

# BEACON FREE PRESS

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## BCSD students perform in Winter Concerts

By Kristine Coulter

Students in the Beacon City School District (BCSD) schools are holding Winter Concerts.

Teacher Susan Fisher stated via email, "There are over 1,000 students from BCSD grades 3-12 participating in the upcoming Winter Concerts."

Fisher explained, "Music is chosen by our twelve music teachers and reflects a wide range of styles: jazz, gospel, classical, and popular. There are also traditional seasonal songs."

The rehearsals are part of the students' curriculum, according to Fisher, and rehearsals have been going very well.

Fisher said student Aadriyah, who is in the Beacon High School Chorus, is "looking forward to singing with her classmates and her favorite song the chorus will perform is "The Chanukah Song (We Are Lights)." Lyrics are by Steve Young. Stephen Schwartz wrote the music.

Part of the lyrics include: "We are glowing, growing miracles, we are lights."

The song "Dusk" by Steven Bryant is the favorite song of Gabriel, a Beacon High School Band student. Gabriel told Fisher he "enjoys the atmosphere and feeling of playing for people." He also likes "the pressure of performing" and he likes to share music.

"The public should know that these concerts are free, and they are open to the public," said Fisher.

Jennifer Matus is the band teacher at Glenham Elementary School and J.V. Forrestal Elementary School.

There are 19 fifth grade students in band at Glenham. Forrestal has 17 band students, said Matus.

Matus said, "They will be performing three songs. Merry Kisimusi ("God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman") arranged by Victor Lopez, "Hanukkah O' Hanukkah" and "Machu Picchu (The Lost City)" by Timothy Loest.

How have rehearsals been going? Matus said she has been pleased with the students' practicing.

She added: "The students come for a 45-minute small group lesson and a rehearsal with everyone who plays an instrument once each week. The students have approximately ten rehearsals to learn the concert music and prepare for the performance."

A couple of Matus' students said, "I am looking forward to playing in front of a large audience." and "I just enjoy playing music on the big stage!"

Concerts are at 7 p.m. at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, in the Seeger Theatre. The concert schedule is as follows:

- South Ave. Elementary School, Dec. 12
- Glenham Elementary School, Dec. 17
- J.V. Forrestal Elementary School, Dec. 18
- Beacon High School, Dec. 19

Sargent Elementary School performed in concert on Dec. 10 and Rombout Middle School's concert was Dec. 5.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Clara Lou Gould 'loved the City of Beacon'

By Kristine Coulter

The funeral for former Beacon Mayor Clara Lou Gould was held on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Gould, the first female mayor of the City Beacon and longest serving female mayor in NYS history, died on Dec. 2 at the age of 97. She was the daughter of Michael and Clara Malone. Gould was born in Cold Spring, Putnam County.

#### Remembering a former mayor

At the Dec. 2 City Council meeting Mayor Lee Kyriacou announced the flags across the city would be lowered to half-staff in honor of Gould for the week.

"I'll ask for a moment of silence for the passing of Clara Lou Gould," said Kyriacou during the meeting at City Hall.

Peter Forman, a Beacon resident and friend of Gould's, was the City Attorney for nine years. Forman told the Council that he and Pam Barrack, another friend of Gould's and a public servant, expressed appreciation for the extended courtesies to Gould from the council.

"She was a wonderful woman. She worked very hard for the City of Beacon. She loved the City of Beacon," stated Forman.

"She was very active, other than being mayor of Beacon," said Barrack, during the meeting. "We're going to miss her terribly."



Former Beacon Mayor Clara Lou Gould during a ceremony honoring her in 2019. Gould died on Dec. 2 at the age of 97.

-Archive photo by Kristine Coulter

Continued on page 2

## Feedback positive on Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Survey

By Kristine Coulter

A summary of responses regarding a possible Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Survey were released by Dutchess County. The online survey was taken from April 2 - July 10. Pop-up in-person surveys were conducted at the Beacon's Farmer's Market and the Sons of Italy Festival in East Fishkill earlier this summer, according to officials.

According to the summary, which was released in late Nov., "Overall, feedback was highly positive, with many responses highlighting the trail's potential to improve community connectivity, provide recreational opportunities, and enhance local quality of life."

Those who entered a zip code for the survey, 61% were from Beacon, Fishkill, East Fishkill; 86% said they were from Dutchess County. Forty percent who participated in the survey, said they visited the area recreationally.

One of the survey questions was to designate specific locations on a map for their top amenities. According to the results, "Popular locators included the areas near the Beacon Train Station, Madam Bret Park, and East Main Street in Beacon; near Jean Van Pelt Park and Doug Philips Park in the Town of Fishkill; near Route 9 and Sarah Taylor Park in the Village of Fishkill; and the Hopewell Depot area in East Fishkill, where the Beacon Line intersects with the Dutchess Rail Trail and Maybrook Trailway."

Among the key benefits respondents



A survey for a possible Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Survey was taken during a pop-up stop in East Fishkill during the summer.

-Courtesy photo

saw for the trail are:

- Community Connectivity
- Recreational Opportunities/Health & Wellness
- Economic Impact
- Environmental and Aesthetic Benefits

Among some of the concerns that were brought up by respondents are safety, according to the survey results, were environmental impact, security/privacy, cost and logistics, and parking, according to survey results.

Continued on page 5

## IN MEMORIAM

## Clara Lou Gould 'loved the City of Beacon'

Continued from cover

**Her life before public service**

Gould graduated from the College of New Rochelle, in Westchester County. Before her career in politics, Gould went on to work in New York City for Viking Press and Harold Ober Associates. While working in New York City, she worked with mystery author Agatha Christie, according to Forman.

Gould married Texaco Research Center chemist Bob Gould in 1954. It was in 1960 that the couple moved to Beacon where Gould would become involved with the former Highland Hospital, off Delavan Ave., and chaired the Highland Hospital Auxiliary, according to Forman.

Gould also became a member of the Tioronda Garden Club, and eventually became the club's president. She was also a District Director of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, stated Forman.

"The Tioronda Garden Club joins in mourning the passing of former City of Beacon Mayor and Garden Club member Clara Lou Gould. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time," read a post on The Tioronda Garden Club's Facebook page.

The future mayor, noted Forman, also served on the Beacon Beautification Committee and on the board of directors of the Fishkill National Bank for many years.

**Gould's years as mayor**

Gould was elected to her first term as mayor in 1989. All five seats on the Council at that time were filled by Republicans. According to Forman, the City's Charter was substantially modified to a "Strong Mayor" form of government.

It was during her administration that the first City Administrator was appointed. Gould and City Administrator Joseph Braun served until her retirement in 2007. Gould won re-election in 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003.

Kyriacou said, "Clara Lou was my mayor. I got on the Council in 1993." He noted the City Charter vote was in 1989, and the first election under the new system was in 1991.

"I will always refer to Clara Lou as 'Mayor,'" said Kyriacou, who mentioned he visited her in November to invite her to the recent grand opening of the new central City of Beacon fire station, but she was unable to attend.

Forman noted Gould negotiated a revised water and sewer contract with the New York State Department of Corrections. A water filtration plant opened and that led to the lifting of a new commercial development moratorium. She also oversaw the 1997 building and combination of the City of



Former Beacon Mayor Clara Lou Gould died on Dec. 2 at the age of 97. Clockwise from above: Gould with Tioronda Garden Club President Gary Barrack during a ceremony honoring her outside of the Municipal Building in Beacon in 2019. Gould photographed during her childhood. A neglected apartment on Main St. in the early 1980s, before the city of Beacon's revitalization.

-Courtesy photos by Beacon Historical Society



Municipal Building at its current location at Municipal Plaza.

"Clara Lou had a marvelous vision for Beacon -- and she never wavered in making decisions that she thought were in the city's best interest. When she was first elected, Main Street was suffering. And I guess you could say that the whole city suffered as a result. But she saw more than boarded up buildings and abandoned factories. She saw great architectural charm, she saw the potential for work/life spaces, she saw our magnificent setting between river and mountain --and she saw the strong sense of community that existed here," said Denise VanBuren, a friend of Gould's and president of the Beacon Historical Society.

Gould also made sure the next generation knew about government and its citizens' responsibility to participate in government. She read to 5th graders in the Beacon City School District and held Senior Tea with Beacon High School students. Forman noted that Gould was asked one time by a student if it was possible for a boy to become mayor.

**Dia Beacon remembers Gould**

Jessica Morgan is the current director of the Dia Art Foundation. Dia Beacon is located in the former Nabisco factory building. Gould was instrumental in bringing Dia Beacon to Beacon.



According to Forman, in 2003 this accomplishment kick-started the migration of artists, families, art-related businesses, restaurants and other commercial attractions to Beacon. This reinvigorated Main St., which continues today.

"Dia -- it was not a straightforward process," said Kyriacou, everyone "was looking for what was the vision going forward.

"There were times we weren't sure it was going to happen. Clara Lou was one of those people who made sure to 'keep pushing and would go through,'" Forman explained.

"We were deeply saddened to hear of Clara Lou Gould's passing [last] week. Clara was a powerhouse and a deeply beloved leader in the Beacon community. She was instrumental in Beacon's transformation to the lively town it is today, and was crucial in bringing our dreams for Dia Beacon alive. We will be forever grateful for her support and send our condolences to her family and her many friends," Morgan said in a statement to the Beacon Free Press.

**Honoring the longest-serving mayor in NYS history**  
During former mayor Randy Casale's

administration, Gould was honored with a plaque and bench outside of the Municipal Building on her 92nd birthday in 2019. When she retired, Gould was the longest-serving female mayor in the state.

"She was a very humble mayor. 'You cannot imagine how much you get done if you don't care who gets credit,' that was her motto," stated Forman. He said Gould never jumped in front of cameras but was always working behind the scenes.

VanBuren said, "In her calm, quiet way, she led Beacon forward -- she did it largely by encouraging people like Ron and Ronnie Beth Sauers, who were willing to invest when others neglected their buildings or simply walked away. She did it by strongly supporting code enforcement to bring buildings to a safe state. She did it by encouraging groups like the Historical Society and the Garden Club to flourish. She did it by encouraging a sense of 'possibilities' in all of us who love Beacon. She was, in every sense of the word, a community servant."

"Clara Lou, we will miss you," said Kyriacou.



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# Dutchess County's Partnership for Manageable Growth marks milestone

## PMG preserves 5,000 acres of farmland



Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino joined County, municipal and land conservancy partners at Obercreek Farm in Wappinger earlier this autumn to celebrate the latest Partnership for Manageable Growth preservation project.



