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Marist, DCC men's teams on historic runs



Marist University's Josh Pascarelli scored a career-high 31 points against Canisius on Saturday.

-Photo by Ricky Torres

By Morgan E. Maier

There's a two-mile stretch in Poughkeepsie where visiting basketball teams can't seem to hit the rim. All season, the men's teams at Marist University and Dutchess Community College have made defense an effective offense. Now both programs are seeking to make history ahead of their respective conference tournaments.

In 2024-25, Marist emerged atop the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), clinching a top seed in the MAAC tournament. Marist leads the MAAC in the least points allowed, holding opponents to 40.3% from the field. Unrelenting until the final buzzer, this team will chase the ball and lock down each opposing player.

On another campus about five minutes away, the Dutchess Community College Falcons operate with a similar philosophy. In Week 3, Dutchess cracked the top 5 of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III men's rankings. By February 18, the top spot was theirs.

A year removed from reaching the national championship game, the Dutchess Falcons are now the country's No. 1 Division III junior college team. To coach Robert Piano, defense is the foundation of this team's success. DCC is the top defensive team in its division, tied for first in least points allowed, and top three in blocks and forced turnovers. "We had the same philosophy and ideology last year. We've taken it to more of a level due to the talent," said Piano.

Continued on page 5

Wappingers Falls prepares for Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade

30th annual event set March 1 with Margo Maher as Grand Marshal



Above: Margo Maher is the 2025 Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal. Right: Bagpipers march in the 2023 Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade in Wappingers Falls.



-Courtesy image, archive photo

By Morgan E. Maier

Spring marches in like a lion as the Village of Wappingers Falls awaits one of its largest annual celebrations. The 30th Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade is set to make its rounds on March 1.

Festivities begin with 9 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Church, followed by a dedication to the parade's first Grand Marshal Fr. Charlie Coen. The parade

lineup begins at noon, with a Shamrock Dash Fun Run sponsored by Fleet Feet at 12:45 p.m. Among step dancers, pipers, color guards, and community groups, dozens of floats and marchers will hand out beads and candy to parade-goers along the route. The parade will follow West Main Street to Route 9D, ending on East Main Street.

A shuttle will be available at the South Hills Mall and Wappingers

Junior High School to transport people to the parade lineup and spots along the route. It will return passengers following the parade. Like 29 parades before it, this Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade will be held rain or shine.

Since 1996 the Wappingers Falls parade marches through village streets as Dutchess County's first St. Patrick's celebration of the year. What began as

Continued on page 2

Fishkill Town Board receives update on Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail study Presentation in Beacon set for March 3

By Kristine Coulter

An update about the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail study was presented during the Fishkill Town Board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the Fishkill Town Hall.

The study started in late 2023, it was stated after Town of Fishkill Councilman John Forman asked when it began.

Mark Debald, Transportation Program Administrator for Dutchess County Transportation Council, noted that there is an Advisory Committee. The committee is made up of: Dutchess County Public Works & Planning, NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) Region 8 Planning, MTA/Metro-North Railroad, City of Beacon, Town of East Fishkill, Town of Fishkill, Village of Fishkill, Scenic Hudson Hudson Fjord Trail. The funding of the study is federally funded, he said.

The goals are to: Evaluate needs and priorities for a potential 13-mile trail from the city of Beacon through the town and village of Fishkill and then through Hopewell Junction in the town of East Fishkill.

The railroad tracks are still owned by MTA/Metro-North Railroad, "but as many of us know, not too many trains have used that rail line in a long time," stated Debald.

Some of the progress to date was mentioned. MetroNorth applied to abandon the railroad, it was stated. The MTA asked to evaluate and look at Rail to Trail and Rail with Trail.

Rail to Trail

- Re-use existing ballast stone & bridges
- Minimal impacts to environmental features like wetlands, floodplains, and established forests
- Remove railroad steel rails and

wood ties

- Adaptive re-use of a transportation corridor
- Little to no ROW (Right of Way) acquisition required

Rail with Trail

- Railroad tracks, ties remain in place
- Trail offset from tracks 20-25 ft.
- Significant construction costs due to new bridges, culvert extension, and significant fill
- Extensive environmental impacts to wetlands floodplains and tree clearing
- Physical constraints such as rock cuts, buildings, Fishkill Cree, roadways (Beacon)
- ROW acquisitions required

Fieldwork was completed by April 2024, it was noted. The environmental impact was looked at and the condition

Continued on page 2

Wappingers Falls prepares for Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade

Continued from cover

a 30-minute fete has grown to hours of dancing, celebration, and community engagement. The village attitude keeps this celebration alive alongside the parade committee because, as chairman Gene Noone said, "Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day."

Nobody embodies the spirit more than Grand Marshal Margo Maher, in heritage and community involvement. "In the past, we've recognized some pretty outstanding people," said Noone. "It's Margo's turn now."

Though Maher will wear her Grand Marshal title - and the accompanying sash - proudly, she'll admit she didn't want the accolades. Though Maher first refused, she said, she came out to be the committee's choice. As a charter member, she's marched many a route, a tradition that rings in fair weather and Irish spirit. "We are the first [parade], so it reminds us, 'OK, spring is here, we're going to have a parade. It's all good,'" Maher said.

Maher hails from the Saint Margaret's countryside outside Dublin,

Ireland. A wanderlust, she calls herself, Maher crossed the ocean in 1958. She has since laid roots in Wappingers Falls, and began her legacy as an involved community member. A former religious education teacher, Margo lends her voice to the church choir every week. She's a great-grandmother, in addition to community work like the St. Patrick's Parade Committee.

The parade has grown from 1,000 to 10,000 when the weather prevails, said Noone. Parade watchers should arrive early, to get the prime viewing spots between West Main Street and Mesier Park. Following the parade, celebrations will take place inside the local pubs, restaurants, and community centers.

Businesses and residences are encouraged to participate in the St. Patrick's decorating contest, to be judged on February 28 at 1 p.m. Displays and floats will be judged on five categories: originality, Irish heritage-related, eye appeal, in good taste, and visible from the street. Participation forms and contest criteria can be found on the Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade Committee website (dcsppc.org).

The committee's year-round work is



The Emerald Society marches in a previous Dutchess County St. Patrick's Parade. This year's parade is set for March 1 in Wappingers Falls.

Margo Maher gains Grand Marshal honors at 2025 Emerald Ball



The 2025 Emerald Ball, a fundraiser in support of the Dutchess County Saint Patrick's Parade, was held on Saturday at the Elks Lodge on Feb. 15 in Poughkeepsie. A great time was had by everyone who braved the snowy weather to enjoy a night of Irish culture and music. At the center of the event was the bestowing of the honors of Grand Marshal and Aides to the Grand Marshal on four very special women. Margo Maher will serve as the Grand Marshal of the 30th annual Dutchess County Saint Patrick's Parade. Rosemarie Lord, Maureen Brennan Lashlee, and Maureen Lynch Straub will serve as Aides to the Grand Marshal.

The parade committee would like to thank everyone who helped to support this event including the volunteers and sponsors who made it possible. The 30th Annual Saint Patrick's Parade will step off on March 1 in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy photo

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Fishkill Town Board receives update on Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail study

Continued from cover

of the rail corridor, it was noted during the meeting. An initial public outreach was held during pop up-up events in Beacon and East Fishkill, as well as a survey was carried out. During the meeting, it was stated that 95% of respondents in the survey supported the trail. There were more than 1,350 responses. Respondents to the survey said safety was of utmost importance. Importance from survey takers was placed on the need for amenities, restrooms, benches, waste receptacles and signage.

During the update, it was stated that there are 7 major road crossings and 21 minor road/driveways that the trail would go through. Some of the minor crossings in Fishkill include Pump House Road, McGrath Terrace, Petticoat Lane, and Mountain View Road. Safety is of major concern at Route 9, officials said.

Five miles of the corridor is in some type of floodplains, but "there are some solutions," it was said.

Councilman Greg Totino asked about detours and installation during the possible project, and if it would result in detours. A possible schedule would be to have work done on weekends and night, to interrupt traffic less, it was stated.

There would be some trail access at Jean Van Pelt Park, Sarah Taylor Park, Doug Phillips Park, Van Steuben Road and Fishkill Glen. Input is still being sought for access points.

"A project of this scale is feasible from our assessment so far. Not to say it's not hard or difficult," said Debal. The potential project would be "done in phases." Funding is the biggest challenge, according to Debal. The secondary challenge is to find a project sponsor.

