

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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March 26, 2025

## New ladder truck on order for Beacon Fire Dept.

By Kristine Coulter

The City of Beacon Fire Department has an order in for a new ladder truck. The truck will cost \$1,936,865, according to City of Beacon Fire Chief Thomas Lucchesi.

Asked about the need for the new apparatus, Lucchesi replied, "The department requires a new ladder truck because our existing one has been plagued with ongoing mechanical issues, leading to frequent repairs that have significantly impacted its reliability and operational readiness. After conducting a comprehensive cost analysis, it was determined that the continual maintenance expenses, coupled with downtime and potential future repairs, make it financially impractical to sustain the current vehicle."

The chief noted that investing in "a new, more reliable ladder truck is a fiscally responsible decision." He added that it ensures "the safety of our firefighters and the community by maintaining uninterrupted emergency response capabilities."

Premier Fire Apparatus posted to social media: "We'd like to "Congratulate" and "Thank" the City of Beacon Fire Department, the City of Beacon, and the Local 3490 Beacon Professional Firefighters for their order of a new Cyclone HR100 tandem-axle Ladder."

According to the post, the ladder truck will feature:

- 67.5" CA 100" wide Cyclone cab & chassis
- X15 605hp engine with Allison EVS4000 transmission
- Bostrom seating for 4 (3 SCBA)
- 500-gallon booster tank
- Waterous CSU 2000gpm pump
- Driver & officer wheel well storage compartments with exterior & interior access
- 12' fully-deployed jack spread
- Sidestacker hose bed body
- 1000# tip load
- 2.5:1 aerial safety margin
- Advanced aerial Control System with body protection, cradle & rung alignment and monitor stow/deploy
- Akron SteamMaster II waterway monitor
- FireTech LED scene lighting
- Whelen LED warning lighting

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## Fishkill Highway Dept. has operational sign shop to save money for taxpayers



Pictured with the signs from the signing-making machine are, from left, Town of Fishkill Highway Department Office Administrator Kevin McCarthy, Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carmine Istvan and Town of Fishkill Working Supervisor John Lucariello.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

The Town of Fishkill Highway Department now has an operational sign shop. All Town signs will now be made in-house – at a savings for taxpayers.

"We're going to try and do 1/3 of the street signs a year," said Town of Fishkill Highway Superintendent Carime Istvan. "We're saving 1/3 doing in-house

per sign."

So how does it work?

There is a program which allows the machine to be programmed with what sign will be printed—and to save that sign name in the program. The image is then printed on the sign "paper" and the ink immediately dries as it is printed. After the printing, it is then laminated,

explained Town of Fishkill Highway Department Office Administrator Kevin McCarthy, with anti-graffiti material. Once that is done, said McCarthy, the new sign's adhesive back is removed, and it is then placed on the metal backing.

Continued on page 2

## Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival set March 29 at Dutchess Community College

The Poughkeepsie Public Library's Children's Book Festival is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside Falcon Hall at Dutchess Community College. The event will have more than 100 authors and illustrators of children's and young adult books. Readers can find books of all types: storybooks, chapter books, picture books, and graphic novels, both fiction and nonfiction.

There will be opportunities to buy new books and get autographs, meet book characters, and play with The Art Effect, an organization that helps young people channel their creativity. Attendees can also do some exploring with the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum, an organization that strives to empower children through science, art, and early STEM. Additionally, thanks to the Friends of Poughkeepsie Public Library District (PPLD), the Children's

Book Festival visitors aged 17 or younger will receive one free book voucher valued at \$15 (some restrictions may apply).

This book festival, organized by the PPLD, is an opportunity for children to find a deeper connection with books, and for the authors to make a personal connection with their readers.

This book festival, organized by the PPLD, is an opportunity for children to find a deeper connection with books, and for the authors to make a personal connection with their readers.

"The Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival is one of my favorites. I love meeting all the kids who come through and talking with their parents and educators," said Karen Ruelle, author of "Jump for Joy."



The Poughkeepsie Children's Book festival will be held at Falcon Hall at Dutchess Community College on March 29.

-Courtesy photo

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# Fishkill Highway Dept. has operational sign shop to save money for taxpayers



Town of Fishkill Highway employees Kevin McCarthy, left, and John Lucariello, work on some of the new street signs.



Some of the printed street signs before they are laminated and placed on metal backings.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

Continued from cover

According to officials, the signs will be "larger" and "easier" to read, and the signs are up to code with the Department of Transportation.

Fishkill Town Supervisor Ozzy Albra explained about the funds for the equipment. He said, "I would like to thank former President Biden for giving the Town of Fishkill over \$2 million in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money to improve our town. Most of the money was used to fix our water infrastructure including taking a former \$5.6 million plan to be paid for by taxpayers, reducing

it down to around \$1 million which will be paid by ARPA money at no cost to taxpayers. We also used money for Little League lights and other park and highway improvements."

Toward the end of ARPA deadline, there was still "some monies to spend," said the supervisor.

"So, I worked with Highway Superintendent Istvan and asked what kind of equipment he needed. He mentioned that we could use a sign machine. Since my administration is geared to keeping Fishkill beautiful and improving our quality of life, we decided it was a great idea."

Istvan said the town board approved the purchase of the item, which will now save thousands of dollars for taxpayers.

There are some Town residents whose postal addresses are Wappingers Falls or Beacon.

"We are going to add the town seal into the street signs so residents who have a Beacon or Wappinger address won't be confused as to where they live. This along with doing "hamlet" signs will strengthen our community by giving us a greater sense of pride," remarked Albra.

Istvan and John Lucariello, who is the working supervisor, both said this will also help regarding emergency situations

and calling 911, as people will know they are definitely in the town of Fishkill.

The highway superintendent also mentioned that with the country's 250th birthday in 2026, this machine will also be used for the celebration by printing banners.

McCarthy and Istvan noted that if there is a damaged sign or one is missing, the use of this new printing machine can immediately remedy the situation. Before, it could take up to two weeks to replace a sign, officials said.

"The cost savings is tremendous, and it is critical to have a sign immediately for safety," said Istvan.

# Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival set March 29 at Dutchess Community College



The Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival will take place on March 29. The event will be held in Falcon Hall on the Dutchess Community College campus in Poughkeepsie.

-Courtesy photo

Continued from cover

"I'm really looking forward to chatting with readers at the Poughkeepsie Children's Book Fest," said Nancy Castaldo, author of "Riverkeeper: Protecting an American River" and "Whales In the City." "It's one of my favorite festivals because the young readers there are always so engaged and full of excitement. Their questions and enthusiasm make the experience truly memorable, and I can't wait to reconnect with them!"

Authors are excited to be able to share their work with the book fest attendees. Alan Katz, author of "Alan Katz Presents the Funniest Joke Book Ever for Kids," shares that, "This book has hundreds of jokes, riddles, puns, funny poems and more. I've been a comedy writer my whole career (for TV, animation, stage shows, and more)

and I've written over 50 books for kids; I think this one might be one of my favorites because it allows me to show off highlights from my lifetime of laughter."

Readers can also get information on future releases as well:

"While I love my board books, 'Huggle Wuggle Bedtime Snuggle,' 'Precious Baby,' and 'God Blesses Me,' I'm so excited to announce my forthcoming picture book, 'The Mouse Buffet,' which releases in August," said author Della Ferreri. "I'm so fortunate that the talented Tim Bowers is the illustrator, and I can't wait to share this fun and lively holiday treat with children!"

For more information about this event, follow the Poughkeepsie Public Library District on Facebook and Instagram, visit the website at <https://poklib.org/bookfestival/>, or call 845-485-3445, ext. 3707.

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**Zion Episcopal Church to host ribbon-cutting ceremony, remodel reveal**

A remodeled front entrance to the historic Zion Episcopal Church will be revealed during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, April 5, at noon in Wappingers Falls. This long-awaited renovation honors the church's deep-rooted history while enhancing accessibility and preserving its architectural charm.

Community members, local leaders, and parishioners are invited to attend and celebrate this milestone.

For more information, contact the Zion Church Office at 845-297-9797 or by email at [ZionWappingersOffice@gmail.com](mailto:ZionWappingersOffice@gmail.com).