A scenic view of Obercreek Farm in the Town of Wappinger, taken earlier this autumn

-Courtesy photos by Dutchess County Government

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino announced on Dec. 6 that the County's Partnership for Manageable Growth (PMG) has officially preserved more than 5,000 acres of vital farmland since the program's inception in 1999. This milestone was achieved following the latest PMG acquisition, a 143-acre easement at Obercreek Farm in the Town of Wappinger, demonstrating Dutchess County's continued commitment to safeguarding its environmental resources and supporting sustainable development.

Serino said, "Dutchess County is incredibly proud of reaching this major milestone in land preservation. The Partnership for Manageable Growth has long been a cornerstone of Dutchess County's efforts to protect the environment, preserve local agriculture and maintain the scenic and rural quality of life that makes our community so special. By preserving more than 5,000 acres of farmland, we have ensured the future of farming while allowing for smart, sustainable

growth."

Established a quarter-century ago, the PMG was designed to address the growing need to balance economic development and environmental conservation and has become a model for how counties can proactively manage growth while protecting their natural resources. The program was designed to fund the acquisition of land or development rights to protect valuable farmland and open spaces, enabling Dutchess County to assist farmers, landowners and local land conservancies to preserve viable agricultural farmland and open space. Farmlands, such as Obercreek Farm, are protected through conservation easements so they are able to remain in active agricultural production in perpetuity, furthering Dutchess County's support of local agriculture.

Obercreek Farm is the 29th farmland protection project completed under the PMG since 1999. The program was established to implement the goals of the Dutchess County Agricultural and

Farmland Protection Plan, adopted in 1998, preserving the County's rural character, natural beauty and agrarian heritage. In all, through the PMG, the County has protected 39 – both farmland and open space projects – in every region of Dutchess County, worth a total of more than \$42 million. The County's PMG funding provided 25 percent of the cost, or \$481,981; the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets contributed \$1,442,378; and the Dutchess Land Conservancy contributed \$6,000.

Certified as an organic farm by the United States Department of Agriculture, Obercreek Farm grows diversified seasonal vegetables, herbs, flowers and hops for its on-farm store and brewery. The farm property, has been in family ownership since the 1850s and is one of only a few active agricultural properties still operating in the Town of Wappinger; 143 acres of the 186-acre farm will be protected.

In addition to the ecological benefits, land preservation through PMG supports

the economic viability of the County's agricultural industry, which remains a significant contributor to the local economy. Farmers who have participated in the program have benefited from the protection of their land from future development, allowing them to continue farming for generations to come.

Eoin Wrafter, Commissioner of the County's Department of Planning & Development, said, "Preserving more than 5,000 acres is a testament to the collaboration between Dutchess County, landowners, local municipalities, and land conservation organizations. Our PMG success reflects a shared dedication to ensuring a balance between protecting the environment and supporting smart development in our communities."

Additional information about the PMG program is available on the Department of Planning & Development's webpage: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Partnership-for-Manageable-Growth.htm>.

## Community Services Board to meet Dec. 16

The Dutchess County Community Services Board will be holding their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Dec. 16, at noon at the Community Mental Health Center at 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie or you may participate via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Join by phone by dialing 1-516-268-4602 and enter

Conference ID number 130 029 923#.

The Dutchess County Community Services Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January and February (which due to holidays are held the 4th Monday of those months) and there is no meeting in August.

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

### Community Services Board Meetings for 2025:

- January 27
- February 24
- March 17
- April 21
- May 19

- June 16
- July 21
- September 15
- October 20
- November 17
- December 15

The public is welcome to attend. For more information, contact 845-486-2754.

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# December is leading month for U.S. home fires

Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals – hallmarks of the holiday season – present potential fire hazards that collectively contribute to an increase in U.S. home fires each December. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve were the second- and third-leading days of the year for home cooking fires, respectively, in 2022.

“When people are busy and trying to do many things at once, they’re more likely to get distracted from what’s on the stove or in the oven. Knowing that unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires year-round, it’s easy to see why the number of cooking fires spikes on these days,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy.

### Candles and lighting

Decorating homes with electrical lighting and candles also contributes to a higher fire risk during the holiday season. Between 2018 and 2022, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 835 home

structure fires that began with decorations (excluding Christmas trees). Year-round, approximately one-third (32 percent) of home decoration fires were started by candles; in December, that number jumped to almost half (46 percent).

### Christmas trees

Christmas tree fires don’t happen very often, but when they do, they tend to be more serious. An annual average of 155 home Christmas tree fires resulted in four civilian deaths, seven civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage, with electrical distribution or lighting equipment involved in more than two in five home Christmas tree fires.

### Lithium-ion batteries

Many people will be buying and gifting electronic devices that contain lithium-ion batteries. As the use of these devices has increased in recent years, so too has the number of related fires. It’s important to understand the risks associated with these batteries and ways to prevent them:

- Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.

- Use charging equipment that is only compatible with your device. To be safe, use only the charging equipment that is supplied with your device.

- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take the batteries to a battery recycling location or contact your local waste department for disposal instructions.

- Stop using your device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling, or change in color.

- Only have device repairs performed by a qualified professional.

“The commonality between the vast majority of all these fires is that they’re largely preventable,” said Carli. “By understanding when and where potential

risks exist, people can take simple steps to reduce their likelihood, which can go a long way toward ensuring a festive, fire-free holiday season.”

NFPA offers a wealth of information and resources to help minimize the likelihood of cooking, candle, Christmas tree, and decoration fires. Learn more at [nfpa.org/winterholidaysafety](http://nfpa.org/winterholidaysafety)

### About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

## Drug Task Force: Community complaints lead to alleged fentanyl dealer and associate arrest

The Dutchess County District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force received reports of narcotic and dangerous drug dealing in the area of 60 Carroll Street, a large apartment building on the south side of Poughkeepsie.

According to a press release, Drug Task Force Agents identified Stephen Bai, 39, a City of Poughkeepsie resident, as an alleged narcotic and dangerous drug dealer operating out of an apartment in that building. Drug Task Force Agents were allegedly able to make several purchases of fentanyl from Bai resulting in a search warrant being issued by the City of Poughkeepsie Court.

In the early morning hour of Dec. 4, Drug Task Force Agents and the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Services Unit executed the search warrant at the apartment and located Bai where he was arrested. Within Bai’s apartment, Agents allegedly found fentanyl, cocaine, and a significant amount of drug sale packaging along with scales.

In addition to Bai, Agents executing the search warrant located an associate identified as Angela Martinez, 38, who

had an active arrest warrant for felony drug possession. Martinez was allegedly also found in possession of felony weight of crack cocaine when she was taken into custody by DTF Agents.

Bai was charged with the following, according to the task force:

(2) Counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance (fentanyl) in the 3rd degree, a class B Felony.

Mr. Bai was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released as required by New York State Law.

\*Additional charges are pending against Bai as a result of this investigation.

Martinez was charged with the following in addition to her outstanding arrest warrant, according to the task force:

(1) Count of Criminal Possession of Controlled Substance in the 4th degree, a class C Felony. Martinez was arraigned in the City of Poughkeepsie Court and released as required by New York State Law. Martinez was then turned over to the Town of Poughkeepsie Police to be processed on her outstanding felony drug warrant.


\*Additional charges are pending against Martinez as a result of this investigation.

The Drug Task Force continues to respond to community requests for assistance when narcotic and dangerous drug dealers are selling poison in their communities. Fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine continue to be a serious public health risk to community members as well as first responders.

If anyone has information regarding

this case or about any other individuals selling drugs in Dutchess County, you are urged to contact the Drug Task Force confidential tip line at 845-463-6040 or by sending an email to the following address: [DrugTaskForceTips@gmail.com](mailto:DrugTaskForceTips@gmail.com)

As with any criminal case, the charges described above are merely an accusation and those individuals named in this release are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

**BEACON FREE PRESS**

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- 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.

**NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE**

Due to holiday press schedules for the Dec. 25, and Jan. 1, 2025 issues, the Beacon Free Press has early deadlines for both papers.

For the Dec. 25 issue: Advertising is due by Thursday, Dec. 19. Editorial submissions must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 18.

For the Jan. 1 issue: Editorial submissions must be received by Monday, Dec. 23. Advertising is due by Thursday, Dec. 26.

Please contact [cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com](mailto:cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com) for more information

### Photo Credit

The photo for the Hop + Shop article in the Dec. 4, 2024 edition on the cover has a photo credit by Alicia King Photography.

# Sign up for the Mount Gulian Children's Holiday Tea by Dec. 17

By Kristine Coulter

Sign up for the annual Children's Holiday Tea at the Mount Gulian Historic Site, 145 Sterling St., in Beacon, on Friday, Dec. 27. The annual tradition will be held from noon – 2 p.m. The Holiday Tea sells out early, so make one's reservations before Dec. 17. Admission is \$18 for children and \$25 for adults.

"We are greatly looking forward to welcoming young visitors and their families to the homestead. Many of our young guests dress for the occasion, boys and girls alike. Everyone learns about the tradition of afternoon tea, when Victorian ladies and their gentlemen met for tea, refreshments, and light conversation" said Elaine Hayes, Executive Director. "Afternoon teas were popular at many Hudson Valley homes, including Mount Gulian, home of the Verplanck family. This event replicates a once common tradition, when days were far less hectic."

According to organizers, the menu will include assorted Harney & Sons teas, dainty finger sandwiches prepared by The Bagel Shoppe in Fishkill and a selection of homemade desserts.

"Mount Gulian's Children's Holiday Tea brings families together in a festive atmosphere. It's become a special tradition for children and their families.



Sign up by Dec. 17 for the annual Children's Holiday Tea at Mount Gulian Historic Site. The tea is set for Dec. 27.

-Courtesy photo

I've been told recently that two young boys, who attended the Tea with their grandmother years ago, still talk about the fun they had. And girls love the Tea too, especially getting dressed

up for it. Our site is decked out for the holidays, and everyone enjoys learning about Victorian Era tea customs," said Hayes.

Children to the homestead will have

the chance to make a Victorian-inspired craft project.

"Our guests can expect an event that combines fun, good manners and education about a bygone era, in an authentic location where social teas were once standard fare. Our homestead's rooms will be beautifully decorated with fresh greens, and tables will be set with traditional fine linen and china. Our afternoon tea replicates a once common tradition, when days were far less hectic. Dainty finger sandwiches prepared by The Bagel Shoppe, Fishkill, and a selection of homemade desserts will be on the menu, as well as an assortment of Harney & Sons teas," Hayes explained.

