

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## Two funeral homes merge in Beacon



Libby Funeral Home & Cremation Services has transitioned services to Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey.

-Courtesy photo Riverview by Halvey Facebook

Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey and Libby Funeral Home & Cremation Services have merged. A press release on Riverview by Halvey's website reads: "Libby Funeral Home & Cremation Services will transition to Patrick Halvey at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey. All business will be conducted from the Riverview Funeral Home location at 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. The Libby location at 55 Teller Avenue will be closed."

Libby Funeral Home owner Matthew Fiorillo and General Manager Joseph Schuka, stated in the release, "This is the merging of two great legacy funeral homes in the city of Beacon. We have chosen Patrick and his team at Riverview Funeral Home because we trust them to continue caring for families with professionalism and to uphold our outstanding level of service. We believe the families of Beacon deserve nothing but the best and made this decision because we know it will have a positive impact on them."

Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey is a third-generation business founded by Patrick Halvey's grandfather, John Halvey in 1933, it is stated in the release. Patrick Halvey relocated the business to its location overlooking the Hudson River in 2017. The brand-new facility is elegantly appointed and features one of the largest viewing rooms in the Hudson Valley, it is noted in the release.

"I have immense respect for the legacy and tradition of Libby Funeral Home. As a homeowner in Beacon with extensive community involvement, I welcome the opportunity to service all members of our city with the comfort and care instilled by my father and grandfather," said Halvey.

## REMEMBERING PRESIDENT CARTER & HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

### 'I think every human being has within himself or herself a desire to reach out to others'

-Former President Jimmy Carter



President Jimmy Carter waves from Air Force One, May 17, 1977.

-Courtesy photo from Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum

By Kristine Coulter

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the longest-living American president, died on Dec. 29, 2024 at the age of 100 at his home in Plains, Georgia. The official state funeral for the former president will be held on Jan. 9, a day that President Joe Biden has declared a national day of mourning. The funeral will take place at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C. James Earl Carter Jr., who went on to serve in the U.S. Navy, was born on Oct. 1, 1924.

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County employees and volunteers joined the world in mourning the death of the 39th president of the United States.

Maureen Brennan Lashlee, CEO of Habitat Dutchess told the Beacon Free Press the day after it was announced that the former president died, "I did get to meet him at my first ever conference in 2013. He and Rosalynn came to speak. I met him as part of a group. It was a great honor, and I was very grateful for it."

The Carters, who were wed for 77



President Jimmy Carter paints one of the many Habitat for Humanity houses he helped to build.

-Courtesy photo from Habitat for Humanity website

years until the former first lady's passing at the age of 96 in 2023, served Habitat by building houses across the world until 2019, it was stated.

President Carter served as a member of the international organization's board of directors from 1984-1987, according to Habitat Dutchess.

Continued on page 2

## DC Sports Hall of Fame honors trailblazer Zerbe

By Rich Thomaselli

She is an icon of women's athletics in the Hudson Valley.

There are arguably few coaches who have blazed more of a trail for female athletes in the area.

Pat Zerbe tops the list. And now she is being honored for all of her efforts.

Officials of the Sports Museum of Dutchess County said the curation of the Pat Zerbe Women's Room, an exhibit to celebrate generations of women in Dutchess County sports history, is being constructed.

"It's truly an honor," said the longtime Arlington High School and Dutchess Community College (DCC) tennis coach.

Zerbe has made an impact on local athletics and culture for decades. The museum will be collecting artifacts (photographs, equipment, newspaper clippings, medals/trophies, etc.) to display in the women's room.

It's not like she wasn't born

for this.

Zerbe has spent the better part of the last half-century being a player, coach and trailblazer for women's athletics. She broke the gender barrier in the area at age 11 when she tried out for Little League Baseball at a time when most teams and accepted girls only for softball. Naturally, she downplays the achievement.

"I just wanted to play," she said.

She did much more than that, creating a legacy that few can match. That includes her time as the girls basketball coach at Arlington. This set the stage for a lifetime dedicated to breaking gender barriers in sports. Throughout her long association with Dutchess Community College and other local organizations, Pat has been a driving force in creating opportunities for women in Hudson Valley sports.

Her exploits and achievements and ability to set precedents are legendary. She has opened doors for hundreds. A scholarship in her name has been established at DCC.



Pat Zerbe

-Courtesy photo

## REMEMBERING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER 1924-2024

### President Carter: I think every human being has within himself or herself a desire to reach out to others'

Continued from cover

Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, explained in a statement, "President and Mrs. Carter began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity near their home in southwest Georgia, soon bringing worldwide attention to the need for decent and affordable housing. We are grateful for the incredible impact the Carters have had on Habitat and on the families who have benefited from their shining example. The Carters put Habitat for Humanity on the map, and their legacy will live on in every family we serve around the world."

Lashlee said in a statement emailed by Habitat Dutchess, "The local affiliate was incorporated at about the same time President and Mrs. Carter began their lifelong commitment to Habitat homeownership. As we remember President Carter's servant leadership, we give thanks he chose to put God's love into action advocating for policies and resources to assure an opportunity for everyone to become a homeowner. He gave of his time, talent and treasure unselfishly and unceasingly."

According to Habitat Dutchess, the former president and his wife served as Habitat for Humanity's most famous volunteers for more than the 35 years and helped to build affordable housing with the organization.

"We are deeply saddened by President Carter's passing, and our prayers are with the rest of the Carter family," said Reckford.

In 1984, it was stated, the Carters began volunteering with Habitat in Americus, Georgia.

Carter, who served the country as president from 1977-1981, gave of his time on New York City's Lower East Side renovating an abandoned building in partnership with families in need of affordable housing, it was noted. That site became the first Jimmy Carter Work Project (later renamed the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project).

It was announced on the Carter Work Project-Habitat for Humanity website, "Please know that the 2025 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project, taking place in Austin, Texas, on Oct. 26-31, is continuing as planned. We know President Carter wouldn't want it any other way."

In 2016, Habitat named President and Mrs. Carter as the inaugural Habitat Humanitarians.

The statement from Habitat Dutchess included the following remarks once stated by the late president: "I think every human being has within himself or herself a desire to reach out to others and to share some of our blessings with those who are in need." The remarks from Carter continued, "What's opened up that avenue for



**President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter work together on a Habitat for Humanity project.**

-Courtesy photo from Habitat for Humanity website

me and my wife and hundreds and thousands of others is Habitat for Humanity. It makes it easy for us to reach out and work side by side with the homeowner who's never had a decent house, perhaps. I haven't been on a Habitat project that I wasn't thrilled and inspired, and wept."

According to Habitat Dutchess, "Over the last three decades, the Carter Work Project has touched lives around the world by inspiring more than 108,000 volunteers across the U.S. and in 14 countries to build, renovate and repair 4,447 Habitat homes. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has served more than 62 million people around the world."

#### Politicians react to former president's death

Rep. Pat Ryan (NY-18) posted to social media Dec. 30, "My heart is with the Carter family - I hope they find comfort in knowing President Carter lived his life truly to the fullest, always in service of the American people. May he rest in peace."

"My thoughts are with the Carter family during this difficult time. President Carter will long be remembered for his sincerity, decency, and compassion for his fellow Americans. He extolled these virtues before, during, and after his presidency," Rep. Mike Lawler (NY-17) stated in a post on his Facebook page.

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer stated on social media, "As we remember President Carter's extraordinary life, we also honor the countless lives he touched through his vision and generosity. My thoughts are with the Carter family and all those mourning this incredible man. May his memory be a blessing and an enduring reminder of what it means to truly serve."

The Democrat defeated President Gerald Ford in the 1976 presidential election.

Carter brought together the leaders of Egypt and Israel, Anwar Sadat and



**Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (from left), U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin make a three-way handshake at the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty on the White House Lawn on March 16, 1979.**

-Courtesy photo from The Jimmy Carter Library

Menachem Begin, while he was in office. The Camp David Accords were signed in 1978 and was a highlight of his time in office.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan, a former Republican governor of California, defeated Carter, in part due to the economy and the Iran hostage crisis.

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand stated in a statement on the death of President Carter: "President Jimmy Carter was a devoted public servant, a lifelong activist, and a prolific humanitarian. I am devastated to hear of his passing, but I know that his legacy will live on through the work of the Carter Center and the thousands of people he influenced throughout his life. My thoughts are with his family today." Gillibrand's statement concluded, "He will be deeply missed."

Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his humanitarian work.

Officials from the Town of Fishkill sent out a statement, which partially stated, "Pres. Carter lived a life that exemplified the principles of public service, humility and a genuine desire to help others. One of four American presidents to win the Nobel Peace Prize, his humanitarian achievements outside of politics are as noteworthy as his peacemaking efforts while president from 1977 to 1981. From the Camp David Accords to building houses for the poor well into his 90s, Pres. Carter's life was testament to his faith, his family, and his dedication to others."

A post on the Town of East Fishkill's Facebook page has an American flag with the words "In Remembrance of

President Carter."

Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini posted to social media, in part, "President Carter's lifetime of service, compassion, and dedication to humanitarian efforts has left an indelible mark on our nation and the world. His commitment to peace, human rights, and the betterment of society will continue to inspire us all."

It was announced the flags outside of Wappinger Town Hall and in the town of Fishkill will be lowered to half-staff in honor of the former president.

Governor Kathy Hochul also announced that flags will be flown at half-staff in honor of President Carter.

"President Jimmy Carter embodied decency and integrity throughout his life of public service," Hochul said. "I'll never forget as a teenager meeting him in Buffalo. He was an inspiration to me and so many Americans. Our hearts are with the Carter family during this difficult time."

President Carter is survived by his children Jack, Chip, Jeff and Amy; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

On the Carter Project website, there is a Q&A with the former president.

The former president was asked, "What would you say to the next generation to help encourage them to serve? How does service impact our collective future?"

President Carter replied, "Enjoy your American freedom, and utilize it to expand your own opportunities and God-given talents as much as possible. You will find that these investments in helping others will always pay rich dividends."

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**See story,  
page 8**



# Community Foundations Awards \$179,500 to Dutchess Organizations in Community Grants

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley (CFHV) has awarded over \$179,500 in grants to Dutchess County non-profits, students, and organizations. This was part of more than \$350,000 in community grants given by the organization during its inaugural Community Changemaker gatherings in Dutchess, Putnam, and Ulster Counties.

The Dutchess County Community Changemaker gathering, held on December 12, 2024, at the Inn at Bellefield in Hyde Park, united fund holders and nonprofit grant recipients to celebrate collaboration and community impact. The funds, raised through the generosity of individual donors, fund holders, and donations from CFHV's annual Garden Party, were distributed to over 40 nonprofit organizations based in Dutchess County.

The missions of this year's CFHV grant recipients address critical needs in education, food security, health, justice, climate action, arts and culture, and animal welfare. CFHV President & CEO Laura Washington commended attendees, saying, "You all are the leaders, innovators, and advocates—the change-makers—who inspire us to make our community a better place."

