

COVID-19 UPDATE

Holidays,
 high demand
 create testing
 challenges

by Kate Goldsmith

A large increase in the amount of people seeking COVID-19 testing during the holiday season has created delays in test results; along with many having difficulty accessing rapid testing, and further delays in reporting due to the holidays themselves, Dutchess County and New York State as a whole are seeing both exponential rises in infection and a likely under-reporting of active cases.

As of Dec. 31, Dutchess County's COVID-19 Dashboard noted there were 5,042 active cases in the county (up from 2,611 the previous week) and a 16.55-percent infection rate (up from 9.39 the previous week). Hospitalizations were at 97 (up from 74 from the previous week), and there have been 536 deaths (up from 528 the previous week) since the beginning of the pandemic.

A few weeks ago, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the state would be distributing rapid test kits and KN95 face-masks to all counties, which would then be distributed to each municipality based on population. After one week, in which the small number of tests were quickly distributed, the state changed gears and announced that the test kits would be exclusively distributed to schools through BOCES.

A statement on the county's Facebook page reads: "In the meantime, Dutchess County is exploring sourcing and purchasing test kits for immediate distribution by its municipalities. We will keep you posted."

On Dec. 31, 2021, the county posted: "Dutchess County

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Millbrook, Dover schools
 start new year remote

by Rich Thomaselli

The Millbrook Central School District, which ended the final week of the 2021 school year by going back to remote learning, started the first week of 2022 the same way for grades three through 12.

The Dover Union Free School District in the neighboring town also started the new year with three days of remote learning, also for grades three through 12, before assessing the situation prior to Thursday, Jan. 6.

Both districts cited staffing issues, both in their buildings and in transportation, caused by the surging Omicron variant.

Millbrook Superintendent Laura Mitchell notified families of the decision at 5:26 p.m. Sunday night, once again leaving some parents to find childcare less than a day before going back to school, much as was done two-and-a-half weeks ago with a last-minute notification prior to the holidays.

This time, however, Mitchell noted that Millbrook – which distributed home COVID-19 tests for free to families with students in the district on Sunday – was preparing to go back to in-person learning as late as 1 p.m. on Sunday.

"We were prepared to re-enter 2022 in person. During the test distribution event today, our staff has been responding to



additional reports of COVID-19 in our community," Mitchell wrote in an email. "Unfortunately, at this time we have reached a critical staffing shortage affecting all four of our buildings. Though we fully anticipated the possibility of increasing staffing shortages in the coming week due to a regional increase in COVID-19 positive cases resulting in isolation and quarantined contacts of positive cases, we did not expect such a sharp spike in a matter of hours."

Medical experts say this particular strain of the COVID-19 virus is not as deadly as the original virus that hit U.S. shores 22 months ago, nor as severe as the Delta variant that emerged in the late summer of 2021.

However, Omicron is more transmissible and while the symptoms are along the lines of having a bad cold for most, it's the quantity of COVID-19 cases that are

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Food and Wine Society
 sets 50th dinner at CIA

by Jim Donick



The Mid Hudson Food and Wine Society (MHFWS) will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with dinner and a scholarship presentation at the American Bounty Restaurant at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park on Jan. 12.

"We are making this one a big deal," said the society's president, Mark D'Angelo. "It's not only our 50th anniversary, but we weren't able to meet last year because of COVID, so we didn't get to

award our annual scholarship either."

The Mid Hudson Food and Wine Society is an organization of individuals with a common interest in the enjoyment, study and art of food and wine. The Society meets at area restaurants, conducts wine tastings, seminars, food demonstrations, winery tours and other special events which are of an educational and enjoyable nature.

Established in 1972, the Society has enjoyed a long

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COVID-19 Update: Holidays, high demand create testing challenges

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Emergency Response has been hard at work distributing the nearly 39,000 at-home test kits received yesterday from NYS to local school districts. Many school districts began distributing kits to student families today with others distributing this week - please check with your school district about how they will be utilizing or distributing kits.”

Officials at local Nuvance Health (Vassar Brothers Medical Center and Northern Dutchess Hospital) are requesting that individuals not come to the Emergency Departments for COVID testing.

Delays hinder expanded testing at county sites

Many who recently went for COVID-19 testing at the former JCPenney location in the Poughkeepsie Galleria (currently the only county-run site) have seen significant delays in receiving test results.

The Northern Dutchess News contacted the county for comment and received the following statement from Assistant Commissioner of Department of Behavioral & Community Health Anthony Ruggiero:

“Over this past week, more than 1,600 people were tested at our JCPenney site by ProPhase, double the volume of the previous week. The volume of testing at this site — as well as across the region, state and nation — has increased exponentially, overwhelming labs and delaying testing results. Where we were previously seeing less than 24-hour turnaround for test results, it is now taking a minimum of 72 hours to receive results.

“Additionally, we have been investigating reports from people tested on Tuesday, Dec. 27, who have not received results and/or have been told that their

samples were not received and/or damaged. ProPhase is currently investigating the situation. We acknowledge this is unacceptable and share the frustration people are feeling.”

Ruggiero said the county is seeking “alternatives to resolve this situation as well as expand testing availability as we expect the high demand for testing will continue, particularly over the next several weeks.”

Colleen Pillus, spokesperson for County Executive Marc Molinaro, provided additional context on the volume of testing, noting that “for the entire month of November, ProPhase conducted 763 tests at our JCPenney [location]. Last week alone, more than 1,600 tests were conducted.”

A reminder to continue mitigation steps

On Dec. 29, 2021, the county released a public health alert about the increasing circulation of both the Delta and Omicron variants, the latter which “is spreading at an exponential rate.”

The alert noted, “Since Thanksgiving, the seven-day average case rate has almost tripled, and hospitalizations have more than doubled, in Dutchess County and the Mid-Hudson region. While the percentage of New Yorkers fully vaccinated continues to increase, the uptick is not fast enough to completely curb the spread of this highly transmissible virus, particularly among communities with low vaccination coverage.”

Calling for “increased adherence to multiple prevention strategies ... the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH), in partnership with the Dutchess County Board of Health, supports a multilayered approach to contain



Last week, Dutchess County helped distribute more than 120,000 KN95 masks that were delivered by the state to municipalities, businesses, schools, houses of worship, day care centers and nonprofits to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Photo from the Dutchess County Government Facebook page

Millbrook, Dover schools start New Year remote

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most concerning.

In fact, just one county south of Dutchess, the Putnam County Department of Health sent out an advisory last week saying that the number of cases has overwhelmed its office – to the point where it will no longer be conducting contact tracing, leaving it to the schools and individuals to notify anyone who comes in contact with positive cases.

Dover, Millbrook, Carmel in Putnam County and Yonkers in Westchester are Hudson Valley school districts that will start the year remotely.

“At this time we have determined that it is in the best interest of our students’ health, safety, and education to remain remote for this week in hopes to avoid any further proliferation within the

Millbrook school community, which could result in a longer period of remote learning in the future,” Mitchell wrote.

Athletic events, which have been on pause at Millbrook since December 17, will continue to be sidelined.

At Dover, administration officials wrote that “Due to the staffing-impact the pandemic has had on our operations and system, we will need to be remote for grades 3-12 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Wingdale Elementary School, grades K-2, will be LIVE and in-person all week. The plan is to assess and determine if we can resume in-person instruction for grades 3-12 starting Thursday. We will communicate by Wednesday any updates and/or important information to be aware of.”

COVID-19 to include education and guidance about common sense mitigation measures.”

These include mask-wearing, social distancing, vaccinations, boosters, testing, participation in contact tracing and education.

- All persons able to medically tolerate a face covering/mask, regardless of vaccination status, should wear an appropriate face covering/mask while in any indoor public place. Businesses and other entities requiring mask-wearing in their establishments have a right to enforce this requirement.
- Wear high-quality masks, such as surgical masks or KN95, whenever possible. They are more protective than cloth coverings.
- Get the COVID vaccine for all household members aged 5 and older. If you are age 16 or older, fully vaccinated and your last dose was at least six months ago (two months if you received the J&J vaccine), get a booster. While full vaccination is still great protection against severe disease and hospitalization, boosters are your best protection against becoming infected in the first place.

According to the county’s COVID-19 Dashboard, 83% of adults (18 and older) have received at least one vaccine dose. The percentage of all Dutchess residents who have received at least one dose is at 74 percent, and 66 percent have completed their vaccine series. For appointment information, visit www.DutchessNY.gov/covidvaccine

- Get your flu shot. There is a resurgence of influenza this year, and you will want to keep yourself less vulnerable to COVID, or to severe flu that can also lead to hospitalization or death.
- DBCH strongly urges all Dutchess

County residents to engage in practices that improve their immune systems and overall health, especially this winter. A healthy diet, adequate sleep, generous hydration, avoidance of tobacco and excessive alcohol consumption, regular exercise, and proper hygiene including frequent handwashing are all important to support immunity. A healthier immune system can help reduce an individual’s vulnerability to infection and ability to spread the virus.

The Dutchess County COVID-19 Hotline can be reached at (845) 486-3555 or (845) 431-6465 (after hours).

Data from the state

Seen on a graph on the New York Forward Dashboard, the number of infections statewide looks close to a straight line, growing from 208.7 per 100,000 on Dec. 27 to 320 per 100,000 on Jan. 1. The seven-day rolling average for positive infections statewide was nearly 21 percent on Jan. 1.

In the Mid-Hudson region, the seven-day average for infections is about the same – 20.8 percent – and 284.4 per 100,000 – slightly below the state average.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dutchess’ case rate was much higher (872.8 per 100,000) than indicated by the state. The data has likely been skewed by the holidays and delays in testing results. Regardless, Dutchess County is still considered a high-risk area, based on CDC guidelines in calculating the number of positive cases per 100,000 persons over the last seven days (more than 100 per 100,000) and more than 10-percent of positive NAATs (Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests) during the last seven days.

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New commissioner: Pandemic uncertainty dominates work of Health Department

by *Curtis Schmidt*

The ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic, with its ever-increasing number of new cases, is presenting a myriad of challenges for Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD FACEP and new Commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DCBH).

Dr. Santiago-Rosado took over on Dec. 20, 2021, replacing Dr. Anil Vaidian, whose resignation was effective Sept. 10 of last year.

“This is a pandemic of unprecedented proportions, and as a result there is a lot of uncertainty associated with it. People generally (and understandably) react to uncertainty with fear and anxiety, but in this case there is additional distress as essentially all of us have had COVID adversely affect us personally in some way,” said Dr. Santiago-Rosado. “Throughout the pandemic, the public health community has had to be agile and adjust to the conditions on the ground. This will be our reality for the foreseeable future.”

With the Omicron variant causing the great majority of the latest rise in new infections, she said, “Not only did it hit just as we were hunkering down for winter, it’s also much more contagious than prior strains. On average, one person infected with the Omicron variant will infect three more people. Although vaccinated individuals still seem to be at much less risk of severe illness or death, it appears that “full vaccination” is not as protective against spread as it was for prior variants.”

She added, “What we have been learning is there is no single best strategy to contain COVID; instead, applying layers of mitigation seems to be our best bet.

Masks, social distancing, vaccines and boosters, isolation, contact tracing and quarantines, social distancing, treatment modalities - all of these are important, and their effect is cumulative and synergistic when employed simultaneously.”

Her advice to local residents is pure and simple - get vaccinated, and if fully vaccinated, get boosted. The latest data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which is based on data from 25 states and cities, shows that the death rate for unvaccinated people is 14 times as high as that for vaccinated people.

“Active immunization against SARS-Cov2 is still the best bet (even for those who may have been infected and developed some passive natural immunity),” said Dr. Santiago-Rosado. “The likelihood of becoming infected by a positive contact is higher when you have spent a cumulative 15 minutes or more within six feet of that individual, so social distancing and masks are still some of the mainstays of avoiding transmission.”

She added, “Currently, because of the unusually high transmissibility of the Omicron variant, residents of Dutchess County should mask and limit contact with others, particularly in indoor environments where there are unmasked individuals. For patients who do test positive, it is crucial that they follow isolation guidance. These positive results must also be reported to the local health department to facilitate contact tracing and education.”

The difficult reality of the latest rise in cases is that already over-stressed hospital personnel are again bearing the brunt of the work with the rising cases.

“This pandemic has taken a huge toll on the mental health of the public, and it should be mentioned that healthcare workers are not immune to this,” said Dr.

Santiago-Rosado. “In this context, many hospitals are short staffed due to attrition that was accelerated during the pandemic, some of which can be attributed to the burnout many on the front lines are understandably experiencing. Furthermore, the more exposures in the community and in the workplace, the more vulnerable healthcare workers are to becoming ill themselves, and having to be kept out of work, further straining the system.”

She added, “Because patients are anxious and stressed, it’s also not unusual for healthcare workers to describe increasingly hostile work environments and to report verbal, and in some cases physical, abuse.”

