

# Red Hook Responds Executive Chef Leslie Pulver: Making people happy with wonderful volunteers

By Curtis Schmidt

As Chef Leslie Pulver looks into the new year, she keeps sight of one key element – she just loves to make people happy!

After doing that for 34-plus years as a professional caterer and preparing meals for some of the top restaurants in the Hudson Valley, she has gained a tremendous amount of satisfaction as the executive chef for Red Hook Responds since its inception four years ago at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Red Hook Responds is the most wonderful, giving group of people I’ve ever worked with and around. I’m so proud of this every day,” she said. “My personal driving element for helping is to give people nutritious food delivered without any problems, any questions, any reason – just so they can have a good meal to look forward to every day.

“This is my passion, and I work with wonderful volunteers who repeatedly come in week after week. We prepare and assemble the meals and then there’s a whole ‘nother team that handles deliveries. It’s an amazing work process. It’s a well-oiled machine in my eyes, and it just feels good and kind of wonderful to be part of it.”

The mission of Red Hook Responds is “To work together to help our communities by organizing volunteers and supporting resources to those in need.”

So, how many meals are we talking about? It was upward of 225 per day during the early days of the pandemic. It may be less these days, and the pandemic may be over to an extent, but like Leslie says, “We don’t ask questions, we just want to help.”

She vividly recalls the early days of the pandemic – and getting that special request from Red Hook Responds founder Dan Budd.

“Dan called me early on while I was working at the Red Hook Golf Course. The whole country was shut down and he came there and asked me if I would be

interested in helping out, and I said ‘ABSOLUTELY.’

“Then he goes ‘Well, I have some 20 odd turkeys and about a dozen full bags of bread. What can we do about this?’ And I immediately said ‘Turkey Tetrazzini and Mocha Espresso Bread Pudding.’ So our very first large delivery meal was 224 Turkey Tetrazzini with Mocha Espresso Bread Pudding – and I volunteered from there on out, even during my summer concessions at the golf course.”

One of her special helpers and sous chef – from the very beginning – was retired dentist Dr. Bruce Cuttler.

“He has never left my side, so many Mondays and Tuesdays, and in the beginning – so many numbers

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Right: Chef Leslie Pulver is pictured with a tray of food and her signature three- and six-foot subs at a large gathering in Hudson. Above: Pulver stands with Red Hook Responds sous chef Dr. David Cuttler and another volunteer. *Courtesy photos*

# Aymar-Blair to be sworn in as County Comptroller on Jan. 4

By Kristine Coulter



Dan Aymar-Blair. *Courtesy photo*

Dan Aymar-Blair resigned from his elected position as representative for Ward 4 on the Beacon City Council. He was elected to the Dutchess Comptroller position in the November election, against incumbent A. Gregg Pulver. Aymar-Blair will be sworn in on Saturday, Jan. 4, at 3 p.m., at Tymor Park in Union Vale. New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is expected to be in attendance.

Aymar-Blair has “made a career in finance and opera-

tions, two decades of that experience in government finance and operations.” He noted while running for Comptroller, “I’ve even overseen a budget bigger than Dutchess County’s.”

Aymar-Blair told Northern Dutchess News, “There is a lot of planning and pre-work happening right now because we need to hit the ground running for Dutchess County taxpayers. I’m excited to share that I’ve hired back former Deputy Comptroller Brian Kelly, who also happens to be a former Mayor’s Assistant in Beacon,

servicing both Steve Gold and Randy Casale. What I’m most looking forward to now is meeting the team in the Comptroller’s office; I’ve heard so many great things about their work ethic and acumen. Together, we’re all going to accomplish a lot this year.”

Aymar-Blair stated during the campaign on his website: “I currently manage business operations in New York City Public Schools’ special education program and have

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# Hinchey, Fahy deliver first-of-its-kind short-term rental law for New York

New York has taken a historic step in addressing housing challenges and short-term rental transparency with the signing of its first statewide Short-Term Rental Registry into law. Sponsored by Senator Michelle Hinchey (State Senate District 41) and 109th District Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, the legislation (S.885C / A.4130C) signed on Dec. 21 is the first-of-its-kind nationwide and a turning point in holding billion-dollar booking platforms, like Airbnb and Vrbo, accountable to the communities where they conduct business.

The law offers a new county-by-county look into the explosive growth of the short-term rental industry and is aimed at helping communities across the state manage housing availability and affordability while bringing in owed revenue from sales taxes and hotel and motel occupancy taxes.

Short-term rentals (STRs) are essential to New York's tourism economy but have also intensified housing challenges by increasing rents, inflating home prices, and depleting available housing stock. Under the new law, booking platforms will report quarterly to the New York State Department of State (DOS) on the number of bookings it facilitates in each county. Counties that choose to create local registries will receive detailed quarterly reports from booking platforms, including rental locations, occupancy nights, guest counts, and taxes collected. This will help ensure local governments have the information they need to effectively balance the needs of the housing market and the tourism economy. It will also give local leaders more resources to address their community's most pressing needs: over the last five years, NY communities have lost up to \$550 million in uncollected sales and occupancy tax revenue, according to All The Rooms.

"Our Short-Term Rental Registry is a breakthrough for New York's housing future and a first-in-the-nation effort to hold billion-dollar booking platforms accountable in the communities they operate in. The Hudson Valley and communities across New York have been counting on us to get this bill across the finish line, and I'm incredibly proud to say that we've done it," said Hinchey. "For the first time, communities will have the tools to grasp the true scope of short-term rentals, empowering them to develop strategies to expand stable housing options, increase affordability, and unlock untapped revenue. Getting this done took serious teamwork with leaders from every level of local government, the tourism and hospitality industry, and housing advocates who worked with us to make sure this bill would strike the right

balance between supporting a local economic driver and working toward a future where housing is more accessible and affordable in New York. I'm deeply proud to have led this effort alongside Assemblymember and Senator-Elect Patricia Fahy, and I'm grateful to Governor Hochul for signing our bill into law and championing short-term rental accountability as a key piece of our housing strategy."

"New York's groundbreaking Short-Term Registry Law sets a national standard for helping our communities collect real data to shed light on a market that has grown exponentially and helped fuel housing shortages, while leveling the playing field for hotels and motels, and boosting county tourism programs," said Assemblymember and Senator-Elect Patricia Fahy (D-Albany). "Across New York State, communities will finally have the tools necessary to track and analyze how short-term rental units impact their local housing markets, allowing them to craft solutions that will land more New Yorkers in stable housing, drive up supply, and make housing stock more affordable. Small and independently owned hotels and motels will face a level playing field. Local governments will unlock new tourism revenue to help attract visitors, stabilize housing markets, and address the affordability crisis. I'm incredibly proud to have worked with Senator Hinchey and a broad coalition of advocates to establish a well-balanced and landmark framework for New York's \$1 billion short-term rental industry that will have national ramifications. I thank Governor Kathy Hochul for signing this legislation into law, and I look forward to seeing its implementation and impacts on local communities across New York."

"This legislation will finally place short-term rentals on a level playing field alongside hotels and motels and generate local revenue from visitors that supports county tourism and essential services such as public safety, social services, and infrastructure improvements," said New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) President Benjamin Boylin II. "We commend Governor Hochul, Senator Hinchey, and Assemblymember Fahy for their leadership on this issue and for working with counties to reach a compromise that will keep the short-term rental industry strong while also providing local governments with the resources and data they need to address our state's housing crisis and fund essential local services."

Barbara Van Epps, Board President of the NYS Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), said, "NYCOM sincerely thanks Senator Hinchey and Assemblywoman Fahy for their leader-



State Senator Michelle Hinchey speaks about the short-term rental law she co-sponsored with Assemblymember Pat Fahy (in foreground, right). The STR Registry was recently signed into law. *Courtesy photo*

ship on this critically important issue. This new law will not only level the playing field by ensuring that short-term rentals are subject to the same taxes as other key players in the hospitality industry, but it will also provide our members with the data they need to understand the scope of short-term rentals in their cities and villages. Armed with this information, local leaders will be better equipped to address housing and other economic challenges in their communities."

Christopher A. Koetzle, Executive Director of the Association of Towns, said, "We are pleased that the governor signed the state's Short Term Rental legislation into law. NYAOT has worked hard in conjunction with bill sponsors and with the governor's office to protect towns' interests and this bill helps protect our communities and helps give our local government the tools they need to enforce local zoning and further protect their residential areas. The Association of Towns would like to thank Governor Hochul and

the bill's sponsors, Assemblywoman Fahy and Senator Hinchey, for their hard work on this bill and for maintaining localities' autonomy in handling short-term rentals for their community."

Lukee Forbes, Campaign Manager for the Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition, said, "As someone who knows the struggles families face firsthand, I can't stress enough how important it is to protect renters—especially now with rising costs and job shortages. The Short-Term Rental Registry, backed by Senator Hinchey and Assemblywoman Fahy, is a crucial step toward making sure families aren't pushed out of their homes. By bringing more transparency and fairness to the hospitality industry, this registry helps ensure communities get the resources they deserve. It's about keeping families in their homes and stopping the kind of displacement that tears communities apart. We need this to make sure our neighborhoods stay strong and stable for the long run."

## Aymar-Blair to be sworn in as County Comptroller on Jan. 4

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extensive experience in reviewing multi-million-dollar contracts, civil service hiring, legal compliance, and managing capital projects." He resigned from that position last month.

"The two biggest accomplishments of the Beacon City Council in the last five years have been the consolidation of our fire department into a new state-of-the-art facility and the investments we are making in our public parks. Improving safety and our parks are core responsibilities of any local government and we've risen to the challenge. While not necessarily big, I also think it was an important accomplishment to get a stop sign at East Main and Washington because so many school kids pass through that dangerous intersection," Aymar-Blair told Northern Dutchess News about what he considers the two biggest accomplishments when he was on the council.

When he was running for the position of Comptroller, on his campaign website, Aymar-Blair stated, "Originally from Saratoga Springs, I am a sixth-generation New Yorker who learned the values of hard work and compassion from my father, a Hudson River tugboat captain and my mother, a nurse. I worked two jobs while earning my BA from George Washington University."

Aymar-Blair and his wife, Monika, moved to Beacon in 2013. They have two children, Leo and Henry.

"Since I was first elected to Beacon City Council in 2019, I have fought to make Beacon work for everyone: using tax dollars for sidewalks, bike lanes, park improvements, and critical infrastructure. This year, I am fighting to ensure the Fishkill Creek watershed area is protected and developed in a way that benefits the entire community," Aymar-Blair previously stated.

As for his hopes for the City of Beacon, Aymar-Blair said, "I hope the city can make progress staffing up the police department. I also hope that the city will require more public benefits from new building projects. Despite all my efforts, I still feel like we aren't asking more of these new projects. While new development is good for the tax rolls and helps us accomplish big projects like the fire house without increasing tax rates, we don't have to sacrifice things that are important to us like views of the mountain or the creek."

Aymar-Blair was honored for his service during the council meeting on Dec. 16.

Beacon City Administrator Chris White said Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou "is planning to appoint someone. Whomever is appointed would then need to run for the next election since they would only be in for the remainder of Dan's term."

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continued from cover

- and it made us feel good to know that people were eating our food and enjoying it," said Leslie.

Through the years, many individuals and organizations have come forward to "help the helpers" with Red Hook Responds. Leslie recognized the Red Hook Elks Lodge #2022 and the Hendrick Hudson Masonic Lodge #875 of Red Hook for their initial and ongoing contributions, plus Migliorelli Farms and other local farms.

But there were also special gifts – like those that came on behalf of the Dutchess County Fair in 2024. A steer was purchased by the Dutchess County Agricultural Society and Powers Great American Midways at the Youth Livestock Sale during the Fair. Fair CEO Andy Imperati and Powers paid for the processing and delivery, according to Leslie. "A group of food concessionaires from the Fair also purchased the Reserve Grand Champion hog at the sale, paid for processing and delivery and both were donated to Red Hook Responds food pantry," she added.

