



# DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

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## 'Save Vassar-Warner' effort begins with new leadership

Vassar-Warner Home, Dutchess County's only nonprofit senior living facility, was forced to begin efforts to shutter its doors and relocate its residents in October after 153 years of serving hundreds of senior citizens in the greater Hudson Valley.

With just two residents remaining in the Home, a grassroots movement, "Save Vassar-Warner," has gained momentum in the community, resulting in leadership changes and a final bid to secure the funding needed to keep the Home operational.

As of October 17, Ellen Smyth, president of Vassar-Warner Home's board of trustees, resigned from her position; and Rich Schuster, who filled one of the 18 vacancies on the board, was subsequently elected president.

Schuster, whose mother is one of the two remaining residents, is spearheading the "Save Vassar-Warner" movement, representing the Home's residents and their families, as well as its employees. He is actively working to secure the funding needed to meet the unprecedented and critical senior housing and services needs the Home has faithfully provided for more than a century. In doing so, Schuster continues to have promising discussions with Will Truitt, the chair of the Dutchess County Legislature, and Sue Serino, Dutchess County Executive, among others.

"My mother, Dorothy, now 86 years of age, has called Vassar-Warner Home her home for the last 19 years," said Schuster. "After a lifetime of commitment from her, I feel that it is my duty to save this establishment not only for her but for the hundreds of seniors that have come through the doors of the Home over the last 153 years. I am confident that, with the community's help, we can secure a bright future for this pillar of the Hudson Valley."

As stipulated by the County, Vassar-Warner Home has enacted leadership changes and is actively working to obtain stopgap funding, enabling the board of trustees to continue discussions with local and

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## Veteran John Yurus at 100 – Proud member of 'The Greatest Generation'

*By Jim Donick*

John Yurus of Wappingers Falls is a Navy Veteran from the Second World War. He's also 100 years old. That makes him one of the last survivors of what has been called "The Greatest Generation." His life is a perfect illustration of the meaning of that saying.

Yurus was born in 1924 and reared in the Slovak section of Yonkers.

"You knew pretty much where anybody lived in Yonkers in those days by their last name," he says. "The Irish and the Slovaks were one place, the Poles had their part of town, and so on."

As a teenager, he met a young Irish American girl, Margaret Mary O'Brien. To hear him tell it "We began holding hands." That, in those days was significant. Life was moving along.

On Dec. 7, 1941, life changed. That was the day the Japanese Empire attacked Pearl Harbor in the Pacific. John Yurus knew he wanted to serve. He was still just a little young. He should have finished high school the following spring.

That early in the war, the government preferred to take men who were over 18. That gave John time to prepare himself.

His brother, Eddie, had gone into the Army before the United States was officially in the war. He would go on to serve in the liberation of North Africa. Eddie



U.S. Navy veteran John Yurus is pictured above with his son, Michael and at the right in uniform during World War II. Photo by Jim Donick and courtesy photo

told him to avoid the Army if you don't want to march everywhere or slog through mud and anything else you came across. The food was another issue. The wisdom of Eddie's advice was apparent.

John Yurus heeded his brother's advice and enlisted as soon as he could. He joined the Navy. He says, "I liked the idea of not sleeping in the mud, riding everywhere we had to go and taking our



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## Farewell event to honor Clinton pastor Hartley retiring after 43 years

*By Craig Marshall  
Clinton Town Historian*



How did a simple speaking engagement turn into a 43-year pastoral assignment? Church and community members alike are due to hear this story where a country church was saved and experienced great growth, enjoying a large congregation today.

Tom L. Hartley, pastor of the Clinton Alliance Church in Schultsville, has many memorable moments in this highly interesting saga which he will carry with him as he retires to Florida in December with his wife Carol.

Tom L. Hartley, pastor of the Clinton Alliance Church in Schultsville, and his wife, Carol. *Courtesy photo*

The church was built around 1866 through a bequest of Theodore "Gus" Schultz, grandson of Schultsville hamlet's founder John F. Schultz in 1807. Gus contracted tuberculosis at age 21, knew he did not have long to live, and arranged with area pastors to have a church built using \$3,000 and land he would leave. As he was a Mason, he also left \$2,000 and land to build the 1865 Warren Masonic Hall in the hamlet. He passed in 1862 at age 23.

The original church was not affiliated with any Christian denomination. However, in 1932 it became the Schultsville Congregational-Christian Church, and later the Clinton Christian and Missionary Alliance of Schultsville,

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# 2024 Veterans Day Community Observances

(Based on information provided by municipalities and community organizations)

Listed by date, then alphabetically by municipality

**East Fishkill**  
Friday, Nov. 8 @ 8 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: John Jay High School, 2012 Route 52  
Hosted by: American Legion Post 1758  
Point of Contact: Jim Reynolds @ 845-221-7273

**Rhinebeck**  
Friday, Nov. 8 @ 9:30 AM  
Color Guard  
Location: Northern Dutchess Hospital, 6511 Spring Brook Avenue  
Hosted by: Northern Dutchess Hospital  
Point of Contact: Dennis McGuire @ 845-656-1839

**Pine Plains**  
Saturday, Nov. 9 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: 9 North Main Street  
Hosted by: AL Post #426 and VFW Post #5519  
Point of Contact: Marie Stewart @ 845-546-7349 or Brian Coons @ 914-456-5616

**Amenia/Dover Plains**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Fountain Square, intersection of Routes 343, 44 and 22, Amenia  
Hosted by: VFW Post #5444, and Dover Plains

Point of Contact: Vicki Doyle @ 845-489-7826

**Beacon**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Veteran's Memorial Hall, 413 Main Street  
Hosted by: VFW Post # 666  
Point of Contact: Harold Delamater @ 845-337-6509

**Hyde Park**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Hyde Park Town Hall & Hyde Park War Memorial  
Hosted by: American Legion Post # 1303  
Point of Contact: Michael Athanas @ 845-233-4371

**Millbrook**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Veterans Green  
Hosted by: Millbrook VFW Post # 9008  
Point of Contact: Jeff Moseman @ (845) 505-4336

**Millerton**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Veterans Park, at the intersection of Main Street and Dutchess Avenue  
Hosted by: Millerton American Legion Post #178  
Point of Contact: Sean M. Klay @ 518-929-3624

**Red Hook**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Red Hook Veterans Memorial Park, North Broadway  
Hosted by: VFW Post #7765  
Point of Contact: William Moore @ 845-758-8175

**Rhinebeck**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Rhinebeck Cemetery, corner of Route 9 South and Mill Road  
Hosted by: Women's Auxiliary & Montgomery American Legion Post #429  
Point of Contact: Dennis McGuire @ 845-656-1839

**Monday, Nov. 11 @ 2 PM**  
Ceremony  
Location: Baptist Home, 46 Brookmeade Drive  
Hosted by: Baptist Home  
Point of Contact: Dennis McGuire @ 845-656-1839

**Town of Fishkill**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Town of Fishkill War Memorial, 801 Route 52  
Hosted by: Town of Fishkill Veteran's Committee  
Point of Contact: Virgil Capollari @ 845-394-3115

**Town of Poughkeepsie**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony and Laying of Wreath  
Location: Dutchess County War Memorial, Raymond Avenue and Main Street  
Hosted by: Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs  
Point of Contact: Paige Walag @ 845-486-2060

**Town of Milan**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Milan Town Hall Veterans Memorial  
Hosted by: Milan Veterans' Committee  
Point of Contact: Supervisor @ 845-758-5133 ext. 2

**Town of Wappinger**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 1 PM  
Ceremony  
Location: Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road  
Hosted by: Town of Wappinger Recreation Department  
Point of Contact: Jessica Fulton @ 845-297-0720

**Village of Fishkill**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: War Memorial, Main Street  
Hosted by: Village of Fishkill  
Point of Contact: Julie Spann @ 914-456-5120

**Village of Tivoli**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Legion Post #524, 88 Broadway  
Hosted by: Harris Smith American Legion Post #524  
Point of Contact: Harold Ramsey @ 845-453-7403

**Village of Wappingers Falls**  
Monday, Nov. 11 @ 11 AM  
Ceremony  
Location: Major Joseph McDonald MIA/POW Park, East Main Street  
Hosted by: American Legion Post #427 & VFW Post #5913  
Point of Contact: John M. Karge @ 845-489-5899

## Salt Point Fire Company's Chicken BBQ



In honor of  
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## LOCAL NSDAR COLLECTS DONATIONS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS



Chancellor Livingston Chapter NSDAR recently spent two mornings fulfilling their day of services sorting their collected donations of everyday, personal items to ship to our service members. Some donations were earmarked for an Army Chaplain to distribute to a deployed Army unit in the Middle East, aka the Sandbox Unit, consisting of 400 men and 250 women. Items were also mailed or delivered to two active local service members, to the Castle Point VA Medical Center, and to the Pfc Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Program food pantry in Hudson. *Courtesy photo*

## 'Save Vassar-Warner' effort begins with new leadership

*continued from cover*

regional leadership. With hopes of providing another 153 years of unparalleled service to the Hudson Valley at large, Vassar-Warner Home is on a mission to reopen its doors.

"Rich brings substantial business acumen to our Board of Trustees and continues to demonstrate impeccable leadership on behalf of Vassar-Warner Home's extended family," said Wayne Quint, president, Vassar-Warner Home Foundation. "We are confident that, as

president of the board, Rich will secure a bright future that is reflective of the Home's long and storied history."

To learn more about the "Save Vassar-Warner" movement, or to contribute to the future of the Home, visit [www.savevassarwarner.com](http://www.savevassarwarner.com) or join the group on Facebook at @Save Vassar-Warner. Those interested may also send a note to [savevassarwarner@gmail.com](mailto:savevassarwarner@gmail.com) to join the cause or connect directly with leadership.



**IMPACT**  
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**Luxury apartment community  
Hudson West opens doors**



**IMPACT**  
PR & Communications



**See story,  
page 8**






## Veteran John Yurus at 100 – Proud member of ‘The Greatest Generation’

*continued from cover*

kitchen with us.”

To be accepted into the Navy at that point in the effort, he had to be able to swim. He used some of the time waiting to be old enough to go.