Hospitals personnel are also facing other severe difficulties, according to Dr. Santiago-Rosado.

In addition to more cases with the Omicron variant, she said, “We have a whole host of sicker patients needing hospitalization due to decreased access to primary care and preventive interventions since the beginning of the pandemic. They are coming in with complications of incompletely or poorly managed conditions. Hospitals are also seeing more patients presenting with behavioral health issues.”

In regard to her own staff, Dr. Santiago-Rosado said the county Department of Behavioral & Community Health employs approximately 200 individuals, including both public health and behavioral (mental) health.

“Throughout the pandemic, in addition to our normal scope of diverse responsibilities, our team has continued to support and assist residents, organizations and businesses in a wide variety of ways,



Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD FACEP

including contact tracing, case management, vaccine/booster distribution, testing support, data management, call center operations, supply acquisition/distribution (including mask), public information/education, and much, much more,” she said.

Going forward, Dr. Santiago-Rosado said, “The main thing that the public can do is to do their part in ending this pandemic: from hand-washing, to wearing masks and distancing, to getting vaccinated - any actions that will prevent transmission and deterioration will help preserve our healthcare workforce. The public should also be cognizant that healthcare providers and systems are incredibly stretched right now, and approach their interactions with them (and others in general) with patience, kindness and respect.”

Food and Wine Society sets 50th dinner at CIA

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partnership with the CIA through its dinner events and its scholarship program.

Each year a scholarship is granted to a CIA student from the Hudson Valley. Over the past years, they have presented more than \$70,000 to these students. The Society began its scholarship program in 1966 and has awarded at least one scholarship every year since.

The most recent holder of the MHFWS scholarship at the CIA is Jaida Mercurio of Cornwall. She was slated to graduate in 2021.

The Society’s Board of Directors, with the assistance of the CIA Staff, selects one or more students to be scholarship recipients. The scholarships are presented at the January Dinner held at the CIA. The students must have lived in the Mid Hudson Region prior to entering the CIA. The number of recipients, as well as dollar value of the scholarships is determined by the Board of Directors. The

scholarship program is funded by membership dues and a surcharge added to the monthly events. The name of the new recipient will be made public at the annual dinner on Jan. 12.

Aside from the presentation of the Society’s Annual Scholarship, this year’s annual dinner will include special focus on foods and their preparation.

The evening will begin with a pre-dinner interactive demonstration and presentation by a CIA chef that will focus on appetizers for formal evenings. The dinner is scheduled to include wine pairings for each of the courses and an opportunity to discuss them with like-minded food enthusiasts. After the dinner, there will be a cooking class for any members who would like to participate.

Members and guests are welcome. For further information on the dinner or on the MHFWS, check their website, midhudsonfood-wine.org.

State awards Child Care Stabilization Grants

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently announced New York State’s success in awarding \$900 million in Child Care Stabilization Grants to child care programs statewide. The grants are part of a \$2.3 billion package of investments in the state’s child care industry funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) awarded funding to nearly 15,000 eligible child care providers over four months, from August through November.

The Mid-Hudson region’s portion of the funding amounts to \$88,662,338.

The funds are being administered by OCFS to cover the costs of personnel, rent or mortgage, utilities, facility maintenance or improvements, personal protective equipment, supplies needed to respond to COVID-19, goods and services needed to maintain or resume child care services, mental health supports for children and employees, health and safety training for staff, and more.

OCFS recognizes its partners across New York State who assisted child care providers in applying for the grants, including OCFS-organized application assistance for providers statewide through Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, the Civil Service Employees Association, United Federation of Teachers, and Women’s Housing and Economic Development Corporation. The Early Care and Learning Council was contracted to help coordinate this vital assistance statewide.

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Torreggiani hopes to streamline development process in Hyde Park

by Kate Goldsmith

HYDE PARK—Alfred Torreggiani is a newcomer to politics, but his goals as Hyde Park's new Supervisor are crystal-clear: making the town a place where more people can operate a business, where residents can shop locally more often and feel safer in their community.

Torreggiani owns Key Construction Services LLC, based in Poughkeepsie, and has worked on many projects in the Hudson Valley including several in Hyde Park and environs.

“We did the interior and exterior tower at [the new Patient Pavilion at] Vassar Brothers Medical Center; we built the Hyde Park Firehouse [Roosevelt Firehouse on Violet Avenue], we’ve done work in the Hyde Park school district,” he said during a Zoom meeting in late December. “We do a lot of [work in] schools, municipalities [in the region].”

Torreggiani believes that his business expertise will provide useful insight to streamline planning, zoning and building processes in Hyde Park, which is renowned for its tourist attractions but has, he said, discouraged developers from bringing much-needed businesses – and the ensuing tax revenue – to the town.

"During the campaign I knocked on a lot of doors, talked to a lot of people," he said. "A lot of them don't like that there's no place to shop." He added, "The history of Hyde Park – we should be like #1 on the map. You're always going to be a tourist attraction, but it would be nice to have [a variety of] stores [for locals to shop in]."

Torreggiani acknowledged that the lack of a commercial sewer district is part of the reason it's tough to attract certain businesses to Hyde Park – and he wants to explore partnerships with local developers for creative solutions – but he also said the town has a reputation for not being business-friendly.

“There are some developers in the area that have some great ideas, they want to put money in the area, but they’ve been afraid because of horror stories of going through the planning, zoning and building [process],” he said. He cited demands for multiple changes to plans, which besides creating delays add costs and ultimately make some projects prohibitively expensive.

“You’re on the defense when you’re on your way to getting your project approved,” he said. “Why can’t we work together?”

On the positive side, Hyde Park has major projects under way that were approved by the prior administration. These include Bellefield at Historic Hyde Park, which expects to be “a world-class hospitality and tourism destination” as well as “a modern, eco-friendly community,” according to its website; and the Dasai sake plant. Following a pause early in the pandemic, both projects are once again moving along.

“Bellefield is a great project,” Torreggiani said. It’s one of the projects that have come before the county’s Industrial Development Agency, where Torreggiani is a board member and, according to the Think Dutchess website, sits on its Governance Committee. As

Hyde Park's new supervisor, he will now recuse himself from any projects related to the town.

He has similar enthusiasm for the sake plant.

“They’re affiliated with the Culinary, but that’s a manufacturing plant for sake for the whole East Coast,” he said. “It’s like an attraction, people can go there, they’ll take you on tours.”

Concerns over safety

During his campaign, Torreggiani said he heard concerns about public safety, particularly related to drug trafficking in the area.

“The drug problem is worse than people might think,” he said, adding that he wants to procure a K9 unit for the Hyde Park Police Department as well as body cameras.

“The police have to have control and create a safe environment,” said Torreggiani. “They are involved with the [county’s] Drug Task force ... but their budget is tight, so they don’t have the leeway to set up stings.”

A guiding philosophy

Born and raised in Yonkers, Torreggiani said he grew up poor and learned the value of hard work from his father, who held a full-time day job and drove a cab in New York City at night to support his family.

The family moved up to Dutchess County when Torreggiani was a teenager. He joked that "It was like taking John Travolta from 'Saturday Night Fever' to Woodstock," due to the comparatively idyllic nature of their new home. Eventually, he welcomed the slower pace of what was then known as "the country" to city dwellers.

After serving in the military, Torreggiani was a letter carrier in Yonkers. As a commuter, on the drive home he would begin to relax once he approached Dutchess County on the interstate and took in a certain bucolic vista that is familiar to many travelers.

"Once I hit the crest on I-84 and saw the Hudson Valley, then all of a sudden the pressure's off," he said.

In 1995, Torreggiani went into business for himself.

"I started [Key Construction] from scratch, no money, not a dime," he said. In 2005, he bought out his partner in the business and "built it to what it is today."

Torreggiani said he is guided by an



Alfred Torreggiani

overarching principle, one that will serve him as he and a brand-new Town Board steward Hyde Park for the next two years, at least.

“Everything you do – whether it’s school, whether it’s working for somebody, or working for a big company, small company – everything in life is an education. It says in the Bible, ‘Wise men seek wise counsel,’” he said. “Surround yourself with people who are a lot smarter than you are. The worst decision is one that’s made emotionally.”

He added: "It's best to learn from other people's mistakes if you can. That's why I ask questions; I'm an extractor."

At the time of his interview with Northern Dutchess News, Torreggiani had yet to be sworn in, so he spoke in general terms about his goal to make Hyde Park more friendly to development.

“We’re gonna look at the [regulations] we have control over ... and we’re going to ask them [the boards] what it’s going to take to approve plans sooner.”

He cited Dutchess' Think Local initiative, saying it applies to the municipalities as well as the county.

"Hyde Park is gonna need money at some point in order to continue to grow. That's why development is more important than you think," he said. "Instead of raising people's taxes, get these developers to develop and bring some tax-paying people in. It's a domino effect."

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Marine Unit thanks Fairgrounds
for help with Toys for Tots program



The members of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing out of Stewart Air Force Base is thanking the Dutchess County Fairgrounds for the use of the Welcome Center as a distribution point for its Toys for Tots drive in December. The Marine Aircraft Group 49, Detachment B is part of the U.S. Marine Forces Reserve. Above, members of the Group stand with Andy Imperati, CEO of the Dutchess County Fair. The Marines presented a Commander's Award to the Fairgrounds, which stated in part, "Your generous contributions have enabled the Marine Corps to bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less-fortunate children." *Courtesy photo*

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Swearing-in ceremonies held in PV for supervisor, council members



New Pleasant Valley Town Supervisor John DelVecchio, left, is sworn in during ceremonies at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall on Sunday, Jan. 2. In the center is Cheryl Veach DelVecchio, wife of the new supervisor, and Judge Scott Volkman of the Poughkeepsie City Court in the Ninth Judicial District of New York. *Photo by Jim Donick*

Pleasant Valley installed its new town supervisor as well as the rest of the newly elected officials in Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 2. Along with new town supervisor, John DelVecchio, council members Mary Albrecht and Michael Rifenburgh, as well as new Town Justice, Darren Fairlie were all sworn in.

In his remarks, DelVecchio promised to bring a sense of teamwork to the town government and to work openly with both sides. He said the town has not only suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic, but also from another pandemic - politics.

He listed areas of recent political strife - donated park properties, water service, buildings, and lamented that the political strife was now even infecting the library.

He offered a fresh start with both sides setting animosities aside. He said there have been a number of political slogans used, but that they now needed to become messages of hope for the various factions in the town to come together and show all of Dutchess County how people working together can build an outstanding community.

Marist men fall to Iona

by Rich Thomaselli

COVID-19 postponements of two games forced a schedule adjustment for the Marist College men's basketball team, and it might have thrown the Red Foxes off their rhythm a little bit.

Marist played a strong game on the road on Sunday, but lost to Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference-leading Iona, 69-66, after a late comeback by the Gaels.

The Foxes fell to 6-6 overall; Iona is 11-2.

It was the second time in less than a month that Marist has lost to Iona in a tight game. The two teams were not scheduled to play again until Jan. 21. But Iona had a game postponed against Siena due to the Omicron outbreak and Marist had two rescheduled against Monmouth and St. Peter's.

So, the Gaels and the Foxes decided to

play each other on a mutual open date on January 2.

After a back-and-forth battle in the first half that featured numerous ties and lead changes, the Red Foxes and Gaels were tied at 31-31.

Marist would control the action out of the gates in the second half, building up several five-point leads and the largest lead of the game at seven early in the half.

Marist held the lead for 13 minutes in the second half and led by six after a three-pointer from Samkelo Cele with four minutes remaining.

The Gaels responded with a 9-0 run spanning just over three minutes to take the lead back and hold on for good.

Marist heads to the road to take on Fairfield on Friday, Jan. 7.

Tip-off at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Connecticut is set for 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

United Way offers free transportation for COVID-19 vaccine appointments to Poughkeepsie residents

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region is partnering with Lyft to offer free rides to individuals needing transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments and COVID-19 booster vaccinations. The program covers up to \$50 round trip. The individual must cover any expenses beyond \$50.

The program is open to Dutchess and Orange residents in Newburgh and Poughkeepsie. It cannot be used for drive-thru vaccination sites. Medicaid recipients are not eligible for this program. They can call their Medicaid provider to cover the cost of transportation.

Sign up to receive your unique code by at uwdor.org/vaccinerides and click the "apply" button. You can apply the code to a round trip. Rides can only be used as transportation to and from a vaccine clinic site. Users can apply for a second code to use for transportation to and from a second shot.

Clinton residents can drop off Christmas Trees for Jan. 8 Bonfire

The Clinton community is invited to come to the Frances J. Mark Memorial Park on Saturday, Jan. 8, at 5:30 p.m., for the Town's 13th Annual Christmas Tree Bonfire celebration. There will be refreshments and lots of good cheer to ring in the new year. Bring your own chair; join in to meet friends and neighbors to gather around the bonfire.

