

COVID-19 UPDATE

As cases soar,  
testing seen as key

by Kate Goldsmith

The holiday surge continued this week, bringing skyrocketing COVID-19 infections not seen since last year at this time. In an effort to expand testing, the state sent a small number of free at-home test kits to counties, which then distributed them to municipalities. Dutchess' two cities, 20 towns and eight villages had scarcely alerted residents of their availability before supplies were depleted.

The county released a statement noting "The demand for these test kits far exceeds the supply at this time. We thank you all for your patience as we await further shipments from New York State, which are expected in the coming weeks. As further test kits arrive, they will be distributed by population size to our municipal partners, who will then distribute to residents."

The state sent a large supply of KN95 face-masks, as well, which were also distributed to municipalities. Residents, businesses and organizations can check with their locality for availability.

Statewide, positive tests have catapulted from 57.8 cases per 100,000 on Dec. 1 to 254.4 cases per 100,000 on Dec. 24, the last day that data was available as this paper went to press. The daily infection rate went from 4.8 percent to 12.4 percent in that same period.

According to the state's COVID-19 Dashboard, Dutchess County currently has a seven-day average of positive tests of 94.5 per 100,000 – one of the lowest in the Mid-Hudson region, but nevertheless a leap from 54.8 per 100,000 the week before.

To calculate the infection rate, the number of infections (positive tests) is divided by the total number of tests on any given day. While this number

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Construction time arrives  
for Red Hook Sewer Project



Officials from the Village of Red Hook, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, contractors and elected officials take part in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Municipal Sewer Project on Dec. 23. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

by Curtis Schmidt

The Village of Red Hook's long-awaited Municipal Sewer Project is finally turning the corner toward construction and signaling fruition for residents, businesses and village government.

How "long-awaited," you ask?

Well, one of the original planners, current Deputy Mayor Brent Kovalchik, says it all began before he had gray hair. That was around 2005. He noted that the project has progressed through four U.S. presidents and three village mayors.

"My wife says I've spent half my life on this project, but it's only been about a

quarter of my life," Kovachik said with a laugh. The construction phase is contracted to be completed by the end of 2022.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the \$8.5 million project was held on Dec. 23 in the parking lot near Village Hall. New Red Hook Mayor Karen Smythe

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Another year, another ton;  
Claudio Cares inspires all



by Curtis Schmidt

Every year of the Claudio Cares Can Drive is another inspirational adventure.

"During the last two years, we have been surprised by how many people still remember Claudio even with all the COVID issues," said Dad Luigi Coppola. "Every year we aim to keep the memory of our son, Claudio, alive because of the good that he did for his friends and family during his short life. The outpouring of love and support every year is very inspirational."

This year, the Coppola family and volunteer supporters filled a one-ton truck with non-perishable food to distribute to

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Claudio Cares supporters delivered non-perishable items to food pantries on Dec. 27. Included are Matt and Mary Kate Sweet, Colin and Kegan Alnwick, Will Stanton, Ryan and Rory O'Donnell, Maddox Weiss and Nate Bogart. Courtesy photo

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# Public meeting on Baird Park Draft Master Plan set Jan. 5

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has completed a Draft Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for James Baird State Park, located in the Town of LaGrange. A public meeting on the Draft Master Plan and DEIS will be hosted online Wednesday, Jan. 5 at 2:30pm. The meeting will be recorded and made publicly available.

During the meeting, OPRHP staff will make a presentation about the Plan and DEIS and be available to receive verbal comments after the presentation. Free

registration in advance of the online meeting will be required in order to attend. To register, please e-mail: [JamesBaird.plan@parks.ny.gov](mailto:JamesBaird.plan@parks.ny.gov) no later than Tuesday, Jan. 4 at noon.

OPRHP encourages the public to participate in the online public meeting and welcomes all comments on the draft documents. An online version of the draft Master Plan and DEIS is available at the following publicly accessible website: [parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx](https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx). Non-digital copies of the documents can be obtained from the Agency Contact listed below. The documents are

also available at the Taconic Regional Office located at 9 Old Post Rd, Staatsburg. Persons may provide comments by email or in writing no later than the end of the public comment period – Friday, Jan. 21, 2022.

The Draft MP and DEIS includes proposals for resource protection and recreational use, including continued rehabilitation and maintenance of the park’s existing facilities as well as construction of new park facilities. Rehabilitation or improvements are proposed for park infrastructure, including the day use area, maintenance center, buildings, sports and recreation facilities, circulation, and entry

areas, as well as upgrading of the park’s electric and water systems. Upgrades will be made to vehicular and pedestrian infrastructure. New infrastructure will include internet connectivity, new recreational amenities, and improved access to park amenities and programs for people of all abilities. The DEIS describes potential environmental impacts and mitigation of those that may be adverse. Resources evaluated with respect to impacts include land, water, air, biological/ecology, cultural and archeological, scenic, open space and recreation, traffic/access, public health and safety, and energy, noise, odor, and light.

## COVID-19 Update: As cases soar, testing seen as key

*continued from cover*

is not the most accurate indicator (test results can lag the actual testing by a few days), it does point to an exponential increase over a little more than three weeks. The high test positivity rates also suggest that cases may be under-counted, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of Dec. 24, Dutchess County’s COVID-19 Dashboard noted there were 2,611 active cases in the county (up from 1,325 on Dec. 16) and a 9.39-percent infection rate (up from 6.5 on Dec. 16). Hospitalizations were at 74 (up from 64 on Dec. 16), and there have been 528 deaths (up from 523 on Dec. 16) since the beginning of the pandemic.

According to CDC data, an average of 278 cases per day were reported in Dutchess County, a 88-percent increase from the average two weeks ago. Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 1 in 7 residents have been infected. Right now, Dutchess County is at an extremely high risk for unvaccinated people. So far, December has been the month with the highest average cases since January 2021 in Dutchess County.

Something to consider: Disruptions in testing due to the holidays may affect reporting the number of cases and deaths in the next couple of weeks.

**State to help counties with COVID-19 costs**

On Dec. 20, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that she is making \$65 million available to counties across New York State to help with the costs associated with administering vaccines and boosters and enforcing the mask-or-vaccine mandate for indoor public places that went into effect statewide on Dec. 13.

Up to \$1 million will be available for

most counties, with larger counties eligible to receive up to \$2 million. The new funds will apply to expenses incurred by counties and local health departments, which have been delegated to enforce the mandate, from when the “mask-or-vaccine” mandate was announced on Dec. 10 until its expiration on Jan. 15, 2022, and will be provided on a reimbursement basis through an application to the Department of Health.

When the mandate was announced, leaders of at least 30 counties in New York, including Dutchess, stated they didn’t have the resources to enforce it.

“Getting vaccinated and wearing a mask are the surest ways to fight COVID and stay safe, and this funding will help counties across the state enforce the reasonable, responsible and effective mask-or-vax mandate in place until mid-January,” Hochul said.

Eligible expenses include staffing and venue-specific costs for any sites offering vaccines, boosters, and/or tests; personnel costs associated with mask, test and vaccine/booster distribution; personnel costs associated with mask protocol enforcement; and public awareness efforts for the mask-or-vaccine protocol.

Counties that participate in the enforcement of the statewide mask-or-vax mandate will be eligible to apply for this additional assistance. Funding for other costs is still available for all counties from a separate \$65 million made available in September, which assisted with the quick and reliable distribution of booster shots.

For comprehensive information about COVID-19, including testing, vaccinations, prevention and more, visit [www.DutchessNY.gov/Coronavirus](http://www.DutchessNY.gov/Coronavirus) or call the COVID information line at 845-

486-3555.

**Legislation aims to improve state response to pandemic**

Gov. Hochul recently has signed several COVID-related bills.

“We need to make sure we learn the lessons of the pandemic so we don’t make the same mistakes twice,” Hochul said in a release last week. “These new laws will help us improve our response to the pandemic now, crack down on fraudulent use of vaccination records, and help us better understand the areas of improvement we need to make to our health care system so we can be even more prepared down the road.”



**- Falsification of COVID-19 vaccination records:** Legislation (S.4516-C/A.7536-B adds clarification that a COVID Vaccination Card shall be considered a written instrument for purposes of the forgery statute which makes the falsification of COVID-19 Vaccination Cards a class A misdemeanor. It also creates a new E felony of computer tampering in the third degree for intentional entering, alteration or destruction of “computer material” regarding COVID-19 vaccine provisions. Individuals who misrepresent their vaccination history, not only jeopardize their own health, but the health of all those they come into contact with.

**- Improving schools access to the statewide immunization database:** Legislation (S.4962/A.5062) gives schools improved access to the statewide immunization database, requiring the Department of Health (DOH) to allow every school access to the immunization records for their students. Currently, schools that are not school based health-centers have read-only access to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). This leads to schools

having to individually search each of their student’s immunization records and manually downloading them into their database. With the recent surge in students five to eighteen getting vaccinated, allowing schools the ability to download their full roster of vaccination data will save hours for staff, and improve the infection response from schools.

**- DOH to conduct medical care study related to the pandemic:** Legislation (S.6375/A.5713) directs the Commissioner of Health to conduct a study of the delivery of ambulatory care and other medical care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The commissioner will then make recommendations to improve the delivery, quality, accessibility, and cost of the full range of ambulatory health care services required by the community. The findings and recommendations will then be published on DOH’s website. This bill will help to improve medical access for New Yorkers, especially those in public hospital deserts that rely on ambulatory care more heavily. A similar study was conducted in 2017, so this is an opportunity to see how the pandemic has affected our medical care system.

**- DFS to conduct study on COVID-19 impact:** Legislation (S.6070-A/A.7324-A) directs the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to conduct a study on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on under-banked and under-served areas, small businesses and minority- and women-owned business enterprises getting loans. Minority and low-income areas were hit especially hard by the pandemic, so this legislation will provide State government officials on how banking was effected in these communities and what solutions there are to create more accessible banking.

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# Marist, Vassar will require students to get boosters for spring semester

by Rich Thomaselli

With COVID-19 cases surging in the Hudson Valley – and worldwide for that matter – due to the Omicron variant, Dutchess County’s two pre-eminent private colleges are taking big precautionary steps ahead of students’ return for the spring semester next month.

Marist College and Vassar College, both in the Town of Poughkeepsie, will mandate that students and staff receive a COVID-19 booster shot as requirement to coming back to campus after the holidays.

Vassar students and staff must receive their booster vaccines by Jan. 17, 2022, or no later than 30 days after becoming eligible to receive the shot.

“The health and safety of everyone on campus is paramount, and we understand health to include not only the physical health, but also mental health and social well-being,” Vassar President Elizabeth Bradley wrote to students, parents and staff. “Additionally, we will apply all the learning we have had through the last four semesters of the pandemic to provide the best and safest on-campus experience possible.”

Marist is following a similar path.

Although both schools were able to get through the fall 2021 semester relatively unscathed by COVID-19 – the Marist College women’s basketball team was sidelined for a game due to injuries and COVID protocols – neither one wants to be in a position they found themselves for the spring semester of 2020. When the pandemic hit hard in March of 2020, many schools shut down all on-campus instruction and dorms, eventually returning millions of dollars in tuition as well as room and board fees.

In a letter to students, parents and staff signed by Marist Executive Vice President Geoff Brackett; Thom Wermuth, Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Deb DiCaprio, Vice

President for Student Affairs, Marist said it does “not anticipate any changes to the spring 2022 academic calendar, nor shifting to remote education. However, this will require a collective effort and a redoubled commitment by everyone in our community, especially with the emergence of a highly contagious new variant, Omicron. A fully vaccinated campus combined with an indoor-mask requirement and symptomatic testing remain the best strategies to protect against severe cases of COVID-19, including its variants.”

To that end, Marist is requiring all students and staff to obtain a booster shot by Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. Like Vassar, if students and staff are not yet eligible to receive the booster – typically given six months after receiving the Pfizer and Moderna second vaccine dose or two months after the Johnson & Johnson shot – they have 30 days from date of eligibility to prove they have been inoculated with the booster.

They must also get a flu shot by Jan. 14, 2022.

# State Parks to host Winter Geocache Challenge

Beginning Jan. 1 and running through mid-April, the Taconic Region of NYS Parks will host its 2022 Winter Geocaching Challenge. Participating parks in this year’s challenge are Lake Taghkanic State Park in Ancram, Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park in Cold Spring and Mills Norrie State Park in Staatsburg.

All the caches will take participants to an interesting area of these parks and give them a little taste of history or environmental education. While geocaching, take some time and enjoy all that these

parks have to offer.

Geocaching is an any-day, every-day, all-ages treasure hunt that happens in your favorite places and places you’ve never been. New to geocaching? Sign up and learn more about geocaching at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 individual parks, historic sites, recreational trails and boat launches, which were visited by a record 78 million people in 2020.

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## Claudio Cares

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various food pantries throughout the Hudson Valley.

Coppola said that amount correlates to about 2,000-2,500 meals. Since the first year of the drive in 2012, the Claudio Cares Can Drive has collected and distributes more than 500,000 pounds of food.

Individuals, families and businesses that contributed this year included Guardian Self Storage, Franklin D. Roosevelt High School National Honor Society (NHS), Rhinebeck High School NHS, Ralph R Smith Elementary School, Marion Salon Spa in Millbrook, Roosevelt Fire Company, Hyde Park Artist Collective, Lyceum and Roosevelt Theaters, Anderson Center for Autism, Tuthilltown Distillery, NYS Senator Sue Serino, Fleischman Family, Pack Family, Miller Family, Marchant Family Patierno Family, The Daley Family, and numerous individuals who dropped off their goods throughout the season.

The food pantries receiving the goods include Hyde Park Food Pantry at Regina Coeli Catholic Church, The Reach Out Church Food Pantry in Hyde Park and the Holy Trinity Food Catholic Church food pantry in Poughkeepsie.

“While the pandemic has slowed us down, it has not snuffed us out. Claudio’s spirit will continue to guide us and inspire us,” said Coppola. “We thank everyone for helping us to help our own.”



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS welcomes your letters. Letters must be submitted via e-mail to be considered for publication; e-mail to [northern.dutchess@sdutchessnews.com](mailto:northern.dutchess@sdutchessnews.com) and include the phrase "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. Include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. We look forward to hearing from you.

