

VA launches new outreach campaign to enroll veterans in health care

The Veterans Administration (VA) is launching a new outreach campaign to encourage all eligible Veterans to enroll in VA health care – including approximately 1 million unenrolled Veterans who served in Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. This campaign will include text messages and emails directly to Veterans, public service announcements, paid advertising, and events.

VA is launching this campaign after reports of concerns from Veterans about health issues – including mental health challenges and thoughts of suicide – potentially related to repeated blasts and head trauma (low-level artillery blasts, IEDs, missile launches, heavy fire, and more). Since the first reporting about these concerns, VA researchers have been urgently studying this matter to learn more about the potential health impacts of blast exposure on Veterans.

Veterans enrolled in VA can access specialty screenings and services to address any health issues related to blast exposure. Importantly, Veterans who served in Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and other specific locations are eligible for VA health care based on their deployments — they do not need to have any health conditions specifically associated with their service in order to be eligible for care.

While VA continues to urgently conduct research into the impact of blast exposure, VA and the entire Biden-Harris Administration encourage these Veterans – and all eligible Veterans – to apply for VA care today. Veterans who use VA health care have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, VA hospitals are dramatically outperforming non-VA hospitals, and VA health care is

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RYAN'S JOURNEY

Dutchess figure skater heads to Special Olympics World Games in 2025

By Kate Goldsmith

Ryan Chin of Wappingers Falls has qualified to represent the United States at the 2025 Special Olympics World Games in Turin, Italy. A member of the Dutchess Figure Skating Club, Ryan has dedicated the past 11 years of his life to honing his craft and inspiring those who share the ice with him. His journey to this prestigious global event is a testament to his determination, skill, and the power of inclusive sports to transform lives.

"It's a dream come true to represent the USA at the Special Olympics World Games in Turin," said Ryan. "Skating has taught me many valuable life skills and given me a place in the community where I feel at home. I'm proud to show what hard work and dedication can achieve. I can't wait to meet other athletes from around the world, share this amazing experience with them, and try real Italian food! I'm ready to bring home a gold medal win for Team USA."

Ryan, 23, began skating at age 12 in a therapeutic ice skating program offered by the McCann Ice Arena rink, quickly excelling through figure skating levels and skills. He began competing in Special Olympics New York figure skating competitions at age 15, earning seven gold



Ryan Chin of Wappingers Falls will represent the United States in the 2025 Special Olympics World Games in Turin, Italy. Ryan has been competing in Special Olympics New York games since he was 15. *Courtesy photos*

medals in seven competition seasons. With determination, devotion, and support from his coaches, Heather O'Connor, Deirdre Bonanno, Sergei Sakhnovskiy, and fellow skaters, Ryan has been able to make incredible strides.

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IN MEMORIAM



Former Beacon Mayor Clara Lou Gould is pictured with Gary Barrack during a ceremony honoring her in 2019. Gould died on Dec. 2 at the age of 97. *Archive photo by Kristine Coulter*

Clara Lou Gould 'loved the City of Beacon'

By Kristine Coulter

The funeral for former Beacon Mayor Clara Lou Gould was held on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Gould, the longest serving female mayor in New York history, died on Dec. 2 at the age of 97. She was the daughter of Michael and Clara Malone. Gould was born in Cold Spring, Putnam County.

Remembering a former mayor

At the Dec. 2 City Council meeting Mayor Lee Kyriacou announced the flags across the city would be lowered to

half-staff in honor of Gould for the week.

"I'll ask for a moment of silence for the passing of Clara Lou Gould," said Kyriacou during the meeting at City Hall.

Peter Forman, a Beacon resident and friend of Gould's, was the City Attorney for nine years. Forman told the Council that he and Pam Barrack, another friend of Gould's and a public servant, expressed appreciation for the extended courtesies to Gould from the council.

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Festival of Lights Parade in Pleasant Valley kicks off holiday season with lots of enthusiasm



In the photos, clockwise from top left, the staff and families at James Baird State Park came out for the parade. The Festival of Lights Parade is really about the children. They love to take part in kicking off the local Holiday Season. A Holiday Teddy Bear hitched a ride on top of one of the tow vehicles. Santa gave this delegation from the North Pole the evening off to celebrate in Pleasant Valley. The Union Vale Fire Department provided transport for a now rehabilitated Grinch on their off-road rescue vehicle. One might conclude that Frosty's frown is because his car broke down and he had been afraid of missing the parade. But he got to make his appearance on the back of a roll aboard tow vehicle. *Photos by Jim Donick*

By Jim Donick

The annual Pleasant Valley Festival of Lights Parade took place Saturday evening, Dec. 7. The weather was chilly, but that didn't stop crowds of happy children and adults from coming out for a parade and then a celebration with hot chocolate and snacks at the Town Hall.

For the annual event, one of many in the area, the local fire companies deck out their vehicles in hundreds of lights and delight the audience. In addition to the firemen, many local organizations and nearly every trucking or towing company does the same. The result is a cavalcade of trucks, cars, floats and even heavy equipment lighting up the main street in Pleasant Valley and kicking off the holiday season with enthusiasm.

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December is leading month for U.S. home fires

Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals – hallmarks of the holiday season – present potential fire hazards that collectively contribute to an increase in U.S. home fires each December. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve were the second- and third-leading days of the year for home cooking fires, respectively, in 2022.

“When people are busy and trying to do many things at once, they’re more likely to get distracted from what’s on the stove or in the oven. Knowing that unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires year-round, it’s easy to see why the number of cooking fires spikes on these days,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy.

Candles and lighting

Decorating homes with electrical lighting and candles also contributes to a higher fire risk during the holiday season. Between 2018 and 2022, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 835 home structure fires that began with decorations (excluding Christmas trees). Year-round, approxi-

mately one-third (32 percent) of home decoration fires were started by candles; in December, that number jumped to almost half (46 percent).

Christmas trees

Christmas tree fires don’t happen very often, but when they do, they tend to be more serious. An annual average of 155 home Christmas tree fires resulted in four civilian deaths, seven civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage, with electrical distribution or lighting equipment involved in more than two in five home Christmas tree fires.

Lithium-ion batteries

Many people will be buying and gifting electronic devices that contain lithium-ion batteries. As the use of these devices has increased in recent years, so too has the number of related fires. It’s important to understand the risks associated with these batteries and ways to prevent them:

- Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.

- Use charging equipment that is only compatible with your device. To be safe,

use only the charging equipment that is supplied with your device.

- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take the batteries to a battery recycling location or contact your local waste department for disposal instructions.

- Stop using your device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling, or change in color.

- Only have device repairs performed by a qualified professional.

“The commonality between the vast majority of all these fires is that they’re largely preventable,” said Carli. “By understanding when and where potential risks exist, people can take simple steps to reduce their likelihood, which can go a long way toward ensuring a festive, fire-free holiday season.”

NFPA offers a wealth of information and resources to help minimize the likelihood of cooking, candle, Christmas tree, and decoration fires. Learn more at nfpa.org/winterholidaysafety.

VA launches new outreach campaign to enroll veterans in health care

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often more affordable than non-VA health care for Veterans. Additionally, 92% of Veteran patients currently report trusting VA outpatient health care – an all-time high.

“We take Veteran concerns about repeated blast exposure very seriously, and we are studying this matter urgently to learn more about potential health impacts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “While we do that, we don’t want Veterans to wait – they should enroll in VA health care today to get full access to primary care, mental health care, regular screenings, specialty care, and more. That’s what this outreach effort is all about: getting Veterans in our care, because Veterans who come to VA are proven to do better.”

“VA aims to be the best, most accessible, and most affordable health system in America for Veterans, and we are constantly looking for ways to improve that care as science and research tells us about new concerns,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D. “The more Veterans who enroll, the more we can learn about the impact of blast exposure – and the better care we can ultimately provide those who served.”

Earlier this year, VA made all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards (and meet basic requirements)

eligible to enroll directly in VA health care – years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. This included all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11. Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States are also eligible to enroll. Additionally, Veterans who do not meet any of the above criteria can often still access VA health care by receiving VA disability benefits or based on income.

This new outreach effort is a part of the largest outreach campaign in VA history, which began when President Biden signed the PACT Act into law in 2022 and continues to this day. As a result of

this campaign, more than 835,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care (a 37% increase over the previous period); more than 900,000 Veterans have upgraded their priority groups, making them eligible for health care with fewer copays (an all-time record); and more than 4.4 million Veterans and survivors have applied for disability compensation benefits (another all-time record). The campaign has been focused on bringing new Veterans to VA by sending millions of texts and emails, hosting thousands of events nationwide, launching new paid advertising campaigns, working with influencers and companies, and more.

Eligible Veterans can enroll today by visiting our website or calling 833-577-5646.

NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE

Due to holiday press schedules for the Dec. 25, 2024 and Jan. 1, 2025 issues, the Northern Dutchess News has early deadlines for both papers.

For the Dec. 25 issue: Advertising is due by Thursday, Dec. 19. Editorial submissions must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 18.

For the Jan. 1 issue: Editorial submissions must be received by Monday, Dec. 23. Advertising is due by Thursday, Dec. 26.

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Ryan's journey: Dutchess figure skater heads to Special Olympics World Games in 2025

continued from cover

"Ryan's drive and love for figure skating has been an inspiration to everyone at the McCann Ice Arena," said Coach Heather O'Connor, who is also the Learn to Skate Director at the McCann Ice Arena. "We're incredibly proud of his accomplishment and can't wait to cheer him on as he takes on the world stage in Turin."

The Special Olympics World Games is the largest inclusive sporting event across the globe, showcasing the talents of over 1,500 athletes with disabilities from more than 190 countries. The 2025 Games will take place from March 8 through March 16, 2025, bringing together thousands of athletes, coaches, and fans to celebrate excellence in sports and the power of inclusion.

"It is with the help of all the McCann Ice Arena's coaches that Ryan has been able to excel and compete in figure skating to be able to be selected for the Special Olympics World Games," said his parents, Tak and Jen Chin. "With the coaches' patience and dedication, Ryan has continued to learn and improve on his figure skating skills. He is currently taking the US Figure Skating Adult Skating Skills tests, and he has completed up to the Pre-Bronze Skating Skills and Pre-Preliminary Singles and has completed the Adaptive Skating Gold test."

Tak and Jen acknowledged that Ryan's progress is the result of "finding the right people to help him reach his goals."

They said, "When we started out, we just wanted him to know how to skate; but finding the right person and program was difficult for Ryan, who is autistic with a receptive language disability. Fortunately, the McCann Ice Arena started the therapeutic ice-skating program for people with autism and other disabilities and he has continued to progress in figure skating."

"Ryan is an amazing athlete who has worked so hard to achieve this incredible goal of competing at the Special Olympics World Games," said O'Connor. "I've watched Ryan set incredibly challenging goals over the years, and every time he meets those goals, no matter how long it takes or how hard he needs to work. We are all so incredibly proud of Ryan at the Dutchess Figure Skating Club!"

To help Ryan achieve his goal, the Dutchess Figure Skating Club asks the community to share and donate to his JustGiving page (go to www.justgiving.com and search for "Help Me Go For The Gold in Torino

Italy - Ryan Chin"). Funds raised will cover the costs of travel for Ryan, his parents, and a coach, and entry fees into the figure skating competition in March.

Advice for families with a special needs child

"[Our] advice for families with a child with autism or other disabilities is to introduce new things and see how far they can go," said Tak and Jen Chin. "It may take time, but the results can be surprising. Don't let others tell you it cannot be done, because you don't know [until] you try."

They relate Ryan's triumphant journey through the education system to prove their point.

"The best example for Ryan is that in early middle school, they said he wouldn't be able to graduate from high school. But thanks to a teacher in high school, she moved Ryan to an algebra class because Ryan's math was good. Then, he was able to pass the NYS algebra regents," said Ryan's parents. "From this, he went to the English regent class, followed by the Social Studies regent class and managed to pass those classes. Since he had to leave school due to an age limit, he finished the Science regent requirement in a High School Equivalent class, and he passed the HSE Science exam and got his HSE diploma. So, with hard work, perseverance, luck, and support from a group of coaches and instructors, you can accomplish what others considered impossible."

Ryan graduated from Beacon High School with his High School Equivalency Diploma in 2022. He currently lives in Wappingers Falls with his parents, brother, and sister.

Follow Ryan's exciting journey via the Dutchess Figure Skating Club's Instagram account: @dutchessfsc.

Through the power of sports, the Special Olympics inspires people with intellectual disabilities to discover new strengths, abilities, skills, and success. The Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of 30+ Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts and skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. For more information, visit www.specialolympics.org.

Drug Task Force: Community complaints lead to alleged fentanyl dealer and associate arrest

The Dutchess County District Attorney's Office Drug Task Force received reports of narcotic and dangerous drug dealing in the area of 60 Carroll Street, a large apartment building on the south side of Poughkeepsie.

According to a press release, Drug Task Force Agents identified Stephen Bai, 39, a City of Poughkeepsie resident, as an alleged narcotic and dangerous drug dealer operating out of an apartment in that building. Drug Task Force Agents were allegedly able to make several purchases of fentanyl from Bai resulting in a search warrant being issued by the City of Poughkeepsie Court.

