ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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Sunday, Nov. 6, at 2 a.m. Turn your clocks back 1 hour the night before!

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UTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

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Candidates address civility in government

ORTHERN.

by Curtis Schmidt

Civility in politics – as voters, we all want to see it. However, with the exception of local governing bodies, we rarely see or hear about it these days.

We're talking about respect, kindness and working together - traits we teach our children and traits we use everyday in the workplace. The rancor we have seen in politics on the state and national levels in our country for several years would simply not be tolerated in most workplaces.

But on the state and national political scene, it is tolerated and has even become expected.

So where do we go from here? After all, we do vote for politicians to serve us -their constituents - in local, state and federal government.

For answers, we turned to candidates currently running for office in the upcoming state and congressional races in our area. We asked "How do you bring civility to government, to allow for a more constructive working atmosphere?

Note: Not all candidates responded to our question.

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney

"I believe public service is about bringing people together to get things done and make our country a better place. It's the example that was set for me by my father, a Navy veteran.

"It's easy to lose track of that goal these days when the country feels so divided. But at the end of the day, we all want safe communities. We all want a strong economy and a good education for our kids. We all want clean air to breathe and clean water to drink.

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DCHS annual Autumn Auction set Nov. 13

The Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS) is conducting its annual Autumn Auction and the hammer falls on Sunday, Nov. 13.

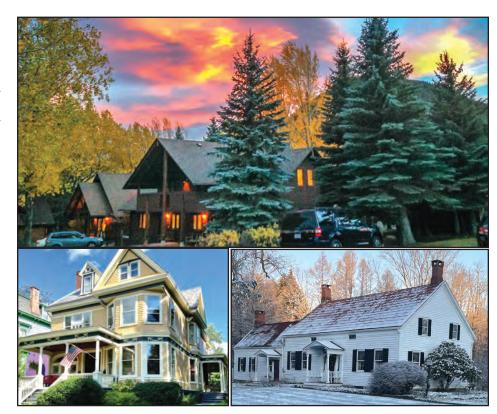
The DCHA remains committed to being the most meaningful source of Dutchess County history; through the responsible archival stewardship of tangible objects, modern interpretation and creative presentations of its history to the public.

"We are proud of our community outreach, including the Oral History Project and local history workshops with area schools and educators," said DCHS Trustee Antonia Mauro. "Through our range of publications, virtual programs, the Yearbook and Annual Meeting, the Dutchess County Historical Society continues its mission to preserve our local history."

The DCHS Autumn Auction is the organization's single, major fundraising event of the year. DCHS does not receive any regular Federal, State or County funding.

"We rely solely on donations, membership dues and private sponsorships from people like you. Please support the 100+ year old mission of DCHS to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the

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Some highlights of this year's DCHS Autumn Auction include a one-week vacation rental at Ram's Horn Village, Estes Park Colo. (top), private visit & refreshments for a group up to 12 at the Home of Scrabble Game Inventor Alfred M. Butts (above left) and a private tour of 1754 Lent House in East Fishkill (above, right) for a group up to four with a wine & cheese reception. Courtesy photos

County Board of Elections prepared to run 'smooth' election

by Kate Goldsmith

In an era when many Americans oversee a fair and smoothly-run election. express doubts about the integrity of the voting process and worry about nefarious interference with election results,

Hannah Black



Erik Haight

p 15

Dutchess County's elections commissioners want to assure the public that they will accuracy of data entry, making sure the

Elections (BOE) is a bipartisan agency, with a Republican Commissioner and a

Democratic Commissioner. Currently, those positions are held by Erik Haight and Hannah Black, respectively. In addition, all staff positions have a Republican and Democrat in place.

"Every task that we do is with our respective counterpart," said Haight on a phone call in mid-October. "They travel together, they work together, they check each other's work for

That work includes ensuring the ballot is accurate and doesn't include The Dutchess County Board of extra candidates, counting absentee ballots and more.

"It's not only for accuracy and quality control, but it inherently gives the voting public confidence that no one side is tipping the scales, so to speak," Haight said. "If there's a conflict that comes out, very rarely that comes out of our administrative duties, but if me and my counterpart have a disagreement, we ask for a compromise or will ask for the courts to intervene."

Preparation for the General Election begins as soon as primary elections have

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INSIDE: **Adams Fairacre Farms** Dr. Oppenheimer

County Board of Elections prepared to run 'smooth' election

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been certified, Haight said.

Black said via email, "As commissioners, by March 15th we have to designate poll sites for the General Election. Then we also had an Intake Training in May prior to the primary elections. Before an election we have to generate the ballots, process registrations, absentees, address changes and program the machines," among other tasks.

Haight noted that it was challenging this year with two primaries taking place, "but we handled it and are ready to run a smooth and accurate election in November that our voters are accustomed to and deserve."

Although the Board of Elections is "not in a situation to be constantly holding voter registration drives," Haight said there are a number of ways the agency encourages voting.

"Every year we go to the high schools in Dutchess, educate the seniors of the importance of voting, collect registrations from those seniors, make sure they're complete and accurate. We respond to a variety of nonprofits and others [that are holding a voter registration drive]," he said. "In presidential years, we're required by statute to do some voter registration drives, and we comply with that statute. We make sure all the libraries, post offices [and other locations] have registration cards on hand."

Black added, "We process registrations that come in. That might mean that on some days we have to come in early and stay late in order to process all of the registrations."

Thoughts on early voting

Now that early voting has been in place for a few election cycles, are more people taking advantage of it?

Haight didn't mince words.

"The facts show that it is a colossal waste of money," he said, reiterating a stance he has held all along. "While it may increase the convenience of voting for a few people, it has not increased voting [participation]. It's the same in the other 33 states that have early voting. It spreads out the voting."

Black said, "It fluctuates on the election, depending on voter engagement on the races within each year."

And speaking of voter engagement, both commissioners expect turnout to be more robust than in midterm elections that don't include a gubernatorial race.

"For as long as we've been keeping records, gubernatorial election cycles produce 60-percent turnout, and I'd expect that historical trend to continue," Haight said.

Dutchess not immune to rampant FOIL requests

The Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests that have swamped elections bureaus across the country have also kept Dutchess officials busy.

"There has been an unusual amount of FOIL requests that have to do with the 2020 election," Black said.

At the time of the interview, Haight said, "It hasn't impacted our budget yet, but the FOILs that have been filed at the Dutchess County Board of Elections are the same FOIL requests [that have been filed] across the country. Essentially, we have these 'kooks' – you can quote me on that; they're kooks – who don't believe that Trump lost."

He added, "I can speak for Dutchess County that the results that we certified in 2020 are 100-percent accurate."

Nonetheless, the law is the law, and

Haight said the county's Board of Elections will follow the law with regard to the FOIL requests – but the commissioners will set the terms under which the documents may be viewed. The plan was to have those requesting the FOILs pay up front for the viewing of the materials; because the documents are secured in a bipartisan fashion, the Board of Elections needs to hire a Democrat and a Republican to oversee the viewing.

"They can handle the material, they can view the material, but they're not allowed to copy it or take photos of it," Haight said. "It will cost the kooks about \$40 an hour to view this material. I assume they'll need a full work week to view the files – they're required to reimburse the taxpayers for the folly of this task these folks are undertaking."

At the time of the interview, Haight said, "In the coming weeks, I'll reach out to these FOILers and give them a little bit of time to get organized."

He noted, "All of our employees are tied up running this election. I will not jeopardize this election because these kooks don't believe we ran a fair election in 2020."

Change to absentee voting

Haight noted that the constitutional amendment to allow no-excuse absentee voting failed last year, so voters still have to check a box on the absentee voting application. Anyone who is concerned about COVID-19 can check the temporary illness box, which covers fear of catching anything.

"The volume of absentee voting [we had] in 2020, I don't see [happening this year]," Haight said.

Black said, "The most important change is the fact that once a voter applies for an absentee ballot and it gets issued/sent, the voter no longer has the option to vote in-person on the machine. If they want to vote in-person, then they must vote by affidavit. This is because we are now required to canvass the absentee ballots on election night. Prior to this year, the BOE would canvass absentee ballots after the election."

Inspiring confidence in elections

The public is invited to come to the Board of Elections and watch the bipartisan process in action, said Haight.

"We let the sunshine in. Full transparency," he said. "The way we're built here lends itself well to the process."

"We simply explain the voting process to them, of how all preparation and post-election tasks are done by both parties together," said Black. "Voters find this reassuring."

She added, "The BOE has an amazing staff that works very hard and many hours to ensure that we have a successful and smooth election."

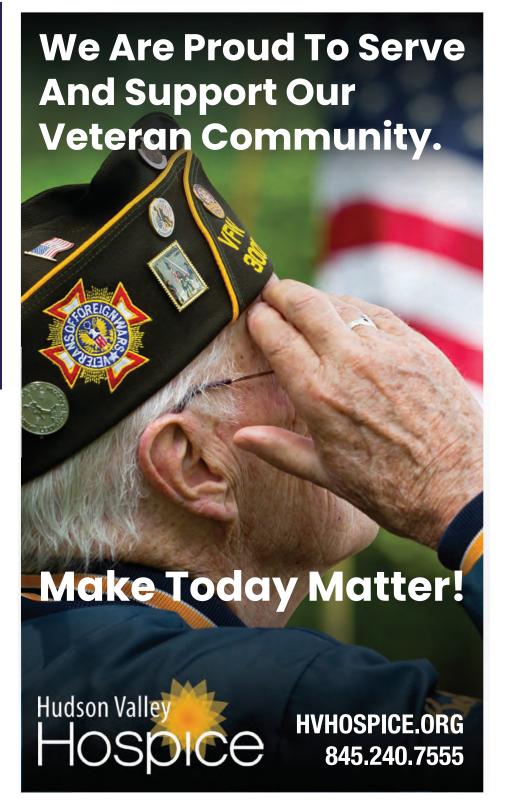
Haight concluded, "I just challenge the voters of Dutchess County to break the 60-percent turnout [for the midterms]."

The Dutchess County BOE is at 112 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie. Call (845) 486-2473 or visit https://elections.dutchessny.gov/ for more information.

VOTE! Tuesday, Nov. 8







Candidates address civility in government

continued from cover

"I have always and will always try to focus on those areas of agreement so we can find common ground to build on."

Opponent Mike Lawler

"We need more elected officials who are willing to work toward solutions and address the challenges we are facing. One party rule does not work – we need balance and common sense at every level of government.

"As I have done in the State Assembly, I will work to find common ground and support legislation that helps my constituents. I will also forcefully speak out on the issues to build consensus and understanding and ensure the policies we are passing garner broad support, rather than just ramming through legislation (just) because we can."

NYS Senator Sue Serino

"Kindness is underestimated today. I lost my brother to suicide and he was someone who experienced significant bullying as a child. Because of that personal experience, I have always tried to act with empathy, compassion and most importantly kindness. Not only do I try to take steps to do what I can to be kind myself, but I also work to promote kindness through my office and use programs like 'Serino's Superstars' to celebrate young people who are making a difference in our community by promoting kindness.

"I have a strong record in working in a bipartisan fashion and our community has directly benefited as a result, whether that meant securing funds or advancing legislation. Building the relationships necessary to work through problems and have bipartisan success starts with that basic step of promoting kindness, reach-

ing out to colleagues, and putting the people we serve over politics always."

Opponent Michelle Hinchey

"I think we have to show up with the baseline assumption that everyone is trying to work with the best interests of their communities at heart. Each person has a different life experience, a different viewpoint on cause and effect, but if we believe that the person sitting across the table from us wants our community to succeed and is truly solution-oriented, we can find common ground and get a lot of things accomplished.

"Focusing on the work that matters to people, not the fear-mongering or the partisan talking points, building the bridges and delivering on the issues that help our community - that's how we close the divide, bring civility back to our communities, and it's how we strengthen the Hudson Valley for the future."

NYS Assemblywoman Didi Barrett

"For a decade I have had the honor of representing the 106th Assembly District, which goes from the Town of Poughkeepsie well north into Columbia County. It is what we describe as a 'purple' district – equally red and blue, with a lot of independent voters.

"I believe in treating people with respect and courtesy and [am] always looking for common ground when confronting an issue where people feel differently. My bills are almost always passed with bipartisan support. My team and I work for the people of our district – they elect us – and I represent all my constituents in Albany, regardless of party."

Opponent Brandon Gaylord

"First, I'm an extremely civil person, having been a teacher for the last few years. Being in that environment required that I get along with all stakeholders, despite the high-stakes of teaching people's children.

