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The Beacon Players will present "The Phantom of the Opera" on April 19-21 at Beacon High School. Vanessa Murphy and Max Goodhill in rehearsals as "Christine" and "Phantom." There are 2 casts for this musical that will perform at different showings.

-Courtesy photo by Lori LaDue

'The Phantom of the Opera' to play at BHS April 19-21

By Kristine Coulter

The Beacon Players, the drama club at Beacon High School, will be presenting "The Phantom of the Opera." Shows are set for Friday, April 19 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 20 at 1 and 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 21 at 1 p.m. at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, in Beacon. For tickets, visit www.beaconplayers.com.

"After our incredible success with "Les Miserables" last spring, our kids wanted to be challenged even further this Spring. That being said, we were fortunate enough to obtain the rights after its closing for the full version of "The Phantom of the Opera." We were even

more fortunate to obtain the chandelier from the production and move forward with putting together our cast list it became evident that our kids were so talented that we had to use two different casts for the show. Therefore, we are providing the community our friends and families with four performances of the show and two amazing casts," explained Anthony Scarrone, the director of the Beacon Players.

So, what is it like leading the cast and crew of this iconic musical? "Clearly, the most challenging musical I have ever directed, and I've been doing this for many, many

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VBMC opens new Cardiac Cath Lab



Pictured in the new Cath Lab at Vassar Brothers Medical Center are, from left, Angelo Demaria, Lead Cardiac Cath & EP Tech, Jennifer Lemister, lead cardiovascular tech and Jesse Keese, manager, cath lab.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie has announced the opening of its new Cardiac Catheterization and Electrophysiology Laboratory on April 15, marking a significant advancement in cardiovascular care in the Hudson Valley.

This specialized facility comes equipped with large procedure rooms, semi-private recovery bays and advanced medical imaging technology to diagnose and treat various cardiovascular conditions, including heart attacks, coronary artery disease and structural heart defects.

This modernized "cath lab," as it is commonly referred, is located on the eighth floor of the Patient Pavilion, replacing the original lab that opened in 1993 in the legacy part of the hospital.

The new suite offers sweeping views of the Hudson River.

"The new catheterization and electrophysiology labs will completely transform how cardiac care is delivered in this community. These world-class procedural spaces at Vassar highlight our enduring commitment to patient safety, comfort and superb clinical results," said Dr. Mark Harrison, Chief of Cardiology at Vassar Brothers Medical Center. "Now more than ever, local residents can seek cardiovascular services that rival or exceed any other major medical center, right here at home."

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DC Republican legislators pass resolution to challenge election law over Democrats' objections

Members of the Dutchess County Legislature voted 14-7 to pass a resolution at their April 8 meeting authorizing the Dutchess County Department of Law to challenge New York State's law to move local elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years.

The bill in question, S.3505B/A.4282, was signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul in December. This law moves local office elections to even-numbered years. Supporters of the law pointed to cost savings over time and higher voter turnout in even-numbered years. The bill was passed over the objection of numerous local leaders and the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC).

"I made it clear the day I became chairman that we would fight this unconstitutional power grab with any available measure" said Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt. "Every member of the legislature swore an oath at our Organizational Meeting in January to uphold the county charter. We simply cannot sit idly by as the state attempts to circumvent the very charter that we all swore to uphold."

He added, "I am very proud of my colleagues who stood by our pledge and oath that we swore to uphold and defend the Dutchess County Charter. It could not be any more clear that Kathy Hochul and her politically motivated colleagues in Albany have

blatantly overstepped their authority by shredding up our local election process that Dutchess County voters enacted when our Charter was adopted in 1967 to form our County Government. To my colleagues who opposed defending our County Charter, I ask them: at what point would they be willing to stand up to their party bosses in Albany and put Dutchess County residents first?"

Yvette Valdés Smith, Minority Leader of the Legislature, said, "Here is another example of a blatant waste of our hard-earned tax dollars by County Republicans. Our communities simply do not have money to squander when we have real needs that must be addressed, from housing to affordability, to expanding services and programs. This is a law that has already been passed and signed by the Governor. I oppose such an expenditure on a lawsuit that cannot and will not be won in a court of law."

Majority Leader Deirdre Houston (R-Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley, Village of Millbrook) said "The charter, which was enacted by the residents of the county, specifically states that elections for county offices are to be held in odd-numbered years.

There is a process in place to amend the charter, a change as monumental as this would have required the approval of the voters. New York State decided to unilaterally change the mode of our elections without so

much as consulting the voters of Dutchess County. In my view, this represents a blatant disregard for the people of Dutchess County and their desire for local control."

Legislator, Brennan Kearney (D-Rhinebeck) countered, "To be clear, the state law supersedes County charters - thus making this proposed lawsuit a waste of Dutchess County tax payer dollars. I want to challenge the County Executive to show that she wishes to empower voters to have the best access to elections AND that she will act as a careful steward of our County Funds and veto this money-wasting Resolution."

Assistant Majority Leader Michael Polasek (R-LaGrange) said "The County Charter is the foundational document of Dutchess County Government. The charter has been in place, at the voters' behest, since 1967 and has guided generations of county leaders. This episode serves as a frightening harbinger of state government that blatantly disregards local control. If the state feels empowered to strike down one of the main pillars of our very foundational document, they will feel empowered to usurp local voters at every turn. The people of Dutchess County do not favor a more intrusive state government. It is for this reason that I believe it is incumbent upon us to fight back against this overreaching action."

Legislator, Chris Drago (D-Stanford), said, "The County budget is extremely tight

due to years of budget mismanagement, and there are more important needs in our community that must be addressed first before spending \$100k on a lawsuit. That money could go to EMS, mental health services, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Board of Elections, public transportation - the list goes on and on."

Legislator, Brendan Lawler (D-Hyde Park), agreed and stated, "We have veterans who need homes and potholes that need to be filled but, once again, Republicans have determined that wasting our tax money is their highest priority. Our priorities should be housing veterans, filling potholes, and improving the lives of county residents rather than wasting taxpayers hard earned money on a doomed lawsuit."

Truitt said several other Counties have already committed to taking legal action, including Onondaga County and Nassau County. "I am not certain the exact number of Counties considering this legal action, but per my discussion with leaders from other Counties up at the NYSAC Annual Conference in Albany, most charter counties in the State of New York are very, very unhappy with this move by New York State. Even Albany County Executive Dan McCoy (a staunch Democrat), President of the New York State Association of Counties, opposed this measure and urged Kathy Hochul to not sign the bill into law last year."

VBMC opens new Cardiac Cath Lab



Pictured in one of the bays of the new Cath Lab at Vassar Brothers Medical Center are, from left, Dr. David Steckman, electrophysiologist, Cathy Iardi, Director of the Cath Lab, RNs Angelica Gorrez and Leigha Wallace and Jennifer Spreer, CRNA.



Dr. David Steckman, electrophysiologist, is at the controls in the new Cath Lab at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

-Photos by Curtis Schmidt

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In the cath lab, interventional cardiologists assess and treat cardiac issues affecting arteries and valves, using real-time imaging and tiny instruments to assess blood flow, fix blockages and implant devices that improve heart function.

In the Electrophysiology (EP) lab, electrophysiologists address issues affecting the heart's electrical system. They perform procedures to correct unhealthy rhythms and implant advanced monitoring devices.

"The opening of our Cath Lab represents our dedication to providing the

highest quality cardiac care to our patients," said Dr. Mark Warshofsky, senior vice president and chair of the Nuvance Health Heart and Vascular Institute. "It is a significant investment in the health and well-being of our community, and we are confident it will have a positive impact on the lives of countless patients for years to come."

The opening of the cath lab underscores Vassar Brothers Medical Center's ongoing allegiance to innovation and excellence in healthcare delivery. The facility will enhance the hospital's ability to provide timely and comprehensive cardiac care to patients throughout the region.




CELEBRATE OUR 100TH BIRTHDAY

HUDSON VALLEY HEART WALK

Saturday, April 27

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON




CHAIR:
Steven Kelley
CEO, Ellenville Regional Hospital



www.heart.org/hudsonvalleyheartwalk

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

"We are thrilled to officially open our new Cardiac Catheterization Lab, marking a significant milestone in the healthcare landscape of the Hudson Valley. This expansion not only enhances our capacity to deliver exceptional cardiac care but also reflects our continued efforts in redefining healthcare excellence," said Vassar Brothers Medical Center President Susan Browning. "I extend my deepest

gratitude to all who supported the development of the cath lab, including our dedicated clinical team, whose skill, talent and unwavering dedication continue to save lives and make a profound impact on our community." To learn more about the cath lab, visit <https://bit.ly/4aswV8u>.

To learn more about Nuvance Health's Heart and Vascular Institute, visit <https://bit.ly/3xJrE8I>.

Jacobson calls on NYS to fortify bridges against cargo ships

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson (D-104) is calling on New York State to review and fortify its bridges, citing the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore due to a cargo ship collision and a recent New York Times article pointing out potential disasters for Hudson Valley bridges that lack pier protection. The article named the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and the Mid-Hudson Bridge among those at risk.

"We must be proactive and not wait for a disaster to occur," said Jacobson, whose district includes the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and the Mid-Hudson Bridge connecting the Town of Lloyd and Poughkeepsie. The article noted that these bridges lack shields to protect them from wayward cargo ships.

