

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## Fishkill Ave. Committee updates Council

By Kristine Coulter

An update from the Fishkill Avenue Concepts Committee was offered at the Council's meeting on Jan. 27. It was stated that the 2017 Comprehensive Plan does not contain a lot of information about Route 52 in there.

There are some recommendations, such as, are resurfacing while improving sidewalk and architectural design, as well as explore funding opportunities for bike racks, information kiosks in the Comprehensive Plan, it was stated.

Four of the recommendations noted at the meeting, and according to City documents, were:

Recommendation 1: One use that is permitted in a few of the corridor's Zoning Districts is Self-Storage. While the committee recognizes that there is a need on some level for this use (and in fact, one self-storage use exists in a reused former brick factory building adjacent to the Lofts), due to the low numbers of employment these uses provide, as well as their lack of contributions to vibrant corridors, the committee recommends that the use of "Self-Storage Business" be separated from "Wholesale, warehouse storage and self-storage business" and be prohibited within the zoning districts along the corridor.

Recommendation 2: The committee has similar concerns regarding uses with a drive-thru component. These uses typically focus on an auto-centric design and are considered detrimental to pedestrian safety because they often create congested traffic patterns with cars entering and exiting at various angles, leading to increased risk of collisions with pedestrians. An evolution of the corridor with this type of use is not consistent with the overall pedestrian-scale vision that the committee is working towards. The committee recommends that "... facilities, standalone or used in connection with any other uses" be expressly prohibited within all zoning districts along the Fishkill Avenue corridor.

Recommendation 3: It is noted that the committee was particularly impressed with the approved but not yet constructed mixed-use building at 397 Fishkill Avenue. This site design in this example which was approved by the Planning Board incorporates pleasing architectural design with the building situated towards the street frontage and parking to the rear. Members of the committee and public have noted that the prevalence of buildings along the corridor that are set back from the sidewalk or street edge, behind expanses of asphalt and parking, detracts from the walkability and vitality of the corridor by disrupting the "street wall," prioritizing vehicle access over pedestrian access, and detracting from over street aesthetics. The committee recommends that the Council consider reducing the required minimum front yard setback within the GB district from 15 ft to 10 ft,

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## Stony Kill Farm announces barnyard improvements, ribbon-cutting held

By Kristine Coulter

Barnyard renovations have been made at Stony Kill Farm. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Jan. 31 to show off the renovations. Funding for the project was provided by a New York State Parks & Trails Partnership Grant. The annual Open Barn season began for Stony Kill Foundation members on Feb. 1 and then for community members on Feb. 2. The barn will be open on Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. until late Nov., at 79 Farmstead Lane in Wappingers Falls, it was stated.

"This has been a long time coming," said Tim Stanley, president of the Stony Kill Foundation Board. "People can get up close and personal to the animals now." He remarked that the renovations have improved the whole barnyard for the animals.

The \$150,000 grant was awarded in 2023 to the Stony Kill Foundation. The grant directed the Foundation "to undertake an essential renovation of the barnyard and agricultural learning area which is a center for public programming and youth education at Stony Kill Farm."

"Accessibility was a high priority of the renovations," said Stanley.

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra said, "This place was built in the 1860s and is still going strong."

Stacey Lynch Adnams, program director for Stony Kill, said there are more than 70 active volunteers that assist with Stony Kill programs and livestock.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony highlighting the barnyard renovations at Stony Kill Farm was held on Friday, Jan. 31. Funding for the project was provided by a New York State Parks & Trails Partnership Grant. Pictured, from left, are Interim Commissioner for NYS DEC Sean Maher, Stony Kill Foundation President Tim Stanley, Stony Kill Program Director Stacey Lynch Adnams and Paul Steely White, executive director of Parks & Trails New York (PTNY).

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

The chicken and pig areas "are very much improved," she said.

The pigs now have two areas, and one is a mud wallow where they can cool

down in the summer, she said. The chickens have a new run.

Continued on page 2

## Register for annual 'Freezin' for a Reason' Polar Plunge in Fishkill

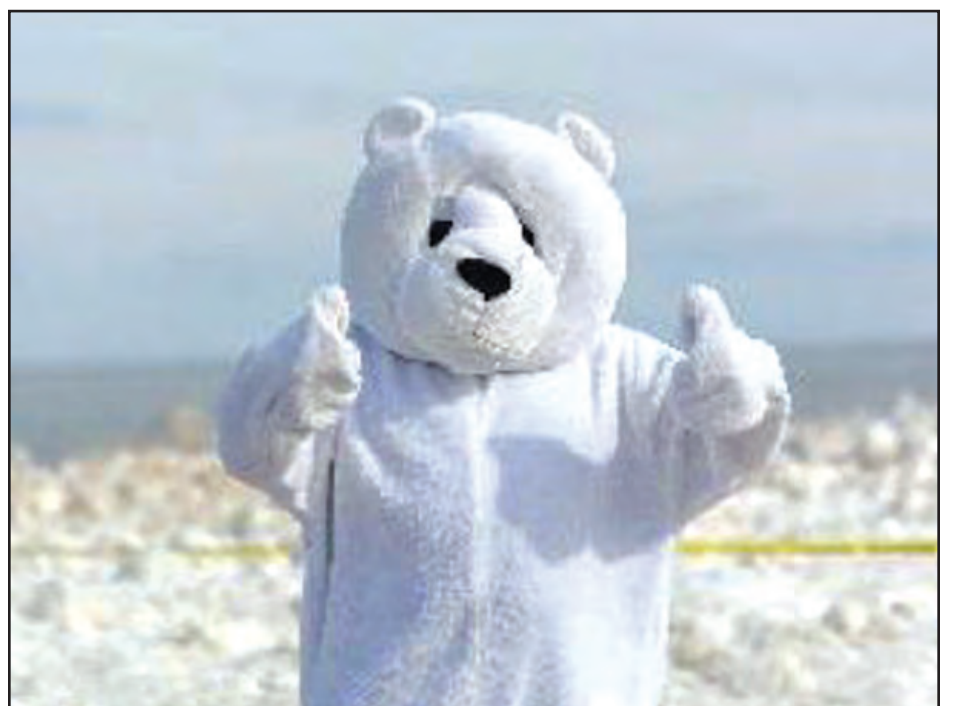
By Kristine Coulter

The annual 27th Freezin' for a Reason Polar Plunge at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill will take place on Saturday, Feb. 15. The "Cool School Challenge" Polar Plunge will be on Friday, Feb. 14.

"Taking the Special Olympics New York Polar Plunge means jumping into cold waters to raise money for our Special Olympics NY athletes. The Polar Plunge is a fundraiser that supports year-round sports training, competition, and other programs for people with intellectual disabilities. Truly a great time to be had by all," said Teresa Gilli, Special Olympics New York Hudson Valley Region Director of Development.

So, what about getting there? Do participants and attendees have to take buses this year?

"Yes! Only buses are allowed up to Sharpe Reservation," said Gilli. (Those needing special access due to a handicap must reach out to Gilli personally at tgilli@nyso.org or 845-262-6011.) Attendees and participants should park in the Dutchess Community College parking lot Fishkill, 461 Rt. 9, in Fishkill. There, one can ride on one of the buses that will drive everyone up to The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation.



The annual "Freezin' for a Reason" Polar Plunge will be held at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill on Feb. 14, for schools, and Feb. 15 for community members.

-Courtesy photo

"We will have a food truck at the parking area called Hooked Seafood to serve food and hot beverages for every-

one. They will donate a portion of the

Continued on page 3

# Stony Kill Farm announces barnyard improvements, ribbon-cutting held



Continued from cover

Paul Steely White, who is the new executive director of Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), told those in attendance that 10 years ago the grant was started by PTNY's long-standing visionary leader, Robin Dropkin. "These are really high-end projects but really it is about improving public land for the people," said White. He added, "We're very proud we were a part of the project that you have nurtured and now brought to fruition."

Stanley described Stony Kill as a "very unique, special place." He told how the Verplanck family used to own the land.

Then when development occurred, members of the family gave the 754 acres land to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to be used as a teaching farm by SUNY Farmingdale. In 1973, the land was chartered to the DEC. The Foundation was formed in 1977. The Foundation entered an agreement with the DEC in 2010 to manage the daily operations of the facility, according to the Stony Kill website. The barn, stated Stanley, was built in the mid-1800s, when President Abraham Lincoln was leading the nation.

More people can access the barn due to the paths now that lead outside to

the barnyard.

Adnams said, "This is an exciting new chapter in Stony Kill's history."

The 4-H Empowerment Program is starting up again, she remarked. The program has four 4-Hers who use wheelchairs. "This project will make a huge difference [for them]," noted Adnams.

There were 4,500 open barn visitors and 2,500 program participants last year, said Adnams.

Interim Commissioner for NYS DEC

Sean Maher stated he had heard about Stony Kill but had never been to visit. "I want to be here. This is a really cool place," remarked Maher.

Certificates were offered to commemorate the day from representatives for NYS Senator Rob Rolison and NYS Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr.

Adnams said Stony Kill is a place "that brings people together" and the barnyard renovations "were a long time coming."

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

*Clockwise from top left, the Red Barn at Stony Kill Farm with a new cement walkway. Turkeys enjoy a new pen and surroundings. The cement walkway allows for wheelchair access to the barnyard now. Interim Commissioner for NYS DEC Sean Maher and Stony Kill Foundation President Tim Stanley make remarks during the ceremony held at Stony Kill Farm on Jan. 31.*

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## County requests residents participate in transportation survey

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) is developing a Safety Action Plan that will identify priority locations and strategies to improve transportation safety in Dutchess County.

To ensure that the Safety Action Plan reflects the needs of the community, the DCTC has created an online Transportation Safety Survey and an

Interactive Safety Map. These resources are available in both English and Spanish on the Plan webpage: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCSAP>.