## 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.**

### Hard right evangelical minions want to rule with holy objectives

To the editor:  
Bible thumpers are making our society a living hell. Never content with just having strong religious beliefs, these thumpers want to inject their holy directives into all our lives. They are against abortion, but instead of simply not getting one themselves, they want to deny every women's right to choose. The same is true about LGBTQ rights. Thumpers are never satisfied establishing guidelines for their own lives.  
Despite the fact that a large majority of Americans favor a woman's right to have an abortion, they are obsessed with criminalizing it. Gay and transgender rights also have strong public support, but that doesn't matter to the hard right evangelical minions and their hopelessly corrupted mega church leaders.  
Another gang of biblical extremists have taken over our foreign policy. Old Testament thumpers demand that Israel has a right to steal land in Palestine because God said it belonged to them two thousand years ago. And the slaughter of Palestinians fits right in. Israel's genocidal attacks on Gaza come right from God's warmongering advice to his chosen people. "Destroy them and all their possessions. Don't have any pity. Kill their men, women, children, and even their babies. Slaughter their cattle, sheep, camels, and donkeys (Samuel 15:3)."  
Our nation's founders were already sick to death of religious orthodoxies back when they wrote the Constitution. It was supposed to protect us from zealots bossing everyone around with their interpretation of God's will. We must organize once again to defeat these narrow minded, mean spirited holy fanatics.

Fred Nagel  
Rhinebeck

## Construction time arrives for Red Hook Sewer Project

*continued from cover*

welcomed officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC), contractors and elected officials, including County Executive Marc Molinaro.

Construction will begin in early January with the construction of the force-main system, which consists of pipes connecting each septic tank and pump to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), which will be located behind Red Hook Commons. A two-week schedule will be posted each Friday on the Village website ([redhookvillage.org](http://redhookvillage.org)) once the project begins and it will indicate the location of the work ahead.

Each property in the sewer use district will have its septic tank replaced with a new STEP system tank and pump, sized according to use. Tank replacement will be the last phase of the project as the force-main and WWTP need to be functional before septic tanks can be replaced.

And here is the key point: There will be no disruption in sewer service for property owners.

The benefits of the essential infrastructure project include protecting the drinking water for the village, which sits on top of an aquifer, and allowing the village to grow in a controlled manner.

"Not having a sewer system that connects users in the village center is a detriment to growth and development," said Kovalchik. "It just really holds you back. Larger restaurants, hotels and even micro-breweries all need modern water and sewer systems."

And seeing the village grow to its potential is why he has been a driving force behind the project for almost two decades.

Kovalchik could write a book about the arduous process, successes and failures of the project leading up to the current point. There were meetings with local, state and federal officials, securing essential grants and loans, visiting area villages with existing sewer systems and meetings with engineering and legal teams.

"I was chairman of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals back in 2005," said Kovalchik. "We understood that any potential development around and including the village center would require secure public water and sewer systems."

Kovalchik's team worked with then Mayor David Cohen and later with Mayor Ed Blundell. In 2007, Red Hook Commons senior housing developer Ken Kearney said he would donate the existing sewer plant at the facility and 10 acres of adjoining land for future development.

"Finding the funding was the obvious key," said Kovalchik. He recalled days

and weeks of phone calls to federal and state funding agencies, assembling packages for financing and putting together engineering reports and much more during the next several years.

All of that work, however, ended in disappointment when the referendum for the \$8.9 million sewer project was defeated by Red Hook voters in 2016.

But all was not lost.  
The defeated plan included properties in parts of the Town of Red Hook and officials almost immediately shrunk the scope of the project to include only properties in the village.

"After the referendum was defeated, we met with the mayor (Blundell) and the Village Board of Trustees the following Friday, took the data that had been collected and just focused on the village," said Kovalchik.

The project was downsized to \$4.9 million. However, when they opened bids to contractors in Feb. of 2020, the lowest bids came in at \$8.4 million.

"And to keep the lowest bidder, we had to award the contract in 45 days," said Kovalchik. "So we immediately went to work to secure \$3.5 million in additional funding."

The actual capital cost for the current project is \$6,311,118 after the grants are deducted. In addition to the \$925,000 NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) and \$1.2 million USDA Rural Development Water grants received, the project has also obtained zero percent financing on the project from NYSEFC. Based on the funding package, the capital cost per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) is \$716 per year.

The approximate borders of the planned project are Salvatore's Pizza on north, Red Hook Commons on the south, Red Hook Community Center on the east and Linden Avenue Middle School on the west. A map of the project is posted at [redhookvillage.org](http://redhookvillage.org).

Mayor Smythe terms the project a "win-win" for the Village.

"In addition to the important basics of ensuring clean drinking water and a public sewer system, this additional infrastructure will enable us to attract a wider variety of businesses and create a greater vibrancy in the Village center," she said. "Now that the groundbreaking is done, I'm really looking forward to the ribbon cutting this time next year!"

From top: Red Hook Mayor Karen Smythe, Deputy Mayor Brent Kovalchik, County Executive Marc Molinaro and USDA Rural Development Acting NY State Director Brian Murray speak at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Village of Red Hook Sewer Project on Dec. 23. *Photos by Curtis Schmidt*





# Whitton to focus on community engagement, long-term finances in Clinton

by Kate Goldsmith

As 2021 comes to a close, Michael Whitton is making the transition from Town of Clinton Councilmember to Supervisor. Bringing four years of Town Board experience to his new position, Whitton is not only familiar with how local government works, he has an intimate knowledge of the community where he was raised.

Whitton recently took some time to discuss his areas of focus for the next two years: ensuring Clinton's long-term fiscal stability and encouraging civic volunteerism.

"Current Town Supervisor Ray Oberly has done an amazing job, really, building up the surplus rainy day fund," Whitton said. "But one thing that's always concerned me, is we don't we don't have any long-term budgets, so that if something like Covid comes along and really puts a hit on our budget, we don't know how it's going to affect us five and 10 years down the road."

A capital asset plan is also in order, he said, to ensure that the town won't have to borrow for ongoing expenses, such as replacing plow trucks and performing regular maintenance.

"We've been good at keeping taxes low; in fact, our tax rate gets cut next year," said Whitton. "We have built up a decent surplus. [There has been] great management of our finances, but sometimes I feel like we've been lucky to have that; that if something really comes along and we're not prepared for it, we're really not prepared for it."

Clinton is currently paying off bonds from moving historic buildings to the town campus in 2011.

"There's a bond that has a few years

left on it, and when that's paid off, our finances will be in great shape. We'll have about \$125,000 extra a year we won't be spending," Whitton said. "I want to get together a really solid plan for the future, so we can plan for all these things."

### Hopes to expand community events, volunteerism

Within the Town of Clinton are four school districts, five zip codes and two fire companies – as one example, the Town Hall complex itself has a Rhinebeck address. Much like its northern neighbor, the Town of Milan, the challenge for Clinton is to bring all its residents together for a common cause.

The tendency is to gravitate to one's school district, as Whitton himself recalls.

"When I was growing up, everything I did was in Rhinebeck," he said, because he attended schools in the Rhinebeck district.

"We have a really great community here, but we don't have a town center," Whitton said. "Recently, we had a really great tree lighting event at our Town Hall, the first time we tried to make it big in years, and we got a lot of people there."

He also hopes to bring back Clinton Community Day and see if the town's Recreation Department "can start offering more services to the community, more opportunities for people to do things."

A call for volunteers is another way Whitton hopes to create more engagement.

"A lot of our government runs on volunteers, and I don't think people realize that about local government," he said. "I want to increase volunteerism in our community, and that will go along with

more community events. I think our community needs to be more involved."

Whitton cites the Clinton Community Library as doing a great job to engage the community with a variety of events.

"Through Covid I feel like they were working miracles," he said, adding that they provided many educational activities online when Whitton was trying to home-school his own elementary-aged child during lockdown. "No disrespect to our Rec Department, but in essence, the Library has been doing the service that a recreation department usually does in a town, with their events."

The Library was built with 100-percent donated funds 45 years ago, Whitton said, and the lease stipulated rent to be \$1 per month. The lease is up for renewal next year, and Whitton said he hopes it can stay at that rate, but the topic is being debated.

"I'll always defend our library, I love our library," he said. "They've done so many good things for this community."

See the sidebar on this page for volunteer opportunities in the town.

### Other priorities

"I've been working really hard for the past four years on environmental protections, and the Climate Smart Communities Program," Whitton said. "We recently got some grants because we became a designated Clean Energy Community. [We'll ] continue those efforts and hopefully get more grant money. It not only saves the town money; honestly, it's just the right thing to do."

He also hopes the town can finish up a longstanding zoning revision within the next year.



Michael Whitton

"It's been difficult with Covid," he said. "We were having two meetings a month and then it got cut down to, like, no meetings. I would like to resume the in-person workshops that we were having before the pandemic shut the Zoning Revision meetings down."

Whitton will also review the myriad of state-mandated policies to make sure the town is in compliance.

"The state requires us to have all sorts of policies (sexual harassment, workplace violence, etc.) and there are some that we actually don't have and others that I think we need to look at again (procurement policies, internet protections, security)," he said. "That's going to be a big focus in the first couple of months ... because it protects taxpayer dollars [to have those in place]."

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN CLINTON

"There are several town boards with vacancies," said incoming Clinton Town Supervisor Michael Whitton. "The Recreation Committee is being rebuilt completely, and needs a full complement of volunteers. The Conservation Advisory Council has three vacancies, and the Climate Smart Task Force needs a few more hands. The Scenic and Historic Roads Advisory Committee has three vacancies, as well."

Outside of the Town Government, Whitton said the Library Board of Trustees will have two vacancies in 2022.

"The Town has close relationships with East and West Clinton Fire Companies, which are always in need of volunteers to help keep our community safe," he said. "We also enjoy working with the Nine Partners Lion's Club and the Settled and Serving in Place (SSIP) seniors group."

As a reminder, anyone can attend and take part in town committee meetings, whether they are a member or not.

"There is much important work that can be done, and the more residents that take part in this work, the better," Whitton said.

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# Construction-related lane closures suspended on state roads Dec. 30-Jan. 3

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that temporary lane closures for road and bridge construction projects on New York State highways will be suspended from Thursday, Dec. 30, at 6 a.m. through Monday, Jan. 3, at 6 a.m. to ease travel for motorists.

Motorists should be aware that some work may continue behind permanent concrete barriers or for emergency repairs. The construction suspension aligns with New York State's Drivers First Initiative, which prioritizes the convenience of motorists to minimize traffic congestion and travel delays due to road and bridge work.

According to AAA, more than 109 million people will travel this holiday season, which is an increase of almost 34 percent from 2020. That will bring this year's numbers to 92 percent of 2019 levels.

The Governor reminds motorists that state and local law enforcement are participating in the national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign, which runs through Jan. 1, 2022. Motorists can expect to see sobriety checkpoints and more New York State troopers on the roadways during the holiday travel season.

The New York State Thruway Authority will also continue its tradition

of offering free coffee and hot tea to travelers at service areas along the Thruway from 11 p.m. New Year's Eve through 7 a.m. New Year's morning to promote safety and alert driving.

Text stops, including park-and-ride facilities, rest stops, service areas and parking areas along state highways support the state's effort to reduce distracted driving. All text stops will remain open, providing location where drivers can safely and conveniently use their phones and other mobile devices for calling, texting, navigating and accessing mobile apps. Texting while driving is especially dangerous, as it requires motorists to take their eyes off the road, hands off the wheel and mind off driving.

Follow the Thruway Authority on Twitter @NYSThruway and on Facebook at New York State Thruway Authority. Travelers can check NYSDOT's 511NY before traveling by calling 5-1-1, visiting the 511 website, or downloading the free 511NY mobile app on iTunes or Google Play. The free service allows users to check road conditions, view 2219 traffic cameras and link to air and transit information. The app features Drive mode, which provides audible alerts along a chosen route while a user is driving, warning them about incidents and construction.

# Youth for Quality Care of Animals instruction scheduled for Jan. 5

Jim O'Connell Sr., Resource Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) in partnership with Emma Jenks, 4-H Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County (CCEDC) are offering a workshop on Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).

The event is set Wednesday, Jan. 5, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Hudson Valley Research Lab, located at 3357 Route 9W in Highland.

YQCA is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars - food safety, animal well-being and character development. This program is

accepted at many livestock shows and fairs, which require youth quality assurance. YQCA includes information for youth showing pigs, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, market rabbits, and poultry.

Covid-19 is still a risk. Everyone who attends this workshop is required to wear a mask. Participants 12 and over must show proof of vaccination status or a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the event. If you don't have results in time, then bring proof of the test being given.

To register: Email Courtney Churchill at cmc534@cornell.edu to receive registration instructions.

# Delgado, Maloney announce more than \$1M in disaster assistance for Dutchess

Last week, U.S. Representatives Antonio Delgado (NY-19) and Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) announced that Dutchess County residents have received \$1,139,760 for individual and household assistance in the wake of Hurricane Ida.

After the county was initially denied, Delgado and Maloney fought to secure both Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for Dutchess residents.

FEMA payments are issued on a rolling basis and will continue to be disbursed to Dutchess residents. There were 829 valid registrations in the county and 740 referrals to the program.

"Hurricane Ida wreaked havoc throughout our upstate communities," said Delgado. "In the wake of the damaging storm, Dutchess County residents were able to apply for financial support

through FEMA. I am proud to announce that over \$1 million in assistance is going directly to constituents in our district to help folks rebuild and recover – and more funding is on the way. If you were affected by Hurricane Ida, please apply for FEMA assistance ASAP."

"Hurricane Ida brought devastation to so many families and businesses in communities across the Hudson Valley. Since seeing the damage first-hand, I've been working to ensure folks receive the support they need to get back on their feet," said Maloney.

The deadline for New Yorkers to apply for assistance has now been extended. Homeowners and renters with uninsured or underinsured damage to their property from Hurricane Ida now have until Tuesday, Jan. 4, to apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

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# Hochul announces \$35M for supportive housing units across the state

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently announced 192 conditional awards totaling \$35 million to housing agencies in every region across New York to provide support services and operating funding for at least 1,400 units of supportive housing for homeless persons with special needs, conditions or other challenges.

This is the sixth funding round of the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) which brings together eight state agencies to help provide funding for supportive housing for vulnerable populations, including veterans, victims of domestic violence, frail or disabled senior citizens, young adults with histories of incarceration, homelessness or foster care, chronically homeless individuals and families, as well as individuals with health, mental health and/or substance use disorders.

The ESSHI Interagency Workgroup, which reviews applications for funding, includes representatives from the Office of Mental Health (OMH); the Department of Health (DOH) including the AIDS Institute; New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR); the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS); the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS); the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV); the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Supportive housing has been shown to provide stability, safety and the opportunity for individuals and families to live in their own homes and communities as they make their way on the road to recovery. Housing with support services also reduces the need for costly emergency department visits and inpatient hospital stays.