“I spent hours practicing swimming,” he recalls. “For the Navy, I think we had to be able to stay afloat for three hours or something like that.” He signed in on April 25, 1943 - the day before he turned 19. He immediately went to Boot Camp in Sampson, NY. He graduated with Company 251 on June 10. From there, it was off to advanced training, and he came out a Torpedo Man 3rd class.

“I wanted to go into submarines and passed all of the tests, physical and mental, including not being subject to claustrophobia,” he recalls. “When the class graduated, it looked like they took the first 60 or so names and I was at the end of the alphabet. After a week without orders, I presented myself to the personnel guys, who told me I was AWOL. I convinced them my name wasn’t on the list. It turned out that it had been under a staple on the second page of the original list, and when it was retyped they didn’t see my name. I ended up going to the Chesapeake Bay to test new torpedo improvements.”

U.S. torpedoes hadn’t performed well at that point.

“We were working with the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station, a naval munitions factory on the banks of the Potomac River in Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia,” he says.

Torpedoes had to run “true” when they were fired or they would miss the target or, worse, they could circle back.

“We loaded the war heads with sodium

to match the weight of the explosive it would otherwise have and then we’d shoot them to see how they ran. Sometimes they went in a circle and came back and hit our ship after we had shot it. With no warhead, the worst thing that happened was our boat got dented. I think I was torpedoed that way a lot more than once,” he remembers.

One sidelight of that duty was that some of the torpedo fuel was basically alcohol.

“The guys called it ‘Pink lady.’ I seem to remember a lot of it being consumed,” he said, smiling.

In late 1944 or early ’45, it was time to move off to the Pacific. John Yurus went by train to Los Angeles and took a ship off to the war zone.

“We were headed for the Marianas, or maybe to Okinawa,” he says. “Maybe we were also part of the plan for the final invasion of Japan.”

Thankfully for John Yurus, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought about an end to the war.

“They sent us back to the Philippines,” he recalls.

During the period in the Philippines, there was time for Yurus to see something other than the deck of his ship.

The war in the Philippines had been brutal. The Japanese commanding officer, General Tomoyuki Yamashita, surrendered to the Americans on Aug. 15. After the war, Yamashita was tried for war crimes committed by troops under his command during the Japanese defense of the occupied Philippines in 1944. His war crimes trial was to take place in the Philippines during the time John Yurus was there.



U.S. Navy veteran John Yurus returned home from the Philippines aboard the USS Rawlins. *Courtesy photo*

“I got a chance to attend a number of sessions of the various war crimes trials,” he remembers. “The most important of them was that of General Yamashita, the last Japanese Commanding General in the Philippines.”

Soon the time in the Philippines was coming to an end. Thousands of soldiers and sailors were finally going home. John Yurus was one of them. He received his orders to return to the United States on the USS Rawlins.

When they got to USA, he and the rest of the soldiers presented themselves to find out where they were to go and to get orders home. The lists were all over the walls and even on the floor. It was a mad house. The typed lists of names from so many ships bringing back troops had so little organization, because there were not

enough yeomen to handle the load.

“I asked a yeoman where I might find the list with my name on it. He told me to go away, he was busy. ‘Just keep looking,’” he said. So I kept looking and found the list for the Rawlins on the floor with a couple of footprints on it. At least I could find my name.”

From there it was all about going home. Waiting at the train was Margaret Mary O’Brien, thankful to have him home. They married and raised a family.

“She was my best friend,” he says wistfully.

They had been married for 75 years when she passed away.

“But we’d been holding hands for 80,” he says.

The Greatest Generation!

## Rhinebeck village launches free municipal composting, partnering with local farm

The Village of Rhinebeck announces the opening of advance registration for its municipal food waste diversion program, Village Compost. Participants must be residents of the Village of Rhinebeck. They will drop their food scraps at a centralized collection spot and the food scraps will be hauled to a local farm for composting. The program is free of cost because the Village government received a Department of Environmental Conservation grant. A portion of the finished nutrient-rich compost will be made available to participants each spring.

Village residents interested in participating must register via an online form at [www.rhinebeckcompost.org](http://www.rhinebeckcompost.org). Registered participants will be offered a complimentary lidded bucket in which to collect their food scraps and a quick training (you can include meat, bones, and dairy—coffee grounds, too). Participants will drop their food scraps at any time in a centralized collection dumpster in the municipal parking lot. The collection

dumpster will be locked to deter critters and litterbugs. Registered participants will receive a code to unlock the dumpster.

The program will launch in the New Year.

Village Compost’s goal to provide easy and free access to food waste diversion is in line with the Village’s Climate Action Plan and its recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. Food waste emits methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, when sequestered in landfills, whereas composting net sequesters carbon in the soil. Composting is important because it builds healthy ecosystems—enhancing the landscape’s ability to absorb stormwater and promoting biodiversity at a microscopic level.

“Composting turns waste into a renewable resource, and with our subcontractor, Ellerslie Stables, we are keeping this resource local,” said Village Board Trustee Vanessa Bertozzi, who heads up the project.

Bertozzi is referring to the 30-stall horse barn owned by Michael DeCola in Rhinecliff.

“Michael is already composting horse manure on his farm, and the addition of food scraps will make the end product even better,” adds Bertozzi.

The \$200,000 DEC grant pays for improvements to DeCola’s existing compost operation, as well as the purchase of the specialized dumpster compatible with DeCola’s hooklift truck. As part of the agreement, DeCola will bring the dumpster once a week to his farm and dump the food scraps into the mix of wood chips, manure, and shavings.

The term of the project is 7 years.

Many local establishments already have commercial contracts with Red Hook-based business, The O Zone, which

handles curbside pick up for clients such as Terrapin, Aba’s, Samuel’s, Sunflower, and Market St. The O Zone also provides this service to the condo HOAs at The Woods and The Gardens.

Village Compost is organized by Climate Smart Rhinebeck, a task force of volunteers working with Bertozzi. They leaned on their longstanding enthusiasm for compost: they have been working on the project for years.

“It’s about cutting down on waste. The average American household’s garbage contains about 30% compostable material,” noted Mary Burns, member of the Task Force, citing a feasibility study the team did with RIT’s Pollution Prevention Institute (P2i) in 2021.

Visit [www.rhinebeckcompost.org](http://www.rhinebeckcompost.org) for more information.

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# Children's behavioral health services coming to Northern Dutchess

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino recently announced the County is working with Family Services, Inc. to address the critical need for children's behavioral health programs – with an expansion of children's services in Poughkeepsie and the creation of new children's programs in northern Dutchess County in 2025. With support from Dutchess County Department of Mental Health (DMH), Family Services is developing a new, larger outpatient mental health clinic in the northern Dutchess area, which will expand access for adults and be home to the new children's behavioral health program.

Serino said, "Every child in Dutchess County deserves access to quality mental health services, and I have made expanding access to these services a top priority for my administration. The County's partnership with Family Services will bring this vital programming to northern Dutchess County. ... [W]e look forward seeing this collaboration undoubtedly benefit young lives in northern Dutchess County."

Children's behavioral health programming provides children up to age 17 with services that include comprehensive evaluation, crisis intervention, individual/group/family therapy, as well as psychiatric evaluation and ongoing medication management. Earlier this year, Family Services received a \$250,000 grant from New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) to expand children's services at their Poughkeepsie location as well as other locations outside of Dutchess County.

Following public forums and roundtables discussing mental health needs, Serino requested Family Services, Inc. offer these much-needed children's mental health services in the northern Dutchess area. To make a northern Dutchess program possible, Dutchess County will match the New York State OMH funding, investing \$250,000 in start-up funding.

The new children's behavioral health program will be part of the development of Family Services' new, larger outpatient mental health clinic in Northern Dutchess. Family Services has outgrown its existing location at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck and is currently working to finalize a larger, easy to access location. Dutchess County DMH will provide \$205,000 in funding support for the new location, which, pending site finalization and construction, is expected to open in late 2025.

The County's funding is part of a contract amendment that will redirect funding previously allocated to Family Services, identified in a recent audit by the Dutchess County Comptroller's Office, and repurpose the funding to establish the needed children's behavioral health services and new northern Dutchess location.

Family Services Chief Executive Officer Leah Feldman said, "We thank Dutchess County for its willingness to partner and help us bring these important services to our northern communities. County Executive Serino has repeatedly stressed the importance she places on behavioral services for children, and Family Services

is proud to collaborate with her administration to make that vision a reality in northern Dutchess County. We look forward to this successful partnership. We know it will have a great impact on local children."

Part of Dutchess County DMH's extensive network of community mental health service providers, Family Services, Inc. works to ensure anyone in need, regardless of insurance or income, has access to high-quality behavioral health to help people find their way towards recovery without stigma. Highly trained, licensed therapists and counselors offer a variety of person-centered and evidence-based approaches.

The new northern Dutchess location and services comes following several meetings Serino and DMH Commissioner Jean-Marie Niebuhr have had over the past year with a coalition of northern Dutchess County stakeholders – including municipal leaders, educational administrators and community representatives – discussing the region's specific need for behavioral health resources. Other initiatives to support mental health in the northern Dutchess area include the upcoming establishment of a new "Rural Mental Health" subcommittee of the DMH Community Services Board to concentrate on the unique needs of these communities; as well as a \$5,000 Youth Wellness Support Microgrant award to the Red Hook Library for Youth Mental Health First Aid training which will be available to all librarians in Dutchess County to create a mental health action plan to support each library's visitors.

## Farewell event to honor Clinton pastor Hartley retiring after 43 years

*continued from cover*

New York. By the late 1970s, attendance was down to about a dozen worshipers and no pastor. Nyack Christian College in Rockland County cared for the little church by sending professors on a rotating basis to preach on Sundays. However, lacking funds, the church building, parsonage, and church hall were deteriorating, and the parishioners contemplated closing the church.

Things changed in 1979, however. Newlyweds Carol and Tom Hartley arrived in the area, and Tom became assistant pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rhinebeck. Eventually, he was approached by Schultsville resident Mildred Tompkins requesting that he speak at her hamlet church. He accepted the invitation and soon found that her goal was to recruit him as pastor for the church. Though they were considering other job prospects, they decided to give

the little church a try ... a try that lasted 43 years!