In the early morning hour of Dec. 4, Drug Task Force Agents and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Unit executed the search warrant at the apartment and located Bai where he was arrested. Within Bai's apartment, Agents allegedly found fentanyl, cocaine, and a significant amount of drug sale packaging along with scales.

In addition to Bai, Agents executing the search warrant located an associate identified as Angela Martinez, 38, who had an active arrest warrant for felony drug possession. Martinez was allegedly also found in possession of felony weight of crack cocaine when she was taken into custody by DTF Agents.

Bai was charged with the following, according to the task force:

(2) Counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance (fentanyl) in the 3rd degree, a class B Felony.

Mr. Bai was arraigned in the City of

Poughkeepsie Court and released as required by New York State Law.

*Additional charges are pending against Bai as a result of this investigation.

Martinez was charged with the following in addition to her outstanding arrest warrant, according to the task force:

(1) Count of Criminal Possession of Controlled Substance in the 4th degree, a class C Felony. Martinez was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released as required by New York State Law. Martinez was then turned over to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police to be processed on her outstanding felony drug warrant.*Additional charges are pending against Martinez as a result of this investigation.

The Drug Task Force continues to respond to community requests for assistance when narcotic and dangerous drug dealers are selling poison in their communities. Fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine continue to be a serious public health risk to community members as well as first responders.

If anyone has information regarding this case or about any other individuals selling drugs in Dutchess County, you are urged to contact the Drug Task Force confidential tip line at 845-463-6040 or by sending an email to the following address: DrugTaskForceTips@gmail.com

As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely an accusation and those individuals named in this release are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Join us this Christmas Eve.

Tuesday, Dec. 24th

5:30 pm Festive Christmas Eucharist

Christmas Day Wed. Dec. 25th


9 am Peaceful morning Eucharist with guitar accompaniment

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Red Cross: Bring joy by giving blood or platelets

As holiday celebrations continue into December, the American Red Cross encourages donors to keep the blood supply top of mind by giving blood or platelets this month. Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to help ensure patients can continue to receive the care they need in the coming weeks.

Record-breaking November travel is expected to carry into the new year, which could cause some potential donors to put off blood donation until after the holiday season. In addition to millions of Americans traveling to spend holidays with loved ones, extended vacations are also surging in popularity at a time when fewer people may be available to give lifesaving blood products.

Bring joy to someone facing a medical emergency; give something that means something with a blood or platelet donation. Schedule an appointment this December by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

For a limited time, those who come to give through Dec. 15, 2024, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Those who come to give Dec. 16, 2024-Jan. 3, 2025, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while

supplies last. For details on both offers, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities are as follows:

COLUMBIA

Canaan: 12/27/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Canaan Fire Company, 2126 Route 295
Claverack: 12/28/2024: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Claverack Library, 629 NY-23B,
Hudson: 12/12/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hudson Elks Lodge No. 787, 201 Harry Howard Ave.

DUTCHESS

Beacon: 12/16/2024: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Veterans Building, 413 Main St
Fishkill: 12/20/2024: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Village of Fishkill - Van Wyck Hall, 1095 Main St
Hyde Park: 12/14/2024: 9:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m., Hyde Park Elementary School, 4327 Albany Post Rd
Hyde Park: 12/27/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 4526 Albany Post Rd.
Millbrook: 12/18/2024: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Millbrook Fire House, 20 Front St
Pawling: 12/12/2024: 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Lakeside Park Teen Center, 2 Lakeside Dr
Poughkeepsie: 12/31/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Poughkeepsie Galleria, 2001 South Road

Tivoli: 12/26/2024: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Masonic Lodge in Tivoli, 7 N Rd
Wappingers Falls: 12/23/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Grace Bible Church, 158 Myers Corners Rd

GREENE

Athens: 12/13/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 102 North Washington Street
Athens: 12/26/2024: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sleepy hollow Lake, 102 Lisa Ln
Coxsackie: 12/27/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Gospel Community Church, 121 Mansion Street
East Durham: 12/18/2024: 1 - 5 p.m., Durham Ambulance, 1 Milk Run Rd
Greenville: 12/28/2024: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 5830 State Route 81

ORANGE

Goshen: 1/3/2025: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Goshen Christian Reformed Church, 2448 NY-17A
Middletown: 12/19/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Town of Wallkill Town Hall, 99 Tower Dr
Monroe: 12/30/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 21 Still Rd.
Montgomery: 12/17/2024: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Montgomery Senior Center, 36 Bridge St
New Windsor: 12/28/2024: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., New Windsor Fire Department, 275 Walsh Ave.
Newburgh: 12/19/2024: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., American Red Cross Hudson Valley Chapter, 356 Meadow Ave
Port Jervis: 12/31/2024: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 31 W Main St
Washingtonville: 12/21/2024: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., VFW Post 8691, 44 E Main St

PUTNAM

Patterson: 12/13/2024: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Town of Patterson Recreation and Parks, 65 Front St, PO Box 278

SULLIVAN

Bloomington: 12/12/2024: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Mamakating Community Town Park, 27-29 Mamakating Rd
Jeffersonville: 12/16/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Saint George's Church, 97 Schoolhouse Rd
Monticello: 12/12/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Monticello Firehouse, 23 Richardson Avenue
Yulan: 12/18/2024: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Anthony of Padua, St. Anthony of Padua, 25 Beaver Brook Rd

ULSTER

Highland: 12/30/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Highland Hose Company 1, 25 Milton Ave
Kingston: 12/17/2024: 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., City Hall City of Kingston, 420 Broadway
Kingston: 12/24/2024: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars, 708 E Chester St
Kingston: 12/27/2024: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Health Alliance Hospital, 75 Mary's Ave
Wallkill: 12/19/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Wallkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge St
12/27/2024: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Shawmagunk Town Hall, 14 Central Ave

How to donate blood

Download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit 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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LaGrange Library annual meeting set Dec. 12

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the LaGrange Association Library Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, December 12, at the LaGrange Library at 7 p.m. All interested members of the public are welcome to attend.

Hyde Park Chamber upcoming events

On Thursday, Dec. 12, the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce will host a Coffee Connections event from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at its office at 4389 Albany Post Road (Route 9), Hyde Park. Enjoy a morning of networking, refreshments, and an important discussion on active shooter tactics and more. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow community members and enhance your professional network. The cost is \$5 and registration is required at <https://www.hydeparkchamber.online/breakfast-events>

On Thursday, Dec. 19, the Chamber will hold an evening of festive fun and community spirit at Coppola's in Hyde Park, starting at 6 p.m. This free event is the perfect way to celebrate the season, connect with fellow members, and spread holiday cheer. They'll also be collecting toys for Toys for Tots—a wonderful cause that brings joy to children during the holidays. For every member who brings a toy, you'll be entered into a drawing to win a fabulous gift basket. Register at <https://www.hydeparkchamber.online/special-events>.

Rhinecliff Soup Sales set Dec. 19

It's time for Fall Rhinecliff Soup Sales, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896. Mark your calendar for Thursday, 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.

ONGOING

Meals on Wheels of Hyde Park and the Village of Rhinebeck is seeking volunteer drivers during the hours of 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Drivers are needed Monday-Friday. You can drive one or more days each week or substitute as needed. All drivers work in teams so couples or friends are encouraged to volunteer together. For more information visit www.mealsonwheelsofhp.org or, contact Andrea Tkazyik at (845) 229-5896.

The New to You Thrift Shop at St. Christopher's in Red Hook has cold-weather clothing, with everything from shoes to coats, bags, scarves, hats...Come in and outfit yourself for the chillier times. The prices are amazing. And while the ladies are browsing clothing, we have children's clothing and toys and games. The shop is at 30 Benner Road in Red Hook by St. Christopher's School.

See our Holiday Happenings on page 9 for seasonal events in your community.

Rhinecliff sets holiday events for Dec. 14

On Saturday, Dec. 14, Rhinecliff will host a series of holiday events throughout the day.

At 10 a.m., join the Rhinebeck Grange, Rhinecliff Fire House, and Morton Memorial Library for a Wreath-Making event. Dress warmly and help make a gigantic wreath for the community to be displayed in the center of Rhinecliff. Meet at the Rhinecliff monument. Bring gloves and prepare to have fun.

Driftwood, the Morton Community Chorus, will perform its winter concert at the library at 3 p.m. The program will feature Georgian, Balkan, Serbian and Roma songs, and more. Admission to concert \$15 suggested donation, \$25 family; donations benefit the library.

On Saturday evening, some literal and

figurative light will shine on the hamlet when the Festival of Lights begins at 5 p.m. Enjoy the sights by walking and visiting with neighbors while enjoying a complimentary hot beverage from the Epicurean and a holiday cookie at Kips Tavern. You can also stop and have your picture taken in front of the Rhinebeck Grange wreath. Driftwood will lead attendees in song around the theatre district to start off the evening.

Luminaria kits are available at the library (82 Kelly St.) for pick up during open hours. Each kit will contain 10 candles, bags, and sand; the library requests a donation of \$20 per kit. The money will go to Red Hook Responds.

For more information, email sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org

Creating enriching experiences for students

Giving back through life-changing experiences!

The Ridge School is a New York State Board of Regents Accredited School, Not-for-profit organization located in Dutchess County, New York dedicated to the creation of a rich and positive setting for students who are not succeeding in their current educational placements. The Ridge School is a day school for students who are diagnosed with High Functioning Autism.

845-266-4283

The Ridge School

www.ridgeschool.org

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GOLDEN LIVING

AGING IN PLACE WHEN YOUR PLACE IS AGING

Is your home “aging-ready?” Often, a Dutchess County homeowner is not going to like the answer. According to the Census Bureau, the median age of a single-family home in Dutchess County is 62 years; that is, a house built in 1962, when the Baby Boom was peaking, and Dutchess County’s population was growing rapidly.

Even with diligent maintenance, a 62-year-old house will show its age - and homes in Dutchess County’s urban centers and villages tend to be even older.

The Census Bureau defines “aging-ready” as a home with a step-free entryway, and a bedroom and bathroom on the entry level. That description applies to only 40% of all American homes, and even fewer in a place with older housing stock, like Dutchess County.

While you’re not required to update your home as building codes change, you’ll certainly be required to comply with new codes if you’re remodeling to make your home aging-ready.

If, like most older adults, you’d like to maximize the opportunity to stay in your home for the rest of your life, but don’t have the skills or budget to make the necessary improvements, there may be options available for you.

If you’re wondering about moving from your current home to more aging-friendly housing in Dutchess County, call us to get that discussion started. Many older-adult housing facilities in Dutchess County have years-long waiting lists.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley (rthudsonvalley.org or 845-454-7310) provides critical repairs, accessibility modifications and energy efficiency improvements for our neighbors in need, including but not limited to seniors, persons living with disability, families with school-aged children, and active or retired armed services members. These services are provided at no cost to the homeowner. RTHV services ensure that qualified low-income homeowners live independently in warm, safe, healthy, and dry homes.

Dutchess County Habitat for Humanity (845-297-0806, extension 4 or habitatdutchess.org) is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their

shelter conditions. For older adults in Dutchess County, Habitat can build ramps for those whose mobility requires a ramp to enter and exit their home. Habitat can also provide simple services like grab bar and railing installation. Applicants may also receive a visit from a specialist to assess a home to see what other supports are needed to enable safe aging-in-place.

The Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development offers an Owner Occupied Property Rehabilitation Program. The purpose of this program is to upgrade existing owner-occupied housing by helping low- and moderate-income households to complete rehabilitation on properties with housing quality standard or code violations. Eligible properties can be located anywhere in Dutchess County.

For questions regarding this program, contact the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development at 845-486-3637 or communitygrants@dutchessny.gov. An application is available at www.dutchessny.gov/SrPropRehab.

YET ANOTHER SCAM

Scammers are relentless, but so is the Office for the Aging – and we’re counting on you to help. Share OFA scam prevention information with friends and neighbors of all ages, especially if they’re not online.

At www.dutchessny.gov/scamprevention, you can find a printable Scam Prevention Resources flyer, updated this month to include information on how to report scams and scam attempts involving U.S. Mail.

It’s important to report scams and scam attempts to the relevant authorities. Your individual scam report may not seem like it could be effective; but combined with other scam reports, investigators can sometimes zero in on patterns that help them find suspects.

“But I’m embarrassed. I was so gullible.”

There’s no such thing as “gullible” when it comes to scams. Any of us can slip up on any given day, and that’s what scammers count on; in fact, some of scammers’ favorite marks are people who think they’re savvy and can’t be scammed. If a scammer finds one victim in a thousand tries, that’s a success in the scammers’ world. Blasting out millions of scam emails, texts and auto-dialed phone calls costs them virtually nothing.

By reporting a scam, you help protect the community from future scams. Your scam report is combined with

thousands of other reports; and from this, investigators can sometimes focus on likely suspects.

WINTER 2024-25 ‘THRIVE60+’ NOW AVAILABLE

The Winter 2024-25 edition of the Office for the Aging’s quarterly newsletter THRIVE60+ is now available. You can see the newsletter online by going to www.dutchessny.gov/THRIVE60. You’ll also find back issues going back to 2022.