"What an amazing feeling to see that," she said. "It was also during the Fair when Red Hook Responds was part of 'Feed Hudson Valley' (Food Rescue organization). It was so wonderful. I think we got something like 1,700 pounds," said Leslie.

And the efforts of Leslie and many other volunteers have not gone unnoticed. Read the following words from Red Hook Responds officials.

From Michael Ferrante, current executive director: "It's so heartwarming to witness the care and concern for our community that our neighbors show, especially during the holidays. It's clear the people of Red Hook and Rhinebeck know the spirit of the season is generosity. They are so generous with their time and resources, making sure everyone has a plate at the feast during the holiday season. Chef Leslie and our volunteers prepare and deliver a delicious plate of food."

Founder Dan Budd: "When founding Red Hook Responds, my dream was to create a place where anyone could run to, to immediately help their neighbors in need. It's so heartwarming and inspiring to see how many volunteers have and how much it grows during the holidays. Our community is indeed a great gift!"

Leslie sums up the efforts of the organization best, saying "Working at Red Hook Responds is only as good as the volunteers that keep coming and participating in this program. I thank Dan Budd for that."

### What a career!

Leslie Pulver's work with Red Hook Responds is an extension of a cooking career that began 34-plus years ago. But through it all, she has had that great guiding factor – "What I enjoy most about cooking is, again, making people happy – preparing a beautiful, nutritious plate."

She started helping friends and at restaurants while owning a group home for mentally ill individuals.

"I was always driven to cook and



Above, Red Hook Responds Executive Chef Leslie Pulver is pictured with children from Camp Ramapo. The meal consisted of macaroni and beef with local green beans and apples. Below: Chef Leslie Pulver is pictured with a birthday cake from Red Hook Golf Course. Below, left: bulk meals were prepared in the beginning days the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers prepared and assembled the meals on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and then another team of volunteers handled deliveries. *Courtesy photos*

make people happy with food – I take after my grandmother," she said.

After spending time hosting large gatherings, she decided that she wanted to "learn how to work on the line at a diner or restaurant."

She names caterer Jeff Lashinsky and chef Rick Orlando at New World Home Cooking as two great mentors. She also recalls working at the original Foster's Coach House in Rhinebeck with Robert Kirwood.

"I learned a lot in the front of the house," she said. But I always seemed to steer near the kitchen and he (Kirwood) said 'You're gonna be cooking someday' and I said 'Oh heck no!' - and here I am 34 years in."

Leslie's "school of hard knocks" has also included stints at the Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck, J&J's Gourmet in Red Hook, Grazin Farm-to-Table in Hudson and the Red Hook Golf Course restau-

rant.

"What gives me the most satisfaction is the 'wow factor' when our server puts that plate in front of somebody, and the expression of pure joy on their face is worth a million to me," she said. "Plus the servers saying most of my plates come back with no food left - completely eaten. And I love after service going to meet and greet people and thank them for coming to whatever restaurant I worked at and preparing whatever I've cooked for them."

Her favorite foods? She loves all the classics and comfort foods.

"But a good sandwich - I do three- and six-foot subs in so many styles of varieties and it's the Ooooo & aaah! - the excited response and 'Oh my God, look at that.' And it's so delicious.

"I just overall love my job and I feel like I'm very blessed to do it every day in any way."



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# NDH earns Leapfrog award for outstanding quality and safety

Highlighting its nationally recognized achievements in patient safety and quality, Northern Dutchess Hospital (NDH) was named a Top Teaching Hospital by The Leapfrog Group. The Leapfrog Top Hospital award is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive awards American hospitals can receive.

"We are honored to be recognized as a Top Teaching Hospital," said Dr. Hossam Hafez, medical director of the Nuvance Health Family Medicine Residency program. "This award reflects the dedication of our faculty, residents and staff who work tirelessly to provide outstanding care while educating the next generation of physicians."

Nearly 2,400 hospitals were considered for the award. A total of 134 Top Hospitals were selected, including:

- 8 Top Children's
- 36 Top General
- 15 Top Rural
- 75 Top Teaching

Last month, NDH was recognized by The Leapfrog Group for achieving an 'A' grade for exceptional quality and patient safety, among four other Nuvance Health hospitals.

Earlier this year, NDH was one of 10 hospitals in New York to earn a five-star rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), scoring the highest level of recognition for quality of patient care.

The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, maternity care and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors. The rigorous standards are defined in each year's Top Hospital Methodology.

"This award affirms our relentless pur-



Dr. Diane Kantaros, chief quality officer of Nuvance Health and Dr. Andy Wilson, vice president of medical affairs at Northern Dutchess Hospital with Leah Binder, The Leapfrog Group CEO, accepting the Top Teaching Hospital award in Washington D.C. *Courtesy photo*

suit of quality, safety and innovation in healthcare," said Dr. Andy Wilson, NDH's vice president of medical affairs. "Being named a Top Teaching Hospital by Leapfrog honors our hospital's dedication to exceptional patient care while training future healthcare professionals."

"Protecting patients from preventable harm is central to The Leapfrog Group's mission," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Northern Dutchess Hospital has set the standard for patient safety, earning the prestigious distinction of a Top Hospital. This elite honor reflects the exceptional efforts of the entire team and places Northern

Dutchess Hospital among the nation's elite in healthcare. Congratulations to all who made this remarkable achievement possible."

To qualify for the distinction, hospitals must rank top among peers on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which assesses hospital performance on the highest standards for quality and patient safety and achieve top performance in their category. To see the full list of institutions honored as 2024 Top Hospitals, visit [www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals](http://www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals).

Learn more about Northern Dutchess Hospital: <https://www.nuvancehealth.org/locations/northern-dutchess-hospital>.

## Hyde Park looks back at 2024, looks ahead to 2025

Submitted by Al Torreggiani  
Hyde Park Town Supervisor

The Town of Hyde Park has endeavored many proud accomplishments in 2024, including but not limited to the reduction and redesign of the Sewer District. By tying into Bellefield's system, we reduced the cost by over \$16 million. We will continue to work diligently to receive the support of the Route 9 corridor from our local businesses in 2025.

The John Watson Golden Sr. Town Hall new addition is now complete and ADA-compliant. We are continuing to work together to resolve the Staatsburg flooding issue with the help and research by Councilman Marc Prine, Town Engineer Pete Setaro, Deputy Supervisor John Lombardi, Richard Mattock and Supervisor Al Torreggiani. We will keep you updated on the progress.

Completion of the Route 9 sidewalks, handicap ramps and crosswalks are another success in improvement for Hyde Park. This project was awarded during the previous administration, started and completed by our current administration.

The Town has made many improvements to our Town Parks by making them safe and fun for all ages. More improvement plans to come in 2025 including upgrades to the Hackett Hill Pool and Facilities through a Grant received by

NY SWIMS FY24. The Recreation Department is looking to enhance the Senior Programs and Events.

We plan to continue making improvements and to bring in new businesses to the Town of Hyde Park.

The Town of Hyde Park has hired a new Building Inspector to restructure and improve the Town's Building Department. The Town's Highway Department continues to do an outstanding job on improvements and safety to our roadways, catch basins and so much more. MHA and office upgrades at the Hyde Park Police Department will be a big help and improvement for 2025.

We have partnered with the DC Drug Task Force and are proud to be a part of the efforts and leadership that has brought down the Fentanyl overdoses by 50%. We're looking forward to continuing this effort in 2025.

## Millbrook mourns passing of historian David Greenwood

The people of the Village of Millbrook are mourning the passing of David Greenwood, recently retired village and Town of Washington historian.

Robert McHugh and Alison Meyer of the Millbrook Historical Society report that Greenwood passed away on Monday morning, Dec. 23.

McHugh and Meyer commented in an email, "There is much to celebrate in his

long tenure as our town and village historian. He inspired the 'historian' within all of us to appreciate the story of those before us. He was always ready to share a program on any topic of historic interest when asked. 'It's the teacher in me'!"

In 2022, Greenwood received a New York State award for the society's calendar, then in its 26th year, as an exceptional public history project.



Resumes:  
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# Red Hook Reads community initiative launches with focus on ‘The Anxious Generation’

The Red Hook Central School District, in association with Red Hook Public Library and Tivoli Free Library, is inviting the community to join a discussion regarding how smartphones and social media have impacted behavioral development and wellness through a new initiative called Red Hook Reads.

Participants in Red Hook Reads are invited to read “The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness” and engage in community events that include group book studies, talks, workshops and others to explore the themes covered in the book.

Roughly 200 free copies of the book by Jonathan Haidt are available, purchased through a Red Hook Education Foundation grant. You can sign up for the program at <https://www.redhookcentralschools.org/our-district/red-hook-reads>.

The initiative is part of a broader focus throughout the school district on mental health and well-being awareness. The district held its inaugural Wellness Fair at Mill Road Elementary School this fall, in which parents and students could learn more about healthy actions while engaging in games and activities. The high school this fall also began offering two classes focused on maintaining mental health: Freshman Focus, a first-year course to help students build healthy habits through their high school experi-

ence; and Mind, Body, Wellness, which students can take each year as an alternative physical education credit.

“The Anxious Generation” has captured national attention since it was published in March 2024. It examines the impact of the digital age, in which play-based childhood has been replaced by screen-based childhood and what the long-term effects of that may be.

“I think there are a lot of parents who are trying to parse these things out,” said district K-12 Music Department Chairperson Matthew Funigiello, who is spearheading the inaugural Red Hook Reads.

While the broad idea that screens and social media have encouraged the growth of mental health challenges among young people isn’t new, Funigiello said Haidt’s book “takes that feeling that ‘We know this isn’t great’ and he puts hard facts behind it.

“He’s built an exceptional case that it’s not just ‘social media is just bad’ but it really is retooling how the brain works at a critical time in child development,” Funigiello said.

The group book studies will be hosted by the Red Hook and Tivoli libraries beginning in January. Other events will be planned and revealed as the year rolls on. Funigiello noted the goal is to offer aspects of the program that appeal to residents and families in different ways, in order to capture as many perspectives



into the discussion as possible.

“Whatever way people want to participate, they should have the opportunity to participate in things that are very consequential – not just for school and children, but community health, in general,” he said. “Interface with it the way you want to.”

Red Hook Reads is already underway. Through the fall, groups of school district employees have engaged in book studies and discussions focusing on how to leverage professional expertise, strengthen relationships with students and families, and utilize district resources to address challenges that include screen-based childhood and adolescent mental health.

“The passion and dedication our teachers bring to these discussions, especially their commitment to finding practical, meaningful solutions to the challenges we face together, has been very inspiring and will have great impact on the well-being of the Red Hook community,” Funigiello said.

Throughout the program, the Red Hook Reads webpage will be updated with articles and videos that dive deeper into the broader subjects discussed.

The 2024-25 edition of Red Hook Reads will culminate in May with a planned panel discussion and community meal that will be free of phones.

## RHINEBECK ROTARY'S INTERACT CLUB

### TO HOLD FUNDRAISING PARTY FOR ‘COSTA RICA PROJECT’

High-school students in the Rhinebeck Rotary's Interact Club will hold a “Costa Rica Project” Fundraising Party on Friday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 10 p.m., at The Rhinecliff Hotel, 4 Grinnell St., Rhinecliff. Interact Club youth will be building a playground and repairing a classroom in Costa Rica.

The fundraiser will feature great food, wine and beer, silent auction, dancing and DJ music. The cost to attend is \$85.

Those who cannot attend the event but would still like to help can make a donation directly to the campaign at <https://rhinebeckrotary.square.site/> or via Venmo @RhinebeckRotary.

## Hochul awards more than \$225M to water quality protection projects

Governor Kathy Hochul announced last week that more than \$225 million awarded to 165 projects to significantly improve water quality across the state. The grants support projects that will help protect drinking water, update aging water infrastructure, reduce contributors to harmful algal blooms, and improve aquatic habitat in communities statewide. More than \$197 million of the funding will support water quality improvements for environmental justice communities that may be disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution.

