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THE COLUMBIA

Paper

Published Every Thursday

December 25, 2025 - January 1, 2026

Riley, Oberacker campaigns trade political barbs

 **ELECTION 2026**

By DOUG La ROCQUE

NYVT Media

COLUMBIA COUNTY — There is still slightly less

than 11 months to elapse before voters go to the polls to decide who will represent New York's 19th Congressional District, but it is not too early for a political dust up between the

Continued on Page A3



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David Lee

Young artists work with Super Stories to brighten up the Morris

The Morris Memorial building on Park Row in the Village of Chatham is a great after-school hang-out for kids. It is overseen and wrangled by Michael West with lots of capable helpers. He had the idea to bring color and life to the blank walls around the gymnasium and contacted artists Romiro Davaro-Comas and Grace Lang (pictured I in hat) from Super Stories, an art based non-profit organization in the Village of Kinderhook, which specializes in such projects. They visited the after school program early in December to work with students to generate art using markers and paper. Super Stories pulled several of those images and replicated them on 19 plywood window coverings surrounding the gym at the Morris, and led groups of students during after school hours painting them using a color-by-number approach. For more photos of the project, see page B10 of this issue

HOLIDAY NEWS

Oh, Christmas trees: Where and how do we get our ‘real’ ones locally

By DEBORAH E. LANS

I GREW UP in a vaguely Jewish family in Manhattan, where our Christmas tree generally faced our Menorah in the entry of our apartment. Both were my mother's

domain. I don't think either had much religious meaning for her, but the magic of the season, with snow and carols, trees and lights did.

In New York City, you don't (or didn't) go to a farm and cut your tree; rather, you roamed the

streets, where trees were lined up by the dozen at every corner, the city smelling for once like a piney woods. My mother, who had grown up outside the city and was never totally at home in its concrete world, was usually a bit overambi-

tious, which is to say that often our trees were so large that we had to wire them to the walls or ceiling to keep them erect, as their stands often were not up to the task. You can imagine

Continued on Page A7

County approves \$186.1M budget, but not unanimously

By JEANETTE WOLFBURG

HUDSON — The Columbia County Board of Supervisors adopted the county's 2026 budget at its full board meeting December 10. At the same meeting, the board approved 2026 salaries for itself and various county officials. These two annual measures call for

increases in total expenditures, the total tax levy, and salaries. However, after years of near unanimity on them, five supervisors voted against the budget, and almost half of the

supervisors voted against the new salaries.

The 2026 budget appropriates \$186.1 million (3.4% more than 2025, an increase of \$6.1 million) and calls for

increasing the tax levy by 1.9% to \$47.3 million (\$871,000 more than in 2025). The tax levy is to cover 25.4% of the budget.

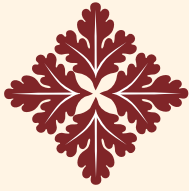
“Despite this modest

increase,” Board Chairman Matt Murell (Stockport) said in his budget cover letter, “the effective tax rate is down 4.9%

Continued on Page A7

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GOOD NEWS STORIES

Partners for Climate Action announces new pollinator partnerships

HUDSON — Partners for Climate Action (PCA) has announced 13 new partnerships with Hudson Valley farms and municipalities for the creation of pollinator habitat. With up to 60% of New York native pollinators facing extinction due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and other forms of environmental degradation, these new native plant installations will provide a critical resource to dwindling pollinator populations while engaging local communities in hands-on ecological repair.

PCA's PollinateHV initiative (PollinateHV.org) is a 2025 recipient of a \$247,000 award from the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund. The grant supports the installation of large-scale pollinator meadows and native tree plantings on working farms; and small "pocket park" gardens on municipal parks and grounds.

Municipal partners are:

- Town of Kinderhook (Columbia County): Two gardens, at the Valatie/Kinderhook Town Hall and Kinderhook Library
- Village of Catskill (Greene County): Two gardens, at the Catskill Fire House and Elliot Park
- Town of New Paltz (Ulster County): Two gardens, both at the Field of Dreams community park
- Town of Red Hook (Dutchess County): Two gardens, both at the Red Hook Recreational Park
- Village of Rhinebeck (Dutchess County): One garden, near the entrance to the Rhinebeck Farmers' Market.

"We're so grateful to be able to host a shared space that welcomes native plants, and their pollinators, to our park," said Laurie Husted, chair of the Town of Red Hook Conservation Advisory Council, in a press release. "We hope these micro gardens will help create a buzz around the wondrous relationships among people, plants and pollinators and the critical role we all can play in habitat conservation, even in small spaces."

Farm partners are: Samascott Orchard (Kinderhook, Columbia County); Hearty Roots Farm (Red Hook, Dutchess County); Hudson Valley Seed Company (Accord, Ulster County); Mead Orchard (Tivoli, Dutchess County); Prospect Hill Orchard (Milton, Ulster County); Chester Agricultural Center (Chester, Orange County); Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming (Cold Spring, Putnam County); and Hudson Valley Research

Laboratory (Highland, Ulster County).

Farm partners will install native wildflower meadows in fall 2026, totaling over five acres of meadow. Three farms will also install native tree and shrub hedgerows, while the Hudson Valley Research Lab will install three species of pollinator-friendly shrubs in a new native orchard at their Highland experimental farm.

"This project is a great example of the intersection of agroecosystems and environmental conservation, and something that we've been wanting to invest in for a long time," said Anna Wallis, Cornell Integrated Pest Management's Fruit IPM coordinator, who's leading the project at the Hudson Valley Research Lab, also in the release. "Farmers and orchardists in our region have long been invested in supporting pollinators, and this funding and expert support will enable them to follow through. Installing plantings at our research station allows us to ground-truth concepts before growers invest in them, while providing space for us to demonstrate this work to the public"

Farm and municipal plantings will include interpretive signage and online documentation at PollinateHV.org. New planting designs, plant lists, budgets, and instructions will be available in spring 2026 to help Hudson Valley residents support pollinators in their own yards, parks, fields, and farms. Projects will incorporate free training events and volunteer workdays covering pollinator habitat needs, locally native plants for garden and farm settings, site preparation, planting, management, and more. Those interested in participating should join the PCA mailing list at climateactionhv.org.

"We need all hands on deck to address the ongoing crisis of pollinator collapse and native biodiversity loss," said Avalon Bunge, PCA's Ecological Projects manager and grant project lead. "These partnerships represent our biggest opportunity yet to spread the word and engage Hudson Valley communities in direct ecological action while installing native plantings at a scale that can really make a difference."

All projects are made possible through generous funding from the New York Community Trust, the Office of the New York State Attorney General, and the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund.

Correction:

In the story "At the Art School of Columbia County, every layer tells a story" (Issue 51, December 18), we misstated the name of the founding board president Tom Chulak. Also, current Board President Michael Saltz was senior producer for "The MacNeil/Lehrer Report."

CMS names Students of the Month

Chatham Middle School announces its November Students of the Month, who showed outstanding organizational skills, the school's character theme of the month. These students have demonstrated responsibility, stayed prepared, and managed their time and materials effectively - skills that help them succeed in school and beyond. They are (l to r) Addisyn Herrmann (8th grade), Evelyn Chambers Brandt (7th grade), Ryker Withrow (6th grade), Kaylie Williams (6th grade), Jaxson Clarke (7th grade) and Fiona Rowan (8th grade).