She also noted: "Today, families are often fragmented and live far apart. Our Tea is a great opportunity to see different generations coming together and enjoying a memorable event. It reinforces my thinking that Mount Gulian is a great community resource - not only by providing educational programs for youngsters and adults, but that our special events create positive feelings about the importance of history and is relevant to our daily lives."

For reservations and further information call 845-831-8172 or email info@mountgulian.org.

## Cary Institute scientist co-authors study on cooling effects of urban trees

How many trees does it take to cool a city? Until now, data on the cooling effects of urban trees was only available at the neighborhood level. A new study offers a tool to scale up the data to inform city-wide greening efforts.

Cities around the globe are increasingly experiencing dangerous heat as urban concrete and asphalt amplify rising temperatures. Tree-planting programs are a popular, nature-based way to cool cities, but these initiatives have been largely based on guesswork and extrapolation.

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies announced that a recent study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences offers a new tool for urban planners and decision makers to set more specific and science-based city-wide greening goals.

The study is led by Jia Wang, Weiqi Zhou, and Yuguo Qian at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and co-authored by Steward Pickett, an urban ecologist at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

"Trees offer many benefits to cities, and cooling is one of them," Pickett explained. "Trees are good at cooling because they pump a lot of water from the

ground into the air, and when that water evaporates at the leaf surface, it absorbs a vast amount of heat. That's just the physics of evaporation. The shade provided by trees also helps with cooling."

To date, most studies measuring the cooling effects of urban trees focus on the hyperlocal level, such as on a particular street or neighborhood. When the urban tree canopy expands by 1%, for example, nearby temperatures may decrease by 0.04 to 0.57 degrees Celsius.

"That's valuable, but planners and decision makers are thinking about the whole city," said Pickett. "They're asking, 'How much tree canopy do we need for the whole city? What happens when we scale it up?' And that information hasn't been available."

It wasn't clear whether the fine-scale results could be extrapolated to the city scale. So, the researchers set out to determine how trees' cooling efficiency — the temperature reduction associated with a 1% increase urban tree canopy — changes across larger areas.

The team analyzed satellite imagery and temperature data from four cities with very different climates: Beijing and

Shenzhen in China, and Baltimore and Sacramento in the US. Baltimore and Beijing are temperate, Shenzhen is subtropical, and Sacramento is in a Mediterranean climate zone. First, they divided each city into pixels approximately the size of a city block. For each pixel, they measured the land surface temperature and how much of the ground was covered by trees. Then they ran the same analyses across larger and larger sections of each city, spanning the neighborhood level, city level, and beyond. Finally, they calculated how the mathematical relationship between greenery and temperature — the cooling efficiency — changed at different scales.

Overall, the team discovered that the cooling efficiency of urban trees increased at larger scales. But it did so at a slower rate at larger unit sizes. In Beijing, for example, a 1% increase in canopy at the block level decreases temperature by about 0.06 degrees, whereas a 1% increase in canopy at the city level could decrease temperature by about 0.18 degrees.

The additional benefit at larger scales seems to come from being able to include

large groups of trees, which have a larger cooling capacity.

With greater clarity about the relationships between area, tree canopy cover, and cooling effects, the paper makes it possible to predict cooling effects at the whole-city scale, offering a valuable tool for managers to set urban tree canopy goals to reduce extreme heat.

Co-author Weiqi Zhou notes, "We found that cooling efficiency follows a power law across scales — from as small as 120 by 120 meters to as large as regions covering the entire city. The relationship holds across all four of the studied cities, which are in very different climates. This suggests that it could be used to predict the amount of additional tree cover needed to achieve specific heat mitigation and climate adaptation goals in cities worldwide."

While the paper provides essential information for decision-making at the municipal level, Pickett cautions that urban planners may also need to work at smaller scales to ensure that urban trees — and their potential benefits — are distributed equitably across the city, and with community buy-in.

## Feedback positive on Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Survey

Continued from cover

According to the results from the survey, some of the other feedback was:

- Trail Design and Maintenance: Respondents suggested amenities like benches, restrooms, and emergency call stations; ensuring the trail is accessible for all, including people with disabilities; and maintaining the trail to keep it clean and ensure safety.

- Integration and Connectivity: There is interest in linking the trail with communities, local businesses, other trails and transportation options, and ideas for enhancing the trail's appeal with art, landscaping, and community events.

- Expanding Access: Some comments emphasized the importance of creating safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists on nearby streets to reach the trail without needing a car. Others suggested that the trail could serve as a viable commuter

option, particularly by accommodating e-bike use, including snow removal, and extending hours of operation.

- Preservation of Rail Use: Several comments advocated for maintaining the railroad tracks for future light rail, trolley, or rail bike use.

- Community Involvement: Several respondents offered volunteer support and financial contributions, reflecting strong community commitment.

When evaluating the potential for a rail trail, the most important factor identified by respondents was connecting to key destinations and neighborhoods - about 70% considered this a top priority, stated the results. Over 50% chose accessibility for all ages and abilities, and a similar proportion selected safety and security, it was stated.

Respondents were asked evaluating the potential for the rail trail, they responded that connecting to a key destination and neighborhoods was a top priority.

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# The Surveyors of Dutchess County

By Aidan Chisamore

*“Mark well the land, for it is our most valuable asset.”*

This quotation is commonly attributed to George Washington. While it remains uncertain whether the President actually uttered these words, the association underscores the crucial role of land surveying in pre-modern America. Land surveying, or the process of measuring and establishing property boundaries, was once a respected profession for the educated elite in America, lasting until the late nineteenth century. Many of the Founding Fathers, including Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, were surveyors themselves. Dutchess County’s land surveyors reflected these important social and political roles. One of the best examples of surveying in the county is found in the expansive Van Vliet Collection, held in the archives of the Dutchess County Historical Society. This collection offers a rich personal and communal history of land surveying, containing hundreds of letters, maps, and survey notes. These documents reveal a prominent, multigenerational, and inter-familial system that operated in the local area into the late nineteenth century, showcasing land surveying within the Van Vliet family as both an artistic endeavor and an expression of family memory.

To understand Van Vliet family surveying, it is essential to first look to their immediate neighbors. Located in the area of Pleasant Plains in the Town of Clinton, the Van Vliet home bordered the Spencer family farm on Rymph Road, where Milea Estate Vineyards now sits. Dozens of letters between the two families reveal personal connections that included lifelong friendships, shared holidays, and frequent gifts. It was through the Spencer family that the Van Vliets were introduced to mathematical systems and surveying procedures.

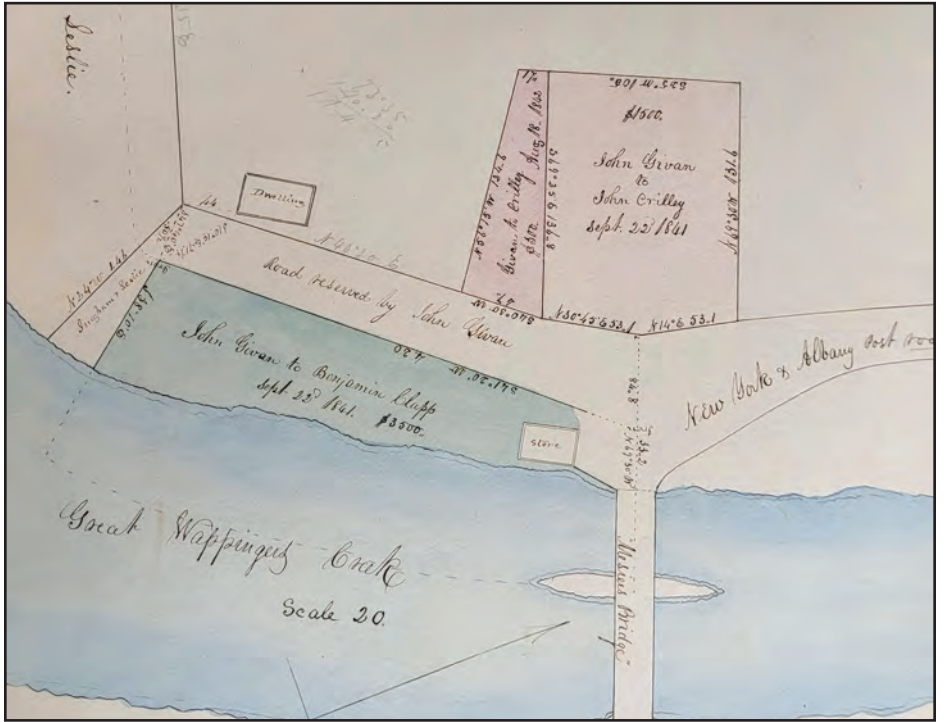
The first known surveyor in the Spencer family was Reuben Spencer, Sr. (1754-c.1806). During the Revolutionary War, Spencer served as a captain in the Fourth Regiment of Dutchess. Helena Van Vliet, writing in “Early Land Surveying in Clinton: A Bicentennial Review” (1976), noted that Spencer was a land surveyor “of more than local repute.” She also claimed that he joined Washington on the president’s survey expeditions to the Ohio Territory. While it is unlikely that the young Spencer participated in Washington’s surveys, Helena Van Vliet’s article highlights the significant social status of land surveyors. It also helped connect the Van Vliet family’s surveying heritage directly

to Washington.

Despite Spencer’s prominent role in family memory, it was his son, Reuben Spencer, Jr. (1774-1864), who brought surveying to the Van Vliet family. In a letter to Henry R. Van Vliet (1833-1914) dated 1855, Spencer, Jr. recounts that his father encouraged him to pursue surveying, even financing his education at an academy in Kingston, the best in the state. After completing his studies, Spencer, Jr. worked as a navigator for several years before settling in the village of Hyde Park, where he established a surveying business. By the 1820s, he expanded his operations to include a boarding school for aspiring navigators and surveyors. Advertisements in the Poughkeepsie Journal from the early 1820s promoted the school as offering “various branches of English education,” specializing in “practical mathematics.” These advertisements underscore Spencer’s legacy as an educator, training the next generation of Dutchess County surveyors. A role which Spencer also assumed in his interactions with the Van Vliet family.

Spencer’s first pupil was George Van Vliet, whether through private tutoring or attendance at the new boarding school. After his time with Spencer, Van Vliet became a county surveyor who ran a business on Main Street in Poughkeepsie. During his career, George worked with prominent civil engineers, such as Henry Winfield, and became a well-known name throughout the county. Indeed, his reputation grew such that when he sold an old set of surveying instruments in 1846, the buyer George B. Lent used them as his primary method of advertising his new surveying business in issues of the Poughkeepsie Eagle. Throughout Van Vliet’s life, he produced numerous maps and surveys, many of which drew directly from Spencer’s work. These documents represented numerous sites across the county in visually stunning, hand-drawn, and painted maps (see photo, above right).