"Hudson Valley residents rely on these

bridges as major arteries connecting both sides of the Valley, as other highways go north and south. The disruption and cost to the State and Federal economy would be immeasurable if the Newburgh Beacon Bridge, which carries I-84, collapsed or was unusable," continued Jacobson.

In addition to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and the Mid-Hudson Bridge, the New York State Bridge Authority operates the Bear Mountain Bridge, the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge, the Rip Van Winkle Bridge, and the Walkway Over the Hudson.

"All of these bridges are vulnerable to large cargo tankers that go up and down the Hudson River every day," said Jacobson. "The time to act is now!"

Jacobson will propose legislation to deal with the problem on a statewide basis.

Rolison to hold office hours April 25

State Senator Rob Rolison (39th District) announced that his District Office staff will provide Mobile Office services to Fishkill seniors and other residents on Thursday, April 25 from at 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Town Recreation Department's Senior Center on Route 52.

Those wishing to receive assistance with seniors' issues, utility billing, unemployment benefits, and more are strongly encouraged to RSVP.

Please call 845-229-0106 or email rolison@nysenate.gov to reserve a spot.

'The Phantom of the Opera' to play at BHS April 19-21

Continued from cover

years. The score is beyond belief, but luckily, I have wonderful people working with me, and we have been able to [put together] a magical performance -- the sets, the costumes the makeup and the lighting are beyond belief. I am so proud of this show," Scarrone stated enthusiastically.

Sophia Campagiorni is the lighting crew chief for the show.

"I am also involved with Beacon Players as their secretary, which gives me the opportunity to oversee different aspects of the show in a much greater capacity than I have in previous years," said Sophia.

"There is no way to describe what it's like watching the involvement of our kids and the creation of the show. It's like something comes alive before your eyes and watching these wonderful kids both on the stage and backstage both art crew and set crew and crew put together a camera that would grow and grow the lighting, all our energies merge together. I've always said that the process sometimes is as beautiful as the performance and that doesn't change," remarked Sophia.

Anastasia Santise is the co-dance captain of the Beacon Players along with Anabelle Arginsky, and plays the auctioneer in "The Phantom of the Opera," as well as a dancer in the ballet chorus.

"One of my favorite scenes in Phantom is Masquerade; the elaborate and colorful costumes, lightened spirits, beautiful harmonies and mix of so many different characters make it the perfect scene to start Act II. The dancing is beautiful (shout out to our amazing teacher Ms. Marisa) and I'm thrilled to be able to be a

part of it," said Anastasia.

As for Sophia's favorite scene? "My favorite scene in 'Phantom' is 'All I Ask of You Reprise (I gave you my music).'" I enjoy this scene because it is the first time the audience gets to see the more vulnerable and emotional side of the Phantom and allows you to understand his motive in crashing the chandelier shortly after he sings. It is also just such a beautiful song and Jonah and Max both do it justice!"

Scarrone said, "There are no the words to describe our students and their work backstage, dedicated, committed and above all else, they love what they are doing and have fun doing it. They rise to the occasion and for every show we produce, they are proud beyond belief. It is an honor to work with these young people."

Sophia said, "People should attend 'Phantom' because it is a beautifully written show that many high schools haven't done in the past few years, so it gives viewers the opportunity to see a newer show (in terms of high schools producing it). People should also attend because for the past six months, students, advisors and volunteers have worked so hard to put on this production for our community, and watching 'Phantom' wouldn't only be supporting the arts, but is also supporting the collective effort that so many people worked towards to produce for viewers like you!"

"The Phantom of the Opera" is one of the most extravagant, creative, electrifying, and dare say, chaotic, shows. The cast, crews and orchestra have been working night and day for months to bring it to life, and we only hope you're as excited to see it as we are to bring it to the BHS stage," said Anastasia.



Molly Lyons and Jonah Espinosa in rehearsal as "Christine" and "Phantom" for Beacon Players "The Phantom of the Opera." There are 2 casts for this drama that will perform at different showings.

-Courtesy photo by Lori LaDue

Register for Senior-Senior Prom for seniors citizens in WCSD on April 28

Roy C. Ketcham High School will be holding the Annual Senior-Senior Prom for senior citizens living in the Wappingers Central School District on Sunday, April 28, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Roy C. Ketcham High School cafeteria. This year's theme is "Ketcham Royale."

Through the generosity of Outback Steakhouse on Route 9 in Wappingers Falls, a delicious dinner will be prepared and served to our guests at this special event. RCK students and staff members will join the seniors on the dance floor.

Although there is no cost to our senior citizens for this wonderful affair, reservations are still required. Please contact Lina Marchetti at 845-298-5100, extension 31008 to make reservations. The event is strictly limited to 100 people, so

reservations will be booked on a first come, first-served basis. They will begin to take reservations on April 3. The deadline to register for this event is April 25.

This event could not happen without the help of our community friends. We are so grateful for their support and donations!

Coupe Champagne Bar, Cold Stone Creamery, Durants Party Rentals, Falls Diner, Hudson Valley Event Group, Portofino Pizza & Pasta, Roma Deli, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Heritage Food & Drink, Nonna's Pizzeria, Dunkin Donuts, Jersey Mikes, Oda Restaurant, County Players, Sabellico Greenhouse & Florist, Los Hornitos Bakery, Lognopardi's Restaurant, Hannaford, Patsy's Pizzeria, RCK Masque & Mime, RCK Student Council and more.

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Info: (845) 765-0667 • rhodaja@optonline.net

VETERANS NEWS WITH ADAM ROCHE

Vet2Vet program helps veterans reach goals

When I was first asked to write a monthly column in the Southern Dutchess News' family of publications, I took some time to introduce myself to the readers and share a portion of my life serving in the Marines and the work I felt compelled to do after being honorably discharged from the armed forces. This included leading the critical work at Mental Health America (MHA) of Dutchess County's PFC Joseph Dwyer PTSD Veterans Support Program, known to many as Vet2Vet, which connects veterans returning home with the resources to successfully reacclimate into civilian life.

In fact, I have written in the past about the struggle many returning veterans have encountered while trying to successfully handle the reality of resuming day-to-day community living. I'm spending this month's column going deeper into the Vet2Vet program that the Division of Veterans Services partner, MHA of Dutchess County, offers right on the campus of our one-stop facility.

The main thrust of the Vet2Vet program is a peer-to-peer network that develops relationships with other veterans. This provides an environment of encouragement and camaraderie and helps veterans create a roadmap to identify, set and accomplish individual and long-term goals.

I realize it's difficult to join something new and begin sharing your deepest feelings with people you have never met, especially if you feel they can't relate to what you have

experienced. Not only have I been there, but I saw many of those who served and returned to civilian life around the same time as me genuinely struggle to find some common denominator with those they interacted with throughout the community.

That is why I started the Vet2Vet program during my time working at MHA, and that is why I am such an advocate for my brothers and sisters to get involved – not only because I have seen those who took the initial step to participate in the program find friendships, a richer social life and discover skills they never used before; but also because the veterans who run the peer support groups and the professionals at MHA are some of the most capable and compassionate people I have ever worked with.

For privacy reasons I cannot use the names of vets who presently participate in the Vet2Vet program; I can, however, pass along some of the feelings those vets have shared about the program:

"Honestly, this organization has been an integral part in helping me keep pace with the speed things seem to move at since I left the armed forces. Not only through needed personal help, but also through the services I was seeking for some time that weren't available through other Veteran Organizations."

"I am immensely grateful and appreciative for the opportunity and welcome I received in the Vet2Vet program. All the services have afforded me guidance, peace, and

a measure of prosperity."

"I've been with two other Veterans Programs over the years. I have to say, this is by far the best."

"Those in the program helped me out with a resume when I was struggling to get things down clearly. Thanks."

"Working with the Vet2Vet team over the past couple of years has changed my life. Especially the support and information I received from Alyssa Carrion (MHA Director of Veterans Programs), which allowed me to start dealing with, and healing from, the trauma I experienced while on active duty. It has given me the opportunity to meet other woman veterans, which allows us to support each other. I would not be where I am today if I had not found the Vet2Vet office."

Built within the Vet2Vet initiative are confidential referral services addressing PTSD, suicide, suicide ideation, depression, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), case management advocacy and wide-ranging support to vets and their families.



If you ever felt any inclination to investigate the Vet2Vet program – or if this article is the first time you have heard of it – I encourage you to take the first step and visit us at the MHA Veterans One Stop campus, located at 1335 Route 44 in Pleasant Valley. The facility is bright, spacious, has game rooms, a gym, places to sit and relax, classes for personal edification and has ample parking and easy access to our building.

You can visit us at the Division of Veterans Services or contact us at (845) 486-2060, and we will walk you over and introduce you to the MHA staff. You can also contact the Veterans Peer Services program directly at (845) 473-2500, ext. 1365 or call MHA's main line at 845-473-2500 and press 0.

We look forward to meeting you.

Beacon Council meeting rescheduled to April 22

The Beacon City Council announced that the original date of a scheduled Council workshop for April 29, will now be held on April 22. The rescheduled workshop will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 22 in City Hall at 1 Municipal Plaza,

Beacon. There will be no Council meeting or workshop on April 29.

Members of the public who want to attend the City Council's workshop may do so in-person at City Hall or remotely on Zoom by visiting beaconny.gov/events.

Policy on letters:

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

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Clearwater offers sails as 55th sailing season begins

Following a successful haul out and winter restoration project, the Captain, crew, and staff of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater prepare to launch America's Environmental Flagship for their 55th sailing season.