Photo contributed

CAP hosts 15th annual Harvest Dinner

CHATHAM — The Chatham Agricultural Partnership (CAP) is a committee of the Town of Chatham with a mission to maintain the long-term viability of agriculture in the town. CAP provides direct connection between the farming community, town government, and the community at large. The committee maintains an inventory of farms in Chatham, provides advice and feedback to the Town Board and other committees, and fosters connection to food and farming through collaborative events such as the Farm Film Fest and other outreach. Henry Corsun currently chairs CAP.

The Harvest Dinner is one of the events CAP sponsors every year along with the annual farm tour. This year was the 15th dinner and attendance has grown significantly. In addition to farmers and the Town Board, this year's dinner was attended by people from Columbia Land



Photo contributed

Little Seed Gardens awarded "Farmer of the Year" by CAP. Willy Denner and his daughter, Mae, accept the award from Donna Staron, the 2024 recipient of the award along with her husband, Stanley (Staron Farm).

Conservancy, Hawthorne Valley's Farmscape Ecology Program, Columbia County Soil & Water, and others.

CAP bestowed the "Farmer of the Year" award at the dinner to Little Seed Gardens (Willy Denner and Claudia Kenny) in recognition of their innovation, leadership, and generosity in sharing their knowledge with other farmers. Little Seed Gardens had the first CSA in Chatham and is deeply committed to regenerative farming practices.

See more about CAP at <https://www.chatham-n-ewyork.us>

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RILEY OBERACKER

Continued from Page 1

perceived candidates, incumbent Democrat Josh Riley and his Republican challenger State Senator Peter Oberacker (R-51st).

In an article contained in the publication All Otsego, Chenango County (Central New York) Democratic Chair Patricia Glitner states she has filed complaints with the NYS Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government, accusing the campaign of Senator Oberacker of violating NY Public Officers Law 107(3) (d) and NY Senate rules. However, the section of the law cited in the complaint

actually deals with Open Meetings provisions. More specifically, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee says in their press release that Senator Oberacker used State Senate images and video in his campaign announcement, which they contend is illegal.

NYVT Media spoke with the campaign committee for Congressman Riley about the allegations. They said, "Upstate New York is done with politicians who only ran for their last job so they could line up the next one. "It's illegal to use taxpayer



Photo contributed
Congressman Josh Riley

ers' dollars to prop up a flailing political campaign and the public deserves answers."

Mr. Oberacker's campaign denies there was any wrong doing. They sent NYVT Media a message that said, "This footage was cleared for use. This is a



Photo contributed
State Senator Peter Oberacker

mistake-riddled complaint made by political hacks working in collusion with Josh Riley, who is desperate to distract from the fact that he voted against millions of dollars for our district, then turned around and tried to take credit for the funding anyway."

A highly watched contest

In 2024, this congressional district race received a significant amount of attention from the two political parties and saw millions of dollars infused into it by both the Republican and Democratic national committees. Following the state's second round of redistricting, this was a seat the Democratic Party had, though they could flip back to their side of the ledger. That is exactly what happened as Mr. Riley beat incumbent Republican Marc Molinaro by just a few percentage points. Mr. Molinaro, who originally was from Dutchess County, moved to Catskill after his election to reside in the new district.

Congressman Riley is an attorney by trade who has extensive work in several government positions. He currently lives in Ithaca, the southwestern portion of the district.

Senator Oberacker is from the Otsego County town of Schenectady and was first elected to the state senate in 2020, succeeding longtime incumbent James Seward.

Geographically, the 19th Congressional District is one of the three largest in the state and includes all of Greene, Columbia and portions of Rensselaer County.

Senator Oberacker's 51st district includes all of Schoharie County.

County Board closes the year out with debate on Meals on Wheels resolution

By JEANETTE WOLFBERG

HUDSON—Meals on Wheels, new opioid settlement funds, educational institutions, workforce housing on foreclosed land, and the Hudson-Greenport Shopping Shuttle bus received attention at the Columbia County Board of Supervisors meeting December 10. This was the same meeting where the board approved the 2026 budget (see "County approves \$186.1M budget, but not unanimously").

A resolution to change positions in several county departments passed but with eight supervisors voting against it because of a Meals on Wheels issue. One of the dissenters, Supervisor Michael Chameides (Hudson, 3rd Ward), later explained: "Meals on Wheels is a vital service," but "for years" county residents have been raising concerns about "the quality of the food." This means something might have to be done differently, because "we want to provide high quality food. We

want to see we get value for our money. We absolutely need to make sure this program is successful." Therefore, "we need a deeper conversation" about this matter "before proceeding and hiring as usual."

Of the resolution's many points, the one most related to Meals on Wheels calls for the Office for the Aging (OFA) to hire a cook for \$44,077 a year.

Another dissenter, Randall Martin (Hudson, 1st Ward) took on the whole resolution: It "reorganizes staffing across multiple departments through reclassifications, upgrades, and position changes," he stated later. "I wanted clarification on the net fiscal impact and the rationale for bundling what amounts to several departmental reorganizations into one resolution."

On another matter, the board unanimously permitted the Columbia County Department of Human Services (DHS) to accept \$86,235 in Opioid Settlement Regional Abatements from the Office of Addiction and

Support Services (OASAS) funding for 2026. Recently the county has been using OASAS funds to support Columbia Pathways to Recovery and People USA. OASAS funds are in addition to the opioid settlement payout the County is getting as a result of lawsuits.

The board also authorized agreements with educational institutions. One is with Questar III BOCES for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students to get personal experience with the Department of Health, which "periodically provides practical experience and training" for students in health fields "at no cost to the county."

The other is with with Columbia-Greene Community College (CGCC) for DHS to provide behavioral health services, by a licensed social worker, on CGCC campus, to students from all counties. CGCC is to fund 100% of the \$70/hour consultations, up to \$98,000 a year (1,400 hours). This continues a similar arrangement made a year ago. "CGCC request-

ed assistance from the DHS," reporting "an increase in mental health and substance abuse issues" among "the student body," and these "negatively impact academic performance and success." Moreover, "DHS can meet" this request "without increasing staffing hours."

In addition, the board accepted the Columbia County Land Bank Corporation's offer to purchase "two parcels of unimproved property," which the county is foreclosing for tax purposes, in Germantown. The price will be the taxes owed plus "interest and penalties accrued from now until the sale closing date." The Land Bank has "identified the parcels as a site for workforce housing development." And the Germantown board has supported the transfer. The County Board created the Land Bank Corporation December 2023 "to address issues of vacancy, abandonment, and forfeiture."

Meanwhile, the Hudson-Greenport Shopping Shuttle bus extended hours

will continue into 2027, thanks to the board's awarding the bid to manage, operate, and maintain it for another year to the only company that submitted a bid to do so: Pro-Park Mobility. Pro-Park has operated the extra bus runs "with satisfactory service... to date," since they started in March 2023. The new contract lasts until March 10, 2027, with the option for two one-year extensions.

Also at the meeting, the supervisors:

- Appointed Terry B. Porter to the County Planning Board, for three years ending December 31, 2028, to represent the towns of Gallatin and Taghkanic (Region 7)
- Authorized the Fire Coordinator to appoint Gregg Gilliland of the Lebanon Valley Fire Protection Company to the Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team and the following people to the Fire Advisory Board: Active Chiefs, reappointed, for two year terms -- Steven Montie of the Stuyvesant Fire Department and Dennis

Callahan, Assistant Chief of the Taghkanic Fire Company; Members of the Columbia County Firefighters Association for three year terms-- Christine Grossman, Michael Layman, and Janet Shumsky

- Granted the Commissioner of Public Works permission "to implement a policy regarding the transfer and/or disposal of wood materials... from along county roads, bridges, and other properties." Such products are created or exposed during maintaining and building county roads, highways, bridges, and other facilities
- Authorized contracting with Partners in Safety Inc., of Middletown, "to provide drug and alcohol testing" for the Department of Public Works in 2026.

