

DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

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DCC named official testing site for FAA exams

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

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

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

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

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

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

Exams are currently offered on Thursday evenings and Saturdays, with plans to expand to Monday through Wednesday evenings.

For details, visit www.suny.dutchess.edu/testing or contact Keith Tombrello, coordinator of testing, at 845-790-3735.

Aviation Open House – April 5

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

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Uncertainty on federal funding: County officials monitoring reports

By Curtis Schmidt

Concern over proposed cuts in federal spending by the current presidential administration - and the uncertainty surrounding that issue - has many individuals worried about impacts on county governments and programs therein that receive federal funding.

With those thoughts in mind, we decided to take an educational look at the 2025 Dutchess County budget with the help of Budget Director Jessica White. She is quick to point out (as of 3-14-25) "To date, we have not been notified of any federal reductions that would impact our funding. We are monitoring reports and guidance from our State agencies, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), and the National Association of Counties about any possible funding changes."

White noted that federal funding supports just over \$51 million in programs, services and administration in the Dutchess County 2025 operating budget.

Shed added that "through conservative fiscal management and spending constraint, Dutchess County has a strong financial foundation, including a healthy fund balance. Should it be necessary, our fund balance will help us absorb any unexpected changes, while providing us time to carefully analyze the specific impacts and make necessary adjustments."

White did note that the County operating budget does also have significant state funding - and federal changes could lead to decisions at the State level that are costly to the County, such as Medicaid



Budget Director Jessica White notes that federal funding supports just over \$51 million in programs, services and administration in the Dutchess County 2025 operating budget. She and other county officials are monitoring proposed cuts in federal spending and the impact such cuts could have on county programs that receive federal funds. *Courtesy image*

payments. She added, "But that is a much longer discussion."

County Executive Sue Serino said, "Despite recent uncertainty, we are confident Dutchess County's strong financial position will help us weather any unexpected changes. We are grateful to our County departments for their dedication to continuing to provide the programs and services that our residents rely on, and to our Budget Office team for closely monitoring this evolving situation."

From a historical perspective, County

Comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair said in a report, "We found that federal programs represent a little over 10% of our expenditures, not including COVID-19 relief. In 2023, this amounted to \$65 million, including over \$25 million in direct aid such as food stamps and home energy assistance. Federal dollars also support core County functions: adoption and foster care supports, emergency and disaster preparedness, workforce investment,

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Parade to highlight 20 years of celebrating the sugar maple



Annual event set for March 22 at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill

By Kristine Coulter

The 20th annual Sugar Maple Celebration will be held at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation on Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fishkill. The celebration features

The annual Sugar Maple Celebration will be held at The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill on March 22. Pictured: Andrew Stanley taps a tree. *Photo courtesy of Sharpe Reservation*

Sharpe's educational sugar maple operation. Admission is free. Lunch will be available for purchase. This is the one time the local community can come and experience the natural surroundings of the more than 2,000 acres at Sharpe, 436 Van Wyck Lane, in Fishkill.

Honoring the 2 decades of the Sugar Maple Celebration there will be a special parade this year.

"We will celebrate by adding a parade starting at the sugar shack and going up to the main camp to the annual maple syrup judging contest on the main stage. Kids and families will be able to join the parade with crowns and wands made in the nature center," said Tim Stanley, the

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NYS enacts Burn Ban through May 14

As dry, windy conditions continue, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued a Burn Ban for Dutchess County as well as the lower Hudson Valley region. This is an extension of the agency's annual statewide ban on burning that took effect on March 16. The burn ban is in effect now through May 14.

Since Sunday, March 9, more than 10 brush fires have been reported, and contained, in Dutchess County. This extension of the DEC's annual ban, which has been March 16-May 14 annually since 2009, will help prevent wildfires and protect communities as increased conditions for the rapid spread of fires continue

across the county and region.

The burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as uncontained campfires, and open fires used for cooking. Backyard fire pits and contained campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width, or diameter are allowed, as are small, contained cooking fires.

According to the DEC, open burning is the "single greatest cause" of wildfires in New York.

For more information about the annual ban and tips about fire safety and prevention, visit DEC's FIREWISE New York webpage via <https://dec.ny.gov/>

Parade to highlight 20 years celebrating the sugar maple

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Oxen, Titan and Thyme, pull equipment through the forest. Pictured with the animals are Andrew and Aliyah Stanley and Pat Farrell, left, putting buckets on black walnut trees. Photo courtesy of Sharpe Reservation

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Uncertainty on federal funding: County officials monitoring reports

continued from cover

child support enforcement, buses, roads, sidewalks and more."

Looking at the situation from a statewide perspective, Dutchess County Legislature Chairman Will Truitt said, "During a recent trip up to Albany for the NYSAC Annual Conference, it was clear that the leadership of NYSAC is concerned by proposed federal cuts and the subsequent potential impacts on county governments across New York State. At this time, there is general sense of uncertainty as we have not yet lost any federal revenue. I am aware that NYSAC is lobbying New York's Congressional delegation to advocate on behalf of county governments to ensure we do not suffer a loss of federal dollars. This is precisely the reason we in Dutchess County have placed such a high value on maintaining a solid fiscal fund balance of 1-2 months of operating funds in reserves in order to protect our taxpayers in the instance of challenging economic times or a sudden loss of revenue."

Here are Federal Operating Funds included in the Dutchess County 2025 Operating Budget. All of the dollars listed are projected funds – based on prior and continuing funding allocations and confirmed grant awards. Not included are "off budget funding, such as Community Development Block Grants, for which the allocation is not known from year to year.



- Public Transit - \$6,816,205
- Public Health Grants - \$573,909
- Early Intervention, Pre-school Special Education and Special Needs - \$1,097,535
- Mental Health Grants - \$448,750
- Office for the Aging - \$1,224,199

Amounts are not yet known for Public Safety and Homeland Security, Community & Family Services, Community & Family Services-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Community & Family Services - Foster Care, Community & Family Services- Title XX Eligible Clients, Community & Family Services – SNAP and Planning & Development - Planning Studies.

director of Sharpe Reservation.

Some of the activities during the day will be: Maple Sugaring Demos, Nature Discovery Center, Planetarium Show, Live Animal Show, Local Crafts and Food Market, Annual Maple Syrup Judging Contest, and Food Trucks.

Approximately 175 trees have been tapped this year, said Stanley.

"We have had a three-week run of sap starting in late February. Maple season has a short window of opportunity when the temperatures at night drop below freezing, and daytime temperatures rise above freezing. We currently have lots of sap, and are bottling syrup daily. This season looks to be better than last year," noted Stanley.

According to the Governor's Office, "New York State continues to rank second in the nation in maple production, and in 2024, maple production increased to 846,000 gallons, up nearly 100,000 gallons of maple syrup from the 2023 season."

"We tap 40 black walnut trees that we make black walnut syrup from. It is boiled in small batches like maple syrup and a truly unique specialty syrup. We typically only make 4-5 gallons of syrup in season. The oxen pull our buckets and equipment through the forest as we tap the trees in mid-February," explained Stanley.

"Maple Month is officially underway,

offering New Yorkers from every corner of the State the chance to support the hardworking producers of this sweet agricultural crop," Governor Kathy Hochul said in a statement on March 10. "New York State has a long history with this delicious crop, and continues to be home to a thriving community of maple producers making some of the most delicious and innovative maple products in the world. I encourage all New Yorkers to participate in Maple Weekends to sample some of the world-class items that New York's maple community has to offer."

What feedback was received after last year's Celebration? Stanley replied, "Last year it rained all day long. Everyone who attended enjoyed the day, but everyone wishes for better weather this year. It is March, so the weather on the day of the event is anybody's guess. People love the event and as we have seen, even come out in the worst weather."

The staff and educators "love teaching" people about how maple syrup is made, Stanley remarked. "They love having people enjoy the outdoors and this is celebration of the end of sugar season and the beginning of spring," he said.

Stanley said the organizers "hope to see old and new friends as we celebrate another maple season!"

A list of Maple Weekend events is available by visiting mapleweekend.nysmaple.com.

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The Ridge School is a New York State Board of Regents Accredited School, Not-for-profit organization located in Dutchess County, New York dedicated to the creation of a rich and positive setting for students who are not succeeding in their current educational placements. The Ridge School is a day school for students who are diagnosed with High Functioning Autism.

845-266-4283

The Ridge School

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Serino announces key initiatives in State of the County Address

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino delivered the 2025 State of the County Address on Tuesday, March 11th before hundreds of residents, business and nonprofit leaders, and elected officials at John Jay High School in East Fishkill, reinforcing her commitment to ensuring County government makes a real difference in the lives of residents. Under the theme ‘The Lives We Touch,’ Serino reflected on the past year’s achievements and announced multiple new initiatives aimed at improving the daily lives of seniors, veterans, children, first responders, farmers, business owners and families across Dutchess County.

“Everything we do in County government comes down to the people – the lives we touch through every decision, every dollar invested and every initiative launched,” said Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. “Whether we are helping seniors stay connected, ensuring families have access to childcare, or strengthening emergency response, our work is about real people. None of this would be possible without the dedicated County employees who work tirelessly to serve our residents and make Dutchess County a place where people feel supported and empowered.”

Among the key initiatives announced:

Supporting Seniors

- New Office for the Aging Ambassador position to assist seniors in accessing services and staying independent
- Training programs on hoarding to help families and caregivers address these challenging situations and connect seniors to services
- Expanded Fraud Prevention Outreach efforts in partnership with the Dutchess County Comptroller, District Attorney and Sheriff

Strengthening Emergency Medical Services and Public Safety

- The County’s Supplemental EMS Coverage initiative, launched January 1st, is making an impact in reducing response times and increasing regional coordination, with regional EMS meetings with municipal leaders planned this

month to enhance collaboration and review progress

- In partnership with Dutchess Community College, a new Paramedic Academy will work to eliminate barriers to help first responders advance in their careers with scholarships, stipends and specialized training
- Tackling the Opioid Crisis with Narcan Leave Behind Kits for EMS first responders when responding to overdoses and continued support for the Dutchess County Drug Task Force

Honoring and Connecting Veterans

- New Veterans outreach position to connect veterans with housing, benefits and employment resources
- Launched the GoGo Veterans transportation program to ensure access to medical care and community events
- Creation of the ‘Honor-A-Veteran’ Program to recognize the sacrifices of local heroes with the first ceremony to be held in April.

Investing in Agriculture

- New Connecting Farmers initiative to match retiring farmers with young people and veterans interested in continuing their work
- New Youth Gardening Grant program to introduce children to agriculture and food production
- Purchase of a new refrigerated box truck to rescue and distribute 100,000 pounds of farm food to local food pantries annually

Expanding Mental Health Services

- The Mobile Health Unit is establishing permanent locations across the county for monthly services, ensuring consistent access to mental health and physical health services
- Expanding access to children’s mental health services with recent opening of Access: Supports for Living Mental Health Urgent Care walk-in center in Poughkeepsie and supporting Family Services in opening new facility in Rhinebeck
- The Empowerment Center served more than 200 individuals in its first official year in operation, connecting individuals to recovery, housing and employ-

ment resources

Empowering Youth

- New YOU Drop-In Center grants to be awarded this year, supporting the creation of safe, supportive spaces for young people to come together.
- The Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) will continue to grow and strengthen relationships between youth and law enforcement
- New playground at Bowdoin Park, selected through resident feedback, will be installed this year, providing a safe, engaging and accessible space for children

Expanding Childcare Access

- New Provider Incentive Grant to increase in-home childcare slots and ease start-up costs
- Workforce training for small childcare providers, in partnership with the Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum and the Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc.
- Free babysitting certification program with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board, giving teens valuable skills and experience and encouraging childcare as a rewarding career path

Investing in Economic Development

- Continuing the County’s recently launched Small Business Forums to boost small businesses and provide opportunities to address challenges
- Expanding workforce development with new locations for the popular Skilled Trades Fair events and hosting a new Older Adults Skills Fair

Expanding Housing Opportunities

- Expanding the senior-owned/occupied rehab program to provide financial assistance to all income-qualified homeowners, helping them make critical health and safety repairs to stay in their homes and preserve housing stock for the future
- Housing Trust Fund projects continue, with 30-32 Smith Street in Poughkeepsie set to open soon and Two Cross Street in Beacon currently under construction. New rounds of applications to open this year, prioritizing smaller housing projects particularly in more

rural communities

- Water and sewer infrastructure inventory to help guide responsible housing development and ensure that housing is developed in areas with the necessary resources to support it

The 2025 State of the County Address event opening program also highlighted County Executive Serino’s emphasis on Dutchess County’s young people, as well as the various educational opportunities available to them. Dr. Dwight D. Bonk, the Wappingers Central School District’s Superintendent of Schools, welcomed those in attendance. John Jay High School senior Ava Dvorak sang the National Anthem; members of the Roy C. Ketcham High School Step Team shared their dance art with a performance, entitled “Formation;” and junior Sophia Puglia, a member Future Business Leaders of America, the Renaissance Club and student government at John Jay, introduced County Executive Serino.

A longtime champion of Dutchess County’s older adults, County Executive Serino invited the Evergreen Chapter of Sweet Adeline’s International, which performed “God Bless the U.S.A. (Proud to be an American).” The event also brought together those who protect and counsel the community, including County Sheriff Kirk Imperati, who led guests in the Pledge of Allegiance; and Rev. Dr. Edward L. Hunt, Pastor of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls, who offered the invocation.

“County government is at its best when it’s working for the people,” concluded Serino. “From expanding mental health services to creating more childcare opportunities, our focus is always on the people we serve. The progress we’ve made is just the beginning, and I know we will accomplish even more in the year ahead.”

The full text and video of County Executive Serino’s State of the County Address is available on Dutchess County’s website at dutchessny.gov and a photo gallery from the event will be available on the County’s Facebook page, facebook.com/dutchesscogov.

Miles of Hope sets ‘An Evening of Insight & Impact’

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

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

The event will also feature some familiar faces behind the bar, including

Brian Powers, Shelby Outwater, Sara Winterleitner, Cathy Varunok, Melissa Zehr, and Linsey Gatto (@TogetherishMom), ensuring an enjoyable and welcoming environment for all attendees.

“We are thrilled to bring this event to our community and empower people with information they can use to improve their health,” said Pari Forood, Executive

Director of Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. “We encourage everyone—men and women alike—to attend, learn, and connect with others who are passionate about reducing cancer risk through simple yet impactful wellness strategies.”

All are welcome to attend, including men. RSVP in advance at www.miles-of-hope.org or by calling (845) 264-2005.

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Renegades showcase Yankees' future in Spring Breakout Game

By Morgan E. Maier

With 44-year-old Nick Swisher coaching New York Yankees rookies from the first base line, baseball's past and future collided in Sarasota, Fla. this weekend at Ed Smith Stadium. Top Yankees and Baltimore Orioles prospects faced off for the second annual Spring Breakout, a single-game showcase OF the league's finest farm talent. Seventeen Renegades alumni were selected to show their skills, and our boys did not disappoint this Spring Breakout. What better way to spend a long weekend than some rookie baseball in the sun?

Big, bad Spencer Jones looked like the 2023 Rising Star that the Hudson Valley remembers fondly. If you have his bobblehead from last season's giveaway, get the display case ready.

Jones put on a memorable display in the inaugural Spring Breakout, sending two pitches above the outfield fence. This time around, Jones was plunked in his first two at-bats, finishing 1-2 with an RBI, a double and a run scored on the day.

The defensive gem of the day came by 3B Jesús Rodríguez ('23, '24), who is more known for power hitting than fielding prowess. He robbed Jud Fabian of a 5th inning hit, sliding across the third-base line before making a strong one-hop throw to first. Rodríguez hit a bouncing single that split the middle infielders in the first inning, and Jones flew home from second base. Rodríguez finished with two RBIs and a hit in his five plate appearances.

With the average age just under 22, the Yankees held the AL East's second youngest Spring Breakout roster. Nineteen-year-old George Lombard Jr. picked up a couple bases as the leadoff hitter, setting up scoring opportunities for his prospect teammates.

The bases were loaded with 2024 Renegades in the 8th inning. Josh Moylan



Former Renegades' star Spencer Jones hit two homers during a Spring Breakout Game over the weekend. Archive photo by Dave Janosz

singled, Garrett Martin walked, then Lombard Jr.'s rallied a two-out infield single. Nowhere to go for fellow 2024 alum Jackson Castillo. The second pitch of Castillo's at-bat sailed over the catcher's shoulder, scoring Moylan easily.

The previous inning showed a familiar Eric Reyzelman ('24), who is arguably the Bombers' most slept-on pitching prospect. Reyzelman pitched a scoreless seventh frame to keep the game tied at 3 apiece. Reyzelman gave up two hits in six appearances for the Renegades, putting up a 0.00 ERA in 9 2/3 innings. If he stays healthy, Reyzelman will likely get called up to the Yankees' regular season roster.

Former Yankees prospects Agustin Ramirez ('23) and Jared Serna ('23, '24) also showcased some Spring Breakout talent. Serna and Ramirez appeared for

the Miami Marlins down in Jupiter, FL. Ramirez was hitless in five innings, but impacted the game on the basepath, with a run scored and a walk.

