals from many different fields to stop human trafficking by raising awareness, recognizing possible victims and providing coordinated, trauma-informed support. The task force also offers prevention education for young people and practical resources for the community, including guides, hotline numbers, service listings and fact sheets that address common myths about trafficking.

The forum focused on increasing public awareness, improving identification of trafficking indicators and reinforcing coordination among agencies that serve vulnerable populations across Dutchess County. The program featured presentations, panel discussions and training ses-

sions led by subject-matter experts. Speakers addressed emerging trends in human trafficking, best practices for victim-centered responses and the importance of cross-agency collaboration.

This year’s forum offered clear, practical information on the many forms of human trafficking, how to recognize the warning signs and steps that can be taken to prevent it, including:

- Human trafficking victim advocate and survivor speaker Alicia McDonald discussed her background of being a survivor of sex trafficking at the hands of her first husband;
- A presentation by the New York State Office of Prevention of Domestic Violence regarding gender-based violence and the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI);
- A review of Family Services, Inc.’s Center for Victim Safety and Support program, which offers services to victims/survivors in the community, including a 24-hour hotline for trafficking victims to call to seek assistance, available at 845-452-7272; and
- A panel presentation from Hudson Valley Safe Streets on a multi-agency collaboration on a case involving a runaway youth from the Children’s Home

of Poughkeepsie.

Dutchess County participates in New York State’s Safe Harbour program, which helps counties better recognize young people who have been trafficked, sexually exploited or are at risk and connect them with the services they need. Forum attendees learned about Dutchess County’s Safe Harbour Program and the Center for Victim Safety and Support.

DCFS Commissioner Sabrina Jaar Marzouka said, “Human trafficking is a serious abuse of human rights, and it is a crime that must be stopped. We appreciate the dedicated individuals in Dutchess County who work bravely to protect people of all ages who are at risk. The collaborations strengthened at this year’s forum will help build a safer community, and we thank everyone who participated and shared their expertise.”

Suspected cases of human trafficking can be reported anytime by calling the County’s Human Trafficking Hotline at 845-452-7272. To learn more about Dutchess County’s prevention efforts and access a resource guide for service providers, law enforcement and attorneys on creating a coordinated, trauma-informed response, visit DCFS’ Human Trafficking Task Force webpage.

D.A.: Pleasant Valley man pleads guilty to threat communicated against U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi announced on Feb. 5 that Christopher Moynihan, 35, plead guilty in the Town of Clinton Court to Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, in violation of Penal Law Section 240.30, subdivision (1), reduced from Making a Terrorist Threat, in violation of Penal Law Section 490.20, subdivision (1), a Class D Felony. This plea is related to a threat communicated to another person regarding United States House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

District Attorney Anthony Parisi said, “Threats against elected officials are not political speech, they are criminal acts that strike at the heart of public safety and our democratic system. My office treats these cases with the utmost seriousness because words intended to intimidate or terrorize can have real-world consequences. After a careful and thorough review of the law and the evidence, and in close coordination with the United States Attorney’s Office, the New York State Police, the FBI, the United States Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., and the New York City Police Department, we were able to reach a disposition that ensures accountability and public safety. I want to thank Congressman Jeffries for his cooperation throughout this matter, as well as our law enforcement partners collective and tireless efforts in bringing



Christopher Moynihan
-Photo from Dutchess County D.A.’s Office

this matter to a responsible conclusion.”

The incident occurred on Oct. 17, 2025, in the Town of Clinton. Moynihan admitted that he communicated by telephone a threat to cause harm to another, according to the D.A.’s Office.

The case was investigated by the New York State Police and is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Pamela Bloomfield. Judge James Brands presided over the case. Moynihan’s sentencing date is set for April 2. The agreed upon sentence is three years of probation supervision, according to the D.A.’s Office.

37 incarcerated individuals charged with order of protection violations in 2025

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office reports that in order to combat domestic violence, the Special Operations Bureau conducted comprehensive investigations into violations of Orders of Protection by individuals incarcerated at the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center in 2025.

As a result of the aforementioned investigations 37 incarcerated individuals were charged with allegedly contacting protected parties in direct violation of active Orders of Protection. A total of 59 criminal charges, including 22 felony counts and 37 misdemeanor counts, were ultimately filed against the defendants.

All cases will be prosecuted by the Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office. The investigations remain ongoing, and additional charges may be filed as appropriate. The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office emphasizes that Orders of Protection are legally enforceable at all times, including during periods of incarceration, and violations of these orders will be prosecuted.

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

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BRIARCLIFF INFORMATION

New York Store, Windsor Arcade

July 23rd, 1907.

Frank Eno, Esq., - Attorney,

Pine Plains, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 18th inst., with regard to the small graveyard on the Johnson Farm, for which many thanks. I note that the Moravian Historical Society, of Bethlehem, Penna., is the party interested in the graveyard, and that they have no lien on the property.

The scale and power of the Briarcliff agricultural business in 1907 is reflected in the company's letterhead, and in the request from Walter Law to "arrange for the removal of the bodies without delay" as their sacred resting place was they were seen as an economic impediment.

-Courtesy of DCHS Collections

By Aidan Chisamore

As you travel on Route 82 in Pine Plains, it is easy to miss that just beyond the eastern tree line sits one of the county's most important historical markers. A quick detour down Strever Farm Road leads to a tall white marble pillar. This monument, constructed in 1859, commemorates the Moravian-Mohican mission that existed near the hamlet of Bethel during the 1740s. It serves as a physical reminder of an important story that sits firmly at the center of local knowledge and the town's history.

For many residents, this memorial may be a familiar sight. However, many may not realize that this structure has not always stood in its current location. A group of letters held in the Dutchess County Historical Society's Archives and Special Collections, as part of the Eno Law Office Collection, reveal how the monument, and the meaning attached to it, became the subject of debate during a period of dramatic change in Pine Plains at the turn of the 20th century.

To understand the significance of these letters, it is important to first contextualize

the creation of the memorial. Founded in 1740, the Moravian mission in Pine Plains was an early Christian organization established among the Indigenous community of Shekomeko. The site was one of the first Protestant missions in New York State, and, even during its operation, the mission was understood to be an important religious and historic site. Despite its significance, the mission only operated for a short period, formally closing in 1746 due to local threats and political action taken against missionaries and the indigenous community.

By the 19th century, the land was occupied as a farm by the prominent Huntting family. According to Moravian accounts, Edward Huntting (1797-1884), who bought the land in 1829, found a mysterious stone with a German inscription. The relic was eventually brought to the Poughkeepsie Lyceum, a local educational and cultural institution.

While there, the Episcopalian Reverend and Pleasant Valley resident Sheldon Davis contended the stone was the grave marker of the Moravian missionary Gottlieb Büttner,



This monument, constructed in 1859, commemorates the Moravian-Mohican mission that existed near the hamlet of Bethel during the 1740s.

-Photo courtesy of Bill Jeffway

who died in Shekomeko.

Setting out to discover more about the mission, its location, and the extent of surviving lore, Davis conducted an extensive research project. He detailed his findings in the 1858 pamphlet "Shekomeko; or the Moravians in Dutchess County." In this text, he claimed that Huntting identified for him the location of many of the mission buildings, its orchard, and the gravesite where the stone was discovered. (It is worth noting that there is no way to definitively corroborate Davis' narrative.)

In the year following the pamphlet's publication, the Moravian Historical Society raised funds to erect a monument above the proposed site of the original grave. In October of 1859, the Historical Society met in Pine Plains to honor the dedication of the monument. They credited Davis as "the first to call the attention of the public, and that of the members of the Moravian Church, to the present condition of the old Mission stations." For the next half a century, the monument stood as a reminder of an attempt to preserve this narrative of local history.

The turn of the 20th century represented a significant change for the site of the former mission. Looking for cheaper agricultural land, Walter W. Law (1837-1924), the proprietor of a successful Westchester-based dairy operation, set his sights on Pine Plains. In 1907, Law started buying land around the hamlet of Bethel (over 3,200 acres) to create a large farm that would be called Briarcliff. One such parcel was the same lot formerly operated as the Huntting farm, where the monument was erected in 1859. Law worked with a local lawyer named Frank Eno (1845-1933), who helped him secure his many land purchases during the company's move from Briarcliff Manor.

Law's company did not share the same reverence for the monument, viewing it as an obstacle to their agricultural venture. In

July of 1907, Law's son and ranking member of the company Walter William Law, Jr. (1871-1958) wrote a letter to Frank Eno saying, "I would ask that you kindly address a line to [the Moravian Historical Society], stating that the property has changed hands, and that the graveyard will interfere with the plans for development which the new owner had in mind in purchasing the property, and he will be obliged if they will kindly arrange for the removal of the bodies without delay." Law proceeded to offer the Moravian Historical Society land along the highway, removed from any agricultural operations, where the society could reinter any bodies.

In his reply, Eno provided a detailed account of the Shekomeko Mission's history, the construction of the monument, and previous preservation efforts. The lawyer noted that, since its consecration in 1859, the monument "[had] been looked upon with great reverence by the whole country." Eno's defense directly connected the monument to the land upon which it sat. This was particularly demonstrated in his reply to the reinterment of bodies. He attests that although there may not still be physical remains, the connection to these "venerable men" sanctified the site and the land upon which it sat. He concluded

that it ultimately would be better business for the Law family to make peace with keeping the pillar in place: "The removal of the shaft would not only shock the moral sense of the whole county but would excite very unfavorable criticism in the public press of the state, and especially the county."

Despite Eno's initial success, pressures for agricultural development eventually prevailed. In 1918, the Law family sold the operation in Pine Plains to Oakleigh Thorne (1866-1948), a prominent New York businessman and Millbrook resident. The new ownership sought to shift agricultural practice, most notably opting to produce Angus beef instead of dairy. This also included a renewed effort to remove the monument. While there is no known record of discussions between Thorne's Briarcliff and the Moravian Mission, there seemed to be little tension between the two over the matter of moving the monument. Although the process took several years, the stone was relocated to its current position.

By 1926, the removal was completed, and the Moravian Historical Society met again in Pine Plains to rededicate the monument in June of that year. This event was hosted by the Thorne family. While seemingly obscure, the letters between Eno and Law demonstrate the enduring legacy of the Moravian-Mohican mission within local history. This debate and continued interest in the monument highlight the deep connection our county's history has to the physical landscape and how we continue to engage with it today.



Aidan Chisamore is a member of the staff at DCHS. He works in Collections and Archives and may be reached at aidan.chisamore@dchsny.org.

Uncover local history and support seniors at Antique Appraisal Day & Buying Event

Have you ever wondered if that dusty attic find is a hidden gem or if your family heirloom has more than just sentimental value? Residents of the Hudson Valley are invited to find out at the Antique Appraisal Day & Buying Event, hosted by the historic Vassar-Warner Home in partnership with Astor Galleries.

The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Vassar-Warner Home, located at 52 South Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie. (Alt. snow date: Feb.28).

Appraisals for a Cause - Professional appraisers from Astor Galleries will be available to evaluate a wide range of items, including furniture, fine art, collectibles, and unique curiosities.

- Cost: \$10 per item, or a special rate of three items for \$25.
- Limit: Six items per person.

On-the-Spot Buying Event - In response to high demand, the event also features a Buying Event for those interested in liquidating their items. Astor Galleries will provide competitive, no-obligation offers and immediate

payment for items such as:

- Precious Metals: Fine jewelry, gold/silver coins, and scrap gold/silver.
- Timepieces: Vintage and antique watches.
- Sterling Silver: Tea sets, bowls, and flatware.

Entry to the buying event is \$10, with no limit on the number of items presented. (Please note: Astor Galleries does not purchase items they have appraised during the event.)

"We are thrilled to bring this event to Poughkeepsie and support the vital mission of the Vassar-Warner Home," said Stephen Cardile, Director of Acquisitions and founder of Astor Galleries. "Whether you're curious about a family heirloom or thinking of selling, our team is here to help."

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Vassar-Warner Home, helping to support their mission of providing quality care and housing for seniors in the community. For more information, visit www.astorgalleries.com/appraisal-days or call 800-784-7876.

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Creating inclusive opportunities through Dutchess County 4-H

Dutchess County 4-H is proud to offer Flourishing Farmers, a unique and inclusive 4-H program designed specifically for youth with special needs. This program welcomes young people with a wide range of abilities and disabilities, including Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, deafness, blindness, and other intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Flourishing Farmers focuses on creating meaningful, hands-on opportunities that may not always be available through traditional programs.

Just like other 4-H clubs, Flourishing Farmers members meet at least once a month and participate in age-appropriate, experiential learning activities. Youth explore agriculture, animal care and nature-based learning in a supportive and adaptable environment that encourages confidence, independence and personal growth. The program emphasizes learning by doing, celebrating each participant's strengths and interests.

Flourishing Farmers offers several different program tracks, allowing youth to engage in experiences that best suit their abilities and passions. Some participants work with horses through partner locations that focus on safe, guided animal interaction. Others attend a farm centered on plants and a variety of animals, where youth learn about gardening, animal care, and farm life. Another track takes place at a farm that primarily focuses on chickens, while also introducing participants to other types of animals. Additional youth participate at a farm that works with alpacas, along with several other animal species, offering a calm and engaging environment for learning.