**IMPACT**  
PR & Communications

**James's Warriors Marks 5-year Anniversary  
with Launch of Podcast and Special Recording**







# New ladder truck on order for Beacon Fire Dept.


Continued from cover

How will having the ladder truck enhance the safety of the city?

“The new ladder truck will significantly enhance the safety of the City of Beacon and its residents by improving emergency response capabilities, reliability, and overall efficiency. Unlike the current apparatus, which has been plagued with mechanical issues and frequent repairs, the new truck will ensure consistent availability for critical incidents, including structure fires, rescues, and elevated operations,” Lucchesi explained.

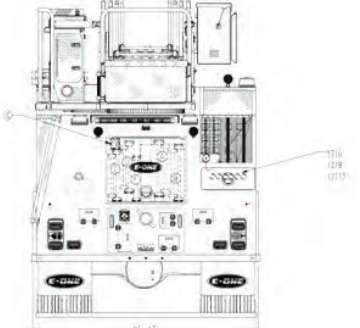
The delivery time for the new ladder truck will take longer than first expected, according to the chief.

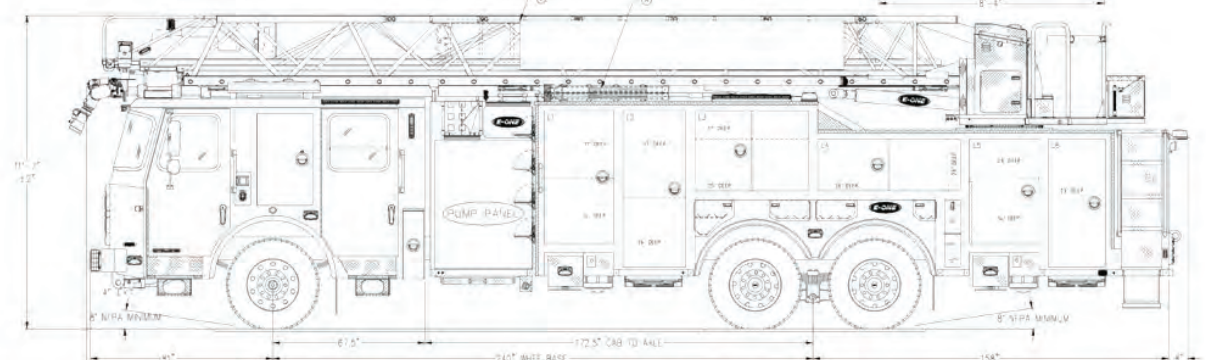
“The construction and delivery of a new ladder truck now take significantly longer due to supply chain disruptions, increased demand for specialized fire apparatus, and manufacturing delays in sourcing critical components, resulting in extended production timelines. The contracted delivery date for the new ladder truck is approximately 39 months from now,” said Lucchesi, which is late spring/early summer of 2028.



**CITY OF BEACON F.D.**  
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HR100 AERIAL LADDER

COMP.	OPENING	INTERIOR DIMENSION
L1/101	118" x 52"	74" x 30" x 72"
L2/102	38" x 60"	30" x 30" x 30"
L3/103	50" x 35"	28" x 28" x 28"
L4	63" x 23"	63" x 23" x 23"
L5	34" x 19"	31" x 19" x 14"
L6	37" x 45"	37" x 20" x 20"
L7	48" x 30"	48" x 20" x 20"
L8	25" x 67"	25" x 67" x 25"





**NEW ORDER**

**CITY OF BEACON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

A rendering of the new ladder truck for the City of Beacon Fire Department by Premier Fire Apparatus.

-Courtesy image

# S&P reaffirms Dutchess County's AA+ Bond Rating

Standard & Poor's (S&P) Rating Services has once again confirmed Dutchess County Government's solid AA+ bond rating, the highest S&P rating among county governments in New York State. S&P Global Ratings assigned its AA+ long-term rating to the County's \$12 million series 2025 public improvement serial general obligation bonds, which will be used to fund various capital projects, including highway and bridge improvements, as well as roof replacements at several County facilities and

design of the Mental Health campus at 230 North Road.

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino said, "Thanks to our commitment to responsible financial management and conservative fiscal practices, Standard & Poor's has once again reaffirmed Dutchess County's AA+ bond rating — the highest awarded to any county government in the state. This rating is a testament to our dedication to safeguarding taxpayer dollars while making smart investments in the infrastructure and

services that enhance residents' quality of life."

In its report reaffirming the AA+ rating, S&P noted Dutchess County's multiple strengths, including:

- a strong track record of sound financial management, with cautious estimates for both revenue and expenses;
- expected economic output growth in upcoming years;
- conservative budgeting practices;
- robust reserve levels; and
- manageable debt profile

The full S&P report is available online. The County's 2025 budget includes a 10th consecutive tax rate decrease.

Serino said, "Maintaining a strong bond rating, along with a healthy fund balance, ensures Dutchess County remains financially resilient, even in uncertain times. We take seriously the trust our residents place in us to manage their tax dollars wisely, and we will continue to make sound fiscal decisions that serve our community today and for generations to come."

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# Viewpoints

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Policy on letters:

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

### Thanks to Beacon Highway Department crews for keeping roads clear of snow

#### To the Editor:

All too often we take certain departments in Beacon for granted. But this past winter gave us the opportunity to appreciate the Highway Department. Keeping our 59 miles of roads clear of snow during this past season was no easy task, yet Michael Manzi's crews stepped up to the plate (as usual) to make driving in the city as safe as possible. We are fortunate to have such hard-working, dedicated employees working to make our lives just a little bit better—and safer.

Charles Dunn  
Beacon

### We owe Veterans more than our gratitude – they deserve quality care

#### To the Editor:

Last month Representative Pat Ryan led a Speak Out in Beacon where local veterans raised awareness about the closure of the 20-bed mental health facility at Castle Point. Now the Trump administration plans to cut 80,000 employees from the VA and has already halted clinical trials for vital drugs.

Veterans risked the ultimate sacrifice for our country. That service inflicted unspeakable harms and disruptions of all kinds in their lives. I heard one after another veteran talk about how special VA care is to them because these professionals understand their traumas and it is their trust in fellow veterans that convinces them to get the help they need. A local community hospital could not do the same.

Speaking in front of an audience of strangers to tell personal stories was not something these veterans chose to do, but the times demanded they do so. Closing the inpatient care facility at Castle Point and cutting countless staff from the VA is once again putting their lives at risk.

## BEACON FREE PRESS

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Albert Osten, President

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This is not a political issue. It is an issue of human decency. I challenge anyone to listen to these veterans and think denying them the care they (and their families) need to come away, feeling differently. Veterans put their lives on the line for us. It is time to repay them in just some small way by giving them the quality, specialized care they deserve. We need to make sure they get it.

Mindy Daynes  
Fishkill

### Now more than ever, Ukraine deserves our support

#### To the Editor:

This past Saturday in Hudson, we joined two- to three hundred supporters of Ukraine in a march down Warren Street to a rally at the Columbia County Courthouse, where we heard Malcolm Nance – a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Military and National Security Experts who volunteered for and served Ukraine for a year in combat as a member of the International Legion – speak to the crowd both of his experiences there, but also of what moved him to bring his very relevant expertise to the front line of Ukraine's defense.

Very simply, he said, the people of Ukraine with their courage, decency, desire for freedom and humanity deserve our support; they deserve the chance to determine their future and to stand with the West, and he was proud to stand with them.

We also heard the words of a young Ukrainian officer recovering from his wound, including the loss of his right leg. He thanked America for its support and echoed a Churchillian resolve that Ukrainians will continue to fight for every last bit of their motherland with sticks and stones if necessary. Malcolm Nance furthermore reminded us that we all have a role to play in supporting Ukraine and asked us to play that role each and every day.

The last four weeks have only gotten worse for Ukraine and her defenders, as this month has shown just how completely America has switched to Russia's side in its war to erase Ukraine. In this time, we have withheld military and lifesaving aid, we have withheld intelligence and the ability to use existing weapons - all of which ensure the deaths of more Ukrainians defenders and civilians and fewer Russian casualties.

All of this is in the name of a Peace Plan designed as a means to force Ukraine into capitulation handing Putin the victory, which cannot be achieved as long as Ukraine is supported by those who share those values of courage, decency, desire for freedom and humanity. This fight remains a fight for our core national interests and for what we as a nation have stood; and it remains up to us to join it each and every day. Please do what you can. Call your representatives to let them know you support a just peace in Ukraine - not just any peace. Peace which delivers victory to Putin simply ensures a wider war not very far down the road.