The town is accepting Christmas trees to build the fire. Drop off your ornament-free Christmas tree anytime before Jan. 8 at the Clinton Town Highway garage by the wood chip pile in front of

the fence. You can also bring your live Christmas tree to the celebration on Jan. 8.

Hyde Park offers Christmas Tree Curbside Pickup

The Town of Hyde Park's Highway Department will be picking up Christmas trees through Friday, Jan. 14. For more information, call the Highway Department at (845) 229-9416.

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, January 15, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will consist of Spaghetti, Homemade Meatballs & Sauce, Salad, Italian Bread, and Homemade Rice Pudding for dessert. Donation is \$17 per dinner. Drive to the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for your dinner and get your food through your car window, and take it home to enjoy. All CDC & Governor Hochul's Health Guidelines will be followed. Call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton for reservations at (845) 868-7869.

Rhinecliff Fall Soup Sales are back

The Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. and Rhinebeck Grange #896 will hold their Fall Soup Sales on Jan. 27 as well as Feb. 24. From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on those dates, a choice of soup or chili will be available for take-out at the cost of \$10 per quart. To order ahead, email Joe at baerhands@aol.com or call the firehouse at (845) 876-6149 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, on the corner of Shatzell Avenue and Orchard Street in Rhinecliff. Pick up at side window on Orchard.

Profits will alternate between the two community organizations.

Abilities First receives \$300,000 grant for school expansion

Abilities First was recently awarded a \$300,000 Empire State Development grant from the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council through the competitive Consolidated Funding Application process.

The Abilities First School Expansion Project will add new, state-of-the-art classrooms and therapy space for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the LaGrange and New Windsor K-12 schools.

Abilities First is coordinating the project with the NYS Education Department (NYSED) and the 25 Hudson Valley school districts the \$1.5 million project supports. Additional classrooms will reduce the waitlist, offering students access to an exceptional education closer to home, alleviating long bus rides to another county to attend school, and offering placement to students receiving home instruction due to a lack of seats. Parents will also have better access to school resources. The project will create 40 new jobs for special education teach-

ers, teacher's aides, and therapists.

The \$300,000 award will fund construction to retrofit unused space at both locations, upgrading mechanical, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing, adding dedicated space for physical, occupational, and behavioral therapy, and furnishing new classrooms with smart boards and communications tools. The new construction will transition seamlessly from the pre-existing facility. Abilities First anticipates opening at the beginning of the school year in 2023.

"We are so pleased to be granted the funds to expand the instructional and therapeutic facilities at both of our main school sites in LaGrange and New Windsor, which will add numerous job opportunities for members of our communities," said Abilities First President & CEO Jeffery Fox, Ph.D. "The improvements will add 28 seats in the New Windsor school, create smaller, more intimate classes in the LaGrange school, and upgrade space for therapies, arts, and other essential school functions."

Local sex offender charged with failing to register

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau reports the arrest of Othelia Vaturina, age 41 of Dutchess County, on Dec. 28, 2021, for failing to report a change of address and register as a sex offender in the area in which he is residing.

Recently, detectives received information that Vaturina was a Level III sex offender from Broome County NY, but that he may be currently residing in Dutchess County. Further investigation led to the discovery that he was living at the Pine Grove Motel in Beekman and had been staying in Poughkeepsie as well, all without registering the change in address as required by the New York State Corrections Law.

Vaturina was arrested on Dec. 28 and

charged with failing to register the change in address, which is a Class D felony. After being processed Vaturina was arraigned before the City of Poughkeepsie Court, and subsequently remanded to the Dutchess County Jail with no bail.

Anyone with information about Vaturina failing to register or similar incidents is asked to contact Detective David Meyer at (845) 486-3778 or dmmeyer@dutchessny.gov. The Sheriff's Office can also be contacted via the tipline at (845) 605-2583 or dcsotips@gmail.com, and all information will be kept confidential.

As with any criminal case the charge described above is merely an accusation and Vaturina is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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Hochul signs legislation to expand public input in rules-making process

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently signed legislation (S.0155/A.6267) further enhancing the ability of the public to participate in the rule-making process. This legislation would allow an agency to utilize non-traditional methods to garner more public participation. The public would also be able to submit a valid petition to an agency to require them to hold a hearing on a specific rule or regulation.

“My administration is committed to turning the page and starting a new era of openness and transparency in state government,” Hochul said. “I’m proud to sign this legislation, which takes a major step forward to ensure the work we do on behalf of New Yorkers is responsive to public input and that the business of state agencies is conducted in full view of the

people we serve - not behind closed doors.”

Legislation S.0155/A.6267 amends the State Administrative Procedure Act (SAPA) to authorize agencies that hold hearings on proposed rules under SAPA to use innovative means to enhance public participation in rule-making, such as:

- Designating a segment of time for the public to address questions to agency personnel;
- Organizing hearings as roundtable discussions; scheduling evening or weekend hearings; and
- Using digital, broadcast and teleconferencing technologies.

The legislation also requires those agencies which are covered by the program to hold public hearings on proposed

rules when they receive written petitions with the requisite amount of signatures from people residing in New York State, provided a sufficient petition is received no later than the 30th day before the last date for public comment. Agencies which receive petitions after that date and agencies which are not covered by the legislation have the option of holding a public hearing pursuant to the request. Agencies are required to give due consideration to requests that a hearing be held in a particular region.

Agencies are not required to hold

public hearings for rules for which a hearing is required by law but has already been scheduled or held, for consensus rules, for rules related to rate-makings, or for rules adopted on an emergency basis. This legislation specifies that the following agencies are required on a pilot basis to hold hearings upon receiving a petition: the Workers’ Compensation Board and the Departments of Education, Environmental Conservation, Health, Financial Services, Labor and Family Assistance.

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www.CenterForPhysicalTherapy.com

Let’s all resolve to help veterans in our community

Do you make New Year’s resolutions? I sure do. Some folks never make them, because they feel once they make a resolution, it’s only a matter of time before they break it. “I’m going to eat healthier this year” or “I’m going to volunteer more in my community” are common personal resolutions we hear often at the start of a brand new year. But many times those resolutions, although hopeful, never make it past January. We simply backtrack into our old habits, and those hopeful statements slip away into the backs of our minds, usually only to be seen a year later, when we make the next New Year’s resolutions.

Sounds familiar, right?

Recently I was honored to take part in a sobering ceremony to remember the names of those people in Dutchess County who died over the past year while experiencing homelessness. The ceremony is held by Hudson River Housing at the very end of each year, to honor the memories of our neighbors who might otherwise be forgotten.

The ceremony was a powerful one for all those who attended, including myself. But it wasn’t the speeches or readings or songs that made us emotional. No, it was the reading of the 33 names of people in our community who died while experi-

encing homelessness this year. Thirty-three. That’s a lot, and that’s just the folks in Dutchess County who died alone.

As I stood there listening to the names being read aloud, I also remembered to add my own silent prayer for Anthony Gray, who was a USMC veteran living at Liberty Station in Poughkeepsie until October 2020, when he was murdered outside the shelter. It’s been a little over a year since Anthony’s death, it’s true, but like the 33 names at this year’s ceremony, I don’t want to ever forget Anthony.

That’s one of the personal reasons why I make resolutions for the New Year. I want to remind myself that we can always do better. Since I returned from the VetZero Walk Across America in 2019, boy, we have done so much to support our heroes here in the Hudson Valley, but we should never rest on our laurels.

When you have a true passion, I think you should always keep building, keep striving, and keep finding new ways to fuel that passion. Sure, many New Year’s resolutions fail, but that shouldn’t stop us from trying.

For 2022, why don’t we make our New Year’s resolutions together? Say it out loud with me: “This year, I resolve to do one act of kindness for a veteran in my community.” See? That was easy. And



Christa Hines, Executive Director of Hudson River Housing (HRH), speaks to the crowd assembled last week outside the PODS homeless shelter at Dutchess County Jail, Hamilton Street in Poughkeepsie. to read the names of the 33 people who died while experiencing homelessness in Dutchess County in 2021. To her right is the Rev. Susan Fortunato, Chair of the HRH board. *Photo by Tom Zurhellen*

that act of kindness could be anything, from volunteering your time with the VetZero project at Hudson River Housing, to bringing a home-cooked meal to a veteran family in need in your community. Remember, a small gesture can mean so much to someone who is struggling.

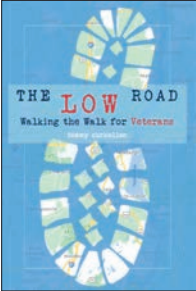
If you want to help veterans for your resolution this year, just contact Hudson River Housing at www.hudsonriverhousing.org and they will get you started!

Let’s make 2022 the year we all do our best to make a difference in the lives of our heroes. Together, we can do it! Happy New Year to you and your loved ones,

and best wishes for a wonderful year ahead!

Thank you for listening! See you next time!

A Navy veteran, Tom Zurhellen has been Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Poughkeepsie for the past three years. In the summer of 2019, he walked across America from Portland, Oregon, to Poughkeepsie to raise awareness on veteran suicide and veteran homelessness in our country. He continues to work with local veterans in need through the VetZero Project, in partnership with Hudson River Housing.



TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AND BUY ‘THE LOW ROAD’!

Tom Zurhellen chronicles his 2019 VetZero Walk Across America in his new book, “The Low Road: Walking the Walk for Veterans.” The Walk raised awareness of the plight of many veterans in our country, and called attention to the fact that, every day, 22 veterans take their own lives. Proceeds from “The Low Road” will go directly to help local veterans in need through the VetZero Project at Hudson River Housing. The book costs \$22 and can only be purchased at www.hudsonriverhousing.org.

VETERANS CORNER: NEWS YOU CAN USE

VA clinic to change hours Jan. 10

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (VA HVHCS) will permanently change its Castle Point Urgent Care Clinic operating hours beginning Jan. 10. The new clinic hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

This change supports the difference between the VA HVHCS Urgent Care Clinics and a full Emergency Department. It will ensure Veterans access the right level of care at the right time and eliminate any delay in care for critical medical issues.

The level of care at any Urgent Care clinic is different than that available at an emergency room. Our Castle Point and Montrose Urgent Care Clinic offers care for such illnesses as cold and flu symptoms, high/low blood pressure, high/low blood sugar, and nausea. Emergency rooms, in contrast, are for when you need fast care for life or limb-threatening illnesses and injuries. Examples include shortness of breath, head injury, broken bones, chest pain or pressure, to name a few.

For routine office visits and medication requests or refills, please continue to seek treatment from your Primary Care Provider. If you have a condition that cannot wait for a Primary Care appointment, please call the 24/7 VA Health Connect at 1-800-877-6976.

If you experience life-threatening

symptoms, you are urged to call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest emergency room for care.

When you arrive at an emergency room, please notify the staff that you are a Veteran. Our Community Care office can be reached at 845-838-7656, 24 hours a day. This does not guarantee any type of payment; this will ensure the care is considered for payment. We need to determine if the care received was an emergency and was not available at the VA. These determinations are made after care is given. Please keep in mind that all decisions by VA regarding coverage and payment of emergency room care are based on federal law, which directs the VA in how it pays for emergency room care.

Thank you for your service to our country. We will continue to do all we can to ensure the highest quality, timely care for our nation’s heroes.

VA Hudson Valley’s Walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics offering boosters to eligible veterans

Following CDC recommendations for those that would most benefit from the COVID-19 booster, the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System is now providing booster shots for Moderna, and J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines to veterans, as supply and capacity permits.

For people who received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated at

least two months ago.

The VA Hudson Valley Health Care System is administering Moderna and J&J/Janssen COVID-19 booster shots at the following times and locations:

CASTLE POINT VA MEDICAL CENTER
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Multipurpose Room, Bldg. 19, Room 100

MONTROSE, FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL: Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Social Hall, Bldg. 15, Room 16

VA Hudson Valley Community Clinics are by appointment only. Eligible veterans can also call (845) 831-2000, ext. 217666, to schedule an appointment for their booster shot. Scheduling staff will assist in getting a convenient time for them.

Individuals can also receive their booster shot at no cost outside of VA by locating a vaccine site at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) - Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations. They’ll need to bring their CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card for their appointment.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

For more information about the status

of vaccination throughout Dutchess County, visit DutchessNY.gov/COVIDvaccine.

Drive-up flu shots available to veterans

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (VA HVHCS) is now offering drive-up flu shots at its Castle Point and Montrose campuses. Veterans enrolled with VA HVHCS can receive a no-cost flu shot at both locations. No appointment is necessary.

Flu shots are available Monday through Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. at the Castle Point Campus, 41 Castle Point Road, Wappingers Falls; and the Montrose Campus, 2094 Albany Post Road, Montrose.

Veterans enrolled with VA can also choose from thousands of community locations. Visit <https://www.va.gov/communitycare/flushot.asp> to find a location near you, and present your government-issued ID to receive a no-cost flu shot.