Throughout the year, Flourishing Farmers members build skills, friendships and a sense of belonging. A highlight of the program is the opportunity for participants to showcase what they have learned at the Dutchess County Fair on Think Differently Thursday, proudly sharing their accomplishments with family, friends, and the community.

Flourishing Farmers reflects 4-H's commitment to inclusion and accessibility, ensuring that all youth have the chance to explore, learn, and thrive. If you have a young person who may be interested in joining Flourishing Farmers, we encourage you to reach out to the Dutchess County 4-H team to learn more.

Together, we are creating spaces where every young person can flourish.



Flourishing Farmers offers several different program tracks, allowing youth to engage in experiences that best suit their abilities and passions. Courtesy photo

Yankees select Bossi as new manager of Renegades, name 2026 field, support staff

Continued from cover

Bossi, 32, returns for his second coaching stint with the Renegades, and his first as the team’s manager. Bossi was the defensive coach for Hudson Valley in 2021 on Dan Fiorito’s staff. He enters his ninth season in the Yankees organization, and his second as a manager after leading the Single-A Tampa Tarpons in 2021. He joined the Yankees in 2017, and spent three seasons assisting rehabbing players at the Yankees’ minor league complex, was slated to serve as the defensive coach for Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in 2020 before the season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was the defensive and baserunning coach for Double-A Somerset from 2022-24.

Bossi managed the Tarpons to their best overall record (63-63) since 2021. Tampa narrowly missed out on the playoffs after posting an impressive 36-29 record in the first half of the season. The Tarpons had one of the top offenses in the FSL, leading the league in batting average (.248) and stolen bases (307), and finished second in the league in OBP (.353) and OPS (.732).

The Renegades managerial job has become a launching pad in the six years under the New York Yankees affiliation, with Bossi following Cooper (2025), Nick Ortiz (2024), Sergio Santos (2023), Tyson Blaser (2022) and Dan Fiorito (2021) in the post. Ortiz and Blaser both moved up in player development into coordinator roles in other organizations, while Fiorito is now on the Yankees Major League staff.

Ryan Mossman begins his first year as the Renegades pitching coach and third in the Yankees organization. He previously served as the pitching coach for Single-A Tampa (2025) and the FCL Yankees (2024), working with Bossi in Tampa. Under his guidance, the Tarpons finished tied for fourth in the Florida State League in ERA (4.24) and had the best Groundout-to-Air Out ratio (1.05) in the league. He helped develop prospects Griffin Herring, Xavier Rivas, Andrew Landry and Brandon Decker, who all went on to make big contributions on the Renegades staff in 2025.

Scott Nestor begins his first year as the Renegades hitting coach, and his third season in the Yankees organization. He previously served as the hitting coach with the FCL Yankees in 2024 and 2025. The FCL Yankees ranked near the top of the Florida Complex League in most major

offensive categories in Nestor’s two years mentoring hitters, and led the 15-team FCL with 47 home runs in 2024.

Chase Gerbick begins his first year as the Renegades defensive coach, and his third season in the Yankees organization. He spent the 2025 season as the manager of the DSL Yankees, and was the defensive and baserunning coach for the FCL Yankees in 2024. Gerbick, 22, began his collegiate playing career at Lipscomb University before arm injuries forced him

to retire. At just 19 years old, he became the youngest coach in collegiate baseball history when he served as the Director of Player Development for Indiana Wesleyan University in 2023 before joining the Yankees.

Ryan Shute begins his sixth year as the Renegades Home Clubhouse Manager and eighth in the Yankees organization, previously working for the Short-Season A Staten Island Yankees in 2019 and Rookie-level Pulaski in 2018. Before joining the Yankees, Shute was the Visiting Clubhouse Manager for the Carolina Mudcats during the 2017 season. A native of the Hudson Valley and 2011 graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Shute spent four summers as a Stadium Operations and Groundskeeping Assistant for the Renegades from 2012-15.

Maegan Manrow begins her first season as the Athletic Trainer of the Renegades, and her third season with the Yankees. She served as the Athletic Trainer for Single-A Tampa in 2025, and was the Assistant Athletic Trainer with Double-A Somerset in 2024. Prior to joining the Yankees, she spent the 2022 and 2023 seasons as an Athletic Trainer in the Baltimore Orioles system. Manrow graduated from the University of South Florida in 2019 with a bachelor's degree, and earned her master's degree in Athletic Training from USF in 2022.

Esteban Morales begins his first season as the Renegades Strength & Conditioning Coach, and his third year in the Yankees organization. He spent the past two seasons in the same role with Single-A Tampa, working on staffs with 2025 Renegades manager James Cooper and Bossi, respectively.

Robert Sieling begins his first season as the Renegades’ Video & Tech Assistant, and his first season with the Yankees. He spent the previous four seasons with the Washington Nationals, first serving as the On-Field Coordinator of Baseball & Softball Programs from 2022-24, and then spending 2025 as the Video Intern for the Triple-A Rochester Red Wings.

Steve Schuster begins his first season as the Renegades’ Advanced Scouting Analyst, and his first season in the Yankees organization. He previously held similar roles with the Miami Marlins (2025), Detroit Tigers (2024), and New York Mets (2023) systems. Before beginning a career as an analyst, Shuster spent nine years as the play-by-play broadcaster for the Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball club of the independent American Association, where he also handled public relations duties and for three years served as an Advance Scout/Analyst for the team as well.

Season Ticket Memberships, Group Tickets, and Ballpark Passes for the 2026 Renegades season are on sale now. For more information call the Renegades Ticket Office at 845-838-0094 or slide to hvrenegades.com/tickets.

Oakwood Friends School marks 105th year in Poughkeepsie



Oakwood Friends School’s junior class in 1920, the year the school officially opened in Poughkeepsie.

- Courtesy photo

This year marks Oakwood Friends School’s 105th anniversary in Poughkeepsie. Founded in 1796 as the Nine Partners Boarding School near Millbrook, Oakwood is New York State’s oldest coeducational boarding and day school. From its earliest days, the school has been rooted in Quaker values and has welcomed students of all religious backgrounds.

The school moved to Union Springs, N.Y., in 1858. Sixty years later, after a devastating fire in 1918, Oakwood began searching for a new home, and Poughkeepsie quickly became a leading choice. That same year, Mayor Ralph Butts wrote, “this famous institution will without doubt, prove an asset to the community ... and it will prove a permanent feature of the city,” and local residents

pledged \$25,000 to help build a new campus. Oakwood officially opened in Poughkeepsie in September 1920, where it remains today.

For its entire 229-year history, Oakwood has offered boarding and day programs, and for the past three decades, it has also included a middle school for grades 6–8. The school continues to welcome students from across the Hudson Valley and around the world while remaining closely connected to the community.

School archivist Matt Voorhees, an Oakwood alumnus, reflected on the milestone, noting that the school and the city have grown together for more than a century, creating a shared history that continues today.

Visit www.oakwoodfriends.org for more information.

Wappinger United girls compete in national soccer tournament

By Morgan E. Maier

It’s not every day that a small town soccer team gets to compete against the nation’s best teams. Yet the Spartans, representing Wappingers United Soccer Club, battled against the nation’s top teams and returned home with an especially strong fire to succeed.

Hailing from Spackenkill to Poughkeepsie, Wappinger and between, this all-girls team thrives on competitive will. Led by coach Eli Lopez, the Spartans have worked as a unit for six years. That drive earned a ticket to the United States Youth Soccer (USYS) tournament in Arizona, the squad representing 1 of 16 teams in the invite-only bracket.

The program is built by volunteers, parents and players dedicated to one goal of

bringing this team - and its players - to the highest possible level of competition.

Fall practices mean floodlights in the back of Lopez’s truck. This season of work fueled the cross-country dream of competing at the highest level. The Spartans won the bracket in their inaugural season of the USYS National League, and earned an invite-only spot in the national tournament. America’s top soccer talent would lay before them in the desert.

With a win and two losses in the USYS competition, Spartans proved their grit, years of experience between the players culminating in a maturation in the desert.

“They got the taste of what that stage looks like, and their dream is really being at the top of their game,” said Lopez.

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Wappingers CSD Gayhead Elementary School students present TedX event



Gayhead Elementary School, in the Wappingers Central School District (Wappingers CSD), recently held their inaugural TedX event. Sixth graders took the stage to give short talks focused on technology, AI, and wellness.

These student-created talks reflected their curiosity, courage, and critical thinking skills. Wappingers CSD prioritizes project-based learning, where students apply these skills and connect classroom learning to real-world conversations.

Right: Wappingers Central School District Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk visits with some of the students.

-Courtesy photos Wappingers CSD



‘Bright Smiles, Bright Futures’ dental clinic to be held Feb. 21

The Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with Colgate’s “Bright Smiles, Bright Futures” program, will host a free Children’s Dental Health Event on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton St. in Poughkeepsie, providing children ages 1-12 the opportunity to receive professional dental screenings and access educational resources promoting lifelong oral health. The event is open to all families; advance registration is not required.

DOH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado said, “Maintaining good oral health is a vital part of children’s overall health and development. We are proud to work with Colgate to host this family-friendly event that will bring essential dental services directly to our community, to help ensure every child has the opportunity for a healthy smile.”

Dental screenings will be conducted in Colgate’s Mobile Dental Van and will take approximately five minutes. Each child will receive a personalized dental report card and

a Colgate oral care kit, including a toothbrush and toothpaste.

As they await their screening, families can enjoy fun activities and learn about available dental health resources in the FPC auditorium including:

- Watch informational cartoon series
- Enjoy light, healthy refreshments
- Receive educational oral health materials
- Meet the Tooth Fairy and Mr. Tooth.

Colgate’s “Bright Smiles, Bright Futures” program is a global oral health education program that aims to support children in developing healthy oral care habits. Since its launch, the program has reached millions of children and families worldwide, providing educational materials, preventive screenings, and resources to help improve oral health and reduce cavities, with a focus on supporting underserved communities.

To learn more about “Bright Smiles, Bright Future,” visit: <http://www.colgate.com/en-us/mission/oral-health-commitment/bsbf>. To find out more about the Dutchess County Department of Health and its offerings visit: dutchessny.gov/health.

Presentation on ‘FDR’s Disability’ set February 18 at Wallace Center

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site will present “FDR’s Disability: A True Story” with Dr. Shelby Landmark on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. The event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park and streamed live to the official FDR Library YouTube and Facebook accounts. This is a free public event, but registration is required to attend in-person. Visit fdrlibrary.org to register.

While Franklin D. Roosevelt is one of the most recognizably disabled historical figures, his disability is most commonly represented in ways that imply he hid the truth of his paralysis from the public after contracting polio in the summer of 1921. Dr. Shelby Landmark’s ongoing research has revealed that the public frequently observed FDR using leg braces, crutches, canes, customized speaker stands, ramps, elevators, and even automobiles to navigate his surroundings. Rather than trying

to deceive or convince the public that he was able-bodied, he wanted the public to see him as an able leader, not a “helpless invalid.” Dr. Landmark will share this research including never-before-published images of FDR and his use of mobility aids, newspaper archival examples, and archival materials found at the FDR Presidential Library.

Landmark is the Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow for Disability Representation at Historic Sites located at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Sites. Her research has informed new interpretations of FDR’s disability as well as revised existing interpretive programs. In 2025, she opened an exhibit at the site focusing on FDR’s use of mobility devices. Her work has challenged predominant narratives about FDR’s paralysis and led to a more nuanced and accurate understanding of his legacy as an important disabled historical figure.

Contact Cliff Laube at 845-486-7745 with questions about the event.

Serino, library association partner to launch ‘Sue’s Book Picks’

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino is partnering with the Dutchess County Library Association to launch Sue’s Book Picks, a special new reading initiative featuring age-appropriate selections for children, teens, and adults. The program celebrates the joy of reading, encourages families to read together, and strengthens community connections through our local libraries.

Serino said, “There’s something so special about reading – whether it’s a bedtime story with your kids, a thought-provoking novel, or a book that simply makes you smile. Books have always brought me comfort, courage, and connection, and our libraries are the perfect place to pass that feeling along. With Sue’s Book Picks, I hope families and neighbors across Dutchess County will discover something new and enjoy the simple joy that comes from reading a good story.”

From February through May, four books will be highlighted each month - two for children, one for teens, and one for adults - as official Sue’s Book Picks. Selections will be featured in the 22 libraries across Dutchess County with a themed bookmark and flyer to help readers explore the picks and share in

the experience.

February Book Selections:
Children’s Picture Book; “The Wild Robot on the Island” by Peter Brown

Children’s Chapter Book (4th – 8th grade); “The Bletchley Riddle” by Ruta Sepetys

Young Adult; “All My Rage” by Sabaa Tahir

Adult; “James” by Percival Everett

Each month’s selection can be found at www.dutchessny.gov/SuesBookPicks. If the title is unavailable at your local library, see staff for assistance and you can have the book delivered from one of the other libraries in the system.

Carol Bancroft, Director of Clinton Community Library and President of the Dutchess County Library Association said, “Sue’s Book Picks is a wonderful way to showcase the incredible resources our libraries offer. We’re excited to guide readers of all ages to new stories, help them explore a variety of genres, and provide a welcoming space where books can spark curiosity, inspire imagination, and bring our community together.”

To learn more about this program, please contact the County Executive’s Office at 845-486-2000 or email CountyExec@dutchessny.gov.