The survey will be used to gather feedback from the community to help inform the Safety Action Plan. Residents are asked to take a moment and share their thoughts.



**Sip, Savor & Sweeten Valentine's Day  
With Pairings at Millbrook Winery**







# Register for annual 'Freezin' for a Reason' Polar Plunge in Fishkill

Continued from cover

proceeds to us," remarked Gilli. Participants should remember to schedule a time for Saturday. Take Bus 9 a.m. - Registration 9:15 a.m. - Plunge 9:30 a.m. Take Bus 10 a.m. - Registration - 10:15 a.m. - Plunge 10:30 a.m. Take Bus 11 a.m. - Registration 11:15 a.m. - Plunge 11:30 a.m. Take Bus Noon - Registration 12:15 p.m. - Plunge 12:30 p.m. Take Bus 1 p.m. - Registration 1:15 p.m. - Plunge 1:30 p.m. Registration for the "Cool School Challenge" Polar Plunge will be from 2-3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. That plunge is at 3:45 p.m. there will be contests, DJ's and more. Tim Stanley, with The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation, said two days is fine because "we enjoy having Special Olympics." He noted it will be interesting to see how thick the ice is on the lake. Gilli said she is hoping to reach 500 participants this year. "We are always looking for people to register (and can register day of). The more the merrier," she added. The goal is to raise \$250,000 this year for the Special Olympics. "But I personally would love to reach \$300,000 supporting 500 athletes for the entire year. Always hoping for the best and this com-



The Polar Plunge in Fishkill will take place at Sharpe Reservation on Feb. 14 and Feb. 15. Pictured is a team from a previous year's Polar Plunge.

-Archive photo

munity has always come through for us for so many years. We are blessed and I am happy with any donations that support our wonderful athletes! They are why we are 'Freezin' for a Reason!" said Gilli. For more information, visit [https://events.nyso.org/site/TR/Plunge/POLARPLUNGE?pg=entry&fr\\_id=3131](https://events.nyso.org/site/TR/Plunge/POLARPLUNGE?pg=entry&fr_id=3131).

## NYS Police alert residents to targeted burglaries

The New York State Police is alerting residents in Dutchess, Westchester, and Putnam counties of a series of targeted residential burglaries that have occurred within the past week. Investigators are actively investigating these incidents and urging residents to take additional security precautions.

**Incident details**

- Three residential burglaries targeting homes of Asian American residents have been reported
- Substantial amounts of U.S. currency and jewelry were stolen in two of the incidents
- The burglaries appear to be part of a targeted pattern

**Safety recommendaions**

The New York State Police advises all residents who live in these areas, particularly those in the Asian American community, to:

1. Enhance Home Security
  - Ensure all doors and windows are securely locked, including second-floor entry points
  - Install or activate security systems and cameras

- Keep exterior lights on during nighttime hours
- Consider installing motion-sensor lighting
- 2. Practice Personal Safety
  - Be aware of suspicious vehicles or individuals in your neighborhood
  - Avoid discussing vacation plans or periods of absence on social media
  - Consider using timed interior lights when away from home
  - Secure valuables in a quality safe or safety deposit box
- 3. Community Vigilance
  - Report any suspicious activity immediately by calling 911
  - Document suspicious vehicles, including license plate numbers, when possible
  - Join or create neighborhood watch programs
  - Keep in close communication with neighbors

The New York State Police works closely with local law enforcement agencies to investigate these crimes. We encourage anyone with information about these incidents to contact Troop K Headquarters at 845-677-7300.

## Glenham Fire District announces meeting dates for 2025


The following is a list of the Year 2025 Regular Meetings of the Glenham Fire District being held at the Slater Chemical Firehouse located at 76 Old Glenham Road, Glenham, in the Town

of Fishkill. The meeting dates are: February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 8, November 12 and December 10.


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By George Brant

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# Viewpoints

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Policy on letters:

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Beacon Free Press will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Beacon Free Press.

## America is 'sliding from a democracy into an autocracy'

### To the Editor:

We've got to fight like hell or we're sliding from a democracy into an autocracy. Donald Trump, the master showman cunningly convinced many voters we were failing as a country when Joe Biden's economy was the envy of the world.

At the swearing in ceremony, Trump was surrounded by his millionaire and billionaire friends who pumped millions of dollars of lies into defeating Kamala Harris. Contrary to what Trump says, he won only by the skin of his teeth.

We now have a totally incompetent, unqualified secretary of defense. Only Republicans Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Mitch McConnell had the guts to vote no.

I can only hope more Republicans find their spines with future disastrous nominations. If not, we lose our democracy to King Trump.

Louise Trancynger  
Poughkeepsie

## 'Generous people' from Wappingers Falls, provided joy to children during holiday season

### To the Editor:

The overwhelming generosity of the people of Wappingers Falls?, helped provide joy to children in need through Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts this season. Across the U.S., the Samaritan's Purse project collected 10.5 million shoebox gifts in 2024. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2024, the ministry is now sending over 11.9 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Shoebox packers brought joy and hope to children around the world through fun, full, personalized gifts. For many children, this is the first gift they have ever received.

Each shoebox gift is a tangible expression of God's love, given to children in need around the world. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across the region, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ).

Although local Wappingers Falls dropoff locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 17 - 24, 2025, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at [samaritanspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanspurse.org/buildonline).

These simple gifts, packed with love, remind children around the world that they are loved and not forgotten.

GreenLee Smith  
Samaritan's Purse  
Marketing/Media Relations Associate

## New HV Regional Food Bank opening doors to volunteers

The Regional Food Bank Hudson Valley's state-of-the-art, \$25 million Distribution Center in Montgomery is opening opens bay doors to volunteers and partner agencies for the first time.

The new 50,000 square foot site will provide the Regional Food Bank four times more storage for dry, cold and frozen foods than the current warehouse in Cornwall-on-Hudson. The Food Bank will also be able to purchase more food from local growers and producers through the Nourish New York program to distribute to more than our 400 partnering agencies in the Hudson Valley and to local families. Direct access to highways will allow for more frequent distribution and easier access for partnering agencies to pick up food which is then delivered at the

community level.

The Regional Food Bank serves 23 counties from the Hudson Valley to the Canadian Border. This new distribution center will serve Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. The Regional Food Bank provides more than 20 million pounds of food a year in the Hudson Valley.

Several volunteer organizations from throughout the Hudson Valley will be the first to pick up nutritious food from the new center. The Regional Food Bank expects to distribute four million more pounds of food, a 20% increase, with the new facility and has more than doubled their Hudson Valley workforce, with additional hires. For information on the Regional Food Bank, visit [regionalfoodbank.net](http://regionalfoodbank.net)

## Celebrate the Lunar New Year

To honor the new year, the Mid-Hudson HuaXia Chinese School (MHHCS) Board with the help of Village of Wappingers Mayor, Kevin Huber, Recreation Committee co-chairs, Charles Rizzo and Carmen Caldon, Trustee liaisons to Parks and Recreation John Tyliczszak and Joe Nicholas, decorated the gazebo at Mesier Park and the Cobbler building storefront in the Village of Wappingers. The gazebo has been adorned with lanterns and take selfies with the bright red backdrop in the storefront window on West Main Street. Lunar New Year began on January 29 and is celebrated for 15 days in many parts of Asia.

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to attend the Year of the Snake at the Mid-Hudson Chinese Association will

hold their annual Chinese New Year Gala at Roy C. Ketcham High school on Saturday, Feb. 22 dinner starts at 4 p.m. and performances at 6 p.m. Early reservations for dinners are mandatory, but walk-ins are welcome to watch performances. Show tickets are \$10 for non-members. <https://forms.gle/hga5r73K2Jp6MoDj6>.

MHHCS is a non-profit organization with board members from the community and led by principal, Lily Cheung of Poughkeepsie.

Classes are held on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Ketcham High School and welcome all those interested in the education and promotion of Chinese language and culture.

For more information, visit: <http://www.midhudsonchineseschool.org/>.

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Albert Osten, President

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## Beacon Fire Chief: Vehicle fire extended to house

The City of Beacon Fire Department responded at to a reported single family house on fire on Rector Street around 1:35 p.m. on Jan. 28. According to City of Beacon Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi the cause of the fire is being investigated by the City of Beacon Police Department in collaboration with the Dutchess County Fire Investigation Division.