In all, the Board passed 53 resolutions and one local law.

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Three arrested on drug charges following search warrant

By **DIANE VALDEN**

CHATHAM—Three suspects were arrested on drug-related charges December 18.

Members of the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office Drug Enforcement Unit, Criminal Investigative Branch, and uniformed deputies executed a search warrant at an apartment on State Route 295 in Chatham and upon a 2015 GMC pickup truck.

During the execution of

the warrant, about 95 grams of cocaine and crack cocaine were recovered, along with scales, packaging material and about \$1,000 in U.S. currency. Also recovered was a 20-gauge shotgun reported to have been stolen in Fulton County, according to a press release from Columbia County Sheriff Donald J. Krapf.

As a result of the ongoing investigation, Reed Simmons, 26, was charged with one count each of third degree criminal possession of a

controlled substance (intent to sell), B felony and third degree criminal possession of a controlled substance (narcotic drug more than ½ ounce), B felony.

Kinyata Leonard, who was present at the apartment when the search warrant was executed was charged with one count of third degree criminal possession of a controlled substance (narcotic drug more than ½ ounce), B felony. Tyler Friss, 34, who was allegedly found to be in possession of about

4.4 grams of crack cocaine, was charged with one count of fourth degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, C felony. The three subjects were arraigned in Chatham Town Court before Justice Michael Hart and released on their own recognizance. The Columbia County District Attorney’s Office assisted in this investigation.

Anyone with information regarding criminal activity may contact the Sheriff’s Office tip line at 518-822-

8477 or access the crime tips at www.columbiacountysheriff.us.

Individuals may remain anonymous.

Hudson

A pedestrian was hurt when she was hit by a vehicle near the Warren Street/Park Place intersection, December 18.

City of Hudson police and firefighters along with the Greenport Rescue Squad were called to the scene.

According to Hudson Police Lieutenant Nicolas Pierro, “Based on what was learned at the scene the vehicle was traveling [northwest] on Warren Street and turned right onto Park Place. The operator did not see the person. We were unable to speak with the victim at the scene due to her being treated by Greenport Rescue and being in pain. It is unclear if she was in the crosswalk or not.”

To contact Diane Valden email dvalden@columbiapaper.com

State Police appoint 39th Troop K commander

LIVINGSTON—New York State Police Superintendent Steven G. James has appointed Daniel P. Smith, 49, of East Fishkill, as the 39th Troop Commander of Troop K, according to a December 18 press release.

Major Smith steps into the position previously held by Major Mark Nielson since his appointment January 6, 2025. Major Nielson is now a staff inspector in the Professional Standard Bureau.

Major Smith is a long-

time member of Troop K with more than two decades of dedicated service to the residents of the Hudson Valley.

The major began his career with the New York State Police in 2000 as a trooper assigned to Troop K. From 2005 through 2013, he served as an investigator with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, where he gained extensive experience supporting complex criminal investigations.

In 2013, he was promoted to uniform force



State Police
Troop Commander of Troop K. Major Daniel P. Smith

non-commissioned officer and later served as station commander of the Wappinger barracks from 2014 to 2017, providing leadership, operational oversight, and direct support to both members and the community.

In 2017, Major Smith was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, initially serving with the Professional Standards Bureau before assuming duties as a Troop K BCI lieutenant. In 2021, he was

promoted to the rank of captain and assigned to the Professional Standards Bureau, later transferring in March 2022 to oversee operations within Zone 3, Westchester County.

A resident of Dutchess County for more than 20 years, Major Smith has served throughout his career in both Zone 2, which includes Putnam and Dutchess counties, and Zone 3, which includes Westchester and Putnam counties. He has held assignments as a trooper,

investigator, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. With the exception of assignments associated with promotion, Major Smith has spent his entire career assigned to Troop K, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to the members of the New York State Police and the communities they serve. The New York State Police congratulate Major Smith on his appointment and thank him for his continued leadership, dedication, and service.

How fast can a Christmas tree turn from festive to tragic? Seconds!

ALBANY—The Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) reminds people of the dangers they need to be aware of and the ways they can keep their families safe this holiday season.

The possibility of a Christmas tree fire is not at the forefront of most people’s minds when they are decorating with beautiful lights and ornaments. But, tree safety should be considered and taken seriously, as U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 328,590 home structure fires between 2019-2023 that resulted in an annual average of 2,600 civilian deaths, 10,770 civilian injuries, and \$8.9 billion in direct property damage.

Fresh Christmas trees are the leading cause of these fires compared to artificial trees, as they are more flammable because of their ability to dry out faster. Keeping your tree hydrated and not allowing it to dry out is key. Additionally, pay attention to decorative lighting and electric cords to ensure they are not faulty or overloaded.



FASNY
Christmas tree on fire.

And remember, artificial trees can catch fire and heat sources such as scented and menorah candles can ignite combustible materials quickly.

“As we...celebrate the holidays, we want to remind New Yorkers to make safety a top priority. Spend a few extra minutes taking smart steps to protect your homes, inspect your Christmas trees and holiday decorations to prevent tragedy during what should be a joyful time,”

FASNY President Eugene Perry said in a press release.

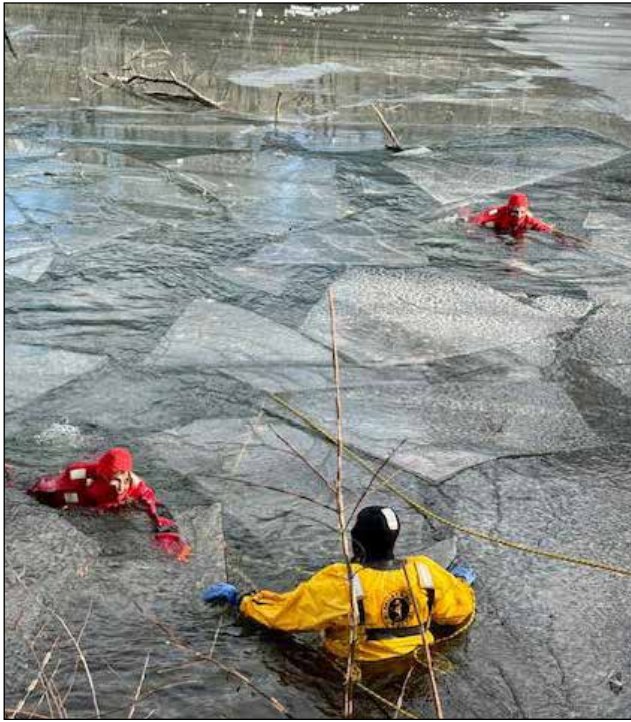
New York State ranks high in the nation in home fire deaths at 107 deaths in 2025, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. FASNY urges New Yorkers to follow these simple tips during the holiday season to make their homes fire safe:

- For a fresh tree, cut 2 inches (5 cm) from the base of the trunk before placing it in the stand. Add water daily to keep the tree well hydrated

- Trees should be placed at least 3 feet away from any heat source, such as fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights
 - Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit, such as a door or window
 - Ensure that decorative lights are in good working order and used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Lastly, according to the NFPA, statistics regarding Christmas tree fires in U.S. homes include these key findings (2018-22):
- Christmas tree fires are more common between 3 p.m. and midnight, accounting for one-half of associated fires. Another 26% of fires occurred between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
 - About two of every five home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room or den
 - Electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in more than one-third (34%) of Christmas tree fires
 - In one-fifth (20%) of Christmas tree fires, some type of heat source was placed too close to the tree.