While he had successful pupils, Spencer’s boarding school was short-lived. The surveyor relocated his business to Poughkeepsie in late 1823, and again in 1828 to New York City, where he was appointed Surveyor of the City and County of New York. By the early 1840s, Spencer had retired from his work in New York City and moved to Little Rockfish, North Carolina. Despite the distance and his advancing age, Spencer continued to visit and correspond with the Van Vliet family in “Old Dutchess.” During one such visit in 1853, Spencer met Levi Van Vliet’s son, Henry R. Van Vliet.



One of the visually stunning, hand-drawn, and painted maps.

Recognizing his potential as a surveyor, Spencer wrote a strongly worded letter of recommendation to the Claverack Academy.

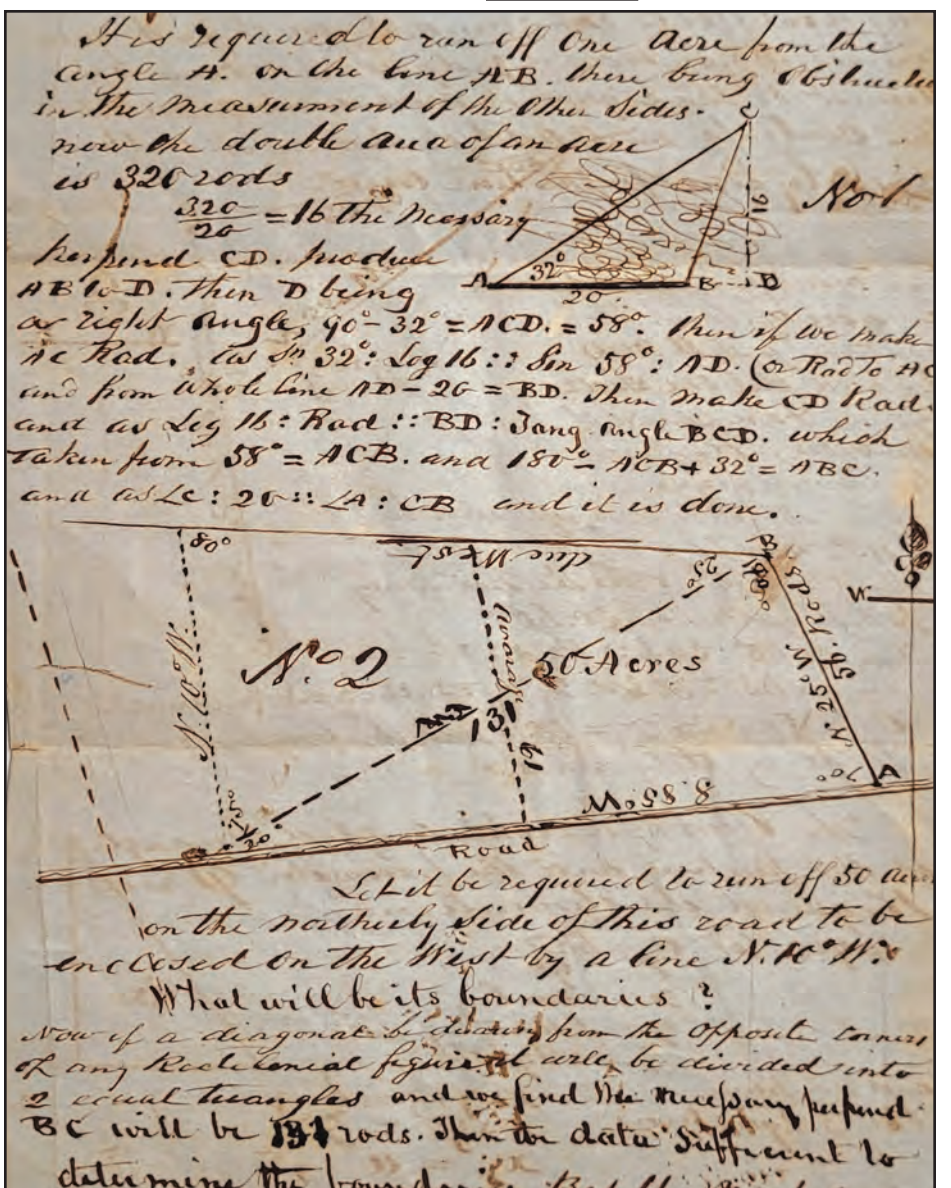
When the Academy rejected Henry later that year, Spencer and the young Van Vliet began a long series of correspondences. In these letters, Spencer offered advice on securing a surveying position, discussed the moral and practical value of surveying, and tested Henry with practical math problems (photo, below). These letters clearly show Spencer’s belief in Henry’s potential as a surveyor. Indeed, as Spencer wrote in his last correspondence to Henry in February 1856, “You must become the county surveyor for Dutchess County.” Moreover, this correspondence emphasized the value of surveying, highlighting the moral and ethical responsibilities of the position. Spencer claimed these responsibilities derived from religious and legal authority.

Though Henry Van Vliet did eventually attend the Academy, he did not pursue surveying full-time. Instead, he took over his father’s farm and only practiced surveying as a secondary occupation. Nevertheless, these educational exchanges left a lasting impact on Henry, who remained in contact with the Spencer family until Reuben Spencer’s death in 1864.

Returning to the quotation attributed to Washington, we are reminded why this analysis of two surveying families is significant to the broader history of our county. Most notably, we think of the lasting visual remnant in maps and survey minutes that delineate property boundaries and physical features—items that took great effort and time to create, and which progressed beyond their practical roles, becoming works of art. This study seeks to understand the people who created these documents, so we may gain a deeper understanding of the land they depicted and the choices they made in depicting them. By examining these artistic expressions, linked through personal connections, we glimpse a shared understanding of Dutchess County throughout the nineteenth century, and we can begin to critically analyze how the county has been visually represented. I am grateful to Martin Bayard, a local land surveyor, who inspired me to write about surveying. I am indebted to his deep knowledge of the subject.



Aidan Chisamore is part of DCHS’s staff. He works in Collections and Archives and may be reached at aidan.chisamore@dchsn.org.



One of the letters of correspondence between Henry Van Vliet and Reuben Spencer Sr.

-Courtesy images from Dutchess County Historical Society

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that's italian!

by luigi coppola



# Do it the right way

Is Pop forgetful? Or is he just messing with Luigi's mind?

My father can be very headstrong. Needless to say, he has a certain way of doing things, and it is the only way to do them right. Growing up, I was constantly taught lesson after lesson and, as such, these lessons are permanently stamped in my brain. Many times, when I am preparing something I can hear his voice in the back of my head yelling at me to do it the right way and not take a short cut. Unfortunately, as Pop gets older, he doesn't quite remember the way he taught us.

One day, I was in the process of preparing the ingredients for our Bolognese sauce. It requires grinding veal, beef and pork, seasoning the meat and roasting it for one hour, after which you mix it up in order to blend the meat. As I was grinding the meat, Pop came in and saw what I was doing.

**Pop:** Hey Luigi, whata are you doing.

**Me:** Making Bolognese.

**Pop:** Youa doing ita wrong.

**Me:** What are you talking about? I'm just grinding the meat.

**Pop:** Yes, and you doing ita wrong.

**Me:** How could I be doing it wrong? I'm doing it just how you showed me.

**Pop:** No, youa changed it. Youa taking a shorta cut.

**Me:** No, Pop. There is no shortcut to this. I'm just grinding the meat!

**Pop:** You gotta grind all three at the

sama time.

**Me:** What? Wait? How? That's impossible. Anyway, you mix it together in the mixing machine after its roasted anyway.

**Pop:** Minchia! (Damn!) You see? Another shorta cut.

**Me:** How else you want me to mix it?

**Pop:** Youa puta it in the bowl and you mix witha you hands.

**Me:** But you told me to mix it in the machine.

**Pop:** What? Youa think ima stupid?

**Me:** No, Pop. (sigh) OK, I'll mix it by hand.

**Pop:** What, you thinka because Ima almost 90 yearsa old, I no remember? Ima no dead yet.

**Me:** What?! You're 83, Pop. You're not 90.

**Pop:** Stopa yelling at me. Ima old man.

**Me:** Forget it. You're right. (sigh)

The next day he came in while I was making meatballs. I could see him coming in, and I was ready for him. I put all the ingredients in a bowl and started mixing them by hand.

I saw him looking at me. I made believe I didn't see him. I was trying to act natural, like this was the only way to be making meatballs.

**Pop:** Whata are you doing?

**Me:** Making meatballs.

**Pop:** Whya you mixing it by hand? Usa the machine!

**Me:** Yesterday you had me mix the Bolognese meat by hand.

**Pop:** I no tolda you to do that. Thatsa stupid.

**Me:** What!?

**Pop:** Listen, you no do it the righta way.

**Me:** Yes, Pop. But yesterday you told me...

**Pop:** You think because Ima 90 years old Ima stupid?

**Me:** What?! You're 83, Pop. You're not 90.

**Pop:** Stopa yelling at me. Ima old man.

**Me:** No, Pop. But you told me...

**Pop:** Ima no dead yet. Capisce? (Understand?)

**Me:** Yeah, but... OK, forget it. (sigh)

Sometimes, I could swear he does it on purpose just to mess with me. Anyway, enjoy this recipe for Bolognese sauce while I pound my head into the wall.

## Bolognese Sauce Ingredients

3 tblspns. extra virgin olive oil  
1 lb. chopped meatloaf mix  
1 small onion, diced fine  
1 jar Coppola's Tuscan Sauce  
2 cloves garlic, diced fine  
2 cups dry white wine

1/2 cup chicken stock

## Method

Put a 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat. When the pan is hot, add the olive oil, onions and garlic; cook for about 2-3 minutes. Add the chopped meatloaf mix and brown. Drain, mix thoroughly, by hand or in a mixing machine (Hah!) and put in a large pot.

Return the pot to the stove and pour in 1 jar of Coppola's Tuscan sauce and one cup of white wine. Pour the other cup of white wine in a glass for you to drink. Add 1/2 cup of chicken stock.

Let simmer for 20 minutes.

Serve with hearty pasta like rigatoni or gnocchi, with a nice loaf of hot crusty Italian bread and, of course, with another glass of wine. Buono Appetito!