One resident commented that he is con-

cerned about the way it looks - very rural in most spots, but it isn't. "Our backyards are back there. It also affects my property value," he said. Town of Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra suggested possible fencing. Another resident asked who would be responsible for upkeep and for keeping the trail safe? It was stated that the answer cannot be given yet, because the sponsor of the possible project is still unknown. It was emphasized that right now, the trail is a study not a project. Debal stated to Southern Dutchess News in an email on Feb. 20 about how the presentation went, "We especially welcomed the positive feedback about the overall trail idea, but also hearing the concerns about safety, property impacts, and maintenance - which are all valid issues."

Upcoming presentations are:

- Village of Fishkill, Fishkill Village Hall, 1095 Main St., March 3, 6 p.m.
- City of Beacon, Municipal Hall, 1 Municipal Plaza, March 3, 7:30 p.m.
- Town of East Fishkill, East Fishkill Town Hall, 330 Route 376, March 13, 6 p.m.

A virtual public meeting will be held on March 20 at noon.

A Draft Report will be posted online in the Spring 2025 and a public meeting will be held in the spring. A final report is scheduled for Summer 2025.

"Reaching out to communities like Fishkill, which would be directly affected by a possible trail, is an essential piece of the planning process. It gives both elected officials and the public an opportunity to weigh in on the concept before the study is finalized," said Debal.

For more information, and to sign up for the online meeting, go to www.beaconhopewellrailtrail.com.

Ukrainian Women's League sets 100th anniversary reception March 7

The Poughkeepsie/Kerhonksen Branch 95 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the national organization all during 2025.

An opening reception of the Ukrainian Connections Exhibit is set for Friday, March 7 from 5-7 p.m. at the Cuneen Hackett Art Center at 9 Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie. The event is open to the public.

The exhibit highlights the work of four Ukrainian Artists connected by their deep ethnic roots. They include Vitalia

Deriabina, a resident artist from Kyiv, Ukraine and Ulana Salewycz, Marianna Crans and Cathy Gorham all of whom are Ukrainian American artists from the Hudson Valley.

This exhibit is also a tribute in memory of Ukrainian sister, Cathy Gorham.

The Victorian Gallery weekday hours are Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. This exhibit will run through March and April and is one of many events set during 2025.

For more information, call 845-486-4571.



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**See story,
page 8**





AG announces 122-count indictment against 4 for alleged roles in drug trafficking network

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced the takedown of a drug trafficking ring in the Hudson Valley that illegally sold cocaine, powder fentanyl, and counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl across Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange Counties. An investigation led by the Office of the Attorney General’s (OAG) Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF) recovered two and a half kilograms of cocaine worth approximately \$45,000, thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl worth over \$500,000, and three and a half kilograms of powder fentanyl worth over \$200,000. Five illegal handguns, including two ghost guns, and four high-capacity magazines were also seized during the operation. A 122-count indictment charging four individuals for their roles in the drug trafficking network was unsealed in Dutchess County Court. The indictment charges Xavier Grant, Antawone West, Michael Jones, and Kenyi Torres with multiple felonies for narcotics and firearms offenses.

“Drug traffickers who distribute lethal amounts of opioids put communities throughout our state in danger,” said James. “Not only did these individuals sell deadly narcotics, they disguised fentanyl in fake prescription pills, putting the lives of their customers at even greater risk. I thank our partners in law enforcement for their collaboration in this effort to take a dangerous criminal organization off our streets as we continue to work to keep New Yorkers safe.”

The takedown was the result of an eleven-month joint investigation led by OCTF and the New York State Police’s (NYSP) Special Investigations Unit – Hudson Valley (SIU-HV) and Troop K – Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team (K-VGNET).

The investigation included hundreds of hours of physical and covert surveillance, analysis of voluminous electronic evi-

dence, including cellphone communications, covert video and audio recordings, and other traditional investigative techniques. During their communications, the defendants frequently utilized coded and cryptic terminology in an attempt to disguise their illicit activities, such as referring to orders of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl as “blues,” “blueberries,” or “perks,” a nod to their legitimate, prescription medication counterparts.

The investigation revealed that Grant, West, Jones, and Torres allegedly obtained cocaine, powder fentanyl, and counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl for further distribution. Additionally, the investigation revealed that the four defendants worked together to store, supply, and distribute the narcotics in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties. The narcotics were stored in various stash locations in the residential areas of Poughkeepsie and often sold in parking lots. The investigation also allegedly seized five illegal handguns, four of which were loaded, and two of which were ghost guns, in addition to four illegal high-capacity magazines.

The investigation into this narcotics trafficking network led to the recovery of:

- Two and a half kilograms of cocaine;
 - Thousands of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl weighing over two and a half kilograms;
 - Three and a half kilograms of powder fentanyl;
 - Five illegal handguns, including two ghost guns and four high-capacity magazines;
 - Drug paraphernalia, including scales, ziplock bags, glassine envelopes, and other packaging materials used to package and measure narcotics;
 - Two “kilo” presses; and
 - Approximately \$255,000 in cash.
- The 122-count indictment, unsealed in Dutchess County Court, includes counts



Pictured are some of the alleged narcotics and firearms seized during the investigation, including cocaine, counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl, powder fentanyl, five handguns, four high-capacity magazines, and “kilo” presses.

-Photos from NYS Attorney General’s Office

for various felony narcotics offenses, including charges against Jones and West for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, respectively. Each carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. Additional charges include various counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance (class B felonies) and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance (class A-II and B felonies), as well as Conspiracy to commit those crimes.

Jones and West are also charged with firearms offenses including Criminal

Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a class C violent felony, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Criminal Possession of a Firearm, a class E felony.

Grant and Torres are each charged with, among other things, multiple counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, a class A-II felony, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. They are also charged with Conspiracy to commit those crimes. The charges against the defendants are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Children’s Home announces launch of AnchorPoint Crisis Residence program

As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting children in psychiatric crises, the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie, a non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of children and families, has announced the upcoming launch of AnchorPoint, a Children’s Crisis Residence Program. The facility, located at 316 Violet Avenue in Hyde Park, is set to open in late spring or early summer. AnchorPoint will be the first and only Children’s Crisis Residence Program in the region.

AnchorPoint aims to provide round-the-clock support to youth between the ages of 7 and 21 who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis. This vital program will assist young individuals in transitioning back into their homes or community-based services with necessary resources and support. In addition to intensive crisis care and treatment, the program will work closely with families and caregivers to ensure the youth’s success.

Youth may require this level of care if they

have been diverted from inpatient hospitalization or have received care from other emergency services. Additionally, children in the community who have required mobile crisis intervention or other local behavioral health services may benefit from support through AnchorPoint, until they are able to return home or to the community.

“AnchorPoint is not just a crisis residence, it’s a pathway to healing and recovery for children in our community,” said Walter J. Joseph, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie. “Through this program, we are creating a bridge for children to return to their lives equipped with tools they need to thrive and avoid future crises.”

To stay updated on the AnchorPoint program follow the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie on Facebook or Instagram and bookmark the site (childrenshome.us) for details on the opening.

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Viewpoints

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- 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.

Gillibrand expresses her concern over temporary closure of 20-bed unit at Castle Point to VA Secretary Collins

Editor's note: The following is the full text of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins regarding the temporary closure of a 20-bed unit at the Castle Point VA Medical Center to re-evaluate staffing needs.

To Secretary Collins:

I write to express my concern regarding the recent closure of the 20-bed acute inpatient unit at Castle Point VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Dutchess County, New York. My office has been informed that this critical medical unit was temporarily closed on February 1st as the Castle Point VAMC "re-evaluate[s] staffing needs" for 120 days. However, the abrupt closure of the acute inpatient unit will have devastating consequences for those veterans seeking detoxification and substance abuse care. Castle Point provides care to over 7,000 veterans who have served our country with bravery and honor. Losing this dedicated medical unit for Hudson Valley veterans risks worse health outcomes for some of our most at-risk veterans in need of specialized substance abuse care. I urge the VA to immediately re-open this medical unit to meet the acute needs of these veterans while continuing to conduct its 120-day review at the Castle Point VAMC.

I am deeply concerned by the VA's lack of communication and transparency regarding its decision to close the Castle Point VAMC's acute inpatient unit. It is my understanding that the VA not only closed the medical unit without warning, but also failed to provide adequate guidance or support to the local community. While I recognize the need to evaluate the efficiency of its resources and the quality of its services, the VA should have undertaken this assessment while continuing to offer these important services to veterans in the Hudson Valley. Therefore, I request a written response by February 28, 2025, to address the following questions, concerns, and recommendations:

Please provide a detailed explanation of the VA's decision to temporarily close the unit, as well as data on the usage rate of the Castle Point VAMC's acute inpatient unit.