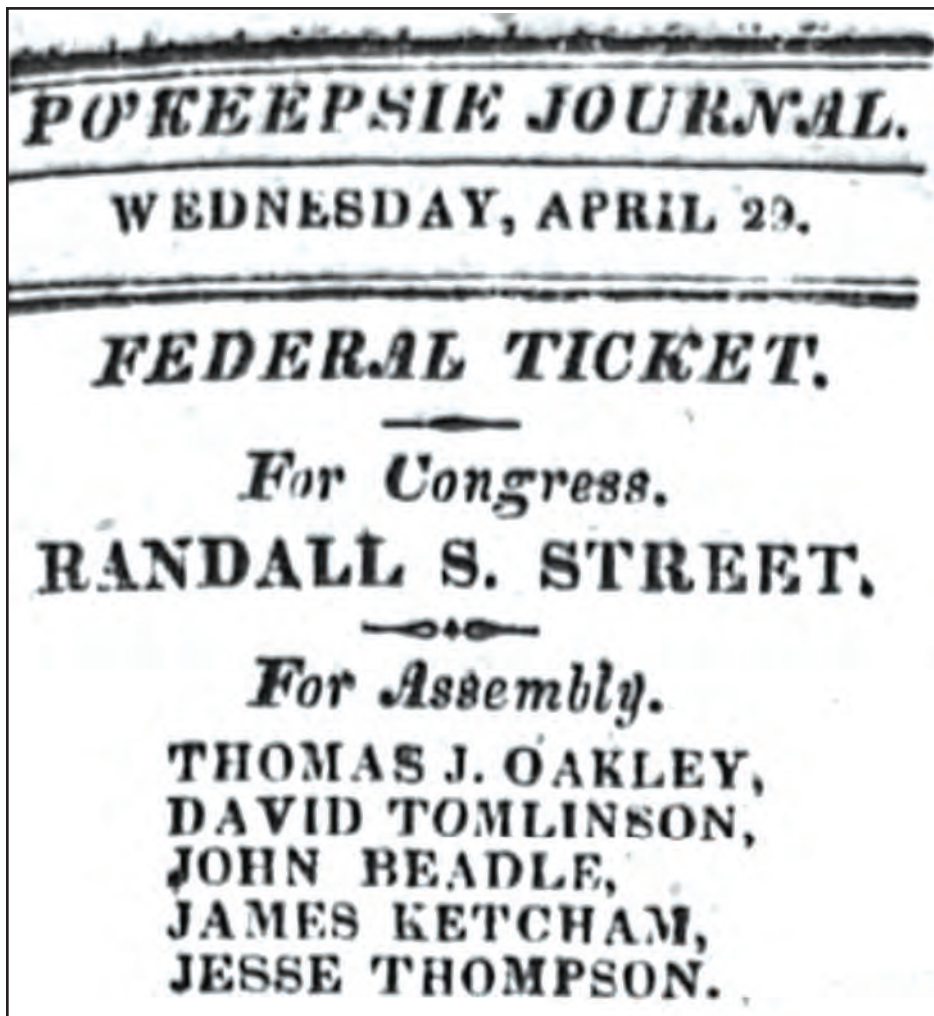
"Upon the arrival of the first arriving fire department units at 1:38 p.m., a vehicle fire that extended to the first floor of the house was found. A second alarm was immediately transmitted for additional

assistance. There were no injuries reported," said Lucchesi.

In addition to the City of Beacon, the Village of Fishkill Fire Department and Castle Point Fire Department also responded to the scene. Dutchess County Car 17, City of Beacon Medic 1 and Beacon Volunteer Ambulance provided assistance at the scene. Both the Glenham and Rombout Fire departments provided stand-by coverage for the city. City of Beacon Fire Department units returned to service at 3:42 p.m. stated the chief.



## The Honorable Judge



Advertisement from the Poughkeepsie Journal April 29, 1818, showing Jesse Thompson on the Federalist ticket.

-Image courtesy of Newspapers.com

### By Aidan Chisamore

Often in the study of history, figures emerge who capture the imagination of communities long after they have passed. One ledger book held in the Dutchess County Historical Society's Archives and Special Collections reminds us of one such individual who, over 100 years after his death, continued to intrigue local writers, despite little being known about his life. The book recounts the work of a judge in Northeastern Dutchess, detailing the Revolutionary War veteran's career in civil office. Written between 1798 and 1814, the ledger is the personal record of Judge Jesse Thompson (1757-1833) who served both as a state legislator—representing the County—and as a Justice of the Peace.

Born to Enos and Sarah Thompson in February of 1757, Jesse Thompson was a native of Dutchess County. His family settled in the North East Precinct in what is now Milan and Pine Plains. He became an influential community member, running for public office and helping to fund public institutions such as the local school and library. One historian described him as “a prominent man in old ‘North East Town’ ... He was a patriot in the revolution, and the war over a leading man as a citizen.” The emphasis on his military service is not uncommon; most accounts of the Judge's early life are dominated by his involvement in the Revolutionary War. These narratives suggest that he was guided by “ardent patriotism” and a “hatred [of] oppression.” These qualities were not only reserved for his time in the war, however. They were equally attributed to his work as a civil official.

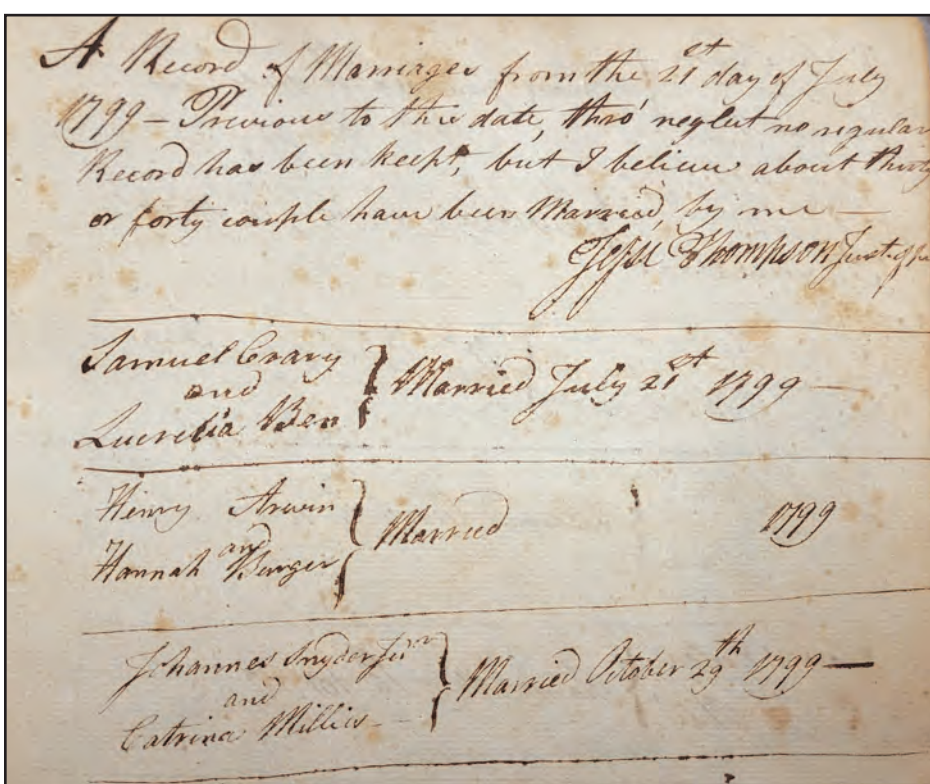
It is important to understand Thompson's role in the Revolution. He received a military warrant in June of 1775. Despite the praise he later received, he never finished a full tour, being discharged in January of 1776. During his time in the infantry,

Thompson served as a Lieutenant in the 4th New York Regiment (Dutchess County) under Captain Rufus Herrick. He was sent to Fort Ticonderoga, where his company joined the forces mustered under General Phillip Schuyler's Northern Division.

The historian Isaac Hunting tried to fill in some gaps in Thompson's military service. Hunting claimed to work both with Thompson's ledger book (now held at DCHS) and the judge's diaries. The whereabouts of the diaries is unknown, but Hunting relates that they reveal a more personal account of the war. On November 17, 1775, Schuyler ordered the Lieutenant to lead a mission to Canada to purchase horses. The purported journey took six weeks through the “snow and cold,” ending with Thompson rejoining the army in Albany on the 26th of December. Hunting quotes Thompson's journal, describing the return, “Did my business with the General and at three o'clock set out for home on foot.” While compelling, the absence of these journals calls into question Thompson's involvement in the assignment.

This story about Thompson's mission became an important part of the other authors' narratives surrounding the Judge. While there was an envoy sent to purchase horses, Schuyler's official orders were sent to “Lieutenant Thomas” – another member of the 4th regiment – not to Thompson. This inconsistency does not wholly discount the story, but it reminds us of the influence of personal legends in historical narratives. This narrative, whether true or false, reinforced the character of Thompson in later written works.

Little is known about Thompson in the following decades, but certainly, he studied and began to practice law. During this time he was appointed associate justice, and in 1793 he was noted as clerk for the North East Precinct. At the end of the decade, he



First page of the marriage records contained in the Judge Jesse Thompson Ledger held in the DCHS Archives and Special Collections.

took on the role of Justice of the Peace. Rooted in the medieval English legal system, the Justice of the Peace served an important role in colonial and early federal New York. In the early history of the state, justices were chosen from the landed gentry. Tax records show that Thompson was no exception, owning a large farm on the border of what is now the towns of Pine Plains and Stanford. Justices of the Peace served many roles, overseeing both judicial and administrative tasks. This included activities such as issuing military warrants, presiding in civil cases, and certifying marriages.

Returning to the ledger book, we begin to understand how Thompson's role as a Justice of the Peace helped integrate him into the historical narrative. The first 121 pages detail dozens of court cases Thompson oversaw with notes about their outcomes and arguments. Many of the original warrants from these cases are included in the book, placed between pages. His record of marriages (see above photo) also serves as an important source both about the author and the community he served. In his own words, Thompson expressed the importance of his work, “previous to this date thro neglect no regular record has been kept.” At first glance, this list provides only some helpful genealogical data. However, it is repeatedly used by authors like Hunting, to reiterate the story of Thompson, inserting him into the narratives of other members of his community.

In addition to his judicial duties, the Judge repeatedly represented the County in the New York State Assembly. His tenure stretched six sessions of the state legislature including 1796, 1796-1797, 1798, 1808-1809, 1814, and 1819. (see photo left) He ran under the Federalist ticket, witnessing the peak and subsequent decline of the party's influence on American politics. Championed by political figures like Alexander Hamilton, the Federalist Party

argued for the development of a strong federal government, supporting policies like the National Bank and judicial reform. The most poignant expression of Thompson's party allegiance came relatively late in his career with his opposition to the War of 1812. Broadly speaking, Federalists opposed the war on economic grounds. They challenged the militarist foreign policy of the Democratic-Republican party (“War Hawks”). By the beginning of 1812, local newspapers were replete with Thompson's disapproval of the war. In his campaign under the “Peace Ticket,” he claimed to be one of the “Friends of Liberty, Peace, and Commerce.” He won the election in 1813, resuming his seat in the Assembly the following year.