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Molinaro announces \$1.5M in agency partner grant awards

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro recently announced a total of \$1.5 million in funding awards for 34 programs as part of the 2022 Agency Partner Grant (APG) Program, which provides funding opportunities for local 501(c)(3) organizations on a biennial basis through a competitive grant process based on an organization's ability to demonstrate they fulfill an unmet community need. Entering its 10th year, the APG program provides vital support to strengthen local communities by funding youth development, homeless prevention, workforce development, mental health and wellness, and literacy programs, among other critical needs.

Molinaro said, "Our Agency Partner Grant Program has proven to be effective at addressing and responding to critical community needs. I thank the Dutchess County Legislature for continuing to support this vital program and the nonprofit agencies that work tirelessly to provide services and programs for young people, families and seniors. As we navigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are grateful to have the ability to provide continued funding for programs that are essential to the individuals they serve."

Dutchess County received a total of 41 applications, requesting more than \$2 million in funding. With support from the Dutchess County Legislature, \$1.5 million was allocated in the 2022 Dutchess County Budget for the APG program. A portion of the grant funding awards has been designated specifically for library programming through the Dutchess Reads initiative, which was launched in 2018 to promote reading throughout Dutchess County by overcoming barriers to literacy.

Projects funded through the 2022 Agency Partner Grant Program include:

Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh, Inc.* - \$100,000 to continue implementation of a comprehensive afterschool program, The Afterschool Project, which targets the academic, social and behavioral development of youth in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess County - \$35,000 to provide a Homeless Prevention Case Management Program, which offers emergency rental assistance, financial literacy education, crisis intervention, and comprehensive case management services to promote long-term housing stability for low-income families in Dutchess County.

Chamber Foundation, Inc. - \$77,192 for the Next-Gen Career Academy, a youth workforce development program benefiting high school juniors and seniors, with priority given to low-income and underserved youth, providing students with paid work experience and on-the-job training in work readiness skills.

Community Based Services, Inc. - \$33,900 to support Transitional Planning for Parents of Children with Disabilities, which educates parents and caregivers on available programs and resources for children with disabilities who are aging out of school-based programs, as well as collaborating with schools to reach individuals who may benefit from participation in programs offered by local special needs agencies.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County - \$71,027 to continue supporting 4-H Youth Development: Literacy Assistance for All, which prepares youth of all abilities with financial literacy, writing comprehension, public speaking and leadership skills to succeed as they transition into adulthood.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County - \$20,000 to support the Family Budgeting Project, which will partner with youth workforce investment

and parent groups to empower youth, adults and families with the necessary skills and practices for long-term financial stability, as well as educate the senior community about elder fraud.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County - \$109,273 to continue supporting Green Teen and No Child Left Inside: Developing Youth Potential Through Work-Based Learning, which broadens youth exposure to environmental science, provides outdoor workforce development opportunities, and promotes health outcomes.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County - \$50,000 to continue supporting the evidence-based Parenting and Support Education (PASE) program, which enhances parenting skills by utilizing a hands-on learning approach suitable for all literacy levels.

Dutchess County Pride Center - \$23,650 to expand the Teen Drop-In program to provide services year-round, giving LGBTQ+ teens access to affirming adults and safe spaces to increase self-esteem, lower anxiety, improve school performance and create greater community engagement.

Dutchess Outreach - \$20,600 to provide affordable, healthy and locally produced fresh food options to the general public for sale through the Dutchess Outreach Fresh Market and provide free produce offerings to pantry patrons.

Exodus Transitional Community** - \$65,000 to support an evidence-based Reentry Work Readiness program that includes evidence-based, cognitive-behavioral change and social skills development curriculum, case management and job readiness skills training to post-incarcerated, safety net-eligible individuals to promote a successful transition to the community and reduce recidivism rates.

Family Services, Inc. - \$45,000 for an afterschool Teen Resource Activity Center that provides mentoring, academic support, healthy living workshops and recreational activities for City of Poughkeepsie youth in a safe environment.

Finish Strong Wellness Center - \$29,000 for PK REACH!, a trauma-informed, strength-based program that utilizes evidence-based practices to increase physical, intellectual, emotional and relational wellness in youth and young adults of color in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Friends of Seniors of Dutchess County Corp. - \$31,827 to maintain its Senior Medical Transportation program, which promotes access to non-emergency medical care for seniors, who lack other means of transportation.

Hudson River Housing, Inc. - \$44,801 for Financial Fitness programming to improve financial stability among Dutchess County residents by offering educational workshops on the importance of eliminating debt, building a credit history and increasing savings.

Hudson River Housing, Inc.* - \$52,501 to continue providing a Housing Navigator program to County residents with housing navigation and transition services, referrals and emergency rental assistance to prevent homelessness.

Hudson River Housing, Inc.* - \$58,080 to support the work of an outreach care manager through the Neighborhood Service Project - Street Outreach Program, which will provide necessities and engage unhoused individuals in the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie, specifically those suffering from behavioral health and/or substance use conditions, to enroll them in a suitable, supportive housing program.

Land to Learn - \$50,000 to support

SproutEd, a nutrition assistance program that engages elementary school students in the City of Beacon in nutrition, health, environmental stewardship, and social-emotional, math, science and literacy skills, through hands-on experiential learning.

Literacy Connections - \$40,206 to continue the Adult & Family Literacy program which promotes basic literacy skills for adults and children. Adult learners receive student-centered, one-on-one or small group tutoring lessons, while children are assigned a one-on-one book buddy, to promote basic reading and comprehension skills.

Mediation Center of Dutchess County, Inc. - \$109,669 to fund an evidence-based Restorative Justice Initiative that works with non-profit partners, schools and individuals throughout Dutchess County to address conflict and behavioral matters, while promoting pro-social outcomes in a diplomatic and non-punitive way.

NAMI Mid-Hudson, Inc. - \$81,028 to provide mental wellness and mental health literacy to individuals affected by mental illness through the Family-to-Family program, as well as an informational seminar, both providing participants with information on the biology of brain disorders, an understanding of diagnoses, treatment options, crisis intervention techniques and available community support and referral options.

Northeast Community Council, Inc. - \$45,099 to continue the Community Partnership with Schools and Business program, a paid job skills training program for youths and young adults, where they acquire transferable work readiness skills and training to promote their successful transition to adulthood.

Northeast Community Council, Inc. - \$35,010 to provide a variety of nutritional Food Access Programs, including two community gardens, a Summer Food Service Program and youth food access internship opportunities.

Northeast Community Council, Inc. - \$40,739 to implement a year-round Comprehensive Out of School Time program to provide afterschool and summer enrichment activities that will preserve socio-emotional and academic gains and mitigate summer learning loss for Webutuck Central School District students.

Poughkeepsie Farm Project - \$36,050 to support Farm Fresh Home Chefs, a food access and healthy eating program for low-income Poughkeepsie families, which teaches families how to prepare balanced healthy meals.

Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church - \$29,000 to support the Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center, which provides academic and social support to promote educational and behavioral outcomes of under-served children in the City of Poughkeepsie.

R.E.A.L. Skills Network - \$42,436 to support Students Target Academic Retention Techniques (S.T.A.R.T.), an afterschool program in the City of

Poughkeepsie that focuses on teaching skills in a nourishing and supportive learning environment to strengthen students' academic achievement.

R.E.A.L. Skills Network - \$16,296 to support the Summer Learning Academy, a six-week summer program in the City of Poughkeepsie with a focus on stabilizing academic achievement levels and eliminating summer learning loss.

Red Hook Community Center, Inc. - \$14,168 for a School Year Youth Employment program for youth and young adults in northern Dutchess County, providing opportunities for pre-employment and soft job skills training, including résumé writing, mock interviewing and financial literacy, as well as paid employment at a business within the local community.

Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc.* - \$41,200 to support Special Education Advocacy services for parents of children with special needs. The advocate will help parents navigate the special education system to ensure students have access to the supports and accommodations necessary for them to achieve their fullest potential.

The Art Effect - \$156,478 to support an expansion of the afterschool and summer Youth Workforce Development in Arts & Media program that prepares City of Poughkeepsie youth for higher education and employment opportunities by providing arts-based curriculum, training and hands-on experience in media production and the visual arts.

Wassaic Project - \$26,895 to support the JV and Varsity Arts Club afterschool enrichment program, which provides middle and high school students in the Dover, Millbrook, Pine Plains and Webutuck school districts with the opportunity to develop technical, artistic, problem-solving and soft skills, while empowering youth to organize group performances and offer community workshops and events for peers and younger students.

*Awarded through APG, funded in part, and administered by the Department of Community and Family Services.

**Awarded through APG, administered by the Department of Community and Family Services.

APG: Dutchess Reads

Pawling Free Library - \$39,250 for Children's Programming to Promote Literacy and Learning, among children ages 8 and under, with the addition of an event series which will focus on music, reading, playing, talking and writing, as well as the use of science and robotics kits, an indoor/outdoor block set and a sensory table.

Poughkeepsie Public Library District - \$27,025 for the Ready for Reading program, which will provide early literacy toolkits for families in the Poughkeepsie City School District to use with pre-school-age children to prepare them for reading as they enter school.



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by mark adams



El Yunque

Mark and Sue visit Puerto Rico for their annual exotic vacation.

Botswana was out. The plan to take our grandchildren and their parents on an African Wildlife Safari was vanquished by the omicron variant. Too bad – at ages 13 and 15, it won’t be long before “little” Priya and Ambika would rather drop dead than go on vacation with Grandma and Grandpa.

So Sue and I were off to Puerto Rico just as the omicron pandemic was cresting. At least it’s in the United States, we figured. A couple of days later, after losing our luggage, eating cheese and crackers in our hotel room because every restaurant in San Juan was booked until closing time, spending a day shopping at Walmart when our luggage failed to arrive, wandering the streets looking for a place to get the required Covid test, and then getting stuck in the hotel elevator for half an hour, we finally made our way to El Yunque.

El Yunque National Forest is the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. (Puerto Rico is a U.S. Territory). 28,000 acres of relatively unspoiled wilderness except that in 2017 Hurricane Maria messed it up, wrecking the El Portal Rainforest Center, the gateway to the forest, which has yet to reopen. But most of the hiking trails have recovered, including “la mina,” which was reopened just in time

for our visit. We hired a local guide, Juan Manual Abreu Fuentes, to take us along the fairly easy mile-long trail. It turns out that most of the dozens of tourists we encountered were on their way to the swimming hole at the at the base of Mina Falls, dressed in bathing suits and flip flops. Not exactly the outfit recommended in the guidebook (sturdy shoes, long pants, etc.).

The forest is divided into four distinct vegetation zones, depending on the altitude (up to 3,500 feet) and rainfall – 240 inches per year in some spots, enough to provide Puerto Rico with most of its drinking water. The thousands of native species include 240 different trees, 14 types of lizards and 1,200 insect species. The Puerto Rican green parrot has been endangered since 1940, when hunting it was outlawed. The tiny population of 75 was wiped out by Hurricane Maria, but fortunately 240 green parrots were released (they had been bred in zoos) after Maria and are surviving.

We didn’t see too many insects, lizards or frogs (in fact, none). Our guide pointed out quite a few plants and flowers, which are more up our alley anyway:

- **Heliconia** – The false Bird of Paradise. Of the 194 species, the one native to El Yunque is also called “Burnt



People are one of the “invasive species” in El Yunque, Puerto Rico; bamboo is another. Photos by Mark Adams

Paradise,” because the flowers start off golden yellow and morph through several stages, ending up fiery red.

- **Pantene Plant** – If you squeeze its red cone, a sticky liquid seeps out which has been used for centuries as shampoo.

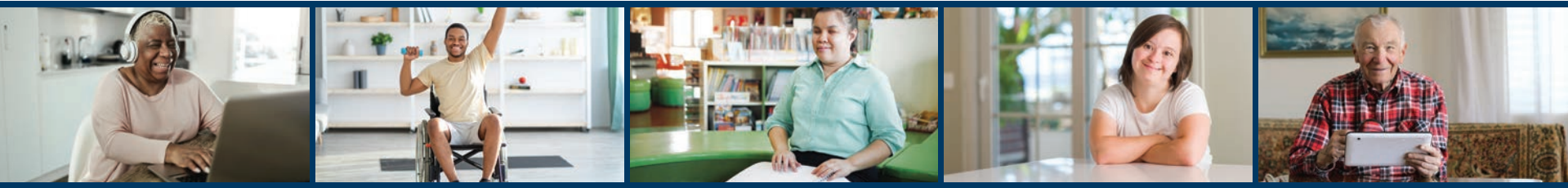
- **Morivivir** – The sensitive plant. The leaves fold up when touched. You can find them for sale in garden centers, “Morivivir” translates to English as “Dead or Alive.”

continued on page 11



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Get Growing!

continued from page 10

- **Giant Variegated Split Leaf Philodendrons** – They’re climbing all over the trunks of palm trees. I was tempted to dig one up, smuggle it past the U.S.D.A. Checkpoint and sell it on eBay to pay for our trip.
- **Chameleon Fern** – Of the 150 ferns in El Yunque, this one stands out. The very fern-like foliage changes color during the course of the day, from pale green to deep blue.
- **Bamboo** – According to Juan, bamboo was brought to Puerto Rico in 1970 to help stabilize the riverbanks during hurricanes. It’s taken over, with

stands of 20-foot-high and 6-inch-thick bamboo covering the mountainsides. Another invasive species in El Yunque is the homo sapiens – up to a million visitors a year.
Sue and I finally got our luggage back and moved out of San Juan to a luxurious resort on the beach in Isla Verde.
Let’s have a happy new year and hope that 2022 will be an improvement.