Through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant program, these projects will directly improve water quality or aquatic habitat, promote flood risk reduction, restoration, and enhanced flood and climate resiliency, or protect a drinking water source. Additional projects through the Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Mapping Grant (NPG) support the initial planning of non-agricultural nonpoint source water quality improvement projects, such as undersized culvert replacements and green infrastructure technologies, and State permit-required storm sewer mapping in urban areas. These projects will reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff entering lakes, rivers, and streams, and improve resiliency against the impacts of climate change.

The WQIP and NPG funding is part of Round XIV of the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. The REDC process continues to support and empower regional stakeholders in developing strategic plans and funding priorities that meet local economic needs. Applicants utilized the New York’s Consolidated Funding Application, the State’s single application for state resources, which includes programs for numerous agencies. It is designed to provide expedited and streamlined access to

a combined pool of grant funds and tax credits from dozens of existing programs.

This round of WQIP awards were supported by the State’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the Clean Water Infrastructure Act (CWIA), the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 (Bond Act), and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Nearly half of the WQIP and NPG awarded grants, totaling approximately \$102 million, will support projects in watersheds known to have experienced HABs in the past five years or help implement a project identified in a DEC HABs Action Plan. A total of \$15 million will implement proper salt storage and road salt reduction best management practices.

As recommended by the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force, DEC and the State Department of Transportation (DOT) collaborated to include activities that reduce road salt applications to help protect public health and the environment, including brine-making equipment and brine storage tanks and retrofitting snowplows with live edge or segmented flow blades, plow guards, truck mounted brine spreading equipment, and GPS sensors.

### Project Highlights

Riverkeeper, Inc. - \$2.5 million for Dam Removal: Riverkeeper will remove Crystal Lake Dam in the town of Highland. The removal will protect homes, roads, and the railroad downstream from potential flooding.

Westchester Land Trust, Inc. - \$1,610,846 for Croton Drinking Water Protection: More than 200 acres will be acquired to protect New York City’s drinking water sources. Westchester Land Trust will acquire parcels of undeveloped forested land in the town of Southeast to support source water protection.

The full list of WQIP awardees can be found at [www.dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/wqip-program](http://www.dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/wqip-program).



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Pleasant Valley Community Gardens kicks off 2025 season

It's dark days of winter outside, but Pleasant Valley Community Gardens is already planning for its next season. The organization will meet on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Community Library. No experience necessary. PV Community Gardens is a committed group of volunteers learning as they grow vegetables and flowers in their garden in Helen Aldrich Park on Route 115. Everything grown is to benefit Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Food Pantry. Meet your neighbors, learn about the seeding planting and more while you help feed your community! See our Facebook page and web site at [www.pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com](http://www.pleasantvalleycommunitygardens.com).

## Stanford Grange to offer take-out Winter Soup Dinner Jan. 11

Stanford Grange will host its Annual Winter Soup Dinner on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville, at 5 p.m. All dinners are take out only. The menu will consist of your choice of a quart of homemade soup (turkey orzo, winter minestrone, or potato corn chowder), your choice of bread (French bread or homemade cornbread), garden salad with dressing, and old fashioned country banana pudding with wafers for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. For reservations, please call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869. Please note which kind of soup and bread you would like when you call to order!

## Repair Cafe set Jan. 11 in Hyde Park

The Hyde Park Repair Café will take place on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The United Methodist Church, 1 Church St., Hyde Park. Bring your beloved but broken items in for free repairs and advice. For more information, go to [www.ClimateSmartHydePark.org](http://www.ClimateSmartHydePark.org) or see the Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/share/15VdWivFPL/>

## Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe set Jan. 11

The Pleasant Valley Repair Cafe will kick off the new year, Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Town Hall, Route 44, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The kick off will feature a Learn to Knit Class at 12:30 p.m. and a Sharpening Class from 1 to 2 p.m. Bring whatever needs sharpening, (knives, scissors, tools). Both classes will have a limit of 10, so arrive 15 minutes early.

A skilled team of "fixers" have much experience working on antique lamps and clocks, but it takes time, so come early and be patient. Computers, vacuums, clothing, moth-eaten sweaters, electronics, video games and cell phones are just a few of what can be repaired. The cafe features fresh coffee, tea, muffins, cookies and fruit. Everything is free, but donations are appreciated, as they help feed the staff and buy parts for repairs.

## Pancake Breakfasts set at Rhinecliff Firehouse

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad will host Winter Pancake Breakfasts from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on the following Sundays: Jan. 12, Feb. 9 and March 9. Enjoy a pile-high of "Rhinecliff's Best" pancakes,

sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. It's all-you-can-eat so bring your appetite and your friends. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children, and free for children age 5 and younger. Breakfasts will be served at the Rhinecliff Firehouse (corner of Shatzell & Orchard in Rhinecliff). Proceeds will support the Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. For more information, call Cynthia at (845) 876-5738 or e-mail: [csaniewski1@gmail.com](mailto:csaniewski1@gmail.com).

## Winter Soup Sales to benefit Rhinebeck Grange

It's time for Winter Soup Sales in Rhinecliff, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896. Mark your calendar for the following Thursdays: Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 20. The cost is \$10 per quart (two pint-size containers). Take-out only. Pick up at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell Ave. and Orchard Drive, Rhinecliff, at the side door on Orchard Drive, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New: Pick up also available at Morton Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Email [JoBaer2@gmail.com](mailto:JoBaer2@gmail.com) to be sent the soup choices for each month and to pre-order online.

Proceeds support the Rhinebeck Grange.

For more information, contact Joe Baer at (845) 876-6488, [JoBaer2@gmail.com](mailto:JoBaer2@gmail.com).

## Defensive Driving Course

offered Jan. 25 at Stanford Grange

Stanford Grange #808 will host a Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cost is \$38 per person. This course allows New York drivers to receive a 10% discount off their collision and auto liability insurance and remove up to 4 points on your license for any violations incurred in the last 18 months. The class includes festive classroom participation and informative movies as well as a delicious homemade lunch served by the Grange Dinner Committee with a free will offering asked. For more information or to request an application for the course, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

## ONGOING

**Meals on Wheels of Hyde Park and the Village of Rhinebeck** is seeking volunteer drivers during the hours of 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Drivers are needed Monday-Friday. You can drive one or more days each week or substitute as needed. All drivers work in teams so couples or friends are encouraged to volunteer together. For more information visit [www.mealsonwheels.org](http://www.mealsonwheels.org) or, contact Andrea Tkazyk at (845) 229-5896.

**The New to You Thrift Shop** at St. Christopher's in Red Hook has cold-weather clothing, with everything from shoes to coats, bags, scarves, hats...Come in and outfit yourself for the chillier times. The prices are amazing. And while the ladies are browsing clothing, we have children's clothing and toys and games. The shop is at 30 Benner Road in Red Hook by St. Christopher's School.

# 'Shrek The Musical' opens Jan. 4 at The Center

CENTERstage Productions will present "Shrek The Musical" on weekends Jan. 4-26 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. "Shrek The Musical" is a Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film. CENTERstage's production is directed by Emily Woolever, with musical direction by Matthew Woolever and choreography by Jordan Stroy.

Featuring all new songs from Jeanine Tesori ("Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Caroline, or Change") and a side-splitting book by David Lindsay-Abaire, "Shrek" brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on stage and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears.

"Once upon a time, there was a little

ogre named Shrek..." And thus begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Throw in a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand ... and his name is Shrek.

Performances will take place Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m. and on Sundays at 3 p.m. There will be two Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. on Jan. 11 and 18. Tickets are \$29 and available by calling (845) 876-3080 or visiting [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org).

The Center is at 661 Route 308 in Rhinebeck.

## ART EXHIBITIONS

**Art Gallery 71, 71 E. Market St., Rhinebeck. Jan. 3-Feb. 2:** To commemorate its five year anniversary, Art Gallery 71's January feature is a group exhibition of the seven artists that founded the cooperative: Alix Travis, Wendy Sheasby, Evelyn LaStella, Richard Chianella, Trevor Hunter, Mary Belliveau and Ted Braggins. **Reception/party:** Sat., Jan. 25, 4-6 p.m. [www.artgallery71.com](http://www.artgallery71.com)

**Bannerman Island Gallery, 150 Main St., Beacon. Through January:** "The True Story of Bannerman's Island," Bannerman Castle Trust's 30th anniversary exhibition featuring fine art, historic & contemporary photographs, Bannerman Island antiques & artifacts. [www.bannermancastle.org](http://www.bannermancastle.org)

**Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. Jan. 3-31:** New art installations featuring Melanie Gonzalez in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St., and Jessica Licciardello in the Reception and Hancock Galleries at 12 Vassar St. **Free public art opening receptions** will be held on Fri., Jan. 3, 5-7 p.m. for Jessica Licciardello in the Reception and Hancock Galleries; and Fri., Jan. 10, 5-7 p.m. for Melanie Gonzalez in the Victorian Gallery. Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: [cunneen-hackett.org](http://cunneen-hackett.org)

**Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. Through Feb. 2:** "Reproductive: Health, Fertility, Agency," an exhibition that brings together diverse artistic perspectives to address critical issues including birth, miscarriage, pleasure, access to abortion, trauma, and the loss of fertility. Through a range of media and approaches, the artists provide a space for reflection and dialogue on these vital topics, challenging viewers to engage with the complexities of reproductive experiences and the pursuit of agency. (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

**Rhinebeck Bank, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. Through January:** Artworks by Deztiny Di Meo on display. A Hyde Park resident, Di Meo utilizes a mix of different media to create her artwork, including acrylic paint, marker, pen, and paper clippings. Her artwork has been displayed at the Hyde Park Library, the Millbrook Library, and The Crafted Kup as part of WomensWork.Art Gallery. <https://deztinydimeo.com/art>.

## A & E CALENDAR

**Jan. 3-4: Live Music at the Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon. Jan. 3:** Buffalo Stack featuring Andy Stack, 8 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 door. **Jan. 4:** SoulShine - The Allman Brothers Experience, 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door (845) 855-1300 or [www.townecrier.com](http://www.townecrier.com)

**Jan. 4-26: "Shrek The Musical,"** The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film. Featuring all new songs from Jeanine Tesori ("Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Caroline, or Change") and a side-splitting

book by David Lindsay-Abaire, "Shrek" brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on stage and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. There will be Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. on Jan. 11 & 18. Tickets \$29. (845) 876-3080 or [www.centerforperformingarts.org](http://www.centerforperformingarts.org)

**Jan. 7: Film, "The Pollinators,"** Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Screening followed by Q&A with producers Peter Nelson and Sally Roy, 6 p.m. (845) 876-2903

## D.A.: Poughkeepsie man found guilty of 10 felonies related to narcotic sales, sentenced to 20 years

The Dutchess County District Attorney's Office announced that on December 20, Poughkeepsie resident Spencer Green, 47, was sentenced to a total of 20 years in prison after he was found guilty by a jury on 10 felony counts related to narcotic sales in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Dutchess County District Attorney, Anthony Parisi said, "Today's (Dec. 20) sentence of 20 years in prison reflects the serious nature of the defendant's criminal conduct and its devastating impact on our community. Drug trafficking fuels addiction, spreads violence, and endangers public safety. I commend our Drug Task Force and the Assistant District Attorneys from the Violent Crime and Dangerous Drug Unit for their commitment to protecting our neighborhoods and families from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs."

It was stated in a press release: "The Dutchess County Drug Task Force began investigating Spencer Green in 2023 after he was identified as a narcotic and dangerous drug dealer operating in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Drug Task Force

Agents purchased narcotics from Mr. Green on multiple occasions leading up to his arrest in December of 2023. On October 21, 2024, a Dutchess County jury convicted Green of five counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, class B Felonies, four counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, Class B felonies and one count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Fifth Degree, a Class D Felony. This jury trial conviction marks the fourth felony drug conviction for the Defendant."

Green was sentenced in Dutchess County Court by the Honorable Edward McLoughlin. The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Heather Ryan and Deputy Bureau Chief David Kunca of the Violent Crime and Dangerous Drug Unit.

The District Attorney's Office and the Drug Task Force states they continue to work together to identify and remove dangerous drug dealers from local communities.