Clearwater welcomed Liam Henrie to the crew as Clearwater's co-captain. Born and raised in the Finger Lakes Region of New York, Liam stepped onboard the Clearwater as a weekly volunteer for the first time in the summer of 2015. Having logged about 5 years since then in various positions both sailing and performing maintenance, he is excited to return to Clearwater and the Hudson Valley. Liam reflected, "I have sailed and traveled all over the world, but there's no place quite like the Hudson nor any vessel quite like the fine and splendid Sloop."

Executive Director David Toman commented, "We are very excited to launch the 55th sailing season of the Sloop Clearwater, and we look forward to inspiring thousands of kids and adults through our onboard programs and community events. This season we welcome Liam Henrie as our second

Captain, who along with Captain Rory Kane, will navigate the Sloop through the tidal waters from Albany to NYC. We're also looking forward to incorporating musicians and speakers into a selection of our public sails this year, so come on board and gain a special appreciation for the Hudson River that you can only get from America's Environmental Flagship."

Each sailing season, thousands of children, families, and individuals sail aboard the Clearwater to uniquely experience the Hudson River. Clearwater offers public and educational sails, as well as private charters and sails to communities from Rensselaer to Brooklyn. The spring Public Sail Adventures calendar is now live, with 21 sails across the region. Additional sails will be added to the calendar on a rolling basis through October. To view the full sailing calendar and to purchase tickets, click here: <https://www.clearwater.org>.

Clearwater is now also accepting reservations for Private Charters and there are still spots open for spring education sails: <https://www.clearwater.org>.

'From Bach to Rock' to celebrate Village of Fishkill 125th anniversary

The unique sound of Alex Prizgintas and his amplified cello will be part of the Village of Fishkill's 125th Anniversary on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Van Wyck Hall, 1095 Main Street, Fishkill. Classically trained, he employs non-classical tools like distortion, delay, and the iconic "wah-wah" guitar pedals symbolic of 1960s Rock n' Roll bands--all in conjunction with a looping station. Equally

comfortable with intimate and stadium settings, Alex is able to craft his own wall-of-sound through his 1,000-watt amp. Accompanied with a narration that reveals some of the back stories of baroque, jazz, folk, and Rock n' Roll classics, he immerses his audience in a journey through musical history. For more information, check out Prizgintas' website at alexprizgintas.com.

Friends of Blodgett to host Trivia Night April 24

The Friends of Blodgett Memorial Library will be hosting its inaugural trivia night The event will be Wednesday, April 24 at Beast on Main Street in Fishkill. Gameplay will start at 7 p.m. and run

approximately 90 minutes.

Tickets are required. One may purchase tickets at Eventbrite.com. All proceeds are going directly to the library, 37 Broad St. in Fishkill.

Tag Sale to benefit Mt. Alvernia on April 27

Spring Tag Sale, indoors, to benefit Mt. Alvernia. The tag sale will take place at 158 DeLaverge Ave. in Wappingers

Falls. The hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on April 27.



DCHS to present Firefighting Exhibit April 20

By Meloye Moore

The Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS) is launching a firefighting exhibition on Saturday, April 20, as an open house between 2 and 5:30 p.m. Between 4 and 4:15 DCHS will simultaneously hold its annual membership meeting. This will take place at DCHS headquarters, 6282 Route 9, Rhinebeck. DCHS wishes to thank the essential support and collaboration of the Rhinebeck Fire Department and the Firefighting Museum of Dutchess County.

The history of firefighting in America begins on January 7, 1608, when a fire leveled most of the Jamestown colony which was just barely a year old. Over the next three centuries fire has been a constant danger in the lives of the American citizenry.

As early as 1648 citizens of New Amsterdam were acting as fire wardens and in 1678 the first engine company went into service in Boston. The earliest efforts to combat fire in an organized fashion occurred in major population centers such as New York City, Philadelphia, and Boston.

In 1714 four hundred and forty-five people lived in Dutchess County and were equally spread among the first three settlements at Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie, and Fishkill. Response to fire in these communities would have been limited to volunteer fire brigades relying on access to water from wells, cisterns filled with rainwater, streams, and nearby water bodies.

By 1788 the population of the county had grown and was expanding to recently established towns further east and inland. The greatest risk of uncontrolled fire however still existed in the ever growing, densely populated, hamlets along the river, and so it is not surprising that the first engine companies in the county are founded in Poughkeepsie in 1804, Rhinebeck in 1821 and Fishkill in 1829.

Over the next two centuries fire companies have been created in all the towns and cities of the county. The desire to form a local fire company often followed a catastrophic fire that inspired residents to take action to protect their communities.

Among the areas of focus in the exhibition is apparatus. Firefighting has always been a community effort. What's changed over the centuries has been the apparatus used to combat fires.

The "bucket brigade" was formed when a group of neighbors created a chain and passed water-filled leather buckets hand to hand to extinguish a fire. This type of fire response lingered well into the late 19th century in Dutchess County. In January 1891 a hotel fire in Millerton was fought by a "bucket brigade" that stretched from the Webatuck Brook across the railroad tracks to the scene of the fire. Three years



A white firefighter's hat indicates a Fire Chief, in this case tied to Rhinebeck's Pocahontas Relief fire department, and an ornate horn or voice amplifying trumpet for ceremonial purposes that had origins in tools used for directing orders during a fire. Both from the Rhinebeck Fire Department.

-DCHS images

later in 1894 the Dinsmore Fire Company was organized as a fire brigade.

Hand-pulled hose carts were mainly used to transport water hoses to and from fire scenes. Manually operated, they required young, strong, able-bodied men to haul them to the scene of the fire. In 1892 Millerton paid \$48.50 to purchase a hose cart, complete with 500' of hose, 6 hose wrenches, 28 pails and 2 hose nozzles. They paid an additional \$3.95 for a bell.

Early fire "engines" were hand pumps equipped with a water box that was pulled to the scene of the fire by the firefighters. The capacity of the water box was limited and "bucket brigades" were often necessary to keep the water box full if there was not an available water source nearby. Once at the scene of the fire teams of firefighters pumped the brakes on either side of the hand pumper up and down to produce the stream of water. "Pocahontas" was purchased in 1859 by the old Rhinebeck Fire Dept. Engine Co. #2 from the Button Company of Waterford, N.Y. and continued in service until 1890 when it was replaced by a new steam pumper.

Hand pumpers were replaced by steam powered pumpers that could pump water at higher pressures and volume. A complicated mechanical device, it was comprised of a vertical water tube boiler that provided steam for a pumping engine to force water through hoses and onto the



The firefighting exhibition at DCHS will feature explanations about apparatus, fire houses, and essentials like alarms and water supplies. These images clockwise from top left show: 1) image of a typical town pump that would have been used as a water source; 2) a depiction of the 1836 reservoir at Poughkeepsie's Reservoir Square, the first in the county it was designed to supported fire hydrants; 3) the pumping station that was built at the Hudson River to pump water to be stored at the top of College Hill, a practice that remains in place today; 4) the 1872 Victorian outdoor reservoir at College Hill; 5) the 1920s underground reservoir; and 6) the recently constructed water storage tanks, all on College Hill.

-DCHS images

fire. It required a well-trained operator. For about 50 years, from the 1870s until around 1920, it was a common occurrence to see horses pulling heavy steam-powered pumpers to a fire. The horses were so well trained that when the alarm was sounded, they knew to walk out and position themselves before the apparatus where they could be quickly harnessed. Fire horses needed to be strong, swift, agile, obedient, fearless, and calm.

Horsepower was replaced by the internal-combustion engine early in the 20th century and the modern form of the firetruck was born. Equipped with a powerful pump, a large amount of hose and a water tank for use where there is no readily available source of water, these new fire trucks greatly increased the speed and efficiency of fire companies.

The post World War Two era saw the rapid growth of the suburbs and that led to new concepts in firefighting equipment and methods. Advancements in equipment included practical diesel powerplants, improved radio communications, metal aerials and elevated platforms.

During the last decades of the 20th century fire apparatus was bigger, more pow-

erful, and more efficient than ever before and design changes focused on safety and comfort. Today's fire engines come with elevating platforms, mobile data terminals, hydraulic rescue tools, floodlights, self-contained breathing apparatus and thermal imaging cameras.

When Millerton invested \$48.50 in 1892 to purchase their hose cart, they could never have imagined that the cost of a new engine today would be \$1 million, and the cost of a ladder truck would be \$1.8 million.

These are some of the themes that will be explored.

While fire remains a constant danger in the everyday lives of Dutchess County residents, the dedication, self-sacrifice and commitment of the men and women who serve in the 62 fire stations in the county deserve our recognition, gratitude, and support.

Meloye Moore is a long-standing Board member of DCHS, Chair of its Collections Committee, regular contributor to the DCHS Yearbook, and develops a wide range of programs. More information at www.DCHSNY.org.



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Sheep and Woolgrowers set free farm tours for April 20



Brent Zimmerman of Lime Kiln Farm in West Coxsackie holds two lambs. Yarn is shown from Morehouse Farm in Milan.

-Photos by Claire Houlihan

The Dutchess County Sheep and Woolgrowers Association is conducting free self-guided tours of area farms on April 20 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Eight farms, one fiber mill, and the StonyKill Education Center will participate. Farmers will give short tours and visitors will be able to have an up close and personal view of life on these farms.