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

## Marquette book offers 'behind the scenes' look at Murder Café

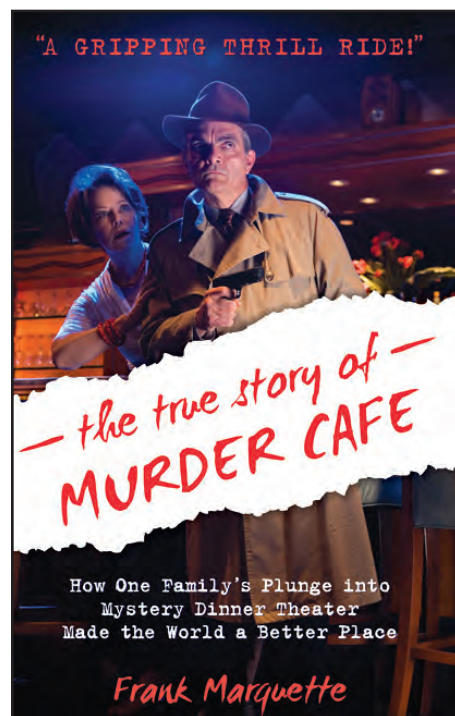
Frank Marquette, owner of Hudson Valley-based Murder Café, has written an autobiographical book, "The True Story of Murder Café," which chronicles life behind the scenes of the beloved murder-mystery theater company, both on-stage and at-home.

For a quarter of a century, Murder Café has entertained audiences near and far with a mix of murder, music and plenty of humor. On Sunday, Dec. 1, "The True Story of Murder Café: How One Family's Plunge into Mystery Dinner Theater Made the World a Better Place" (Troy Book Makers, \$20) will be available for purchase both through Amazon and several local booksellers.

The book tells the story of Murder Café through the eyes of the Marquette family, their actors, clients, and audience members. It's filled with astounding anecdotes relaying the triumphs and challenges faced by the company during its ever-growing production; a testament to one man's obsession and the smiles it's brought to everyone involved over the years.

Whether you've enjoyed a Murder Café performance, simply love theater, or are fascinated by the stories behind quirky family businesses, then you'll appreciate this tell-all story of how a middle-aged father of three living in Albuquerque, New Mexico decided to pursue his passion for acting by reluctantly auditioning for a local murder mystery dinner theater, and after becoming a featured player, eventually started his own company.

Murder Café originally enjoyed an 11-year run in Las Vegas before being relocated to the Hudson Valley, "where it's brought joy to thousands of people—including myself—since then," Marquette says. "I'm thrilled to pull back the curtain to reveal the real-life stories behind the production."



*The cover of the new book, "The True Story of Murder Café." The book chronicles life behind the scenes of the murder-mystery theater company, both on-stage and at home.*

*-Courtesy image*

This incredible journey has involved every member of the Marquette family, hundreds of actors, and countless venues, and other live experiences, that are both dramatic and hilarious.

Beginning in January, Marquette will host a series of launch parties at notable venues in the Hudson Valley and Albany region, including Restaurant Six at Curry Estate in Hopewell Junction, The Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck, The Best Western in Kingston, and the Historic Hotel Broadalbin in Broadalbin.

Over the last 26 years, Murder Café has entertained nearly 100,000 people in seven states and two countries, at hotels, restaurants, banquet halls, community centers, casinos, and historical societies. Murder Café has also helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for national charitable organizations like ARC, American Red Cross, United Cerebral Palsy, and the American Cancer Society.

Murder Café is the creation of actor, writer and director Frank Marquette along with his wife and producing partner, Kristen. They have been serving quality entertainment for both public and private events since 1998 and their menu includes: original and customized scripts, professional performers and singers, one-of-a-kind production values and the marketing and publicity skills needed to ensure the success of each event.

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# WFBPA starts monthly 'Mingles' with visit to Laser Life Esthetics



The Wappingers Falls Business Professional Association's (WFBPA) mission is to foster growth and development of businesses in Wappingers Falls and the surrounding areas by providing networking opportunities, resources, and support to their members. They strive to create a thriving business community that is known for its innovation, excellence, and collaboration.

"Every month we encourage our members to open their doors and warmly host a monthly Mingle! This is a great opportunity for attendees to see their business and hear about what services and products they provide to our communities. It's only one of the many wonderful perks of our membership. At our WFBPA Mingles you will surely find new connections being made thru networking, as well as organic conversations where guests, ask questions, get feedback and look for ways to support each other!" says Yvette Sanchez, WFBPA Board Member and Co-Owner of Sunmed | Your CBD Store, Wappingers Falls.

The December WFBPA Mingle was hosted on Dec. 6 by Brittany Smith, owner of Laser Life Esthetics at 1207 Rt.

9 in Wappingers Falls. Laser Life Aesthetics provides services such as laser hair removal, chemical peels and skincare treatments to include advanced techniques such as scar revision, inkless scar revision and tattoo camouflage.

### About Brittany Smith

I began my journey in the beauty industry by studying cosmetology at BOCES, graduating in 2008. Shortly thereafter, I completed my training at the New York School of Aesthetics in 2009 and officially launched my career as an aesthetician in 2010. For over a decade, I have specialized in laser treatments and skincare, gaining invaluable experience while working at some of the top laser clinics in Westchester.

When I decided to establish my own business, I knew I wanted to root it in the heart of the Hudson Valley, along Route 9. This vision led to the creation of Laser Life, which has been one of the greatest blessings of my career. My approach has always been centered on authenticity and creating a welcoming environment where clients feel completely at ease.



Members of the Wappingers Falls Business Professional Association gathered at Laser Life Esthetics at 1207 Rt. 9 in Wappingers Falls on Dec. 6. The organization will conduct monthly "Mingles" at the site of a different member to learn more about that particular business.

Left: The Wappingers Falls Business Professional Association logo.

-Courtesy photo, image

At Laser Life, I've expanded my services from laser hair removal, chemical peels, and skincare treatments to include advanced techniques such as scar revision, inkless scar revision, and tattoo camouflage. To ensure the highest quality for these specialized services, I traveled to Las Vegas to train with a world-renowned expert in these cutting-edge procedures.

With over a decade of experience in the industry, I have become a Master Esthetician, trained in a wide range of advanced laser technologies and skincare techniques. My dedication to excellence has been recognized through multiple awards, and I am proud to continue helping my clients achieve their skincare goals

with the utmost care and professionalism.

### About the WFBPA

If you would like more information about WFBPA or how to become a member, please visit [www.wfbpa.org](http://www.wfbpa.org)

Upcoming events open to members and friends include:

- WFBPA Quarterly Luncheon - Wed. Dec 18th
- January Mingle - Viscount Wine & Liquor
- February Mingle - TBD
- March Mingle - All Angels Montessori School
- April Mingle - Sunmed | Your CBD Store
- May Mingle - St. Mary School
- June - Festival at the Falls.

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### Libby Funeral Home to host Wreaths Across America ceremonies

Libby Funeral Home in Beacon will be hosting two ceremonies during the annual Wreaths Across America. The first ceremony is set for Saturday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 Route 9, and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, 342 South Ave. Two forgotten heroes from 38 and 35 years ago will be honored.

Joseph Schuka, a funeral director with Libby Funeral Home in Beacon, explained that five years ago it was discovered that the funeral home had some unclaimed cremated remains of veterans, which were given a proper military interment service after their deaths, some of which were 40+ years.

Recently, he said, another account of unclaimed cremains was done at the funeral home two veterans' cremains were found. One was from the United States Navy, a World War II veteran; the other was from the United States Army and a veteran from World War I.

"[A] World War I veteran was 90 years old at the time of his death on June 13, 1986. He served in the United States Army, he was divorced with one son and no other family and/or contacts. The World War II veteran he was 68 years old at the time of his death on December 5, 1989. He served in the United States Navy, he was separated from his wife with no other family contacts. Both were native and residents of the New York City area, they must have only received medical services from the Castle Point VA Hospital at the time of their deaths. Being the relation that the Libby Funeral Home has always had with the Veterans Hospital, they assisted with the carrying out the initial and desired cremation disposition," stated Schuka.

Wreath Across America remembrance for the two Veterans will include an escort to Calverton National Cemetery, on Calverton Long Island, for military interment and full-military honors. That escort will be on Monday Dec. 16.

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## HUDSON VALLEY NATURALIST

by Francine Wizner



# The Winter Solstice: When the Aztecs celebrated their bounty from floating farms

The Aztecs were one of many world cultures that marked the winter solstice as a day of renewal. The Ancients noticed that the sun (who the Aztecs worshiped as a god) appears to move through the sky at different angles throughout the year. But, during the solstice period, little shadow is cast on a sundial. The sun seems to “stand still” . . . or, as the Aztecs believed, their Sun God died. (Editor’s note: The word “solstice” derives from the Latin words *sol* for “sun” and *sistere* for “to stand still.”)

Millions of Mexica (Aztec people) celebrated the Sun God’s “rebirth” with festivities as they rejoiced in the new cycle. The Aztec Empire (1345-1521 CE) was located in Mesoamerica, a region encompassing most of modern-day Mexico, which is entirely in (our) Northern Hemisphere. At its peak, the Aztec Empire spanned around 80,000 square miles, encompassing a population of roughly 5 to 6 million people, making it one of the largest empires in the New World. Growing enough food to feed their urban populations was paramount, and many were involved in planting, cultivating, and harvesting the food.

### The Aztecs farmed sustainably

To maximize their crop yields, the Aztecs used *chinampas*. They drove stakes into shallow lake beds and weaved reeds around them to create fenced enclosures. The enclosures were filled with mud and decaying vegetation dredged from the lake bottom, to create small, artificial islands for farming on the water’s surface. This method allowed them to cultivate crops in nutrient-rich lake soil, while managing water levels through a system of canals. The “floating gardens” were so effective that they continue to be used in the Xochimilco area of Mexico City.

*Chinampas* provide a place for healthy microorganisms to thrive, which helps trap particles, break down debris, and filter water. Plants add oxygen to the water, which helps to support fish and other aquatic life, which eat mosquitoes and their larvae, reducing the

need for pesticides. The practice reduces the rate of evaporation, which helps to conserve water. And, of course, since water is on site, the need for irrigation is mitigated.

### Could chinampas be a farming method in the Hudson Valley?

In researching this column, I discovered the work of Roland Ebel, the coordinator of the Sustainable Food Systems Program at Montana State University. According to Dr. Ebel, “regions in NY with access to natural wetlands, ponds, or rivers with low streams can be suitable for *chinampas*. However, certain criteria need to be met: The constitution of raised beds requires nutrient-rich, unpolluted water. The water must be free of pathogens, with a neutral to slightly alkaline pH of 6.5–8. Excessive water salinity from groundwater or de-icing salts must be avoided. Waterways that get frozen on a regular basis are not convenient. High water turbidity is also problematic, as it decreases the water’s biological activity. There are certainly locations in NY that meet all these criteria.”