The conditional awards are for service and operating funding needed to operate permanent supportive housing units. The awards will allow applicants to secure separate capital funding to finance the development and construction of their

housing project.

Awards may be used to provide rental assistance and services to eligible target populations to ensure their housing stability, including but not limited to:

- Primary and behavioral health services;
- Employment and vocational training and/or assistance;
- Educational assistance, including GED support;
- Parenting skills development and support;
- Child care assistance;
- Counseling and crisis intervention;
- Children's services, including educational advocacy, support and counseling; and
- Services or staff to identify and locate eligible individuals that need housing.

Awardees in the Mid-Hudson region include:

Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation  
Hudson River Housing Inc.  
Search for Change Inc.  
Community Housing Innovations Inc.  
Rehabilitation Support Services Inc. (3 awards)

PEOPLE: Projects to Empower and Organize the Psychiatrically Labeled Inc.  
Lower West Side Household Svc. Corp  
St Dominic's Family Services  
RUPCO Inc.  
The Childrens Village Inc  
Hudson River Housing Inc. (7 awards)  
Search for Change Inc.  
Family of Woodstock Inc. (2 awards)  
St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers  
St Dominic's Family Services  
Mental Health America of Dutchess County Inc.  
Access: Supports for Living Inc.  
Regional Economic Community Action Program  
Rehabilitation Support Services Inc.  
The Wartburg Home of the Evangelical Lutheran Church  
The Newburgh Ministry Inc.

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# Local business women partner to support families in need through John Flowers Christmas Wish



From left are Alisha Albiner, Amanda Baxter, Michele Williams, Allison Pitcairn, Frankie Flowers, Josie Trefz and Michelle Barone-Lepore. *Courtesy photo*

The John Flowers Christmas Wish Foundation received a great boost this year from local businesswomen that teamed up to continue the goodwill started years ago by the late John Flowers.

Local influencer, consultant, and owner of Drip Co. Coffee Michelle Barone-Lepore joined with Amanda Baxter of Baxter, J’aime Bonura of Bonura Hospitality Group, Alisha Albiner, Owner of Hudson Valley Fruit; Josie Trefz, McDonalds Owner/Operator; Michele Williams, Master Networker and Community Advocate; and Allison Pitcairn, Early Education Specialist, all came to the aid of Frankie Flowers, who has continued his father’s legacy of helping others during the holidays.

“As a group, we wanted to give back to the children in our community and their families. Each of us gave wholeheartedly and are proud to contribute to such a worthy cause. Being able to bring Christmas cheer to our local children is so important because it makes them feel special and gives them hope,” said Michelle Barone-Lepore.

Years ago, the John Flowers Christmas Wish group started going to nursing homes and hospitals to deliver gifts and cheer. The annual visits included local community members that would join

with the elves of the Christmas Wish to bring joy to those in need.

Frankie Flowers took over the charitable organization at a time when more people were struggling financially and were forced to choose between paying bills or giving to their children for Christmas.

Through a network of hundreds of volunteers, the foundation collects and wraps gifts, make phone calls, and delivers food dressed as Santa and elves.

When the businesswomen and mothers were told that the foundation was planning to deliver gifts to more than 2,000 children this year, they each sponsored families by purchasing gifts for them for Christmas. Collectively, they donated over \$5,000 in gifts for local families in need.

“It was incredible to see the enthusiasm and excitement that radiated throughout the Baxter office when the employees joined forces to give back to our community,” said Amanda Baxter. The company donated dozens of toys to the Christmas Wish.

“It’s great when groups of people get together to do good in the community for the holiday season,” said Frankie Flowers.

## TROOP K COLLECTS MORE THAN 1,000 TOYS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



The New York State Police in Troop K announced that they collected 1,115 toys for the 2021 Toys for Tots campaign in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps. Troop K thanked the local businesses, members of the community and State Police personnel who donated to help make this holiday season one full of cheer for children in need. *Courtesy photo*

# Salt Point student dies in auto accident, Dec. 21

by Rich Thomaselli

Days before Christmas, tragedy has befallen the Millbrook and Salt Point communities, and Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

Madison Lynch-Dingee, 16, died on Tuesday, Dec. 21, in a two-car fatal crash on State Route 82 in the Town of Washington.

The accident happened at approximately 2:55 p.m.

The Salt Point resident was a junior at Lourdes and attended Millbrook schools prior to high school.

A candlelight vigil was planned for Monday, Dec. 27, on the Village Green in Millbrook. Tuesday, Dec. 28, would have been her 17th birthday.

“Today our hearts are broken. It is with deep sadness that we inform you of a devastating loss to our school community. On December 21, 2021, Madison Lynch-Dingee, a junior at Our Lady of Lourdes High School was tragically killed in an automobile accident,” the school wrote on social media. “As we deal with our own devastation, we are aware that this loss is sure to raise many emotions, concerns, and questions for our entire school, especially our students. Helping our students navigate the difficult process was our priority for today December 22, 2021.”

She was the daughter of Louise and

Richard Dingee.

According to the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff’s Deputy came upon the crash while on routine patrol on Route 82 near North Shanks Road. A preliminary investigation revealed that a 2011 Subaru operated by Dingee was traveling northbound on Route 82 at an unsafe speed. Dingee tried to pass a 2016 Acura before making a left-hand turn onto North Shanks Road, not realizing the Subaru was also trying to turn left onto North Shanks.

Dingee’s car slammed into the Acura, exited the roadway off the western shoulder, and struck a tree. She died at the scene.

The occupants of the Acura were uninjured. At this time, no charges have been filed but the cause of the crash is still under investigation by the Sheriff’s Office Crash Investigation Unit and Detective Bureau. At this time, unsafe speed on the part of the Subaru appears to be a primary factor according to the Sheriff’s Office.

“We are saddened by the loss of our beloved Madison, but remain steadfast in our faith that teaches us that Jesus saved us and promises all who love Him eternal life,” Our Lady of Lourdes wrote on social media. “We ask our entire school community to pray for Madison, her mother Louise and her father Richard.”

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**VA clinic to change hours Jan. 10**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Following CDC recommendations for those that would most benefit from the COVID-19 booster, the VA Hudson

Valley Health Care System is now providing booster shots for Moderna, and J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines to eligible veterans, as supply and capacity permits.

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

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

**CASTLE POINT VA MEDICAL CENTER**

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Multipurpose Room, Bldg. 19, Room 100

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

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

Individuals can also receive their booster shot at no cost outside of VA by locating a vaccine site at Vaccines.gov - Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations. They'll need to bring their CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card for their appointment.

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

**Drive-up flu shots available to veterans**

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

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

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

## Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announces 2nd round of grants from Bridging Divides, Healing Communities Program

SHEFFIELD, MA — Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation recently announced the distribution of nearly \$35,000 to 14 organizations through the second round of its Bridging Divides, Healing Communities grant program, which supports community-building efforts to bridge differences and drive positive change at the local level.

Organizations in northeast Dutchess County and Columbia County, N.Y., Berkshire County, Mass., and northwest Litchfield County, Conn., received grants of up to \$3,000 for projects that seek to bring people together to explore shared interests, address problems through dialogue and action, and consider issues through a range of perspectives. Funded projects include community conversations, training sessions, service work, artistic and cultural activities, and educational programs for students.

The Bridging Divides, Healing Communities initiative includes a Youth Film Challenge that awarded \$3,500 in cash prizes in November to storytellers ages 14-24 followed by public screenings and panel discussions, and a recent speaker series on topics of race,

social cohesion, the media's role in polarized times and promising local engagement efforts. A first round of grants provided \$50,000 to 21 local groups earlier this year.

Grantees in Northeast Dutchess County include:

Bridging the Gap Games (with fiscal sponsor Millbrook Library): \$1,000 to bring together young adults and residents at the Fountains at Millbrook retirement community to play card games, board games and chess.

Rock Steady Farm and Flowers: \$3,000 to share the stories of queer and transgender farmers through short videos.

Stonewood Community Project: \$3,000 to expand outreach for its First Harvest Community Garden and Pantry to engage individuals from across the spectrum of social identities to participate in their charitable and educational offerings.

Wassaic Project: \$3,000 to create a 16-week program for middle and high school students to participate in the new Troutbeck Symposium on racial history in America and creatively express their findings through film, writing and art.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

**Learn about the County-Wide Shared Services Plan on Dec. 30**

Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro will air a presentation of the County-Wide Shared Services Plan on Thursday, Dec. 30, at noon, on the County's Facebook page, [Facebook.com/DutchessCoGov](https://www.facebook.com/DutchessCoGov). The presentation will also be posted on the County's shared services website thereafter: [dutchessny.gov/](https://www.dutchessny.gov/)

[Departments/Budget/County-Wide-Shared-Services-Initiative.htm](#).

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

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

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

**Rhinecliff Fall Soup Sales are back**

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

Profits will alternate between the two community organizations.

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*Note: The Office for the Aging and all OFA Senior Friendship Centers will be closed in observance of New Year's Day on Friday, Dec. 31. Clients of OFA's Home Delivered Meals program will receive their meals in advance of each holiday.*

## RECENTLY RETIRED AND WONDERING WHAT TO DO?

The COVID-19 pandemic has spurred many older workers who had been on the fence about retiring to make the decision to step away from full-time work. According to The New School's Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis, the ranks of the retired in the U.S. include about two million more people than expected during more typical times. That works out to about 1800 Dutchess County residents who retired when they hadn't expected to as recently as two years ago. If that sounds like your situation, and you find yourself wanting to avoid "idle hands," the Office for the Aging has plenty of ways you can help as one of our volunteers. While our primary focus is on volunteering by seniors, volunteers of all ages are welcome. Schools and houses of worship that feature a community service component for their students are welcome; contact OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones at [bjones@dutchessny.gov](mailto:bjones@dutchessny.gov) or 845-486-2544 to find out more.

## HOME DELIVERED MEALS - DRIVERS WANTED

Whether you're reading this in Poughkeepsie, Pine Plains, Pawling or Pleasant Valley - or anywhere else in Dutchess - there's an OFA Senior Friendship Center near you that would gladly welcome another volunteer driver for the Home Delivered Meals program. We'll work with whatever time you can commit to, whether that's every weekday or only occasionally, and with whatever places you're willing and able to get to. Fuel reimbursement is available for volunteers who deliver using their own vehicles.

## COMBINING VOLUNTEERING WITH EXERCISE

OFA's Senior Exercise, Bingocize, Tai Chi and "A Matter of Balance" programs welcome volunteer instructors. No specific exercise expertise is required but is always welcome. We offer both in-person and remote class opportunities.

## A NEW OFA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Dutchess County is full of seniors who are adapting to life online, and others

who would like to but are unsure of how to start. They're in search of a jargon-free introduction to the online world. They're interested in getting smartphones, for example, but want a guiding hand to help them get started. If you can help in this way, get in touch with OFA.

## BECOME AN OFA OUTDOOR EVENT VOLUNTEER

Our 2022 calendar of outdoor events is expected to begin in the early spring, continuing through the summer and into the fall. Our annual Senior Picnic program can use as many extra pairs of hands as we can get, whether the picnics are in drive-through or sit-down format. With 12 picnics covering every community in the county, we're sure to be near you at some point - but you can volunteer at several or all the picnics if you're motivated. Volunteering at OFA outdoor events is a great way to keep on your feet and socially engaged.

## HOW DO I BECOME AN OFA VOLUNTEER?

There's a printable volunteering form available at [www.dutchessny.gov/aging](http://www.dutchessny.gov/aging). If you're not online, call 845-486-2555 and we'll mail you a form.

## OTHER VOLUNTEERING OPTIONS

OFA works closely with the following organizations that provide volunteer services for our seniors: Friends of Seniors - 845-485-1277, [friendsofseniors.org](http://friendsofseniors.org) Pawling Resource Center - 845-855-3459, [pawlingresourcecenter.org](http://pawlingresourcecenter.org) North East Community Center - 518-789-4258, [neccmillerton.org](http://neccmillerton.org) For a wider range of volunteer opportunities based in Dutchess County, visit [www.dutchessny.gov/Business/volunteer-opportunities.htm](http://www.dutchessny.gov/Business/volunteer-opportunities.htm)

## DISASTER DAMAGE ASSISTANCE

FEMA has extended the application deadline for those in need of recovery assistance from damages following Hurricane Ida to Tuesday, January 4th. Businesses, residents, renters, and non-profits are eligible to apply at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov), on the FEMA mobile app or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

## DUTCHESS COUNTY HIGH SPEED INTERNET SURVEY

If you use the internet, you may have more than a passing hunch that the service you're paying for is neither as fast nor as reliable as advertised, even if you're not an advanced internet user.

And if you don't use the internet? For all the services you use every day, reliable internet service is essential to meeting

your needs.

Poor internet service is much more than an inconvenience.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, access to services like telemedicine was no longer just a "nice to have" feature for seniors. Telemedicine use experienced years of growth in a few weeks in 2020. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reported that the number of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries using telemedicine jumped from 15,000 at the start of 2020 to over two million by May of that year. From then on, the number of beneficiaries using telemedicine has remained over 750,000: a clear indication telemedicine is here to stay as an essential part of seniors' health care. Medicare and private insurers have recognized telemedicine's new role by

increasing coverage for telemedicine services - but most internet service providers (ISPs) haven't risen to the challenge.

Reliable high-speed internet is also key to public safety. Here's just one example: Advisories and alerts can be sent directly to individuals in the path of a dangerous storm. Those people will be much more likely to receive the alert on a mobile device and act on it than they would've been when terrestrial radio was the quickest communication option. But that's only true if the internet service carrying the advisories is reliable. Somebody involved in an accident in a rural area is in enough danger without having to worry that the responding ambulance can't find them or

*continued on page 14*

# January at Clinton Community Library

## Adult Programming

Cabin Fever Share 'n' Tell discussion group for adults, will meet monthly, first Monday of the month. The next meeting is Jan. 3 at 2 p.m. Enjoy a fundiscussion over hot cocoa. January's discussion prompt is: Funniest Vacation.

Boots on the Ground Genealogy is a virtual program that will meet over Zoom on Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. When you don't know where to go next, these tips will help you.

Tea Time Book Club meets Thursday, Jan. 13, at 1 p.m.