"Second, (some) people are not happy with the representation they're getting. I fielded a call from an 85-year-old constituent last night who told me she's (angry) about bail reform. People can afford civility when the situation is still tenable. When it feels like it no longer is, people throw civility out the window and let emotion take hold. I get that and I hear from those people every day. I'm a fighter and will fight tooth and nail for the people of this district in a way that brings respect and results to the 106th district."

NYS Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson

"With respect to bringing more civility in our political discourse, we must all learn to listen better to those with different viewpoints, but we also must first agree on the basic rules, such as the candidate who gets the most votes wins."

NY Senate candidate Julie Shiroishi

"I have spent most of my adult life working in the private sector where behaving in a rude or unproductive manner is just not tolerated. I am also very solutions-oriented and I like to bring all stakeholders to the table so we can discuss our positions and find a way to reach a shared goal. I'm also a mom, so I always encourage civility and am very used to resolving conflicts."

NY Senate candidate Rob Rolison

"I'm a Republican who's been elected twice in a city that overwhelmingly favors Democratic voters. I've received bipartisan support in every election in which I've been a candidate.

"As mayor, I've partnered with

members of both parties to save the City of Poughkeepsie from the brink of economic disaster. It's not about politics; it's about getting things done. As state Senator I will return common-sense, solutions-oriented leadership to Albany to help get our state back on track and working for our residents again."

NY Assembly candidate Jill Fieldstein

"I have handled my campaign with the utmost civility, and I plan on acting accordingly in the Assembly. My job once elected is to get things done for our district and the state. Getting things done requires collaborating with other legislators from all parties. Being flexible, open-minded and willing to see all sides of an issue before making decisions that can have an enormous impact will help make me an effective legislator."

NY Assembly candidate Anil Beephan, Jr.

"As a Town Councilman (in East Fishkill), I have focused our efforts on the residents and their needs. In doing so, we have spent less time discussing political differences and concentrated on tackling the issues. We need to bring the same mindset to Albany for the good of our residents and the state."

NY Assembly candidate Sarahana Shrestha

"As an organizer, my main goal is to rally support for priorities that I consider important. I intend to do this by being clear on where I stand, but at the same time, being respectful and developing personal relationships with my colleagues.

"I don't expect to agree with everyone on everything, but I do believe that sustained, meaningful, and good-faith conversations can lead to results."



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Northern **DUTCHESS NEWS**

& Creative Living

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creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

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Northern Dutchess News serves the towns of Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Milan, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale and Washington; the villages of Millbrook, Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Tivoli; and the hamlet of Salt Point

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News. Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

Serino listens to farming community

To the editor:

Now retired, I was a large animal veterinarian who served the farms in Columbia, Dutchess, Greene and Berkshire counties for 41 years. My work week was usually 60-70 hours but my farmers worked harder and longer than me. Farmers are resilient. They are used to working around uncontrollable weather, adapting to changing prices, and adjusting to supply chain challenges and changing tastes. Still, they always persevere because they love the work they do, and farmers know how important it is to our communities. However, the future of New York farming is on the line thanks to bad policies coming out of Albany that will reduce the overtime threshold and drive up costs not only for farmers but for all New Yorkers who are already struggling to cope with the high price of groceries.

I'll be voting for Senator Sue Serino in this year's Election because she's the only candidate in this race who truly listened to the farming community and vocally opposed this change. While some politicians stayed silent, Sue was relentless in giving voice to the farmers concerns. Albany wants you to believe that because they gave farmers a tax credit to account for this massive policy shift that costs will not rise, but Sue understands that this is only a temporary fix and one we cannot count on to truly keep costs down.

These days, too many are struggling to make ends meet. We need leaders like Sue who understand how policies passed in Albany will impact us here at home and who are not afraid to speak out for us. That's why I am voting for Sue for State Senate, and I hope you will too.

George J. Beneke, D.V.M. Hillsdale

Consider Libertarian candidate for governor

To the editor:

If you live in the Hudson Valley, your mailbox is getting blitzed right now with political mailers. Not that I mind them, but messaging on some of these mailers is so infantile as to be unworthy of an election for high school class president, much less U.S. Congress.

One mailer gives the impression that a certain candidate will release violent felons from prison, and that prisoners are supporting him. No explanation how incarcerated felons are supposed to support him, but that's the cartoonish message being pitched. I'd tell you what the candidate says about himself, except that his own mailers just demonize his opponent in similarly outrageous terms.

With only two parties, it's always a race to the bottom. Each side denigrates the opposition, leaving voters to choose the lesser of two evils. Add a third party, however, and smearing an opponent just winds up making the third candidate look better. A three-way race incentivizes candidates to distinguish themselves with policy solutions, which overall leaves voters feeling empowered to vote FOR an option, rather than intimidated into voting AGAINST the only other option.

New Yorkers always have the option to write-in candidates on the ballot, and as citizens it's our last check on political machines which want to run government. That's why my family and I will be writing in Larry Sharpe, Libertarian for Governor. We realize it's unreasonable to expect him to win, but in a state nearly 3-to-1 Democrat, voting blue is superfluous, and voting red only makes a shinier consolation prize for second place. If enough people write-in Larry Sharpe, we have a chance to restore a real third option on ballot, and thereby, to improve the maturity and significance of political discourse from statewide down to local races.

Daniel Donnelly, Amenia **Dutchess County Libertarian Party**

Supporting Schmitt for Congress

To the editor:

Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. I am happy to support Assemblyman Colin Schmitt for Congress. Commitment to community is a cornerstone of Schmitt's platform, which is no surprise as his father retired as a Lieutenant in the FDNY which inspired Colin to enlist in the Army National Guard where he currently serves as a Sergeant.

Schmitt also went on to obtain his real estate license where he worked with his wife at their family's third generation small business. Shortly after, Schmitt was elected to the NY State Assembly, and for the past four years he has shown his support for law enforcement and public safety.

When the cashless bail law was enacted, Schmitt was the first to sponsor legislation to repeal the law we have now. He is outspoken in stopping the out-of-control spending in Washington DC and making sure America is secure and controls its own energy production. Please join me in Voting Colin Schmitt for Congress.

> Al Torreggiani Town of Hyde Park Town Supervisor

UPDATED POLICY ON LETTERS

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



Early voting continues through Nov. 6

Early voting for the 2022 General Fishkill; Election is ongoing through Nov. 6 at the following locations throughout Dutchess County:

Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market St., Poughkeepsie;

East Fishkill Community Library, 348 Route 376, Hopewell Junction;

Cornell Cooperative Center, 2715 US-44, Millbrook;

Boardman Road Library, Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie;

Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52,

Rhinebeck Town Hall, 80 East Market St., Rhinebeck;

Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls.

Days and times for early voting: Wednesday, Nov. 2: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3: Noon-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6:9 a.m.-5 p.m.

DCHS annual Autumn Auction set Nov. 13

continued from cover

history of Dutchess County from the period of the arrival of the first indigenous peoples until the present day," said Mauro.

If you are not able to attend this year's Autumn Auction, please consider becoming a member or making a donation to DCHS here at dchsny.org/short/

The Dutchess County Historical Society 2022 Autumn Auction catalog offers a wide variety of unique items including historic experiences, private tours, gift certificates, vacation stays and more.

View the DCHS Autumn Auction catalog on the Absolute Auctions website at:https://aarauctions.com/servlet/Search.do?auctionId=5741&categoryName&fbclid=IwAR1tlrmT5TqMZw2KZgOeoi3omglO73bsCDS8AShRx_Ua6BPnNjQufLwACmw

Here are some examples of auction items

#73 – Boat & Walking Tour for Group up to 4 People to Bannerman's Island on the Hudson River, Beacon

Enjoy an afternoon on the Hudson River with a tour to Bannerman's Island. The tour includes a 30-minute boat ride over to Bannerman Island aboard the Estuary Steward and a guided 1.5-hour walking tour of the island in which you will visit the famous Bannerman Castle ruins and gardens.

#7 - Bardavon Opera House Unique Back Stage Experience plus Four Tickets for the Sixth Annual Performance of Handel's Messiah

The Bardavon 1869 Opera House is generously offering four seats to its venue on December 17, 2022 at 2:00 pm...celebration of Handel's master work, featuring orchestra, the Cappella Festiva Chamber Choir and soloists...Before the show enjoy a backstage tour of the beautiful 1869 Bardavon Opera House. Also included is a membership to the Bardavon which allows you advance notice of Bardavon presented shows plus the opportunity to buy tickets before the

general public.

#12 - Behind-The-Ropes-Tour of Locust Grove Mansion: Value - \$300

Completed in 1851, the Italianate style mansion at Locust Grove was designed by architect Alexander Jackson Davis for Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph...your private tour for a group up to eight people is escorted by Executive Director Ken Snodgrass will reveal the family histories and offer an engaging experience with the collection. Wine and cheese on the veranda overlooking the Hudson River will follow your exclusive tour.

#18 - One Week Vacation Rental at Ram's Horn Village, Estes Park Colorado: Value - \$1,500

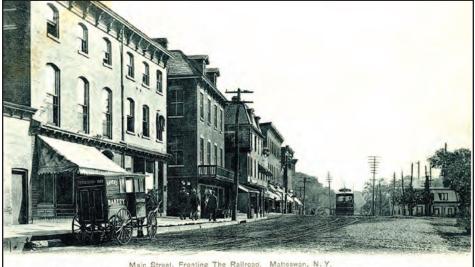
This Five Star - Gold Crown rated property is strategically situated high in the Rocky Mountains north of Denver and backs up to the Rocky Mountain National Park. This two-bedroom, two-bath townhouse comes completely furnished and outfitted with everything you will need for an enjoyable stay. The unit will accommodate up to six people when utilizing the living room sofa bed. Ram's Horn Village has lots of unique amenities and is conveniently located, a short walk to downtown Estes Park.

#25 - Private Visit & Refreshments Group Up To 12 of the 19th Century Poughkeepsie Home of Scrabble Game Inventor Alfred M. Butts: Value - \$600

Bring your group of up to 12 adults into the 19th century historic home of Alfred Mosher Butts, the inventor of America's favorite game, SCRABBLE! View the beautiful interior of the first floor of this grand Victorian on Academy Street in Poughkeepsie! Hear the history of Mr. Butts and play America's favorite game! Step back in time, sip a 1950s cocktail and enjoy retro hors d'oeuvres.

#34 - Private Tour of 1754 Lent House in East Fishkill for Group up to 4 with Wine & Cheese Reception: Value \$250.

The Isaac Lent house was once used for church meetings before the Dutch





Another highlight of the DCHS autumn auction is a Guided Historic Tour for a Group up to 8 of Beacon's East End, plus \$100 Gift Certificate to Carter's Restaurant and Lounge, in Beacon. *Courtesy photos*

Reformed Church of Hopewell was built c. 1764. Learn the history of this house, told to you by the family in period dress.

#50 - Guided Historic Tour for Group up to 8 People of Beacon's East End plus \$100 Gift Certificate to Carter's Restaurant and Lounge, Beacon: Value \$300 Step back in time with historian David Turner and take a relaxing stroll through Beacon's historic East Side. See the city as it looked in the 1860s-1920s with dozens of vintage photographs of the area's landmarks and daily life. Finish the tour at the former Melzingah Hotel, now Carter's Restaurant and Lounge.

Gun buyback in Poughkeepsie Nov. 5

There will be a community gun buyback with the Poughkeepsie Police Department from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, at Beulah Baptist Church. 92 Catharine St. in Poughkeepsie.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) accepts — with no questions asked — working and non-working, unloaded firearms in exchange for compensation on site. The OAG pro-

vides money in the form of prepaid gift cards when a gun is received and secured by law enforcement officers on site.

The OAG will provide the following amount for firearms turned in on site:

- \$250 per assault rifle;
- \$150 per handgun;
- \$75 per rifle or shotgun;
- \$25 per non-working, replica, or antique gun;
 - Up to \$100 additional payment per

ghost gun;

• Up to \$25 per homemade gun, 3D printed gun, or gun part.

There is no limit on the number of firearms an individual can turn in. The guns must be transported to the drop-off

site unloaded, in the trunk of the vehicle, in a plastic or paper bag, or box.

This is an amnesty program, in which no questions will be asked about the person dropping off the gun.

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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

www.ridgeschool.org

College polling site

by Rich Thomaselli

A Vassar College student group, part of a contingent that has asked for the Town of Poughkeepsie school to have its own on-campus polling site in time for the upcoming midterm elections, has sent a letter to Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and the county Legislature warning of voter suppression by the Republican party.