"We are thrilled to support such a diverse and innovative group of nonprofit partners," said Cristin McPeake, CFHV vice president of programs. "This year's recipients include both first-time awardees and longstanding partners, each driving meaningful change in our region."

One Dutchess County recipient, Hudson Valley Clubhouse, provides a



*Representatives from grant recipients and Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley staff and board members are pictured at the Dutchess County Community Changemakers reception at the Inn at Historic Bellefield in Hyde Park.*

*- Courtesy photo from Community Foundations*

supportive environment for individuals living with serious mental illness, helping them work, socialize, and find fulfillment. Executive Director Blaise Sackett summed up their approach: "Community is therapy." The CFHV grant will enable the organization to hire a second full-time employee to expand membership and

address the growing need for social services in Poughkeepsie.

The Community Changemaker gatherings underscore the power of collaboration, generosity, and innovation in strengthening life in the Mid-Hudson Valley. CFHV Board Chair Bob Cotter encouraged attendees to help expand CFHV's reach, saying,

"By connecting us with new nonprofits, we can continue to address critical needs and broaden our impact."

To discover how one can support the CFHV mission, explore the full list of 2024 Community Grant recipients, or apply for a grant, please visit [CommunityFoundationsHV.org](http://CommunityFoundationsHV.org).

# Aymar-Blair sworn in as Dutchess County Comptroller

A crowd of more than 150 people, including family, friends, elected officials, and community leaders, gathered at Tymor Park in Union Vale to support Dan Aymar-Blair as he took the oath of office as Dutchess County Comptroller on Saturday, Jan. 4. The event celebrated Aymar-Blair's commitment to public service and the beginning of his tenure as Comptroller.

New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli administered the oath of office during the ceremony, which featured remarks from several distinguished speakers, including New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey, City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers, and Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Rebecca Edwards. The event was emceed by NYS Deputy Comptroller Robin Lois, who served as Dutchess Comptroller from 2018-2023. Sheriff Kirk Imperati called the Presentation of Colors by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

Aymar-Blair brings over two decades of experience in municipal finance to the Dutchess Comptroller's Office, including overseeing business operations for New York City Public Schools' special education program, and serving on the Beacon City Council. He stepped down from both roles to dedicate himself fully to his responsibilities as Dutchess County Comptroller.

Reflecting on his new role, Aymar-Blair said, "I am deeply honored to serve as Dutchess County Comptroller and humbled by the trust the people of this County have placed in me. My job as Comptroller is to help County government work better, and that means improving efficiency-getting more public service from every public dol-



*Dan Aymar-Blair took the oath of office as Dutchess County Comptroller on Saturday, Jan. 4. From left are County Clerk Brad Kendall, County Executive Sue Serino, Aymar-Blair and District Attorney Anthony Parisi.*

*-Photo by Mike Lawrie*

lar. The people of Dutchess County want careful analysis and oversight, and I will go to every length to give it to them.

At a time when people are losing faith in institutions and government, Dutchess County has an opportunity to show that good people coming together and working hard to solve our shared problems is what good government is all about. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with County Executive Sue Serino and my other colleagues to do just that."

Comptroller DiNapoli said, "It was my honor to swear-in Dan Aymar-Blair today in Union Vale as he took the oath of office as the new Dutchess County Comptroller. I look forward to working with him to provide fiscal transparency and protect

taxpayer dollars."

Serino said, Aymar-Blair "joins a County Government team dedicated to serving our residents and protecting the tax dollars they entrust to us for vital programs and services. We look forward to working collaboratively with Dan to continue to provide transparen-

cy and accountability for all Dutchess County residents."

Aymar-Blair will serve out the remainder of former Comptroller Robin Lois' term. He has pledged to focus on enhancing financial oversight and transparency, as well as protecting Dutchess tax dollars.

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- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press.

## Federal government has not followed through on enforcement of immigration laws

#### To the Editor:

In his December 18 "Get Growing!" column, Mark Adams omits a couple important facts concerning the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). The IRCA's legislative compromise traded immediate amnesty for long term enforcement of our immigration laws. Unfortunately, the federal government has not followed through on enforcement.

The IRCA's sponsors, Senator Alan Simpson and Representative Romano Mazzoli acknowledged that funding for enforcement and border security has been insufficient. They also recognized the inadequacy of employer restrictions, allowing businesses to accept easily forged documents. The result has been a dramatic increase in illegal immigration, exactly the opposite outcome that President Ronald Reagan intended when he signed the IRCA into law. Hopefully, the incoming administration will step up border and workplace enforcement.

Employers have an alternative to easily forged documents. Ethical employers use the voluntary e-Verify program to confirm employment eligibility. Mandating use of e-Verify would plug the IRCA's documentation loophole. This would reduce greatly the availability of employment to illegal immigrants, reducing the incentive to sneak across our country's borders.

Richard Trent  
Poughkeepsie

## Lennon's 'Imagine' still rings true today

#### To the Editor:

For the coming New Year I would like to quote (my abridged version of) John Lennon's "Imagine."

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do

Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion, too  
Imagine all the people  
Livin' life in peace  
You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one  
Imagine no possessions  
I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger  
A brotherhood of man  
Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world  
You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one.

He finished composing this song in early 1971...over 50 years ago.  
If we each do more than just imagine, or at least imagine even harder... just love.

Claudia Gorman  
Poughkeepsie

## Hochul proposes rail service investment on Hudson Line in 2025 State of the State

As part of her 2025 State of the State, Governor Kathy Hochul proposed a major investment in Hudson Valley rail service that would increase capacity, reduce delays, improve safety and cut potential travel times by up to 15 minutes each way for certain trips, as well as shorten "super-express" Metro-North Hudson Line trips to less than 90 minutes. The proposal includes planning, evaluation and design for a set of rail infrastructure capital improvements between New York City and Poughkeepsie, including projects such as a second track at Spuyten Duyvil, interlocking, signaling and trackwork at Croton Harmon, and capacity improvements at Poughkeepsie Yard. In addition, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) will execute a signaling redesign near Yonkers and climate resilience investments in the most vulnerable and highest ridership segments of the Hudson Line.

"Hudson Valley commuters deserve fast, high quality rail service they can count on, and the investments I am proposing we make today will drive transformational change for generations to come," Hochul said. "Over the coming years, these much-needed infrastructure improvements will allow us to modernize our rail system, increase connectivity, reduce travel time and strengthen economic connections across the region. With these proposals, we are laying the groundwork to deliver faster and more reliable rail service for suburban and rural commuters across the Hudson Valley and beyond."

As part of an allocation anticipated to be available for regional investments in its 2025-29 capital plan, the MTA will evaluate and design other potential rail improvements, such as adding a third track to the Metro-North Harlem Line or connecting Hudson Line service to Penn Station for a one-seat commute to Manhattan's West Side. In partnership with NYSDOT, the MTA will also establish a regional rail working group with New Jersey, Connecticut and rail partners, to promote better coordination on interoperability, ticketing, schedules and customer interfaces. This group will also develop plans to make travel by Metro-North or Long Island Railroad to MetLife Stadium as seamless as possible for the 2026 World Cup and explore future opportunities to further integrate regional travel.

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou said, "Thank you Governor Hochul for proposing these major rail investments along the Hudson Line — which improve the communities and day-to-day lives of so many of us in the Hudson Valley. As a Beacon to New York City commuter for more than thirty years — and a rider on the "super-express" peak hour trains to Beacon — I know first hand the importance of frequent and fast rail service, which allows so many to earn a living at work and enjoy family life at home."

Building off a pilot program to enhance the reach of Metro-North west of the Hudson River with ticketing, ferry and parking incentives, New York will also

conduct a transit analysis with expert advisors to propose and evaluate additional recommendations to expand and maximize the impact of rail service and look at opportunities for other types of commuter transit for New Yorkers living west of the river and working in New York City. That analysis will include a major employer and destination review in Orange County, exploring options like shuttle bus service timed with Port Jervis Line trains to attractions like Woodbury Commons, Legoland, Storm King, Renaissance Fair, and Stewart Airport.

The announcement builds off major regional rail investments delivered during Governor Hochul's term, including the delivery of the LIRR Third Track and the historic opening of Grand Central Madison, which introduced new commuting opportunities on the LIRR, enhanced New York's regional connectivity, and expanded service by 40 percent.

State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, "Everyone deserves reliable, high quality passenger rail service, and Governor Hochul's targeted investments in the Hudson Valley rail network will significantly enhance the rail experience for thousands of passengers who rely on this service every day. When we invest in rail and transit, we are investing in environmentally friendly, dependable and safe modes of transportation. NYSDOT is proud to help spearhead these investments on our state-supported Amtrak services, and we look forward to partnering with the MTA on separate enhancements to Metro-North services along the Hudson Line rail corridor. New Yorkers deserve nothing less."

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber said, "Metro-North is the economic backbone of the lower Hudson Valley, and these are smart targeted investments to protect its future and record-setting 98+ percent on-time performance. In the age of climate change, resiliency is especially important, and Governor Hochul has shown she gets it intuitively."

MTA Metro-North Railroad President Catherine Rinaldi said, "Weather-related events in recent years have shown the importance of climate resiliency on the Hudson Line, and we are thrilled by these upgrades which will enable continuing reliability of Metro-North service for the Hudson Valley. I greatly appreciate Governor Hochul's support for these improvements, which will support the economy of the Hudson Valley."

Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers said, "I'm excited to hear that Governor Hochul wants to invest in the Hudson Valley rail service between Poughkeepsie and New York City. The Governor's commitment to improve the connection between the City of Poughkeepsie and New York City means more opportunities for our residents, stronger support for our local businesses, and a safer and faster commute to and from NYC. This investment helps our community thrive and stay connected in ways that matter."

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Albert Osten, President

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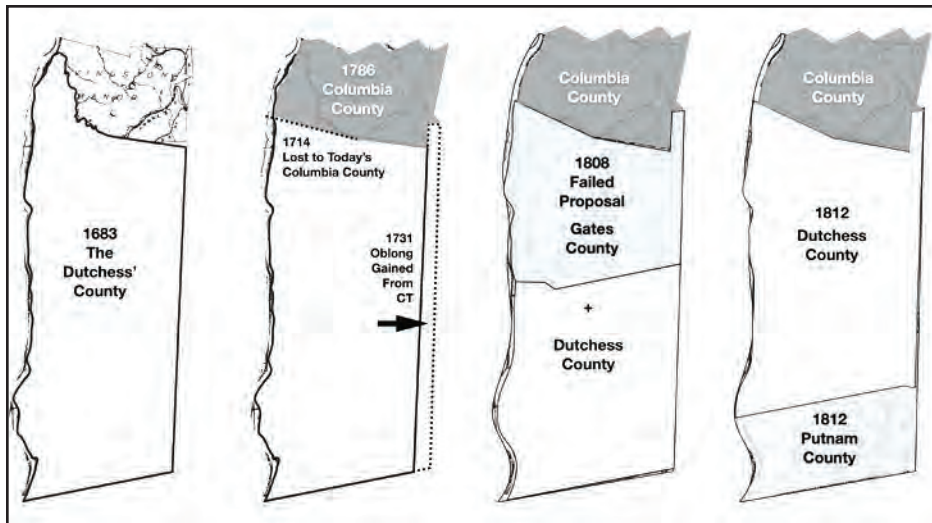
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# The evolving shape of Dutchess County



Above left to right: 1. The original 1683 boundary of "The Dutchess's County." 2. Dotted lines show where land was ceded, and where it was gained. 3. An 1807 to 1808 campaign to create a new county, Gates County, in the north, failed. 4. The issue was finally settled in 1812 with the creation of Putnam County.