Nice day for thin ice rescue practice

The morning of December 21, members of Copake Fire conducted cold water/ice rescue drills at the Ore Pit Pond in Taconic State Park, Copake Falls. Conditions were perfect for training on thin ice and collapsing ice conditions, which can be extremely challenging for rescuers when trying to reach a victim. Rescue Teams worked on strategic approaches to a victim and how to spread out evenly on the ice to prevent breakthroughs. Firefighters also learned how to recover and adapt if breakthroughs occur and to still reach the victim and haul them safely to shore. Rescuers were assisted by fire police and chauffeurs that anchored both tether and haul lines.



Copake Fire Company #1 Facebook post

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ECOs grow beards for No Shave November

A L B A N Y — Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) from across the state participated in the annual “No Shave November” fundraising campaign to help raise

awareness for men’s health and the importance of regular medical screenings.

Participants were also able to donate through the New York Conservation Officers

Association to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation created to assist first responders to the World Trade Center terror attacks on September 11, 2001. This year, more than \$4,000

was raised. ECOs also supported their colleagues by sporting various colors of nail polish.

PLEASE RECYCLE

CDPHP's Top Doctors honors system practices

ALBANY — Four Albany Med Health System practices from Hudson to Schuylerville have been recognized by CDPHP in its 2025 Top Doctors Report, an annual list of the most trusted and top-performing care providers in the region. The Top Doctors list includes primary care and pediatric practices that meet CDPHP's standards for care and customer service, as well as those who help patients stay on top of checkups, screenings and immunizations.

The four Albany Med Health System practices honored in the category of Top Adult and Family Medicine Practices include:

- Albany Medical Center – Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, 1019 New Loudon Road, Cohoes, 518-262-7500
- Columbia Memorial Health – Hudson Medical Care, 71 Prospect Avenue, Hudson, 518-697-3540
- Saratoga Hospital Medical Group – Primary Care Schuylerville, 200 Broad Street, Schuylerville, 518-695-3668
- Saratoga Hospital – Primary Care Scotia-Glenville, 112 Charlton Road, Ballston Lake, 518-399-7723.

Saratoga Hospital Medical Group's Primary Care location in Schuylerville has been honored by CDPHP in its Top Doctors Report more than three times.

The 2025 CDPHP Top Doctors report includes 40 adult and family medicine practices and 10 pediatric practices across the Capital Region. These practices were selected based on comprehensive performance metrics and patient satisfaction scores.

For the complete list of winners, visit <https://blog.cdphp.com/healthy-living/2025-top-doctors-report/>.

Albany Med Health System is the largest locally governed, not-for-profit health system serving northeastern New York and western New England. The system is the region's largest private employer, and each member institution carries a century-long tradition caring for our communities. The Albany Med Health System has 1,520 hospital beds, more than 900 physicians, 125 outpatient locations, the region's only Level 1 trauma center and children's hospital, and provides well over 3 million patient visits per year.

Greene County Bancorp, Inc. announces changes to board composition

CATSKILL — Bank President and CEO Donald E. Gibson and Chairman of the Board Jay Cahalan announced the appointment of John Brust to the Greene County Bancorp, Inc. Board of Directors.

Mr. Brust is succeeding David Jenkins, who retired from the board in November. Mr. Jenkins had served on the Board of Directors for 29 years, and was recently appointed a Director Emeritus.

Mr. Gibson said, in a press release, "We are excited to welcome John to our Board of Directors. John brings decades of leadership experience as the principal and an owner of Delaware Engineering, one of our region's most respected engineering firms. His thoughtful guidance and deep understanding of our communities have already contributed to the bank's long-term success."

Mr. Cahalan added, "On behalf of the bank and its board, I'd like to join Don in welcoming John to the Board of Directors. We look forward to the skills and business experience John will



Pictured (l to r) are Donald Gibson, Jay Cahalan and John Brust

bring to the board. I'd also like to thank David Jenkins for his many years of dedicated service to the bank."

Mr. Brust is the principal and an owner of Delaware Engineering, D.P.C., an Albany-based firm engaged in civil and environmental engineering throughout New York State. Mr. Brust joined Delaware Engineering in 1998 and has over 30 years of experience in technical consulting as well as a broad perspective regarding the economy and the environment. He has been a member of The Bank of Greene County Advisory Board since 2019, is a graduate of Seton Hall University, and holds a master of Environmental Science from Rutgers University.

"I am honored to join the bank's Board of Directors. I look forward to collaborating with the board and management team, and to make a meaningful impact on the communities we serve," he said in the release.

Greene County Bancorp, Inc. is the parent company of Bank of Greene County, a locally owned and operated community bank headquartered in Catskill.

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NYSEG highlights benefits of smart meters

BINGHAMTON — New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) is highlighting the benefits of smart meters as the rollout continues in the state. The company is dedicated to meeting the energy needs of customers and has taken significant steps to build a smarter energy infrastructure to offer customers convenience, control, and expanded choice in understanding and managing energy use.

"Our smart meters have been instrumental in the modernization of the grid," said Nancy Zurell, program director of smart grids for Avangrid, in a press release. "So far, we have installed more than 1.6 million smart meters across the state. They're safe, secure, and empower customers to responsibly manage their energy consumption."

There's a wide range of benefits enabled by smart meters compared to legacy meters. Smart meters automatically transmit usage data, so the need for bill estimates, onsite visits, and customer meter reads is greatly reduced. Their technology allows the company to pinpoint and respond to outages more quickly. It also expedites the moving process for customers by providing faster access to electricity service.

Customers who previously opted out of smart meters or those whose meters that are located indoors can begin the process to opt in by contacting NYSEG customer service at 800-572-1111.

By using a smart meter, customers receive additional tools that enable them to manage their energy use. Energy Manager enables customers to view information about their energy consumption down to the hour, allowing them to better understand how they're using energy in a home or business. With this information, customers are empowered to make any necessary, individual changes to their own energy habits.

Customers with smart meters also have access to NYSEG's usage alerts. This feature, launched in May, provides details about a customer's energy use via text or email. Customers will get a notification if they have abnormally high or low usage, if they surpass a monthly energy use threshold, or a recap of their weekly energy use. Usage alerts allow customers to make informed decisions, such as adjusting the thermostat, identifying malfunctioning appliances, or cutting back on unnecessary use.

To learn more about smart meters, visit www.nyseg.com/smartmeters.

Give blood in New Lebanon next year

NEW LEBANON — A blood drive takes place at the New Lebanon Community Center, 523 Route 20, January 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: newlebanon to schedule an appointment.



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Residents approve \$31.3 million in ICC capital improvements

KINDERHOOK — Ichabod Crane Central School District residents approved \$31.3 million in capital improvements at a special election on Tuesday, December 16. The project includes upgrades at every school building and the replacement of the main field and the track. A second proposal to replace the grass at the main field with turf was voted down. Proposition 1 of the capital project referendum passed with a vote of 611 to 389, according to a press release from the district. Proposition 2, which would have funded using artificial turf to replace the main field, lost with a vote of 325 yes to 664 no votes.