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Obituaries

Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Murnane



Elizabeth “Liz” Dorothy Murnane, of Glenham, formerly of Chester, NY and New Jersey, passed away on Friday, January 30, 2026 following a sudden and unexpected illness. She was 63.

The daughter of the late Horace and Virginia (Greene) Schuppe, Elizabeth was born in Hackensack, NJ on April 12, 1962.

Liz loved to vacation with her family. From Seaside Heights, to Jamaica, to Disney World, to cruises in the Caribbean, if it involved the sun, and the beach, she was happy to be there. She also enjoyed watching movies, spending time with her dogs and driving in the snow. More than anything else, she loved her family; her husband, her children, their friends, and spouses, and most of all, her granddaughters, who affectionately called her “Oma.”

On December 17, 1983, she married William J. Murnane at St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon, NY. Bill survives at home in Beacon.

Additional survivors include her five children: her son, Billy Murnane & his wife Annie of Beacon, NY; her son, Brian Murnane & his wife Ashley of Los Angeles, CA; her daughter, Lauren Thompson & her husband Christopher of LaGrange, NY; her son, Stephen Murnane of Beacon, NY; her daughter, Kathleen Dearman & her husband Ryan of Hopewell Junction, NY; her granddaughters: Everly & Sofa Thompson and Parker & Quinn Dearman; her siblings: Denise Shepherd & her husband Mark; Stephen Schuppe & his wife Jeannie; and Susan Babcock; as well as many nieces, nephews, and countless other loving family members, and community who couldn’t help but be charmed, and touched by knowing her.

In addition to her parents, Elizabeth was also predeceased by her sister, Janet Schuppe.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, February 8 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY. A funeral service was offered on Monday, February 9 at the funeral home, followed by interment at Fairview Cemetery, 375 Washington Avenue, Beacon, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital by visiting St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

For online tributes, visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Honorah ‘Honey’ Hinkle



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Honorah Hinkle, lovingly known as “Honey” to family and friends and “Noie” to her grandchildren. She left this world surrounded by love and care, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, creativity, and devotion to family and community.

Born in July 1941 to William Fleming and Honorah McCormack Fleming, Honey was the first of eight children.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Charlie Hinkle; brothers Joe and baby Stephen Xavier; sister Beth (Jim) McGill; sister-in-law Susie Fleming; stepdaughter Betsy (George) Brandt; great granddaughters Skylar Rose Fitzpatrick and Maddie Farr. She is survived by siblings Bill (Lynn) Fleming, Marie (Chuck) Tattersall, Trudy Fleming, and Xav Fleming; stepdaughters Terri Farr, Dawn (Bobby) Fitzpatrick, Anne Hinkle and Jeannie Jackson; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and dozens of multi-generational nieces, nephews, and cousins who adored her.

A celebration of Honorah’s life will be held on Friday, February 20 from 2-4 and 6-8pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, February 21 at 11am at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82, LaGrangeville.

York — or anywhere in the world. This hatred remains far too prevalent in our society, and we must stand united against antisemitism and all forms of hate wherever they exist. As the ranking member of the Crime Victims, Crime and Correction committee, we know that hate has consequences, and I’m proud to join the Senate Republican Conference’s Antisemitism Working Group as we explore solutions to make our state a safer, better place for all,” said Rolison.

The threat of antisemitism that led to the creation of the group in 2023 is still very real for members of the Jewish community. Just recently, slides and playground equipment at Gravesend Park in Brooklyn were vandalized with swastikas, the second time this park had fallen victim to antisemitic attacks in as many days.

In March 2024, following a series of roundtable discussions, the working group released its report consisting of legislative recommendations to address antisemitism in New York State. The Senate Republican Conference will continue to be a strong voice and advocate of the Jewish community and ensure that the freedom of religion remains intact.

Senate Republican leader Ortt adds Rolison to Antisemitism Working Group

New York State Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt has announced the addition of Senator Rob Rolison to the Senate Republican Conference’s Antisemitism Working Group. The group, established in February 2023, meets with stakeholders across the state to make recommendations on ways to best address the alarming rise in antisemitic incidents in New York State.

The group is chaired by Senator Jack M. Martins, and includes Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Peter Oberacker, and Senator Bill Weber as members.

“Antisemitism continues to be on the rise and efforts to protect our Jewish neighbors continue to be a priority for our Senate Republican Conference. Our Anti-Semitism working group consists of Senators from all different areas of this state who have put forward common sense legislative proposals to battle antisemitism at all levels. I’m proud to add Senator Rob Rolison to the working group, who is a true defender of public safety and has demonstrated throughout his career he will always protect New Yorkers from hateful acts of violence,” said Ortt.

“Antisemitism has no place in New

Mary Louise McClellan (Koeth)



Mary Louise McClellan (Mary Lou) passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 1, 2026, surrounded by family and friends at her home in Fishkill, New York.

Mary Lou was born to Alfred Koeth and Mary Sheehan Koeth of Parma, Ohio, and lived a full life marked by service, adventure, and devotion to her family and community.

She is survived by her children: Christine McClellan Uljua, Sally McClellan Sellers (June), George McClellan (Darcy), William McClellan, and Pamela McClellan Wright (Nanette); as well as 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mary Lou spent over 20 years as a dedicated Army wife, embracing the challenges and rewards of regular relocations. Her journey took the family to Germany and Thailand, as well as numerous states across America, before finally settling in New York. She brought grace and resilience to each new chapter, creating a home and making friends wherever the family was stationed.

After her years of military family life, Mary Lou built a distinguished career as a long-time Manager at Marine Midland Bank's East Fishkill branch. She also dedicated her time to serving the community at the East Fishkill Library, where she touched many lives through her work.

Mary Lou loved to travel, particularly on trips to Europe, and cherished beach vacations spent with family and friends. She was deeply woven into the fabric of the East Fishkill community, volunteering at the Wicoppee Fire Department, and as an active member of the Senior Center where she enjoyed exercising and playing cards with dear friends and neighbors.

The family is forever grateful to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation for their compassionate care, and to Mary Lou's loving neighbors and caregivers who supported her in her final years. Our special thanks and gratitude go to Pam and Nanette, who served as Mary Lou's primary caretakers with extraordinary dedication and love.

The family will host a Celebration of Life for Mary Lou in East Fishkill at a date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a donation to the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation in Mary Lou's memory. Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

tax return to receive both credits, even if they don’t owe any taxes. Most taxpayers who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit, are likely also eligible to take advantage of the free e-filing options available through the Tax Department. Options include:

Free File

Depending on your income and other criteria, you may be eligible to use Free File software to e-file your federal and state income tax returns at no cost through the Tax Department website.

Take advantage of this truly free service each year, saving hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in tax-preparation costs.

Free File information is available in multiple languages on the Tax Department’s website, www.tax.ny.gov.

Other e-filing options

If you don't qualify for Free File, we have other options—including some other free ones—that may work for you. See other e-file options at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile/> for personal income tax to learn more.

Need assistance?

For taxpayers who qualify, the Tax Department’s Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) can help electronically prepare and file their federal and state income tax returns at no cost.

During a scheduled session, Tax Department representatives will guide taxpayers through free tax preparation software, step-by-step, as they complete and file their own tax return. The Tax Department’s online tax software is a safe and secure way to file. It’s quick and easy!

Visit the Taxpayer Assistance Program at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/tap/> to register for a session.

Tax Credits available to eligible New Yorkers

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance urged taxpayers to review their eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Empire State Child Credit. Both credits provide financial boosts to hardworking families.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable credit for working taxpayers who earn less than \$68,675. This means taxpayers get a refund even if the credit amount is more than what they owe in taxes.

When combined, Federal, New York State, and New York City Earned Income Tax Credits can be worth \$12,873 for a family with three or more qualifying children.

Every year, thousands of New Yorkers qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit for the first time because of changes to their financial situation, filing status, or personal life. For eligibility requirements, see the Tax Department’s Earned Income Credit (New York State) webpage, https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/earned_income_credit.htm. For federal qualifications, see the IRS Earned Income Tax Credit webpage, <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-eitc>.

Expanded Empire State Child Credit

For tax year 2025, the Empire State Child Credit has been substantially enhanced. The maximum amount for the Empire State child credit for children under age four increased from \$330 to \$1,000 per child. This refundable credit provides support to eligible families who file New York State income tax returns.

You are eligible for this refundable credit if you are a full-year New York State resident and have at least one qualifying child less than 17 years old on December 31 of the year you are claiming the credit for. For more information on this credit, visit Empire State child credit.

File a tax return to claim these credits

Taxpayers must file a personal income

Southern Dutchess NewsArts Entertainment Events Dining Classified Sports

Creative Living

West Point Band’s 2026 Winter Concert Series runs through May

The West Point Band will present the 2026 Winter Concert Series, performances through May. Celebrate America’s 250th anniversary with the Army’s oldest musical organization, with concerts featuring everything from stirring patriotic works and timeless concert band classics to popular hits and showtunes. Join the West Point Band as they share the spirit of America and West Point with communities across the region. All performances are free and open to all.

“Standards: New, Old, and Borrowed” is an evening of music that weaves together classics and bold contemporary works. This West Point Band concert features exciting pieces by modern composers Jessica Meyer and Anthony Barfield, alongside “Hudson Granite,” an original work by the band’s deputy commander, Capt. Philip Tappan, inspired by the iconic stone architecture of West Point. Concert band classics include Percy Grainger’s “Molly on the Shore,” Darius Milhaud’s “West Point Suite,” and an arrangement of Claude Debussy’s “The Engulfed Cathedral.” Staff Sgt. Francisco Aisporna brings soulful warmth to Phil Collins’ “You’ll Be in My Heart,” and “You Raise Me Up,” wrapping up a concert that celebrates musical standards: new, old, and borrowed.

Join the West Point Band for two masterworks concerts, showcasing some of the most iconic and influential pieces in the concert band repertoire. From the technical brilliance of Robert Schumann’s “Konzertstück for Four Horns” to the expressive majesty of Richard Wagner’s “Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral,” this concert is a showpiece of the West Point Band. Hear Percy Grainger’s “Lincolnshire Posy,” Gustav Holst’s “Second Suite in F for Military Band,” and William Schuman’s “Chester,” performed by an ensemble that helped shape the concert band into the distinguished medium it is today. Of course, no band concert is complete without John Philip Sousa’s most famous march, “The Stars and Stripes Forever.”

Kick off America’s 250th anniversary with “Celebrate America,” a West Point Band concert dedicated to the sounds and songs of America. This program spans the wide breadth of American concert band music, from Morton Gould’s spirited “Folk Suite” and Charles Ives’ bold “Variations on ‘America,’” to arrangements of John Williams’ sweeping “Cowboy Overture” and Florence Price’s poignant “Adoration.” A cavalry salute honors military musical traditions, while Omar Thomas’ powerful “Come Sunday” offers a moving tribute to the Black American church. The concert concludes

with the patriotic favorites “Of Thee I Sing,” “My Country ‘Tis of Thee,” and “God Bless America,” sung by Staff Sgt. Francisco Aisporna. Celebrate America with the West Point Band as we enter our nation’s 250th year.

Continue the West Point Band’s celebration of America’s 250th anniversary with “American Chamber Works.” This program begins with a brilliant trumpet fanfare by Ronald Lo Presti, then moves through a collection of intimate works for brass, winds, and percussion. Valerie Coleman’s “American Vein” offers rustic charm while Eric Whitacre’s “October” captures the peaceful, quiet beauty of autumn, and Christopher Swift’s second percussion quartet adds some excitement and virtuosity. The concert concludes with a nod to our home in the Hudson Valley with Edwin Frank Goldman’s spirited march “On the Hudson,” written by one of America’s great band composers.

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.
“West Point on the March”
West Point Concert Band
Arlington High School
1157 Rte. 55, Lagrangeville

Friday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.
“West Point on the March”
West Point Concert Band
Paramount Hudson Valley Theater
1008 Brown St, Peekskill, Westchester County

Sunday, March 8, 2 p.m.
“West Point on the March”
West Point Concert Band
Eisenhower Hall Theatre
655 Pitcher Rd, West Point, NY

Friday, April 10, 7 p.m.
“Celebrate America”
West Point Concert Band
Ridgefield High School
700 N Salem Rd, Ridgefield, CT

Saturday, May 2, 7 p.m.
“American Chamber Works”
West Point Concert Band
Dutchess Community College Theater
53 Pendell Rd, Poughkeepsie

Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.
“American Chamber Works”
West Point Concert Band
Chappaqua Performing Arts Center
480 Bedford Rd, Chappaqua, Westchester County

For West Point Band concert information, cancellations and updates, visit www.westpointband.com, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and X.



The West Point Band will perform its 2026 Winter Concert Series from February through May.

-Courtesy photo West Point Band

Screening of ‘We Can Be Heroes’ Feb. 26

Beacon Film Society will present “We Can Be Heroes,” a documentary from Tribeca films in 2024 by Carina Mia Wong and Alex Simmons, on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. the launch of the Society’s spring season will take place at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St. in Beacon.

For attendees of a live action role-playing (LARP) camp in Kingston, the deeply accepting environment has given neurodivergent, queer, and self-proclaimed “nerdy” teenagers the space and community for self-discovery that they have never found anywhere else. As the

campers immerse themselves in this imaginative world, they discover inner strength, heal from past traumas, and emerge as the heroes they are meant to be, both in the fantasy realm and in real life.