Over that time, many new faith-based programs and groups, including youth groups, were successfully introduced and the congregation grew to about 200 today with a very large budget. A huge milestone occurred when a large Youth Center was built in two stages employing donated funds, services, and materials. With strong congregation support, the 20-year mortgage was paid off in 12 years. The church has a notable feature where there is no collection plate passed around. Instead, an "offering box" is available.

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving ("Provision Sunday") the pastor and congregation reflect on what the Bible says about the how and why of giving. He has written a book "The One Story: Hollywood's Argument for the Christian God" by T. L. Hartley using popular films

to help readers understand science, philosophy, history, religion, and politics. It is available at Barnes & Noble by googling "The One Story" by T. L. Hartley.

In looking at his past with the Christian Alliance Church, Pastor Tom notes that "The real factor that contributed to our growth was the people. People make or break churches, while pastors come and go." He will delve into that growth and other fond memories, including "I never intended to be a pastor," in an interview session with Clinton Town Historian Craig Marshall titled "An Evening With Pastor Tom & Carol" scheduled for Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. inside the church located at 1192 Centre Road, Schultsville. The congregation and the public are invited to this free event to hear their stories and bid them a fond farewell.

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**GENERAC**

# Serino announces \$2-million investment in EMS

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino recently announced a historic \$2 million investment in Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Key highlights of the funding include the launch of supplemental ambulance coverage, a public awareness campaign, and initiatives to address the workforce shortage.

“Emergency Medical Services are a vital lifeline for our residents, and this significant investment ensures we can meet the growing needs of our community,” said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. “This funding will not only improve EMS response times but also reduce pressure on mutual aid services, ensuring each community has the coverage it needs.”

In 2025, Dutchess County will partner with municipalities to launch a supplemental ambulance coverage program, contracting with commercial providers to enhance EMS response and reliability. This will serve as a temporary measure while long-term solutions to the EMS challenges are developed. It will diversify the EMS vendors operating within the county, keeping costs competitive to potentially lower costs for municipalities and improving service reliability. The supplemental coverage will reduce the overuse of mutual aid services, keeping community resources within each community and improving the overall EMS

system for residents.

The \$2 million investment will also support other key efforts, including:

- **Public Awareness Campaign:** To better inform the public about EMS services, the County will create a social media campaign aimed at educating residents on when to call 911 and when other medical options may be more appropriate. The goal is to ensure the public understands the critical and essential role of EMS services in Dutchess County and how they can best utilize them.

- **Workforce Development:** Dutchess County is actively working on recruitment efforts to address the workforce shortage and draw more job seekers into this crucial field. The County is also working to support those who are currently in the field, implementing first responder resiliency trainings, including a peer-to-peer support network for the mental and emotional well-being of first responders.

Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Response Shawn Castano said, “We are grateful to County Executive Serino for her unwavering commitment to addressing the EMS crisis. She has been resolute in bringing people together to understand the problems each of our communities are facing and working to find solutions. This critical investment in EMS will help us advance solutions to ensure residents

have the care they need, when they need it most.”

Serino first outlined the County’s multi-prong approach to addressing the EMS crisis in her State of the County Address in March and since then, has taken significant steps to find solutions to those challenges. Over the past few months, together with the Department of Emergency Response, she has met with supervisors and mayors and other representatives from every municipality in Dutchess County to discuss the historical and current challenges facing EMS, reviewing data for their specific regions that is critical to informing strategic solutions. The discussions are ongoing with additional meetings being coordinated, including meetings with fire chiefs.

A bipartisan coalition of municipal leaders also joined Serino in advocating for the passage of the New York State Association of Counties ‘Rescue EMS’ legislative package. Read the letter here. That advocacy led to the successful passage of legislation that allows the ability for EMS providers to bill for ‘treatment in place’ and to transport patients to alternative destinations, such as the Dutchess County Stabilization Center, by ambulance. The Governor recently signed this legislation into law, an important step toward expanding EMS care and improving service delivery.

In partnership with the Dutchess County Legislature, Serino also launched a new ‘Fly-Car’ Grant Program, to provide life-saving equipment to fire departments for their ‘fly car’ vehicles in exchange for unified EMS recruitment messaging to be decal on these highly visible vehicles. All Dutchess County fire departments, ambulance corps and rescue squads were eligible for awards of up to \$20,000 for equipment that would help EMS first responders be as effective as possible on scene. Multiple departments took advantage of this opportunity to submit applications, which are currently being reviewed and award announcements will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

Serino concluded, “We are making every effort to address this challenge. This historic investment represents a significant milestone in ensuring the safety and well-being of all Dutchess County residents. We are committed to building a more resilient, reliable EMS system that our community can depend on when it matters most.”

Serino presented her 2025 Executive Budget in the Dutchess County Legislature Chambers on Tuesday, October 29. The County Executive’s Budget Address can be viewed live on the County’s website, [dutchessny.gov/budget2025](http://dutchessny.gov/budget2025).

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## HOLIDAY BOOK SALE AT LAGRANGE LIBRARY SET NOV. 22-23

A Holiday Book Sale will be held at LaGrange Library from Nov. 22-23. The hours are from 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. on Nov. 22. The book sale hours are 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Nov. 23. One may come and shop for special selection of books and media for gifts and treasures. All proceeds benefit LaGrange Library. The library is at 1110 Route 55 in Lagrangeville.

## ‘A Hudson Valley Reckoning’ set at FDR Library Nov. 13

The FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project will present a conversation and book signing with Debra Bruno, author of “A Hudson Valley Reckoning: Discovering the Forgotten History of Slaveholding in My Dutch American Family,” at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

The event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home and streamed live to the official FDR Presidential Library YouTube and Facebook accounts. Registered attendees can visit the Library’s special exhibition, Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, free of charge before the program, from 4-6 p.m.

This is a free public event, but registration is required to attend in-person. Visit [fdrlibrary.org](http://fdrlibrary.org) to register.

“A Hudson Valley Reckoning” tells the story of slavery’s history in upstate New York through Debra Bruno’s chronicle that uncovers her Dutch ancestors’ slave-holding past and leads to a deep connection with the descendants of the enslaved people her family owned.

Bruno, who grew up in New York’s Hudson Valley knowing little about her Dutch heritage, was shaken when a historian told her that her Dutch ancestors were almost certainly slaveholders. Driven by this knowledge, she began to unearth her family’s past. In the last will and testament of her ancestor, she found the first evidence: human beings bequeathed to his family along with animals and furniture. The more she expanded her family tree, the more enslavers she found. She reached out to Black Americans tracing their own ancestry, and by serendipitous luck became friends with Eleanor C. Mire, a descendant of a woman enslaved by Bruno’s Dutch ancestors.

“A Hudson Valley Reckoning” recounts Bruno’s journey into the nearly forgotten history of Northern slavery and of the thousands of enslaved people brought in chains to Manhattan and the Hudson Valley. With the help of Mire, who provides a moving epilogue, Debra Bruno tells the story of White and Black lives impacted by the stain of slavery and its long legacy of racism, as she investigates the erasure of the uncomfortable truths about our family and national histories.

## Hyde Park Library breaks ground on accessibility project

A groundbreaking was held Oct. 24 to mark the Hyde Park Library’s upcoming construction projects, starting with the installation of a lift.

The event was attended by two people who have played key roles in helping the library pursue its goal of accessibility for all: Assemblymember Didi Barrett, who awarded the library a \$250,000 SAM grant for the project; and Senator Michelle Hinchey, who also made the project possible with a \$250,000 CREST grant.

Lynn Ruggiero, president of the library’s board of trustees, hosted the event and thanked everyone for their support. The president of the Friends of the Library, Linda Taylan, provided refreshments following the groundbreaking.

Hyde Park Town Supervisor Al Torreggiani, Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt, County Legislator Brendan Lawler, and Assistant County Executive Chris Baiano were also among those in attendance.

## A Bank for the Next Generation

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# Anderson Foundation for Autism announces recipients of its first-ever grant-making cycle

The leadership team and trustees of Anderson Foundation for Autism announced today the names of grantees for the Foundation's first-ever grant-making cycle.

The 2024 grant recipients are as follows: Bluepath Service Dogs (grant award: \$5000), Bring On The Spectrum (grant award: \$6000); Flower Petals Adaptive Dance Studio (grant award: \$4200), and Project Ready (grant award: \$6500).

Kevin Kollar, Chair of Anderson Foundation for Autism's Board of Trustees, said "Anderson Foundation's Executive Committee reviewed many grant applications which demonstrated a shared commitment to our cause, and we are thrilled to have selected the aforementioned organizations for our first-ever set of Anderson Foundation grant awards. All are very deserving 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations whose work closely aligns with Anderson Center for Autism's mission of 'optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism.' Each group has already made meaningful contributions to our field, and we are confident that they will continue to do so for years to come."

Kollar said all recipients will be required to report on outcomes, and that the Foundation has reserved up to \$50,000 in total for its 2024 grant-making cycle.

Patrick Paul, CEO/Executive Director of Anderson Center for Autism, explained "When we first launched the Foundation, our objective was simply to create a 'rainy day fund' for Anderson Center for Autism that could bridge gaps between financial needs and resources. Thanks to the generosity of families,

community members, businesses, and philanthropists, this fund has grown to a level that now allows us to help support the good work of other organizations as well. Within weeks of kicking off our grantmaking program, we received many impressive proposals, and the Executive Committee of Anderson Foundation's Board got to work evaluating those applications and making decisions."

Eliza Bozenski, Chief Development Officer at Anderson Foundation for Autism, added: "It is deeply rewarding to know that funds from Anderson Foundation for Autism can now help others deliver programming that optimizes the quality of life for individuals with autism, just as our team at Anderson does every day. We are especially pleased to have gotten our grant-making effort underway in our Centennial year; it is symbolic of how far we've come as an organization, and what lies ahead for the next century as we work with others to build and sustain the initiatives that will support this population - now and for generations to come."

Anderson also runs Early Learning Academy programs (in Pine Plains, NY and Latham, NY) and The Anderson Center Clinic (Latham, NY).