In addition to various sheep breeds,

some of our farmers also raise alpaca, llama, goats, and other livestock. The Nobletown Fiber Works mill will show visitors how sheep fleece is turned into yarn or roving. Many of the participating farms also have farm stores where visitors can purchase their homegrown products, such as yarn, sheepskins, soap, socks, eggs, honey and other items.

Visit dcswga.org for more information.

Learn about volunteer opportunities during Earth Day event at Carnwath Farms in Wappinger on April 20

By Kristine Coulter

The Friends of Carnwath are seeking new volunteers to join. The organization will also hold an Earth Day event on April 20.

“We invite everyone to join Friends of Carnwath Farms. We are always looking for new members to help grow and support the organization. Our membership dues are affordable to make joining appealing to everyone,” said Donna Lenhart, a member of the Friends of Carnwath.

Carnwath Farms Historic Site and Park, said Lenhart, “is a bucolic, rolling 99.7-acre park on the National Historic Register that is perfect for walking, bird-watching and picnicking.”

What does one need to do to become a member?

Lenhart replied, “To be a member, there is no work required, but it is always welcome, because, as you can imagine, a

property this size requires a good deal of upkeep.” On the membership form, it is asked of volunteers if they have any interest(s) such as working in the gardens, or on events, cleanup days, and more, she noted.

The first member meeting of 2024 will be held this Saturday (April 20) at 10 a.m. The meeting will be followed at 11 a.m. by the organization’s second annual Earth Day event, said Lenhart.

As for the Earth Day event, Lenhart remarked, “Our Earth Day event won’t include trash pickup, because there isn’t any. Instead, we’ll be staining the guardrails, pruning shrubs, prepping the gardens.”

Carnwath Farms is at 81 Wheeler Hill Road in Wappinger.

“We hope folks will come to the park, devote some time to helping us out, and consider becoming a member of our organization,” said Lenhart.

Earth Day event set for April 20 in Beacon

Join community members and help clean-up sites around the city of Beacon on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m.-noon. There will also be pollinator planting.

Sign up and more information at <https://beaconny.gov/>. An appreciation party after at Hudson Valley Brewery, 7 E. Main St. in Beacon.

Dutchess County to host Earth Day event

Public invited to day of family fun, educational opportunities in Poughkeepsie

The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste and the Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barns will host its annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 20th from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Vassar Barns, 50 Vassar Farm Lane in Poughkeepsie. This free event, open to the public, will offer environmental education, interactive activities and community engagement.

Dutchess County’s annual Earth Day event brings attention to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. Residents of all ages are invited to participate and learn about ways to reduce waste, conserve resources and protect the environment for future generations.

County Executive Sue Serino said, “Our children will inherit the environment we leave them, and Dutchess County’s annual Earth Day event is a great opportunity for residents of all ages to learn how to preserve our planet. I encourage all to attend this impor-

tant event and help make our community more environmentally friendly, keeping Dutchess County green for future generations.”

Attendees will enjoy a variety of activities and attractions, including:

- Fun, family-centric activities for children, including how to create a bird feeder and plant seeds;
- Interactive presentations about composting, recycling and waste-reduction techniques;
- Educational exhibits showcasing innovative environmental initiatives and local sustainability efforts, including organics, electric vehicles, natural resources and watersheds;
- Ecosystem education, including information about pollinators, invasive species, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife;
- Demonstrations highlighting garden-

ing best practices and seed giveaways; and

- Informational presenters from local environmental organizations, businesses and government agencies.

A full list of Earth Day event participants is available online.

Kerry Russell, Deputy Commissioner for the County’s Division of Solid Waste Management, said, “In Dutchess County, we believe by coming together as a community, we can make a significant impact on the health and well-being of our planet. Our yearly Earth Day event serves as a reminder of the importance of individual and collective actions in preserving and protecting our environment.”

As part of her 2024 State of the County Address earlier this month, Serino reiterated Dutchess County’s commitment to the environment, ensuring local children grow up with clean air and clean water.

Last month, the County unveiled its Natural Resources Inventory website and Environmental Mapper application to help guide land-use decisions and natural resource protection.

Dutchess County will apply later this year for Silver Certification under New York State’s Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program, a statewide network of communities with common environmental goals, including increased energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energy, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Dutchess County is one of 11 counties to have already earned its Bronze CSC certification.

Additional information about Dutchess County’s environmental and sustainability efforts is available on the Division of Solid Waste Management’s webpage, accessible via www.dutchessny.gov.

Earth Day event in Wappinger on April 20

Wappinger Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini, the Wappinger Town Board, and Superintendent of Highways Michael J. Sheehan announce that in conjunction with Earth Day, the Town is hosting an annual Earth Day Clean Up.

This cleanup will be on Saturday, April 20 and is starting at 9 a.m. at Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road at 9 a.m..

this week’s puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer
SUDOKU

ROSA	ANENT	VIRITU	VIENNA	GEAR	STRAIT	LICUP	REEK	ARMS	PEAS	AID	WARSAW	RECAP	ERNIE	OBITS
HEN	GSA	RUE	LO	EAR	IT	LI	TAROS	PURR	SODA	BEAK	SAW	ERA	HAH	CBS
REEDY	EGRET	GAGES	NDON	VIA	ELLS	MA	ILIA	NYLON	PEAKING	WARS	FRAGUE	WORTH	AGUES	AGRA

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

Suguru solution

WCSD students take in totality during SUNY Oswego trip

By Kristine Coulter

Forty-nine students from Roy C. Ketcham High School in the Wappingers Central School District took in the view of the eclipse not Dutchess County or even the Hudson Valley, but at SUNY Oswego. SUNY Oswego is the alma mater of Wappingers Central School District teacher Kyle Bautista.

According to Bautista, the students were in 11th and 12th grades from the Physics and Astronomy classes at RCK. There were 5 chaperones, including Bautista and his fiancée.

This was the first time viewing a total solar eclipse, said Bautista, who was actually at SUNY Oswego for the 2017 eclipse, which had about 67% coverage.

"SUNY Oswego was quite cloudy as we approached totality. There were some breaks during the partial eclipse and students were happy to see some of the sun get covered. Leading up to the big event, students seemed a little disappointed they couldn't view the partial eclipse anymore. However, as the sun reached approximately 99% coverage, the area around us began to get dark and students could tell it was becoming a more dramatic change," Bautista said. "We couldn't see the sun/moon anymore but there was a wave of darkness that very quickly crept in on us and all at once the students screamed because they realized totality had happened! And just when I thought that was the biggest reaction, for a brief moment there was a break in the clouds, and we could see the eclipse! In all honesty, that

moment was worth the entire trip to me. That is an event I know they will remember for the rest of their lives."

Bautista's students Nikki and Jinx went to Oswego to see the eclipse.

Nikki said, "I wanted to see the eclipse because I felt like it was a once in a lifetime experience. I've always been interested in astronomy and the idea of being able to see a total solar eclipse in real life felt unreal to me so once I got the opportunity I jumped to it."

Nikki said of the eclipse and totality, "Once it reached totality you could clearly see the corona. At that point it was almost like nighttime, the bugs were coming out and the birds were going away. Then after roughly three minutes it started to become bright again. The bugs went away and the birds came back out."

Jinx explained, "Even though it was cloudy outside, I saw the eclipse pretty well. It was gorgeous the way that the shadow cascaded over the area we were in and it got dark and you looked up in the sky and it was this glowing black orb that seemed completely and totally mythical."

Bautista explained that as an Astronomy teacher he knew "the science behind it (the eclipse) and what to expect from an educational standpoint." However, Bautista remarked, he did not expect was the emotional response to an event like this.

"There were people crying when totality hit, and we couldn't even see it for most of the time! The temperature seemed to drop significantly. It was like you were teleported



Forty-nine students from Roy C. Ketcham High School in the Wappingers Central School District, and chaperones, took a trip to SUNY Oswego to take in the solar eclipse on April 8.

-Courtesy photos

to another place entirely. Seeing the corona of the sun just peak out of the clouds and have the silhouette of the moon visible was remarkable and all it took for the crowd to erupt in excitement." Bautista continued, "It was also very heartwarming to know I was able to share that moment with people and students who are so passionate about the event. We left school around 7 a.m. and traveled over 4 hours, knowing we could run into traffic that would make that 4 hours turn into 7 or 8, just to witness an event that lasts 3.5 minutes- and then spend almost 8 hours stuck in traffic on the way home! This will absolutely be a highlight of my career."

"Seeing the eclipse was mesmerizing, I

couldn't look away. The minutes leading up to totality were filled with anticipation. Watching the corona shine around the moon was absolutely breathtaking. That was probably the coolest three minutes of my life," said Nikki.

Jinx noted, "Seeing the eclipse put into words is life-changing to me, at least being surrounded by a bunch of people just as excited to see a celestial event as you are all congregated looking at the sky watching the sky go pitch black in the middle of the day. It's something that will resonate in your memory to tell your family and new people you meet for years to come."

Agriculture community honors Harry Baldwin on 90th birthday

By Curtis Schmidt

Hundreds of members of the local agriculture community were on hand to honor Dutchess County farmers at the 2024 Ag Day Breakfast on Thursday, April 11.

The event, sponsored annually by Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), was held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds.

Taking the spotlight at the event on the occasion of his 90th birthday was dairy farmer Harry Baldwin, one of the founding members of the Dutchess County Dairy Committee and member of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society.

