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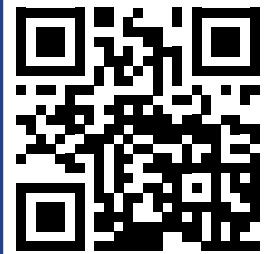
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# THE COLUMBIA

# Paper

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Meet Jackie Salvatore,  
the county's newly  
elected sheriff

By MARLENE McTIGUE

HUDSON — When Jackie Salvatore took office as Columbia County sheriff, she became the first Black woman elected sheriff in the

county's history and the first Black woman to hold the position in the 400-year history of New York State. The milestone is historic, but

Continued on Page B6



Sabrina Flores

Chancellor King comes back to the county with new SUNY program

Andrew Ledoux (r), chief of staff and special assistant to the president for strategic initiatives at Columbia-Greene Community College, greets SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. during a campus visit in early January. Chancellor King toured the college and met with faculty and staff to discuss SUNY Reconnect, a statewide program providing tuition-free community college for eligible adult learners in high-demand fields.

## Chancellor visits Columbia-Greene Community College to promote SUNY Reconnect

By MARLENE McTIGUE

HUDSON — John B. King Jr., chancellor of the State University of New York, visited Columbia-Greene Community College Thursday, January 8, to promote SUNY Reconnect, a statewide program that covers tuition, fees, books and supplies for eligible adult

learners pursuing associate degrees in high-demand fields.

Chancellor King was greeted at the college by local and state officials, including State Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41st), Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106th) and Hudson Mayor Joe Ferris. Columbia-Greene President

Victoria L. Walsh greeted the group as the visit began with a tour of the college's Nursing Simulation Center.

Inside the simulation suite, a faculty member guided Chancellor King and the visiting officials through a hands-on look at the technology nursing students will train on, including lifelike mannequins designed to

Continued on Page A7

## Hundt appointed deputy supervisor, town seeks applicants for empty board seat

By DIANE VALDEN

ANCRAM — The vacant seat on the Town Board was not filled at the board's January 15 meeting, but a decision was

made on who is the town's new deputy supervisor.

Anram Supervisor Colleen Lutz appointed former Town Board member Bonnie Hundt as her

deputy supervisor.

Town Board Member David Boice questioned the supervisor's choice, saying the appointment flies in the face of the

Democratic Committee's position in 2024 against appointing a deputy supervisor who is not a sitting Town Board member.

"You believe this is how

we're going to work together for the year? [By appointing] somebody that's been defeated in the last two elections by a majority of voters in the town?"

Supervisor Lutz said, "I'd like to give it a try. If it doesn't work, then I can reappoint."

Continued on Page A7

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# GOOD NEWS STORIES

## Light joins ICC as new primary school principal

VALATIE — After an extensive search process, Kerry Light has been selected as the new primary school principal for the Ichabod Crane Central School District. Ms. Light, a resident of Valatie, is excited to return to the district where she and many members of her family attended school and continue to have deep roots in the community.

The Board of Education voted on her appointment at their January 13 meeting, with a start date anticipated on or about April 8. Current Interim Principal Deb Berndt will continue serving in her role until Ms. Light begins in April.

"I am so excited that Ms. Light will be joining the Ichabod Crane team. Her extensive background is marked by strong, collaborative leadership skills and a deep commitment to educating the whole child," Superintendent Marie Digirolamo said in a press release. "She lives in the community, attended Ichabod Crane schools, so she already knows what it means to be a Rider and I am so excited to welcome her back to ICC."

Ms. Light has dedicated her entire career to education, serving as a teacher, special education leader and principal. She spent 22 years in the Pittsfield Public Schools, serving the last 12 years as a primary school principal. Her leadership approach centers on collaboration and empowerment to strengthen instructional practice.

"I am someone who listens first, leads with clarity and compassion and builds systems that support both students and adults to grow," Ms. Light said, also in the release. "I am really excited to return to the school com-



Photo contributed

Kerry Light

munity where I grew up, especially the Primary School, where it all began for me."

Ms. Light added that she looks forward to meeting students, families and staff to build strong relationships. "During my first few months, my focus will be on listening and learning. I will be present and visible — at car lines and bus arrivals, school events and in classrooms — and will make myself available to anyone in ways that work best for them."

She also shared that she felt an immediate sense of welcome and joy when she walked back into the Primary School, taking in the vibrant, colorful hallways and the two wings named Kindness Way and Friendship Lane.

She is impressed by the district's commitment to the whole child, social emotional learning (SEL) and its implementation of research-based curriculum, including CKLA, the Primary School's literacy program rooted in the science of reading.

"I'm so excited to hear new ideas and insights, to learn what is going well and build upon that so we can continue creating joyful and safe learning environments where every child receives high-quality instruction grounded in both heart and skill," she said.

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# Thomas Cole National Historic Site announces new board leadership

CATSKILL — Maura O'Shea, executive director of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, has announced new leadership of its Board of Directors. The changes come in the wake of the death last spring of the organization's long-time Chairman Lisa Fox Martin. Interim changes occurred immediately thereafter. Now a permanent leadership team is in place.

At the time of Ms. Martin's death, vice co-chair Warner Shook became interim chairman. At his request, he now resumes his previous role as vice co-chair.

The new board chairman is Emma Davidson Tribbs. A resident of Germantown, she shares a long family legacy of art and culture as well as historic preservation in the Hudson Valley. Her grandmother, Joan Davidson, a longtime resident of Germantown and New York City, served as chairwoman of the New York State Council on the Arts, as New York State Parks Commissioner, and as president of the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

Ms. Tribbs is a nonprofit leader, policy strategist, and advocate who works with mission-driven organizations to advance systemic change and build resilient, people-centered institutions. She is co-founder and principal of Harrison Clark, which designs and runs high-impact policy campaigns, and founding director of the National Women's Defense League, which is dedicated to preventing sexual harass-



Photo contributed

Emma Davidson Tribbs

ment and protecting survivors. She believes that strategic policy, inclusive leadership, and community-driven advocacy are essential to strengthening the cultural and civic organizations that shape public life.

"Arts and culture and historic preservation are ingrained in my being," said Ms. Tribbs in a press release. "How we celebrate the great historic homes of the Hudson Valley is vital to me. I first experienced the Thomas Cole National Historic Site as an historic home and national landmark, and then was further impressed by its role as a catalyst of arts and culture. I am deeply passionate about stewarding this national treasure and community anchor, as the Thomas Cole National Historic Site is intrinsic to the extraordinary character of both this region and the nation."

"Emma Davidson Tribbs is the perfect new board chair for the Thomas Cole Site," said Mr. Shook, also in the release. "Her vision, enthusiasm, and love for the organization are infectious. She is a galvanizing, whip-smart, new leader who will

take the Thomas Cole Site to even greater heights."

Joining Ms. Shook as vice co-chair is Evelyn Trebilcock. A resident of South Westero, she is an art historian who served for 16 years as curator of Olana, the home of Thomas Cole's student, the artist Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900). She has organized exhibitions, lectured and published essays and articles on Frederic E. Church, the art of the 19th century, and the furnishing of historic house museums.

Her publications include "Glories of the Hudson: Frederic Church's Views from Olana" (2009), "Frederic Church Sketching in Maine" (2013), "The Ideal Home for a Landscape Painter" (2013), and "Lockwood de Forest and Frederic Church at Olana" (2014). She currently teaches at SUNY Ulster Community College and has taught art history at SUNY Columbia-Greene Community College and SUNY Cobleskill. She believes that learning about past cultures through the history of art brings an understanding of our similarities across time and geography.

"It's exciting for me now to be in the board leadership of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site," said Ms. Trebilcock. "Thomas Cole is unique in his influence on the visual identity of our nation, and I look forward to illuminating his role, especially as America celebrates in 2026 its 250th anniversary."

The other new officer of

the Board of Directors is its secretary, Catherine Lockyer Moulton, who succeeds Ms. Tribbs in that role. A resident of Broomall, PA, she has nearly 30 years' experience in property management, having been a long-time executive and former president of Thomas Wynne LP.

Rounding out the officers of the Board of Directors is Tom de Swardt, who continues as treasurer.

The Thomas Cole Site will celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary — and Cole's crucial role in giving the nation a visual identity — by presenting in 2026 a series of exhibitions and other programming titled "Thomas Cole: Painting the Nature of America." Cole's portrayal of the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley and the Catskill Mountains continues to inspire and engage generations today.

"The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is thrilled to have this exciting Board leadership team now in place — with Emma, Evelyn, and Cathy joining Warner and Tom," said Ms. O'Shea. "We are enormously grateful to Warner Shook for serving as interim chairman this past year, and we look forward to all that the Thomas Cole Site can achieve in the years ahead with this extraordinary team of leaders."

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is open year-round and hours vary by season. For details see: [www.thomascole.org/](http://www.thomascole.org/) visit.

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# The ins and outs of the county's budget: Part 2 — the capital budget and county reserves

By DEBORAH E. LANS

HUDSON — At the same time as the county adopts its annual operating budget, it also puts forth a capital plan, showing the major investments it intends to make over the next five years. As in the case of the operating budget, many of the planned expenditures will be funded through state and federal aid. Most of the balance will be covered by long-term borrowing, through the issuance of bonds.

What's on the drawing board for the county?

Over the next five years the county expects to spend nearly \$73 million, of which \$50 million will be paid via state and federal aid and most of the balance will be funded by the issuance of bonds. The county plans to spend about \$18.6 million in 2026.

As with the operating budget, the county's largest expenses will be to maintain, repair and rebuild roads, culverts and bridges, to the tune of \$39 million for bridges and culverts alone over the next five years. Most of that work is necessitated by the old and/or poor condition of those structures. Several are nearly octogenarian — the Rossman Bridge and a bridge over the Punsit River in Austerlitz; two bridges, one in Ancram and one in Stuyvesant, are over 90 years old.

Building projects, mainly at 11 Warren Street in Hudson where the county plans to relocate many of its offices, will consume another \$3.5 million. Vehicles and site work at transfer and convenience stations will run nearly \$3 million. Other vehicle purchases and major repairs will cost another \$3.9 million; and a new water tank at the Commerce Park will run \$3.2 million.

Interestingly, the county plans to spend \$13 million to upgrade the runway and facilities at the airport in Ghent (all but \$600,000 of which will be funded with

COLUMBIA COUNTY CAPITAL BUDGET					
PROJECT	2026 \$	5 YEAR \$	OFFSETTING AID	BONDS	
<b>Airport</b>					
Hangar, Taxiway	150,000	2,790,000	2,650,500	132,000	
Terminal upgrade	3,400,000	3,400,000	3,135,000	265,000	
Parking lot	350,000	350,000	341,250		
Weather system	325,000	325,000	317,000		
Equip storage	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,282,500	67,500	
Storage building	194,000	1,414,000	1,379,200		
Master Plan	250,000	250,000	237,500		
Taxiway rebuild	300,000	3,150,000	3,007,500	135,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,319,000</b>	<b>13,029,000</b>	<b>12,350,450</b>	<b>599,500</b>	
<b>Buildings</b>					
Public safety	400,000	800,000	800,000		
Courthouse roof	300,000	300,000	300,000		
11 Warren St	2,159,418	2,409,418	2,409,418		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,859,418</b>	<b>3,509,418</b>			
<b>Refuse-Related (Vehicles, Site Improvements)</b>					
Vehicles	225,000	1,225,000	1,225,000		
Site work	0	1,750,000	1,750,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>2,975,000</b>			
<b>Roads and Bridges</b>					
Bridge repair, replacement	1,300,000	6,550,000	6,550,000	County-wide	
Co. Rte 7A	300,000	8,355,000	7,937,250	380,000	Copake
Co. Rte 7 culvert	1,179,309	1,179,309	1,179,309		Austerlitz
Rossman Bridge	368,000	4,227,000	4,015,650	211,350	Stockport
Co. Rte 13 culvert	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000		New Lebanon
Co. Rte 7 culvert	137,500	1,280,395	1,155,395	100,000	Austerlitz
Stuyvesant Falls					
Bridge	180,000	12,434,000	11,190,600	1,243,400	
Co. Rte 3 Bridge	0	4,256,000	3,830,400	425,600	Ancram
Church Rd Bridge	40,000	1,550,000	1,550,000		Stuyvesant
Buckwheat Bridge	440,000	3,960,000	3,588,000	352,000	
Co. Rte 11 culvert	203,000	1,162,750	1,162,750		Hollowville
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,197,809</b>	<b>46,004,454</b>	<b>36,659,354</b>	<b>9,262,350</b>	
<b>Machinery</b>					
Fleet replacement	740,000	3,551,000	3,551,000		
Fuel tank, repair and replacement	0	380,000	380,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>740,000</b>	<b>3,931,000</b>			
<b>Water</b>					
New water tank					
Commerce Park	3,250,000	3,250,000	1,000,000	2,250,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,250,000</b>	<b>3,250,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,591,227</b>	<b>72,698,872</b>	<b>50,009,804</b>	<b>22,527,268</b>	

Deborah E. Lans

## Chart of the county Capital Budget.

state and federal monies). The plans include a \$3.4 million terminal upgrade, rebuilding the runway and installing a new weather system. Board of Supervisors Chair Matt Murell explained to The Columbia Paper that the county sees the airport as presenting an economic opportunity, both for private flights of the increasingly affluent population and businesses. Ray Jurkowski, the county's Commissioner of Public Works, notes that the planned expenses include upgrading safety features, improving energy efficiency,

modernizing the 1960s terminal building, and building a "T-Hangar" to house private planes, from which the county will reap rental revenues.

According to the website FlightAware, 2025 saw a significant increase in traffic at the airport in most months as compared to 2024, with 50 or more flights daily during many days in June, September and October, 2025. In the week leading up to Christmas, arrivals and departures were nearly double the numbers seen in 2024 and in the 30s and 40s each

day. On January 12, 2026, the increase over the same day in 2024 was 62%. A state Department of Transportation study assessed the direct and indirect economic impacts of our airport at more than \$15.2 million in 2022 — a figure which the increase in traffic since 2022 will have positively impacted as well.

When the 2026 budget was approved, there were five dissenters. The essence of the opposition was that the county should not increase the property tax because many county citi-

zens are already suffering economic hardship. The suggestion was that the county meet the budget gap that holding taxes steady would create by using some of its reserve funds. (That gap was computed to be \$870,763.) The county closed 2024 with uncommitted cash reserves of \$28,361,207, somewhat less than the 2022 and 2023 figures.

If committed funds are included in the fund balances, then 2024's figure was more than \$49 million, slightly higher than 2023 and more than double the 2020 number. The budget package did not contain a 2025 figure or projection for 2026. (Committed, or "restricted," funds are set aside to meet debt service and other obligations.)

The idea behind keeping reserves is simple. As the Fiscal Policy Institute explained in a 2023 policy brief concerning New York State's reserves, "All economies go through cyclical upswings and downturns." Governments should, accordingly, deposit monies into reserve accounts during the "ups, and spend their reserves during downturns, in order to stabilize public spending." Maintaining reserves, in other words, allows government to "smooth spending through the economic cycle," and to avoid having to meet short-term crunches with budget cuts, costly short-term borrowing or deficit financing.

Columbia County has a Fund Balance Policy, and its purpose is similarly to

"ensure sufficient cash flow for daily needs; maintain investment grade bond ratings; provide adequate reserves to offset significant economic downturns or revenue shortfalls; and provide adequate reserves for unforeseen expenditures related to emergencies."

There is no hard and fast standard for what reserves a county should keep. Under state law, a county (or municipality) can carry a "reasonable" amount of unrestricted funds from one year to the next. The law does not define what a reasonable amount is.

The state has a goal of maintaining 15% of its annual operating budget in uncommitted reserves. Somewhat similarly, the New York State Government Finance Officers Association (NYSFOA) suggests that counties and municipalities maintain reserves sufficient to cover two to three months of general fund operating expenses. (Every entity also has non-general funds dedicated to specific purposes; in the county those include road, water and sewer funds.) The state Comptroller's office gives as an example of a reasonable amount of county reserves an amount equal to 15% of annual operating expenditures from the county's general (as distinct from special) fund or several months expenses.

Applying those standards to the county's 2026 budget, keeping 15% of the \$157 million general operating budget in reserves would call

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Continued on Page A7

# Tractor trailer jackknifes on slick road, leaks diesel fuel

By DIANE VALDEN

EAST CHATHAM—A jackknifed tractor trailer sprung a diesel fuel leak and tied up traffic for hours near the B2 exit of the NYS Thruway westbound, Berkshire Spur mile marker 14.9, January 15 at 1:03 p.m.

Columbia County 911 dispatched the East Chatham Fire Company and under mutual aid Canaan and Red Rock Volunteer Fire companies to the property damage motor vehicle accident.

An investigation by Thruway State Police revealed that Yordany L. Diaz Dominguez, 35, of Providence, Rhode Island, was operating a 2011 Freightliner tractor trailer westbound on the Thruway between exits B2 and B1 when he lost control of the vehicle.

The truck went off the right shoulder, jackknifed and struck an embankment. No injuries were reported



Crews from responding fire companies deployed hand tools, granular absorbent, and adsorbent pads to create dams to prevent the spread of the diesel fuel from a jackknifed tractor trailer.

and no other vehicles were involved.

There was some diesel fuel leakage; DEC was on scene to respond. The right lane was blocked for several hours for vehicle recovery

and cleanup. Diaz Dominguez was issued vehicle and traffic law citations, State Police said.

The tractor trailer was removed by Roberts Towing & Recovery.

Canaan Protective Fire Company firefighters posted on Facebook that when they arrived they reported to Columbia 911 the truck was still actively leaking and about 80 gallons of diesel

fuel had spilled into a ditch, running towards a stream. Crews from responding companies then "deployed hand tools, granular absorbent, and adsorbent pads to create dams and earthen

dams to prevent the spread of the diesel fuel." The Columbia County Fire Coordinators Office was called in with the Hazmat Team and spill response trailer. The State Department of Environmental Conservation also responded with a spill response unit.

Traffic was reduced to one lane on I-90 by firefighters and NYS Thruway Authority.

The Red Rock Volunteer Fire Company reported on Facebook that responding companies utilized damming, diking and diverting techniques in compliance with Hazardous Materials Operations Level training with Columbia County Fire Coordinators Office, NYS Thruway, NYS DEC and the Columbia-Greene HazMat Team.

Units were back in service at 3:38 p.m.

To contact Diane Valden email [dvalden@columbiapaper.com](mailto:dvalden@columbiapaper.com)

## DMV offices to close for statewide technology upgrade

HUDSON—The Columbia County Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), along with all DMV offices in New York State, will undergo a large-scale system upgrade next month that will require the Hudson DMV, along with every other DMV, to be closed and potentially alter business hours, according to a press release from Columbia County Clerk Holly Tanner.

In February, the New York State DMV is implementing the initial phase of a multi-year project to replace and modernize its aging technology systems. To bring the first part of the new sys-

tem online, the state is ceasing all DMV operations, including online transactions and their phone system at 2 p.m. Friday, February 13. Due to this transition, the Hudson DMV will be closed Friday, February 13 to the public, staff will report to work for training purposes.

The offices will remain closed Monday, February 16, which is the Presidents' Day holiday, and Tuesday, February 17, with a planned reopening Wednesday, February 18 provided local officials receive the go-ahead from State DMV leadership.

During this time, the state DMV will migrate about 30

million records to the new system and complete the transition to bring the first phase of the upgrade online.

Again, no DMV transactions will be able to be completed during this period, including through the state DMV website, and they will also not be answering their phones.

The state DMV's implementation timeline calls for offices to be operational and open for customer transactions beginning Wednesday, February 18. The Hudson DMV plans on opening that day at normal time, 9 a.m. February 18. Any changes to that will be posted on the

county website ([www.columbiacountyny.com](http://www.columbiacountyny.com)) and on the County DMV Facebook page which is Holly Tanner County Clerk/DMV.

"As Co-Chair of the State DMV Committee for the NYS Association of County Clerks, I have been intimately involved in this transition, including this shutdown period. While it will be difficult for customers, there is no other way to accomplish the important work of migrating the data without shutting down. I pushed very hard on the state to announce this plan as early as possible, to give people enough time to do the DMV work that

they need way ahead of the shutdown," County Clerk Tanner said in a press release.

"We also ask for patience when we reopen as the entire state will be working with this new licensing system, and while we have all been in training, there will still be a learning curve. The Hudson DMV does not do appointments, we are first come, first serve and if necessary we will prioritize Columbia County residents first during the first few weeks," she said in the release.

New York State DMV has contracted with software company FAST Enterprises, LLC, which has implement-

ed similar systems in more than 20 other states, to help NYS DMV modernize its technology platforms and service delivery in two major stages over the next two years. The new technology will replace and consolidate a significant portion of DMV's legacy technology, some of which are over 50 years old. The goal of this initiative is to make the DMV more secure, stable, and agile and to provide DMV customers with more efficient, secure and convenient services.

## Scammers try another scheme to get money

HUDSON—The Columbia County Sheriff's Office recently announced a scam alert on Facebook.

"We want to make the public aware of a scam that has recently affected at least one local law enforcement agency and has been reported by Sheriff's Offices across the country.

Family members of incarcerated individuals have reported receiving phone calls from individuals claiming to be from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. The callers state that a loved one

can be released from custody if payment is made immediately. Victims are instructed to pay using gift cards, Venmo, Apple Pay, or other electronic payment methods, sometimes claiming additional fees for GPS tracking or monitoring.

This is a scam. Law enforcement agencies will never:

- Request bail or fees via gift cards, Venmo, Apple Pay, Zelle, or similar services
- Demand immediate payment over the phone
- Ask for payment for

GPS tracking or monitoring to release someone from custody."

If you receive a call like this, the Sheriff's Office advises:

- Do not send money
- Do not share personal or financial information
- Hang up and contact your local Sheriff's Office directly using a verified phone number.

Those who believe they have been targeted or victimized should report it to your local law enforcement agency immediately.

## Troopers tally tickets issued during holiday campaign

ALBANY—The New York State Police issued a total of 47,711 tickets over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, as part of the "Drive High Get a DUI" national campaign. The initiative, which targeted impaired and reckless drivers, began Wednesday, December 10, and ended Thursday, January 1.

State Police arrested 767 people for DWI and investigated 6,244 accidents, including 13 fatal accidents.