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# Sheriff's Office warns of increasing scams

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office would like to take this opportunity to warn the residents of Dutchess County and surrounding areas about scams that once again seem to be on the rise.

Scams are ways in which criminals will attempt to get money from people by contacting them and making up elaborate stories. In some cases the perpetrators have tried, sometimes successfully, to use the victim's emotions about a loved one in trouble to get money. It's common for the perpetrators of these scams to try to get money by telling people that one of their relatives has been seriously hurt or is in jail, and that they need money right away. In many cases they will pose as a law enforcement official or another relative to try and convince the victim that it's legitimate.

In the latest scam the perpetrators contact the victim while posing as law enforcement and tell them that they are wanted, have child pornography on their computer, or are a sex offender in violation of their restrictions. The perpetrators then tell the victim that they can satisfy the warrant or dispose of the matter by paying a sum of money.

Lately the perpetrators have been posing as "Lt. Stevens from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office."

The Sheriff's Office would like to offer the following tips to help people avoid these scams:

- If you're contacted by someone you don't know asking for money, for any reason, it's very likely a scam.
- If you receive correspondence from someone that you don't know and they instruct you to keep the matter confidential and not tell anyone about it, it's most likely a scam.
- Legitimate law enforcement would not attempt to satisfy a warrant or make promises to avoid prosecution by soliciting money.
- If you receive an email about an order you didn't place or asking you to send money call the company using a legitimate number. DO NOT follow the instructions in the email, click on any links in the email, or call the number provided in the email.
- If someone asks you to purchase merchandise, transfer money, provide bank information, provide remote

computer access or enter a code given to you by them use caution as it is likely a scam.

- Do not meet up with someone that you don't know; if you're asked to do this it is surely a scam, and it is very dangerous as well.
  - If someone calls you and tells you that a relative has been hurt or is in jail, confirm it first before sending any money. Call other relatives or a legitimate law enforcement agency for confirmation before any money is sent. If they're posing as a relative, try and contact that relative for confirmation.
  - Sending money overseas is especially risky; use extreme caution.
  - Ask the person for their call back number and ask to speak to their supervisor to confirm the info; if it's a scam they will most likely hang up at this point and the number they give you will be bogus.
  - If a loved one has recently passed away be wary; in some cases perpetrators have even preyed on victims by searching through the obituaries and calling surviving loved ones. If you get calls from people you don't know soon after someone passes away, be careful and confirm it before you send any money.
  - In some cases someone will call and tell the victim that they've won money, but to "process the claim" they need to first send money. Beware this is most definitely a scam and don't send any money – you should never have to pay money to claim a prize. If it seems too good to be true, it most likely is.
  - If there's any doubt about a phone call/email/letter you've received contact the Sheriff's Office before sending any money.
  - Scams tend to increase during the holiday season, so be especially alert for them during those times.
- It is very important to not send any money to anyone that you don't know until you've confirmed the situation through an independent source and feel comfortable with it. If it's a scam once the money is sent it's very difficult, and most times impossible, to get it back. If anyone thinks they may have been the victim of a scam they are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office at (845) 486-3800 or via the tipline at (845) 605-CLUE or dcsotips@gmail.com.

# New Year, new habits: How to form, maintain and sustain new health habits

By Premier Medical Group

After an indulgent season filled with festive cookies and holiday feasts, it is only logical that the resolution on everyone's mind for 2025 is health.

Forty-three percent of people who set resolutions in the New Year abandon their efforts by the last week of January. The New Year is the perfect launching pad to introduce new habits and a healthier lifestyle. With a positive mindset and some helpful tips from Premier Medical Group, you'll be on your way to forming, maintaining, and sustaining new health habits throughout the upcoming year.

**Set Realistic and Specific Goals** - One of the biggest hurdles people face with goal-setting and New Year's resolutions is the desire to make big sweeping changes to their entire lifestyle. It is common for people to feel like they need to change every aspect of their lives to achieve success. They make big broad exclamations like "get fit" and "eat better" that have little clarity. However, it is more sustainable to set realistic and specific bite-sized goals to start.

Consider narrowing down your health-focused goals to one aspect of your overall healthier lifestyle journey. Use a goal-setting strategy like SMART to create specific, measurable, attainable, realistic/relevant, and time-bound goals. Let's break down the "get fit" goal. If you're just starting this journey to fitness, a SMART goal may be to take a 30-minute walk (specific), twice a week (measurable and attainable – you've got time twice a week!), to improve your overall fitness (relevant), every week for 4 weeks (time-bound). Setting a goal like this helps you track your progress easily and stay motivated to grow your goals throughout the year!

**Be Consistent** - Now that you have small, manageable changes with clear expectations, you can move on to the next phase: consistency! As these small changes become habits, you will be able to gradually increase the intensity and duration of your activities.

Consistency is key when forming new habits. Each day that you reinforce a new activity it rewires your brain and becomes second nature. Establishing a regular routine helps your body and mind adapt to the changes more efficiently. Set specific times for your healthy habits, whether it's morning workouts, regular mealtimes, or designated moments for self-care. Over time, your routine will become ingrained in your daily life, making it less likely for you to skip or forget your healthy habits.

**Make it Enjoyable** - Just because something is "healthy" or is geared toward creating a healthier lifestyle doesn't mean it has to be unpleasant. There are so many ways to make a healthier

lifestyle enjoyable. If you're not enjoying yourself – or worse – depriving yourself of things you enjoy, the higher the risk of failure is in sticking to your goals.

Choosing activities you enjoy increases the likelihood that you'll stick with them in the long run. If you dislike running, don't force yourself to become a marathon enthusiast. Experiment with various activities until you find something that brings you joy, whether it's dancing, cycling, swimming, or practicing yoga. When you genuinely enjoy what you're doing, it becomes easier to turn it into a sustainable habit.

**Track Your Progress** - Keep a record of your achievements, no matter how small. Tracking your progress allows you to celebrate successes and identify areas for improvement. Use a journal, a mobile app, a calendar, or any method that works for you to monitor your activities, nutrition, and overall well-being. Reflecting on your journey can boost your confidence and serve as a reminder of how far you've come.

Share your health goals with friends, family, or a supportive community. Having someone to share your progress with can provide motivation and accountability. Consider finding a workout buddy, joining a fitness class, or participating in online communities dedicated to health and wellness. The encouragement and shared experiences of others can be instrumental in helping you stay on track.

**Celebrate & Recalibrate** - Once you are comfortable with goal setting and you see success, it is important to celebrate and recalibrate your goals! Treat yourself when you reach milestones along the way. Celebrate your achievements with rewards that align with your goals. It could be a relaxing massage, a new workout outfit, or a guilt-free day of indulgence.

Embarking on a journey to form new health habits requires commitment, patience, and a strategic approach. Setbacks are to be expected, and as you progress, you will find yourself recalibrating and revisiting your goals as your health needs change. By setting realistic goals, starting small, and establishing a consistent routine, you can increase the likelihood of success. Remember, the goal is not just to make changes for the new year but to cultivate habits that contribute to a healthier and more fulfilling life in the long run.

*Premier Medical Group is a multi-specialty medical practice with locations in Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, Hopewell, Wappingers, New Windsor, Newburgh, and Kingston. To learn more about our specialties and providers, please visit premiermedicalhv.com or call #1-888-632-6099.*

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# Upcoming events at Starr Library

## STARR LIBRARY

68 West Market St., Rhinebeck  
(845) 876-4030  
www.starrlibrary.org

We'll resume collecting book donations on our usual Wednesday & Sunday schedule beginning on Sunday, January 5th. Check out our program calendar and the Friends of the Library Book Sales page on our website for more information.

A new monthly Death Cafe will also become a fixture on our calendar beginning on January 6th, and later next month, we're bringing in experts to share strategies to help wake up body parts affected by neuropathy. Visit the website for more information.

Teabag Painting Workshop with Ruby Silvius

Saturday, January 11th, 11am-1pm  
Artist Ruby Silvius will lead a hands-on workshop for adults demonstrating her process and sharing tips and techniques for painting in miniature on recycled teabags. With step-by-step instructions, participants will learn how to paint birches on used tea bags. All materials will be supplied. No experience is necessary and beginners are welcome! Registration is required. Space is limited.

Pilates at the Library  
Jan. 27-March 10

Start the new year off right with our 6-week Pilates series! This open level class is designed to introduce people to Pilates, a set of exercises that's all about building strength and flexibility in your core and back muscles.

## KIDS & FAMILIES

Slime Factory!

Saturday, January 11th, 2-3:30pm  
We're doing it again! Come make a mess and experiment with whatever gooey, slimy mixtures you can dream up! With limitless possibilities for colors, mix-ins, and more, kids will be able to create their own custom recipe. Space and supplies are limited, please be sure to register each person who plans to attend separately.

Music And Movement with Terry Watson

Thursdays, January 9th & 23rd  
Session 1: 11:15-11:45am

Session 2: Noon-12:30pm

Licensed music therapist Terry Watson delights with songs, chants, puppetry, instruments, storytelling and movement/dance with a focus on child development and early literacy. Sessions are geared toward children 0-4 years old with their caregivers or parents. Parents with slightly older children are welcome, too. Registration required

Connect & Play

Mondays, January 6th & 27th  
10:30-11:30am (3 mo-4 yrs)  
Join Jane Korn and other parents, caregivers, and children for a play group at the library! This is an opportunity for parents to connect and share ideas while their young ones interact, play and grow.

Registration is required each week through our online calendar.

Storytime with Robbie

Every Tuesday, 10:15-11am  
(2-6 years old)  
Robbie's beloved storytime brings together an animated, fun, and engaging reading style with literacy-focused activities, including fingerplays and crafts.

Super Lego Hour

Every Tuesday, 4-5pm  
This amazing group of kids and their adults meets weekly to work on their Lego creations. As one parent said recently of the shelf where their works in progress are displayed, "You can see a lot of imagination here!" ?Ages range widely, from 5-13.

Starr Book Club

"One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel García Márquez  
Tuesday, January 28th, 7pm  
One of the most influential literary works of our time, "One Hundred Years of Solitude" remains a dazzling and original achievement by the masterful Gabriel García Márquez, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

"One Hundred Years of Solitude" tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad and alive with unforgettable men and women—brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul—this novel is a masterpiece in the art of fiction.

Now an 8-episode miniseries on Netflix!

# Cunneen-Hackett opens new art exhibition Jan. 3

The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center kicks off its 2025 Art Exhibition Season in January with new art installations featuring Melanie Gonzalez in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie, and Jessica Licciardello in the Reception and Hancock Galleries at 12 Vassar Street. Free public art opening receptions will be held on the following dates: Friday, Jan. 3, for Jessica Licciardello in the Reception and Hancock Galleries from 5 to 7 p.m.; and Friday, Jan. 10, for Melanie Gonzalez in the Victorian Gallery from 5 to 7 p.m.

Melanie Gonzalez is a fine artist photographer who creates multimedia films, wearable arts and textiles, photographic prints, and community art productions. Born and raised in the Bronx, her professional practice in the arts stems from an upbringing engaged in music, theater, sculpture and nature all in the heart of NYC.

"As an artist photographer, I consider the medium to be my foundation, as I then have used my library of images to create video projects, jewelry, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu apparel, large format printed banners, photogravure prints, tiny books, studio pictures, and printed material," she explained. "My practice involves my visual beautification as historical archive, and the wide web of physical collaborations that take place behind every image, whether to work with others to purchase the materials to create the work, or joining with others to visit sites of interest, commerce, learning, and transforming."

Gonzalez holds a Bachelor of Arts (Studio Art/Photography) from The City College of New York and has been the recipient of the 2023 Women's Studio Workshop Summer Intensive Scholarship and the 2022 Creatives Rebuild NY Grant, and the 2015 Bronx Council on the Arts Grant, to name a few. In 2019, she founded Suzanna Productions operating in New Paltz, as a way to professionally present the multimedia creative solutions derived from her photography-making.