Global Literature Book Club meets Monday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. (virtual)

QiGong with Vince: Ongoing Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. (virtual)

All-Level Yoga with Mia: Ongoing Wednesdays at 6 p.m. & Saturdays at 10 a.m. (virtual)

Chair Yoga: Ongoing Fridays at 11 a.m. (alternates in-person and virtual)

Mah Johgg: Ongoing Tuesdays at 2 p.m., all levels welcome

## Children and Teen Programming

Story Seekers: Jan. 26 at 4 p.m., storytime and activity for K+up (ongoing first Thursdays)

Making Connections: Jan. 13 at 4 p.m., storytime and activity for grade

3+up (ongoing second Thursdays)

For the Love of \_\_\_ Books: Jan. 20 at 4 p.m., exploration of different book types and activity for grade 6+up (ongoing third Thursdays)

Storytime on the Dot: Ongoing Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for pre-K

Handcrafts Pop-Up: Jan. 29 at 11 a.m. A makerspace for handcrafts- various craft supplies: felting, hand sewing, stickers, papercrafts, and calligraphy 'stations' to try! Best for grades 4+up. Registration required.

## Family Programming

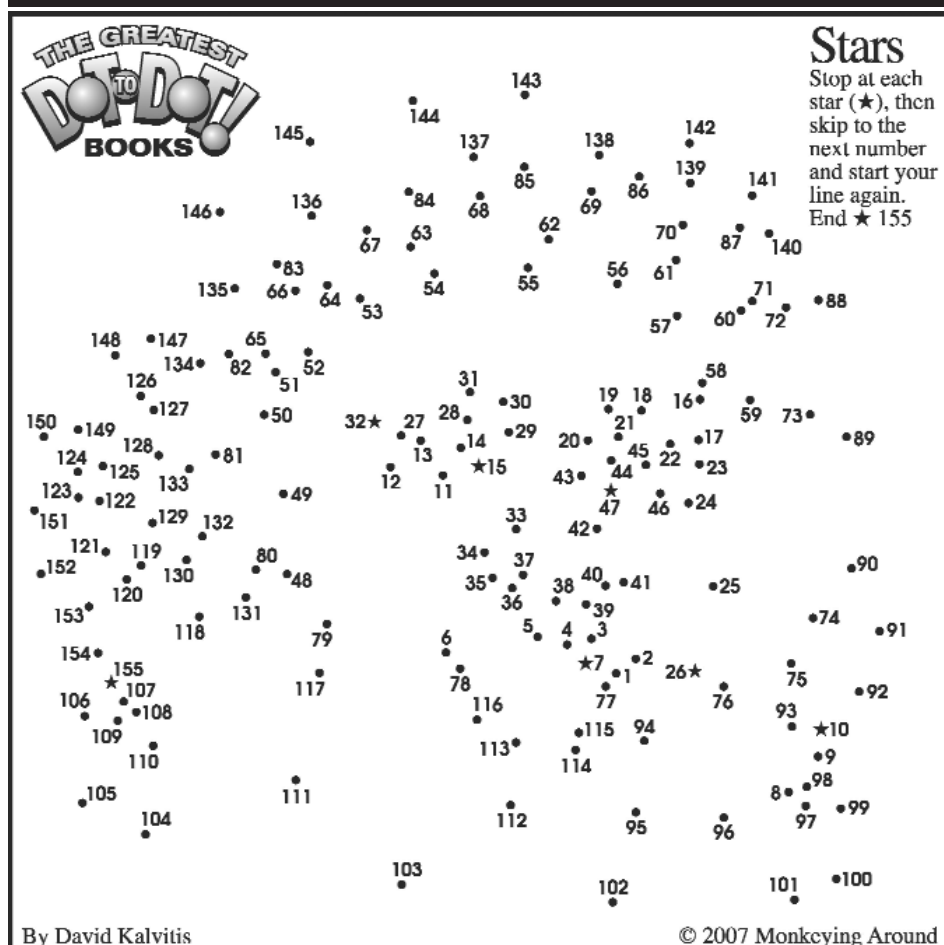
Make a Cookie Book Cover will be on Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. Registration required to pick up ingredient kit and get the Zoom link. Choose your own book cover to recreate, then decorate and share on the live virtual class. Great for all ages.

Most programs require registration. Call the library at (845) 266-5530, check the website calendar at [www.clintoncommunitylibrary.org](http://www.clintoncommunitylibrary.org), or email [clintonlib1215@gmail.com](mailto:clintonlib1215@gmail.com) to sign up, or for more information about these as well as other events.

Clinton Community Library is located at 1215 Centre Road in Rhinebeck, adjacent to the Clinton Town Hall.

## DOT-TO-DOT PUZZLE

See page 15 for finished puzzle (no peeking!)



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# Creative Living

celebrating all good things

## Mystery decorators strike again at BJ’s Farm in Pleasant Valley

*Introduction by Jim Donick*  
As the Christmas season winds down, the memories and, sometimes, the mysteries linger.  
Joe Cardella, of BJ’s Christmas Tree Farm on Traver Road in Pleasant Valley, has been bringing Christmas cheer to families for more than 30 years. As he cleans up at the end of the season in his fields, he will spot the occasional lost mitten or scarf, but one surprise is invariably somewhere out there, and where he least expects to find it. He related the following story recently.

**The Invisible Christmas Tree Decorators**  
*by Joe Cardella*  
It’s been many years since the Invisible Christmas Tree Decorator or

possibly Decorators struck here at our farm. I remember the first time walking in a field and finding a small four-foot Douglas Fir tree, not a green needle on it, all decorated for Christmas. The day I found that little tree I was cleaning up after our farm had closed. There, among all the beautiful trees, was this poor unappreciated tree all dressed up for the Christmas season.  
Since then, every year I have found a little tree not ready to be brought home by some loving family all decorated in the field.  
I have questioned my family and staff, but they either don’t know or they won’t tell me who the invisible decorator is.  
After years of trying to unmask the decorator, I have narrowed it down. It



A small tree sits decorated for the holidays at BJ’s Christmas Tree Farm in Pleasant Valley. *Courtesy photo*

either really is Elves or just maybe two guys who have worked for me since they were teenagers - Sean and Nick.  
I picture them coming at night wearing their Black Ninja garb and donning infrared goggles, so they can perform their deed unencumbered by the dark or peering eyes.  
Both of these boys fit the profile. Sean as a young boy would dress up in camouflage playing an Army Ranger hiding in my trees, and Nick was the type that reminded me of the Eddy Haskell character from the TV show “Leave It to Beaver.”

He was well mannered and always pleasant to be around, but you knew secretly he was thinking to himself ‘what could I do to drive my boss crazy.’  
BJ’s Christmas Tree Farm in Pleasant Valley started planting Douglas Fir trees in 1987, and that year we were buying bows of greens and selling wreaths. In 1992, we sold our first trees, but now 2022 will be our last season for selling Christmas trees; and if I have to post a guard 24 hours a day during our last season, I will find the Invisible decorator or decorators so I can say - THANK YOU!



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### Creative Living

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# The Italian Bagpiper

As his son takes up the bagpipes, Luigi is reminded of sore ribs.

Quite a few years ago, my son Geno decided he wanted to play the bagpipes. When he came to me to ask if he could take lessons, I looked at him a little shocked and confused. I will never forget what I told him.

“Your name is Geno Coppola. You probably have the most Italian name imaginable next to mine,” I said. “How can you, with your name, play a bagpipe? I think that your body will reject the bagpipe because of your name. I don’t think it’s possible. I think your name alone will prevent you.”

Now, Geno is a lot like me in that he doesn’t take no for an answer. So, for two weeks straight he would not stop harassing me. He showed me YouTube videos, he explained he would be in parades. He even told me that he would make money playing the bagpipes, so he would be able to pay them off. For two long weeks he pestered me until I relented.

That night he took me to a bagpipe club which was in a firehouse. He said this way he could see if he liked it. Pretty smart for a kid. So, we walk into this high-ceilinged room with hardwood floors, and I am greeted by this big Irish man. I introduce myself and Geno. I asked him if there were any other Italians in the club. He looked at me and started to laugh. I knew I was in trouble.

I sit down with Geno off to one side to observe. The head of the club summons Geno over and starts to ask him questions, leaving me alone. After some basic instructions, a woman hands him a beginner bagpipe. She shows him how to use it and gets him to play a single note which would harmonize with what they were about to play.

They all start to play. I’m listening to all this “music” being played in this high-ceilinged room with hardwood floors. The sound is bouncing off everything and coming at me like freight train. I’m trying hard not to run out screaming like my hair was on fire when suddenly I am brought back to my brother Anthony’s wedding.

In the fall of 1991, my brother Anthony married his fiancé Elizabeth.

My sister-in-law Julie is Irish so we were already “broken” in, which means we learned what it meant to be Irish. Now if Julie was Irish, then Elizabeth was super Irish. As a special treat to

Elizabeth’s parents, Anthony and Elizabeth decided to hire a bagpiper to play during their wedding ceremony.

I was around 22 when they got married so I was kind of grown up, but still a kid at heart. There we were, my brothers and I, in our tuxedos, looking like a scene from “The Godfather,” sitting by the altar. I’m Anthony’s best man, so I’m sitting right next to him in the middle of everything; and the rest of my brothers as ushers, along with Elizabeth’s brothers and Gianpietro Bertolozzi, our bartender in Hyde Park, are seated to the side.

Suddenly from the back of the church came this sound. It caught us all by surprise and I jumped a little. When the bagpiper began to play, my father immediately looked at me to see my reaction. Unfortunately, so did my brothers. From what I was told, it was like it was in slow motion. First there was a look of shock and surprise on my face, followed by a smile and then full laughter. It wasn’t even a little giggle. It was full on heavy breathing, hands on your knees, drool coming out of your mouth, belly laughing.

Once my brothers saw my reaction, they all started to laugh, also. It was like dominoes. First one brother would start to laugh, then another seeing the first laughing would start to laugh, and so on down the line. It felt like I was an altar boy again, because the harder I tried to stop laughing the more I would laugh. The more I would laugh, the more my brothers would laugh. Anthony is sitting next to me elbowing me in the ribs to get me to stop, which would work for a second or two, then the whole cycle would start all over again.

After mass outside of the church, as we are standing in the receiving line, Anthony explained to me that the bagpiper didn’t sound good because he didn’t have time to tune up. My ribs are still sore from the ceremony, but that statement just started the laughter all over again and, naturally, another elbow to the ribs.

Geno liked that initial visit so much, he decided he wanted to play and take lessons. He has actually gotten quite good, and when he marches he wears the full uniform with a kilt and this tall fuzzy hat. Every time I see him in his full uniform, it brings me back to my brother Anthony’s wedding day and my sore ribs.

ITALIAN STYLE SHORT RIBS

Ingredients

4-1/2 to 5 lb. English-style beef short ribs (8 to 12 ribs)

3 Tbs. olive oil

Salt

Ground black pepper

1 cup medium-diced carrots

1 cup medium-diced onions

1 cup medium-diced fennel

1 Tbs. chopped fresh thyme

1 Tbs. finely chopped garlic

1/2 tsp. minced anchovies

1-1/2 cups dry red wine

1 jar Coppola’s Marinara Sauce

1/2 cup chicken broth

1 to 2 Tbs. chopped fresh parsley

Method

Position a rack in the center of the oven and heat the oven to 325 degrees F. In a roasting pan, heat the oil over medium heat. Season the ribs with salt and pepper. Brown the ribs in the roasting pan and transfer the ribs.

Add the carrots, onions, garlic, thyme and fennel to the pan. Season with salt. Cook, stirring and scraping up any browned bits on the bottom of the pan, until the onions are slightly translucent. Add the anchovies, and cook, stirring, for about 1 minute.

Pour 1/2 cup of the red wine into the pot and cook, stirring to scrape up any browned bits on the bottom of the pan for about 1 minute.

Transfer all the ribs (and any juices that have accumulated) back into the pan. Pour 1-1/2 cups water, the sauce, broth, and remaining 1/2 cup red wine over the ribs and using tongs, arrange the ribs as evenly as possible and no more than two layers deep.

Cover the pan with foil. Cook until they are fork tender, about 2 3/4 hours. (The meat may fall off most of the bones about midway through cooking; this does not mean that the ribs are fully tender.)

Serve the ribs over creamy polenta with the sauce spooned over, sprinkled with chopped parsley.

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

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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.

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

## Suguru

5					
		3	1		
	1				
4					3

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. Loses color
6. Cleansing process
11. Hoover, for one
14. Musical production
15. Old harps
16. Atlantic resort, for short
17. Realistic
19. Harem room
20. Twentieth-century ogre
21. Burl, for one
22. Take place
24. Give confidence to
26. Word with Age or energy
28. Action word
30. In the best way possible
33. Toyland dwellers?
36. Unreasonably zealous
38. Eggs
39. Casa cooking pot
40. Of a tepee's shape
41. Use a wooden spoon
42. Communist leader (1893-1976)
43. Home for 42 Across
44. Garden pest
45. Mustang Ranch in Nevada, for one
47. ¿Quién \_\_?; Who knows?
49. Like formal wear
51. Annoy
55. Mojave, for one
57. Bad day for Julius
59. Sweet beverage
60. Ending for baby or bull
61. Threatened with a deadline
64. " \_\_ be in England..." (Robert Browning)
65. Big and strong
66. Construct
67. Untrustworthy one
68. Ornamental nailheads
69. Factions

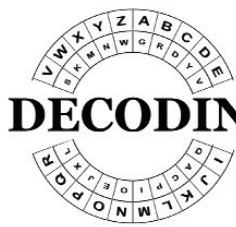
### DOWN

1. Professors' lecterns
2. Footless ones
3. Clark's companion
4. Crossword puzzle bird
5. Contemptuous writings
6. Famous middle initial and last name
7. Tanzanian lake
8. Go wrong
9. Orderly
10. Red-faced
11. Painter's cover
12. Classroom helper
13. Sound of prolonged pain
18. Surpassing
23. Newscaster Lindstrom
25. Eye part
27. Knee-ankle connections
29. Cooks, in a way
31. 28 and 29, in old Rome
32. Scotland \_\_
33. Explosive
34. Winglike
35. Like very red eyes
37. Curry, for one
40. Horse's color
41. Earned a ticket
43. Heavenly beings
44. Humiliates
46. Italian numeral
48. "Wanna make \_\_?"
50. Road sign
52. Measured: var.
53. Bring out something latent
54. Lets
55. Christian \_\_
56. This: Sp.
58. Prohibitionists
62. Actress Joanne
63. Silk from an Assam worm

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17						18						19		
20				21					22		23			
24			25				26	27						
			28			29		30					31	32
33	34	35				36	37					38		
39					40						41			
42				43						44				
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55	56						57	58				59		
60				61		62					63			
64				65						66				
67				68						69				

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





www.DCHSNY.org/ddp



Dutchess County  
Historical Society

# Before ‘selfies,’ diaries provided the means to record daily life

by Melodye Moore

by Melodye Moore

Raise your hand if you keep a diary.  
Raise your hand if you’ve ever kept a diary.

