

# Superintendent thanks everyone for 'making things happen'

By Kristine Coulter

Dr. Matthew Landahl, Superintendent of Schools for the Beacon City School District, on a post on the district's website gave two scenarios regarding schools opening again.

"Over last weekend, on Saturday the Governor ordered schools to use their remaining snow days, snow makeup days, and spring break during this closing. We have four unused snow days and six makeup days which includes four days of spring break. So this creates two scenarios: Scenario 1- Everything is ok on April 1, students and staff return to school, and we only would still have Friday, April 10 for a Spring Break," he stated. But he added, "Based on the current state in New York and our country, I think this scenario is unlikely.

Landahl stated, "This is my opinion. Scenario 2- The Governor issues another executive order closing schools in New York State for an additional period of time farther into April. Based on the current

state in New York and our country, this seems like the more likely scenario. We need to be prepared for a longer school closing than April 1. This is just my opinion."

"We are also trying to develop a longer term plan for transporting some meals into different neighborhoods. If you are having issues getting to the meals program because of illness, self-quarantining, disability or something else, please email Matt Landahl at landahl.m@beaconk12.org with your name, your children's names, your address and cell phone#. We have a number of volunteers who will drop the meals off next week at your doorstep," he said."

Dr. Landahl informed the community that "on Friday, March 13 we asked our teachers to create 10 days of work for students either in learning packets or digitally. At the time of our request we did not know that schools were going to be closed later in the day. I explained to every school faculty in the district last Friday

that they were not advancing their curriculum with this work or creating a distance learning plan in one day. I asked them to create supplemental learning materials that students can do to bridge the gap for the time of closure until we can come up with a better plan. I do ask that all students take the remaining days to attempt to do the work in the next week and a half but I am not asking teachers to be providing distance learning at this time."

"So here is the next step. Our administrative team will be working with a group of teachers over the next week and a half to create some common understandings of distance learning, develop professional development, and develop a plan so all of our teachers are ready to start distance learning the week of March 30th. I anticipate us beginning our program in the middle of that week. We have about a hundred more questions we need to answer about how we will pull this off but we are committed as a district to making this happen. I will provide updates on this work on a

regular basis throughout this time. A huge thanks to our teachers for dealing with all of the curveballs the last few days. In closing, it has been heartening to see the community and staff of the Beacon City School District rise to the occasion of this State of Emergency."

The superintendent thanked Karen Pagano, who is in charge of the district's meals programs, and her team.

"The meals program has been a huge success and thanks to Karen Pagano and her team for pulling it together so quickly."

This week, meals are: Monday and Wednesday pickups at Beacon High School from 10-10:30 a.m. and South Avenue from 10:30-11 a.m.

The plan was families on Mondays would pick up two breakfasts and two lunches per child. Then on Wednesdays they will be picking up three breakfasts and three lunches per child.

He thanked "everyone for making things happen!"

# Dutchess County Public Transit reducing service

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is actively responding to the needs of this evolving crisis in several ways. These include:

-A fund to help families in crisis: [www.uwdor.org/covidhelp](http://www.uwdor.org/covidhelp)

- A community resource webpage and Facebook Group for Dutchess and Orange County: [www.uwdor.org/covid19-communityresources](http://www.uwdor.org/covid19-communityresources) and [www.facebook.com/groups/docommunitystrongresources](http://www.facebook.com/groups/docommunitystrongresources)

-United Way's 2-1-1 confidential helpline is answering calls 24/7 from our community, not only about COVID-19, but also about shelter, food access, and employment: [hudson211.org](http://hudson211.org)

We are continuing to disseminate items that are essential for our community and work with our nonprofit partners. You can reach all their staff members at their extensions and emails: [www.uwdor.org/staff](http://www.uwdor.org/staff)

-Postponing the annual event Celebration of Service Awards Dinner to June 24th: [www.uwdor.org/celebration2020](http://www.uwdor.org/celebration2020)

- Pull the Plane is still scheduled for June 13. They hope by that time they will all be able to celebrate community strength together: [www.uwdor.org/pulltheplane](http://www.uwdor.org/pulltheplane)

"In so many ways this is new territory for us, but just as our United Way evolved from a War Chest to Community Chest in response to our community's needs, so we are evolving now," stated President & CEO Jeannie Montano. "I'd like to express my personal thanks to all of our government leaders, helping steer us through this crisis, and our frontline responders, providing health care, safety and security as well as those in warehouses, delivering goods, stocking shelves and checking us out at grocery stores throughout the area. By your continuing service,

you are helping all of us. Thank you."