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



The Chameleon fern (above) and Pantine flower (below) can be seen in El Yunque National Forest. Photos by Mark Adams



Coming to the MJN Convention Center in January

Art of Combat SC 15
Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022
Door Open at 7 p.m. • Starts at 8 p.m.
Come see some of the best mixed martial artists at the premiere MMA show in New York. This event is brought to you by Art of Combat Sports Championships, and will have MMA, Kickboxing and Muay Thai.

2022 Hudson Valley Motorcycle Expo
Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
The 2022 Hudson Valley Motorcycle Expo at the Majed J. Nesheiwat

Convention Center (Formerly known as Mid-Hudson Civic Center) in Poughkeepsie is an awesome expo that will showcase rocking live music bands, a variety of vendors, custom bike show, swap meet and more.

For tickets and more information about these events, call the MJN Convention Center Box Office at (845) 454-5800; go to the Box Office in person at 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com.

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Diversions

SUDOKU

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills.

The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers.

Each row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.

Each 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

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

Suguru

5					
				2	
3				4	
	5				
		1			
		4		4	5

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.

ACROSS

- Narratives
- Study at the 11th hour
- Men's nicknames
- Zee's counterpart
- Dance at a Bar Mitzvah
- Horse color
- Hall cabinet contents
- Deserving of praise
- WWII general
- Eat
- White poplar
- Covenant
- Citi Field athletes
- Prisoner's hope
- Girl's nickname
- White House resident from 1861 to 1865
- Indigo dye
- Obi fabric, often
- Spanish article
- Unfaithful rascal
- Large cask
- Elders and alders
- End in __; have no winner
- PC key
- Listen
- Put one's arms around
- Writer's table
- Think deeply
- Tijuana title
- Joints closest to the waist
- Jungle denizen
- Type of music
- Put a stop to
- "I cannot tell __!"
- Aye or nay
- Della __
- Tormé and Tillis
- Observer
- Part of a wood joint

DOWN

- Auctioneer's word
- In the center of
- Mr. Hackman
- Grow gray
- Shoe for St. Francis
- Sing the psalms
- Went as a passenger
- Where to find the radius
- __ tai
- Saudis and others
- Wraparound garment
- Able to reach high shelves
- Dagger
- Evaluating
- Bartender's need
- 19th century U.S. president
- Flying insects
- Pennsylvania port
- Noodles
- Cancel
- Laughing
- Not now
- Winged
- Foundation
- Curvy letters
- Move furtively
- Old anesthetics
- Infuriates
- Steak orderer's word
- Piece of china
- State positively
- Prescribed amounts
- Race participant
- Phony deal
- Women's magazine
- Finger's feature
- Find odious
- Yemeni seaport
- 100 centavos
- First lady's home
- Common contraction
- Playfully shy
- Originally

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
20				21	22					23				
			24					25	26					
27	28	29					30					31	32	33
34						35						36		
37				38	39						40			
41				42							43			
44				45					46	47				
			48					49						
50	51	52				53						54	55	56
57					58	59				60	61			
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 15

Morton Library events

Call for Seeds
The Morton Seed Library is planning a virtual seed swap for Saturday, Jan. 29th (National Seed Swap Day). To help us facilitate this event, we are asking for your assistance. Did “your garden grow”? Did you save seeds? Would you like to share? Please contact sandy@mortonrhinecliff.org with your inventory by Jan. 15 and we will add it to our master list. We will all be able to view/share/choose and then start planning our gardens on the 29th.

Morton Yoga
Sundays, 10 a.m.
Instructor Kristin DiSpaltro leads participants in classes that are breath-based with an emphasis on thoughtful sequencing and alignment so that practitioners can move with stability, awareness and grace.
Bring a yoga mat, a blanket and blocks if you like. Suggested donation \$12.

Storytime with Sandy on YouTube
Fridays, 11 a.m.
Join Sandy on YouTube as she reads three stories each week. Week one will premiere on Friday, Jan. 7.

Reading of the Work of Jacques Lacan
Fridays, 4 p.m.
Hosted by the Lacan Reading Group and Morton Memorial Library. Moderated by Dr. Anna McLellan, member of the Après-Coup Psychoanalytic Association.
Subject: Lacan’s Seminar of 1971-1972, “...Or Worse: The Knowledge of the Psychoanalyst”. Please call the library to confirm and register; or for more information, call Dr. McLellan at (917) 270-8280.

Needlework Circle
Wednesday, Jan. 12, 3 p.m.
Join with your crocheting, knitting, or hand sewing. Feel free to bring your own materials if you are an experienced crocheter maven. We will have yarn and hooks for beginners. This group will meet biweekly from 3 to 4 p.m. All are welcome. Call the library for more information.

Discovery of a Masterpiece
Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
Morton partners once again with

Tivoli, Starr and Staatsburg libraries to offer this virtual program about the discovery of a masterpiece. Advance registration is required. Zoom information will be sent out prior to the event. This program is free and open to the public.

About the program:
Mallory Mortillaro discovered the Rodin after she was hired as a part-time archivist to inventory the art in the municipal building in Madison, NJ in 2014. It took her a few weeks to get to the bust, peeking behind the sculpture to find something that had apparently been overlooked for 80 years.

The markings on the white marble were faint, but she saw a signature: A. Rodin.

Her discovery turned into months of investigating — searching archives, calling experts only to be rebuffed, stumbling into leads — to confirm her suspicion that the bust was an authentic work of Auguste Rodin, the renowned French sculptor.

The bust had certainly not been handled as though it were a genuine Rodin. The marble was coated with fingerprints. The pedestal had become a handy leaning post at crowded meetings

Over time, Mortillaro was able to stitch together the bust’s journey to Madison - from Rodin’s studio outside Paris. The piece had been commissioned in 1904 by a collector from New York City. It was even displayed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art for more than a decade before it was purchased at auction.

Richard’s Rhinecliff Acoustic Show
Friday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m.
Featuring: Kingston Kane, Sem, Larry Silver & Inyo, Walter Ensor. Donations to benefit Morton are suggested. Call (845) 876-7007 for more information.

Fifth Annual Rhinecliff Winter Bonfire
Firemen’s Field
Saturday, Jan. 29, 4 p.m.
Rhinebeck Grange #896 in partnership with the Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Co. and Morton Memorial Library will host this event. Dress warmly and join us to celebrate Winter around a bonfire made from local holiday trees.

Drop off your tree at Firemen’s Field by the parking area. Trees must be



On Jan. 12, Mallory Mortillaro will be featured in a virtual presentation about how she discovered a lost Rodin work. The event will be co-hosted by Morton Memorial Library, Starr Library, Tivoli Library and Staatsburg Library. *Courtesy photo*

cleared of decorations. Holiday trees from the Rhinecliff Protective Fire District can be picked up from 8 a.m. to noon from your home. Call Joe at (845) 489-0835 to arrange for your tree pick up and set it at the end of your driveway on Saturday morning.

Youth Chess at Morton
Mondays, 5:30 p.m.
Join the award-winning Morton Memorial Chess Club every Monday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with D. Suris and Cathy Young. Students in grades K-12 are welcome to join for fun, learning and tournament competition. To sign your child up, or for more information, contact D. Suris at (845) 835-6189 or email racersplace@hotmail.com.

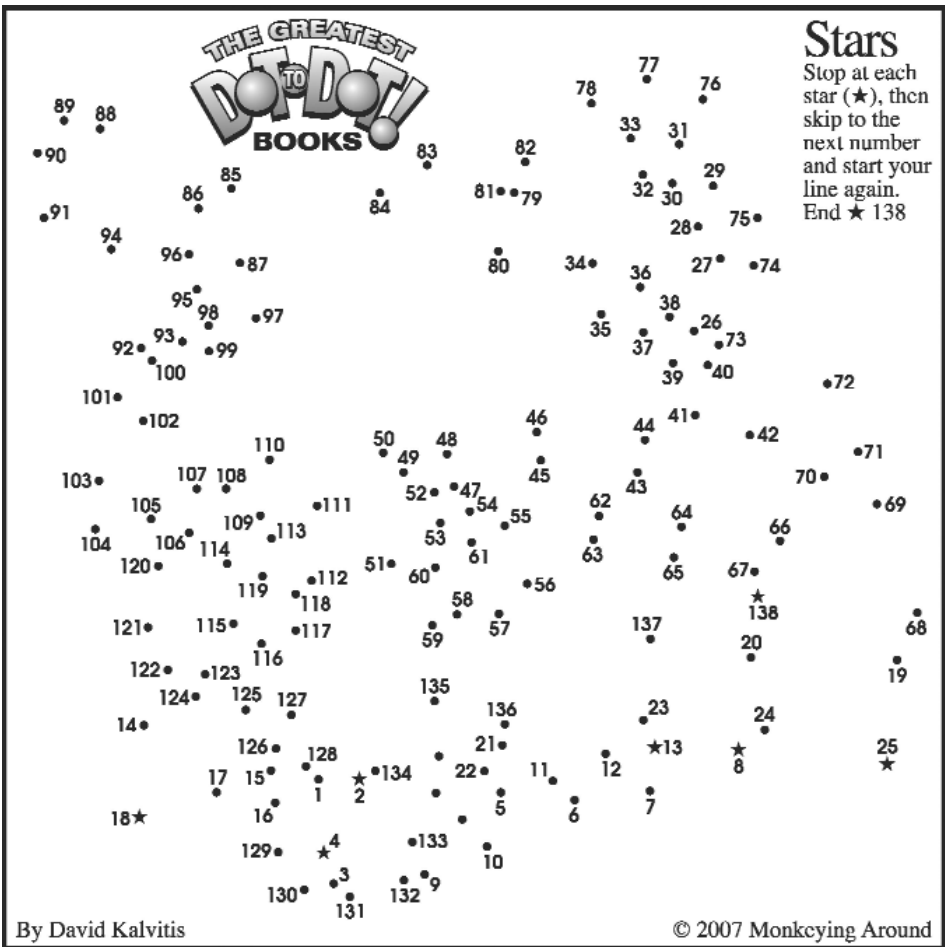
Meditation Group (at home)
Sundays, 7 a.m. or 5 p.m.
Those in our meditation group who choose to do so are sitting in their homes at our meeting time between 5 and 6 p.m. on Sundays. Sunday morning Susan sends out a short note and reading and we continue to sit together, if not in the same room. Email susunray@gmail.com for the list for the Sunday mailings.

Morton Library Board Meetings
First Thursday of every month, 5:30 p.m.
The public is always welcome.

Morton Memorial Library is at 82 Kelly St. in Rhinecliff. Call (845) 876-2903 for more information.

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



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January events at Starr Library

Art Exhibit: John O'Donnell January & February

John O'Donnell is Associate Professor of Printmaking at the University of Connecticut. He is a printmaker and new media artist.

As a printmaker he uses a variety of traditional and experimental techniques to address formal and conceptual topics pertaining to illusion, construction, and the history of intaglio print making. His practice as a new media artist addresses nostalgia and media representation through video, installation and performance. Ultimately, he is a studio artist compelled to create images that locate an ambiguous degree of resolution through applied awareness of content and form.

Fifteen percent of all sales goes to Starr Library.

O'Donnell will take part in two programs at the library during the month of January (details follow).

BOOK CLUBS

Graphic Novel for Tweens:
"The Witch Boy" by Molly Knox Ostertag

Thursday, Jan. 6, 4 p.m.
Graphic Novel for Tweens is a book and drawing club that meets every first Thursday of the month. Let's draw together and work on our graphic novel styles. Art work will be hung up on the library wall. Snack will be provided.

Mysteries Around the World Book Club: Venice, Italy
"Transient Desires" by Donna Leon
Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1 p.m.

Starr Book Group
"Homeland Elegies" by Ayad Akhtar
Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.
Online and print copies will be available to check out through the MHLS catalog.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADULT PROGRAMS

Saturday Chill with classical guitar player Andrew Baffi
Saturday, Jan. 8, 1-3 p.m.
Come by and enjoy Andrew Baffi playing classical guitar. Browse, read a magazine, a newspaper or just chill listening to Andrew.