After his judicial career, Thompson departed from Dutchess County. Around 1815 the judge moved to Fleming, Cayuga County, New York, where his two daughters were living. He remained there until he died in the 1830s. Despite this move, his profound effect on the county remained. During the following century, Thompson continued to be an important figure in Northeastern Dutchess, captivating historical writers well into the twentieth century. The continued reprinting of his obituary on important occasions is particularly noteworthy.

While he no longer maintains the same presence in historical memory, his narrative reliance well into the twentieth century is important to note. It allows us to better understand the perception of history at a certain point in time that continues to influence what we know about Judge Thompson and how we read his ledger book.



Aidan Chisamore is a recent addition to the DCHS staff. He works in Collections and Archives and may be reached at [aidan.chisamore@dchsn.org](mailto:aidan.chisamore@dchsn.org).

# Attorney General James announces convictions of HV firearms, fentanyl traffickers

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced on Jan. 29 the convictions of nine members of firearms and narcotics trafficking rings that sold ghost guns, assault-style rifles, and counterfeit oxycodone pills containing deadly amounts of fentanyl in Dutchess County. The ringleader, Muayad Qader, was sentenced on January 24 to 14 years in prison after pleading guilty to four felonies. The primary supplier of firearms to the gun trafficking operation, Jason Knapp, was sentenced to 40 years in prison on January 17 after being convicted at trial for the sale and possession of 12 firearms, as well as Conspiracy. The remaining two members of the gun trafficking operation have also been convicted and are awaiting sentencing, along with the five remaining defendants charged for their roles in the narcotics trafficking operation.

"These dangerous criminals flooded New York communities with untraceable ghost guns and counterfeit opioids containing deadly amounts of fentanyl," said James in a press release. "This case is a significant victory in my office's efforts to turn the tide on the crises of gun violence and opioid addiction. The convictions and sentences we secured are putting a stop to deadly gun and drug trafficking operations, protecting New Yorkers in the Hudson Valley. I thank all of our partners in this investigation, and we will continue to go after anyone who threatens New Yorkers' safety."

"These convictions speak to the tremendous interagency coordination and cooperation necessary to get dangerous individuals, illegal drugs, and weapons off our streets," said New York State Police Superintendent Steven G. James in the release. "As a result, a major drug trafficking and weapons operation has been shut down. These substances destroy communities and put lives at risk. I want to thank our members and partners at the Attorney General's Office for their tenacious dedication to tracking illegal drugs and weapons and intercepting them at their source."

The convictions are the result of an 18-month joint investigation led by the Office of the Attorney General's (OAG) Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF), the New York State Police's (NYSP) Special Investigations Unit – Hudson Valley (SIU-HV), and the Troop K – Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team (K-VGNET). In February 2024, Attorney General James announced the arrests and indictments of the

defendants for their roles in the narcotics and firearms trafficking operations.

The investigation resulted in the indictment of four individuals on 154 counts for trafficking firearms and recovered 31 firearms. These included 14 unserialized AR-style ghost gun rifles, two serialized non-compliant AR-style rifles, a defaced AR-style rifle, a defaced magazine-fed shotgun, a Polymer-80 ghost gun pistol, and a defaced Glock-21 pistol, as well as high-capacity magazines and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

A separate 63-count indictment charged seven defendants with trafficking thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl. The investigation also recovered approximately 5,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl with a street value of about \$150,000 and approximately \$55,000 in cash, according to the Attorney General's office.

## Firearms Trafficking Network

The investigation, according to the press release, into the firearms trafficking network centered around Muayad Qader, 35, of Poughkeepsie, who obtained firearms from Jason Knapp, Joseph Silverman, and Louis Gonzalez for later resale. Knapp allegedly built ghost assault-style weapons in his Dutchess County home and sold the firearms to Qader at a Valero Gas Station, as well as at Qader's residence in Poughkeepsie.

In addition to the conviction of Knapp, states the release, in May 2024, Qader, Silverman, and Gonzalez pleaded guilty before Judge Edward McLoughlin in Dutchess County Court to felony charges for their roles in the firearms trafficking network:

Qader pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the First Degree (a Class B felony) and one count of Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree (a Class E felony).

Louis Gonzalez, 53 years old, of LaGrangeville, pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the Third Degree (a Class D felony), one count of Criminal Possession of a Firearm (a Class E felony), and one count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree (a class A misdemeanor). His sentence is pending.

Joseph Silverman, 30 years old, of Port St. Lucie, Florida, pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the Second Degree (a Class C felony), one count of Criminal Possession of a Firearm (a Class E

felony), and one count of Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree (a class E felony). His sentence is pending.

## Narcotics Trafficking Network

The investigation also revealed that Qader was part of a narcotics trafficking operation during which he bought and sold counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl. The narcotics investigation culminated in a separate 63-count indictment of Qader, as well as codefendants Aaron Steppe, Christopher Evans, Angel Williams, Isaiah Atkins, Curtis Holland, and Stephen Gary, who were supplying the counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl.

In May 2024, the releases reads, all remaining defendants pleaded guilty before the Honorable Edward McLoughlin in Dutchess County Court:

Qader pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree (a Class A-II felony), and one count of Conspiracy in the Second Degree (a Class B felony), to run concurrent with the sentences on the firearm trafficking indictment.

Isaiah Atkins, 27 years old, of Poughkeepsie, pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree (a Class B felony), for which he received a sentence of five and a half years in prison and two years of post-release supervision, and one count of Conspiracy in the Second Degree (a Class B felony), for which he received a sentence of one to three years in prison, to run concurrent. Atkins further forfeited \$35,010 in seized cash.

Christopher Evans, 34 years old, of Poughkeepsie, pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree (a Class B felony), for which he received a sentence of four years in prison and two years of post-release supervision, and one count of Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree (a Class E felony), for which he received a sentence of one to three years in prison, to run concurrent.

Curtis Holland, 32 years old, of Poughkeepsie, pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree (a Class B felony), and one count of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree (a class C felony). His sentence is pending.

Aaron Steppe, 29 years old, of Poughkeepsie, pleaded guilty to one count of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in

the Third Degree (a Class B felony), for which he received a sentence of five years in prison and two years of post-release supervision, and one count of Conspiracy in the Second Degree (a Class B felony), for which he received a sentence of one to three years in prison, to run concurrent. Steppe further forfeited \$6,443 in seized cash and a seized 2007 Infiniti G35.

Angel Williams, 24 years old, of Poughkeepsie, pleaded guilty to one count of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the Second Degree (a Class A misdemeanor), for which she received a sentence of three years of probation.

Attorney General James thanks New York State Police's (NYSP) Special Investigations Unit – Hudson Valley (SIU-HV) and Troop K – Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team (K-VGNET), Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi and the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO), the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department (CPPD), and the Dutchess County Drug Task Force (DCDTF) for their valuable work and assistance in this investigation and prosecution.

The investigation was led by members of the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit-Hudson Valley, the New York State Police Troop K - Violent Gangs and Narcotics Enforcement Team, and OCTF Detective Steven Cohan and OCTF Detective David Walsh, under the supervision of OCTF Detective Supervisor Bradford Miller, OCTF Downstate Assistant Chief Ismael Hernandez, and OCTF Deputy Chief Andrew Boss. The Attorney General's Investigations Division is led by Chief Oliver Pu-Folkes.

The OAG was represented at trial and at the guilty pleas by former OCTF Assistant Deputy Attorney General Griffin Kenyon and OCTF Assistant Deputy Attorney General Joseph Barca, under the supervision of Downstate OCTF Deputy Chief Lauren Abinanti and with the assistance of OCTF Assistant Deputy Attorney General John Genovese and OCTF Legal Analyst Madeline Rosen. Nicole Keary is the Deputy Attorney General in Charge of OCTF. The Division for Criminal Justice is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General José Maldonado. Both the Investigations Division and the Division for Criminal Justice are overseen by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

## Poughkeepsie man pleads guilty to endangering welfare of incompetent or physically disabled person

Poughkeepsie man please guilty to endangering welfare of incompetent or physically disabled person

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi announced on Jan. 29 that Garnet Collins, of Poughkeepsie, plead guilty in Dutchess County Court to Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the First Degree in violation of

Penal Law Section 260.25, Subdivision (1), a Class E Felony and will be sentenced to prison in April.

District Attorney Anthony Parisi said in a release, "The actions of the defendant are a grave violation of the trust placed in them by the vulnerable individuals and their families. The defendant endangered the well-being of people who relied on him for their care. This conviction serves



**Garnet Collins**

*-Courtesy photo from Dutchess County District Attorney's Office*

as a reminder that those entrusted with the care of vulnerable individuals must be

held accountable for their actions, and the safety and welfare of those individuals must always come first."

According to the release, Collins admitted to the Court that on June 5, 2024 and on June 12, 2024, at the Anderson Center for Autism in the Town of Hyde Park, he knowingly engaged in conduct which was likely to be injurious to the physical, mental, or moral welfare of victims, who were residents at the Center and unable to care for themselves due to physical disability, mental disease or defect. More specifically, the defendant admitted that on June 5, 2024, he grabbed a resident by the testicles and that on June 12, 2024, he struck another victim in the head with an object.

Judge Edward McLoughlin presided over the case and remanded the defendant into custody upon his guilty plea and scheduled his sentencing for April 2, 2025. The agreed upon sentence is 1-3 years in prison. The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Joseph Gruner.

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*Hope to hear from you! Thanks!*

# DCC announces 2025 Black History Month events

Dutchess Community College has announced a series of events to celebrate Black History Month. This year's program features dynamic presentations by scholars, writers and artists along with interactive book signings and a STEM panel networking opportunity. All events are free and open to the public.