Please provide details regarding your plan to distribute guidance and assistance to Hudson Valley veterans regarding how they can obtain comparable access to lifesaving

care while the unit remains closed. Comprehensive information about alternative forms of care in the Hudson Valley through Community Care and other VA sites in New York State, as well as transportation logistics and travel pay reimbursement, should be shared with local veterans and their caregivers, municipal veteran service agencies, and veterans support and advocacy organizations.

Please reopen the acute inpatient unit at the Castle Point VAMC while the evaluation of staffing needs is ongoing.

Please provide the alternative options to closure being considered and your evaluation of those options, including the feasibility and advisability of adjusting the number of beds to meet the demonstrated need for medical detoxification and substance abuse care at the Castle Point VAMC.

Please ensure that future decisions regarding changes to healthcare service provision at VA facilities in New York are communicated publicly with advance notice and allow for community input.

Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator (D-NY)

'True Americans' support Ukraine; What kind of leader supports Russia?

To the Editor:

What has become of the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave? In World War II, our troops restored peace and freedom by liberating the world step-by-step across Europe, and island-by-island in the Pacific, and in the decades since, America enshrined its great power by using its soft power, and our presidents rightly earned the moniker "Leader of the Free World" by creating allies and institutions built to stand against tyranny. And for generations, we understood that the Russians were the bad guys.

No longer! We have switched sides in the last week to join with Russia in what will become an all-out attempt to force Ukraine into capitulation. Our President had the audacity to call Ukrainian President Zelensky a dictator only to be schooled by Friday's NY Post, which deemed it necessary to remind the President that Putin is the dictator. Putin caused the war, not Ukraine. Not NATO. And Russians implement its horrors daily.

What has become of us? We've gone from leading the free world to attempting to extort minerals from beneath Ukraine's blood-soaked soil, even threatening to turn off the Starlink communications, which have powered Ukraine's defense; to withholding aid; to HANDING PUTIN THE VICTORY HE CANNOT WIN ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

Leaders lead. Mafia Bosses extort. Aiding Ukraine increases our nation's strength and abandoning her reduces us. Our Greatest Generation would shudder.

Here, in Northern Dutchess, this community - horrified by the barbarity of the invasion launched three years ago this week - has done great things for Ukraine with the Stanford Fire Company's collections and donations of emergency equipment and winter clothing and the various fundraisers for Ukraine held in the area.

I trust that your readers are similarly shocked by our abandonment of an ally and friend and that we all let our leaders know that it is not right and that true Americans support Ukraine.

Mark Lagus
Town of Northeast

Beephan blames 'failed policies' for degradation of correctional system

Editor's note: The following is from Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr. regarding the recent walk-outs of correctional officers across the state.

To the Editor:

The continuous degradation of our correctional system, driven by failed policies and worsening working conditions, is taking a serious toll on our correctional officers—both professionally and personally. Years of neglect under former Gov. Cuomo and now Gov. Hochul have left officers feeling disrespected, undervalued and increasingly at risk.

Having witnessed firsthand the deteriorating conditions at facilities like Fishkill and Green Haven Correctional Facilities, I fully support our correctional officers and administrative staff. We join them in calling out the failed Democratic policies that have led to this crisis and demand immediate reforms to ensure safer working conditions for both staff and inmates.

Anil Beephan Jr.
District 105

Beacon Police: Stabbing victim discovered sitting in vehicle outside police station

Beacon Police officer approached a male sitting in a vehicle in the parking lot of Beacon Police headquarters, Municipal Plaza. Upon an investigation, it was discovered he was bleeding, the victim of a stabbing. According to police, the incident occurred around 7:15 a.m. on Fishkill Ave. and Main St. The victim was transported to a local hospital in stable condition, according to police.

The investigation, according to police, included the use of FLOCK license plate reader system, which identified a suspect vehicle. The vehicle was unoccupied when patrol officers found it in the Tompkins Terrace apartments, it was stated in a press release on Feb. 18.

Beacon Police Chief Thomas Figlia stated in the press release, "Through further investigation they then located the suspect, Melvin A. Grant Jr., 26 years old, of Beacon" who was placed in custody.

According to Figlia, detectives obtained a search warrant for Grant's residence, where the weapon used and clothing worn by the suspect during the attack, were discovered and taken for evidence.

Grant was arraigned in Beacon City Court on charges of Assault in the Second Degree (D-Felony) and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th Degree, a misdemeanor. Grant was remanded to the Dutchess County Justice and Transition Center, said Figlia.

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Beacon council refers proposed law on drive-thrus, self-storage units to county, city planning boards

The Beacon City Council passed a resolution to refer a proposed local law concerning drive-thrus and self-storage facilities for a zoning law. The referral is to the Dutchess County Planning Board and the City of Beacon Planning Board.

Nicholas Ward Willis, attorney for the City of Beacon, said a public hearing is scheduled for March 17.

"The planning board and county have 30 days to provide their [reviews]," stated Ward Will.

If the reviews are not completed in 30 days, the public hearing would be extended.

One commenter stated that she was concerned and was surprised because she views drive-thrus "as a way of life."

The vote for referral was unanimous.

Rally to highlight 'displeasure' of temporary closure of unit at Castle Point VA Medical Center



A rally was held at the Veterans Memorial Building in Beacon to continue to focus on the temporary closure of the 20 beds in the E2 Unit at Castle Point VA Medical Center. Members of the veteran community in the Hudson Valley voiced their displeasure about the decision. The unit provides veterans with services including medical detoxification and substance abuse care.

It was stated earlier this month by a representative for Castle Point that "Patients with acute medical conditions will continue to be treated in urgent care, and those requiring hospitalization will be sent to the nearest community or VA medical facility."

Adam Roche, Director of Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs, joined Rep. Pat Ryan, as well as the local veterans community, their families, and service providers at the Veterans Building on Feb. 19 in Beacon.

Congressman Pat Ryan makes remarks during the rally.

-Courtesy photos from DC Gov't

Marist, DCC men's teams on historic runs

Continued from cover

The Falcons finished the regular season with a 23-1 record, undefeated in conference play. And they did it without Dutchess' top scorer Prince Kamate. Piano's deep roster stepped up big on both sides of the court all year. Between the example-leading actions of point guard Amadou Diallo and the positive presence of bench players, the Falcons are a two-way squad.

Down the road, this season brought Marist some milestones of its own, including an AP Top 25 nod here and an ESPN feature there. The Red Foxes netted an 800th program victory with a come-from-behind win over Siena College on February 14. A week later, Josh Pascarelli became the first Red Fox to score 30 points in a game since 2022-23. On Saturday, Marist downed Canisius 89-81 and Pascarelli with a career-high 31 points was one of five

Red Foxes who scored in double figures. Elijah Lewis had 13, Jaden Daughtry 11, Jadin Collins-Roberts with 10 and Jason Schofield with 10. Marist's 19th win was the most in a season since 2006-2007.

Marist's Cinderella MAAC run nearly won them a bid that season. As the last place tournament team, the Red Foxes managed three dazzling upsets before the eventual championship loss to Iona College. This type of regular season spark hasn't been seen since Marist's last March Madness appearance, in 1986-87.

Marist and Dutchess enter their conference tournaments as the #1 seeds. DCC's Region XV Tournament began February 25. The MAAC tournament takes place in Atlantic City, March 11-15. For all the work achieved as a team, a different journey brings every athlete to this spot. Across every division of college basketball, March means a little bit more to every coach, staff member and player.



Amadou Diallo of Dutchess Community College controls the ball in play during a recent game. DCC is the top defensive team in its division.

-Courtesy photo



Marist University's Josh Pascarelli against Canisius during the game on Saturday.

-Photo by Ricky Torres

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Officials aim to update state law on background checks for employees, owners of businesses serving minors

By Kate Goldsmith

Local county and state lawmakers have coalesced around an issue that was recently brought to light regarding a loophole in a state education law that requires background checks for employees and operators of businesses that serve minors. Current law does not require background checks for such businesses as martial arts academies, dance studios, tutoring centers and sports training facilities, leaving significant gaps in child protection.

The loophole was highlighted early this month: On Feb. 5, NYS Police in Poughkeepsie (SP Poughkeepsie) arrested Tyler G. Leclerc, 28, of Hyde Park, for criminal sexual act in the third degree, a Class E Felony; and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, a Class A Misdemeanor. Leclerc formerly had been an instructor in his family's business, Leclerc's Martial Arts, which operated six locations in the Hudson Valley.

On Jan. 31, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation assigned to SP Poughkeepsie received a report of sexual abuse of a child. This investigation uncovered evidence that Leclerc had sexually abused multiple children over the course of several years, according to the release issued by NYS Police.

The release didn't indicate whether the children of the alleged abuse were students at the martial arts school.

The website and social media accounts for Leclerc's Martial Arts are not available, and the locations appear to be closed.