The looming presence of 6'7" righty Carlos Lagrange got the start for the Yankees. After a shaky first frame, Lagrange responded by retiring 11 batters in a row. With a heater maxed at 101 mph according to the stadium reader, Lagrange clocked 100 consistently, to wagging tongues in the bullpen and cheers from the crowd. Righty Ben Hess fanned three batters over two relief innings in his professional debut. Dominican-born Lagrange and 2024 first-round pick Hess have yet to emerge from the rookie leagues, but we should see them at Heritage Financial Park sooner than later.

County to host annual Community Pancake Breakfast at Bowdoin Park on March 29

Dutchess County Parks will host its annual Community Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 29, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Bowdoin Park auditorium, featuring Dutchess County Parks Pure Maple Syrup.

Tickets for the event are \$5 per person (cash only at the door) and children 6 and

under are free. Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis and while supplies last. Walk-up Maple Education workshops with Parks Naturalists will also be held (weather depending) and are included with pancake breakfast entry.

Event information, including registration and updates are available on the

Dutchess County Parks Facebook page and at dutchessny.gov/parks.

Other group Maple Education experiences are available at Bowdoin and Wilcox Park by appointment. For more information on these or other Parks Naturalist programs, please call 845-298-4600.

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Remember that Renegade?



By Morgan E. Maier

For over 30 years, fond farewells have been the driving force in the Hudson Valley baseball. Hundreds of players have moved up Major League Baseball ranks while Dutchess County cheers them on. These days, Hudson Valley Renegades will go on to Somerset, Wilkes-Barre, the Bronx and beyond. Many paths await our Renegades once they leave High-A baseball. So let's check in on some of our backyard ballplayers and see where they are today.

Evan Longoria, 3B (2007)

In the summer of 2007, the centerfield trees turned to watch an Evan Longoria home run sail overhead. Dutchess County legend says that ball still hasn't touched the ground. "Longo" was a Renegade for just a week, ripping through the Tampa Bay Rays organization on his way to being named the 2008 Rookie of the Year. In his 15-year career, he appeared in two World Series with Tampa Bay and the San Francisco Giants. Since Longoria left the Rays in 2018, nobody has worn #3 for

Tampa Bay.

Stephen Vogt, C (2007)

Before he was an unlikely fan favorite in Oakland, Stephen Vogt was the first Renegades catcher to reach the majors. A two-time All-Star with the A's, Vogt was essential in the team's seemingly-random playoff run of 2013. Following a short retirement in 2022, he joined the Seattle Mariners as a clubhouse and quality control coach. Known for a positive dugout presence in each of the six organizations he played for, Vogt was the Cleveland Guardians' top choice as Terry Francona's managerial replacement. After earning the top record in the American League Central (92-69), Vogt beat out his former Renegades skipper Matt Quattraro for the 2024 AL Manager of the Year crown.

Josh Smith, INF (2021)

As a Hudson Valley Renegade, Josh Smith hit .324 with 9 home runs and 17 stolen bases. After his successful High-A stint, Smith was part of a package traded to the Texas Rangers for Joey Gallo in 2021. Smith became a mainstay in the

2023 World Series champion team. In 2024, he received a Silver Slugger award as the American League's best utility player, posting career highs in home runs, batting average, and RBIs. In Arlington this season, Smith eyes the Gold Glove in the same category.

Jasson Domínguez, OF (2022)

Nicknamed "El Marciano" (the martian) by a scout at spring training, Jasson Domínguez has been a highly-awaited prospect. After light years spent bouncing between AAA and the bigs, the outfield prospect will finally get phoned home. After a late call-up for the Bombers' World Series run, this top pinstriped prospect is likely to make the Opening Day roster. Hear it in these pages first, Renegades fans. Snatch some Number 12 merchandise from the Renegades team store, or you may be sorry when they hit auctions later.

Jared Serna, SS (2022)

Before shortstop Jared Serna was traded to the Miami Marlins last July, his 22 games with 2-plus hits led all Renegades. His multi-hit madness increased his stock, and the Marlins' affections. Down

in the Sunshine State, Serna went 4-5 with four RBI's in his AA debut as a Pensacola Blue Wahoo, continuing his offensive tear after being promoted to AAA Jacksonville to close the season. In 2025, the 22-year-old leads all hitters in Marlins spring training camp, batting .571 in five games.

George Lombard Jr., INF (2024)

When former first-round pick George Lombard Jr. arrived in the area last August, the Hudson Valley summer got a bit hotter. In the closing month of the 2024 season, Lombard's bat helped Hudson Valley reach the South Atlantic League championship series. At the Yankees 2025 Spring Training, Lombard showed a drastic improvement as a non-roster invitee. He put on weight, increased his power, and evened out his swing. Most of all, Lombard proved he can hit MLB pitches, sending a 96 mph sinker into the seats at George M. Steinbrenner Field in Tampa. Some are calling him the Yankee third baseman of the future. Could he make his pinstripes debut this season?

Marist, DCC basketball teams end seasons in tournaments

By Morgan E. Maier

What's the opposite of trifecta? On March 13, next season began for each of Poughkeepsie's "Big Three" college basketball teams. The defining moments of each team's season, though, are not the final game outcomes. In the final day of their seasons, the Marist University Red Foxes were twice snared in the Mountaineers' trap, and the Dutchess Community College Falcons' historic run ended in fowl play against the Dallas College - Richmond Thunderducks.

Don't cry for me, A.C.

This would be a different story but for Marist's ugly regular season finish. The spirit squad kept the crowd in the game on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. Even Frankie Fox took the pom poms for a spin. But Marist couldn't capitalize on their defensive stops and Mountaineer missteps, losing the first men's quarterfinal to eventual MAAC champions of Mount St. Mary's University. On the heels of John Dunne's best season to date, Marist can look back on this season with pride. Next year just means just a little more. Expect Josh Pascarelli to pop off for his senior season after a career year filled with honors and career highs. With the exit of senior center Jackson Price, keep an eye on the development of freshman center and Middletown, N.Y. native, Tarik Watson.

First-round exit cannot clip Falcons' wings

One of two New York basketball teams to be ranked #1 nationally, the DCC Falcons had a lot to be proud of this season. With seven departing sophomores, we will be seeing a new-look

Falcons squad next year. The freshmen won't forget the feeling; it will fuel them next year. From team alumni to fans, family and friends, DCC will remember the nationally-recognized 2024-25 Region XV champs fondly.

2,460 seconds

If only they had an extra minute. Marist women would have completed the comeback if basketball games were 41 minutes, not 40. In the final quarter, Marist's fire would have burned up the boardwalk. After Mount doubled up Marist 54-27, the MAAC Championship's first quarterfinal seemed decided. But Marist spent the final quarter erasing the deficit. And showing fans that the program is in great hands.

They nearly completed the third-largest comeback in the history of NCAA women's basketball history. Marist showed their fight, turning up the heat at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall. It was ten straight minutes of forcing Mountaineer mistakes before the final buzzer bailed out St Mary's. Chasing down loose balls, forcing bad passes, and pulling one another from the hardwood, our girls were one point shy of a 64-64 tie. Marist lost the heartbreaker 68-65, but Erin Doughty and the Red Foxes showed us why they've stolen the hearts of fans from McCann to Maryland.

We have Falcons, Red Foxes, and student-athletes everywhere to thank for getting us through another Hudson Valley winter. From every HV hoops fan who tuned in to watch the MAAC and NJCAA, it's been a joy to watch our mid-major and junior college student-athletes. March Madness will tide us over for now. See you in October.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Winter Soup Sales to benefit Rhinebeck Grange

Winter Soup Sales in Rhinecliff, sponsored by Rhinebeck Grange #896, will be held on Thursday, March 20. The cost is \$10 per quart (two pint-size containers). Take-out only. Pick up at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, corner of Shatzell Ave. and Orchard Drive, Rhinecliff, at the side door on Orchard Drive, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Pick up also available at Morton Library (82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff) from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Email JoBaer2@gmail.com to be sent the soup choices and to pre-order online. Proceeds support the Rhinebeck Grange. For more information, contact Joe Baer at (845) 876-6488, JoBaer2@gmail.com.

The 'Millbrook Commune' of 1960s is topic of Millbrook Historical Society program

On Thursday March 20, the Millbrook Historical Society will present "The Communication of Experience is Art: The Millbrook Commune and Psychedelic Multimedia Art," at 7 p.m. at the Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook.

State Historian Devin R. Lander will present on the Millbrook Commune's involvement in the emerging psychedelic multimedia art scene of the 1960s. The presentation will include not only discussion of the artwork produced by Timothy Leary's Millbrook group, but also the philosophical underpinnings of the group's quest to communicate the psychedelic experience through artistic means. Visit <http://millbrookhistoricalsociety.org/> to learn about membership and more information.

Fish Fry Fridays with Clinton VFD

Clinton Volunteer Fire Department is holding their annual Fish Fry Fridays during Lent (through April 18) at the East Clinton Fire House. Located at 9 Fire House Lane Clinton Corners, NY Cost of the dinner is \$15 and includes fish, fries, coleslaw and dessert. Macaroni and cheese is also available. Take out only. Call 845-266-5485 for more information.

PV Rec promises a 'Wicked' good time for Teen Movie Night

Registration is now open for Pleasant Valley Recreation's Teen Movie Night, featuring the spellbinding musical "Wicked." For \$5, teens will

enjoy a night full of pizza, friends, and the magical world of "Wicked" – no broomsticks required!

The event will be held on Friday, March 21, at PV Town Hall Community Room, 1554 Main St. (Route 44), Pleasant Valley. Showtime for Middle Schoolers is 5:30-7:30 p.m.; for High Schoolers, it's 7:45-9:45 p.m.

Register in advance at pvrec.com.

Copake Grange to host program on planting trees to protect streams

The Copake Conservation Advisory Committee and the Copake Grange Program Committee present "Planting and Caring for Trees to Protect Streams" at Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Saturday, March 22, 3 to 5 p.m. This free program for all ages will educate and provide resources for healthy trees and streams.

Presenter Beth Roessler is the stream buffer coordinator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program. Her presentation will address the many benefits of planting and maintaining native trees and shrubs along streams. Participants will also be provided with some tips for assessing the current health of your stream-side areas, as well as resources to help you maintain and improve the trees and shrubs along the streams near you.

To get more information email copakegrange@gmail.com or visit www.copakegrange.org

Volunteer Interest Meeting for Garden Tour

The Friends of the Clinton Community Library are planning a new fundraiser this year: Clinton Country Gardens "Enchantment & Inspiration, 2025." The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 22, 10:30 a.m., at Clinton Community Library, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck.

The Friends will partner with community members to tour a variety of gardens on Saturday, June 28.

During this informational meeting, learn about the garden tour and discuss areas where help will be needed, including Parking Attendants (help with the flow), Docents (no, you don't have to be a Master Gardener), Email Promotions and Advertising (contacting from our list) Flyer/Poster Distribution. Refreshments will be provided.

Straw Bale Gardening program set March 25

Stanford Grange #808 and the Stanford Garden Club are co-sponsoring a Program by Victoria Rolfe on Straw Bale Gardening on Tuesday, March 25, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. The Program will begin at 7 p.m., and light refreshments will be available. All are welcome to attend and learn more about this interesting form of gardening as we welcome Spring. For more information, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at (845) 868-7869.

NPS to hold garden volunteer information meetings

Join the National Park Service (NPS) Horticulture staff to learn about the many opportunities to help maintain and preserve the historic gardens and landscapes at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt national historic sites. Attend a Garden Volunteer Information Meeting on Tuesday, March 25 or Tuesday, April 22 at 10 a.m., at the Wallace Visitor Center, Home of Franklin D Roosevelt, Route 9, Hyde Park. No prior experience is necessary, and volunteers are encouraged to participate as their schedule permits; no required hours. To register for the meeting, email anna_decordova@nps.gov.

Opportunities include The Home of Franklin Roosevelt; Val Kill, The Home of Eleanor Roosevelt; The Vanderbilt Mansion; and The Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield.

Rhinebeck Garden Club to meet March 26

The Rhinebeck Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 76 East Market Street. The program, "Biodiversity in Your Backyard: The Hudson Valley Pollinator Action Guide," will be presented by Avalon Bunge, Partners in Climate

Action. Refreshments will be served. Visitors are welcome. For information about this meeting, or to become a member, call Sue at (845) 797-3226 or Hannah (914) 263-5298.

'Open Sew' set March 26 at Ruby Hill Farm

Join us for Open Sew with Debbie Roberts on Wednesday, March 26, from noon to 2 p.m., at Madi's Way Schoolhouse at Ruby Hill Farm, 2325 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, come and enjoy a day of sewing and creativity with Debbie. Bring your own projects, share ideas, and get inspired by fellow sewing enthusiasts. This is a great opportunity to learn new techniques, troubleshoot any issues, or simply enjoy the company of like-minded individuals. Don't miss out on this fun and relaxing sewing session! Registration is required. Cost \$20. Visit www.rubyhillfarm.com for more information.

Knit a Bunny March 29

Learn how to make a soft knitted bunny from a square on Saturday, March 29, from noon to 3 p.m., at Madi's Way Schoolhouse at Ruby Hill Farm, 2325 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners. This is an easy project for beginners using a simple garter stitch. Please bring your own supplies. The class is intended for ages 12 and above that have basic knitting skills. The instructor is Katherine Mustello. The cost is \$25. Registration is required at www.rubyhillfarm.com/events.

HP Visual Environment Committee to host March 30 program

The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee (HPVEC) Education Series will present "Spotting the Spotted Lanternflies" on Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m., at St. James Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 4526 Albany Post Road (Route 9), Hyde Park. Guest speaker Jennifer Fimbel, a Certified Nosework Instructor, will share insights from a

USDA-funded Virginia Tech project on using K9 teams to detect Spotted Lanternfly in local agriculture. Learn the importance of Spotted Lanternfly detection, and see demonstrations from dog-handler teams.

Attendance is free, and registration is encouraged. Email hvvecboard@gmail.com to register.

Great Whale of a Rummage Sale April 3-5 at Grace Church

Grace Church will host the Great Whale of a Weekend Rummage Sale April 3-5. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4; and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 5. Thousands of quality items will be offered at prices to sell quickly. Items will include clean clothing, children's toys, books, puzzles, games, household items, glassware, sports gear, furniture, jewelry, linens, bedding, and collectibles. All items must go. Bag sale on Sunday. Handicap accessible.

Funds raised by the rummage sale will be used to further Grace Church community outreach programs. The Grace Church Parish Hall is located at 3328 Franklin Street, Millbrook (opposite the Millbrook Bandshell). For more information call the office at (845) 677-3064 or visit the website at www.gracemillbrook.org. If you would like to donate items, please contact the church office.

Spring Easter Egg Needle Felting April 5

Come join us at Ruby Hill Farm for a fun-filled day of needle felting on Saturday, April 5, from noon to 3 p.m., at Madi's Way Schoolhouse at Ruby Hill Farm, 2325 Salt Point Turnpike, Clinton Corners. Let your creativity flow as you learn how to create adorable Easter eggs using colorful wool and a felting needle. No experience necessary - this event is perfect for beginners and experienced crafters alike. Meet new friends, enjoy the beautiful surroundings, and take home your own handmade Easter eggs. Each person will decorate two eggs. The class will be taught by Robin Capers. Registration is required. Cost \$35. Visit www.rubyhillfarm.com for more information.

Hyde Park Repair Café set April 12

The Hyde Park Repair Cafe is set Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at The United Methodist Church, 1 Church St., Hyde Park. Bring us your beloved but broken items for free repairs and advice. For more information: www.ClimateSmartHydePark.org

Volunteer Orientation set April 26 at Beatrix Farrand Garden

There will be a Beatrix Farrand Garden Volunteer Orientation on Saturday, April 26, at 10 a.m. Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Peacock, a member of the Board of Directors, and staff, will welcome individuals considering being a volunteer at the Beatrix Farrand Garden. The Orientation will be held at the Garden, located on the FDR National Historic Site, 4097 Albany Post Rd., in Hyde Park.

Volunteers have been helping to maintain the historic garden designed by the famed Beatrix Farrand in 1912, and restored in 1990s by the first BFG volunteers. For several years, volunteer "Greeters" have welcomed the public on the first and third Sunday afternoons for informal, and informative, visits to the Garden. This year volunteers will also begin assisting with the many concerts, garden education classes, and youth programs. Volunteers might work a few times a season or regularly, whatever fits into their schedules, and will enjoy the friendship of other volunteers and the joy of helping keep this beautiful public garden thriving. More information is available at www.beatrixfarrandgarden.org, or by emailing Volunteers@bfgahydepark.org.

we're on the web! www.sdutchessnews.com

Three-car accident injures five people at intersection of Crum Elbow Road & Rte. 9G

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports the investigation into a three-car crash involving an on-duty Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff, which occurred at approximately 7:30 p.m. on March 14 at the intersection of Crum Elbow Road and State Route 9G in the Town of Hyde Park.

As a result, a total of five people, including the Deputy, were transported to local hospitals with non-life threatening injuries and Crum Elbow Road was closed for approximately three hours.

At this time, no charges have been filed, and the investigation is continuing by the Sheriff's Office's Detective Bureau and Crash Investigation Unit.

The Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Town of Hyde Park Police, the Town of Poughkeepsie Police, the Town of Hyde Park Fire Department and Northern Dutchess Paramedics.

The investigation will continue and more information may be released at a later time as it becomes available.

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Veterans Affairs wants to hear from you

In last month's column, I highlighted two new initiatives that our Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs recently launched that have already received a positive response from our veteran community. The "Honor-a-Vet" program formally pays tribute to a deceased veteran in recognition of their service to their country. The "GoGo Veterans" program provides free rides to veterans in need of dependable and safe transportation for many of the essential services they need, including medical appointments and events.

This month, I'm excited to share with you another effort to connect with our veterans, one that we anticipate will generate new ideas and further innovative programs. We're introducing our "Veterans Questionnaire," which will help us gain a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of the vets that we serve here in Dutchess County. The feedback we receive from those in the veterans community will shape future veteran-focused initiatives Dutchess County and our Office of Veterans Affairs

undertake.

We have designed a questionnaire with a short series of questions that will only take a few minutes to complete, in hopes of identifying additional ways we can assist you.

We hope respondents' answers will offer insight such as:

- identifying any of our programs that could be adjusted or administered in a more effective manner;
- how we can more effectively distribute resources to address the most pressing needs of our veteran community;
- identifying possible gaps in any of our services;
- how we can increase community engagement and future participation in the activities and events we sponsor; and
- identifying policy issues that we may need to meet with our county, state and federal representatives to discuss.

We want veterans in Dutchess County to feel they have a measure of ownership regarding the services we offer, and also know they part of the decision-making process. I believe working together to

make this project a success can help us achieve that and further strengthen the strong relationship we have already developed over the years. You all have different life experiences and perspectives, and offering your unique insights will be invaluable.

I invite you to thoughtfully look over the questionnaire and answer the questions as honestly as possible. It is confidential and is designed to allow you to answer as candidly as possible. All answers will be kept anonymous and used only to discover new ideas and determine how to better serve you. The survey will be available online and we will also be following up with traditional paper surveys.

As you can imagine, with approximately 13,000 veterans in Dutchess County, with even modest participation from our veteran population, we expect to

get a wide range of responses that will take a considerable amount of time to analyze. So we ask you to help us make this endeavor a success by supplying your answers and returning them to us as early as you can.

You can access the questionnaire on our website at www.dutchessny.gov/veterans and in the coming weeks, we will also be distributing the survey by email, mail and at various community events. Help us spread the word and share the survey with fellow veterans so we can get as much feedback as possible. We appreciate your help!

As always, if you have any questions, please contact our office at the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Services at 845-486-2060 or visit www.dutchessny.gov/veterans.

We're excited to hear from you.

send us your news cschmidt@sutchessnews.com

Barrett introduces legislation to put consumer advocate on Energy Planning Board

Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-Dutchess/Columbia) recently introduced legislation that would require a consumer advocate from the Utility Intervention Unit be appointed to the New York State Energy Planning Board. The State Energy Planning Board includes representatives

from various State agencies and is charged with creating a comprehensive Energy Plan for the future of New York's energy infrastructure, including the implementation of renewable energy.

"With utility costs continuing to rise at an unsustainable rate, this legislation is

timely, perhaps even overdue," said Assembly Energy Committee Chair Didi Barrett. "I have been proud to represent the Speaker and the New York State Assembly on the New York State Energy Planning Board since last fall. As we plan for our state's energy future, the process and the board discussions would benefit, I strongly believe, from including the voice of a dedicated consumer advocate."

"Consumers deserve a seat at the table when it comes to shaping New York's energy future, especially as utility costs continue to rise. A dedicated consumer advocate on the State Energy Planning Board will help ensure that affordability and consumer protections are prioritized in decision-making," said Laurie Wheelock, Executive Director of the

Public Utility Law Project ("PULP"). "PULP applauds Assemblymember Barrett for this positive step towards ensuring a balanced, transparent, and accountable energy planning process."

In 1994, the Consumer Protection Board had 31 staff people dedicated to utility intervention. This board was eliminated in 2012 and the Utility Intervention Unit was transferred to the Department of State. However, their seat on the State Energy Planning Board was not included in the new statute. This bill would restore this seat on the Board, allowing the Secretary of State to appoint a member of the Utility Intervention Unit to advocate for consumer interests in the State Energy Plan.

Farm Credit East returns estimated \$56.5M in patronage dividends to New York Farmers

Farm business owners and operators across New York have received an estimated \$56.5 million in patronage dividends from Farm Credit East, ACA, the Northeast's largest agricultural lending cooperative.

As owners of the financial cooperative, Farm Credit East's customers share in its financial success through patronage dividends. This model enables Farm Credit East to offer competitive interest rates up front, and then through continued success, return a share of net earnings to customer-owners via patronage dividends.

"As a cooperative, Farm Credit East continues to support its members through our financial strength and deep industry expertise," says Michael Brooks, Farm Credit East board member and owner of Dusty Lane Farms, LLC, in Elmer, New Jersey. "For nearly three decades, we have shared our financial success with customer-owners through patronage dividends. The Association's strong performance in 2024 made it possible for the board to approve a special patronage distribution."

The total 2025 patronage distribution across the eight Northeast states Farm Credit East serves amounts to a record \$140 million in cash patronage dividends.

This \$140 million total patronage is a combination of \$131.6 million in customary patronage dividends based on 2024 cooperative earnings, representing a 1.25% reduction in eligible customers' effective interest rate.

Additionally, the board approved an \$8.4 million one-time special patronage payment resulting from the Association's strong financial results in excess of its business targets. Patronage payments were disbursed to eligible customer-owners in February.

"Our cooperative model is built on returning value to our customer-owners, and patronage dividends are a direct reflection of Farm Credit East's financial strength," says Stephen Makarevich, regional credit leader at Farm Credit East. "By reinvesting in our members, we strengthen not only their businesses but the agricultural economy of New York."

Since the patronage program was first adopted, customer-owners of Farm Credit East (and predecessor cooperatives) have received more than \$1.5 billion in dividends from ownership of their cooperative.

To learn more about Farm Credit East's patronage program and how it benefits customer-owners, visit FarmCreditEast.com/patronage.

SEALED BID OPPORTUNITY

A nonprofit organization in Verbank, NY is seeking sealed bids for the sale and installation of security related enhancements. This project includes the installation of Perimeter Fencing & Gates, Impact Resistant Doors, and Blast Resistant Windows. Selection criteria will be based on price, reputation/experience, and quality of materials proposed. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting us at:

homelandproject2022@gmail.com

All interested firms will be required to sign for the proposal documents and provide primary contact, telephone, fax and email address. **Bids will be accepted until 12 pm March 27, 2025.** Work is to commence by April 15 and completed by June 6, 2025. Minority and Women Owned Businesses are Encouraged to Apply.

Celebration of life set for Rhinebeck's Dave Kaplan March 23 at Catamount



By Kate Goldsmith

Those who knew Dave Kaplan of Rhinebeck are invited to a celebration of his life on Sunday, March 23, at Catamount Ski Resort in Hillsdale, where Dave was a longtime instructor. The celebration will take place from 1 to 3 p.m., followed by a "Run for Dave," a ski run in Dave's honor. (Lift ticket required. According to organizers, Catamount has offered to provide a lift ticket for this event at no charge. Go to the snowsports desk on Sunday upon arrival.)

According to his obituary, Dave died peacefully in his home on Nov. 8, 2024 at the age of 97.

The event at Catamount will include a potluck-style meet-and-greet at 1 p.m. in the Berkshire Room. Please bring an appetizer or drinks and snacks. If you would like to bring a crock pot with chili or soup, feel free to do so, but organizers request you also bring paper plates and/or bowls.

There will be some bottled water and flavored seltzers provided. If you would like to bring a cooler for yourselves with some adult beverages, feel free to do so.

The meet-and-greet will be followed by a celebration of life ceremony at 2 p.m., where there will be a few speakers and some time set aside for anyone who would like to say a few words about Dave or share a story.



Rhinebeck resident Dave Kaplan, who passed away at age 97 on Nov. 8, 2024, will be honored with a celebration of life at Catamount Ski Resort on Sunday, March 23. Kaplan was a skiing enthusiast and instructor at Catamount and other resorts.

Courtesy photos

The "Run for Dave" will follow at 3 p.m. from the top of the mountain, where participants will take one of Dave's favorite trails for teaching, Ridge Run.

Millbrook Winery revives popular 'Vine to Wine' for Milestone 40th Year



Returning by popular demand and in celebration of its 40-year anniversary, the "Vine to Wine" Boot Camp provides a behind-the-scenes experience like no other, allowing wine enthusiasts to become part of the winemaking journey. *Courtesy photo*

Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, the Hudson Valley's flagship winery, is once again inviting wine lovers to roll up their sleeves and experience the winemaking process firsthand with its exclusive "Vine to Wine" Boot Camp. This immersive, eight-part series runs from April through October, offering participants a rare opportunity to work directly with the vineyard's renowned winemaking team.

Led by Ian Bearup, Millbrook's head winemaker and vice president of winemaking and vineyard operations, boot camp participants will be assigned grapevines on the winery's celebrated Lollipop Hill. Through hands-on experiences—from pruning and harvesting to

fermentation and bottling—participants will gain a deeper understanding of the craftsmanship behind Millbrook's award-winning wines.

Returning by popular demand and in celebration of its 40-year anniversary, this program provides a behind-the-scenes experience like no other, allowing wine enthusiasts to become part of the winemaking journey.

Registrations are accepted now through April 7. To secure a spot in the program or with questions visit <https://www.millbrookwine.com/boot-camp/>, email SHudson@millwine.com or call 845.677.8383 ext. 17.

SEND US YOUR NEWS:

cschmidt@s Dutchessnews.com

Guidance about Bird Flu from County Health Dept.

Influenza H5N1, more commonly known as bird or avian flu, has been making national news in recent months, and there have been questions from local residents concerned about risk. The Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH) reminds and reassures residents that avian flu remains classified as a "low" public health risk by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). There have been no confirmed cases of bird flu in humans anywhere in New York State.

"With the popularity of backyard flocks and our diverse wildlife habitats, residents have asked about the risk of bird flu. Fortunately, the public health risk of bird flu remains low," said DOH Commissioner Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado. "Staying vigilant about animal exposures and following some simple steps is the best protection against bird flu."

DOH suggests residents visit CDC's Bird Flu update page for the latest information and follow these easy steps to stay healthy and safe:

- Avoid direct contact with wild birds, livestock and other animals infected with bird flu
- Avoid eating raw or undercooked meat or eggs
- Avoid handling sick wild or domestic birds including chickens and ducks
- Avoid consuming raw (unpasteurized) milk or dairy products
- Wash hands well and often

If you see sick or deceased birds, do not touch them. Anyone concerned after finding a single deceased bird or poultry can report it through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) report page. If you see a group of dead birds or if several of your poultry flock are sick or have died, please contact the local DEC office directly at 845-256-3000. For more guidance on reporting, visit Reporting Dead Wildlife - NYSDEC.

For more information about the Dutchess County Department of Health, including clinical services and public health information, visit dutchessny.gov/health.

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Funding available for arts and cultural activities

Arts Mid-Hudson announces the Arts & Culture Project Grant Program, a funding program to support the arts in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. This funding is available to artists, non-profit organizations, libraries, municipalities, unincorporated groups, and collaborations for arts and cultural activities from June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026. Grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to, exhibits, performances, concerts, festivals, in-school and community workshops, screenings, readings, cultural programming, and the creation of new work. Grant awards are determined by a peer review panel made up of community members.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit organi-

zations, individuals, and individuals applying on behalf of an unincorporated group, collaboration, or collective located in Dutchess, Orange, or Ulster counties are eligible and encouraged to submit a grant proposal. Applicants and grantees of NYSCA and other Arts Mid-Hudson funding programs are eligible for this program.

These awards are made possible with funds from the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson.

The deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

For full application details and eligibility requirements, visit www.artsmidhudson.org/arts-and-culture-project-grants.

"The Arts & Culture Project Grant

Program is a great opportunity to learn how to write a grant for an arts or cultural project. Arts Mid-Hudson's Grants Team is looking forward to meeting with applicants to discuss their ideas, offer networking opportunities, and provide feedback on draft proposals," said Lilia Pérez, Grants Manager at Arts Mid-Hudson.

Information & Q&A sessions

To assist applicants, Arts Mid-Hudson will host a series of virtual and in-person information sessions, including:

- **Virtual Information Session:** Wednesday, March 19, at 3 p.m. (Recording available on YouTube)

- **In-Person Overview & Q&A Sessions:** March 26 at 11 a.m. – Arts Mid-Hudson, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie

- April 3 at 4 p.m. – Newburgh Free Library, 124 Grand St., Newburgh

- April 8 at 1:30 p.m. – The Center for Photography at Woodstock, 25 Dederick St., Kingston

Virtual Q&A Sessions:

- March 31 at 4 p.m.

- April 12 at 11:30 a.m.

- April 16 at 1 p.m.

- April 18 at 3 p.m.

- April 22 at 3 p.m.

- April 23 at 11 a.m.

To RSVP for an information or Q&A session, visit <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E231621&id=505>

Additional support & resources

Arts Mid-Hudson provides free, in-depth support for applicants, including informational videos, resources, one-on-one consultations, and draft proposal reviews. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Grants Team well in advance of the deadline at (845) 454-3222 ext. 11 or grants@artsmidhudson.org.

The mission of Arts Mid-Hudson is to provide vision and leadership to support thriving and diverse arts in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Fostering a diverse offering of arts and cultural programs, many free, attract a range of age groups, and are produced across a broad geographic area.

For more information, visit www.artsmidhudson.org or contact the Grants Team at (845) 454-3222 ext. 11 or grants@artsmidhudson.org.

EXHIBITS AT CUNNEEN-HACKETT TO RUN THROUGH APRIL

The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center is showcasing an array of talented artists for its March/April exhibition series. Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. in Poughkeepsie is artwork by Ulana Salewycz, Vitalia Deriabina, Marianna Szczawinsky Crans, and the late Catherine Zadorecka Gorham. At 12 Vassar St., Kate Hoekstra displays her works of art in the Reception Gallery; and in the Hancock Gallery, Ian Hutton and Selva Ozelli present their collaborative show "Paradise." All exhibitions run through April 30.

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

what's happening?

creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



Sets
Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.
□ • 1 thru 21
□ ▲ 22 thru 55
□ ■ 56 thru 66



By David Kalvitis © 2004 Monkeying Around

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The Impossible Dream

Luigi has 'miles to go' before his day off.

I have written many stories about working with my father in the restaurant. My father still is tough. He still is relentless. He might have slowed down, but he still produces. At 92 years old, he still is an incredible chef and he still comes in every day. Every single day. Only for a couple of hours, but still, every single day.

The other day, my father came into the restaurant. It was a Sunday, and Sunday is my last day before my day off. Needless to say, Sundays are a little rough because I am usually on my last leg and I am not the most pleasant person to be around. On Sundays, Pop usually comes in later, after noon mass, to make dinner for himself. He's full of energy for his age and always ready for me.

So when Pop comes in I have already put in around 5 hours of work with only 8 more to go, and I've got my eye on the prize. I'm trying to stay focused and not lose my cool.

So Pop comes in and he sees me, and right away he starts.

Pop: *Quello che un viso brutto!* (What an ugly face!) *Hai mangiato limoni stamattina?* (Did you eat lemons this morning?)

Me: Why do you say that?

Pop: Come on, it's a morning and you already in a bada mood?

Me: No, Pop, I'm not in a bad mood.

Pop: Whya you looka that way?

Me: I don't know. I'm busy and I'm trying to get all my work done.

Pop: Maka sure the bread crumbs are done.

Me: What? Huh? (sigh) Yes, Pop.

Pop: Maka sure you no taka the sauce off the fire too soon.

Me: (sigh) Yes, Pop.

Pop: Youa sure youa ok?

Me: Yes, Pop. I'm fine.

Pop: OK. Do you still need me to maka the Tira mi Su?

Me: No, Pop. We ran out so I had to make it.

Pop: What?! Nowa you no needa me no more?

Me: No, Pop. We ran out. I had to make it.

Pop: Nowa youa the chef, right? Youa no need me to bea the chef?

Me: (sigh) No, Pop. That's not true. I just needed to make one for today. You can make it for tomorrow.

Pop: (pauses as he stares at me) Youa maka it the righta way?

Me: Yes, Pop. I followed your recipe.

Pop: Youa usa the brandy?

Me: Yes, Pop.

Pop: Anda the Kahlua?

Me: Yes, Pop.

Pop: Youa make the custard the righta way?

Me: Yes, Pop, just like you showed me.

Pop: Youa...

Me: Pop, please. Stop. I'm tired. I've got to finish the day, so I can take tomorrow off.

Pop: Oh youa tired?

Me: (sigh) Yes, Pop, I'm tired.

Pop: How many days youa work this week, huh?

Me: Oh, no ... 6, Pop.

Pop: Six? You taka any nights off?

Me: No, Pop.

Pop: You gotta everything done?

Me: Almost, Pop. It'll be done by the end of the day.

Pop: Good. (pause) Youa worka too hard.