Throughout the enforcement, State Police utilized sobriety checkpoints, additional DWI patrols, and ticketed distracted drivers who used handheld electronic devices. Troopers also used both marked State Police

vehicles and Concealed Identity Traffic Enforcement (CITE) vehicles as part of this crackdown in order to more easily identify motorists who were violating the law. These vehicles blend in with everyday traffic but are unmistakable as emergency vehicles once the emergency lighting is activated.

As part of the enforcement, troopers also targeted speeding and aggressive drivers across the state. Below is a sampling of the total tickets that were issued: Speeding 14,460; Distracted Driving 1,810; Seatbelt violations 1,600; Move Over Law 828.

During last year's National DWI Crackdown, the State Police issued 45,770 total tickets and arrested 755 people for DWI.

State Police remind motorists that holiday enforcement campaigns are conducted to save lives and prevent tragedies on New York's roadways. Increased traffic, celebrations, and winter driving conditions during the holiday season significantly raise the risk of serious crashes. Drivers are urged to plan ahead, designate a sober driver, use seat belts and child restraints, obey speed limits, move over for emergency and roadside vehicles, and avoid distractions. A safe decision behind the wheel can prevent a life-altering crash and ensure everyone makes it home safely.

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# Claire Ackerman named new CEO of UTMHealthcare

HUDSON — Claire Ackerman has been named CEO of UTMHealthcare, succeeding Seth Lachterman. The appointment was made by the company's Board of Managers, which includes Mr. Lachterman.

Ms. Ackerman, 46, is the daughter of David Ackerman, who founded UTMH's parent company in 2012 along with Mr. Lachterman and Cameron Melville. Mr. Ackerman served as managing partner and CEO until his death in 2022.

Ms. Ackerman said she is eager to carry on her father's commitment to helping people with health problems. "In today's healthcare climate, it's more important than ever to have additional medical resources available to people who are at high



Photo contributed  
**Claire Ackerman**

risk and in underserved populations, making it easier to receive low cost, lifesaving care," she said in a press release.

The company's leadership change allows Mr. Lachterman to focus on his role as Chief Technology Strategist, where he contin-

ues the design and development of the patented privacy system technologies at the core of UTMHealthcare's products.

"We are all extremely grateful to Seth for stepping up and leading the company forward so successfully following my father's untimely death," noted the new CEO. "His persistence through difficult circumstances needs to be recognized and applauded."

Ms. Ackerman, a Columbia County native, is well-known locally for her work with the Columbia County Democratic Committee, where she was recently named First Vice Chair, and as Founding President of the Ackerman Foundation, which over its four-year existence has specialized in making seed

grants to strengthen local non-profit organizations providing community-caring infrastructure.

Previously, Ms. Ackerman worked for the Federal Government for 10 years in the security and intelligence fields. She holds a degree in Applied Economics and Management from Cornell University and a master's degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Albany.

UTMHealthcare is a wholly owned subsidiary of UThisMe, LLC, that partners with hospitals, community health centers, and state initiatives to deliver real-time, remote patient monitoring (RPM) that improves health outcomes, reduces hospitalizations, and supports underserved communities.

The company's technolo-

gy helps patients track vital signs like blood pressure from home using cellular-enabled devices. The data is then securely transmitted to care teams, enabling timely, preventive care and reducing barriers related to geography, language, or digital literacy.

Columbia Memorial Health is an early and continuing partner of UTMH.

Most recently, the company partnered with Care New England's Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island in a five-year, statewide program to improve post-partum hypertension management.

UTM's work is grounded in a mission to improve care for high-risk and underserved populations. Their scalable, value-based care ready model not only saves lives and lowers costs but

also lays the foundation for public-private partnerships — including the development of a maternal and family health public benefit corporation that can be replicated nationally.

As he stepped down from the CEO post, Mr. Lachterman lauded the employee strength of the organization. "We're all a team here, and everyone is

proud of the hard work, loyalty, and skills that our employees have brought to this company. Their contributions have led to the company's achievements, including being in the forefront of maternal health technology."

For more information, visit [www.utmhealthcare.com](http://www.utmhealthcare.com).

## Price Chopper donates \$53,817 to DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

GHENT — Market 32 and Price Chopper presented a \$53,817 donation to DAV (Disabled American Veterans), reflecting the generosity of customers and teammates who supported the company's November fundraising campaign. Shoppers across all 129 stores contributed \$43,817 by rounding up their totals at checkout. Market 32 and Price Chopper added a \$10,000 corporate match.

These funds will help DAV to provide no-cost, lifetime assistance to veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. DAV assists more than one million veterans each year through benefits assistance, employment opportunities, transportation to VA medical appointments, and more.

"At Market 32 and Price Chopper, our mission is to help people feed and care for their families, and our broader purpose is to support the well-being of the communities we serve," said Blaine Bringhurst, the company's president in a press release. "DAV's commitment to helping veterans live healthy, dignified, and secure lives



Market 32 and Price Chopper present a check for \$53,817 to DAV. Pictured (l to r) are: Michele McKeever, director of Customer Service at Market 32 and Price Chopper; Matthew Talbot, DAV National Service Officer; Dale Norton, zone director at Market 32 and Price Chopper; and Molly McCann-Mall, Community Relations Specialist at Market 32 and Price Chopper.

aligns with that purpose. We're proud to stand with our customers in supporting an organization that offers life-changing assistance to those who have served our country."

In 2024, DAV filed over 560,000 Department of Veterans Affairs benefits claims and provided more than 235,000 no-cost rides to VA medical appointments for veterans. In addition to providing direct services, DAV advocates on Capitol Hill, educates the public on veterans' issues, and strengthens communities through its local chapters — ensuring America's heroes receive the benefits they earned.

"Thanks to Market 32 and Price Chopper's continued commitment to veter-

ans, DAV can expand its reach and deliver critical support to ill and injured veterans nationwide," said Barry Jesinoski, CEO and national adjutant of DAV also in the release. "Funds raised through this campaign directly advance our mission to help veterans access the benefits they have earned, including health care, employment, and education."

For additional information, visit [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com).

## Greylock Federal earns 5-Star Superior rating for 35th consecutive quarter

PITTSFIELD, MA — Greylock Federal Credit Union enters the new year with another 5-Star Superior rating from BauerFinancial, the nation's premier credit union and bank rating firm, according to a press release.

A 5-Star Superior rating indicates that Greylock Federal is one of the strongest credit unions in the nation, excelling in areas of capital, loan quality, stability and more. This marks the 35th consecutive quarter that Greylock Federal has earned this top rating.

"Because credit unions put their focus squarely on their membership, they are perfectly positioned to provide the specialized support that is unique to their niche," said Karen L. Dorway, president of BauerFinancial in a press release. "Credit unions, like Greylock Federal, invest in the success of their members one at a time. By foster-

ing these relationships, they accomplish two goals: they are typically highly capitalized, and they are accountable to their members."

Since its founding in 1935, Greylock Federal has invested in the success of its membership for 91 years, an impressive tenure that is still going strong today.

"It's an honor to start 2026 with this commendation," said John Bissell, president and CEO of Greylock Federal also in the release. "The BauerFinancial 5-Star Rating provides our 106,000 members with a high degree of confidence that Greylock is built to last. Even as our credit union continues to grow, we remain totally focused on building deep and lasting local relationships. Our member service is what sets us apart."

For more information about Greylock Federal, visit [greylock.org](http://greylock.org).

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# University of Albany announces fall 2025 students

ALBANY — The University at Albany welcomed students back to campus for the fall 2025 semester, including some 5,482 new Great Danes.

More than 2,801 first-year students, from 35,664 applicants, joined UAlbany's Class of 2029, with 358 students selected to be part of the University's Honors College, and 250 students enrolled as Presidential Scholars.

In addition, more than 1,258 transfer students and 1,423 new graduate students joined the campus community this fall.

The Class of 2029 is among the most diverse in University history, with 56.6 percent coming from historically underrepresented groups. Students also hail from 30 different states and 39 countries. The class boasts an overall high school average of 90.2 percent.

The University at Albany welcomed the following new students:

Dawn Betke, Chatham, majoring in Literacy (MS); Shoheb Khan, Hudson, majoring in Informatics; Rick Carius, Hudson, majoring in Business Administration; Megan Hunt, Stuyvesant, majoring in Curriculum Development & Instructional Technology (MS); Mairlyn DeNardis, Germantown, majoring in Childhood Education (MS); Gregory Moon, Valatie, majoring in Business Administration (Intended); Natalie Allard, Nassau, majoring in English; Erin Curry, Valatie, majoring in Secondary Education;

Social Studies (MS); Mary Thaler, Nassau, majoring in Anthropology; Kylie Mugrave, Nassau, majoring in Informatics; Graciana Zido, Nassau, majoring in Human Development; Nova Vath, Nassau, majoring in Art; Owen Warner, Valatie, majoring in Urban Studies and Planning; Rafy Ferdous, Hudson, majoring in Business Economics; Maya Case of Valatie, majoring in Sociology; Marcus George, Stuyvesant, majoring in Accounting; Courtney Loucks, Kinderhook, majoring in Psychology; Darren Moon, Valatie, majoring in Business Administration; Angelina Tamburro, Hudson, majoring in Public Health; Samuel Hautzig, East Chatham, majoring in Game Design and Development; Hailey Pruett, Nassau, majoring in Psychology; Tatum Kells, Stephentown, majoring in Public Health; Benjamin Dickert, Valatie, majoring in Computer Science (Combined); Wesley O'Leary, Valatie, majoring in Interdisciplinary-Environmental Science; Charlotte Herzhauser, Claverack, majoring in Informatics; Michael Banyard, Copake, majoring in Business Economics; Brooke Barmen of Stuyvesant, majoring in Special Education & Literacy II (MS); Jordyn Brieck, Pine Plains, majoring in History (MA); James Conte, Hudson, majoring in Industrial/Organizational Psychology (MA); Sydney Cooper, Ancram, majoring in

Communication (MA); Elyse Mason, Canaan, majoring in Urban and Regional Planning (MRP); Melissa Schieren, Valatie, majoring in Non-matriculated; Ryan Tomchik, Valatie, majoring in Business Administration (MBA Year); Oriana Waite, Hillsdale, majoring in Chemistry (non-degree); Caroline White, Valatie, majoring in Social Welfare (Advanced Standing) (MSW); Sofie Willis, Nassau, majoring in Special Education & Literacy II (MS); Kathryn Ogden, Valatie, majoring in Early Childhood/Childhood Education; Kt McClune, Millerton, majoring in Reading (MS); Samantha Pierce, Stephentown, majoring in Biology; John Wheeler, Valatie, majoring in Mathematics (PhD); Sarah Bailey, Niverville, majoring in Non-matriculated; James Lavelle, Chatham, majoring in Social Welfare-Part Time (MSW); Lauren Uhlar, Old Chatham, majoring in Biology; Emmy Velez, Germantown, majoring in Digital Forensics; Tohidul Bhuiyan, Hudson, majoring in Biology; Sierra Garrison, Valatie, majoring in Human Biology; Gerard Guadagno, Hudson, majoring in Interdisciplinary-Environmental Science; Katie Heimroth, Valatie, majoring in Early Childhood/Childhood Education; Bailey Morrissey, Germantown, majoring in Communication; Kristen Bhagwandin, Hudson, majoring in Accounting (Intended); Roberto Vasquez-Orozco,

Valatie, majoring in Accounting (Intended); Reghan Swift, Millerton, majoring in Actuarial & Mathematical Sciences; Dariyan Hankins, Nassau, majoring in Anthropology; Cassie Sappington, Chatham, majoring in Art; Winni Wilzig, Ghent, majoring in Art; Elise Sayers, Valatie, majoring in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Jahnya Armstrong, Chatham, majoring in Biology; Aja Fatima Keita, Hudson, majoring in Biology; Daija Jones, Hudson, majoring in Biology; Ethan Knott, Ghent, majoring in Business Administration (Intended); Jeremy Reynoso, Hudson, majoring in Business Administration (Intended); Daisy Morales, Stuyvesant, majoring in Business Administration (Intended); Abdias Vasquez, Valatie, majoring in Business Administration; Catherine Casey, Valatie, majoring in Educational Policy & Leadership (PhD); Veronica Mitchell, Ancram, majoring in Educational Policy & Leadership (Nondegree); Steven Pechacek, Ghent, majoring in Emergency Management & Homeland Security; Joseph Paone, Stuyvesant, majoring in Emergency Management & Homeland Security; Claudia Romeo, Valatie, majoring in Emergency Management & Homeland Security (MS); Andrew Schroeder, Ghent, majoring in History; Adam Berlin, Valatie, majoring in History; Nicola Faraci, East Nassau, majoring in Human Biology; Umaiza Shah, Nassau, majoring in Human

Ally Flint, Valatie, majoring in Criminal Justice; Regina Clark, Valatie, majoring in Curriculum Development & Instructional Technology (MS); Mike Wood, Millerton, majoring in Curriculum & Instruction (PhD); Jason Baneni, Chatham, majoring in Cybersecurity (BS); Martin Soria, Copake, majoring in Cybersecurity (BS); Alabi Islam, Hudson, majoring in Cybersecurity (BS); Ritu Islam, Hudson, majoring in Cybersecurity (BS); Garrett Allard, Nassau, majoring in Cybersecurity (BS); Deviniece Scott, Hudson, majoring in Early Childhood Education (Intended); Evan Hilbert, Kinderhook, majoring in Early Childhood Education (Intended); Caitlin Julie Krause, Millerton, majoring in Business Administration; Christian Abrams, Nassau, majoring in Business Economics; Natalie Garcia, Hudson, majoring in Chemistry; Jayla Lilley, Elizaville, majoring in Communication; Chloe Vanwagner, Germantown, majoring in Communication; Thom Dunlavy, Millerton, majoring in Communication; Kylie Brown, Valatie, majoring in Communication; Daniel Truax, East Nassau, majoring in Computer Science (MS); Liam Rockwell, Germantown, majoring in Criminal Justice; Michele Kilcer, Hudson, majoring in Criminal Justice;

Biology; Tessa Wallace, Ghent, majoring in Human Development; Diana Castellanos, Old Chatham, majoring in Informatics; Jackson Turner, Kinderhook, majoring in Information Science (MS); Dakota Dudley, Austerlitz, majoring in Music; Ally Nzaro, Hudson, majoring in Nanoscale Engineering; Amya Anderson, Ancram, majoring in Non-matriculated; Theo Gibbs, East Chatham, majoring in Non-matriculated; Mary Madeleine York, New Lebanon, majoring in Nursing; Drake Higueros, Copake, majoring in Political Science; Audrey Church, Niverville, majoring in Political Science; Mairead French, Pine Plains, majoring in Political Science; Maria Tapia Martinez, Valatie, majoring in Political Science; Darwin Cardona, Ancramdale, majoring in Psychology; Tanisha Loheit, Hudson, majoring in Psychology; Alexis Bertrand, East Nassau, majoring in Social Welfare (MSW); Lauren Giambrone, Germantown, majoring in Social Welfare (MSW); Liz Dickey, Hudson, majoring in Social Welfare (MSW); Suzanne Snider, Hudson, majoring in Social Welfare (MSW); Greg Amendola, Hillsdale, majoring in Social Welfare-Part Time (MSW); Michael Morales, Hillsdale, majoring in Sociology; and Genevieve Bombard, Schodack Lndg, majoring in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (MA).

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## CHANCELLOR VISITS

*Continued from Page 1*

officials took in how closely the lab mirrors a working medical environment.

The visit marked the kickoff of the spring semester leg of Chancellor King's SUNY Reconnect tour, which has taken him to community colleges across New York since the program launched for the fall 2025 semester. Under the initiative, adults ages 25 to 55 who do not already have a college degree can attend SUNY community colleges tuition-free in eligible programs tied to workforce needs.

As SUNY works to address workforce shortages across the state, Chancellor King said adult learners are central to that effort.

"As we try to tackle that challenge, we want to make sure we're mobilizing our adult learners," he said. "So many folks maybe don't love the job that they have now. They want to do something different, or maybe they started college and for different reasons they weren't able to finish and they want to come back. We need a way that helps those adult learners access opportunity, and that's really what SUNY Reconnect represents."

He said the program has already reached thousands of New Yorkers and credited continued state investment for its early success.

"It's life-changing for folks to have access to educational opportunity that

allows them to change their economic position and their families," he said. "We've also been fortunate to get additional operating support from the governor and the state legislature for community colleges, which is helping us build our capacity to deliver these high-demand programs."

After the tour, Chancellor King and Dr. Walsh convened a roundtable discussion with faculty, staff, students and regional leaders to talk about adult learners, workforce alignment and local economic needs. Two SUNY Reconnect students spoke about their experiences returning to college, including nursing student Francine Rivenburgh and automotive technology student Alan.

College representatives described efforts to meet adult learners where they are through flexible course formats and added supports. SUNY officials said campuses have used Reconnect funding to strengthen advising, recruitment, credit for prior learning and student services, and at Columbia-Greene, they've created a full-time Reconnect liaison position focused on recruitment, enrollment and retention.

Melinda Person, president of New York State United Teachers, said SUNY Reconnect bridges workforce needs with broader



*Sabrina Flores*  
Senator Michelle Hinchey (l) checks out one of the lifelike mannequins that simulate real patients in C-GCC's Nursing Simulation Center.

goals of access and mobility.

"It really brings together the state's needs in terms of workforce shortages and our social justice mission," Ms. Person said. "Adult learners

are disproportionately women, people of color and first-generation students, and by targeting access and removing obstacles, we're making a difference in our communities and within families."

Ms. Person said she hopes to see the program expanded to include additional fields of study as workforce demands evolve.

Senator Hinchey said the program gives residents an opportunity to pursue careers in high-demand fields without taking on tuition costs, while helping address regional shortages in health care and other sectors.

Assemblymember Barrett said the visit highlighted Columbia-Greene's nursing program as a strong example of education aligned with workforce needs.

Regional workforce challenges and opportunities were later highlighted by Mike Tucker, head of Columbia County Economic Development, and James Hannahs, executive director of the Greene County Economic Development Corporation. Both expressed gratitude for the SUNY Reconnect program and its impact on the region.

"From Columbia County's vantage point, we have about 2,000 employers, and 75 percent of them have fewer than 10 employees," Mr. Tucker said. "We've been competing month to month for years for the lowest

unemployment in the state, and our employer partners are very concerned about the ability to hire people."

Mr. Tucker said about 35 percent of Columbia County residents leave the county each morning for work, making workforce flexibility essential.

"The college has provided a real opportunity for people who want to enhance the career they're already in or move into something different," he said. "SUNY Reconnect is particularly beneficial to people who may not have been able to succeed in the job market right out of high school."

Mr. Hannahs said geography remains a significant barrier for many Greene County residents, even when academic programs are available.

518-567-9131 or visit [www.ancramny.org](http://www.ancramny.org).

The Town Board has a 45-day window to agree on an appointment. The window expires February 14.

In other business, the Town Board enacted a Resolution of Appreciation in honor of former supervisor James MacArthur.

Mr. MacArthur was thanked and given a certificate for his service as a town supervisor and on the Columbia County Board of Supervisors for two years, along with his community advocacy for veterans; his hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. The Town Board wished him all the best in his future endeavors and gave him a round of applause.

The Ancram Town Board's next regular meeting is February 19, with a workshop at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m.

To contact Diane Valden email [dvalden@columbiapaper.com](mailto:dvalden@columbiapaper.com)

Another of these "decisive steps" would be to appoint a fifth Town Board member, who does not have any familial ties to present sitting board members.

During the discussion about filling the Town Board seat left vacant by the election of Supervisor Lutz, who was in the middle of a four-year term as a Town Board member, Town Board Member Amy Gold nominated former Town Board member Bonnie Hundt to fill the vacancy. Supervisor Lutz seconded the nomination, but during a roll call vote on the nomination, both Mr. and Mrs. Boice voted "No."

Subsequently, Supervisor Lutz suggested that town resident Lewis Slater, who was in the audience, fill the vacancy. Mr. Slater was described as a young man, who works for the Pine Plains School District, is married, has three young children, is a

20-year member of the Ancram Fire Company and most importantly, is not related to anyone on the Town Board. The appointment of Mr. Slater was never put to a vote because Ms. Gold said she did not know Mr. Slater and could not make an informed decision.

It was suggested that Ms. Gold and Mr. Slater have a phone conversation so she could get to know him.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Gold suggested that the board advertise publicly for the board vacancy.

An Ancram email sent out January 19 gives notice of the vacancy and calls for applications.

The notice says, "The Town of Ancram is seeking qualified and interested residents to fill a vacancy on the Town Board by appointment. The appointed member will serve until December 31, 2026 in accordance with New York State Town Law.

"Applicants must be residents and registered voters of the Town of Ancram. Prior experience in public service is helpful but not required."

Responsibilities of the Town Board, which is the town's legislative body, are listed as: "responsible for adopting local laws, approving budgets, and making policy decisions in the best interest of the community. Board members are expected to attend regular and special meetings, workshops, participate in committees, and engage with residents."

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest and a resume, if available, outlining qualifications and community involvement to: [townclerk@townofancram.org](mailto:townclerk@townofancram.org).

Applications must be received by February 1. A special town board meeting will be scheduled in early February to interview candidates. For more information contact Ms. Lutz at

already most stressed by inflation, the rising prices of basics, and associated sales taxes.

Whether and how the county or its municipalities might address the property tax disparities is a subject for another day.

The county's 2026 budget, as well as financial statements and state-audited reports are all available on the county's website, [www.columbiacountyny.com](http://www.columbiacountyny.com).

Reporter Deborah Lans can be contacted at [deborahlans@idoud.com](mailto:deborahlans@idoud.com).

on the county's stability. Conversely does the 1.87% tax hike (in county taxes) matter to residents? For some, the answer is likely "yes," and for many it may be "no." Property taxes are generally "regressive," which is to say that those at the lowest end of the income scale pay the highest share of their income toward property taxes.

According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a family earning in the lowest 20% will pay 6.2% of its income for property taxes, while those

in the top 1% will pay 3.5%, and families in between will pay from 3.9% to 5.2%. According to a paper issued by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia in 2022, the primary reason for this anomaly is that "inexpensive houses tend to be over-assessed relative to expensive houses." Because sales taxes also hit the lowest earners hardest (the lowest 20% pay 6.1% of their income in sales taxes vs. 0.9% paid by the top 1%), any increase in property taxes will exacerbate the strain felt by the families

## HUNDT APPOINTED

*Continued from Page 1*

"Well, we'll see," said Mr. Boice.