Jessica Licciardello has built a diverse 20-year career as an artist, designer, composer, and musician whose work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, collected in over 15 countries, and featured in Forbes magazine. Holding a BA in Studio Art and Art History from Marist College, her creative journey includes collaborations with National Geographic photographers and serving as Creative Director and Arts & Culture Journalist for BELLA Magazine. Licciardello's exhibition at the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center

entitled "8 Minutes to Freedom," made possible with funds from the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson, was inspired by her decision to leave an abusive relationship and by the courage of others who had shared their own stories.

"'8 Minutes to Freedom' marks the moment I decided to leave an abusive relationship that I had been trapped in for far too long," she expressed. "It had taken me a while to get to the point of making that decision, and when the opportunity presented itself, I was in the basement of my apartment building, doing laundry, with eight minutes left on the dryer's cycle, and seeing that number, I realized I had only this brief window to act... I told myself, 'That's it, this is the moment' and I gathered my clothes, and with them, I took my first steps toward freedom. That was the beginning of my healing process."

Licciardello's work is driven by her passion to inspire, spread positivity, and connect communities through the transformative power of art. She currently works as a freelance Art Director and Producer for live events around the world, combining her artistic vision with organizational expertise to create impactful experiences as well as shares global art exhibitions on her robust Instagram, inspiring followers to explore diverse artistic practices worldwide.

The Hancock Gallery and Reception Gallery at 12 Vassar Street are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. The 12 Vassar Street Galleries are also open during events at the VBI Theatre. The Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar Street is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center website at [cunneen-hackett.org](http://cunneen-hackett.org) for more information on the artists exhibiting their work in the Visual Art Galleries.

The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center is a non-profit organization whose mission for over four decades has been to meet the artistic and cultural needs of the Hudson Valley by showcasing professional and community artists in theatre, music, dance, and the visual arts, and to provide a variety of performance, exhibition, and office spaces. It is dedicated to keeping its rich historic legacy alive and preserving the two beautiful landmarked Victorian age buildings at 9 and 12 Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie, in which it operates.

## Stormville student among Belmont University's Fall 2024 Dean's List Scholars

NASHVILLE, TN -- Mikayla McGrory of Stormville was named among the students who qualified for Belmont University's fall 2024 Dean's List. Approximately 53% of the University's 7,175 undergraduate students qualified for the fall 2024 Dean's List.

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.



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# Time for tea

Celebrate National Hot Tea Month with a 'cuppa' and the perfect sweet accompaniment.

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were merry and bright, full of love and good food and that your blessings are too numerous to count. It's hard to believe it's all over, but here we are; and it's time to settle back into our normal routines.

January is National Hot Tea Month, and I can't think of a better thing to add to your daily routine (and start the year off right) than sipping a hot cuppa comforting tea. It's good for you, warms you heart and soul and is a great excuse to relax a little each day.

I grew up with tea. It was just part of daily life. I still associate it with home and it always tastes best at my parents' house where it's sipped after dinner or on a weekend afternoon when my mother makes a pot to enjoy while we play a game. For this she uses her mother's teapot, a well-loved, shapely metal vessel with a wooden handle rubbed smooth with decades of use. Drinking tea from that pot is one of the reasons I believe that an occasion is simply an excuse to celebrate something, my mantra for life. It seems such a simple thing, but that's kind of the point, a subtle yet important ritual that became a special way to enjoy and celebrate something ordinary.

Tea has a long and storied history, but today is not going to be a lesson in that, which would be an article in itself and a long one at that. Its importance to many cultures is well known and includes elaborate ceremonies and rituals that center around its preparation and consumption. I was surprised to learn the U.S. is the third largest importer of tea after Russia and Pakistan, according to World Tea News, I suppose because I thought Great Britain would have made the top three. The true tea plant, *Camellia sinensis*, is native to India and China; and one shrub's leaves are the source of black, green, oolong and white teas, depending on how each is processed, which affects the level of caffeine: white has the least, black the most, being comparable to a cup of strong coffee. Herbal teas are not "true" tea, because herbs and plants other than

*Camellia sinensis* are used; but they are naturally caffeine-free (not the same as decaffeinated as some teas are labeled, which still have traces of the stimulant). Contrary to popular belief, green tea is neither herbal nor caffeine-free.

No matter if it's black, green, oolong or white, tea has a great many health benefits. Full of bioactive compounds and antioxidants, drinking at least one hot cup a day improves overall health, supports cardiovascular health, improves cognitive function and brain health. Even with its caffeine it can relax you, a fact I think attributable to its comforting quality and the time it takes to prepare and enjoy it. Maybe that's why it may also lower blood pressure and the risk of depression. Any way you look at it, taking a break to sip some is soothing.

Then there's the way you take it: straight, cream, lemon, sugar, one lump or two? And do you like flavored varieties, like Earl Grey, jasmine or peppermint? My mother's cupboard is filled with just about every flavored tea there is, from cinnamon to blackberry, and for us it's all about what we're in the mood for, which just adds to the soothing nature of tea. It's there for us when we need it, no matter what we're feeling. Peppermint tea after a heavy meal, Constant Comment on a chilly afternoon or for a broken heart, chamomile for a stomachache or just before bed. Why wouldn't you cozy up to it every day? Any time of day? With breakfast, for an afternoon break, when you don't feel well, after dinner, with dessert, it's there for you. Whether you steal away with a cup for some alone time or brew a pot for chatting with a friend, here's a little something to go with it.

## SHORTBREAD MELTAWAYS

If you love shortbread like I do, you'll want to try these. They are delicate in both flavor and texture, melt-in-your-mouth light and buttery, and just perfect with a cup of tea. With so few ingredients, the quality of each really comes through, so use the best you can find.

Real vanilla extract is a must and I recommend European butter, although regular is fine. Either way, make sure it's soft enough to mix. Don't be tempted to melt it, which will result in an oily batter. If using unsalted butter you may want to add another 1/4 teaspoon of salt.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups flour, sifted
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch, sifted
- Colored sugar for decorating

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment and set aside.

In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until creamy (about 5-10 minutes) scraping down sides as you go. I recommend mashing the butter a bit first with a fork into the sugar before using beaters to prevent a cloud of sugar dust and help with the blending. It will be crumbly at first but should come together as the butter softens.

Add vanilla and stir to combine.

In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, cornstarch and salt. Gradually add to butter mixture, stirring between each addition just to combine. If the dough is too soft and sticky to roll, refrigerate it for at least 30 minutes.

Scoop dough with a tablespoon and roll into balls. Place on prepared baking sheets 1-inch apart (they really won't spread). Gently flatten each cookie slightly with a fork. If dough sticks to the fork, dip the fork in powdered sugar before pressing. Sprinkle each with colored sugar.

Bake until set, about 12 minutes (up to 18 if you chilled the dough). These will NOT brown, so don't over bake them. Cool completely on baking sheets. Makes about 34 tender, delightful, not-too-sweet cookies.



Shortbread Meltaways. Photo by Vicki Frank Day

It's a New Year, and this month happens to be a time to honor tea. Why not start the year off right and take a little time every day to enjoy a comforting cup of hot tea? I think you'll be amazed at what such a simple thing can do for your overall state of mind and health. And maybe, like me, you'll marvel at how one simple shrub can be at the heart of a beverage that is at once calming and bracing, stimulating and soothing. It's really one of Nature's miracles and worth celebrating every day. But then again, so are you.

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

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# New Year's celebrations

World travelers Mark and Sue have greeted the new year in many different places.

Fifty New Year's Eves together and counting ... Sue and I are remembering some of the highlights:

• **Sydney, Australia** – It's 8 a.m. I n New York when Sydney sets off its New Year's Eve fireworks display, so it gets a lot of airplay here. Sue and I had to see it for ourselves. Let's just say it's tough to find a place to stay when you arrive in Sydney on December 31 without a hotel reservation. And nobody told us about the hills we had to drag our luggage up and down before we finally found a room at a youth hostel that was actually very nice and affordable. We wormed our way into a sold-out show at Luna Park with a fabulous view of the fireworks.

• **Honolulu** – People set off thousands of firecrackers to scare away evil spirits. The next day, we traveled to the "Big Island" to visit our friend Marvin Jones. His house was crammed with locals displaced by the eruption of Mauna Loa. It was a wild scene, as the lava was creating new territory as it streamed into the ocean. Some of Marvin's friends were venturing onto the lava as it cooled to strike claims, hoping they wouldn't break through the crust.

• **Buenos Aires** – We arrived one day after the horrendous Coromanon Nightclub fire (December 30, 2004) that killed 194 people and injured 1,500. (The band members were convicted of murder). President Kirchner closed all the

nightclubs, but not tango showrooms. Sue and I went to a tango show, where we sat with the dancer's family. We looked them up the next few times we were in Buenos Aires.

• **New Orleans** – I guess the party is nonstop on Bourbon Street, and New Year's Eve is just another night, even a scant five years after Hurricane Katrina. Sue and I stayed one street next door, at a haunted hotel on Royal Street. Our hotel was on the ghost tour. New Orleans has an impressive New Year's Eve fireworks display. We took a side trip to Lafayette, Louisiana, supposedly the home of authentic zydeco music, but the bands were better back in the Big Easy. On January 2nd, Sue and I took in a Saints game, with all the attendant festivities. Sue even said she had a great time, "until the game started."

• **San Agustin, Colombia** – One our three New Year's Eves spent in our favorite South American country. The New Year's Eve "parade" in the tiny village of San Agustin, famous for its pre-Colombian statuary, consisted of motorcyclists throwing flour at each other. Midnight found us sharing a bottle of Bailey's with a bunch of homeless people in the town square.

• **New York, New York** – After dropping daughter Becky at a Phish concert in Madison Square Garden, Sue and I crammed into the "Life" nightclub in the



New Year's Eve in Bogota, Columbia – one of many different places where Mark and Sue Adams have welcomed the new year. Photo by Sue Adams

East Village to see Grace Jones. It was the mid 1990s. Early in 2001, my mom reserved a room in a fancy hotel overlooking Times Square, with an unobstructed view of the ball drop. After the horror of 9-11, all kinds of rumors were swirling about another terrorist attack on New Year's Eve. We were issued special passes to get past the barricades around Times Square. The ball dropped, with a nationwide sigh of relief.

• **Big Cypress Reservation, Florida** – New Year's Eve 1999 was special. "Y2K" was supposed to cause all computers to crash and airplanes to fall from the sky. Me, Sue, Becky and her friend Eric crammed into our Toyota Camry with our luggage, guitars and four bicycles and headed to the Phish concert in Florida's everglades. Out of 50,000 fans, I was the oldest person there. The bikes came in handy to travel to the farthest port-a-potties, away from the crowd. Don't ask about the fire ants.

• **Lalibela, Ethiopia** – A decent New

Year's Eve show at the Hilton in Addis Ababa paled in comparison to the January 6 Orthodox Christian celebration in Lalibela, home to the underground Rock-hewn churches. Thousands of pilgrims arrived with their livestock. Sue and I attended mass, driven to the church in a horse drawn cart. It was heartbreaking to learn just a year later (2023) that the entire region plunged into a civil war.

• **Poughkeepsie, U.S.A.** – When we weren't celebrating New Year's Eve in Las Vegas, Honduras, Tanzania, Namibia, Panama, Pittsburgh, Myrtle Beach or Santa Fe, Sue and I stayed in Poughkeepsie, usually because my band was performing. This year's celebration involves partying with friends in Saint Augustine, Florida, before we fly to Istanbul.

Happy New Year!