The college group, Democracy Matters, said it was backed by The Andrew Goodman Foundation, League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region, and Dutchess Student Voting Coalitiont. Collectively, they want a Vassar to be designated as an official polling site to more easily vote in next week's elections.

They allege a "pattern of discriminatory action" by county Republicans specifically Republican Election Commissioner Erik Haight of the Dutchess County Board of Elections and claim that Board is in "clear violation of New York law in failing to designate an on-campus poll site at Vassar College in the Town of Poughkeepsie. The groups advised that further action may be taken if the Board of Elections does not take corrective action immediately."

But Haight this weekend told the Southern Dutchess News and Northern Dutchess News that he has indeed abided by Election law and, furthermore, he never said "no" to the request for an oncampus polling site at Vassar. The New York State Legislature had already approved a bill calling for any campus with more than 300 registered voters be entitled to its own polling place.

But Haight noted that the request came after the August 1, 2022 deadline and that the collective groups - as well as his counterpart on the Board of Elections, Democratic chair Hannah Black - have not been able to propose a suitable compromise.

"I am absolutely open to a solution,"

Haight said.

Haight noted that other than Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson in the northernmost part of Dutchess County, no other area college - Marist, Dutchess Community College, and the Culinary Institute of America – asked to be considered a polling place. Bard and Vassar, he said, are well-known for their high amount of liberal voters and said that much of this agenda is being pushed by outside groups, such as the League of Women Voters.

"There are other sections of the law that relate to the poll site, and the one that relates to the challenge with Vassar is if you have a poll site serving another district they have to be adjacent and contiguous," Haight explained, pointing out that Vassar covers an election district and two Town of Poughkeepsie Wards. "At Vassar, there are three legislative districts that carve up the campus, including the two Town of Poughkeepsie ward lines. Those are separate election districts. The Board of Elections can't move those lines; those are hard lines established by a legislative body. Vassar can't have its own poll site without violating that section of the law."

But Black refutes those claims on behalf of the Democrats.

Black basically accused Haight of stretching the truth to fit the Republican narrative, calling him a "storyteller." She said the state law allowing on-campus polling sites if the institution has 300 or more registered voters became law on July 8 of this year – 90 days after the state budget passed with the new law as part of the budget package.

"Unfortunately, because Commissioner Haight is stonewalling, the Dutchess County Board of Elections continues to be in violation of the law," she said in an interview. "(The) next steps are a lawsuit from someone from Vassar College who is impacted by this. Time and time again, Commissioner Haight refuses to follow election law and the Board of Elections is often sued to enforce the law."

Haight said all this becomes a moot point next year when legislative districts are re-drawn every 10 years, but that doesn't help those on the campus who want a more convenient place to vote this

"The lack of an onsite polling campus really creates an additional burden to voting for Vassar students," said Sara Lawler, a senior at Vassar and a leader in the campus chapter of Democracy Matters. "Because most college students don't have cars, the lack of an on campus polling station highly discourages Vassar students from voting by creating a barrier to access.'

Added Black: "As an elections commissioner, I believe in following the law and putting a poll site on campus. However, we are at a standstill because Republican Commissioner Haight is delaying and chooses to suppress voter's rights at Vassar College."

Groups seek Vassar DC Volunteer Firefighters present awards



Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Officers honor 50-year member Kyle Pottenburgh at the quarterly meeting on Oct. 18. Photo courtesy of Vinny Galvin

The Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association held its quarterly meeting at the Pawling Fire Department Station 1 on Tuesday Oct. 18, and presented several awards.

The Pawling Fire Department along with Pine Plains and Milan Fire Departments were awarded certificates of recognition for heroic acts performed in their communities.

Kyle Pottenburgh of the New

Hackensack FD was recognized for his 50 years of service.

Also, at the meeting, W.T. Garner Engine Co. #1 in Wappingers Falls was acknowledged for 150 years of service with certificates from the Dutchess Volunteer Firefighters Association, Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters and Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

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FRIENDLY FORD OPENS COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CENTER



Friendly Ford of Poughkeepsie hosted a ribbon-cutting event on October 26 to celebrate the opening of their state-of-the-art Ford Commercial Vehicle Center. Members of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce joined local political officials in touring the new facility and celebrating the event. Courtesy photo



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Former Renegades manager Quatraro named to lead KC Royals next year

by Rich Thomaselli

Sometimes, it's not just the players who make it from the minor leagues to Major League Baseball.

Former Hudson Valley Renegades manager Matt Quatraro on Sunday was announced as the new manager of the Kansas City Royals, becoming their 18th manager in franchise history.

Quatraro began his coaching career as the Renegades' hitting coach from 2004 through 2005, and managed the team during the 2006 and 2007 seasons.

Quatraro, 48, becomes the third former Renegades manager to be hired as the manager of a Major League team, joining Edwin Rodríguez and Charlie Montoyo.

"We are extremely excited to have Matt leading our club and core of talent," Royals executive vice president of baseball operations/general manager J.J. Picollo said in the team's statement. "Matt has great experiences throughout his career that have prepared him for this. He thoroughly impressed us all during our interview process and is clearly respected across the industry. We are looking forward to work-

ing alongside Matt to bring winning baseball to our great fans."

"I'm grateful to Mr. [Royals chairman and CEO Bruce] Sherman and the ownership group, J.J. and the front office, and everyone else with the Royals for this opportunity," Quatraro said in a team statement. "I already knew the talent on the roster and how great the fans in Kansas City are, and the interview process convinced me that the terrific things I'd heard about the organization's culture are true. I can't wait to get started, and for my family to get to Kansas City and be part of that community."

Since departing the Hudson Valley, Quatraro managed two more seasons in the Rays organization in 2008 (Columbus Catfish) and 2009 (Bowling Green Hot Rods) before being named Tampa Bay's minor league hitting coordinator, a role which he held from 2010 through 2013.

The Cleveland Guardians hired Quatraro to their MLB coaching staff as their assistant hitting coach in 2014. He returned to the Rays in 2017, serving for a season as the third base coach before becoming the bench coach in 2018 when Montoyo departed to manage the Toronto Blue Jays.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Grief Support Group

On the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pleasant Valley hosts a Grief Support Group facilitated by The Rev. Heather Sisk, Episcopal Priest and Spiritual Director with Liz Whitman, MSW. We offer a brief healing service beforehand at 6:45. Come to either or both. (You are not alone; Many of us are hurting; Everyone is welcome.) For more information, call (845) 635-2854, email stpaulspv@gmail.com or visit www.stpaulspv.org. Accessible facilities.

Lyall Church in Millbrook offers programs

The Anti-Racist Study Group has been meeting for several years. We currently meet on Mondays, at 12:30 p.m. by Zoom. We invite anyone to join us who wants to explore the issues of race and caste in our country, issues that will not go away or improve unless we face them together. Our study group is welcoming and hospitable. We have a great time as we continue to learn a lot. We also are happy to include new members. Contact Cat Greenstreet (catgreenstreet@gmail.com) or Pastor Thom if you're interested.

Two other ongoing programs at Lyall are Meals on Wheels at Millbrook and Food For Folks Food Pantry (emergency support). The service area of both these programs is limited to the Town of Washington Village of Millbrook.

Penny Social to benefit Pomona Grange

Dutchess County Pomona Grange #32 will host a Penny Social on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and calling begins at 7 p.m. There will be penny items, \$1 table, homemade baked goods, theme baskets, 50/50 drawing, and door prizes. The Grange Youth will have refreshments for sale. Total proceeds benefit the Dutchess County Pomona Grange's "Kids Helping Kids" Projects. For more information, contact Marilyn Brands at (845) 223-5717 or Melissa Traver at (845) 891-9779.

'Arsenic and Old Lace' set Nov. 12-13 at Rhinebeck HS

The Rhinebeck Drama Club presents the infectiously funny black comedy "Arsenic and Old Lace," a Play in 3 Acts, by Joseph Kesselring. There will be performances on Saturday, Nov. 12 and Sunday, Nov. 13, at the Joseph L. Phelan Auditorium at Rhinebeck High School, 45 North Park Road, Rhinebeck.

The show runs two hours; there will be two intermissions with concessions available.

Performances take place on Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$12, \$10 for Students and Seniors. There is an upcharge of \$2 at the door. General seating only. Masks are optional. Call 845-876-5738 for group rates of 15 or more. Tickets can be purchased in

advance on-line only: https://onthestage.tickets/rhinebeck-hs-drama-club.

Fall Rhinecliff Soup Sales

The Rhinebeck Grange sponsors Rhinecliff's Fall Soup Sales on the third Thursday of the month: Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Soups are sold by the quart, \$10/quart, take-

The Soup Sale is at the Rhinecliff Firehouse, on the corner of Shatzell Avenue and Orchard in Rhinecliff. Pick up at side window on Orchard Street

Email JoBaer2@gmail.com to be emailed the soup choices for each month and pre-order online.

Abilities First event set Nov. 29

Join Abilities First & the Foundation for Abilities First NY as it kicks off a year of joy and gratitude to its community partners who have made and continue to make its mission possible. The 60th Anniversary Community Partners Celebration will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 29, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at The Grandview, 176 Rinaldi Boulevard, Poughkeepsie. Contact JoAnn Parker at joannparker@abilitiesfirstny.org for more information.

FARMERS MARKETS

Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market, Roeliff Jansen Park, Hillsdale. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., through Nov. 19. (518) 929-3255

Hudson Farmers Market, City Lot on Columbia St. between 5th and 6th. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., through Nov. 19. (518) 300-3496

ONGOING

The Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association is looking for volunteers to perform all tasks required to plant and maintain the garden. No gardening expertise is needed, we will train as we work. You need to be 18 years old or older and be able to perform, at minimum, basic physical labor such as bending, kneeling and carrying buckets. Garden work is done during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon. You are welcome to work as often and on any days that suit your schedule. For further information, e-mail info@vanderbiltgarden.org, visit our website at http://www.vanderbiltgarden.org or call (845) 229-6432.

Thrift shop in Red Hook: The "New to You" Thrift Shop at 30 Benner Road has opened. Sales will benefit St. Christopher and Good Shepherd Church. Four rooms to roam through; items include books, crafts, CDs, tapes, housewares, home décor, cllothing and more. Hours: Thursdays, 11-4 and Saturdays, 10-2 (and Saturday donations).





Hudson River Housing Wind Chill event to bring attention to homelessness

Hudson River Housing will host its 16th Annual Wind Chill event to mark the start of Homelessness Awareness Month on November 11, from 2 -5 p.m. This year's event is free to attend, open to the public, and will take place in the Villard Room and Parlors of the Main Building at Vassar College, located at 124 Raymond Ave, Poughkeepsie. Hudson River Housing invites community members to gather to learn more about their programs combating homelessness, take part in hands-on activities, and join together as neighbors and activists dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in the region.

The event featured speaker will be David Ambroz, a national poverty and child welfare expert and advocate. He was recognized by President Obama as an American Champion of Change. After growing up homeless and then in foster care, he graduated from Vassar and later from UCLA School of Law (J.D.). His newly released memoir "A Place Called Home" is a heart-wrenching yet inspiring story, depicting childhood poverty and homelessness as it is experienced by so many young people. It's at once a gripping personal account of deprivationhow one boy survived it, and ultimately thrived—and a resounding call from the grown-up David, now a nationally recognized child welfare advocate, for us all to move from empathy to action.

Other event activities that attendees of all ages and abilities can participate in include writing an uplifting note with care package for shelter guests, creating personalized welcome gifts for residents moving into permanent housing, decorating cookies for the nightly shelter meal, and exploring an interactive art exhibit that shares stories of homelessness and inspires viewers to take action.

Attendees will receive a meaningful gift, and refreshments will be provided by Heroes Making Heroes, Hudson River Housing's vocational training program for local veterans that face housing or employment insecurity.

2022 also marks Hudson River Housing's 40th Anniversary. In that time they have advocated tirelessly for the people who come to them looking for housing and hope, providing services 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, whenever and wherever they are needed. They are the largest provider of housing and services for those experiencing homelessness, and the largest nonprofit developer of affordable housing in Dutchess County.

It costs about \$65 per day per person to provide emergency services for all the individuals they serve in a year, including a warm bed, nutritious meals, and access to a compassionate team of care managers, counselors, and advocates. In 2021, Hudson River Housing provided emergency housing for over 210 people a day, every day. Despite the provision of government resources to house those in need, they still face a budget deficit of \$70,000 to provide emergency shelter services.