Artist Talk with John O'Donnell
Saturday, Jan. 8, 3-4 p.m.
Join us for a lively artist talk by John O'Donnell, who is Starr Library's

exhibiting artist for the months of January and February. Learn about his process of making the works, along with the work's inherent themes and concepts.

"The prints I have produced over the last two years all stem from a research trip to Rome, Italy in January of 2020," said O'Donnell. "Upon returning, I realized the most common recurring theme in my sketchbooks were depictions of Corinthian capitals. These two prints are made using a printmaking process called 'lift ground.' I use a brush to paint a form using a thin viscous paste on a copper plate and through a series of steps the painted image becomes etched into the plate..."

"Discovery of a Masterpiece" with curator Mallory Mortillaro
Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7-8 p.m.
This program will be held virtually via Zoom.

Mallory Mortillaro serves as the Curator of Collections for the Hartley Dodge Foundation in Madison, NJ. While she was cataloging the artwork housed inside of the Hartley Dodge Memorial she uncovered a masterpiece that had been lost to the art world since the 1930's. After a year of research the piece was authenticated as an official work by Auguste Rodin. Mallory will share the story of how a simple art cataloging project evolved into a search for a mysterious piece's provenance, and became one of the biggest art finds in recent history.

Register at www.starrlibrary.org.

Starr Board Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m.
?Open to all community members who would like to attend.

Ask a Veteran
Saturday, Jan. 29, 2-3 p.m.
Stop in to ask questions of and hear from American Legion members Bill Payne and Marck Webster as they recount stories from their years of service.

YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

Super Lego Hour
Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m.
Join us for an hour of free, creative play with Legos! Choose from our large selection of Legos for elementary-aged youth, as well as, our DUPLO Legos for younger kiddos. All works will be displayed in the library for a week.

This month at Red Hook Library

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Have questions about Medicare? Nina Lynch, volunteer for Dutchess County Office for the Aging, is back this January to present Medicare 101.

Farm Generations Cooperative presents a Red Hook Growers Circle, to teach about GrownBy, the first cooperatively-owned app for local food sales.

ASL is back! Mary Fetzko will be teaching ASL at the library starting mid January.

Dawn and Amy will be teaching Hands On for two consecutive Saturdays. Develop your machine sewing skills while making cross-back aprons / smocks. The classes will cover pattern layout, garment fabric basics, curved hems and more. Prior experience with machine sewing and a sense of humor are recommended. Owning a sewing machine is not a requirement; we have some to share.

Spinning Yarn Knitters, All Abilities Adults, Color & Chat, and Anti-Racism Discussion Group continue in January.

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet to discuss: What Are You Going Through? by Sigrid Nunez. The Monday Evening Book Group will meet to discuss: The Autobiography Of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Martin Luther King, Jr. If you would like to know more about our adult book groups, contact Paul at assistant@redhooklibrary.org.

Sign up for adult programs by emailing Renee at programcoordinator@redhooklibrary.org.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

The sleeper hit program of 2021, Teen Takeover returns for 2022. Every Sunday afternoon from 1-4, the library goes to the teens who choose activities and menus. There's video gaming, cooking, crafts

and movies for youth grades 7 & up.

Middle school gamers, alert! The Red Hook Spark is the library's ESports Gaming team and the middle school group will practice on Mondays in January. The Spark will be competing in Rocket League and Knockout City with options to add Pokemon United and Chess.

All Abilities Teens have Yoga Classes to look forward to this month at Yoga Mat in Tivoli. Classes will center the instructional needs of teens and tweens with intellectual and cognitive disabilities. The group is also hosting Bill Robinson's Wild Animal Show at St Paul's Parish Hall in January. All are welcome, but registration is required.

For more information or to register for any of the above, please email Amy@redhooklibrary.org.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

Preschoolers and their caregivers get some chilly activity meeting Amy at local parks for Preschool Nature Walks; then on Wednesdays meet her at the library for Storytimes where everyone from infants to 5 year olds are welcome.

Among Us enthusiasts will want to come to the afterschool club devoted to crafts, activities and, of course, playing the game together to root out the imposter! If engineering and construction is more your child's speed, LEGO Club continues through the new year too.

Homeschoolers have Library 1 and a writing workshop series called "Plot It Out" where young authors ages 9 - 12 will work on developing story ideas into short comics, scripts or stories.

For more information or to register for any of the above programs, email Amy@redhooklibrary.org.

GOLDEN LIVING

*News for Seniors,
Their Families and Caregivers
Todd N. Tancredi, Director
Dutchess County
Office for the Aging*

The Office for the Aging and Friendship Centers will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, with Home Delivered Meals provided in advance.

EMERGENCY 'HEAP' SEASON UNDER WAY

The Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Component is open. Emergency HEAP can help eligible seniors heat their homes during a heat or heat-related emergency. If you have already used your initial HEAP benefit, you may request a second benefit. You may be eligible for emergency HEAP under any of the following circumstances:

- Your electricity is necessary for your heating system or thermostat to work and electricity is either shut off or scheduled to be shut off;
- Your electric or natural gas heat is off, or scheduled to be shut off;
- You are out of fuel, or you have less than one quarter tank of fuel oil, kerosene or propane, or have less than a ten (10) day supply of wood, wood pellets, corn, or other deliverable heat source.

To be eligible, senior applicants (age 60+) must have received the first HEAP benefit and have less than \$3,000 in financial resources. An application may be completed in person or over the phone. Applicants may be asked to provide additional documentation if there have been

significant changes in the household, such as someone new moving in or a large increase in income. If there have been no such changes, applying just requires a short interview.

Please contact 845-486-2553 to apply. For those who have not yet applied for HEAP this season, the benefit is still open and projected to remain open until at least Spring 2022. Low-income seniors who are not currently in the HEAP program, but believe they might be eligible, can contact the Office for the Aging for more information about eligibility and applying. The process of applying for HEAP benefits differs for low-income applicants under age 60; for more information, contact the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health at 845-486-3000.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AGING IN PLACE PROGRAM

Habitat Dutchess is offering two programs this winter for qualifying older adults who are Dutchess County homeowners. One is the "Ramp Up Program," for older adults who need a ramp to ensure safe accessibility to their homes. The other is the "Brush with Kindness Program" which involves landscaping to assist older adults in safely entering and exiting their property.

For more information, visit www.habitatdutchess.org, email Jennifer.radicone@habitatdutchess.org, or call 845-297-7610, option 4.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, telephone 845-486-2555, email: ofa@dutchessny.gov website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging

COVID-19 vaccine questions?

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IT'S UP TO YOU : COVID-19 VACCINATION



State to increase special ed funding by \$240M

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently announced plans to include a historic \$240 million increase in investment for approved private schools serving children with disabilities in her upcoming 2022-2023 Executive Budget. Hochul also signed a package of legislation to increase resources and support for students with disabilities, their families and social services providers.

Following the 4 percent cost-of-living adjustment approved for the 2021-2022 school year tuition rates, the New York State Division of the Budget will authorize an additional cost-of-living adjustment of 11 percent for the 2022-2023 school year - an increase of more than 15 percent over two years. The 2022-23 cost-of-living adjustment will increase preschool and school-age special education providers' annual funding by more than \$240 million, with the State ultimately reimbursing school districts and counties for roughly 60% of this cost.

Hochul also signed a package of legislation to support students with disabilities: legislation (S.2911/A.1953) establishes that the Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board provide a report on autism detection, education, and mapping; legislation (S.6682/A.7614) appoints an impartial hearing officer to address due process complaints

for students with disabilities; legislation (S.1662-B/A.3523-A) makes the issuing of behavior analyst licenses in New York consistent with other states; and legislation (S.5560-A/A.5339) provides funding to early intervention education for toddlers with disabilities.

Legislation (S.2911/A.1953) provides that the Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board will deliver a report on autism detection, education, and mapping. This report will evaluate and review factors on the causes of autism in children as well as assist healthcare providers and educators with ways to better help those diagnosed with autism.

Legislation (S.6682/A.7614) creates a process to immediately appoint an Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) to rule on special education due process complaints if one has not been appointed within 196 days of a parent filing the complaint. This legislation will ensure that special education students receive the services they need - and that are required by law - within a timely manner. Many cases of this type have languished for years without appointment of IHOs to hear claims; New York City currently has a backlog of several thousand such cases. New York City and the Stated Education Department have recently commenced plans to hire more IHOs to hear these

cases, and this legislation will further ensure that parents and students receive necessary services without delay.

Legislation (S.1662-B/A.3523-A) makes the issuing of behavior analyst licenses in New York consistent with other states. The current law only permits behavior analysts to treat autism and autism spectrum disorders, exclusively. This legislation will remove the restriction, allowing for treatment of behavioral

health conditions listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, or equivalent system.

Legislation (S.5560-A/A.5339) provides funding to early intervention education for toddlers with disabilities. It streamlines the system for distributing funding to municipalities, and allows for more early intervention services to be provided to children.

Hochul signs package of legislation to help individuals with disabilities

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a package of legislation to help individuals with disabilities in New York.

Legislation S.1035-A/A.4685 allows individuals with disabilities to have an essential support person accompany them while they are hospitalized.

Legislation S.6293/A.7358 changes who appoints members to the developmental disabilities advisory council.

Legislation S.6294-A/A.7381 requires the developmental disabilities advisory council to evaluate New York State's response to the COVID-19 state disaster emergency for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Legislation S.6276-A/A.7223 requires the president of the Civil Service Commission to conduct a study on the employment of persons and veterans with disabilities by the state.

"People with disabilities are a crucial part of our New York family and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect," Hochul said. "The bills I'm signing into law today will ensure people with disabilities are supported in health care, employment and beyond. Working together, we'll make sure our recovery from the pandemic includes every single New Yorker."

Legislation S.1035-A/A.4685 protects an individual with disabilities' right to have an essential support person accompany them for the duration of their hospitalization. The law defines the term disability as an individual having any condition or disorder that makes it difficult for them to communicate a medical condition or certain or everyday needs, including but not limited to autism or cerebral palsy. The support person is defines as an individual who frequently accompanies and assists the individual with the disability.

This law makes certain that a hospital may not establish any rules or regulations in a response to a pandemic or state disaster emergency declared by the governor, to prohibit a patient who suffers from a disability from having an essential sup-

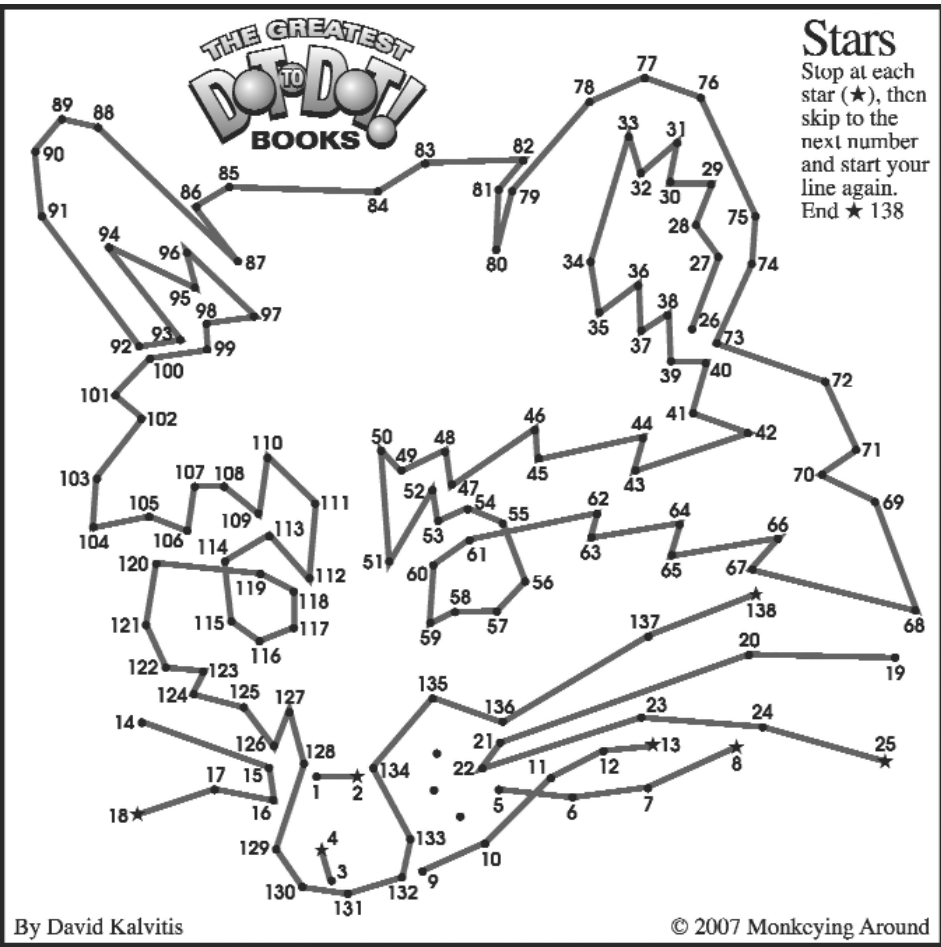
port person present for the duration of their hospitalizations. The individual with a disability is allowed to designate a single support person to assist with medical and everyday needs, and that such essential support person shall be limited to the patient's parent, spouse or caretaker.