Supervisor Lutz had asked the town's Ethics Board to consider whether it would be a violation of local Ethics Law or if it might give the appearance of impropriety if she appointed a relative as the deputy supervisor. Mr. Boice is the supervisor's brother-in-law and new Town Board Member Jennifer Boice is her sister-in-law.

The Ethics Board found that the appointment of a relative "could be seen in conflict and violation of the Ethics Law under Section III under the definition of 'Relative.' However, as a result of the recent municipal election, and because three of the sitting four Town Board members share close fami-

ly ties, many appointments and/or votes under this elected configuration may face similar concerns and charges of Conflicts of Interest from constituents."

The Ethics Board made several recommendations which include that the Town Board "take active and decisive steps" to reassure constituents that the Town Board is aware of their concerns.

The report said the Town Board should "make every attempt to lessen these concerns by working transparently, by proactively disclosing any potential conflicts of interest that might be perceived by the constituents to exist, and to work together to reach across divisions to govern and legislate outcomes that best serve the Town."

for a \$23.55 million uncommitted reserve; two months of general operating expenses equal \$26.17 million and three months' expenses would be \$39.25 million. The 2024 year-end uncommitted reserves (\$28.36 million) fit these parameters.

Keeping the county's finances healthy is, of course, of value. For example, when Moody's, an agency that rates

the risks associated with bonds, upgraded the county's rating in December 2025 to Aa2 (one of its highest ratings), thereby effectively complimenting the county's fiscal policies, the change was not just comforting to hear. The change means that the county will pay lower interest rates on the bonds it issues to fund capital projects, ultimately saving tax-

## THE INS AND OUTS

*Continued from Page 3*

ayers money. The county's "conservative financial management" and improvements in reserves were among the reasons for the upgrade.

But, was raising the tax rate to cover an \$870,763 potential shortfall the right decision? There is probably no "right" answer. Had taxes been kept flat, the budget gap could have been met either by reducing some services or by taking the necessary amount from reserves. The latter measure would not have drastically lowered reserves nor had a significantly negative effect

on the county's stability. Conversely does the 1.87% tax hike (in county taxes) matter to residents? For some, the answer is likely "yes," and for many it may be "no." Property taxes are generally "regressive," which is to say that those at the lowest end of the income scale pay the highest share of their income toward property taxes.

According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a family earning in the lowest 20% will pay 6.2% of its income for property taxes, while those

# Chatham Trio will enhance your appreciation of classical music

COPAKE — The Chatham Trio showcases an engaging program of solos, duets, and trios for clarinets and piano at Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Saturday, January 31, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The program includes opera arias by Mozart, a concert piece by Mendelssohn, and works by other classical masters, along with klezmer and soundtrack selections.

All ages are invited to be entertained and have their appreciation of classical music enhanced.

This program is sponsored in part by Stewart's Shops and the Ackerman Foundation.

Musicians are Robert Dembo on clarinet, who left his instrument for a typewriter and a career in broadcast journalism 40 years ago, directing national news coverage for NBC and managing that network's investigative unit. He recently retired his (now computer) keyboard and took up his old



Photo contributed

*Chatham Trio performing at the Chatham Library last fall.*

clarinet, practicing through 40 years of cobwebs to re-master the instrument and rediscover the magic of musical collaboration. Classically trained in New York City, Mr. Dembo studied with Leon Russianoff and Kalmen Opperman and played in orchestras in New York and at Yale University.

Stephen Poppel also on clarinet, has diverse performance experience in chamber groups, orchestras, wind bands, and musical theater. A longtime member of the Chamber Music Conference and Composers' Forum of the East, in study and performance he has focused on the chamber repertoire for

clarinet in combination with winds, strings, voice, and piano. He is the founding member of The Chatham Trio, a woodwind ensemble that brings the core classical repertoire for woodwinds to New York area audiences in major concert series and venues, as well as in an extensive outreach program to

senior residences. Along with his interest in music, Mr. Poppel has pursued careers in both the corporate and the not-for-profit sectors, in physics, history, banking, finance, and currently, in financial literacy education and in biomedical research ethics.

Pianist Natalia Shevchuk is a graduate of the Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in Kyiv, Ukraine, with a masters degree in piano performance, accompanying and teaching. A winner of the Rachmaninoff piano competition, she had a celebrated career in her native country, as a performer and a composer as well, notably including her musical portrait of Christopher Columbus, based on her own historical research. With her move to the U.S., Ms. Shevchuk has launched a multi-faceted career, including solo performance and choral direction and accompaniment. Initially

the music director at the Lutheran Church of the Nativity in North Conway, NH, she is now the organist and choir director at the Calvary United Methodist Church in Latham, where her musical leadership has been warmly welcomed by chorus and congregation alike. Her performances at important venues throughout New York have been greeted by laudatory reviews, as have her compositions and arrangements. Ms. Shevchuk also serves currently on the educational staff of the Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School in Harlemville.

The price of a ticket is \$20. Advance reservations are not required. Get more information by emailing copakegrange@gmail.com or visiting www.copakegrange.org/events.

## Visionary theater-maker Tina Packer dies at 87

LENOX — Tina Packer (b. September 28, 1938) — actor, director, writer, teacher, and founding artistic director of Shakespeare & Company — died on Friday, January 9. Born in Wolverhampton, England, and raised in Nottingham, she was trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, graduating in 1964 with honors and the Ronson Award for Most Promising Actress. She went on to perform as an Associate Artist at the Royal Shakespeare Company and appeared in multiple television series for the BBC and ITV, including "David Copperfield" and "Doctor Who," as well as the 1967 film "Two a Penny."

Packer believed in speaking the truth through Shakespeare's text. She moved on from television acting to direct and teach at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and, having been awarded a Ford Foundation Travel and Study Grant to research the visceral roots of

Shakespeare's plays, traveled to India, Israel, Italy, and the United States. There, she co-founded Shakespeare & Company in 1978 with actor, director, writer, and teacher Dennis Krausnick (1942–2018), who later became her husband; voice and text teacher Kristin Linklater (1936–2020), and a cadre of theater artists. The Mount, Edith Wharton's home in Lenox, MA, served as the company's first venue.

Holding to the idea that Shakespeare's language offers actors a valuable combination of practices that focus on the voice, body, mind, soul, and spirit, Packer and Linklater started Shakespeare & Company's Training Program — now known as the Center for Actor Training — to train actors in classical performance. This training introduced a common language the company could embrace and a practice of work that has a lifelong effect. The program evolved, blos-



Photo contributed  
*Tina Packer*

omed into an internationally acclaimed entity, and became Packer's pride and joy. Today, Shakespeare & Company continues to offer performance, education, and actor-training opportunities year-round from its permanent home: a 30-acre parcel at 70 Kemble Street in historic Lenox.

Packer retired as artistic director in 2009, when her focus turned largely to directing and teaching. She continued to act, with theater acting credits including "Shirley Valentine," by Willy Russell, a two-year stretch that played in Lenox, Boston, and Louisville; "Molly Ivins: Red Hot Patriot," by Margaret Engel and Allison Engel; "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" by Martin McDonagh, and "Mother of the Maid" by Jane Anderson (Shakespeare & Company). She portrayed Edith Wharton on several occasions, as well as Shakespeare's Volumnia, Gertrude, and Cleopatra.

Staunton, Va., the Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Festival, and many others.

A consummate academic, Packer taught the entire Shakespeare canon at more than 30 colleges and universities, including Harvard University, MIT, and New York University. At Columbia University, she taught in the MBA program for four years and co-authored "Power Plays: Shakespeare's Lessons in Leadership and Management" with Columbia Business School Professor John O. Whitney, published by Simon & Schuster.

She went on to pen several more books and scholarly articles, including the children's book "Tales from Shakespeare" for Scholastic, recipient of the Parents' Choice Gold Medal Award.

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In honor of Packer's legacy, a Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, May 31, at the Shakespeare & Company campus, with details to follow.

Shakespeare & Company has also established the Tina Packer Legacy Fund, which will support the future of the Company and the work she founded. In lieu of flowers, Tina's family asks that friends show their support by donating to the fund.

Those wishing to share a memory, story, or reflection about Packer are invited to email [rememberingtina@shakespeare.org](mailto:rememberingtina@shakespeare.org).

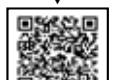
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2026 Barbara slate

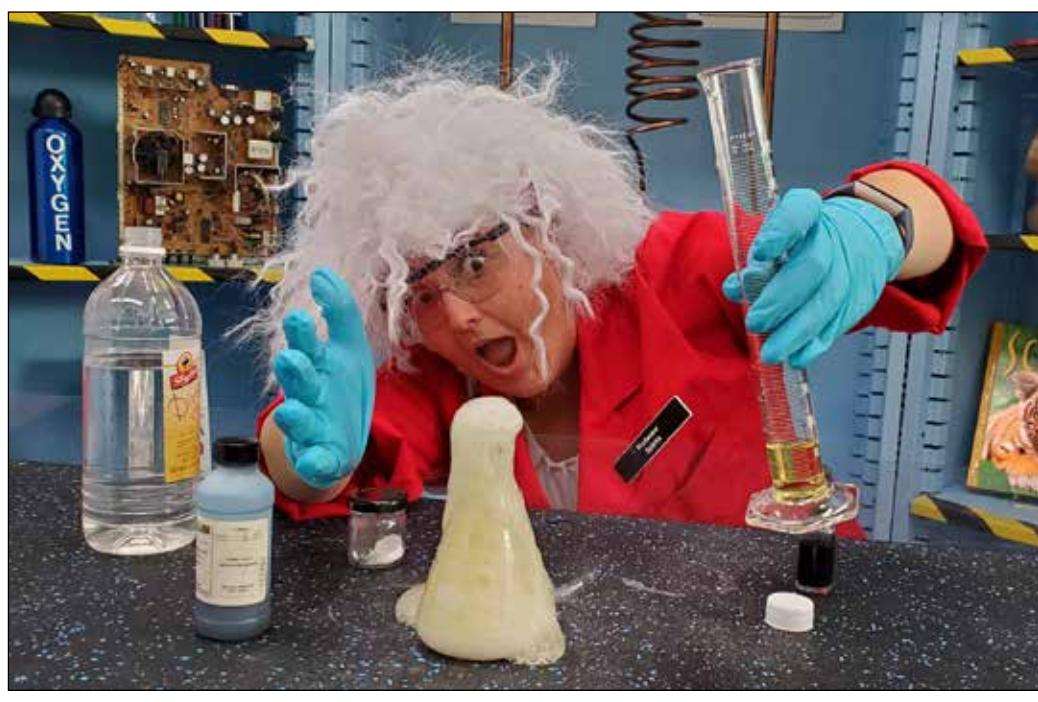


Photo contributed

*This professor seems pretty nutty.*

## Explore the science of fire with Professor Sparks

HUDSON — Join staff at the FASNY Museum of Firefighting, 117 Harry Howard Avenue, January 24, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. until noon for a free event: Weird Science with Professor Sparks!

Spend the morning exploring the science of fire. Professor Sparks and her

robot canine companion, Spot 2000, will present an interactive program that is full of surprises. After the program, do your own science experiment with Professor Sparks (supplies included with the program) and take home your supplies to do the experiment again at home.

All activities are free and will be indoors. Free admission to the museum will be offered to all who attend this special event. Reservations are not required. Get more information at [fasnyfiremuseum.com/events/weird-science-2026/](http://fasnyfiremuseum.com/events/weird-science-2026/)

## Cook up chili, win a prize or just come and eat!

COPAKE — The great Chili Cook-off takes the edge off winter at Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Saturday, January 24, 5 to 7 p.m.

Spice up the evening with a delicious variety of chilies. Those in the mood for cooking can bring their favorite chili in a large crockpot. Those in the mood for eating can choose from plenty of tasty concoctions to eat-in or take-out. Prizes go to the favorites. Attendees are invited to taste, vote and eat. Admission is free. The price of chili is \$5 to eat-in or take-out.

All ages are invited for food, fun and warmth at this event organized by the Grange's Program Committee and sponsored in part by Stewart's Shops and the Ackerman Foundation.

To get more information email [copakegrange@gmail.com](mailto:copakegrange@gmail.com) or visit [www.copakegrange.org/events](http://www.copakegrange.org/events)

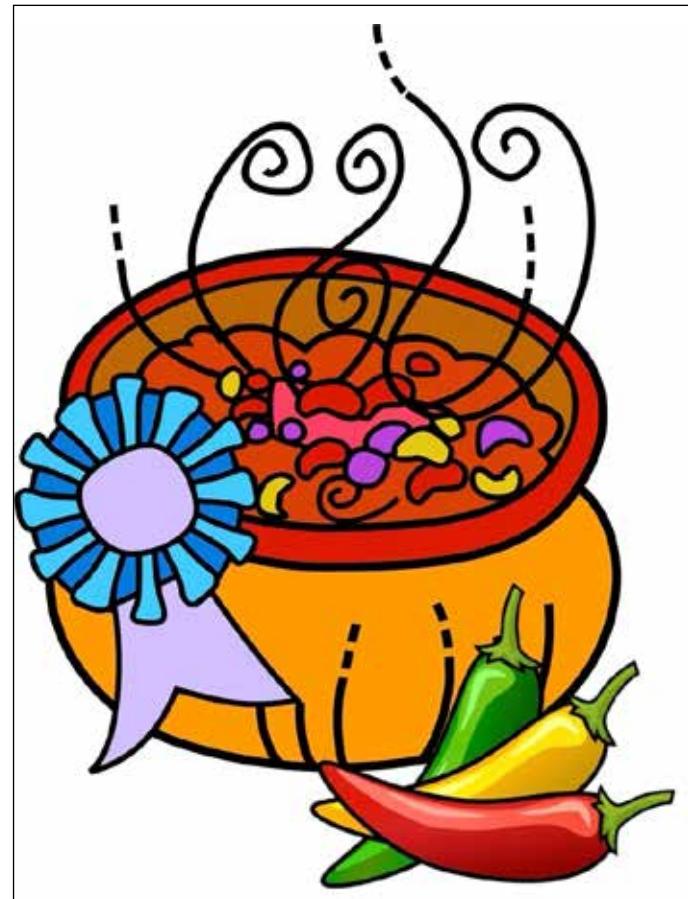


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*Chili will put some sizzle in your stomach.*

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## It's a New Year, time for more bingo

WEST TAGHKANIC — It's the first bingo session of the new year at the Taghkanic Firehouse, 631 Old Route 82, Sunday, January 25, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome at this family fun event.

Admission is free, snacks will be served and prizes awarded. Bring your own beverages, no alcohol per-

mitted on the premises.

Those who plan to bring a dish or baked goods, should let organizers know by emailing [taghkanic60plus@gmail.com](mailto:taghkanic60plus@gmail.com).

## Start the day with a breakfast buffet

NEW LEBANON — American Legion Post 1236 hosts a Breakfast Buffet at the American Legion Building, 7 Mill Road,

Sunday, January 25, 8 to 11 a.m.

On the menu are pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage,

toast, home fries, coffee, tea and orange juice. The cost is \$12 for adults; \$6 for those 12 years and under.

## Palatine Park is a good place to cross country ski

GERMANTOWN — With fresh snow, Palatine Park, 50 Palatine Park Road — in the heart of Germantown — offers a lovely short loop for cross-country skiing, according to a press release from the Germantown Recreation Committee.

The route begins near the parking lot by the basketball courts. From there, a wide trail starts behind the largest structure and gently undulates through the woods. Skiers will emerge at the southeast corner of the ballfields, where a small pond appears on the right.

For those looking to add a bit of elevation, continue past the pond and head up the short hill toward Maple Avenue before turning around and skiing back down. Just past the pond, take a right to follow the road along the outside of the ballfields, passing below the dugout and arriving at the small parking lot on the west side of the fields. From there, skiers can add laps around the ballfield for extra



Photo contributed

*Enjoy the sunset while cross country skiing.*

distance—snow here is often untracked and quiet.

To continue the loop, cross the small bridge southwest of the field and follow the trail toward the playground area. Turn left and ski along the northern edge of Lake George South, then veer left again onto a trail

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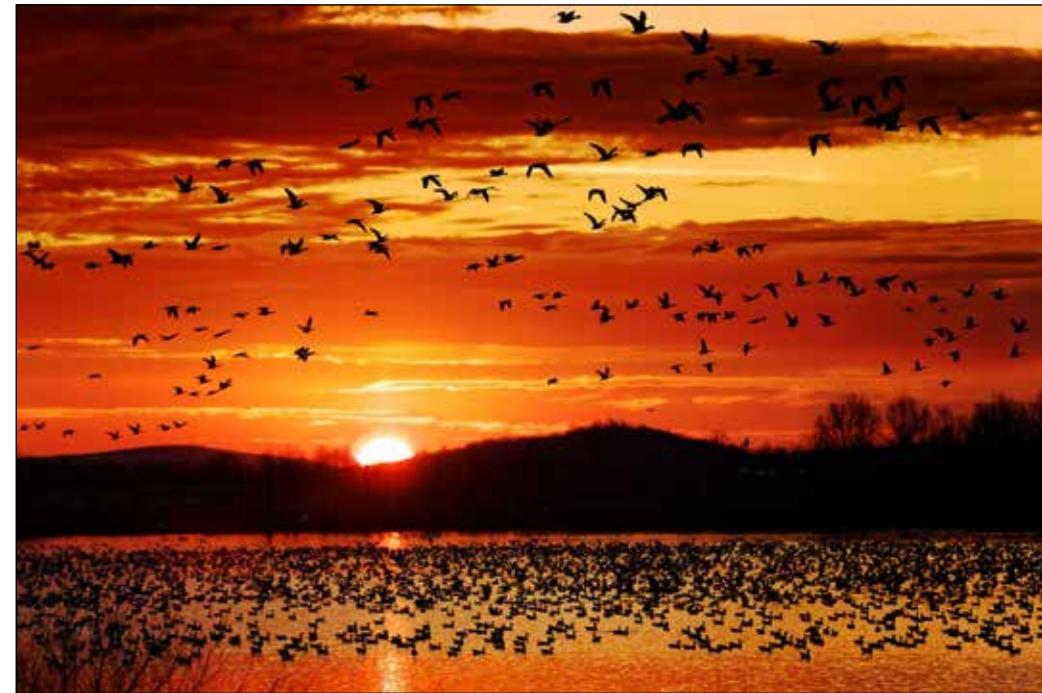
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# Avian influenza in wild birds expected to increase over winter

ALBANY — Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continues to infect birds and mammals across the U.S. and Canada, including New York State. With wild bird mortalities from HPAI increasing in late fall and peaking over the winter months, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds New Yorkers to stay alert.

"Under Governor Hochul's leadership, DEC is taking a proactive approach with our coordinated effort to monitor potential signs of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in wild birds. We have a great web-based tool for the public to use to report any signs the viral disease is spreading to different areas of the state," DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton said in a press release.

HPAI is carried by free-flying waterfowl and other waterbirds, such as ducks, geese and shorebirds, but can also infect domestic poultry, raptors, corvids and mammals. DEC's Wildlife Health Program is monitoring the spread and impact of HPAI throughout the state and has an online reporting tool the public can use to report suspected HPAI mortalities: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/dee-381c0ee8a4114a83dc1892fc0f7ed>. Updates on HPAI can be found on the Cornell Wildlife Health Lab website:



Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine website

*Species of wild birds confirmed as infected with HPAI in New York State commonly include Snow Goose, Canada Goose, swans, other waterfowl, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, other raptors, crows, and shorebirds.*

<https://cwhl.vet.cornell.edu/article/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza>

DEC advises the public to avoid any contact with sick or dead birds and mammals that may be infected with HPAI.

There is no way to contain HPAI infection in wild birds. Be aware that the clinical signs for HPAI infection in wildlife are nonspecific and may be similar to other diseases or injuries. Waterfowl, waterbirds, raptors and scavenging birds are at higher risk of infection, but any species could potentially be infected,

including mammals. HPAI-infected birds may be asymptomatic or may exhibit signs of respiratory distress (sneezing or nasal discharge), lethargy, neurologic malfunction (ataxia, stargazing, or seizures), diarrhea, weakness or sudden death.

DEC staff response to a suspected HPAI mortality event depends on the specific event. Because the disease is widespread in wild birds and cannot be contained, strategic surveillance is the best approach. DEC prioritizes response to significant mortality events for water-

fowl, shorebirds, gulls, crows, ravens or any eagles or other raptors in counties where HPAI has not been detected. With the exception of larger events, sensitive locations or vulnerable species, a physical response by staff is not necessary or likely in most cases.

Where DEC staff do not provide a physical response and removal is deemed necessary by the landowner, DEC advises landowners to use disposable gloves, a mask and eye protection. Additionally, DEC advises against direct contact with the carcass or carcass fluids by recommend-

ing the use of a shovel and washing hands and clothing with soap and hot water immediately afterward. Carcasses disposed of in this way should be triple bagged (garbage or contractor bags) and put in an outdoor trash receptacle for trash pickup or deposited at a local landfill.

There is no treatment for HPAI, and transporting suspected HPAI-infected birds to wildlife rehabilitation facilities is discouraged to prevent the spread of the disease to other animals in care. Guidance has also been provided to licensed wildlife rehabilitators to help them minimize risks to animals in their care and to aid them in their interactions with the public.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that the recent HPAI detections in birds pose a low risk to the public. HPAI H5N1 has been detected in more than 70 humans in the U.S., including two mortalities; most of these cases involved close contact with infected domestic birds or cows. There is likely little risk for the public, but people with close or prolonged unprotected contact with infected birds or virus-contaminated environments, especially immunocompromised people, are at greater risk of infection. No human-to-human transmission of the virus has been documented.

Since it was first introduced into New York State in January 2022, HPAI has been documented in captive birds in multiple counties and detected in free-ranging wild birds and mammals throughout the state. Species of wild birds confirmed as infected in New York State commonly include Snow Goose, Canada Goose, swans, other waterfowl, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, other raptors, crows, and shorebirds. Songbirds and other passerine birds do not appear to be highly susceptible to infection.

In addition to wild birds, HPAI has also been confirmed in red fox, striped skunk, Virginia opossum, raccoon, fisher, gray squirrel, muskrat, and bobcat in New York State, and in a wide range of mammals, particularly carnivores, in other parts of the U.S. In addition to domestic poultry, dairy cattle in other states have also been infected.