On Feb. 6 at 12:30 p.m., a talk and book signing with esteemed art-ivist, concept artist, children's book author and film illustrator Nikkolas Smith will take place in the James & Betty Hall Theatre. Smith is the illustrator of New York Times best-sellers including "The 1619 Project: Born on the Water," "I Am Ruby Bridges," "Black Panther Forever: The Courage to Dream" and "That Flag." His other notable work includes film illustration for "Judas and the Black Messiah" and "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," as well as movie poster designs for "Soul" and "Southside with You."

Dr. Antumi Toasijé, a Fulbright Scholar, historian, author and visual artist, will deliver a presentation on Feb. 6 at 12:30 p.m. in the Teaching Learning Center (TLC), 232 Hudson Hall, focusing on the African presence in Europe and the ongoing struggle against racial and ethnic discrimination. A faculty member at New York University Madrid and IE University, Dr. Toasijé teaches global history with a focus on non-Eurocentric perspectives. His research explores the African diaspora in the Iberian Peninsula, African resistance to colonialism, and ini-

tatives supporting Afro-descendant communities in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

On Feb. 11 at 12:30 p.m. in Bowne Hall 122, a STEM Panel and Networking Event will feature high-achieving STEM professionals sharing academic and career experiences in fields such as engineering, health and science, aviation, technology and cybersecurity. Representatives from DCC, Labella Associates, Orange and Rockland Utilities, and Nuvance Health are scheduled to speak, with opportunities for attendees to meet panelists during the networking portion.

A talk and book signing with author Aaliyah Bilal, co-sponsored by DCC's Black History Committee and Women's Activities Committee, will be held on March 4 at 12:30 p.m. in the James & Betty Hall Theatre. Bilal is the author of "Temple Folk," her first story collection and a 2023 National Book Award finalist, which explores the multifaceted identity of Black Muslims in America.

DCC's Black History Month events were curated and organized by the Black History Committee under the leadership of Assistant Professor of English Willie Morris (chair) and Assistant Professor of History Shalon Hallager. All events are free and open to the public thanks in part to the support of the DCC Foundation, Office of Student Activities, and Office of Instruction & Learning.

For more information, contact Willie Morris at willie.morris@sunydutchess



From left are STEM panel participant Nicholas Vamvas (LaBella Associates), Nikkolas Smith, Aaliyah Bilal and Dr. Antumi Toasijé.

-Courtesy images from DCC

.edu. If you require sign language interpreting services or special accommodations, please make your request at least

two weeks before the event by reaching out to Linda Bertolozzi at 845-431-8050 bertoloz@sunydutchess.edu.

## Fishkill Ave. Committee updates Council

Continued from cover

and that the following language be applied to surface parking facilities within the district - "All parking shall be located behind, underneath, or to the side of a building. If to the side, parking shall be screened by a low wall, hedge, or other landscaping to maintain continuity of street wall."

Recommendation 4: The committee has similar concerns as those noted in recommendations 1 and 2 with regards to other auto-oriented uses permitted within the GB zoning district. The committee recommends that the Council consider prohibiting the following auto-oriented uses, which are currently permitted by special permit in the GB District. The existing active auto-oriented uses within the corridor should be permitted to remain under the code as existing non-conforming uses, however, the change to

zoning would allow these uses to potentially be phased out over time. a. Gas filling stations and/or car wash b. Vehicle sales or rental lot c. Auto body or repair shop

It was stated that "this was not a unanimous decision" and "some felt prohibition of usage felt could be detrimental to existing businesses and property owners."

JC Calderon, chair of the committee, said a meeting for the public is planned at Industrial Arts, 511 Fishkill Ave., on Saturday, March 8 beginning at 1:30 p.m.

"We will have a presentation followed by the discussion with whoever wants to be there," said Calderon. He added there will be categories to discuss and then a summary will be offered at the end.

"This will be our first major public event," said Calderon. There will be time to have people respond to suggestions at that event, he said.

It was noted that one can continue to operate certain businesses but that one would remove the opportunity for the businesses to come in.

Councilmember Jeffrey Domanski asked if the current businesses would be grandfathered in.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said, "The area is not terribly pedestrian oriented at the time. It is not going to be for some time."

Council member at-large Amber Grant said, "I don't see that as something that is overly concerning to me." She said the council agreed they would like to see suggestions.

Councilmember George Mansfield said he would like some clarification on the grandfathering in of businesses already there.

Attorney for the city Nicholas Ward Willis said grandfathering in allows those business-

es to continue and allows them to be sold. He noted that is one had a business, such as a gas station, that stopped for 6 months, say to be sold, and could not find a buyer, if being a gas station stopped for say 6 months - if one could not find buyer - it would not be permitted to reestablish that use after the specified amount of time.

Councilmember Pam Wetherbee said, "I am definitely in favor of recommendation 2."

Grant stated she thinks the recommendation about self-storage is a good one. "Points made here are valid - [self-storage] does not contribute to the vibrant corridor," said Grant

Kyriacou said the first step is to get where the council wants to head.

"We have time. We don't have to rush," said Kyriacou, who added the Council should be deliberative about the topic.

## Singer Rachael Sage to perform at Towne Crier Cafe on Feb. 16

Billboard-charting alt-folk-pop singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Rachael Sage will perform a rare full-band show for a special Valentine's weekend extravaganza with her stellar band, The Sequins, on Sunday, Feb. 16 on the main stage at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Featuring songs of love, lust & other lamentations culled

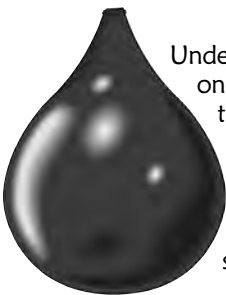
from Sage's catalog of over 20+ albums and EP's, she will also play songs from her acclaimed 2024 record, "Another Side," as well as a smattering of songs from her forthcoming album, "Canopy."

Beacon Songsmiths (Rick Aparicio, Carla Springer and Susan Wright) and NOGA joined by LILA BLUE will open the shows begin at 6 p.m.

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that's italian!

by luigi coppola



# Pop went skiing

It was all downhill from there.

When we were kids, we would convince Mom and Pop to do things they never would have considered doing on their own. Their idea of adventure was going into the woods and finding wild mushrooms. I remember one time in particular, we persuaded Pop to go skiing. To this day, he curses me out if I talk about skiing or remind him of the adventure.

It was Monday and we were off from school. It was a cold wintry day, and the restaurant was closed on Mondays. Somehow, the stars aligned and we convinced Mom and Pop to bring us skiing, something we had never done before. Pop was so chipper that he said he would give it a try also.

For the next hour we searched for every piece of winter apparel we had in the house. We outfitted ourselves with enough gear to climb Mount Everest. Mom helped us put on all of our snow gear, included but not limited to long johns, two pairs of socks, hat, gloves, scarf, turtleneck, sweater, heavy pants, snow boots and snow suit. Once dressed, we piled into our brown Oldsmobile station wagon and headed to Hunter Mountain. Upon arrival, before beginning our conquering of Mount Hunter, we headed to the ski shop to rent our skis, poles, and boots. My older brothers get their gear and were allowed to go on their own. Vinny and I must have been around 7 and 10, respectively; and, well, let's just say, it was a scene from a Christmas Story.

Vinny and I were already barely able to move with all our snow gear on. Mom

was there trying to take off our boots and put on these ski boots from hell, while trying to tuck in our snow suits into the boots. It was so tight that we lost feeling in our feet. Mom was there, arguing with the ski fitter, because they wanted us not to tuck in the pants and she wanted to tuck them in. Then once we got them on, we realized they were on the wrong feet and we had to start all over again with the ski boots from hell.

Pop was a whole another story with. He was arguing with the fitter that he didn't need the boots, that he could wear his own boots, asking for some rope to tie the skis to his own boots. Vinny was laying on his stomach with Mom trying to get his ski boots from hell on; I was off to one side trying to take them off so I could put them on the correct feet, and Pop was making his skis into tomato plant braces.

After the ordeal of just getting the equipment on, we proceeded to the bunny slope, which had a tow rope to get to the top of the hill. The key to a tow rope is to hold on as it drags you up. Well Vinny and I had never skied before, so just getting up the hill was an adventure with Mom walking up the hill picking us up. No sooner had one of us fallen and gotten up then the other would do the same. Never mind Pop, who was flopping all over the place himself with his tied-on skis. Mind you, this was the first trip up the hill.

We finally made it to the top of the hill; then it was time to go down the hill. I fell down first. Vinny did better. He made it halfway until he fell. Pop did the best, but

was out of control, plowing into some little kids who, I'm sure, are still in some kind of therapy from the ordeal.

Every once and a while, one of my older brothers would swing by to see how we were doing, only to get out of there when witnessing them shutting down the tow rope to get Vinny, Pop, or me off the ground or untangled with another skier. The ski patrol almost never watches the bunny slope, but on that day, they had to call out the National Guard for ski patrols because the Coppolas were on the mountain.

The day progressed much the same, with Mom doing the bulk of the work. Me falling, Vinny falling, Pop skiing like a Kamikaze and Mom playing the part of the medic, picking us up, apologizing to other skiers, kids, and animals.

At the end of the day, we returned what was left of our equipment, piled back into the Oldsmobile with our sweaty clothes stacked everywhere and went home. Mom cooked this beautiful pasta dish with vegetables. Pop laid on the couch with the heating pad on his back. Us kids were bouncing off the walls excited that we had just gone skiing.

Needless to say, Pop NEVER went skiing again.