He kissed me on the cheek and slapped my other cheek. He turned away from me and went into the walk-in cooler to get his ingredients for dinner. At that moment I thought my head was about to explode. I could almost hear Frank Sinatra singing "The Impossible Dream." I wasn't sure, but I think he paid me a compliment.

TIRA MI SU

Ingredients

- 6 egg yolks
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1 1/4 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pound mascarpone cheese
- 1 cup strong brewed coffee, room temperature
- 4 tablespoons brandy
- 4 tablespoons Kahlua
- 4 (3 ounce) packages ladyfinger cookies
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder

Method

In a medium saucepan, whisk together egg yolks and 1 cup of sugar until well blended. Whisk in milk and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture boils. Boil gently for 1 minute, remove from heat and allow to cool slightly. Cover tightly and chill in refrigerator 1 hour.

In a medium bowl, beat cream with vanilla until stiff peaks form. Whisk mascarpone into yolk mixture until smooth. Add chilled custard and gently whisk until blended.

In a small bowl, combine coffee, 1/2 cup sugar, brandy and Kahlua. Dip lady fingers into the coffee mixture.

Arrange half of soaked ladyfingers in bottom of a 7x11 inch dish. Spread half of mascarpone mixture over ladyfingers. Sprinkle with cocoa. Repeat layers and again sprinkle with cocoa. Cover and refrigerate 4 to 6 hours, until set.

To serve, cut into a 3-inch square and garnish with whipped cream.

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

Tavern Trail event set March 28 in Tivoli

"New York and Dutchess County on the Brink of Revolution" is the next Dutchess County Historic Tavern Trail event, happening on Friday, March 28, from 6 to 7 p.m., at Lasting Joy Brewery, 485 Lasher Road, Tivoli.

We all know the story of the final months of royal government in Massachusetts before the "Shot Heard 'Round The World" was fired at Lexington on April 19, 1775. But what was that final period of undisputed

British supremacy like in New York and specifically in Dutchess County? How did residents feel as the Imperial Crisis of the 1760s and early 1770s reached its explosive conclusion?

Join Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum to find out the answers to these and other questions above local life on the brink of Revolution.

This event is free and open to the public. RSVP is requested via www.historicdutchess.org.

The Dutchess County Historic Tavern Trail brings history and local cuisine together, while introducing the community to iconic locales. The Tavern Trail is a collaborative endeavor between the Dutchess County Department of History, local historical societies, and signature food and beverage industry partners to create an innovative program that highlights the county's rich history. Each installment of the program is held at a dif-

ferent historic location and includes a brief presentation on an engaging episode of the local past.

County Historian William P. Tatum III said, "The Dutchess County Historic Tavern Trail highlights many of our iconic buildings and the history contained in our epic landscape. These programs are a fun way to explore the links between history, cuisine and local culture that make our area such a vibrant place."

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EXHIBITIONS

Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Turnpike, Suite F, Poughkeepsie. **March 20-April 22:** "Poets Respond to Art," an exhibition celebrating the intersection of poetry and visual art. Featuring 18 poets and 18 visual artists, this showcase explores the profound dialogue between literary and visual expression. **Opening Reception:** Thurs., March 20, 5-7 p.m. Meet the participating poets and visual artists, explore the exhibition, and experience the interplay between poetry and visual art. Free. RSVP required. **Artist Talk & Closing Reception:** Tues., April 22, 5-7 p.m. This special event will offer insights from participating poets and artists about their creative processes and the inspirations behind their work. Free. RSVP required. www.artsmidhudson.org

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. **Through April:** Featured in the Victorian Gallery at 9 Vassar St. is artwork by Ulana Salewycz, Vitalia Deriabina, Marianna Szczawinsky Crans, and the late Catherine Zadorecka Gorham. At 12 Vassar St., Kate Hoekstra displays her works of art in the Reception Gallery. In the Hancock Gallery, Ian Hutton and Selva Ozelli will present their collaborative show "Paradise." Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access. More info: cunneen-hackett.org

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie. **Through Aug. 17:** "Great Green Hope for the Urban Blues," exhibition that explores the art and myths of the Hudson Valley. The exhibition is part of a legacy that began 200 years ago as landscape painter Thomas Cole traveled up the Hudson River to paint the Catskill Mountains: a voyage that marked the mythical origin of the so-called Hudson River School of American landscape painting. Also on view: "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Black Space-Making from Harlem to the Hudson Valley," installation related to "Great Green Hope" by Vassar student Harrison Brisbon-McKinnon '26; and the second, "Water/Bodies: Sa'dia Rehman." (845) 437-5632 or <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb>

Mildred I. Washington Gallery, Allyn J. Center for Science and Art, Dutchess Community College, 53 Pendell Rd., Poughkeepsie. **Through March 28:** "About Water," featuring the works of Daisy de Puthod and Jean-Marie Martin. (845) 431-8612

Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. **Through March 30:** Talent Show Art Exhibition, the visual component of Morton's annual Talent Show. Purchases benefit local artists and Morton Library. Donations accepted. (845) 876-2903

Rhinebeck Bank, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. **Through April 4:** Artwork exhibit by Michael Mandia of Wappingers Falls, whose primary artistic medium acrylic paint, but he also uses pen, ink, colored pencil & pastel. More info: <https://www.michaelmandiaart.com/>

Starr Library, 68 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. **Through March 30:** Exhibition of selected works from a bold new edition of "The Artist's Guide to Sketching," the groundbreaking book by two of America's most prominent visual artists, James Gurney ("Dinotopia," "Color and Light") and Thomas Kinkade. (845) 876-4030 or www.starrlibrary.org

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through March 30:** "Variable Matrix," a group exhibit curated by artist Linda Cassidy. (845) 757-2667 or www.tivoliartistsgallery.com

WomensWork.art, 12 Vassar St., 3rd Floor, Poughkeepsie. Through April 26: "Mother/Father," a re-examining of a theme first addressed in a March 2020 exhibit, exploring the works of artists navigating parenthood and how it affected their overall bodies of work. **Artists' Talk:** Sat., April 26, 1-3 p.m. (845) 293-3660 or info@womenswork.art

'Variable Matrix' group exhibit on view at Tivoli Artists Gallery

"Variable Matrix," a group exhibit curated by artist Linda Cassidy, will be featured at Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli from Friday, March 7 through Sunday, March 30. An opening reception will take place on Saturday, March 8, from 5 to 7 p.m.

"Variable Matrix," a term taken from a poem by George Quasha, is the title of her series of large paintings that Cassidy is featuring in this show.

"The term equally refers to the dynamics and interactions of the artists themselves. A network of friends and colleagues in variable configurations, the group has interacted and influenced each other over many years in and around the small hamlet of Barrytown, NY," she says. "They share a deep, lifelong commitment to the ongoing creation of their work, and what emerges from this creative intimacy are individual bodies of work that are absolutely unique but mutually reflective of a tendency towards the contemplative, intuitive and deeply felt."

Artists exhibiting include Claude Carone, Linda Cassidy, Lara Chkhetiani, Jonathan Feldschuh, Janene Gentile, Arthur B. Kennickell, Barbara Leon,



"Phylogeny," Charles Stein, Ink on paper 11 x 14. Courtesy image

Siobhan Lidell, George Quasha, Susan Quasha, Charles Stein, Victoria Vesna, Sherry Williams, and Millicent Young.

Visit www.tivoliartistsgallery.com for more information or call (845) 757-2667 to arrange a gallery appointment.

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Spring & Science: Two that are better together

Just like cocoa needs marshmallows and Kermit's wit is ever enhanced by his longtime love, Miss Piggy, spring and science make a super pairing. Is the coupling of an academic subject and a season comparable to the 1940s romance of Bogie and Bacall? Is the bond closer to the flavorful marriage of peas and carrots? The unwavering acceptance of Forrest Gump and Jenny? Read on to see why spring and science go hand-in-glove.

Late March through May are months when themes such as biological cycles, pollinators, diversity, and many others are particularly relevant due to weather patterns. Those topics all relate to ecology and Earth Day (April 22) as the academic year draws to a close. Classroom teachers and homeschoolers can try these science activities which are easily done in the spring. Try them out and you will agree that spring and science is better than peanut butter and jelly or a pen and paper.

Extract chlorophyll from plant leaves

Springtime leaves are bright green. Grind them up and soak them in alcohol to extract the green pigment. The process is a way to learn about plant molecules involved in photosynthesis. Chlorophyll can be used for a chromatography investigation, or teaching younger children about the seasons.

Examine stomata

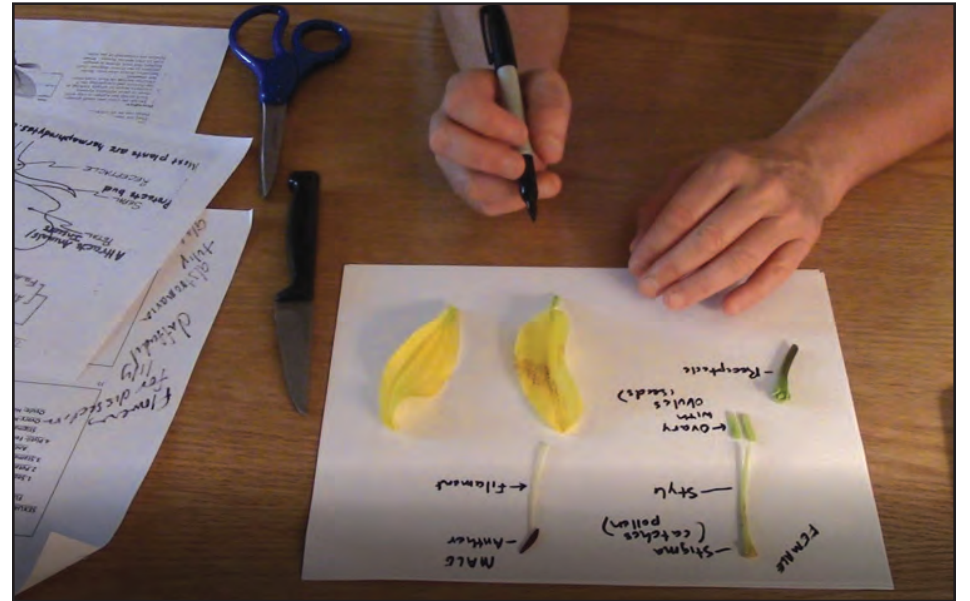
Stomata are pores which allow the passage of CO₂, O₂, and H₂O. Most stomata are on the bottom of plants' leaves. The number of stomata on the epidermal surface can tell you a lot about a plant. Plants that grow in different climates have stomata adapted to their location.

Observe lichens

Lichens are typically seen growing on rocks. They are considered pioneers because they have few ecological requirements for life. Over time, they prepare conditions for other organisms through the biodeterioration of rocks and the accumulation of nutrients. Colonization of an area by lichens is an important first step in the succession of barren locations and areas devastated by disasters. Meet the Lichens is a FREE sample "Do Now" activity which teaches about the symbiotic nature of lichens. "Do Nows" can be used at the beginning of classes or as a "fill-in" to help with the comprehension of science concepts. The activity is available at: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/SAMPLE-DO-NOW-MEET-THE-LICHENS-ECOLOGY-6679549>.

Dissect a flower

Flower dissection is a hands-on way to teach flower structures, or as a part of a



A screen grab shows a flower dissection. Photo by Francine Wizner

unit on reproduction. The best flower types to dissect include lilies, tulips, daffodils, alstroemerias and gladiolus. Avoid daisies, asters, calla lilies, roses, and iris since their floral structures are not as easy to view.

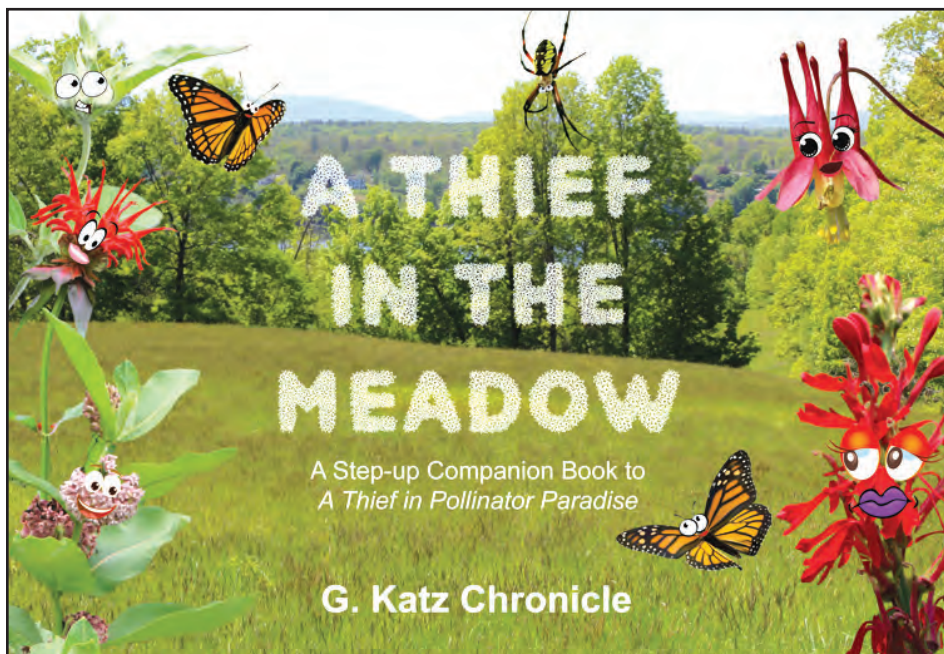
Read 'A Thief in Pollinator Paradise' or 'A Thief in the Meadow'

Both tales deal with the coevolution of

flowers and their pollinators. The characters discuss symbiosis, photosynthesis and respiration. The mystery at the heart of both stories encourages the meadow-dwelling characters to make observations and collect evidence so they can identify the thief!

Spring blooms allow easy access to

continued on page 14



Cover for the book "A Thief in the Meadow." Courtesy image



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Photographer Margaret DeMott Brown: An Artful Documentarian

By Bill Jeffway

In recognition of Women's History Month, we look through the lens of local photographer Margaret DeMott Brown (1880-1959) and her partnership with four women in particular. Brown had important collaborations with local historian Helen Wilkinson Reynolds and DCHS, Vassar College Botanist Edith Roberts, and two generations of consecutive local theater leaders who were Vassar Professors: first Gertrude Buck and then Hallie Flanagan.

Brown arrived in Poughkeepsie from the mid-West in 1917 to open a professional photographic studio near Vassar College. She was described in newspapers as having an interest in the style of "pictorialism" and would offer "home portraiture and art photographs." Pictorialism was, and remains, a form of photography that is highly artistic with strong moods and soft muted focus; sometimes described as counter to a literal documentary style. Before her local arrival she had studied with one of Pictorialism's great photographers, Clarence H. White. But much of the work done in the examples we explore have an important documentary role which reveals Brown's ability to navigate the

two styles.

Helen Wilkinson Reynolds

Brown's most consistent collaborator was the local historian, researcher/writer Helen Wilkinson Reynolds (1875-1943) with whom she maintained a close personal relationship. When Reynolds died, Brown put her photographic business aside and relocated to Massachusetts to spend the rest of her life with family.

The Dutchess County Historical Society was formed in 1914 and differed from many organizations at the time by inviting the participation of women (unlike the Dutchess County Society in the City of New York, for example). This gave Brown and Reynolds a platform they put to good use for nearly three decades.

Two collaborations were published in 1924 where Brown's photographs had a supporting role: "Poughkeepsie: The Origin and Meaning of the Word and Old Gravestones of Dutchess County," which was a transcription of nineteen thousand entries. In two subsequent books, Brown's photographs were at least as important as the text: in 1929, "Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776" (with an introduction by FDR) in 1929; and "Dutchess County Doorways," in 1931, were published as books with a



Four photographs by Margaret DeMott Brown with an inset of Brown's collaborator in each instance. Top row, left to right: Fireplace in the Zacheus Newcombe home, Poughkeepsie with Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. A fern image, one of a great many in DCHS Collections with Edith Roberts. Bottom row left to right: Poughkeepsie Community Players performing "Helga and the White Peacock" with inset of Gertrude Buck. From the play, "Now I Know Love," with inset of Hallie Flanagan. *DCHS Collections*

major focus on photography.

In 1938, Brown and Reynolds expanded their partnership to include Vassar College's head of the Department of Botany, Edith Roberts. They produced the landmark publication "The Role of Plant Life in the History of Dutchess County." Far ahead of its time, in what would today be called advocacy for the protection of native species and plants, the publication outlined the idea of a succession of plant associations, to help a broader general public understand the dynamic relationship of plant life over generations. Brown's other collaborations with Roberts involved just the two of them.

Edith Roberts

Edith Roberts (1881-1977) was a pioneering ecologist and eminent scientist who grew up in rural New Hampshire, graduated from Smith College in 1905, and then obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Roberts worked for three years as an associate professor at Mount Holyoke College. When World War One broke out in 1917, she became a field representative for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, traveling the county to advise women managing farms while their husbands were serving in the war in France.

In 1920, Roberts created the first ecological laboratory in the United States at Vassar, which remains in operation today. Brown documented the workings of the laboratory and farm, as well as individual plants and plantings. Prior to the major work, "The Role of Plant Life in the History of Dutchess County," Brown and Roberts collaborated on "American Plants for American Gardens," in 1929, and "American Ferns: How to Know, Grow and Use Them," in 1935.