Mark Lagus  
Town of North East

### Dutchess BOCES Board votes to appoint Dr. Jodi DeLucia new District Superintendent

The Dutchess BOCES Board of Trustees voted unanimously Tuesday, March 5 to appoint Dr. Jodi DeLucia as the agency's new district superintendent.

DeLucia has served as deputy superintendent of the agency since 2021 and has more than 20 years of school administrator experience. She has been assistant superintendent at Onteora Central School District and served as director of educational resources at Dutchess BOCES.

Her appointment took effect on Thursday, March 6.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Jodi DeLucia as our next district superintendent," Board President Ralph Chiumento, Jr., said. "We expect she will keep us moving forward and engaged with the state's new initiatives and come up with new programs and alliances for us."

Priorities in her new role include staffing, strategic planning, branding and facilities.

"One of the first things we need to work on is evaluating systems and structures currently in place. It is essential that we develop opportunities to bring our stakeholders together and give them a voice. We need to truly work together with all stakeholders in order to effectively move forward into our next chapter of innovation, growth, and partnership," she said.

She looks forward to BOCES expanding opportunities for students in Dutchess County, including the development of pre-K services, expanded therapeutic services for students with disabilities, increased and expanded career and technical course offerings and expanded opportunities with our industry partners.

"Being collaborative, student-centered and partnering will provide a gateway to creating expanded opportunities for all learners from



Dr. Jodi DeLucia

-Courtesy photo

pre-K to career. I know with dedicated focus, we will continue to see this positive impact on students, staff and the broader community for years to come," she said.

Members of the community are invited to a meet and greet reception at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at the Dutchess BOCES conference center. Registration is required at <https://forms.gle/Eu8x22xWFzRBzKUG7>.



# DCC now official testing site for Federal Aviation Administration exams



Dutchess Community College is now an official PSI Testing site for Federal Aviation Administration exams.

-Courtesy photo

DCC now official testing site for Federal Aviation Administration exams

Dutchess Community College (DCC) is now an official PSI Testing site for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) exams, providing a convenient local option for students, aviation professionals and the public. The College administers all FAA exams, encompassing 19 exam categories and 102 individual exams.

Until now, students often had to travel significant distances—sometimes to other states—to complete their FAA exams. With on-campus testing now available, DCC is making it easier to earn certifications, advance careers or explore new opportunities in aviation.

The new designation comes as DCC continues to expand its aviation programs, including:

- Aviation Management A.S.
- Aviation Science: Pilot A.S.
- Aviation Maintenance Technician A.A.S.
- Airframe & Powerplant Technician Certificate

- Drone Pilot Microcredential

This expansion reinforces DCC's commitment to preparing students for in-demand aviation careers.

The Testing Center is also open to the public, serving aviation professionals, career changers, hobbyists and business owners. FAA exams cover topics such as pilot qualifications, drone operations, aircraft maintenance and safety regulations. A full list of FAA airman knowledge tests is available on the FAA website.

Exams are currently offered on Thursday evenings and Saturdays, with plans to expand to Monday through Wednesday evenings. For details, visit [www.sunydutchess.edu/testing](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/testing) or contact Keith Tombrello, coordinator of testing, at 845-790-3735.

**Aviation Open House – April 5**

Prospective students and community members can explore DCC's aviation programs at an open house on Saturday, April 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hudson Valley Regional Airport. For details and registration, visit [www.sunydutchess.edu/aviationopenhouse](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/aviationopenhouse).

# Municipal Investment Grant program opens with focus on seniors

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced today the County's Department of Planning & Development has opened the application process for the 2025 Municipal Investment Grant (MIG) program, with approximately \$500,000 available through a competitive grant process to municipalities and non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation that currently or plan to operate a municipal or County-run senior center or senior friendship center within Dutchess County. In order to be eligible to apply, applicants must own or have a long-term lease (20+ years) for the facility that currently operates or will operate a senior center or senior friendship center at a minimum of 18 hours per week.

County Executive Sue Serino said, "Dutchess County's seniors have spent

their lives strengthening our community, and we owe it to them to ensure they have safe, comfortable places to gather, stay engaged, and build connections. Senior centers are more than just a place to go — they're a lifeline for older adults — offering social opportunities, support and programs that enhance their quality of life. By investing in these spaces, we're not only improving buildings, but making sure they have the resources they need to continue thriving. I encourage municipalities and organizations to apply so we can strengthen these vital centers."

Serino and the Dutchess County Legislature dedicated specific funding in the 2025 County Budget for capital infrastructure improvements and enhancements to senior centers and senior friend-

ship centers throughout Dutchess County. Projects should help create, maintain or improve an organization's asset, such as the construction of a new facility or renovation, replacement or expansion of an existing facility.

Examples of eligible expenses include roof, windows and/or doors replacement; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements or replacement; as well as plumbing, electrical and/or security upgrades; and furniture, fixtures, appliances, equipment and/or supplies that will be used for senior programming at the center. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to promote accessibility and communication to ensure that individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in a specific

activity are also eligible.

Majority Leader Deirdre Houston said, "I'm proud to have initiated this grant program that enhances senior centers, ensuring our older adults have the resources and support they deserve."

The County's Community Development Advisory Committee and the Department of Planning & Development's staff will review all MIG applications and send their recommendations to the County Executive for final approval.

Additional information, application instructions and guidance about the 2025 MIG Program is available online. Applications will be accepted via an online portal through May 15th at 3 p.m.; awards will be announced in summer 2025.

## Poughkeepsie DMV office to be open Saturday for license, registration

Dutchess County Clerk Bradford Kendall announced that the Dutchess County Department of Motor Vehicles will open the Poughkeepsie DMV office on Saturday, March 29 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. to process license and registration transactions. The office is at 22 Market St in Poughkeepsie.

The pending May 7th deadline for Real ID implementation has increased the vol-

ume of customers looking to upgrade their licenses to be compliant with federal law. Customers are urged to make reservations as the queueing system prioritizes reservations. Walk-ins will be accommodated but will have a longer wait time.

Go to Department of Motor Vehicles ([dutchessny.gov](http://dutchessny.gov)) to make a reservation. To access a list of acceptable documents

to obtain a Real ID go to NYS Dept of Motor Vehicles.

The Poughkeepsie office will be the

only Dutchess DMV location open on this day. No enforcement or permit transactions will be processed.

## Jacobson secures \$100-million line item to replace lead-contaminated water lines

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) successfully included funding for two of his signature issues — replacing lead-contaminated water lines and street paving — in the Assembly's "one-house" State budget.

In the budget, which was released earlier this month, Jacobson secured a line item of \$100 million for the replacement of lead-contaminated water lines.

"There is no safe level of lead in our drinking water. This additional funding will go a long way for cities like Newburgh and Poughkeepsie, which are plagued with lead lines from century-old water systems," said Jacobson.

Jacobson also added \$50 million in the

proposed budget to reimburse municipalities for ADA (Americans with Disability Act) compliance work on roadways.

"The most expensive part of paving in hamlets, villages and cities is the cost to comply with ADA rules requiring ramps at intersection walkways. A normal intersection requires 8 ramps (two on each corner). By establishing a new revenue stream, municipalities will be able to pave more with their existing funding," noted Jacobson.

The next step in the budget process is a three-way negotiation with the Governor, Assembly, and State Senate, who have each proposed their own budget. The new State budget is due April 1.

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# DCC Foundation to recognize Flowers, Imperati, Charwat at Our Community's Bridges to Future gala on March 29

The Dutchess Community College Foundation's annual Our Community's Bridge to the Future gala will be held on Saturday, March 29, at 6 p.m. at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie. The event will honor the 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees and recipients of two awards for outstanding service to the College and community. The Foundation provides more than \$1 million annually to DCC to support student scholarships, emergency grant needs, student technology and other educational initiatives.

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne D. Flowers and Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk A. Imperati, both lifelong residents of Dutchess County, will be inducted into the DCC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Dutchess BOCES, Poughkeepsie City School District and Wappingers Central School District will receive the College's Bridge to the Future Award, and Eleanor ("Ellie") Charwat will receive the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award.