Baldwin praised the work of the Dairy Committee, noting that the organization has raised over \$500,000 over the years – all aimed at providing scholarship funds for local students in agriculture-related fields.

"All of the funds we raise stay in the county and are raised from sales of Milk Shakes at the Dutchess County Fair," said Baldwin. "We're proud to support our

youth in agriculture in 4-H and FFA organizations."

Guest speaker County Executive Sue Serino praised the efforts of farmers at 620 farms in the county.

"Our farmers are faced with many challenges, such as the loss of land to suburban growth and this is not unique to Dutchess," she said. "At the county level, we are working to think outside the box and help our farmers."

She recognized the Food Security Council, Dutchess County Agriculture Advisory Committee, the Dutchess County Agriculture Education Board and said she is "continually amazed at the energy" of students in the 4-H and Future Farmers of America chapters.

Receiving 2024 Tractor Awards from the CCEDC were Stephanie Rhoades, Pine Plains Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor, Sarah Chase of Chaseholm Farm, Michelle Hicks of the DC Agricultural Society and Jennifer Fimbel, Agriculture Navigator/CCE Dutchess Agriculture Educator.



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and County Comptroller and farmer Gregg Pulver honor dairy farmer Harry Baldwin on his 90th birthday at the County Agriculture Breakfast on Thursday, April 11.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

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Sports Report

Renegades finish opening road trip with 5-3 mark; At home this week

By Rich Thomaselli

For the first time in the 30-year history of the franchise, the Hudson Valley Renegades had three consecutive games postponed by rain. Hudson Valley had games against the Rome Emperors washed out on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

It necessitated some severe changes to the schedule. A doubleheader, which the teams split, was scheduled for Friday and another doubleheader was penciled in for Sunday. One game will not be made up at all.

In the Friday night twinbill, the Emperors won the first game 3-2, while the Renegades came back with a 1-0 triumph in the second.

In a single game on Saturday, the Renegades posted a 3-0 victory.

On Sunday, the Emperors won the first game in a 5-4 extra-innings walk-off, and the Renegades took the night cap 6-3. The Renegades are now 5-3 on the young season and were scheduled to open their home schedule on Tuesday against Aberdeen.

In the first contest of the doubleheader on Friday, the Renegades took the lead two batters into the top of the first when Roc Riggio lined a leadoff double down the right field line against Lucas Braun, and scored on a Jared Serna single to left. Hudson Valley tacked on another run on a bases loaded walk to Riggio to take a 2-0 lead.

In the doubleheader, Riggio starred by finishing 2-for-3 with a run scored, a double, an RBI and five walks.

Rome got a run in the bottom of the third after Kevin Kilpatrick doubled off Jackson Fristoe and scored two batters later on an

Ethan Workinger RBI single to cut the deficit to 2-1. In his first start of the season, Fristoe lasted 2.1 innings, allowing one run on three hits, striking out four and not issuing a walk.

Ben Shields relieved Fristoe and despite allowing an inherited runner to score, fired 3.2 scoreless innings, striking out five and allowing just one hit and no walks.

Leonardo Pestana walked the first two batters he faced, and a groundout by Carlos Arroyo plated the tying run in the bottom of the seventh inning. With one out Sabin Ceballos lifted an RBI single to center off Cole Ayers (0-1) to give the Emperors a 3-2 walk-off win.

Double headers in the minor leagues are played in seven-inning increments instead of the traditional nine innings.

In the second game, Brian Hendry made his professional debut and was brilliant. The right-hander tossed 5.0 shutout innings, allowing just two hits and one walk while striking out eight.

Hudson Valley broke through with a run against reliever Rob Griswold in the top of the fourth. Rafael Flores led off with a double and scored on a hustle double by Alexander Vargas to give the Renegades a 1-0 lead. That was all the Renegades needed as Hendry (1-0) and Matt Keating combined to strike out 12 in a three-hit shutout of the Emperors in Game 2. Keating stranded three runners on base in the final two innings of the game to earn his first save of the season.

Renegades open WMCHHealth Club Lounge

By Rich Thomaselli

The Hudson Valley Renegades and Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth) have announced a multi-year Pinstripe Partnership extension, with WMCHHealth remaining as the Official Hospital Partner of the Hudson Valley Renegades.

As part of the renewed partnership, WMCHHealth has secured the naming rights to the brand-new WMCHHealth Club Lounge, located adjacent to left field.

"The WMCHHealth Club Lounge is the most transformative upgrade to Heritage Financial Park in our 30-year history, and we are incredibly proud to partner with WMCHHealth on this state-of-the-art events and premium seating area," said Zach Betkowski, General Manager of the Renegades. "The WMCHHealth Club Lounge provides the best vantage point of Renegades baseball in left field, and also offers top-notch real estate for community members and business leaders to host their next corporate meeting or family event. WMCHHealth is a beacon of our community, and attaching their name to this beautiful facility is the perfect connection to this incredible community asset."

The WMCHHealth Club Lounge was set to open Tuesday, April 16, and provides guests with a luxurious and unique ball-

park experience with exclusive access to seating in fair territory beyond the left field wall. The 2,300 square foot space is climate-controlled and contains a private bar with premium lounge seating throughout the room. The WMCHHealth Club Lounge also features an elevated all-you-can-eat culinary experience prepared by an executive chef featuring a rotating menu as well as ballpark favorites.

With space to accommodate approximately 200 guests for baseball games, premium membership to the WMCHHealth Club Lounge includes an assigned seat in the club seating area along with VIP parking.

"The Hudson Valley Renegades organization has been a tremendous partner for WMCHHealth. Through this alliance, we've been able to bring our messages of health and wellness directly to the team's fans, many of whom are our Hudson Valley neighbors," said Michael D. Israel, President, and Chief Executive Officer, WMCHHealth. "It has been particularly rewarding to see former patients enjoying once-in-a-lifetime opportunities on the field, truly embodying the vitality and resilience we strive to foster in our communities. We were thrilled to be given this opportunity to extend our partnership with the Hudson Valley Renegades and remain the Official Hospital Partner of the team."

Ex-Renegade Volpe shines as Yankees start strong

By Rich Thomaselli

Anthony Volpe is the embodiment of the mantra that you will see future Major League players with the Hudson Valley Renegades.

Having appeared in Wappingers Falls just three short years ago for more than half a season with Hudson Valley, Volpe is now the starting shortstop for the New York Yankees and has gotten off to a tremendous start. He has helped lead the Yanks to 12 wins in their first 16 games.

His exploits have not gone unnoticed.

Volpe was the recent subject of an article in Sports Illustrated.

A Gold Glove winner in his rookie Major League season in 2023, he is currently hitting .353 through Sunday, April 14. He hit 21 home runs last year, a great number for a shortstop.

He is the shining example of what can happen to a player in the Hudson Valley that passes through here. And this on a franchise that has seen major leaders like Evan Longoria and Josh Hamilton come through.

Latin Dance Night on April 25 in Beacon

Feel the Heat - A Night of Latin Dancing will be presented by Beacon Dance Beat on Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Towne Crier Café, 379 Main Street in Beacon. The music includes exciting and sensuous rhythms, modern and traditional, of Salsa, Cha-Cha, Merengue, Bachata, Reggaeton and more. Song requests welcome.

Full menu and bar service are available before and during the dance. Admission is \$10.00 and can be paid at the door. Or, for reservations, please call the Towne Crier at 845-831-5500.

For further information about the music, or for a special Song Request, please contact Rhoda at: 845-765-0667 | rhodaja@optonline.net.

Friends of the Pleasant Valley Library announces HUGE Book Sale on April 19-21

More than 20,000 books, CDs, and DVDs will be available for purchase at the Pleasant Valley Library, 1584 Main Street (Route 44), Pleasant Valley the weekend of April 19-21. The sale features almost 1,000 antique books donated by the estates of two local college professors and includes many first editions.

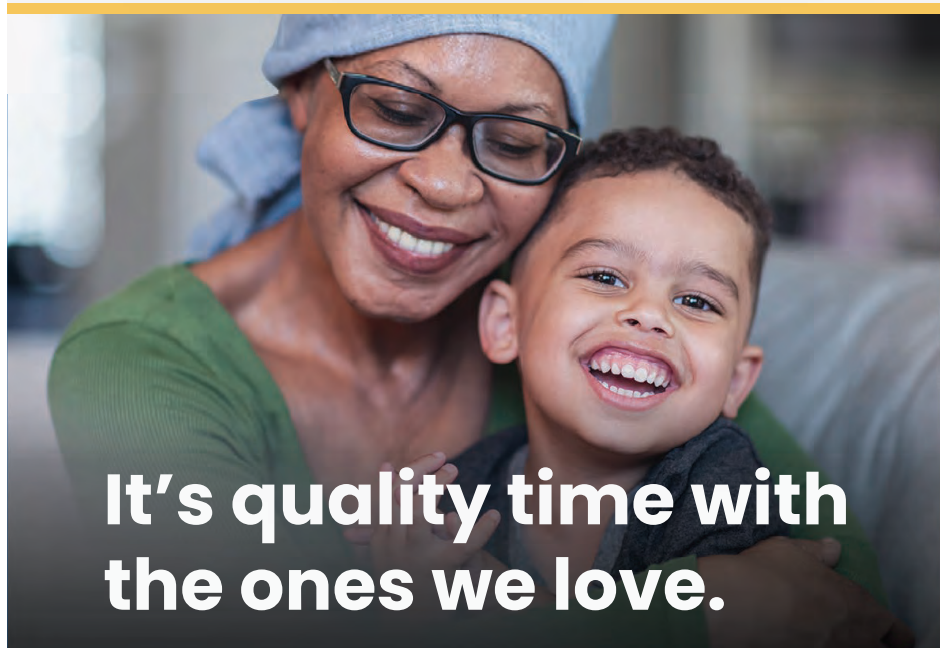
The sale begins on Friday, April 19, from noon to 6 p.m., and continues Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kids' books and all CDs and DVDs are just 5 for \$1. All adult books are 6 for \$5. Sunday, April 21, is "Name Your Price Day" for all remaining items from 10 a.m.

to 3 p.m., when you can take as many books as you want and you decide the price.