Individuals, businesses, and organizations interested in sponsoring this event and Hudson River Housing's important work are strongly encouraged to email Kristine Kortright at kkortright@hudsonriverhousing.org for more information.

Alzheimer's Association to offer free events

The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter will host the following free events in November. Unless noted otherwise, programs will be virtual, and registration can be made online, searching by zip code for programs at alz.org or by calling the Alzheimer's Association at 800.272.3900.

Something for Alz: Telling Your Stories: 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 2. Join us for a free virtual program that offers a chance to tell your story. Both the caregiver and the person with dementia are invited to join, and each will have the opportunity to be guided through this sixweek program. Facilitator Nancy Kessler will help participants listen, learn and tell their stories.

Virtual Early-Stage Meetup Group: 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2. Do you have an early-stage memory disorder? Are you interested in meeting others in the same situation and hearing about how the Alzheimer's Association can support you? Join us for this informal meeting to learn more! Prescreening is required. You are welcome to have a family member or care partner join you.

Hudson Valley Research Webinar: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2. Join Research Champion Meg Boyce and six local experts for updates on the latest in dementia research. Get your questions answered during a Q&A at this free virtual event. Featured researchers will include: Emmeline Ayers, MPH, Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore; Gary Gibson, Ph.D. Burke Neurological Institute; Jeannette R.

Mahoney, Ph.D.Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore; Sashi Makam, MD, Mid Hudson Medical Research/ Horizon Family Medical Group; Chelsea Reichert Plaska, Ph.D., Nathan Kline Institute; and Allison Sparana, Nathan Kline Institute.

Something for Alz: Creative Expression: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, with arts therapist Jayne Henderson, Join us for an interactive program for people with dementia and their family caregivers featuring creative arts activities. Have paper and something to draw with when tuning into this program.

Something for Alz: Telling Your Stories: 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 9. Join us for a free virtual program that offers a chance to tell your story. Both the caregiver and the person with dementia are invited to join, and each will have the opportunity to be guided through this six-week program. Facilitator Nancy Kessler will help participants listen, learn and tell their stories.

Purple Sunday Virtual Kickoff: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9: A free virtual event for local faith leaders, first spouses, deacons, stewards and health ministry members. Join us to learn more about Purple Sunday, the impact of Alzheimer's disease in communities of color, tips on how to be a healthy caregiver and how you can support your community. Featuring presentations by Alzheimer's Association Research Champion Meg Boyce and Dr Naa-Solo Tettey, who will speak about the HeartSmarts program.

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS ALL LOCAL ~ ALL THE TIME www.sdutchessnews.com

39th A.D. race between Shiroishi, Rolison

compiled by Kristine Coulter

The candidates seeking the 39th District seat in the State Senate are Rob Rolison, the current mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, and Julie Shiroishi, who has worked as chief of staff for Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson. Rolison is on the Republican line. Shiroishi is on the Democratic and Working Families lines.

The district covers the Dutchess County towns of Beekman, East Fishkill, Fishkill, Lagrange, Pawling, Poughkeepsie, Union Vale, Wappinger; the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie; and the Village of Pawling. The District also includes portions of Putnam and Orange counties.

The two candidates were asked the same questions by Southern Dutchess News via email and their replies follow, which were sent by email, follow.

What are the most important issues the district is facing? The state? Please be specific.

Our district's challenges are a microcosm of the state's. Albany is a mess. Out-of-touch politicians in the state capital are making us less safe with their dangerous bail laws while people and businesses flee for more welcoming environments. This unfolding disaster can only be arrested with better collaborative leadership focused on solutions and an end to one-party rule.

What are your specific goals if elected?

Reduce the high cost of living and address the quality-of-life crisis for working families and taxpayers. Confront the growing crime problem in New York. Bring honesty, integrity, and bipartisan leadership back to state government.

What in your experience will help you attain these goals?

I've served the public as mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie since 2016. Prior to that I was a member of the Dutchess County Legislature for 12 years, including its chairman six years in a row. I



Rob Rolison

spent a nearly 30-year career in law enforcement protecting our community. I'm ready to take this leadership with real results to Albany starting on day one.

Will you accept the results of the election, even if you/your party does not win? What would prompt you to challenge the results?

Yes, I believe in the peaceful transfer of power as part and parcel of the American way.



Julie Shiroishi

What are the most important issues the district is facing? The state? Please be specific.

During the pandemic, the Hudson Valley has seen a huge influx of new residents. This has sent housing prices skyrocket-

ing, and that's on top of the record inflation we've all experienced this year. We need to make sure that residents who are living here now can afford to stay here. That means building more affordable housing, including for families and seniors.

We are also facing a crisis in teaching and healthcare, both in-home and at healthcare facilities. Both were already struggling with recruitment and the pandemic just accelerated the crisis. We need to provide incentives such as free tuition or stipends for those interested in entering these fields before it's too late. We must also enforce the state's new safe staffing laws at hospitals and nursing homes.

On a broader level, New York needs to ensure that our residents' rights and freedoms are protected whatever the Supreme Court decides. At a moment when more and more decisions are being rolled back to the states, we can't afford to take what happens in New York for granted. Choice, gun safety, marriage equality—all of things and more are on the ballot.

What are your specific goals if elected?

When President Biden was at IBM earlier this month, he announced a \$20 billion investment in semi-conductor manufacturing that will revitalize this area. I want to ensure that it's members of

our local workforce that are filling these jobs as well as the good-paying jobs that are already here in skilled manufacturing, the building trades, the booming film and television industry, and the growing wave of green infrastructure jobs we'll need to transition away from our dependency on fossil fuels.

For too long, we've followed a one-size-fits-all educational model where the end goal is college immediately after high school. Now, we are at a moment where we have college grads with tens of thousands of dollars or more in debt and no way to pay it off. At the same time, local employers and unions are struggling to recruit for good-paying jobs that can't be outsourced or replaced by technology. We need to make sure we are providing robust career and technical training as well as apprenticeship opportunities to keep kids engaged in school and to set them on pathways for future success.

What in your experience will help you attain these goals?

I have worked in the state legislature as chief of staff to Assemblymember Jacobson, so I already know how state government is structured and how to navigate it. Our office helped many constituents with issues relating to unemployment, Central Hudson billing, and many other issues. I've also worked on legislation and to help secure grants for organizations and local governments.

Prior to that, I worked in the private sector in publishing and as a writer and editor. That experience has taught me that clear communication is critical to success in any endeavor.

Will you accept the results of the election, even if you/your party does not win? What would prompt you to challenge the results?

Of course. I will accept the results whatever they are. I believe in American democracy and in our free and fair elections.

Dutchess Tourism announces Awards of Distinction finalists

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. (DTI), the official destination marketing organization (DMO) for Dutchess County, has announced its 2022 Awards of Distinction finalists in eight categories. The winners will be recognized at the ninth annual Awards of Distinction event on November 17, at The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park. Cliff Laube will be the recipient of the Mary Kay Vrba Spirit Award.

"Congratulations to the 25 tourism-related businesses, organizations and individuals being recognized as Awards of Distinction finalists," said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro. "Through your resilience, you've played a vital role in the recovery of the local economy by providing exceptional and innovative programming. Dutchess County recognizes your creativity, dedication and commitment to providing the highest level of hospitality to our visitors."

Cliff Laube, the Mary Kay Vrba Spirit Award honoree, is the public programs and communications manager at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, a part of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Award honors an individual who has demonstrated selflessness, service, inclusiveness and leadership — qualities embodied by Mary Kay Vrba, former president and CEO of DTI.

Current Dutchess Tourism President and CEO Melaine Rottkamp acknowledged, "We celebrate Cliff's tireless efforts to make Dutchess a world-class destination. His partnership and work promoting and developing engaging programs at the FDR Library and Museum have been a tremendous asset in rebuilding our tourism economy."

A report released by Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics company, highlighted visitors spent \$632 million in Dutchess County in 2021, 93.7% of the record total reached in 2019, which capped 10 consecutive years of growth. Each household in Dutchess County would need to be taxed an additional \$793 to replace the state and local taxes contributed by visitors. Tourism continues to be a driving force in the success of the county, having created more than 9,000 tourism jobs with a combined income of \$359.7 million that gets reinvested in the local economy in the form of daily household expenses.

FINALISTS

The Dutchess County Executive's Award for Overall Distinction recognizes businesses and organizations that have continued to grow, innovate or make other significant investments that make our county a destination that attracts millions of visitors from all over the world. The finalists are:

- Adams Fairacre Farms
- Kaatsbaan Cultural Park
- Winnakee Land Trust

The Hospitality Service Award of Distinction honors an individual front-line customer service staff member who consistently provides exceptional service to visitors. The finalists are:

- Paige Flori, Boutique Wines, Spirits and Cider
- Casey Jurutka, Shadows on the Hudson

• Indira Naidu, Hyatt Place

The Accessible Hospitality Award of Distinction is awarded to a lodging property, restaurant, attraction or event that goes above and beyond standard Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance to create accessible, supportive and inclusive environments for travelers of all abilities. The finalists are:

- Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
 - Stony Kill Farm
- Walkway Over the Hudson and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The Arts, Culinary, Family Entertainment, History and Outdoors Awards of Distinction recognize businesses in each category which provide exceptional experiences and continue to innovate, expand and enhance their offerings and programs to attract new and repeat visitors.

Arts Award of Distinction Finalists

- Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College
- Howland Cultural Center
- Tivoli Artists Gallery

Culinary Award of Distinction Finalists

- Café Les Baux
- Sotano Food & Wine
- Vinny's Deli & Pasta

Family Entertainment Award of Distinction Finalists

- Barton Orchards and Tree Top Adventures
 - Gravity Vault Poughkeepsie Sinterklaas

History Award of Distinction Finalists

- Beekman Arms and Delamater Inn
- Hopewell Depot Museum
- Mesier Homestead and Museum/ Wappingers Historical Society

Outdoors Award of Distinction Finalists

- Quiet Cove Riverfront Park
- Millbrook Tribute Garden
- Wethersfield Estate & Garden

The community can learn more about each finalist and purchase tickets for the Dutchess Tourism Awards of Distinction breakfast event at www.Dutches sTourism.com/awards.

Attendees will enjoy a breakfast catered by Main Street Hospitality featuring local products generously donated from Soukup Farms, The Poughkeepsie Grind, Harney & Sons and Hudson Valley Fresh. Reservations are required.

The Awards of Distinction event is supported by platinum sponsors Adams Fairacre Farms, Central Hudson, Global Foundries, IBM, Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, Nuvance Health and The Poughkeepsie Grand. Sponsorship opportunities at various levels of support are available for this event.

Please contact Colleen Dorney at colleen@dutchesstourism.com for details. Drawing tickets are also being sold online for a chance to win one of several prize packages including two food enthusiast classes at The Culinary Institute of America and an overnight stay at Mirbeau Inn & Spa Rhinebeck. Inperson attendance is not required to win.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

cschmidt@sdutchessnews.com

Creative Living

celebrating all good things

Rhinebeck Theatre Society presents Kinky Boots Nov. 4-20

This fall, "Kinky Boots" takes the Hudson Valley by storm with its regional, community theater premiere at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck on Nov. 4. Winner of 6 Tony Awards, including 2013 Best Musical, "Kinky Boots" is based on the 2005 British film of the same name inspired by a true story of a struggling Northampton shoe factory.

Charlie Price has reluctantly inherited his father's shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Trying to live up to his father's legacy and save his family business, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. As they work to turn the factory around, this unlikely pair find that they have more in common than they realized ... and discover that when you change your mind, you can change your whole world.

With a book by Harvey Fierstein and music by Cyndi Lauper, this show is bright, upbeat, and filled with joy. Frank McGinnis, who is no stranger to The Center stage, takes on the role of Charlie alongside Marcelle LaBrecque, who makes their Rhinebeck debut as Lola. The talented pair are also joined by Ashley France, playing the iconic role of Lauren, a host of lively factory workers, and drag queen Angels who will sing and dance their way into your hearts, and don't forget the appearance of many a pair of dazzling six-inch stiletto boots.

"Kinky Boots" is directed by Dot Luongo and Rena Gavigan, music directed by Paul and Joanne Schubert, and choreographed by Cedric James. The show runs Nov. 4-20 at The Center for Performing Arts. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m.; Sunday shows begin at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$27 each with a Pay What You Will night on Friday, Nov. 4.