Much to my surprise, Dr. Ebel explained that our “climate is not a limiting factor, although strategies would need to be developed to protect the raised beds from heavy snow.” What may be a limiting factor, however, is that constructing raised beds requires significant labor, materials, time, and expertise. Also, although *chinampas* are a “highly sustainable and productive agricultural production method, they require landscape modifications, which may not be aligned with existing environmental standards and regulations in specific areas.” They are most effective for small-scale or urban horticulture and could accommodate any annual plant currently grown outdoors in NY. Growing vegetables, herbs, medicinal plants, and ornamentals on *chinampas* is most common.

### Huitzilopochtli’s Birthday

Huitzilopochtli was the Aztec’s Lord of



Winter Sun as viewed from a 2022 winter location in Dutchess County.

-Photo by Robert Rightmyer, Valley Visions

the Sun. The winter solstice marked the end of autumn, when the sun seemed weak. It was Huitzilopochtli’s birthday; a time of great celebration. The Mexica believed that the Sun completed its celestial journey on the solstice, died, and was then transformed into a hummingbird and resurrected. Each year the Aztecs celebrated and were grateful for the year’s harvest and encouraged Huitzilopochtli to grow strong for another harvest year.

The winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere occurs when the North Pole reaches its maximum tilt away from the Sun. The next solstice will occur on Saturday, December 21, at 4:21 am, EST.

For more information, go to <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/AMARANTH-COLOR-CODING-WINTER-SOLSTICE-ACTIVITY-6372360>.

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/>.



December 2024 Sunrise in Pleasant Valley.

-Photo by Francine Wizner

## Holiday Hootenanny on Dec. 14 in Beacon

It’s the Holiday Hootenanny with Guthrie’s Ghost band at the Howland Cultural Center, 488 Main St., at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. Get your tickets.

Guthrie’s Ghost is a folk collective formed in Beacon on Woody Guthrie’s 100th birthday, uniting three musical enti-

ties to honor the legacy of folk legends like Pete Seeger and Guthrie himself.

Each year, Guthrie’s Ghost comes together for a special tour, offering both modern renditions of classic folk songs and original compositions inspired by folk traditions.

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**Sunday December 15 • 2pm**  
St. Joachim Church  
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# Obituaries

## Clara Lou Gould



BEACON - Clara Lou Gould, the first woman to be elected Mayor in the city of Beacon, and the longest-serving Mayor in Beacon's history, passed away peacefully in her house on December 2, 2024. She was born in Cold Spring on August 29, 1927 to Michael and Clara Malone. She attended public schools in Cold Spring and graduated from the College of New Rochelle with a Bachelor's degree in English, with honors, in 1948.

On September 11, 1954, she married Robert Gould, a research chemist at Texaco Research Center, at Our Lady of Loretto Church in Cold Spring. Her beloved husband predeceased Clara Lou in 1996. She was also predeceased by her parents and her three sisters: Honora Dougherty, Mary Williams and Kathryn Malone. Clara Lou is survived by her three nieces - Mary Ellen Brown

(Michael), Ann Fossett (John), and Ellen Sheffer (the late Robert); one nephew- Peter Williams (Carol), and one step-son-in-law, Keith McKenzie. Clara Lou is also survived by two step-grandsons, Kent McKenzie (Penny) and Ross McKenzie (Libbie), and their respective children, Tempest, Quinn, Zachary, Andrew and Will.

In addition, Clara Lou is survived by her great-nieces and great-nephews: Will Sheffer (Nicole), Erin Brown McAlister (Heath), Patrick Brown (Peri), Andrew Brown, Dr. Lindsay Fossett (Vassilis), Timothy Fossett (Beth), Michael Williams (Megan), Matthew Williams (Kristina), as well as their respective children.

Bob and Clara Lou moved to Beacon in 1960 and they resided in the Wodenethe area ever since. Clara Lou worked in the publishing departments of Viking Press and Harold Ober Associates in New York City. A highlight of her career in NYC was meeting and working with the famed author Agatha Christie! At this time, she also began a lifetime of community service by serving as the President of the Highland Hospital Auxiliary. Clara Lou and Bob co-chaired several capital fundraising efforts at Highland Hospital, as well. She also became Beacon's first representative on board of directors of the Dutchess County Health Department.

Clara Lou loved to garden. She was a Past President of the Tioronda Garden Club in Beacon, a Master Flower judge and a District Director of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. Prior to her election as Mayor, she also served on the Beacon Beautification Committee and as a member of the board of directors of the Fishkill National Bank.

Clara Lou served as Mayor of Beacon for 18 years- from 1990-2007. She was elected in 1989 and re-elected in 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003. Upon her retirement in 2007, she was the longest serving woman Mayor in the state of New York. Many political observers trace Beacon's renaissance to her tenure as Mayor. Her administration constructed a much-needed water filtration plant and a new Municipal Building in 1997. In 1999, she negotiated a contract that brought a contemporary art museum, Dia, to the former Nabisco manufacturing plant.

There is no doubt that the opening of Dia:Beacon in 2003 kick-started the migration of artists, families, restaurants, art-related businesses and other commercial attractions to Beacon. As a result of the notoriety that Dia brought to Beacon, tourists and the commercial investment that follows foot traffic invigorated both Main Street and the entire Beacon area in ways that few could have imagined.

During her 18 years in office, Clara Lou never requested or accepted a single pay raise. Even though her position was considered part-time in nature, she was in the office all day, every day and attended many community events in the evenings and on weekends. She was truly a public servant and a leader of our community, which she loved. The residents of Beacon returned that affection, many times over. Over the past 30 years, she has been feted and honored by just about every community service and civic organization in both Beacon and Dutchess County. In 2019, on her birthday, Mayor Randy Casale and the City Council dedicated a park bench in the front of the Municipal Building in her honor.

Over the years, Clara Lou and Bob were members of the Kiwanis Club, the Howland Cultural Center, the Beacon Historical Society, Les Soeurs Amiables Civic Club of Beacon, the Beacon Elks Club Lodge No. 1493, the Hudson River Greenway, the Southern Dutchess NAACP, the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation, Boscobel, and the Southern Dutchess Country Club, among other local civic and charitable groups.

Clara Lou was also an avid baseball fan. She and Bob purchased season tickets for the Hudson Valley Renegades when they located to the Beacon area in 1994, and she rarely missed a game in the past 30 years. In 2022, she was invited to throw out the first pitch at age 95!

Despite her busy schedule as Mayor, Clara Lou always found time to attend the Senior Tea at Beacon High School. She also read to the 5th grade students every spring. Once during her final year as Mayor, a student at South Avenue School asked if it was possible for a boy to be elected Mayor!

Clara Lou was also a woman of great faith. She was an active parishioner and communicant at St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon, where she served as a Lector for many years.

The family received friends on Monday, December 9, 2024 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 10 a.m. at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard Street, Beacon. Interment will follow at St. Joachim Cemetery.

The family would like to warmly thank the staff at Right at Home Care, especially Jeanette, for the loving and professional care that they provided Clara Lou over the past five years. They made it possible for Clara Lou to enjoy her retirement at home. We also appreciate the compassionate care provided by Hudson Valley Hospice. We also thank Clara Lou's long-time neighbors, Paul and Donna Hardisty, for all the love and kindness they showed her over the years, as well as Gary and Pamela Barrack, and Peter and Anne Forman, who made Clara Lou part of their extended families.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Clara Lou's name to Church of St. Joachim- St. John the Evangelist, 2 Oak Street, Beacon, NY; Hudson Valley Hospice, 374 Violet Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, and St. Jude's Children Hospital.

To send a personal condolence or for directions to the funeral home, please visit [riverviewbyhalvey.com](http://riverviewbyhalvey.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the supervision of Patrick J. Halvey.

## Michele Lee Cahill



Michele Lee Cahill, age 57, passed away on December 3, 2024. Greatly loved by her family and friends, she brought joy and laughter to all those she knew.

Born March 3, 1967 in Beacon, NY, to Nina and James Cahill, Michele graduated from Beacon High School in 1985. She received her associates degree from Orange County Community College in 1993 and later became a dental hygienist.

Most recently she was employed by Family Dental in Fishkill and Dr. Philip Williams, DMD, in Hyde Park. Michele not only had a strong work ethic but was dearly loved and well respected by her employers, patients, and co-workers.

Every summer Michele enjoyed traveling to Sea Isle City with her family. She would sit on the beach, walk on the boardwalk, and play at the arcade with her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephew.

The granddaughter of Lucy and Mike Orsini, who owned Mi-Ro's restaurant in Beacon for over 30 years, Michele inherited their love for food and cooking. Michele

made the best meatloaf, deviled eggs, and Spaghetti Aglio e Olio. She reveled in creating new recipes and perfecting family dishes passed down over the generations.

An avid gardener, Michele's flower and vegetable gardens flourished under her green thumb. Her houseplants thrived except when nibbled on by her newly adopted cat, Cleo. Her love of animals was inspired by her Aunt Mary, a veterinary technician who predeceased her in 1985.

Introduced to horse-riding by her Aunt Mary in 1977, Michele became a skilled show-jumper and competed and placed in many events during the seven years that she rode, including the Dutchess County Fair Equestrian Competition in the early '80s.

Michele is survived by her mother, Nina Cahill, her two children Michael Cahill and Tina Lentini (Michael Lentini), her three grandchildren Nick, Mia, and Luca Lentini; her brothers Eric and James (Ann Croft), her nieces Sophie and Violet Cahill, and her nephew Joseph Cahill as well as many Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins.

Michele was predeceased in 2020 by her loving father James E Cahill and in 1969 a baby sister Bridget Mary.

Michele's generosity, wicked sense of humor, and loving personality will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation), Beacon.

Family and friends gathered on Tuesday, December 10 at Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 10 a.m. at St. Joachim Church, 51 Leonard Street, Beacon. Burial will follow at St. Joachim Cemetery, Beacon.

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

## Gary L. Mankes Sr.



Gary L. Mankes Sr. passed away on December 02, 2024 in the town of Marlboro, NY. He was 58 years old. Gary was born on June 02, 1966 in Yonkers, NY. He is the son of Sheldon and Barbara Mankes.

Gary was a Mechanic and worked at Yellow Freight. He grew up in the Towing and Auto Salvage industry. His career spanned over 40 years. Including working with his father at Expressway Auto Parts in Cold Spring, NY, along with Quality Towing in Vails Gate. He also worked for AKV Towing and Absolutely Automotive in Marlboro NY. At one point he and his family owned and operated Mankes and Sons Car & Truck Repair.