-Courtesy images

### By Bill Jeffway

Over time, New York State has lost a few counties from early, over-ambitious land claims, and gained many. Dutchess County was named for the Dutchess of York and was created along with a total of twelve counties by the English in 1683. The total number of counties today is sixty-two. What are the dynamics that give us the physical boundaries and characteristics of our county today? In particular, why do we have the border we do, and why is the county seat Poughkeepsie?

The size, shape, and names of New York's counties were affected by many things, among them the location of rivers and streams that tended to attract settlement and economic development and other topographical features like hills, hollows, swamps and rocky terrain. Then there was the impact of the overlay of early patent lines, the early system of granting large land rights, sometimes in the form of a Manor with a Lord, as in what is today's Columbia County.

Many are aware of the antiquity of our Dutchess County, going back to the time when we honored members of the British Royal family! But many may be surprised to learn that the only border that remains as originally laid out in 1683 (aside from

the Hudson River) is the few miles that form the northern border of Pine Plains (see illustration).

Originally called "The Dutchess's County" right after the British had taken over from the Dutch, the name was shortened soon after. At the same time, other counties with very British names were created, many of which you will recognize because they remain today: New York (Manhattan), Queens (NYC), Kings (Brooklyn), Richmond (Staten Island), Albany, Orange, Ulster and Westchester and Suffolk.

New York State lost Duke's County when Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket claims were lost to Massachusetts in 1691. Gloucester and Cumberland counties were lost after 1777 as what would become the State of Vermont pushed back on New York land claims, creating the borders that exist today. But obviously the gains far outweigh the losses!

The basic function of the management of justice through a sheriff and courts remains from the days one thousand years ago when the shire system emerged in England.

The old rule of thumb was that a trip to or from the county seat to the far reaches of a county should not involve more than a same day return trip. This was of course in the

## Veterans receive holiday visitors for Christmas cheer



The Beacon Elks Lodge #6180 made a Christmas visit to see the veterans at VA Castle Point Medical Center. Pictured are Veterans and Elks, along with Santa. Prior to going on the unit at Castle Point, volunteer firefighters from Chelsea, New Hackensack, Dutchess Junction and Glenham fire departments and members of the Elks Lodge, with Santa and Elroy, drove around the campus with sirens, lights and horns on.

-Courtesy photo



Above left to right: The Dutchess of York at the time. Dutchess County is one of a handful of early counties that have retained their original honoring of the British Royal Family. Revolutionary War General Horatio Gates ended up not having a New York County named for him. His fellow patriot, General Israel Putnam, had the honor bestowed in 1812.

-Courtesy photos

days of horses, carriages and dirt roads that could travel 5 to 10 miles per hour under good conditions.

### Original borders

Changes from the original 1683 border were driven by a variety of reasons. The original border followed further north along the irregular Roeliff Jansen Kill and went south to include all the towns that are in Putnam County today. This explains why Dutchess's Town of North East and Putnam's Town of South East are named as relative points within Dutchess County.

The first adjustment came in 1714 when Robert Livingston, First Lord of Livingston Manor, complained of the inconvenience and petitioned to have his 160,000-acre manor operate within just one county, rather than across two. The Dutchess border originally extended up to the Roeliff Jansen Kill. Most of the manor was in Albany County, while the irregular area that includes what are today the towns of Germantown and Livingston was in Dutchess.

The next change was an addition in 1731. New York and Connecticut had a longstanding border dispute but settled on allowing Connecticut to have the "panhandle" town of Greenwich, while New York got a long vertical strip of land called the Oblong between the two counties.

The only question after that became one of sub-division. Dutchess County was essentially settled around the Wappinger Creek and the Fish Kill which extend up like fingers in a hand from where they empty into the Hudson at Wappingers and today's Fishkill/ Beacon, respectively. The main population centers were Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie/Wappinger, and today's Fishkill/ Beacon.

Poughkeepsie was settled at a much smaller creek, the Fall Kill, but was dead center north/south along the Hudson. One of the reasons for its choice in the early 18th century must have had to do with it being essentially in the middle of the county. When the British burned the then capital of New York State at Kingston in 1777, the State started operating out of Poughkeepsie, directly across the river. This only added more to Poughkeepsie's prominence. It was the site of the 1788 US Constitutional Convention, where New York State ultimately agreed to endorse the U.S. Constitution and become part of the United States.

There apparently had been discussion about whether to have a subdivision for some time.

In the first half of the 18th century there emerged a civil division in thirds at first called wards, then precincts. This reflected the fact that there was a lightly populated

north, a relatively heavily populated middle, and a less populated mountainous south.

The County Courthouse was completely destroyed by fire in September of 1806, which launched what became a chaotic, contradictory, unpleasant and divisive campaign to not rebuild in Poughkeepsie between 1807 and 1808.

### The county that almost was: Gates County

Not surprisingly, led by the highly regarded Van Wyck family of Fishkill, there was an effort to break off the northern portion and create a new county which would be named for Revolutionary War General Horatio Gates. Then the middle and southern portions – including what are today Putnam County towns, would remain Dutchess County. County seats would be at Stanford or Rhinebeck in Gates County, and Fishkill in Dutchess County. This became known as the Division political movement against the Anti-Division movement.

Among a vote of freeholders in April of 1807, a referendum showed little support for the concept, especially within Dutchess County. There was virtually no support in the towns of Poughkeepsie, Washington, Armenia, and Beekman. Stanford was split 50/50. The greatest enthusiasm was from voters in Fishkill in support of Assemblyman Theodorus Van Wyck.

There was strong support in all the towns that are today in Putnam County, but Rhinebeck was the only town in the north that had a strong preference for division.

In 1807 the pro-division bill passed the Senate 16 to 13, but failed in the House losing 47 to 46, with only one of the several members from Dutchess voting in the affirmative (Van Wyck). Further attempts in 1808 also failed.

In 1809 the Assembly passed a bill to construct a new courthouse at Poughkeepsie; and so the issue was settled that Poughkeepsie would be the county seat of Dutchess County, regardless of any subdivision.

Just a few years later, in 1812, the State created the County of Putnam as we know it today. Perhaps because of the distraction of the War of 1812 and more pressing matters, there was far less controversy about this division. General Gates ended up not having a county named for him. That honor ended up going to General Israel Putnam.



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

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## love to cook

by vicki frank day



## Time for tea

Celebrate National Hot Tea Month with a cuppa and the perfect sweet accompaniment.

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were merry and bright, full of love and good food and that your blessings are too numerous to count. It's hard to believe it's all over, but here we are; and it's time to settle back into our normal routines.

January is National Hot Tea Month, and I can't think of a better thing to add to your daily routine (and start the year off right) than sipping a hot cuppa comforting tea. It's good for you, warms your heart and soul and is a great excuse to relax a little each day.

I grew up with tea. It was just part of daily life. I still associate it with home and it always tastes best at my parents' house where it's sipped after dinner or on a weekend afternoon when my mother makes a pot to enjoy while we play a game. For this she uses her mother's teapot, a well-loved, shapely metal vessel with a wooden handle rubbed smooth from decades of use. Drinking tea from that pot is one of the reasons I believe that an occasion is simply an excuse to celebrate something, my mantra for life. It seems such a simple thing, but that's kind of the point, a subtle yet important ritual that became a special way to enjoy and celebrate something ordinary.

Tea has a long and storied history, but

today is not going to be a lesson in that, which would be an article in itself and a long one at that. Its importance to many cultures is well known and includes elaborate ceremonies and rituals that center around its preparation and consumption. I was surprised to learn the U.S. is the third largest importer of tea after Russia and Pakistan, according to World Tea News, I suppose because I thought Great Britain would have made the top three. The true tea plant, *Camellia sinensis*, is native to India and China; and one shrub's leaves are the source of black, green, oolong and white teas, depending on how each is processed, which affects the level of caffeine: white has the least, black the most, being comparable to a cup of strong coffee. Herbal teas are not "true" tea, because herbs and plants other than *Camellia sinensis* are used; but they are naturally caffeine-free (not the same as decaffeinated as some teas are labeled, which still have traces of the stimulant). Contrary to popular belief, green tea is neither herbal nor caffeine-free.

No matter if it's black, green, oolong or white, tea has a great many health benefits. Full of bioactive compounds and antioxidants, drinking at least one hot cup a day improves overall health, supports



Shortbread Meltaways to enjoy during National Tea Month in 2025.

- Photo by Vicki Frank Day

## Central Hudson and employees raise \$347,000 for United Way



Central Hudson and its employees, board members and retirees raised \$347,000 this year for United Way.

-Courtesy photo from Central Hudson

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. together with its employees, board members and retirees raised \$347,000 to support the United Way of Dutchess-Orange, Ulster, Sullivan and Greater Capital Region chapters, in its mission to improve lives and strengthen communities. Since 2012, Central Hudson and its team have contributed over \$4.4 million through fundraising campaigns to support the United Way's efforts. The funds will provide critical support to local programs addressing poverty, homelessness, hunger, and other essential needs in the region.

"Central Hudson is proud to support the United Way and the vital work they do for those in need in our region," Central Hudson President and CEO Steph Raymond said. "Our employees' dedication and generosity reflect the deep sense of community that defines who we are. It is an honor to provide these funds and contribute to a better future for the people

we serve."

United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region President and CEO, Jeannie Montano expressed gratitude for Central Hudson's continued partnership, "Central Hudson's commitment to our community is truly inspiring. Their generous financial contribution and countless volunteer hours have a profound impact on the lives of so many. We are incredibly grateful for their partnership."

The funds raised are part of Central Hudson's ongoing dedication to social responsibility, including active employee engagement in community service initiatives. Central Hudson and its employees have consistently supported the United Way since 1920 with recent efforts including hosting a diaper drive to support families in need, partnering with Habitat for Humanity to provide essential home upgrades, and advocacy for programs that promote a healthier and more resilient community.

cardiovascular health, improves cognitive function and brain health. Even with its caffeine it can relax you, a fact I think attributable to its comforting quality and the time it takes to prepare and enjoy it. Maybe that's why it may also lower blood pressure and the risk of depression. Any way you look at it, taking a break to sip some is soothing.