You can become a regular email subscriber to OFA newsletters by signing up at www.dutchessny.gov/DutchessDelivery, which you can also use to subscribe to alerts and newsletters from other Dutchess County Government departments. Our weekly Aging News newsletter is emailed every Friday.

If you have subscribed to receive a print copy of THRIVE60+ through regular mail, you should receive it by mid-December. Once printed, newsletters will also be distributed at all Dutchess County public libraries.

For those who don’t have internet access and want to be on our mailing list, contact OFA at 845-486-2555 during business hours. We do not share or sell our mailing lists. Email OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones at bjones@dutchessny.gov for changes of address, or if you no longer wish to receive printed OFA newsletters.

‘FRIENDLY CALLS’ DECEMBER VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

With OFA’s “Friendly Calls” program, you can choose to make phone calls to older adults at risk of social isolation, or you can choose to receive calls - or you can do both. For those of you who haven’t volunteered before and are exploring your possibilities, “Friendly Calls” can be ideal. A typical “Friendly Calls” series takes place once a week, for

20-30 minutes a call, for eight weeks.

Upcoming “Friendly Calls” orientations at OFA headquarters at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 12/17, 10:00am

Monday 12/30, 1:30pm

To schedule your orientation – they last about an hour – here at our Poughkeepsie office, call 845-486-2555 during business hours, or email ledgar@dutchessny.gov.

“Friendly Calls” volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

OFA HOMEBOUND VACCINATION PROGRAM - NOW THROUGH JAN. 31

Are you a homebound older Dutchess County resident, or the caregiver for one?

If the homebound individual in question is unable to get a COVID booster and/or influenza vaccine through traditional channels due to their condition, OFA can help. Our staff can arrange for in-home vaccinations, while supplies last, through Friday, January 31st, 2025.

Contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.gov to find out more.

For the purposes of this program, “homebound” is defined as an individual who is unable to leave home due to physical limitations, cognitive impairment, other chronic conditions, a lack of transportation, visual impairments, and without caregivers available to get the individual in question to a vaccination provider in person.

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

MORE THAN 50K TICKETS ISSUED DURING STATEWIDE THANKSGIVING ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION

Governor Kathy Hochul’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) on Dec. 6 announced law enforcement agencies throughout the State issued 50,466 tickets for various vehicle and traffic law violations, including 1,705 tickets for impaired driving, during a statewide mobilization during the busy Thanksgiving travel period. This is a 42-percent increase over the 35,508 violations issued during the 2023 Thanksgiving enforcement campaign.

Sobriety checkpoints and increased patrols to deter, identify and arrest impaired drivers, were conducted throughout the campaign by State and local law enforcement officers. The statewide initiative is funded, annually, by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee.

State Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said, “Through these enforcements we are not trying to deter festivities, but rather encourage responsible celebrations. Planning for a safe ride home, staying alert and building extra time into your

schedule to get to your destination, are just a few ways drivers can help protect everyone on our roads. These are simple steps that can truly save lives.”

As part of the enforcement, law enforcement officers also targeted speeding and aggressive drivers across the State. Below is a breakdown of the total tickets that were issued.

Impaired Driving: 1,705
Distracted Driving: 1,702
Move Over: 483
Speeding: 10,078
Seatbelt: 2,812
Other Violations: 33,686
Grand Total: 50,466

New Yorkers struggling with an addiction, or whose loved ones are struggling, can find help and hope by calling the State’s toll-free, 24-hour, 7-day-a-week HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or by texting HOPENY (Short Code 467369).

For more information about GTSC, visit <https://trafficsafety.ny.gov/>, or follow the GTSC conversation at Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter).

First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley 1576 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Join Us!
Christmas Eve Service
Lessons, carols, and candlelight

7:00 p.m. in person
OR Zoom at
Meeting # 380 532 465
Password 6353289

Are you raising a grandchild, young relative or child of a family friend in the absence of the biological parents?

Then you’re a Kinship Caregiver!



Want to keep your family healthy and safe?

NYS Kinship Navigator can help.

NYS Kinship Navigator provides information, referral and assistance with financial needs, legal options, school enrollment, kinship law and other resources.

Help is just a phone call away.

877-454-6463

TTY: NY Relay 711 or 800-421-1220

nysnavigator.org



'Housing Listening Tour' for Serino begins at FDR historic site in Hyde Park



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino recently began her "Housing Listening Tour." The recent roundtable discussion was held at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park. Serino is pictured with (from left) Sabrina Marzouka, Commissioner of Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services, Paul Hesse, Community Development Coordinator, Gail Padalino, Community Development Administrator, and Eoin Wrafter, Commissioner of Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development. *Courtesy photo by Dutchess County Government*

Joined by nearly a dozen housing developers and service providers, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino kicked off her "Housing Listening Tour" last month at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park to learn more about how the County can be a supportive partner in efforts to build more affordable housing to meet the growing needs of the community.

"This conversation was just the beginning," continued Serino. "We are committed to working with developers, service providers and community leaders to create practical, innovative solutions to meet the diverse housing needs across Dutchess County."

The roundtable was attended by representatives from numerous organizations, including the James J. Sullivan Corporation, Community Housing Innovations, RUPCO, Dakota Partners Mental Health America (MHA) Dutchess, Emyprean Fields Corporation and Hudson Todd. Discussions centered on overcoming barriers to housing development and identifying actionable solutions to support residents and expand affordable housing options.

Key issues highlighted included:

- **Land and Infrastructure Costs:** Participants cited high land prices and inadequate water and sewer infrastructure as significant hurdles.
- **Regulatory and Financial Barriers:** Developers emphasized the need for streamlined approval processes at the local level, tax incentives and financial models that reduce pre-development risks.
- **Public Perception:** Stakeholders discussed the importance of educating communities about the distinctions

between affordable housing, supportive housing and market-rate housing to combat stigma and garner public support.

- **Workforce and Innovation:** The need for workforce development and innovative construction methods was a recurring theme. The discussion included how to leverage the County's Housing Trust Fund to support smaller developers.

"We appreciate the feedback we received from developers, which reinforced our understanding of the challenges around developing affordable housing. We look forward to continued collaboration with developers, fellow funders, and municipalities" said Commissioner of Planning & Development Eoin Wrafter.

The County plans to open a new round of funding applications through the Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing and will use feedback from the roundtable discussions to support developers and service providers.

Serino first announced the start of a 'Housing Listening Tour' in her 2025 Executive Budget Address in November, when she noted the County's plan to meet with housing developers and stakeholders, major employers, municipal leaders, school superintendents and others.

"Ensuring everyone has access to safe, affordable housing is a priority for Dutchess County, but we know we can't do it alone," said Serino. "This roundtable gave us an opportunity to listen, collaborate and begin identifying solutions that meet the unique needs of our residents and communities. There's no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to building affordable housing, and we know that every community is different when it comes to its housing needs."

In Memoriam: Clara Lou Gould 'loved the City of Beacon'

continued from cover

"She was a wonderful woman. She worked very hard for the City of Beacon. She loved the City of Beacon," stated Forman.

"She was very active, other than being mayor of Beacon," said Barrack, during the meeting. "We're going to miss her terribly."

Her life before public service

Gould graduated from the College of New Rochelle, in Westchester County. Before her career in politics, Gould went on to work in New York City for Viking Press and Harold Ober Associates. While working in New York City, she worked with mystery author Agatha Christie.

Gould married Texaco Research Center chemist Bob Gould in 1954. It was in 1960 that the couple moved to Beacon where Gould would become involved with the former Highland Hospital, off Delavan Ave., and chaired the Highland Hospital Auxiliary, according to Forman.

Gould also became a member of the Tioronda Garden Club, and eventually became the club's president. She was also a District Director of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, stated Forman.

"The Tioronda Garden Club joins in mourning the passing of former City of Beacon Mayor and Garden Club member Clara Lou Gould. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time," read a post on The Tioronda Garden Club's Facebook page.

The future mayor, noted Forman, also served on the Beacon Beautification Committee and on the board of directors of the Fishkill National Bank for many years.

Gould's years as mayor

Gould was elected to her first term as mayor in 1989. All five seats on the Council at that time were filled by Republicans. According to Forman, the City's Charter was substantially modified to a "Strong Mayor" form of government. It was during her administration that the first City Administrator was appointed. Gould and former City Administrator Joseph Braun served until her retirement in 2007. Gould won re-election in 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003.

Kyriacou said, "Clara Lou was my mayor. I got on the Council in 1993." He noted the City Charter vote was in 1989, and the first election under the new system was in 1991.

"I will always refer to Clara Lou as 'Mayor,'" said Kyriacou, who noted he visited her in November to invite her to the recent grand opening of the new central City of Beacon fire station, but she was unable to attend.

Forman noted Gould negotiated a revised water and sewer contract with the New York State Department of Corrections. A water filtration plant opened and that led to the lifting of a new commercial development moratorium. She also oversaw the 1997 building and combination of the City of Municipal Building at its current location at Municipal Plaza.

"Clara Lou had a marvelous vision for Beacon -- and she never wavered in making decisions that she thought were in the city's best interest. When she was first elected, Main Street was suffering. And I guess you could say that the whole city

suffered as a result. But she saw more than boarded up buildings and abandoned factories. She saw great architectural charm, she saw the potential for work/life spaces, she saw our magnificent setting between river and mountain -- and she saw the strong sense of community that existed here," said Denise VanBuren, a friend of Gould's and president of the Beacon Historical Society.

Gould also made sure the next generation knew about government and its citizens' responsibility to participate in government. She read to 5th graders in the Beacon City School District and held Senior Tea with Beacon High School students. Forman noted that Gould was asked one time by a student if it was possible for a boy to become mayor.

Dia Beacon remembers Gould

Jessica Morgan is the current director of the Dia Art Foundation. Dia Beacon is located in the former Nabisco factory building. Gould was instrumental in bringing Dia Beacon to Beacon. According to Forman, in 2003 this accomplishment kick-started the migration of artists, families, art-related businesses, restaurants and other commercial attractions to Beacon. This reinvigorated Main St. continues today.

"Dia-- it was not a straightforward process," said Kyriacou, everyone "was looking for what was the vision going forward."

"There were times we weren't sure it was going to happen. Clara Lou was one of those people who made sure to "keep pushing and would go through," Forman explained.

"We were deeply saddened to hear of Clara Lou Gould's passing [last] week. Clara was a powerhouse and a deeply beloved leader in the Beacon community. She was instrumental in Beacon's transformation to the lively town it is today, and was crucial in bringing our dreams for Dia Beacon alive. We will be forever grateful for her support and send our condolences to her family and her many friends," Morgan said in a statement to the Northern Dutchess News.

Honoring the longest-serving mayor in NYS history

During former mayor Randy Casale's administration, Gould was honored with a plaque and bench outside of the Municipal Building on her 92nd birthday in 2019. When she retired, Gould was the longest-serving female mayor in the state.

"She was a very humble mayor. 'You cannot imagine how much you get done if you don't care who gets credit,' that was her motto," stated Forman. He said Gould never jumped in front of cameras but was always working behind the scenes.

VanBuren said, "In her calm, quiet way, she led Beacon forward -- she did it largely by encouraging people like Ron and Ronnie Beth Sauers, who were willing to invest when others neglected their buildings or simply walked away. She did it by strongly supporting code enforcement to bring buildings to a safe state. She did it by encouraging groups like the Historical Society and the Garden Club to flourish. She did it by encouraging a sense of "possibilities" in all of us who love Beacon. She was, in every sense of the word, a community servant."

"Clara Lou, we will miss you," said Kyriacou.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

The first nationwide three-digit mental health crisis hotline is up and running. It is designed to be as easy to remember as 911, but when you dial 988, a dispatcher will connect callers with trained mental health counselors.

Dialing 988:

- Is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress.
- Provides support: People may dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.
- Help for VETERANS: Veterans can press "1" after dialing 988 and be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.



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



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Through Dec. 14: Dutchess Handmade Holiday Pop-Up Shop, Arts Mid-Hudson, 696 Dutchess Turnpike Suite F, Poughkeepsie. Featuring unique creations from more than 65 artists and makers from the Hudson Valley, including locally made glass, jewelry, greeting cards, textiles, ceramics, wood products, prints, paintings, home decorating items and more. Open Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (845) 454-3222 or <https://www.artsmidhudson.org/>

Through Dec. 21: Festive Holiday Tours, Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., Beacon. Tour the Dutch Colonial home of the Verplanck family. The site's historic rooms will be decorated in different styles: opulent Victorian style décor adorning the dining room; charming, rustic decor in the study; contemporary holiday displays embellishing the home's main room. Adding to the twinkle of holiday decorations, the museum's collection of fine decorative pieces will contribute to the home's comfort and cheer. Holiday tours Dec. 11-15 & Dec. 18-21. Tours on all days will be offered at noon, 1 & 2 p.m. Reservations are preferred but walk-ins will be welcomed if space allows. Admission is \$12 adult; \$10 senior; \$8 youngsters (6-18 years of age). Children under 6 and Mount Gulian members are free. Call (845) 831-8172 or email at info@mountgulian.org to make reservations.