"Our own programs are growing and evolving every year - and as we step into the next century of Anderson's story, we want to do our part to help others expand their work in the field as well. It is an exciting time and I really believe the best yet to come," said Bozenski.

Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, visit [andersoncenterforautism.org/afa-grants/](http://andersoncenterforautism.org/afa-grants/) for further details.

# Float entries needed for LaGrange Festival of Lights

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

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

The parade is organized by the town's highway and parks departments and has

become the hallmark event of the year. With businesses, organizations and individuals decorating their vehicles and floats to the max, it is always fun to see the creativity of displays. Law enforcement and local fire departments also participate, with LaGrange Fire District in the lead.

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

For detailed information about the parade, including rules, parking and travel information, follow Town of LaGrange Parks and Recreation on Facebook, or visit the town website at [lagrangeny.gov/parks-rec](http://lagrangeny.gov/parks-rec).

# Hochul launches new initiative to help students enroll at public colleges, universities

Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced the launch of the SUNY Top 10% Promise Program, creating a direct pathway for the highest-achieving New York high school seniors to gain admission and enroll at select SUNY colleges and universities. Governor Hochul first announced this plan as a part of her 2024 State of the State to help more New York students benefit from SUNY's unparalleled combination of accessibility, affordability, and academic excellence.

The Top 10% Promise is a direct-admissions program that automatically grants acceptance to graduating high school students whose GPAs are in the top 10 percent of their class and meet specific academic readiness criteria to at least one selective, world-class SUNY campus. The program will take effect for select high school seniors preparing to enroll for the Fall 2025

semester. The initial participating campuses are: University at Albany, University at Buffalo, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Purchase College, and Stony Brook University.

Students in all New York State school districts will be eligible to participate when the SUNY Top 10% Promise is fully in place. In the first year, 68 school districts (and individual charter schools) from across the state were invited to participate based on serving rural, urban, and suburban communities with high levels of adversity or enrolling a significant share of students from low-income backgrounds. The initial participating high schools are representative of the diversity of New York State.

# Pleasant Valley Library sets HUGE Book Sale

More than 20,000 books, CDs, and DVDs will be available for purchase at the Pleasant Valley Library, at 1584 Main St. (Route 44), Pleasant Valley during the annual HUGE Fall Book Sale.

The sale begins on Friday, Nov. 15, from noon to 6 p.m., and continues

Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kids' books are just 4 for \$1. CDs & DVDs are 2 for \$1. Adult books and puzzles are 5 for \$5.

For the best selection, be there on Friday morning for \$10 Early Bird

Admission between 9 a.m. and noon.

Sunday is "Name Your Price Day" for all remaining items from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., when you can take as many books as you want, and you decide the price.

Donations of Books, CDs, DVDs, Video Games and Puzzles are being

accepted now. Bring donations in "great" condition to the back entrance of the library during library hours.

For more information, call (845) 635-8460 or visit <https://pleasantvalleylibrary.org/>.

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# Greenway awards grants to 10 HV communities

Ten Hudson Valley communities were awarded a total of \$306,625 in matching grants from the Hudson River Valley Greenway for projects that create new trail connections, enhance community walkability, and support a variety of planning efforts. The grants were awarded by the Hudson River Valley Greenway Board of Directors at their held earlier this meeting in Hyde Park.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant Program provides funding to communities and non-profit organizations within the Greenway Area for recreational trail projects. Eligible project categories include: trail construction, planning and design; trail

rehabilitation or improvement; trail education or interpretation.

The Greenway Communities Grant Program provides grant funding to help communities develop and implement a vision for their future that balances Greenway criteria of economic development considerations with resource protection and promotion objectives. The Greenway Compact Grant Program provides funding for projects that develop, approve, and implement a compact strategy consistent with the Greenway criteria and the Greenway Act.

“Our partners awarded projects will shape future growth, recreation, and preservation opportunities by improving

walkability and providing meaningful planning efforts that ensure ongoing regional sustainability and growth. The Greenway is thrilled to support the region’s communities through these grants,” said Andy Kitzmann, Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway accepts grant awards and event sponsorships at various times throughout the year. Greenway grants are competitive and prospective applicants are encouraged to reach out to program staff and to explore the grant webpage grant webpage for criteria, current Greenway priorities, and submission deadlines.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway is a unique state-sponsored program that encourages projects and initiatives related to natural and cultural resource protection, regional planning, economic development, public access, and heritage and environmental education. It provides technical assistance and catalytic grant funding for planning, water and land trails, and other projects that reinforce these goals. The Greenway also manages the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in partnership with the National Park Service.

For more on the Greenway Grants Programs, visit <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/grants-funding>.



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# Luxury apartment community Hudson West opens doors

To address the ongoing need for desirable housing in the Hudson Valley, development partners Baxter Development and Rieger Homes, Inc. have announced the completion and grand opening of Hudson West, a new luxury apartment complex with leasing opportunities now available.

Nestled in the heart of Marlboro at 6 Hudson West Drive, off Route 9W, the residential community offers scenic views, modern amenities and proximity to major highways, public transportation and other local activities, ideal for young professionals and families alike.

“The demand for rentals in Marlboro and the surrounding area is clear and Hudson West answers this demand by providing a high-quality, modern living solution,” said Daniel Rieger, vice president of Rieger Homes, Inc. “As one of the few luxury rental communities in the area, Hudson West sets a new benchmark for living in Ulster County, offering a unique combination of sought-after amenities, stunning views and peaceful living. Since breaking ground in early 2023, and beginning our early leasing efforts earlier this year, the interest has been incredible.”

Hudson West is comprised of 104 pet-friendly residences across five buildings, featuring 84 two-bedroom apartments of approximately 1,100 square feet and 20 three-bedroom units of approximately 1,400 square feet. Monthly rental rates range from \$2,495 - \$3,750 with promotional pricing currently available. Each apartment is adorned with balconies or patios, walk-in closets, kitchen islands with quartz countertops and stainless steel appliances, as well as in-unit washers and dryers, dishwashers, microwaves and more. Additional on-site amenities include a fitness center, clubroom and ample green space for outdoor activities and pets, as well as EV chargers, Wi-Fi

access and 24/7 emergency maintenance.

“When planning for Hudson West, we wanted to also enhance the overall community,” said Eric Baxter, vice president of Baxter Development and Baxter Building Corporation, who noted that the jointly developed project is also Baxter Construction built. “In addition to creating a high-end residential experience, we invested in key infrastructure improvements like the installation of new street lights on Route 9W and the removal of over \$1.5 million worth of rock. These efforts will improve accessibility for both residents and the surrounding area, contributing to the long-term growth and development of Marlboro.”

Enclaved atop a wooded hill, Hudson West offers residents a private retreat with stunning Hudson River views. The living spaces are designed to provide secluded living while being minutes from the area’s businesses, resources and attractions, like public spaces and the area’s top wineries and distilleries, among other entertainment. Hudson West is immediately adjacent to Marlboro Middle School and across the street from Marlboro Elementary School. Its convenient location offers easy access to major highways and bridges via Route 9W, such as the Mid-Hudson Bridge, Newburgh-Beacon bridge, Interstate 84 and the New York State Thruway, as well as close proximity to train stations and cities including Beacon, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie.

With construction fully completed earlier this month by Baxter Building Corporation, Hudson West is more than 70% leased, with a limited number of units remaining. For more information on Hudson West and rental opportunities, please visit [www.hudsonwestluxuryliving.com](http://www.hudsonwestluxuryliving.com), head to Hudson West’s Facebook and Instagram pages or contact 845-317-0177.



Nestled in the heart of Marlboro at 6 Hudson West Drive, off Route 9W, Hudson West offers scenic views, modern amenities and proximity to major highways, public transportation and other local activities. *Courtesy photos*



send us your news [cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com](mailto:cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com)

## RED HOOK LIBRARY FRIENDS GROUP TO HOLD FIRST BOOK SALE DEC. 7

The newly launched Friends of the Red Hook Public Library will host their first book sale on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations will be accepted on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Friday, Nov. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Library group may contact [circulationdesk@redhooklibrary.org](mailto:circulationdesk@redhooklibrary.org).

## PV National Guard soldier receives new rank, new responsibilities

LATHAM, NY – Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Glenn Stoll from Pleasant Valley, assigned to the Company C, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, received a promotion September 28,

2024 to the rank of private 1st class.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a soldier’s overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers who serve our state and nation are eligi-

ble for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit [www.dmna.ny.gov](http://www.dmna.ny.gov) or [www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com).

The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state’s executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York’s Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

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## Apply for a Home Heating Assistance grant

Qualified customers can apply for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grants, a federally funded program that provides regular and emergency assistance to help pay heating and utility bills, began on Friday, Nov. 1. Applications must be submitted annually, as income guidelines may have changed since last season. Applications for HEAP grants are available through local Department of Social Services (DSS) offices, at Offices for the Aging and online at mybenefits.ny.gov.

The amount of the HEAP grant depends on family income and size guidelines. For example, a family of four with

natural gas heating and an annual income of \$76,680 would qualify for a \$400 grant. Central Hudson customers who receive HEAP grants will automatically be enrolled in Central Hudson's Bill Discount Program, providing an additional credit monthly off their Central Hudson bill. Customers who do not qualify for HEAP but do receive other assistance programs including Medicaid, SNAP, Lifeline, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance or Veteran's Pensions also qualify for the Bill Discount Program and are encouraged to apply by visiting [www.cenhud.com](http://www.cenhud.com)

resources/assistance-programs. The amount of the bill discount credit is based on the service type and amount of benefit.

Customers who heat with non-utility heating fuels such as oil, propane, wood and other qualified fuels should email their current HEAP Notice of Decision letter to Central Hudson at [careunit@cenhud.com](mailto:careunit@cenhud.com) to be enrolled and receive the bill credit.

Regular HEAP grants for the fall and upcoming winter are available between Nov. 1, and March 17, 2025, or until funding is exhausted. Two Emergency HEAP grants will be available between Jan. 2, 2025, and Mar. 17, 2025. These benefits are designed to meet an eligible house-

hold's immediate energy needs. The Heating Equipment Repair or Replacement (HERR) program is also available to assist customers who have primary heating equipment that is either inoperable or unsafe. HERR grants are currently available and will remain so through Sept. 30, 2025.