- **Yvonne Flowers '90** made history in 2024 as Poughkeepsie's first African American mayor after four terms as Fifth Ward councilwoman. She completed her bookkeeping certificate in 1990 and Accounting A.A.S. in 1995 at DCC, dedicating 33 years to the College before retiring in 2023 as grants and contracts finance officer. Inspired by her father, John Flowers, she continues his legacy of community engagement and advocacy.

- **Kirk Imperati '89** became sheriff of Dutchess County in 2023, building on a 30-year law enforcement career.

His leadership has garnered numerous awards, including the Lifetime Service Award from the Child Advocacy Center and the Community Service Award from the John Flowers Organization. A graduate of DCC's Criminal Justice A.A.S. program, he earned a bachelor's in criminal justice from Marist University, completed the FBI National Academy, and is currently pursuing a master's in public administration.

- **Dutchess BOCES** serves more than 1,200 students across 60 school districts, including all 13 in Dutchess County. It offers career and technical education, special education and literacy programs while providing business, technology and professional development services to schools.

- **Poughkeepsie City School District** serves approximately 4,000 students annually. In 2020, it designated all seven schools as Community Schools, strengthening school and community partnerships. In 2023-24, all elementary schools achieved "Good Standing" status from the New York State Education Department for the first time in 13 years, demonstrating the positive impact of its school, home and community approach.

- **Wappingers Central School District** is one of the largest in New York state, serving 10,500 students across 120 square miles. Formed in 1938, it now includes 10 elementary schools, two junior high schools, two senior high schools and one alternative high school. Located within commuting distance of New York City, the district emphasizes academic excellence, career readiness and community partnerships.



The Dutchess Community College Foundation's Our Community's Bridge to the Future gala will be held on March 29. Honorees during the event will be, top row from left, Mayor Yvonne Flowers, Sheriff Kirk Imperati and Eleanor "Ellie" Charwat. Bottom row, logos of Dutchess BOCES, Wappingers Central School District and Poughkeepsie City School District.

-Courtesy image

- **Eleanor "Ellie" Charwat** has dedicated her life to education, civic engagement and public service. She served as executive director of the Marist College School of Adult Education and has held leadership roles with the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Dutchess County League of Women Voters and the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. A longtime advocate for literacy and civic engagement, she remains active in multiple local organizations.

Lead gala sponsors include Bonura Hospitality Group, iHeart Media, Michael Dupree & Michael Fleischer, Pepsi-Cola of the Hudson Valley, Royal Carting Service Co., Central Hudson Gas & Electric, Hudson Valley Credit Union and Rutberg Breslow Personal Injury Law.

Tickets are \$225 per person. For more information, visit [www.sunydutchess.edu/gala](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/gala) or contact Stefani Timpano at 845-431-8407 or [gala@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:gala@sunydutchess.edu).

## Orange County Army veteran to take part in annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

Mark Grant, a local Army veteran from Newburgh, Orange County, will participate in the 39th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (NDVWSC), which will be held from March 31 to April 5 in Aspen-Snowmass, Colorado.

"The Winter Sports Clinic epitomizes the strength, courage, and determination of our Veterans." Said Dawn Schaal, Director of VA Hudson Valley Health Care System. "I'm excited for them to have this impactful experience as part of their health care journey."

The Veterans will take part in downhill skiing, sled hockey, and several other adaptive sports activities alongside approximately 400 fellow disabled Veterans, supported by approximately 600 volunteers and 200 sponsors.

The five-day event, affectionately called "Miracles on a Mountainside," offers participants adaptive sports ther-

apy opportunities, including skiing, sled hockey, scuba diving, snowmobiling, rock climbing, and other activities. The Winter Sports Clinic is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and DAV (Disabled American Veterans), with assistance from corporate sponsors and individual donors.

The first Winter Sports Clinic was held in 1987 and hosted 90 disabled Veterans. For nearly four decades, the event has helped Veterans who live with physical disabilities and wounds unseen overcome obstacles and challenge their perceived limitations. World-class instructors and recreation therapists help Veterans experience the full potential of adaptive sports as a tool for improved health and well-being.

To view content from the event, follow @Sports4Vets and @DAVHQ on X and Instagram, Sports4Vets and DAV on Facebook, search #wintersportclinic or visit <https://linktr.ee/davsocial>.

## Miles of Hope sets 'An Evening of Insight & Impact'

Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation invites the community to be a part of a special event, Sip & Learn: An Evening of Insight & Impact, on Friday, March 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Meyer's Olde Dutch, located at 15 Collegeview Avenue in Poughkeepsie. This unique event will feature Dr. Claudia Lago Toro, who will lead an enlightening discussion on promoting health and wellness to reduce cancer risk.

Guests will enjoy light fare, cocktails, and mocktails while learning vital information about cancer prevention, with an opportunity to connect with others in the community. Dr. Claudia Lago Toro will share her expertise and encourage attendees to ask questions to understand better how lifestyle choices impact health and cancer risk.

The event will also feature some familiar faces behind the bar, including Brian Powers, Shelby Outwater, Sara Winterleitner, Cathy Varunok, Melissa Zehr, and Linsey Gatto (@TogetherishMom), ensuring an enjoyable and welcoming environment for all attendees.

"We are thrilled to bring this event to our community and empower people with information they can use to improve their health," said Pari Forood, Executive Director of Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. "We encourage everyone—men and women alike—to attend, learn, and connect with others who are passionate about reducing cancer risk through simple yet impactful wellness strategies."

All are welcome to attend, including men. RSVP in advance at [www.milesofhope.org](http://www.milesofhope.org) or by calling 845-264-2005.

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# Ryan: Poughkeepsie Social Security office removed from DOGE savings website

On Friday, March 21, Congressman Pat Ryan (D-District 18) issued a release stating that the Poughkeepsie Social Security Office – recently slated for temporary closure by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) – has been removed from the DOGE savings website, sparking new hope that the office, once renovations are complete, will resume providing essential services.

The announcement comes after a strong push by Ryan, and the entire Hudson Valley community, to ensure that the Poughkeepsie office reopens after renovations.

“When the Poughkeepsie Social Security Office went on the DOGE website, we didn’t throw our hands up in the air. We held speak outs. We organized rallies. We pressured our elected officials, at every level. Our entire community stood up loudly, publicly, and passionately, to fight back. This is a victory for the people over [Elon] Musk, Trump, and DOGE,” said Ryan. “But the fight to protect Social Security is far from over. Just this week, DOGE announced it was cutting vital support over the phone, and the mass firings continue. I have zero trust in Elon Musk. We need to stay vigilant, and we need to stay united in the fight for Hudson Valley families, and against anyone who would do us harm.”

“The Poughkeepsie Social Security Office is an essential resource for Dutchess County — whether it’s seniors, individuals with disabilities, survivors, or families planning for the future. While it’s encouraging to see the office removed from the DOGE website, we need full transparency and certainty for those who rely on these services,” said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. “I remain committed to ensuring our residents have access to the support they need, without disruption or confusion.”

“The city is pleased the Poughkeepsie Social Security Office is no longer on the DOGE closure list, thanks to the efforts of Congressman Ryan who rallied so many elected officials to address this grave concern. This is what can happen

when we stand united,” said City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers. “The Social Security administration must keep us apprised of the renovations taking place at its Main Street office and provide the best level of service possible for our residents in the meantime. The Poughkeepsie office is a vital component of our community and its services are essential not only to our city but the entire county. We thank Congressman Ryan for pushing for ending the uncertainty and look forward to the Social Security office being restored fully when the renovations are completed.”

“This is very good and welcome news to AFGE and the staff of the Poughkeepsie Social Security office,” said Amanda Bracco, a union representative with the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 3343. “Still, with so much uncertainty surrounding our employment and the rushed changes to the structure of our agency, we will remain vigilant and hopeful that the lease will be renewed upon completion of the renovation.”

“We are also excited to see the Poughkeepsie SSA office has renewed its lease for the next 10 years, a major win for the Hudson Valley, ensuring our residents, especially our seniors continue to have timely, easy access to the benefits they rely on,” said State Senator Robert Rolison. “It’s clear how important this office is to our community, as we’ve seen an outpouring of support to advocate for this office’s future and this resource remaining in Poughkeepsie for years to come.”