In November and December 2025, DEC received 69 reports of suspect mortalities through its online reporting platform, and presumptive positive cases were detected in wild birds in 10 counties. HPAI incidence may remain high through spring, particularly associated with the migration of large numbers of ducks and geese through the state.



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## Letters

## She reminds people that midterms are 9 months away

To the Editor:

President Trump's daily performative tweets are distracting, but cannot hide what we see with our own eyes. Extrajudicial killings, marauding lawless federal agents kidnapping immigrants and citizens in cities across America, and attacking local residents exercising

First Amendment rights to peacefully protest and film ICE actions.

The President's authoritarian reign of political prosecutions, tariff wars and threats to our allies is now losing support even among some Republican leaders and certainly in the hearts and minds of the people. A

January 16 CNN poll reported fifty eight percent of Americans believe Trump's first year in office has been a failure. They worry most about the economy, but concerns about democracy come in second. Sixty eight percent of Americans think Trump doesn't care about people like them.

A January 13 Economic Policy Institute (epi.org) report cited 47 ways Trump made life less affordable in the last year. Affordability has 2 sides – prices and pay. The report cites policy actions that are eroding workers' wages and economic security, undermining job creation, weakening workers' rights, enabling

employers' exploitation and creating ineffective government. Struggling families don't believe the President's lies about the economy. They see rising prices and diminishing wage growth with their own eyes.

The antidote to authoritarianism is activism. Midterm elections are 9

months away. We the people can peacefully protest, call out legislators that vote against our interests, register new voters, and volunteer or donate to elect a Democratic majority in Congress in 2026.

Democracy is calling us.

Stephanie Sussman  
Claverack

## OP ED

By MICHAEL SALTZ

# A story of power and place: Shepherd's Run and the future of Home Rule in New York

ALONGSIDE ROUTE 23 — a major east-west road that carries residents, freight, and visitors through the heart of Columbia County — and sprawling along the entrance to the Copake Lake Watershed, a 42-megawatt solar proposal has become a test of something larger than energy policy. Shepherd's Run would spread tens of thousands of solar panels across 700 acres of farmland and wooded hillsides, transforming a pastoral landscape that has drawn people here for generations. A patchwork of fields, forests, and open views would become an industrial eyesore. For many, the project has become a question not just of scale, but of who gets to decide what happens on the land that first drew them here.

In 2020, New York State created the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) designed to accelerate the construction of large renewable-energy projects to meet New York's self-created climate mandates. It fundamentally altered the balance of power between the state and its towns. Now incorporated under the 2024 RAPID Act, local zoning still exists but no longer decides. ORES can override any local law it deems

"unreasonably burdensome" to the state's climate goals. That means a town's development plan, formulated over years, applies only until the state decides it doesn't.

For residents of Copake, that shift feels seismic. The town's zoning code and plans were written to preserve rural character, protect farmland, and guide development at a scale the community can absorb. Shepherd's Run, they argue, exceeds that scale. Beyond its sheer visibility, the project raises unresolved questions about wetlands, potential impact on Hudson's water supply, wildlife disruption, and fire-safety risks — especially where the project abuts the Taconic Hills School. These concerns make it impossible for many residents to see the proposal as anything other than out of step with the place.

This is not a partisan fight. Democrats and Republicans in Copake — and at the county level — have aligned in rare agreement, united not by ideology but by a shared belief that the project, at least in its current form, is out of scale with the place. In a political climate where almost everything fractures along party lines, the resistance to Shepherd's Run stands out for

cutting cleanly across them.

But under RAPID, local agreement doesn't translate into local authority. ORES is required to consider town laws but not required to follow them. The agency can set aside local rules when they conflict with the state's renewable-energy targets. That override power is not theoretical. In multiple decisions, ORES has concluded that local setbacks, height limits, or land-use restrictions would make a project "technically or economically infeasible," and therefore need not apply. The result is a siting process where towns retain a voice, but not a veto.

Copake is far from alone. Although Shepherd's Run feels singular in the town's daily life, it is but one project among many in a rapidly expanding statewide build-out. New York now has 682 utility-scale solar farms, with thousands of megawatts of operating capacity spread across the state. Only the largest projects — those of 25 megawatts or more — fall under ORES, accounting for 50 to 60 of them. What feels like an isolated incursion at the local level is, in fact, part of a massive transformation of New York's energy landscape. Rural communities from the North

Country to the Southern Tier are wrestling with the same questions: how much is too much, and who gets to decide.

Across the state, large solar, wind, and battery storage projects have triggered similar conflicts, both before and after ORES's creation. In Greene County, the Flint Mine Solar project was withdrawn after years of opposition. In Ulster County, a major battery storage proposal stalled amid fire safety concerns. In Genesee County, Hecate's own 500-megawatt Cider Solar project faced intense pushback and was approved only after significant redesign. ORES has never rejected a project outright, although developers sometimes walk away when local resistance, litigation, or required mitigation make a project less attractive.

Political pressure is not directed only at developers and ORES. It also reaches the governor, who, while unable to overturn an ORES decision as in a veto, influences the agency through appointments and policy direction. When a project becomes a political liability — especially one opposed by Democrats and Republicans alike — that pressure can shape how ORES approaches a proposal.

What's happening in Copake echoes a much older American argument: who decides? At the national level, we call this federalism — the tension between the federal government pursuing broad public goals and states seeking to govern themselves. New York's RAPID Act is simply the next layer down. Albany argues that climate mandates require a centralized siting process; towns like Copake argue that home rule should still mean something.

This helps explain why the conflict feels so visceral. Rural towns are not resisting renewable energy itself; many residents support the transition. What they resist is the sense that decisions are being made elsewhere, by people who do not live with the consequences. They resist the idea that local laws, crafted through years of public engagement, can be swept aside with a single finding that they are "unreasonably burdensome."

Yet towns are not powerless. They retain what might be called a shadow veto — not a legal veto, but a practical one. They can litigate, forcing ORES to defend its decisions in court. They can raise unresolved environmental concerns, all of which ORES can

ignore. They can demand mitigation that increases project costs. And they can create political pressure that makes developers — and ORES itself — reconsider whether a project is worth the fight.

Shepherd's Run now sits at the center of this statewide tension. Its outcome will help shape not only the future of this project, but the meaning of home rule in New York's renewable-energy era. As the state pushes toward its climate goals, and as rural towns push back to defend their sense of place, the question remains the same one Americans have wrestled with for centuries: how to balance the needs of the many with the rights of the few. In Copake, that balance is being tested in real time, on real land, by real people who care deeply about the place they call home.

*Michael Saltz, Hillsdale, was a long-time Emmy Award-winning senior producer for the PBS News Hour. Today, he is the board president of the Art School of Columbia County. His occasional columns can be found at <https://michaelsaltz.substack.com>*

# County awarded Regional Economic Development Council grants

ALBANY — Governor Kathy Hochul announced more than \$463 million has been awarded statewide through the state's Regional Economic Development Council initiative. Nearly 400 projects across the state have been awarded over \$300 million in funding through the various state agency programs within the annual Regional Council initiative and Consolidated Funding Application, which are redesigned to help catalyze economic growth, jump-start housing growth, and advance regionally designed strategic plans, while addressing state priorities.

"I remain grateful for everyone involved in advancing the work of the Regional Economic Development Councils. Their dedication to this ongoing public-private

effort has had a transformational impact in every corner of the state," Governor Hochul said in press release.

The funding includes over \$60 million in Regional Council Capital Fund awards to implement each region's strategic plan and \$100 million in Pro-Housing Supply Fund awards to deliver infrastructure improvements that will facilitate transformative housing projects. The Pro-Housing Supply Fund awards certified Pro-Housing Communities with financing for essential infrastructure projects, such as sewer, electrical and water system upgrades, that are needed to facilitate new housing developments. By modernizing these essential services, Pro-Housing Communities can unlock new and more affordable and mixed-rate housing

opportunities, attract private investment, and create more vibrant and sustainable neighborhoods.

Local awardees include:

- Village of Philmont | Natural Resource Inventory | DEC CSC | \$33,600
- PS21: Center for Contemporary Performance | The Dark Winter Festival Tourism Working Capital | ESD MNY | \$100,000
- Dew East Farm Winery | Dewey's Wines | ESD RCCF | \$100,000
- Town of Hillsdale | Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning | DOS SGCP | \$111,060
- Village of Philmont | Advancing Philmont Rising BOA Priority Sites | DOS BOA | \$162,000
- City of Hudson | Zoning Update | DOS SGCP | \$180,000
- The Olana Partnership | North Road Entrance Rehabilitation | OPRHP EPF HP | \$360,000
- Columbia Land Conservancy | Charles Williams Park | OPRHP EPF PKS | \$675,000
- A Squared Buildings | 1876 Summit Knitting Mill Adaptation | NYSERDA BCCC | \$1,309,250
- Hudson Housing

Authority | Hudson Housing Authority Redevelopment | ESD PHSF | \$3,000,000.

The REDC process continues to support and empower regional stakeholders in developing strategic plans and funding priorities that meet local economic needs. To date, through the REDC Initiative, more than \$8 billion has been awarded to more than 10,000 job cre-

ation and community development projects consistent with each region's strategic plan.

The REDC has been the cornerstone of a bottom-up approach to economic development that allows the State's ten Regional Councils to support projects that advance strategic regional and statewide priorities.

Learn more at [regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov).

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## Shepherd's Run public comment hearings set

COPAKE — New York State's Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) conducts in-person and virtual Public Comment Hearings on the draft siting permit it issued to Hecate Energy to construct and operate a 42-megawatt utility-scale solar facility (Shepherd's Run) on more than 200 acres in Craryville, and on whether to issue a final permit.

In-person hearings take place Thursday, January 22 at 2 and 6 p.m. at Copake Town Hall, 230 Mountain View Road.

Virtual hearings take place Tuesday, January 27 at 2 and 6 p.m.

The public must register to speak at a virtual hearing. Instructions are posted in Town Hall and at [townofcopakeny.gov](http://townofcopakeny.gov).

## Listen to some of the stories of those who served

CLERMONT — Learn about "Those Who Served: The Enslaved and Paid Servants of Clermont," Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Avenue, Saturday, January 31 at 2 p.m. This mansion tour meets at the Visitor Center.

Over the course of three centuries, hundreds of people worked at Clermont to keep the Livingston family comfortable. For nearly 100 years, the mansion was run by a mostly enslaved staff. By the 1830s, this staff was completely replaced by paid labor.



Photo contributed

*Many served the Livingston family.*

Though many of their stories were lost, recent research has revealed new details about those who worked for the Livingston family. Join staff to uncover some of the stories of those who served.

Visitors must pay for tour tickets at the ticketing desk. Reservations are not required but appreciated at [www-1575g.bookeo.com/bookeo\\_b\\_clermont](http://www-1575g.bookeo.com/bookeo_b_clermont). The cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and children under 12 are free.

# Hochul's State of the State addresses affordability, child care

By DOUG La ROCQUE

*Capital Region  
Independent Media*

ALBANY — Governor Kathy Hochul delivered her fifth State of the State Address on Tuesday, January 13 and the reaction was swift and predictably along party lines. The governor touched on more than 200 topics in her address delivered from the Hart Theatre at the newly renovated Egg, the performing arts venue on the Empire State Plaza.

Governor Hochul focused on making New York more affordable, safer and equitable. One of her key initiatives involves universal child care along with such other points as enhancing public safety with technology and mental health components, improving housing, online safety for youths and tackling utility/insurance costs.

### How to achieve universal child care

"Building on over \$8 billion in child care investments that my administration has made since 2022, this plan will ultimately deliver universal child care for every single family in New York." Those were the words of Governor Hochul, who says her plan would guarantee universal pre-kindergarten for all



Photo contributed

*Governor Kathy Hochul speaks at the State of the State in Albany on January 13.*

4-year-olds by 2028. She also spoke of a pilot for communitywide child care programs offering year-round, full-day care for children from birth to age 3. Her proposal includes expanded funding to open more child care facilities as well as increasing staffing levels.

Proponents of Gov. Hochul's plan point out that New York state estimates place the average cost of child care in the Capital Region at \$20,000 annually and that expanding access to affordable care would ease that burden.

### It does not come cheap

The governor's proposals carry an estimated price tag of between \$8 and \$12 billion. Gov. Hochul said during her address, "We have the revenue to get these initiatives off the ground, but to keep our momentum going, we need partnership from the private sector." That could mean a new funding source.

### What they are saying

New Yorkers United for Child Care has long been an advocate for such a propos-

al. Their Executive Director Rebecca Bailin tells Capital Region Independent Media, "Last week, Governor Hochul announced a historic commitment to child care in New York State. Today, she showed us how she'll make it real. The Governor's plan is the most ambitious child care proposal New York has ever seen. It will change the lives of millions of families and make New York a model for other states."

Ms. Bailin said, "This win happened because parents refused to accept a system that was failing them. They organized relentlessly — at playgrounds and school pick-

ups, at City Halls and in the halls of Albany — and built a movement that turned child care into the defining issue of this legislative session."

Gov. Hochul's plan is a breakthrough according to Ms. Bailin, but she adds, "the job isn't done yet. We need to make sure the details match the ambition of the vision."

Assemblywoman Didi Barrett (D-106th) said briefly, "Universal child care sets our children up for success while allowing parents and caregivers to get back to work, creating and ensuring good-paying jobs, and bolstering economic development. The Governor's address shows New York's commitment to making child care truly universal — reaching children of all abilities in all regions of the state."

Assemblyman Scott Bennett (R-107th) said, "I don't know who the governor thinks she represents, but affordability isn't a buzzword to us. It's the difference between getting by and falling behind. It's groceries that cost more every week, heating bills that feel impossible to manage, rent and property taxes that keep climbing, and paychecks that no longer stretch far enough."

Assemblyman Bennett did have some praise for Gov. Hochul. "New Yorkers have been asking for a more affordable state for a long

time and that is a goal everyone in government should share. Lowering the cost of child care, energy, housing and auto insurance are all worthy priorities, and I applaud the governor for recognizing the financial strain families are under.

"Real affordability will only come from difficult but responsible decisions that focus on core needs and long-term stability."

State Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41st) told The Columbia Paper, "The devil is in the details and we'll be reviewing the Governor's full budget when it's released next week, but a few topline proposals stand out for the Hudson Valley. Getting the state to true Universal Childcare is an exciting and vital proposal, but as the details stand right now for communities outside New York City, there is a lot more that needs to be done in order to make that a reality. We will be fighting through negotiations to make this work for upstate and to help solve the childcare crisis in a truly universal way."

### What's next

The proposals put forth by the governor will be spelled out in her fiscal 2026–2027 budget that will be sent to the legislature for consideration within the next few days.

## MLK observance moved to April 4 at AME Zion Church in Hudson

*Due to the snowy weather on Sunday, January 18, the county's annual observance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy and Holiday at Shiloh Baptist Church, 14 Warren Street in Hudson was canceled and rescheduled to Dr. King's assassination date, Saturday, April 4 at 2 p.m. The April observance will be at AME Zion Church at 201 State Street, Hudson. Though it was canceled, a few county residents came out including (l to r) Gunnar Wordon, Randall Martin, Bernadette Martin, Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106th) and Chatham Town Supervisor Donal Collins.*



B. Docktor

## Kiosks being installed in Hudson in the coming weeks

HUDSON — With parking enforcement resumed in the City of Hudson, City Hall is sharing the following information about the new parking payment system. These updates reflect the concerns and feedback that have been expressed by the community since the beginning of the new year.

Parking signs are being installed along the length of Warren Street and will continue to be placed on streets

that had previously been metered. On-street kiosks will be installed in the coming weeks.

With an eye towards reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities, any person with a valid handicap tag or license plate will not be required to pay for on-street parking or short-term municipal lots. This decision was made in collaboration between the mayor, the ADA coordinator, the

Chief of Police, and the Common Council president. The hope is that this policy will alleviate the concerns of residents with disabilities who had previously relied on parking meters and previously unmetered stretches of Warren Street for their everyday needs.

For those using Text2Park, text ONSTREET to 44989. Parking can also be paid for by using the ParkMobile app or calling 1-877-727-5730.

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# EVENTS Calendar

To have an event listed here, send the information (including date, time, street address and cost if any) via email to [news@columbiapaper.com](mailto:news@columbiapaper.com) at least two weeks before the event.

Because of the high volume of workshop listing requests, we can list only workshops that are free, free-will donations or where all proceeds support a non-profit community organization.

## CONTINUING EVENTS

### Mondays

HATHA YOGA, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 8:30-10 am. Roberta Roll leads all levels. Proceeds benefit library. Info: 518 329-0684. [roejanlibrary.org/adult-programs](http://roejanlibrary.org/adult-programs).

MALDEN BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER, 1087 Albany Turnpike, opens its doors as a weekly community activity space every Monday 9 am-4 pm. Relax, socialize, play games. Coffee & snacks available. Free & open to the public, ADA compliant. Special programs offered on a weekly basis. Mindful stretching led by Hatha Yoga instructor Minerva Campbell. Board games, puzzles, books available for community use also ping pong table and co-worker space. Free Wifi. More info follow @MaldenBridge CommunityCenter on Facebook and @MaldenBridgeCC on Instagram.

TAI CHI CLASS FOR BEGINNERS, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 US Route 20, 1 pm. Through March 9. Free 10-week class led by Kris Cottom of Hudson Valley Tai Chi. The class provides instruction in postures and techniques to increase balance, flexibility and strength as well as relaxation and inner calm. No special clothing or equipment is required. For more info contact the instructor at 518-708-5351 or [kris.cottom@gmail.com](mailto:kris.cottom@gmail.com)

### First Mondays

EXERCISE FOR SENIORS: Live a physically safe, vibrant and functional life, Malden Bridge Community Center, 1087 Albany Turnpike, 10-11 am with Ihor Evanick. Get more info at [nncc1info@gmail.com](mailto:nncc1info@gmail.com).

### Second Mondays

BOOK CLUB, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 6 pm. All adult readers are welcome to join the book club. 518 758-9321, [valatielibrary.net](http://valatielibrary.net)

HUDSON AMERICAN LEGION POST #184, 104 Cty Rte 25, Stockport, monthly meetings, 7 pm. To become a member, bring DD214 to a meeting. 518-828-4707.

### Last Mondays

NONFICTION BOOK GROUP, Hudson Area Library, virtual via Zoom, 6-7 pm. Email [info@hudsonarealibrary.org](mailto:info@hudsonarealibrary.org) for the Zoom link.

WRITERS WORKSHOP, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 6:30 pm. Join us to share your works in progress and offer thoughtful feedback on your fellow writers' work. Open to writers of all forms. [https://philmontlibrary.com](http://philmontlibrary.com)

**Mondays, Tuesdays**  
OPEN ACCESS HOURS, Columbia County Mental Health Center, 325 Columbia St, Hudson, 8:30-10:30 am. [columbiacountymhc.com](http://columbiacountymhc.com).

MAH JONGG, The Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook Street, 12:30 pm. Open to all adults, no registration required. 518 758-9321, [https://valatielibrary.net](http://valatielibrary.net)

**Mondays, Wednesdays**  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY, 431 E Allen St, Hudson, open to those in need, Mon 9 am-noon, Wed noon-5 pm. Drop off monetary donations, non-perishable food, hygiene products at agency. 518 828-8660 X 125. [Catholiccharitiescsc.org](http://catholiccharitiescsc.org).

MAH-JONG CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, Chatham, 10:30 am Mon, 2 pm Wed. For experienced players. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org), 518 392-3666.

FIBER ARTS CIRCLE, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 1 pm, free. All levels, experiences welcome. [claveracklibrary.org](http://claveracklibrary.org), 518 851-7120.

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays**  
VALATIE SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER, 3302 Williams Street. Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30 am-1:30 pm, Fridays 10 am-3 pm. Lunch provided with reservation on Mondays & Wednesdays; Fridays, no reservation needed, lunch \$5/person. Seniors invited to catch up with friends, enjoy nutritious lunch, hear guest speakers, participate in fun activities, discover local programs & services available to older adults in Columbia County. Call 518-672-5323 to reserve a meal at least 24-hours ahead. Learn more at [ofa@columbiacountyny.com](mailto:ofa@columbiacountyny.com).

**Mondays, Thursdays**  
EXERCISE: BALANCE, CARDIO AND SOCIAL TIME, 9-10 am, Hall of Church of Immaculate Conception, 732 Rt 20, New Lebanon. Silver Seniors Program. Free, all are welcome. 518-794-7617.

**Mondays-Saturday**  
FOOD PANTRY DRIVE COLLECTION, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St. The library is partnering with the Mellenville Philmont Food Pantry to provide non-perishable foods for the community. Donations of unopened items with unexpired dates are needed, and can be dropped off inside the library during open hours. See [philmontlibrary.com](http://philmontlibrary.com). Volunteers to check expiration dates are always appreciated.

FREE FRIDGE, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St. Pick up fresh veggies, fruits, and dairy whenever the library is open. See [philmontlibrary.com](http://philmontlibrary.com) or call 518-672-5010 for hours. Enjoy all the rest the library offers while you're there.

**Tuesdays**  
TAI CHI, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 10 am, free. David Haines leads. [claveracklibrary.org](http://claveracklibrary.org), 518 851-7120.

QIGONG TAICHI CLASSES, Hudson Area Library Community Room, 51N 5th St, 10-11am. Qigong sets and traditional Tai Chi Form with instructor Curt Anthon. [https://hudsonarealibrary.org](http://hudsonarealibrary.org)

SOCIAL HOUR, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, Chatham, 10:30 am. Share coffee, tea, pastries, and conversation with new friends at the library. Here's a chance to find others in your community who share your interests or discover a new interest for yourself. Refreshments provided. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org), 518 392-3666.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC, Col. Cty Dept of Health, 325 Columbia St, Hudson, 1-4 pm, free. Third Tuesday of month 4-6 pm. Many types of vaccines offered. By appointment only, 518 828-3358 (option #4). [sites.google.com/a/columbiacountyny.com/health/health-clinics](http://sites.google.com/a/columbiacountyny.com/health/health-clinics)

BRIDGE CLUB MEETUP, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 2 pm. Whether you're a seasoned player or just getting started, come connect with others who share your interest in the game. All are welcome—this is a great opportunity to start a regular Bridge club.