Several hundred photographs of ferns by Brown in "DCHS Collections" reflect both the documentary (where rulers mark sizes and date stamps mark time) as well as the most artistic (one of which for example was the cover of the Poughkeepsie Garden Club's 1933 annual booklet).

Gertrude Buck

The earliest innovator of local theater at Vassar College was Gertrude Buck (1871-1922), who was equally involved with the local Poughkeepsie Community Players. She first joined Vassar in 1897 and grew beyond the role of English professor to embrace local theater.

In part prompted by her early death, a

campaign led by Vassar College President MacCracken resulted in the national publication by Macmillan of a play Buck had been working on locally. "Helga and the White Peacock" was written by Cornelia Meigs, who worked with Buck and the Poughkeepsie Community Players. The photos in the book by Brown are of the local production in her early pictorialist style (see image) which emerged as the premiere to what was a subsequent successful round of schools putting on the performance nationally.

Hallie Flanagan

Hallie Flanagan (1889-1969) was very specifically recruited to replace Gertrude Buck in the role of developing local theater. But the generational change could not have been more profound. Europe was emerging from the trauma of World War One in the 1920s with a growing interest in a radical new approach to theater. Flanagan spent a year at Vassar in 1925 before touring Europe in 1926, where she met up with Poughkeepsie-born Lee Miller, who was just about to emerge as a "modern" photographic powerhouse. Miller came back with Flanagan and introduced people she had worked with in Paris like Ladislav Medgyès (who spoke at Vassar in 1927), and invited their participation locally.

An important part of this modern movement was clear, spare geometric stagecraft, which gave Brown an entirely different platform to capture (see image).

Home portraiture

The promotion of Brown's practice upon her local arrival in 1917 promised "home portraiture." At the time she was likely not aware that her home portraiture would come to include the family of a US President, Franklin Roosevelt; and US Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau of Fishkill. Although Brown never married or had children, descendants of her family through an aunt have generously shared many of the images in their private collections. Reports of Brown being close to the Roosevelt and Morgenthau families is preserved in handwritten notes to Brown from each of them, inscribed on family photos Brown had taken of each family.

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



Above left. Photo of Margaret DeMott Brown. Above right: photo of Franklin Roosevelt at his Hyde Park estate by (and signed by) Brown. The personal inscription reads, "For Miss Margaret Brown with the regards of Franklin D. Roosevelt." Both images are courtesy of Fred Schultz and the family of Margaret DeMott Brown.

LOOK FOR LOVE TO COOK IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Vicki Frank Day shares stories and recipes.



Hudson Valley Naturalist

continued from page 13

foliage for obtaining chlorophyll and examining stomata. Greater sunlight and warmer temperatures permit pleasant outings for observing lichens and gathering blossoms for dissection. And, for those of us familiar with Poets' Walk in Red Hook, you will notice that views of that location are part of the meadow setting in the two "Thief" books mentioned above. The meadow is in Dutchess County, overlooking the Hudson River.

Those are just some of the reasons why I think Spring and Science is a pairing that rivals that of Humphrey Bogart

and Lauren Bacall!

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

A & E CALENDAR

March 20-26: Poughkeepsie Public Library District Events, Poughkeepsie. March 20: Discovering Moths: Nighttime Jewels in Your Backyard, 7-8 p.m. Virtual. March 22: Artist Talk: The House in Me: Invisible Presence / El Hogar en Mí: Presencia Invisible (bilingual in English and Spanish), 2-4 p.m., at Adriance Memorial Library (93 Market St.). March 22: Concert: Beacon Jazz Lab Saturday, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at Lateef Islam Auditorium at the Family Partnership Center (29 N. Hamilton St.) No registration required. March 24: Demystifying Dahlias! 6:30-8 p.m., at Adriance Memorial Library. March 26: The History of Magic, 6:30-8 p.m., at Boardman Road Branch Library (141 Boardman Rd.). Register at www.poklib.org

March 20: "Premier Performances" Film Series, "Network," Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. Series focuses on legendary stars of stage and screen in some of their most memorable roles. This month is the 1976 classic, "Network," 7:30 p.m. Free. No reservations required. Pre-show concert by Juan Cardona Jr. on the Bardavon's Mighty Wurlitzer organ, courtesy of the New York Theatre Organ Society, 7 p.m. www.bardavon.org

March 21: Richard's Rhinecliff Acoustic Show, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Featuring Paul Maloney, Ernie Mortuzans with Ed Kenny, Sharon Klein and maybe more, 8-10 p.m. Donations suggested. More info: (845) 876-7007

March 21-30: "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," The Center for

Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Up In One Productions presents this winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a fresh and vibrant score by William Finn. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Recommended for ages 12 and up due to mature language, mild sexual references, and irreverent depictions of religious figures. Performances: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; Sat., March 22 & 29, 3 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. Tickets \$29. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

March 22: "American Buffalo" Play Reading, Tivoli Village Hall, 3rd Floor, 86 Broadway, Tivoli. Tangent Theatre Company presents a reading of David Mamet's play about three clueless grifters who plan a heist to steal a valuable Buffalo Nickel, 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Reservations required. info@tangentarts.org

March 22: Day of Puppetry, Academy 33 Academy St, Poughkeepsie. The Arts Mid-Hudson Folk Arts Program and Paper Heart Puppets bring the second Hudson Valley Puppetry Festival to the Mid-Hudson region, starting with a Day of Puppetry, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This family-friendly event features puppet theaters

from around the region sharing puppets, explaining puppet mechanics, and make-and-take activities for all. This event is part of the celebrations for the International Day of Puppetry. Plenty of free parking across the street. www.artsmidhudson.org

March 22: Ivalas Quartet, Black Box Theater, Kaatsbaan Cultural Park, 120 Broadway, Tivoli. Kaatsbaan & Chamber Music America present the quartet in a program titled "First Light," bringing the listener on a journey through the cosmos with works by composers who muse on the origins of our universe and the experience of existing beyond our world, 7 p.m. Tickets \$35 GA, ?\$17 Students with ID. www.kaatsbaan.org

March 22: March Monologue Madness, Morton Memorial Library, 82 Kelly St., Rhinecliff. Hear the best of Hudson Valley writers perform their uniquely original work, 7:30 p.m. A benefit for Morton Library. Admission by donation. (845) 876-2903

March 22: Saturday Morning Family Series, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Rte. 308, Rhinebeck. Rip Van Winkle, 11 a.m. Experience an interactive retelling of Washington Irving's classic story presented by Center Players on Tour. After sleeping for 20 years, Rip Van Winkle awakens to a different world. Will he be able to rejoin his family? Tickets \$10. (845) 876-3080 or www.centerforperformingarts.org

March 23: The Howland Chamber Music Circle Presents the Daedalus Quartet, Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon. Praised by The New Yorker as "a

fresh and vital young participant in what is a golden age of American string quartets," the Daedalus Quartet has established itself as a leader among the new generation of string ensembles, 4 p.m. Following the concert, audience members can meet the musicians and enjoy complementary refreshments. All ticket holders are invited to the reception. To purchase a ticket, visit howlandmusic.org.

March 26: Conversation & Book Signing, Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Rte. 9, Hyde Park. "The Invisible Spy" with Thomas Maier, 6 p.m. Maier tells the story of Ernest Cuneo, a former NFL player who became a spy for Winston Churchill, working from Rockefeller Center to gather intelligence on Nazi operatives in the US. The event will also stream live on the official FDR Library pages on YouTube and Facebook. Free event, but registration required to attend in person. www.fdrlibrary.org

March 26: Leading with Activism Discussion, Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery, 696 Dutchess Tpke., Poughkeepsie. Poet Gold interviews Marielena Ferrer, Executive Director of Unison Arts & Learning Center in New Paltz and leader of Humanamente, a diversity and inclusion consulting organization, 7 p.m. The event will also be live streamed on YouTube, Facebook and LinkedIn. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required to receive the streaming link. All who register are invited to submit questions that will be asked during the Q&A session of the event. www.artsmidhudson.org

what's happening?

creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

DCC receives \$50K state grant To provide help for adult learners

Dutchess Community College is among 22 community colleges statewide that will receive grants to implement wide-ranging action plans designed to help more adult learners access transformational educational opportunities that lead to upward mobility.

These grants build on Governor Kathy Hochul's multifaceted commitment to creating more workforce development opportunities to ensure every New Yorker can pursue a degree or credential that helps access jobs in high-demand fields. That includes the Governor's transforma-

tional proposal to offer free community college tuition, fees, books, and supplies for adults ages 25 to 55 who pursue degrees in fields like health care, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, and green jobs.

Dutchess Community College will receive \$50,000 for marketing and recruitment targeted to specific adult learner populations; expanded use of credit for prior learning; availability of academic offerings and non-academic support in-person on weekends/evenings.

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

THE GREATEST DOT TO DOT BOOKS

Sets
Stop your line after completing each set, then skip to the next set and start your line again.
 □ • 1 thru 21
 □ ▲ 22 thru 55
 □ ■ 56 thru 66

By David Kalvitis © 2004 Monkeying Around

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

© StatePoint Media
 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Suguru

			3		
			5		3
1					
			2		2

© 2023 krazydad.com
 The heavy lines indicate areas, called cages, from one to five squares in size. Fill each cage with unique digits, counting up from 1. So for example a 2-square cage contains the numbers 1 and 2; and a 5-square cage contains the numbers from 1 to 5. Adjacent (touching) squares, even ones that touch diagonally, may never contain the same number.

THEME: MARCH MADNESS

- ACROSS**
- Giant Himalayan
 - *M in MAC
 - Bathtub libation
 - Joie de vivre
 - Do like fly fisherman
 - East side of Jersey
 - Tucked in
 - Diva's solo
 - Length of a forearm
 - * ___ Sunday
 - Osiris' wife
 - Freshwater fish
 - Stir fry pan
 - Victorian era overcoat
 - Smallest
 - *Like attending band at the NCAA Tournament
 - Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
 - Great Lake
 - Prep mushrooms for steak, e.g.
 - Cooking fat
 - Bible song
 - Second to last word in some fairytales
 - False
 - Dip oreo into milk, e.g.
 - Tiresome
 - Hoariest
 - NBC's sketch comedy show
 - Misrepresent
 - South American monkey
 - *2025 NCAA Championship game venue
 - Renaissance fiddle
 - "To ___ and to hold"
 - ___-friendly
 - Founding Father Thomas ___
 - Damien's prediction
 - Reunion group
 - Bancroft to Hoffman in "The Graduate"
 - Agreement word
 - Ages and ages
- DOWN**
- Nay opposers
 - River in Bohemia
 - 1.3 ounces, in Asia
 - Owes money (2 words)
 - Angelina Jolie's 2024 singing role
 - "Kick the bucket," e.g.
 - * ___ Smith, coach of 2 champs and 11 Final Four teams
 - Mongolian desert
 - Fleur-de-lis
 - *Cut down at end of last game
 - Like rheumy eyes
 - Descendant
 - *2024 winners
 - Thin pancake
 - * ___ and move on
 - *Cinderella's victory
 - Furlough
 - Spew, past tense
 - Cough syrup balsam
 - Use other end of pencil?
 - Farm structures
 - Dangle a carrot
 - * ___-up or evenly matched game
 - Step on it
 - *2024 Most Outstanding Player Newton
 - Paralyzing disease, for short
 - Afghan monetary unit
 - Neolithic tomb
 - "Riunite ___ ___, that's nice"
 - Figure out
 - Scapegoat's due
 - Roof overhang
 - Salty drop
 - Avian wader
 - Sailor call
 - Capital of Norway
 - Statistics calculation
 - Sea eagles
 - Dashboard acronym

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11					12				13	14			
15					16				17				
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35			36			37				38			
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			47				48	49					
	50	51				52					53	54	55
56						57				58			
59						60				61			
62						63				64			

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The solutions to both the Sudoku & Crossword puzzles can be found on page 21

OBITUARIES

Bryan H. Bunch

Bryan H. Bunch died at age 88 at his home in Pleasant Valley on March 11, from congestive heart failure. He was an accomplished editor and writer who published books on a remarkable array of subjects, from mathematical paradoxes and scientific almanacs to a young readers' biography of Archimedes. He was also deeply involved in the civic life of Dutchess County, in groups ranging from the Pleasant Valley Public Library to the Rotary Foundation to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Bryan was born on Dec. 19, 1936, to Alfred Bryan Bunch and Arline Hammond Bunch, in St. Louis, Mo. He moved at a young age to Peoria, Ill., where he excelled at Central High School in academics as well as drama and music. He won a full scholarship for Illinois students to Trinity College in Hartford, Ct., where he'd planned to study math but again found himself pulled toward the writing life, ultimately majoring in English while editing a literary magazine and co-writing a musical.

On school breaks during his senior year, he met and fell in love with his family's new next-door neighbor, Marianne ("Mary") Blender, which would lead to their nearly 67-year marriage. The newlyweds moved to New York City for Bryan to launch a career in publishing. After a brief stint with Grolier's Book of Knowledge, he found a job editing school textbooks for a major publishing house, Harcourt, Brace & World. In 15 years there, he rose to become associate director of the school department, then left in 1975 to become editor-in-chief of another textbook firm, American Book Company.

A funeral service was held on Monday, March 17, at Grace Episcopal Church, Millbrook. Donations in his name would be appreciated by the MARC Foundation marcfoundation.org or the Rotary Foundation rotary.org/en/donate. To read more, go to www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com.

Sharon K. Cooper

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sharon Cooper, who died at home in the early morning hours of Sunday, March 2, 2025. She was 85 years old and had fought cancer for nearly two years. She was born in Des Moines, Iowa to the late Howard and Kathryn (Collins) Hollingsworth. Sharon was a beautician who owned and operated Sherry's, in Clinton Corners for many years. Most folks never knew her real name wasn't Sherry.

Although her accomplishments in life were many, her two great loves were her family and her friends and her finest moments were spent in the company of loved ones. The kids were her favorite. She was truly one of a kind and had a knack for making each one of us feel important and special. She lived her life on her own terms and with style and grace and we are better people for having known and loved her. She was truly the glue that bonded together the Cooper and Hollingsworth families. We will never forget the sparkle in her eyes nor the warmth in her beautiful smile. She was so special. Please hold her dearly in your thoughts and prayers today.

She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Jack Cooper of Stanfordville; her Brother Bob Hollingsworth of Hyde Park; her Sisters in law Laura Hollingsworth of Wappingers Falls and Mary Cooper of Sharon Station, Ct.; Paternal cousins Mike Fern of Schroon Lake and Dawn Miller of Fishkill; and her loving Nephews and Nieces, Scott and Julieann Hollingsworth of Clinton Corners; Rob and Tammy Cooper of Millerton; Kelly (Hollingsworth) and Barry Muller of Wappingers Falls; Jimmy and Kim Cooper of Ancram; Tim and Sara Hollingsworth of Oswego, Ill.; Kathy Cooper of Melbourne, Fla.; Meg (Hollingsworth) Myers of Hyde Park; and Liz Cooper of East Hampton, Ct. Many great nieces and nephews also mourn her loss.

Predeceased by her parents, parents in law Paul and Mary Cooper, Brother Butch Hollingsworth, Brother in law Bob Cooper and many Aunts and Uncles.

A Celebration of her Life is being planned for May at the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club. All family and friends are invited and the exact date and time will be posted on the funeral home website. You may also leave a message of condolence for the family at www.peckandpeck.net

Allysia Marie Dodge

Allysia Marie Dodge died peacefully on March 8, 2025, surrounded by her loving family at the Hudson Valley Hospice House in Hyde Park. Allysia fought a courageous battle with stomach cancer since her diagnosis in August of 2023, having multiple surgeries,

procedures and treatments.

Allysia was born on March 16, 1991, in Ekaterinburg, Russia. On May 18, 1995, she was adopted by her loving parents Bill and Carol (Perkins) Dodge. She attended local schools, graduating from FD Roosevelt High School in 2009, where she played volleyball and was a member of the crew team. Allysia was a beautiful soul with a heart of gold, extraordinarily compassionate and a fierce competitor. She loved the outdoors, flowers and the ocean.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her brother, Russell Dodge (Zineb), and sister, Brianna Dodge Wasilewski (Joseph), and grandmother, Marianne Dodge. She is also survived by her aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and fiancé, Adam Saloomey.

She was predeceased by grandparents, Eleanor (Reimuth) and Richard Perkins Sr. and Thomas and Dawn Dodge.

The family would like to extend a sincere amount of gratitude to the doctors, nurses and staff who have cared for her during her illness, as well as the Dyson Center. Special thanks to the Hospice House in Hyde Park. All of these compassionate and loving professionals treated Allysia as a very special person, and not just a patient. For that we will be eternally grateful. Allysia touched everyone's heart she met.

We thank the many friends and family who continued to provide support to Allysia. It truly lifted her spirit to be loved by so many people. Special thanks to Hope for Stomach Cancer for their genuine love and "hope". Allysia was invited to attend the Hope for Stomach Cancer Symposium and Advocacy Day as a guest in May of 2024. She was truly appreciative of this honor and benefited greatly from her experience. She met many compassionate people in this organization. Allysia was the subject of a video on Stomach Cancer highlighting the need for early detection and research. She was very proud to participate in this endeavor.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial visitation was at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, on Friday, March 14th.