One will find a coupon for a free Book on our Facebook page during the month of April: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofthePVLlibrary>.

Donations of books, CDs, DVDs, video games and puzzles are being accepted through Saturday, April 13. Donations are accepted on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If bringing more than two boxes, please call the library in advance at 845-635-8460.

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Two documentaries, expert panelists to focus on mental health on April 27



In recognition of Mental Health Month, the screenings of two documentaries "HERE. IS. BETTER." scheduled on April 27, and "Charm Circle" on May 4, will take place at The Beacon, 445 Main St in Beacon. Tickets for both events can be found at beaconmovie.com or at the door.

-Courtesy photo

In recognition of Mental Health Month, Hit House Creative (HHC) CEO Shane Killoran and Beacon LitFest (BLF) founder Dr. Hannah Brooks are pleased to announce the screenings of two groundbreaking documentaries with accompanying panel discussions. The films and guest panels "HERE. IS. BETTER." are scheduled on April 27, 1-4 p.m., and for "Charm Circle" on May 4, 1-4 p.m. at The Beacon, 445 Main St in Beacon. Tickets for both events can be found at beaconmovietheater.com or at the door.

The selected documentaries, "HERE. IS. BETTER." and "Charm Circle," explore the struggles, treatments, and triumphs of people affected by mental illness, approaching their subjects from two very distinct cinematic lenses and perspectives.

"HERE. IS. BETTER." will be screened on Saturday, April 27. This multi award-winning documentary illuminates the impact and treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). With unprecedented access to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the film tracks four veterans with diverse backgrounds and service experiences through their moving stories of recovery using trauma-focused psychotherapies.

"Charm Circle" is scheduled for Saturday, May 4. It offers a deeply intimate and immersive account of the filmmaker's own family's emotional, financial, and social struggles as they navigate a number of family crises. At turns heartbreaking and wryly funny (Burststein's dad Uri could carry his own sitcom), it is ultimately an inspirational and illuminating window into how families find ways to cope in a world that does not always welcome differences. While it is sometimes challenging to watch, it is sure to spark conversations about the complexities of mental illness and its influence on family bonds.

Immediately following the screenings for

each of these award-winning films, there will be moderated discussions with the filmmakers, service providers, and community members. The April 27 panel will include Emmy Award-winner Sian Edwards-Beal Sian, producer of "HERE. IS. BETTER.," and knowledgeable experts Alyssa Carrion, Director of Veterans Programs for Mental Health America (MHA) of Dutchess County and special guests; On May 4, producer and director of "Charm Circle," Nira Burststein will be joined by Andrew O'Grady, CEO of MHA Dutchess County and Steve Miccio, CEO of People, USA.

Filmmakers will discuss their visions and engage in audience Q and A and panelists will share information on information on housing, social and psychological services for those who are suffering—to let them know they're not alone in these experiences and that recovery is possible with the proper support systems.

"We wanted to support these filmmakers in trying to destigmatize mental illness, to deepen our community's understanding and open up real dialogue around the issues," said Dr Hannah Brooks (BLF) co-producer with Shane Killoran (HHC) of the program. "We also want to shed light on the organizations in our area doing the heavy lifting in providing support to affected individuals"

"Engaging the cinematic, veteran, and health service communities allows us to engage and educate the public and then use this to initiate meaningful conversation surrounding mental illness and mental wellness," shared Shane Killoran. "I'm most excited to welcome seemingly divergent factions of the local Beacon population for a program certain to highlight our commonalities as a community rather than our differences. Our aim is to bring mental health issues to the fore in honor of Mental Health month."

New candy shop in Wappingers Falls



NYS Assemblyman Anil Beephan, second from left, Wappinger Town Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini, right, and Village of Wappingers Falls Mayor Kevin Huber, left, welcomed Quincy's Candy Shop owners, Camy Hall and George Hirsch, to the Village of Wappingers Falls on Saturday, April 6, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The ribbon cutting was hosted by the Wappingers Falls Business and Professional Association.

-Courtesy photo

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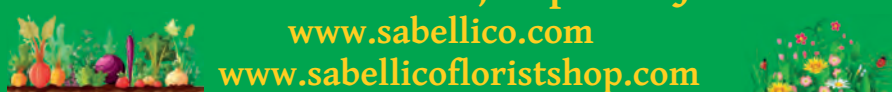
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Obituaries

Gerald John Santangelo



Gerald John Santangelo, a local area resident for many years, died at Taconic Rehabilitation and Nursing at Hopewell in Fishkill on April 7, 2024. He was 90.

Son of the late Gerald and Frances (Zumpano) Santangelo, he was born on August 8, 1933 in United Hospital, Port Chester, NY. Was president of the Port Chester High School Band and was inducted into the National AEOLIAN SOCIETY, an organization dedicated to gifted and performing musicians.

Attended Georgetown University, was member of the University Band marched in President Eisenhower's inauguration parade, sang in the men's choir, starred in the senior musical, is a member of the Georgetown Theatre Alumni and the Georgetown Reunion Committee.

He served two years in the United States Army and is a Korean War Veteran.

Mr. Santangelo had a 40-year career in radio, television, and theater. He was known professionally as Jerry Sanders. During his career, he was Program Director of WFBL RADIO in Syracuse, NY, sports anchorman at WHEN-TV, and starred in TV series Ladybugs Garden at WNYS-TV, now in syndication. He was an Assistant Director at WTBY-TV.

Mr. Santangelo did radio play-by-play of The Syracuse Chiefs, The NY Yankees Triple-A team in the International League, radio play by play of LeMoyne College basketball and television play by play coverage of Syracuse University basketball.

For 40 years he covered PGA, LPGA and Senior PGA tour events.

Upon retiring from broadcasting, he served as President and CEO of Sanders Management Corporation. Mr. Santangelo was active in regional theater, performing with the renowned Pompeian Players, both as lead actor and drama director.

He was an avid golfer, playing to a 3 handicap in 1969. Locally he was a member of the Pleasant Valley Golf League.

A Roman Catholic, he served as presidents on Parish Councils, was a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, treasurer of the Cursillo Secretariat, Parish Baptism Committee, Parish Building committee, parish newspapers, Vicariate Councils, chaired by Bishop Mahoney and served as personal chaperone to the late Cardinal John J. O'Connor, Archbishop of New York.

Mr. Santangelo was an accomplished photographer.

He and his wife Dolores loved to travel, specializing in Old Europe.

More than anything, he loved being with Dolores. They were married for 67 years.

He married Dolores Miller at Our Lady of Perpetual Help church in Minnetto, NY on May 11, 1957. She Survives at home. He is also survived by his daughter, Virginia Leggio of Mahopac and one son Christopher of Brewster, NY. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Christian, Nicholas, Makayle, Sarah, and Lindsey, two sons-in-law, Joseph, and Tom, one daughter in law, Jennifer.

Along with his parents he is predeceased by his daughter Elizabeth Fronckowiak and his granddaughter Jacquelyn Fronckowiak.

Calling hours were held on Wednesday, April 10 at McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Thursday, April 11 at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. Interment of ashes took place on Friday April 12th at St. Denis Cemetery, 604 Beekman Rd, Hopewell Junction.

For online tributes, please visit www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Peter M. Donnelly



BEACON - We, the Donnelly family, sadly announce the passing of Peter after a debilitating illness. Peter was born in Beacon on June 6, 1944 to Rose A. (d. 2003) and Francis L. Donnelly (d. 1992) and died on April 5, 2024 in Fort Myers, Florida.

He is survived by his sister, Roseanne Myers and husband, Bill of Thornhill, Ontario and his brother, Frank Donnelly and wife, Deloris of Fort Myers, Florida. He is also survived by his two nieces, Mary-Sheila Leese (Steve) and Leila Myers and his four nephews, Neil Myers (Bernadette), Matthew (Mary), Peter (Jennifer) and David Donnelly (Shelley). In addition, he had four great nieces and seven great nephews. He is also survived by cousins in New York and Ireland.

Peter will be remembered for his quick wit as well as his athletic ability on the golf course, tennis court and basketball court. Peter was a lifelong parishioner of St. Joachim - St. John the Evangelist Church and a longtime member of the Southern Dutchess Country Club. He was a graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Providence College and he received a Masters Degree from Fordham University. Peter retired from Amsco School Publications.