Then there's the way you take it: straight, cream, lemon, sugar, one lump or two? And do you like flavored varieties, like Earl Grey, jasmine or peppermint? My mother's cupboard is filled with just about every flavored tea there is, from cinnamon to blackberry, and for us it's all about what we're in the mood for, which just adds to the soothing nature of tea. It's there for us when we need it, no matter what we're feeling. Peppermint tea after a heavy meal, Constant Comment on a chilly afternoon or for a broken heart, chamomile for a stomachache or just before bed. Why wouldn't you cozy up to it every day? Any time of day? With breakfast, for an afternoon break, when you don't feel well, after dinner, with dessert, it's there for you. Whether you steal away with a cup for some alone time or brew a pot for chatting with a friend, here's a little something to go with it.

## SHORTBREAD MELTAWAYS

If you love shortbread like I do, you'll want to try these. They are delicate in both flavor and texture, melt-in-your-mouth light and buttery, and just perfect with a cup of tea. With so few ingredients, the quality of each really comes through, so use the best you can find. Real vanilla extract is a must and I recommend European butter, although regular is fine. Either way, make sure it's soft enough to mix. Don't be tempted to melt it, which will result in an oily batter. If using unsalted butter you may want to add another 1/4 teaspoon of salt.

## INGREDIENTS

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened  
3/4 cup powdered sugar  
1 teaspoons vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 cups flour, sifted  
2 tablespoons cornstarch, sifted  
Colored sugar for decorating

## METHOD

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment and set aside.

In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until creamy (about 5-10 minutes) scraping down sides as you go. I recommend mashing the butter a bit first with a fork into the sugar before using beaters to prevent a cloud of sugar dust and help with the blending. It will be crumbly at first but should come together as the butter softens.

Add vanilla and stir to combine.

In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, cornstarch and salt. Gradually add to butter mixture, stirring between each addition just to combine. If the dough is too soft and sticky to roll, refrigerate it for at least 30 minutes.

Scoop dough with a tablespoon and roll into balls. Place on prepared baking sheets 1-inch apart (they really won't spread). Gently flatten each cookie slightly with a fork. If dough sticks to the fork, dip the fork in powdered sugar before pressing. Sprinkle each with colored sugar.

Bake until set, about 12 minutes (up to 18 if you chilled the dough). These will NOT brown, so don't over bake them. Cool completely on baking sheets. Makes about 34 tender, delightful, not-too-sweet cookies.

It's a New Year, and this month happens to be a time to honor tea. Why not start the year off right and take a little time every day to enjoy a comforting cup of hot tea? I think you'll be amazed at what such a simple thing can do for your overall state of mind and health. And maybe, like me, you'll marvel at how one simple shrub can be at the heart of a beverage that is at once calming and bracing, stimulating and soothing. It's really one of Nature's miracles and worth celebrating every day. But then again, so are you.

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

that's italian!

by luigi coppola



# Happy New Year!

Luigi shares some memories from his youth.

As the new year begins, I am flooded with thoughts of my childhood. Some memories good, some bad, but always funny.

## Buying sneakers at Grand Union

That's right, at the grocery store there was a basket of sneakers. Each pair had a piece of plastic holding them together. Mom would make us try them on and shuffle around to see if the fit correctly. She would then kneel in front of us and tell us to "Standa dritto (straight)" and she would feel the tip of the sneakers to make sure there was enough room for our feet to grow.

## Trying on jeans in the aisle

Barker's was our local department store in Hyde Park. They carried everything from lawnmowers to bicycles to jeans and everything in between. Barker's is where we would go to get Levi jeans. Mom would make us try on jeans right in the middle of the aisle. She would say, "No one is watching you." Then she would make us bend down to make sure there was enough room in the seat of the pants. Once satisfied, she would tell us to put our other pants back on. As we got older we got smart, and put on our older brother's loose-fitting shorts in order to streamline the process.

## Going to buy school shoes

We were growing so fast that Mom would wait until the last possible minute

to buy school shoes. We went to a little Italian cobbler on Market Street next to the Bardavon. It was called Defalco shoes, and Mr. Defalco would measure our shoes, check our arches and track our growth. He would then fit us with shoes that would last us the whole year and fit us until the next summer.

## Buying clothes at Schwartz

On Main Street in Poughkeepsie there was a store called Schwartz which was about a block from the original [Coppola's] restaurant. Since we wore school uniforms, that's where Mom would take us for our school pants, shirts and ties. We would have to go to the husky section because we were too big for kid clothes, yet too small for adult clothes. Lucky us. However, there were dressing rooms at Schwartz so we didn't have to try on clothes in the aisle. There was a little Italian tailor who would come and measure us and hem the pants for us. We would get one regular pair of pants and one pair of corduroy for the winter.

Getting a hair cut. We would go to Mr. Sosta's in Hyde Park to get our haircuts. Mr. Sosta would give Vinny and me the same haircut. Mom would always ask to make our hair shorter so it would last longer. Afterward, she would give Vinny and me a quarter to give to Mr. Sosta as a tip, and he would give us each a lollipop.

Getting our before-school physical. Each year we would go to Children's Medical

Group for our physical. Yes, they were around back then also. We would get checked, poked, prodded and measured. We would always ask how much we grew from last year. Right before our appointment was completed, we got our annual vaccinations; however, we were then allowed to get a prize from the treasure box.

## Eating Pasta with Asparagus

Well you get the idea. Everyone had their dish that they remember. This was mine.

## Penne with Asparagus

### Ingredients

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
4 ounces thinly sliced prosciutto, cut into thin ribbons  
1/4 cup thinly sliced green garlic or scallions, white and pale green parts only (about 4)  
2 medium cloves garlic, minced  
1 pound asparagus, cut on a bias into 1 1/2-inch pieces  
1 cup heavy cream  
2 ounces grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, divided  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1 teaspoon grated zest plus 1 tablespoon juice from 1 lemon, divided  
2 tablespoons minced fresh chives  
1 lb. imported penne pasta

### Directions

Set a large pot of salted water over high

heat. Meanwhile, heat olive oil in a large skillet or slope-sided saucepan over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add prosciutto and cook, stirring, until mostly crisp, about 2 minutes. Add scallions and garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add asparagus and cook, tossing and stirring frequently, until asparagus is just starting to turn tender, about 2 minutes.

Add heavy cream and half of Parmesan. Cook, stirring, until cream thickens and coats the asparagus pieces, about 4 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Add penne to now-boiling pot of water, stir gently, and cook for about 7 minutes total or until the penne is still firm but not hard. Drain and add penne, lemon juice, half of lemon zest, chives, and 2 tablespoons of cooking water to saucepan with sauce and bring to a hard boil, stirring gently. Add more pasta water to thin sauce to desired consistency. Serve immediately, topped with lemon zest and additional Parmesan cheese.

*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.coppola.net](http://www.coppola.net).*

# Mid-Hudson Library System Board awarded 2024 Velma K. Moore Award

The Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Board has been awarded the 2024 Velma K. Moore Award from the New York Library Association (NYLA). This fifteen-member board, made up of volunteers from around the Hudson Valley, was chosen for the award due to their leadership in supporting MHLS to become the first public library system in the country to be certified under the Sustainable Library Initiative's Sustainable Library Certification Program.

The board's work to achieve this certification included creating new policies, procedures, and facility plans to ensure the organization is making strong decisions for the future that respect not only the finances of the organization but also result in strong environmental stewardship and respect for social equity and public health.

"It is wonderful to see our board, a group of committed, diligent, and good-humored trustees, recognized for setting a wonderful model for the 6,000+ trustees of the state, and thousands of library trustees across the country" said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director.

Actions taken as part of the certification resulted in the development of The Library of Local program with a new partner, the Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley. This program funded community resilience hubs at fifteen member libraries which feature specialized collections on climate solutions with a special emphasis on food security; seed libraries; tool lending libraries; and tar-



*Pictured are the Mid-Hudson Library System Board of Trustees and staff. The Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Board was awarded the 2024 Velma K. Moore Award.*

*-Courtesy photo*

geted programs designed to help bring community members together to solve issues in their communities that are exacerbated by climate change.

The Board also engaged in facility operational decisions related to purchasing, hospitality, landscaping, renewable energy, and material management. Each

has been optimized to ensure the organization is prioritizing human health and the responsible use of natural resources in decision making while ensuring funds are spent wisely on behalf of our stakeholders. The most recent example of this effort is the new solar panel system on the MHLS office building which will gener-

ate 75% of electrical needs from the sun thanks to a subsidy from Central Hudson leveraged with funds from the State Aid for Library Construction Program.

This award was established to honor the memory of Velma Moore, one of the charter members of The New York State Association of Library Boards (NYSALB), now the Library Trustees Association Section (LTAS) of NYLA. Mrs. Moore worked actively for the improvement of library services in New York State from 1947 until her death in 1961. She served two terms as president and was a member of the NYSALB Board from its establishment and, for 33 years, she was also a Trustee of the Kenmore Public Library near Buffalo, New York. The Award was originally established in 1962 with a gift from the Moore family and carries a \$1,500 prize.

While MHLS was the first public library system certified, they are not the last! Both the Suffolk Cooperative Library System and the Ramapo Catskill Library System have followed suit and become certified, and three others are pursuing certification: Clinton-Essex Franklin Library System, North Country Library System, and the Southern Tier Library System. There are more than 200 public, academic and school libraries across North America now involved in this certification program with 45 having completed the program including the Highland Public Library and Kinderhook Memorial Library in the Hudson Valley.

# Impact PR & Communications rings in New Year with addition of Westerra Credit Union to client roster

Public relations and marketing firm Impact PR & Communications, Ltd. (IPR&C) is kicking off 2025 with the announcement of Westerra Credit Union joining its client roster. As agency of record for the Colorado-based credit union, Impact PR & Communications will spearhead an awareness campaign to strengthen its brand messaging, distinguish it from its competitors, and showcase its heritage as a teacher-founded organization through community connection and earned media stories. The newest client signifies an ever-deepening of the agency's expertise in the banking, credit union, financial advisory and investment sectors.

"Westerra has a storied heritage and legacy in Colorado, and we are delighted to partner with Impact PR & Communications to help shine a light on what we do and how we do it differently," said Nicole Andrushko, vice president of

marketing, Westerra Credit Union. "We recently worked with the IPR&C team on a project and the creativity and chemistry was apparent, so this seemed like a perfect next step."

Impact PR & Communications, which celebrated its ten-year anniversary last year, has a long history of representing financial institutions throughout New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Westerra Credit Union's addition to the roster makes it the agency's first client based in the Rocky Mountain region.

"I, along with our team, am energized about the collaboration with Westerra Credit Union and the mission of bringing awareness of this community-minded company to a larger audience," said Filomena Fanelli, CEO and founder, Impact PR & Communications. "Like us, Westerra values meaningful personal relationships and we look forward to helping them grow that impact."