Through Dec. 21: The 16th Millbrook Library Holiday Silent Auction, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook. The silent auction will run from in the library's upstairs gallery. The auction's closing celebration will be held at the library from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 21, with final bids accepted no later than 4 p.m. that day. These events are free and open to all. For more information visit <https://millbrooklibrary.org/holiday-silent-auction/>.



Rik Lopes as Bob Cratchit and the late Lou Trapani as Scrooge in a performance of "A Christmas Carol" at The Center. Courtesy photo

Through Dec. 22: "A Christmas Carol," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Celebrate the holiday season with Charles Dickens' classic tale, brought to life with timeless Christmas carols. Perfect for audiences of all ages. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Special Matinee: Sat., Dec. 21, 3 p.m. Tickets \$25. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Through Dec. 22: Dinner Theater "A Christmas Carol" presented by Theatre on the Road. Experience the joy of Christmas as you're invited to feast with the Cratchit family including Bob, Mrs. Cratchit, Belinda and everyone's favorite - Tiny Tim. In scenes right out of Dickens' classic book, you'll be treated to visits from Ebenezer Scrooge, his Nephew Fred, the Man of Goodwill, the ghost of Jacob Marley and the three spirits of Christmas. In addition, holiday carolers will entertain at your table. Suitable for the entire family. Tickets at www.theatreontheroad.com or call the venues where phone numbers are provided. Schedule: Wed., Dec. 11, The Beekman Arms, Rhinebeck, 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 15, Restaurant Six at Curry Estate, Hopewell Junction, 4 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 18: The Venue Uptown at the Best Western, Kingston, 7 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 19 & Fri., Dec. 20: Buttermilk Falls Inn, Milton, 6 p.m.; Sat. Dec. 21, Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 216 Foordmore Rd., Kerhonkson, noon; Sat., Dec. 21, Hudson House Distillery, West Park, 7 p.m. (845) 834-6007. Sun., Dec. 22, The Eldred Preserve, Eldred, 7 p.m.

Through Dec. 29: Holiday Tours, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Festive yuletide decor by florists and other local businesses will be featured through the mansion. This guided tour includes the landscape, exterior of the mansion, first and second floors, and video. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased upon arrival. Arrive about 15 minutes early, as space on each tour is limited. Tours on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays at noon, 1, 2 & 3 p.m. (845) 876-4818 or <https://wilderstein.org/>

Through Dec. 29: The Wonderland of Lights, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. A holiday attraction for the entire family. Immerse yourself in holiday cheer as you drive through hundreds of expertly crafted lights displays accompanied by festive sounds of the season. Hours: Dec. 12-29 from 5-9 p.m. (open until 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays). Monday, Dec. 16, will be a sensory-friendly version of The Wonderland of Lights. During that night's show, the animation will be turned off and the lights will be static. Since the accompanying music is fed into each car individually, the volume can be raised or lowered, or it can be turned off altogether. <https://www.thewonderlandoflights.com/>

Dec. 13: Holiday Movie Night PJ Party, Pleasant Valley Town Hall Community Room, 1554 Main St. (Rte. 44), Pleasant Valley. Kids: Grab your PJs and join us at 6 p.m. in the for a magical screening of "The Polar Express." Free admission, but advance registration required. Free popcorn and self-serve hot cocoa station. Register at pvrec.com

Dec. 13: Sensory-friendly Performance of "The Nutcracker," Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Dutchess County invites residents of all abilities and their families to a free, sensory-friendly performance of the holiday classic ballet, "The Nutcracker," presented by the New Paltz Ballet Theatre. The show will be a "no-hush" performance meant to foster an informal, non-judgmental atmosphere where

continued on page 11

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED



LEAPFROG
HOSPITAL
SAFETY
GRADE

Northern Dutchess Hospital

We're on
our **A** game

Northern Dutchess Hospital was awarded the prestigious 'A' grade from The Leapfrog Group, a leading advocate of transparency in healthcare. Leapfrog assigns a letter grade (A-F) to hospitals across the country based on performance of quality and patient safety measures. Achieving an 'A' grade is a significant accomplishment and represents our physicians, nurses and clinical teams' commitment to patient safety and the highest standards of excellence.

Because what matters to you, matters to us.



Creative Living

celebrating all good things

Grace Church in Millbrook to feature two floors of exhibitors at annual holiday bazaar

On Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Grace Church in Millbrook will host their annual St. Nicholas Bazaar, a Fine Craft, Confections, and Holiday Cookie Sale.

The event features two floors of exhibitors showcasing fine crafts for sale, door prizes, festivities, and homemade holiday cookies. The cookies are boxed to stay fresh and will be sold @ \$15 per pound. Each package contains an assortment of festive cookies and candies from the traditional to the decadent. Advance orders are recommended, but not required. Call (845) 677-5174. In addition to the cookies will be jams, breads, gluten free cookies, chocolates, and candy gifts.

Twenty-five local artists and crafters will be selling their hand crafted items including pottery, maple syrup, sugar

scrubs, jewelry, leather items, hand dyed yarn, colorful felted gifts, crocheted clothing, blankets, and dolls, aromatherapy oils and balms, colored pencil art, silk flower arrangements, charcuterie boards, crossbody bags and totes, greeting cards, wooden bowls, personalized gift bags, soy candles, goat milk soaps and creams, pet bandannas, and vintage posters.

Admission is free. There will be door prizes. Zantry's food truck will be on site for lunch.

Grace Church is located at 3328 Franklin Avenue, Millbrook. The church is handicap-accessible.

For a complete list of vendors, visit <https://www.gracemillbrook.org/st-nicholas-bazaar.html>. For more information, call the church office at (845) 677-3064.



Pictured are some of the handcrafted items that will be available at Grace Church's annual St. Nicholas Bazaar, set Saturday, Dec. 14, in Millbrook. *Courtesy photos*

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Do it the right way

Is Pop forgetful? Or is he just messing with Luigi's mind?

My father can be very headstrong. Needless to say, he has a certain way of doing things, and it is the only way to do them right. Growing up, I was constantly taught lesson after lesson and, as such, these lessons are permanently stamped in my brain. Many times, when I am preparing something I can hear his voice in the back of my head yelling at me to do it the right way and not take a short cut. Unfortunately, as Pop gets older, he doesn't quite remember the way he taught us.

On day, I was in the process of preparing the ingredients for our Bolognese sauce. It requires grinding veal, beef and pork, seasoning the meat and roasting it for one hour, after which you mix it up in order to blend the meat. As I was grinding the meat, Pop came in and saw what I was doing.

Pop: Hey Luigi, whata are you doing.
 Me: Making Bolognese.
 Pop: Youa doing ita wrong.
 Me: What are you talking about? I'm just grinding the meat.
 Pop: Yes, and you doing ita wrong.
 Me: How could I be doing it wrong? I'm doing it just how you showed me.
 Pop: No, youa changed it. Youa taking a shorta cut.
 Me: No, Pop. There is no shortcut to this. I'm just grinding the meat!
 Pop: You gotta grind all three at the

sama time.
 Me: What? Wait? How? That's impossible. Anyway, you mix it together in the mixing machine after its roasted anyway.
 Pop: Minchia! (Damn!) You see? Another shorta cut.
 Me: How else you want me to mix it?
 Pop: Youa puta it in the bowl and you mix witha you hands.
 Me: But you told me to mix it in the machine.
 Pop: What? Youa think ima stupid?
 Me: No, Pop. (sigh) OK, I'll mix it by hand.
 Pop: What, you thinka because Ima almost 90 yearsa old, I no remember? Ima no dead yet.
 Me: What?! You're 83, Pop. You're not 90.
 Pop: Stopa yelling at me. Ima old man.
 Me: Forget it. You're right. (sigh)

The next day he came in while I was making meatballs. I could see him coming in, and I was ready for him. I put all the ingredients in a bowl and started mixing them by hand.

I saw him looking at me. I made believe I didn't see him. I was trying to act natural, like this was the only way to be making meatballs.

Pop: Whata are you doing?
 Me: Making meatballs.

Pop: Whya you mixing it by hand? Usa the machine!
 Me: Yesterday you had me mix the Bolognese meat by hand.
 Pop: I no tolda you to do that. Thatsa stupid.
 Me: What!?
 Pop: Listen, you no do it the righta way.
 Me: Yes, Pop. But yesterday you told me...
 Pop: You think because Ima 90 years old Ima stupid?
 Me: What?! You're 83, Pop. You're not 90.
 Pop: Stopa yelling at me. Ima old man.
 Me: No, Pop. But you told me...
 Pop: Ima no dead yet. Capisce? (Understand?)
 Me: Yeah, but... OK, forget it. (sigh)

Sometimes, I could swear he does it on purpose just to mess with me. Anyway, enjoy this recipe for Bolognese sauce while I pound my head into the wall.

BOLOGNESE SAUCE

Ingredients

- 3 tblspns. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lb. chopped meatloaf mix
- 1 small onion, diced fine
- 1 jar Coppola's Tuscan Sauce
- 2 cloves garlic, diced fine

- 2 cups dry white wine
- 1/2 cup chicken stock

Method

Put a 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat. When the pan is hot, add the olive oil, onions and garlic; cook for about 2-3 minutes. Add the chopped meatloaf mix and brown. Drain, mix thoroughly, by hand or in a mixing machine (Hah!) and put in a large pot.

Return the pot to the stove and pour in 1 jar of Coppola's Tuscan sauce and one cup of white wine. Pour the other cup of white wine in a glass for you to drink. Add 1/2 cup of chicken stock.

Let simmer for 20 minutes.

Serve with hearty pasta like rigatoni or gnocchi, with a nice loaf of hot crusty Italian bread and, of course, with another glass of wine. *Buono Appetito!*

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

Holiday Happenings

continued from page 9

audience members can experience and respond to the performance in their own way. The Bardavon will adjust both the lighting and sound to make the experience more enjoyable for those on the autism spectrum or who experience sensory concerns. The show starts at 6 p.m.; doors open at 5 p.m., and outside food and drink are not permitted in the theater. Seating is limited, and reservations are required online at dutchessny.gov/nutcracker.

Dec. 14: Annual Cookie Walk Sale, Rhinebeck Reformed Church, 6368 Mill St., Rhinebeck. 9 a.m.-noon. Come early for best selection. Snow Date: Dec. 15, 11 a.m.

Dec. 14: Christmas Concert, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 808 Traver Rd., Pleasant Valley. The Dutchess County Homeschool Orchestra will perform a free concert, 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: Free Christmas Movies & Food Drive, Roosevelt Cinemas, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. Choice of two popular holiday films: "The Polar Express" rated G starring Tom Hanks is a Christmas classic based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg; and "The Muppet Christmas Carol," rated G where the Muppets perform the classic Dickens holiday tale, with Kermit the Frog playing Bob Cratchit. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. when Santa will be on hand to visit with children and both films will begin at 10:15 a.m. Admission is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance from the Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union on Burnett Blvd. in Poughkeepsie, or at the theatre. Please bring non-perishable food items for distribution through a local food pantry.

Dec. 14: Free Holiday Events, the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Home of FDR National Historic Site, Hyde Park. The Museum will be open to visitors free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Home of FDR (Springwood) will have tours available from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There

will be holiday decorations, refreshments and special activities – including the annual Children's Reading Festival and free photo time with Santa – beginning at noon in the Henry A. Wallace Center. More info: Cliff Laube, Roosevelt Library, (845) 486-7745; or Franceska Macsali Urbin, National Park Service, (845) 489-8513.

Dec. 14: Ornament Hunt with Santa, Friends Park, Clinton Corners. 11 a.m.

Sponsored by the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department. eastclintonfd.com

Dec. 14: Pet Photos with Santa, Ulster Savings Bank's Hyde Park Branch, 4240 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9). Pet Photo session with Santa, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the Dutchess County SPCA with a suggested donation of \$10. On hand from the community will be Dirt Road Designs by Roe featuring gifts

for pets and pet lovers; the DCSPCA will have information on pet adoption and pet care; and The Bully Cookie Jar will feature locally made healthy dog and pet treats. There will also be a collection of needed pet supplies for the DCSPCA.

Dec. 14: Red Hook Fire Company Parade of Lights. Parade kicks off at 6 p.m. from the Red Hook Firehouse and will

continued on page 16

Join us for Red Hook's
 4th Annual
 Christmas
 Parade of Lights
 Saturday, December 14th at 6:00PM

Parade Route: Start Red Hook Firehouse - Firehouse Lane to Red Hook Estates, then Route 9 thru Village to Park Avenue, to Linden Avenue, through Linden Acres and up to College Park where the parade ends.