Family will gather on Monday, April 22 from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m., followed by friends from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey. A Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate Peter's life will be held at 11 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Willow Street, Beacon. Burial will follow at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

Memorial donations in memory of Peter may be made to either the Church of St. Joachim - St. John the Evangelist, 2 Oak Street, Beacon, New York 12508 or the Dubin Alzheimer & Dementia Center, 12685 New Brittany Boulevard, Fort Myers, 33907.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

Martha Miller

PUTNAM VALLEY - Martha (Sis) Miller of Putnam Valley, NY passed away on April 6, 2024. She was born June 3, 1927, in Yonkers, NY to Arthur Sowdon and Martha Blythe. Martha was predeceased by her brothers Arthur and Richard Sowdon and her daughter Holly Mackin. She is survived by her daughters Blythe Tolliver and Abby Miller, her granddaughters Rachel Johnson, Elizabeth Tolliver, Jessica and Jillian Mackin and great grandchildren Nathaniel, Alex, and Allison Johnson.

Martha was a graduate of Syracuse University and had a long career as a head nurse in the ER at Phelps Memorial Hospital. She was an accomplished artist who participated in many local and group art exhibitions. Enjoy her art at marthamillerartwork.com "Gallery of Original Artwork." Martha was truly beloved by her family and will be greatly missed.

Visitation for family and friends was held on Saturday April 13 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc., 418 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570. The funeral was held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Union Free Church of Pocantico Hills, Tarrytown, NY. Burial followed at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Betty L. Tierney



EAST FISHKILL - Betty L. Tierney, 83, an area resident since 1967 and formerly of Yorktown, died peacefully on April 7, 2024 at her home.

Born in Peekskill on October 2, 1940, she was the daughter of the late Henry and Dorothy (Perry) Lyons. Betty began her career at Reader's Digest, and then worked for Albany Savings Bank until it transformed to Citizens Bank, retiring in 2001. She was a parishioner of St. Columba Church, and served as a catechist for several years. She enjoyed crocheting, painting and gardening. More than anything, Betty cherished every moment with her family.

On June 4, 1961 in Mount Kisco, Betty married the love of her life, Charles R. Tierney, who survives at home. She is also

survived by her children, Colleen DiPietro, Charles "Chic" and Peggy Tierney, Kathleen and Marko Peratikos, and Maureen and Chris Sedlacek; her son-in-law, Sean Laird; her grandchildren, Sean, Kelli, Stephanie, Jessica, Patrick, Rebecca, Timmy, Alison, Danielle, Maggie, Austin and Olivia; her great-grandchildren, Markos, Marlee, Anthony, Trinity, Charlotte, Madison, Mason, Maverick, Maddox, Antonia, Colton, Raelyn, Logan and Skylar; her siblings, Joan Cushing, Barbara Bertoldi, and Jack Lyons; any many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her daughter, Tammy Lynn Laird; and her son-in-law, Dean DiPietro.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction followed by interment in St. Denis Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation.

Barbara McCormack



WAPPINGERS FALLS - Barbara McCormack, age 83, passed away at home on April 10, 2024 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn on December 19, 1940 to the late Thomas and Margaret (Oates) Barrett. On August 19, 1961, she married the love of her life John McCormack. They had been happily married for 62 1/2 years. John survives at home.

Barbara retired in 2002 from the Dutchess County's Comptroller's office after 26 years of service.

Barbara was an outgoing, friendly and funny woman who had an infectious smile. She was well liked by everyone she met, and much loved by all her family and friends. She loved dancing wherever she could, and

doing Zumba and other exercise at the Senior Center in Wappingers Falls. She loved to sing, work in her garden, and take trips to the beach. She absolutely loved the ocean.

In addition to her loving husband John, Barbara is survived by her children: Eileen Mandigo, John P. McCormack and his wife Maureen, and Brenda Lane; her grandchildren: Laura Kumor and her husband David, Amy Tierney, Ryan Lane and Christopher Lane; her great-grandchildren: Oakley and Mason; her sister Jeannie Cullen; and her cousin Karin Laeben; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sisters Patricia Donohue and Judith Smith.

Calling hours were held on Sunday April 14th, 2024, with a funeral service taking place, at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. 895 Route 82 Hopewell Junction.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Barbara's memory to Hudson Valley Hospice www.hvhospice.org

Carol M. Carey



BEACON - Carol M. Carey, a longtime Beacon resident, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2024 with her family by her side, at the Kaplan Family Hospice Home in Newburgh, NY; at the age of 79. She was born in Middlebury, VT on February 2, 1945, daughter of the late Patrick & Agnes (nee Hickey) Hurley. Raised with her family on Bell Island, Newfoundland, Canada.

Carol worked as a bus driver for many years for the Beacon City School District, until she retired. She was an avid bingo player, would never miss a game or a call, and she loved her scratch-offs. Her greatest love was for her family, she never forgot a birthday, sometimes calling the day before, so she can still make bingo.

Carol is survived by her longtime companion Ronald Reynolds; her four children, Colleen (Stephen) Boyer, Courtney Carey, Charlene (Jay) Adams and John (Cathryn)

Walsh; her 17 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her three sisters and two brothers: Agnes (Steven) McKeon, Julia Richards, Anita (Al) Miller, Patrick (Debbie) Hurley Jr., and John (Donna) Hurley; and several nieces, nephews & friends.

Along with her parents, Carol was predeceased by her husband Charles Carey in October of 1988; her two sisters Bridget Milczewski in 1990, and Patricia 'Trish' Papula in 2016.

Her Family will receive Friends on Wednesday, April 17th from 2-4 & 7-9pm at the LIBBY FUNERAL HOME, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11am, Thursday, April 18th at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard Street, Beacon, followed by a private interment at the St. Joachim Cemetery, 325 Washington Avenue, Beacon, NY. To offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.LibbyFuneralHome.com.

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Club Green Teen visits Madam Brett Homestead



Club Green Teen, the after-school offshoot of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Green Teen Beacon Program, was invited for a tour of the historic Madam Brett Homestead recently. The Homestead is owned and operated by Melzingah Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Participants included eight youth, ages 12-13, led by Crew Leaders Desirae Smith and Messiah Gardner, age 16. The Club was guided through the home, which is the oldest in Dutchess County, by Historian Robin Lucas. The visit included a video about the home's founder, a tour of each room, and a chance to see artifacts related to Beacon's earliest history. For more information and pictures of the visit, and updates about future activities, follow Green Teen Beacon on Facebook and Instagram.

Club Green Teen poses in front of the Homestead. In back: Historian Robin Lucas, Sadie Vasquez, Desirae Smith, Luna Yawman, Kaylee Ortiz, and Messiah Gardner. In front: Saoirse Fehilly, Thalia Rodriguez, Charlie Brittain, Jude Williams, Antonio See, and Chanel Dickey.

-Courtesy photo

Public seed library now open at Grinnell Library



Carnwath Community Farming opened a public seed library at Grinnell Library on April 6. Courtney and Brian Kolb, who operate the plots at Carnwath Farms Historic Site & Park, constructed this resource for people to share and take seeds that they'd like to grow at home. Pictured is Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini with Courtney Kolb, left and Alanna Facchin, right.

-Courtesy photo

Hochul announces project to overhaul outdated DMV technology

Multi-year project will replace old technology and make future service enhancements more seamless

As part of an ongoing effort to deliver best in class customer service to New Yorkers, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has launched a multi-year project to replace and modernize a significant portion of its aging technology systems. This initiative will provide DMV customers with more efficient, secure, and convenient services, and will enable the agency to implement future technology advancements more efficiently.

"As a former County Clerk, I know first-hand the importance of the DMV in providing critical services to New Yorkers," Hochul said. "These investments are a major step forward in the DMV's strategic modernization as we look to create a quicker, easier and more convenient experience for everyone."

The DMV has entered into a contract with world-class software company FAST Enterprises, LLC, which has successfully implemented similar systems in more than 15 other states and will help DMV modernize its technology platforms and service delivery in two major stages over approximately the next four years.

Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said, "Throughout this project, we will be replacing a patchwork of outdated computer systems, software and databases that account for about 70 percent of DMV's business volume. This is a strategic investment and a huge undertaking, but we know the important role our agency plays in the lives of New Yorkers, and this project will help us serve them better, faster, and will make our customer's lives easier. It will also put our agency on a better footing for future upgrades, so our services can continue to evolve as technology improves."

Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall said, "Under Commissioner Schroeder and Governor Hochul, the partnership between county-run DMV offices and NYS DMV has never been stronger. These improvements will complement the recent upgrades we have made to our reservation

systems at all 4 Dutchess County DMV offices. For your convenience, schedule your DMV reservations at www.dutchessny.gov/dmv."

FAST Managing Partner Martin Rankin said, "We're excited to partner with the state DMV to change the way New Yorkers view driver and vehicle services. Our FastCore platform prioritizes efficiency and accessibility, so that all customers can access services in a time and place that suits their needs."

The new technology will replace and consolidate a significant portion of DMV's legacy technology footprint, some of which are over 50 years old, and will make DMV more secure, stable, and agile. Computer and system outages that have caused delays and long lines in DMV offices will become a thing of the past with the introduction of modern applications and proven successful solutions. Whether calling the DMV, going online or visiting an office in person, every customer will notice more reliable, responsive and faster service.

Through this project, DMV will introduce automation that will speed up processing times and eliminate paper forms wherever possible. It will also allow the DMV to offer more online and self-service options. The creation of comprehensive customer profiles will enable DMV staff to see customers' information in one place, allowing them to provide a more personalized experience and proactively flag upcoming issues and expirations. This project will continue DMV's efforts to focus on the customer experience in order to deliver first class service for all New Yorkers.