Raise your hand if you know what a diary is.

Once fairly common, diaries seem to be a thing of the past, replaced by Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other forms of popular social media. At first glance, they may seem boring and unimportant, just a record of daily events and experiences. But to historians they are a very valuable document that, because its candid and forthright “reporting,” brings the reader closer to ordinary people and everyday life than just about any other type of primary source material. Unlike modern social media posts that often focus on feelings and emotions, diaries recorded the daily rhythms of life and provided a snapshot of a person and a place in time.

The Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS) is fortunate to have many diaries in its collection. The ones that often get the most attention are those that include details of big stories – wartime experiences, seeing famous people, or reactions to important national events.

Others, like the March 1844 to October 1847 diary of Alson Ward of Pleasant Valley, provide a glimpse into life in a rural, antebellum town, typical of many in the county.

Educated at the New Paltz Academy and in the schools of Poughkeepsie, Alson is 22 years old when he begins his diary. The Ward family, originally from England, had been among the earliest settlers of Pleasant Valley and owned a mill and farm lands on what is today Traver Road. Despite the success of their milling operation, they saw themselves as farmers and listed agriculture as their occupation in census records.

The diary is written during a period of time when America was undergoing great changes. The rapid development of new

forms of transportation allowed for greater mobility for the average citizen and the lessening of isolation for rural families.

The 1825 opening of the Erie Canal and the availability of more fertile western lands forced New York farmers to diversify and led to a rise in the use of scientific agriculture. Fruit growing became highly technical and the nurseries emerged to meet the growing need. Medicine became more main-stream and ancillary professions such as dentistry and pharmacy spun off. Along with all these changes came more leisure time and the urge for self-improvement.

All of these changes and cultural forces can be seen through Alson’s diary entries.

With access to sleighs, cutters, carriages and wagons, Alson and his father Joshua traveled frequently to Poughkeepsie, usually at least once a week and sometimes three to four times.

Besides business trips, there were pleasure excursions. Without movie theaters and television, “visiting” was the most popular form of social entertainment and provided an ideal forum for the exchange of ideas on nearly every topic. Undaunted by distance, visitors came to the Ward house from as far away as Hopewell and Fishkill. Alson himself takes an extended “vacation” in September, leaving at 6 a.m. one morning to travel to Columbia County to visit relatives, arriving before sundown. After three subsequent days still “on the road” visiting other relatives and having a “pic-nick,” he returns home, spending another 10-12 hours on the road. Apparently worn out by his travels, he uncharacteristically decides to skip church the next day.

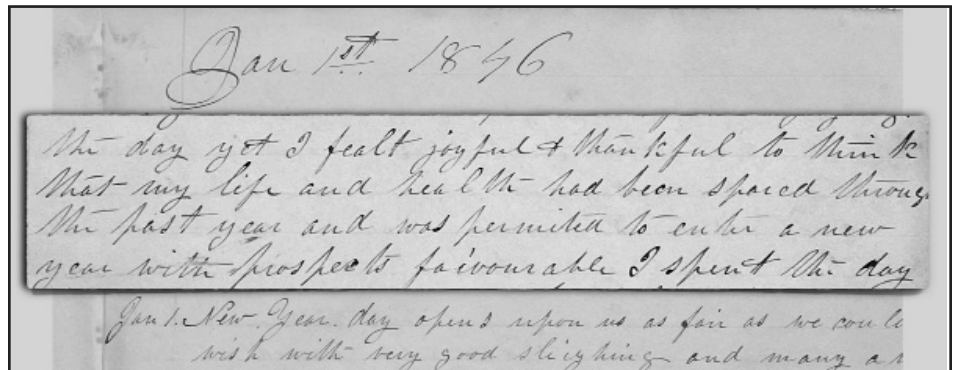
Farming the land was a way of life for the Ward family and they seemed to have quickly adapted to new scientific methods. The diary reveals that he and his father spent most of March working at establishing a peach orchard.

In one week alone, the pair went to Poughkeepsie three times, returning with a total of 600 peach trees. They were careful to buy only inoculated trees and Alson makes a point of describing in some detail the method for planting the trees.

An advertisement in the Poughkeepsie Telegraph for the Fishkill Hook Nursery near Johnsville gives some indication of the choices available in the area. One could buy apple, apricot, cherry, pear, peach and nectarine trees at prices that ran from 20 cents for a small apple tree to 25 cents for a medium tree, to 37 ½ cents for a large tree. The Wards peach orchard must have been successful for on October 21, 1851 Joshua Ward was awarded a patent for a machine for peeling and cutting peaches.

By 1850, there were five practicing doctors in Pleasant Valley and while Alson was modern enough to avail himself of a physician, he was still not ready to rely solely on medical science. Sick with a fever, headache and sore throat, he soaks his feet for the purpose of “taking a sweat.” When this doesn’t work he drinks paregoric and eventually pronounces himself cured by “proper rest.”

John Bower, another Pleasant Valley diarist of the same period, recounts a more serious encounter



As we approach New Year’s Day 2022, the first entry in Alson Ward’s personal diary reflect a sentiment we may consider appropriate 176 years after it was written: “January 1, 1846. I felt joyful and thankful to think that my life and health had been spared through the past year and was permitted to enter a new year with prospects favorable.”

with a local doctor. On the first day of his illness, he is visited four times by the doctor who bled him, immersed him in a warm bath and applied brandy and red pepper to his back and side. The malady was not cured however and over the next month he treated himself with an application of boiled oats. The last occurrence apparently called for more than home remedies and the doctor prescribed opium pills that left John in a “stupor and quite unwell for three days.”

To judge from Alson’s diary, the most important self-improvement activity in Pleasant Valley in 1844 was singing. Alson belonged to the Singing Association and attended Mr. Bartlett’s singing school. Held weekly, the classes concentrated on such things as learning the minor scale. When people were not singing at meetings, they were singing at church or singing at home.

One could argue that one of the most important forces in the education and molding of society in the first half of the 19th century was the church. In 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville concluded that “religion is the foremost of the institutions of the country.” Nineteenth century faith, derived principally from awakening theology, was deeply evangelical and intuitive.

The churches of Pleasant Valley all seem to have fallen within this definition and for the Ward family the church was probably the single most influential factor in their lives. Sundays were unequivocally given over to the church and nothing else except perhaps Sunday dinner with relatives. Frequently one attended morning services at the Presbyterian Church, dinner, afternoon services at the

Episcopal Church, tea and an evening prayer or temperance meeting at the Methodist Church. Occasionally a missionary would visit.

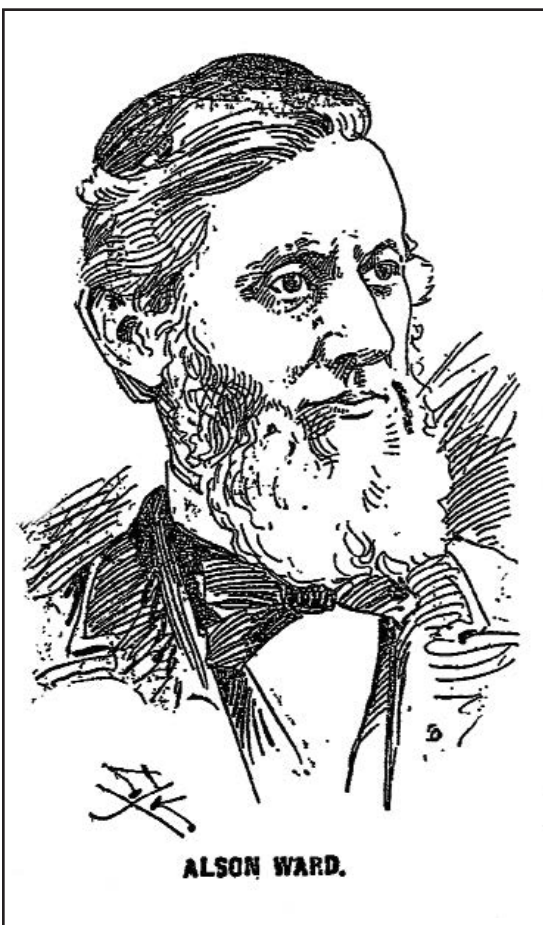
Alson was a member of the Juvenile Franklin Temperance Society and was heavily involved in planning the Temperance Meeting and County Convention held in 1844 in Pleasant Valley. While the temperance movement was important to Alson, he shows little interest in the growing abolition or women’s suffrage movements.

Alson married Julia Boyd in 1851 and eventually moved to Poughkeepsie where he worked for the Poughkeepsie Savings Bank in the real estate transactions division. His obituary reports that he was a Director of the Fallkill Bank, a Trustee of the Poughkeepsie Cemetery Association and on the Board of Education and the Alms House Board. He is buried in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Were it not for his diary, Alson’s life would have been summed up by a brief list of accomplishments and the personality of the man that emerges from the entries would never have been known. So, the next time you stumble on an old dusty diary, don’t throw it out. Better yet, maybe make a New Year’s resolution to start your own diary.

If these diary snippets whet your appetite to learn more about life in Pleasant Valley and Dutchess County in 1844, a full, searchable transcription of the diary can be found at [dchsnny.org/alson-ward](http://dchsnny.org/alson-ward).

Melodye Moore is a long-serving trustee of the Dutchess County Historical Society and Chair of its Collections Committee.



A sketch of Alson Ward from 1893. Ward was born December 10, 1821 in today’s Pleasant Valley, on the family’s large farmlands south of the center of the village center. He died there on January 6, 1906.



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# Rhinebeck students headed to All-State



Rhinebeck Central School District students (from left) Matt Suter, Margaux Epter and Lena Sealy-Nicotra have been accepted to the NYSSMA Area All-State Honor Ensembles. Courtesy photo

Congratulations to Margaux Epter, Lena Sealy-Nicotra and Senio Matthew Suter on their acceptance to the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Area All-State Honor Ensembles. Area All-State is a highly competitive festival in which students from the region are selected based on NYSSMA scores and teacher recommendations.

Margaux, Lena, and Matthew participated in last month's rehearsals with dis-

tinguished conductors to perform in a unique ensemble comprised of some of the most talented students from across New York State.

NYSSMA is the largest state affiliate of The National Association for Music Education. The mission of NYSSMA is to advocate for and improve music education across New York State by promoting and producing appropriate activities and programs for its membership and students in member school music programs.

# Golden Living

continued from page 9

communicate with the emergency room because of "dead spots" in coverage.

Poor broadband coverage was a problem before the COVID-19 pandemic. Now it's a crisis.

To meet the challenge of improving broadband coverage in Dutchess County, we first need to measure the extent of the issues – and that's where your help is vital. Visit [dutchessny.gov/highspeedinternet](https://dutchessny.gov/highspeedinternet) and complete a quick survey about internet access at your home or business. If you have questions, email [broadband@dutchessny.gov](mailto:broadband@dutchessny.gov).

If you're not online, your help is also essential. Get a paper version of the survey by contacting Dutchess County Emergency Management at 845-486-2080.

The survey is funded with \$1 million from the Federal Government's American Rescue Plan.

Your participation will help Dutchess County plan the kind of reliable high-speed connectivity that will meet our future needs. We know there are areas of the county that are unserved and underserved by existing broadband, and your input will help demonstrate where needs are greatest.

In related news, we're looking for volunteers who can help seniors learn the basics of technology, focusing on using mobile devices, at our Senior Friendship Centers. Please contact OFA for details.

## SCAM ALERT – FAKE 'SOCIAL SECURITY' CALLS

December is the month phone-scammers try to trick people into revealing personal and banking information, under the guise of giving Social Security recipients their cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for next year.

That's not how Social Security does it. They won't call you, and they definitely won't threaten you or demand payment in exchange for personal information.

For a printable Scam Prevention Resources flyer from OFA, go to [www.dutchessny.gov/aging](https://www.dutchessny.gov/aging)

## UTILITY MORATORIUM EXTENDED INTO EARLY 2022

New York State's moratorium on utility service shutoffs during the COVID-19 state of emergency was to have ended on Dec. 21, but has been briefly extended as follows. The new end dates for the moratorium, as of Dec. 24, are as follows:

Central Hudson Gas & Electric: Jan. 2, 2022

NYS Electric & Gas (NYSEG): Jan. 1, 2022

The state's Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Component will open on January 3rd. Emergency HEAP can help eligible seniors heat their homes during a heat or heat-related emergency.

If you have already used your initial HEAP benefit, you may request a second benefit. For additional information and questions on HEAP qualifications, contact OFA's HEAP division at 845-486-2553 or [zserrano@dutchessny.gov](mailto:zserrano@dutchessny.gov).

We expect additional information on updates to the HEAP program by early 2022, so watch next week's Golden Living/Aging News for the latest.

## VIRTUAL OFA TAI CHI (Starts Wed 1/12/22)

Seniors looking to stay physically active as well as physically safe in 2022 can sign up for a virtual OFA Tai Chi class. The first session for the class takes place on Wednesday, Jan. 12. Class time will be provided once registration is

accepted.

For more information contact OFA at [ofa@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov) or 845-486-2555. Click here for the OFA Senior Exercise page.

## 'GET SET UP' ONLINE COURSES FOR VETERANS AND OTHER OLDER ADULTS

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and New York State Division of Veterans' Services have partnered with GetSetUp — a peer-to-peer online learning community for older adults aged 50 and over — to offer a new series of classes in January and February specifically on Veterans' benefits.

The new series for Veterans will address myths surrounding Veterans' benefits, opening doors for Veterans and military families to receive benefits, programs, services, and resources that are available to them by virtue of their service. Click here to access the series, which is available to New Yorkers at no charge using the partner coupon code NYSTATE at login.

The courses include these topics:

- Jan. 7 – MythBusters! Getting rid of the mythology that has prevented you from getting the Veterans' benefits that you rightfully earned.

- Jan. 14 – Disability Compensation: How to receive fair compensation for any injuries or illnesses that you received in military service.

- Jan. 21 – VA Health Care: Making your connections with healthcare services from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Jan. 28 – Character of Discharge Cases: Righting historical injustices for Veterans regarding the character of discharge.

- Feb. 4 – Focusing on the Family: Benefits, services, and resources for the immediate family members of Veterans.

NYSOFA and the Association on Aging in New York — which represents New York's 59 AAAs — first teamed up with GetSetUp in May of 2021 as part of a multi-pronged effort to address social isolation in the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the partnership has connected 54,000 older adults to interactive online classes that help promote physical, mental, and social health. The platform offers more than 2,000 courses/classes and a growing schedule of more than 500 live classes and social programs weekly including: how to use technological devices, exercise and fitness classes, healthy cooking, coping with stress, book clubs, gardening, travel, and more.