SCAN FOR MAP OF PARADE ROUTE
 This ad courtesy Baright Associates

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	1		3	6		7		
2				5			3	
7	5							3
8	3						6	2
9							7	1
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

4		3	5		
		1			
					3
5	3				

© 2023 krazydad.com

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

ACROSS

- Combat vehicle
- Semi
- *Biathlon gear, sing.
- Keiko of "Free Willy"
- *Ashi Waza and jugodi sport
- Audience's approval
- Tandoori bread
- Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones"
- Röntgen beams
- *Warning track sport
- Monetary "thank you," pl.
- Indigo dye shrubs
- "Arabian Nights" bird
- Destroyer
- Danced to certain Polish music
- Crematorium container
- One without magic powers in Harry Potter stories
- Largest volcano in Europe
- Do nothing (2 words)
- Singer Yoko
- Be at the helm
- Tropical tuber
- *Player who delivers in a crucial sports moment
- Recipe qty.
- Display proudly (2 words)
- Smells
- Lake, in France
- Clean a spill (2 words)
- #8 Across, pl.
- *Cornerback and direct snap sport
- Russian pancake
- Pasta option
- Go cold turkey
- *Reward for multiple sports championships, pl.
- "Breaking Bad" victim
- The Beehive State
- King Kong, e.g.
- Type of lightbulb, acr.
- Spooky

DOWN

- Boatload
- Riyadh native
- *Collegiate sports grp.
- Topeka native
- Not urban
- Short poems of pastoral life
- *Hockey score
- *Powerful shot in hockey
- 11th letter of Roman alphabet, pl.
- Elvis' "____ Now or Never"
- White and black stork
- Glorify
- *Gully and deep mid wicket sport
- Foe
- Fish eggs
- Corrodes
- Heap of "David Copperfield"
- Preface
- Scheme
- Mr. T's TV show "The ____"
- Olden days constipation treatment
- *Bag of nails and baby ton sport
- *Eagle and mulligan sport
- African migrator
- *Turkey and split sport
- Woody perennial
- Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
- He gets a flag?
- Reprieve in a desert
- Not light-transmitting
- Dots and dashes code
- Did like goo
- Women's underskirt
- Plural of cow, arch.
- *Sports transgression
- Plucked string instrument
- Pinocchio, e.g.
- Type of undergarment
- Olden day "your"

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
15					16				17			
	18			19					20			
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35			36			37				38		
39					40				41		42	
43				44					45	46		
				47				48	49			
	50	51				52				53	54	
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 16

The Surveyors of Dutchess County

By Aidan Chisamore

“Mark well the land, for it is our most valuable asset.”

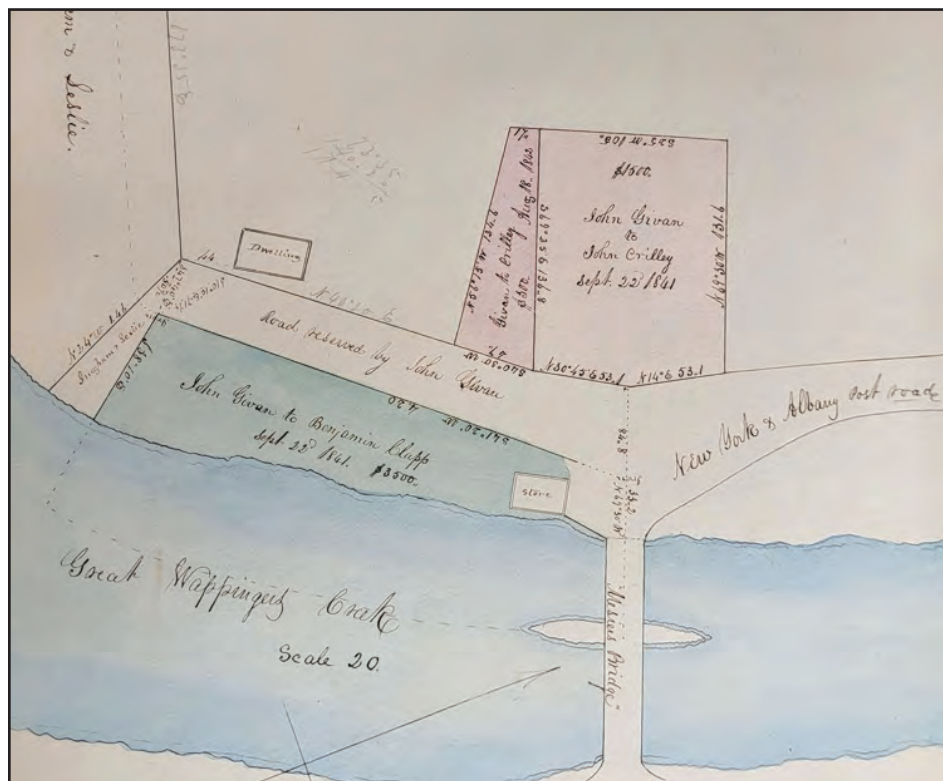
This quotation is commonly attributed to George Washington. While it remains uncertain whether the President actually uttered these words, the association underscores the crucial role of land surveying in pre-modern America. Land surveying, or the process of measuring and establishing property boundaries, was once a respected profession for the educated elite in America, lasting until the late nineteenth century. Many of the Founding Fathers, including Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, were surveyors themselves. Dutchess County’s land surveyors reflected these important social and political roles. One of the best examples of surveying in the county is found in the expansive Van Vliet Collection, held in the archives of the Dutchess County Historical Society. This collection offers a rich personal and communal history of land surveying, containing hundreds of letters, maps, and survey notes. These documents reveal a prominent, multigenerational, and inter-familial system that operated in the local area into the late nineteenth century, showcasing land surveying within the Van Vliet family as both an artistic endeavor and an expression of family memory.

To understand Van Vliet family surveying, it is essential to first look to their immediate neighbors. Located in the area of Pleasant Plains in the Town of Clinton, the Van Vliet home bordered the Spencer family farm on Rymph Road, where Milea Estate Vineyards now sits. Dozens of letters between the two families reveal personal connections that included life-

long friendships, shared holidays, and frequent gifts. It was through the Spencer family that the Van Vliets were introduced to mathematical systems and surveying procedures.

The first known surveyor in the Spencer family was Reuben Spencer, Sr. (1754-c.1806). During the Revolutionary War, Spencer served as a captain in the Fourth Regiment of Dutchess. Helena Van Vliet, writing in “Early Land Surveying in Clinton: A Bicentennial Review” (1976), noted that Spencer was a land surveyor “of more than local repute.” She also claimed that he joined Washington on the president’s survey expeditions to the Ohio Territory. While it is unlikely that the young Spencer participated in Washington’s surveys, Helena Van Vliet’s article highlights the significant social status of land surveyors. It also helped connect the Van Vliet family’s surveying heritage directly to Washington.

Despite Spencer’s prominent role in family memory, it was his son, Reuben Spencer, Jr. (1774-1864), who brought surveying to the Van Vliet family. In a letter to Henry R. Van Vliet (1833-1914) dated 1855, Spencer, Jr. recounts that his father encouraged him to pursue surveying, even financing his education at an academy in Kingston, the best in the state. After completing his studies, Spencer, Jr. worked as a navigator for several years before settling in the village of Hyde Park, where he established a surveying business. By the 1820s, he expanded his operations to include a boarding school for aspiring navigators and surveyors. Advertisements in the Poughkeepsie Journal from the early 1820s promoted the school as offering



Page from a hardbound book of Maps by George Van Vliet, 1841. DCHS’s Archives and Special Collections, Van Vliet Collection

“various branches of English education,” specializing in “practical mathematics.” These advertisements underscore Spencer’s legacy as an educator, training the next generation of Dutchess County surveyors. A role which Spencer also assumed in his interactions with the Van Vliet family.

Spencer’s first pupil was George Van Vliet, whether through private tutoring or attendance at the new boarding school. After his time with Spencer, Van Vliet became a county surveyor who ran a business on Main Street in Poughkeepsie. During his career, George worked with prominent civil engineers, such as Henry Winfield, and became a well-known name throughout the county. Indeed, his reputation grew such that when he sold an old set of surveying instruments in 1846, the buyer George B. Lent used them as his primary method of advertising his new surveying business in issues of the Poughkeepsie Eagle. Throughout Van Vliet’s life, he produced numerous maps and surveys, many of which drew directly from Spencer’s work. These documents represented numerous sites across the county in visually stunning, hand-drawn, and painted maps (see photo, above).

While he had successful pupils, Spencer’s boarding school was short-lived. The surveyor relocated his business to Poughkeepsie in late 1823, and again in 1828 to New York City, where he was appointed Surveyor of the City and County of New York. By the early 1840s, Spencer had retired from his work in New York City and moved to Little Rockfish, North Carolina. Despite the distance and his advancing age, Spencer continued to visit and correspond with the Van Vliet family in “Old Dutchess.” During one such visit in 1853, Spencer met Levi Van Vliet’s son, Henry R. Van Vliet. Recognizing his potential as a surveyor, Spencer wrote a strongly worded letter of recommendation to the Claverack Academy.

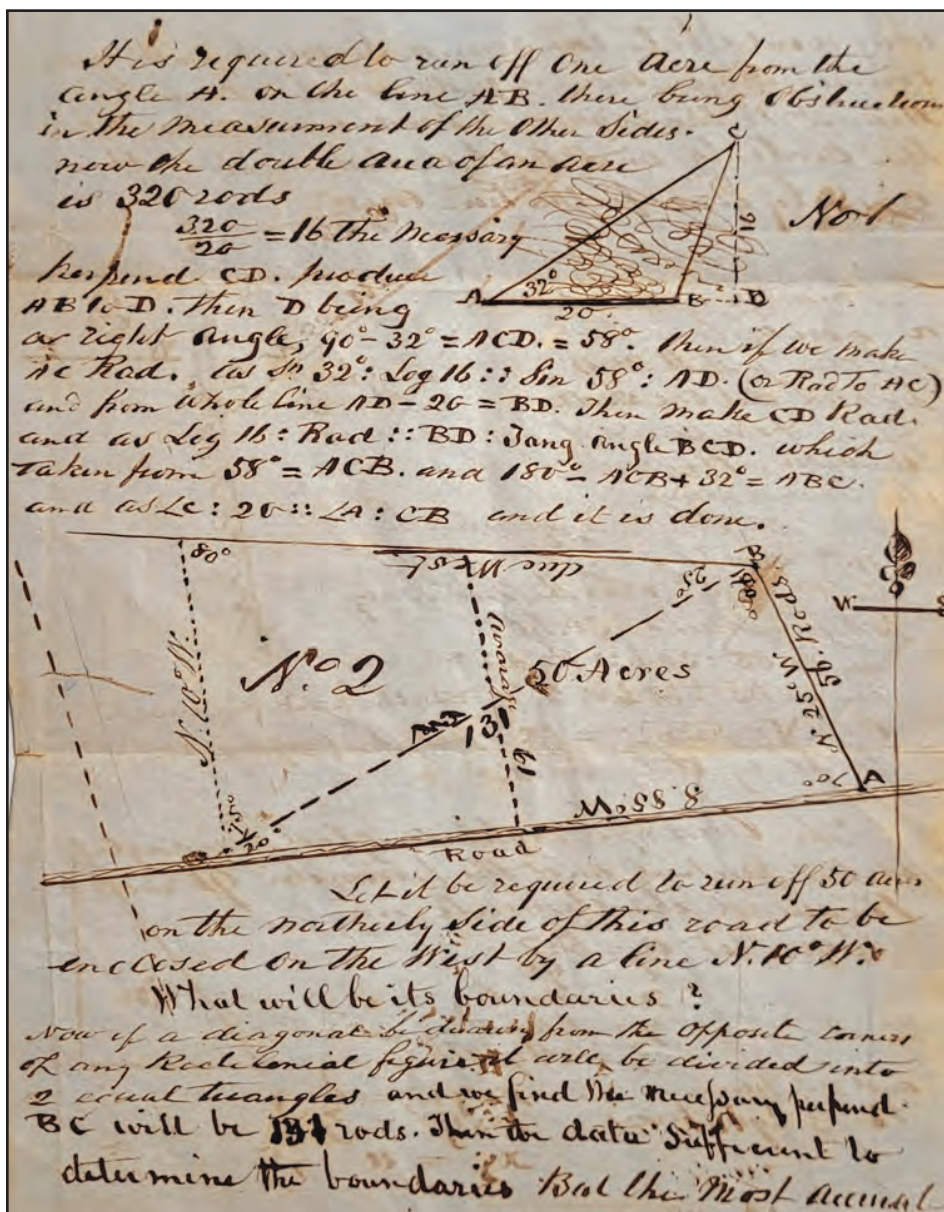
When the Academy rejected Henry later that year, Spencer and the young Van Vliet began a long series of correspondences. In these letters, Spencer offered advice on securing a surveying position, discussed the moral and practical value of surveying, and tested Henry with practical math problems (see

photo, left). These letters clearly show Spencer’s belief in Henry’s potential as a surveyor. Indeed, as Spencer wrote in his last correspondence to Henry in February 1856, “You must become the county surveyor for Dutchess County.” Moreover, this correspondence emphasized the value of surveying, highlighting the moral and ethical responsibilities of the position. Spencer claimed these responsibilities derived from religious and legal authority.

Though Henry Van Vliet did eventually attend the Academy, he did not pursue surveying full-time. Instead, he took over his father’s farm and only practiced surveying as a secondary occupation. Nevertheless, these educational exchanges left a lasting impact on Henry, who remained in contact with the Spencer family until Reuben Spencer’s death in 1864.