For more information go to [www.uwdor.org](http://www.uwdor.org) or on social media: [facebook.com/uwdor](https://www.facebook.com/uwdor), [twitter.com/uwdor](https://twitter.com/uwdor), [instagram.com/unitedwaydor](https://www.instagram.com/unitedwaydor) and [linkedin.com/in/uwdor](https://www.linkedin.com/in/uwdor). Use the hashtag #DOCommunityStrong to show that we're all Dutchess Orange Community Strong and we #LiveUnited.

## ABOUT THE DUTCHESS ORANGE COMMUNITY STRONG FUND

### URGENT HELP NEEDED

For those who were already living paycheck to paycheck, the recent closures have placed added pressure on their already constrained resources. As hourly jobs close, benefits are suspended, daycares and schools close, access to food, daycare, and a steady income are becoming harder and harder for many. These families need your help now more than

ever. Make a donation to our Urgent Need Dutchess Orange Community Strong Fund today to help support families in crisis.

Your gift will help accomplish things like:

- Make sure children and families have access to food

- Providing essential and emergency items to students in our community

- Allow our trained 2-1-1 call specialists to continue taking Coronavirus related calls (they have already taken over 2,000 calls from the Hudson Valley Region)

- During this time of social distancing YOU can still help your neighbor! 100% of your donation is tax-deductible.

- Your donation will remain in our Dutchess and Orange County communities and will provide lifesaving resources to families impacted by COVID-19.

# DC Legislature debating options on April meetings

By Jim Donick

The Chairman of the County Legislature, A. Gregg Pulver, recently sent out a letter canceling the originally scheduled April meeting of that body.

He noted that the County Executive, in responding to the Coronavirus crisis had, at the time, banned all meetings and gatherings in the county of more than 20 people. The legislature's meetings are generally significantly larger than that.

In response, a number of the Democrat members of the legislature have called upon him to rescind this plan. Their letter, which can be found in the Letters to the Editor section of this issue of the Northern Dutchess News, outlines a number of objections. They ask that, if the meeting

cannot be held as normally scheduled, the Chairman should hold the meeting on-line or via the telephone.

They list a number of issues related to the COVID-19 crisis that they feel should be discussed, including funding of emergency food supplies, public hand washing stations for the homeless, and moratoria on mortgage foreclosures and utility shutoffs.

Several of these points have been subsequently addressed at the state level.

Another major issue the letter outlines is an observation that this action demonstrates an undue deference to the wishes of the County Executive.

Minority Leader Rebecca Edwards (D-Town of Poughkeepsie) said this is a dangerous precedent. "The Legislature is a

co-equal branch of County Government. The County Executive and the Executive branch do not, on paper, and should not, in practice, dictate legislative business. We are, by County Charter, responsible for our own rules and schedules."

Chairman Pulver's office has responded as follows: "Each year, the Legislature passes a resolution (this year, Resolution 2020008) which sets dates for our meetings. If we want to change the date of a meeting or hold it in a location other than the Legislative Chambers, we are required to pass a resolution. If the Emergency Order limiting gatherings to 20 people is lifted by our April Meetings, then they will be held in our Chambers. If not, we have the option of doing it by phone. But

technically, the in-person meeting will have to be canceled as it has a defined location. An April meeting held by phone will technically be an "emergency meeting" per our Legislative Rules because it was not authorized by a resolution.

Pulver added, "In light of the national health emergency and the County-wide Emergency Order limiting gatherings of more than 20 persons, we have decided to cancel meetings in our Legislative Chambers while that Emergency Order is in place. We have 25 Legislators plus staff so we easily approach double the maximum amount. Should the Legislature need to convene while that Order is in place, we have the option of meeting by phone."

# All Motor Vehicle Offices in Dutchess County closed until further notice

On March 20, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.8. As it relates to the Department of Motor Vehicles, the following actions are implemented:

Drivers Licenses expiring on or after March 1, 2020 are extended until April 19.

Non-Drivers Identification Cards expiring on or after March 1, are extended until April 19.

Vehicle Registrations expiring on or after March 1, 2020 are extended until April 19.

Temporary Registrations from Auto Dealerships expiring during the period of March 1, 2020 through April 19, are extended to April 19.

Any scheduled appointments at NYSDMV offices are cancelled as of March 20.

Based on the above, all Motor Vehicle Offices in Dutchess County will be closed effective March 23 until further notice. This applies to the following offices: Beacon, Pawling, Millbrook, Wappingers and Poughkeepsie.

The County Clerk's Office will continue to be open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. The following transactions are suspended:

Passport Applications

Assumed Name applications (doing business as, DBA)

## this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer  
 S U P D O K U

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

Binx solution

X	X	O	O	X	O
O	X	X	O	O	X
X	O	O	X	O	X
X	O	O	X	X	O
O	X	X	O	X	O
O	O	X	X	O	X