Gary is survived by his three sons Gary Jr. (Emily Mankes), Cory Mankes (Mckenzie Fazzinga), and Christopher Mankes, his grandsons Bryson Mankes, Steven and Troy Sanders, his parents Sheldon and Barbara

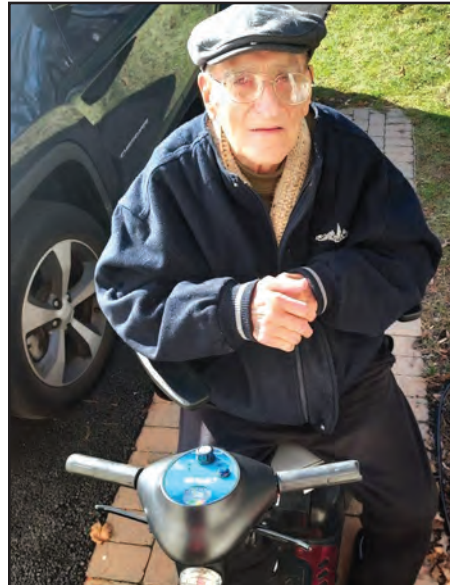
Mankes, His sister Shirley Haines (Michael Haines).

He is preceded in death by his wife Josephine Mankes. Along with his two siblings David Mankes and Sharon Mankes.

Gary was a loving son, husband, father, grandfather and all around amazing friend to everyone.

A memorial service will held on Friday, December 13th from 4pm to 7pm at the DiDonato Funeral Home 1290 Route 9W Marlboro NY 12542.

## Robert Belluzzi Sr.



HOPEWELL JUNCTION - Robert Belluzzi, Sr., 89, a resident of Hopewell Junction since 1999, died on December 2, 2024 at home. He previously lived in Yonkers and the Bronx.

Born on May 13, 1935 in the Bronx, Robert was the son of the late Aldo and Sadie (Fusco) Belluzzi. He proudly served in the Submarine Force of the US Navy during the Korean War. Robert, a skilled sheet metal worker, was a well-respected 72-year member of Local #28 in Manhattan, and was instrumental in putting together benefits for its members.

A loyal fan of NY Sports, he especially liked the Mets and Giants. He also enjoyed fishing. More than anything, Robert loved spending time with his family, especially his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his children and their spouses, Robert (Nancy) Belluzzi, Michael

(Theresa) Belluzzi, Ann (Butch) Keane, and Bridget (Thomas) Coubertier; 13 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Robert was predeceased by his wife RoseMarie (Pantori) Belluzzi in 2015.

Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A Memorial Service was offered at the Chapel at Ferncliff Cemetery Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Please visit [www.mchoulfuneralhome.com](http://www.mchoulfuneralhome.com).

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## Tioronda Garden Club prepares wreaths, snowflake decorations for holiday season



Members of the Tioronda Garden Club have been busy with holiday decorating! Recently members prepared the wreaths that hang along Main St. There are 115 wreaths and 15 snowflakes that were prepared, and bulbs were replaced at the City of Beacon Highway Department garage by members Norm, Geri, Kathy, Donna, Anne, Janice and Gary, along with Jean & Bob (not pictured).

The wreaths and snowflakes were placed by the City of Beacon Highway Department to kick off this year's holiday season.

-Courtesy photo

### Dance Night at the Elks Lodge on Dec. 14

Get On Down at the Elks Lounge Dance Night on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., at 900 Wolcott Avenue (Rt. 9D), Beacon. Attire is whatever suits one's mood - from blue jeans to dazzling sparkles.

These dances are informal and even if one comes alone, one can always find a friendly partner on the dance floor. Admission is \$15 and includes a variety of complimentary snacks, and a full cash bar is available.

For more information, call 845-765-0667 or rhodaja@optonline.net.

### A Night of Latin Dancing set for Dec. 26 in Beacon

A Night of Latin Dancing will be presented by Beacon Dance Beat on Thursday, Dec. 26 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m. for dining), at the Towne Crier Café, 379 Main St., in Beacon. Full menu and bar service are available before and during the dance. Admission is \$10, which can be paid at the door. 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 or rhodaja@optonline.net.

Southern Dutchess News  
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<p>Needed House Cleaner Aid for Elderly Woman. Two times a week. Errands, shopping and appointments. Call: 845-297-5414</p>	<p>2 rooms, Private Bathroom and Entrance. Semi furnished, into private home. No Kitchen. Call: 845-784-8964</p>	<p>Sofa with reclining ends, \$75. Recliner Rocker, \$50. All good cond., Blue in color. 845-297-0131</p>	<p>Treadmill Exerciser (Pro-Form Crosswalk #395). Excellent condition, \$150. 845-677-5293 call mornings.</p>	<p>Billiard Table Oak wood. Slate Surface. You disassemble and remove, \$250.00 FIRM 845-242-2542</p>	<p>Brother Laser Printer H-L L2395DW Print copy scan new cond. Asking \$100. Leave message. Contact Roseanne, 845-897-5812</p>	 <p>1993 Harley Davidson FLHTC 1340cc, Black/Chrome, \$5,000 OBO. CALL: 845-554-6317</p>
<p>House Cleaner Needed. Small two bedroom, two baths. References and Driver License Required. 845-325-2337</p>	<p><b>503 Furniture</b></p> <p>Patio set, glass top with four chairs with cushions. 9 foot umbrella with stand. Used once, \$350. Call 845-297-4741</p>	<p>Bunk Bed set with ladder, one dresser. Early american style, great condition \$175. 845-227-5922</p>	<p>7 foot prelit artificial Christmas tree. Used a few times, comes in a nice bag, \$65. 845-221-3824</p>	<p>Magnesium Alum Alloy 16' extension ladder, 8' glass reinforced step ladder, Make offer. 845-297-6369</p>	<p>Four Kenwood KL777 100W speakers, wood cabinet, exc. cond., \$225. 845-337-6509</p>	
<p>Residential and Commercial Clean outs. Disposal of unwanted items Carpentry work Interior and Exterior Painting. Property Management Call Craig 845-891-8930</p>	<p>Queen size wood sleigh bed box spring mattress included. Exc. Cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213</p>	<p><b>504 Appliances</b></p> <p>LG Convection LP Gas Range. Like new, hardly used. Griddle, paid \$1300 sell for \$500. 845-475-2958</p>	<p>Vintage cast iron white pedestal sink with faucets, \$50. 845-297-7685</p>	<p>AC Prtable, \$80 - Dehumidifier, \$60, Grill Free, Snare Drum, \$80, Wicker shelf, Lamp, \$40. 845-418-0069</p>	<p>Outdoor Mult. Position Reclining Chair, Cost \$75 New. Large Size. Call: 845-297-2105</p>	<p><b>904 Tires</b></p>
	<p>4 set Antique wood dining chairs upholstered seats exc. cond. Best offer. 845-625-3213</p>	<p>Large Air Fryer, never used, have all attachments, booklet. I don't have room on my counter, \$75 OBO. 845-242-7717</p>	<p>Electronic Radial Saw, \$50, One motor, \$10. New Bathroom vanity with sink, \$60, Router and bits, \$50. Leave message 845-462-4441</p>	<p>Special Bike made in Denmark, good cond., \$75. 845-401-7654</p>	<p><b>900 Autos For Sale</b></p>	<p>4 Tires Like New Condition 215/60 R 15, \$150. Less than 3K miles. 845-221-2161</p>
<p><b>401 Apartments for Rent</b></p> <p>Victorian, BEACON 9D / mins. RR - 70 NYC Hwy, Spectacular Hudson Views, Rest. Antiques, Hiking, biking, Mountains, 2BD + Den, DW / WD, Split - Level, \$2,800. Suitable 1 - 3. 914-960-0069 or 914-584-7137</p>	<p>Day Bed Frame Twin white Decorative Head and Side Frame. Excellent condition, \$100. 845-226-8896</p> <p>2-drawer, wide, metal fiing cabinet. Good shape, tan, has lock but no key. 19 D x 30 W x 28 H. \$25. 845-227-5922</p>	<p><b>516 Misc. Merchandise</b></p> <p>10" (TC250B) Tilesaw 2.5 H/P with PVD tray. 3340 RPM with mini pum Chicago power tool, \$150 OBO. Ping Pong table MDSport Not Used, \$125 OBO. 845-831-8968</p>	<p>Nodic Ski Track Exercisor, \$60. Pair AR2 Acoustic Speakers, \$300. Pair 15" Tri-Axe Speakers in cabinets, \$300 OBO. 845-297-6369</p>	<p>Tor-1950's Tube AM,FM &amp; Record Player, \$250 OBO. 845-831-8968</p>	<p>2005 Lexus ES330 for sale. Best Offer. Runs good. Still driving on road. 845-297-0084</p>	<p>Hitch receiver for bike rack. Will fit any Prius. Excellent condition. New \$265, Now \$135. 845-896-5197</p>
			<p>Pony saddle, small horse, \$75. 845-401-7654</p>	<p>Paintball Equipment for sale. Guns cases hoppers tanks masks all in good working order. Asking \$150 for all. 914-420-5626</p>	<p>2012 Jeep Wrangler 83,000 miles. Fantastic shape. Must see to appreciate. Many accessories including cover and tow package. Text 845-401-6648.</p>	<p>1933 Chevy Master Reupholstered front seat Recomed bumpers Rebuilt engine NewBattery New front floormat, \$15,300. 845-831-6673</p>

## Announcement

**NOTICE OF EARLY DEADLINE:**  
Due to the Holiday Press Schedule  
**Southern & Northern Dutchess News and the Beacon Free Press**  
have the following Early Deadline for Classified Ads:

**December 25th Issue deadline is: December 18th before noon.**

**January 1st Issue deadline is: December 26th before Noon.**

**Email: roxannesdn@aol.com or Call: 845-297-3723 Ext. 3001**

**For More Information. Happy Holiday's To All**

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Email (with "Free line ad" as the subject) your subscription name, address, phone number, & subscriber ID, along with your ad to: [sdnadvertising@aol.com](mailto:sdnadvertising@aol.com)  
Ads should be limited to 20 words including a contact phone number (must be included in ad).  
If using this coupon it's recommended that it's delivered in person or mailed.  
Faxes are accepted, but not recommended. Our fax number is: (845) 297-6810  
Ads run for 2 weeks. If after 2 weeks you wish your ad to run again, it must be resubmitted.  
We reserve the right to modify or reject any ads.  
Southern Dutchess News, 84 East Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

# Diversions

**SUDOKU**



With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

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

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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