Returning to the quotation attributed to Washington, we are reminded why this analysis of two surveying families is significant to the broader history of our county. Most notably, we think of the lasting visual remnant in maps and survey minutes that delineate property boundaries and physical features—items that took great effort and time to create, and which progressed beyond their practical roles, becoming works of art. This study seeks to understand the people who created these documents, so we may gain a deeper understanding of the land they depicted and the choices they made in depicting them. By examining these artistic expressions, linked through personal connections, we glimpse a shared understanding of Dutchess County throughout the nineteenth century, and we can begin to critically analyze how the county has been visually represented. I am grateful to Martin Bayard, a local land surveyor, who inspired me to write about surveying. I am indebted to his deep knowledge of the subject.

Aidan Chisamore is part of DCHS’s staff. He works in Collections and Archives and may be reached at aidan.chisamore@dchsn.org.



Letter: Mathematical problems included in a letter from Reuben Spencer, Little Rockfish, NC, to Henry Van Vliet, 1855. DCHS’s Archives and Special Collections, Van Vliet Collection



The Winter Solstice: When the Aztecs celebrated their bounty from floating farms

The Aztecs were one of many world cultures that marked the winter solstice as a day of renewal. The Ancients noticed that the sun (who the Aztecs worshiped as a god) appears to move through the sky at different angles throughout the year. But, during the solstice period, little shadow is cast on a sundial. The sun seems to “stand still” ... or, as the Aztecs believed, their Sun God died. (Editor’s note: The word “solstice” derives from the Latin words *sol* for “sun” and *sistere* for “to stand still.”)

Millions of Mexica (Aztec people) celebrated the Sun God’s “rebirth” with festivities as they rejoiced in the new cycle. The Aztec Empire (1345-1521 CE) was located in Mesoamerica, a region encompassing most of modern-day Mexico, which is entirely in (our) Northern Hemisphere. At its peak, the Aztec Empire spanned around 80,000 square miles, encompassing a population of roughly 5 to 6 million people, making it one of the largest empires in the New World. Growing enough food to feed their urban populations was paramount, and many were involved in planting, cultivating, and harvesting the food.

The Aztecs farmed sustainably

To maximize their crop yields, the Aztecs used *chinampas*. They drove stakes into shallow lake beds and weaved reeds around them to create fenced enclosures. The enclosures were filled with mud and decaying vegetation dredged from the lake bottom, to create small, artificial islands for farming on the water’s surface. This method allowed them to cultivate crops in nutrient-rich lake soil, while managing water levels through a system of canals. The “floating gardens” were so effective that they continue to be used in the Xochimilco area of Mexico City.

Chinampas provide a place for healthy microorganisms to thrive, which helps trap particles, break down debris, and fil-

ter water. Plants add oxygen to the water, which helps to support fish and other aquatic life, which eat mosquitoes and their larvae, reducing the need for pesticides. The practice reduces the rate of evaporation, which helps to conserve water. And, of course, since water is on site, the need for irrigation is mitigated.

Could *chinampas* be a farming method in the Hudson Valley?

In researching this column, I discovered the work of Roland Ebel, the coordinator of the Sustainable Food Systems Program at Montana State University. According to Dr. Ebel, “regions in NY with access to natural wetlands, ponds, or rivers with low streams can be suitable for *chinampas*. However, certain criteria need to be met: The constitution of raised beds requires nutrient-rich, unpolluted water. The water must be free of pathogens, with a neutral to slightly alkaline pH of 6.5–8. Excessive water salinity from groundwater or de-icing salts must be avoided. Waterways that get frozen on a regular basis are not convenient. High water turbidity is also problematic, as it decreases the water’s biological activity. There are certainly locations in NY that meet all these criteria.”

Much to my surprise, Dr. Ebel explained that our “climate is not a limiting factor, although strategies would need to be developed to protect the raised beds from heavy snow.” What may be a limiting factor, however, is that constructing raised beds requires significant labor, materials, time, and expertise. Also, although *chinampas* are a “highly sustainable and productive agricultural production method, they require landscape modifications, which may not be aligned with existing environmental standards and regulations in specific areas.” They are most effective for small-scale or urban horticulture and could accommodate any annual plant



Winter Sun as viewed from a 2022 winter location in Dutchess County. Photo by Robert Rightmyer, Valley Visions

currently grown outdoors in NY. Growing vegetables, herbs, medicinal plants, and ornamentals on *chinampas* is most common.

Huitzilopochtli’s Birthday

Huitzilopochtli was the Aztec’s Lord of the Sun. The winter solstice marked the end of autumn, when the sun seemed weak. It was Huitzilopochtli’s birthday; a time of great celebration. The Mexica believed that the Sun completed its celestial journey on the solstice, died, and was then transformed into a hummingbird and resurrected. Each year the Aztecs celebrated and were grateful for the year’s harvest and encouraged Huitzilopochtli to grow strong for another harvest year. (See [https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/AMARANTH-COLOR-COD-](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/AMARANTH-COLOR-COD-ING-WINTER-SOLSTICE-ACTIVITY-6372360)

[ING-WINTER-SOLSTICE-ACTIVITY-6372360](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/AMARANTH-COLOR-COD-ING-WINTER-SOLSTICE-ACTIVITY-6372360) for Winter Solstice science activity.)

The winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere occurs when the North Pole reaches its maximum tilt away from the Sun. The next solstice will occur on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 4:21 a.m., EST.

Francine Wizner is a native of the Hudson Valley. She grew up in the Catskills of Greene County and spent over 3 decades teaching in Ulster County. She creates science-themed instructional materials and books, as well as being a Citizen Scientist in the management of her current home in an enchanted woodland of Dutchess County. Find her at <https://www.gertrudekatzchronicles.com/> and <https://www.pleasantvalleymaplelodging.com/>

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--HELD OVER--

MOANA 2 ^{PG}

WICKED ^{PG}

RED ONE ^{PG-13}

MOANA 2 ^{PG}

WICKED ^{PG}

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EXHIBITIONS

Art Gallery 71, 71 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through Jan. 5:** "American Landscapes," a collection of works by this month's guest featured artist, Bennet Harris Horowitz. Horowitz explores the pictorial tension between flat geometry and the illusion of space in his large, colorful landscape paintings. www.artgallery71.com

Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main St., Beacon. **Through January 2025:** "The True Story of Bannerman's Island," Bannerman Castle Trust's 30th anniversary exhibition featuring fine art, historic & contemporary photographs, Bannerman Island antiques & artifacts. www.bannermancastle.org

CO, 6571 Spring Brook Ave. (Rte. 9), Rhinebeck. **Through Dec. 13:** "Axial Dakini Drawing with paint," exhibition featuring Guggenheim Fellow and local artist/poet/musician George Quasha.

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 27:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. will be Lala Montoya, and at 12 Vassar St., John McGiff will showcase his work in the Hancock Gallery and Logan Lapointe will be featured in the Reception Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Feb. 2, 2025:** "Reproductive: Health, Fertility, Agency," an exhibition that brings together diverse artistic perspectives to address critical issues including birth, miscarriage, pleasure, access to abortion, trauma, and the loss of fertility. Through a range of media and approaches, the artists provide a space for reflection and dialogue on these vital topics, challenging viewers to engage with the complexities of reproductive experiences and the pursuit of agency. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/thelob>

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

Hyde Park Library Annex, 2 Main St., Hyde Park. **Through December:** Wildlife Photography by Daniel Schoonmaker from September to December. Proceeds from the sale of the photos will benefit the library's accessibility project. (845) 229-7791

LAND Gallery, 30 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling. **Through Dec. 30:** Holiday Show, new photographs by Jane Haslam, Phyllis Chadwick, Linda T. Hubbard and Rebecca Tocci, as well as handcrafted woodwork by Ed Bryan, handmade soap by Genevieve St Louis Jan, jewelry by Karen Ostrom and pottery by Ann Heywood. www.landgalleryonline.com

Pictured: "Snow Angel Tree" by Phyllis Chadwick. *Courtesy photo*



Mildred I. Washington Gallery, Dutchess Community College, 53 Pendell Rd., Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 13:** "The Art of Tarot," an exhibit commemorating the life, art and writing of longtime Rhinebeck resident Rachel Pollack. (845) 431-8612

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Dec. 21:** Annual Holiday Show, exhibiting handmade gift items in a variety of media including jewelry, prints, paintings, ceramics, cards, ornaments, small works and handcrafted pieces. **Closing Cookie Reception:** Sat., Dec. 21, 4-6 p.m. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com.

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. **Through Dec. 22:** "Spirit of the Season: A Small Works Exhibition," small gifts created by local artists Suzanne Bonser, Elinor Levy, Nikki Hung and Kat Spontak. (845) 293-3660 or info@womenswork.art

A & E CALENDAR

Dec. 12: Historical Presentation: "Queen City in Flux: Three Centuries of Growth and Loss in Poughkeepsie," Lateef Islam Auditorium, Family Partnership Center, 29 N. Hamilton St., Poughkeepsie. Historian Shannon Butler will explore the history of Poughkeepsie, from the earliest Dutch and English settlers in Poughkeepsie, who built small stone houses; to the modern construction of the One Dutchess apartments that were built in 2019, and all the change that occurred during that time period, 6:30 p.m. More info at poklib.org or email sbutler@poklib.org.

Dec. 13-15: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Dec. 13: Laugh It Up Presents Robert Kelly, 8 p.m. Tickets \$35 advance, \$40 day of show. Dec. 14: KJ Denhart Band; with special guest Michele Gedney, 8 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door. Dec. 15: Shakedown Citi, 7 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 door (845) 855-1300 or www.townecrier.com

Dec. 14: "I Love the 80s...to Death" Murder Mystery Theater, River Valley Arts Center, 9 South Mesier Ave., Wappingers Falls. Performance by The Murder Mystery Company. It's the '80s again, and all of the big names are here for a big concert. Tensions run rampant as backstage secrets spill out into the spotlight with like, totally tragic results! This isn't an episode of Miami Vice. This is like...murder. It's up

to you to bust it like a ghost, for sure! Peg your jeans, slouch your socks, flash some neon, put on way too much eyeliner and get that hair up! You are going to solve this crime in style. 6 p.m. Cost: \$50, includes hors d'oeuvres provided by The Jessica Experience. Cash bar will be available. (845) 202-9833 or <https://rivervalleyartscenter.com>

Dec. 14: Movies with Spirit: "Beyond Utopia," Woodstock Reformed Church, 16 Tinker St., Woodstock. Riveting documentary about the lengths people will go to gain freedom, 7 p.m. This suspenseful film follows three families as they try to flee North Korea, a land they grew up believing was a Utopia. Leaving their homeland is fraught with unimaginable danger, yet these individuals are driven to take the risks. The 2023 film, in English and Korean with English subtitles, runs 1 hour 55 minutes and is rated PG-13. The screening will be followed by a discussion. Refreshments will be served. Attendees over age 12 are asked to contribute \$10 a person. More info: (845) 389-9201 or gerryharrington@mindspring.com

Dec. 20: Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Featuring: Rick & Marilyn, Paul Clarke, and more, 8 p.m. Donations to Morton suggested. More info at (845) 876-7007

LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.



WIN A NEW TOYOTA

Saturday, December 28
10pm

Earn Entries All Month Long!

*Actual model and color may vary.



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GENERAC

OBITUARIES

Carla Abarno

Carla Jean Abarno, 68, formerly of Peekskill, NY, passed away peacefully at her home at New Horizons Unionvale on Friday, November 29, 2024.

Born September 9, 1956 in Washington, DC to Charles and Doris Abarno, Carla lived an amazing life. She graduated high school from The Kennedy Institute and spent many years volunteering at Children's Hospital in Washington. With the help of friends and family, she traveled to Disney World and took several cruises.

After moving to NY, she lived semi-independently for 17 years and worked at a Westchester ARC before choosing to "retire". In retirement, she enjoyed living with her friends at Cardinal McCloskey Community Services in Cortlandt Manor and then new Horizons Resources in Union Vale. Carla was particularly happy to spend time with sister, Sharon Abarno McArtin, and her beloved nephews, Alex McArtin and Andrew McArtin, and her "niece-in-law", Carla McArtin.

Carla will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to New Horizons Resources, Inc., 123 West Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 (www.nhrny.org), Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, 115 E. Stevens Ave., Suite LL5, Valhalla, NY 10595 (www.cmcs.org), or Hudson Valley

Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (www.hvhospice.org).

Arrangements are under the direction of McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., Hopewell Junction, NY. For online tributes, please visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Herbert Dam

Herbert (Herbie) Medfield Dam of Pine Plains died on Dec. 1 after a long illness. He was 81.

Dam was born on May 24, 1943, in Sharon, Conn., to Herbert and Alice Dam. Dam grew up in Pine Plains, and remained there until his death.

Dam was a Navy veteran, and later worked as a mechanic and auto body repair person.

Dam is survived by his children, Edward (Hannah Steiner) Daley, Denise (Charles) Seviour, Dolores (Wayne Humes) Daley, Sean (Beatris) Daley and Siobhan (Thomas) Cook; his stepchildren, Tina Conn, Robert Conn, Mike Conn, Amanda Montemorra and Tabitha Montemorra; his grandchildren, including Cherelle Daley, Steven Daley, Ashley Meara, Rebecca Kelly, Cameron Seviour, Amanda Humes, Paul Daley, Anna Daley, Rebekah Daley, Caelan Cook, Teagan Cook, Heather Matta, James Matta, Joshua Matta and Annette Matta; a great-granddaughter, Zahyanna Thomas; and his cousins, Kathy Dam and David Dam.