Proposition 1, totaling \$31,281,651, includes updates at the primary, middle and high school buildings and the bus garage and replacement of the main field with natural grass. “The Capital Project Referendum December 2025 represents the next step in Ichabod Crane’s mission to provide innovative, future-ready learning environments,” Superintendent Marie Digirolamo said in the press release. “We are grateful to the Ichabod Crane school community for their strong show of support for this investment in our facilities, our academic program vision, and most especially,

our students,” said Board of Education President Matthew Nelson, also in the release. “With today’s successful vote, we advance our mission and goals and the next chapter of Ichabod’s future begins. We look forward to the promise that this project offers our entire community.” In the release, the district said that with the passage of Proposition 1 they will be able to address aging infrastructure, continue to support future-ready teaching and learning and create new spaces that promote student well-being. For this project, Ichabod Crane is eligible for 73.5%

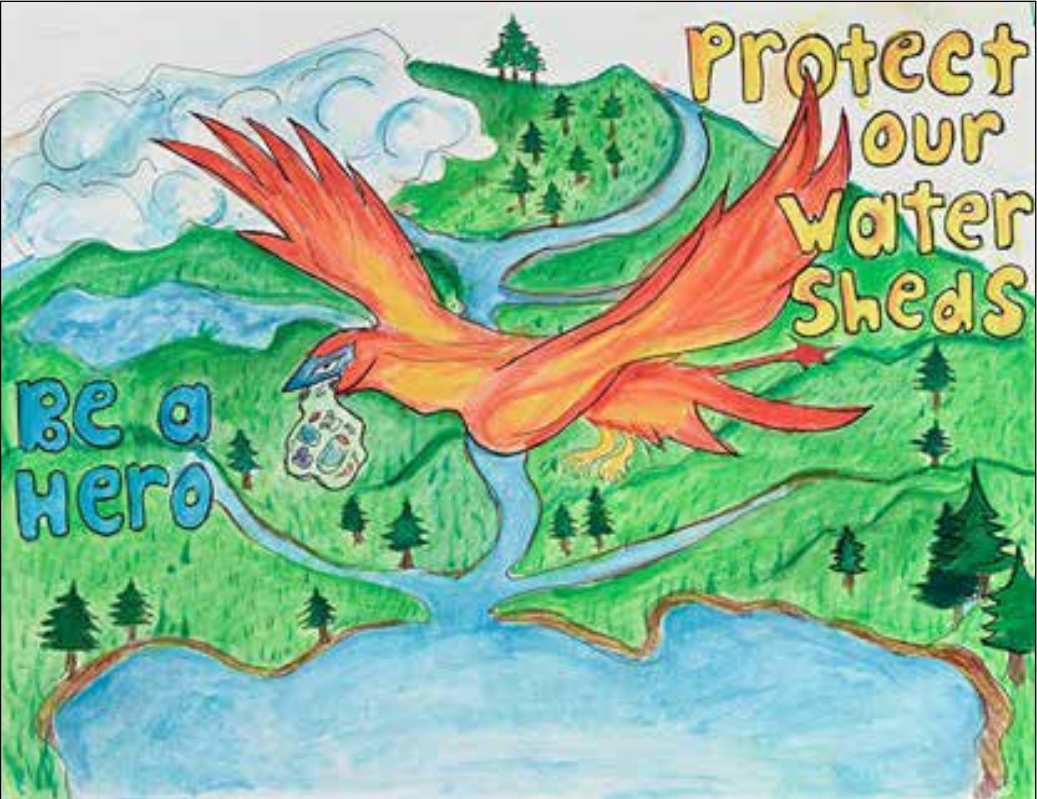
reimbursement in state aid on all eligible expenses, helping to reduce the local cost while addressing facility needs. This means that for every dollar spent, the district will receive 73.5 cents back from New York State. **Project highlights** At the primary school, every classroom will receive air conditioning, the playground will be upgraded with new equipment and shaded areas and the kitchen will be renovated. At the middle school, a new Engineering Technology Lab will feature designated spaces for wood and metal fabrication and computer-assisted

design, new 3D printers, CNC engravers and storage, while Music, Art and World Language classrooms will be renovated. The Main Office and Counseling/Psychology spaces will be updated to address limited space, poor soundproofing and lack of natural light. Additionally, the locker rooms will be renovated, a new PE multipurpose room will be created for student, staff and community use. Other upgrades include providing direct access to the exterior of the gymnasium, creating a new large lobby and vestibule, a new concession stand and increased athletic and PE storage.

At the high school, renovations include the kitchen and replacement of select windows and doors. The bus garage will receive new metal siding, windows, exterior doors, bus lifts and bathroom renovations. Going forward, the district will begin detailed design development in 2026, followed by permitting and bidding. Construction would tentatively begin in July 2027 with project closeout projected in 2029. Starting in 2028, the estimated tax impact for a home with a full value of \$300,000 will be an additional \$30-\$42/year (\$2.50-\$3.50/month). — **Emilia Teasdale**

DEC announces 21st annual middle school student poster contest theme

ALBANY — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton and the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) have announced the theme for the annual water conservation poster contest for middle school students: “Water Connects Us All.” The 2026 poster theme challenges middle school students to learn about their role in the watershed where they live and the positive actions they can take to conserve, protect, and celebrate water resources, now and for future generations. “DEC is excited to launch the 21st water conservation poster contest which, for two decades, helps inspire New York’s next generation of environmental stewards,” Commissioner Lefton said in a press release. “The poster contest theme ‘Water Connects Us All,’ encourag-



2025 middle school post contest winner Anna Tiudic.

es young people across New York State to become guard-

ians of their watersheds and helps remind all New

Yorkers of the daily actions each of us can take to pro-

tect and conserve our precious, connected water resources.” “This poster contest is one of the things that makes NYWEA members proud of what we do,” NYWEA Executive Director Khris Dodson said, also in the release. “I am even more proud of all of the watershed champions we now have because of the involvement of the students and teachers who have participated throughout the years.” Since 2004, the annual poster contest encourages middle school students across the state to learn about their role in protecting local watersheds and how to conserve and safeguard water resources. Previous themes include “Create a Watershed Superhero,” “We All Live in a Watershed,” “Conserve and Protect our Watersheds,” and “The Importance of Wastewater

Treatment.” Teachers, schools, and clubs are advised to visit DEC’s website for more information about participating in the 2025–26 school year contest — <https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/education/teacher-information/poster-contests/water-connects-us-all-calendar-contest> Poster entries will be accepted through January 2. The 14 winning posters will be featured in DEC and NYWEA’s 2027 Annual Calendar. The poster contest helps raise awareness of the importance of natural resources and the DEC programs that help reduce water pollution and improve water quality. DEC is one of several New York State agencies funding projects to protect and restore water quality through statewide grant funding opportunities.