*The team from the public relations and marketing firm Impact PR & Communications.*

*-Courtesy photo Impact PR & Communications, Ltd.*

## DC Toys for Tots reports gifts to 600 families for 2024



Toys for Tots of Dutchess County distributed gifts to over 600 families during the 2024 holidays.

Dutchess County Coordinator TJ Ashline reports that the number is up over 200 families from 2023. The total number of children was 2,037. He said that is over 20,000 toys, books, games, puzzles, bikes, etc.

Some donors of monetary funds and or time and goods included the following: American Legion Post #178, Sons of The

American Legion #178, Dutchess Fairview Firefighters, Golden & Golden Building Company, DS home services, Adams Fairacre Farms, Madison's Pizza of Pleasant Valley, Tomato Cafe of Fishkill, 97.7 The Wolf CJ & Jess Morning Show (Townsquare Media), Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County and Dutchess County Long Rifles - 4H shooting sports club.

Ashline thanks all those who contributed and goods for the 2024 holiday season.

*Left: Dutchess County Toys for Tots coordinator TJ Ashline, left, is pictured with children and parents from Home School Heroes during the 2024 holiday gift drive. This distribution took place at Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County on Rt. 44.*

*-Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

# County Players sets auditions

Auditions for the following shows will be held at the County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 West Main St., Wappingers Falls.

**Sunday, Jan. 12, and**

**Monday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.**  
**"Big Fish The Musical"**

Book by John August  
Music and Lyrics by Andrew LIPPA  
Directed by Michael J. Frohnoefer  
A fantastical musical adventure

inspired by a father's incredible stories. Based on the celebrated novel by Daniel Wallace and the acclaimed film directed by Tim Burton, "Big Fish" tells the story of Edward Bloom, a charming traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest, and then some. Overflowing with heart and humor, "Big Fish" is the extraordinary story that reminds us why we love going to the theatre. A buoyant feel-good show for the whole family.

"Big Fish" is presented through special arrangement with TRW Plays. [trwplays.com](http://trwplays.com).

Details at <https://countyplayers.org/shows/auditions/>

**Sunday, Jan. 19**  
**CP2 Mini-Festival Auditions**

CP2 Readers Theatre offers an exciting opportunity for actors, directors, and audience members to experience theater in a fresh way, with full dramatic readings of selected plays. No costumes, no sets, no props, and the actors perform with scripts in hand. These shows are an incredible opportunity to experience great theater stripped to its essence: the playwright's words.

Details for both auditions are at <https://countyplayers.org/cp2-auditions/>

**"Witch" at 1 p.m.**

By Jen Silverman

Directed by Kit Colbourn

A charming devil arrives in a quiet village to bargain for the souls of its residents. Elizabeth should be his easiest target, having been labeled a "witch," but her soul is not so easily bought. Unexpected passions flare, alliances are formed, and the village is forever changed. An inventive retelling of a Jacobean drama, this sharp, subversive fable debates how much our souls are worth when hope is hard to come by.

"Witch" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

**"The Burdens" at 3 p.m.**

By Matt Schatz

Directed by Matt Andrews

Adult siblings Mordy and Jane have a problem. Their centenarian grandfather is an emotional and financial burden on the family, and he just won't die. Scheming almost entirely via text messages, the siblings hatch an outrageous plan to relieve themselves of their family's burdens and their own.

The play is performed as a spoken conversation with no phones, screens or technology. "The Burdens" contains adult language.

"The Burdens" is presented through special arrangement with TRW Plays. [trwplays.com](http://trwplays.com).

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Kinship Navigator



# Sister duo to perform on 2 pianos during Howland Chamber Music Circle for piano festival on January 12 in Beacon

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) opens its 2025 piano festival with the Cann Duo, a pair of sisters on two pianos, at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musicians and enjoy complementary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception.

To purchase a ticket, visit [howlandmusic.org](http://howlandmusic.org). The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

Kimberly and Michelle Cann, “darlings of duo pianists,” perform a wide range of multi-cultural repertoire throughout the United States of America and have been fostering increased appreciation for the arts in their local communities. They began performing as the Cann Duo in 2010, long after each had made her respective orchestral debut at age 13.

Kimberly received her degree from the Eastman School of Music, and has since been the visiting Professor of Music and Artist-in-Residence at Northern Caribbean University (JA).

Michelle studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and is now on the fac-

ulty of the Curtis Institute. They have performed around the globe - together, as soloists and as members of chamber and orchestral ensembles. Michelle has championed the compositions of Florence Price, playing premieres with the Philadelphia Orchestra and other notable ensembles.

For HCMC’s concert, the Cann Duo’s repertoire will include works by Felix Mendelssohn, JS Bach, Beethoven and Ravel, as well as a work the sisters commissioned and will premiere by composer Michael Leibowitz.

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

Since 1993, the Howland Chamber Music Circle has been bringing musicians to perform for Hudson Valley audiences in Beacon. For more information on this performance, the Howland Chamber Music Circle, or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.howlandmusic.org](http://www.howlandmusic.org).



The Cann Duo, sisters Kimberly and Michelle Cann, will perform the first show in 2025 of the piano festival by the Howland Chamber Music Circle at the Howland Cultural Center on Jan. 12 in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo

# Rombout Middle School administration announces students on 1st quarter honor roll

The following students have been named to the honor roll at Rombout Middle School for the 1st quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

## Principal’s Honor Roll

Logan Alvarado, Maya Ariel, Kevin Boyle Jr, Haley Brandstrom, Dylan Brown, Amadou Ceesay, Adeline Clark, Emmett Coleman, Frances Coulon, Rana Craig, Grace Daley, Iris Dotson, Alden Emich, Evan Eraca, Aoibhinn Fehilly, Audrey Fisher, Linnea Gabel, Margo Gentle, Kariana Gonzalez, Orly Gropen, Samoya Haye, Zavier Hazim, Mia Hernandez, Oliver Jackson, Morgan Jamin, Makenzie Kiernan, Ania Krasikova, Dean Macaluso, Samuel Mack, Sonja McCollum, Jack McGrath, Eliza Montanez, Camille Murphy, Evan Pantojas, Atticus Perez, Anya Piester, Luna Punsoda-Drew, Mosammat Rahman, Acadia Rodriguez, Emily Rottenkolber, Phoebe Roy, Gisella Sanchez, Sabine Schenck, Elan Stim-Fogel, Fiona Suckow, Alejandro Suscal-Sinchi, David Verdesi, Leo Virgadamo, Madelyn Westlake, Delanie Winther

## 7th Grade

Lucinda Arginsky, Leo Aymar-Blair, Sirah Bah, Olivia Bellis, Preston Bennett, Amariah Buffin, Daniel Calderon, Lucas Campos, Kamilah Corte-Illescas, Ali Cosentino, Gianna Cruz, Sofia Cruz, Dean Cumming, Trey Davis, Nathan Domanski, Amelia Emich, Julianna Gannon, Alicia Green, Asher Hetling, Sarai Horne, Kai Illa-Hanca, Charlie Jelliffe, Jonah Landahl, Regan Laug, Jonah Lipman, Kai Mason, John McKay, Mikayla McMahon, Ava Morgan, Daniel Mulligan, Qahtan Murshed, Asa Partlow, Maya Pellegrin, Tavin Pennock, Avery Persico, Colten Powlis, Ian Ramkalawon, Jack Reeves, Aaliyah Ridore, Lorenzo Saiet, Roberto Sampson, Emmylou Shay, Anna Sheehy, Madeline Smith, Olivia Spiecker, Victoria Squilla, Kevin Vogrincic, Braden Webster, Zuri Yeboah

## 8th Grade

Natalie Allen, Brayden Arroyo, Luna Ayers-Uekawa, Fiona Burke-Smith, Ethan Cason, Connor Coldrick, Sebastian Concepcion, Kylie Ebeling, Lilah Fisher, Alice Gabel, Jordan Garzon, Edith Giunta, Manasvi Gupta, Silas Hayes, Samih Jabar, Samantha Johnson, Davia Kelleher, Julian Khan, Pixie Kimberg, Vivienne, Lipari, Anthony Lopez, Celest Marshall, Noah Montoya-Gutierrez, Suvi O’Shea, Dominick Pulcastro, Dion Qelaj, Zbigniew Rybak, Ashley Senior, Sauravi Shrestha, Silas,

Stampleman, Anita Vigeant

## High Honor Roll

### 6th Grade

Uday Alaji, Henry Allee, Ember Allred, Christian Alzate, Amelie Aquino-Collins, Daisy, Bernacchia, Caiden Burks, Maximus Burton, Elijah Cherubini, Anthony Constantino, Zoey Darcy, Arianna Diaz, Savannah Dick, Maxxum Digneo, Mirella Digneo, Bryan Flores-Urdua, Samara Friedman-Quinn, Lucas Genao, Nyomi-Navii Gillman, Carlos Gonzalez Jr, Allayna Graham, Francesca Guido-Taylor, Alyssa Keels, Nahlia Kelland, Elijah Macaluso, Caleb Martel, Jake Maxaner, Peter Miozzi, John Murphy-Araya, Cassidy O’Sullivan, Timothy Perez-Sample, Arron Pittman, Ella Posey, Vincent Pulcastro, Julian Romero, Ryleigh Russak, Aaron Shrestha, Jackson Simonetta, Naomi Simons, Orion Siniift, Mason Soltish, Mateo Spaccarelli, Ava Spence, Macon Stadler, MacKenzie Thorpe, Ariya Valverde, Olivia Velazquez, Finn Woolston, Rufus Zimmerman

### 7th Grade

Nia Abonyoh, Alexis Aduamah, Even Aquino, Mikaela Arce, Erick Arpi, Myla Ballard, Walter Bean, Jessiah Beckwith, Parker Bennett, Aiden Berry, Marley Brooks, Mateo Buckland, Ninalyse Caccamo, Madison Clark, Angel Cruz, Gia Del Bianco, Camron Dennis, Meera Diebboll Riley DiTata, Liam Elwood, Riley Elwood, Hudson Faust, Joi Finley, Mia Gombiner, Matilda Hoffman, Luis Jimenez-Bueso, Jayden Kasmaei, Ciel Koerner, Luca Lentini, Max Mawson, Damien Mayers, Mason McNair, Sophia Milam, Conal O’Sullivan, Jaxson Pultz, Mary Rinaldi, Annalise Saiz, Sean Sanders, Aundrey Savage Jr., Ethan See, Lucas Simms, Bryce Smalls, Angelina Soria, Joscelyn Sweat, Yidoen Tenzin, Elliot Trabka, Justinas Turner, Louisa Virgadamo, Nathanyel Walden, Henry White