Some concerned parents and other community members mobilized to create a Facebook group, No Predators in Kids' Spaces (Reform NYSEL §5001), to call attention to the loophole in New York's Education Law, and to urge legislative action in Albany to amend the law. Members of the group participated in an awareness campaign on Feb. 22 across from the Hyde Park Mall, where one of Leclerc's academies had operated.

Additionally, a petition (Reform NYSEL § 5001: No Predators in Kids' Spaces!) was created on change.org. The petition reads, in part:

"Our mission is to advocate for legislative changes to New York Education Law § 5001 and New York Social Services Law § 390 to ensure that all businesses serving minors have mandatory background checks and strict prohibitions against employing or being operated by convicted sex offenders.

"We are a community of parents, advocates, and concerned citizens committed to protecting children and ensuring safe environments in ALL youth-oriented spaces..."

Bipartisan push to close loophole

Dutchess County leadership was quick to respond, urging Gov. Kathy Hochul and local state representatives to amend the law.

On Feb. 13, Will Truitt, chairman of the County Legislature, made his appeal in a letter "on behalf of concerned citizens to ask you [Hochul] and the state legislature to take immediate action" to prevent "those convicted of serious crimes, including sex offenses" of operating businesses that serve minors.

Also on Feb. 13, Assemblyman Anil Beephan (R, AD-105) issued a press release announcing proposed legislation to mandate background checks for all employees, volunteers, and independent contractors working at businesses serving children. The legislation would also prohibit individuals with certain criminal histories from owning or operating such businesses.

On Feb. 19, County Executive Sue Serino wrote to Hochul and local state lawmakers expressing her support of Beephan's proposed legislation and urged their support, as well.

"This is not just about one business, but about the broader responsibility we

have to safeguard our communities," Serino wrote.

Three local state representatives have heeded the call to action. In a press release issued on Feb. 21, Sen. Michelle Hinchey (D, SD-41), Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D, AD-106) and Beephan joined forces to announce new legislation (S.5257A / Assembly bill pending) to strengthen protections for children participating in extracurricular activities. The bill prevents registered sex offenders from owning, running or working at businesses that regularly provide instructional, recreational, or extracurricular activities to youth. The bill also requires background checks of state and federal sex offender registries before hiring or ownership, including those from any state where the person has lived.

Hinchey said, "Every parent should have the peace of mind that when they drop their child off at a local art class or sports facility, they're entering a safe environment. This bill closes a loophole uncovered by a horrific situation in Dutchess County by barring registered sex offenders from working at youth-oriented businesses and requiring background checks before anyone can own or be hired at one. My heart breaks for the victims and families of this tragedy. When it comes to protecting our kids, these safeguards shouldn't be optional - New York must make them law. I am committed, in partnership with Assemblymembers Barrett and Beephan, to get this bill passed and signed into law by the Governor."

"The tragic pattern of sexual abuse at a martial arts school in Dutchess County has revealed a loophole in our background check system that must be fixed," said Barrett. "My heart goes out to the victims of this abuse. I am working in partnership with Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Anil Beephan to pass bipartisan legislation to

close this loophole and ensure that an incident like this doesn't happen again. This common sense legislation will have employees of businesses that train minors be subject to mandatory background checks, protecting children and giving families peace of mind."

Beephan said, "First and foremost, my heart goes out to the victims and their families who have been affected by this horrific situation. The safety of our children must always come first. It is unacceptable that loopholes in our laws have allowed registered sex offenders to work in or own businesses that provide youth services. This legislation is a necessary step to close that dangerous gap and ensure that every parent can have confidence that their child is safe when participating in extracurricular activities. I am proud to stand with Senator Hinchey and Assemblymember Barrett in advancing this bipartisan effort to protect our kids and strengthen background check requirements for those working with minors."

On Feb. 21, the Democratic Caucus of the Dutchess County Legislature announced its support of the bill, noting "The recent arrest of a martial arts instructor in Hyde Park has exposed a serious gap in background check requirements for after-school programs. ... This loophole has put children in Dutchess County at risk and closing it is a commonsense step to help protect children and give parents peace of mind."

Minority Leader Yvette Valdés Smith (Beacon/Fishkill) stated, "Our caucus will work with our State representatives and local leaders to strengthen our laws. As a mother, teacher, and county legislator, I am committed to the safety of our communities - especially the safety of our children. We teachers undergo background checks before we are allowed to be in a classroom and it should be no different for anyone who works with our kids or any other vulnerable population."

Dutchess County Democrats endorse list of candidates

The Dutchess County Democratic Committee unanimously endorsed Dutchess County Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair for re-election and Kara Gerry for Dutchess County Court Judge. The Dutchess Democrats also announced that they are fielding 20 candidates for 25 seats on the Dutchess County Legislature in this year's election, with time for additional candidates to join the slate. The endorsements mark a decisive step in the Dutchess County Democratic Committee's effort to ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability, fair and effective justice, and a county government that works for all residents.

"Our committee is proud to support such outstanding candidates as Dan Aymar-Blair and Kara Gerry, along with a strong slate of Democratic candidates for the County Legislature," said Michael Dupree, Chair of the Dutchess County Democratic Committee. "Dan has quickly proven himself as a tough and independent watchdog, and Kara's experience as both a prosecutor and public defender shows she has the dedication and knowledge to ensure we have fair and effective justice in the Hudson Valley. Dutchess County deserves leaders who will deliver the best governance and justice that protects and respects all."

Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair was elected in 2024 and began serving his first term in January 2025. As Comptroller, he has taken swift action to tighten controls on government spending in Dutchess County, strengthen oversight of contracts, and improve government efficiency and accountability.

"As your new Comptroller, I've been working hard to protect our tax dollars and hold government accountable, and I need more than a year to get the job done. But some politicians in Dutchess want the Comptroller to be a lap dog, not a watchdog, so I immediately have a challenger. I was elected because people in Dutchess are sick of reckless government spending and inefficiency, and I will work everyday to improve our county government."

Before being elected Comptroller, Aymar-Blair served on the Beacon City Council and worked for New York City Public Schools for 15 years in finance and operations. He stepped down from both roles to dedicate himself fully to his responsibilities as Dutchess County Comptroller.

Gerry: Ensuring Fair and Effective Justice in Dutchess County

Kara Gerry, a seasoned attorney, is running for County Court Judge to bring fairness, strength, and integrity to the bench while prioritizing community safety and

justice that protects and respects all. She began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Orange County District Attorney's Office, where she handled thousands of criminal cases and worked to ensure victims were protected and justice was served. She later joined the Dutchess County Public Defender's Office, where she currently serves as Bureau Chief of the Criminal Unit, supervising six attorneys while maintaining her own rigorous caseload. Gerry is a lifelong Hudson Valley resident. She grew up in East Fishkill and graduated from St. Denis-St. Columba School, Our Lady of Lourdes High School, and Marist College before earning her law degree from the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University.

Comptroller Aymar-Blair stated, "Kara Gerry is an incredible attorney who will protect our community and constitutional rights. Dutchess County needs a judge who puts justice and public safety first, and I'm proud to support Kara Gerry for Dutchess County Court Judge."

Dutchess Dems Running 20 Candidates for County Legislature

In addition to backing Aymar-Blair and Gerry, the Dutchess County Democratic Committee is running a strong slate of 20 diverse and experienced candidates for the 25 seats on the County Legislature, reflect-

ing the party's commitment to advocating for policies that prioritize affordability, infrastructure, and public safety.

- Trevor Redl (District 1)
- Emma Arnoff (District 2)
- David Siegel (District 3)
- Brendan Lawler (District 4)
- Anna Shah (District 5)
- Lisa Kaul (District 6)
- Trish Prunty (District 7)
- Craig Brendli (District 8)
- Barrington Atkins (District 9)
- Randy Johnson (District 10)
- Brennan Kearney (District 11)
- Keith Odums (District 13)
- Alix Winsby (District 14)
- Yvette Valdés Smith (District 16)
- Molly Rhodes (District 18)
- Chris Drago (District 19)
- Kristofer Munn (District 20)
- Eric Eckley (District 21)
- Heidi Tucci (District 22)
- Eric Alexander (District 25)

"Dutchess County is at a crossroads," added Dupree. "With this team, voters have the chance to elect leaders who truly work for the people. We are ready to fight, win, and deliver real results for Dutchess County."

For further information, please contact Michael Dupree at secretary@dutchessdems.com.