The film premiered at SXSW in 2024, where it won a Special Jury Award for Bravery and Empathy, and it was the winner of the Audience Award at the Woodstock Film Festival that same year.

A Q&A will follow the screening and will feature film cast member Judson Packard, the executive director and owner of The Wayfinder Experience in Kingston.

Learn more at beaconfilmsociety.org.

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Town of Poughkeepsie Recreation

**By Nate Smith
Recreation Director**

It certainly has been snowing! There’s never been a better time for skiing or snowboarding. On Friday, Feb.13, West Point’s Victor Constant ski area will be offering Town residents \$10 lift tickets and \$10 equipment rentals. No registration or reservation required! The hill is open, 3-9 p.m.

Town of Poughkeepsie Day at Catamount! March 13, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The kids have the day off from school on the 13th. Not that we’re saying that you should absolutely play hooky from work and take them to the slopes, because we’d never say that, but discounted lift tickets, rentals, and lessons are tempting. Please go to poughkeepsieny.myrec.com for details.

**Senior Center News
By Ruta Ronis**

For the Poughkeepsie Senior Center

The urge to “hibernate” may be tempting, but socializing is better for one’s health. Our Senior Center at 14 Abe’s Way offers a wide variety of activities from movement/exercise sessions to art and crafting to informative

presentations and games of all kinds. Just want to sit and chat over a cup of coffee/tea? That works as well. We’re open Monday – Friday, from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and on Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. We will be closed Feb.14 and 16. You can view our complete calendar of events at poughkeepsieny.myrec.com, but here are some highlights:

Feb.12: Coffee With A Cop, 9:30 a.m. and Community Service Project, 12:30 p.m. to make PB&Js

Feb.17: Rover Bookmobile, Brain Games, and Computer Lab with the Poughkeepsie Library in the morning and Stewart’s Shop Surplus Social- Fall Ice Cream Faves, 12:30 p.m. - Please sign up in advance.

Feb.18 and 25: Art History for Everyone, 11 a.m.

Feb.19: Puppy Love with a visiting Service Dog, 10 a.m. and Prize Bingo,12:30 p.m.

Feb.24: Lunch & Learn – “What It Means To Leave A Legacy” - Please sign up in advance. Participants are invited to enjoy a complimentary light lunch.

Feb.26: Vincent Rodriguez – “Classics From The 1950s - 1970s”

Ulster Savings Bank to host 2-hour Valentine’s Day photo session

Ulster Savings Bank Hyde Park branch will be hosting a Valentine’s Day photo session on Feb. 14 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.—perfect for kids, couples, families, and even pets. All proceeds will be donated to the American Heart

Association, with a suggested donation of \$10. Joining Ulster Savings Bank from the community will be the American Heart Association, Dirt Road Designs by Roe, The Bully Cookie Jar, and Pellegrino Healing Center.

East Fishkill Recreation

**By Bill Green
Recreation Director**

Our trip to Resorts Catskills Casino this Sunday, Feb. 15 is filled. If you are attending, please be at the East Fishkill Community Center, Route 82, by 8:45 a.m. and make sure you have an ID (license) with you.

Red Wing Park lifeguards and Summer Counselors can find application forms online.

Our 2026 East Fishkill Recreation Guides are at the printer and should be available the end of this month. When completed the Guides will be available in the East Fishkill Town Hall, the East Community Fishkill Library, the East Fishkill

Community Center, the Davis House and many local businesses.

Signups for our two concerts, buffet and gambling trips to Resorts (June- “Summer Nights -Grease”) and (September – “Teenage Dreams 50s -60s”) will be in late March.

We are now signing up residents and non-residents for our trip to the Paramount in Peekskill to see the very entertaining Doo Wop Project on Saturday, April 25. The fee is \$85 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents.

If you have any recreation questions or concerns please call 845-226-8395 or go to Recreation1@eastfishkillny.gov.

‘Chisolm ‘72’ screening at Howland Library February 12

A screening of “Chisolm ‘72,” a documentary that explores Shirley Chisholm’s groundbreaking 1972 presidential campaign and her lasting impact on American politics, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Howland Public Library, 313 Main St. This program is presented in collaboration with Les Soeurs Amiables Civic Club. Registration is required.

Following the film, stay for a panel discussion led by Kenya Gadsden, focusing on women running for office today and the challenges and possibilities they face. The panel includes Yvette Valdés Smith, Lastar Gorton and Paloma Wake.

For more information, visit beaconlibrary.org.

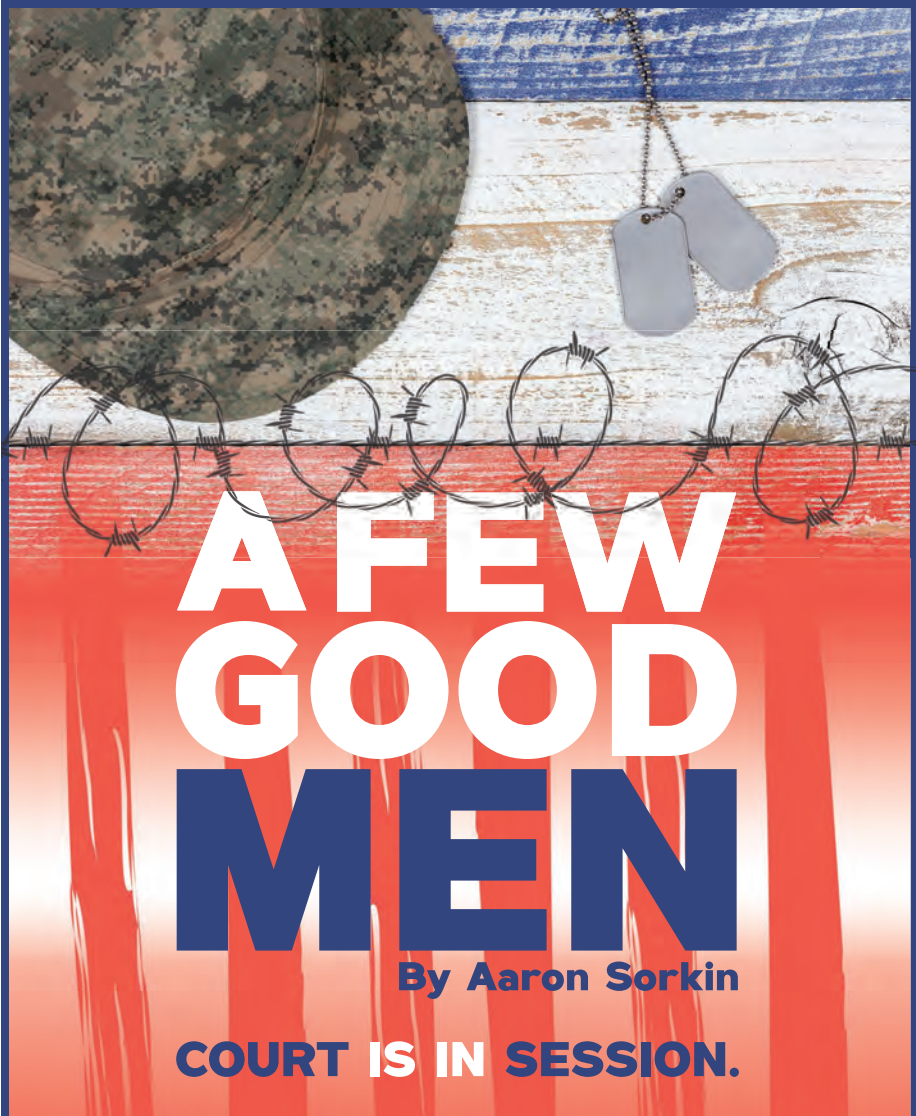
Virtual soup-making class set for Feb. 19

The Dutchess County Library Association (DCLA) will present “Warming Winter Soups with Holly Shelowitz,” a virtual event taking place on Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m.

Get cozy this winter with delicious soups focused on nutritious ingredients and maximum flavor. Throughout the class, one will receive lots of helpful

information, time-saving tips and knife skills to make it easier to get dinner on the table and lunch in your bowl.

Patrons from any library in Dutchess County are welcome to attend, but registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Check with one’s local library for more information.



AFEW GOOD MEN

By Aaron Sorkin

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hudson valley naturalist

by francine wizner



The heart of the matter

Never mind what it looks like; how does it work?



Medieval love: A fair lady accepts Alexander the Great’s heart. From “The Romance of Alexander,” scribe-compiled legends and historical accounts by unknown authors.

-Illustration by Jehan de Grise

“The Romance of Alexander” is a fantastical account of Alexander the Great’s adventures and encounters with mythical creatures. One illustration, found in a decorative border of the manuscript, depicts a man with his hand on his chest. Facing him, a woman accepts the gift of his heart. This drawing is the first example of the (now familiar) form that is used to represent romantic love. The scalloped shape and orientation of the symbol helped popularize the icon that became widely used from the 1400s onward. (Previous medieval depictions of the heart resembled a pine-cone or a pear. They were held with the point facing upward, based on physicians’ ancient anatomical descriptions).

Human hearts are lopsided

Unlike the icon’s two symmetrically curved lines forming a pointed kiss, the left side of our hearts are thicker and stronger because that side pumps blood to the entire body. The right side of the heart only pumps blood to the nearby lungs. This unequal workload causes the heart to tilt left, with its apex pointing toward the left side of the chest, making it appear off-center. The lopsided, asymmetrical shape allows the powerful left side to handle systemic circulation and the weaker right side to manage pulmonary circulation.

Blood flow through the heart

As blood leaves each of the heart’s four chambers, it passes through a valve. Heart valves prevent blood from flowing in the wrong direction. The tricuspid and mitral valves lie between the atria and ventricles. The aortic and pulmonary (semilunar) valves lie between the ventricles and the

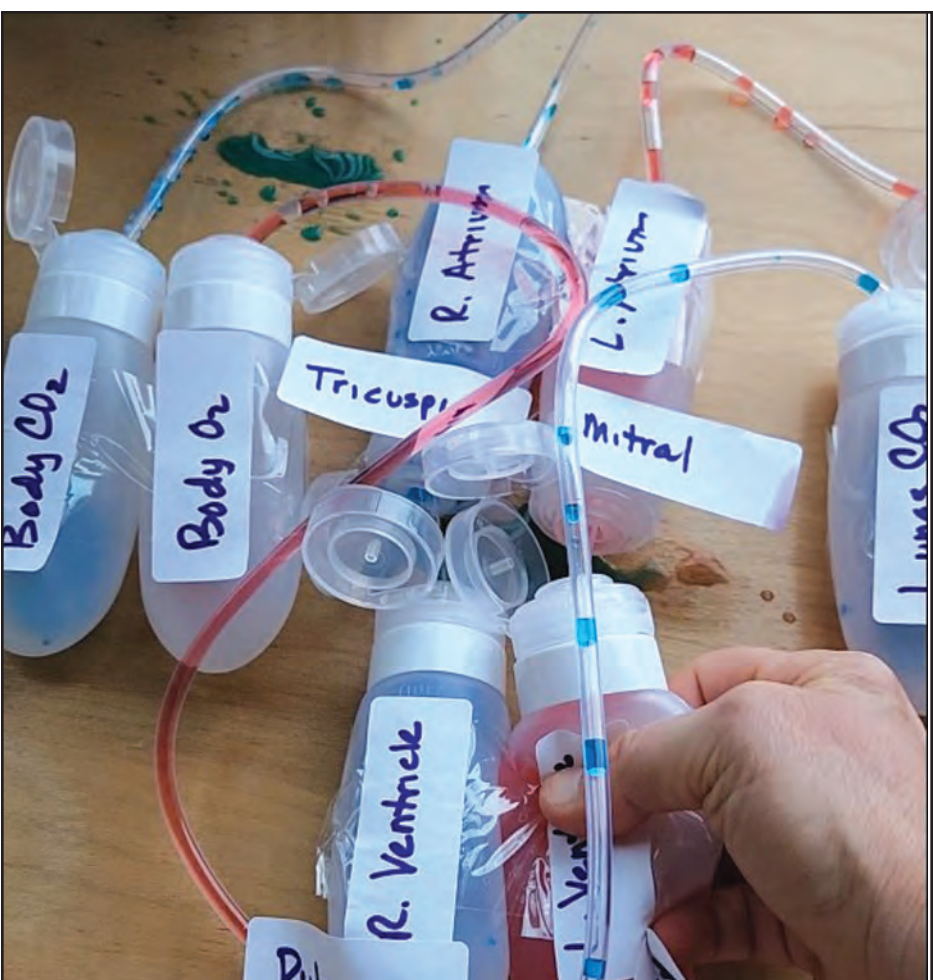
major blood vessels leaving the heart. Coronary arteries on the surface of the heart supply oxygen-rich blood to the organ, itself, since the blood that is within its chambers does not provide it with nourishment. Blood Flows in a Continuous Pattern: Oxygen-poor blood from the body enters the right atrium. It travels to the right ventricle and then goes to the lungs (the pulmonary circuit) to become oxygenated. Oxygen-rich blood then enters the left atrium of the heart. The blood then travels into the left ventricle. The blood then leaves the heart for the rest of the body to complete the systemic circuit. Blood travels to the all of the body’s cells and exchanges oxygen and nutrients for wastes, which it returns to the right atrium.