Legislation S.6293/A.7358 changes who will appoint the members of the developmental disabilities advisory council to include legislative appointments. The appointments consist of eight members appointed by the temporary president of the senate, eight members appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate, one member appointed by the minority leader of the assembly, and fifteen members appointed by the governor.

Legislation S.6294-A/A.7381 requires the developmental disability advisory council to evaluate and produce a report on the state's response to the COVID-19 state disaster emergency as it relates to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities with assistance from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the Department of Health. OPWDD will conduct a thorough review and investigation and produce a report on their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Legislation S.6276-A/A.7223 requires the president of the civil service commission to conduct a study on the employment of persons and veterans with disabilities by the state and make recommendations as to whether the state needs to hire more persons and veterans with disabilities to fill positions created by sections in the civil service law. President will also make recommendations on how to conduct outreach to these individuals about suitable employment opportunities.

Answer to this week's Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 13)



Answers to this week's diversions (puzzles on page 12)

Suguru solution					
5	3	1	4	1	4
2	4	5	3	2	5
3	1	2	1	4	1
2	5	4	3	5	3
1	3	1	2	1	2
2	5	4	3	4	5

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

SUDOKU												
This week's answer												
5	6	4	3	9	8	2	1	7				
1	7	9	5	2	4	6	8	3				
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OBITUARIES

Richard DeSantola

STAATSBURG – Richard DeSantola, 60, of Staatsburg and formerly of Mt. Vernon, passed away on Monday, December 27, 2021, at the Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital of Westchester Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. Born June 8, 1961, in Mt. Vernon, Rich was the son of Arthur and Marie De Melfi DeSantola. His father predeceased him, and his mother survives in Pleasant Valley. As a young man, Mr. DeSantola proudly earned the rank of Eagle Scout and went on to graduate from Iona College and attend St. Joseph's Seminary at Dunwoodie. He taught religion and history at Good Counsel and Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Rich was also a long-time permanent substitute teacher for the Arlington School District. A communicant of Regina Coeli Church in Hyde Park, his faith was especially important to him. Rich always enjoyed singing and was a part of the church's choir. He grew up in St. Ursula's parish in Mt. Vernon. Rich was always active in parish life, had a generous spirit, and was part of several parish mission teams over the years. He was also a 4th Degree Knight with Hyde Park Knights of Columbus Council #6111. He enjoyed bowling and was the former secretary of the Sunday Night Mixed League at Mardi-Bob Bowling Lanes in Poughkeepsie. (which is where he met his wife, Laurie). On November 1, 2014, in Regina Coeli Church, he married the former Laurie Becker Murray. His wife survives at home in Staatsburg. In addition to his wife and mother, he is survived by his stepdaughter, Alyssa J. Murray, of Staatsburg; brother, Alan DeSantola and wife, Maria, of Washingtonville; sister, Dawn La Selva and husband, Leonard, of New Windsor; sister, Cheryl DeSantola, of Pleasant Valley; brother, Timothy DeSantola, and wife, Marialena, of Wappingers; many nieces and nephews; and several beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins. In addition to his father, he was predeceased by his sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and Shawn Wonderly; and his nephew (and godson), Michael La Selva. Calling hours will be from 4 – 7 PM, Monday, January 3rd at Sweet's Funeral Home, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. The Knights of Columbus will conduct a service during the visitation. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Fr. Michael Morris at 10 AM, Tuesday, January 4th at Regina Coeli Church, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. To livestream the mass, please visit www.reginacoelihydepark.com. Burial will follow in the family plot at St. Peter's Cemetery, Poughkeepsie. To send a donation to help the family defray funeral expenses, please visit <https://www.fundafamily.com/Family.aspx?ID=849>. To send an online condolence, or for directions, please visit Rich's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Peter Ferguson Andrews

HOLMES – Peter Ferguson Andrews, 90, passed away of natural causes on December 20, 2021, his family was close by his side. A

loving husband, father and grandfather, he led an extraordinary life marked by achievement and filled with countless friendships. Born in New York City on May 23, 1931, he was the son of Bertram and Nadine (Wright) Andrews. He graduated from Deerfield Academy, Class of 1950, and attended Hamilton College. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1953-1955. On January 16, 1960, he married Marjorie Key. He is survived by Marjorie, daughter Regan, granddaughters Devon & Sarah and a large extended family. Peter lived a fascinating, varied life. He was a child actor who appeared in several obscure Hollywood movies. After leaving the Army he became a historian, newspaper reporter, magazine writer and book author. No subject was beyond Peter's reach. He wrote biographies, children's books and magazine pieces, most on military history but also on music, sports, food and culture. He was well-known among stage and screen actors, television writers, magazine editors and fellow writers, and frequently sought out for counsel—and dinner company. His work appeared in The New York Times, American Heritage, Playboy, Newsweek and Reader's Digest. His greatest passion was golf, which he played and wrote about memorably for Golf Digest for more than 35 years. He was a longtime member at Waccabuc (New York) Country Club and beloved by his many friends there. There are no services planned at this time. A memorial service will take place in spring, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of the Horn & Thomes, Inc. Funeral Home, 83 East Main Street, Pawling, N.Y. 12564. Donations in memory of Peter may be made to the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org

Morton W. Jackson

PINE PLAINS – Morton W. Jackson, 98, passed away on December 20, 2021. He was born on May 18, 1923, in Beacon and was the son of Clarence and Marion Louise (Smith) Jackson. He graduated from Beacon High School where he was an avid cross-country runner and boxer. In 1942, Morton joined the United States Army and served as a medic until being honorably discharged in 1946. On February 12, 1954, he married Rosalind E. Jackson in New York City. Morton worked for the State School for 33 years and was awarded the Best Employee in a developmental institution. He was also active in the Pine Plains community, having coached a championship little league team in 1969. Both he and Rosalind were instrumental in starting the Bomber Boosters Club. He was also very active in the American Legion post and marched for over 50 years in Pine Plains Memorial Day Parade. He was a longtime parishioner of the Pine Plains Presbyterian Church. Morton is survived by his eight children, Allen (Marva) Potter, James (Margo) Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Brian Jackson, Debora Jackson, Keith Jackson, Marc (Amy) Jackson and Jorge (Lizette) Yarzebski.

Several grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. He is also survived by one brother Abednego Jackson. In addition to his wife, he was also predeceased by his sons, Ronald Potter and Richard Jackson. His brother-in-law Irving "Sonny" Jackson, his brother James "Uncle Bill" Jackson and sister Marion Clemmons. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, in Evergreen Cemetery, Pine Plains. Donations in Morton's memory may be made to either the Pine Plains Presbyterian Church or the Pine Plains American Legion Post #426. To leave a message of condolence for the Jackson family, please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Madison Antoinette Lynch Dingee

SALT POINT – Madison Antoinette Lynch Dingee, 16, of Salt Point, NY passed away suddenly after a tragic car accident on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 21, 2021 just days before her seventeenth birthday. Madison was born in Poughkeepsie, NY on December 28, 2004 to Louise M. Lynch and Richard Dingee. Madison who was in her junior year was an honor roll student at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie after attending elementary and middle school in the Millbrook CSD. Not only was she a high achiever academically but her quest to excel at everything she loved included other activities such as horseback riding, skiing, snowboarding, dancing, listening to country music and lacrosse, just to name a few. Her love of horses, dogs and all other animals led her to begin exploring college opportunities which would allow her to have a career in helping heal animals. Madison is also survived by her mother and father along with her sister, Alexandra Barruso of Nashville, TN, brothers, Austin Dingee of San Antonio, Texas and Travis Dingee of Pleasant Valley. Madi was a loving and involved aunt to her sister's two daughters, Layla Rose Barruso (10) and Eloise Mendenhall (4). Madi was also blessed with a large group of friends that loved, respected and protected her including Jayden Silvia, Gabbi Radovic (or as Madi referred to as Gibbi) and Sophia Mackey amongst a host of other true friends that always had her best interests at heart. Madi is also survived by her two dogs, Jack & Brodie! Madi was the center of many lives with her infectious warm sunshine which she imbued upon everyone she touched. When she saw that someone was having a bad day, her focus was on sharing a story, picking up a Starbucks' treat to share or finding a way to bring a smile to their faces. Her kindness and smile were contagious. Madi loved to stay busy and began working at an early age doing things she loved serving the community. Her work ethic was highly unusual for a sixteen year old and was appreciated by many. Some of her jobs included working with horses, working as a server at Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club and a ski rental shop associate at Butternut Ski Basin in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The world is a lonelier place without her but we now have a special guardian angel that's making heaven's angels' smile a bit brighter. If you were lucky enough to have crossed paths with Madi, you'll remember her smile forever! There was a "celebration of life" memorial service on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 from 4 - 7 pm at Allen Funeral Home, 3270 Franklin Ave., Millbrook, NY. For directions and condolences, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com

John Morabito

LAGRANGEVILLE – John M. Morabito entered into eternal life on December 22, 2021 at the age of 96. Born on December 29, 1924 in Poughkeepsie to the late Antonio and Concetta (Micalizzi) Morabito, he was one of 9 children. John attended Poughkeepsie schools and graduated Poughkeepsie High School in June 1943. He was drafted into the US Air Force in August of 1943, serving as an airplane electrical mechanic in Guam until his honorable discharge in March 1946. After his service to his country, John enrolled in Clarkson University furthering his education and earning his Bachelor of Business Administration and graduating in June of 1950. He worked in construction for John Arborio, in sales and was hired by IBM in 1960 working in accounting. He purchased the Hyde Park Dairy Queen in 1977 and successfully operated it until mid 1985, all while owning and running his own Public Accounting Practice for over 50 years. John enjoyed golfing and bowling with the seniors in the Pioneer Bowling League where he was treasurer for many years. His greatest love

was baseball, playing 3rd base in high school, college, and his adult life. He was inducted into the Dutchess County Fast pitch and Dutchess County Softball Hall of Fame in 1980 and received the Senior Citizen Sports Award in 1991, retiring from active play in 1999. John also coached little league for 18 years in LaGrange. He was a parishioner of St. Denis Church where he gardened for many years and repaired kneelers in the church. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 1302. He is survived by his wife Judith (Avezzano) of 46 years and his 6 children and their spouses - Christine (James) Sproat, John (Vivian) Morabito, Michele (Eric) Ellis, Anthony (Donna) Morabito, Irene Van Voorhis, James Morabito, 11 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, sister Josephine DeMichele, nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his first wife, Jean Hayes, brothers and sisters. A Private funeral mass will be held at St. Denis Church followed by burial at St. Denis Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc. Please visit his Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

John H. Morris, Sr.

DOVER PLAINS – John Howard Morris, Sr., 84, a resident of Dover Plains, NY, passed away on December 27, 2021 at Bethel Health Care Center in Bethel, CT. Mr. Morris worked in the Maintenance Department with the Ridgefield School District in Ridgefield, CT retiring in 2010. Born on June 2, 1937 in Rockaway Beach, NY, he was the son of the late Howard and Helen (Hitzel) Morris. On July 15, 2012 in Lagrange, NY he married Jeanette Morrison who survives at home. In addition to his loving wife, Mr. Morris is survived by a daughter, JoAnn Storms and her husband, Stephen, of Lagrange, NY; a son, John H. Morris and his wife, Holly, of Dover Plains and three step-children, John Bennett and his wife, Jane, of Wingdale, NY, Louis Bennett and his wife, Ginny, of Danbury, CT and Lisa Arsenault of Mayfield, NY. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Stephen Storms and Nicholas, Zachary, and Logan Morris; a great grandson, Anthony Storms and a step-great granddaughter, Azlina Arsenault. Calling hours will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 2, 2022 at the Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Graveside services and burial will take place at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 3, 2022 a Fishkill Rural Cemetery, 801 U.S. 9, Fishkill, NY. For directions or to send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com