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Wappingers CSD high school students honor American POW/MIAs



America's POW/MIA soldiers were remembered recently by Wappingers Central School District administrators, staff and students at John Jay Senior High School and Roy C. Ketcham High School. Among the groups present were American Legion Post 427 Wappingers Falls, American Legion Post 1758 Hopewell Junction, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 144 Castle Point, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5913 Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy photos from Wappingers CSD



Wappingers Central School District (Wappingers CSD) high schools, John Jay Senior HS and Roy C. Ketcham Senior HS, each hosted a ceremony honoring our country's POW/MIA soldiers. The ceremony was led by Air Force veteran and Board of Education trustee Virgil Capollari, who was joined by representatives from local chapters of Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as members of the BOE and Wappingers CSD administration.

Wappingers CSD Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk thanked our service members in attendance, and reminded students that "the price of our freedom is often paid with soldiers' lives, and we owe them our respect and gratitude." The respective principals also thanked our soldiers, and their students for giving their full and respectful attention to this event.

Capollari shared with students the history and importance of the POW/MIA flag, which serves as a symbol of our nation's commitment to their return. "Many of our soldiers lost their lives on foreign soil—and until they are brought home, we do not have a full accounting of them. It's important to remind everyone that they are not forgotten," he said.

Capollari shared with students the history and importance of the POW/MIA flag, which serves as a symbol of our

Donate to Howland Library's Prom Pop-up Boutique

By Kristine Coulter

Prom season will soon be here. In preparation, Howland Public Library (HPL) will have a Prom Pop-up Boutique!

"This is the very first year the library is hosting the Prom Pop-up Boutique, and we're excited to offer this opportunity to local teens," said Michelle Rivas, Adult Services & Community Engagement Librarian at Howland Public Library.

Rivas noted there has been "a lot of enthusiasm and strong community interest in making prom more accessible, and we look forward to hearing from participants this year."

Now through March 10th, according to the HPL newsletter, the library is accepting:

- gowns, cocktail dresses, blazers, vests, and suit jackets
- accessories like bow ties, suspenders, cummerbunds, and shawls

Why is it important for the HPL to host a program like this for the community?

Rivas replied, "A big part of the

library's mission is access. Prom can be a significant expense, and we want to help ensure that every teen has the opportunity to attend feeling confident and stylish. By offering free formalwear, we're not only supporting students but also encouraging sustainability through clothing reuse."

Teens can choose one of the donated outfits - for free - from noon - 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 and Sunday, March 16.

So, how many students do organizers hope to help this year with providing an outfit for the prom?

"This is our first year so we're not sure what to expect. Ideally, we hope to provide at least 50 students with a complete outfit. Hopefully more! The more donations we receive, the more students we can assist," said Rivas.

For more information, please contact community@beaconlibrary.org.

The library is at 313 Main St. in Beacon.

Truitt announces bid for Dutchess County Comptroller

In front of a standing-room-only crowd of over 100 supporters on Saturday, Feb. 22, Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt announced that he will run for Dutchess County Comptroller in the November election this year. A ten-year veteran of the Dutchess County Legislature, Truitt has served as the chairman since January of 2024.

"I am running for comptroller to return this office to the people and fight for their priorities" Truitt said. "Dutchess County needs a strong fiscal watchdog who will ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently. I have the right blend of public and private sector financial experience; and have built relationships with stakeholders across county government and in our community that will serve me well in this role."

Truitt is a graduate of Marist University, holding a degree in finance and accounting. In a professional capacity, he manages the finances for a local, family-owned construction business in Dutchess County. He has also previously

served as the chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature's influential Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee.

Introducing Truitt at the event Saturday was former Dutchess County Executive and U.S. Congressman Marc Molinaro. "I, more than anyone, have seen first-hand how Will has grown from an honest young man eager to serve his community into the knowledgeable and well-respected public servant that he is today. In his time in the legislature, he has helped deliver ten consecutive budgets that have cut the property tax rate while increasing investments in our seniors, veterans and youth. I know that he will take this spirit of service into his role as comptroller and will work tirelessly on behalf of Dutchess County taxpayers, said Molinaro.

"From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone for all of their support" Truitt said. I am excited to hit the campaign trail and meet the voters of Dutchess County. I will work hard to earn your vote and demonstrate to you why I am the right person for this job."

Parade of Green set for March 8 in Beacon

The City of Beacon's St. Patrick's Day Parade of Green will be held on Saturday, March 8. The parade will step off at noon on Main St., from 9D to the dummy light,

in Beacon. This will be the 10th year of the annual parade.

For more information, beaconnyparadeofgreen@gmail.com.

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'About Water' opens on March 7 at Mildred I. Washington Gallery at DCC

A show about water can be seen at the Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery at Dutchess County Community College in Poughkeepsie. All are invited to the opening of "About Water" on Friday, March 7th, from 3 to 6 p.m. The gallery is in the Allyn J. Center for Science and Art building, 1 Gallery Circle on the DCC campus. Ample parking is nearby. The show will be displayed March 3rd through March 28th. The show features the works of Daisy de Puthod and Jean-Marie Martin.

"I visited Daisy's studio and Jean-Marie's studio and realized that both artists worked in shades of blue. Daisy's work depicted the Maine Coast and the Hudson Valley and Jean-Marie's work uses large wavy strokes. I realized that their work complemented each other and that if we did a dual show the theme could be water. So, I'm calling this exhibit 'About Water,'" Dana Weidman, Director of the Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery at Dutchess Community College, commented in an email.

De Puthod made an extra painting trip last September to Ogunquit, Maine to paint the surf crashing on the rocks on the famous Marginal Way Trail. Weidman joined her on the last day to shoot a video of de Puthod painting on location. Unfortunately, as de Puthod was painting as fast as she could, a big storm came up on the horizon and both Weidman and de Puthod got totally soaked... That video (minus the storm) will be playing at the show.

De Puthod said about the gallery, "The space is very impressive. The light is very good in the gallery."

De Puthod, 70, has painted all her life, after a degree in Commercial art, she started her career as an illustrator

and designer, creating logos and ads, fashion illustration, theatre posters, illustrations for advertising and publishing, including Marvel comics. At this time, she also did portraits in pastel and architectural renderings in pen and ink or watercolor. De Puthod believes under every good painting there is a good drawing.

Since moving to New York in 1988, de Puthod moved towards fine art, joining local and NYC art organizations and displaying her art in art centers and galleries. She joined the popular Plein-Air movement, participating in over 25 juried plein-air events throughout America. These events are a lot of fun and camaraderie among artists, but they also feel like you are doing a marathon, with only 5 days to create 4 or 5 good paintings to display in a show the last day, she said. De Puthod was familiar with working fast, with her training as an illustrator with tight deadlines. Plein Air painting is quite a challenge, the light and shadows change as the sun moves, sometimes the wind knocks all your gear down, people come talk to you as you are trying to concentrate, but there is an aliveness and spontaneity that resonates in the paintings from being THERE... you can't get that working from photographs.

De Puthod's advice for budding artists is to do it because you enjoy it, "draw, draw, draw, draw all the time." One gets better by tons of practice, join art organizations, work from models, take art workshops, meet other artists. One learns a lot about techniques or supplies from other artists. De Puthod suggests try painting an outside scene one likes, set up a still life or a bouquet of flowers to paint, sketch a relative



Clockwise from top left, "Tiffany Clock," "Sand Beach" and "Sunny, the lab" by Daisy de Puthod.

-Courtesy images

while they are watching TV.

De Puthod's advice for career-interested artists is to find a specialty that they enjoy doing. For example, drawing horses, painting portraits or medical illustrations. It is always easier to market oneself if one has a specialty.

Currently, until March 2nd, de Puthod has a pastel painting displayed in a NYC museum (The Museum of the Dog, 101 Park Ave. and 40th Street). The museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The show opened Jan. 29th. During COVID, there were renovations being made at Grand Central Terminal. They were also decorating the panels to hide the construction and made prints of art from NYC Urban Sketchers,

a group de Puthod was a member. So, her Grand Central Terminal "Tiffany Clock" drawing was displayed for a while in Grand Central.

About seeing her work in New York City, de Puthod stated, "I felt very proud."

One can meet de Puthod and Martin at the opening of "About Water" on Friday March 7th and see her plein air paintings. One can also see if they make you feel that you are right there, hearing the sound of the stream or the crash of the waves on the rocks.

To see more of the artists' paintings, check their websites: www.daisydeputhod.com or www.Jeanmarie.martin.com.

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Award-winning design: Eastdale Village earns prestigious honor from Urban Guild



Kirchhoff Director of Architecture & Design Giovanni Palladino is pictured with the honor from the Urban Guild at the Eastdale Village Town Center.

-Courtesy photo

Eastdale Village Town Center (Eastdale), located in the Town of Poughkeepsie, was recently lauded for its outstanding design and community impact. Kirchhoff and Union Studios received a coveted 2024 Urban Guild Design Excellence Award from The Urban Guild for bringing the Eastdale vision to life. The award recognized Eastdale for its exemplary success integrating planning principals and the mission of The Urban Guild.