Memorial donations can be made to either the Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington St., Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (www.hvhospice.org) or Hope for Stomach Cancer, 333 Washington Blvd, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 (www.stocan.org).

To send an online condolence or for directions, please visit Allysia's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Col. Carey W. Green, Jr.

Col. Carey W. Green, Jr., 94, recently of Amenia, NY passed away Saturday, March 1, 2025 with his loving daughter Frances by his side. Col. Green proudly served in the US Army for 40 years promoted to the highest field-grade officer rank of Full Colonel. He was the recipient of several medals of service and honor including Outstanding Meritorious Service Medal.

Born on April 15, 1930 in Mobile, AL he was the son of the late Carey W. Green, Sr. and Wilmer (Pistole) Green. He received a Degree in Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University in 1951. Col. Green answered the call to serve and joined the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He continued in the US Army working in various departments. While in the Army he received a Master's Degree from The Command and General Staff College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He also had a career at NASA working with the Apollo program.

On May 30, 1953 in Mobile, AL he married Barbara Kramer who predeceased him in 2018. Col. Green is survived by his three daughters, Frances A. Green, Kathleen T. Green and Barbara L. Green and a son, Carey W. Green, III. He is also survived by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service took place on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Amenia, NY with Pastor AJ Stack officiating. Military honors were conducted during the memorial service. Contributions in memory of Col. Green may be made to Comida de Vida/ Food of Life Food Pantry, C/O St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 40 Leedsville Rd, Amenia, NY 12501. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Hufcut Funeral Home, Dover Plains, NY. For directions or to send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com

Ralph Herrmann Jr.

Ralph Herrmann, Jr., 95, a lifelong area resident, passed away on March 4, 2025, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

Born on July 12, 1929, in Hyde Park, he

was the son of the late Ralph and Emma (Intihar) Herrmann. Ralph was a 1947 graduate of F.D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park.

He proudly served in the United States Navy during the Korean War on the USS New Jersey. He was the recipient of a Korean Service Ribbon with One Star, as well as a Good Conduct Medal.

Ralph was very active in his community. He served on the Hyde Park Zoning Board of Appeals from 1974-1980, was Past-President and Paul Harris Member of the Hyde Park Rotary Club, and member of the Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge #275.

Ralph had passions for archery and wood carving. He was one of the seven founders and life-member of the Ti Yogi Bowmen Archery Club in Hyde Park, founded in 1955. He was also a member of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountain Wood Carvers Club.

Ralph was the second of three generations owner and operator of the former Herrmann's Automotive Clinic in Hyde Park.

On January 20, 1985, in Hyde Park, he married the former Barbara D. Hannum Pierce. Barbara predeceased him in 2015 after 30 years of marriage.

Ralph is survived by his children; Kevin (Debbie) Herrmann of Stanfordville, Timothy Herrmann of Rhinebeck, and Marlene (Carl) Brandt of Davenport, FL, his grandchildren; Corie, Tracie, and Patrick Herrmann, Rachael and Nicholas Brandt and his great grandchildren Devin, Vincent, Gabriel and Leonardo.

Following Ralph's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will take place this Spring in Hyde Park.

Inurnment of his ashes will take place at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Ralph's family respectfully requests memorial donations to the Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538. (www.dcsPCA.org).

To send an online condolence, or for directions, please visit Ralph's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Philip LaMonica

Philip "Phil" Salvatore LaMonica, 66, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on March 9, 2025, in Oneonta, NY. He was born on April 1, 1958, in Poughkeepsie, NY, to the late Philip LaMonica and Gertrude Kallenback. A proud veteran of the U.S. National Guard, Phil lived a life of dedication—to his family, his community, and his country.

Phil was a loving and devoted father to his four children: Joseph LaMonica, Tina LaMonica, Jessica Bahl (Tyler), and Tami-Le Vergari (David). His greatest joy in life was being a grandfather, and he is survived by his cherished grandchildren and his first great-grandchild, who brought him immense happiness.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Lucy LaMonica, with whom he is now reunited, along with his sister, Carol Ann LaMonica.

Phil lived by the simple but profound principle: "It's nice to be nice." Known for his kindness, lighthearted spirit, and strong work ethic, he was the kind of friend everyone wished to have. There wasn't much Phil couldn't fix—literally and figuratively—and if something was broken, he always had a solution, usually involving duct tape and a little ingenuity. Whether it was a household project, a car that needed tinkering, or simply lending an ear to a friend, Phil had a way of making things right.

For over 30 years, he was a dedicated employee of the Town of Hyde Park Highway Department, where he took pride in his work and the friendships he built. Weekends often found him helping others, tackling projects around the house, or enjoying his favorite sports. He was a proud and loyal fan of the New York Yankees, Boston Celtics, and

Miami Dolphins, never missing a game.

Above all, Phil's greatest legacy is the love, generosity, and unwavering support he gave to those around him. His warmth and laughter will be deeply missed, but the impact he made on the lives of his family and friends will never fade.

Calling hours were held at Burnett & White Funeral Homes in Rhinebeck on Monday, March 17, 2025.

A memorial service took place at St. James' Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, NY, on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, officiated by The Rev. Meredith Kadet Sanderson. Arrangements under the direction of Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Rhinebeck, NY.

Kim Marie Murray

HYDE PARK - Kim Marie Murray, 58, a lifelong area resident, passed away on March 9, 2025, at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck.

Born on September 4, 1966, in Hopewell, she was the daughter of the late Vincent J. and Joan B. (Bullion) Murray. Kim was a graduate of Ketcham High School.

She loved animals and enjoyed going to the beach. Kim was deemed a "sun worshipper" and could be found enjoying the sunshine whenever possible.

Before becoming disabled, Kim worked in retail and hospitality management, as well as private caregiving.

Survivors include her brothers; Bryan R. Bullion and wife, Patricia, of Fitchburg, Mass., Vincent W. Murray and wife, Lisa, of Red Hook, and Richard A. Murray and wife, Pauline, of New Hartford, NY; and several nieces and nephews, especially Myndee Murray, and Matthew and Michael Donohue.

She is also survived by her lifelong friend, Renee Shaw, and her son, Harry Shaw; and goddaughter, Ashlyn Shaw, and her two children, Ethyn and Rhysyn Shaw.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a sister, Darlene Ann Donohue.

In keeping with Kim's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet's Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park.

To send an online condolence, please visit Kim's obituary page at www.sweetsfuneralhome.com.

Michael J. Toomey

Michael Toomey, 63, passed away on March 10, 2025 after a valiant fight following heart surgery. The son of Joseph and Patricia Toomey, he is survived by his five sisters: Leslie & Randy Scarborough, Sally & Paul Weglinski, Kathleen & Michael Kristofik, Mary Toomey and Patricia & Gregory Starzyk. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A graduate of Arlington High School class of 1980, Mike was a hard-working individual. Much of his career was spent running his own business, Mike's Landscaping, where he took great pride in his work and relationships with customers. In 2024, he enthusiastically retired from the custodial staff of a local school district after 16 years of service.

Throughout his life, Mike was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing and dairy farming. But where he found true peace and joy was in gardening. He grew beautiful flower gardens (was especially fond of hydrangeas), built water gardens and was best known for his bountiful vegetable gardens. He would proudly and generously share his abundant harvest, including his homemade dill pickles, with family and friends.

As per Mike's wishes, cremation has taken place. Friends called on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Sweet's Funeral Home, Hyde Park, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association P.O. Box 840692 Dallas, TX 75284-0692, or a charity of your choice.

continued on page 21

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Legal Notices

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY PROPOSED LOCAL LAW G OF 2025 A LOCAL LAW CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 75 OF THE TOWN CODE TITLED "SHORT-TERM RENTALS" AND AMENDING CHAPTER 98, "ZONING"

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Pleasant Valley as follows:

Section 1 Title
This Local Law shall be known as "A Local Law creating a new Chapter 75 of the Town Code titled 'Short-Term Rentals' and Amending Chapter 98, 'Zoning'."

Section 2 Authority

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

Section 3 Findings; Purpose

The Town Board finds that residential homes are being rented out for short terms, that short-term rentals have the potential to be incompatible with surrounding residential uses, and that special regulation is necessary to ensure that short-term rentals will be safe and compatible with surrounding uses and will not harm the neighborhoods in which they are located.

The Town Board finds that in the Town of Pleasant Valley, short-term rentals hosted by an on-site property owner provide valuable tourist accommodations and tend not to cause conflicts if properly managed. The Town Board finds that, in contrast, when a house is rented to transient visitors with no owner present, there is less oversight and more potential for conflict with neighbors. This type of use also removes housing from the market for long-term tenancy.

The purpose of this law is to establish a set of regulations for hosted short-term rentals of residential property. Transient accommodations where a host is not present shall be deemed lodging facilities and regulated accordingly. These regulations are in addition to all other provisions of the Town Code.

Section 4 Enactment of Chapter 75

A new Chapter 75 of the Town Code shall be enacted as follows:

CHAPTER 75 SHORT-TERM RENTALS

§ 75-1. Definitions.
As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the mean-

Legal Notices

ing indicated:
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER — Includes the Building Inspector, the Zoning Administrator, the Code Enforcement Officer and any other person charged with enforcing the Code or local laws of the Town and any applicable Building, Fire and Residential Codes of New York State.

OWNER or OWNERS — Includes the person or people actually owning real property, a person or people holding membership interests in a limited-liability company, a person or people holding a partnership interest in a partnership or limited liability partnership, the trustee or trustees of a trust, or a person or people owning shares in a corporation, when any such an entity owns the real property.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL — Any portion of a dwelling unit or housing unit (as defined in any applicable NYS Fire, Building or Residential Code) rented for compensation in exchange for lodging for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, while the Owner is present on the property. Short-Term Rentals accommodations may be located in a primary structure or a permanent accessory structure but may not be located in campsites, tent platforms, or other temporary structures on the parcel. For the purpose of this chapter, the term "Short-Term Rental" shall not include a bed-and-breakfast, boardinghouse/lodging house, hotel, motel, or ongoing month-to-month tenancies.

§ 75-2. Required permit; limitations on Short-Term Rental permits.

A. Short-Term Rentals are allowed anywhere in the Town, regardless of the zoning district, if they meet all the requirements of this section and obtain a permit.

B. Short-Term Rentals require the Owner of the property to be on site overnight throughout the Short-Term Rental period. Any rental for fewer than 30 days in which the Owner is not on site shall not be deemed a Short-Term Rental but may seek approval as a lodging facility or other appropriate use in accordance with the Zoning Code.

C. Owners shall not advertise or use their property as a Short-Term Rental without obtaining a revocable Short-Term Rental permit in advance. Short-Term Rental permits shall be lim-

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ited to one permit for any Owner(s) for each one-year cycle. Only an Owner or Owners of the property can obtain a Short-Term Rental permit.

D. A Short-Term Rental permit shall be valid for one year and must be renewed 60 days prior to expiration of current permit if the premises are to continue to operate as a Short-Term Rental. E. The Short-Term Rental permit is not transferable to a new owner. The new owner of the premises subject to a Short-Term Rental permit must file a new permit application.

F. The Town Board may establish by resolution the number of short-term rental permits that may be issued at any time. The initial number of such permits shall be 50. As permits expire they will become available to others if the maximum has been reached.

G. Permits for Short-Term Rentals are a privilege that can be revoked pursuant to these regulations.

H. Notwithstanding the foregoing, those properties with short-term rental commitments existing on the date this chapter takes effect shall be permitted to honor such existing commitments and continue to make commitments for short-term rentals, but owners must submit a complete permit application within 90 days of this chapter's effective date if they wish to make future short-term rental commitments. In the event such application is denied, all commitments shall be cancelled.

§ 75-3. Short-Term Rental permit application requirements.

A. Applications and application forms for a Short-Term Rental permit may be obtained at the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall or Town website, and fully completed applications shall be submitted to the Code Enforcement Officer, accompanied by payment of a nonrefundable application fee to be determined from time to time by resolution of the Town Board. The application shall include the following:

- (1) The signatures of all property owners or their designated agents.
- (2) A statement authorizing the Code Enforcement Officer or his designee to inspect the property to ensure compliance with all requirements and standards contained within this chapter.
- (3) An acknowledgment

Legal Notices

ment of present and ongoing compliance with the Short-Term Rental standards as defined in this chapter. (4) A list of each property owner and the name of any manager, management agency managing the property, or other party responsible for maintaining the property in the owner's absence, including names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of each individual.

(5) The name, address, telephone number and email address of a local contact person, who shall be responsible for and authorized to act on the owner's behalf to promptly remedy any violation of the standards outlined in this chapter. The contact person may be an owner, or an agent designated by the owner(s) to serve as a contact person, and shall respond to any correspondence or concern from the Town Code Enforcement Officer within 24 hours.

(6) An accurate, suitable floor plan for each level of the dwelling that can be occupied measuring at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches, and a plot plan, both drawn to scale and certified by the applicant. The floor plan and plot plan do not need to be prepared by a professional, but must include the following:

(a) The location of buildings, septic systems, wells, required parking spaces, any swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.

(b) For each floor (including basement and/or attic): all rooms, including bedrooms, windows, exits and any heating/cooling units, as well as location of house utilities.

(c) All rooms that are not included in the Short-Term Rental must also be shown.

(7) A statement that none of the owners of the subject property have had a Short-Term Rental permit revoked within the previous year for any rental properties owned individually or together with others.

(8) If access to the property is by way of a private road or shared driveway, proof that the owner has the legal right to use the road or driveway for access to a Short-Term Rental.

(9) Current Dutchess County Hotel Occupancy Tax Certificate. B. All completed applications are subject to a floor plan review and plot plan review and approval by the Code Enforcement Officer.

§ 75-4. Short-Term

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Rental standards.
A. Property requirements.

(1) Property must comply and meet all applicable NYS Uniform Building Codes and the Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley, including all Zoning requirements.

(2) A Short-Term Rental must be located within a legal dwelling unit, and there may be no more than one Short-Term Rental per property.

(3) There shall be one working smoke detector in each sleeping room and one additional smoke detector on each floor. Carbon monoxide detectors shall be installed as required by the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.

(4) Evacuation procedures must be posted in each sleeping room to be followed in the event of a fire or smoke condition or upon activation of a fire or smoke-detecting or other alarm device.

(5) There shall be an ABC fire extinguisher on each floor and in the kitchen. Fire extinguishers shall be inspected prior to a renter occupying the property and no less than monthly by the permit holder(s) to ensure each contains a full charge. A record of the date inspected initiated by the permit holder shall be maintained and made available to the Code Enforcement Officer upon request.

(6) The house number shall be located both at the road and on the dwelling unit so that the house number is clearly visible from both the road and the driveway.

(7) Exterior doors shall be operational and all passageways to exterior doors shall be clear and unobstructed.

(8) Electrical systems shall be in good operating condition, labeled, unobstructed and shall be visible for the Code Enforcement Officer during the permitting process. Any defects found shall be corrected prior to permit issuance.

(9) All fireplaces, woodstoves, pellet stoves and similar heating devices shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

(10) The property must have a minimum of one off-road parking space for every bedroom shown on the floor plan.

(11) Vehicle access to the Short-Term Rental must meet current New York State Fire Code requirements.

(12) Maximum occupancy for each Short-Term Rental unit shall

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not exceed two people per bedroom shown on the floor plan. The maximum occupancy of a short-term rental unit shall not exceed sixteen people.

(13) In the event that the property has a septic system, the maximum occupancy shall be limited by the maximum and verified capabilities of the septic system, but in no event shall overnight occupancy for any short-term rental unit exceed sixteen people total.

(14) A septic system at the property must meet all state and county requirements with supporting documentation.

(15) The septic system must have a satisfactory inspection by a qualified septic disposal firm within 90 days prior to the initial application. Once a Short-Term Rental permit is issued, the septic system must be pumped and inspected every two years.

(16) The water supply to the property must meet all state and county requirements.

(17) For properties which include a swimming pool, there must be water safety equipment on the property including a long-handled hook or a buoy or flotation device with an attached line, in plain view and within 10 feet of the edges of the swimming pool, and must meet all relevant codes.

B. An informational posting within the rental area shall be required, including:

- (1) Maximum occupancy limit
- (2) Location of parking spaces
- (3) Any conditions imposed by the Zoning Board of Appeals and/or Code Enforcement Officer
- (4) The phone numbers for local emergency services (e.g., fire, police, EMT)
- (5) Quiet hours

C. Insurance standards. All applicants and permit holders must provide evidence of property insurance and a certificate of liability insurance indicating the premises are rated as a Short-Term Rental and maintain such insurance throughout the term of the Short-Term Rental permit.

D. Waste removal provisions shall be made for weekly garbage removal during rental periods. Garbage containers shall be secured with tight fitting covers at all times to prevent leakage, spilling, or odors, and placed where they are not clearly visible from the road except at approximate pickup time.

E. It shall be unlawful

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for a Short-Term Rental to be used for any gathering involving more people than the maximum occupancy of the rental.