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

## Creative Living

is the arts and entertainment section of  
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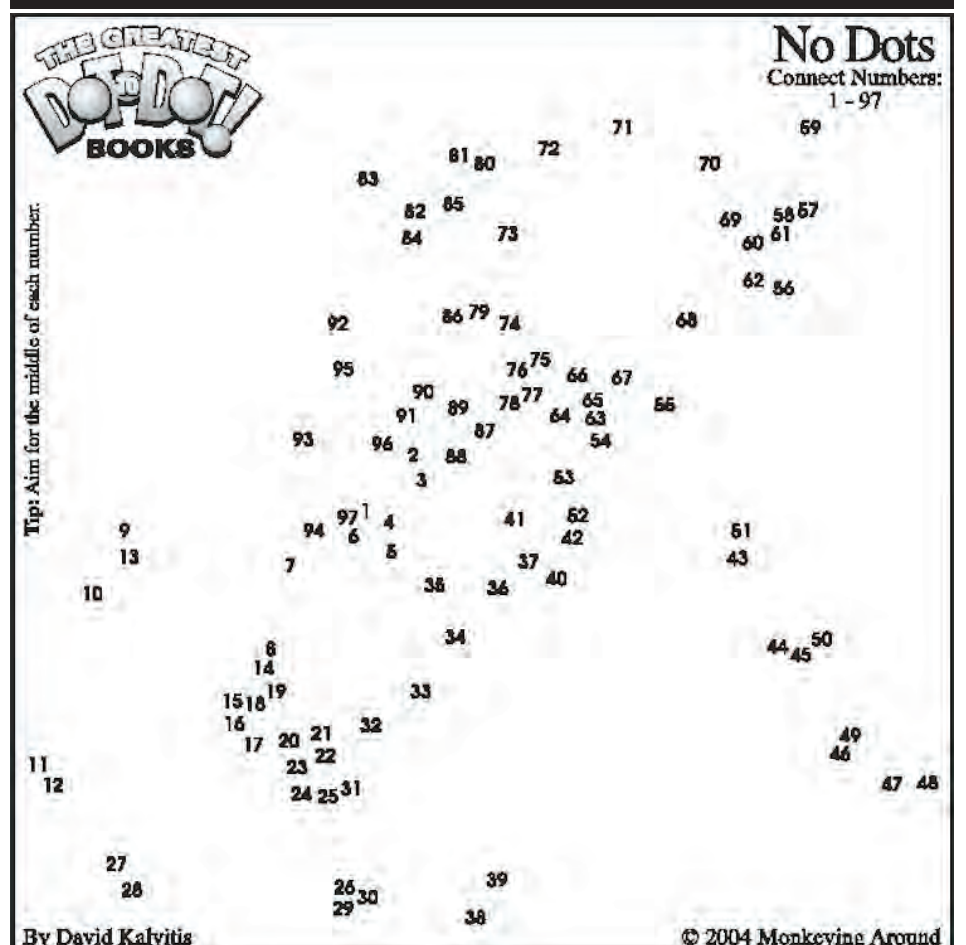
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## DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 13 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



# Diversions

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3								

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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

		1			5
			4		
			3		
2		5			

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

## THEME: AT THE RESTAURANT

### ACROSS

- Bet's predecessor
- Ogre-like creature
- Attorney's bargain
- Old but in
- \*Restaurant waiting area?
- Located near crannies?
- List of Catholic saints
- Down Under runner
- White heron
- \* \_\_\_\_ meal, or staff meal
- \*Meat and fish, in Italian restaurant
- Singer/songwriter Yoko
- \*What appetizers do to appetite
- \*Deuce
- Like a reliable move
- Not a desktop
- "My bad!"
- Painter Chagall
- Beyond suburban
- Wisecrack
- \*Nigiri, e.g.
- \*Middle Eastern bread
- Of an arm bone
- That time
- Let it stand, to proofreader
- Swellings
- Chancy
- Between E and NE
- Stomach reflex
- \*Fish eggs
- \*Second C in CDC
- \* \_\_\_\_ d'hotel
- Not mainstream, as in art
- "To His \_\_\_\_ Mistress"
- Bracelet add-on
- Covers with gold
- Stiff grass bristle
- Irving of Dallas Mavericks
- Eyelid affliction
- Fairytale princess test
- Winter driving hazard

### DOWN

- Curved one
- Table extender
- Sicilian erupter
- Movie trailer, e.g.
- Perfecting, as in skill
- Toe the line
- Popular pickup
- Puppy love
- Jumping stick
- Forsaken
- Barely got by
- Spumante-producing town
- Greek god's libation
- Rumpelstiltskin's machine, pl.
- \*Freshwater staple in sushi restaurant
- Idolize
- \*Chef's hat
- Modified "will"
- Offer two cents
- Drawn tight
- Baby porcupines
- Commonplace
- Like Cheerios
- \*Blue- \_\_\_\_ special
- Unsubscriber's focus
- \* \_\_\_\_ de partie, or line cook
- \_\_\_\_ structure or \_\_\_\_ red
- Cujo's disease
- Ray shooter
- Foxhunter's call to hounds
- Short version
- C2H5
- Marlboros or Camels, slangily
- Army group
- Lazily
- \*Complimentary dish
- Asian starling
- \*Steak choice
- Great Lake
- Be in the red
- Were introduced

## CROSSWORD

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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 13

# DCHS emerges bigger and better!

By Bill Jeffway  
Executive Director

We are proud to report a banner year on all fronts at Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS). Our first full year in our new location has raised our visibility and improved access to the entire dynamic and varied "society" of our members, donors, business sponsors, collections donors, and growing paid staff and volunteers.

Regarding finances and the \$103,000 operating budget for 2024, we expect our 2024 break-even operating expense goal will be met on December 31. We do tend to have some very last-minute gifts which can make all the difference!

We have nearly doubled our income from endowments. Through the generosity and leadership of Rob and Sue Doyle, and those they inspired to give, DCHS has almost doubled the amount of income we can rely on annually from endowments. The Doyle Endowment Fund, totaling more than \$200,000 at the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, now supports DCHS in addition to the longstanding Denise M. Lawlor Fund, also at the Community Foundations.

Our online auction, in its third year, broke prior records by generating more than \$25,000 after expenses. This is roughly double what we had come to expect from our annual gala dinners before COVID. Through the generosity of item donors (there were 155 lots) 124 bidders turned into 64 winners. We are grateful for the generosity of AAR Auctions who donate their platform, time, expertise and buyer's fees.

Our spring Historic Preservation Celebration and Awards income broke any prior event income by a factor of two. Over 150 tickets were sold, and a record number of businesses were sponsors.

Above all, we had the opportunity to celebrate and thank three generations of the Hill family who continue to support DCHS, and who hosted us at their extraordinarily historic home.

Among our most visible work this year has been telling the stories of those involved in the essential service of firefighting. Prompted by a significant collections gift from the Rhinebeck Fire Department, combined with existing collections, and a great deal of interest from the local DCHS Vice Presidents representing the cities and towns of the county, firefighting is the topic of the forum section of the DCHS 2024 Yearbook (expected to be published in March 2025).

We developed the traveling exhibition, "Firefighting in Dutchess County: A Greater Calling," in partnership with the Rhinebeck Fire Department and the Firefighting Museum of Dutchess County. The exhibition was featured at the inaugural opening of the museum at the Dutchess County Fair in Rhinebeck. Please let us know if you would like to borrow the exhibition for a school, library, firehouse, or other public space.

Another high-profile exhibition and series of programs was related to the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Revolutionary War Major General Lafayette's local visit. In 1824, as the United States approached its 50th anniversary (the way we approach the 250th anniversary today) Lafayette's progressive views on the abolition of slavery, the role of women in society, and attitudes toward Indigenous peoples and the impoverished, among other views, gave us the chance to use Lafayette as a kind of litmus test of progress of the realization of American ideals. This turned into our coming to understand the extraordinary story of local persons, like the free Black couple Tom & Jane Williams of the Town



Above left to right: Aidan Chisamore, Collections & Archives Manager, is responsible for the care, preservation, and management of collections. Cosette Veeder-Shave volunteers in collections data entry and management. Charlotte Hampton, Vassar '25 (Art History), is a volunteer this semester through Vassar's Office of Community Engaged Learning which has grown into a reliable and important source of talent for DCHS. *Composite courtesy DCHS*

of Washington. They named their son, Lafayette Williams, shortly after the visit in 1827. The Bard College playwright, DN Bashir, turned this story into a short play performed at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum in September.

In addition to the background talk given at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum, the narrative, "Why Lafayette Endures," was presented as four classes at both Bard and Vassar College Lifetime Learning Institutes.

DCHS Trustee and Civil War specialist Dr. Michael Boden continued his series of Civil War talks, "A Long & Fatiguing Campaign: The 150th New York Regiment in the Atlanta Campaign."

DCHS Trustee David Turner drew from his own vast image collection to present "How the Automobile Changed the Hudson Valley Landscape through Vintage Postcards."

The Executive Director's series for Black history month continued with Free Black Communities and Maritime Adventure Before the Civil War.

Videos of all these programs can be found at [www.dchsn.org/virtual-event-space](http://www.dchsn.org/virtual-event-space).

There is nothing as fundamental as our responsibility to be stewards of thousands of important documents, photographs, clothing and textiles, and objects. Our new location with its open, bigger and environmentally controlled space, has allowed for better management and access.

The greatest contribution comes from the appointment of Collections & Archives Manager Aidan Chisamore, who will move to a full-time position in the New Year.

In terms of items themselves, some highlights of new acquisitions include a DeLaval separator, a new-found Caroline Clowes painting, photos of Poughkeepsie in the 1888 blizzard, and a 1706 deed

important to the settlement of Rhinebeck.

We expect to publish the DCHS 2024 Yearbook in March of 2025 and continue to expand print on demand through Amazon books. We are grateful to the Northern/Southern Dutchess News / Beacon Free Press which hosts our "Decoding Dutchess Past" every two weeks in their newspapers.

Our focus in library services has been and continues to be the creation of easy to use, online catalogues for both the Butts Research Library and the Kelly Library. We are grateful to library specialist Caroline Cook, who has been leading DCHS into the digital access age by working with special library "apps." We expect to be able to launch these services in the New Year.

Our membership now exceeds 200 for the first time in many years. We are grateful for this important means of support.

Going into 2025, the celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country's 1776 founding is becoming an increasingly large part of our focus. We do this work in partnership with the Dutchess County (Gov't) Historian, Will Tatum, and DCHS "local" Vice Presidents.

One of the most exciting discoveries and gifts to DCHS in the New Year we are engaging highly specialized services to convert the recent gift of local movies from 1919 to 1921 of local scenes. We have not been able to view much given the delicate condition of the movies. Again, watch for progress on this in the New Year!

Bill Jeffway is the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society and can be reached at [bill.jeffway@dchsn.org](mailto:bill.jeffway@dchsn.org) or (845) 293-7711.



Above: We are grateful to library specialist Carolyn Cook, who has been leading DCHS into the digital access age by working with special library "apps." We expect to be able to launch these services in the New Year. *Courtesy DCHS*

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<p><b>NOTICE TO BIDDERS-RFB-DCH-2025-01 NAME OF PROJECT:</b> Replacement of Bridge L-29 Town of Lagrange, Dutchess County, New York. <b>Project Description:</b> Replacement of a single-span (38 ft.) jack-arch bridge with a 58 ft. span bridge comprised of adjacent precast concrete box beams, with a cast-in-place concrete deck, supported by integral abutments. The County of Dutchess official bid documents for this project are obtained from the Empire State Purchasing Group's Regional Bid Notification System at <a href="http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess">www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess</a>. Copies of bid-</p>	<p>ding documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies. It is incumbent upon all potential bidders to view all posted addenda prior to the bid close date. You may obtain an official copy by registering on the Empire State Regional Bid Notification System at <a href="http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess">www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/county-of-dutchess</a> or by using the link provided at <a href="http://www.dchsn.org">www.dchsn.org</a>, selecting "Government" then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities." For those without Internet access, you may obtain an electronic copy of bidding documents by contact-</p>	<p>ing the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at <a href="mailto:dpcwcontracts@dchsn.org">dpcwcontracts@dchsn.org</a>, or in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm: Dutchess County DPW, Business Office, 1st Floor, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. All Addenda will be posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. Bids for the above project will be received by: Christopher Sterbenz, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County</p>	<p>Department of Public Works (DPW) 626 Dutchess Turnpike-1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 on or before 11:00AM Friday, January 24, 2025, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. The bid opening for this solicitation may also be attended through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud via Teams, will need to call into the phone number listed below. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due time to ensure you are con-</p>	<p>nected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 247 203 702 818# Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic flash drive copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check, official bank check) or a Letter of Credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. Bidders' security will be retained until the successful bidder has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and</p>	<p>the County has finalized the Agreement. Each bid with Bid Security shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening, which must be visible upon delivery. Questions will be accepted by the close of business Friday January 17, 2025 and emailed to Christopher Sterbenz at <a href="mailto:dpcwcontracts@dchsn.org">dpcwcontracts@dchsn.org</a> with the County's response published in Addenda prior to 48 hours before the bid opening date. The anticipated start of construction is March 15, 2025; the anticipated substantial completion date is September 5,</p>	<p>2025. Failure to meet these dates may result in liquidated damages. This project may be subject to NYS Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC #: 2024015336 Starting December 30, 2024: NYS DOL Contractor and Subcontractor registry requirements. View Bid Specifications regarding APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, if applicable. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids and in bidding and to reject any or all proposals.</p>

**Legal Notices**

**PUBLIC NOTICE – NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

TEST WELL AT HOWE PARK TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Town of Pleasant Valley until January 10, 2025 at 12:00p.m. local time at the Office of the Town Clerk, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569, at which time and place said sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud For "Test Well at Howe Park".