4		3	5		
		1			
					3
5	3				

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

### THEME: SPORTS

**ACROSS**

1. Combat vehicle
5. Semi
8. \*Biathlon gear, sing.
11. Keiko of "Free Willy"
12. \*Ashi Waza and jugodi sport
13. Audience's approval
15. Tandoori bread
16. Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones"
17. Röntgen beams
18. \*Warning track sport
20. Monetary "thank you," pl.
21. Indigo dye shrubs
22. "Arabian Nights" bird
23. Destroyer
26. Danced to certain Polish music
30. Crematorium container
31. One without magic powers in Harry Potter stories
34. Largest volcano in Europe
35. Do nothing (2 words)
37. Singer Yoko
38. Be at the helm
39. Tropical tuber
40. \*Player who delivers in a crucial sports moment
42. Recipe qty.
43. Display proudly (2 words)
45. Smells
47. Lake, in France
48. Clean a spill (2 words)
50. #8 Across, pl.
52. \*Cornerback and direct snap sport
55. Russian pancake
56. Pasta option
57. Go cold turkey
59. \*Reward for multiple sports championships, pl.
60. "Breaking Bad" victim
61. The Beehive State
62. King Kong, e.g.
63. Type of lightbulb, acr.
64. Spooky

**DOWN**

1. Boatload
2. Riyadh native
3. \*Collegiate sports grp.
4. Topeka native
5. Not urban
6. Short poems of pastoral life
7. \*Hockey score
8. \*Powerful shot in hockey
9. 11th letter of Roman alphabet, pl.
10. Elvis' "\_\_\_\_ Now or Never"
12. White and black stork
13. Glorify
14. \*Gully and deep mid wicket sport
19. Foe
22. Fish eggs
23. Corrodes
24. Heap of "David Copperfield"
25. Preface
26. Scheme
27. Mr. T's TV show "The \_\_\_\_"
28. Olden days constipation treatment
29. \*Bag of nails and baby ton sport
32. \*Eagle and mulligan sport
33. African migrator
36. \*Turkey and split sport
38. Woody perennial
40. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
41. He gets a flag?
44. Reprieve in a desert
46. Not light-transmitting
48. Dots and dashes code
49. Did like goo
50. Women's underskirt
51. Plural of cow, arch.
52. \*Sports transgression
53. Plucked string instrument
54. Pinocchio, e.g.
55. Type of undergarment
58. Olden day "your"

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
15					16				17			
	18			19					20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39					40				41		42	
43				44					45	46		
			47				48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54	
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		



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The solutions to the Sudoku, Crossword puzzle and Suguru can be found on the next page.

# Authors visit VWJHS students during November



Author Lisa Fipps, second from left, visited Van Wyck Junior High School in the Wappingers Central School District for a presentation on Nov. 18.

-Courtesy photos



Author Lisa Fipps speaks to a group of students at Van Wyck Junior High School during a presentation on Nov. 18.

November was a busy month for the staff and students at Van Wyck Junior High School in the Wappingers Central School District where two highly acclaimed children's book authors have visited.

Aileen Basuljevic, the school librarian, has been busy collaborating with teachers to participate in the Poughkeepsie Public Library's Big Read and the Global Read Aloud.

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, Lesa Cline-Ransome, the author of two dozen books, including the Coretta Scott King award winner, "Finding Langston," visited with Eva Letizia and Carolyn Dalrymple's classes in the intimate setting of the Van Wyck JHS Library.

Cline-Ransome's visit was in conjunction with the students reading, "Fighting

With Love: The Legacy of John Lewis." Students and teachers were equally impressed and totally engaged with Cline-Ransome's story.

On Monday, Nov. 18, Lisa Fipps, the author of highly acclaimed "Starfish," visited with Amanda Holst's and Lauren Korz's classes in the auditorium. This visit was in culmination of the students reading, "And Then, BOOM!," which is the middle grade read for the Global Read Aloud.

Students from Holst's classes have participated in Mystery Meets and Penpal like activities with students across the country and in Hanoi, Vietnam. In a time when many students are not engaged by read alouds, Fipps' book has been not only engaging but students can't wait to hear more! That's a win, win!

## 'A Christmas Carol' through Dec. 22



"A Christmas Carol" presented by Theatre on the Road. Experience the joy of Christmas as you're invited to feast with the Cratchit family including Bob, Mrs. Cratchit, Belinda and everyone's favorite - Tiny Tim. In scenes right out of Dickens' classic book, you'll be treated to visits from Ebenezer Scrooge, his Nephew Fred, the

Man of Goodwill, the ghost of Jacob Marley and the three spirits of Christmas. In addition, holiday carolers will entertain at your table. Suitable for the entire family. Tickets at [www.theatre-ontheroad.com](http://www.theatre-ontheroad.com) or call the venues where phone numbers are provided.

Schedule: Wed., Dec. 11, The Beekman Arms, Rhinebeck, 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 15, Restaurant Six at Curry Estate, Hopewell Junction, 4 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 18: The Venue Uptown at the Best Western, Kingston, 7 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 19 & Fri., Dec. 20: Buttermilk Falls Inn, Milton, 6 p.m.; Sat. Dec. 21, Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 216 Foordmore Rd., Kerhonkson, noon; Sat., Dec. 21, Hudson House Distillery, West Park, 7 p.m. 845-834-6007. Sun., Dec. 22, The Eldred Preserve, Eldred, 7 p.m.

-Courtesy photo

## Holiday sale of Haitian Art

A HOLIDAY POP-UP SALE, affordable Haitian Art & Handcrafts will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Beacon Building, 427 Main St. (and Teller Avenue), in Beacon.

The fundraiser will support Haitian women by offering small loans to enhance and grow their businesses. Sponsored by the Haiti Project.

For more information, visit [www.thehaitiproject.org](http://www.thehaitiproject.org). 845-797-2123.

### Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed responses for: #RFE01-DCP-04-25 Facility Operator for Camp Nooteming Town of Pleasant Valley, New York  
Responses will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 23rd day of January 2025 at the

### Legal Notices

Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and RFE01 forms may be obtained by visiting our website <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call 845-486-3613.

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

## this week's puzzle solutions

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

This week's answer  
**SUDOKU**

A	P	E	L	E	D	L	E	D	A	P	E	
R	I	N	G	S	U	S	E	R	U	T	A	H
B	L	I	N	I	O	R	Z	O	Q	U	I	T
S	K	I	S	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	
S	H	O	W	O	F	F	A	R	O	M	A	S
T	A	R	O	C	L	U	T	C	H	A	M	T
S	I	T	B	Y	O	N	O	S	T	E	E	R
U	R	N	M	U	G	G	L	E	E	T	N	A
R	U	I	N	E	R	P	O	L	K	A	E	D
A	N	I	L	S	R	O	C					
B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	T	I	P	S	
N	A	A	N	A	R	A						
O	R	G	A	J	U	D	O	E	C	L	A	T
T	A	N	K	R	I	G						

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

Suguru solution

# History of Bannerman Island on Dec. 15 at The Factory

The Bannerman Castle Trust (BCT) located at 150 Main Street in Beacon, will present a public lecture about the history of Bannerman Island hosted by historian and educator Thom Johnson of Peekskill, on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 3-5 p.m. The lecture will take place at "The Factory," a new event space located at the Hotel at the Inn and Spa of Beacon at 151 Main Street - directly across from the Bannerman Island Gallery.

Bannerman's Castle, the iconic turn of the century landmark constructed on Pollepel Island at the northern end of the Hudson Highlands fjord by military surplus and antiques dealer Francis Bannerman VI, has been the subject of many legends, myths and even scandal. Mr. Johnson will present an informative and entertaining lecture about the true story of the mysterious island, answering many of your questions.

Attendees are invited to first meet up at the Bannerman Island Gallery between 2:30 and 3 p.m. to view the Trust's 30th Anniversary Exhibition. The exhibition features artwork, photographs, antiques and historic artifacts found on Bannerman Island and tells the story of how the Bannerman Castle Trust came to be, by working in collaboration with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. Attendees can easily walk across the street to the Factory where the lecture will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited, so please call 845-831-1001 to reserve tickets. There is no set ticket price; donations to the Bannerman Castle Trust are suggested and appreciated.



Thom Johnson will present a lecture on the history of Bannerman Island on Dec. 15 in Beacon.

[bannermancastle.org/ways-to-give](http://bannermancastle.org/ways-to-give)

This Bannerman Island lecture is the first in a series of "Third Sunday" winter lectures that will be presented by the BCT as part of their 30th Anniversary Exhibition. The 30th Anniversary Exhibition at the Bannerman Island Gallery has been extended and will be on view through March 2025. Gallery hours are Saturdays & Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. and most weekday afternoons by chance or appointment by calling 845-831-1001.

Bannerman's Island is only accessible to the public by our vessel, the RV Estuary



"Bannerman Castle Reflection" by Thom Johnson.

-Courtesy photos

Steward, leaving from the Beacon, dock by reservation from May - October each year.

If one is interested in taking a tour of the island, please visit [bannermancastle.org](http://bannermancastle.org) where one can now purchase tickets

for the 2025 season.

For more information and to reserve tickets for the lecture on December 15th, call 845-831-1001.

## 'A Christmas Carol' returns to The Center

Experience the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge, a man hardened by greed, as he embarks on a haunting journey guided by the spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. This poignant tale reminds us all that it's never too late to embrace the joy and generosity of the season.

This December, CENTERstage Productions presents "A Christmas Carol," a heartwarming adaptation of Charles Dickens' timeless classic. Running from through December 22, at The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, this cherished holiday tradition takes on even deeper meaning this year.

For over 15 years, the late Lou Trapani, founding Artistic and Managing Director of The CENTER, captivated audiences with his portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge, a role that became synonymous with his name.

This year's performance marks the first

without Lou on stage or directing, but his enduring legacy shines brightly under the masterful eye of his longtime partner and skilled director, Emily DePew, with the talents of Rik Lopes and David Foster as Scrooge. With musical direction by Paul and JoAnne Schubert, this adaptation will have audiences of all ages humming along to their favorite carols.

Celebrate the holidays with your loved ones at A Christmas Carol, a production filled with heart, soul, and the magic of Christmas.

Performance Details:

- Dates: Through December 22
- Showtimes: Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. Additional Saturday Matinee: December 21 at 3 p.m.
- Tickets: \$25 (Family Discount: Buy 4 or more tickets and save \$15!)

Tickets are on sale now at [centerforperformingarts.org](http://centerforperformingarts.org) or by calling our Box Office at 845-876-3080.

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\*Actual model and color may vary.

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