All older adults aged 50 and over in New York State can access the complete schedule of courses by visiting NYSOFA's GetSetUp Learning Channel and using the partner coupon code NYS-TATE.

A new referral feature has been added to the platform, allowing a friend or caregiver to easily sign up a friend remotely to try GetSetUp courses. To do so, visit [www.getsetupfriend.com](https://www.getsetupfriend.com), select "booking for someone else," enter an e-mail address or phone number, and create an account using the NYSTATE partnership code. The referral process is a great way to help an older adult relative, friend or neighbor get connected with the platform.

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](mailto:ofa@dutchessny.gov) website: [www.dutchessny.gov/aging](https://www.dutchessny.gov/aging)

# New arts classes for teens and adults set in Rhinebeck

The Education Network for Teachers and Artists (ENTA) and the Open Gate Coffee House Ministries of the Rhinebeck United Methodist Church (RUMC) have announced new programming for youth and adults starting Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 83 East Market Street, in Rhinebeck.

"With hosting by the church and arts programming by ENTA, we are bringing local residents of all ages together to talk, learn, create and build community," said Pat Sexton, Executive Director of ENTA.

At the Open Gate Coffee House, ENTA will offer after-school classes and workshops for middle school and high school students in theatre games and improvisation on Tuesdays and fine arts on Wednesdays. There is a tuition fee for these classes and workshops. Proof of vaccination and masks will be required of the students.

In the morning hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the Open Gate Coffee House will be open from 9-11 a.m. for adults to gather. Admission is free and open to the public. Coffee and tea will be available. Masks will be required.

"We want to create a friendly, drop-in space for adults to gather, grab a cup of

coffee, chat, and we hope they will help us identify and design programming of interest for the community," said Pastor Nan Ernst of the RUMC. Arts workshops, presentations from the Office for the Aging, educational offerings and lectures are in the planning stages now for adults.

"We're very interested in hearing from local adults about the kinds of educational and arts experiences they are craving," said Sexton. "We have so many talented locals, wonderful teaching artists, educators and experts in a variety of fields to call upon and we want to create a space where we can all learn and sustain a stronger, more connected community."

The program is being supported in part by the Thomas Thompson Trust and the Anne & Abe Effron Fund from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

For more information about the coffee house morning hours and the Theatre and Arts classes for youth, please contact ENTA at [ENTAEXTRA@gmail.com](mailto:ENTAEXTRA@gmail.com) or call (845) 876-6880. You can also visit ENTA's website to sign up for Theatre and Arts classes for youth at [enta4arts.org](https://enta4arts.org).

# NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS

ALL LOCAL ~ ALL THE TIME

[www.sdutchessnews.com](https://www.sdutchessnews.com)



Find us on Facebook:  
**Southern Dutchess News Group**





OBITUARIES

Tyrone Lee Cheatham

HYDE PARK – Tyrone Lee Cheatham, 64 of Hyde Park, NY passed away peacefully at home Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 with his loving family by his side. Tyrone was born on Aug. 29, 1957 to Earnest Cheatham and Minnie Voss in Utica, NY. Tyrone graduated from Poughkeepsie High School and entered military service in 1975, where he received an honorable discharge. He retired from the Hudson Valley Psychiatric Center in 2015 where he worked as a Construction Supervisor. Tyrone, affectionately called “Ty”, loved the water, boating and fishing. He was a fighter, right up until he took his last breath. Tyrone is survived by his wife of 16 years, Sharon Cheatham of Hyde Park NY., Children, Jennifer Miller and her husband Louis Miller of NC, Ashon Lyons of NY, Deon Tillery of OH, Issac Cheatham of NY, Mario St. Paul of Trinidad, Jessica, Burton-St. Paul of Trinidad, Giselle St. Paul of England, Ryan St. Paul of Trinidad, Father, Earnest Cheatham of NY, Mother-in-law, Meena Ramcharen of NY, Sisters, Minnie Smith of Elmira, NY, Betty Jones of Utica NY, Deirdre Lake of Virginia, Chantily Taylor of California, and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Visitation was held on Dec. 23, 2021 at Joseph J. Darrow Sr. Funeral Home, Inc. Poughkeepsie, NY. Burial followed at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery with Military Honors. To send online condolences please visit [www.darrowfuneralhome.org](http://www.darrowfuneralhome.org)

Eleanor Denton

HYDE PARK – Eleanor M. Denton, 93, passed away on Friday, Dec. 17, 2021, at Renaissance Rehab & Nursing Care Center, after several years of suffering with vascular dementia. She previously lived in Hyde Park, NY. Born on Aug. 10, 1928, in Poughkeepsie, NY, she was the daughter of John H. Dow, Sr. and Ethel J. Spencer Dow. Eleanor was a graduate of

Arlington High School, Class of 1946. She initially worked as a Teletype Operator at DeLaval in Poughkeepsie. She was a homemaker for many years and returned to work as a medical assistant at former Vanderbilt Manor for Assisted Living in Staatsburg. Eleanor is survived by her daughters, Kathleen Denton, Millbrook, NY, Carol and son-in-law Steve Heller, Rhinebeck, and brother, John H Dow Jr., Poughkeepsie. She also leaves behind granddaughter Carrie Sammarco Ducillo and her husband Joseph of Millerton, NY, granddaughter Rebecca Lyden Schell and her partner, Pete Coon, of Red Hook, Courteney and Geoff DeMarco of Newburgh, NY and Joseph Schell and his partner, Janis Archer. She was proud great-grandmother to Joseph and Anthony Ducillo and Jaedon and Connor Schell. Also surviving are niece Natalie Conklin (Carl), nephews Ed and Steve Dow and several grandnieces and nephews. Friends and relatives called on Dec. 21, 2021, at Sweet’s Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park, Burial followed at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Eleanor’s family respectfully requests memorial donations to the Hyde Park Food Pantry, 28 Harvey St., Hyde Park, NY 12538 or online at [www.hpfoodpantry.org](http://www.hpfoodpantry.org). Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet’s Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park. To send an online condolence, please visit [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

Christine di Grandi Jones

STAATSBURG – Christine di Grandi Jones, 72, of Staatsburg, NY died at her home on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021. Born March 13, 1949, in Beverly, MA, she was the daughter of the late George and Mary di Grandi. She is a graduate of FDR High School in Hyde Park and received her Bachelor’s Degree from Marist College and a Master’s in counseling from Iona College. Christine was very involved in the Hyde Park Community at large. Among her many endeavors, she served as a past President of the

Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Hyde Park School Board Building Team, the Hyde Park Historical Society, and a Dutchess Outreach volunteer. An active member of the Regina Coeli Parish, Christine was a Eucharistic Minister, a Community Event Volunteer, Couples Counselor, Sunday Lecter, Faith Formation Advocate, and a Pre-Cana Counselor. Christine is survived by her daughters, Trisha Freiermuth of Chatham, NY and Deanna Jones of Rochester, NY; grandchildren, Bettina Jones, and Ian and Siena Freiermuth; sisters, Diana di Grandi, Patricia Hohmann, and Francine di Grandi of Hyde Park, NY and several nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her son, Mace P. Jones and her brother, Ronald di Grandi. In keeping with her wishes, cremation will take place and her ashes will be buried with her son, Mace. Memorial calling hours were on Dec. 21 at Sweet’s Funeral Home, Hyde Park. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 22 at Regina Coeli Church, Hyde Park. Burial followed in Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to The American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) or to Regina Coeli Church, 2 Harvey Street, Hyde Park, NY 12538. ([www.reginacoelihydepark.com](http://www.reginacoelihydepark.com)) To send an online condolence, please visit Christine’s obituary page at [www.sweetsfuneralhome.com](http://www.sweetsfuneralhome.com).

Jean S. Dobson

RHINEBECK – Jean Stevenson Dobson, loving wife, mother of three, and grandmother of seven, passed away in her home on Dec. 14, 2021 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 75 years old. Jean was born on Oct. 11, 1946 in Ft. Wayne, IN. She graduated from the University of Florida in 1968 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and completed her master’s degree at SUNY New Paltz in 1975. She met her husband, Charles (Chuck) Dobson in 1971, and the couple married in Poughkeepsie on July 1, 1973. Together they raised three girls. Jean is survived by her husband, Charles, of Rhinebeck, NY; three daughters Jen (husband Peter) and Chrissy (husband John) of CA, and Kathy (husband Tom) of Rhinebeck; as well as seven grandchildren. She is also survived by her brothers, Dave of Poughkeepsie and Warren of Florida along with several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her mother Luella and father Willard as well as her brother Kenny. Calling hours will be held Thursday, Dec. 30, from 4 to 7 pm at Dapson-Chestney Funeral Home, 51 W. Market St., Rhinebeck. Masks are required at the visitation. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation, 80 Washington Street, Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (<https://www.hvhospice.org/donate-now/>). To sign the online register please visit [dapsonchestney.com](http://dapsonchestney.com)

Mary Ellen Downey

AMENIA, NY – Mary Ellen Downey, 93, passed peacefully in her sleep at her home in Amenia on Dec. 16, 2021. The eldest daughter of Walter and Florence (Licht) McDonald, Mary Ellen was born in the Bronx on March 14. She graduated from Immaculate Conception School and Amenia High School. On Feb. 12, 1942, she married her high school sweetheart, Thomas Joseph Downey, Jr., who predeceased her in 2004. In addition to her parents and husband, Mary Ellen was preceded in death by her sister Patricia Macura, her daughter-in-law Deborah Downey, and her great grandson Dolan Thomas Duncan. She is survived by her sons, Thomas III (Moira), Robert (Bernadette), daughter Deborah Smith (Edward), brothers Walter and Joseph (Gail), sister Anne Cutolo, sisters-in-law Ellen Caldarelli and Catherine Gallagher (Edward). She will be missed by her grandchildren Michelle Downey-Demczar (Joseph), Rebecca Duncan (Steven), Thomas Downey IV

(Kimberly), Robert Downey Jr, Kimberly Hazzard (Zachery), Zachary Smith (Casey), and Nicholas Smith (Jennifer), and her beloved great grandchildren Braeden, Thomas, Reilly, Liam, McKenna, Skarlytte, Addysyn, Jameson, and Korben as well as numerous step grandchildren, step great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many dear friends. Calling hours were held on Dec. 21, 2021 at Hufcut Funeral Home, Dover Plains, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 22, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church, Amenia, NY. Burial followed at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Amenia, NY. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations to Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Rd., Amenia, NY 12501 or the Amenia Historical Society, P.O. Box 22, Amenia, NY 12501. To send the family an online condolence, please visit [www.hufcutfuneralhome.com](http://www.hufcutfuneralhome.com).

Charles Hadden, Jr.

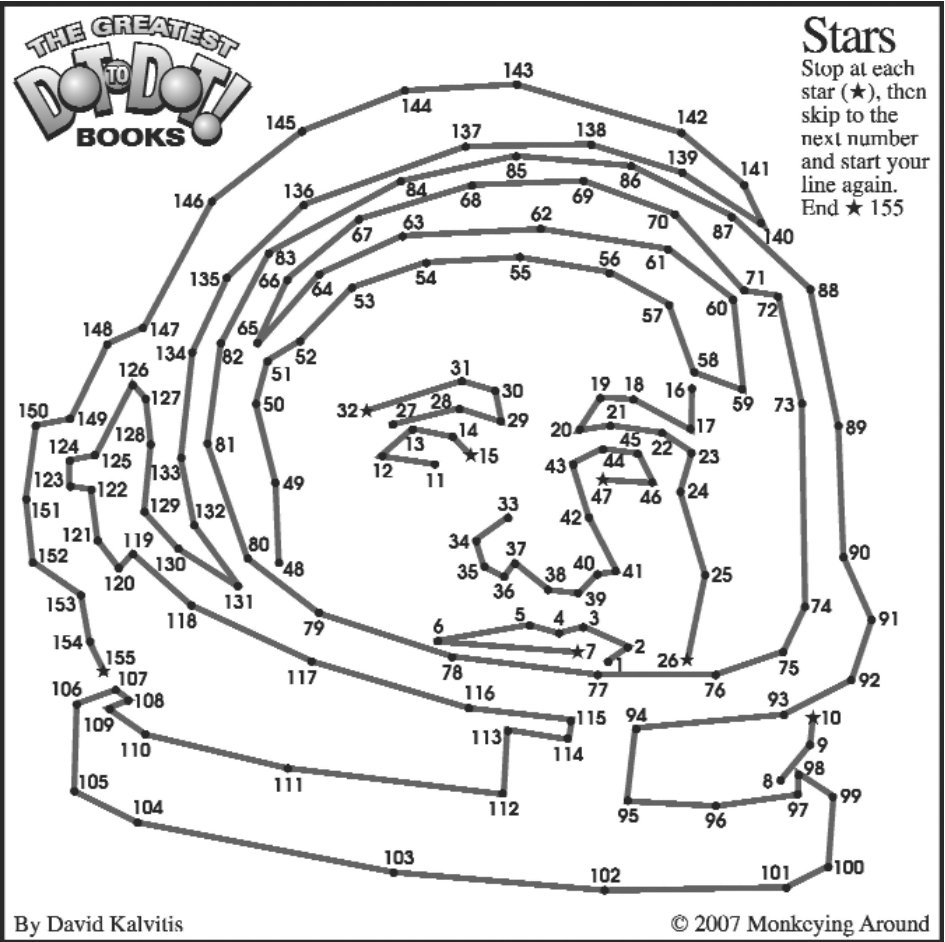
DOVER PLAINS – Charles J. (Bud) Hadden, Jr, 76, a resident of Dover Plains previously of Verbank, passed away peacefully on Dec. 11, 2021. Bud was born in Poughkeepsie, NY on July 18, 1945 to the late Charles and Carrie Hadden. He was retired from Audia Motors where he worked for over 25 years as a master mechanic and autobody tech. On Aug. 26, 1968 he married Alice M. Davis. Mrs. Hadden predeceased him on Jan. 5, 2015. He is survived by his son, Charles “Buddy” Hadden, III and his fiancé, Jill Towner of Gordonville, PA, his son Shawn Hadden and his fiancé, Jessica Garrett of Millbrook, NY, his daughter-in-law Deborah Hadden, his grandchildren Shawn, Jr., Blaine, and Shane Hadden of Millbrook, NY, sisters-in-law Eva Fraleigh and Christine Wilcox of Florida, his companion Corrine Steutzel of Dover Plains, NY and several nieces and nephews. Visitation was on Dec. 20 at Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook. Funeral services were held on Dec. 21 from the funeral home. Interment followed in Verbank Cemetery. For condolences, please visit [www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com)