The Center is located at 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck. For more information, visit centerforperformingarts.org.



Photo caption: Frank McGinnis and Marcelle LaBrecque star in Rhinebeck Theatre Society's production of "Kinky Boots," opening Nov. 4 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. *Photo by Josie Grant*

DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

SEND US YOUR EVENTS

creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com



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 23 62 61 60 □ ▲ 24 thru 26 •47 55° □ ■ 27 thru 32 6364 • 65 □ + 33 thru 43 □ • 44 thru 76 □ ▲ 77 thru 114 45 44 58° 67 37 102 33. •68 103▲ 114_▲ 93, 91, 424 **27** 113 104▲ 74. 20. 26 108 90▲ **▲**78 105 15• 16 14 13 **▲**08 87▲ 86 85 **4**83 81 By David Kalvitis © 2011 Monkeying Around

'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' opens Friday at County Players

County Players, one of the longest running community theater companies in the area, will present Edward Albee's Classic Drama "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

This Main Stage production is directed by Anna Marie Paolercio, and runs from Friday, Nov. 4, to Saturday, Nov. 19. Performances are scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday, Nov. 13, and Saturday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. Performances will be held at the County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 West Main St. in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

Albee's award-winning "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is considered a masterwork of American drama, with dazzling language and unforgettable characters. There is no dysfunctional stage couple quite like George and Martha.

The funny and darkly unsettling duo welcomes you into their living room, along with the young couple Honey and Nick. Lean in to the titillating shock and awe of this masterpiece of modern American theater, whose characters were just as radical, hilarious, and unforgettable in 1962 as they are today.

The production features the local talents of Erin Cross, Norm Magnusson, Ethan Maslyn, and Amy Schaffer. Of this production director Paolercio said, 'Author Albee is beyond brilliant with this piece; he has said that he avoids writing plays with easy answers, preferring to challenge and stimulate his audiences. 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' has no easy answers. You may not like George and Martha, nor even sympathize with them, but it's likely you will recognize the universe they inhabit, because it's one we all share. They attempt to survive in their own way, just as you attempt to survive in yours.

This production contains adult subject matter and profanity.

As COVID-19 restrictions and mandates are evolving daily, visit countyplayers.org/covid019-policy/ for up-to-date information on theater restrictions and protocols. The box office will open for inperson ticket sales on performance days. Individual tickets are available online in advance of the performance.

If one requires wheelchair accessibility, contact the Box Office at 845-298-1491.



The cast of County Players' "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" (from left) Ethan Maslyn, Amy Schaffer, Norm Magnusson, and Erin Cross. Courtesy photo by Louisa Vilardi Photography

Creative Living

is the arts and entertainment section of

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Paid for by Friends of Didi Barrett

Fall for Art finds niche in virtual space

by Kate Goldsmith

The Fall for Art Show & Sale has been an important fundraiser for the Jewish Federation of Ulster County for more than a quarter-century. When the pandemic wreaked havoc with in-person gatherings back in 2020, Fall for Art transitioned from a one-night cocktail reception, art show and sale into a week-long virtual viewing and shopping experience. The concept, however, remains the same: art as a vehicle for making the world a better place.

"This is the third year having the show online, and it has been successful," said Barbara Cohen, who has chaired or cochaired Fall for Art since the beginning. "There are more days to shop. Last year, there were sales from 13 states."

For its 26th anniversary celebration, Fall for Art will be online at www.fall-forart.org from 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, through 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11.

According to Cohen, it was celebrated Hudson Valley jeweler Judy Polinsky (who sadly passed on Oct. 20), who originally suggested the Jewish Federation of Ulster County sponsor an art event just for Hudson Valley artists. Her vision was to gather as many artists as possible to be together in one space to show and sell their artwork, instead of in galleries featuring solo artists. Today, Fall for Art has become the premier art and community virtual fundraising event in the region.

Cohen explained, "The uniqueness of Fall for Art show, Sale & Community

Fundraiser is, although they are raising funds for the Jewish Federation, they are simultaneously giving back those funds to the community. This art event is proud to practice Tikkun Olam, a Jewish phrase meaning to repair the world through acts of kindness."

Every year the Fall for Art committee selects local human services organizations in the Hudson Valley to receive a monetary gift from proceeds of the event. The artists donate 30 percent of sales to the Federation, which then shares the proceeds with the selected nonprofits. This year's recipients are Circle of Friends for the Dying, Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, Hudson Valley LGBTQ, Jewish Family Services, Oncology Support Services, and People's Place.

The usual price range for items in the show range from \$30 to around \$700, offering something for everyone and an opportunity to purchase unique gifts for the holidays, birthdays, anniversaries (and for you).

The dedicated, all-volunteer Fall for Art committee - Sara Beames, Barbara Cohen, Sloane Grubard, Louise Lefkovits, Darlene Levit and Sue Worthman - work hard all year to bring the best of the best Hudson Valley artists to show and sell their work.

"The jury has always selected a varied and multi-dimensional array of artwork to please their devoted customer base," said Cohen, "and this year the committee thinks the jury hit a bullseye!"

See page 13 for a related story.







Among the many items available during Fall for Art's virtual show and sale include (clockwise from top) Marsha Kaufman Rubinstein multi colored ice cream bowls (hand thrown and etched porcelain), Susan Carey Sterling's silver, hand cut design & sweat soldered cuff bracelet, and a painting by painting by Roni Wilder Guidi "A Thousand Trees." Courtesy images

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-Thomas P. DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller

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The art of remembrance

Fall for Art recognizes committee members who have recently passed

by Kate Goldsmith

The Fall for Art committee recently lost two of its "icons," as Chair Barbara Cohen put it: Fall for Art founding member Judy Polinsky and longtime member Susan Raymond Basch.

An online tribute to Polinsky states, "Twenty-six years ago, Judy Weiner Polinsky wanted to increase the profile of the Jewish Federation of Ulster County. She conceived the idea of an art event to bring together Hudson Valley artists in one space to show and sell their artwork instead of each artist having solo shows in many different galleries. Judy solicited the opinion of celebrated local artist Katharine McKenna, then president and founder of the Arts Society of Kingston. Katharine liked this idea and offered to participate in the first show and to invite other artists to join. So began the journey of Fall for Art."

Polinsky co-chaired Fall for Art for many years, and was a participating artist selling her handmade jewelry, created using vintage pieces as well as a wide array of handmade focal beads. Her leadership, guidance and business acumen contributed to its success as a premier art event in the Hudson Valley.

Polinsky's family has suggested that donations in her memory be made to Fall for Art c/o Jewish Federation of Ulster County, 390 Aaron Court Kingston, New York 12401; or at fallforart.org

Basch was an integral part of Fall for Art since its inception. She was a dedicated committee member, generous donor and artist extraordinaire, a mixed-media artist working in fibers, metals, gemstones, and beads. Kumihimo, the Japanese method of cord making, along with traditional jewelry making were the techniques she used to create one-of-akind necklaces. In addition, she created works of art in felt, which earned her many awards.

"Susan was an elegant lady and a beautiful soul. When we think of her, we recall that she turned her hand to beauty and created beauty in her world for all to share," Cohen said. "Fall for Art will be forever grateful for Susan's devotion to art."



Fall for Art has lost two of its "icons" recently: Judy Polinsky (above), a founding member, and longtime committee member Susan Basch (right). Both were talented jewelry designers who are shown participating in past events. Courtesy photos



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A&F Calendar

arts and entertainment happenings

Note: Please check with event venues for any guidelines related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Ongoing

Mansion & Landscape Tours, Wilderstein Historic Site, 330 Morton Rd., Rhinebeck. Wilderstein is a not-for-profit house museum. The estate was the home of Margaret (Daisy) Suckley, a distant cousin and confidante of Franklin Roosevelt. With its exquisite Queen Anne mansion and Calvert Vaux designed landscape, Wilderstein is widely regarded as the Hudson Valley's most important example of Victorian architecture. Guided tour includes the exterior architecture and first floor of the mansion, the landscape, and history of the Suckley family. Sat. & Sun., noon, 1, 2 & 3 p.m. Tickets \$12. Advance online registration encouraged, but walkins welcome if space is available. Buy tickets at http://wilderstein.org/calendar/

Through Nov. 13

Home of the 'Legend,' Washington Irving's Sunnyside, W. Sunnyside Lane, Tarrytown. Sunnyside celebrates its connection to Washington Irving's classic tale, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, at this family friendly daytime event. Home of the 'Legend' includes a tour of the cottage, an original short shadow puppet film and a Legend-themed exhibit. Nov. 4-6, 11-13. Online tickets start at \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children 3-17, and are free for those 2 and under. Held rain or shine. Buy tickets online at www.hudsonvalley.org

or by calling 914-366-6900 (\$2.50 per ticket surcharge for phone orders).

Through Nov. 20

The Great Jack O' Lantern Blaze, Van Cortlandt Manor, 525 S. Riverside Ave., Croton-on-Hudson. Features illuminated, individually hand-carved Jack o' lanterns in elaborate displays which are professionally lit throughout the landscape of the manor in various themed areas. All admissions are by advance purchase only. Dates: Nov. 2-6; Nov. 9-13; Nov. 18-20. Online tickets start at \$32 for adults and \$24 for children 3-17, and are free for children 2 and under. Held rain or shine. Buy tickets online at www.hudsonvalley.org or by calling 914-366-6900 (\$2.50 per ticket surcharge for phone orders).

Nov. 2

"Need To Know: World War II and the Rise of American Intelligence," Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Museum, 4079 Albany Post Rd. (Rte. 9), Hyde Park. Historian, author, and former CIA officer Nicholas Reynolds traces the rise of the intelligence complex from its simple beginnings to what has become a monolith of agencies, 6 p.m. Register is required at http://fdrlibrary.org/ for in-person attendance. The event will also be streamed live on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Nov. 3

"Medieval Song," Bard Hall, Bard

College, Annandale-on-Hudson. The Bard College Programs of Medieval Studies, Music, Literature, and French Studies present "Medieval Song," a talk and performance on songs by the troubadours and trouvères from the 12th-14th centuries, 5 p.m. This collaborative event—part lecture, part concert—by medieval literary scholar

Sarah Kay and early music ensemble Concordian Dawn, under artistic director Christopher Preston Thompson, draws on Kay's experimental book Medieval Song from Aristotle to Opera (Cornell University Press). Free. More info: Karen Sullivan, sullivan@bard.edu.

Comedian Kevin James to play UPAC on Nov. 6

AM Productions & Bardavon Presents bring comedian Kevin James to UPAC in Kingston on Sunday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$49.

James began his career as a stand-up on the Long Island comedy scene. After being discovered at the 1996 Montreal Comedy Festival, he signed a network development deal to create his own sitcom. The King of Queens, which premiered in 1998, ran for nine seasons on CBS with James starring and executive producing, and it garnered him an Emmy nomination in 2006 for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series. The show concluded its run in 2007 but continues to air daily in syndication across the country and around the world. James also starred in and executive produced the sitcom Kevin Can Wait for Sony Television

In 2001, James brought his stand-up act to TV with Sweat the Small Stuff, a one-hour special for Comedy Central. In 2005, Kevin James and Ray Romano



executive produced and starred in the HBO Sports Special Making the Cut: The Road to Pebble Beach; a documentary about the Pebble Beach Pro Am Golf Tournament that was nominated for a Sports Emmy. His second comedy special Never Don't Give Up premiered on Netflix in April 2018.

The Bardavon and UPAC box offices are open - Tuesday-Friday 11am-5pm. Bardavon 845-473-5288, UPAC 845-339-6088 or email at BOXOFFICE@BARDAVON.ORG.



that's italian! by luigi coppola



You can't top Pop

Luigi's father always gets the last laugh.

As I've written before, my father is a tough cookie. He has a way of getting people to do just what he wants. And as I've said, it is the deer in the headlights outcome. You want to say no, you really do, but he just stares at you and blinks until you break down. I always thought it was just with his boys, but I have come to find out that he has this power over many people.

One morning, I was greeted with a text from my brother Nick. He was at our local supermarket, and he took a picture of my father's car parked in the fire lane with his hazards on. Standing next to the car was "Peter," one of our locals who works at the market, watching his car. Apparently, "Peter" valeted his car and brought it up front for my father. Nick waited for a few minutes to see what was going on, thinking maybe something had happened in the supermarket that required this person's assistance.

Out comes Pop from the store with his shopping cart. Peter opens his trunk, places his bag in the car, proceeds to open my father's door and assists him getting into the car. Pop hands him a tip and off he goes. Nick stared incredulously and called me to tell me of what just happened. I knew Pop was on his way to the restaurant and decided to have a little fun with him for a change.