The heart beat

The atria and ventricles work together, alternately contracting and relaxing to pump the blood through the circuit. Heart contractions are triggered by electrical impulses from specialized bundles of cells within the organ. The heart’s natural electrical pacemaker coordinates the beat to deliver blood to the body, depending its state of activity, health, emotion, or rest.

Celebrate Valentine’s Day by building a model heart

I can’t remember if it was the month of February when I built my first heart model, since it was nearly 50 years ago. But, a classmate and I built it using a kit in sixth-grade science. We pumped water through a bunch of interconnected plastic cylinders as we explained what was happening in each of the “chambers.” Creating your own DIY model using some commonly found materials is cheaper than



The heart model in action.

-Photo by Francine Wizner

buying a kit. Plus, it’s a fun way to celebrate the holiday. I’ve experimented with different “chamber” options and I have found that silicone travel bottles work best because they are more flexible than hard plastic bottles. To construct the model, participants will need eight small bottles with caps. Four bottles will represent heart chambers; two bottles will represent the lungs; two bottles will represent the body. Clear plastic tubing is also necessary: four pieces (6-18” long) will represent valves leading to and from the pulmonary and systemic circuits; two pieces (4” long) will represent valves between the atria and ventricles. Red and blue food coloring added to water will represent oxygenated and deoxygenated blood. Clear packing tape is needed to bind heart chambers, lungs, and body to each other. Also necessary are objects for poking holes, such as a large needle or skewer, a pen, or a drill. Once the parts of the model are labeled, participants should demonstrate the pump-

ing action as they describe what is happening aloud. An organized write-up of the activity it available here: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/HOW-THE-HEART-WORKS-ACTIVITY-HUMAN-BODY-SYSTEMS-9103596>. A video of the model construction can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAkykZXLJTU&t=322s> Those interested in checking out more images from the historical manuscript can visit the University of Oxford’s Bodleian Library digital collections (<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>). Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://medium.com/@wiznerf>, <https://substack.com/@gkatzchronicle>, and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com>.

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love to cook

by vicki frank day



Simply sweet

Chocolate pudding is perfect for Valentine's Day – or any day.

Whether it's Valentine's Day or any old day, chocolate is a pretty perfect way to say I love you. Over the years, I've shared dozens of chocolate recipes with you, because I'm not sure there's such a thing as too much chocolate and there are so many things you can do with it. It's easy to take it for granted because it's everywhere now, especially this time of year. But once upon a time only a small corner of the world knew about it at all.

We owe a debt of thanks to the people of ancient Mesoamerica for bringing chocolate's magical, mystical, exotic, even healthful, delicious decadence to the world. They used the beans of a small evergreen tree native to South America – Theobroma cacao (literally food of the gods) – to make a sacred beverage used in rituals and as medicine, and cacao was so prized its beans were even used there as currency. It's worth noting that the earliest uses of chocolate were not what we think of today and were, in fact, not sweet but often mixed with chilies. The Spanish brought drinking chocolate to Europe in the 1500s where it was commonly mixed with sugar or honey to offset its natural bitterness and it became immensely popular with royalty and the very rich, no surprise given that the beans could only be processed in small batches laboriously

by hand.

Things changed during the Industrial Revolution with the invention of the chocolate press, which squeezed cocoa butter from the roasted cacao beans, leaving a rich, bitter powder that could easily be mixed with milk and sugar for either drinking or pouring into molds to make bars. After that, the love affair with chocolate was world-wide and you could find it everywhere in many forms and used in the thousands of ways it is today.

And what ways? Cakes, truffles, ice cream, muffins, mousse, hot chocolate, brownies, fondues, sauces, custards, fudge, cookies, pies, tortes, tarts, ganache, cupcakes, all of which I've shared recipes for in the past. Then there's the savory side: mole, barbecue sauce and chili to name a few. Given the many forms chocolate takes, like unsweetened, dark, milk and bittersweet, it isn't surprising that there are so many ways to enjoy it. But looking over my recipes, I noticed one I hadn't shared, and it's one of my very favorites that anyone can – and should – make: chocolate pudding.

How could I have overlooked such a simple thing, especially when it's one of my favorites? I'm not sure, but I'll make up for it now and give you a new way to say I love you with chocolate.

Simply Lovely Chocolate Pudding

Because chocolate is so special, my favorite ways to use it are often the simplest, with few ingredients so it shines through like the velvet-clad star it is. This is a perfect example. I use both unsweetened cocoa powder and bittersweet chocolate (you could also use semisweet chips) for this, because there's no such thing as too much chocolate.

Ingredients

¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
¼ cup cornstarch
½ cup sugar
½ tsp salt
3 cups milk
4oz bittersweet chocolate, chopped
1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift or whisk cocoa powder and corn starch together in a medium saucepan. Whisk in sugar and salt. Pour in milk, whisking to blend, and set over medium heat. Cook just until starting to thicken and bubbles start to form around the edges, stirring occasionally with the whisk, about 8 minutes. You do NOT want it to boil. Remove from heat and add bittersweet chocolate pieces. Stir until melted and smooth. Stir in vanilla. Allow to cool slightly.

Transfer to a bowl or divide evenly between 4 ramekins, cups or small

bowls. If you don't want a skin to form on top, place plastic wrap so that it touches the surface. Chill at least 2 hours. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream if you like.

It's hard to imagine a world without chocolate, but knowing its history has played a big part in my revering it as the sacred, exotic wonder it is. If I think about it too much, I might be inclined to use it only in sophisticated ways to honor it, but then I remember that to love and savor anything is to truly honor it, so I can do just that every time I enjoy this luscious pudding. Love, and those we attach to it, are worth celebrating every day, especially when we can see and appreciate them for how amazing they really are. Happy Valentine's Day.

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

Jeremy Denk will perform at Howland Chamber Music Circle's event Feb. 15



The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) continues its 2025-2026 Piano Festival with the much-loved and returning (for his 9th time!) pianist, Jeremy Denk. He will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musician and enjoy complimentary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket, visit www.howlandmusic.org. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

Denk was trained at Oberlin College & Conservatory, Indiana University and The Juilliard School of Music. He is also a New York Times bestselling author, as well as the recipient of both the

MacArthur 'Genius' Fellowship and the Avery Fisher Prize. He has played in all the world's great halls, as a soloist, with magnificent orchestras, and with fine chamber ensembles.

In the first half of his recital at HCMC, Denk will play 10 works by women composers, ranging from Clara Schumann (1819-1896) to Missy Mazzoli (b.1980). After the intermission, Denk will play works by Brahms and Robert Schumann.

HCMC now offers tickets at prices to include music lovers who may have been unable to afford our tickets in the past. A limited number of tickets will be available on a pay-what-you-wish basis. These tickets will be released one week prior to each concert.

Pianist Jeremy Denk will perform at the Howland Chamber Music Circle's event on Feb. 25 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo submitted by Howland Chamber Music Circle

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Fishkill Recreation

By Lauren McMenamin
Assistant Recreation Director

Spanish Classes: Fishkill Recreation is pleased to announce a new offering of Spanish language classes open to learners of all ages and levels. These classes are designed to make learning Spanish both practical and enjoyable, with a focus on real-world conversation, vocabulary development, and cultural connections that participants can use in everyday life and travel.

Whether one is a beginner or looking to improve one's existing skills, the program encourages learners of all backgrounds to join in group activities, interactive lessons,

and supportive practice sessions. Classes will be starting at the end of February/beginning of March.

Little Rascals: Fishkill Recreation is excited to host Little Rascals, an open gym play program designed for children 4-years-old and under and their parents. The program runs from October through April on Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fishkill Recreation gym. Parents play for free while youngsters make new friends and burn off energy in the gym. Pre-registration is required for all participants.

School's Out Minicamp: Fishkill Recreation is offering a School's Out

Minicamp to give children a fun, enriching way to spend their day off from school. Designed for children ages 6–8, the camp runs Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 10 a.m. to Noon.

The program features movement games, mindfulness activities, story time, a take-home craft, and a snack, all centered on play-based learning that supports creativity, cooperation, and emotional well-being. The cost is \$49 per child.

Mom & Me Self-Defense Class: Fishkill Recreation is hosting a Mom & Me Self-Defense Class on Saturday, April 25, from 1–3 p.m. for mothers and daughters ages 8–11. Participants will learn practical physical and non-physical strategies to recognize and avoid danger, build confidence, and develop basic self-defense skills from certified instructors.

Yoga: Fishkill Recreation is pleased to announce its Gentle Yoga program, a weekly class that supports both physical and mental well-being through slow, mindful move-

ment and breathing techniques.

Classes are held Tuesdays from 9–10 a.m. and participants can choose a monthly pass or pay per class. Students should bring a yoga mat, wear comfortable clothing, and bring a water bottle.

FUN! CAMP: Fishkill Recreation is excited to offer FUN! Camp, a summer day camp for children entering kindergarten through 6th grade. Running weekly June 29 through August 14, 2026, this engaging program fills summer days with sports, arts-and-crafts, performing arts, water games, themed activities, scavenger hunts, STEM fun, and more — all in a safe, structured environment led by experienced counselors.

FUN! Camp is licensed by the New York State Department of Health and offers optional before- and after-camp care. Registration for Fishkill residents began January 27, and for nonresidents on Feb. 10.

Visit our website for more information and to register www.FishkillRecreation.com.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DD Investor Group LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 4/3/25. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him is 504 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. Purpose of LLC: To engage in any and all business activities permitted under the laws of the State of New York.

Notice of formation of Serroukas Hospitality, LLC art. of org filed with SSNY on 9/26/25 office location Dutchess County SSNY designated as agent for service of process SSNY shall mail process to 35 Theresa CT, Lagrangeville NY 12540. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of LOT 2 VERBAN LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/23/25. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

TL Energy Holdings, LLC filed Art. of Org. with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/17/2025. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent for the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 139 West 82nd Street, Apt. 6C, New York, NY 10024 Purpose: any lawful act.

LF Energy Holdings, LLC filed Art. of Org. with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/17/2025. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent for the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 139 West 82nd Street, Apt. 6C, New York, NY 10024 Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Form. of GSD - HOPEWELL JUNCTION, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/24/2025. Office location: Dutchess. SSNY

Legal Notices

desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 2 JAY LANE, HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY 12533. Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Form. of MB MEDICINE PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/10/2025. Office location: Dutchess. SSNY desg. as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to P.O. BOX 163, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12602. Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of HF Main Street Development Manager LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on December 17, 2025. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC at c/o 11 Garden Street, Suite 101, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Purpose: any lawful activity.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is 37 Century LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on December 30, 2025. New York office location: 1395 Boston Corners Road, Village of Millerton, County of Dutchess and State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: 37 Century LLC, 1395 Boston Corners Road, Millerton, New York 12546. Purpose/Character of business: Any lawful business purpose permitted under the New York Limited Liability Company Law.

Notice of Formation of Exit 67 Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/23/25. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 5 Appletree Dr., Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Legal Notices

FEZZI PINE PLAINS LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/05/2026. Office loc: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Amanda N. Miller, 6370 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

NORTHSIDE TRIVIA LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/05/2026. Office loc: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 853 Old Quaker Hill Road, Pawling, NY 12564. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

6562 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 12/30/2025. Office: Dutchess, SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 101 Rain-bow Drive, #5673, Livingston, TX 77399. Purpose: any lawful

Notice of Formation of Nosy By Nature Consulting and Investigative Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/10/2025. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Nosy By Nature Consulting and Investigative Services LLC, 51 Creek Road, Suite 1208, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Wellena Cleaning and Organizing Services L.L.C. with Article of Organization filed with NYSS on December 31, 2025. The office of the L.L.C. is located in Dutchess County, NY. The NYSS has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail any process to 88 N Clove Rd, Verbank. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Gassho Paws LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/31/25 Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Zen Business Inc. at 41 State Street, Suite 112 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any

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lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Mike Silvestri Service Solutions LLC. Articles of Organization filing date with Secretary of State (SSNY) was: 9/23/25. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 4 Pepper Lane, Fishkill New York 12524. Purpose is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under NYS laws.

DeCandia Turf Solutions LLC Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company ("LLC"), Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") on 1/12/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail any such process served to 6 Kitteridge Place, Beacon NY 12508. General purpose: to engage in any act or activity for which a LLC may be organized under the NY LLC Law.

T&C PROPERTIES UNLIMITED LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/4/2025. Off. Loc. : Dutchess Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, PO Box 404, Wingdale, NY 12594, USA. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

BARAT HOLIDAY LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/14/2025. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 54 Deer Hill Rd, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: any lawful act.

Green Tree Holiday LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/14/2025. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 54 Deer Hill Rd, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Form. of Past N' Perfect, LLC

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Articles of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/22/2025. Office Located in Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. as agent for process & shall mail to: 1629 Main Street Pleasant Valley Ny 12569 Purpose: General

Notice of Formation of WILDCAT HOLLOW DEVELOPMENT, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/08/26. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marc Chodock, 25 Hilee Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of VIOLET HILL CAPITAL, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/08/26. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marc Chodock, 25 Hilee Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of JD Fire Sprinkler Solutions, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with NY Secretary of State (SSNY) on Dec 5, 2025. Office of LLC located in Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and SSNY shall mail a copy to Northwest Registered Agent LLC at 418 Broadway STE N Albany, NY 12207. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful business activities permitted under NYS law.