For more information on HEAP eligibility requirements and benefits, visit [www.CentralHudson.com/HEAP](http://www.CentralHudson.com/HEAP) or <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/program.asp>; and for more on all of Central Hudson's assistance and billing programs, visit [www.CentralHudson.com](http://www.CentralHudson.com), and click on "My Account."

## Volunteers needed to help with tax prep for low- to moderate income households

In an annual partnership, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide and the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition are providing free tax preparation services to eligible residents of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam counties. This initiative primarily benefits seniors and low-to-moderate income households, offering a reliable and affordable solution for tax filing.

As the 2025 tax season approaches, both organizations are actively recruiting volunteers to join this valuable community service. Free training sessions will be held throughout the fall of 2024 and early winter of 2025.

Volunteer opportunities are available to individuals of all skill levels. While a background in accounting or finance is helpful, it is not required. Administrative and support roles, such as tax site greeters, program marketing, and appointment support, are also available for those who prefer non-mathematical tasks.

For more details on volunteering, contact Linda Eddy at (845) 475-7500 or ledy@hudsonvalleyca\$h.org.

## Salt Point Fire Co. Chicken BBQ Nov. 9

The Salt Point Fire Company will hold a Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 4-7 p.m. at the firehouse on Cottage Street in Salt Point. The BBQ is "Eat in or Take out" and dinners include a half-chicken, roasted potatoes, coleslaw, roll and dessert. Cost is \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors. Veterans with ID eat FREE. To reserve your dinner - call 845-266-5177. Leave name, phone number and total number of dinners. We will call back to confirm.

## DAR program Nov. 10 in Rhinebeck

Sunday, November 10, 2pm. CLC DAR monthly program. Steve Cole will talk about Wreaths Across America. Chancellor Livingston chapter house. The public invited. 77 Livingston St, Rhinebeck. For information call 845-871-1777, or <https://www.facebook.com/chancellorlivingstonchaptersdar>

## Treat a Vet to Breakfast Nov. 10

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Mestice Council #15698 is sponsoring its 11th Veterans Day breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 10, at Holy Trinity School Fr. Conaty Gym, 75 Main St., Poughkeepsie. Breakfast will be served after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses (9 a.m.-1 p.m.).

It is time for the community to thank our Veterans for defending our great nation and their military service. Adults \$10, children under age 10, \$ 5. Admission is free to veterans.

You can also help by sponsoring a Veteran's Breakfast.

## Rhinecliff Soup Sales set Nov. 14, Dec. 19

It's time for Fall Rhinecliff Soup Sales, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896. Mark your Calendar for the third Thursday of the month (Nov 14, Dec 19) 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sold by the Quart. \$10. quart. Take Out Only. Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell Ave. and Orchard, Rhinecliff. Pick up at side window on Orchard St. NEW! Pick up also available at Morton Library between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Proceeds go toward the General Fund of Rhinebeck Grange #896 to support community events.

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

## Roast Pork Dinner set Nov. 16 at Stanford Grange

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will consist of Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Carrots, Applesauce, and Homemade Apple Cake for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. Drive to the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for your dinner and get your food through your car window, and take it home to enjoy! For reservations, please call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869 and leave a message.

Note: the Office for the Aging and OFA Friendship Centers are closed on the following November holidays:

Monday, November 11th - Veterans Day  
Thursday, November 28th - Thanksgiving Day

Additionally, OFA Friendship Centers are closed on Friday, November 29th. The OFA office in Poughkeepsie will be open for regular hours on the 29th.

## HOW TO APPEAL A DENIED MEDICARE CLAIM

It happens to about 10% of Medicare beneficiaries in any given year: A beneficiary's Medicare claim is denied, according to the KFF Survey of Consumer Experiences with Health Insurance. The more services an older adult uses, the more likely a claim will be denied, according to the survey.

The part many older adults don't know about is that the denial is not the end of the story. You have the right to appeal that decision, and you can improve your chances of having the denial reversed. Only 15% of Medicare beneficiaries have tried appealing a denied claim, and over two thirds don't even know they have appeal rights, according to the KFF survey.

Let's fix that. We can't exercise our rights if we don't know about them.

The appeals process is more straightforward than one might assume.

### Is my appeal viable?

Ask yourself the following questions, says Jen Teague, director for health coverage and benefits at the National Council on Aging (ncoa.org):

- Do you believe you have a medically necessary need for which Medicare coverage has been denied?
- Do you think you're being discharged earlier than you should be?
- Do you need specific care or treatment that's being denied?

### Get Your paperwork together - and call OFA for help, if you need us

Medicare beneficiaries receive a Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) in the mail. While you may see the words "This is not a bill" on the MSN, don't throw it away. If a Medicare claim has been denied, you have 120 days (about 4 months) to appeal the denial.

Here's the key information you'll need to file an appeal:

- Your name, address, and the Medicare number on your Medicare card;
- A list of the items and/or services you disagree with on the MSN;
- An explanation of why you think the items and/or services should be covered. Even better, include a letter from your doctor, on your doctor's letterhead, explaining why the items and/or services should be covered;
- The name of your representative, if you've appointed a representative; and
- Any additional information that may help your case.

The people most likely to be helped by successful appeals are the ones who use the most health services, and who are thus the most likely to experience a claims denial. They're often too sick to effectively advocate for themselves. Who can help? An organization called a Beneficiary and Family Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIO), which is responsible for medical case review, supporting the rights of people on Medicare. It's a big acronym, and they can be a big help. The BFCC-QIO representing Medicare beneficiaries in Dutchess County is called Livanta.

Your rights include protecting you when you get healthcare, and making sure you get the healthcare services the law says you can get. As a BFCC-QIO, Livanta can help you if you have a concern about the care you have been receiving or if you want to request a review (appeal) of your discharge from a healthcare facility. Their federal web address is [livantaqio.cms.gov/en](http://livantaqio.cms.gov/en), or call 866-815-5440.

Livanta is available 9 am to 5 pm Eastern time, and 10 am to 4 pm on weekends and holidays.

## OFA 'NAVIGATING MEDICARE' CLASSES FOR THE FALL (SO FAR)

Medicare's annual Open Enrollment period began on October 15th, as it does every year; and the Office for the Aging has added additional "Navigating Medicare" classes to the year-round schedule of classes at the Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room (2001 South Rd., Poughkeepsie), Adriaance Library in Poughkeepsie (93 Market St.) and Starr Library in Rhinebeck (68 W. Market St.).

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

11/7/24, 9:30am Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie, 845-485-3445 x3380

11/13/24, 10am Starr Library Call OFA

11/20/24, 10am Poughkeepsie Galleria (Community Room) Call OFA

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

12/4/24, 10am Starr Library Call OFA  
Medicare open enrollment closes on December 7th

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

We continue to add Navigating Medicare classes during Open Enrollment. For the most up-to-date calendar listings, visit [www.dutchessny.gov/calendar](http://www.dutchessny.gov/calendar). Classes are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Galleria, and on the fourth Monday of the month at Starr Library.

## 2024-25 'HEAP' SEASON NOW OPEN

The winter heating season is fast approaching, so it's time to make sure you're taking advantage of any heating assistance for which you qualify. The most well-known heating assistance program, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), provides eligible customers with assistance in paying home heating bills. The HEAP program for the 2024-2025 heating season opened on Friday, November 1st. New applicants can apply for assistance, either in person or online. Applications have already been sent to qualified individuals in Dutchess County, who received HEAP last year and meet the eligibility criteria.

If this is your first time learning about HEAP and you're over 60, call OFA's HEAP Hotline during business hours at 845-486-2553 to request an application, or to find out if you qualify. Those under 60 can contact the HEAP hotline at the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services, at 845-486-3249.

HEAP offers a one-time benefit directly applied to customers' utility bills. This federally funded program is available to households with incomes at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Customers who qualify for HEAP may also qualify a Clean and Tune benefit, providing for the cleaning and maintenance of primary heating equipment. Additionally, any household with at least one person who receives HEAP benefits and is a homeowner may qualify for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

## SENIOR GARDENING WITH 'PEOPLE USA'

Join People USA (102 Fulton Ave., Suite A, Poughkeepsie) on the second Thursday of each month from 3-5 pm for Senior Gardening, open to adults age 60+ for low activity gardening.

To join, email [kmiller@people-usa.org](mailto:kmiller@people-usa.org) or [memenzenski@people-usa.org](mailto:memenzenski@people-usa.org).

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

# WIN A NEW HONDA

Saturday, November 30  
10pm

Earn Entries All Month Long!

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# Patients needing blood or platelets rely on committed blood donors

The American Red Cross is highlighting the ongoing need for blood and platelet donors as festive schedules ramp up this fall. Eligible individuals, especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets, are encouraged to make a donation just ahead of the holiday season.

Blood supply momentum must remain steady, as the Red Cross has worked this month to recover blood products uncollected due to recent hurricanes. Any disruption in the ability to collect blood can lead to an impact on routine and lifesaving medical care.

The seasons may change but the need for blood donors stays the same. Give blood or platelets and make a big difference in someone's life by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Those who come to give in early November, Nov. 1-17, will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. For full details, visit [RedCrossBlood.org/Thanks](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Thanks).

## UPCOMING BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

### COLUMBIA

Hudson: Nov. 7, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hudson Elks Lodge No. 787, 201 Harry

Howard Ave.