### 8th Grade

Lorelei Aakjar, Sarp Bagriyanik, James Bailey, Vivianna Bailey, Hazel Balogh, Alyanna Bembridge, Amaya Bravo, Matthew Browne, Jack Bunker, Teaghan Burks, Madison Carr, Ivy Cohen, Shuprova Das, Gabriela Diaz, Elodi, Duquesne, Willow Faiella, Grace Fleming, Jayme Fuentes, Carolina Guerra, Lucien Guido-Taylor, Weston Hetrick, Nahlia Keane, Miles King, Ileana Lawrence, James Mack, Ralph Marinaccio IV, Auwaab Mohammed-Murtada, Sarah Pillcurima-Panama, Noah

Postolan, Tallix Roan, Jonathan Saraceno, Landon Soltish, Sophia Spiconardi, George Stadler, Ryan Sulca, Sherley Tacuri, Daniel Tschang, Everett VanCott, Emery Vergolina, Marina Winters

## Honor Roll

### 6th Grade

Nana Adusei, Mackenzie Alicea, Alexander Arroyo, Madison Bostock, Bryce Brown-Rohan, Jacob Bustamante-Cruz, Violet Costello, Chloe Daniels, Cooper Figlia, Catalynn Figueroa, Arielle Franklin, Matthew Gonzalez Jr., Roan Haley, Dylan Herrera-Duran, Eivan Hetling, Milania Hubbard, Lev Martin, Benjamin McDowell, Maxwell McKinnon, Madyson Mericle, Kezia Nditsi, Danny Nivicela-Jarama, Jesus Perez Jr., Madeline Richardson, Christian Robinson, Arvin Roci, Ezekiel Rodriguez, William Rupp, Jose Santiago, Amaree Smalls, Sebastian Smith, Scott Solano, Jariel Solis, Max Staab, Madison Tanaka, Liam Velazquez-Benitez, Atyana Whitfield, Elijah Williams, Aaliyah Wright, Skyler Zingone-Redfield

### 7th Grade

Evelyn Barreto-Llivipuma, Troy Burch, Ayden Clarke, Adran Conklin, Mason Cruz, Mia Cautle, Theodore Culler, Radcliffe Dunne, Markus Figueroa, Avery Fisher,

Nicholas Gill Jr., Elias Havers, Phillip Johnson, Mario Jovel, Zeev Korman-Bennis, Tajah Lindsay Johanna, Marquez, Patrick McEvoy, Charles Montleon, Azhane Moultrie, Kyran Patino- Albarracin, Scarlett Ragone, Ella Reyes, Naomi Rivera, George Russey, Leilani Sanchez, Margaret Schall-Wharton, Hailey Seddon, Alahni Segarra, Isabella Sherilla, Ledion Shtanaj, Ava Thompson

### 8th Grade

Janaly Alvarado, Elaina Alvarez, Riley Anderson, Shannon Anzovino, Sadie Bottone, Hawken Brickman, Marcus Brooks Jr., Julian Carpio, Ava Casanova-Flippin, Lily Cheyne, Chase Christman-Evans, Sofia Dunay, Braedan Eraca, Shaniya Evans, Natalia Garcia, Jack Garrett, Ronza Ghazzawi, Eli Gilleo, Emmett Havers, Nathan Hayden, Grace Just, Connor Kuhhorn, Isabella Lopez, Michael MacDougall, Katalina McBride, Michael Medina, Alicia Miller, Elena Moleano, Divine Morris, Madelyn Newcomb, Yailin Novas-Perez, Ace Owen, Negatu Price, Leela Ramdeen, Sanaa Richardson, De’Jaun Rigby, Sophia Romero, Cadence Ross, Mia Tapia, Ellamarie Vasquez, Joshua Velazquez, Lily Vogrincic, Ja’mir Williamson, Callie Winther, Colin Witkowski.

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# Obituaries

## Henry A. Hochlowski



**POUGHKEEPSIE AND WAPPINGERS FALLS** - Henry A. Hochlowski, life-long resident of Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls passed away peacefully on December 29 at Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor with family at his side. He was 99.

Henry was born on September 03, 1925 in Poughkeepsie to Anna and Josef Hochlowski. He attended and graduated from St Joseph parochial schools and Poughkeepsie High School.

Henry had many challenges in his life: His father passed away when Henry was an infant; he grew up during the great depression as one of 10 siblings; his appendix burst when he was 7 but he recovered after several months; In December of 1943 during World War

II (age 18) Henry joined the U.S. Army Yankee Division 104th Infantry Regiment. He entered combat in September, 1944 shortly after D-day in France. Following several weeks of fierce combat during the Lorraine Campaign, Henry and members of his L company were captured by German forces and Henry remained a Prisoner of War for the final 6 months of World War II.

On April 27, 1951 Henry married the love of his life, Dorothy DiDomizio and they remained happily married for 67 years until Dorothy passed away in 2018.

Henry worked at IBM in Poughkeepsie in Manufacturing and Manufacturing Engineering for 42 years, retiring in 1990. Known as Butch to his family and Hank to his friends, he excelled in many sports. He is an inductee to the Dutchess County Fast Pitch Softball Hall of Fame. He was an avid golfer for most of his adult life and enjoyed being in the first group to set out for a round of golf early in the morning. He was fond of the New York Giants and the Army West Point football team, for which he was a season ticket holder for over fifty years.

First and foremost, Henry enjoyed family. He would enjoy building jigsaw puzzles with his siblings or playing a game of pinocle. He especially enjoyed raising his three sons with his wife, teaching them sports and strong values. He coached for the Polish Club baseball team in Poughkeepsie and later for the Little League and Senior League baseball teams in Wappingers falls in the 1960's. He often spent time with his siblings and their families during the holidays. He enjoyed time with his sons' families including his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Henry was predeceased by his parents, his wife and all nine of his siblings: Vincent, Frank, Walter, Jan and Joseph Hochlowski, H. Jean Johnson, John and Chester Gronkowski and Victoria Zamudio.

Henry is survived by his three sons, Barry Hochlowski of Delaware, Warren Hochlowski (Kathy) of Poughkeepsie and Michael Hochlowski (Doreen) of Maryland, grandchildren Tara and Kalyn Hochlowski (Tom) of Poughkeepsie, Carolyn Hochlowski of Wappingers Falls, Rebecca Hochlowski of Fishkill, Tyler Hochlowski of Delaware, Natasha Purdum (Geoff) of New Jersey, and Jason Hochlowski of Maryland, great-grandchildren Braedon and Alana Purdum of New Jersey and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the many people who have assisted in Henry's care as his age progressed.

We would also like to thank his many friends at the Wappingers Falls VFW who made him feel welcomed.

Calling hours were held on January 2nd at the Delehanty Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls. A mass of Christian burial was held on January 3rd, at St. Mary's Church in Wappingers Falls.

In lieu of flowers, please consider doing a random act of kindness for a veteran.

## Brenda Mary Lane



**WAPPINGERS FALLS** - Brenda Mary Lane, a Wappingers Falls resident, passed away on Monday December 23, 2024. She was 58 years old.

Brenda was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn on March 26, 1966. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Marist College. She was an auditor for different companies throughout the years in the local area. She was a CPA for many years as well.

When Brenda wasn't working, she was shopping. She also loved to cook for her family and hosted many gatherings at her home. She enjoyed trips to Long Beach Island in New Jersey for many years with family and friends. She had an infatuation with animals, especially her Yellow-Lab mix, King, whom she loved and cared for greatly. She loved to garden as well.

Survivors include her sons, Christopher & Ryan; her father John McCormack; her brother John & his wife Maureen; her sister Eileen; her nieces Laura Kumor & Amy

Tierney; her great nephews Oakley & Mason; and her dog, King.

She was predeceased by her mother Barbara (Barrett) McCormack on April 10th of 2024.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, December 29, at McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A service took place at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Juvenile Diabetes (https://www2.breakthrough1d.org/site/Donation2?2376.donation=form1&idb=603102340&df\_id=2376&mfc\_pref=T0) or to the Dutchess County SPCA (https://www.dcpsca.org/donations, 636 Violet Ave, Hyde Park, NY 12538).

For online tributes, please visit [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

## Blood drive set for Jan. 10

Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by American Legion Post 203 is set for Friday, Jan. 10, from 1-5 p.m. The blood drive will take place at the Veterans

Memorial Building, 413 Main St., Beacon. Donors are asked to please use entrance on Teller Ave.

## James V. Norris



**WAPPINGERS FALLS** - James V. Norris, a 3-year resident of Wappingers Falls and former longtime Beacon resident, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on December 24, 2024. He was 67 years old.

James was born in Detroit, Michigan on July 30, 1957, the son of the late James Stanley and Inez Mallett Norris. On November 20, 1998 in LaGrange, NY he married Yvonne Campbell. Mrs. Norris survives at home.

James, better known as Jim, was currently employed for the last 30 years by IBM as a Research & Development Lab Manager. His love for computers made work a place he spent a majority of his time. Jim loved to work but mainly because he knew work allowed him to be a great provider. Jim cherished and took

honor in being a provider. Providing was a precious priority always on Jim's heart and mind. Outside of work, Jim's focus was spending time with his wife, who he loved to take cruises with, and other family.

In addition to his wife, James is survived by his daughter, Dorie Janine Norris of LaRogue, North Carolina; his son, Warren Norris of Poughkeepsie; his step-daughter, Danielle Smith of Beacon and husband Anton Smith; his step-son, Samuel Lunsford V of Newburgh; his sister, Wanda Norris Richard and her husband, Charles Richard of Plainfield, IL; his six grandchildren, and niece and nephew and great nieces and nephews.

Jim was predeceased by his son, James Norris, Jr.

Family and friends gathered on Tuesday, December 31 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service was held at the funeral home.

To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

## Michael R. Pardee



**WAPPINGERS FALLS** - Michael R. Pardee of Wappingers Falls entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 peacefully at home. He had recently celebrated his 60th birthday.

Son of the late Edward C. and Dorothy I. (Messerich) Pardee, he was born on December 27, 1964 in Beacon, New York. He married his best friend and the love of his life Patricia Ann Doyle on a beautiful summer day on July 2, 2005 in Fishkill, New York.

Mike was a huge fan of Jethro Tull and other bands such as Led Zeppelin and Judas Priest. Mike lived for his music and played and collected various musical instruments with a particular passion for stringed instruments. Mike wrote, recorded, and produced his own music, was a professional comedian and loved science fiction, British comedy, camping, and nature. He was well known and appreciated for his quick-witted comedic banter. Michael also enjoyed working as a Customer Support Specialist

for RQI Partners in Wappingers Falls.

In addition to his wife, Patricia, he is survived by his children, Amandalee Dornada Shafer (Timothy) of Gradyville, KY and Matthew R. Doyle of Hopewell Junction; brother, Kenneth E. Pardee (Sheila) of Davenport, FL; sisters, Karen L. Kussel of Poughkeepsie and Tammy M. Pardee of Wappingers Falls; grandchildren Jewlie, Dominic, A.J., and Kaelyn; great-grandchild, Persephone; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Mike's family and friends will gather for a celebration of life on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. A funeral service will be held at the conclusion of visitation at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Michael's name to the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, [www.regionalfoodbank.net](http://www.regionalfoodbank.net).