Notice of Formation of SDB Solutions, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/26. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 21 Van Ness Road, Beacon, NY, 12508. Purpose: to engage in any lawful business.

Notice of Formation of Effective Dynamic Consulting LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on November 18, 2025. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 3 Hook Rd, Unit 12, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Purpose: any

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lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Ro-Lin Fields LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/18/2025. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 418 Broadway, STE R, Albany, NY, 12207, USA. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Neon Heart Productions LLC. Art. Of Org. Filed with SSNY on 11/12/2025. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 418 Broadway, STE R, Albany, NY, 12207, USA. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Hudson Valley Life Coaching LLC. filed with SSNY on 1/14/2026. Office location: Dutchess County SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO box 140 Fishkill, NY 12524. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

A M P E D E L E C T R I C A L C O N T R A C T I N G LLC. Filed 12/18/24. Office: Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. as agent for process & shall mail to: Business Filings Incorporated, 187 Wolf Rd, Ste 101, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: General.

RIVER VALLEY T E C H N I C A L IMAGING LLC. Filed 11/10/25. Office: Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. as agent for process & shall mail to: Nicholas K. Golembiewski, 36 Tree Line Ct, Fishkill, NY 12524. Purpose: General.

Notice of Formation of GXB Precision Tree. LLC. Care Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/06/2026. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: po box 42 Billings, NY 12510. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 60 Florence NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/19/2025. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY has

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been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him is 60 Florence Avenue, Fishkill, NY 12524. Purpose of LLC: To engage in any and all business activities permitted under the laws of the State of New York.

228 MANSION STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/14/26. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 72 Old Mamaroneck Road, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of CMME LOGISTICS LLC. Art/Org filed 1/11/24. Ofc loc Dutchess Cty. SSNY desg. agent for svc/proc & shall mail to 136 N ELM ST, BEACON, NY 12508. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Spaccarelli Prophecy Hall Holdings, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/15/26. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 320 River Rd S, Wappingers, NY 12590. Purpose: any lawful

Notice of Qualification of REVSTAC CONSULTING LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/07/26. Office location: Dutchess County. LLC formed in Massachusetts (MA) on 05/18/21. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. MA addr. of LLC: 2B Cragmore Rd., Newton, MA 02464. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of the Commonwealth, One Ashburton Pl., Boston, MA 02108. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

ADK Mountain View Properties, LLC filed w/ SSNY 1/12/26. Off. in Dutchess Co. Process served to SSNY - desg. as agt. of LLC & mailed to the LLC, 111 Barkit Kennel Rd, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. Any lawful purpose.

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“Notice of Formation of Tom White Dog Training And Behavior LLC” Art. of Org. filed Sec’y of State on 1/6/2026. Office:DutchessCounty SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 29 Friendly Way Stormville, NY 12582 Purpose: Dog Training

NOTICE OF FORMATION BREV SW LLC has filedArticles of Organization with the Secretary of State on January 16, 2026. Its office is located in Dutchess County. TheSecretaryofState has been designated as agent upon whom processagainstitmay be served and a copy of any process will be mailed to 89 Kensington Lane, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. The purpose of the LLC is any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization of Mahaffey Cattle Company LLC (hereinafter the Company) were filed with the Secretary of State of New York on January 15, 2026. The office of the Company is located in Dutchess County, New York. The Company has designated the Secretary of State of New York as its agent upon which process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shallmailacopyofany process against the Company is 484 Old Route22,Amenia,NY 12501. The purpose of the Company shall be to conduct anylawful business or activity whatsoever, as permitted by applicable law.

Notice of Formation of ELBOW CREEK TWO, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/16/26. Office location: Dutchess County. Princ. office of LLC: 241 Hudson St., Hackensack, NJ 07601. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

VALDINA TELLER ENTERPRISES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/13/26. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be

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served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 42 Teller Avenue, Beacon, NY 12508. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Distillery Stay LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on January 8, 2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC at c/o 284 State Route 23, Claverack, NY 12513. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Formation of 356 VERBK, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/14/2026. Office loc.: Dutchess County. The principal business address is 356-358 Verbank Rd., Millbrook, NY 12545. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Jessica Ariel Pesco, 395 Leonard St., Apt. 522, Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Aura Flooring LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/30/2025. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 79 W Dorsey Ln, Hyde Park, NY 12538. Purpose: any lawful act.

JPB CONSULTAS, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 01/09/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, PO Box 833, Beacon, NY 12508. General Purposes.

KLZ GROUP, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/14/26. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 40 Galle Lane, Lagrangeville, NY 12540. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES GROUP LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/6/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. Principal business location: 1

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HOLLYBERRY DR, HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY 12533. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1 HOLLYBERRY DR, HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY 12533. Any lawful purpose.

LF8 LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/15/2025. Office loc: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 1 Jordan St, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Reg Agent: U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Ave., Ste 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

TEMPLE BUILT LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/08/2026. Office loc: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 1 Jordan St, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Reg Agent: U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Ave., Ste 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

Notice of Form. of JKMR PROPERTY GROUP LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/19/2025. Office location: Dutchess. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to PO BOX 585, AMENIA, NY 12501. Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Small Batch Sisters LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/18/26. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Meghan Dolan, 3 Fowlerhouse Rd, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of D&K AUTO PERFORMANCE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 24, 2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to 75 Honeywell Ln Hyde Park, NY 12538. Purpose is to engage in any and all business

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activities permitted under NYS laws

Nuvantura LLC filed w/ SSNY 1/21/26. Off. in Dutchess Co. Process served to SSNY - desg. as agt. of LLC & mailed to the LLC, 83 Stream Ln, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. Any lawful purpose.

100 SOUTH AVENUE LLC Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on January 22, 2026. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC, 20330 Passagio Drive, Venice, Florida 34293. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LF Bossier Haynesville, LLC filed Art. of Org. with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/23/2026. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent for the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 139 West 82nd Street, Apt. 6C, New York, NY 10024 Purpose: any lawful act.

FIRESIDE WOOD PRODUCTS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/27/26. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Jake Demasi, 43 Raceway Drive, Lagrangeville, NY 12540. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Form. of HVEC NEWCO, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/28/2026. Office location: Dutchess. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 600 MAMARONECK AVENUE #400, HARRISON, NY, 10528. Any lawful purpose.

HOWLING HOLLOW FARM LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/14/2025. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 2006 Clove Rd, Lagrangeville, NY 12540. Purpose: any lawful act.

5926 RT 9 LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on

Legal Notices

10/30/2025. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, PO Box 785, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Willowoods, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/13/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 50 Carol Lane, Poughquag, New York 12570. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Avanti 21, LLC Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on January 22, 2026. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC, 72 Dutchess Terrace, Beacon, New York 12508. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Cat Cuts Creative LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/04/26. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 26 Relyea Terrace, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

SJW PROPERTIES LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/3/26. Office in Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Cappillino, Rothschild & Egan LLP, 7 Broad St., Pawling, NY 12564. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 1C Margherita Ln., Pawling, NY 12564.

Notice of Form. of LOCAL COUPLE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/26/2026. Office location: Dutchess. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 133 LONGVIEW RD, CLINTON CORNERS, NY 12514. Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Form. of G R A M E R C Y PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 05/06/2009. Office location: Dutchess. SSNY

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desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 600 MAMARONECK AVENUE, #400, HARRISON, NY 10528. Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Form. of JONATHAN S. BERCK, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/01/2005. Office location: Dutchess. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 600 MAMARONECK AVENUE #400, HARRISON, NY 10528. Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Apex Bookkeeping and Solutions, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on January 15, 2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Apex Bookkeeping and Solutions, LLC at 14 White Birch Ct, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation Of A Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: Cut the Chaos LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/27/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. ZENBUSINESS INC. has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112, ALBANY, NY, 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

A L P I N E HYDROELECTRIC LLC. Filed 1/8/26. Office: Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. as agent for process & shall mail to: 22 Old Myers Corners Rd, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Purpose: General.

CROCCO FAMILY FARM LLC. Filed 12/22/25. Office: Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. as agent for process & shall mail to: c/o Jd Cpa Pc, 3 Nancy Ct, Ste 5, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Purpose: General.

AB PILATES LLC. Filed 12/17/25. Office: Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. as agent for process & shall mail to: 2419 Route 82 Ste 103, Lagrangeville, NY 12540. Purpose: General.

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TOASTED BY ALVIN & AUDIE LLC. Filed 12/15/25. Office: Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. as agent for process & shall mail to: 5 Juniper Way, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Purpose: General.

Notice of Formation of Baird Property Group, LLC, Art. of Org. filed w/Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/14/26. Office location: Dutchess Co., NY.; SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process c/o the Company, 330 Haven Ave, Apt 3K, New York, NY 10033. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Northern Dutchess Botanical Gardens, LLC, Art. of Org. filed w/Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/14/26. Office location: Dutchess Co., NY.; SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process c/o the Company, 389 Salisbury Tpke, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Robs Rides LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/25/25 Office Location : Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Robert E Essigman 22 Slate Hill dr Poughkeepsie NY 12603 Purpose: any lawful purpose

RASUL REAL ESTATE LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/5/26. Office in Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 56 Sutton Park Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

RED NY HOLDINGS, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/6/26. Office in Dutchess Co. SSNY desg. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 471 White House Pike, Atco, NJ 08004. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 440 Milan Hollow Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

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TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 160/2026
RESOLUTION CLOSING TOWN HALL FOR THE MOVE TO 1903 ROUTE 44

WHEREAS, there's a need to relocate town offices from their current locations to 1903 Route 44, and
WHEREAS, this transition will be smoother for both staff and the public if we temporarily close town offices to the public during this period,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board:
1. Closes all town offices to the public except for the highway department and transfer station from February 5, 2026, through February 10, 2026.
2. Directs the Town Supervisor to promptly inform residents about this closure through the town website, town Facebook page, posting in the town hall lobby, and any other necessary means.
3. Directs the Town Supervisor to send an email to all department heads as soon as possible to ensure they're prepared for the move.
4. All town employees are required to come to work as usual to assist in setting up their new space at 1903 Route 44.
Dated: January 21, 2026

MOTION BY: Councilman Rifenburgh
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Chapman

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Councilwoman Borland	X_____	_____
Councilwoman Chapman	X_____	_____
Councilman Degan	X_____	_____
Councilman Rifenburgh	X_____	_____
Supervisor Albrecht	X_____	_____
Carried.		

NOTICE OF SALE
OF COOPERATIVE
APARTMENT
SECURITY BY
VIRTUE OF A DE-
FAULT

In a Loan Security Agreement dated **May 20, 2005** executed by **Shawn Cullen**, debtor to **DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY** as **Trustee for INDY-MAC INDX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2005-AR11**, **MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES Series 2005-AR11**, secured party via assignment, will cause a public sale of the security consisting of **142** shares of stock plus Parking Space and/or Garage, if applicable, of **Hudson Terrace Owners Corp.** all right title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease between said Corporation and debtor for Unit **C** in the building known as **164 RINALDI BOULEVARD, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601** together with all fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said apartment on **March 6, 2026 at 12:30PM** outside the front entrance of Dutchess County Courthouse, 10 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY, in satisfaction of an indebtedness. Apartment is sold "AS IS" AND POSSESSION TO BE OBTAINED BY THE PURCHASER. Said sale is subject to: payment of all sums due, if any, to **Hudson Terrace Owners Corp.** and the consent if necessary, of said corporation; any existing tenancy; payment of all expenses and fees of the secured party with respect thereto; terms of sale and auctioneers fees; flip tax; State, City and County transfer tax. The secured party reserves the right to bid. Terms:

an official bank or certified check made payable to **Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC.**, for ten (10%) percent of the price bid. No cash accepted.
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC.
900 MERCHANTS CONCOURSE
WESTBURY, NEW YORK 11590
(516) 280-7675

REQUEST FOR
BIDS
NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-29-26
Qualified Elevator Inspection (QEI) Services
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 26th day of February 2026 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.

PUBLIC HEARING
Public Notice the Milan Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on February 16, 2026, at 6:55 p.m. concerning proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, entitled, "Local Law Amending Town Code Chapter 183 (Taxation)" pursuant to Article 16 of the N.Y. Town Law. This Local Law will take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State. Complete copies of the proposed Local Law are available at the Town of Milan Town Clerk's Office for inspection during reg-

ular business hours. All interested persons and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposals at the Public Hearing to be held at the Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY.
By order of the Milan Town Board,
Ingrid Kulick,
Town Clerk

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT -
COUNTY OF
DUTCHESS

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner
Trustee of CSMC 2021-RPL11 Trust Plaintiff,
Against
Gerald P. Bayne aka Gerald Bayne; Julie L. Bayne aka Julie Bayne Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered 12/19/2025, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in the rear lobby of the Dutchess County Courthouse, 10 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, on 3/16/2026 at 3:30PM, premises known as 50 Harrigan Road, Hopewell Junction, New York 12533 and described as follows:
ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of East Fishkill, County of Dutchess, State of New York.
Section 6456 Block 01 Lot 244876
The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$366,864.74 plus interest and costs. The Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 2024-52474
Roland Bloomer, Esq., Referee.
SHELDON MAY &

ASSOCIATES Attorneys at Law, 255 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570
Dated: 1/29/2026 File Number: 39732 CA

REQUEST FOR
BIDS
NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-22-26
Rebid Cummins Engine Repair and Replacement Services
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 20th day of February 2026 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.