## Braised Winter Vegetable Pasta Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion (diced)
- 4 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1 tablespoon fresh sage

- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 8 ounces small pasta shells
- 2 cups bite-size cauliflower florets
- 2 cups bite-size butternut squash cubes
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1 10-ounce bag lima beans (frozen, thawed)

## Method

Heat oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add onion, garlic and sage and cook, stirring, until softened, 3 to 4 minutes. Add broth and wine; bring to a boil over medium-high heat.

Add pasta, cauliflower, squash, salt and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until the pasta is not quite tender, about 10 minutes.

Stir in lima beans and cook, stirring occasionally, until the lima beans and pasta are tender and most of the liquid is absorbed, about 5 minutes more.

Add grated cheese and serve with a nice Pinot Grigio and a hot loaf of Italian bread.

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

# Sip, Savor & Sweeten Valentine's Day with pairings at Millbrook Winery

Celebrate love at Millbrook Vineyards & Winery with month-long events and gift-giving options for your sweet one!

Join the Winery's tasting experts and Crumble + Melt cookies for the inaugural Wine & Cookie pairing on Saturday, February 15. Wine and dine with your Valentine with a delightful assortment of cookies and sweet treats paired perfectly with Millbrook Winery's Proprietors Special Reserve wines. Seating is limited, reservations are highly recommended.

Don't have a sweet tooth? Enjoy a Reserve Wine, Charcuterie & Cheese Tasting! Guests can indulge in Millbrook's exceptional wines expertly paired with cheese and charcuterie by Boards by Kae and one of Millbrook's tasting guides, happening select weekends throughout February. The experts will lead the tasting and discussion on the

unique flavor profiles of these wines and their perfect cheese and charcuterie pairings.

While you're at the winery, stop and browse the selection of wine varietals, olive oil and other goodies to sweeten your Valentine's Day dinner. Just in time for the season of love, Millbrook Winery's custom wine bottle label orders are open once again – a perfect way to create a personalized gift for your Valentine. Choose from Millbrook's award-winning varietals and work with the designer to create a custom design for a one-of-a-kind keepsake.

Seats to the Wine & Cookie pairing and Reserve Wine, Charcuterie & Cheese Tasting are expected to sell out. Visit [millbrookwine.com](http://millbrookwine.com) to purchase your tickets today. Reach out to [SHudson@millbrookwine.com](mailto:SHudson@millbrookwine.com) to design your own custom label or call 845.677.8383 ext. 17.



Join the staff at Millbrook Winery for a Wine & Cookie pairing on Feb. 15 or a Reserve Wine, Charcuterie & Cheese Tasting.

-Courtesy photo



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# Give Life Give Blood



## HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



# Get to know your true heart during 'Heart Month'

February is the month we hear lots of love songs, smell bunches of flower bouquets, and see a variety of stylized hearts. You know the shape. Valentine's Day hearts have two curves that taper down to a point. In reality, our hearts are the size of our own fist and cone-shaped, narrowing to the cardiac apex, at the bottom of the organ.

This Valentine's Day is a perfect opportunity to teach your children (or students in your classroom) more about the part of themselves most equated with "love"?-their true heart. Emotions, such as love, for example, were once thought to come from the heart. This may have been because the heart beats faster due to fear, excitement, or stress. Now we know that emotions come from the limbic system in the brain, which then signals the heart to speed up.

### Anatomical review

Your heart is slightly left of center in your chest. Located on the top part are the left and right atria, which fill with blood returning to the heart from the lungs and body. On the bottom, the left and right ventricles push the blood out to the body and lungs. A thick wall of muscle called the septum separates the left and right sides of the heart.

There are also four valves inside the heart. Blood can only move in one direction through the valves. The mitral and tricuspid valves let blood flow from the atria to the ventricles. The aortic and pulmonary valves control the flow of blood leaving the heart. These valves work together to prevent the backward flow of blood.

### Lub-Dub

A stethoscope is used to listen to the heart muscle. A healthy heart makes a lub-dub sound with each beat. This sound comes from the valves closing within the heart. The first sound (the lub), happens when the mitral and tricuspid valves close. The next

sound (the dub), happens when the aortic and pulmonary valves close after the blood has been squeezed out of the heart.

### The pulse

Your pulse is proof you are alive! Find it by lightly pressing on the skin on the side of your neck or inside of your wrist, just below the thumb. Feel the beat under the skin caused by the heart's contraction. Use a timer and count the number of beats you feel in one minute. When you are resting, you will probably feel between 70 and 100 beats. During exercise, the body needs a lot more oxygen-filled blood. The heart pumps faster to achieve this. If you run in place or jump rope, you can feel your heart pounding in your chest.

### Keep your heart happy

To help keep the heart happy and healthy, it's a good idea to exercise for 30-60 minutes daily, not smoke, eat a variety of healthy foods, avoid foods high in saturated and trans fats, eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each day, avoid sugary food and drinks, and don't have too much Valentine's Day candy!

### Make a DIY stethoscope & hear your heartbeat

The stethoscope is one of the most common diagnostic tools for any medical professional. Healers have been listening to patients' bodies for many years, but the concept of the stethoscope didn't emerge until 1816. French physician Rene Laennec needed to listen to a patient's chest, so he rolled a long piece of paper into a tube?-and realized how much better he could hear using the device than by placing his ear directly against the patient's body. Laennec coined the term "stethoscope" with the Greek words stethos (chest) and skopein (to view or see). Since that time, stethoscopes have improved.



Columnist Francine Wizner instructs William Paul, age 5, in the use of a DIY stethoscope. William is the son of Christopher and Rebecca Paul of Pleasant Valley.  
-Photo by Rebecca Paul

Make a very simple version of the tool using aquarium tubing, PVC pipe 90-degree elbows, and duct tape. How-to videos are available at <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/DOAc1mRzAc> and <https://www.tiktok.com/@gkatzchronicle/video/7199048522858237230>

If you build a stethoscope with children, you can ask them to describe the difference in the sound of their heart while at rest versus after exercise. An organized version of the activity is here: <https://www.teachers-payteachers.com/Product/VALENTINES-BIOLOGY-ACTIVITY-BUILD-A->

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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/>.

## 'Senior Park Prints' set to return

The annual "Senior Park Prints" series art class for beginners age 60 and up is about to get underway, co-hosted by the Office for the Aging and Dutchess County Parks.

If one is a Dutchess County older adult (60+) who's looking to develop a new skill, register and join us at one of the

following free classes:

- Tuesday, February 11 - 10:45 a.m. - Red Hook OFA Friendship Center, 59 Fisk St., Red Hook

- Tuesday, March 18 - 2 p.m. - Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie

- Thursday, April 8 - 2 p.m. - Millerton

Northeast Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton

- Thursday, April 17 - 2 p.m. - East Fishkill Community Center, 890 Route 82, Hopewell Junction

Spots are limited to 12 registered older

adults per event, one class per registrant. Call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 to register.

All art supplies will be provided, and each artist can take home their new masterpiece after class.

## Maple Syruping set for Saturday at Stony Kill

Maple Syruping: From Sap to Syrup will be held at Stony Kill Farm (SKF), 79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls, on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 - 11 a.m. at \$35 per person, for ages 17+.

February's Adult Education Series will be exploring the basics of syrup production with Stony Kill Farm's resi-

dent maple trees. SKF staff members Theresa and Sinead will walk through the A-Z of tree-conscious maple tapping practices and start you on the journey of tapping on your own. Learn basic tree ID, tapping practices, and taste the difference.

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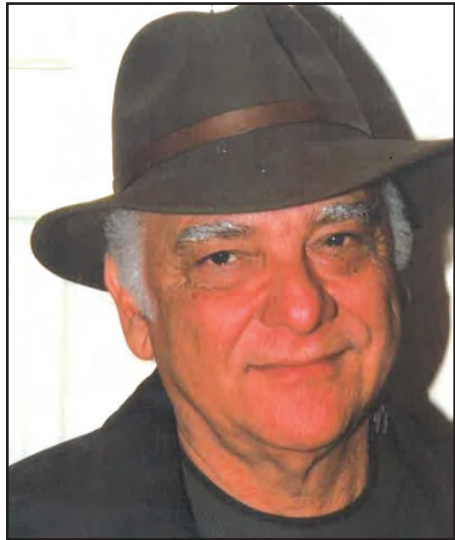
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# Obituaries

## Joseph Coviello



BEACON - Joseph Coviello, "the guy that was just so cool," passed away on January 22, 2025. He was 93 years old.

Born on May 7, 1931, in Newburgh, New York, the son of Joseph and Mary Coviello. The family moved to Beacon in 1937, where Joe attended Beacon High and graduated in 1949. Joe spent four years in the United States Navy, ending his service in 1955 to attend New York University, studying business, to later graduate in early 1959. He earned a job in banking at Newburgh Savings Bank, then later decided to take care of his own business.

Joe, otherwise known as Joe Cool to his family, was a quiet and reserved man who always held a strong presence around his loved ones. He loved fancy sports cars, boating on the Hudson, and visiting the

golden beaches of Florida every year. He valued his family most and often described watching his grandchildren grow and thrive as his biggest pleasure in life. On September 14, 1958, he married his loving wife, June A. (Heater) Coviello survives him and remains in the home they built together. Their marriage lasted 66 years, as only death could separate this loving couple.

Joseph was the father of David Coviello, who passed away on November 1, 2024, and Gina (Coviello) Merola.

He is survived by his daughter-in-law, Amy Coviello, son-in-law, Michael Merola, niece Maria Coviello, and beautiful grandchildren, Christina and Emma Merola and Alexander Coviello. In addition to his son and parents, he was predeceased by his loving brother, Frank.

Joe could make light out of any predicament with a wisecrack remark or a silly saying. He never made anyone feel left out. He was a caring man with a strong will, and no matter what conditions stood in his way, he did whatever he could to show up and be present in the moment. His family will dearly miss Joseph as he reunites with his son.