Chatham High School announces honor roll students

CHATHAM — The Chatham Central School District has released the names of the Chatham High School students on the Honor Roll for the 1st quarter of the 2025–26 school year. Students on the honors list must have an unweighted grade point average (GPA) for the marking period of 85 or above with all passing grades. To be on the High Honors list, students must have an unweighted GPA for the marking period of 90 or above with no grade below 80. **High Honor** Grade 12: Rylie Barden, Jaidan Blair, Daimiyn Bonhotel, Eliza Braley, Paxton Brownell, Charlotte Coalter, Alexis

Davis, Frank Davis III, Zachary Distin, Lauren Elcox, Josiah Eugenio, Reed Fisch, Ava Rae Ford, Tyler Gebel, V Gould, Tula Haley, Lily Hall, Carolyn Hammond, Bronson Haner, Andrew Horton, Michaela Johnson, Johann Kristen, Karina Lezama, Conner Madsen, Madeleine Metrande, Meta Mae Mountain, Alexis Nehmens, Hunter Palmer, Tyler Palmer, Ellery Pierce, Mira Pierce, Thomas Pierro, Logan Rockefeller, Dominic Sauca, Samantha Silver, Aubrey Smith, Norah Sotherden, Brayden Steltz, Cooper Steltz, Jayden Valdez, Phila Visconti, Owen Wilber, Finn Williams **Grade 11:** Emmett Bishop-Hayes, Pax Cooper, Jenna Davis,

Jamison Edwards, George Eutzy III, Timothy Ewers, Siena Freiermuth, Adam Geel, Skylar Groom, Nixie Jeanty, DianRong Jiang, Camila Jimenez Morales, Taylor Kubisek, Alexander Lee, Aiden McShane, Bailey McShane, Cassandra Michalek, Dax Patel, Spencer Peduzzi, Annika Poland, Dayaa Powell, Adelaide Searl, Evelyn Visconti, Cloe Wall, Elizabeth Wallin, Riley Wilson **Grade 10:** Shane Bagley, Anya DeGroff, Maya Doyle, Emily Engel, Narayan Flores, Philip Genovese, Ava Goodrich, Jadyn Howard, Valfreyja Howard, Nyrie Jeanty, Keira Langley, Lola Lezama, Hazel Michalek, Charles Rose, Abigail Scheriff, Isla Stack,

Lucy Tassinari, Logan Van Wie, Sabrina Wiseman **Grade 9:** Reese Agostinello-Burrows, Benjamin Artist, Braeden Barnes, Skylar Bowen, Diego Castellanos, Amelia Charron, Eleanor Davis, Sam Davis III, Zoe Ewers, Wren Fisch, Jack Galvin, Dorothy Jones, Elena Kahn, Alonna Leggett, Emily Leonard-Miller, Lilianna Marasco, Trinity Monroe, Madison O’Dell, Vanessa Oakley, Oliver Poland, Brynn Spucches, Laney Steltz, Joseph Stocklas, Nicholas Vaccariello, Madeline Waring, Sula Williams, Stella Zigon. **Honor** Grade 12: Ariana Costa, Maddox Dallas-Wright, Madisyn

Domkoski, NaTasha Drumm, Zachary Ellis, Mackenzy Heinze, Trinity Holland, Benjamin Levine, Jose Linares Galicia, James Patton, William Rojas-Cruz, Landen Thompson, Nathaniel Tibbitts, Annabelle Wright **Grade 11:** Amaya Brown, Annaleigh Butts, Wyatt Carr, Kaylee Couitt, Valeria Cruz, Aiden Dallas, Sydney DeLuca, Olivia Feiden, Khyler Herbst, Jonathan Morton, Maycee Oakes, Lylah Rowe, Grifyn Russell, Agustin Sanchez Jr., Amelia Strattman, Xander Turner-Osborn, Landon Van Alstyne, Aden Wiessner, Ezra Wood **Grade 10:** Caitrianna Coalter, Liam

Cowhig, Blake Doyle, Destini Drumm, Natalie Dunbar, Logan Feller, Miles Frederick, Madison Fugman, Maddox Gaylord, Hayden Grimaldi, Jonathan Levine, Tulsi Macchiaroli, Brayden Mesick, Kellen Pell, Jemma St Aubin, Landen Terpening, Brady Traulsen, Hunter Wilson **Grade 9:** Anthony Bell, Preston Bingham, Jayden Brantley, Mila Cintron, Oneida Derreumaux, Lily Furnari, Sophia Furnari, Gideon Geel, Cameron Hudson, Olivia Jones, Tanner Kelly, Ryan Link, Carter Morehouse, Eden Poole, Riley Pulver, Adair Ruiz-Morales, Dylan Ruiz-Morales, Hayden Speed, Willow Yacobellis.

Hartwick student-athletes earn Empire 8 Women’s Tennis All-Conference honors

ONEONTA — The Hartwick Women’s Tennis team was well represented on the Empire 8 All-Conference honors list, as Hawks earned recognition for their out-

standing performances this season, the conference announced October 28. Leading the way for Hartwick on the Empire 8 First Team Singles were

Phoebe Olson of Jamestown, N.D. and Samantha Lantzy of Valatie. Ms. Olson, the reigning Empire 8 Tournament MVP, secured her fourth consecutive All-

Conference selection and third First Team honor in her decorated career. Ms. Lantzy made an immediate impact in her debut season at the top-flight position, earn-

ing her second First Team nod after posting a 6–1 conference record and finishing 8–3 overall. Ms. Lantzy, a junior Biology major, received the

Empire 8 Torchbearer Award, presented to the championship team member with the highest GPA. She earned the distinction with an impressive 3.8 GPA.

OH CHRISTMAS TREES

Continued from Page 1

that tree trimming was likewise a challenge, but we pulled the same ornaments out of a chest of drawers year after year. Every year, a few would break, but over the many years the trees grew smaller until, many decades on and living in the country again, my mother simply decorated pine boughs on windowsills, and so the remaining ornaments were always enough. (By then, a short pine also grew outside her dining room window; some years, she put lights on it. It was so scrubby that one year she also took a can of green spray paint to it.)

These days, as I pass tree farms and see the sawed-off trunks of fir trees tied to car roofs heading south, I have a different feeling. Nature and I have planted firs, and nurtured them year to year, fencing the deer away and watering in summer. Cutting a healthy tree, even one grown for the purpose, hurts a little.

Does that make sense? I asked ecology-wizard Conrad Vispo of Hawthorne Valley's Farmscape Ecology Program, and he thought not. He admitted a bias – his family has a tree every year. He also judiciously noted, “My feelings about Christmas tree farms would depend largely on A) where they were growing/what they were replacing; and B) how they were managed. If you were to cut down mature forest to plant Christmas trees, then I would feel queasy. If, as I

think is usually the case around here, you are planting them into abandoned farm fields, then I view them as a crop.” Indeed, Mr. Vispo surmises that our local tree farms may provide a home for some shrubland wildlife.

Columbia Land Conservancy President Troy Weldy concurred, adding that a Christmas tree crop would not require significant use of pesticides or heavy management.

Indeed, the Christmas tree industry sees itself as providing ecological benefits, alongside substantial revenue. The National Christmas Tree Association says that 25-30 million “real” Christmas trees are sold annually, making for a \$1.27 billion market. The country has more than 16,000 such farms, occupying more than 292,000 acres in all and ranging in size from 2 to 9,000 acres in size. A few large farms (434) account for 75% of the supply.

New York is among the top producers of the trees, according to the U.S. 2022 Census of Agriculture, along with Oregon, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania (based on acreage in cultivation). The number of trees cut in Oregon and North Carolina far outstrips the production in any other state. The industry is said to employ around 100,000 people. Here in Columbia County, we have only a handful of pick and cut tree farms.

The positive environmental impact of Christmas



Deborah E. Lans

Callander's Nursery & Landscaping, Inc on Route 203 in Chatham.

tree growing is important. For every tree harvested, three seedlings are typically planted the following spring, and the average growing time of a tree is seven years. The roughly 350 million trees currently growing on commercial tree farms are, accordingly, “busy sucking up carbon from the atmosphere” – some 12,000 pounds of greenhouse gases/year, per industry publications. Those sources also note that artificial trees have a higher carbon footprint than real trees (they are largely composed of PVC plastic). The main sustainability issue around real trees is the fuel used to

transport them to sales outlets and from there, by consumers, to homes.