Fredrick Hilbrandt

RED HOOK – Fredrick J Hilbrandt, 88, a longtime resident of Red Hook, NY, passed away on Monday, Dec. 20, 2021 at his home. Born on April 19, 1933, in Valley Stream, NY, he was the son of the late Fredrick C and Cecilia (Schmitt) Hilbrandt. Fred married Bernice C. Guski on Nov. 11, 1957 in St. Sylvia Church in Tivoli, and Bernice predeceased him on April 29, 2020. He served in the US Navy from 1952 to 1955, and was a longtime member of Harris Smith Post 524 American Legion in Tivoli, NY. He is survived by his loving family, including his children, Rich (Cheryl) Hilbrandt of Red Hook, NY, Fredrick (Kristi) Hilbrandt of Lorton, VA, Catherine (Robert) Diaz of Macedon, NY, and Cynthia (Steve) Hilbrandt of Red Hook, NY; his grandchildren, Sarah, Charles, Amanda, James (Emily), Joshua, Matthew, Santana, and Mikayla; his siblings, John Hilbrandt of Red Hook, NY, Bobby Hilbrandt of Red Hook, NY, Douglas Hilbrandt of Rome, NY, Donald Hilbrandt of Red Hook, NY, Edward Hilbrandt of Tivoli, NY, and Anne Blum of Tivoli, NY; along with many extended family, friends, and Brother’s & Sister’s in the fire service. In addition to his wife, and parents, a brother, James Hilbrandt, predeceases Fred. Friends called at the Burnett & White Funeral Homes on Dec. 22, 2021. Members of Harris Smith Post American Legion conducted prayers and fellow members of the Red Hook Fire Company and fire service conducted service. Funeral services were held on Dec. 23, 2021 at Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook, NY. Burial was at St. Sylvia’s Cemetery, Tivoli. Memorials may be

continued on page 17

Answer to this week’s Dot to Dot (puzzle on page 9)



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

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

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

Visit us on Facebook! Southern/Northern Dutchess News Group



Legal Notices

STATE OF NEW YORK  
SUPREME COURT  
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS  
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS  
Index  
No. 2020-50267  
BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICE, LLC,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE LATE THOMAS PETTIT A/K/A THOMAS JOHN PETTIT, IF LIVING, AND IF ANY BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS WHO ARE SPOUSES, WIDOWS, GRANTEES, MORTGAGEES, LIENORS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTUTEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF SUCH OF THEM AS MAY BE DEAD, AND THEIR SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTUTEES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, FIRST HORIZON HOME LOAN CORPORATION, JODI WHITE, DANTE SCHIAVO, KYLE PETTIT, CHRIS ERAMO, Defendants.  
To the above named Defendants:  
You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's attorneys within thirty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME  
If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.  
Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.  
Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE  
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT the Milan Town Board will hold a meeting for the audit of the 2021 financial records of department heads on January 12, 2022 at 10:00 am.  
Said meeting will take place at the Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle.  
By order of the Milan Town Board  
Catherine Gill,  
Town Clerk

Legal Notices

THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.  
This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Honorable Maria G. Rosa, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed the 19th day of November, 2021 at Poughkeepsie, New York.  
The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:  
Tax I.D. No. 6156-02-600977  
ALL that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the middle of the Old Post Road, now Osborne Hill Road, and distant South 20 degrees 50 minutes West 128.23 feet and South 15 degrees 50 minutes West 147.60 feet from a new division line through lands of H. Osten forming the southeast corner of Secor and  
RUNNING THENCE along the middle of said Old Post Road South 15 degrees 50 minutes West 100.00 feet; THENCE leaving said Old Post Road and through lands of said H. Osten North 63 degrees 38 minutes West 623.22 feet to a point in the line of formerly Grosvenor, now Windheim; THENCE along said line North 66 degrees 38 minutes East 128.85 feet; THENCE through lands of said H. Osten South 63 degrees 38 minutes East 521.66 feet to the point of BEGINNING.  
Subject to easements, covenants, and restriction of record.  
These premises are also known as 38 Osborne Hill Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.  
Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff  
500 Bausch & Lomb Place  
Rochester, NY 14604

File No. 2021-170  
SURROGATE'S COURT - MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITATION

The People of the State of New York,  
By the Grace of God Free and Independent,  
To: BRIAN WEAVER residing at 39 Regency Dr., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
A petition having been duly filed by CHARLES PETERSON, who is domiciled at 103 Second Ave., Fonda, New York, 12068  
YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's court, Montgomery County, at the Village of Fonda, New York, on the 20th day of January, 2022, at 10:00 O'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of COLLEEN PETERSON, lately domiciled at 103 Second Ave.,

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE  
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT the Milan Town Board will hold their Reorganization meeting on January 1, 2022 at 1:00 pm.  
Said meeting will take place at the Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle.  
By order of the Milan Town Board  
Catherine Gill,  
Town Clerk

Legal Notices

Fonda, New York, 12068, in the County of Montgomery, New York, admitting to probate a Will dated July 10, 1989, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of COLLEEN PETERSON, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to: CHARLES PETERSON  
Dated, Attested and Sealed, November 30, 2021  
Hon. GUY P. TOMLINSON  
Surrogate Judge County of Mon  
By  
Alixon C. Thomas, Chief Clerk  
ATTORNEY  
Name of attorney: Charles R. Schwartz, Esq., The Schwartz Law Firm Tel. Address of attorney: 236 State Highway 67, Amsterdam, NY 12010  
NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Chelsea Fire District of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, New York, will hold its regular meeting for the year 2022 on the second Monday of each month.  
All meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m. on that day at the Chelsea Firehouse located at 15 Liberty Street, in the Town of Wappinger, and are open to the public.  
This notification is being given in accordance with the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York. By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Chelsea Fire District.  
Claire Gibson  
Fire District Secretary  
Chelsea Fire District

NEW HACKENSACK FIRE DISTRICT  
217 Myers Corners Road  
Wappingers Falls, New York 12590

Please take notice that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the New Hackensack Fire District will be holding their annual reorganization meeting on January 4, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the New Hackensack Fire District Headquarters, 217 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls, New York 12590.  
December 29, 2021  
Frank P. Borquist  
Secretary/Treasurer

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Rombout Fire District in the Town of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, at a meeting held on December 9, 2021, duly adopted the

Legal Notices

following Resolution, subject to a permissive referendum:  
RESOLUTION #1  
A RESOLUTION authorizing the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Rombout Fire District, Town of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, to pay expenses in preparation for Town and Voter approval of satellite firehouse to be built at location 1548 Route 52, Fishkill, New York. (which premises are owned by the Fire District).  
The foregoing preliminary site work shall be partially paid for out of the Building Reserve Fund and the Board authorizes said expenditure at a cost not to exceed \$400,000 (including associated architectural, engineering and legal fees).  
This Resolution is adopted subject to a permissive referendum.  
By order of the Board of Commissioners of the Rombout Fire District.  
Jill Muller, Secretary  
Rombout Fire District

PUBLIC NOTICE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Wappinger adopted a local law to Opt-Out of Allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries in the Town of Wappinger outside of any Village as authorized Under Cannabis Law Article 4 at its regular meeting held on December 13, 2021. This Local Law is subject to a referendum on petition in accordance with New York State Cannabis Law § 131 and the procedures outlined in Article Seven of the Town Law.  
(PROPOSED)  
LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2021  
A Local Law Adopted Pursuant to Cannabis Law §131 Opting Out of Licensing and Establishing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries within the Town of Wappinger outside of any Village.  
Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Wappinger as follows:  
Section 1. Legislative Intent  
It is the intent of this Local Law to opt the Town of Wappinger out of hosting Cannabis Retail Dispensaries within its boundaries that would otherwise be allowed under the New York State Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act.  
Section 2. Authority  
This Local Law is adopted pursuant to Cannabis Law § 131, which expressly authorizes towns to opt-out of allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries to locate and operate within the area of the town outside of any village within such town.  
Section 3. Local Opt-Out for Cannabis Retail Dispensaries  
The Town Board of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, hereby opt-out of allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries from locating and operating within the boundaries of the Town of Wappinger outside of any village within the Town. In accordance with Cannabis Law § 131(1), the Town requests the Cannabis Control Board to prohibit the establishment of on-site consumption premises licensed pursuant to Article Four of the Cannabis Law within the Town outside of any village.  
Section 4. Local Law Subject to Permissive Referendum  
Pursuant to Cannabis Law § 131, this Local Law is subject to a referendum on petition pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §24 and the procedure for calling for and holding such referendum shall be in accordance with the law.  
Section 5. Effective Date  
This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §27.

LEGAL NOTICE

Please take notice that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Wappingers Falls will hold a public hearing on January 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm, online and telephonically only, utilizing the WebEx platform, to consider the application submitted by Viserba

Legal Notices

calling for and holding such referendum shall be in accordance with the law.  
Section 5. Effective Date  
This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §27.

PUBLIC NOTICE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Wappinger adopted a local law to Opt-Out of Allowing On-Site Cannabis Consumption Premises in the Town of Wappinger outside of any Village as authorized Under Cannabis Law Article 4 at its regular meeting held on December 13, 2021. This Local Law is subject to a referendum on petition in accordance with New York State Cannabis Law § 131 and the procedures outlined in Article Seven of the Town Law.  
LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_\_ (PROPOSED) OF 2021  
A Local Law Adopted Pursuant to Cannabis Law §131 Opting Out of Licensing and Establishing On-Site Cannabis Consumption Premises within the Town of Wappinger outside of any Village.  
Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Wappinger as follows:  
Section 1. Legislative Intent  
It is the intent of this Local Law to opt the Town of Wappinger out of hosting on-site cannabis consumption premises within its boundaries that would otherwise be allowed under the New York State Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act.  
Section 2. Authority  
This Local Law is adopted pursuant to Cannabis Law § 131, which expressly authorizes towns to opt-out of allowing on-site cannabis consumption premises to locate and operate within the area of the town outside of any village within such town.  
Section 3. Local Opt-Out for On-Site Cannabis Consumption Premises  
The Town Board of the Town of Wappinger, County of Dutchess, hereby opt-out of allowing on-site cannabis consumption premises from locating and operating within the boundaries of the Town of Wappinger outside of any village within the Town. In accordance with Cannabis Law § 131(1), the Town requests the Cannabis Control Board to prohibit the establishment of on-site consumption premises licensed pursuant to Article Four of the Cannabis Law within the Town outside of any village.  
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Legal Notices

Breglia Holdings, LLC for an area variance approval for the property located at 2746 West Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY (Grid #6158-14-252469) in the Village Mixed (VM) Zoning District. The applicant is seeking a variance from Village Code §151-61, Definitions, “Dwelling, Multifamily” which permits “[a] building containing more than two dwelling units or a part of a building above a permitted business use containing more than two dwelling units” to allow a multifamily dwelling that (a) contains only two dwelling units and (b) has one of the dwelling units located below the commercial use.  
There will be no in-person participation in this meeting by the Board or the public. The public may join the meeting via WebEx using the following link:  
<https://wappingersfallsny.webex.com/join?MTID=m87b226f7346e0c2babac32581eb74e3>  
Or through the WebEx website using the following information:  
Meeting Number (access code): 2631 456 9295  
Meeting Password: yfJDK5mAX77  
Or by telephone, at 1-408-418-9388, and using the meeting number (access code) above.  
A copy of this application is on file in the Planning and Zoning Department and is available for inspection when the Department is open, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The telephone number is 845-297-5277. All interested persons may appear by agent, or by attorney, and all will be heard.  
Date:  
December 21, 2021

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
R F B - D C H - 2 0 2 2 - 0 2  
Dutchess County Urban Trail- Phase 1 Tree Clearing.  
Project Description: This project involves tree clearing of a former railroad corridor in the Town and City of Poughkeepsie for a future shared use trail. Beginning: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 8:00 am: Bid Documents may be obtained in person or by mail (provide your FedEx account number or SASE) at: Dutchess County DPW, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Business Office, 1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Upon request, all interested parties may review the hard copy of the Bid Specifications and Drawings by visiting the above referenced address. The bid documents are available on a USB Flash Drive. You must give the following information to obtain the flash drive: Company Name, Contact Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail Address, All Addendums will be issued to Plan Holders via E-mail, but also posted on BidNet Direct (aka Empire State Purchasing Group) site. A refundable deposit of \$15.00 will be required for each set of Bid Documents, in the form of a check made payable to the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance. The deposit is refundable in accordance with General Municipal Law Section 102. (The refund must be requested in writing). Bids for the above project will be received by: Diane McKenna, Contract Specialist, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) 626

Legals continued on next page



Legal Notices

Legals continued from previous page

Dutchess Turnpike, 1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. On or before Friday January 21, 2022 at 11:00am, and at that time publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. Due to COVID-19, the bid opening for this solicitation will be conducted through Microsoft Teams Audio Conferencing. Anyone who wishes to hear bids read aloud will need to call into the phone number listed below, in-person attendance at a bid opening will not be allowed. We ask that you call in at least three minutes prior to bid due/time to ensure you are connected properly. All calls will be asked to identify themselves by name and organization. Join Microsoft Teams Meeting +1 516-268-4602 United States, Hempstead (Toll) Conference ID: 905 328 926#. Each bid shall be submitted as one paper original and one electronic copy and be accompanied by Bid Security (bid bond, certified check or official bank check) or a letter of credit (in a form agreeable to Dutchess County) in the amount of 10% of the bid amount. The successful bidder's security will be retained until he has signed the Owner-Contractor Agreement and furnished the required 100% Labor and Material Payment Bond, 100% Performance Bond and acceptable insurance documentation. Each bid shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Project, Name of the Bidder, and the date and hour of the bid opening. Questions will be accepted by 3:00pm on Friday, January 14, 2022 and shall be emailed to dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov. The anticipated

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start of construction is March 1, 2022, and the anticipated completion date, including all punch list work is March 31, 2022. Failure to meet these dates will result in liquidated damages and engineering charges in accordance with the NYSDOT specifications September 1, 2021. This project is subject to New York State Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates PRC # 2021012876. The County reserves the right to waive irregularities in Bids and in bidding and to reject any or all Bids. "Bidders shall promptly notify the County of any errors, omissions, conflicts, and/or ambiguity that they identify in the contract documents by emailing dpwcontracts@dutchessny.gov."