Pop walks into the restaurant with his shopping bags.

Pop: Bongiorno Luigi!

Luigi: Bongiorno Pop ... Where were you this morning?

Pop: Why? Whatsa matter

Luigi: Well Pop, I just had a picture sent to me by the police.

Pop: Yeah?

Luigi: Apparently someone robbed the store? They said it was you!

Pop: Oh come on. Ima an Olda man! Luigi: They said a black beat-up Mercedes raced off with a grocery bag full of money.

Pop: Youa crazy.

Luigi: Yeah? How do you explain this picture then!

Pop: Holy crap! Howa dida you getta that picture.

Luigi: It was sent to me Pop.

Pop: I wasa at the store, but I no steal anything.

Luigi: Yeah? Well now I've got to explain everything to the police. Why did you park at the curb Pop?

Pop: I no Parka at the curb. "Peter" hea helps me.

Luigi: Peter?!

Pop: Yeah hea does the carts ata the store.

Luigi: Geez Pop, you have everyone do stuff for you.

Pop: Yeah he even helped me doa the shopping. Then he puts the groceries for the car and helps me in.

Luigi: Man, Pop ... (laughing)You're

good.

Pop: Youa makea the joke with me? Luigi: Yeah Pop. Nick sent me the picture.

Pop: You sonamagun. You had mea scared.

Luigi: Sorry Pop. You've gotten me plenty of times. This one was my turn.

Pop: I wasa gonna makea you the wild mushrooms, now forget it. Youa getta nothing.

Shame was, those mushrooms were so good. I was only able to steal a quick bite before he took them away. Oh well, a good joke is always worth it.

WILD MUSHROOMS AND PASTA Ingredients

- 8 ounces Bow Tie Pasta
- 3 tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive oil
- 3 tablespoons Butter
- 3 tablespoons Pine Nuts
- 10 ounces Fresh Chanterelle Mushrooms
- 1/2 teaspoon Black Pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon Dried Red Pepper Flakes
- 3 ounces Shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano
- 1 tablespoon Minced Onions

Directions

- Cook the pasta in salted water and boil for 5-6 minutes for al-dente.
 - While the pasta is cooking, heat the

pine nuts in a dry 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Toast the pine nuts, shaking and stirring frequently, until golden brown (about 5 to 7 minutes). Transfer the pine nuts to a small bowl and set aside.

- Return the skillet to the stove and adjust the heat to medium-high. Melt the butter in the pan, then add the mushrooms, garlic and minced onions and sauté for 3 to 5 minutes, until browned.
- Drain the pasta, making sure you leave the past generously wet and add it to the skillet. Toss well and season with extra virgin olive oil, black pepper and red pepper flakes. Transfer to a serving dish and garnish with the toasted pine nuts, and shaved Parmagiana-Reggiano Serve at once, with a loaf of crusty Italian bread and nice Chianti.

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.

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Diversions

SUDOKU

Sudoku requires no arithmetic skills. The object of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers.

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

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

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

2		8	3		6	4		
	7			8	1			5
			5	171			8	
		3		2		1		
6								2
		9		4		5	H	
	6				4			
9							1	
			7		3	2		4

Suguru

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

ACROSS

- 1. Clutch
- 6. Many
- 10. Explosive
- 14. Nook
- 15. Border on
- 16. Of a generation
- 17. To no __; uselessly
- 18. Part of a wedding cake
- 19. Female animal 20. Those who eat
- on the house 22. Handsome man
- 24. 1109
- Pittsburgh ___
- 26. Tropical fig tree
- 29. Clergyman
- 30. Address abbr.
- 31. Approaches
- 33. Bicycle part
- 37. Appear
- 39. Malice
- 41. Word on a banana
- 42. Typo
- 44. Stadium fixtures
- 46. Green expanse
- 47. Western movie
- 49. Rush
- 51. Sufferings
- 54. Defeatist's word
- 55. Eat like a mouse
- 56. Thought about
- 60. Palm or pine 61. Broad ditch
- 63. Identical
- 64. "__ deal!"
- 65. Margin
- 66. Burdened
- 67. One of Noah's sons
- 68. Shameful grades
- 69. Flowers-to-be

DOWN

- 1. Pesky insect
- 2. Tear apart
- 3. Hertz Rent-
- 4. Wobble abnormally
- Louisiana's state bird
- 6. Rubber
 - glove material
- 7. Geisha's sash
- 8. Part of every
 - week: abbr.
- 9. Tax to the utmost 10. Lamented
- 11. Praying figure
- 12. Guillotined queen
- 13. "God __ you"
- 21. Utensil parts
- 23. Let fall
- 25. Italian staple
- 26. Low
- 27. State positively
- 28. __-do-well
- 29. Emotional one
- 32. Domed projections
- 34. Numskull
- 35. Away from the wind
- 36. Skinny
- 38. Night light
- 40. Green Mountain Boys' leader
- 43. Metal bar
- 45. Footwear
- 48. Swarmed
- 50. Engraved pillars: var.
- 51. Those who lobby against a measure
- 52. Circumference
- 53. Way too heavy
- 54. Dove shelters
- 56. Summon electronically
- 57. Roller coaster, e.g.
- 58. __ out a living; got by
- 59. Comfy rooms 62. Elegant poem

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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Exhibitions

at galleries and museums in the Hudson Valley

Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center, 9 & 12 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. Through December: Featuring the works of painter & photographer Erin Ann Koch (Hallway Art Gallery, 9 Vassar St.), mixed-media artist Marie DiPerri (Reception Gallery, 12 Vassar St.) and photographer & mixed-media artist Kat Spontak (Hancock Galleries, 12 Vassar St.). Visitors must call the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center Office at (845) 486-4571 for access to the galleries. cunneen-hackett.org

Rhinebeck Bank, 6414 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. Through Dec. 27: Exhibition of pointillist paintings by Lorna Schipp, on display during regular business hours.

Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli. **Through Nov. 13:** "Vivid", a showcase of paintings, photographs and ceramics, highlighting the work of abstract painter Janene Gentile, photographer Demoy Shilling, ceramicist Andrea Gentile-Shilling, and conceptual artist Cinda Sparling. www.tivoliartistsgallery.com



The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center features photos by Kat Spontak, mixed media by Marie DiPerri and art photography/mixed-media by Erin Ann Koch through December. Pictured, above, is a photo by Spontak and (right) "Mt. Beacon" by Erin Ann Koch. Courtesy images





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'Talking Birds and Golden Fish' performance set

ThinkDIFFERENTLY event at Bardavon Nov. 10

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro invites residents of all abilities and their families to a free sensory-sensitive, live storytelling performance titled "Talking Birds and Golden Fish: A Collection of Global Animal Tales" with David Gonzalez on November 10 at 6 p.m., at the Bardavon Opera House, at 35 Market Street in Poughkeepsie. In participation with this ThinkDIFFERENTLY event, the theater will adjust both the lighting and sound to make the experience more enjoyable for those on the autism spectrum or who experience sensory issues. Individuals, families and support agencies are all invited to this free event. Seating is limited; registration is required and can be completed at dutchessny.gov/show.

Molinaro said, "As a father of a child on the autism spectrum I know it makes a big difference when events are sensory friendly and can be enjoyed by the whole family. I am proud we can offer events such as this live storytelling show and look forward to an evening that will be charming, educational, and fun for all ages and abilities."

A captivating storyteller and experienced performer for I/DD audiences, David Gonzalez will bring his casual and simple staging to his "Talking Birds and Golden Fish" performance. The show features animal tales from India, Persia, South America and the Caribbean. The creatures in the stories share life lessons

and demonstrate a positive and inclusive environment for all. David brings the stories alive using his voice through stories and singing, and physical movements.

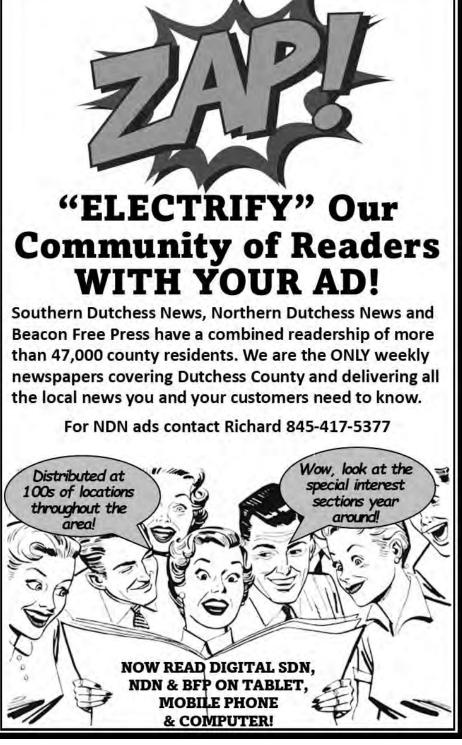
David's stories bring to life an inspiration, delight, and deliver messages that speak to kids and adults alike. The theater will keep the lights up and the volume down. Additionally, there will be fewer multimedia displays will be used to keep sensory stimuli low.

This event is the second of three ThinkDIFFERENTLY events the County is sponsoring at the Bardavon this year. The first, a sensory friendly showing of the movie "Inside Out" that took place in mid-October and was well received. An hour-long, sensory-sensitive performance of "The Nutcracker" will close out the series on Dec. 9th.

Molinaro created the "ThinkDIFFERENTLY" initiative in 2015 as a way of fostering a more welcoming and inclusive community for individuals of all abilities. Dutchess County has since taken numerous steps to "ThinkDIFFERENTLY," including holding events to provide those living in the I/DD community access to inclusivity while obtaining information and resources available to them.

In his 2023 Executive Budget, which he will release on November 1st, County Executive Molinaro includes new ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiatives as part of the forthcoming Think DIFFERENTLY All Abilities Action Plan.To learn more about how to Think DIFFERENTLY, visit thinkdifferently.net.

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auditions set for Nov. 6, 7 in Wappingers Falls

County Players announces open auditions for the comedy "It's Only a Play" by Terrence McNally on Nov. 6 & 7, held at the County Players Falls Theatre, 2681 W. Main Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls. This February 2023 Main Stage Production is directed by Kit Colbourn, with performances scheduled for Friday and Saturday Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 2023 at 8 p.m., with matinees on Sunday, Feb. 12, and Saturday Feb. 18 at

A Broadway opening night party in a stylish NYC apartment brings together a cacophony of characters with an armload of wit, warmth, and winter coats! "It's Only a Play" is a laugh-out-loud love letter to the resilience of live theatre, and an homage to the people that — even when things seem impossible — believe that

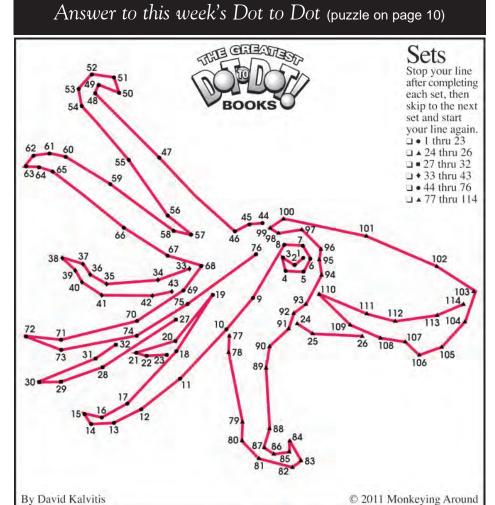
the marquee will be lit again, and the show must go on.

All actors regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, or experience are encouraged. For further information, including a detailed list of character breakdown, sides, and audition form visit countyplayers.org/shows/auditions/

At this time, all actors and crew must be fully vaccinated. Please wear a mask and be prepared to show proof of vaccination when one arrives to audition. The stage manager will provide the audition form (or you may download it from this page, print, fill it out, and bring it with you to the audition.) Once inside the theatre masks are optional.

If one requires wheelchair accessibility, please contact the Box Office at 845-

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



'It's Only A Play' comedy Partnership offers free online classes for older adults, bridging social isolation

Adults 50+ are welcome to join thousands of their New York peers who have already explored GetSetUp for health and wellness, skills-training, and more

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and Association on Aging in New York (AgingNY) have expanded their partnership with GetSetUp to continue offering free online classes for hundreds of thousands of older adults in New York State.