His wife, Cynthia Dam, died in 2019.

Services with military honors will be held

in the springtime at the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery at a date and time to be announced.

Theresa Fiore

Theresa E. Fiore, 89, of Verbank, NY passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 1, 2024. Theresa retired from the Millbrook Central School District after many years of preparing and serving lunches to hundreds of local children.

Theresa is survived by her sons Robert Rocco (Mary), John Kevin (Cheryl) and a very caring and special nephew, Christopher Fiore, all of Millbrook, NY. She is also survived by her grandsons Jason (Nicole) of Poughkeepsie, NY and Justin (Sara) of Hyde Park, NY. Her great grandchildren, Kailey Collins-Fiore, Ashton and Coleson Fiore and Blake Fiore. She leaves behind her brother Gary Grant (Audrey) and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Theresa was predeceased by her loving husband Salvatore and brother Thomas Grant (Diane).

Theresa was known for her love of family and by being a caregiver to family and friends in their time of need.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook. A Funeral Mass was held on Friday, December 6 at St. Joseph's Church, Millbrook with burial immediately following in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Millbrook. For condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com

Barbara Glennon

Barbara R. Glennon, 78, of Hyde Park, NY, died peacefully of pneumonia on Sunday, December 1, at Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie, NY, surrounded by family and friends. She was born in New Rochelle, NY, on October 12, 1946, to the late Louise Mistroff (nee Lichtenstein) and William Mistroff. She was a longtime resident of New Rochelle, where she began her long career as a legal assistant. She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer S. Blakeslee of Beacon, NY, and her brother, David M. Reuben of New York, NY. She was a devoted member of the Westchester Church of Christ, a region of the NYC Church of Christ. A memorial was held on Sunday, December 8, at O'Byrne Chapel, Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY. In lieu of flowers, contributions would be welcome at the Dutchess County SPCA.

Thomas Morrison

Thomas C Morrison, 57, passed away of natural causes on November 30th, 2024, at his home in Pleasant Valley, NY.

He is survived by his brother Michael Morrison (Jodi) Fort Collins, CO, sister Laura Morrison-Storey (Brad) Topeka, KS, nephews John and Joseph Morrison Fort Collins, CO;

Uncle Michael (Diane) Seaver, Avon, Ohio; Uncle Ralph Hart (Dixie), Melbourne, Florida.

Calling hours were held Monday, December 9, 2024, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, NY. Funeral services were held, followed by burial at St Peter's Cemetery in Lithgow, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hudson Valley Animal Rescue & Sanctuary (HVAR), 9 Barnes Dr, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Brian Edward Rowan

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Brian Edward Rowan, aged 67, of Rhinecliff, NY on November 28, 2024. Born on November 2, 1957, in Burbank, California, Brian was a man of remarkable strength, dedication, and warmth. He will be deeply missed by his loving family and friends.

After graduating from Red Hook High School in 1975, Brian went on to build a successful career in construction powered by his continuous pursuit of knowledge and experience. A proud self-educator, he always strived to expand his mind and share what he learned with others.

Brian was a passionate golfer, and he loved spending his free time on the green. His love of golf was more than just a pastime; it was a reflection of his passion for life and his strong belief that dedication could make anything better.

Brian's greatest pride, however, was his family. He was a devoted husband of 46 years to the love of his life, Susan Rowan. As a father, Brian was unconditionally supportive and endlessly proud of his daughters, Briana (husband Matthew) and Shawna (husband Geoffrey). He cherished his role as a grandfather to five wonderful grandchildren: William, Abigail, Vivienne, George, and Luke, whose lives brought him immeasurable joy.

Brian is predeceased by his father, Francis, and his mother, Patricia, sister Carolyn and brother Thomas. He is survived by his loving wife Susan, his daughters, his cherished grandchildren, sister Mary Anne and brothers Francis and Mark as well as extended family and many dear friends.

Brian's passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of those who loved him, but his memory will live on in the lives of his family and in the countless ways he made the world a better place through his kindness, wisdom, and unwavering love for those around him.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024 at 11AM at Good Shepherd Church in 3 Mulberry St. Rhinebeck, NY.

Arrangements are under the care of Burnett & White Funeral Homes, 91 E. Market St. Rhinebeck, NY.

Holiday Happenings

continued from page 11

continue on to the outside of Red Hook Estates, Route 9 through the village, up Park Avenue to Linden Acres and finish off in College Park. Food trucks will be serving food in the village hall municipal parking lot. There will also be a collection for Toys for Tots outside of Little Pickles Toy Store. Donations of unwrapped toys are requested.

Dec. 14: Rhinecliff Holiday Events. Wreath-Making at 10 a.m. with the Rhinebeck Grange, Rhinecliff Fire House, and Morton Memorial Library. Dress warmly and join these organizations to help make a gigantic wreath for the community to be displayed in the center of Rhinecliff. Meet at the Rhinecliff monument. Bring gloves and prepare to have fun. December Concert, 3 p.m., at Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St. Driftwood, the Morton Community Chorus, will perform its winter concert at the library. The program will feature Georgian, Balkan, Serbian and Roma songs, and more. Admission to concert \$15 suggested donation, \$25 family; benefits the library. Festival of Lights, 5 p.m., walk through the hamlet aglow with lights. Luminaria kits available at the library (82 Kelly St.) for pick up; requesting donation of \$20 per kit. The money will go to Red Hook Responds. Info: sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org

Dec. 14: St. Nicholas Bazaar, Grace Church, Parish Hall, 3328 Franklin Ave., Millbrook. Shop from a variety of handmade crafts, confections, and decorated homemade cookies, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Two floors of exhibitors. The cookies will be pre-boxed and will contain an assortment of festive cookies from the traditional to the decadent. Pre-orders are recommended but not required. Call (845) 677-5174 to order cookies. Food truck on site. (845) 677-3064 or www.gracemillbrook.org

Dec. 14: Saturday Morning Family Series: "Elf Jr.," The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Join our talented youth performers as they bring the festive spirit of "Elf" to life in a lively musical adaptation filled with catchy tunes and heartwarming holiday cheer. 11 a.m. Tickets \$10. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

Dec. 14: Stanford Grange #808 Holiday Penny Social, Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and calling begins at 7 p.m. Holiday items will be featured. There will be penny prizes, homemade baked goods, \$1 table, door prizes, 50/50 raffle, and theme baskets. Refreshments will be served by the Grange Youth. For more information, call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

Dec. 14-15: Ars Choralis Holiday Concert: "Welcome Yule: Time Was," Kingston & Woodstock. This concert that captures the spirit of the holiday season through multicultural music and traditions that bring people together during December celebrations. The story is based on real-world and community events from the 1940s to the present day, and is told through music and spoken word. Featuring members of Ars Choralis in speaking roles, this work was conceived by Barbara Pickhardt, written by Pickhardt and Rick Knutsen, and directed by Frances Knutsen. Performances: Sat., Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Church, 30 Pine Grove Ave., Kingston. Sun., Dec. 15, 4 p.m., Overlook United Methodist Church, 233 Tinker St., Woodstock. Tickets \$25 Adult, \$10 Student, \$60 Anniversary Ticket. <https://arschoralis.org/>

Dec. 14-15: New Paltz Ballet Theatre's "The Nutcracker," Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. The New Paltz Ballet Theatre returns for its 25th season to present this classic holiday event featuring dancers from the New York City Ballet. Peter and Lisa Naumann, co-directors of the NPBT, have brought many fine regional artists together to create this beautiful production. Dancers, designers, and technicians have all contributed to make this "Nutcracker" a visual delight. Come along with Marie as she dreams of a fierce battle between giant mice and toy soldiers followed by a magical journey through the Land of Snow to the Kingdom of Sweets. Performances at the Bardavon are scheduled for 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 14 and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 15. Cost: \$36 Adult, \$31 Member. (845) 473-2072 or <https://www.bardavon.org/>

Dec. 15: 9th Annual Holiday Concert, The First United Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains, 3039 Church St. (Rte. 199), Pine Plains. The concert will feature many local musicians and festive organ music, 3 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken for the continued maintenance of the Church's historic 1926 Estey Pipe Organ. Refreshments will be offered after the concert. For more information, call the Church at (518) 398-7117.

Dec. 15: Christmas Concert, Grace Bible Fellowship Church, 6959 Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. Featuring Niah and Allisha Merrill, 6 p.m. All are welcome. *continued on page 17* (845) 876-6923, (845) 876-2122 or fdcirone@aol.com

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 12)

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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Suguru solution

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Legal Notices

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY**

P L E A S E

TAKE NOTICE that the Pleasant Valley Town Board shall hold a public hearing on the adoption of Local Law E of 2024, titled "A Local Law of the Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York Amending Chapter 9 of the Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley Entitled, "Code of Ethics" on December 16, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall located at 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York. A copy of said Local Law is available for inspection on the Town's website, official board and at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. Any person desiring to speak at said public hearing on said Local Law shall be permitted to do so.

By order of the Town Board dated November 18, 2024.

MARY BETH MUIR
Town Clerk for the Town of Pleasant Valley

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
PLEASANT VALLEY, NEW YORK
CADY FIELD BASKETBALL COURT
General Notice**

The Town of Pleasant Valley (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
CADY FIELD BASKETBALL COURT CONTRACT NUMBER 2170.01
Sealed bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall located at 1554 Main

Legal Notices

Street, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569 until **Friday, December 20, 2024 at 12:00 PM** local time. At that time the sealed bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project includes the following Work: The Town has developed final designs and construction drawings for the removal of an existing tennis court and the installation of a new basketball court at Cady Field, located at 1554 Main Street in Pleasant Valley.

* Remove existing asphalt surfacing, chain link fencing, and associated tennis court equipment. The tennis court subbase will be re-used.

* Install new basketball court surface and associated equipment, erosion control, sidewalk, a segmental retaining wall, chain link fencing and gates, and site restoration with lawn.

* An existing water well will be decommissioned in accordance with Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH) requirements. **Lump Sum Bids** are requested for the following Contract: **Contract 1 - General Construction** Work shall be substantially completed on or before **May 5, 2025**, and ready for final payment by **May 30, 2025**.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

To become a Registered Plan Holder and to obtain electronic copies of the Contract Documents, please visit the MJ Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Land Surveying, P.C. Plan Room located at <http://www.mjteam.com/bids>. Bids received from non-registered plan holders may be subject to disqualification. Addenda, if any, will be

Legal Notices

issued only to Registered Plan Holders whose name and address are on record. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website. The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

MJ Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Land Surveying, P.C.
21 Corporate Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Douglas Gerber, RLA, 518-371-0799 EXT 357, dgerber@mjteam.com

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm.

Deadline for questions is 4:00 pm on Thursday, December 12, 2024.

Pre-bid Conference A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on **Thursday, December 10, 2024, at 12:00pm** at **Cady Field** located behind the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall at 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

Instructions to Bidders For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

Prevailing Wages The Bidders must comply with New York State Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rate Schedule. Bid security in the amount of 5% of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The Bidders must comply with New York State Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rate Schedule. Bid security in the amount of 5% of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Legal Notices

dance with the Instructions to Bidders. The successful Bidders will be required to furnish a performance bond and a payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price. Attention of Bidders is particularly called to the requirements for ensuring that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the Bid received, or to reject any or all Bids without explanation. The Owner is an exempt organization under the Tax Law and is exempt from payment of Sales and Compensating Use Taxes on materials which are to be incorporated into the project and which are to be separately sold by the Contractor to the Owner prior to incorporation into the project, pursuant to the provisions of the Contract. These taxes are not to be included in the bid.

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: **Town of Pleasant Valley**
By: **Mary Beth Muir, Town Clerk**
Date: **November 21, 2024**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, NY**

Please take note that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Pleasant Valley, NY, will hold a public hearing on the following proposition:
410 North Avenue, Pleasant Valley Appeal #1074
Grid# 6464-03-187469

Legal Notices

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 1118/2024
RE: COMMENCING THE LOCAL LAW ADOPTION PROCESS FOR LOCAL LAW NO. E OF THE YEAR 2024**

WHEREAS, the Town of Pleasant Valley Ethics Board had determined that the present Chapter 9 of the Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley entitled: "Code of Ethics" was in need of revision; and

WHEREAS, the Ethics Board has met with the Co-Attorney to the Town to review the existing law and discuss recommendations for changes in that law; and

WHEREAS, the Co-Attorney to the Town drafted a proposed revised Ethics Law incorporating all of the concerns and requested changes to the law, as suggested by the Ethics Board; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney to the Town has met with the Ethics Board to review the proposed revised law and, as a result of said meetings, the Attorney to the Town has drafted a revised Chapter 9 of the Town of Pleasant Valley Code which is intended to replace the existing Chapter 9 of the Town of Pleasant Valley Code; and

WHEREAS, the Ethics Law, as revised, has been submitted to the Town Board for review, and the Town Board members have determined that the proposed Local Law is acceptable in form and content for purposes of commencing the local law adoption process; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that this is a Type II action under SEQRA which does not require environmental review.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby schedules a public hearing on the adoption of Local Law No. E of the Year 2024 entitled: "A Local Law amending Chapter 9 of the Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley entitled 'Code of Ethics' on December 16, 2024 at 7:20 p.m. at the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish and give notice of said public hearing, as may be required by law, and to post a copy of said Local Law on the Town's website and to further make a copy of said Local Law available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call on November 18, 2024 which resulted as follows:

MOVED: Councilman Rifenburgh
SECOND: Councilwoman Chapman
DATE: November 18, 2024
ROLL CALL:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Councilwoman Chapman	X	
Councilman Degan	X	
Councilman Iapichino	X	
Councilman Rifenburgh	X	
Supervisor Albrecht	X	

CARRIED.