COMMUNITY OUTPOST, Our Community Cares, 25 Hudson Ave, Chatham, 2-4 pm, free. Walk-ins encouraged, learn more about services offered, receive training on Narcan, be given Narcan kit. [twincountycareyservices.org](http://twincountycareyservices.org)

CHAIR YOGA WITH KATHY SCHNEIDER-DOYLE, Chatham Public Library, on Zoom, 4 pm. Chair yoga creates a safe space for movement and balance. Schneider-Doyle, MS, RN, AEA, RYT 200, has been a community health nurse for 43 years and an instructor in aquatics and yoga for over ten years. Email [chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us](mailto:chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us) to register.

**First Tuesdays**  
BOOTS ON THE GROUND, High-N-Mighty, 71 CR 21C, Ghent, 6-7:30 pm. Veterans welcome for evening of equine activities full of hands-on experiences with the herd. Registration recommended, walk-ins welcome. [Rachel@high-n-mighty.org](mailto:Rachel@high-n-mighty.org), 518 965-3027, [danaerin1222@gmail.com](mailto:danaerin1222@gmail.com).

**Second Tuesdays**  
AS THE PAGES TURN BOOK CLUB, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 12:30 pm. [https://philmontlibrary.com](http://philmontlibrary.com)

TRI-VILLAGE SENIORS, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 1010 Kinderhook St/ Rte 9, Valatie, 1 pm. \$10 dues. New members welcome. Info, trip reservations Joyce Meservey 518-610-9095

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson Ave, 6:30 pm, free. For adults. Learn basics, explore new formats, meet new people, develop your characters. [kinderhooklibrary.org](http://kinderhooklibrary.org)

QUEER & TRANS CONNECTION NETWORK: Craft Night, ARTLife717

Gallery, 717 Columbia Street, Hudson, 6-8 pm. Snacks, community and crafts. Bring your own craft or bring an open heart and craft supplies will be provided. Follow us on [instagram.com/qtconnectioncg](http://instagram.com/qtconnectioncg). DM or email [toby@c-gac.org](mailto:toby@c-gac.org) for more info or the link to join virtually. Brought to you by The Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition: [www.c-gac.org](http://www.c-gac.org)

**First & Third Tuesdays**  
CHATHAM WRITING GROUP, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am. The Chatham Writing Group is an informal group that explores the craft of writing. New members welcome. Email [ajourney@fairpoint.net](mailto:ajourney@fairpoint.net) to join.

SENIOR SCENE, New Lebanon Library, 550 State Rt 20, 2 pm. Join other seniors for friendly conversation. Different activity each time, such as painting, games, puzzles, and crafts. 518-794-8844 or [www.newlebanonlibrary.org](http://www.newlebanonlibrary.org)

**Second & Fourth Tuesdays**  
NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson St, 6-7:30 pm.

Peer-led support group for family members, caregivers, and loved ones of individuals living with mental health challenges. Hybrid meeting supporting in-person and online participation. To join virtually, register to receive login credentials at [namiccny.org/](http://namiccny.org/) For more information call 518 336-0246 or write to [info@namiccny.org](mailto:info@namiccny.org)

**Third Tuesdays**  
BOARD MEETING, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 6 pm. Public welcome. For more information, email [director@roejanlibrary.org](mailto:director@roejanlibrary.org)

**Last Tuesdays**  
SENIOR COFFEE HOUR, Hillsdale House, 2634 State Route 23, 10-11:30 am. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation. Presented by Hillsdale Safe at Home Committee. [Hillsdalesafeathome@gmail.com](mailto:Hillsdalesafeathome@gmail.com)

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays**  
COLUMBIA COUNTY DWYER PROGRAM FOOD PANTRY, 389 Fairview Ave, Hudson, 9 am-noon. Supports local veterans. Hours flexible if needed. 518 828-3610.

**Tuesdays, Thursdays**  
OPEN SWIM, Shatford Pool, New Lebanon Jr/Sr High School, 14665 Rte 22, 5:30-7 pm, one time annual fee \$10, discounts for large families. Brought to you by Community Ed. Contact Britt Buckenroth at [bbuckenroth@newlebanoncsd.org](mailto:bbuckenroth@newlebanoncsd.org) if you have any questions.

**Tuesdays-Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays**  
NEW LEBANON FREE STORE, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 Rt 20, Tues-Thurs 2-5:30 pm, Sat 5-8 pm, Sun 11 am- 2 pm. Clothing, footwear, children's items, more to help reduce, reuse, recycle.

Donations go directly to the Free Store during open hours. For more information contact [newlebanoncommunitycenter.com](http://newlebanoncommunitycenter.com) or supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com. 518-794-8889

**Wednesdays**  
COFFEE & CONNECTION, Chamber of Commerce, 1 N Front St, Hudson, 8:30-9:30 am. Bring beverage for informal conversation, networking. [columbiachamber-ny.com](http://columbiachamber-ny.com)

STD CLINIC, Columbia County Dept of Health, 1st Floor, 325 Columbia St, Hudson, 9-10 am, free, no appointment needed. STD testing, treatment, counseling; HIV testing, counseling; all services private, confidential. 518 828-3358. [sites.google.com/a/columbiacountyny.com/health/health-clinics](http://sites.google.com/a/columbiacountyny.com/health/health-clinics)

**WEDNESDAY WEEKLY WALKING GROUP**, Harlem Valley Rail Trail parking kiosk across from Herrington's, White Hill Lane, 9:30 am. Hillsdale's Safe at Home Committee. Walks are weather dependent. Walk April 16 until the end of October.

SENIORS ROCK, Canaan Town Hall, 1647 Rt 5, 10:30 am-1:30 pm, \$3 donation. Lunch, speakers, entertainment, games. Information, volunteer to help 518 781-0028, [sguelpa@gmail.com](mailto:sguelpa@gmail.com)

CLAVERACK BRIDGE CLUB, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, noon. [claveracklibrary.org](http://claveracklibrary.org)

COMMUNITY OUTPOST, Our Community Cares, New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 Rt 22, noon-3 pm, free. Walk-ins encouraged, learn more about services offered, receive training on Narcan, be given Narcan kit. [twincountycareyservices.org](http://twincountycareyservices.org)

**GENTLE YOGA WITH CURT ANTHON**, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, noon. Slow-moving class targeting all areas of the body to create flexibility, strength and balance all from reclined, seated or kneeling positions. Occasional standing postures are optional for those who want to work on balance. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org), 518 392-3666.

**CHATHAM/GHENT SENIORS**, West Ghent Reformed Church, 1039 CR 22, 1 pm. Refreshments, guest speaker. [ghentny@hotmail.com](mailto:ghentny@hotmail.com)

**DIGITAL NAVIGATOR**, OFFICE HOURS, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 1-4 pm. Digital Navigators can help you get online at the library or help you use your personal device to get things done. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments are appreciated. Email [communications@roejanlibrary.org](mailto:communications@roejanlibrary.org) or call 518-325-4101.

**GENTLE CHAIR YOGA**, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 1:15 pm. [https://philmontlibrary.com/](http://philmontlibrary.com/)

**BEAUTIFUL RACKET**, First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, 369 Warren St, 5-6:30 pm, free. Beginner master class series of sound healing in collaboration with master sound medicine practitioner Sister Redhawk. [beautifulrackethudson@gmail.com](mailto:beautifulrackethudson@gmail.com)

**ENGLISH CLASS**, Hudson Area Library, 51 N 5th St, 6-8 pm, free. For adults who want to improve reading, writing, English speaking skills. Free childcare available. Registration 518 828-1792, [colgreene@literacy-connections.org](mailto:colgreene@literacy-connections.org)

**OVEREATERS**, ANONYMOUS, Apogee Center, Fairview Avenue, Hudson, 6 pm. Call Sue at 518-965-7410.

**ROE JAN FOOD PANTRY**, Hillsdale/Copake. Submit orders by Wednesday for Friday pickup. Call Betty White 518 441-2789 or Jackie Dextraze 518 965-5770. Questions to [roejanfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:roejanfoodpantry@gmail.com)

**Wednesdays through March 25**  
ADULT COED INDOOR SOCCER, Germantown Central School Elementary Gym, 123 Main Street, 7-8:30 pm. \$10/session (drop-in) or \$120/ full season. Bring indoor soccer shoes or gym shoes. All fitness levels welcome. To ask questions or to book a season pass, contact Jan at [gtnysoccer@gmail.com](mailto:gtnysoccer@gmail.com). Sponsored by Germantown Recreation Committee.

**First Wednesdays**  
READ BIPOC BOOK CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 5:30 pm. Collaboration between the Chatham Bookstore and the library, discusses books that celebrate diversity. Discussions are led by Amy Zimmerman of the Chatham Bookstore. Books are available from the Bookstore (at a discount) and to borrow from the library. New members are always welcome to join. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org)

**BOARD MEETING**, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 6 pm. Public welcome. For more information, email director. [philmontlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:philmontlibrary@gmail.com)

# EVENTS

## Calendar

Continued from Page B1

### First & Third Wednesdays

TACONIC TOASTMASTERS, CC Chamber of Commerce, 1 N Front St, Hudson, 5:30-6:30 pm, free. Participants improve speaking & leadership skills. Guests welcome. 518 929-5866, taconic.toastmastersclubs.org.

MOVING WITH MUSIC, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson St, 6-7 pm, free. Led by Sandra Tolosa; for those who like upbeat tunes with their workouts. kinderhooklibrary.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP, Kinderhook Tri-Village Rotary, virtual event, 6:30 pm, free. Zoom link, KTVRotary@gmail.com.

RAINBOW LOUNGE— LGBTQ Aging Well Peer Support Group, Spark of Hudson Building, 502 Union St Hudson, 6:30-8 pm. Group helps LGBTQ+ people 40+ share food & provide peer support for negotiating changes/challenges associated with aging well. Co-hosted by Q-MoB & Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center. 1-503-734-6508, queermenoftheberkshires@gmail.com

**Third Wednesdays**  
READ ON! BOOK CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 6 pm. The book is available to borrow through the Mid-Hudson Library System and Libby. All are welcome. For more information, email communications@roejanlibrary.org.

HISTORY BOOK CLUB, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 6-7 pm. Enjoy history? Join us! Contact the library for information 518-672-5010; director.philmontlibrary@gmail.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, The Livingston Free Library, 90 County Rte 19, 7 pm. Board meetings are open to the public. livingstonfreelibrary.org

**Fourth Wednesdays**  
HAL BOOK GROUP, Hudson Area Library, 2nd fl, 51N 5th St, 5-6 pm. All are welcome. December Book Group will be held December 3.

CIVIL SERVICE 101, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 5:30 pm. Join a free, informal conversation with staff members of Columbia County Civil Service. Explore employment and career opportunities, see current vacancies, sign up for an exam, complete an application, ask questions and learn what Columbia County Civil Service is all about. chathampubliclibrary.org

**Wednesdays, Saturdays**  
BARGAIN SHOP, Copake United Methodist Church, 1668 CR 7A, 10 am-2 pm. Clothes, household goods. Shop accepts donations of clothes, serviceable household goods, drop items off in outer vestibule any time.

GENTLE YOGA WITH CURT ANTHON, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, Wednesdays at noon, Saturdays at 1:30 pm. This is a slow-moving class targeting all areas of the body to create flexibility, strength and balance. chathampubliclibrary.org

YOGA WITH REGINA, Germantown Library, 31 Palatine Park Rd, Wed 5:15 pm, Sat 9 am, \$10/class. Bring mat & towel. Germantownlibrary.org, 518 537-5800.

### Thursdays

BETTER TOGETHER, in-person Al-Anon meeting, Colbert house (of St. James Church), 129 Hudson Ave, Chatham, 9-10 am. 12-step program of recovery & support for family & friends of people with alcohol or substance abuse problems. All welcome. Enter through back door. More info call or text Steve M. at 310-433-5192.

HATHA YOGA, Roe Jan Community Library, virtual event, 9-10:30 am, donation. Gentle yoga with Roberta Roll. Info: 518 329-0384.

YOGA, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 10 am, free. Brooke Murray leads combination chair & mat yoga. claveracklibrary.org, 518 851-7120.

QIGONG & TAI CHI, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 10:30-11:30 am, free. Drop in class, open to all. Wear comfortable clothing. Will be outside weather permitting or in library. Roejanlibrary.org, 518 325-4101.

CORE STRENGTH & BALANCE CLASSES, Hudson Area Library, 51N 5th St, 10:30-11:30 am. January 2 to March 20. In person, upstairs. Contact programs@hudsonarealibrary.org for more information

QIGONG, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, noon, free. Led by Curt Anthon. Suitable for all ages, abilities. chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us

BRIDGE CLUB, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 12:45 pm. For adults, no registration required. 518 758-9321, valatielibrary.net, valatielibrary@gmail.com

KNIT CLUB OF THE HUDSON VALLEY, Copake Memorial Park Building, 305 Mountain View Rd, 1-3 pm, \$2 donation. For all generations & crafters; bring current project to work on in company. Questions: 518 929-7682.

COMMUNITY OUTPOST, Our Community Cares, Philmont Community Center, 14 Lake Dr, 2-4 pm, free. Walk-ins encouraged, learn more about services offered, receive training on Narcan, be given Narcan kit. twincountyrecoveryservices.org.

RECOVERY CAFE, The Mental Health Awareness and Creative Arts Gallery, 717 Columbia St, Hudson, 3-4 pm, free. Weekly art/recovery classes based on the eight dimensions of wellness. Art supplies & coffee provided. stigmafree.art

CONTEMPLATIVE DANCE PRACTICE, TSL, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 5-6 pm, \$5-\$15. Barbara Dilley leads movement/meditation class. All welcome, no previous experience with dance or meditation needed. Registration timeandspace.org/dance-yoga.

QUEER & TRANS CONNECTION NETWORK: Community Night, 1 Taconic Place, Chatham, 5-7 pm. Snacks, connection, support. Follow us on instagram @qtconnectioncg; DM or email toby@c-gac.org for more info or the link to join virtually. Brought to you by The Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition: www.c-gac.org

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTORING, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 6-7:30 pm, by appointment. One-on-one or group sessions for adults. Childcare provided for ages 3 & up. Appointments: director@roejanlibrary.org, 518 325-4101.

PAGE TURNERS YA BOOK CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, 6 pm. For teens and adults, led by Xondra O'Connell. Email Xondra if you are interested in joining. Books are available through the Mid-Hudson Library System and Libby.

First Thursdays CHATHAM ROOTS GENEALOGY, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 2 pm, free. Michelle LeClair leads beginners & experts in search for family. Space limited, registration michelle@leclairdesign.com.

MEMOIR WRITING GROUP, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 5-7 pm. Share stories in supportive environment. 518 325-4101, roejanlibrary.org.

Second Thursdays HEALTH CARE NAVIGATOR, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 1-3 pm, free. Assistance shopping for, comparing, enrolling in health insurance, applying for financial assistance for health care coverage. Appointments 518 822-9600.

QIGONG, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, noon, free. Led by Curt Anthon. Suitable for all ages, abilities. chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us

BRIDGE CLUB, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 12:45 pm. For adults, no registration required. 518 758-9321, valatielibrary.net, valatielibrary@gmail.com

KNIT CLUB OF THE HUDSON VALLEY, Copake Memorial Park Building, 305 Mountain View Rd, 1-3 pm, \$2 donation. For all generations & crafters; bring current project to work on in company. Questions: 518 929-7682.

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QUEER & TRANS CONNECTION NETWORK: Community Night, 1 Taconic Place, Chatham, 5-7 pm. Snacks, connection, support. Follow us on instagram @qtconnectioncg; DM or email toby@c-gac.org for more info or the link to join virtually. Brought to you by The Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition: www.c-gac.org

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTORING, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 6-7:30 pm, by appointment. One-on-one or group sessions for adults. Childcare provided for ages 3 & up. Appointments: director@roejanlibrary.org, 518 325-4101.

BOARD MEETING, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 6 pm. Public welcome. Claveracklibrary.org.

Fourth Thursdays GREENPORT SENIORS, Greenport Community Center, 500 Town Hall Drive, 1 pm. Any senior who resides in Columbia County is welcome to attend meeting.

TEA TIME AT THE LIBRARY, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 2:30 pm, free. Tea, coffee, socialize. Roejanlibrary.org, 518 325-4101.

PAINT AND SIP, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 5-7 pm. For adults. Go to https://valatielibrary.net/

Fridays ROE JAN FOOD PANTRY, 2684 Rt 23 (basement of the Sheriff's Substation), Hillsdale, Pick up orders 10 am-noon. Appointments as needed. Call ahead if possible: Betty White 518 441-2789 or Jackie Dextraze 518 965-5770. Questions roejanfoodpantry@gmail.com.

FUTURE FRIDAYS CLIMATE VIGIL, Chatham Village Green, 3-4 pm. All invited to raise awareness of current climate emergency. Information climatebart@gmail.com.

TECH HELP, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, by appt. Use library laptop or bring your own. Appointments: 518 794-8844.

First Fridays BOOK CLUB, Livingston Free Library, 90 CR 19, 11:30 am, free. New members welcome. 518 851-2270, livingstonlibrary105@gmail.com.

First & Third Fridays LEBANON VALLEY SENIORS, Community Center, 523 Rt 20, New Lebanon, 1 pm. New members welcome. Ages 55+ \$15/year; free for 80 years+. Contact lebanon-seniorcitizens@gmail.com or call William Shannon at 518-938-1039. Senior page with full calendar, trip information at TownofNewLebanon.com

Second Fridays CLAVERACK SENIORS, Reformed Dutch Church, 88 Rt 9H, Claverack, 1 pm. 518 610-1766.

CLASSIC MOVIES & COFFEE, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 2 pm, free. claveracklibrary.org.

STAR PARTY, Lake Taghkanic State Park, West Beach Parking Lot, 1528 Rt 82, Gallatin, time changes, free. Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association. Bring telescopes, binoculars, use those provided. RSVP required one day before, meetup.com/mhastroph/events/275468188.

Saturdays ROE JAN FRIENDS BOOKSHOP, basement of Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 10 am-2 pm. Used books, CDs and DVDs at low prices. @ roejanfriendsbookshop.

UKULELE JAMS, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am, free. Carmen Borgia leads all ages. Ukuleles available from library. chathampubliclibrary.org.

MAHJONG, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 11 am-1 pm, free. For all skill levels. RSVP librarydirector@newlebanonlibrary.org.

### First Saturdays

PROSE WRITERS GROUP, Roe Jan Community Library, virtual event. Safe environment offers support, feedback to writers of all levels working on fiction, non-fiction, memoir, essay, Haiku. To join: 914 954-3494.

COMMUNITY GIVING, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Rd, 10 am-noon. Healthy nonperishable foods; personal hygiene products; nutritional snacks (individual packets); winter hats, gloves, sox, boots. copakegrange.org

FIRST WEEKEND WANDERINGS, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rt 9G, Greenport, noon-1 pm, free. Guided walking tour covering 1 mile of artist-designed landscape; wear weather-appropriate clothes, footwear. Tickets olana.org/programs-events.

Second Saturdays FREE SOUP & SANDWICH SATURDAYS, First Presbyterian Church of Valatie, 3212 Church Street, 11:30 am-1 pm. It's an opportunity to meet & visit with others in the community. All are encouraged to attend.

Third Saturdays THE STITCHERS, First Presbyterian Church of Valatie, 3212 Church Street, 10 am-noon. Group repairs clothing for donations. Repairs only, no alterations. Sew on buttons, turn collars, put on patches, sew up torn seams, replace zippers, shorten hems, etc. They finish what they can in 2 hours, take home items that could not be completed. Donations go to First Presbyterian Church of Valatie for disaster relief.

COOKBOOK CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 1-2 pm, free. Choose cookbook, recipe to prepare & share at next meeting; bring recipes to share with fellow foodies. For more information contact Rita at rlj304@gmail.com.

Fourth Saturdays A NOVEL IDEA BOOK CLUB, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 10 am-noon. Registration is not required. New members are welcome! November 22 book is "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore. https://valatielibrary.net/

First Sundays BOOK GROUP, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 11 am. Copies of the book are available by request at local libraries. Newlebanonlibrary.org.

First & Third Sundays DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson Ave, 3 pm, free. For adults. Learn basics, explore new formats, meet new people, develop your characters. kinderhooklibrary.org.

ROE JAN BLUEGRASS BAND, Roe Jan Brewing Co, 32 Anthony St, Hillsdale, 5:30-8 pm, free, tips for musicians encouraged.

Second & Fourth Sundays LUKE FRANCO, Roe Jan Brewing Co, 32 Anthony St, Hillsdale, 6-8:30 pm, free, tips for musicians encouraged.

Third Sunday CROCHET CLUB, Germantown Library, 31 Palatine Park Rd, 10 am-noon. Bring your projects, meet other people. Social distanced seating. Germantownlibrary.org.

### FARMERS MARKETS

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET, Elks Lodge #787, 201 Harry Howard Ave, Hudson, Saturdays, 10 am-1 pm. Indoor Winter Market each Saturday, November 29- April 11, hudsonfarmersmarketny.org/

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Through January 31

DOG ADOPTION SPONSORSHIP, Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA, 111 Humane Society Road, Claverack. With its kennels full and so many wonderful dogs waiting, C-GHS hopes this will help even more of them find the loving homes they deserve. Visit https://cghs.org/ or call 518-828-6044.

#### All winter

FREE STORE WINTER COAT DRIVE, New Lebanon Free Store, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 US Route 20. Drop off coats: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 2-5:30 pm; Saturday 5-8 pm; Sunday 11 am-2 pm. Donate gently-used coats and help someone stay warm during the cold winter months.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, Palatine Park, 50 Palatine Park Rd, Germantown, sunrise to sunset. Park offers a short loop beginning near parking lot by basketball courts. A wide trail starts behind the largest structure & undulates through the woods. Skiers emerge at the southeast corner of the ballfields, where a small pond appears on the right. Cross the small bridge southwest of the field and follow the trail toward the playground area. Turn left and ski along the northern edge of Lake George South, then veer left again onto a trail road that reconnects with the wide woodland trail. A final right turn brings skiers back near the main parking lot. Full loop is 1-2 miles.