Livingston: Nov. 8, 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Livingston Pumper Company 1, 2855 Route 9

New Lebanon: Nov. 9, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., New Lebanon Firehouse-, 523 Rte. 20

Stuyvesant: Nov. 8, 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Church of St Joseph, 1820 Route 9

### DUTCHESS

Beacon: Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Beacon Recreation, 23 W Center St

Millbrook: Nov. 12, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Millbrook Fire House, 20 Front St

Wappingers Falls: Nov. 12, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., New Hackensack Reformed Church, 1580 Route 376

### GREENE

Cairo: Nov. 13, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Cairo Durham High School, Route 145

Catskill: Nov. 11, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Catskill Elks Lodge Hall, 45 North Jefferson Ave

### ORANGE

Highland Mills: Nov. 16, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Discovery Church, 654 NY-32

New Windsor: Nov. 8, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, 374 Temple Hill Rd

Otisville: Nov. 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., FCI Otisville - Training Center, 2 Mile Dr

### PUTNAM

Brewster: Nov. 8, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Hudson Valley Regional Community Health Center, 15 Mt Ebo Rd S, Second Floor

Mahopac: Nov. 13, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Keller Williams Realty - Mahopac, 625 US-6

### SULLIVAN

Liberty: Nov. 12, 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Achieve Rehab NY, 170 Lake Street

### ULSTER

Highland: Nov. 15, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Highland Hose Company 1, 25 Milton Ave

Kingston: Nov. 11, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars, 708 E Chester St

Lake Katrine: Nov. 16, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Aqua Jet Pools & Spas, 1606 Ulster Ave

New Paltz: Nov. 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., New Paltz Fire Department No 1, 117 Henry W DuBois Road

### How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for

patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

### About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org), or follow them on social media.

# County awards \$2.8 million in CDBG and HOME Funding

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino recently announced that \$2.8 million will be awarded for 20 projects through the County's 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME). This investment will remove barriers to accessibility for seniors and those with special needs, address critical infrastructure needs and expand affordable housing options throughout Dutchess County.

CDBG and HOME program funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address locally identified community development and housing needs. CDBG funds support community development projects and activities that benefit low- and moderate-income people, neighborhoods, and communities; the HOME Investment program creates affordable housing options for low-income households.

Projects in the Northern Dutchess News readership area and those with county-wide impact are listed here.

### CDBG Municipal Projects

Town of Clinton, \$125,000

Friends Park Improvement Project – Improvements to Friends Park in the Town of Clinton, including a new combo tennis court and pickleball court with fencing.

Town of Dover, \$87,500

Install ADA Compliant Crosswalk Improvements at School St. and Route 22 in Dover Plains – Close an existing curb cut in the area of Route 22 at School Street; reposition the existing crosswalk; add rapid reflective flashing beacons to aid pedestrians trying to cross the road.

Village of Tivoli, \$200,000

Memorial Drive Drainage Improvements Project – Replace an existing culvert and storm water piping along Memorial Drive with an appropriately sized storm water system.

### CDBG Public Service Projects

Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess, Inc., \$25,000

Homeless Prevention Case Management Program – Emergency rental assistance and limited utility assistance for low-income Dutchess County residents to help stabilize housing. Case management assists clients in independently sustaining their household needs.

Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess, Inc., \$25,000

Senior Medical Transportation and Support Services – Provide Dutchess County residents age 60+ with basic support services, including transportation to non-emergency medical appointments, grocery shopping, visiting services, telephone reassurance, as well as respite for primary caregivers.

Hudson River Housing, Inc., \$30,000

River Haven Transitional Living Community – Provide runaway, homeless and those at-risk of homelessness young adults, ages 18–24, with up to 24 months of transitional housing and support services, including 24-hour crisis intervention, counseling, and case management, which will aid in transitioning them towards self-sufficiency.

Hudson River Housing, Inc., \$30,000

Support Services at Hillcrest House – Provide case management services, under the Housing First Program, to help high-risk, vulnerable homeless adults secure and maintain stable housing.

Mental Health America of Dutchess County, Inc., \$25,750

Permanent Supportive Housing Program – A comprehensive continuum of services offering affordable, permanent housing to individuals and families in recovery from substance use disorders, including counseling, case management, life skills training, and vocational development services.

North East Community Center, Inc., \$30,000

Youth Development Programs: CPSB and Teen Team – Community Partnership with Schools and Business (CPSB) offers workforce development training and paid, mentored internships with local businesses and organizations for socioeconomically disadvantaged youth, ages 14-20. Teen Team is a peer support group that provides educational, recreational and community service opportunities for socioeconomically disadvantaged youth, ages 14-18.

### HOME Projects

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, \$550,000

Sunset Avenue, Town of Poughkeepsie – Construction of five single-family homes targeted for affordable homeownership on 4.5 acres; HOME funding will support the development of all four units.

Kearney Realty and Development, \$350,000

Halstead Farms, Town of Lagrange – New construction of 80-unit affordable housing development; HOME funding will support 10 units in the development.

Rebuilding Together, \$49,995

Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation – Rehabilitation of single-family homes throughout Dutchess County.

Hudson River Housing, \$160,000

Harlow Row Rehabilitation – Exterior

and interior rehabilitation of the historic Harlow Row building, including eight apartment rentals for low to moderate-income families.

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, \$200,000

Single Family Home North East – Construction of a single-family home for income-qualified buyer in the Town of North East.

Dutchess County, \$185,000

DC Owner-Occupied Property Rehab – Funding for zero-percent interest loans to 10 low- and moderate-income homeowners for home repairs.

CDBG Municipal and HOME applications are accepted annually by the Department of Planning & Development. CDBG Public Service applications are accepted biennially. Applications are reviewed by the Community Development Advisory Committee with recommendations forwarded to the County Executive for final approval.

Applications for the 2025 CDBG Municipal and HOME Investment grant programs will be released in early 2025. More information about these grant programs can be found on the Department of Planning & Development's Funding Opportunities webpage.

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Geeks OnSite

## Barrett, Hinchey pledge \$750,000 for Stissing Center renovations



Assemblymember Didi Barrett (center left) and State Senator Michelle Hinchey (center right) recently announced \$750,000 in state funding they've pledged to support renovations at the Stissing Center for Arts and Culture in Pine Plains. *Courtesy photo*

Assemblymember Didi Barrett and Senator Michelle Hinchey recently announced \$750,000 in state funding they've pledged to support renovations at the Stissing Center for Arts and Culture in Pine Plains. This funding will allow the Stissing Center to make essential ADA-compliant upgrades, including the installation of an elevator, to ensure everyone can access and enjoy the space.

"Since opening its doors in 2019, the Stissing Center has become a treasured hub for culture, diverse arts, and community gatherings for Pine Plains residents and visitors alike," said Barrett. "As the Stissing Center leadership team embarks on its next phase, I am honored to secure funding to help them realize these critical improvements which will expand both the landmark building's usable space and the center's energizing impact on the local economy. I thank Senator Hinchey for her partnership."

"Supporting cultural epicenters like the Stissing Center is critical to making the arts more accessible to everyone, especially in our small towns," said Hinchey. "The arts have an incredible ability to enrich our lives and open our minds to new perspectives. The Stissing Center is doing just that—creating a space for cultural exchange in Pine Plains, bringing diverse performances and programs into the community that inspire and connect us all. I was proud to secure funding to support renovations alongside Assemblymember Didi Barrett, and I'm excited to see how it will help Stissing Center continue its great work, drive local tourism, and unite people through arts and entertainment."

"On behalf of our Board of Directors, our staff, our donors, and our community

of Pine Plains, we are all profoundly grateful to Senator Hinchey and Assemblywoman Barrett for this exceptional commitment to The Stissing Center and the broader vision of an accessible, inclusive arts and culture center for our entire community and region," said Brett Bernardini, Executive Director of the Stissing Center for Arts and Culture. "Their commitment to our mission not only demonstrates a deep investment in our organization but also in the value of the arts for empowering life in our rural community. In areas like Pine Plains, arts and culture serve as a vital bridge—connecting individuals, celebrating local talent, and fostering a sense of community that enriches us all. This generous financial support is instrumental in enabling us to create a space where everyone, regardless of age, mobility, or background, can fully engage with the arts and culture in Pine Plains. The funds will directly support improvements to the building's accessibility, from entranceways to an elevator, ensuring that everyone in our community, all our artists and our patrons all know they are welcome and empowered to participate. With leaders like Senator Hinchey and Assemblywoman Barrett standing with us, we are one step closer to making this vision a reality."

The Stissing Center is a non-profit live music and performing arts venue that offers a diverse array of entertainment and cultural programming to northeast Dutchess County. By supporting local arts and culture, the Stissing Center is playing a key role in the economic revitalization of Pine Plains and the broader Hudson Valley, creating jobs and driving tourism to the area.

## County Players to present 'Perfect Arrangement'



Members of the cast of "Perfect Arrangement." The contemporary comedy can be seen at County Players from Nov. 8-23 in Wappingers Falls. *Courtesy photo by Louisa Vilardi Photography*

County Players, one of the longest-running community theatre companies in the area, is proud to present the Contemporary Comedy "Perfect Arrangement" by Topher Payne. This Main Stage production is directed by Sydnie Grosberg Ronga and opens Friday, November 8. Additional performances are scheduled for Fridays & Saturdays November 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8:00pm, with matinees on Sunday November 17 and Saturday, November 23 at 2pm at the County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

"Perfect Arrangement" is a contemporary comedy. It's 1950, and new colors are being added to the Red Scare. Two U.S. State Department employees, Bob and Norma, have been tasked with identifying sexual deviants within their ranks. There's just one problem: both Bob and Norma are involved in a carefully constructed cover-up. Inspired by the true story of the earliest stirrings of the gay rights movement, Perfect Arrangement merges madcap sitcom-style laughs with provocative drama as two U.S. State Department employees struggle to maintain their cover – and their sanity – in mid-century America. "[A] clever canapé of a comedy..." The New York Times.

The production features the local talents of Marco Caviglia, Katrina Lantz, Rick Meyer, Dylan Parkin, Alexandra Petrova-Emisti, Lauren Silverman, and Aimee Trumbore. Of this production, director Sydnie Grosberg Ronga says, "The play is about juggling masks - private lives versus secret lives, and finding your true self. It is a comedy of manners leaning toward farce with a message about prejudices that is still incredibly relevant."

Individual tickets are available online in advance of the performance dates at [countyplayers.org](http://countyplayers.org). Adult: \$26, Senior 60+, Military, Students (with ID at the door), and Children under 12: \$24. The Box Office is open for in-person ticket sales one hour before performance time.