Applicant is seeking an interpretation regarding their noise violation.

SAID Meeting will take place on December 18, 2024 at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y, and begins at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Milan Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on 12/16/2024 at 6:55 pm on the proposed Local Law # 5 of 2024 deleting Chapter 7 (Assessors) of the Code of the Town of

Milan in its entirety, effective at midnight on December 31, 2024. Said hearing will take place at the Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan, NY.

By order of the Milan Town Board
Catherine Gill, Town Clerk

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed responses for: #RFE01-DCP-04-25
Facility Operator for Camp Nooteeing

Town of Pleasant Valley, New York
Responses will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 23rd day of January 2025 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and RFE01 forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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

Holiday Happenings

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Dec. 15 & 22: Festive Family Days, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. Bring the whole family for a tour appropriate for ages 4 and up. This year's theme is Merry Music: Favorite Holiday Songs. Find Nutcrackers, Angels, Fairies, Stars, Jingle Bells, and more hidden among 25 decorated Christmas Trees celebrating favorite songs throughout our historic Mansion. Noon-3 p.m. Tickets \$12. www.lgny.org

Dec. 18: The Winter Ensemble presents: Reflections on the Holiday Season, Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Rd. (Rte. 9), Poughkeepsie. The Winter Ensemble of Putnam Chorale's program includes beautiful historical carols, like Here We Come a Wassailing; arrangements by the prolific American composer, Gwyneth Walker, such as Bring a Torch; lyrical, contemporary pieces by the Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo, and movements from Vivaldi's soaring and uplifting Gloria. 7-8:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 adult, \$18 senior, children age

12 & younger free. www.lgny.org

Dec. 20-22: "NutCracked" by The Bang Group, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. The Bang Group's witty response to "The Nutcracker" has enthralled audiences for more than two decades. Choreographer David Parker draws inspiration from across the dance spectrum, blending tap, ballet, disco, and even bubble wrap to create a unique performance that reimagines Tchaikovsky's iconic score. With renditions ranging from Duke Ellington to Glenn Miller, "Nut/Cracked" transforms the familiar into something delightfully unexpected. Performances: Dec. 20-21 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Cost: \$45 General, \$36 students. (845) 757-5106 or kaatsbaan.org

Dec. 20: Pawling Concert Series: Orchestra New England Holiday Concert, Trinity Pawling School, All Saints' Chapel, 700 Route 22, Pawling. Woodwind members from the Orchestra New England will present holiday music for woodwind quintet, keyboard, and percussion, 8-10

p.m. The program will include arrangements from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet, Vaughan Williams' Greensleeves, traditional seasonal carols, and other holiday favorites. Cost: \$40. (845) 855-3100 or <http://www.pawlingconcertseries.org>

Dec. 21: "A Celtic Christmas" by A Taste of Ireland, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Watch two star-crossed lovers twirl beneath the mistletoe as award-winning Irish musicians complement the world's best Irish dancers to deliver a heart-warming performance that will leave your feet tapping, eyes shining and your soul wanting more! Immerse yourself in the magnificence of the traditional Celtic landscape and let the magic of Christmas in Ireland transport you to a world full of excitement and wonder — a world where energetic music and dance embody the beating heart of the festive season. Featuring a powerful mix of traditional tunes, heartfelt ballads and all your favorite carols, "A Celtic Christmas" com-

bines incredible red-hot rhythms with jaw-dropping talent in an unforgettable night of storytelling, Irish charm and spectacular entertainment. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$71, \$61, \$51, \$41. (845) 473-2072 or <https://www.bardavon.org/>

Dec. 21: Free Christmas Movies & Food Drive, Lyceum Cinemas, 15 Old Farm Lane, Red Hook. Choice of 3 Christmas movies for children and their families: "The Polar Express," rated G starring Tom Hanks is a Christmas classic based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg; "Elf," rated PG starring Will Ferrell, Bob Newhart and James Caan; and "It's a Wonderful Life," rated PG, starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed. The films will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, and upon entry everyone may choose which film they prefer to see. Admission is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance from any of the following local merchants: MHVFCU, Red Hook branch; Minuteman Press; Subway; Red

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Due to the Holiday schedule Southern & Northern Dutchess News and the Beacon Free Press have the following early deadlines for Classified Display Ads:
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Holiday Happenings

continued from page 17

Hook T's; Village Pizza III; Savona's Restaurant, Red Hook; Historic Village Diner; Ben & Gracies; Charlie O's Restaurant, and The Red Hook Diner. Santa will be on hand at the Lyceum when the doors open at 9:30 a.m. to talk to the children. Please bring a non-perishable food item for collection by the Dutchess County Community Action Agency office in Red Hook for distribution to needy families in the area.

Dec. 21: Ginger-neering House Building Competition, Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum. 75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie. Join us for a sweet time of friendly competition and festive fun, where engineering, creativity, and holiday spirit come together, 2 p.m. Showcase your skills and imagination by designing and building edible structures entirely out of gingerbread, royal icing, and other sweet decorations, while combining the principles of design, stability, and construction. Entries will be judged on creativity, structural integrity, and overall

presentation, so be sure to get imaginative with your designs, use interesting and unique decorations, and most importantly, have fun! Entries will be judged by other museum guests; the winning team will be announced on Fri., Dec. 27. Prizes include a museum membership, museum admission tickets, and a museum gift basket. COST: \$20 per team + museum admission (Includes gingerbread house and supplies; 4 people per team, must include 1 child per team.) Register at <https://mhdm.org/>

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Grace Bible Fellowship Church, 6959 Rte. 9, Rhinebeck. 7 p.m. All are welcome. (845) 876-6923, (845) 876-2122 or fdcirone@aol.com

Dec. 27: Children's Holiday Tea, Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., Beacon. Always sold-out in advance, the Holiday Tea welcomes children and adults to an event that combines fun, good manners, and education about a bygone era, in

an authentic location where social teas were once standard fare, noon-2 p.m. The menu will include assorted Harney & Sons teas, dainty finger sandwiches prepared by The Bagel Shoppe, Fishkill and a selection of homemade desserts. A Victorian inspired craft project for the children will also be offered. Admission is \$18 for children and \$25 for adults. Prepaid reservations are required by Dec. 17. For reservations and further information, call (845) 831-8172 or email at info@mountgulian.org.

Dec. 28: Winter Holiday Concert, Pleasant Valley Library, 1584 Main St. (Rte. 44), Pleasant Valley. Join Katie DeFiglio, a "Soprano and Her Ukulele," for an afternoon of fun holiday songs, including a sing-along, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Katie, originally from Poughkeepsie, is dedicated to creating well-being and joy through her singing, music, and teaching (at Keystone State Music Theater Academy near Pittsburgh, PA). With a versatile style that includes pop, jazz, folk, classical, opera, and musi-

cal theatre, she has performed in the Hudson Valley and throughout the US and Europe for over 25 years. Free, but registration required at (845) 635-8460 or <https://pleasantvalleylibrary.org/>.

Dec. 31: Ars Choralis New Year's Eve Concert, Old Dutch Church, Kingston. "Together We Rise," a concert of love designed to uplift the spirit with words and music, recognizing the beauty and wonder of our common humanity, 6 p.m. Free. <https://arschoralis.org/>

Dec. 31: New Year's at Noon, Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum. 75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie. A festive way to celebrate New Year's Eve as a family and ring in the New Year, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. New Year's @ Noon features music provided by Lutz Entertainment, special activities for kids of all ages, refreshments, and of course, noisemakers, as we count down to noon. Tickets \$16. <https://mhdm.org/event/new-years-noon-2/>

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NEW PROGRAMS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

Tunes & Tales: Fridays!
Fridays at 10:30 AM

Traveling Story Hour: Thrift 2 Fight
Thursday, December 12 at 10:30 AM

Homeschool Happenings:
Historic Red Hook
Friday, December 13 at 10:30 AM
Registration Required
Event is currently full. Add your name to our waitlist.

Winter Concert
Friday, December 13 at 4 PM

Monday Tunes and Tales, Tuesday Lego Club, and Wednesday Storytime continue throughout the month.

NEW PROGRAMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS

Winter Concert
Friday, December 13 at 4 PM

Evening Book Club - Tom Lake
Monday, December 18 at 6 PM

Afternoon Mystery Book Club: The Cat Who Could Read Backwards
Friday, December 20 at 2 PM

Adult Craft Night: Snowflakes
Monday, December 23 at 5:30 PM
Registration Required

Chair Yoga, Knitting Group, Drawing Gym, ESL, All Abilities Teens & All Abilities Adults continue throughout the month.

ADULTS

Wednesday, December 11th, 6-7pm - Craft Singles: Collaging

Thursday, December 12th, 6:30-8pm - Fiction Workshop with Lilliana Kahan

Monday, December 16th, 2-3pm - Introduction to Death Cafes with Elaine Guardo

Tuesday, December 17th, 6:30-8pm - Memoir Writing Workshop with Michelle Montalbano

Wednesday, December 18th, 7-9pm - Nerds at Nite

Thursday, December 19th, 10:30-11:15am - Good Vibrations: Guided Sound Meditation with Anna Kaselis

Every Wednesday from 1-3pm - Scrabble Club

Every Friday from 10:15am-11:15am - Chair Yoga with Barbara Eichen

Every Friday from 2-3pm - Brain Games Canasta anyone? If you're interested in helping form a club to play this card game on Tuesday afternoons, email us at info@starrlibrary.org or call 845-876-4030 to express your interest!

BOOK CLUBS

Tuesday, January 28th, 7-8pm - Starr Library Book Club: Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry

See our HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS starting on page 9 for seasonal events in the region

History of Bannerman Island on Dec. 15 at The Factory

The Bannerman Castle Trust (BCT) located at 150 Main Street in Beacon, will present a public lecture about the history of Bannerman Island hosted by historian and educator Thom Johnson of Peekskill, on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 3-5 p.m. The lecture will take place at "The Factory," a new event space located at the Hotel at the Inn and Spa of Beacon at 151 Main Street - directly across from the Bannerman Island Gallery.

Bannerman's Castle, the iconic turn of the century landmark constructed on Pollepel Island at the northern end of the Hudson Highlands fjord by military surplus and antiques dealer Francis Bannerman VI, has been the subject of many legends, myths and even scandal. Mr. Johnson will present an informative and entertaining lecture about the true story of the mysterious island, answering many of your questions.

Attendees are invited to first meet up at the Bannerman Island Gallery between 2:30 and 3 p.m. to view the Trust's 30th Anniversary Exhibition. The exhibition features artwork, photographs, antiques and historic artifacts found on Bannerman Island and tells the story of how the Bannerman Castle Trust came to be, by working in collaboration with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. Attendees can

easily walk across the street to the Factory where the lecture will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited, so please call 845-831-1001 to reserve tickets. There is no set ticket price; donations to the Bannerman Castle Trust are suggested and appreciated. bannermancastle.org/ways-to-give

This Bannerman Island lecture is the first in a series of "Third Sunday" winter lectures that will be presented by the BCT as part of their 30th Anniversary Exhibition. The 30th Anniversary Exhibition at the Bannerman Island Gallery has been extended and will be on view through March 2025. Gallery hours are Saturdays & Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. and most weekday afternoons by chance or appointment by calling 845-831-1001.

Bannerman's Island is only accessible to the public by our vessel, the RV Estuary Steward, leaving from the Beacon, dock by reservation from May to October each year. If one is interested in taking a tour of the island, please visit bannermancastle.org where you can now purchase tickets for the 2025 season.

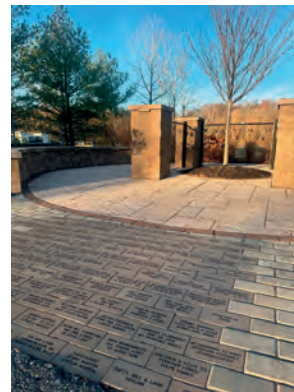
For more information and to reserve tickets for the lecture on Dec. 15., call 845-831-1001.

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Donations help support the work of the MARC Foundation. The mission of the nonprofit is to generate financial support to provide prevention and residential treatment for individuals with a substance use disorder. To learn more about the Overdose Awareness Memorial, or upcoming events, resources and news, head to www.marc-foundation.org or follow the MARC Foundation on Facebook.

The Overdose Awareness Memorial is free to visit anytime and everyone is invited to place a lock on the fence at the memorial to remember a loved one.