For directions or to send a personal condolence, please visit [www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com](http://www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com).

## Peter John Varco



**EAST FISHKILL** - Peter John Varco, 35, a lifelong area resident, died unexpectedly on December 23, 2024 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

Peter was born on August 19, 1989 in Rhinebeck. After graduating from John Jay High School, he attended Dutchess Community College followed by Mount St Mary College where he studied business. After college he became a butcher by trade and loved learning new things whenever he could. Peter loved working with his hands and he was so smart. He could strike up a conversation with anyone about anything. Above all, he loved his family.

Peter enjoyed volunteering for Hunters Helping the Hungry and at Stony Kill Foundation where he could use his skills and give back to his community.

Peter's family and friends will always remember him for his kindness and patience. He was always up for a good laugh. He is survived by his mother, Helen

(Wagner) Nichols; his father, Peter A. Varco and his wife Janine; his partner, LuTena Davis and her son Lennex; his siblings and their spouses, Heather and Andrew Bush and Bryan and Jenn Conti; his nieces and nephews who thought the world of him and he loved beyond measure, Madelyn, Nathaniel, Luca, Savannah, and Grayson; many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; and his furry companion, Xena, the Warrior Princess.

Visitation was held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction on Friday, January 3rd with a funeral service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hunters Helping the Hungry or at Stony Kill Foundation.

Please visit his Book of Memories at [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

- Southern Dutchess News
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## New signage installed in Dutchess County parks



New signage at Dutchess County parks have been installed. The new signs were installed last month. New Parks Director Brian Coons, right, checked them out as he made the rounds meeting Parks staff recently with Assistant Parks Director Serge Nalywayko.

-Courtesy photos Dutchess County Government

### Board of Fire Commissioners to meet January 8

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Glenham Fire District will be holding a special meeting followed by the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at

7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Slater Chemical Firehouse at 76 Old Glenham Road, Glenham, in the town of Fishkill.

## BHS athletes inducted into Hall of Fame



The following are 2024 inductees to the Eric J. Romanino Athletics Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place recently.

- The honorees were:
- 1999-2000 Boys Bowling Team, Coach Brian Mahon
  - Kristin MacDonald, Softball Class of 1989
  - Jo-Anne Greggo Hockler, Softball Class of 1989
  - Tim Kirby, Varsity Baseball, Class of 1988
  - Dan Soto, Varsity Baseball, Class of 1997
  - Kyle Davis, Varsity Wrestling, Class of 2017

-Courtesy photo

Southern Dutchess News  
 Beacon Free Press  
 Northern Dutchess News

# Classified

## SDN Subscriber ads

### 107 Situations Wanted

Needed House Cleaner Aid for Elderly Woman. Two times a week. Errands, shopping and appointments. Call: 845-297-5414

House Cleaner Needed. Small two bedroom, two baths. References and Driver License Required. 845-325-2337

Residential and Commercial Clean outs. Disposal of unwanted items Carpentry work Interior and Exterior Painting. Property Management Call Craig 845-891-8930



### 401 Apartments for Rent

Victorian, BEACON 9D / mins. RR - 70 NYC Hwy, Spectacular Hudson Views, Rest. Antiques, Hiking, biking, Mountains, 2BD + Den, DW / WD, Split - Level, \$2,800. Suitable 1 - 3. 914-960-0069 or 914-584-7137

### 403 Furnished Rooms

2 rooms, Private Bathroom and Entrance. Semi furnished, into private home. No Kitchen. Call: 845-784-8964

### 503 Furniture

Patio set, glass top with four chairs with cushions. 9 foot umbrella with stand. Used once, \$350. Call 845-297-4741

Queen size wood sleigh bed box spring mattress included. Exc. Cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213

4 set Antique wood dining chairs upholstered seats exc. cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213

Day Bed Frame Twin white Decorative Head and Side Frame. Excellent condition, \$100. 845-226-8896

2-drawer, wide, metal filing cabinet. Good shape, tan, has lock but no key. 19 D x 30 W x 28 H. \$25. 845-227-5922

### 503 Furniture

Sofa with reclining ends, \$75. Recliner Rocker, \$50. All good cond., Blue in color. 845-297-0131

Bunk Bed set with ladder, one dresser. Early american style, great condition \$175. 845-227-5922

### 504 Appliances

Large Air Fryer, never used, have all attachments, booklet. I don't have room on my counter, \$75 OBO. 845-242-7717

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

European lead figures and European model cars HO Marklin Trains 1940's - 1970's. Large collection, very nice, reasonable. 845-221-0893

10" (TC250B) Tilesaw 2.5 H/P with PVD tray. 3340 RPM with mini pum Chicago power tool, \$150 OBO. Ping Pong table MDSport Not Used, \$125 OBO. 845-831-8698

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

Brand New Holiday candles, brass tone, cordless, adjustable height with multiple time settings + 4 extra bulbs, 4 candles, \$20. 2 boxes (8candles), \$30. Call 845-264-0240

Treadmill Exerciser (Pro-Form Crosswalk #395). Excellent condition, \$150. 845-677-5293 call mornings.

7 foot prelit artificial Christmas tree. Used a few times, comes in a nice bag, \$65. 845-221-3824

Vintage cast iron white pedestal sink with faucets, \$50. 845-297-7685

Electronic Radial Saw, \$50, One motor, \$10. New Bathroom vanity with sink, \$60, Router and bits, \$50. Leave message 845-462-4441

AC Filters-Precision Aire, 30 x 30 x 1 pleated-model 40, \$8 each. 845-264-0240



### 516 Misc. Merchandise

Billiard Table Oak wood. Slate Surface. You disassemble and remove, \$250.00 FIRM 845-242-2542

Magnisium Alum Alloy 16' extension ladder, 8' glass reinforced step ladder, Make offer. 845-297-6369

AC Prtable, \$80 - Dehumidifier, \$60, Grill Free, Snare Drum, \$80, Wicker shelf, Lamp, \$40. 845-418-0069

Special Bike made in Denmark, good cond., \$75. 845-401-7654

Tor-1950's Tube AM,FM & Record Player, \$250 OBO. 845-831-8698

Paintball Equipment for sale. Guns cases hoppers tanks masks all in good working order. Asking \$150 for all. 914-420-5626

### 516 Misc. Merchandise

Brother Laser Printer H-L L2395DW Print copy scan new cond. Asking \$100. Leave message. Contact Roseanne, 845-897-5812

Four Kenwood KL777 100W speakers, wood cabinet, exc. cond., \$225. 845-337-6509

Outdoor Mult. Position Reclining Chair, Cost \$75 New. Large Size. Call: 845-297-2105

### 900 Autos For Sale

2005 Lexus ES330 for sale. Best Offer. Runs good. Still driving on road. 845-297-0084

2012 Jeep Wrangler 83,000 miles. Fantastic shape. Must see to appreciate. Many accessories including cover and tow package. Text 845-401-6648.

### 903 Motorcycles



1993 Harley Davidson FLHTC 1340cc, Black/Chrome, \$5,000 OBO. CALL: 845-554-6317



### 904 Tires

Hitch receiver for bike rack. Will fit any Prius. Excellent condition. New \$265, Now \$135. 845-896-5197

1933 Chevy Master Reupholstered front seat Recomed bumpers Rebuilt engine NewBattery New front floormat, \$15,300. 845-831-6673



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 Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Southern Dutchess News  
 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
 Coupon must accompany payment

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(Home phone)

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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 If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.  
 Faxes are accepted, but not recommended. Our fax number is: (845) 297-6810  
 Ads run for 2 weeks. If after 2 weeks you wish your ad to run again, it must be resubmitted.  
 We reserve the right to modify or reject any ads.  
 Southern Dutchess News, 84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

# West Point Band to perform Winter Concerts beginning this month

Members of The West Point Band have announced the 2025 Winter Concert Series. Join them across the Hudson Valley and throughout the Northeast beginning this month for unforgettable performances featuring the Army's oldest musical organization. Audiences can look forward to a diverse selection of music, ranging from traditional band repertoire and Sousa marches to patriotic tunes and beyond. Prepare to be inspired and delighted by the world-class musicians of the West Point Band. All performances are free and open to all. Visit [westpointband.com](http://westpointband.com) for the latest information, or follow the band on Facebook, Instagram and X.

With three performances in February, the West Point Band's concert "Dance With Me" is an evening of music inspired by the rhythms of dance. The concert features classics like James Reese Europe's lively "Castle House Rag" and Rachmaninoff's sweeping "Symphonic Dance No. 1," alongside "Hip Knot," an original composition by the band's Deputy Commander, Capt. Philip Tappan. Staff Sgt. Francisco Aisporna brings vocal charm to Michael Bubl 's "Haven't Met You Yet" and "Sinatra in Love," while Staff Sgt. Patrick Sikes shines in Oscar Navarro's "Concerto for Clarinet." This dynamic program promises a celebration of music that moves us all.

In March, join the West Point Band for "West Point on the March," an exploration of the most classic American military musical genre: the march, featuring some of Sousa's best-known works alongside lively selections like "Americans We" and Ethel Smyth's anthem of women's suffrage, "March of the Women." The West Point Brass Quintet

will showcase the powerful music of a New Orleans funeral, followed by stirring pieces inspired by the 1963 March on Washington, including Bob Dylan's "When the Ship Comes In" and "Blowin' in the Wind." The concert wraps up with the unforgettable movie marches from "Indiana Jones" and "The Music Man."

"American Tapestry" celebrates the composers who have called America home, whether by birth or choice, blending cultural influences to create something uniquely and beautifully American. This program highlights the rich diversity of our musical landscape, featuring Leonard Bernstein's inspiring "Make Our Garden Grow," Percy Grainger's "Lincolnshire Posy," and Chen Yi's vibrant "Dragon Rhyme." Dana Wilson's "The Avatar" highlights the bassoon's depth and versatility, performed by featured soloist Sgt. 1st Class Briana Hoffman, while Morton Gould's playful "Yankee Doodle" adds a touch of Americana. Join us for an evening of music that honors the artistry, unity, and cultural richness that define America.

**Saturday, Jan. 25, 2 p.m., Nanuet**  
Academy Wind Quintet  
Nanuet Public Library  
149 Church St.

**Saturday, February 8, 2 p.m., Beacon**  
Regimental Brass Quintet  
Howland Public Library  
313 Main St.

**Friday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., New Paltz**  
"Dance With Me"  
West Point Concert Band  
Old Main at SUNY New Paltz



The West Point Band will perform a Winter Concert Series beginning this month. -Courtesy photo West Point Band

Old Main, Tricor Ave.

**Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m., West Point,**  
"Dance With Me"  
West Point Concert Band  
Eisenhower Hall Theatre  
655 Ruger Road

**Saturday, March 8, 2 p.m., West Point**  
"West Point on the March"  
West Point Concert Band and West  
Point Brass Quintet  
Eisenhower Hall Theatre  
655 Ruger Road

**Tuesday, March 11, 7 p.m., Troy**  
"West Point on the March"  
West Point Concert Band and West  
Point Brass Quintet  
Experimental Media and Performing  
Arts Center at Rensselaer  
50 8th St.

**Saturday, March 29, 7 p.m., Annandale-on-Hudson**  
"American Tapestry"  
West Point Concert Band  
Fisher Center at Bard College  
60 Manor Ave.

## Nerd Nite set for Jan. 10

A new Nerd Nite Hudson Valley will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10. Three fun - yet informative - visual presentations about our music pathology, Man Vs. Machine and Rabbit Holes. Attendees will hear from Dr. T 'ahirih Motazedian, associate professor of music theory at Vassar College; Kevin Maher, host of "Kevin Geeks Out," a variety show; and Emily Menez, "Slackjaw" editor and writer for CBS, "Funny or Die," M'cSweeney's." Refreshments are available. It's \$15 at the door if available or get advance tickets for \$10.

The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main St. in Beacon.

## Correction

In the Dec. 25 Crossword puzzle, the answer to 36 down (Scarlet O'Hara's home) is "Tara."

## this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer  
**SUDOKU**

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

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

Suguru solution

### Legal Notices

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-05-25  
EISEP Consumer Directed Fiscal Intermediary  
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., Jan-

### Legal Notices

uary 24, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York,

### Legal Notices

hereby invites the submission of proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-02-25  
Part 820 OASAS Stabilization and Rehabilitation Beds  
Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System (BidNet Direct) Portal on or before 2:00 p.m., February 11, 2025. Specifications, proposal forms and submittal instructions may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

### Legal Notices

gov, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**TOWN OF FISHKILL ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**TOWN OF FISHKILL PLANNING BOARD**  
**APPEAL OF THE TOWN ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DETERMINATION**  
**DIGITAL MONUMENT SIGN - ZBA**

### Legal Notices

**APPLICATION NO.: ZB24-004**  
**TIMELY SIGNS FOR HERITAGE FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION**  
**1476 ROUTE 9D**  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Fishkill will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, commencing at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible in the Francois R. Cross Meeting room located in the lobby of the Town of Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, NY in the matter of

### Legal Notices

the Town of Fishkill Planning Board's request that the Zoning Board of Appeals reverse the Town Zoning Administrator's determination pursuant to Town Code   150-179 because (1) the proposed electronic digital message board is prohibited by Town Code   150-143(D)(5), and (2) a variance is required to legalize the proposed non-compliant digital monument sign.  
The land affected by this application is shown generally on the Tax Map as Section 6055, Block

### Legal Notices

01, Lot 081625, located at 1476 Route 9D, consisting of 1.3   acres in the GB (General Business) Zoning District in the Town of Fishkill.  
All interested persons will be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Fishkill at the public hearing, as stated above.  
By Order Of The Zoning Board of Appeals Of the Town of Fishkill, New York  
Debbie Colonna, Secretary

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

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**THEME: SCIENCE FICTION**

**ACROSS**

1. Le Corbusier's art
5. \*"The Matrix" protagonist
8. Captures
12. Funkiness in the air
13. Vegetative state
14. Capital of Vietnam
15. Fairy tale villain
16. Beware of these in March
17. Spiker and Sponge of "James and the Giant Peach"
18. \*Bioengineered humanoid in "Blade Runner"
20. The Beehive State
21. Burn with coffee, e.g.
22. Tire meas.
23. Sea nymph
26. Salad dressing option
30. \*Pierre Boullé's Cornelius
31. Hoity-toity
34. Back arrow key
35. Covered with sphagnum
37. Tiny Tim's guitar
38. Allegro \_\_\_\_\_, in music
39. Sign of escape
40. Apprehension
42. Emergency responder, acr.
43. Neuron junction
45. Sleeping sickness vector
47. \*Katniss Everdeen's sister
48. Hammerin' Hank
50. Tennis "innings"
52. \*2010 film starring DiCaprio
56. Meat of coconut
57. Desperate
58. Karl of politics
59. \*1979 film starring Sigourney Weaver
60. Fail to mention
61. Bo Peep's females
62. \*"Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" author
63. Was ahead
64. \*Spock's are pointy

**DOWN**

1. Point of entry
2. Side of a ruler, e.g.
3. S or C follower, in business
4. Two-word threat
5. Relating to node
6. Make corrections
7. Kiln for hops
8. \*Captain Nemo's submarine
9. Tolstoy's Karenina
10. This and that
11. Bro's sibling
13. Droning insect
14. Niger and Nigeria language
19. In an unfriendly manner
22. Parent org.
23. "He named \_\_\_\_\_"
24. Strong adhesive
25. Pine juice
26. Original thought
27. Garment enlarger
28. \*"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" author
29. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful \_\_\_\_\_"
32. \*Frank Herbert's famous novel
33. "I Like \_\_\_\_\_" 1950s campaign slogan
36. \*"Where no man has gone before" TV series
38. "The Tortoise and the Hare" author
40. "It's no \_\_\_\_\_!"
41. Beale of Memphis, e.g.
44. South Korean port
46. Main dish
48. Japanese cartoon art
49. Like thick smoke
50. Solo, pl.
51. Long narrative poem
52. Worshiped one
53. Minnesota's southern neighbor
54. Last word on radio
55. Famed loch
56. Rogue or rascal

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

5					
				5	1
	4				
		2		3	

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

**CROSSWORD**

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

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

# HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



## Hang on to your Halloumi! National Cheese Lover's Day is Jan. 20

Early farmers who discovered cheese in 8000 BCE used it as a dairy preservative, since cheese does not spoil as quickly as milk. But, by the 20th century, global trade necessitated an even longer shelf life. This spurred the invention of ultra-processed cheeses like Velveeta.

Interestingly, the Hudson Valley Town of Monroe was where Velveeta was invented. The original Velveeta recipe was made by blending leftover pieces of cheddar, Colby, and Swiss, along with an emulsifier to create a smooth texture. However, today's Velveeta, produced by Kraft Foods, is a "pasteurized prepared cheese product" containing whey and milk protein concentrates, not substantial amounts of real cheese, according to FDA standards.

### Making cheese is a process

Cheese is made from acidified milk. Agents such as vinegar, bacteria, or citric acid lower the pH of the creamy liquid. Acidifying milk separates its component curds (clumps of casein proteins) from the whey and controls the growth of undesirable bacteria. Some cheeses are curdled only by acidity; many other cheeses are curdled further with the addition of enzymes. Enzymes cause the milk proteins to clump into more solid curds. Those curds are then cut to encourage the release of more whey. The liquid whey is then drained off and the curds are pressed into the desired shape to form cheese. The cheese type depends on factors like the milk used; the amount of

acidification, cutting, and salting; and the length of the aging process.

### Cheese is an 'udder' scientific marvel

Cheese making organisms such as *Lactococcus lactis*, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, and *Penicillium roqueforti* are examples of beneficial bacteria. *Lactococcus lactis* produces lactic acid, which helps to curdle milk. It is used in making cheddar, cottage cheese, and many others. *Streptococcus thermophilus* contributes to the acidity and flavor development in cheeses like mozzarella. *Penicillium roqueforti* creates the characteristic blue veins and pungent flavor in blue cheeses.

Cheese contains fat and water that are held together by a network of proteins. In cooler temperatures, the fat is solid, but it becomes more pliable with warmth. Some cheeses are "meltier" than others. Younger cheeses like mozzarella and brie melt better than grating cheeses like Parmesan or Pecorino-Romano. But even "melty" cheeses will cook off their water content in excessive heat. If that happens, you'll notice the tough casein floating in grease, meaning that the protein structure shrank so much that it could not contain the fat.

Maybe you've noticed a greasy slick on top of an overcooked pizza or a lasagna in the past. Scientifically, the proteins have denatured. Seek out your favorite science teacher to explain what causes that to happen!



Dutchess County cheese, fruit, and crackers.



Cheese on pizza at an unnamed Dutchess County Store.

### Dutchess County milk and cheese

Although Velveeta contains milk, it no longer lists cheese among its ingredients. You can, however, buy wholesome milk from Dutchess County Dairy cows. And you can buy cheese produced here, as well!

Dairy farms can be found in Millbrook, Amenia, Fishkill, Millerton, and Pine Plains. I recently tried some local artisanal cheeses that were delicious. Seek out a local fromager for a Hudson Valley Nibble or head to your own fridge for

schmear of cream cheese on a bagel and celebrate National Cheese Lover's Day.

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

# Beacon Sloop Club to present 'Chopping Wood - Pete Seeger w/ David & Jacob Bernz' on Jan. 16



Jacob, left, and David Bernz, a father-son team, perform in Beacon.



David Bernz, right, with the late activist and folk singer Pete Seeger.

-Courtesy photos

The Beacon Sloop Club's 2025 Lecture Series will present "Chopping Wood - Pete Seeger w/ David & Jacob Bernz," part book reading and part sing-along, on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Beacon Sloop Club. The presentation was derived from conver-

sations between David Bernz and Pete Seeger, who died in 2014.

This is an opportunity to hear Seeger's own words. Minimally edited to preserve Seeger's trademark cadence, the book is punctuated by historical images and addi-

tional commentary by David Bernz, as well as remembrances from other musicians and friends and a foreword by Arlo Guthrie.

All are invited to listen in as Seeger unabashedly shares historical and family stories; tells of learning the banjo, traveling with Woody Guthrie, and finding commercial success with The Weavers; explains how he wrote books and put together songs; delves into controversial subjects like communism and the Peekskill Riots; and highlights those he admired and respected, including Bruce Springsteen, who honored Seeger with his Seeger Sessions album in 2006.

Seeger and David Bernz share the heavy lifting as they tackle subjects such as the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, Pete's relationship to Greenwich Village, and the need for copyright reform. Together, they describe how Seeger put his worldview into practice in his local community, and how he lived

with local hero status in later life.

David and Jacob Bernz are a father-son team of folksingers and songwriters hailing from Beacon. David Bernz's performance ensembles have included "Dave, Perry, Rande, "Stone Soup" and "Work o' the Weavers" and he has released CDs with each. David Bernz has also received two Grammy Awards producing CDs for Pete Seeger including Best Folk Album 2008 and best children's album 2010. Jacob is a prolific young songwriter with five CDs of original material. Combining many influences into a genre all his own, Jacob Bernz's delivery is uniquely poetic and personal, together they weave a tapestry of songs old and new.

The lecture is free. The Beacon Sloop Club is at 2 Red Flynn Dr., Beacon.

For more information, visit [www.beaconsloopclub.org](http://www.beaconsloopclub.org) or call 845-463-4660, 914-879-1082.

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