NYSOFA and AgingNY began their partnership with GetSetUp during the pandemic as a solution to combat social isolation and bridge the digital divide for older New Yorkers. New Yorkers have since flocked to it in droves, with over 122,000 New York learners taking 169,000 classes in the first year and expanding rapidly.

GetSetUp was designed by and for people who are 50 and older to learn new skills, connect with others, and unlock new life experiences. Users can browse and enroll in courses at https://www.getsetup.io/partner/NYSTATE or refer a friend https://dost.gsudevelo pment.com.

NYSOFA Director Greg Olsen said: "GetSetUp has far exceeded our expectations in helping to combat social isolation, foster mental and physical wellbeing, and bridge the digital divide for older adults. The numbers speak for themselves: nearly 200,000 users have been empowered by this user-friendly platform to learn new technologies, improve their health, engage their intellect, connect with others, and share their unique talents, skills, and expertise."

In a January 2022 survey of GetSetUp users in New York, 94% said they consider the platform a reliable source to learn about advances in health technology. New York users also rate mental engagement, physical fitness, and social engagement as the areas where they saw the most improvement thanks to GetSetUp classes, giving the classes an average 4.6 out of 5-star rating.

Physical exercise, balance, and agility classes rank among the most popular offerings for New York users, including classes on morning fitness, Tai Chi-Shibashi, and Stretch and Destress Yoga. The platform also offers practical skillstraining classes with an emphasis on reskilling and upskilling curriculum for older New Yorkers to access new economic opportunities.

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) works to help the state's 4.6 million older adults be as independent as possible for as long as possible through advocacy, development and delivery of person-centered, consumeroriented, and cost-effective policies, programs, and services that support and empower older adults and their families, in partnership with the network of public and private organizations that serve them. Stay connected—visit the NYSOFA Facebook page; follow @NYSAGING on Twitter and NYSAging on Instagram; or visit aging.ny.gov.

The Association on Aging in New York supports and advocates for New York's mostly county-based Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and works collaboratively with a network of organizations that exist to promote independence, preserve dignity, and provide support for residents of New York State as they age. For more information, follow us on Facebook, visit www.agingny.org or call (518) 449-7080.

GetSetUp is on a mission to help those over 55 learn new skills, connect with others and unlock new life experiences. The social learning platform helps over 4.6 million older adults in 160 countries stay mentally and physically fit, creates economic opportunities through jobs and reskilling, and provides a community where people find meaning and purpose by sharing their knowledge and passions and forming new connections. Classes are taught by older adults on a highly interactive, custom-built video platform where older adults can connect during and in between classes. Classes are taught in English, Spanish, Hindi, and Mandarin. Learn more https://www.getsetup.io/partner/NYS-TATE.

Women's Professional Network presents workshops on how to reach professional goals

The Women's Professional Network in Poughkeepsie. presents "The Roadmap to Your Professional Success - 2022" on November 15, 5:30-8 p.m. at Mahoney's Irish Pub & Steakhouse, 3.75 Main Street,

Registration can be found at https://roadmaptoprofessionalsuccess2022.eventbrite.com

This mini-conference will focus on the professional development and growth of achievement oriented professionals and business owners. Presented by the WPN, this event is a collaboration with business and community leaders.

(Grace) Angela Henry, executive search consultant and voice actor, will serve as the dinner speaker with her address: "Can't, Couldn't, Shouldn't, Wouldn't- Says Who?!" Adopting a Forward Thinking Vision. Following dinner, attendees will break into one of two different, concurrent workshops.

Cost is \$28 per person for WPN Brave&Bold Members. Payable thru Venmo. Includes dinner and a choice of Workshop one or two Cash bar. \$33 for WPN non-Members. Payable only thru Eventbrite. Includes dinner and a choice of Workshop 1 or 2. Cash bar.

Eventbrite registration Members) can be found at https://roadmaptoprofessionalsuccess2022.eventbrite.com.

Answers to this week's diversions

(puzzles on page 16)

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GOLDEN LIVING

You might assume that winter is the most dangerous time of year to drive, and you wouldn't be entirely wrong; however, more crashes happen in the fall than in the winter because more cars are on the roads in the fall.

For a largely rural/suburban county like Dutchess, the importance of being able to drive cannot be overstated. It equals being able to live independently without help running errands. Being forced to give up the keys is a life-changer we hope to avoid, and OFA's goal is to promote independence in aging whenever it's safe to do so.

Driving Issues Specific To Autumn

Wet leaves - The changing leaves looked beautiful on the trees in October, but it's a different story when they fall to earth in November. Wet leaves on the road impair contact between your car's tires and the road, and leaves crushed by vehicles can leave behind a slippery coating on roads. Together, it means that wet leaves can be every bit as dangerous as black ice.

The sun - As the days get shorter, sunrises and sunsets take place during mornings and afternoons. Before driving during those hours, keep some sunglasses handy to counteract the glare, and keep your windshields clean inside and out.

Deer and wildlife - November is the peak time of year for car-deer collisions. It's the height of "the rut," their mating season, and deer are less likely to be aware of your approaching car. Take extra time to scan roadsides, especially near sunrise and sundown when deer are most active. Should an animal run (or fly) into your path, don't swerve. It's an understandable instinct but think about everything else you could crash into: utility poles, trees, other vehicles. Even if none of those hazards are nearby, swerving can trigger a rollover crash. Slow down, use the brakes as needed, and keep the wheel straight; striking the animal is your "least worst" option.

While we're on the topic, repeated studies have shown that "deer whistles" attached to your car don't work. Some even made noises that attracted deer to the road.

Fog and frost - Keep your low beams and fog lights on, so that other drivers can see you. High beams will reflect light back into your eyes. On frosty mornings, take a few extra minutes to clear your windshields. Those "Bridge Freezes Before Road" signs are there for days just like this. It's when temperatures are close to freezing that bridge surfaces can be slick while the rest of the road is fine.

School buses - Under New York State law, you must stop for a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing - at all times. Even on a divided highway. Many school districts in Dutchess County have outfitted buses with stop-arm cameras. Illegally pass a bus, and the owner of the offending vehicle can expect a fine in the mail. A first-offense violation carries a \$250 fine.

Even when there's no bus in sight, stay alert. There'll be more children walking to and from their schools, bus stops and homes

OFA VOLUNTEERS WANTED WEEKDAYS AT BEACON FRIEND-SHIP CENTER

The Office for the Aging Home Delivered Meals (HDM) program and Senior Friendship Center in Beacon (1 Forrestal Heights) is looking for volunteers who can help in the kitchen at the Beacon Friendship Center. We're looking for help on any or all weekdays from Tuesday through Friday, from approximately 9-11 am. You would be part of the process where OFA prepares and packages dozens of meals delivery to homebound older adults in the greater Beacon area, along with clients of the Friendship Center.

Additionally, we're looking for volunteer assistance with Friendship Center clients on Wednesdays between 10 am and 2 pm, and help at the

friendship center's Halloween party, on Thursday, October 27th. We work with your schedule - if you're free just one of the days, two days, or all of them, our older adults will be more than grateful for the assistance and companionship.

For more information, contact Jamie in the OFA Nutrition division, at 845-486-2597 or jdennis@dutchessny.gov.

LIONS / DUTCHESS COUNTY USED EYEGLASS DRIVE

The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management invites you to donate eyeglasses in usable condition at several County offices buildings listed below. Donated glasses will be given to the Lagrange Lions Club, as a donation to its international campaign, Recycle for Sight, which benefits those in need. This collection event, which runs through November 21st, complements the County Clerk's ongoing collection of eyeglasses at the Department of Motor Vehicles offices in Poughkeepsie, Beacon, Millbrook, and Wappinger.

You'll find a collection box at the following locations, and we thank you in advance for your any donation(s) you can make

Dutchess County Office Building 22 Market St Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dutchess County Planning Dept. 85 Civic Center Plaza #107 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management

96 Sand Dock Rd. Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Office for the Aging 114 Delafield St Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Eastern Dutchess Government Center 131 County House Rd. Millbrook, NY 12545

Beacon Center 223 Main St. Beacon, NY 12508

SAVE THE DATE – 2023 OFA SENIOR PROM

This past Monday's return of the OFA Senior Prom at Villa Borghese in Wappinger was a ringing success, with over 350 older adults enjoying the long-delayed but much-appreciated Silver 25th-anniversary celebration with an afternoon of good food, and dancing to the music of the Bob Martinson Band.

Congratulations to Keith Doughty and Ruth Theise of Poughkeepsie, the 2022 Duke and Duchess of the prom. Thanks as well to essential support from The Pines at Poughkeepsie. You can find a video of prom highlights at www.facebook.com/DutchessCoGov.

We know a great many regular prom-

goers start planning for the following year's prom as soon as the current year's prom concludes and are already asking what the theme will be for 2023. We're working on a decision on that and will formally announce the theme in the Winter 2022-23 THRIVE60+ newsletter that's coming out right after Thanksgiving.

In the meantime, save the date Monday, October 16th, 2023 for next year's prom, and watch upcoming OFA newsletters for new developments!

PHOTOS FROM LAST WEEKEND'S 'THRIVING IN RHINEBECK'

If you weren't able to attend the October 22nd "Thriving in Rhinebeck" event for older adults at Rhinebeck High School, here's a recap with photos of the organizations represented, including OFA. If you were a participant or a guest at the event, or weren't able to make it there, and want to know more about OFA services, please email ofa@dutchess ny.gov or call 845-486-2555.

MATURE WORKERS WANTED

Pagones-O'Neill, Inc. is seeking mature, reliable, individuals for light-duty security opportunities at local clients. They provide security officers for clients such as Vassar College. These positions are well-suited for responsible people looking for income beyond the holiday season.

These positions require the ability to sit, stand, and walk in various indoor and outdoor environments. Weekends and nights may be required from time to time. Registration with NYS is also required.

Pagones-O'Neill was founded by Steve Pagones, JD, PPS, in 1990 to meet the increasing demand for professional security services. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Tom Craven at: 845-632-6900, Office, or 845-453-6600, Mobile.

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

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-05-22 Workers Compensation and NYS General Municipal Law 207c

Claims Administration Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 16th day of November 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visitour web site http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding RFP and Opportunities". For additiona information.

Legal Notices

(845) 486-3613.

REQUEST FOR **PROPOSAL** NOTICE

Purchasing The Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-70-22 Aging Health Promotion and Development Contractor Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 18th day of November 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our web site http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then "Bidding selecting RFP Opportunities". For additional informa-

Legal Notices

tion, call (845) 486-3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

Purchasing County of Agent, Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-69-22 Legal Services for the Elderly Program Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 18th day of November 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our web site http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding RFP and Opportunities". For additional information, call (845) 486-

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3613.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-65-22 On-Call Professional **Engineering Services** Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 22nd day of November 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our web site http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then "Bidding selecting **RFP** Opportunities". For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

Purchasing

Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed proposals for: Bid #RFP-DCP-68-22 Child Welfare Mandated Preventive Services Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 18th day of November 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, New York 12601. Specifications and proposal forms may be obtained by visiting our web site http://www.dutchessny.gov , selecting "Government", then "Bidding selecting and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-71-22 On-Call As Needed **Moving Services** Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 9th day of November 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may obtained by visiting site our web http://www.dutchessny.gov, selecting "Government", then "Bidding selecting RFP and Opportunities". For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

Legal Notices

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

OBITUARIES

James Higle

HYDE PARK -- James Higle, 92, of Hyde Park, NY, passed away on Monday, October 24, 2022 with his loving family at his side. Jim was born on May 13th, 1930, in Tarrytown, NY. He was the son of the late James and Nellie (Lang) Higle. Jim served as a trained paratrooper with the U.S. Army. In spite of his fear of heights, he wanted to earn extra pay as he prepared to marry his high school "sweetheart" (his favorite word of endearment). Jim married Barbara (Alantock) on September 26, 1953 at the First Baptist Church in Tarrytown, NY. Jim had a wide variety of interests. He was a competitive pistol and skeet shooter winning several awards, a member of the Crum Elbow Sportsman Association and The New York State Rifle & Pistol Association. He was especially drawn toward nature and portrait photography, enjoyed hunting & fishing, and especially day sailing on the Hudson River and at their summer home in Rockland. Maine with his children. Jim was also a voracious reader of world

explorers, politics, history and Mark Twain. As a child, he once skipped school so he could stay home to read. After working in various fields as an electrician, railroad signalman, and salesman, he settled on his passion as a professional photographer with his business, Haviland Studios and also as a long time photographer with School Pictures Inc. Jim was especially known for his offbeat sense of humor, once saying "I always want to leave them with a smile on their face," and his strong sense of practicality and ingenuity, often coming up with simple solutions for problems others were baffled by. Jim and Barbara, were longtime and very faithful members of the First Baptist Church of Rhinebeck where Jim served as a local church board member (Emeritus) and in other capacities whenever called upon. Jim is survived by his loving children, Tom Higle of Hyde Park, NY, David (Jane) Higle of Noblesville, IN, Peter Higle of Hyde Park, NY, Audrey (David) Putney of Corning, NY, and Robin Higle of Newburyport, MA; his grandchildren, Carolyn, Shannon, and Robyn; his great granddaughters, Clare, and Gabby; along with extended family, friends, and fellow parishioners. Jim was predeceased by his brother, Joseph Higle, and half brothers, Alfred and Walter. Visitation and services were held at the First Baptist Church in Rhinebeck, 9 Astor Drive, Rhinebeck NY. Visitation was Thursday, October 27th, and the funeral service was held at the church Friday, October 28th with Rev. Daniel Drake. Burial is in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Red Hook, NY. Memorial donations may be made in Jim's memory to the First Baptist Church in Rhinebeck, 9 Astor Drive, Rhinebeck NY. Arrangements are under the direction of Burnett & White Funeral Homes 91 E. Market St., Rhinebeck, NY. To sign the online guest book, please visit www.Burnett-White.com.