No bids will be received or considered after the date/time stated above.

The purpose of this Town of Pleasant Valley project is to confirm the quality and quantity of the groundwater at Howe Park by drilling a test well, which could serve as a future production well for the new water district.

A Pre-Bid conference will not be held. Bidding contractors are strongly encouraged to visit the project site before submitting bids.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) may be procured at the Office of the Town Clerk, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 beginning on December 18, 2024 during regular business hours. Digital copies of the RFP may be obtained online as a download for a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)

from the website:

**Legal Notices**

https://de.biddyhq.com/under 'public projects.' Bids may not be withdrawn within forty-five (45) days after the closing date/time for receipt of all bids.

All requests for clarifications must be submitted no later than January 7, 2025 at 4:00p.m. All proposals must be submitted by hard copy in a sealed envelope clearly marked:

(SEALED PROPOSAL) **Test Well at Howe Park**

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Pleasant Valley reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any informalities at its discretion, and to make such bid award that it deems is in the best interest of the Town of Pleasant Valley even if such award is to other than the lowest bidder.

/s/ Mary Albrecht Mary Albrecht Town Supervisor Town of Pleasant Valley Dated: December 18, 2024

**AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

I, Mary Beth Muir, duly elected Town Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York hereby certify that a notice regarding a **PUBLIC HEARING** pertaining to: **"A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 98 TO CHANGE THE NUMBER OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS TO SEVEN"** to be held on the **6TH** day of **JANUARY,**

**Legal Notices**

**2025 at 7:05PM** was posted on the sign board at the entrance to my office on the **19th** day of **DECEMBER 2024;** and also at the Post Office in Pleasant Valley, the Post Office in Salt Point, and on the bulletin board in the Pleasant Valley Firehouse.

Further, due notice has been published in the Town's official newspaper, the Northern Dutchess News on the **25TH** day of **DECEMBER 2024 & 1ST DAY OF JANUARY 2025.** Mary Beth Muir, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL LAW F OF 2024 A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 98 TO CHANGE THE NUMBER OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS TO SEVEN BE IT EN-**

**ACTED** by the Town Board of the Town of Pleasant Valley as follows:

**SECTION 1.**

This Local Law shall be entitled "A Local Law Amending Chapter 98 to Change the Number of Zoning Board of Appeals Members to Seven".

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT.**

The Town Board finds that the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals has functioned well with seven members and two alternates. After further consideration, the Town Board wishes to continue with a seven-member ZBA and not transition to a

**Legal Notices**

five-member ZBA as contemplated by a previous local law.

**SECTION 3. AUTHORITY.**

This law is enacted pursuant to Section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT TO THE CODE.**

Subsection 98-95(A)(2) is hereby repealed and replaced as follows: The Zoning Board of Appeals shall consist of seven members selected and appointed by the Town Board. Member terms shall be seven years with one term ending each year. One member shall be designated the Chairperson by the Town Board and shall serve as Chairperson at the pleasure of the Town Board. The Town Board shall appoint a Secretary and shall prescribe rules for the conduct of the Zoning Board of Appeals' affairs. The Board shall consist of seven members regardless of the number of members prescribed by Town Law § 267.

**SECTION 5. SUPERSESSON.**

It is the intent of the Town Board to supersede any provisions of the New York State Law to the extent that they may be inconsistent with the provisions of this local law, pursuant to the Town's supersession authority under Municipal Home Rule Law § 10. The Town Board acknowledges that the number of board members established herein differs from the number prescribed by § 267, and the Town Board

**Legal Notices**

exercises its authority to supersede that provision.

**SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this local law is held invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this local law.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Local Law shall become effective immediately upon its filing in the Office of the New York State Department of State.

**LEGAL NOTICE - WORKSHOP EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners will hold a Workshop Meeting for the new Facility on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting will be held at the East Clinton Fire District Firehouse, 9 Firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners, NY. Dated: December 11, 2024

East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners Carol Mackin, Secretary

**LEGAL NOTICE - NOTICE OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the 2025 Organizational Meet-

**Legal Notices**

ing of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the East Clinton Fire District will be held on Wednesday January 15, 2025 at 7:00PM, prevailing time, at the East Clinton Fire District Firehouse, 9 Firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners, NY. Regular meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on the Wednesday after the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, prevailing time, during 2025.

Dated: December 11, 2024 East Clinton Fire District Board of Commissioners Carol Mackin, Secretary

**NOTICE OF TAX COLLECTION 2025 TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY, NEW YORK**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that I, Mary Beth Muir, the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of Pleasant Valley, County of Dutchess and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Pleasant Valley for the year 2025, and that I will attend at Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, in the said Town of Pleasant Valley from today to February 28, 2025 at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 6:00 o'clock in the afternoon on **TUESDAY** and **THURSDAY** and **FRIDAY** collection hours will be 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

**MONDAY** and **WEDNESDAY** 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon. **MARCH, APRIL** and **MAY** collection hours will be 9 o'clock in the forenoon to 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon with the exception of **FRIDAY** collection hours will be 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon, except **SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS** and **LEGAL HOLIDAYS** for the purpose of collecting the taxes listed on the said roll. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, that taxes may be paid on or before February 28, 2025 without charge or interest. On all taxes received after such date, there shall be a 2 percent added interest if paid on or before March 31, 2025 and an additional 1 percent for each additional month or fraction thereof thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the county treasurer pursuant to law. **TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, that pursuant to the provisions of law the tax roll of the Town of Pleasant Valley will be returned to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance on the 1st day of June, 2025. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, a reminder of unpaid taxes will be sent on or before May 01, 2025. A fee of \$2.00 will be added to your tax bill during the full month of May. **DATED:** January 1, 2025 Mary Beth Muir Tax Collector Town of Pleasant Valley

**Legal Notices**

o'clock in the forenoon to 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon. **MARCH, APRIL** and **MAY** collection hours will be 9 o'clock in the forenoon to 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon with the exception of **FRIDAY** collection hours will be 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon to 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon, except **SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS** and **LEGAL HOLIDAYS** for the purpose of collecting the taxes listed on the said roll. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, that taxes may be paid on or before February 28, 2025 without charge or interest. On all taxes received after such date, there shall be a 2 percent added interest if paid on or before March 31, 2025 and an additional 1 percent for each additional month or fraction thereof thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the county treasurer pursuant to law. **TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, that pursuant to the provisions of law the tax roll of the Town of Pleasant Valley will be returned to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance on the 1st day of June, 2025. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE**, a reminder of unpaid taxes will be sent on or before May 01, 2025. A fee of \$2.00 will be added to your tax bill during the full month of May. **DATED:** January 1, 2025 Mary Beth Muir Tax Collector Town of Pleasant Valley

*Answers to this week's diversions*  
(puzzles on page 11)

**SUDOKU**  
This week's answer

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

**Suguru solution**

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

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

*Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 10)*

**THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS**

**No Dots**  
Connect Numbers: 1 - 97

Tip: Aim for the middle of each number.

By David Kalvitis © 2004 Monkeying Around

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& Beacon Free Press

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106 Business Opportunity  
107 Situations Wanted  
120 Schools  
121 Special Instruction  
122 Musical Instruction  
140 Nursery Schools  
141 Child Care  
142 Day Care  
143 Baby-sitting  
145 Adult Care  
150 Announcements  
151 Adoption  
152 Novenas  
154 Lost & Found  
155 Personal  
200 Services

201 Home Improvement  
202 Cleaning Services  
203 Lawn Services  
221 Professional Services  
222 Tax Experts  
223 Beauty Services  
225 Business Services  
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721 Wanted to Buy  
722 Bazaar  
723 Consignments  
724 Farmers Market  
725 Collectibles  
750 Events  
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801 Campers & Trailers  
802 Motor Homes  
803 Recreational Vehicles  
900 Autos for Sale  
901 Vans/SUV's  
902 Trucks  
903 Motorcycles  
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## 219 Attorney Legal

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**RENEWAL by ANDERSEN**  
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## Legal Notices

**LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL**  
The following entitled bond resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on December 18, 2024, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is each available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.  
Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, December 23, 2024.  
LEIGH WAGER, County Clerk, County Legislature

## Legal Notices

ceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. A complete copy of the resolution summarized herewith is each available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.  
Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, December 23, 2024.  
LEIGH WAGER, County Clerk, County Legislature

## Legal Notices

RESOLUTION NO. 2024216  
BOND RESOLUTION DATED DECEMBER 18, 2024.  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY'S SHARE OF CERTAIN PRELIMINARY PLANNING AND DESIGN EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENTER FOR BUSINESS INDUSTRY (CBI) INTERIOR RESTACK AND REPROGRAMMING PROJECT OF DUTCHESS COUNTY COLLEGE, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$1,975,000

## Legal Notices

AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$987,500 BONDS OF SAID COUNTY TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF.  
**Specific object or purpose:** Preliminary planning and design expenses in connection with CBI interior restack-reprogramming of DCCC (County's share)  
**Period of probable usefulness:** 5 years  
**Maximum estimated cost:** \$1,975,000  
**Amount of bonds to be issued:** \$ 9 8 7 , 5 0 0 bonds  
**State grants-in-aid:** \$987,500  
**SEGRA status:** Type

## Legal Notices

II Action  
**REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE**  
The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid#RFB-DCP-06-25  
Supplemental Bid for Auto Body Repair Services for County Owned Vehicles  
Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 7th day of January 2025 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York

## Legal Notices

12601. Specifications and bid 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.  
**LEGAL NOTICE - Dutchess County Executive's Office NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing will be held by the County Attorney of Dutchess County in the County Office Building, County Attorney's Conference Room, 5th Floor, 22 Market Street,

## Legal Notices

Poughkeepsie, New York, on the 6th day of January 2025 at 10:00 am, on the following local law: A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 11 OF 1983 INCREASING THE TAX ON THE OCCUPANCY OF HOTEL ROOMS FROM FOUR PERCENT TO FIVE PERCENT.  
At said time and place, all parties interested will be heard.  
Dated: December 20, 2024  
Susan J. Serino, Poughkeepsie, New York  
Dutchess County Executive

## Legal Notices

Poughkeepsie, New York, on the 6th day of January 2025 at 10:00 am, on the following local law: A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 11 OF 1983 INCREASING THE TAX ON THE OCCUPANCY OF HOTEL ROOMS FROM FOUR PERCENT TO FIVE PERCENT.  
At said time and place, all parties interested will be heard.  
Dated: December 20, 2024  
Susan J. Serino, Poughkeepsie, New York  
Dutchess County Executive

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

# OBITUARIES

## Ellen M. Caldarelli

Ellen Marie Caldarelli, 99, a lifelong resident of Amenia, NY passed away on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at her son's home, in Amenia surrounded by her loving family. Mrs. Caldarelli was a cashier clerk at Fishkill National Bank in Amenia, retiring in 1986.