“While we are excited to hear that the Poughkeepsie Office seems to have been saved from DOGE for now, we know this fight is not over. The Social Security Administration (SSA) is limiting phone service and requiring in-person visits, while closing most of its offices and reducing personnel. These changes will discourage and make it extremely difficult for people to get their Social Security benefits,” said Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson. “It must be remembered that Social



*The Poughkeepsie Social Security Office – recently slated for temporary closure by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) – has been removed from the DOGE savings website. This sparks hope that once renovations are complete, providing essential services will resume, according to Congressman Pat Ryan.*

-Archive photo

Security is not an entitlement, it is a solemn pledge by the United States to give recipients their benefits for paying into the system their entire working lives. Rep. Ryan’s bill, the Protecting Social Security Act requiring one SSA office in every county, is needed more than ever before.”

Ryan noted he has repeatedly stood up to reductions in care for Hudson Valley seniors, vehemently fighting the closure of the Kingston Social Security Office. Following that closure, and the closure of the Newburgh SSA office, Ryan introduced the Protecting Social Security Act which, along with safeguarding seniors’ earned benefits, would make it such that every county in NY-18 have its own Social Security Office. Most recently, Ryan hosted local seniors in a Speak Out, “where they raised fears concerning the

future of the Poughkeepsie Social Security office, the mass layoffs of Social Security workers, and the increasing attacks on the program by Elon Musk and President Trump,” according to Ryan’s release.

When the “supposed ‘temporary’” closure of the Poughkeepsie office was announced, Ryan sounded the alarm warning of a more permanent reduction in care. Many seniors are unable to physically make it to further offices, and with 7 million seniors relying on Social Security for more than 90 percent of their income, this kind of obstacle can serve as a fatal roadblock to accessing benefits. Recent reporting from the Center for American Progress shows that when field offices close, the number of Social Security recipients receiving disability benefits in the area falls by 16 percent.

# Renegades Fest set Saturday to celebrate upcoming season

By Morgan E. Maier

March 29 marks the final Saturday before Hudson Valley baseball season, and all fans are welcome for Renegades Fest. Fans are invited to celebrate the upcoming High-A Hudson Valley season with the expanded Renegades Fest.

The Renegades Fest kicks off at the Renegades’ home, Heritage Financial Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is free to attend for all fans, families and friends.

This year’s Renegades Fest will feature the Sports Card and Memorabilia

Show. Whether you are drawn to rare player cards, vintage equipment or apparel, vendors will be showing off their exclusive and rare collections in the WMCHHealth Lounge. Food and drink will be available to purchase, as well as giveaways to receive Renegades gear and tickets.

Kids can enjoy touch-a-truck, inflatables, and as always, an autograph straight from mascots Rascal and Rosie. Much more is in store for the 2025 Renegades Fest, you just have to come see for yourself.

The Renegades kick the season off on April 4 with a homestand against the Jersey Shore Blue Claws. With 66 home

games in a season, the Hudson Valley crowd has plenty of opportunity to support the Yankees through September.

# Beacon Elks offer Lenten dinners on Friday night

Beacon Elks Lodge #1493, in recognition of the Lenten season, will provide lent dinners every Friday until Easter, April 20.

The dinners are open to the public; meals are \$15 (\$16 for takeout); and are

served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Friday, March 28, 2025, dinner is cheese ravioli with marinara sauce, garlic bread, and dessert.

It is recommended to call ahead (845-831-9746) to reserve a seat and/or a meal.

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# James's Warr;ors marks 5-year anniversary with launch of podcast and special recording

James's Warr;ors, a non-profit organization dedicated to mental health advocacy and suicide prevention, is celebrating its five-year anniversary with a new initiative: the launch of the "No One Walks Alone" podcast, having real, honest, conversations about mental health. The milestone anniversary will be marked with a special 5th anniversary recording, reinforcing the organization's commitment to education, awareness, and reducing the stigma surrounding mental health.



Donna Thomas  
-Courtesy photo James's Warr;ors

Founded in 2018 by Donna Thomas following the tragic loss of her son, James, James's Warr;ors has been a beacon of hope for individuals and families affected by suicide. Over the past five years, the organization has provided vital resources and support to those in need. Working alongside a clinical psychologist, the James's Warr;ors team equips students, parents, educators, and community leaders with the knowledge to recognize signs of depression, self-harm, and suicidal ideation in themselves and others.

"Our mission has always been to have open and thoughtful discussions about mental health, to change the way people perceive these struggles and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide," said Thomas. "Through education, awareness, and this openness and honesty we see a difference being made in students' lives across the Hudson Valley. The

launch of our podcast and special anniversary episode is an important step in reaching even more people with our message and normalizing reaching out for help in difficult times."

The "No One Walks Alone" podcast serves as a platform for open discussions on mental health and with each episode, James's Warr;ors aims to create a space where listeners can find guidance and the reassurance that they are not alone. The 5th Anniversary episode will cover the James's Warr;ors' journey and how they got to the powerful advocacy



James's Warr;ors, a non-profit organization dedicated to mental health advocacy and suicide prevention, launched the "No One Walks Alone" podcast this month. The non-profit is celebrating its five-year anniversary.

-Courtesy image

organization they are today and aired on March 23, via its website, JamesWarriors.org..

In addition to the podcast, James's Warr;ors hosts speaking engagements, visiting Hudson Valley and Capitol Region schools and community groups, sharing James's story, tips to spot signs of struggle and "coping kits" to distract from voices that might call one to self-harm. Throughout the year, James's Warr;ors fundraises through events to make its advocacy possible. Upcoming events include a day at the 1863 Club at the

Saratoga Race Course in July and the "No One Rocks Alone" music festival in October.

Tune into James's Warr;ors "No One Walks Alone" podcast on Sundays at [www.jamesswarriors.org](http://www.jamesswarriors.org). Follow the group on Facebook and Instagram at JamesWarriors to find out when new episodes are released.

To inquire about James's Warr;ors speaking engagements and events, please email [info@jamesswarriors.org](mailto:info@jamesswarriors.org) or fill out the contact form on the website, [www.jamesswarriors.org](http://www.jamesswarriors.org).

## County Players 'Pulls Back the Curtain' to offer annual free theatre tour on April 5

County Players, a local all-volunteer community theater company will help commemorate their 68th Season of theatrical productions by offering visitors a rare glimpse behind the backstage theatre magic. The troupe is opening their doors to beloved community members on Saturday, April 5 from noon to 4 p.m. by hosting their Annual Theatre Tour at their County Players Falls Theatre, at 2681 W. Main St., in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

Open to all, the Board of Governors invite you to go behind-the-scenes to see how our productions come together. According to County Players Board President, Michael Boden, "County Players has been honored to be a part of

the Wappingers community for over 65 years, and it is such a pleasure to share this opportunity for our neighbors to see 'behind the curtain' here at the theater. Thank you for your dedicated and continued support of County Players!"

Upon arrival, guests will receive a map highlighting stations of interest where they can learn more about the various production departments. During the self-guided tour attendees will have an opportunity to interact with several of our dedicated volunteer personnel, including costume, lighting and sound design, set and prop construction. Visitors can enter the raffle to win one of several prizes including: free tickets to an upcoming main stage



County Players will offer a free tour of the theatre on Saturday, April 5 in Wappingers Falls.

-Courtesy image County Players

show; one of two annual subscriptions to their recently announced Season 68; or gift certificates donated by local businesses. Every attendee will get a take home a goodie bag!

For complete information about tour,


please visit: <https://countypayers.org/2024-2025-events/>, you may also call the theatre Box Office at 845-298-1491, or email [info@countypayers.org](mailto:info@countypayers.org)

County Players Season 68 is sponsored by Hudson Valley Credit Union.

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# Book tours to Bannerman Island starting April 1



Book your 2025 Tour to Bannerman Island and Castle in the Hudson River Highlands beginning April 1! The Estuary Steward Tour Boat leaves the Beacon Waterfront Dock, directly across from the Beacon Metro-North Train Station at 2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon, from May-October 2025. Enjoy a guided or self-guided tour of the island.