"Eastdale successfully combines timeless design with a vibrant live-work-play community that attracts residents and visitors alike," said Joseph Kirchhoff, partner and founder of Kirchhoff. "It's an honor to be in the company of people setting the standard for the future of urban architecture and design."

Kirchhoff Director of Architecture & Design Giovanni Palladino celebrated the accomplishment at the Eastdale Village Town Center.

'Witch,' 'The Burdens' at County Players

CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3 set for March 7-9

County Players, one of the longest-running community theatre companies in the area, will present the popular CP2 Series Readers Theatre Mini-Festival #3 on March 7, 8, & 9 at County Players Falls Theatre located at 2681 W. Main, Wappingers Falls.

Reading #1- "Witch," by Jen Silverman, directed by Kit Colbourn
Friday, March 7 at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 8 matinee at 2 p.m.

Utterly spellbinding - 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. The cast includes local regional performers Thomas Byrne, Samantha Cassano, Casey Cuddy, Glen Morrice, Dylan Parkin, and Molly Parker Myers

Reading #2- "The Burdens," by Matt Schatz, directed by Matt Andrews

Saturday evening, March 8 at 8 p.m., matinee Sunday March 9 at 2 p.m.

Dark, family comedy - A contemporary play with multi-generational themes and a wicked sense of humor.

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 talented cast features Dylan Parkin and Louisa Vilardi. NOTE: This production of "The Burdens" contains strong language.

CP2 Readers Theatre: is an exciting series at County Players which offers an opportunity for actors, directors, and audience members to experience theater in a fresh way: selected plays presented as full dramatic readings, 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.

Tickets: Reserved seating is \$15/reading, \$20 to attend both readings on the same weekend, and are available online or in advance at the door. Visit countyplayers.org and at the top of the main page select BUY TICKETS. Ticket options are limited to mobile/digital or print-at-home only, as no printed tickets will be available for "will call" until further notice.

The remaining Main Stage Production



County Players will present "Witch" and "The Burdens" from March 7-9 in Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy images

in May is "Big Fish The Musical" countyplayers.org/shows/big-fish-the-musical/. Season 68 productions and subscriptions for 2025-2026 may be found at countyplayers.org/season-68/

CP2 Readers Theatre Series is supported by Stewart's Shops, and Powerhouse Theater at Vassar College. "Witch" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of

Samuel French, Inc. concordtheatricals.com. "The Burdens" is presented through special arrangement with TRW Plays. trwplays.com

County Players 66th Season is Sponsored by Hudson Valley Credit Union.

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

Piano concert with Shai Vosner set for March 2 in Beacon



Shai Vosner will be the next musician in concert during the 2025 Piano Festival by Howland Chamber Music Circle. The concert will be held on March 2 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

-Courtesy photo from HCMC

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) continues its 2025 piano festival with Shai Vosner, at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, March 2 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. The Howland Cultural Center is at 477 Main Street in Beacon.

Born in Israel, and now living in NYC, Shai Vosner has been hailed for his blend of "exuberance and introspection, rhythmic clarity and nuanced reflections" (Arts Fuse) as well as his "keen musical mind and deep musical soul" (NPR). He has won Lincoln Center's Segal Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant and a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award; he has appeared as both a soloist and a soloist accompanying the world's great orchestras in all the most-

renowned concert halls. Vosner is also an active chamber musician, having performed extensively with violinist Pinchas Zuckerman and Amanda Forsyth, and many others. Vosner came to NY to study at The Juilliard School with Emmanuel Ax, and has since joined the faculty there. Vosner is also on the faculty of the Bard College Conservatory of Music.

Vosner is known for his interpretations of Beethoven and Schubert, and contemporary composers. For his recital at HCMC, he will perform works by the 3 great B's: Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, as well as 21st-century British composer George Benjamin.

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.



Daisy de Puthod

About Water



Jean-Marie Martin

Daisy de Puthod & Jean-Marie Martin

Art Show March 3 - March 28

Opening

Friday March 7th 3 to 6pm

Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery
Dutchess Community College - 1 Gallery Circle, Poughkeepsie

Gallery Hours: Mon-Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-5
(845) 431-8610

Obituaries

Catherine A. Salerno



Catherine A. Salerno, 80, an area resident since 1969, died on February 15, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She previously lived in Old Forge, PA.

Born on September 21, 1944 in Scranton, PA, Cathy was the daughter of the late Stephen and Catherine (Macker) Kopko. She worked as a secretary for the New York Power Authority and as an assistant nurse at Gayhead Elementary School for many years. She then earned her nursing degree from Dutchess Community College, and was a Registered Nurse at Putnam Hospital Center for over 17 years until her retirement.

Cathy was a lifetime member of the East Fishkill Rescue Squad, and just recently celebrated 50 years of service,

commitment, and dedication. As the squad's longest serving volunteer, she was an EMT, Trustee and Past Lieutenant.

Cathy enjoyed traveling with her partner, Enrico. She liked playing Mahjong with her girlfriends and working out at AllSport. More than anything, she loved spending time with her family, especially her granddaughters.

She is survived by her partner of 17 years, Enrico Stacchini at home; her children, Patrick Salerno and his wife Loren of Danbury, CT, Sean Salerno and his wife Allison of Wappingers Falls, and Michelle Salerno and her husband Paul Saloom of Brewster; her granddaughters, Rachel Anne Salerno Saloom Jackson and her husband Kyle Jackson of Buffalo and Jordan Salerno of Wappingers Falls; her brother, Stephen Kopko and his wife Peg of Old Forge, PA; her nephew, Stephen Kopko and his wife Julia of Clark Summit, PA; and her niece, Maura Kopko and her fiancée Kate Knudson of Redondo Beach, CA.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc, 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction on Thursday, February, 20th with a Firematic Service. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday, February 21st at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction.

Donations may be made in memory of Cathy to the East Fishkill Fire Department Rescue Squad, 2502 Route 52, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 or the Hillside Lake Fire Company, 207 Hillside Lake Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Please visit her Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Charles Vetter Jr.



It is with the deepest of sorrow that we announce the untimely death of our beloved Charlie, following a short illness. All who knew him felt the love, light and laughter he brought to this world, and for that he will never be forgotten.

Charlie was born Charles George Vetter Jr. on February 4th in Mt Kisco to proud parents, Barbara and Charles (Buddy). He fondly became a "momma's boy," and proclaimed that title so proudly. His father's unwavering support in all his life's decisions meant the world to him. He spent his early years developing a love for horses, which became a lifelong passion. He went on to thrive in a successful career in real estate. He grew from a sales agent to regional manager at Houlihan Lawrence. His coworkers

and colleagues were nothing short of family to him. In a hustle and bustle world, Charlie took the time to make each encounter feel familiar and special, which led to deeply felt friendships that spanned his 25-year career.

In his personal life, he is survived by his loving partner of 30 years, Joe, and their four rescue dogs Beatrice, Beau, Bandit and Hudson. They were his world. His love for dogs was obvious through his support of the SPCA as well as other local animal rescues.

Family was everything to Charlie, and he was everything to them. Aside from his loving parents Barbara and Charles (Buddy), Charlie is survived by his brother Cody and wife Stacey, their children Savannah and Daniel. He is also survived by his sister and best friend Shannon, her husband George and their son Takis; his cousin Regina and her partner Rob; as well as loving uncles, cousins and countless friends.

There aren't enough words to describe this man who was loved by so many. He will be eternally treasured and deeply missed.

Calling hours were Monday, February 24 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, February 25 at St. Kateri Church, 1925 Route 82, LaGrangeville.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Crate Escape Rescue Inc. in Charlie's name.

Please visit his Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Elizabeth B. Mensching



Elizabeth B. Mensching ("Betty"), 77, of Wappingers Falls entered into rest Thursday, February 13, 2025, after a long illness, throughout which she displayed incredible courage and unwavering hope. She was surrounded by her loving husband and children.

Daughter of the late John and Elinor (Jago) Burke, she was born on March 5, 1947 in Poughkeepsie, and was raised in Staatsburg. She married Gary E. Mensching on August 17, 1968 at the Dutch Reformed Church in Rhinebeck; Mr. Mensching survives at home.

Betty was a 1965 graduate of Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, where she played the flute in the marching band. She then attended Dutchess Community College and

graduated in 1967.

Betty worked for Security Mutual Insurance Company in Binghamton, NY while her husband finished his degree at Binghamton University. After moving to Wappingers Falls and raising her family, Betty attended the Dental Training Center in Poughkeepsie and became a licensed dental assistant. She worked for many years as a dental assistant and office manager for Dr. Armen Manasar in Wappingers Falls and acted as a secretary for the Dutchess County Dental Society. Betty also worked alongside her husband and son for many years in their family business, Signal Graphics in Wappingers Falls, until her retirement.