Family and friends gathered on Wednesday, January 29, at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. Final prayers and wishes were held at Riverview on Thursday, January 30. Burial followed at Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 US-9 Fishkill, where Joe will take his place in the mausoleum on site.

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.

## Anna C. Wise



WAPPINGERS FALLS - Anna Catherine Wise passed away on January 23, 2025 in Vassar Brothers Medical Center after a long illness.

Ann was born on June 4, 1932, in her grandparents' farmhouse in Somerset, Pennsylvania. She was the oldest of four children born to Lena and John McKelligott. She moved with her parents to Corinth, New York where her sister Shirley McKelligott Stewart (deceased) and two brothers William (Patty) of Bolivia, and Michael of Corinth, were born years after.

Ann loved and excelled in music. She majored in music at Potsdam University. She played the piano and violin as well as

sang in the chorus. She continued that love throughout her life and participated in community choirs and orchestras until her health forced her to stop performing.

She met her husband Fred on a blind date and married in 1952. They were married for 66 years, Fred preceded her in death in 2009. Ann and Fred moved to Poughkeepsie where they lived for 5 five years and eventually moved to Wappingers Falls in 1958. She is the mother of 3 children Carolyn Mills (Joe) of Newark, Delaware, John Wise (Rita) of Panama City, Florida, and David Wise of Wappingers Falls, New York. She is the grandmother of 4 children, Twila Dozier of Panama City, Florida, Megan Jones (Michael) of Millington, Maryland, Joseph Mills (Noelle) of Milton, Delaware, and Cameron Mills (Brooke) of Wilmington, Delaware. She has 8 great grandchildren Justin and Joshua Dozier (Twila), Charlotte, Georgia, Felicity and Elliot Jones (Megan), and Hazel and Emma Mills (Joseph). Her generous and loving support of her family was her priority. Any time they needed help; she responded quickly with love and understanding.

She worked at Tau Labs followed by many years at IBM. Her smile and sense of humor will forever echo in the hearts of everyone that knew her. She was ahead of her time as a strong independent woman who lived her life on her terms.

Ann loved volunteering and contributed many hours in support of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Meals on Wheels, Veteran organizations, the Lunch Box of Dutchess County, and several committees for the New Hackensack Reformed Church where she has been a member for over 20 years.

She made lifelong friends in Wappingers including the Pace, Roe, Petvai, and Brennan families. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Marion McGowan of Mechanicsville NY, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on February 8, 2024 at the New Hackensack Reformed Church, 1580 Route 376 in Wappingers Falls with visitation at 10:30 and services at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making a donation to the Lunch Box of Dutchess County. <https://dutchessoutreach.org/how-you-can-help/donate/>

Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 East Main Street in Wappingers Falls. To send the family a personal condolence, please visit our website at [www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com](http://www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com).

## Mary Hornung



POUGHKEEPSIE - Mary Hornung, a lifelong resident of Poughkeepsie, passed away on Friday, January 31 at the age of 100. Born Mary Gallante on July 9th, 1924, she was affectionately known in her early years as "Rosie," a name given in honor of her mother, Rose Krakower, who passed shortly after Mary's birth. A lifelong resident of Poughkeepsie, Mary grew up at 56 South Clover Street in a multigenerational, Italian-speaking household. She spoke fondly of her childhood, recalling the simple joys and time spent with her Sicilian grandparents who raised her.

Mary helped her grandmother manage the household, tending to their backyard garden and canning tomatoes and vegetables for the seasons ahead. She translated for her grandmother, who would barter with their German and Polish neighbors, exchanging her homegrown preserves for

staples of their cuisines. Mary's first paying job was at a bakery on Main Street, where she saved her dimes to treat herself to the occasional picture show. These formative years instilled in her the values of prudence, preparation, and hard work – qualities that would define her character throughout her life.

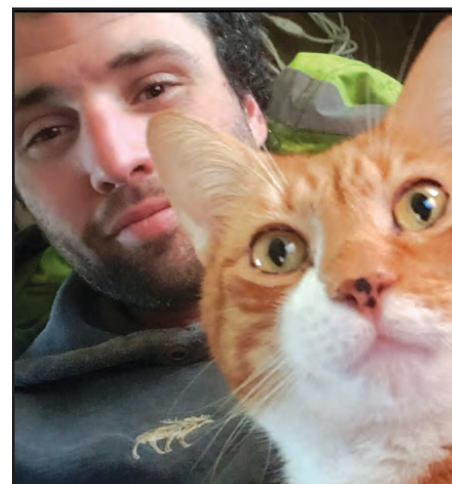
During WWII, Mary worked in the Cylinder Press Department at the Western Printing factory in Hyde Park. In 1946, at the age of 22, she married Wallace "Duke" Hornung, and together they raised two daughters. A skilled homemaker, she took pride in maintaining an exceptionally orderly home and managing her finances with the same precision. She lived by the words, "A place for everything, and everything in its place," and "A penny saved is a penny earned." Mary became the wise matriarch of a large, blended family who gathered in July to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Our Mary was a meticulous woman with a sharp wit, a playful sense of humor, and a tender heart. She always managed to keep herself occupied, whether she was cleaning and tidying, line dancing, working on a crossword, walking long distances, or treating herself and others to lunch. She was as generous as she was disciplined, balancing her kindness with her strong principles and high standards. Her unwavering work ethic and caring nature left a lasting impact on all who knew her. A devoted volunteer with the Foster Grandparent Program, she retired after 30 years of service at Violet Avenue Elementary School at the age of 94.

She is survived by her daughters: Patricia Harding and Karen Souza; her sons-in-law, William and John; her cousin Richard Gallante and his wife Kay; her grandchildren, Patrick, Andrea, Courtney, Kelly, and John; as well as 11 great-grandchildren: Angela, Johnny, Dean, Chloe, Addison, Sophia, Justin, Alexa, Lauren, William, and Caroline.

Mary lived a life full of love, hard work, and devotion to her family and community. Her wise and generous spirit will be remembered by those whose lives she enriched. May her memory be a blessing. *Cent'Anni*.

## Jesse Ryan Elsasser



WAPPINGERS FALLS - Jesse Ryan Elsasser of Wappingers Falls, NY has crossed over to live with the Lord on Monday, January 27, 2025. He was 33.

The son of John Patrick Elsasser and the late Donna M. Elsasser, Jesse was born in Mahopac, NY on December 16, 1991.

Jesse graduated from Rockland High School. He went on to work in food service and later began his career at Hoodz International as a maintenance mechanic. Jesse also loved working with his best friend and brother in heart, Nick, in the summers doing auto detailing.

Jesse loved cars, tinkering and modifying their performance. He loved

the street racing scene in Wappingers Falls. Jesse also loved creating music beats under the name j wooly and fishing in the Wappingers Creek.

Jesse loved animals, especially his best pal, Jack. He adored and loved his cat, Batman. Jesse came to accept the Lord recently and loved discussing the power of his prayers and how God answered them.

Jesse is survived by his father, John Patrick Elsasser; his stepmothers, Donna M. Daleggio and Maxine Chin; his many cousins; and his stepbrother, Nick.

Family will receive their friends on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. A memorial service will take place at the end of visitation at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Jesse Elsasser Family Gofundme or directly to the family.

## Phyllis Maisel

POUGHKEEPSIE - Phyllis Maisel, 76, of Poughkeepsie, NY, passed away on January 24, 2025 at the Pines of Poughkeepsie Nursing Home. She was born on September 21, 1948 in Poughkeepsie, NY, the daughter of Marvin & Vera McKenzie Maisel.

She was employed at Dutchess Community College as a Clerk in the mail room. Phyllis was a member of Faith Assembly Church in Poughkeepsie, where she participated in the Women's Bible Group and Disciple Classes.

She is survived by brother: Gordon (Eleanor) Maisel of Poughkeepsie and 4 nieces. She was predeceased by a brother Edward M. Maisel.

Visitation was on Friday, January 31, 2025, at the Wm. G. Miller & Son FH, Inc., 371 Hooker Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Service followed in the Funeral Home. Burial will be in the spring at LaGrange Rural Cemetery, Poughkeepsie, NY.

If you wish to send an online condolence, please visit our website at: [www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com](http://www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com).

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# Piano performance by Clayton Stephenson set for Feb. 16 in Beacon

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) continues its 2025 piano festival with Clayton Stephenson, at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musician 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.

New York City native Stephenson received a joint degree from Harvard University (BA, economics) and the New England Conservatory of Music (MA, piano performance) in 2023. He was a finalist at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2022, and has since gathered other international awards and honors. Stephenson has been touring as an orchestral

soloist and a soloist, including appearances at the Kennedy Center and the 92nd Street Y.

For his program at HCMC, Stephenson is choosing to play Four Impromptus by Schubert; Stravinsky's Three Movements from Petrushka; as well as two more jazz-inflected pieces: Keith Jarrett's arrangement of "Over the Rainbow" and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

HCMC now offers ticket pricing 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.

For more information on this performance, the Howland Chamber Music Circle, or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.howlandmusic.org](http://www.howlandmusic.org). New York.



Clayton Stephenson will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on Feb. 16. *-Courtesy photo*



# Comedy 'Into the Breeches' to open Feb. 7 at County Players



The cast of "Into the Breeches." The comedy opens on Feb. 7 at County Players in Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy photos by Louisa Vilardi Photography



County Players, one of the longest-running community theatre companies in the area, will present the Comedy "Into the Breeches" by George Brant. This Main Stage production is directed by Christine Crawfis and opens Friday, Feb. 7 with performances scheduled for Fridays & Saturdays Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday, Feb. 16 and Saturday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. at 2681 W. Main Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

That time-honored adage, "The Show Must Go On," takes on new meaning in this endearing and moving comedy set at a small theater in Wappingers Falls, NY in 1942. With the actors and director off at war, a group of passionate women face the daunting challenge of preserving the theatre's reputation for mounting outstanding Shakespearean productions. Crammed with laughs and an abundance of visual humor, their fierce determination and unbridled enthusiasm will have audiences cheering as they prove that art and community triumph, even in times of peril.