Where are trees sold if not on New York City street corners? Predictably, at big box stores (nationally, 28.5%) choose and cut farms (26.8%), retail lots (16.1%), nurseries (11.6%), non-profit groups like the Boy Scouts (.4%) and (to this reporter's surprise) online (5.6%).

A completely unscientific survey of some local outlets yielded this information: the Chatham Berry Farm sold out its 450 trees (Balsam and Fraser firs and a hybrid of the two called Cook) more than a week before Christmas. The trees ranged from 5 to 8

feet. Long-time employee Gerry Wheeler observed that the shorter the tree, the older the customer.

Across the road, Callander's Nursery had only 14 of its original 150 trees left a week before Christmas. It too stocked Balsams (considered the more fragrant) and Fraser (longer-lasting) varieties, sourced from a farm in Bennington, VT. Samascott Garden Market stuck with Balsams, some 200, a few of which were still on hand. Agway in Chatham started with 105 six-to-eight-foot Balsams, another 10 nine-to-ten-foot trees (also Balsam) and 10 “table-top” trees (around three feet tall)

which they sold out in two days (to High Pointe senior citizen residents they suspected). As of December 17, they were expected a delivery of more trees from an Albany-area farm.

Here in Austerlitz, my Hannukah menorah provides lovely candlelight for eight nights and looks out at a row of nature-planted white pines.

Happy holidays.

Oh, and in case you need a silly tree joke for a young child or grandchild, try this:

Why was the Christmas tree excited? Because it was about to be decorated.

To contact reporter Deborah Lans, email deborahlans@icloud.com.

COUNTY APPROVES

Continued from Page 1

from 2025.” Meanwhile, “no program maintained by the county has been eliminated and no services have been cut.”

The effective property tax rate is the percentage of a property's market value that is paid in taxes, (according to AI). Because property values have increased, the county can get more total tax revenue from a lower whole-county average effective tax rate. However, individual tax bills still will vary depending on the town, Treasurer PJ Keeler and Controller James Breig have cautioned.

“I think it's prudent we raise taxes,” Supervisor Robert Lagonia (Austerlitz) explained. He cited upcoming union negotiations which will probably result in higher employee pay, ongoing preparations of 11 Warren Street to receive county offices, and needed repairs on currently-used County Office buildings.

Another reason for raising taxes is to reduce money borrowing. “If we did not have to borrow money, we would not have to raise taxes,” said Supervisor Ron Knott (Stuyvesant).

Less borrowing “saves tax payers from funding interest payments,” Mr. Murell observed in his cover letter. “During my tenure as chairman, the county has continued to build the general fund balance and fund capital projects... These actions have reduced our reliance on borrowing.”

The new budget, Mr. Murell's statement added, “reflects a realistic assessment

of the challenges to be faced in 2026 and beyond, with numerous unknowns regarding federal and state aid... The county remains focused on creating financial stability...while continuing to maintain infrastructure and to provide services to meet the needs of those who struggle in the face of a challenging economy.”

Nevertheless, five supervisors, of both parties, voted against the 2026 budget. These included not only Raymond Staats (Clermont), who has voted against the budget almost every year to make a keep-taxes-down statement, but also Minority Leader and budget workgroup member Tistrya Houghtling (New Lebanon).

Mr. Staats stated his opposition to increasing the tax levy while the cash reserve fund balance “keeps increasing” and subsidizing Solid Waste when “only 30% of the residents use it.” He thanked those who worked on the budget for their effort, but “would county finances really be damaged” if they did not have the \$871,000 extra from property taxes?

“For once I agree with Mr. Staats,” said Ms. Houghtling. “I don't think we should be increasing taxes,” while county residents are suffering hardships. “I have seen the fund balance increasing, and in 2025, we didn't even touch it.”

Even some who voted for the budget had misgivings. Supervisor Michael Chameides (Hudson, 3rd Ward) said, “I appreciate the process, but we're making changes around

TABLE 1 COLUMBIA COUNTY BUDGET FOR 2026					
Fund	Appropriation		% change from 2025	% of Appropriation Covered by	
	\$	% of Budget		Taxes	Other
General	156,966,989	84.3	3.3	21.4	78.6
Highway	17,167,143	9.2	4.6	70.3	29.7
Solid Waste	4,787,432	2.6	5.1	26.5	73.5
Machinery	3,821,644	2.1	8.1	11.6	88.4
Self Insurance	2,865,885	1.5	0.1	0.0	100.0
Sewer District	337,764	0.2	-8.7	0.0	100.0
Water District	149,600	0.1	-20.1	0.0	100.0
TOTAL	186,096,457	100.0	3.4	25.4	74.6

TABLE 2 COLUMBIA COUNTY SALARIES 2026			
Position	2026	2025	
	\$	\$	% Change
Supervisors			
Chairman	35,000	34,000	2.94
Deputy Chair	22,000	21,000	4.76
(2)	22,000	21,000	4.76
Majority Leader	22,000	21,000	4.76
Minority Leader	22,000	21,000	4.76
Others (18)	17,500	17,000	2.94
Total Supervisors	438,000	424,000	3.30
Other			
Sheriff	141,126	137,349	2.75
Treasurer	92,432	89,958	2.75
County Clerk	92,432	89,958	2.75
Coroners			
(each)	25,602	24,917	2.75

the edges.” Supervisor Abdus Miah (Hudson, 2nd Ward) said, “We should look at the condition of the people. I believe we can do better.”

But Supervisor James

Guzzi (Livingston) defended his vote for the budget, in part by explaining the cash reserve balance does not stay as big as it sometimes appears. People see \$60-\$80 million, “but that's

the working budget.”

Mr. Keeler compared the fund's point-in-time balances to a checking account, which decreases as one makes payments.

What is important is the balance at the end of the year, after the bills are paid, Mr. Guzzi said. Much of what a cash reserve fund starts the year with gets quickly committed to expenses that come up.

The county's current goal is to have \$20-\$30 million unassigned uncommitted cash reserves at the end of the year, Mr. Keeler said. What this balance was in December is known around the following March, he added. However, at the end of 2024, it was about \$28 million; at the end of 2023, \$31.6 million; at the end of 2022, about \$29 million; and at the end of 2021, about \$21 million.

And cash reserves provide a cushion for the uncertainties of the coming year. “We have union negotiations coming up,” said Mr. Guzzi.

Furthermore, some revenue sources are not forever. Mr. Lagonia noted that the cash reserves would not be so high if the county had not received \$11 million from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). He, like Mr. Guzzi, voted for 2026 the budget.

Solid Waste (called “Garbage and Refuse” in the latest county charts) remained some supervisors' whipping boy, though for years it has taken up only between 2 and 3 percent of the budget. One supervisor reported that his constituents use private carter. Even budget-supporting Mr. Lagonia said the county should treat Solid Waste as it treated Pine Haven Nursing Home, which it sold to a private operator.

However, Mr. Knott point-

ed out that in reconstructing 11 Warren Street, there is a dumpster outside. “We do a lot with solid waste.” On the same topic, Mr. Guzzi asked, “Do we want to supply this service to the people? With privatization, there are costs that add up to more than people realize.”

The 2026 budget appropriates \$4.8 million to Garbage and Refuse, 5.1% (\$232,000) more than for 2025.