F. Short-Term Rental applicants and permit holders must have a rental contract, which includes the following:

- (1) Maximum property occupancy;
- (2) Maximum on-site parking provided; and
- (3) Good neighbor statement, stating:
 - (a) The Short-Term Rental renters should be considerate of the residents in neighboring homes;
 - (b) Guests are requested to observe quiet hours from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.;
 - (c) All renters will be subject to New York Penal Law § 240.20 or any successor statute regarding disorderly conduct;
 - (d) Littering is illegal;
 - (e) Recreational campfires must be attended at all times, and the property Owner must advise renters when burn bans are active;
 - (f) Hunting, the discharge of firearms, pyrotechnics, motorcycles, motocross and off-road vehicles shall not be permitted or operated on the property which is subject to a Short-Term Rental.

§ 75-5. Procedure upon filing application.

A. Short-Term Rental permit applications shall be filed with the Town of Pleasant Valley Planning, Building and Zoning Office with all supporting documentation and the nonrefundable permit fee. Only completed applications will be accepted by the Town's Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Enforcement Officer may decline to accept an application for consideration for any of the following reasons:

- (1) The application documentation required by this chapter was not included or the full permit fee was not paid.
- (2) A previously issued Short-Term Rental permit was revoked within the past year and defects and/or violations have not been corrected and inspected by the Code Enforcement Officer.

B. Upon the Code Enforcement Officer's acceptance of the completed permit application, including all documents and information required by this chapter and the permit fee, the Code Enforcement Officer shall have 30 days to conduct a property inspection to certify and approve that all Short-Term Rental require-

Legal continued on next page

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* Legal cont. from previous page

ments have been met. C. Upon approval of the Short-Term Rental application by the Code Enforcement Officer, a Short-Term Rental permit will be issued for a period of one year.

§ 75-6. Permit compliance required.

Short-Term Rental permits are subject to continued compliance with the requirements of this chapter. A. If the Code Enforcement Officer has probable cause to believe that the homeowner is not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, the Code Enforcement Officer may request permission from the Short-Term Rental permit holder to enter the premises and to conduct an inspection of the Short-Term Rental property for purposes of ensuring compliance with this section. If the permit holder refuses to permit the Code Enforcement Officer to inspect the property, the permit will be revoked. If an inspection authorized herein is conducted, the Code Enforcement Officer shall use the results of such inspection in determining whether to revoke the permit.

B. The Short-Term Rental permit holder shall ensure that current and accurate information is provided to the Code Enforcement Officer and that the Code Enforcement Officer is notified immediately of any change in the information displayed on the permit. If, based on such changes, the Code Enforcement Officer issues an amended Short-Term Rental permit, the owner(s) must immediately post the amended permit inside and near the front entrance of the Short-Term Rental.

§ 75-7. Application for renewal of permit.

Renewal permits will be granted for an additional one-year term if the following conditions are met:

A. Application for renewal of the Short-Term Rental permit shall be made 60 days prior to expiration of current permit and requires payment of renewal fee.

B. At the time of application for renewal, the owner or designated agent must present the previous permit for Short-Term Rental.

C. The property must undergo re-inspection performed by the Code Enforcement Officer.

D. Any violations, whether previously issued or observed during the reinspection, must be remedied prior to renewal of a

Legal Notices

permit for Short-Term Rental.

§ 75-8. Grounds for suspension or revocation of permit.

The Code Enforcement Officer may immediately suspend a Short-Term Rental permit based on any of the following grounds:

A. Applicant has falsified or failed to provide information in the application for permit renewal.

B. Applicant failed to meet or comply with any of the requirements of this chapter.

C. Owner is in violation of any provision of the Code of the Town of Pleasant Valley or the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.

D. Any violation of the Penal Code of the State of New York has occurred at, or related to the occupancy of, the Short-Term Rental.

E. Any conduct on the premises, which disturbs the health, safety, peace or comfort of the neighborhood or which otherwise creates a public nuisance.

F. Removal or disrepair of any safety devices, such as, but not limited to, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, and egresses.

§ 75-9. Penalties for offenses.

A. If the Code Enforcement Officer either witnesses or receives a written complaint (unless the suspected violation is of life, health or safety matters, in which case the Code Enforcement Officer is authorized to act on an oral complaint) of an alleged violation of this chapter or of any Short-Term Rental permit issued pursuant to this chapter, the Code Enforcement Officer shall properly record such complaint and immediately investigate the report thereon. If the Code Enforcement Officer determines there is a violation of this Code or this chapter, the owners shall be notified in writing by certified or registered mail, or personal service, of said violations, and the Code Enforcement Officer may take any or all of the following actions:

(1) Attach conditions to the existing Short-Term Rental permit.

(2) Suspend the Short-Term Rental permit. The notice of suspension shall be provided to a property owner and a copy filed with the Town Clerk.

(3) Require corrective action that remedies the violation(s). The corrective action must be completed and approved within 30 days of notice from the Code Enforcement Officer or the owner

(or permitholder) risks revocation of the Short-Term Rental permit.

(4) Issue a court appearance ticket for violation of law.

(5) Revoke the Short-Term Rental permit. Should a permit be revoked, all owners of the Short-Term Rental are prohibited from obtaining a Short-Term Rental permit on the property for three years after the date of revocation. The Code Enforcement Officer shall send a notice of revocation to property owner(s) and shall file a copy with the Town Clerk.

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Officer's determination to the Zoning Board of Appeals when a property owner's application for a Short-Term Rental permit or a Short-Term Rental permit renewal is denied or a Short-Term Rental permit is revoked. A notice of appeal shall be filed with the Town Clerk and the Zoning Board of Appeals within 60 days of the Code Enforcement Officer's filing of the denial or revocation with the Town Clerk. A hearing shall be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals not more than 45 days after the filing of the notice of appeal.

Section 5 Changes to Chapter 98, Zoning

Chapter 98 of the Town Code, titled "Zoning," shall be amended as follows:

In Section 98-103, the definition of the following terms shall be replaced as follows:

DWELLING: A building designed or used exclusively as living quarters for one or more families on a long-term basis. A dwelling shall not include a motel, hotel, boardinghouse, or tourist accommodation. A residential unit rented for transient occupancy of less than 30 days shall not be considered a dwelling unless the rental activity is permitted as a Short-Term Rental pursuant to Chapter 75.

LODGING FACILITY: Any hotel, motel, inn, or other establishment providing sleeping accommodations for transient guests staying for periods of less than 30 days, other than a Bed-and-Breakfast as defined herein or a Short-Term Rental permitted pursuant to Chapter 75. A Lodging Facility may or may not include a dining room or restaurant. Rental of a residential unit for less than 30 days, if not permitted as a Short-Term Rental pursuant to Chapter 75 or other permitted use, shall be deemed a Lodging Facility.

Section 5 S u - persession

To the extent that any provision of this Chapter is inconsistent with Town Law or any other provision of New York State law, the provisions of this Chapter are expressly intended to and do hereby supersede any such inconsistent provision under the Town's municipal home rule powers.

Section 6 Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article or part of this Local Law shall be adjudicated in any court of competent ju-

isdiction to be invalid, such judgement shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the Clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered, and such invalidity shall not be deemed to affect the remaining portions thereof.

Section 7 E f - fective Date

This Local Law shall be effective as provided by law, immediately upon filing and acceptance by the New York Secretary of State.

Legal Notices

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Section 135200, Block 6669-00 and Lot 573194-0000, and more particularly described in the "Schedule A" attached to the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, on file in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Dutchess. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee Anthony J. Centone, P.C. 1950 E. Main Street, Suite 205 Mohegan Lake, NY 10547-1288 (914) 528-4529

Location of Property to be foreclosed: Town of Stanford, County of Dutchess, State of New York, as more fully described above. DATED: February 20, 2025

TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A LOCAL LAW CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 75 OF THE TOWN CODE TITLED "SHORT-TERM RENTALS"

P L E A S E

TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Pleasant Valley will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York on April 7, 2025 at 7 o'clock, p.m., on Local Law G of the Year 2025, to create a new Chapter 75 of the town code entitled "Short-Term Rentals".

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law will be available for examination at the office of the Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, at the Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that all persons interested and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary.

Dated: Pleasant Valley, New York March 5, 2025

Mary Beth Muir, Town Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, NY

Please take note that the Zoning Board of

Legal Notices

Appeals of the Town of Pleasant Valley, NY, will hold a public hearing on the following proposition:

107 Ward Road, Salt Point

Appeal #1078 Grid# 6365-01-499864

Area Variance Requests: The applicant would like to erect a new terrace and expand the existing deck. In RA zoning, a 70' front yard setback is required, but since they wish to expand the nonconforming deck, a variance of 54' is required as it will be 16' from the front property line.

SAID Meeting will take place on March 26, 2025 at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. and begins at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, NY

Please take note that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Pleasant Valley, NY, will hold a public hearing on the following proposition:

1040 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley

Appeal #1077 Grid# 6363-04-850387

Area Variance Requests: The applicant would like to erect a 34'x24' garage in front of the residence, which is against Pleasant Valley Zoning Code.

SAID Meeting will take place on March 26, 2025 at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. and begins at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, NY

Please take note that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Pleasant Valley, NY, will hold a public hearing on the following proposition:

2153 Route 44, Pleasant Valley

Appeal #1076 Grid# 6564-03-036354

Area Variance Requests: The applicant would like to erect a 60'x30' garage in front of the residence, which is against Pleasant Valley Zoning Code.

SAID Meeting will take place on March 26, 2025 at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. and begins at 7:00 p.m.

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**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 303/2025
RESOLUTION COMMENCING THE LOCAL LAW ADOPTION
PROCESS FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW G OF 2025, "A
LOCAL LAW CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 75 OF THE TOWN
CODE TITLED 'SHORT-TERM RENTALS' AND AMENDING
CHAPTER 98, 'ZONING'"**

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that it is necessary to establish a system of licensure and regulation for short-term rentals; and **WHEREAS**, after considering multiple approaches to such regulation, the Town Board has determined that it is appropriate to allow and regulate hosted short-term rentals throughout the community and to classify transient rentals that are not hosted as lodging facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby withdraws Proposed Local Law D of the Year 2024, "A Local Law creating a new Chapter 75 of the Town Code titled 'Short-Term Rentals'" and cancels the public hearing scheduled for March 17, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts Proposed Local Law G of the Year 2025, "A Local Law creating a new Chapter 75 of the Town Code titled 'Short-Term Rentals' and Amending Chapter 98, 'Zoning'" for the purposes of commencing the local law adoption process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of SEQRA the Town Board hereby determines that the adoption of Proposed Local Law G is a Type I action (see, 6 NYCRR 617.4[b][2]), and the Town Board accepts the attached SEQRA EAF Part 1 for the proposed action; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board determines that it will be the only agency with approval authority over the proposed action and therefore declares itself to be the Lead Agency for conduct of the environmental review under SEQRA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to forward Proposed Local Law G to the Dutchess County Planning Board for its review and advisory opinion pursuant to Section 239-m of the New York State General Municipal Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to forward Proposed Local Law D to the Town of Pleasant Valley Planning Board for its review and advisory opinion pursuant to Section 98-101 of the Pleasant Valley Town Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a public hearing on said Local Law will be held on April 7, 2025 at the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall, located at 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to give, publish and post notice of said public hearing, as required by law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to give notice to the New York State Department of Transportation Region 8 and all towns adjacent Pleasant Valley pursuant to Section 98-101 of the Pleasant Valley Town Code.

Dated: March 3, 2025

MOTION BY: Councilman Rifenburgh

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Chapman

ROLL CALL:

AYE

NAY

Councilwoman Chapman
Councilman Cookinham
Councilman Degan
Councilman Rifenburgh
Supervisor Albrecht
Carried.

X
X
X
X
X

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
LOCAL LAW NO. F OF THE YEAR 2025**

A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AMENDING CHAPTER 86, TAXATION TO PROVIDE A NEW ARTICLE VII THEREOF ENTITLED: "EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOME"

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Pleasant Valley as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE.

This Local Law shall be known, and may be cited as, "A Local Law of the Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, New York, Amending Chapter 86, Taxation to Provide a New Article VII Thereof Entitled: 'Exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income'"

SECTION 2. Chapter 86, Taxation, of the Town of Pleasant Valley Code is hereby amended to provide a new Article VII, which shall read as follows:

§86-19. Purpose, Statutory Authority.

This article is enacted pursuant to the provisions of §459-c of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York to grant a partial exemption from Town taxation to certain resident property owners of the Town of Pleasant Valley with disabilities who have limited incomes.

§86-20. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

INCOME TAX YEAR

The twelve-month period for which the owner or owners filed a federal personal income tax return, or if no such return is filed, the calendar year.

PERSON WITH A DISABILITY

A. One who has a physical or mental impairment, not due to current use of alcohol or illegal drugs, which substantially limits such person's ability to engage in one or more major life activities, such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working, and who:

- (1) Is certified to receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under the Federal Social Security Act; or
 - (2) Is certified to receive Railroad Retirement Disability benefits under the Federal Railroad Retirement Act; or
 - (3) Has received a certificate from the State Commission for the Blind stating that such person is legally blind; or
 - (4) Is certified to receive a United States Postal Service disability pension; or
 - (5) Is certified to receive a United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability pension pursuant to 38 U.S.C. §1521.
- B. An award letter from the Social Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board or a certificate from the State Commission or an award letter from the United States Postal Service, or an award letter from United

States Department of Veterans Affairs shall be submitted as proof of disability.

SIBLING

A brother or a sister, whether related through blood, whole blood or adoption.

§86-21. Exemption Granted; Amount; Limitations.

A. Real property situate within the Town of Pleasant Valley, owned by husband, wife or both, or by siblings, at least one of whom has a disability, or real property owned by one or more persons, some of whom qualify under Real Property Tax Law §459-c and the others of whom qualify under Real Property Tax Law §467, or real property owned by a cooperative apartment corporation in which a tenant-stockholder of such corporation resides, and which is represented by his share or shares of stock in such corporation as determined by its or their proportional relationship to the total outstanding stock of the corporation, including that owned by the corporation, which for purposes of this article shall be deemed vested in the tenant-stockholder, and whose income, as hereinafter defined, is limited by reason of such disability, shall be exempt from taxation for real estate taxes to be levied by the Town for the year 2025 and thereafter by the percentage of exemptions hereinafter specified for the annual income ranges listed below to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof. Such exemption shall be based upon and be computed after all other partial exemptions allowed by law have been subtracted from the total amount assessed:

Annual Income Ranges	Exemption Percentage
\$35,000 or less	50%
\$45,000-35,999	45%
\$36,000-36,999	40%
\$37,000-37,999	35%
\$38,000-38,899	30%
\$38,900-39,799	25%
\$39,800-40,699	20%
\$40,700-41,599	15%
\$41,600-42,499	10%
\$42,500-43,399	5%
\$43,400 or more	0%

B. No exemption shall be granted:

(1) If the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption exceeds \$43,400. Where title is vested in either the husband or the wife, their combined income may not exceed such sum, except where the husband or wife, or ex-husband or ex-wife, is absent from the property due to divorce, legal separation or abandonment, then only the income of the spouse or ex-spouse residing on the property shall be considered and may not exceed such sum. Such income shall include social security and retirement benefits, interest, dividends, total gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset, which may be offset by a loss from the sale or exchange of a capital asset in the same income tax year, net rental income, salary or earnings, and net income from self-employment, but shall not include a return of capital, gifts or inheritances or monies earned through employment in the federal foster grandparent program. In computing net rental income and net income from self-employment, no depreciation deduction shall be allowed for the exhaustion, wear and tear of real or personal property held for the production of income.

(2) Unless the property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided, however, that in the event that any portion of such property is not so used exclusively for residential purposes but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this article.

(3) Unless the real property is the legal residence of and is occupied in whole or in part by the disabled person, except where the disabled person is absent from the residence while receiving heal-related care as an inpatient or a residential health care facility, as defined in §2801 of the Public Health Law, and provided that any income accruing to that person shall be considered income for the purposes of this article only to the extent that it exceeds the amount paid by such person or spouse, or sibling or such person for care in the facility.

A. No parcel may receive an exemption for the same municipal tax purpose pursuant to both this article and Article I of this chapter, Senior Citizens Partial Exemption, as amended, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §467.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of this article shall apply to real property held in trust solely for the benefit of a person or persons who would otherwise be eligible for a real property tax exemption, pursuant to this article, were such person or persons the owner or owners of such real property.

§86-22. Application for Exemption.

A. Application for such exemption must be made annually by the owner or all of the owners of the property on forms to be provided by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Office of Real Property Tax Services through the Assessor's office. Such applications shall furnish the information and the forms are to be executed in the manner required or prescribed in such forms and shall be filed in the Assessor's office on or before taxable status date; provided, however, that proof of a permanent disability need be submitted only in the year exemption pursuant to this article is first sought or the disability is first determined to be permanent.

B. At least 60 days prior to the appropriate taxable status date, the Assessor shall mail to each person who was granted exemption pursuant to this article on the latest completed assessment roll an application form and a notice that such application must be filed on or before the taxable status date and be approved in order for the exemption to be granted. Failure to mail any such application form or notices or the failure of such person to receive any of the same shall not prevent the levy, collection and enforcement of the payment of the taxes on property owned by such person.