LEGAL NOTICE

The following entitled bond resolution has been adopted on December 13, 2021, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Dutchess, New York, is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Dated: Poughkeepsie, New York, December 27, 2021. Clerk, County Legislature

RESOLUTION NO. 2021220 BOND RESOLUTION

Legal Notices

DATED DECEMBER 13, 2021. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$11,110,000 SERIAL BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE construction of the DUTCHESS urban trail in the town and city of poughkeepsie, IN AND FOR SAID COUNTY. WHEREAS, the capital project hereinafter described, as proposed, has been determined to be a Type I Action pursuant to the regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, which it has been determined will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment by the County of Dutchess, New York, having declared Lead Agency by Resolution No. 2021192 on November 8, 2021; and WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing of such capital project; NOW, THEREFORE IT RESOLVED, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the County Legislature of the County of Dutchess, New York, as follows: Section 1. Construction of the Dutchess Urban Trail in the Town and City of Poughkeepsie, in and for the County of Dutchess, New York, including a shared use path, and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$11,110,000. Section 2. It is hereby determined that the maximum estimated cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is \$11,110,000, and that the plan for the financing thereof shall be

Legal Notices

by the issuance of \$11,110,000 serial bonds of said County hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law. Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision 19(c) of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law. It is hereby further determined that the maximum maturity of the bonds herein authorized will exceed five years. Section 4. The faith and credit of said County of Dutchess, New York, are hereby irrevocable pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. To the extent not paid from other sources, there shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said County, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable. Section 5. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Commissioner of Finance, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Commissioner of Finance, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law. Section 6. The powers and

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duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the Commissioner of Finance, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as she shall deem best for the interests of the County; provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, she shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. The receipt of the Commissioner of Finance shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money. Section 7. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the County of Dutchess, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the Commissioner of Finance and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted or impressed thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the County Clerk. Section 8. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially a level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the County by the facsimile signature of the Commissioner of Finance,

Legal Notices

providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a designated official of the County), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the Commissioner of Finance. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the County not to impose and collect from registered owners of such serial bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Commissioner of Finance shall determine. Section 9. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.1502. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a longterm basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein. Section 10. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if: 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said County is not authorized to expend money, or 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publica-

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tion of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Section 11. This resolution, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in full in The Poughkeepsie Journal and The Southern Dutchess News, the official newspapers of said County, together with a notice of the Clerk of the County Legislature in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law. \* \* \* \* \* CA-151-21 G-0145 11/12/21 AMS/kvh Fiscal Impact: Attached

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE

The Purchasing Agent, County of Dutchess, Poughkeepsie, New York, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for: Bid #RFB-DCP-04-22

New, Used or Demo Diesel Transit Buses for Dutchess County Public Transit

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. on the 13th day of January 2022 at the Dutchess County Division of Central Services, 378 Violet Avenue, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by visiting our web site <http://www.dutchessny.gov>, selecting "Government", then selecting "Bidding and RFP Opportunities". For additional information, call (845) 486-3613.

OBITUARIES

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made in Fred’s memory to the Red Hook Fire Company, PO Box 100, Red Hook, NY 12571; Tivoli Fire Company, PO Box 486, Tivoli, NY 12583; or to Hudson Valley Hospice-Foundation, 80 Washington Ave., Suite 204, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Arrangements are under the direction of Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook, NY. To sign the online guest book, please visit [www.Burnett-White.com](http://www.Burnett-White.com).

Alethea Kazolias-Fraleigh

RHINEBECK – Alethea Kazolias-Fraleigh, 39, of Rhinebeck, passed away on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, at Vassar Bros. Hospital in Poughkeepsie after a long illness. Born on Dec. 30, 1981, in Poughkeepsie, she was the daughter of the late Nicholas P. Kazolias and Louise E. Wilburn Kazolias. On Friday the 13th of September in 2019, she married David. He survives at home. Along with her husband she is survived by the five beloved children of their beautiful blended family: Josiah Ramirez, Joseph Ramirez, Giovanni Ramirez, Amelia Fraleigh and Austin Jessen. She is also survived by her siblings, Marissa Berryann (Justin Berryann), Philotemo Kazolias (Hailey Moran), Nicholas Kazolias (Mary Kazolias), Satiro Kazolias (Jessica Kazolias), Pauline Quattrone, Ellen Kempf, Aeyiou Kazolias, and Socrates Kazolias, her mother-in-law, Donna Fraleigh, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Along with her parents she was also predeceased by her brother Panacea Kazolias and her nephew, Paul Kazolias. In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service will take place at a future date. Alethea’s family respectfully requests that any memorial donations be directed to Solving Kids Cancer, 1 East 53rd Street 5th floor, New York, NY 10022 ([www.solvingkidscancer.org](http://www.solvingkidscancer.org)) or a donation to the family to help offset the cost of her children’s college. Arrangements are under the direction of Sweet’s Funeral Home, Inc., Hyde Park. To send an online condolence, please visit [www.sweets-funeralhome.com](http://www.sweets-funeralhome.com)

Linda M. Johannesen

HYDE PARK – Linda M. Johannesen, 77, of Fort Myers, Florida and a former longtime Hyde Park resident lost her battle with cancer on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. Born Sept. 2, 1944, in Kingston, she was the daughter of Raymond E. Dixon and Nathalie M. Halloran. She was a graduate of Wappingers Central Schools. On Sept. 18, 1965, in St. James’ Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, she married Ronald E. Johannesen Sr. Her husband predeceased her on July 28, 2015. Survivors include her son, Ronald E. Johannesen Jr., and wife, Nikole, of Hyde Park; three grandchildren, Kayla, Anthony, and Connor; brother, Raymond Dixon Jr., and nephew, Raymond Dixon III, both of Hawaii; and niece, Rona Waldrop, of California. On the Johannesen side of the family, she is survived by her sister-in-law, Joyce Johannesen, of Poughkeepsie; niece, Linda Cerbino, of Poughkeepsie; and nephew, Harry Johannesen III, of Westerly, RI. She is also survived by several cousins on the Ostrander side of the family in the Kingston area. Cremation has taken place. Visitation was held on Dec. 27 at Sweet’s Funeral Home, Hyde Park. Funeral services followed at the Funeral Home. Linda’s family respectfully request memorial donations to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 1357, New York, NY 10018. ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) To send an online condolence, please visit [www.sweets-funeralhome.com](http://www.sweets-funeralhome.com).

Paul C. Ross

MILLBROOK – Paul C. Ross, a resident of Millbrook and formerly New York City, passed away peacefully at his home on Dec. 22, 2021. He was born in New York on Jan. 4, 1931 to George and Diana Ross. Paul attended Friends Seminary in New York and graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English. Paul was a true ad man of the 1960s, working for several top New York ad agencies. Paul’s most

famous line of copy, “Manly yes, but I like it too”, informed the brand positioning for Irish Spring soap from its first introduction and for many years thereafter. But Paul found his greatest successes as an entrepreneur, co-founding or founding several companies in the natural products industry beginning in the mid-1970’s. Bioforce USA, a company that markets, sells and distributes high quality consumer brands from Europe, remains under family control and management to this day. Outside of work, Paul and his wife Kitty, were a glamorous New York couple, living on Park Avenue, vacationing regularly in fashionable places such as The Marbella Club in Spain and Montpelier in Nevis, and dining every night at New York’s best restaurants. Following Kitty’s passing, Paul moved briefly to Millbrook to spend time with his daughter and to be closer to his company, which operated out of Hudson, NY. But love interrupted life again and Paul returned to New York, where for the next 12 years he was a constant companion of Anne Tracy Bricker, a long-time family friend. When Anne sadly passed in 2019, Paul returned to Millbrook where he remained until his passing. Paul is survived by a daughter, Abigail Ross Sioussat and a son-in-law, Pierce Stewart Sioussat of Tannersville, NY, and by a grandson, Alton Hale Sioussat of Richmond, VA. They would like to offer special recognition to Barbara Marinelli, with whom Paul spent the past two years and whose love and companionship was a source of great joy for Paul and a source of deep gratitude for the family. Arrangements are private and have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home, Millbrook.

Jason M. Stanton

STANFORDVILLE – Jason M. Stanton, 48, of Stanfordville, NY passed away on Dec. 16, 2021. He was born on Dec. 8, 1973 in Poughkeepsie, New York to the late Douglas J. and the late Victoria (Smith) Stanton. On Oct. 10, 1998 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Jason married Jennifer A. Oliva. Survivors

include his spouse Jennifer Oliva-Stanton of Stanfordville New York, son Jason M. “LJ” Stanton Jr. of Stanfordville NY son Jack D. “Jack Jack” Stanton of Stanfordville NY, step-mother Gail Stanton of Clinton Corners NY, brother Douglas J. Stanton Jr. and his wife Deborah of Staatsburg NY, brother Philip Stanton of Derby NY and several nieces and nephews. On Aug. 17, 2016 Part of Jason’s heart went to Heaven with his best friend his Dad. The family would like to thank Hudson Valley Hospice (Shannon Johns and Nicole Balles) for their compassion and care given to Jason during his illness. As per Jason’s request services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Funeral arrangements are under the care of the Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home, Poughkeepsie, NY. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.doylefuneralhome@gmail.com](http://www.doylefuneralhome@gmail.com)

Danny Lewis Swartz

SALT POINT – Danny Lewis Swartz, 59, of Salt Point, NY passed away on Dec. 14, 2021. He was born on March 31, 1962, in Rhinebeck, NY to the late Robert Charles and the late Mildred (Brazee) Swartz. Danny was the owner of Dan Swartz Construction. On June 26, 1980 in Millerton, NY Danny married Wanda M. Churchill, who survives in Stanfordville, NY. Also surviving are his children Shannon Swartz and her fiancé Pino Pace of Poughkeepsie, Danielle Swartz and Eric Dittenhoefer of Salt Point, Andrew Swartz and Dana McDonough of Millbrook, grandchildren Hunter Holmes, Luciano Pace, Isabella Tibodeau, Ethan Swartz, longtime friends Robert Tellerday of Millbrook and Rose Muncey of Naples,FL, brother Robert Swartz of Dover Plains, NY, sister Donna Ansari of Dover Plains and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services and Burial are private and at the convenience of the family. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home Poughkeepsie, NY. To plant a tree in Danny Swartz honor please visit <http://www.alivingtribute.org/>



- Southern Dutchess News
- Beacon Free Press
- Northern Dutchess News

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**Southern Dutchess News**  
**& Beacon Free Press**

We are not responsible for typographical errors.  
A letter of correction will be supplied if requested.

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

201 Home Improvement  
202 Cleaning Services  
203 Lawn Services  
221 Professional Services  
222 Tax Experts  
223 Beauty Services  
225 Business Services  
226 Travel & Services  
227 Bridal Services  
295 Financial  
296 Mortgages  
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Monday-Friday  
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### FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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

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

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

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

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# Hochul signs legislation to support bars, restaurants, breweries and other small businesses

Governor Kathy Hochul recently signed a legislative package removing red tape and assisting new bars, restaurants and other alcoholic beverage businesses to open more quickly. Legislation (S.2743/A.3909) allows for temporary retail permits to be issued for bars and restaurants opening in New York City, putting these businesses on the same footing as businesses in the rest of the state. Legislation (S.6256-A/A.7757) allows for new temporary manufacturing permits to be granted for New York wineries, breweries, cideries, and distilleries that are awaiting final approval on their manufacturing license, so they can operate and serve customers while their full application is pending.

“Let’s raise a glass to the terrific bars, restaurants, breweries and other small

businesses that are a vital part of New York’s economy,” Hochul said. “As we continue to fight the pandemic, we also need to make sure we protect our economy, and this legislation will cut red tape and bring more customers in the door as quickly as possible to help small businesses get back on their feet.”

These bills work to make it more efficient for new businesses to open. Under current law, New York City businesses cannot be granted temporary liquor licenses; the State Liquor Authority (SLA) is only permitted to provide permanent liquor licenses, which are subject to a lengthy review process. Under Legislation (S.2743/A.3909) the SLA will be able to grant certain New York City businesses temporary liquor licenses, which only take about 30 days to

process, depending on the type of application. This will help the restaurant industry as well, which makes a third of its revenue from alcoholic beverage sales.

In order to strengthen the small businesses in the alcoholic beverage making industry, Legislation (S.6256-A/A.7757) allows the SLA to provide temporary licenses to qualifying businesses, including many craft beverage manufacturers. Normally, the licenses take six months to process and this waiting period makes it even riskier to open a new business in this sector. Under this new legislation, businesses may apply for a temporary license which allows them to open while awaiting the final approval, preventing accrued costs in rent and maintenance after the location and equipment are assembled.

New York State’s alcoholic beverage making industry accounted for over \$5 billion in revenue in 2018. Despite the economic downturn, it offered lawmakers a chance to reexamine laws that could interfere with entrepreneurialism. By easing this step in the SLA’s approval process, the industry is expected to grow over the next several years. By removing the wait times and obstacles to getting started, these new laws will galvanize the industry’s upward momentum and encourage more small businesses to start up new wineries, breweries, cideries, and distilleries in New York State. The alcoholic beverage making industry will also be supported by the restaurant industry as it emerges from a similar state due to the pandemic.

## Local arts organizations to receive state grants

HYDE PARK—Sen. Sue Serino, who serves as the ranking member of the State Senate’s Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation, recently congratulated local art programs that will benefit directly from \$867,800 in New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Grants.

“The arts play a critical role in making the Hudson Valley such a special place to live and work, and we have a duty to do all we can to ensure this sector has the resources it needs not just to survive the pandemic, but to thrive again,” said Serino. “These grants will fund a wide

array of projects in Dutchess and Putnam counties, and we thank the Council on the Arts for recognizing the role these local organizations play in engaging residents and visitors alike.”

According to correspondence from NYSCA, with a historic investment of more than \$100 million made by the state, in June of 2021, the Council launched a streamlined grant-making process that aimed to reduce red tape for applicants of all sizes, expand eligibility to diverse artistic disciplines and emphasize the flexibility of grant funding to ensure organizations could meet unique

needs brought on by the pandemic.

“While the arts were particularly hard hit by the pandemic, it is also our artists who have helped us reimagine what it looks like to rebuild in its wake,” Serino continued. “The arts community has demonstrated immense resilience, and we are confident that this industry will come back better than ever in the months ahead.”

Grantees in the 41st Senate District include:

- Arts Mid-Hudson
- Bard College
- Bardavon 1869 Opera House

- Boscobel Restoration
- Garrison Art Center
- Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
- Manitoga
- Philipstown Depot Theatre
- Rhinebeck Writers Retreat
- The Art Effect of the Hudson Valley
- Upstate Films
- Village Halloween Parade, Inc. and Hudson Valley Community Productions
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To learn more about additional NYSCA funding opportunities, <https://arts.ny.gov/>.

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