#### Through April 30

INDOOR WALKING, Walter B. Howard Elementary School, 1478 Route 20, New Lebanon, Monday through Thursday 6:30-8 pm, enter building only between 6:30-6:45 pm. Bring indoor walking shoes, sign in & out, respect laborers as they continue their duties in the building. Free after a one time annual facilities fee of \$5. Questions: contact Britt Buckenroth: bbuckenroth@newlebanoncsd.org

#### January 22, 27

SHEPHERD'S RUN PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS, Copake Town Hall, 230 Mountain View Road, 2 & 6 pm. Jan 22 in-person hearings, Jan 27 virtual hearings. NYS Office of Renewable Energy Siting & Electric Transmission (ORES) conducts hearings on the draft siting permit it issued to Hecate Energy to construct & operate a 42-MW utility-scale solar facility on 200+ acres in Craryville, & on whether to issue a final permit. Must register to speak at a virtual hearing. Instructions posted in Town Hall & at townofcopakeny.gov.

#### January 25

BINGO, Taghkanic Firehouse, 631 Old Rte 82, West Taghkanic, 2-3:30 pm. Free admission, snacks served, prizes. Family fun, all ages welcome. If you plan to bring a dish or baked goods, let us know by email taghkanic60plus@gmail.com. Bring your own beverages. No alcohol permitted on premises

**January 31**  
BOOK & BAKE SALE, Elizaville United Methodist Church, intersection county routes 2 & 19, 9 am-1 pm. Snow date February 1, 10 am-1 pm. Books for all ages, DVD's, puzzles, housewares, baked goods. Breakfast & lunch available, eat-in or take-out. More info call 845-756-2338, or on event day call Church Hall at 845-756-5602.

**THOSE WHO SERVED:** The Enslaved & Paid Servants of Clermont, Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave, Mansion tour meets at Visitor Center, 2 pm. Through 3 centuries hundreds of people worked for the Livingstons. Research has revealed new details about them. Join staff to uncover some stories of those who served. Buy tour tickets at ticket desk: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors & students, children under 12 free. Reservations not required but appreciated at [www.1575g.bookeo.com/](http://www.1575g.bookeo.com/) bookeo/b\_clermont

**February 1**  
OWL MOON STORY WALK, Taconic State Park, 253 State Route 344, Copake Falls, 6 pm. Meet at Park Office. Read Owl Moon by Jane Yolen and then go out in search of these nocturnal creatures. The walk will take place around the Park Office down the Harlem Valley Rail Trail if conditions allow. Free. Traction devices such as micro spikes encouraged. Check out park's social media for event updates, as this is a weather permitting event. 518-329-3993

## RELIGIOUS EVENTS

**January 26**  
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY, Church of St Joseph, 1820 U.S. Route 9, Stuyvesant, 10 am. New members welcome and encouraged. Donations of yarn are gladly accepted. Email MaryAnn at [MyRascal2@aol.com](mailto:MyRascal2@aol.com).

**February 2**  
THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD, Our Lady of Hope Church, 8074 State Route 22, Copake Falls. Mass 6 pm. Celebrate the Light of Christ working through us. Bring candles to be blessed by Father Joseph Mali as we use them as a symbol of our Christ light! Pot luck dinner and fellowship to follow.

## WHAT'S COOKING

**First Tuesdays**  
COMMUNITY DINNER, Solaris, 360 Warren St, Hudson, 5:30 pm, free. Details: [camphillhudson.org](http://camphillhudson.org).

**Every Tuesday through March 31**

FREE HOT MEAL, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 1010 Kinderhook St (Route 9), Valatie, doors open 4:30 pm for beverages & fellowship. Meals served 5:30-6:30 pm. More info contact: Betty-Jean Roppolo [bjroppolo@gmail.com](mailto:bjroppolo@gmail.com), 518-320-6232

**January 24**  
CHILI COOK-OFF, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, 5-7 pm. Spice up your evening with a delicious variety of chilies. If you are in the mood for cooking, bring your favorite chili in a large crockpot. If you're in the mood for eating, there will be plenty to eat-in or take-out. Prizes will go to the favorites. Free admission. \$5 for chili eating or take-out.

## January 25

BREAKFAST BUFFET, American Legion Building, 7 Mill Road, New Lebanon, 8-11 am. Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, homefries, coffee, tea, O.J. Adults \$12; 12 years & under \$6. Sponsored by American Legion Post 1236.

## FOR KIDS

### Continuing Mondays

SHAKE & SHOUT TODDLER STORY TIME, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am, free. For ages 1-3. Sing, dance, listen to story. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org).

SEWING AFTER SCHOOL WITH AMELIA, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 3:30-4:30 pm. [https://philmontlibrary.com/](http://philmontlibrary.com/)

FAMILY MUSIC & MOVEMENT STORY TIME, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 4 pm, free. Led by Abbey Lappen. [claveracklibrary.org](http://claveracklibrary.org).

LEGO CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 4 pm, free. For ages 5 & up. Get creative with legos! Build something to display at the library.

### First and Third Mondays

SMALL WONDERS STORY TIME, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 10:30 am, free.

Younger patrons up to 35 months join Miss Ann for songs, movement, stories. [newlebanonlibrary.org](http://newlebanonlibrary.org), 518 794-8844.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 11 am. For ages 3-6 years. This storytime is a bit longer for older children (30-45 minutes) and includes more stories, movement activities, and songs, followed by a craft activity. [newlebanonlibrary.org](http://newlebanonlibrary.org), 518 794-8844.

## Second Mondays

SPEECH & LANGUAGE SUPPORT, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 5:30-6:30 pm. For kids birth-5 with Speech Pathologist Denise Smith. [https://philmontlibrary.com/](http://philmontlibrary.com/)

## Third & Fourth Mondays

SEWING AFTER SCHOOL, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 3:30-4:30 pm. [https://philmontlibrary.com/](http://philmontlibrary.com/)

## Mondays & Wednesdays

FREE PLAYGROUP, Martin H. Glynn Municipal Bldg, 3211 Church St, Valatie, 10 am-noon, free. Open to preschool aged children with their parents & caregivers. Parking in rear of building, enter door on far left hand side of building. [familyresourcecenterscc.org](http://familyresourcecenterscc.org).

## THE MENTOR IS IN.

Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 3-6 pm, free. One-on-one appointments for writing & career help for teens with Wally Rubin. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org).

## Tuesdays

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 10 am, free. Led by Deb Wiede. [claveracklibrary.org](http://claveracklibrary.org).

## Wednesday

LIBRARY PLAYGROUP, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am, free. Come enjoy playtime in the Children's Room - a warm and inviting space for you and your child to play and socialize with your community. Recommended for ages 0-5, no registration required. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org).

FAMILY STORYTIME, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 10-11 am. Read, snack, craft and play together. Open to caregivers with children ages 0-5. No registration required. 518 758-9321, <https://valatielibrary.net>

ELEMENTARY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 1 pm, free. For grades 1-5. [claveracklibrary.org](http://claveracklibrary.org).

## Second Tuesdays

BYO BOOK CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 3:30 pm, free. For ages 8-12. Come talk about latest favorite read. Registration: [kleinr@chatham.k12.ny.us](mailto:kleinr@chatham.k12.ny.us), 518 392-3666.

CHESS CLUB FOR KIDS, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 3 pm. Chess Club is back with chess expert Scott Boyce. Designed for ages 9+. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org).

## LEGO CLUB, Roe Jan

Community Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, 3:30-5:30 pm. Build, create, and explore with LEGOs. Open to kids in kindergarten through 5th grade. Bricks provided—just bring your imagination. [www.roejanlibrary.org](http://www.roejanlibrary.org)

## Tuesdays & Thursdays

FREE PLAYGROUP, Christ Episcopal Church, 431 Union St, Hudson, 9:30-11:30 am. Sponsored by Family Resource Centers of Columbia County, [familyresourcecenterscc.org](http://familyresourcecenterscc.org). Thru June. Open to pre-school aged children & their parents and caregivers.

## Wednesday

HOMWORK HELP, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 5-7 pm. Tutors available for grades 3-8. Small group study spaces also available. 518 851-7120, [info@claveracklibrary.org](mailto:info@claveracklibrary.org)

PLAYTIME WEDNESDAYS, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, 10:30 am. Parents and caretakers are invited to enjoy the children's room for a weekly playtime. Read stories, play with toys, make a craft, and spend time with other local families. [www.roejanlibrary.org](http://roejanlibrary.org)

STORY TIME, Canaan Library, 1647 CR 5, 2 pm. Join Ms Becky for stories, songs, crafts, games. For ages 3-8. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org).

LEGO CLUB, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 4 pm. For grades 2-5. [claveracklibrary.org](http://claveracklibrary.org).

CHESS CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 3 pm. Chess Club is back with chess expert Scott Boyce. Designed for ages 9+. [chathampubliclibrary.org](http://chathampubliclibrary.org).

LEGO CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, 3:30-5:30 pm. Build, create, and explore with LEGOs. Open to kids in kindergarten through 5th grade. Bricks provided—just bring your imagination. [www.roejanlibrary.org](http://www.roejanlibrary.org)

HOMWORK HELP, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 5-7 pm. Tutors available for grades 3-8. Small group study spaces also available. 518 851-7120, [info@claveracklibrary.org](mailto:info@claveracklibrary.org)

*Continued on Page B4*



# DONE-FOR-YOU SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

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## Contact Marlene McTigue

- 📞 518-545-8441
- ✉️ [marlene.mctigue@nyvtmedia.com](mailto:marlene.mctigue@nyvtmedia.com)
- 🌐 [www.NYVTmedia.com](http://www.NYVTmedia.com)



## EVENTS Calendar

Continued from Page B3

**STORYTIME**, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 10:30 am. Bring your little ones for an hour of stories, related activities, and making friends. <https://philmontlibrary.com/>

**BABY & ME STORY TIME**, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 11 am, free. [claveracklibrary.org/](https://claveracklibrary.org/)

**HORA DE CUENTOS** (Spanish Story Hour), Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 3 pm. With Senora Sonia. Bilingual stories, songs, rhymes in Spanish and English. For ages 3-5. [Chathampubliclibrary.org/](https://chathampubliclibrary.org/)

**MOVEMENT & MUSIC**, Hudson Area Library, 51 N. 5th St, 4-5 pm. Dance and sing with musician Abby Lappen during this joyful storytime. [hudsonarealibrary.org](https://hudsonarealibrary.org/)

**HOGWARTS STUDY HALL**, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, 5-8 pm. A weekly study night designed just for teens ages 12+. Listen to the magical sounds of Hogwarts, enjoy free snacks, and study alongside fellow Grade A wizards. Homework assistance, snacks, and a spellbinding study soundtrack provided. No registration required. [www.roejanlibrary.org](https://www.roejanlibrary.org)

**DIVERSIFY TEEN GROUP**, Taconic Hills High School, virtual event, 7 pm, free. Social justice groups. Collaboration with Pine Plains High School. Email for link, [diversifypineplains@gmail.com](mailto:diversifypineplains@gmail.com).

**Fridays**  
**MUSICAL STORY TIME**, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 10 am, free. With Abby Lappen. Suggested for ages up to 5. [Claveracklibrary.org.](https://claveracklibrary.org/)

**STORY HOUR**, Germantown Library, 31 Palatine Park Rd, 10-11 am, free. [germantownlibrary.org.](https://germantownlibrary.org/)

**PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR**, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am, free. Ms. Becky leads stories, songs, take-home craft. Once a month, Family Resource's Literacy Voyage will be at story hour with a fun STEM activity. For ages 3-5. [chathampubliclibrary.org](https://chathampubliclibrary.org/)

**PLAY GROUP**, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson St, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, free. For ages 0-5. Unstructured play time, craft, socializing. [kinderhooklibrary.org](https://kinderhooklibrary.org)

**Saturdays**  
**ART WORKSHOPS**, Art Omi, 1405 CR 22, Ghent, 10 am-noon, \$20/child or \$36/two siblings. For ages 5-11. Developmentally-appropriate projects encouraging curiosity, experimentation, creative thinking. Registration: [artomi.org/education/saturday-childrens-workshops](https://artomi.org/education/saturday-childrens-workshops)

**SATURDAY STORYTIME**, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, 10:30 am. Led by new Children's Library Associate Xondra, this is the perfect opportunity to meet other parents, enjoy engaging stories, and spend a cozy morning in the children's section. All ages are welcome. [www.roejanlibrary.org](https://www.roejanlibrary.org)

**First Saturdays**  
**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, noon, free. For beginners. Children led by adult dungeon master through complicated role playing game. Space limited for each adventure, reservations: [claveracklibrary.org](https://claveracklibrary.org)

**Fourth Saturdays**  
**ANIME CLUB**, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, noon, free. Teens, tweens welcome for anime film screening. Details: [claveracklibrary.org](https://claveracklibrary.org)

**First & Third Sundays**  
**MAKERS SPACE OPEN HOUSE**, Germantown Library, 31 Palatine Park Rd, 2-4 pm, free. Follow theme for day or do your own thing. [germantownlibrary.org](https://germantownlibrary.org), 518 537-5800

**January 24**  
**WEIRD SCIENCE WITH PROFESSOR SPARKS**, FASNY Museum of Firefighting, 117 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson, 10:30 am- noon. Professor & robot canine companion, Spot 2000, present interactive program, later kids do their own science experiment with supplies provided. Take home supplies to do the experiment at home. All activities free & indoors. Reservations not required. More info at [fasnyfiremuseum.com/events/weird-science-2026](https://fasnyfiremuseum.com/events/weird-science-2026)

### AT THE MOVIES

**January 22**  
**AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH**, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, times vary. For tickets, go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

**January 23-25, 28**  
**February 1, 4-5**  
**THE TEASTAMENT OF ANN LEE**, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, times vary. For tickets go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

**January 23-26**  
**THE CHRONOLOGY OF WATER**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 24-25**  
**MY UNDESIRABLE**  
**FRIENDS: PART I — LAST AIR IN MOSCOW**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 1:30 pm. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 24-26**  
**ALL THAT'S LEFT OF YOU**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 25**  
**IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 2:30 pm. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**MARTY SUPREME**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 24**  
**THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 1 pm, \$32.50 members, \$25 students, \$35 non-members. Met Opera Live in HD. <https://timeandspace.org/events/met-kavalier-clay-1-24-26>

**LOVE CANAL X 2 – A LANDFILL DILEMMA IN NASSAU, NY**, North Chatham Free Library (NCFL), Library Trolley Station, 103 Depot St, 3 pm, free. Screening of the new documentary. <https://barbarareina.com/nassau-documentary>

**SENTIMENTAL VALUE**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 5:30 pm. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 24, 25**  
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**January 27**  
**IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 2:30 pm. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 28**  
**ALL THAT'S LEFT OF YOU**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 29**  
**IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 2:30 pm. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 30**  
**IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 2:30 pm. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 31**  
**IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 2:30 pm. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

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**January 31**  
**IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 2:30 pm. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 25-26**  
**SHUFFLE**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. For tickets and info go to <https://timeandspace.org> or call 518-822-8100

**January 26**  
**THE LIBRARIANS**, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, 7 pm. The Columbia County Libraries Association and the Crandell Theatre present an advanced screening and community driven conversation of "The Librarians" - a look at librarians across the U.S. as frontline responders in the fight for democracy and our First Amendment rights. For tickets go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

**January 27**  
**THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY**, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 1 pm, \$32.50 members, \$25 students, \$35 non-members. Met Opera Live in HD. <https://timeandspace.org/events/met-kavalier-clay-1-24-26>

**January 28**  
**THE LIBRARIANS**, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, 7 pm. The Columbia County Libraries Association and the Crandell Theatre present an advanced screening and community driven conversation of "The Librarians" - a look at librarians across the U.S. as frontline responders in the fight for democracy and our First Amendment rights. For tickets go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

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**January 30**  
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**January 31**  
**THE LIBRARIANS**, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Ch

**LISTEN & LEARN****Ongoing**

DRIVE THROUGH HISTORY Road Trips, Columbia County Historical Society, free. Explore Columbia County with themed self-guided road trips. Itineraries: [cchsny.org/drive-through-history.html](http://cchsny.org/drive-through-history.html).

ONE-ON-ONE JOB SEARCH HELP, Hudson Area Library, virtual event. Beth Gordon helps with resume, brushing up interview skills. Appointments [programs@hudsonarealibrary.org](mailto:programs@hudsonarealibrary.org), 518 828-1792 X 101.

**January 22**

GREENPORT TOWN SUPERVISOR KATHY ELDIDGE, Greenport Community Center, 500 Town Hall Drive, 1 pm. Guest speaker Eldridge addresses Greenport Seniors, who will be celebrating their 35th anniversary. Any senior who resides in Columbia County is welcome to attend.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN NEW YORK: The John Peter Zenger Trial, Hudson Area Library, 51 N. 5th St, 6 pm. The library and the Jacob Leisler Institute for the Study of Early New York History host Leisler Lectures with Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt. <https://hudsonarealibrary.org/>

**January 23**

RESOURCE ROUNDTABLE SERIES, Canaan Congregational Church, 1670 County Route 5, 10 am. Rachel Cole, consumer assistance programs coordinator at Healthcare Consortium, discusses resources available to seniors; provides applications for Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Plan, and Elderly Pharmaceutical and Insurance Coverage; and shares recent news about saving on prescription costs and developments in funding for senior housing; offers guidance on navigating Medicare and other health insurance programs. More info email [rcole@columbiahealthnet.org](mailto:rcole@columbiahealthnet.org).

A SEA SHANTY SINGALONG, Claverack Library, 9 Route 9H, 5 pm. With filmmaker and musician Alex Harvey. In connection with the Hudson: A History of Whaling and Maritime Commerce exhibit. <https://claveracklibrary.org/>

**January 24**

AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING, Germantown Library's Hoover Room, 31 Palatine Park Rd, 2-3 pm, free. Michel Arnaud and Jane Creech talk about their book "Upstate Now: Art, Design, and Rural Life in the Hudson Valley and Catskills."

**January 25**

SARAH JACKSON: INDIVIDUATION MADE VISIBLE: The Late Landscapes of Edvard Munch, Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 Route 22, 1 pm, free. Call 518-325-4101 or visit website at <http://www.roejanlibrary.org>, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/roejanlibrary>, or on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/roejanlibrary/>.

**January 26**

BOOK CLUB, Colbert House, 129 Hudson Avenue, Chatham, 10:30 am. Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County Morning Book Club discusses The Buccaneers by Edith Wharton; contact Dee Winkler for details 518-392-2297.

**January 27**

FALL PREVENTION in Older Adults, Hillsdale House, 2634 NY-23, 10-11:30 am. Wendy Waldo Garfield discusses three Power Points for stability: balance, strength, flexibility. She will also discuss the importance of recognizing ground and surface changes in our environment as well as vision/visibility factors that influence one's fall prevention strategies. Coffee, tea, snacks. All welcome. 518-265-2113 or [hillsdalesafeathome@gmail.com](mailto:hillsdalesafeathome@gmail.com)

**January 28, February 4**

JEWISH PRAYER, MEDITATION & SPIRITUAL AWARENESS CLASS, Zoom, 6:30 pm. Join Rabbi David Almog of Congregation Anshe Emeth for a 4-week journey which invites participants to explore Jewish liturgical traditions as living practices—tools for mindfulness, intention, and connection. To register complete the online form at (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS...>) or send an email to [congregationansheemeth@gmail.com](mailto:congregationansheemeth@gmail.com).

**January 31, February 7**

JAPANESE BOOKBINDING, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 12:30-2:45 pm. Learn Japanese Bookbinding with art teacher Roberta Nelson - for high schoolers and adults. The first class will focus on making covers using a wax resist method. You will create your design by making wax rubbings using raised templates and then go over them with a watercolor wash. In the second class you will assemble the book parts and sew them together using a traditional Japanese sewing method. Email [chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us](mailto:chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us) to register. Registrations limited.

**January 31-February 1**

CLOWN WORKSHOPS FOR ACTORS, The Spark of Hudson, 502 Union St, 10 am-3 pm, free. Columbia County Players host Zoe Wohfeld and Jack Grossman for workshop. For more information and to pre-register for either weekend, go to [www.columbiacountyplayers.com](http://www.columbiacountyplayers.com) or <https://sparkofhudson.org/upcoming-events>

**February 1**

HISTORY OF WAR DOGS, Stephentown Heritage Center, 4 Staples Road, 2 pm. Ron Gabriele speaks to the Stephentown Historical Society with a focus on the use of dogs by the US military in the 20th & 21st centuries. He explains the traits needed to make a dog suitable for military duty, the sorts of work they do, and how they differ from police dogs. Free & open to public. For info or directions 518-339-6485.

**DANCE**

**Febrary 1** DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE, Roots Holistic Wellness, 25 Main St, Chatham, 2-4 pm. Circle dances and songs from diverse spiritual traditions. Each dance taught, no experience needed, all ages and abilities welcome. By donation for space rental. [malikaliz13@gmail.com](mailto:malikaliz13@gmail.com), 802-999-8142; or [farid@taconic.net](mailto:farid@taconic.net); 518-860-3108.

**ON STAGE**

**January 23-25, January 30-February 1** BLACK COMEDY, The Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Pl, Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 pm, Sundays 2 pm, \$23 members, \$28 nonmembers, \$12 students. Tickets are available online in advance (recommended) with no additional processing fees or at the door, if available. Tickets and memberships are available at [GhentPlayhouse.org](http://GhentPlayhouse.org). For more information email [info@ghentplayhouse.org](mailto:info@ghentplayhouse.org)

**January 25**

CCYT TALENT SHOWCASE, Columbia County Youth Theatre (CCYT), Spencertown Academy, 790 NY-203. A fundraiser for Our Community Cares, presented by The Spencertown Academy & Columbia County Youth Theatre. <https://ccyt.org/events/>

**ON VIEW**

ART OMI, 1405 CR 22, Ghent. YATTA: Iron + Palm Wine in the Newmark Gallery, November 15-February 1. The Sculpture & Architecture Park and Benenson Visitors Center open Wednesday-Monday and closed Tuesday. 518 392-4747, [artomi.org](http://artomi.org)

**ARTLife717**

Gallery, 717 Columbia St, Hudson. Opening reception for "Windows and Doorways" Exhibition January 24, 5-7 pm. Explores themes of transition, perception, vulnerability, and possibility through artwork created by individuals connected to mental health and recovery communities. Free, open to public. Light refreshments served, all welcome to attend. Visit <https://stigma-free.art>.

CLAVERACK LIBRARY, Marilyn and Bob Laurie Gallery, 629 Route 23B, Hudson: A History of Whaling and Maritime Commerce, January 11-February 27. Open library hours. [claveracklibrary.org](http://claveracklibrary.org).

HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, 51 N 5th St. Open library hours. Hudson artist Maryna Balik's "Wildflower Riviera: Celebrating the Hudson Valley's Flora," January 29-February 27. Opening reception January 29, 6 pm. During the reception there will be light refreshments and an opportunity to make a floral craft. All ages are welcome. [hudsonarealibrary.org](http://hudsonarealibrary.org)

HUDSON HALL, 327 Warren St. Sita Gómez, February 7-April 4. Curated by Nancy Cobean of Rose Gallery. Opening Reception: February 7, 5-7 pm. Artist Talk & Book Signing: March 8 at 3 pm. Tue-Fri, 9 am-5 pm, Sat & Sun, noon-5 pm. 518 822-1438. [hudsonhall.org](http://hudsonhall.org).

TSL Gallery, 434 Columbia St, Hudson. Shebang! by Linda Mussmann, January 3 - February 1. Fri-Sun. 518 822-8448. [Timeandspace.org](http://Timeandspace.org).

**Pathways to Recovery****expands Hopeline services to support community wellness**

GHENT—In partnership with the Columbia County Department of Human Services, Columbia County Pathways to Recovery (CCPR) announces the expansion of its Hopeline, extending its resources and capacity to better serve community residents.

The Hopeline is available seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., providing vital support for those seeking community resources, mental health services, or assistance with substance use disorders.

Anyone in need can reach the Hopeline by calling 877-467-3365. Trained staff are ready to listen, offer guidance, and connect callers to

the resources that can help them and their loved ones on the path to recovery and well-being.

"Our expanded Hopeline is a lifeline for individuals and families navigating the challenges of mental health and substance use, as well as a one-stop source for community resources such as food insecurity, housing, and more. We believe that by making support more accessible, we are empowering our neighbors to take the first step toward hope and healing. No one should have to face these struggles alone, and CCPR is here to help every day of the week," Acting President Lori

Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 7 days a week.

For more information visit [www.columbiapathwaystorecovery.org](http://www.columbiapathwaystorecovery.org).

**ARTLife717 hosts opening reception for "Windows and Doorways"**

HUDSON—The Mental Health Awareness and Creative Arts Gallery (ARTLife717) invites the public to an opening reception for its upcoming exhibition, Windows and Doorways, Saturday, January 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the gallery, 717 Columbia Street.

Windows and Doorways explores themes of transition, perception, vulnerability and possibility through artwork created by individuals connected to mental health and recovery communities.

als connected to mental health and recovery communities.

The exhibition reflects moments of looking inward and outward—windows as reflection, doorways as passage—and highlights the creative voices of artists navigating personal and collective change.

The exhibition includes work by local artists as well as participants from mental health and recovery pro-

grams, emphasizing ARTLife717's ongoing mission to use the arts as a means of connection, expression and community engagement.

The opening reception is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served, and all are welcome to attend.

For more information visit <https://stigma-free.art>.

**Garfield discusses fall prevention**

HILLSDALE—The Hillsdale Safe at Home Committee Coffee Hour presents Wendy Waldo Garfield to discuss "Fall Prevention in Older Adults" at the Hillsdale House, 2634 NY-23 Hillsdale, January 27 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Garfield will discuss the three Power Points for stability: balance, strength and flexibility. She will also discuss the importance of recognizing ground and surface changes in the environment as well as vision/visibility factors that influence one's fall prevention strategies.

She has an undergraduate degree in performing arts from Adelphi University. She spent several years in NYC as a dancer and then more years raising four children. She decided to go back to school and obtain a graduate degree in kinesiology which is the science of movement. During her time of graduate study at California State University Fullerton, she focused on two areas; fall prevention for older adults in the Gerontology Department and in the Dance Department studying dancers' movement, looking at reducing risks to injury (and ultimately even the general population) with corrective movement. She also learned the importance of mindfulness, postural alignment, and the psychology of movement. She then felt it was important to add yoga training to her list of credentials.

She is now caring for her 100-year-old mother. In a press release Ms. Garfield

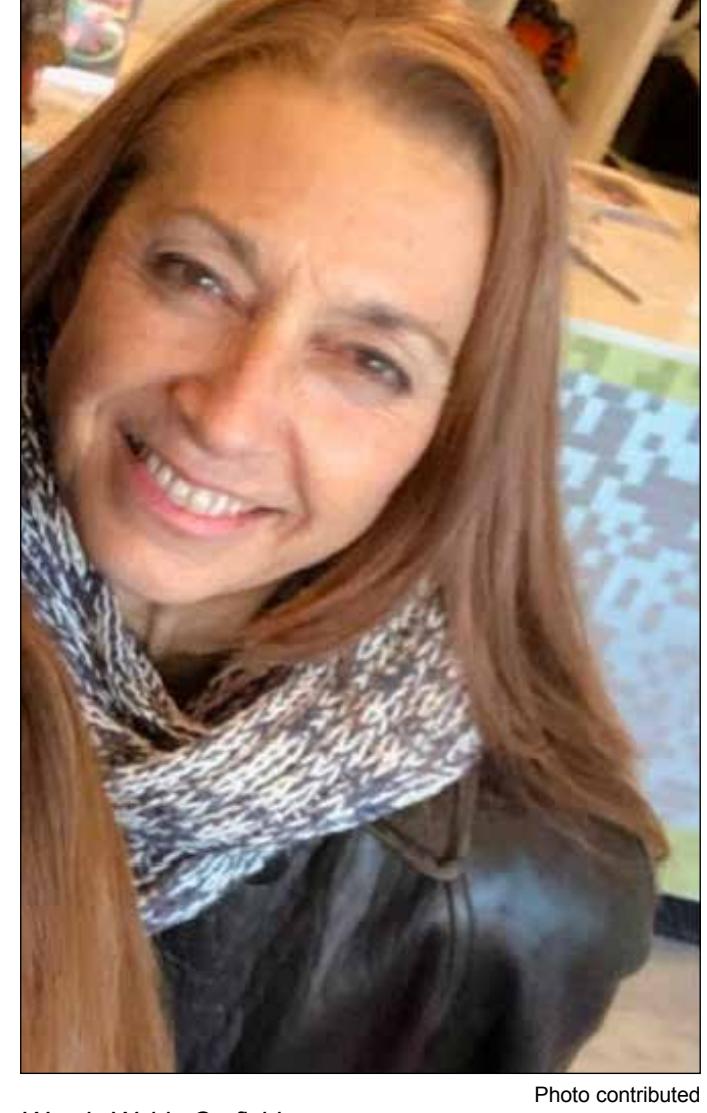


Photo contributed

Wendy Waldo Garfield

said, she has learned volumes through experiencing this "direct" care.

Healthy Neighborhoods, a NYS program, will also have a table at the coffee hour. This program seeks to reduce the burden of housing related illness and injury through holistic, healthy homes approach.

The program provides in-home assessments and interventions to reduce negative

health outcomes from asthma, indoor air quality, childhood lead poisoning prevention, and injury prevention.

Coffee, tea and snacks will be available. All are welcome to attend and participate.

Call Natalie with questions or if a ride is needed, 518-265-2113. The committee's email address is [hillsdalesafeathome@gmail.com](mailto:hillsdalesafeathome@gmail.com).

## MEET JACKIE SALVATORE

*Continued from Page 1*

Sheriff Salvatore is careful not to let the headline define her. For her, the moment represents the culmination of decades of determination rather than a single breakthrough.

"I've gotten a lot of press because of the historical significance, and I absolutely understand the historical significance," said Sheriff Salvatore. "But that's not why I sought the position. I'm qualified for the job. I love living in this county, and I want to do great things for the people here."

Her path to the sheriff's office spans nearly four decades in law enforcement and public service, shaped by persistence, family responsibility, and a steady refusal to accept limits placed on her by others.

Ms. Salvatore took her oath with the New York State Police in March 1988. She entered the academy after being called from a waiting list with just 24 hours' notice. At the time, her daughter was 16 months old. The opportunity arrived abruptly, but walking away was never her instinct.

"I had to make arrangements because I would be away from home Monday through Friday for the next six months," she said. "A couple of times I thought, I don't know if I want to continue this. I was away from my child, away from everything I knew."

She was one of about 140 recruits in her academy class, one of a dozen women, and the only Black woman.

"There was nobody there who looked like me," she said. "But I wasn't focused on that. My focus was getting through those six months and getting to the job."

That focus, on endurance rather than obstacles, had been shaped long before the academy. Born in Hudson, Ms. Salvatore grew up in a working-class household where perseverance was modeled daily. Her father had a sixth-grade education and worked as a truck driver. Her mother left school in the 11th grade, then returned later to earn her GED.

"When we came home from school every day, we would help her study," Sheriff Salvatore said. "She

got her GED before my oldest brother graduated high school."

Watching her mother commit to that goal and see it through left a lasting impression. It taught her that progress was something earned through effort, not circumstance.

Sheriff Salvatore excelled in track and field, basketball, and volleyball, reaching the state finals in track. She turned down scholarship offers to the Naval Academy, Syracuse University, and Rutgers. No one in her family had gone away to college, and the prospect felt overwhelming.

"What sports taught me was if you put in the work, the exercise, and the practice, then you move up," she said. "That discipline stayed with me."

Before entering policing and immediately following high school, Ms. Salvatore worked for the state in several civil service roles, including the State Crime Victims Board and what is now the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. In one early position, she trained a colleague expecting she would take over the position. Ms. Salvatore vacated once promoted only to watch the job be given to her trainee.

"I was really disheartened," she said. "I thought, this is not fair. But if this is how the game is played, then I want to be in a position where I can navigate it, because I don't want that to happen again."

Rather than retreat, she recalibrated. Her decision to enter law enforcement became a turning point not only professionally but personally. She has spoken openly about leaving an abusive relationship.

"That was my out," she said of entering the State Police Academy. "For a lot of women, it's empowering. You go from being told you can't survive without someone to realizing you can."

She did more than survive. She built a career marked by advancement, resilience, and leadership in an institution that was not designed with her in mind, proving not only that she could endure, but that she could excel.



Steven Taylor

**Sheriff Jackie Salvatore speaking at her inauguration event on January 2 at the Columbia County Court House.**

After graduating, Sheriff Salvatore was assigned to Newburgh, a stark contrast to Columbia County. Her first day included exposure to tuberculosis while executing a warrant.

"I thought, I don't know that I signed up for this," she said with a laugh and a shake of her head,

She later joined a community narcotics enforcement team working street-level drug cases throughout the Hudson Valley, then transferred back closer to home to the Claverack substation as her father's health declined. The move was necessary but if she was expecting to be received with open arms in Claverack, she had another think coming.

"I was told I would come to that barracks over his dead body," she said of a supervisor resistant to her transfer. "I said, tell him to lay his dead-self down at the door, and I'll step over him. I'm coming!"

Throughout her career, she encountered scrutiny that her white colleagues did not. In one investigation, she was repeatedly asked to prove her identity while a male investigator beside her was not questioned.

"People didn't assume I was law enforcement," she said. "To them, I was everything but a police officer."

Those moments reinforced her resolve and later shaped her insistence on visi-

bility and representation.

"If you ask people to conjure up an image of a police officer, 99.9 percent of the time they're going to draw a white male," she said. "Every police agency should mirror the community it represents."

Sheriff Salvatore's career took a defining turn after she became involved with the State Police Employee Assistance Program (EAP). She was eventually appointed to lead the unit, overseeing peer support, mental health response, and family services statewide. The work demanded emotional endurance as much as professional skill.

"I was personally involved in 14 line-of-duty deaths," she said. "I don't know how many suicides. Helping families navigate benefits, helping people get into treatment. That work stays with you."

She responded to the September 11 attacks as part of the peer support effort, assisting troopers at Ground Zero and with grieving families.

"I remember a trooper standing by a refrigerated truck bringing in body parts, saying, 'You have to get me out of here,'" she said. "At one point even I said, I need to step away. I'm not going to be of any use to anybody if I don't."

The experience reinforced her belief that determination in law enforcement must include knowing when to pause in order to continue.

"In emergency services,

you're exposed to more trauma in two years than most people are in their entire lives," she said. "If they're well, they show up for the community better," she said emphasizing the importance of the work of the EAP.

After retiring from the State Police in 2016, she briefly stepped away from law enforcement, working other jobs and spending time with family. Even then, she did not see the chapter as closed. She was drawn back when Columbia County Sheriff Donald Krapf asked her to serve as undersheriff.

When Sheriff Krapf just four years later announced he would not seek re-election, party leaders approached Ms. Salvatore.

"I had to make a decision very quickly," she said.

She ran, and won, capping a career defined less by singular moments than by sustained effort.

As sheriff, her priorities include recruitment and retention, officer wellness, and community engagement.

"We're hemorrhaging people," she said. "We're trying to stop the bleed with a Band-Aid. We need to be present in the community in a positive way. That's our biggest recruiting tool."

She has already launched an employee assistance program within the Sheriff's Office, started a nonprofit to support department initia-

tives, and is reorganizing staffing to put deputies back into the field.

"I don't believe in a divide between the bosses and the people doing the work," she said. "They don't work for me. They work with me. We all work for the public."

Ms. Salvatore is also frank about substance use and recovery, both professionally and personally.

"My family history is riddled with alcoholism and substance use," she said. "If I can help one person along the way, it matters."

She emphasizes transparency, noting that most information can and should be shared with the public.

"We hurt ourselves and our integrity by withholding information," she said. "The only things we can't discuss are active investigations. Everything else, we should explain."

While the historical weight of her election continues to draw attention, Sheriff Salvatore remains focused on the work ahead.

"I'm still getting used to the gravitas of it," she said. "But at the end of the day, I didn't just land here. I worked my butt off for decades to get here."

Her goal, she said, is simple and demanding.

"I want to leave this place better than I found it," she said. "A place people feel safe, included, and respected. That's what public service is."

**NYVT media.com** THE COLUMBIA Paper

**Get to Know JACKIE SALVATORE**

**Meet Sheriff Jacqueline Salvatore, the first Black female sheriff in New York State history.**

In an exclusive Community Conversations **video**, The Columbia Paper publisher Warren Dews Jr. conducts an **unscripted** conversation about **leadership and history in the making**.

Scan the QR code to watch on Capital Region Independent Media's YouTube channel.

**Community Conversations** WITH WARREN DEWS JR.

# THE COLUMBIA Paper

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## Obituaries

**Donald R. Fournier (1961 - 2026)**

Donald Fournier

COPAKE—Donald Roger Fournier, 64, of Copake passed away peacefully January 10, 2026, surrounded by his family after a brief illness.

Born June 16, 1961 in Great Barrington, MA, he was the third of five children of the late Leonard and Irene Fournier. He was a gifted carpenter who noticed what others missed, believing that the smallest details were what made something truly well made. Known for his remarkable skill and meticulous eye, he poured care and quiet artistry into everything he built. Beyond

children, Ashley (Fridrik) Kristjansson of Hillsdale and Michael (Melissa) Fournier of Copake Falls, each gave him a cherished new title—"Papa." He was proud of his three beautiful granddaughters, Kaitlyn, Ellie and Rylie, who will forever miss his smile, laughter and love.

In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by: his sister, Anita Kosnik-Fournier; brothers, Rene and Ronald Fournier; his mother-in-law, Viola Poirier; two nieces; and two nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, George.

His wife and children

extend their heartfelt appreciation for the love and outpouring of support during this difficult time.

Family and friends were invited to share memories and offer condolences January 17, 2026 at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22, Copake. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Copake Falls. Inurnment will take place privately at St. Bridget's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Twin County Recovery Services, P.O. Box 635, Hudson 12534.

**Samuel A. Miles (1953 - 2026)**

Pecky Miles

CRARYVILLE—Samuel A. Miles, 72, of Craryville passed away peacefully at home January 9, 2026. Born August 16, 1953, he was the son of Samuel Miles II and Bertha Oulette.

He filled his life with a resilient work ethic, dedicating his time to various odd jobs and house cleaning. He was passionate about fishing and hunting, reveling in the joys of nature's beauty as he explored new fishing spots. "Pecky" as he was affectionately known, was also an avid enthusiast of tag sales,

He leaves behind a loving family who will cherish his memory, including: his wife, Georgia Miles; his daughters, Samantha VanDeBogart and her companion, Joseph

Tanner of Millerton and Sabrina Miles, of Craryville. He was a proud grandfather to Michael, Victoria and Ashton VanDeBogart and Raelynn Tanner, all of whom brought immense joy to his life. He is also survived by: his sister, Bertha (Midge) Oulette of Maine, and his brothers, George (Candy) Miles of Millerton,

Bruce (Cindy) Miles of Stanfordville and Mark Miles of Maine. He also held close relationships with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents, he was also predeceased by his brother, Richard and his sister-in-law, Ruth Miles.

There will be private services for family at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, Copake.

**Judith G. Blevins (1939 - 2026)**

Judie Blevins

COPAKE—Judith G. Blevins, 86, of Copake was called to be with her Lord and Savior, January 15, 2026 surrounded by her loving family. "Judie" was born May 23, 1939 in Queens, to William A. Goudie and Mildred (Rhodes) Dreves. She moved to Hillsdale in 1956, where she was raised by her mother and beloved stepfather, George A. Dreves. She graduated from Roeliff Jansen High School in 1957 and went on to marry her high school sweetheart, James G. Blevins in

she devoted herself to caring for her four grandchildren and spending meaningful time with her entire family, whom she cherished deeply.

She is survived by: her loving daughters, Heather Blevins (Ted Balasko) and Deb Maher (Rob); her grandchildren, Victoria Goodas (Bruce), Dustin Jensen, Amanda Sohotra (Zach), and Colton Maher (Katie); and her great-grandchildren, Noah Sohotra, Luke Sohotra and Milla Maher; her sisters, Vera Willi

and Sandra (Robin) O'Brien.

Graveside services will be held privately at a later date in the North Hillsdale Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Community Hospice of Columbia and Greene Counties, 47 Liberty Street, Catskill 12414. Arrangements are with the Peck and Peck Funeral Home, Copake.

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or call  
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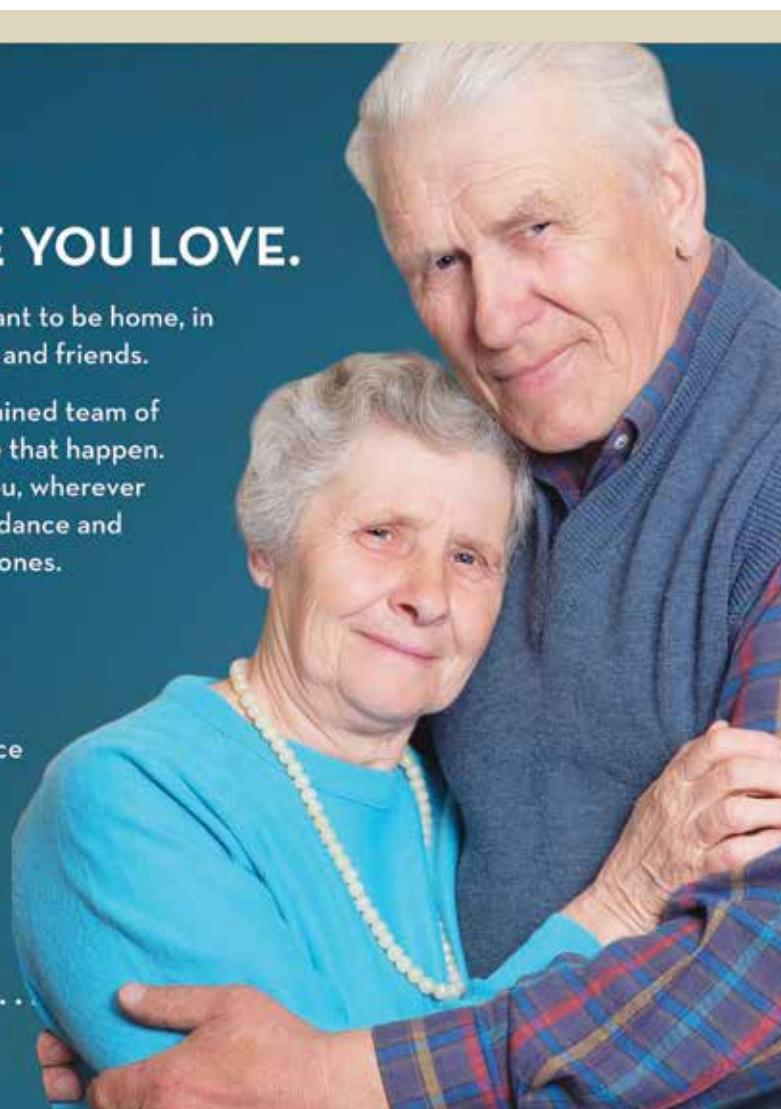
The Community Hospice's specially-trained team of professionals and volunteers can make that happen. We'll bring our medical expertise to you, wherever you live, and we'll provide support, guidance and assistance to both you and your loved ones.

For help, call us today:  
**518-724-0242**

[facebook.com/TheCommunityHospice](http://facebook.com/TheCommunityHospice)  
[communityhospice.org](http://communityhospice.org)



Hospice services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurance plans.

**Patricia M. Williams (1935 - 2026)**

Pat Williams

CHATHAM—Patricia Meehan Williams born April 5, 1935; went home to her Lord, January 8, 2026.

She was predeceased by: her husband, Charles Williams; fiance, Terence Toomey and children, Charles Ray Williams, Bonnie Sperl, David Williams, Nancy Klimek and Gary Williams.

She was involved with 4H and loved sharing her love of horses. She retired from the Chatham Central School District and attended St. James Catholic Church in Chatham for her entire life.

She is survived by: her sister, Bridget Arnold; son, Shawn Williams; grandchildren, Theresa Davis Gerber, Frank Davis, Dakota and Audrey Williams, Scott Rivenburg, Ken, Joe and Christopher Sperl, Kevin, Adam and Jesse Williams;

**Kathleen A. Sayer (1951 - 2026)**

HUDSON—Kathleen A. Sayers, 74, of Livingston died Monday, January 12, 2026 at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Born in Troy, she was the daughter of the late Roland and Catherine (Radliff) Comtois.

She was an administrator for the NYS Department of Agriculture in Albany for many years. She will be

**Ann H. Stone (1939 - 2026)**

Annie Stone

CLAVERACK—Ann (Henegar) Stone, formerly of Claverack, passed peacefully surrounded by her loving family. The daughter of the late Grace (Lemery) and Charles Henegar, she grew up in Springfield, MA, and graduated from Springfield Technical High School.