Hudson Valley Credit Union proudly sponsors County Players' 67th Season. This production of "Perfect Arrangement" is made possible with the support of our Silver Sponsor: Stissing Center for Arts & Culture, and presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

If one requires wheelchair accessibility, please contact the Box Office at 845-298-1491.

what's happening?

creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

## Annual Train and Hobby Show set for Nov. 10 in Poughkeepsie

President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Hyde Park Vanderbilts often traveled on the New York Central Railroad having departed from the Hyde Park Railroad Station. In support of that 110-year-old station, which is now a museum, on November 10, the Hudson Valley Railroad Society will host its 53rd annual Train and Hobby Show of the Hudson Valley.

The not-for-profit society and the MJN Convention Center jointly sponsor this annual event with all proceeds going to the continuing restoration and operation of this historically designated 1914 Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum.

On display at the show will be a number of operating scale model train layouts. There will also be hands-on train layouts, a ride on railroad, a holiday character photo op, and a raffle for Polar Express train ride tickets and other prizes.

Another popular feature of the show is dozens of vendor tables selling all scales of new and used trains, historic miniatures and many other hobby items. A White Elephant (flea market) table is available for anyone wanting to sell or buy an item or two.

A new feature of this year's show will be a series of short railroad and history presentations and clinics; so far, topics include the history of the Hyde Park Station, rail car excursions, and a live steam railroad.

Show hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. Tickets are available at the door: Adults \$8 and children (under 12) free.

For additional information and directions, visit [www.hydeparkstation.org](http://www.hydeparkstation.org) or call (845) 705-0114, or call the Hyde Park Station at (845) 229-2338.





# Kettle of comfort

This simple and savory stew warms body and the spirit.

There it is: the inevitable letdown after Halloween. All the anticipation and prep and baking, candy, decorating, magic and scary fun with some beautiful time outside breathing in the glory of fall, over now for another year. I sure could use a little comforting, so this kitchen witch will be making just the thing to soothe her dispirited soul.

To me there's nothing quite like a big pot of rich, savory beef stew to warm the heart and nourish the soul. As a lover of food history, making it also adds that wonderful feeling of connection to days long past; and every time I make it, I imagine people from different eras and cultures doing the same, all finally sitting down to savor its comforting flavors, aromas and textures.

I love picturing long-ago cooks adding ingredients to a bubbling pot set over the fire, filling their homes with the wonderful scent of herbs, vegetables and tender, slow-cooked beef and can almost feel the chill leave their bones. Every culture has its own version, and the Ancient Romans, Vikings, Native Americans and medieval peasants contributed greatly to the versions we think of today. But it was the French who really mastered it, forever ingraining what was once a peasant dish in the culinary world with their ragouts and Beef Bourguignon.

No matter what you call it, beef stew is, at its heart, a delicious way to cook tough cuts of meat with vegetables to feed a crowd, transforming the mundane into something extraordinary. It's no wonder it has stood the test of time. To that end there are many ways to make it, but this is my go-to version, which is beautifully simple and flavorful, just the thing for when you need the kind of comfort only food can give.

## EASY BEEF STEW

This recipe is perfect for times you need a little solace on a cold night. It's thick, rich, flavorful broth alone could do the trick, but the meat and vegetables make it a meal. The nature of the cuts of meat used means there's long cooking time involved, but this is ready in just under 2 hours, so you won't have to wait all that long, and it's worth it. That's plenty of time to bump up the comfort factor and make a batch of brownies or cookies in the meantime!

### WHAT CUTS OF BEEF TO USE

You can often find pre-cut stew meat readily available in stores. You want cuts that are typically tough that benefit from long, slow cooking to bring out their flavor and juicy tenderness, such as chuck (which I use) or bone-in short ribs.

### INGREDIENTS

2 lbs beef stew meat (cut into 1-inch cubes)

Salt and pepper to taste

3 tablespoons flour

Olive oil (about 2 tablespoons)

1 onion, chopped

3 cloves garlic, minced

1/4 cup dry red wine (optional)

1/4 cup tomato paste

4 cups beef stock

1 lb potatoes, peeled and cubed (or baby potatoes, halved)

6 (large) carrots, cut into thick coins

1 parsnip, diced (optional)

2 teaspoons dried thyme and/or oregano

2 bay leaves

### METHOD

Place beef in a large bowl and season with salt and pepper. Add flour and toss to coat well.

Heat olive oil in a Dutch oven or large pot over medium heat. Add beef and brown on all sides, stirring occasionally,



Easy Beef Stew. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

about 6 minutes.

Add onion and garlic and cook until fragrant, 2-3 minutes. Add wine (if using) and tomato paste and stir to combine, scraping to loosen any browned bits in the pot.

Add beef stock, potatoes, carrots, parsnip (if using) and herbs and stir to combine. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer until meat is tender, about 90 minutes. Remove bay leaves and serve.

Makes about 8 servings. Store any left in the fridge for up to three days. Oh, and it's better the second day!

And so, with a big pot of beef stew bubbling away on the stove, I now feel uplifted and ready for bleak November and the cold nights ahead. It's nothing fancy, but it doesn't need to be. I find that "peasant food," in its simplicity and born

of a need to be practical, can do wonders. It's magical how common ingredients come together to make something so hearty and delectable.

There's good to be found in every season, and savoring something this rich and satisfying will surely get me through, warming me, heart and soul, while I dream of next Halloween and get ready for the busy holiday season ahead. Enjoy!

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

## A & E CALENDAR

**Nov. 8-17: The Two Of Us Productions present "Nonsense,"** Theater at the Copake Grange Hall, 628 Empire Rd., Copake. Five of the 19 surviving Little Sisters of Hoboken, a one-time missionary order that ran a leper colony on an island south of France, discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, accidentally killed the other 52 residents of the convent with her tainted vichyssoise while they were off playing bingo. Discovering the disaster, Mother Superior has a vision in which she was told to start a greeting card company to raise funds for the burials. The greeting cards were an enormous success and, thinking there was plenty of money, the Reverend Mother bought a giant-screen LCD TV and some streaming subscriptions for the convent, leaving her without enough money to pay for the last four burials. With the unburied deceased nuns in the deep freezer, they decide to stage a variety show in the Mount Saint Helen's School auditorium to raise the money to bury the final four. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 students & seniors. [www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org](http://www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org) or (518) 329-6293.

**Nov. 8-24: "Spring Awakening,"** The Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Up In One Production presents the landmark, coming-of-age, Broadway musical based on the

controversial 1891 German play of the same name. It follows Melchior Gabor, a German schoolboy, and his classmates as they navigate puberty, academic rigidity, and the insensitivity of the adults around them. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m. Sun., 3 p.m. Tickets \$29. [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org) or (845) 876-3080.

**Nov. 9: Con Brio Concert Series,** Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie. Breezy Hill Woodwind Quintet w/guest pianist James Fitzwilliam, music by Rimsky-Korsakov, Scott Joplin, JS Bach, Grieg, Lennon/McCartney & more, 7 p.m. Suggested donation: \$25

**Nov. 9: Saturday Morning Family Series,** The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Fiesta with Flor! 11 a.m. Join Latin GRAMMY nominee Flor Bromley for a vibrant celebration of music and culture that elevates Latin traditions through captivating songs, global rhythms, and engaging puppetry. Tickets \$10. (845) 876-3080 or [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)

**Nov. 10: 53rd annual Train and Hobby Show of the Hudson Valley,** MJN Convention Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. On display will be a number of operating scale model train layouts. There will also be hands-on train layouts, a ride on railroad, a holiday character photo op, and a raffle for Polar

Express train ride tickets and other prizes. Vendor tables with all scales of new and used trains, historic miniatures and many other hobby items. A White Elephant (flea market) table is available for anyone wanting to sell or buy an item or two. Tickets are available at the door: Adults \$8 and children (under 12) free. All proceeds going to the continuing restoration and operation of this historically designated 1914 Hyde Park Railroad Station Museum. For additional information and directions, visit [www.hydeparkstation.org](http://www.hydeparkstation.org) or call (845) 705-0114, or call the Hyde Park Station at (845) 229-2338.

**Nov. 13: Tavern Trail,** Foster's Coach House, Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. "Your 1774

Shopping List: Buying and Selling in Pre-Revolutionary Dutchess County," 6-7 p.m. Long before Amazon and other online shopping venues, Dutchess County residents went to physical stores for all of their retail needs. Join Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum for a deep dive into the origins of the shopping experience in the county. Learn what colonial era stores stocked and sold, the forms of payment they accepted, and the extensive areas they served. If you feel that you have to drive a ways to access a grocery store today, prepare to have your frame of reference significantly widened. RSVP required. For more information and to RSVP, visit <https://www.historicredhook.org/>.

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

# Virtual art show & sale to raise funds for community organizations

By Kate Goldsmith

Fall for Art – the annual art show, sale and fundraiser sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ulster County – has showcased Hudson Valley-area artists for 28 years while benefiting community nonprofit organizations. The event recently got a new name, now branded as “fallforart.org,” to reflect the online format it has followed for a few years now, which has broadened its reach in a significant way.

This year’s virtual event will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9, and run through 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15. Visit fallforart.org to view galleries of works by 30 participating artists offering a wide range of high-quality visual art representing ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, mixed media, painting, photography and pottery.

Up until the Covid pandemic, the show formerly known as Fall for Art was held on a Thursday evening at the start of November at a location in the Kingston area. The virtual platform turned out to be a very successful format, and organizers have decided not to return to in-person.

“There are many factors that the committee had to consider,” said Barbara Cohen, who heads the event committee. “Transitioning from a live, in-person event to an accessible online extended event format has distinct advantages. Being able to offer to a wider geographic audience with seven days to purchase beats a three-hour show in our communi-

ty by far. You are not ‘competing’ with other events that could have the same date. You can shop in the comfort of your home or anywhere.”

Cohen added: “The broader geographic reach and extended purchasing window enhance accessibility, allowing more people to participate and support the cause. Reduced costs, especially from eliminating catering, help increase profits, while artists also benefit from higher sales opportunities compared to the limited duration of a live event. Although there’s a loss of direct community interaction, the expanded potential for raising funds for local beneficiaries underscores a deep dedication to the event’s mission.”