Visit the historic Bannerman Castle ruins and gardens and explore the original Bannerman residence, now a museum. For a schedule of events including theater, concerts, dinner events and more - and to purchase tickets please visit: <https://bannermancastle.org/tours-events/bannerman-island-tour/>



Tours to Bannerman Island can be booked beginning April 1.

-Courtesy photos by L.A. Clark

## Guitar Club to meet in EF on April 6

Come to our Guitar Club at the East Fishkill Community Library on Sunday, April 6. The group will meet monthly on Sundays from 1:30-3:30 p.m., with the exception of summer (June – August)

when Sunday hours are closed.

This is an adult group meant for guitar hobbyists to meet up and share their music and guitar geekiness together. While we may learn from each other, this will be more

of a jam club than a group lesson. Content will be group directed. Activities will include song circle, music swap, guitar care tips and general guitar geek chat.

Local resident Carol Morin will lead

this group; drop-in and all levels of experience welcome; no guitar needed to attend (but bring one if you have one!)

Visit [eflibrary.org](http://eflibrary.org) or call 845-221-9943 for more information.

## Brendan Fuller joins Tompkins Financial Advisors as Director of Financial Planning

Tompkins Financial Advisors (Tompkins) has hired Brendan Fuller as director of financial planning. Fuller will deliver comprehensive advice to clients through thoughtful analysis of their complete financial picture. Fuller will also oversee advanced planning strategies including trust implementation, tax planning and complex estate modelling as well as the building and development of Tompkins' financial planning team.

"Brendan's experience leading financial planning teams and associated business development initiatives made him an ideal fit for our team," said Eric Taylor, president, Tompkins Financial Advisors. "His commitment to providing exceptional client services is evident in his past work experience and various industry credentials. We know he'll have a significant impact on our team and clients."

Fuller brings more than 10 years of financial experience to Tompkins, having most recently held roles at Morgan Stanley and J.P. Morgan Wealth Management. A graduate of Rutgers University, Fuller holds a master's degree from The College for Financial Planning and a Certificate in Project Management from Rutgers School of Business, in addition to several industry certifications such as FINRA's Series 7, 66, 9 & 10. Brendan holds the Certified Private Wealth Advisor® and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® designations. Fuller cur-



**Brendan Fuller**  
-Courtesy photo Tompkins Financial

rently resides outside Allentown, PA with his wife and two children.

## Putnam Chorale to present 'Stabat Mater'

The Putnam Chorale will present "Stabat Mater" on Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82, in Lagrangeville. Ticket

prices are seniors \$20, adults \$25 and children (12 and under) free.

For more information, visit [www.putnamchorale.org](http://www.putnamchorale.org).



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# Obituaries

## Ann Joyce



Ann Joyce of Wappingers Falls, NY passed away peacefully in her sleep at home on Saturday, March 15, 2025. She was the daughter of Patrick Joyce and Mary (Deane) Joyce.

Ann graduated from St. Joseph School of Nursing in 1977. Her long career in nursing started at St. Joe's followed by White Plains Hospital then several years in the island of St. Croix, where she worked in the OR at the community hospital. On her days off she enjoyed her second love, the sun and the beach. She returned to the states several years later to work at the Hudson Valley VA Medical Center. This was followed by a career working for White Glove Community Care taking care of pediatric home care cases. She truly loved taking

care of patients.

She volunteered at St. Columba, teaching CCD for many years. She made it fun by playing Jeopardy (her religious version) and her students loved it.

When Ann came to family gatherings, you knew she had arrived. She was always full of energy. She was the one wearing the bunny ears at Easter and Santa hat with lights at Christmas.

She always spoke her mind, letting you know what she thought especially about the state of the world. She loved entertaining her nieces and nephews, telling them scary stories about one eyed Jack and one armed Willie. Always remembering their birthdays and holidays, she lavished them with too many gifts and toys. Ann will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her siblings, Maureen Kennedy (Peter) of Wappingers Falls, Betty Lee (John) of East Fishkill, Barbara Boyle (Tom) of Wappingers Falls and Dennis Joyce (Tara) of Macedon, NY; and many nieces and nephews, and grand nieces and grand nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at St. Mary's Church, 11 Clinton Street in Wappingers Falls.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Straub, Catalano and Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls 12590. To send personal condolences, please visit [www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com](http://www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com).

## Mark Munoz



Mark Raymond Munoz, 64, of Beacon, New York, passed away peacefully on March 18, 2025.

Mark was born on February 14, 1961, in Boston, MA to the late James Theodore Munoz and Mary Ruth Munoz (Hoyt). A lifelong resident of Beacon, he was known for his warmth, kindness, and deep connection to his family and friends.

Mark worked as a general contractor specializing in small home renovations, roofing, and other miscellaneous carpentry work. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, always joking and having a good time. His enthusiasm was contagious, inspiring those around him.

Mark's legacy is defined by the way he touched the lives of so many. His sense of

humor and generosity will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a loving brother, uncle, cousin, and friend and leaves behind a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his brothers Stephen Munoz, Neil (Annie) Munoz; his two sisters Jeanne Munoz and Susan Ramos; his partner Kathy Anderson and nieces and nephews.

Family and friends gathered on Sunday, March 23 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A service followed.

Mark's memory will live forever through the hearts of all who knew and loved him. To send a personal condolence please visit [www.riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://www.riverviewbyhalvey.com).

## Gail M. Ott



Gail M. Ott, a lifelong resident of Beacon, passed away on February 21, 2025. She was 81 years old.

She was born on September 10, 1943 in Beacon, the daughter of the late Albert and Louise Kenny Ott. Gail was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon. She loved playing Bingo locally.

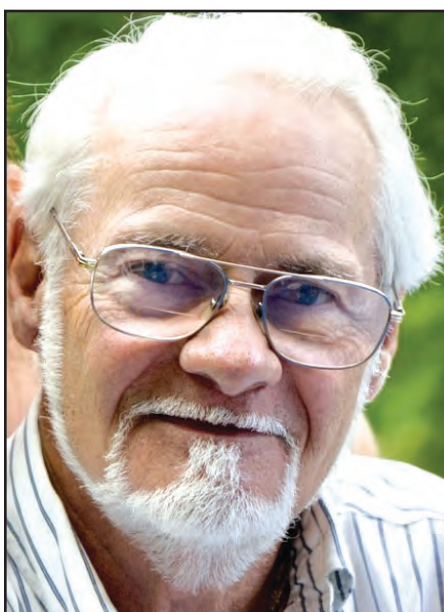
She is survived by her brother, David Ott.

Funeral services are private and for the family.

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

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

## Charles Macdonald



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Charles Macdonald, beloved father, grandfather, brother, and friend, who passed away on March 21, 2025, at the age of 82. Born to Rowland and Gertrude (Olsen) Macdonald, Charles lived a life full of dedication, love, and service to others.

Charles was a loving father to Brian (Yvette) Macdonald and Jennifer (David) Sumoski. He was preceded in death by his son, Jared Macdonald. Charles was also a proud grandfather to five grandchildren: Julianna, Alexander, Jasmine, David, and Rachel, who brought him great joy.

Charles is also survived by his sister Margaret (Al) Micka and uncle to Matthew and Dominic Micka.

Throughout his career, Charles worked for General Electric for over 40 years as

an Engineering Supervisor, focusing on large Nuclear Turbine Engines. He was deeply committed to his work, earning respect and admiration throughout his career.

Charles had two lifelong passions: old cars and trains. In his retirement, he spent countless hours volunteering at the Hopewell Junction Train Depot, restoring the historical station, rebuilding structures, and creating detailed train dioramas for the museum. His love for vintage automobiles, a passion he shared with his longtime girlfriend Alice McDermott, led him to restore two 1936 Buicks- a sedan and a coupe- both of which earned him numerous awards at car shows over the past 42 years.

Charles legacy of hard work, generosity, and love will be cherished by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 29, 2025 from 2-4pm at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill 1089 Main Street, Fishkill, NY 12524

He will be dearly missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hopewell Depot at P.O. Box 1044, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

## Shirley A. Wright



Shirley A. Wright, born in Milton, NY on May 10, 1940, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2025. She was 84 years old.

Shirley leaves behind her husband of 65 years, Roger Wright. Two sons: Bill Wright and his fiancé Paula Nazzaro, Roger Wright and his wife Lynnette, four grandchildren: Brandon, Wesley, Candace and Alyssa and two great grandchildren: Easton and Bryce.