City of Beacon
One Municipal Plaza
- Suite One
Beacon, New York 12508
Phone (845) 838-5002
February 6, 2026

SUBJECT:
Variance Application
Applicant: JMARKMNG, LLC
Address: 1064 Wolcott Avenue
Tax Grid No.: 30-5954-34-641767-00
Zoning Classification: R1-40 and HDLO
Dear Neighboring Property Owner:

JMARKMNG, LLC, 1064 Wolcott Avenue, has applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for relief from Section 223-17, Attachment 1, to allow for the adaptive reuse of two (2) existing buildings and construct an addition to the existing two-story building on the southern portion of the premises, and to redevelop the premises for use as a hotel, with associated guest amenity spaces and restaurant, which requires relief from the following:
1. Section 223-17, Attachment 1, to allow for a rear yard setback of 23.8 feet (50 ft. required)
The full application is available online at: <https://www.beaconny.gov/index.php/agendas-minutes/>
The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing for this application at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal

Center courtroom, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York. You are invited to be present to voice your support or objection to this appeal. Comments can also be provided via email no later than 4:00 PM on February 18, 2026, to Mercedes Perez, Zoning Board Secretary, at mperez@beaconny.gov
Mercedes Perez
Zoning Board Secretary

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCB-01-26. NAME OF PROJECT: Oakley Street Housing Support Center. Project Description: The conversion of existing building to a housing support center, work including selective demolition, reconstruction, alterations to electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, and ADA/code compliance of existing building. 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 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 Turn-

pike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00 AM Friday, February 27, 2026, 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: 960 202 43# Each bid shall be submitted 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 Friday February 20, 2026 and emailed to Christopher.Sterbenz@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 June 15, 2026; the anticipated completion date is August 17, 2027. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2026000467. Starting December 30, 2024:

NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable, and NYSDOL Contractor Registry requirements. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS
NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid RFQ-DCP-12-26
Pre-Qualified List for Medicolegal Death Investigative Services
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 19, 2026. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions 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.

REQUEST FOR
BIDS
NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-07-26
After-Hours Telephone Answering and Messaging Services
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 25th day of February 2026 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.



GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE

Who needs blood?

Under normal circumstances, every two seconds someone in America will need a blood transfusion. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims - due to accidents and burns - heart surgery, organ transplants, women with complications during childbirth, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

Leonard Cohen documentary explores craft, faith and ‘Hallelujah’ on Feb. 14

A documentary about Leonard Cohen’s artistic evolution and lifelong search for meaning screens at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St. in Kingston.

“Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song,” presented as part of the Movies With Spirit community film series, uses Cohen’s most famous work as a lens on his creative life – tracing how he spent years writing and rewriting the song before it became a global anthem.

Through archival footage, Cohen’s personal notebooks and interviews with singer Judy Collins, The Velvet Underground’s John Cale, musician Jeff Buckley and singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright, the film follows “Hallelujah” from a rejected album track to cultural phenomenon.

The film runs 1 hour 55 minutes and is rated PG-13.

A discussion will follow the screening. Refreshments will be served. Suggested donation: \$10 (ages 13 and up).

The film’s trailer can be seen on YouTube, go to tinyurl.com/Hallelujah-MoviesWithSpirit.

Movies With Spirit, now in its 20th season, presents screenings exploring connection, compassion and meaning. The monthly series has no religious affiliation and welcomes all beliefs.

Screenings take place at diverse worship and cultural spaces in Ulster County, generally on the third Saturday of each month. The series is organized by Gerry Harrington of Kingston.

For more information, please go to tinyurl.com/MoviesWithSpiritFacebook Page, 845-389-9201, gerryharrington@mindspring.com.

The documentary “Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song” traces Cohen’s six-decade career wrestling with faith, love and mortality. The film will be screened at 7 p.m. on Feb. 14 at Old Dutch Church in Kingston, as part of the Movies With Spirit community film series.

-Photo by Leonard Cohen Family Trust/Sony Pictures Classics



Legal Notices

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 101A/2026
RE: AMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWN BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, that subject to the schedule set forth below the regular meetings of the Pleasant Valley Town Board will take place on the third (3rd) Monday of each month for the year 2026 at 7:00 PM in the main meeting room of the Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that subject to the schedule set forth below the Town Board Workshops will take place on the first (1st) Monday of each month for the year 2026, at 7:00 PM in main meeting room, and that special meetings will be scheduled and advertised by posting the announcement on the front door entrance of the Town Hall, with notification to the press (time permitting); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2026 meeting dates are as listed below:

January 5	Re-Organizational Meeting
January 21 (Wed)	Regular Meeting
February 2	Workshop Meeting
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2026, THE MEETINGS LISTED BELOW SHALL BE HELD AT TOWN HALL, 1903 ROUTE 44, PLEASANT VALLEY, NEW YORK, AS AMENDED	
February 18 (Wed)	Regular Meeting
March 2	Workshop Meeting
March 16	Regular Meeting
April 6	Workshop Meeting
April 20	Regular Meeting
May 4	Workshop Meeting
May 18	Regular Meeting
June 1	Workshop Meeting
June 15	Regular Meeting
July 6	Workshop Meeting
July 20	Regular Meeting
August 3	Workshop Meeting
August 17	Regular Meeting
September 9 (Wed)	Workshop Meeting
September 21	Regular Meeting
October 5	Workshop Meeting
October 19	Regular Meeting
November 2	Workshop Meeting
November 16	Regular Meeting
December 7	Workshop Meeting
December 21	Regular Meeting

And;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any changes to the above-mentioned schedules will be posted at the Town Hall entrance as necessary, with notification to the press.

MOTION: Councilman Rifenburgh

SECOND: Councilwoman Chapman

DATED: February 3, 2026

ROLL CALL:	AYE	NAY
Councilwoman Borland	X	
Council woman Chapman	X	
Councilman Degan	X	
Councilman Rifenburgh	X	
Supervisor Albrecht	X	

Carried.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING AS OWNERS OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY HELD BY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE OF DUTCHESS COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 601 of the Abandoned Property Law of the State of New York that

The undersigned as Commissioner of Finance of the County of Dutchess has on deposit or in her custody certain moneys and property paid or deposited in actions or proceedings in court(s) in the said County.

The persons whose names and last known addresses are set forth below appear from the records of the said Commissioner of Finance to be entitled to certain such property of the amount of \$50 or more.

Deposited in Action of Proceedings in the City of Poughkeepsie Court

People vs. Ahmed Shabazz El J	94 Manalay Drive	Poughkeepsie	NY	12601
People vs. Tarell Heard	4676 Albany Post Road	Hyde Park	NY	12538
People vs. Robert Isaacs	113 Garden Street, Apt 2	Poughkeepsie	NY	12601
People vs. Shahmeem Ashley	82 S. Hamilton St.	Poughkeepsie	NY	12601

Deposited in Action of Proceedings in Dutchess County Courts

State of NY vs Daniel James Searles	1248 North Ave	Beacon	NY	12508
State of NY vs Soren Clark Wilhelmsen	49 Mountain View	Hopewell Junction	NY	12533
State of NY vs David Smith Daye	6 Mile Hill Road	Highland	NY	12528
DCFS- Martin Brown	249 Mansion St.	Poughkeepsie	NY	12601
DCFS- Wayne Brown Sr.	481 Main St. 2nd Fl	Poughkeepsie	NY	12601
DCFS- Alyssa Curtis	4 Alan Road	Fishkill	NY	12524
DCFS- Prot One	133 Federal St.	Boston	MA	02110
DCFS- Eugene Reed	4631 14th Ave. S. St.	Petersburg	FL	33711
DCFS- Christina Ruseskas	88 Fox Hollow Road	Rhinebeck	NY	12572
DCFS- Gabriel Soto	200 S. Main St. C7	Ellenville	NY	12428
DCFS- Robert Coletti	18 Continental Drive	Port Jefferson	NY	11776
DCFS- Terrance Bellamy Sr.	Unknown			
DCFS- Eric Deuchar	286 E. 7th St.	Bloomsburg	NY	17815
DCFS- Dwayne Gordon	11 Scuppo Road	Danbury	CT	06811
DCFS- Daniel Maffei	46 Rosilia Lane	Fishkill	NY	12524
DCFS- Consuelo Maldonaldo	11 Talmadge St. Fl. 3	Poughkeepsie	NY	12601
DCFS- Marcos Martinez	221 Rhodes Ave #2	Hempstead	NY	11550
DCFS- Christopher Murley	13 Commerce St.	Poughkeepsie	NY	12603

Rocket Mortgage LLC vs Richard Holmes and Kelly DOE Unknown

Wells Fargo Bank NAs vs DC Finance as Limited Administrator of the Estate of Frank Joseph Torchia; Steffanee Murphy; Allison Hogan; Frank Torchia, Jr.; Christoffer Torchia; Jess Torchia; Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company; State of NY

16 Pebble Lane	Waymart	PA	18472
81 E. Ramsey Canyon Rd.	Hereford	AZ	85615
2317 Stoneborough Ct	Fuquay Varina	NC	27526
28 Torchia Rd.	Cold Spring	NY	10516
6 Nancy Drive	LaGrangeville	NY	12540

C. Maenza CORP d/b/a ASAP Electric vs DAK Homes LLC/ DAK Homes C/O Zuki Karagjozi

788 Shrewsbury Ave, Ste 2225	Tinton Falls	NJ	07924
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Catherine Oliva vs Christopher Oliva

28 Pocantico Rd.	Ossining	NY	10562
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JPMC Specialty Mortgage LLC vs Edward Kelland; Veronica Medina Kelland; Kyle Kelland; Colby Kelland

762 Wolcott Ave	Beacon	NY	12508
456 Maloney Rd. #5	Poughkeepsie	NY	12603
217 Stone Ave.	Yonkers	NY	10701

Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union vs Hector Ayala, Individually as Heir at Law to the Estate of William Ayala

53 Beaumont Cir. #4	Yonkers	NY	10710
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Christina Griffin, Architect PC vs Neeraj Hotchandani and/or Pretti Bhattacharji

33 Lafayette Ave	Beacon	NY	12508
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County of Dutchess vs Gloria B. Chambers

1539 Hollow Road	Clinton Corners	NY	12514
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TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT

(A) A list of names contained in this notice is on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Commissioner of Finance;

(B) Any such unclaimed moneys or other property will be paid or delivered by her on or before the thirty first day of March to persons established to her satisfaction their right to receive the same; and

(C) In the succeeding month of April, and on or before the tenth day thereof, such unclaimed moneys or other property still remaining will be paid or delivered to the Comptroller of the State of New York, and the undersigned shall thereupon cease to be liable therefore.

Dated: February 1, 2026

Poughkeepsie, New York

/s/heidi seelbach

Heidi Seelbach

Commissioner of Finance

Dutchess County, New York

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

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

Suguru

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4

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2

3

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

THEME: LOVE'S IN THE AIR

ACROSS

1. Biology lab supply
5. Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
8. *Certain Courtney
12. Tear violently
13. Color of a bruise
14. Al Roker's show
15. Pupil control
16. Any minute, to Shakespeare
17. Sheep-like
18. *H. P. of science fiction fame
20. Hibernation stations
21. Boat station
22. Tennis shot
23. Packed in container
26. User-friendly interface, acr.
30. Genetic info carrier, acr.
31. *Love unquestioningly
34. Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
35. Not a minor
37. Poem addressed to certain subject
38. Hundred, in Italian
39. Nothing
40. Relating to clone
42. Division, abbr.
43. Sloughed off skin
45. Fluffy dessert
47. All good things come to this?
48. Between Octs and Novs
50. _____ Verde National Park
52. *B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
56. Singing femme fatale
57. Deed hearing
58. Reverberated sound
59. Blue-Green scum, pl.
60. Misery cause
61. Actress Perlman
62. Scheme
63. Right coast time
64. Made by tailor

DOWN

1. Seed cover
2. Biking helmet manufacturer
3. Tel _____, Israel
4. #64 Across, redone
5. Like 1969 landing
6. Laugh with contempt
7. Fender-bender damage
8. *a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
9. Norse deity
10. "Off The Wall" shoe
11. Needle hole
13. Macy's Thanksgiving offering
14. Commotions
19. Silica variety
22. NaOH
23. Solder together
24. Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative _____
25. Pleasant Island
26. Small songbird
27. Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
28. Bigfoot's cousins
29. *Hand cover, with love
32. *Lemming relative, or anagram of love
33. Tokyo, formerly
36. *Couch for two
38. Lumps in liquid
40. Knave
41. Unit of electric current flow
44. Absurd
46. Theater guides
48. Nutritious beans
49. Black tie one
50. Grain grinder
51. "Cogito, _____ sum"
52. Stud site
53. Occasional heart condition
54. Prepare to swallow
55. Riddle without solution
56. Tree juice

CROSSWORD

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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on the next page.

College Notes

MADISON, Wis - The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of the 2025-2026 academic year.To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Miller Kapfhammer, from Poughkeepsie, College of Letters and Science.

HAYS, Kan. - Fort Hays State University recognized approximately 981 graduates during its fall 2025 commencement ceremonies Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13, at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Heather May, Poughkeepsie, Bachelor of General Studies

ONEONTA, NY - Three hundred and twenty-one SUNY Oneonta students earned Provost's List honors for the fall 2025 semester. To qualify for the Provost's List, a student must earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

Mary Beth Florio of Wappingers Falls , Kennedy Harkins of Wappingers Falls, Marisa Kane of East Fishkill, and Dillon Kelly of Wappingers Falls.