In her free time, Betty enjoyed sewing, often volunteering her talents by sewing doll clothes and other items for local charities to raffle off. She was a Girl Scout leader for her daughter's troops and volunteered at the Oak Grove Elementary School library while her children were there. She had a great love for cats, often taking in any stray cat that appeared at her door. She also enjoyed watching and feeding birds, especially hummingbirds. She would track the migration of the hummingbirds so she would know when to put out her feeders every year.

Betty was kind, generous and everyone who knew her, as a friend, co-worker, patient or client, appreciated those qualities in her. Her memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew her, and her strength and love will continue to inspire generations to come.

In addition to her husband, Gary, survivors include her daughter, Sharon M. Walsh (Kevin) of Simsbury, CT; her son, Eric J. Mensching (Christine) of Poughkeepsie; grandchildren, Caitlin Walsh, Meghan Walsh, Sean Walsh, Noah Mensching and Taylor Mensching; and her niece, Susan Stepp (Jim) of Poughkeepsie.

Betty was predeceased by her sister, Jo Ann Motyka.

Memorial donations may be made in Betty's name to Dutchess County SPCA, www.dcsPCA.org.

Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. To send a personal condolence, please visit www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com.

Jay Francis Provnick



Jay Francis Provnick, a lifelong Beacon resident, entered into eternal rest on February 14, 2025 after a brief illness.

Jay was born on October 28, 1959 to Evelyn (Grennan) Provnick and Francis Provnick. He was a graduate of DC BOCES.

Jay was predeceased by his parents; his beloved aunts and uncles, Veronica and Phillip Baccamo; Rose and Arthur Chivalo, Agnes and Francis Supple, Mary Provnick, Helen Provnick, Anna Burch and Marjorie and William Toenigs, Joseph and Margie Provnick; cousins Brenda and Vincent Nenni.

He is survived by his loving sister, Denise, his cousins Brian and Cathy,

Greg, Matthew, Julia, and Jessica Nenni, and his longtime friend Jim Palmatier.

Jay enjoyed talking and laughing with friends and strangers, alike. He spent many hours in his younger years on his CB radio using the handle "Dynamite." He loved spending time listening to music, old radio serials, black and white movies, Jeopardy, and having lunch with his new friends at the Beacon Friendship Center. Jay was also a faithful listener to Eyewitness News for many decades which he said opened up the world to him.

Jay will be remembered for his sense of humor, his amazing ability to recall dates, down to the day of the week, of so many different events, both historical and personal, and his autograph collection of the many people that touched his life.

Jay's sister would like to thank all of Jay's family and friends, A&T Healthcare and all of his home healthcare aides, Clove Coach and their professional drivers, the Advocate Homecare Team (Day Program) in Fishkill, NY. It is because of all of these dedicated loving people that helped to make it possible for Jay to remain living at home and live a full life.

Calling hours were held on Friday, February 21 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A funeral service was held on Saturday, February 22 at the funeral home. Burial followed in the family plot at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

To send a personal condolence, please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

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

Southern Dutchess News
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Classified Index

100 Help Wanted	201 Home Improvement	401 Apartments for Rent	509 Office Equipment	720 Vendors Wanted
105 Employment Opportunity	202 Cleaning Services	402 Rooms for Rent	510 Firewood	721 Wanted to Buy
106 Business Opportunity	203 Lawn Services	403 Furnished Rooms	511 Lawn & Garden Equip.	722 Bazaar
107 Situations Wanted	221 Professional Services	404 Furnished Apartments	512 Winter Merchandise	723 Consignments
120 Schools	222 Tax Experts	405 Wanted to Rent	516 Misc. Merchandise	724 Farmers Market
121 Special Instruction	223 Beauty Services	406 Garages for Rent	700 Pets & Supplies	725 Collectibles
122 Musical Instruction	225 Business Services	407 Vacation Rentals	701 Free Pets	750 Events
140 Nursery Schools	226 Travel & Services	408 Houses for Rent	702 Lost & Found Pets	800 Boats
141 Child Care	227 Bridal Services	420 Commercial Rentals	703 Pets for Adoption	801 Campers & Trailers
142 Day Care	295 Financial	500 Musical Merchandise	710 Garage & Yard Sale	802 Motor Homes
143 Baby-sitting	296 Mortgages	501 Kid Stuff	711 Tag Sale	803 Recreational Vehicles
145 Adult Care	300 Real Estate	502 Clothing	712 Moving sale	900 Autos for Sale
150 Announcements	301 Townhouses & Condos	503 Furniture	713 Rummage Sale	901 Vans/SUV's
151 Adoption	302 Commercial Property	504 Appliances	714 Flea Market	902 Trucks
152 Novenas	304 Mobile Homes	505 Free Items	715 Craft Corner	903 Motorcycles
154 Lost & Found	305 Lots & Acreage	506 Computers	716 Barn Sale	904 Auto Parts & Tires
155 Personal Services	400 Townhomes & Condos for rent	507 Sports Equipment	717 Estate Sale	905 Autos Wanted
		508 Exercise Equipment	718 Auctions	
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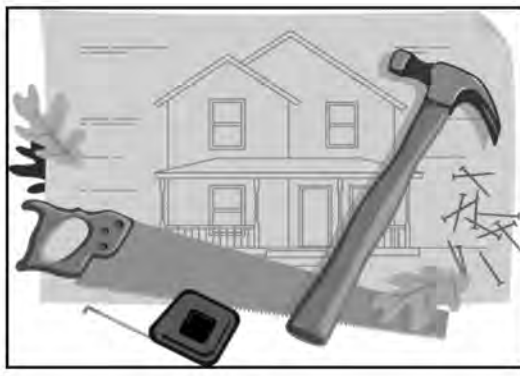
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Renaissance magic. Come join the fun! This year Adams is giving away five, \$100 gift cards, one per store. Poughkeepsie & Newburgh – February 21 – March 2. Winners will be selected March 3. Kingston, Wappinger, & Middletown – February 28 – March 9. Winners selected March 10.





Here are the dates of the shows.

- Poughkeepsie: February 21 – March 2
- Newburgh: February 21 – March 2
- Kingston: February 28 – March 9
- Middletown: February 28 – March 9
- Wappinger: Sorry, no show in the Wappinger store this year due to a storewide renovation.

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- Beacon Free Press
- Northern Dutchess News

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<p>House Cleaner Needed. Small two bedroom, two baths. References and Driver License Required. 845-325-2337</p>	<p>503 Furniture</p>	<p>Bunk Bed set with ladder, one dresser. Early american style, great condition \$175. 845-227-5922</p>	<p>Sony Handycam Video Camera with Case. 16 hour battery life and instructions, \$75. Call 845-226-8896</p>	<p>AC Ptable, \$80 - Dehumidifier, \$60, Grill Free, Snare Drum, \$80, Wicker shelf, Lamp, \$40. 845-418-0069</p>	<p>Outdoor Mult. Position Reclining Chair, Cost \$75 New. Large Size. Call: 845-297-2105</p>	<p>904 Tires</p>
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	<p>Queen size wood sleigh bed box spring mattress included. Exc. Cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213</p>	<p>516 Misc. Merchandise</p>	<p>European Lead figures, also European Model Cars HO Marklin Trans 1940's-1970's large collection very nice resonable. 845-221-0893</p>	<p>Tor-1950's Tube AM,FM & Record Player, \$250 OBO. 845-831-8698</p>	<p>900 Autos For Sale</p>	<p>1933 Chevy Master Reupholstered front seat Recomed bumpers Rebuilt engine NewBattery New front floormat, \$15,300. 845-831-6673</p>
<p>401 Apartments for Rent</p> <p>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</p>	<p>4 set Antique wood dining chairs upholstered seats exc. cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213</p>	<p>Large Air Fryer, never used, have all attachments, booklet. I don't have room on my counter, \$75 OBO. 845-242-7717</p>	<p>AC Filters-Precision Aire, 30 x 30 x 1 pleated-model 40, \$8 each. 845-264-0240</p>	<p>Paintball Equipment for sale. Guns cases hoppers tanks masks all in good working order. Asking \$150 for all. 914-420-5626</p>	<p>2005 Lexus ES330 for sale. Best Offer. Runs good. Still driving on road. 845-297-0084</p>	 

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

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S	H	A	D	S	T	A	G	E
S	E	A	R	S	O	D	S	O
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4	1	5	1	4
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5	2	5	1	4
4	1	3	2	3
2	5	4	5	4
1	3	1	2	3