The production features the local talents of Madison Anthony, Deborah Coonis, Kit Colbourn, Paul Coleman, Dylan Parkin, Kiara Marie Melendez Jemott, Janet Nurre, and Steavie Reed.

Of this production, director Crawfis said, "Great theatre takes us on a journey of reflection and provocation, while embracing the value of entertainment. "Into the Breeches" has all these elements. It's a clever, touching play celebrating women. George Brant has triangulated a theatrical celebration, a paean to women, and an ode to inclusivity, and casts them against the backdrop of the Second World War."

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

Hudson Valley Credit Union sponsors County Players' 67th Season. This production of "Into The Breeches" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. concordtheatricals.com

Accessibility: If you require wheelchair accessibility, please contact our Box Office at 845-298-1491.

Find County Players on social media at countyplayers.org/perfect-arrangement-opens-on-november-8/ twitter.com/countypayers, instagram.com/countypayers/, facebook.com/countypayers.

## Aging with Grace program set for Feb. 19 in East Fishkill

Aging with Grace will take place at the East Fishkill Community Library, 348 Route 376, on Wednesday, Feb. 19. This program meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 4-5 p.m. in the Cross Room. Local resident and educator Carole Penner will lead this group; drop-in and all are welcome to attend.

Carole Penner has been a Special Education teacher for the past 35 years. She has an M.A. in Educational Theatre from New York University, an M.S. Ed. in Special Education from the City University of New York.

Visit eflibrary.org or call 845-221-9943 for more information.

### Legal Notices

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 601 of the Abandoned Property Law of the State of New York that The undersigned as Commissioner of Finance of the County of Dutchess has on deposit or in her custody certain moneys and property paid or deposited in actions or proceedings in court(s) in the said County.

The persons whose names and last known addresses are set forth below appear from the records of the said

Commissioner of Finance to be entitled to certain such property of the amount of \$50 or more.

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People vs. Robert Hansen 24 Kendall Drive Wappingers Falls NY 12590  
People vs. Branden Skrine 22 Roosevelt Avenue Poughkeepsie NY 12601  
People vs. Carolina Walters 702 Seventh Road Wappingers Falls NY 12590

Deposited in Action of Proceedings in Dutchess County Courts  
Rame Osmani vs. Regina Martinez 257 Rombout Avenue Beacon NY 12508  
Estate of Clifford Gardineer Unknown

Deposited in Action of Proceeding in Dutchess County Supreme Court  
Guardianship Proceeding of Ruth Thomas Unknown

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT

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

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

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

Dated: February 1, 2025  
Poughkeepsie, New York  
/s/heidi seelbach  
Heidi Seelbach  
Commissioner of Finance  
Dutchess County, New York

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

## this week's puzzle solutions

SUDOKU  
This week's answer

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

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

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

Suguru solution

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

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

Suguru

1						
						4
1		2				
						3
	1	4				

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

**THEME: SUPER BOWL**

**ACROSS**

1. Bungle
5. Cause of a trip?
8. Dao, alt. sp.
11. Between marquess and viscount
12. Super garb?
13. Inlet in Norway
15. Cogito \_\_\_\_ sum
16. Long story
17. Deprived of a limb
18. \*Half-time headliner
20. Ice, dark or middle \_\_\_\_
21. \*Cindy Crawford wore "\_\_\_\_ Dukes" in a Super Bowl ad
22. Flightless bird
23. \*Last year's Super Bowl winners
26. A cheap, run-down motel
30. "\_\_\_\_ the fields we go"
31. Merry
34. Actor's part
35. Expensive
37. Not him
38. Cell phone bill item
39. Civil Rights icon
40. \*David Tyree's \_\_\_\_ Catch
42. Letters of distress
43. What rule follower does
45. Get cozy
47. Greed, biblically-speaking
48. Grieve for the dead
50. Time period
52. \*Team with most Super Bowl appearances
55. 3600 seconds, pl.
56. Casino chip
57. Salmon's output
59. En \_\_\_\_, all together
60. Like Piper of Hamelin
61. Uber alternative
62. \_\_\_\_ Robinson
63. Acronym, abbr.
64. "Come Sail Away" band

**DOWN**

1. Service charge
2. Songbird
3. Craving
4. Marilyn Monroe, e.g.
5. \_\_\_\_ lazuli
6. Hot
7. 52 cards
8. Hefty volume
9. Greek god of war
10. 1, e.g.
12. Cherry red
13. Post vitriol
14. \*Team with no Super Bowl appearances
19. Looney Tunes duck
22. Architectural add-on
23. Meat of coconut
24. Roman king of Judea
25. Like certain whiskey
26. Grow crop
27. Brag
28. Algorithmic language
29. Ganders' companions
32. Tom Jones's "\_\_\_\_ a Lady"
33. Rolodex abbr.
36. \* \_\_\_\_ Superdome
38. Wombs
40. Lady lobster
41. Hardened
44. Follows wash
46. Pig sounds
48. Bouncing off the walls
49. Weasel's aquatic cousin
50. Fly like an eagle
51. Boot-wearing kitty
52. Mama Bear's husband
53. To perfection (3 words)
54. \*Justin Timberlake's "\_\_\_\_ Back," sung in Super Bowl show
55. Expression of doubt
58. \*Steelers' number of Super Bowl trophies

**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.

# 'Dosa Grill' arrives in Wappingers Falls; Grand opening underway with fine Indian cuisine



From left at the new Dosa Grill in Wappingers Falls are Chef Michael Joseph, owner Raj Kumar, manager Sharat Rodrigues and head waiter Ivo Fernandes.



Located in the Hannaford Plaza at 1490 Rt. 9 in Wappingers Falls, the new "Dosa Grill" is now open and features Grand Opening specials, a daily lunch buffet and even an Indian Bakery selling Indian sweets and desserts.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

### By Curtis Schmidt

Raj Kumar is bringing his famed "Dosa Grill," with fine Northern and Southern Indian and Indo-Chinese cuisines, to the Hudson Valley and Wappingers Falls.

Located in the Hannaford Plaza at 1490 Route 9 in Wappingers Falls, the new "Dosa Grill" is now open and features Grand Opening specials, a daily lunch buffet and even an Indian Bakery selling Indian sweets and desserts.

The new location joins Raj's famous group of restaurants in Albany, Binghamton, Utica, Syracuse and Baldwinsville.

Known for providing the best ingredients and overall "yummy foods," Dosa

Grill is your go-to destination for premium Indian cuisine, featuring a diverse menu that showcases the authentic flavors of India.

"Every dish is crafted with the utmost care, using only the freshest ingredients to ensure a delightful dining experience," says Raj. "From classic dosas to vibrant curries, each plate is a celebration of Indian culinary traditions."

Dosa Grill specializes in truly authentic dishes that are bound to tickle your taste buds!

"You know, Indian cuisine is super popular worldwide, and it's not hard to see why," says Raj. "It has this unique charm - once you try it, you'll be blown away by all the rich tastes and

flavors. One thing you'll notice right off the bat is the amazing variety of spices used in Indian cooking. The magic of Indian food really lies in how we use those spices. It's all about the right techniques—like roasting or frying them whole or grinding them into a paste. This way, you can unlock different flavors from the same spice. Trust me, every dish tells a delicious story!"

And speaking of stories, Raj has a great story of his own with his group of restaurants.

He came to America in 1992 after spending several years cooking in his home country of India. He started out working at Neelam Indian Restaurant in Barclay Heights, NJ and advanced to the role of main chef.

He honed his cooking and management skills for the next seven years before moving to the Utica/New Hartford area of upstate New York where he opened the Minar Indian Restaurant. After a successful start there, he opened similar restaurants in Syracuse and Albany - and he has been growing the Dosa Grill group ever since.

Raj and Chef Michael Joseph concentrate on "the pure homemade flavor" of dishes such as Crab Masala, Crab Curry, Tandoori Bread and Clay Oven special-

ties, plus Chicken, Seafood, Lamb & Goat and a great list of vegetarian dishes.

Here are Chef Michael's favorites in each category.

**Appetizers** - Vegetable Spring Rolls, Vegetable Samosa, Paneer Pakora and Fish Fry.

**Soups** - Chicken, Shrimp, Tomato, Mulgani and Rasam (spicy).

**Indo-Chinese** - Vegetable Manchurian, Special Chicken Chili Masala and Schezwan Fried Rice.

**Lamb & Goat** - Lamb Curry, Lamb Tikka Masala and Goat Curry.

**Seafood** - Goan Fish Curry, Fish Tikka Masala, Fish Chettinad Curry and Lobster Curry.

**Vegetarian** - Special Aloo Gobi Masala, Malai Kofta, Paneer Tikka Masala and Methi Malai Matar.

**Tandoori Bread** - Sesame Seed Naan, Garlic Naan, Aloo Paratha, Chili Naan and Chocolate Chip Naan.

**Biryani (Rice specialties)** - Chicken Dum, Shrimp and Goat Biryani.

**Desserts** - Mysore Masala Dosa, Spring Masala Dosa, Palak Paneer Dosa and Madu Vada.

For more information and to order online, visit [dosagrillwappinger.com/](http://dosagrillwappinger.com/) or call 845-366-3550 or 845-366-3551.

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Chef Michael Joseph prepares meals in the Dosa Grill kitchen. He concentrates on the "real homemade flavor" of Indian dishes and combining spices to unlock different and enticing flavors.