Born on August 8, 1925 in Sharon, CT she was the daughter of the late Thomas J. Downey, Sr. and Mary (Foy) Downey. She was a graduate of Amenia Schools and later graduated from Krissler Business Institute in Poughkeepsie. In 1949, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, NY she married Pasquale "Pat" Caldarelli who predeceased her in 1987.

Mrs. Caldarelli was a volunteer for the Civil Air Defense outpost in Amenia, NY. Her role was to spot aircraft traffic at night following the attack on Pearl Harbor. She was also a charter member of the VFW Post #5444 Ladies Auxiliary in Dover Plains and a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia.

Mrs. Caldarelli is survived by her loving son, Glenn Caldarelli and his companion, Joanne Walley, of Amenia, NY and a sister, Catherine Gallagher of South Windsor, CT. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Michael Neal and his wife, Nicole, of Amenia, Patrick Caldarelli of Amenia and Kayla Greenlese and her husband, Billy, of Dover Plains, Briana Bailey and her companion, Timothy St. Hilare of Raleigh, NC and Cassie Bailey of Amenia; 5 great-grandchildren, Kyle, Tyler and his wife, Nadine, Havyn, Jilliana and Olivia and one great-great grandson, Nicholas. Besides her parents and husband, Mrs. Caldarelli was predeceased by a son, Patrick Caldarelli; a daughter, June Caldarelli; a daughter-in-law, Jill Caldarelli; two brothers, Joseph Downey and Thomas Downey, Jr. and a sister, Anna Dahoney.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, December 27, 2024 at the Immaculate Conception Church, Amenia, NY with Rev. R. Kent Wilson officiating. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia. In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Mrs. Caldarelli should be made to the American Diabetes Foundation, [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) or the Amenia Fire Company, P.O. Box 166, Amenia, NY 12501. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains. For directions or to send the family a condolence, please visit [www.hufcutfuneralhome.com](http://www.hufcutfuneralhome.com)

## Donald F. Hendrickson

Donald F. Hendrickson, 94, a longtime Hyde Park resident, died peacefully on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at the Baptist Home in Rhinebeck.

Born September 27, 1930, in Kingston, he was the son of the late Herman and Frances McSpirit Hendrickson.

Active in scouting, Donald helped in the

formation of the Tri Mount Boy Scout Camp in East Jewett, NY, and became an Eagle Scout in 1948.

Donald proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. Notably, he was a graduate of the Army Signal School.

A 1949 graduate of Kingston High School, Don worked at the former Venetian Blind Factory in Kingston, and eventually moved on to Central Hudson, and then to NY Telephone Company until his retirement.

Mr. Hendrickson was active with his sons as they were growing up, especially with their sporting activities, was a Radio Telephone Operator since 1977, and a volunteer for Hyde Park Meals on Wheels. Most of all he loved his children and grandchildren.

In New Windsor, he married the former Kathryn Huber. Mrs. Hendrickson predeceased him in 1998.

Donald is survived by his son, Raymond Hendrickson of Ravena, NY; and daughter-in-law, Barbara Hendrickson of Red Hook.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, Brittany Hendrickson (Davaughn Durr), Capt. Trevor Hendrickson, US Army (Sarah), and Kari Hendrickson (fiancé - Morgan Greaney), Sky Hendrickson (companion - Madison Johnson), and Maya Hendrickson; and one great-granddaughter, Maisey.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his son, David Hendrickson, and brother, Raymond Hendrickson.

A period of visitation was held on Monday, December 23rd at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park. Funeral services followed the visitation at the Funeral Home. Pastor Steve Aldrich officiated. Burial with military honors was in St. Mary's Cemetery, 322 Foxhall Ave, Kingston, NY.

In lieu of flowers, Donald's family respectfully requests memorial donations to the Gary Sinise Foundation PO Box 40726 Nashville, TN 37204. ([www.garysinisefoundation.org](http://www.garysinisefoundation.org))

To send an online condolence, or for directions, please visit Don's obituary page at [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

## Dolores A. Sartori

Dolores A. Sartori, 90, a longtime resident of Dover Plains, NY, passed away on Friday, December 20, 2024 at Sharon Health Care Center in Sharon, CT. Mrs. Sartori worked as a secretary at I.B.M. in Poughkeepsie, NY for 35 years retiring in 1990.

Born on May 9, 1934 in Poughkeepsie, NY, she was the daughter of the late Kenneth and Julia Tyrell. She was a graduate of Millbrook High School and attended Krissler Business School in Poughkeepsie, NY. On October 2, 1955 in Millbrook, NY, she married Alfonso Sartori who survives at home.

Mrs. Sartori was a member of the Dover Republican Club, the Dover Doers and the I.B.M. Quarter Century Club.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter, Lisa Westcott and her husband, Thomas, of Dover Plains, NY and two

grandchildren, Brooke Westcott and Jacob Westcott.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by a sister, Janet Hyson.

Calling hours were held on Friday, December 27, 2024 at Hufcut Funeral Home, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services took place on Saturday, December 28, 2024 at the funeral home. Burial followed at St. Charles Cemetery in Dover Plains, NY.

Memorial contributions may be made to the J. H. Ketcham Hose Co. Auxiliary, P.O. Box 598, Dover Plains, NY 12522. To send the family an online condolence, please visit [www.hufcutfuneralhome.com](http://www.hufcutfuneralhome.com).

## Richard Arthur Swanson

Richard Arthur Swanson, known as Dick to friends and affectionately as Dude to his grandchildren, 97, of Staatsburg, New York, died peacefully on Friday, December 13, 2024, at home.

Born on July 25, 1927, in Nyack, New York, Dick was the elder son of the late Otto Emmanuel Swanson and Marjorie Clark Swanson. He had one brother, Gerry, born in 1929.

Dick grew up spending much of his free time camping and traveling upstate, first to Pecks Lake area and later to the Adirondacks with his family. His dream to become a forest ranger was put on hold after being drafted into World War II. Aptitude testing by the US Navy immediately identified his talent for electronics, and he was placed as a radar specialist on tankers in the Pacific, serving from 1945 to 1948. In recognition of his trips westward across the International Date Line, Dick was awarded membership in the Order of Flying Dragons - a certificate only recently discovered in his personal effects.

After returning from naval service, Dick matriculated into Clarkson University where he graduated with a degree in engineering. He went on to work for IBM as an engineer for his entire career, cultivating many deep and lifelong friendships. Given his 6'4" stature, he was also a key player on the IBM volleyball and basketball teams. On December 19, 1959, he married the former Mary Gray. Mary predeceased him on February 9th, 2019.

Dick retired from IBM in 1990 and happily embraced retired life through gardening, traveling, and many other hobbies. He also dedicated time to the West Clinton Fire Department, where he served as commissioner for several years.

Dick was an avid reader and an amazing resource of information on a wide variety of topics. He particularly loved science, both fiction and real. In addition to his garden, some of his greatest enjoyments were spending time hiking and boating with family at "camp" in the Adirondacks which he continued well into his 90s. Perhaps his greatest joy was trout and fly fishing on the Ausable River and various secret Adirondack ponds, a tradition taught to him at an early age by his father. He passed

that tradition down to his grandchildren, who all loved fishing for "the big one" with Dude.

Dick's love of the outdoors extended to skiing, a sport he took up because of his wife, Mary, a proficient skier. He was determined to ski into his later years and was very proud of the fact that he skied the Swiss Alps at 76 with his family. His policy of first on, last off the mountain will never be forgotten!

Equal to that of the mountains was Dick's love of the ocean. From Barneget Light to Nantucket to the Caribbean, Dick was never happier than being at the sea. From combing the beach for miles looking for that perfect shell; to snorkeling; to crabbing, fishing, clamming, and scalloping, he retained a lifelong sense of wonder and deep appreciation for all things of the natural world. This of course included his many animal family members of cats, horses, and beloved Labradors.

Music was another important part of Dick's life. You would often come in and find him listening to music, especially in his later years. He equally appreciated big band, classical, and jazz, and had a vast record collection of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Gene Krupa and the like.

Dick was an avid, and sometimes long-suffering supporter and follower of New York Sports teams. Yankees, Giants, Knicks, and Ranger games could always be found playing on his TV. Dick was known to turn off the game temporarily, as he always felt his teams did better when he was not watching.

An adventurous and enthusiastic eater, Dick was always eager to try new things, firmly believing that hot sauce made almost everything better. The only thing that rivaled his love for spicy food was his nightly ritual of enjoying a "dry as a desert" gin martini, which he credited with contributing to his longevity.

One of Dick's grandsons fondly described him as a man with a dry, occasionally curmudgeonly, wit. We will all remember him as a father who unfailingly came when we needed him.

Dick is survived by his two children, Richard Swanson (Marie Minozzi-Swanson) and Korin Swanson (Graham Trask) along with four grandchildren, Christian Swanson, Ryan Swanson, Richard Graham Trask, and Verane Trask, great-grandson Carter Swanson, who referred to Dick as his hero, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his grandson Michael Richard Swanson.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will occur later in the spring, a notification will be sent out in advance.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Heifer International or the Wounded Warrior Project, both charities near and dear to him.

To send an online condolence, please visit: [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

## Legal Notices

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY PLEASANT VALLEY, NEW YORK CADY FIELD BASKETBALL COURT 1.2.3.**

**General Notice**  
The Town of Pleasant Valley (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

**CADY FIELD BASKETBALL COURT CONTRACT NUMBER 2170.01**

Sealed bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the **Pleasant Valley Town Hall** located at **1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569** until **Friday, January 24, 2025, at 12:00 PM** local time. At that time the sealed bids received will be publicly

## Legal Notices

opened and read. The Project includes the following Work: The Town has developed final designs and construction drawings for the removal of an existing tennis court and the installation of a new basketball court at Cady Field, located at 1554 Main Street in Pleasant Valley.

\* Remove existing asphalt surfacing, chain link fencing, and associated tennis court equipment. The tennis court subbase will be re-used.

\* Install new basketball court surface and associated equipment, erosion control, sidewalk, a segmental retaining wall, chain link fencing and gates, and site restoration with lawn. \*An existing water well will be decommissioned in accordance

## Legal Notices

with Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH) requirements. **Lump Sum Bids** are requested for the following Contract: **Contract 1 - General Construction** Work shall be substantially completed on or before **June 2, 2025**, and ready for final payment by **June 30, 2025**.

**Obtaining the Bidding Documents**  
To become a Registered Plan Holder and to obtain electronic copies of the Contract Documents, please visit the MJ Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Land Surveying, P.C. Plan Room located at <http://www.mjteam.com/bids>. Bids received from non-registered plan holders may be subject to disqualification.

## Legal Notices

Addenda, if any, will be issued only to Registered Plan Holders whose name and address are on record. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: **MJ Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Land Surveying, P.C.**  
**21 Corporate Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065**  
**Douglas Gerber, PLA, 518-371-0799 EXT 357, dgerber@mjteam.com**

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday

## Legal Notices

between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm.

**Deadline for questions is 4:00 pm on Thursday, January 16, 2025.**

**Pre-bid Conference**  
A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 12:00pm at Cady Field** located behind the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall at 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

**Instructions to Bidders**  
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents. **Prevailing Wages**

## Legal Notices

The Bidders must comply with New York State Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rate Schedule. Bid security in the amount of 5% of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The successful Bidders will be required to furnish a performance bond and a payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price. Attention of Bidders is particularly called to the requirements for ensuring that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the Bid received, or to reject any

## Legal Notices

or all Bids without explanation. The Owner is an exempt organization under the Tax Law and is exempt from payment of Sales and Compensating Use Taxes on materials which are to be incorporated into the project and which are to be separately sold by the Contractor to the Owner prior to incorporation into the project, pursuant to the provisions of the Contract. These taxes are not to be included in the bid.

**This Advertisement is issued by:**  
Owner: **Town of Pleasant Valley**  
By: **Mary Beth Muir**  
Title: **Town Clerk**  
Date: **December 30, 2024**