Chester Smalley

STORMVILLE – Chester Louis Smalley Jr. went home to be with our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Eve 2021. Louie, as he was called by all who knew and loved him, was born November 18th 1941 at Mahopac Hospital to Myrtle Morrison Smalley and Chester Louis Smalley Sr. Growing up in Brewster, NY, he graduated Brewster High School, and entered the Army where he was stationed in Germany. Upon completion of his military service, Louie became a tree surgeon with Ruffles Tree Service. It was during that time, that a chance encounter at Bill's Diner led him to the love of his life, Christina Krivak, who he married June 22, 1968. Being intensely responsible, Louie always sought to better himself and entered an apprenticeship with New York State Electric and Gas. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, Louie became a First Class lineman where he enjoyed over 40 years, before retiring as a Chief Line Mechanic. Upon retirement, Louie and Teena shared many vacations at exotic locales, visiting various states and countries with their best friends Nicholas and Elizabeth Lovallo. However, out of all of Louie's great loves, nothing was as important to him as his family especially his six grandchildren. Louie is survived by his bride of 53 years, Christina Smalley; his sons David L. Smalley (Lizette), and Christopher P. Smalley (Jody); his daughter Lynda J. Smalley - Novitsky (Brian); and his six grandchildren, Nora, Abigale, Caitlin, Amelia, Tiergan and Genevieve. He is also survived by his sister, Patricia McLaughlin (Michael); and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Louie was predeceased by his parents; and sister Laura Bernetta. Calling hours will be held on Dec. 31 from 11am - 4pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The funeral service will be held at 4pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to IPF Foundation. Please visit Chester's Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK – COUNTY OF DUTCHESS INDEX# 2019-5472 FILED: 11/20/2019 SUMMONS DUTCHESS County designated as the place of trial on the basis of situs of realty. WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF UPLAND MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST A, Plaintiff, against KATHI OLIVIERI, AS EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE OF THE ESTATE OF AUDREY J. PULST A/K/A AUDREY JEAN PULST A/K/A AUDREY PULST; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; KMT GROUP LLC, CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA) NA; HARVEST CREDIT MANAGEMENT VII LLC; FIA CARD SERVICES, NA; LVNV FUNDING, LLC; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE-TAX COMPLIANCE DIVISION – C.O. – ATC; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY; “JOHN DOE NUMBERS 1-10” The names of these defendants being fictitious and unknown to the Plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, person or corporations, if any having or claiming an interest in, possession of, or lien upon the premises described in the Complaint, Defendants. TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff’s attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in a manner other than by personal delivery within the State. In the event the United States of America is made a party defendant; the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until sixty (60) days after service of the Summons. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken

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NOTICE OF TAX COLLECTION 2022 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 2022, and that I will attend at Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, in the said Town of Pleasant Valley from Today to February 28, 2022 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

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against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the County of DUTCHESS on 11/20/2019. This is an action to foreclose on a mortgage. ALL that certain lot, piece or parcel of land together with the buildings and improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the Town of LaGrange, County of Dutchess and State of New York (Section 6260, Block 04, Lot 772218), said premises known as 24 Cochran Hill Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. There is due and owing to the plaintiff, the principle sum of \$128,232.37. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt described above. KOSTERICH & SKEETE, L.L.C., 707 Westchester Avenue, Suite 302, White Plains, NY 10604.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF WAPPINGER DUTCHESS COUNTY PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Town of Wappinger Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing

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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, excepting 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, 2022 without charge or interest. On all taxes received after such date, there shall be added 2 percent interest if paid on or before March 31, 2022 and

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ing on the 11th day of January, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall of Wappinger, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappinger Falls, NY pursuant to Section 240-37 of the Zoning Law of the Town of Wappinger to consider the following area variance: PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, the Zoning Board of Appeals has not made a determination of significance pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and hereby reserves its right to make such determination after the conclusion of the public hearing. Appeal No. 21-7743 (Variance) Sara & Christopher Suarez: Seeking an area variance Section 240-37 of District Regulations in an R20/40 Zoning District. -Where 50 feet is required to the rear yard property line, the applicant can provide 22’6” to allow for an addition to include a dining room, bedroom and laundry/mud room, thus requesting a variance of 27’4”. The property is located at 1 Peggy Lane and is identified as Tax Grid No.: 6157-03-497297 in the Town of Wappinger. All interested persons will be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Wappinger at the public hearing as stated above.

Signed: Peter Galotti, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals Town of Wappinger December 15, 2021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-02-22 EISEP Consumer Directed Fiscal Intermediary

Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 31st day of January 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our web site http://www.dutchessny.gov

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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, 2022. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, which a reminder of unpaid taxes will be sent on or before May 01, 2022. A fee of \$2.00 will be added to your tax bill during the full month of May. DATED: January 5, 2022 Mary Beth Muir Tax Collector Town of Pleasant Valley

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, selecting “Government”, then selecting “Bidding and RFP Opportunities”. For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-03-22 Agricultural Navigator Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 1st day of February 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our web site http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting “Government”, then selecting “Bidding and RFP Opportunities”. For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-01-22 Establishment and Operation of a Kayak Rental Concession at Quiet Cove Riverfront Park

Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 31st day of January 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our web site http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting “Government”, then selecting “Bidding and RFP Opportunities”. For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Board of the Town of East Fishkill,

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Dutchess County, New York on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 330 Route 376, Hopewell Junction, NY, or as soon thereafter as the matter may come on to be heard, in the matter of the application of Paleen Manor Corp. project for the granting of Amended Site Plan Approval by said Board of a proposed project known as Amended Site Plan for Stormville Square as shown on maps prepared by Day & Stokosa Engineering, PC, 3 Van Wyck Lane, Wappingers Falls, New York, 12590, as filed in the office of the Planning Department, and which site is located at 194 and 198 Route 216, Stormville, NY and described as being a 2.36 and 3.45 acre tax parcel identified as Tax Parcel # 1 3 2 8 0 0 - 6 6 5 7 - 0 3 - 064313/066295 with frontage on NYS Route 216 and Old Route 52. The project site contains an existing 5,860 sf building containing a bar, restaurant and vacant space for future retail business. The Applicant proposes additional development of the site to include a 36,000 sf climate controlled self-storage facility and associated parking. At All interested parties and citizens will be heard by the Board at the public hearing scheduled at said time.

By: John Eickman, Chairperson East Fishkill Planning Board Date: December 27, 2021

Beacon Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Planning Board of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 immediately following the training session/workshop which begins at 7:00 PM, on applications for Site Plan Approval and Subdivision Approval (lot merger) for a mixed-use residential and

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commercial development on the property located at Eliza Street and 364 Main Street, identified on City Tax Maps as Section 6054, Block 29, Lots 006819 & 004836, submitted by O'Donnell Construction Corp. The meeting will be held in the Courtroom at One Municipal Plaza, New York 12508, in-person unless emergency legislation is adopted or an Executive Order is issued by the Governor of the State of New York directing or allowing the City to host public meetings or hearings virtually via videoconference and teleconference due to public health and safety concerns. If such emergency legislation is adopted or an Executive Order is issued, the City will make a determination whether to proceed with an in-person meeting, or meet by videoconference and teleconference, or meet both in person and virtually by videoconference or teleconference. Whether the meeting is held in person, virtually, or both in person and virtually, the public will have an opportunity to see and hear the meeting live and provide comments. Please check the City website at https://beaconny.gov/or contact the Etha Grogan at 845-838-5002 for information concerning attendance at the public hearing and applicable COVID-19 regulations.” Plans and other materials associated with the application may be reviewed and downloaded from the City’s website. The Planning Board will, at said time and place hear all persons in support of such matter or any objections thereto. Individuals may appear in person, by agent or by attorney.

E. Grogan Secretary Beacon Planning Board

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION OF CHELSEA FIRE DISTRICT Chelsea, New York

Legal Notices

SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM NOTICE is hereby given by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the CHELSEA FIRE DISTRICT, that the following resolution was adopted subject to a permissive referendum: RESOLVED, that at a special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners held on 27th, of December, 2021, authorized the expenditure of up to \$61,688.00 from the CHELSEA FIRE DISTRICT Equipment Reserve Fund for the purpose of the purchase of Holmatro vehicle extrication tools with related accessories. NOTICE is hereby given that the effect will be a commensurate reduction in funds from the CHELSEA FIRE DISTRICT Equipment Reserve Fund. NOTICE is also given that the above resolution is and was adopted subject to a permissive referendum of the duly qualified electors of the CHELSEA FIRE DISTRICT. NOTICE is also given that the above resolution will not take place for thirty (30) days after its adoption nor until approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the electors of such fire district affected, qualified to vote at an annual election of the fire district officers, voting on such proposition. If, within thirty (30) days after its adoption, there shall be filed with the Fire District Secretary, a petition signed and acknowledged in the manner required by Section 6-g of the General Municipal Law, protesting such resolution and requesting that it be submitted to the electors of such Fire District for their approval or disapproval. Dated: This 27th day of December, 2021

CLAIRE M. GIBSON, Secretary, CHELSEA FIRE DISTRICT 15 Liberty Street, PO Box 128 Chelsea, NEW York, 12512

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903 Motorcycles
904 Auto Parts & Tires
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The Hudson Valley Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (HVLTCOP), a non-profit agency is seeking an ideal candidate as an Associate Program Director. This LTCOP serves Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. Primary responsibilities include being resident centered, providing advocacy to assist in resolution of concerns for residents living in long-term care settings, as well as managing and developing programmatic policies and procedures for staff and the program's corps of volunteers.

Necessary qualities for interested candidates include leadership and a fundamental respect for seniors residing in long term care facilities. The Associate Program Director will be working directly with the present Program Director for future transition into the role of Program Director for this regional LTCOP.

The ideal candidate should have experience in marketing and outreach to the community to promote the program, recruitment strategies for volunteer growth, program development, as well as excellent written and verbal communication skills. Knowledge of computers and office equipment is a MUST. Bilingual is a plus.

This is an amazing opportunity to lead and expand this very important program to serve our senior community living in long term care facilities, and to work with amazing volunteers and staff. Extensive trining will be provided post hire. Required travel to various long term care facilities within the six counties noted above.

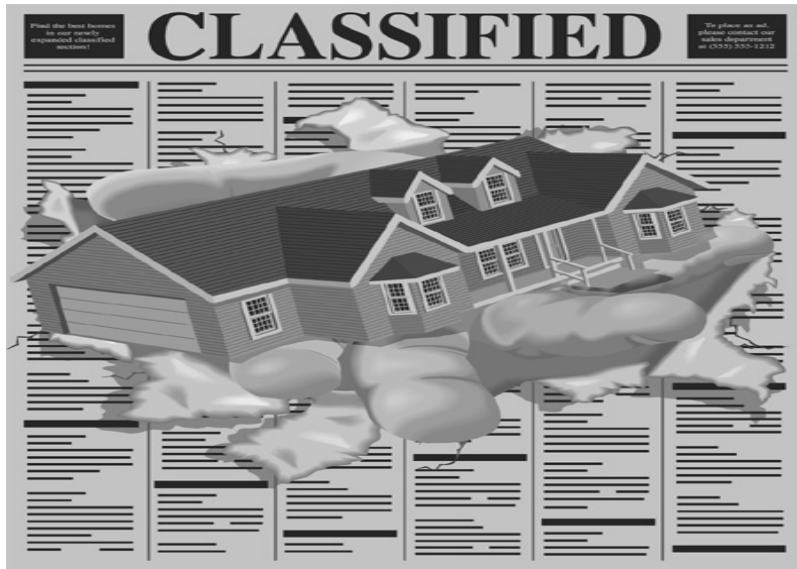
Application deadline is **January 15, 2021**. Please send cover letter and resume via email to Gloria at, gloria@ltccc.org or fax to **845-625-1587, Attn: Gloria**

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Jacobson bill to study burying transmission lines signed into law

Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson's (D-104) bill (A2330A/S4186A) commissioning a study of the feasibility of burying all or most of the electrical, telephone, and internet transmission lines in New York was signed into law on Dec. 29 by Gov. Kathy Hochul. The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Leroy Comrie (D-14). Jacobson said, "I introduced the bill shortly after Tropical Storm Isaias caused widespread power outages across the Hudson Valley. Thousands of residents were without power for multiple days in the middle of a pandemic while Central Hudson worked to restore service. "As climate change increases the fre-

quency of extreme weather, there is a corresponding increase in outages and their consequences," Jacobson continued. "The cost of burying transmission lines pales to the inconvenience and costs to individuals and businesses every time there is a major storm. Workers lose time from work as businesses are forced to close due to loss of electricity and internet connection. People must throw out spoiled food. Schools must close. "Burying transmission lines will also encourage the transmission of hydroelectric power and wind power without the presence of unsightly transmission lines which currently foster opposition," Jacobson added. "I am certain a study

will show that burying these lines would ultimately save government, businesses, and ordinary citizens billions of dollars as well as human lives. In addition, the necessary work would create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs." From January 2012 to July 2020, New York State utility companies have spent more than \$2 billion to restore service and repair damaged lines after a major storm:

- Central Hudson - \$75,382,794
- Con Edison - \$481,777,372
- Niagara Mohawk - \$282,021,595
- New York State Electric and Gas - \$502,355,452
- Orange and Rockland - \$180,404,764

- Rochester Gas and Electric - \$94,602,353
- PSEG Long Island - \$723,219,673

Jacobson concluded, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. It is time our nation stop reacting to the havoc created by extreme weather and take bold steps to strengthen our electrical and telecommunications grid. It is my hope that this is the first step in a transformational process." The study will be conducted by the New York State Department of Public Service in cooperation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.



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