Harry J. Jenkins Jr.

AMENIA - Harry Joseph Jenkins Jr., 98, a lifelong resident of Amenia, NY, died on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at his home. Mr. Jenkins worked in the accounting field his entire life and retired after many years as the Controller with Sullivan Highway Products in Monticello, NY. Born on March 17, 1924 in Amenia, NY, he was the son of the late Harry Joseph Jenkins, Sr. and Mary Elizabeth (Johnson) Jenkins He proudly served his country in the United States Army during World War II in a field hospital in the Philippines. On August 4, 1962 in Pawling, NY, he married Evelyn Tompkins who died on April 8, 2010. Mr. Jenkins participated in and was honored by several accounting management groups and was a member of the Amenia Historical Society and a past deacon of the former Amenia Presbyterian Church. Mr. Jenkins was a history buff who was interested in ancestry, a Fox News enthusiast, and an avid Republican. He is survived by a nephew, Paul (Stephanie) Jenkins of Syracuse, NY and three nieces, Janet (Bill) Kelly of Elgin, Texas, Lynn (Todd) Smith of Tin Top, Texas and Mary Ellen (Lee) Danielson of St. Augustine, Florida. Besides his parents and wife, he was predeceased by three brothers, Edwin Alton Jenkins, John W. Jenkins and Marvin W. Jenkins. Calling hours will be held from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will take place at

Amenia Island Cemetery in Amenia, NY. Memorial contributions may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice, 374 Violet Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or online at https://www.hvhospice.org/. To send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

Abigail Arianna-Theresa Tsahalis

Abigail Arianna-Theresa Tsahalis, 17, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2022 at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD surrounded by her parents following a brief, but hard fought battle against very severe Aplastic Anemia. Sweet Abigail was born in Poughkeepsie on July 9, 2005. She attended St. Peter's School in Hyde Park, Unionvale Middle School, and was a senior at Arlington High School where she was a member of the Link Crew, Orchestra, and the National Honor Society. While her activities are too numerous to list, most notably Abigail played the violin, flute, ukulele and studied dance at the New York Academy of Ballet. She loved to help and teach ballet to little children, and is now in Heaven teaching all of the little ones there. Abigail loved life, spreading kindness and positivity wherever she went. Upon diagnosis, her first concerns were for family and friends who might be impacted by her illness. She wanted everyone to share in the happiness and zest for life that she felt Abigail was pure joy and brought love and laughter into the lives of all who knew her. She will be remembered for her shining smile, strong hugs, and her unwavering consideration for others. She radiated sunshine. Abigail is survived by her parents, John and Heather; her brothers, Alexander Tsahalis and Michael-Antonio Tsahalis and his wife Courtney; her grandparents, Charles and Corrie Blasi, and Zaharias and Katina Tsahalis; her aunts and uncles, Amy and Larry Bizzarro, and George and Agnes Tsahalis; her cousins, Andrew, Giovanni, Matteo Bizzarro, Zack, Katina, John, and Michael Tsahalis; a large extended family; many friends and her pets. Calling hours were held at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, 1925 Route 82. LaGrangeville followed by interment in Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Hoping to help fund a cure memorial donation may be made to https://www.go fundme.com/f/Show-Kindness-and-Help-Abigail-Get-Home

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- Special Instruction
- 122 Musical Instruction
- 140 Nursery Schools
- 141 Child Care 142 Day Care
- 143 Baby-sitting
- 145 Adult Care 150 Announcements
- Adoption
- 152 Novenas 154 Lost & Found
- 200 Services

- 201 Home Improvement 202 Cleaning Services
- 203 Lawn Services Professional Services
- 222 Tax Experts 223 Beauty Services
- 225 Business Services 226 Travel & Services
- **Bridal Services**
- 295 Financial 296 Mortgages
- Real Estate Townhouses &
- Condos
- 302 Commercial Property 304 Mobile Homes
- 305 Lots & Acreage Townhomes & Condos for rent
- Classified Index 509 Office Equipment 510 Firewood 511 Lawn & Garden Equip. 401 Apartments for Rent
- 402 Rooms for Rent 403 Furnished Rooms
- 404 Furnished Apartments
- 405 Wanted to Rent
- 406 Garages for Rent
- 407 Vacation Rentals
- 408 Houses for Rent
- 420 Commercial Rentals 500 Musical Merchandise
- 501 Kid Stuff 502 Clothing 503 Furniture
- Appliances 505 Free Items
- 506 Computers
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- 713 Rummage Sale 714 Flea Market
 - 715 Craft Corner 716 Barn Sale

512 Winter Merchandise

516 Misc Merchandise

700 Pets & Supplies 701 Free Pets 702 Lost & Found Pets

703 Pets for Adoption 710 Garage & Yard Sale 711 Tag Sale

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- 717 Estate Sale 718 Auctions 719 Antiques
- 720 Vendors Wanted
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- 723 Consignments
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- 725 Collectibles
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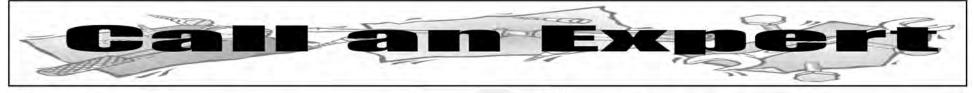
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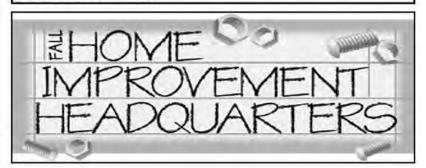
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Assistant Director of Dutchess County Public Transit honored by NY Public Transit Authority

New York Public Transit Association (NYPTA) honored Amanda Sammon, Assistant Director of Dutchess County Public Transit (DCPT), with its 2022 Joe Boardman Award at the association's fall conference and Transit Industry Luncheon held this week in Albany.

Having worked for DCPT for 11 years, Sammon currently oversees its day-today operations, assists with customer support and ridership building efforts as well as driver recruitment, and maintains relationships with contractors and regulatory agencies to help ensure safe, effective, quality service is provided to both fixedroute and on-demand riders. Sammon has been instrumental in helping lead the team through the COVID-19 pandemic as well as numerous union negotiations during her tenure. She also assisted with the recent transition of DCPT from a management contract to a County-operated system, helping transition 95 individuals into Dutchess County Government positions.

County Executive Marc Molinaro said,

"Amanda's dedication, leadership, industry knowledge, and work ethic have been invaluable assets to our Public Transit system, helping us build and maintain a safe, reliable service for the riders who rely on it. Her rapport with the drivers and her fellow operations staff have helped ensure as seamless a transition as possible for riders and staff alike and we applaud her for this well-deserved recognition of her hard work."

Sammon said, "I am grateful to the New York Public Transit Association for recognizing our Dutchess County Public Transit team's commitment to providing safe, quality, and efficient public transit to residents and visitors of Dutchess County. Under the guidance of County Executive Molinaro and Public Transit Director Michael Grattini, our division has improved ridership, maintained excellent retention of our dedicated drivers, and has continued its exemplary safety record. We will continue our hard work and dedication towards the shared goal of providing

amazing service."

The Joe Boardman Award was started in 2019 by NYPTA leaders in recognition of Joseph Boardman's dedication and leadership in the transit industry. A founding member of the association and past president, Boardman was also an inaugural member of the New York Public Transit Hall of Fame in 1999 for his contributions to the industry. He was devoted to mentorship and cultivating future transportation professionals, serving as head of Amtrak from 2008-2016 and was the longest-serving Commissioner of New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) from 1997-2005. The award is given to transit employees in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments, leadership, and commitment to the industry.

Director Grattini said, "During her tenure with Dutchess County Public Transit, Amanda Sammon has developed an incredible support system for the smooth operation of our transit system. Her dedication and leadership skills are impressive. So many Dutchess County residents rely on our transit system, both fixed-routes and on-demand service, to reach doctors' appointments, workplace, grocery stores, and more."

To learn more about DCPT, visit DutchessNY.gov/publictransit. DCPT also offers a mobile app with real-time bus tracking, schedules, rider alerts, and more. The DCPT app is available for IOS and Android on Google Play and Apple App Store from DoubleMap.

Ms. Sammon's leadership and dedication are exemplified in an anecdote included in her nomination for the award from Transit Director Michael Grattini. In 2012, shortly after being promoted to a supervisory role, Ms. Sammon was the only staff member who could make it to the DCPT facility during a freak October snowstorm. Without power and a severe lack of workforce, Ms. Sammon took charge and organized getting drivers and buses on the roads.

Rebuilding Together assists county residents for 'Fall Rebuilding Day'

For thirty years, Rebuilding Together Dutchess County has repaired the homes of low-income Dutchess County residents with the help of volunteers from local businesses, PTA's, churches, and more. The volunteers give their time to help their neighbors in need – neighbors helping neighbors.

The connection to and involvement in our community is apparent during the nonprofit's Rebuilding Days, which happen twice a year – once in April and once in the Fall. October 22nd marked this

year's Fall Rebuilding Day, during which volunteer teams from Consigli Construction and Central Hudson Gas & Electric made critical home repairs for two Dutchess County families.

John, 73, and Susan, 69, are life-long Dutchess County residents who worked diligently to maintain their Poughkeepsie home. When John's health declined and required multiple surgeries and a long recovery period, their medical bills started to pile up and they had no choice but to put off necessary home repairs they

would have previously taken care of.John had installed plexiglass on their aging windows, but it wasn't enough, so Susan would stuff newspaper in the gaps to help minimize the cold drafts that were impacting John. The back steps were lifting away from the house and became so unsafe that Susan wouldn't allow anyone to step out on to them. Consigli Construction was able to replace the aging windows and the back steps, among many other repairs, giving the homeowners piece of mind. As Susan said, "All that weight that was on our shoulders – it left." This, she said, was what they felt when they heard that they had been accepted into the Rebuilding Day program by Rebuilding Together.

In Hyde Park, Central Hudson made the bathroom more accessible for Paul, 86, and Carolyn, 82, with a hi-rise toilet and grab bars, replaced old, unreliable smoke alarms, secured a handrail, repaired the front walkway, and painted the front porch. Paul has lived in that home his entire life and the couple have been married for 64 years. These types of repairs are now beyond Paul's ability, so he was grateful for all the work the volunteers did: "I wouldn't have been able to do these things without them, that's for sure." In addition, the couple's roof was

replaced through a previous Lowe's Veterans at Home grant.

In all, forty volunteers from Central Hudson and Consigli Construction took the time to make these repairs and a difference in these homeowner's lives. It comes full circle when one thinks about how these homeowners have spent their lives here, raised children here, and worked and volunteered here in Dutchess County.

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County executive director Darcy McCourt explains that "Rebuilding Together makes a distinct impact in the community because of the involvement and support of so many. Local volunteers give back to help those who have invested their lives into this area and the organizations who provide the funding see the importance of that. Our work builds relationships and connections within the community – something we could really use more of right now."

Funding for each of these projects were provided by Central Hudson, Consigli Construction, Dutchess County, and Lowe's. Other supporters, that contributed in-kind donations and services, include Herring Sanitation, Recycle Depot, and Veith Electric.



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