It should be noted that the artists still hail from the Hudson Valley region, even though the event’s reach is global. This local flavor is something that the committee was determined to maintain with the virtual format.

“We have always held the criteria that our artists reside in the Hudson Valley,” said Cohen. “The Hudson River has been a source of artistic inspiration - think back to the early 1800s and the Hudson River School of Art. The local beauty inspires, and we know art lovers from across the United States are eager to take a piece of our region home with them.”

The artists’ galleries are created by a talented graphic artist, Cohen said, and the website fallforart.org is maintained throughout the year by the webmaster.

fallforart.org is a volunteer committee



A small sampling of work by artists participating in this year’s fallforart.org include (clockwise from top left) earrings by Pamela Meyer, a teapot by Kaete Brittin Shaw and a wrap by Alexa Ginsberg. Courtesy images

of Fern Amster, Sara Beames, Barbara Cohen, Sloane Grubard, Louise Lefkovits, Darlene Levit, Sue Worthman.

From the Hudson Valley artists to the many nonprofit organizations that fallforart.org benefits through the art of giving, organizers are proud that the event embodies the spirit of Tikkun Olam, the Jewish concept of repairing the world through acts of kindness and community

service. Beneficiaries of this year’s event include Angel Food East, Circle of Friends for the Dying, Good Neighbor Food Pantry, Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center, Jewish Family Services, Oncology Support Program, People’s Place, RYAN House and The Jewish Federation of Ulster County.

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# Invasive plant update

Add these to the list of plants determined to take over the world.

Mmmm. Porcelain Berry Honey. That's what my honeybees made. Is it tastier than clover, orange blossom or tupelo honey? I'll never know, since I don't take honey from the hive – the bees are there only to pollinate our gardens. Over the last several years, the highly invasive porcelain berry vine (or amur peppervine) has been clawing its way through my property, smothering trees and bushes in its path. In July, its blossoms drip with sweet nectar, and the beehive empties out as the honeybees gorge themselves.

Porcelain Berry is one of the more than 50 plants prohibited from sale in N.Y. state because they crowd out native species. We've all heard about purple loosestrife, Japanese stilt grass, barberry and various honeysuckle, but some of the more obscure invasives have been on the march lately. Drive down the Saw Mill River Parkway toward Yonkers if you want to see what porcelain vine can do.

Also:  
 • **Swallow Wort, or "Dog Strangling Vine"** – Related to milkweed, so Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on the leaves, but the caterpillars die. I've got swallow wort climbing all over my pine trees. I rip it off every summer, but of course it comes back from the roots. The leaves are arrow-shaped. The seed pods look like string beans.

• **Bittersweet** – I was heartbroken to find out that oriental bittersweet (But not the native American Bittersweet) is invasive. If you don't believe how explosive

this gaggle of beautiful orange berries can be, take a walk on the North County Trail near Millwood in Westchester County, or better yet, drive up South Quaker Lane.

• **Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*)** – It's hard to believe this obnoxious invasive was once sold in garden centers. Its perennial underground runners form a mat so dense you can't get through it with a backhoe (but woodchucks can). True, mugwort is supposed to cure everything from ulcers to hepatitis, and was supposedly the ingredient in Absinthe that inspired Edgar Allan Poe, but is it worth it? I discovered a small patch of apple mint, which some people think is invasive, sprouting in a field of mugwort behind my house and thought, wouldn't it be great if the mint took over?

• **Lesser Celandine** – Over just the past few years, this look-alike to the marsh marigold has completely crowded out the native spring wildflowers along some parts of Wappingers Creek. For example, at Creekside Park near Eastdale. With any luck, the invasive jumping worms will gobble up the lesser celandine. Or maybe woodchucks.

• **Wild Buckwheat (*Fallopian convolvulus*)** – I saw it for the first time this summer, entangled in my invasive giant reed grass. More of a curiosity than a real problem, since it's an annual that needs to sprout from seed every spring. It looks like the also invasive bindweed (wild morning glory) but without the pretty flowers.

• **Controlling Invasive Plants** –



Oriental bittersweet (left) and Porcelain Berry Vine are two lesser-known invasive plants that have been "on the march" lately. Photos by Mark Adams

Constant mowing before seeds set will help, or constant cultivation (plowing the soil every spring). Or, (are you ready for this?) chemical weed killers, which for some reason, Cornell Cooperative Extension will not recommend, even though they are recommended by Cornell University.

• **A New Kid on the Block** – Move over spotted lanternflies. My good friend Mike Mitchell, who is a member of the N.Y. Invasive Species Advisory Council, just

got back from Georgia (the country) with news of a brand new invasive pest: The *Tropilaelaps Mercedes Mite*, which is devastating beehives in the area around the Black Sea. Supposedly much more destructive than the varroa mite. We don't have it yet, but please be vigilant.

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

## fallforart.org

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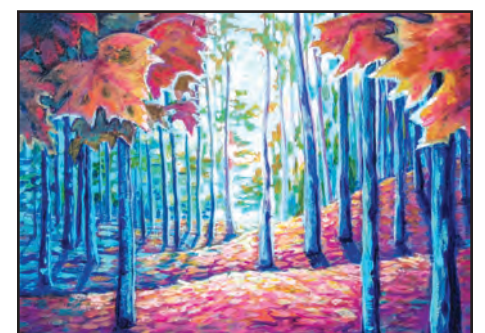
A highlight of this year's lineup is visual artist and illustrator Matthew Pleva, the 2024 recipient of the City of Kingston Distinguished Artist Award. Pleva will be among the many Hudson Valley artists showcasing his work. Other participating artists include:

- Steven B. Aaron (Photography, Valley Cottage)
- Lauren Basciani (Acrylic, Ulster Park)
- Janet Baskerville (Jewelry, Montgomery)
- Sara Beames (Jewelry/Fused Glass, Kingston)
- Leslie Bender (Handmade Monoprints, Woodstock)
- Kaete Brittin-Shaw (Ceramics, High Falls)
- Barbara Bravo (Ceramics, Saugerties)
- Gilberto Cintron (Acrylic/Sculpture, Hopewell Junction)
- Kaja Dedijer (Jewelry, Saugerties)
- Mary Elwyn (Jewelry, West Hurley)
- Patti Gibbons (Handmade Greeting Cards, Kingston)
- Alexa Ginsberg (Textiles, Gardiner)
- Pam Grafstein (Photography, Congers)
- Glenn Grubard (Mixed Media/Paper-Cut Fine Art, Kingston)
- Lauren Horowitz (Textiles, Kingston)
- Nicole Hughes (Wood, Pawling)
- Kathy Jeffres (Ceramics, Woodbourne)
- Linda Lavin (Alcohol Ink, Rhinebeck)
- Louise Lefkovits (Mixed Media

- Painting, Kingston)
- Lori Levesque (Acrylic/Canvas & Wood, Catskill)
- Maureen Lohan-Bremer (Photography, Stone Ridge)
- Joel Mandelbaum (Photography, Kingston)
- Lissa Matthews (Jewelry, Kingston)
- Pamela Meyer (Jewelry, Kingston)
- Sarah Omura (Textiles/Kids Play Mats, Woodstock)

- Bentley Potter (Photography, Kingston)
- Ronnie Rosenberg-Friedman (Jewelry, New Paltz)
- Karen Whitman (Linoleum Block Print, Bearsville)
- Roni Wilder-Guidi (Watercolor, Woodstock)

Visit fallforart.org to view the artists' works for purchase, and for more information.



A painting by Lauren Basciani, one of the participants in this year's fallforart.org. Courtesy image

**The Two of Us Productions**  
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**Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm**  
**Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 3pm**  
**Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm**  
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LIST OF DELINQUENT TAXES
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WHEREAS, arrears of taxes for the levy of 2023, charged and imposed pursuant to law, remain due and unpaid on various lots, tracts, pieces or parcels of land located within Dutchess County and described in the attached lists by Tax Grid Number; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Grid Number is in accordance with the official tax maps of the Dutchess County Real Property Tax Department, and is the official description; and

WHEREAS, the name given being those of owners or occupants as the same appear on the tax rolls for the levy year 2023 and the aggregate amount due on each parcel as of the time of filing the List of Delinquent Taxes, such amounts including unpaid taxes, interest, expenses and other charges against the properties for such year,

NOW, therefore, notice is hereby given that pursuant to the power vested in me, on the 1st day of November, 2024, I will file with the County Clerk, a List of Delinquent Taxes on all parcels, or respective lots, tracts or pieces or parcels of land setting forth the tax amount due which shall be sufficient to pay all the county, town, highway, school or other taxes assessed thereon in the levy year 2023 on each thereof, respectively, together with interest, expenses and charges which have arisen or accrued or that may arise or accrue thereon.

BE FURTHER advised the filing of such delinquent list shall constitute constructive notice, to a purchaser from, or encumbrance against, any owners or occupants of all Tax Grid Numbers listed herein with the same force and effect as the filing of an individual and separate notice of pendency pursuant to Article Sixty-Five (65) of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT WHEN TWO (2) YEARS HAVE EXPIRED AFTER THE DATE (JANUARY 1, 2024) ON WHICH THE TAX BECAME A LIEN, THE LIEN WILL BE SUMMARILY FORECLOSED BY THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY TITLE 3 OF ARTICLE 11 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW ON FORECLOSURE OF SAID LIEN. THE OWNERS OR OCCUPANTS OF THE TAX GRID NUMBERS LISTED WOULD THEN LOSE ALL RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST IN THE PROPERTIES LISTED ON THE ATTACHED LISTS. NOTHING CONTAINED HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PRECLUDE ANY SUCH PERSON FROM FILING A CLAIM PURSUANT TO SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE OR TITLE SIX OF THIS ARTICLE FOR A SHARE OF ANY SURPLUS THAT MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SALE OF SUCH PARCEL.

LEVY OF 2023

List of Delinquent Taxes

DATE OF DELINQUENCY: 11/1/2024 LEVY OF 2023

Table with columns: ASSESSED TO, CURRENT OWNER, LEGAL DESCRIPTION, REDEMPTION AMOUNT. Lists property details for AMENIA and BEEKMAN.

ASSESSED TO

CURRENT OWNER

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

REDEMPTION AMOUNT

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