Shirley owned and operated Wrights Greenhouse for 60years with her husband selling flowers, vegetables and Christmas wreaths during the holiday season. In the summertime, Shirley and

Roger would be found at many farmers markets or out at the stand.

Shirley thoroughly enjoyed working on the farm. In the early years they raised beef cows and sheep. During Lambing season, it wasn't uncommon to see her with a newborn lamb in the house cleaning and bottle feeding it during the cold weather or up in the barn stacking hay in temperatures above 110 degrees. Shirley wasn't afraid to work or get her hands dirty.

Shirley was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Wicoppee Fire Company for many years. She was a tough lady who was determined and proud of her accomplishments. She will be deeply missed by all.

Memorial donations can be made in Shirleys name to the charity of your choice. At this time services will remain private.

## Donald B. Schwer



Donald B. Schwer passed away on March 19, 2025 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center at the age of 87. He was born on January 25, 1938 in Tarrytown, NY to the late Joseph and Evelyn Schwer. On June 17, 1962 he married his beloved wife Carole E. (Longhi) Schwer at St. Ann's Church in Yorktown. Carole predeceased him on September 27, 2024.

Donald was an Electrician for Local 501 and Local 3. In his free time, he enjoyed camping and traveling with his family in his motor home, telling stories and cracking jokes, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Donald selflessly loved his family and was always there to help anyone in need.

He is survived by his daughters Stacey Schwer and Holly Cammarata; and his grandchildren Eric, Elizabeth, Emily, Sophia, and Ronnie.

In addition to his wife Carole and his parents, he was predeceased by his son-in-law Ronald Cammarata.

Calling hours were held on Monday, March 24, 2025 at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction, NY.

Please consider a donation in memory of Donald to Shriners' Hospitals for Children [www.shrinerschildrens.org](http://www.shrinerschildrens.org).



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get growing!

by mark adams

# Where are the deer?

### A wildlife biologist offers an explanation.



Above: Deer damage on English yew. Right: Deer repellent.

-Photos by Mark Adams

Is it my imagination, or just wishful thinking? It's been years since I hit a deer with my car, or since the neighbor shot a six-point buck in my front yard. Where have all the deer gone?

I spoke with Ernest "E.J." Borchert, a wildlife biologist with the N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation at the New Paltz office, to find out. E.J. assured me that, indeed, the deer population in the Hudson Valley has declined since 2014, and it took a dramatic hit in 2021.

The D.E.C. uses a statistic called "Buck Take Density" to estimate the deer population trend. In one 331 square mile Hudson Valley region, 527 bucks were harvested by hunters in 2020, and only 256 in 2021.

Why? I had heard about chronic wasting disease, which is similar to mad cow disease, and is infecting deer, mainly in the Midwest and south central Pennsylvania. But no; E.J. says the 2021 dieoff was caused by an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, a virus transmitted by biting flies. The disease evidently ran its course, because the deer population has rebounded slightly

over the past several years. I also found out some of the strategy

employed by the D.E.C. to manage the white tail deer population. Ideally, the Buck Take Density should be 15 bucks per 10 square miles. If the number rises, the D.E.C. issues more doe permits, essentially allowing hunters to kill more deer, to maintain forest regeneration. I pointed out that most farmers I know would like to see zero deer, but E.J. pointed out that some "constituents" like deer. I guess he means hunters. Farmers whose crops are eaten by deer can apply for out-of-season permits to hunt on their farms.

Meanwhile, gardeners are stuck in the middle. Even though there are fewer deer than ten years ago, they still seem to find my vegetables the day before I plan to harvest them, unless the woodchucks got there first. A fence is the best protection. It doesn't have to be too high if the garden is small – deer are wary of jumping into enclosed spaces – mine is five feet tall, surrounding the vegetable garden.

To protect shrubs and flowers, Sue and I use a deer repellent spray that contains egg solids – "Liquor Fence," for example. Buy the concentrate to save money. Arborvitae and yews are notorious deer food. Ditto for hosta and tulips.

Our half-acre flower garden is filled with deer-resistant annual flowers for cutting. Zinnias, salvia, dahlias, feathery celosia, gomphrena, lantana, all will be harvested to enter in the cut flower competition at the Dutchess County Fair. Daffodils are also deer-proof, but they don't bloom all summer.

Speaking of daffodils, if you have naturalized them around the yard, consider tossing some granular fertilizer around the base of the stems right now, so they have enough food to make next season's bulbs. Leave the foliage intact until it begins to fade in June.

Seeds to sow in the vegetable garden now: peas, spinach, beets, Swiss chard, radishes, carrots, onions, lettuce, collards and kale. Also, set out transplants of lettuce, collards, kale, pansies and viola, hardy herbs including parsley, sage, thyme, oregano and chives. These cool weather crops will survive and maybe even thrive during the next few weeks, until the real spring weather comes along.

Mark Adams is an agricultural advisor to the Dutchess County Executive, Dutchess County B.O.C.E.S. and Cornell University.

## this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer  
**SUDOKU**

SENT	ERE	BAR	OB	FAV	BAR	EDG
SHO	MUT	BEYS	OB	AVO	AM	SNUB
ICON	ACAI	OR	BE	RO	MA	AM
REAN	DELO	REAN	BE	RE	RE	MA
REAN	REAN	REAN	BE	RE	RE	MA
DEGRE	DEGRE	DEGRE	BE	RE	RE	MA
HOOK	HOOK	HOOK	BE	RE	RE	MA
SATYR	SATYR	SATYR	BE	RE	RE	MA
ISLE	ISLE	ISLE	BE	RE	RE	MA
REACT	REACT	REACT	BE	RE	RE	MA
YEAT	YEAT	YEAT	BE	RE	RE	MA
COMMON	COMMON	COMMON	BE	RE	RE	MA
MOTEL	MOTEL	MOTEL	BE	RE	RE	MA
ERNIE	ERNIE	ERNIE	BE	RE	RE	MA
ULTR	ULTR	ULTR	BE	RE	RE	MA

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

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### Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 300 WESTAGE HOTEL

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, April 10, 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 300 Westage Hotel, identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 6155-00-984582, located at 300 Westage Business Center Drive, consisting of 6.34 acres in PSC (Planned Shopping Center) Zoning Dis-

### Legal Notices

trict. The Applicant seeks Site Development Plan Approval for the construction of a four-story/103 room/66,150 SF hotel with associated parking, landscaping, lighting and utilities. The project is currently a developed site with an existing 117,600 SF office building and 352 parking spaces. The proposed hotel will occupy an area on site presently used for parking. There is existing access to the site via Westage Business Center Drive, and no changes are proposed to the existing access. The proposed project includes a shared parking lot with the existing office building and consists of 250 parking spaces. The Applicant is seeking a waiver from the Town Planning Board for the required parking and loading spaces. The

### Legal Notices

proposed project will also require an Area Variance from the Town Zoning Board of Appeals for encroachment into the rear yard setback. 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 dcolonna@fishkill-ny.gov. BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FISHKILL, NEW YORK Debbie Colonna, Planning Board Secretary

### Legal Notices

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

### Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL The following entitled bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on March 10, 2025, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

### Legal Notices

A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice. Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, March 19, 2025.

### Legal Notices

LEIGH WAGER Clerk, County Legislature

RESOLUTION NO. 2025024 BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 10, 2025. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$828,200 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$3,280,000 GRANT-IN-AID MONIES TO PAY THE COST OF ROAD RECONSTRUCTION, IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY. Class of objects or purposes: Road reconstruction Period of probable usefulness: 15 years Maximum estimated cost: \$4,108,200 Maximum amount of bonds to be issued: \$828,200 bonds Other monies: \$3,280,000 grant-in-aid SEQRA status: SEQRA compliance to be completed during the final design stage and prior to the financing thereof.