§86-23. When Effective; Applicability.

This article shall take effect upon filing in the Secretary of State's office and shall apply to assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on or after March 1, 2024.

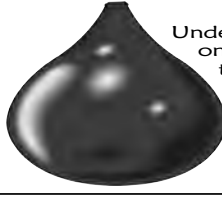
NOTICE TO OWNERS OF VIABLE FARMLAND IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Pursuant to Section 303-b of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25AA, the Dutchess County Legislature has designated the period April 15 through May 14, 2025, during which Dutchess County landowners who own "predominately viable agricultural land" may request that their land be newly included in the County's Agricultural District 21. In order to be considered for such inclusion, an application must be made on or before May 14, 2025. Only parcels judged to be "predominately viable agricultural land" will be included. The application is to be completed online and is available at: <https://gis.dutchessny.gov/ag-districts/>. If you require assistance with submitting an application, please contact the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 845-677-8011 ext. 3 or apply in person at the Farm & Home Center 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY 12545. Landowners whose parcels are already included in an Agricultural District are not required to apply as part of the annual inclusion process.

Inclusion in an Agricultural District provides potential right-to-farm protections for qualifying farm businesses, including protection against laws that unreasonably regulate farm operations in agricultural districts, limited protection from private nuisance claims, and notification of property buyers about farming practices prior to purchase of property in agricultural districts. The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board will review applications and submit a report to the Dutchess County Legislature, which will hold a public hearing and forward any approved applications to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for certification. Only parcels judged to be "predominately viable agricultural land," pursuant to Section 303-b of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law will be included.

LAURA PHILLIPS
DEPUTY CLERK,
D U T C H E S S
C O U N T Y L E G I S L A T U R E

GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE
Who needs blood?
Under normal circumstances, every two seconds someone in America will need a blood transfusion. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims - due to accidents and burns - heart surgery, organ transplants, women with complications during childbirth, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.



Legal Notices

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. F OF THE YEAR 2025 TITLED: "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 86, TAXATION TO PROVIDE A NEW ARTICLE VII ENTITLED 'EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOME'"**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Pleasant Valley will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York on April 7, 2025 at 7:05 o'clock, p.m., on Local Law F of the Year 2025, to Amend Chapter 86, Taxation to provide a New Article VII entitled "Exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income".

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that copies of the aforesaid pro-

Legal Notices

posed local law will be available for examination at the office of the Clerk of the Town of Pleasant Valley, at the Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that all persons interested and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid.

Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary.
Dated: Pleasant Valley, New York
March 5, 2025
Mary Beth Muir,
Town Clerk

Legal Notices

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION NO.: 301/2025
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. F OF THE YEAR 2025 TITLED: "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 86, TAXATION TO PROVIDE A NEW ARTICLE VII ENTITLED 'EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOME'"**

WHEREAS, §459-c of the Real Property Tax Law provides authority to the Town to grant a partial exemption from Town taxation to certain property owners of the Town of Pleasant Valley with disabilities who have limited incomes; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney to the Town has drafted a proposed Local Law amending Chapter 86 to provide a new Article VII titled: "Exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income"; and

WHEREAS, the said Local Law has been reviewed and approved by the Town Board and has been found to be acceptable in form and content; and

WHEREAS, the said action is a Type II action under SEQRA which does not require environmental review.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby schedules a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. F of the Year 2025 titled: "A Local Law Amending Chapter 86, Taxation to Provide a New Article VII entitled 'Exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income'" for April 7, 2025 at 7:05 p.m. at the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish such notice of said public hearing as required by law.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call on March 3, 2025 which resulted as follows:

MOTION: Councilman Rifenburgh
SECOND: Councilwoman Chapman
ROLL CALL:

Supervisor Albrecht	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Councilman Rifenburgh	X	
Councilman Degan	X	
Councilwoman Chapman	X	
Councilman Cookinham	X	
Carried.		

Legal Notices

Answers to this week's diversions (puzzles on page 16)

SUDOKU
This week's answer

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

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

Suguru solution

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

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IS LIVE

The first nationwide three-digit mental health crisis hotline is up and running. It is designed to be as easy to remember as 911, but when you dial 988, a dispatcher will connect callers with trained mental health counselors.

Dialing 988:

- Is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress.

- Provides support: People may dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

- Help for VETERANS: Veterans can press "1" after dialing 988 and be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline.

OBITUARIES

continued from page 17

James G. Tate, PE

James G Tate, a devoted husband, dad, and pop, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2025 at the age of 85. A man of wisdom, kindness, and boundless stories, Jim leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and cherished memories.

Born March 13, 1939 and raised in New York City, Jim found his true home in the Hudson Valley, where he built a beautiful life with his beloved wife, Emma in Hyde Park, NY. Together, they shared 50 wonderful years, creating a home filled with love, tradition, and the magic of Christmas.

The holidays at Jim and Emma's home were always special - Jim took great pride in decorating the Christmas tree and setting up his Christmas village, with a train circling beneath the twinkling lights. Jim's grandchildren watched in wonder as he brought the holiday spirit to life, while Emma's welcoming dinners brought the family together in celebration.

Jim graduated from the Bronx High School of Science before receiving a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from The City College of New York.

An electrical engineer by profession, Jim retired from the New York State Thruway after 20+ years of service. His main project was establishing the E-ZPass technology.

His passion for trains was a lifelong love that he passed down to his grandkids. Whether it was sharing stories of locomotives or tinkering on projects together, Jim delighted in seeing his grandson's eyes light up with the same fascination he had carried since childhood.

Jim was a lover of music, and always looked forward to his granddaughter visiting and showing him her latest dance moves to his music. In his leisure time, Jim enjoyed "a little stretch of the legs," often with his daughter Meghan. During these long walks, he would spend time appreciating the history and nature of the Hudson Valley, as well as a little train watching.

Jim was also a great storyteller, captivating family and friends with tales of trains, historical figures, and the rich history of the Hudson Valley. His son-in-law always enjoyed their time together - sharing a drink while listening to Jim's fascinating stories, which always had a way of making the past feel alive.

Jim was a member of the Hudson Valley Railroad Society at the historic Hyde Park train station and looked forward to the annual FDR/King George Hot Dog Picnic every year.

Above all, Jim was a man who valued family. Jim's memory will live on in the

hearts of his family, in the stories he told, in the traditions he created, and in every train that runs its course - a reminder of the passion and joy he carried throughout his life.

Jim is survived by his wife Emma, daughter Meghan Tate, son-in-law Ivan, grandson Aiden and granddaughter Olesia.

Services are at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the National Alopecia Areata Foundation, NAAF.org.

The family would like to thank the Hudson Valley Hospice Team, including his caregivers Kelly, Faviola, Wendy, Paris and Chynna.

Ryan N. Torreggiani

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved son and brother, Ryan Nathaniel Torreggiani who passed away on March 5, 2025. Born on January 20, 1993, Ryan was one of triplets who miraculously graced this world. Ryan survived multiple surgeries and cancer at a young age. Through these obstacles, he was a true fighter.

Even though Ryan faced many challenges with his disability, he was a beacon of warmth and kindness, a true ray of sunshine in our lives. He had a smile that could light up a room and a heart as big as the sky. He was a cherished son and brother, whose love was a constant source of comfort and joy.

He received his High School diploma in June 2014. He had a passion for music and a love of musical toys. His gentle spirit touched the lives of all who were fortunate enough to know him. Ryan held a special place in the hearts of those who frequently interacted with him.

We will forever cherish the memories of him, the laughter shared, and the unwavering love that he so freely gave. Though our hearts are aching, we find solace in knowing that he is now at peace, surrounded by the warmth of eternal love. We will miss you dearly, sweet Ryan. Your love will forever be our guiding light.

Ryan leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness that will continue to shine brightly in our hearts. He will be deeply missed by his loving mother, Michele L. Torreggiani, his fraternal twin sister, Sarah E. Torreggiani, his father, William L. Torreggiani and his wife, Kathleen. He is survived by his maternal grandmother, Christine Carson and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is predeceased by his brother, Sean T. Torreggiani and his paternal grandparents, Mary and Alfred Torreggiani.

A private memorial service was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at Sweet's Funeral Home in Hyde Park, NY. Cremation followed.

Patrick Wing

Patrick "Pat" Michael Wing Sr. a dedicated and loyal husband of nearly 52 years and loving father, passed away February 22nd, 2025, at the age of 79; leaving behind a legacy built on unwavering principles, honest action, and the undeniable thrill of an open throttle. He rode through life like he rode his motorcycles—fearless and free with a whole lot of stories to tell.

Pat spent his younger years working on the family farm and his young adult life throwing punches in the barrooms, proudly yielding 16-inch biceps. He later threw himself into his craft, a reliable and thorough carpenter in Local Union 203. Pat was often sought out when something had to be done right the first time. Hands rough and calloused from work and a life hard lived, always found time and tenderness for the orphaned, feral animal or the soul in need of perspective. His handshake let you know he was a man of his word, and his eyes let you know he wasn't lying. Known for his intricately planned pranks, he was always positioning for the next joke and story to tell.

In his later years, he joined his wife and family in Charleston, South Carolina. As his body grew old and tired, he'd say "getting old is by far the most terrifying thing I've done, although it beats the alternative I suppose."

Born a fighter in every sense, Patrick received his last right six times, proving that some men are just too tough to go that easy. But even the strongest riders must park their bikes eventually. He leaves behind his wife, Linda Wing, his children Patrick Wing of Averill Park, NY, Amy Wing of Mount Pleasant, SC, and Lauren Wing of Seattle, WA. He was predeceased by his son Christopher Wing who passed in 2004. He also leaves behind 10 (soon-to-be 11) grandchildren, two (soon-to-be three) great-grandchildren, and a lifetime of stories that will echo on every long open stretch of highway and job site.

Though the road has come to an end, we know he's still riding somewhere, wind in his hair, coffee in hand, and not a single stop sign in sight. Ride in peace, Dad.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, April 11th from 4pm to 7pm at Allen Funeral Home, 3270 Franklin Ave., Millbrook, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Joseph's Church, 15 North Ave., Millbrook on Saturday, April 12th at 10am. Interment will immediately follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Millbrook, where stories will be shared and his legacy will live on.

Please visit hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com for condolences and directions.

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150 Announcements
151 Adoption
152 Novenas
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155 Personal Services

201 Home Improvement
202 Cleaning Services
203 Lawn Services
221 Professional Services
222 Tax Experts
223 Beauty Services
225 Business Services
226 Travel & Services
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KATHLEEN BECKMANN
MUSIC DIRECTOR

**NORTHERN
DUTCHESS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

2024/2025 SEASON

CARL HACKERT
GUEST ORGANIST



Theatre Organ Joins the Orchestra for a Silent Film and Organ Concerto



Travel back to the silent film era with a captivating performance featuring a theater organ alongside the orchestra for a screening of **Buster Keaton's** masterpiece movie *One Week*.

The organ will bring the comedy to life with lively music and quirky sound effects like car horns, train whistles, and more.

The program also features Michael Daugherty's powerful organ concerto, *Once Upon a Castle*, inspired by Hearst Castle and the Golden Age of Hollywood.



Guest artist **Carl Hackert** will perform on the mighty organ, provided by the **New York Theater Organ Society**.

A pre-concert talk will include Mr. Hackert demonstrating the inner workings of the organ and discussing the history of silent films and the improvisation used to accompany them.

Saturday, April 5, 2025

7:30 p.m., *The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park*

6:45 p.m., *Pre-Concert Talk / Lobby opens at 6:30 p.m.*

Walk-ins are welcome.

**Learn more and buy tickets
at www.ndsorchestra.org**



arts
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**Council on
the Arts**

Our concert season is made possible, in part, through funding from the County of Dutchess and Dutchess Tourism, which is administered by Arts Mid-Hudson and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

We've all made the mistake of buying something unnecessary because it looked like a great deal. We've all held on to things for far too long ... just in case. For posterity. For sentimental value.

As we move from winter into spring this week, the goal for each of us doesn't need to be a home that's camera-ready for a Martha Stewart photo shoot; but our homes do need to be safe, sanitary, and usable for daily living.

How do we reach that goal, and stay there?

Why clutter happens

Our brains play tricks on us. When we own a thing, we value it simply because we have it, which makes it harder to get rid of. There's a name for it: the endowment effect.

We've all been there: You look around your home and maybe feel self-conscious about the accumulated clutter. You're not alone! Here's just a few items of clutter that have been accumulated (and discarded) by Office for the Aging staff at their homes over the years:

A stack of canceled checks from 1962

A single unused baby's diaper, size 4

A book of completed crossword puzzles

35 empty holiday cookie tins

5 old VCRs

A scratched-up Dean Martin album with no cover

Collectively, we felt much better having gotten rid of all that. We'd like you to feel the same.

Baby steps

Every step forward is a good step. If you can manage to declutter the "junk drawer" in the kitchen and that's it for now, that's fine. If you can only manage 20-30 minutes of decluttering in a day, that's also fine. It's something to build on.

The sum of each home's clutter can be a lot to deal with, but there are strategies to break up the job into manageable parts. Dr. Jessica Rasmussen, an instructor in psychology at Harvard Medical School, suggests sorting items into three categories: things that will definitely be tossed, things that will definitely be kept, and an "I'm not sure" category.

Get the discard pile into the trash ASAP, then move to the "keep" and "I don't know" piles. Ask yourself these four questions:

Do I really need this?

Am I going to use this?

How often have I used this?

Could I get something like this again if I need it?

Now that you have a system, you should feel less overwhelmed by the prospect of decluttering.

Watch for shredder truck and/or e-waste events near you

Many local governments and financial institutions host "shredder truck" events, especially in the spring, where residents and customers can safely and securely dispose of paperwork they no longer need, and which could contain personally identifiable information.

Some local disposal events allow residents to get rid of "e-waste" - for example, your old tube television, and that big box of cables you haven't used in 15 years.

'EMPOWERED CAREGIVER SERIES' AT OFA THIS SPRING

Are you the caregiver of a Dutchess County resident living with dementia? The Dutchess County Office for the Aging is partnering with the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter to host the "Empowered Caregiver Series" in May and June at OFA headquarters, 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie.

Each session takes place on a Tuesday at 3 p.m. Seating is limited, so reservations are required. Call the Office for the Aging to save your seat at any session(s) you can attend, at 845-486-2555 during business hours. We cannot accept reservation requests made via voice mail or email.

Topics in the program include:

May 6 - Building foundations of care-

giving

May 13 - Supporting independence

May 20 - Communicating effectively

May 27 - Responding to dementia-related behaviors

June 3 - Exploring care and support services

This free program is open to caregivers of all ages and is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

'PANCAKES IN THE PARK' - STILL SPACE LEFT IN RHINEBECK (April 2)

The FREE annual OFA "Pancakes in the Park" events for Dutchess County older adults (60+), co-hosted by Dutchess County Parks, are filling up fast. One of the two events is already full, but there's still room left at the other.

There is still room - while it lasts - to sign up for the second "Pancakes" event at the Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Dr. in Rhinebeck, on Wednesday, April 2nd.

The first "Pancakes in the Park" event, at Bowdoin Park on Thursday, March 27th, is at capacity. Both events begin at 10:30 am. Guests must be Dutchess County residents age 60+.

Call OFA at 845-486-2555 during business hours to register. We cannot accept reservations left on voice mail or by email.

Each participant gets a pancake breakfast accompanied by a splash of maple syrup tapped from Dutchess County maple trees. A limited amount of syrup will be available for purchase.

CENTRAL HUDSON OLDER ADULTS' FORUM (Thu 4/3)

(Seating limited; reservations required)

If you're a Dutchess County older adult (60+) and Central Hudson utility customer looking to make your energy budget last, Central Hudson outreach personnel will be at the OFA Friendship Center in Poughkeepsie (114 Delafield St.) on Thursday, April 3rd at 2:30, to help older adults understand the available assistance programs, along with valuable energy usage and safety information.

Seating is limited, and required reservations can be made by calling OFA during business hours (weekdays, 9a-5p) at 845-486-2555. We cannot accept reservations made by voice mail or email.

The event is geared toward savings rather than complaints about the cost of utilities. That said, we recognize the importance of advocating for oneself in successful aging, and the importance of being able to reach the right people when raising one's concerns, no matter what they are.

It's recommended that you speak with your utility company's customer service division first; then, if you have contacted your utility to express your concerns but are not satisfied with the result, use this link to find out more about filing complaints with the New York State Department of Public Service.

AARP SHREDDER TRUCK / POUGHKEEPSIE (May 2)

Help protect yourself and your family from identity theft, deed theft, and other scams by joining AARP New York for a free paper shredding event!

On Friday, May 2, 2025, AARP New York will host its annual free paper shredding event with an on-site mobile shredder truck in Poughkeepsie from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will be held at St John's Evangelical Lutheran, 55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Registration closes March 25th. Register via aarp.org.

Paper only. Please remove paper clips and metal binder clips in advance. There is a three bag or three box limit per participant. Boxes will be emptied and returned to participants. Event ends at scheduled time or when the truck is full, whichever comes first.

Check with your local authorities and financial institutions to locate shredder truck events in your area.