BEREA, OH - Samuel Aldarondo of Wappingers Falls, majoring in voice performance, has been named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester at Baldwin Wallace University, according to Interim Provost Linda Chase. The Dean’s List recognizes students who earn a grade point average of 3.8 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more graded hours during the semester.

BEREA, OH - Samuel Aldarondo of Wappingers Falls, majoring in voice performance, has been named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester at Baldwin Wallace University, according to Interim Provost Linda Chase. The

Dean’s List recognizes students who earn a grade point average of 3.8 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more graded hours during the semester.

POTSDAM, NY - The State University of New York at Potsdam recently named Julia Taylor of East Fishkill to the SUNY Potsdam Dean’s List.

Taylor, whose major is Music Business, was among 152 students who were honored for academic excellence in the Fall 2025 semester.

To achieve the honor of being on the Dean’s List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of between 3.25 and 3.49 in the given semester.

CHARLESTON, SC - Christopher Phillips, of Poughkeepsie, was among more than 2,050 students named to the College of Charleston Fall 2025 President’s List. Phillips is majoring in Economics and Finance

To qualify for the President's List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

SYRACUSE - Ashley Buragas, a Junior Biology major from Hopewell Junction, NY, has been named to the Le Moyne College Fall 2025 Dean’s List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

POTSDAM - The State University of New York at Potsdam recently named 738 students to the President's List, in recognition of their academic excellence in the Fall 2025 semester. The SUNY Potsdam students were honored for earning top marks by President Dr. Suzanne Smith.

To achieve the honor of being on the President's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

This semester's President’s List included:

Julia DeLaurentis of Poughkeepsie whose major is Music Education

Rowan Parsaca of Beacon, whose major is Music Business

Ian Porteus of East Fishkill whose major is Musical Studies

Angelina Rubiano of East Fishkill whose major is Music Education

Gabi Salcedo of Beacon, whose major is Music Education

HARRISONBURG, VA - Fishkill resident, Andrew Mottola, has been named to the Dean’s List at James Madison University for the fall 2025 semester. Students who earn Dean's List honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of between 3.5 and 3.899. Mottola is majoring in Media Arts and Design - BS.

HEMPSTEAD, NY - Jacob DiNobile of Beacon excelled during the fall 2025 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List. Jacob's major is Television and Film.

POTSDAM, NY - Clarkson University. Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Kendall Alston of Wappingers Falls, Joseph Malgioglio of East Fishkill, James O'Rourke of East Fishkill, Anna Przybyl of East Fishkill.

POTSDAM, NY - Students have been named Presidential Scholars for the Fall 2025 semester at Clarkson University. Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Christopher Joblon of East Fishkill and Madison Morsey of East Fishkill.

BURLINGTON, VT - The following students have been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the Fall 2025 semester.

Charles Batista of East Fishkill and Connor Schnackenberg of Poughkeepsie.

ORANGE COUNTY - Dr. Kristine Young, president of SUNY Orange, has announced that the College awarded

198 associate’s degrees and academic certificates to 196 students who completed their courses of study during the recently concluded Fall semester.

If they choose, the College’s newest graduates are eligible to participate in SUNY Orange’s 76th commencement ceremony in May.

The College’s December 2025 graduates hailed from eight counties in New York (Orange, Broome, Dutchess, Queens, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester) as well as Pennsylvania.

SUNY Orange Graduates List (December 2025) from Dutchess County:

Beacon: Abigail Rose McCormack, Arianna Nicole Mercado

Fishkill: Madeline K. Castillo, Alana Noelle Girch

East Fishkill: Lauren Michelle Towers

LaGrangeville: Constance R. Moustakas

Poughkeepsie: Mercedes Margaret Muller

Wappingers Falls: Anastacia M. Krieger, Laela A. Montagnino

ALBANY - The Dean's Letter of Commendation at the University at Albany recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of part-time undergraduate students.

To qualify for the Dean's Letter of Commendation, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in their first semester of study and a GPA of 3.50 or higher in subsequent semesters.

The following students have received the Dean's Letter of Commendation for Fall 2025:

Tess Wills of Beacon

Michael Morrison of Beacon

Jessica Adamczyk of Wappingers Falls

John Alterio of Fishkill

ONEONTA - Deshaun Dennis of Wappingers Falls was among the 43 SUNY Oneonta students who completed the requirements for a master's degree, Certificate of Advanced Study or Advanced Graduate Certificate following the Fall 2025 semester. Dennis completed the Literacy Education (B-6) graduate program and earned a Master of Science in Education degree.

20 poets, 20 visual artists to take part in ‘Artists Respond to Poetry’

Artists Respond to Poetry is Arts Mid-Hudson’s ninth annual celebration of National Poetry Month, bringing together 20 poets and 20 visual artists in a collaborative exhibition exploring the dialogue between word and image. Opening Feb. 24, in Arts Mid-Hudson’s gallery, the exhibition features selected poems paired with original visual artworks created in direct response to them. Participating visual artists each selected a poem to interpret through their own work, resulting in a dynamic fusion of poetic language and visual expression that highlights the creative connections between literary and

visual art forms.

Participating visual artists: Karen Allen, James Barrett, Chloe Blythe, Patricia Churchill, Helen Contino, Daisy de Puthod, Stasia Fernandez, Stacie Flint, Naomi Fujita, Mike Garda, Roy Gumpel, Barbara Holt, Clare Kirkwood, Jill Obrig, Mary-Anne Ramirez, Chanel Reed, Andrea Stanet, Allison Walker, Luke Whittaker, and Martha Zola.

Participating poets: Kat Anderson, Jeni Ascosi, Elana Bell, Jared Bertholf, Lisandra Carlomagno, Ariana Den Bleyker, Celeste Emmons, Gabrielle Garmon, Edgar Hartley, Andy Izenson,

Mike Jurkovic, Aida Manduley Escribano, Kate Mitchell, Nirmala Nataraj, Lara Noël, Chris Pryslopski, Magdalen Radovich, Nancy Shih-Knodel, Laurie Treacy, and Sikoya Wood.

Exhibition Dates: Feb. 24 - April 12

Gallery Hours: Monday–Friday,10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie

Opening Reception wil be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 5-7 p.m.

Location: Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F,

Poughkeepsie

To RSVP, please go to: <https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E231621&id=555>

Closing Reception Artist Talk: Sunday, April 12, from 1-3 p.m. will take place at Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie

Please RSVP, <https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E231621&id=556>

Admission to the gallery and events is free and open to all.

this week’s puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

SEWN	EST	FLTOT						
RHEA	BANER	ALGAE						
EOHO	OYER	SIREN						
CK	LOVES	MESEA						
	SEPTIS	END						
SE	MOUSSE	EXUVIAE						
DIV	CLONAL	ZERO						
TO	ODE	ADULT						
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Tai-Chi program at EFCL on Feb. 17

A free program Tai Chi for Beginners with Scott Grimes will take place at the East Fishkill Community Library, 348 Route 376, on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Hopewell resident and certified Tai Chi instructor Scott Grimes will present this free hour long demo and class of the basic principles of Tai Chi.

The first half hour class is a demo and Q&A and the second half is participation. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

The program meets the third Tuesday of the month and is limited to 10 participants. Register through our online calendar at <http://www.EFLibrary.org> or call the Library at 845-221-9943.

get growing!



by mark adams

In the room where it happens

Mark and Sue go to Albany to advocate for New York’s farmers.

I was in the room where it happened. During Sue’s and my visit to Albany last Tuesday, I was talking with N.Y. State Senator Jacob Ashby’s legislative director, as the senator was introducing a bill to limit federal ICE enforcement in N.Y. state. What makes Ashby’s new bill intriguing is the fact that he is a Republican and a combat veteran.

Sue and I were at the N.Y. capitol lobbying, I mean advocating, for New York farmers as representatives of the Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO). The CAO is an umbrella group for dozens of farm-related industries, from the New York State Horse Council to American Farmland Trust, N.Y. State Brewers Association and New York State Flower Industries, of which Sue is president.

After receiving our marching orders at an all-hands 8 a.m. meeting, the CAO members (we’re volunteers) fanned out in groups of three to visit legislators. Our priorities concerned the state budget, pending legislation and out-of-control regulations:

- **Tariff relief** – Governor Hochul has earmarked \$30 million in the state budget for farmers impacted by tariffs. We’re not sure how this money, if the legislature approves it, will be distributed. Will it go to farmers who dumped product when markets evaporated or to those who had to pay extra for imported supplies? We want the N.Y. Department of Agriculture to

be involved.

- **Research** – The Farm Viability Institute, funded by the N.Y. Legislature, awards grants to innovative research projects chosen by a diverse panel of growers from around the state. Over the years, this research has led to increased yields in apple orchards, reduced pesticide applications and soil regeneration. Every year, farmers have to fight for adequate funding.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility Act** – Since municipalities lose money trying to recycle paper and plastic, the EPR act shifts the cost to manufacturers and packagers. Agriculture, especially wineries, plant nurseries and dairies, use a lot of packaging, so we are naturally reluctant to shoulder these costs, considering we already have our backs to the wall. My group met with Assembly member Deborah Glick, who chairs the environmental conservation committee, to express our concerns. She wasn’t swayed, since she introduced the EPR act. After 35 years in office, Glick is retiring at the end of her current term.
- **Labor** – This is a hot topic, considering that immigrants harvest a huge part of our food. It’s a federal, not a state issue. But our state legislators, especially Agriculture Chair Michelle Hinchey, are trying to protect workers from overzealous ICE enforcement. Up until last week, it was Democrats who were promulgat-



Assembly member Andrea Bailey with her legislative assistant Amelia Rugiero of Wappingers Falls.

-Photo by Mark Adams

ing legislation to rein in the federal agents, by requiring warrants, prohibiting intrusion in schools, churches, and courtrooms. Hinchey even signed a letter demanding that ICE and Border Patrol leave Minnesota immediately.

When my group stopped at State Senator Jack Ashby’s office last Wednesday, we met with his legislative assistant Meaghan Rossbach, who announced that the senator was on the Senate floor introducing his new bill, the first from a state Republican limiting ICE. Rossbach calls this a “compromise,” because it does not call for total ICE withdrawal. It fits into border czar Tom Homan’s idea that enforcement should be targeted to specific individuals and that local police should cooperate when warrants are issued for undocumented criminal suspects. So now we have bipartisan

support for some type of cool-down.

The Council of Ag Organizations recommends:

- Work authorization for current agricultural employees.
- Support for protecting our state’s immigrant workforce from arrest, detention or deportation without due process.
- Opposition to permitting federal authorities to intrude on non-public areas without a judicial warrant.

Failure to enact legislation to address the farm labor issue will force farms out of business, resulting in an increase in food imports from foreign sources.

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

Polar Plunge at 3 Dutchess County locations for 2026

Hudson Valley’s biggest winter tradition is back and bigger than ever. Beginning Friday, Feb. 27, hundreds of brave participants will take the plunge during the 28th Annual Polar Plunge, a signature fundraising event benefiting local athletes of Special Olympics New York.

New in 2026, Special Olympics New York will debut a brand-new mobile plunge unit - one of the first in the state, allowing the Polar Plunge to expand into a three-day, multi-location experience across Dutchess County. The enhanced format increases visibility, excitement, and fundraising impact throughout the Hudson Valley.

All funds raised directly support year-round sports training, competition, leadership, and inclusion opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities at no cost to athletes or their families or caregivers.

2026 Dutchess County Polar Plunge
Pre-Registration check in and Day of Registration: 10–11:30 a.m.
Plunge Time: Noon
Day 1 – Friday, Feb. 27
Marist University
3399 North Road, Poughkeepsie
The mobile plunge tank will be located in the McCann Center parking lot, with additional festivities taking place inside the McCann Center.

Day 2 – Saturday, Feb. 28
Heritage Financial Park
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
Features include - music, heated event tents, portable restrooms, changing areas, vendor stations, food trucks, s’mores and campfire stations, and ample parking for team tailgating before or after the plunge.

Day 3 – Sunday, March 1
Eastdale Village Town Center
10 Otto Way, Poughkeepsie
Includes music, a heated event tent, portable restrooms, and changing areas. Ample parking throughout the vicinity. Select Eastdale Village storefronts will be offering discounts to participating plungers in support of the event.

All are welcome to participate in the Polar Plunge with a donation. Participants may register as individuals or form teams with friends, classmates, coworkers, or community groups. Advance registration is encouraged, though same-day registration will be available. All participants must complete required waivers prior to plunging and youth under eighteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Participants should bring a towel and a change of clothes. Designated heated changing areas will be available on site. The event will take place rain, light snow, or shine.

Fundraising Incentives & Challenges
Participants are encouraged to collect donations in advance to support Special Olympics New York.

- \$25 minimum to participate in the plunge
- \$125 to participate and receive a 2026 Polar Plunge hoodie
- \$500 and participation all three days to complete the Trifecta Challenge

All Trifecta participants receive a Polar Plunge finisher medal

There is still time to register and get involved. Individuals and teams can sign up at PolarPlungeNY.org/DutchessCounty

For more information, contact Susanne O’Neil at soneil@nyso.org or 914-489-3301.

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