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9		3						4

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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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4		4			
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		5			
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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 1980s**

**ACROSS**

1. "Sunday Bloody Sunday" author, with The
5. \*Saget of "Full House" fame
8. Last month
11. "Howdy, \_\_\_\_!"
12. Hurtful remark
13. \*Actor Hudson of Winston Zeddemore fame
15. Give the cold shoulder
16. \*Musical based on 1980s rock "Rock of \_\_\_\_"
17. \*Comedy horror "\_\_\_\_ Hell"
18. \*Transparency, to Gorbachev
20. Slangy "Follow me!"
21. Coffee shop order
22. Pro vote
23. Heart abnormality
26. Act out Civil War battle, e.g.
30. Eisenhower, familiarly
31. Mediterranean island
34. Small island
35. \*Oscar-winning "Tootsie" actress Jessica \_\_\_\_
37. Not hers
38. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
39. Not on land
40. Water pipe
42. Dog tags, e.g.
43. First lunar phase (2 words)
45. Higher education reward
47. Biblical mother
48. \*What "I love Lucy" did in the '80s
50. Name of the Blue Ox
52. \*Gull-winged sports car
55. Party handout
56. Smoothie berry
57. Clickable image
59. Follows orders
60. Mixed breed canine
61. \*Air Jordan, e.g.
62. \*"Cheers" setting
63. Byron: "Maid of Athens, \_\_\_\_ we part"
64. Dispatched

**DOWN**

1. Ambulance squad, acr.
2. "Shoot!"
3. Person of French descent
4. Preserve, as in body
5. Prejudiced one
6. Falstaffian in body
7. Cr me de la cr me
8. "Do \_\_\_\_ others as..."
9. Property right
10. \_\_\_\_ Aviv
12. Bridge-like structure
13. Wedding singer, e.g.
14. \*Ceausescu's country
19. Pasta accompaniment
22. \*"Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
23. \*Arrigo Sacchi's Associazione Calcio \_\_\_\_
24. Tsar's edict
25. Re-establish
26. Zwieback
27. Up and about
28. \*Blinky, Pinky, Inky and \_\_\_\_
29. To the point
32. Sound unit
33. \*Duran Duran's hit
36. \*Hand-held "Tetris" device (2 words)
38. Give sheep a haircut
40. Gardening tool
41. Quick and skillful
44. Sets, in cricket
46. Metamorphic rock
48. Happen again
49. Fill with spirits
50. Rum cake
51. Affirm
52. \_\_\_\_ Maggie Smith
53. Pain
54. "High" time
55. Watch chain
58. Nothing but this in basketball?

**CROSSWORD**

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love to cook

by vicki frank day



# Gifts from the sea

Fresh tuna steak gets an Asian twist.

I don't know anyone who has a seafood-rich diet, myself included, and that's something we should all work on. True, not everyone loves it, but we all know it's good for us: high in protein, nutrient-dense, low in saturated fat and high in omega-3 fatty acids, which are so essential to good health. So why don't we eat more?

One reason could be that we don't live by the ocean where it's everywhere and freshly caught. Any time I go to a coast I'm ordering seafood! I love it and the fact that it's part of the culture and ambiance of seaside towns. You can't be in Maine and not have lobster! What's Massachusetts without cod and little-neck clams, Maryland without crab, Louisiana without oysters, the Gulf Coast without shrimp? Alaska is known for its salmon and Caribbean islands for, well, every type of fish you can imagine. My point is seafood will always be and taste its best when it's eaten close to the source; and though we're not exactly landlocked here in the Hudson Valley and certainly have access to fresh seafood, it just isn't the same. I know that's one reason I don't include it more often in my repertoire, something I'm working on changing. Now that it's Lent, it's a great time to work some fish into our diets.

Don't automatically go for fried fish, though. One of the things I love most about seafood of any kind is its freshness. I love that I can taste the sea. For that reason, I prefer to not order it fried in a heavy batter that overpowers not only its nutritive value but also its delicate flavor. I love beautifully prepared sushi for this reason and am

lucky to have some excellent restaurants nearby when the cravings come. I know raw fish isn't for everyone, and maybe fried fish is better than none at all, but there are happy mediums when it comes to preparing it so anyone open to eating it can find their favorite.

I didn't grow up eating much seafood. The first time I had tuna steak in a restaurant (a loooooong time ago) was a game-changer. At the time, my experience with tuna was limited to the canned variety, so having it served to me seared on the outside and moist, tender and almost raw on the inside was amazing; and that's what I'll be sharing today. Thirty or forty years ago, it would have been harder than it is today to find sushi-grade tuna in stores. Now you don't have to go to shops specializing in seafood to get it. It pays to know where stores get it from, that you trust the quality and know if it's wild-caught or farm raised and, if farmed, what practices they employ. Most of what's offered may well be found frozen or previously frozen in markets in these parts, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Often things like tuna steaks and swordfish, even shrimp, are flash-frozen at peak freshness as soon as they're caught, sometimes even on the ships that haul them in. Doing so retains the flavor, texture and nutritional value for those of us not lucky enough to get it straight from the pier; and stores that sell it should disclose that it was previously frozen, so you know what you're getting. Freezing can also kill bacteria and parasites, which I hesitated to mention but thought you ought to know.



Asian Pan-Seared Tuna Steak goes well with rice and an Asian slaw.

-Photo by Vicki Frank Day

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If what you buy is labeled as "Previously Frozen," it's likely being sold fully or partially thawed and ideally should be eaten the day you buy it, like the yellowfin tuna steaks just purchased for this recipe, which were about 1-inch thick, a vibrant pinkish-red, not brown, and appeared moist and firm, not dried out. They were also designated "Sushi Grade," the quality standard that makes them safe for raw consumption through proper handling, processing and thorough inspection. These days it's a requirement to disclose pertinent information on store signage, but I'm not afraid to ask the fishmonger behind the counter any questions – and you shouldn't be, either. Any vendor worth their salt will know and be happy to tell you what you need to know before you decide to buy. There are a lot of reputable online sources to help you, as well, so you know what to ask, look for and ultimately take home. (I highly recommend [fultonfishmarket.com](http://fultonfishmarket.com)).

So, we've done our homework and brought home some beautiful tuna steaks. Now what? We want to make the most of them, that's what! If you're expecting it to be anything like tuna from a can, that's a big nope. The thick-cut steaks are deep red and reminiscent of beef, and when pan-seared to medium-rare will reward you with moist tenderness and butteriness in both texture and flavor. It isn't fishy but rather has a mild, clean taste and smell with a subtle hint of the sea. This version is complemented with an Asian marinade that doesn't overpower. Serve it with rice and an Asian slaw, steamed asparagus or green beans.

**ASIAN PAN-SEARED TUNA STEAKS**

Patting the steaks dry before placing in a very hot pan gives you the best sear and locks in moistness and flavor. Since you're only searing for a few minutes, letting them sit a bit at room temperature (15-30 minutes) first will prevent the rare center from being cold.

**A FEW NOTES:**

These cook quickly (in under 5 minutes!) so have everything ready when you start. Make the rice and the side dish before you start searing so you can plate as soon as it's done.

If using frozen steaks, let them thaw overnight in the fridge.

And because I don't want to be irresponsible, an obligatory warning: Consuming raw or under-cooked seafood may increase your risk of food-borne illness.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 sushi grade tuna steaks
- Sesame seeds (mixed black and white are pretty if you can find them. I couldn't, so I toasted them first on the stovetop)
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- Sesame oil (for fish and sauce)
- Vegetable or peanut oil (for skillet)
- Rice wine vinegar or sake (about 1 tablespoon)
- 1-2 teaspoons honey or maple syrup
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2-3 scallions, green parts only, thinly sliced diagonally

**METHOD**

Set skillet over medium-high heat. Add enough vegetable oil to just cover the bottom.

In a small bowl, combine soy sauce, sesame oil, vinegar, honey, salt and pepper and set aside.

Pat tuna steaks dry on both sides with a paper towel. Place sesame seeds in a shallow dish and mix in some salt and pepper. Rub sesame oil on fish then place in dish with seeds, turning and pressing lightly to coat. (You can do the side edges, too, if you like).

Place tuna in hot skillet. Let it sear until golden brown and you see white creeping up the edges about 1/4-inch, 1-2 minutes. Carefully flip and repeat. Transfer to a cutting board and let rest a few minutes.

Slice tuna across the grain and arrange on a plate. Drizzle some sauce over it and sprinkle with scallions. Serve with rice and steamed vegetables.

So easy and so fast! You can be enjoying a restaurant-worthy meal in no time at all right at home, any time. Maybe it's time for a little seaside adventure, even if it is in your own kitchen. Enjoy!

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