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2025-04 PROJECT: Replacement of Bridge N-5 (BIN 3343370) CR-62 (Rudd Pond Rd) Over the Webatuck Creek and Culvert N-21 CR-63 (Boston Corners Rd) Over an Unnamed Creek, Town of North East. Project Description: This project involves the removal and replacement of an existing bridge that consists of a two-span concrete box with a single span 3-sided precast concrete box support on piles on CR-62 and involves the removal and replacement of a concrete box culvert founded on earth on CR-63 Town of North East. Also, ancillary work including excavations, paving and guide rail. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids due on or before 11:00am,

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March 19, 2025, and at that time opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. Bids for the above project will be received by: Diane McKenna, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All call-ins will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 327 446 395#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business March 11, 2025 & emailed to [Diane McKenna dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov](mailto:Diane.McKenna@dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov) and cc'dmckenna@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is March 2025; the anticipated substantial completion date is October 31, 2025 with the anticipated completion date, including all punch list work is November 14, 2025,

Legal Notices

respectively. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2025001369. Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN CHICK-FIL-A 18 WESTAGE DRIVE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 150-97B of the Code of the Town of Fishkill, the Town of Fishkill Planning Board (Planning Board) will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. 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 12524 for the proposal known as Chick-fil-A, identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 6255-00-009600 located at 18 Westage Drive (the former location of the Boston Market), consisting of 16.10 acres in PSC (Planned Shopping Center) for the following approval:

Site Development Plan Approval (Town Code Chapter 150-97B.) - Site Development Plan Approval for the redevelopment of the former Boston Market located at 18 Westage Drive; the project will include demolition of the existing Boston Market and the development of a portion of the project site to construct a new 5,400 ± square foot Chick-fil-A restaurant with accessory drive-thru, significant related landscaping around the perimeter of the proposed restaurant, lighting and infrastructure on the northern corner of the project site fronting on Route 9 and West Merritt Boulevard. The project will include a total of 78 interior seats and 16 outdoor seats and will be

Legal Notices

open from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The proposed drive-thru has a total queue length of 444 ± feet (44 ± cars) and proposes a partial length third lane, which shall bypass the menu boards to facilitate the proposed restaurant; the project will alter and renovate the existing access drives and off-street parking within the Hudson Valley Towne Center. All interested persons will be heard by the Planning Board of the Town of Fishkill at the public hearing to be held as aforesaid. For any persons unable to attend the public hearing, email comments may be submitted in advance to dcollonna@fishkill-ny.gov.

BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FISHKILL, NEW YORK

Debbie Colonna, Planning Board Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SPECIAL USE PERMIT & SUBDIVISION FISHKILL MEDICAL PARK

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 150, Sections 150-97B., 150-109 and 132-12G of the Code of the Town of Fishkill, the Town of Fishkill Planning Board (Planning Board) will hold a Combined Public Hearing on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. 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 12524 for the proposal known as Fishkill Medical Park identified as Tax Map Parcel Nos. 6255-00-255525, consisting of 9.90 acres and 6255-00-468570, consisting of 37.81 acres located on Snook Road in the R-40 Zoning District for the following approvals:

* **Site Development Plan Approval and Special Use Permit Approval** (Town Code Chapter 150, Sections 150-97B. and 150-109) - Construction of a 30,776 square-foot two-story medical office building and an 11,319 square-foot single-story medical office

Legal Notices

building together with associated utilities, parking and landscaping improvements.

* **Subdivision Approval** (Town Code Chapter 132, Section 132-12G.) - Subdivision of two (2) existing lots into three (3) lots to allow separate financing of two (2) lots for the proposed medical office buildings. Lot 1 will consist of 20.44 acres and will include the construction of a 30,776 square foot two-story medical office building, associated utilities, parking and landscaping improvements; Lot 2 will consist of 11.790 acres and will include the construction of a 11,310 square foot single-story medical office building; there are no development plans for Lot 3 that will consist of 15.67 acres. All interested persons will be heard by the Planning Board of the Town of Fishkill at the public hearing to be held as aforesaid. For any persons unable to attend the public hearing, email comments may be submitted in advance to dcollonna@fishkill-ny.gov.

BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FISHKILL, NEW YORK

Debbie Colonna, Planning Board Secretary

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCB-01-25 NAME OF PROJECT: Multiple Roof Replacement Projects at Various Dutchess County Locations **Multiple Prime Bids** shall be received for the following classes of work: **General Construction, Mechanical, Plumbing, & Electrical. Project Description:** Roof Replacement Projects at the following locations: Beacon Center, 223 Main Street, Beacon, NY; Eastern Dutchess Government Center (EDGC) 131 County House Road, Millbrook, NY; Rhinebeck Outpost, 1055 Route 308, Rhinebeck, NY. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from

Legal Notices

any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contacting the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. **All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site.** Bids due on or before 11:00 AM, Friday, March 21, 2025, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. **Bids for the above project will be received by:** Caroline A. Miller, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike, 1st Floor Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All call-ins will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) **Conference ID: 733 982 487#.** Each bid shall be submitted

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as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. **Questions will be accepted by the close of business Friday, March 14, 2025** and emailed to [Caroline Miller at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov](mailto:caroline.miller@dutchessny.gov) with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. **All Bidders are encouraged to attend the Walk-Thru in order to submit Bids for the RFB. Vendors MUST Pre-Register by 4:00 PM, Thursday, March 6, 2025. The Walk-Thru scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2025, at 10:00 am starting at the Rhinebeck Outpost, 1055 Route 308, Rhinebeck, NY; proceeding to the Eastern Dutchess Government Center (EDGC) 131 County House Road, Millbrook, NY and concluding with the ; Beacon Center, 223 Main Street, Beacon, NY. This RFB may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #2025002126. IMPORTANT: Starting December 30, 2024: NYSDOL Contractor and Sub-Contractor Registry Requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding the APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.**

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

Suguru

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5					
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	2	3			

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

THEME: THE 1960s

ACROSS

1. Unit of electrical capacity F
6. Knicks' org.
9. Herring's cousin
13. City in Belgium
14. *The Beatles hit "Drive My ____"
15. Monument to Buddha
16. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
17. Affirmative to captain
18. Like a beaver?
19. *Che's last name
21. *Stonewall riots location
23. Division of time
24. West African country
25. Refuse to comply
28. *The Jackson 5 co-founder
30. *Don ____ of Barney Fife fame
35. Soon, to a bard
37. Hyperbolic tangent
39. Sunlight's interference
40. *Apollo Moon Landing org.
41. Operatic solos
43. Alexander Hamilton/Aaron Burr incident
44. Deposit the ashes
46. Related to ear
47. Meat in a can
48. Transport onward, as in letter (2 words)
50. Not written
52. Pilot's estimate, acr.
53. Ill-mannered one
55. Hawaiian welcome wreath
57. *Ford's pony car
61. *Assassinated president
65. "____ death do us part"
66. Down Under runner
68. Hindu caste
69. Moonshine maker
70. *Spock's was pointy
71. Comforter stuffing
72. Ruptured
73. Ground cover
74. Coach-and-four

DOWN

1. Use a cat o' nine tails
2. Hokkaido language
3. Network of nerves
4. Mojave plant
5. Go away
6. March Madness org.
7. *____ of Pigs, failed military operation
8. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
9. Command to Fido
10. Designer Boss
11. Copycat
12. Sinister side in "Star Wars"
15. Garment-making
20. Yogurt-based dip
22. Benevolent one
24. Hall order keeper
25. *Joplin of "Summertime" fame
26. Foolish
27. Same as boatswain
29. Tropical tuber
31. Auto pioneer
32. Brownish gray
33. Something yummy
34. *Certain march starting point
36. Backgammon predecessor
38. *Place for a flower
42. Part of mermaid's tale
45. Cricket umpire's call (2 words)
49. Not, prefix
51. Optical devices
54. S-shaped moldings
56. Arctic people
57. Necessary thing
58. Archaic preposition
59. *Bob Marley's hit "____ It Up"
60. Fresco piece
61. Kurdistan native
62. Cocoyam
63. Fortune-telling coffee remnants
64. Ready and eager
67. *Zedong of Cultural Revolution

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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THE FJORD TRAIL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS CLOSING MARCH 4!

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

EMAIL your comment to the Lead Agency, New York State Parks at: hhft.plan@parks.ny.gov



SEND EMAIL

or

MAIL your comment to Nancy Stoner, Environmental Analyst
NYS OPRHP, DESP
625 Broadway, 2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12238

If you have already participated, we **THANK YOU** for being part of this important process!

Be inspired by what others have shared: **WATCH THE PUBLIC HEARING RECORDINGS**



2 PM SESSION



6 PM SESSION

dub.sh/state-parks-HHFT



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