This change is part of a broader initiative to re-imagine the way DMV does business, which has included dozens of improvements such as greatly expanding online live chat and enhancements to the DMV online transaction portal. DMV also introduced online pre-screening for some of the most complicated transactions like applying for a REAL ID or Enhanced ID and exchanging an out of state license and implemented a robust appointment scheduling system to significantly reduce the amount of time customers wait to be served in an office. The average wait time for a customer is now a record low of 15 minutes.

Planning Committee to meet on April 24

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) will meet virtually on Wednesday, April 24, at 10 a.m. on Microsoft Teams.

There will be a short presentation on the Columbus Drive Redesign Study (Creighton Manning Engineering), fol-

lowed by updates on recent funding opportunities and several planning efforts, including the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Feasibility Study.

See the agenda for more information, including a meeting link and call-in number. Visit the calendar for meeting materials.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid#RFP-DCP-15-24

County-Wide Rescue Task Force and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Training for Police, Fire and EMS

Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 13th day of May 2024 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For

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additional information, call 845-486-3613.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2024-08.

NAME OF PROJECT: Replacement of Culvert M-15, County Road 54 Milan Hill Road, Town of Milan, Dutchess County, New York. Project Description: This project involves removal and replacement of Culvert M-15 on County Road 54 (Milan Hill Road) in the Town of Milan, Dutchess County, NY. The two existing 36 inch diameter reinforced concrete pipes will be replaced by one corrugated steel pipe arch, span 95 inches and rise 67 inches. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid

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Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess. Copies of bidding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess or by using the link provided at www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contact-

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ing the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Christopher Sterbenz, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW), 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie,

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NY 12603. On or before 11:00AM Friday, May 10, 2024, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 922 776 020#. Each

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bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business Friday May 3, 2024 and emailed

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to Christopher Sterbenz at dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is July 1, 2024; the anticipated substantial completion date is September 20, 2024. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2024004044. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.

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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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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: EUROPEAN CAPITALS

ACROSS

1. Parting words
6. Broadcasting acronym
9. Taj Mahal city
13. Ernest, to mommy
14. "Fat chance!"
15. Fits of shivering
16. Rundown
17. Historical period
18. "___ its weight in gold"
19. *Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
21. *"The City of a Hundred Spires"
23. Financial assistance
24. Bird's groomer
25. Pod nugget
28. Fountain order
30. Duck dish a certain way
35. Picture on a coat
37. Feline vibration
39. Stocking fiber
40. Stink to high heaven
41. Cocoyam, pl.
43. Pelvic bones
44. Frost over (2 words)
46. Stew bean
47. Sleeveless garment
48. Predicament
50. Snakelike fish
52. Hi-___ monitor
53. Toothy wheel
55. *Street, in capital city in #38

Down

57. *On the Danube
60. *On the Thames
63. Virtue, in Italian
64. *Street, in capital city in #25

DOWN

1. "___ the land of the free ..."
2. Cold one
3. Peruvian Empire
4. Miss America topper
5. Blood infection
6. Prepare to swallow
7. *Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple ___"
8. Parallelogram, e.g.
9. All excited
10. Spiritual leader
11. Network of nerves
12. Certain something in a tray
15. Rouse
20. Take puppy from a pound
22. "Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
24. Great ___ Reef
25. *On the Seine
26. Not slouching
27. Arabian chieftain
29. Like Roman god Janus
31. *Also the most populous city in Ukraine
32. More ill
33. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ___"
34. Annoying tiny biters
36. Arctic jaeger
38. *Located in boot-shaped country
42. Sound of artillery
45. Kind of hickory nut
49. Jack's inferior
51. Like a Grammy nominee
54. Frustration, in print
56. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
57. Source of veritas
58. Wraths
59. Volcano in Sicily
60. Ground beef description
61. Fairytale giant
62. "All You ___ Is Love"
63. Variable, abbr.
65. Put to work
67. Hog heaven

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner

This plant can melt snow

We sweat when we're hot and shiver when we're cold. Those functions that give us the ability to maintain a steady internal temperature, despite changes in external conditions, are called thermoregulation. Besides regulating body temperature, both mammals and birds can also generate their own heat through life processes and exercise. But that is not true for most plants.

Generally, plants maintain temperature homeostasis through transpiration and heat absorption. In desert climates, for example, some plants have silvery or whitish parts that reflect sunlight, keeping them cooler. In colder climates, adaptations for retaining heat include growing in the direction of the sun and having bowl-shaped petals to trap warmth. Some cold-climate plants even make antifreeze-like chemicals that prevent internal ice crystallization! But those protective mechanisms aren't the same as an internal regulation system.

Internal temperature regulation is possible among thermogenic plants, however. Like mammals and birds, thermogenic plants generate heat in their mitochondria. Scientists are trying to better understand how this process in plants works.

Eastern Swamp Cabbage can get HOT during its reproductive phase
The ability of Eastern Swamp Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) to melt through snow in early spring makes it one of the first ephemeral woodland flowers each year. Thermogenesis protects it against frost damage and allows it to germinate and sprout earlier than it otherwise could. The plant stinks up bogs and wetlands as it blooms in freezing weather. While



The Eastern Swamp Cabbage is shown in different stages of development. The "ball with spikes" in the first photo is the spadix, which is a type of inflorescence that has small flowers on a fleshy stem. The purple "hood" is the spathe, which protects the spadix. Some of the plants are just emerging in the middle picture, since the spathe has not yet opened to reveal the spadix. After the flowers have been pollinated, the spathe dies and bright green leaves resembling cabbage emerge (last photo).

- Photos by Francine Wizner



flowering, it maintains a temperature of 73 degrees F, day and night, for more than a week. Air temperatures may fluctuate, but little change is seen in the plant. After the female flowers bloom, the male flowers release pollen.

That's just in time. Certain flies and beetles are attracted to the smell. They enter the flower and help ensure future generations by transferring pollen from one plant to the next. The aroma of *Symplocarpus foetidus* spreads well with the help of the heat it produces.

Cousins

As a species, *Symplocarpus foetidus* is believed to have evolved its near-current state during the Cretaceous period. Its system has been working for at least 66 million years. As individual specimens, the plants are so deeply anchored that they can live for decades, or possibly even centuries.

With such a successful evolutionary strategy, it's not surprising to learn that Eastern Swamp Cabbage has a cousin. Both are members of the family Araceae. The eastern and western varieties have some commonalities. They both grow in forested, watery environments. Both flower for similar durations in the early spring. They are both pollinated by flying insects, have large leaves, a spathe, and a spadix with tiny flowers. And, of course, both Eastern and Western Swamp Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) stink!

But these cousins are also quite different. While the Eastern Swamp Cabbage has a purple and yellow overarching spathe, with a rounded purple spadix, the Western Swamp Cabbage has an open yellow spathe and spadix, that is elongated. And, most importantly, Western Swamp Cabbages are not thermogenic.

This is an illustration of one problem of using common names (rather than scientific names) for living things. These two plants are both called Swamp Cabbage, but they are quite different. Researchers use scientific names to refer to the organisms they study so that there is no confusion. Not all swamp cabbages are created equally!

Scaffolding into Spring

Eastern Swamp Cabbage is a common, yet uncommon flower. It can present teachers with an opportunity to dis-

cuss varied scientific topics. It is a familiar plant which grows along many roadsides. The greenery of its leaves contrast against the previous year's dead foliage and marshy soil as winter comes to an end.

Once you notice something special in your environment that you never realized before, it becomes more intriguing. When children (and adults) recognize this native, but unique, organism, they can make connections to other, more difficult to understand concepts. Knowing about something in your environment helps establish a framework for learning new things. Eastern Swamp Cabbage offers a way to make connections to concepts like homeostasis, pollination, evolution, and taxonomy.

I have a "garden" of these pungent and exquisitely unusual wildflowers ... these sultry snow melters of the vernal equinox. It is true that most people don't think of flowers smelling putrid. I find those that do particularly fascinating. The beautiful huge green leaves of Eastern Swamp Cabbage are a welcome harbinger of spring. The plant can "magically" chase away the frozen snow with its own internal "furnace."

Happy Spring, Everyone!!

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

Eight weeks to experience 'the joy of sailing'

Experience the joy of sailing. Eight consecutive Wednesday evenings starting April 17, at 7 p.m. located at the Beacon Sloop Club in Beacon.

"Learn how to channel the natural power of the wind and tides and appreciate the Hudson the way river travelers down through the centuries have experienced it. You will learn the accumulated wisdom of the ages from some of the finest sailors on the Hudson River, as you embark on a lifetime of learning to sail, in a friendly and encouraging setting." Robert May, President, Beacon Sloop Club

- April 17 Introduction, Registration, Knots, Gear, Clothing, Basic safety, Introduction to the Sloop Club and Sloop Woody Guthrie: Instructor James Malchow
- April 24 Upwind Sailing: Instructor Steve Schwartz
- May 1 Downwind Sailing: Instructor

- Tom LaBarr
- May 8 Rules of the Road, Aids to Navigation and Charts: Instructor Ben Mazer
- May 15 Anchoring, Mooring and Docking: Instructor Tom Larr
- May 22 Safety and Emergency: Instructors Betsy Garthwaite, Steve Schwartz
- May 29 Weather, Tides and Currents: Instructor Steve Schwartz
- June 5 Course Review—Post test review, Awards/Certificates, Community Resources (Woody Sail if available: Instructor James Malchow
- The fee of \$50 includes all 8 classes and text book. There is a \$25 per class for a second person from the same household, sharing a book or someone who is repeating the class and has a book.
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