After school, she took a waitress job at the Sloatsburg "Hot Shop" on the NYS Thruway. It was there that she met a young cook named Terry Stone. As she told the story, she went home that night and informed her mother that she'd met the man she would marry. True to her word, in less than a year, she had.

They built a life and raised a family in Columbia County, running kitchens, waiting tables, and sharing nearly 50 years of love. They were both active past members of the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack, lovers

**Jennifer R. Czaplinski (1980 - 2026)**

Jen Czaplinski

HUDSON—Jennifer Rose Czaplinski lost her battle with Huntington's Disease, January 13, 2026. Born May 9, 1980 in Albany to Karen (Kengla) Czaplinski and John (Todd) Czaplinski, she spent the majority of her life in Hudson and Kinderhook.

"Jen" is survived by: her daughter, Adrianna Orbon of Panama City, FL; her father, Todd Czaplinski and her stepmother, Michele Lindsay of Hudson; her stepbrother, Nicholas Carpenter of Queens; many aunts, uncles, cousins and one niece.

She was predeceased by: her mother, Karen Czaplinski; her stepbrother,

Kevin Carpenter and her beloved dog, Zelta.

A celebration of her life was at the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home, 110 Green Street, Hudson, January 18, 2026 with funeral prayers. In lieu of flowers, a donation to Huntington's Disease Society would be welcomed and appreciated.

**RIPTIDES & Solaces Unforeseen**

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by Debby Mayer

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Molly Laird, RN, emergency room psychiatric nurse

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## Obituaries

### Richard L. Nabozny (1956 - 2026)



Richard  
Nabozny

HUDSON—Richard L. Nabozny, 69, of Slingerlands passed away suddenly Saturday, January 10, 2026. Born May 29, 1956 in Hudson, he was the son of Lawrence and Eunice (Fowler) Nabozny.

He graduated as salutatorian of Hudson High School Class of 1974. Furthering his education, he received with honors, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in political science from SUNY Oneonta. He then attended Albany Law School, graduated in 1981 and went to work for a private law practice in Canton. His career continued as assistant district attorney for Rensselaer County, and in 1986 he

RED HOOK—Joseph “Joe” Macri, most recently of Red Hook, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend to many, passed away January 14, 2026 following a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Francine Micciche Macri. At the time of his passing, he was surrounded by his loving sons, Joseph F. Macri and Anthony Macri, as well close family.

He was born March 4, 1945, the fifth of six children born to Francesco Macri and his wife Maria Tutone in Roccella di Calabria, Italy. He immigrated to the United States at the age of 15 and the family initially settled in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, where he met his wife in the

CHATHAM—With great sadness, his family announces the passing of William E. Meess, 85, of Chatham.

He is survived by: his wife, Patricia; daughter, Linda; grandchildren, Fred, Erich and Bryanna and brother, Ronald “Rocky.” He was predeceased by his sister, Marsha and granddaughter, Valeska.

“Bill” was a loving husband, a proud father, and a deeply cherished grandfather, “PopPop.” He was the kind of man who showed up—always there when needed, always ready to lend a hand, always steady in the moments that mattered most.

His story began in Yonkers, but he spent his high school years in North Bellmore, where he met his soulmate, Patricia. After school, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served his country with honor. That service shaped the quiet strength, discipline and integrity he carried throughout his life. Hard-working and devoted, he provided for his family with determination and pride. To

VALATIE—George Gust Papas, 93, passed away January 16, 2026. He was born in Pittsfield, MA, April 23, 1932 to Gust and Zoe (Hadjiantoniou) Papas. He graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1950. He served in the army during the Korean War. He later graduated from Devry Institute in Chicago.

He was predeceased by his parents, and brother, Bill Papas.

He married his wife, Irene, October 8, 1960. They were married for 65 years. They spent most of their married life living in Woodstock, where they raised their four children. He worked at IBM in Kingston for 36 years. He enjoyed photography and took many beau-

iful photographs which he would mount and frame. He took pride in maintaining their house and lawn. He enjoyed swimming, and after work in the summer could be found at the Zena Rec Park doing laps. After retirement, he enjoyed traveling with his wife, their good friends, brother Bill, and sister-in-law Helen.

He mellowed with age like the wine he enjoyed. He loved

himself piano, banjo and the ukulele. He also had a keen ear for music and could play almost any song, simply from listening to it. While working at the Office of Counsel for NYS Education, he formed a band called

“Richie and the Wannabees.” They performed for holiday parties and nursing homes. At an early age, he took an interest in model trains, which became his lifelong hobby. He enjoyed vacationing at Brant Lake with family, and looked forward to family gatherings.

He is survived by: his brother, David (Abby) Nabozny; sisters, Jeanne Nabozny and Lisa (Joe)

McNally; a niece; many nephews; great nephews and many cousins. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister-in-law, Patricia Nabozny.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated January 16, 2026 from Holy Trinity Church St. Mary’s Parish in Hudson. Burial will be in Cedar Park Cemetery. Arrangements were with the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home, 110 Green Street, Hudson. In lieu of flowers consider a memorial contribution to the Columbia-Greene Humane Society, Catholic Charities, or a charity of choice.

### Joseph Macri (1945 - 2026)



Joe  
Macri

early 1960s.

They were married September 4, 1966 and they relocated to Farmingdale on Long Island, where their family grew. A skilled brick and stone mason, he established a small but successful and respected home improvement company. Subsequently, they relocated to Elizaville, where he personally constructed a large new family home that saw the arrival of seven grand-

children, and where the family resided for more than 25 years. During this phase of their lives, they co-founded a popular pizza and ice cream restaurant where he oversaw operations and she cooked her well-loved Italian food specialties, until their retirement.

He was an avid hunter and for many years he maintained a small farm which reminded him of his youth in Italy. They were also long-time members of the Adirondack Corvette Club and they enjoyed the camaraderie and many excursions with the other members of the group. He was also a member of the Columbia County Sons and Daughters of Italy. “Grandpa Joe’s” stories, his warm, caring and

good-hearted nature will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated January 19, 2026 at Holy Trinity Church, St. Mary’s Parish, 429 East Allen Street, Hudson, followed by interment at Livingston Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers consider a donation in his name, earmarked for resources available to caregivers, at the Alzheimer’s Foundation <https://events.alz.org/fundraisers/josephmacri/in-loving-memory-of-joseph-macri> or to a charity of choice.

Arrangements were with the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home, 110 Green Street, Hudson.

### William E. Meess (1940 - 2026)



Bill  
Meess

his friends, he was loyal, genuine, and always ready with a story, a laugh or a helping hand.

and national conventions of the National Corvette Restorers Society. He was a former member of both the Metro-Long Island and Adirondack chapters. His expertise was widely respected, and he took great pride in leading tech sessions at national conventions, where his skill and generosity helped countless others broaden their understanding of restoration.

His love of the outdoors was just as strong and he shared that fondness with friends and family. As a former member of the Long Island Black Powder Rifle Association and an avid hunter, he found peace and tranquility in the quiet solitude of the woods.

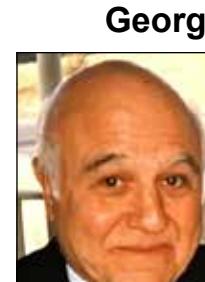
More than 20 years ago, he and his wife retired to Chatham, where they quickly built a new circle of friends and community. There, he continued to share, spread and deepen his lifelong love of cars, engines and hunting. His enthusiasm was contagious, and his knowledge was something he offered freely to anyone eager to learn.

He leaves behind a legacy defined by craftsmanship, service, friendship and love. Those who knew him will remember his steady presence, his mechanical brilliance, and the unmistakable sparkle in his eye whenever a Corvette engine roared to life.

“Each person is a storyline written in the great book of life. William’s final chapter on this earth has come to a close, yet the imprint he left on our hearts remains vivid and enduring. Though we say farewell for now, deep within us lives the quiet certainty that this parting is only temporary. Until we meet again.”

Visitation will be held at Bates & Anderson Funeral Home Thursday, January 22, 2026, 10 a.m. until noon. Immediately following will be a brief service and then he will be laid to rest at Spencertown Cemetery. In lieu of flowers consider a donation to the Alzheimer’s Association or another dementia charity in his honor.

### George G. Papas (1932 - 2026)



George  
Papas

being a grandfather, or a ‘Papou,’ and took an interest in their lives and what they were up to.

In 2022, he and his wife moved in with their son Chris; wife, Laurie, and grandson, Simon in Valatie. He enjoyed being with family, eating delicious food and family gatherings.

He loved all dogs including his own, Pierre and Zeppelin, both of which he enjoyed taking for regular walks. He spent time watching sports and could always be found keeping up with current events on YouTube. He could tell you all about what was going on with the Ukraine War at any moment. In 2025, he and his wife moved into the Teresian

### John Collins (1959 - 2026)

ELIZAVILLE—John Collins, 66, of Elizaville passed away Thursday, January 15, 2026. Born June 29, 1959 in Hudson, he was the son of Hugo Dierkes and Dorothy Collins.

He was a caring, fun-loving guy, loved by all and will truly be missed.

He will be forever remembered by: his wife, Melanie (Curtis) Collins; daughter, Brittany Collins; grandchildren, Keegan and Myle Haemmerle; brothers, Ronnie Dierkes, Warren Dierkes and Donald VanAlstyne along with nieces and nephews. Visitation at the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home will be held Friday, January 20, 2026 from 5 to 7 p.m.

### Philip Arsenault, Jr. (1945 - 2026)

ALBANY—Philip “Butch” Arsenault, Jr., 80, passed away January 14, 2026 at St. Peter’s Hospice in Albany.

He was born February 19, 1945 in Rhinebeck to the late Philip and Gladys Ackert Arsenault. He married the love of his life, Gloria Flint, February 11, 1966 in Pine Plains. She predeceased him September 1, 2025. He served in the US Army from 1966-1970 and was honorably discharged.

For many years, he worked as a truck driver, most recently with the Town of Milan Highway Department and previously for Staats Dairy.

In addition to spending time with his beloved family, he enjoyed visiting the casinos with his wife and recently became an avid bird watcher.

He is survived by: his loving daughters, Brenda Jahoda of Elizaville, Michele (John) Jennings of Germantown, Tina (Earl) Lyons of Elizaville and Tammy (David) Lyons of Hudson; his sisters, Nancy Young of Tivoli and Barbara Borneman of Catskill; his 12

loving grandchildren; his 14 great-grandchildren (and one on the way); along with countless nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by: a son, Brian Arsenault; his son-in-law, Thomas Jahoda; his siblings, Joseph Arsenault, William Arsenault, Robert Arsenault, Ada Berry and Linda Russell.

Friends and family gathered to celebrate his life January 19 at the Burnett & White Funeral Homes, Red Hook. Interment at Germantown Reformed Cemetery in Germantown was private.

Memorial donations may be made to The Community Hospice Foundation, 310 South Manning Boulevard, Albany 12208.

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## Public Notices

### COLUMBIA COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

The resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on the 13th day of January, 2026, 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 Ichabod Crane (Kinderhook) Central School District is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

A complete copy of the bond resolution summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the District Clerk of the Ichabod Crane (Kinderhook) Central School District, 2910 Route 9, Valatie, New York 12184 for a period of twenty days from the date of publication of this Notice.

### BOND RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 13, 2026 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ICHABOD CRANE (KINDERHOOK) CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED \$30,981,651 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SERIAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$300,000 FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO FINANCE THE RECONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF VARIOUS DISTRICT BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND SITES, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT OF THE MULTI-SPORT FIELD WITH A NEW GRASS FIELD, AND THE ACQUISITION OF ORIGINAL FURNISHINGS, EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY OR APPARATUS, AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$31,281,651, THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH SUMS FOR SUCH PURPOSE, LEVY OF TAX IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS IN PAYMENT THEREOF, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Class of objects or purposes: reconstruction, renovation and improvement of various District buildings, facilities and sites, construction and replacement of the multi-sport field with new grass field, the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus for which such buildings, facilities, sites and multi-sport field are to be used and payment of incidental costs related thereto  
Maximum Estimated Cost: \$31,281,651  
Period of probable usefulness: Thirty (30) years  
Amount of obligations to be issued: \$30,981,651  
Amount to be expended from Capital Reserve Fund: \$300,000

### COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON JOB POSTING - BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW CLERK & VARIOUS COMMITTEE VACANCIES

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the New Lebanon Town Board is seeking to hire a Board of Assessment Review Clerk and is seeking persons interested in serving on a newly formed events committee and the newly re-implemented outreach & marketing committee with a new focus on communications & outreach to town residents.

**Board of Assessment Review Clerk:** The Town of New Lebanon is accepting applications for the position of Clerk for the Board of Assessment Review (BAR). The position requires minimal hours per year. The Board of Assessment Review meets once or twice annually in May and possibly in October to review any formal Assessment Grievances. The BAR Clerk receives and prepares any formal complaints, hearing minutes, decisions documents and submissions for the Board of Assessment Review. As needed the clerk will complete 1 hour of training with the Town Assessor and Columbia County BAR training prior to the first meeting of the Board of Assessment Review.

**SALARY:** Starting salary of \$18 per hour and will require between 5 and 20 hours of time per year.

Interested applicants should obtain the full listing of job applicant requirements by emailing townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com .

**Events Committee:** The new events committee will continue the previous work of the Recreation Commission in focusing on putting on community programs and events such as music in the park, the community picnic, movies in the park, newcomer's events, community walks, and so much more! The committee meets monthly from March to September to coordinate volunteers and plan events.

**Outreach, Marketing & Communications Committee:** The newly re-implemented outreach & marketing committee is adding in a communications component. The previous outreach & marketing committee worked on outreach to potential new businesses, potential new resident, and potential visitors to our town and helped to market our community as a great place to visit, live and/or open a business in. They have worked on things such as the town logo, town slogan, town tourism brochure, and welcome packets for new residents and new businesses. The Town Board is adding a communications component to this committee to work on reaching more residents with information on town projects and town happenings as well as facilitating regular meetings between the town board and residents for Q&A sessions, discussions on topics important to residents and general feedback and input from residents to the town board.

Interested applicants for any of the above positions must send a letter of interest (and a resume for BAR Clerk applicants) to be received no later than 4pm on Friday, February 6th to:

New Lebanon Town Clerk  
PO Box 328

New Lebanon, NY, 12125

Or via email to: townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com

Marcie Robertson

Town Clerk

1/15/2026

### COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of FREN Productions. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/02/25. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Zen Business Inc.: 41 State Street, Suite 112, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of SherWood Way, LLC . Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/15/2025. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Susan Way: 95 Douglas Street, Stratford, CT 06614. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Mud Magic Ceramics, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/18/2025. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Meghan V. Embry: 227 Clark Rd, Chatham, NY 12037. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

DEJA VIEW LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/17/25. Office in Columbia Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Anastasi, 427 77th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 176 Bartel Rd., Ghent, NY 12075.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Constant John Productions LLC Arts of Org. filed SSNY 11/25/2025 Columbia Co. SSNY design agent for process & shall mail to 41 STATE ST, # 112, ALBANY, NY, 12207 General Purpose

### COLUMBIA COUNTY RFQ

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) - VILLAGE OF CHATHAM - ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PROJECT. Notice is hereby given, that the Village of Chatham is issuing a Request for Qualifications from engineering consultants/firms pursuant to the procurement requirements found at 7 CFR 1780.39(b) (1) for Architectural/Engineering Services for Federally funded projects. The Village is utilizing a qualifications-based procurement procedure to evaluate professional service firms or individuals that are proposing to provide the professional services to assist the Village in the planning, design, permitting, bidding, construction administration and grant administration of improvements to its Municipal Water Supply and Distribution System project, as outlined in the Scope of Services.

Interested parties should submit written proposal to include, but not be limited to:

1. General company brochure (if any) or business information material including a description of services that the firm renders for its clients.
2. Resumes of staff who will be working on this project.
3. A listing of projects undertaken of a similar size and scope to the proposed project, including location, project description, project cost, and other relevant information.
4. References, including names, addresses, and telephone numbers from at least three current or former clients.

Responses to the Request for Qualifications shall be submitted by email to Desirée Kelleher, Village Clerk/Records Access Officer at dkelleher@villageofchathamny.gov by 2:00 PM, February 19, 2026.

Professional service firms, individuals, or teams that are or include NYS Certified MBE or WBE firms or individuals are strongly encouraged to submit proposals in response to this RFQ.

Consultants and firms are also encouraged to submit utilizing DBE sub-consultants where appropriate.

RFQ, including project description and scope of services may be viewed at <https://villageofchathamny.gov/requests-for-bids-proposals-and-qualifications>.

Questions regarding this RFQ may be directed to: Desirée Kelleher, Village Clerk at dkelleher@villageofchathamny.gov. Phone #518 392-5281.

Village Offices are at 77 Main Street, Chatham, NY 12307.

Desirée Kelleher, Village of Chatham Clerk

### COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Square Halt Productions, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/02/2026. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Kim Wood: kytansey@gmail.com. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY BID NOTICE

#### TOWN OF COPAKE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA STATE OF NEW YORK

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Copake will be accepting sealed bids for Bank Run Gravel, Item # 4 Gravel, Screen Fill, Modified Item #4, Crusher Run Item #4, #2 Drainage Stone, #3 Drainage Stone, #4 Drainage Stone, Tailings, Washed #1A Stone, Washed #1 Stone, Washed #2 Stone, Washed 1/4" Gravel Stone, Washed Road Sand, Gabions, Unwashed Road Sand, #1B stone and Blacktop for 2026.

Bids will be accepted at the Office of the Town Clerk located at 230 Mountain View Road, Copake, New York 12516 until 11:00 am on the 9th day of February 2026. At which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes at the above address and shall bear on the face thereof the name and address of the bidder.

The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

Dated: January 15, 2026 William Gregory Supt. of Highways

### COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

CONSTANT JOHN PRODUCTIONS LLC Arts of Org. filed SSNY 11/25/2025 Columbia Co. SSNY design agent for process & shall mail to 41 STATE ST, # 112, ALBANY, NY, 12207 General Purpose

### COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of 42SWCOLONY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/07/2026. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to 42SWCOLONY, LLC: 33 SW Colony Rd, Hillsdale, NY 12529. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 42SWCOLONY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/07/2026. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to 42SWCOLONY, LLC: 33 SW Colony Rd, Hillsdale, NY 12529. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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## THROUGH THE WOODS

By NANCY JANE KERN

## It's cold out there!!

WINTER IS REALLY HERE. I met a neighbor the other day and complained about how cold it was getting. She said she visited relatives over Christmas where she had grown up in the Midwest, and it was -17 degrees. She was glad to get back here. I told her that made me feel a little better and put things in perspective.

Now, predictions for this week look like we will be well below zero, too. I went out to fill the bird feeders this morning, and the air was damp and icy cold with more snow falling. All the birds were coming into the yard in droves and ate up the seed very quickly, which was not a good sign for the weather.

There is more snow, which looks clean and pretty if you stay inside and look out at it. Car accidents were reported around the county. I have some pretty photos I took of the bright red male northern cardinals against the snow in the pine trees. They cheer me up each day, and I marvel at all the creatures that survive winter. A friend in Old Chatham brought me a screech owl nest box one year, which lies on the porch as a refuge for crea-



tures. It is much larger than a bluebird house and is a good shelter for a large number of birds to roost together if an owl isn't in it. Spring is the time to attract a screech owl, which probably found a hole or crack in a tree to occupy for the winter, or moved further south.

I like to do whatever I can to ease the winter burden for my feathered friends. This coming weekend may be somewhat sunnier and warmer, and I may check out the Hudson River for Bald Eagles and their nest sites. So far, there have been only Bald Eagles, with always the hope that I will see a rare Golden Eagle. Bald Eagles are referred to as fish eagles, which is their usual food, hence their habit of staying near rivers and larger streams. There has been an adult pair at Copake Lake, and they will probably move to the river as the lakes and ponds freeze over. Some wintering Golden Eagles are in Dutchess County near Pine Plains, so we always have a chance of seeing these magnificent birds flying up the Taconic State Parkway looking for

Nancy Jane Kern  
Male northern cardinal

## 'Wildflower Riviera' exhibition opens at Hudson Library

HUDSON — Join the Hudson Area Library for the opening reception of Hudson artist Maryna Balik's "Wildflower Riviera: Celebrating the Hudson Valley's Flora" on Thursday, January 29, at 6 p.m. Having lived in Hudson for over ten years, Ukrainian-born, Ms. Balik has forged a deep connection to the Hudson Valley region and its vibrant ecosystem brimming with diverse wildflowers. She has also discovered a profound similarity between the climate and flora of her Ukrainian hometown and that of the Hudson Valley. In order to find a sense of belonging, she searched for an emotional bridge between her past experience of living in the Carpathian Mountains and her present inspiration while hiking the scenic Hudson area. This quest resulted in Maryna developing a body of work using fresco techniques, which embraces her love of wildflowers.

These pieces will be on display in the Hudson Area Library Community Room, 51 N. 5th Street, until Friday,

February 27 (during library opening hours when the Community Room is not in use).

During the reception there will be light refreshments and an opportunity to make a floral craft. All ages are welcome.

The library will be hosting additional programs connected to Maryna and her work:

- Fresco Painting Workshops: Wednesday, February 18, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, February 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the library's Community Room. Capacity is very limited and registration is required. Email [programs@hudsonarealibrary.org](mailto:programs@hudsonarealibrary.org) or call 518-828-1792 x101

- Studio Tours for workshop participants

- Cooking Up Community: Monday, February 9, 6 p.m.

Ms. Balik and her husband will prepare and share traditional Ukrainian dishes in the Hudson Area Library Community Room.

Ms. Bilak received MFA degrees from Transcarpathian

National University, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, in fine and applied art, and from the New York Studio School in painting. Her work has been exhibited internationally and is in many permanent collections including the Mattatuck Museum, Connecticut, Derfner Judaica Museum, New York, Museum of Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute of Ferenc Rákóczi II, Berehovo, Ukraine, Historical Museum "Palanok," Mukachevo, Ukraine, Museum and Exhibition Center, Serpukhov, Russia, and Collection of Institute of Balassi Balint, Budapest, Hungary. She has had one-person exhibitions at Hudson Hall, John Davis Gallery, and other regional New York exhibition spaces. She lives and works in Hudson with her husband and their daughter.

For more information about the Hudson Area Library's programs and resources, visit [hudsonarealibrary.org](http://hudsonarealibrary.org)

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