In his cover letter, Mr. Murell thanked those most directly involved in building the 2026 budget: Mr. Breig; Mr. Keeler; Human Resources Director Michael Williams-Riordon; and supervisors on the budget workgroup Mr. Chameides, Mr. Guzzi, Ms. Houghtling, Mr. Lagonia, Mr. Knott, and Richard Scalera (Hudson, 5th Ward).

The 2026 salary law includes a 2.75% raise for the Sheriff, the County Treasurer, the County Clerk, and Coroners, as well as an average of 3.3% raise in what the supervisors get for their county-wide service. Eleven of the county's 23 supervisors voted against it. This included all five who voted against the budget.

Mr. Staats explained that “even though everybody on the list deserves a raise,” he had a hard time supporting the law after opposing the budget. Supervisor Brenda Adams (Canaan), who voted for the budget but against the salary law, stated, “There's a lot of suffering, and I cannot support these raises,” after supporting a budget that increased the tax levy.

Mr. Scalera, the only one of Hudson's supervisors who voted for the salary law, said, “A lot of things I agree with, a lot of things I don't agree with, I can't split it up, so I vote yes.”

Mac-Haydn Theatre announces 2026 season of musicals

CHATHAM—The Mac-Haydn Theatre, 1925 State Route 203, has unveiled its highly anticipated 2026 season, a vibrant lineup that deepens the theater’s commitment to bold storytelling, imaginative design, and the unique intimacy that has defined the Mac-Haydn experience for more than half a century. Tickets are now on sale at www.machaydntheatre.org.

“We’re bringing audiences works they love, works they’ve overlooked, and works they’ve never seen quite like this,” said Producing Artistic Director John Saudners in a press release. “Our unique space allows us to reinvent these titles from the ground up, and this year’s slate is all about taking big creative swings.”

This season, the theater has added 37 additional seats back into what is currently the smallest audience section—restoring its signature in-the-round experience. The



The Mac-Haydn 2026 season.

stage and seating were modified in 2021 to a thrust stage configuration. President Paul Colarusso added, also in the release, “Last season showed us how deeply our community values live theater. The energy coming from our audiences has been extraordinary, and it inspires us to dream bigger every year. This lineup represents that ambition.”

Main Stage Performance Details:

- June 11 to 21, “The

- Addams Family Musical,” book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa, based on characters created by Charles Addams. The weird and wonderful family comes to life in this magnificently macabre musical featuring everyone’s favorite creepy, kooky characters.
- June 25 to July 5, “9 to 5,” music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, book by Patricia Resnick, based on the Twentieth Century

Fox film. Three unlikely friends take control of their office and learn there is nothing they can’t do, even in a man’s world.

- July 9 to 19, “The Secret Garden,” music and lyrics by Marsha Norman, music by Lucy Simon, adapted from the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. In a house of secrets, a young girl unlocks the door to forgiveness, love, and new beginnings.
- July 23 to August 9, “Newsies” (MHT debut),

music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Jack Feldman, book by Harvey Fierstein. Based on the Disney film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White. Stop the presses! This Disney film turned Tony-winning Broadway hit inspires everyone to fight for what’s right and seize the day.

- August 13 to 23, “Beautiful: The Carole King Musical” (MHT debut), words and music by Gerry Goffin, Carole King, Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil, book by Douglas McGrath, music by arrangement with Sony Music Publishing. The inspiring true story of Carole King’s journey from teenage songwriter to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
- August 27 to September 6. “Hairspray,” book by Thomas Meehan & Mark O’Donnell, music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Marc Shaiman & Scott Wittman, based on the New Line Cinema film, written and directed by John Waters. You can’t stop the beat in this big

and bold musical about one girl’s inspiring dream to dance.

Limited Performances:

- “Daddy Long Legs” (MHT debut), music and lyrics by Paul Gordon, book by John Caird. Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 p.m. and Friday, July 31, 3 p.m. A heartwarming Cinderella story about a witty and winsome young woman and her mysterious benefactor, based on the treasured novel that inspired the classic 1955 film.
- Showstoppers: “The Golden Years,” Wednesday, September 2, 7:30 p.m. and Friday, September 4, 3 p.m. This season brings a new spin on an old favorite. Experience the sparkle and show-stopping magic of Broadway’s most unforgettable era.

Single ticket sales and 7 and 4-show subscriptions are now open. For more information on the 2026 season, showtimes, and tickets, visit www.machaydntheatre.org.

Free clowning workshops at The Spark of Hudson this January and February

HUDSON — Columbia County Players in partnership with The Spark of Hudson presents a two weekend Clown Workshops for Actors. These workshops are a rare opportunity to explore the world of clown, celebrate failure and embrace idiocy. Focusing on play and what brings joy on stage, the clown is always searching for a game to play and to unapologetically share their pleasure with the audience.

For actors, clowning is an invaluable tool for honing presence, encouraging vulnerability, and vitalizing the sparkle in the eyes that lets audiences know you’re all there to have a good time.

Columbia County Players founder and Artistic Director Carol Rusoff taught and directed clown Zoe Wohfeld in “The Canterbury Tales” at the Basilica in Hudson 20 years ago when Wohfeld was a local teen actor. Now she



Zoe Wohfeld and Jack Grossman

returns to her roots as a unique and experienced American clown along with her partner, fellow performer and instructor, Jack Grossman, to teach what they learned (and more) when they met while studying at Ecole Philippe Gaulier in France.

Wohfeld and Grossman create and produce shows together, including: “A Night

of Drama” (“Best shows in 2024” -Time Out NY), with sold out performances in New York City and internationally in London and at The Edinburgh Fringe, and “Dog Funeral,” which has performed in London, Ventnor Fringe, and The Berkshires. They have performed with Underbelly at The Edinburgh Fringe, with London Clown Festival at

Soho Theatre, and at The Weekend of Weird at The Brighton Fringe.

Wohfeld and Grossman note in a press release, “We are not circus clowns; we will not be wearing red noses nor learning tricks with juggling balls or spinning plates. We are simply going to focus on the essence of what makes us funny on stage!”

Originally offered for one weekend only, registrations for the workshop January 17 and 18 were snapped up so quickly that, due to popular demand, an additional weekend is now offered: January 31 and February 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information and to pre-register for either weekend, go to www.columbiacountyplayers.com or <https://sparkofhudson.org/upcoming-events>

The Spark of Hudson is located at 502 Union Street.

Hawthorne Valley and Story Screen Cinema partner for screening of ‘Folktales’

HUDSON—Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School partners with Story Screen Cinema, 160 Fairview Avenue, to offer a screening of the documentary “Folktales” on Saturday, December 27 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10, and proceeds will benefit the school’s Annual Dogsledding Trip and Excursions Program. Advanced tickets are recommended.

From Oscar nominated filmmakers Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, this life-affirming documentary is set at Pasvik Folk High School in Arctic Norway, where teens spend a transformative “gap year” learning to dog sled, survive the wilderness, and connect deeply with the land, animals, and one another.

“We are grateful to Story Screen Cinema for donating the use of one of their theaters for the screening,” said

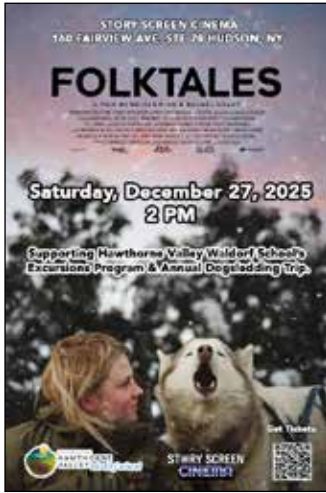


Photo contributed “Folktales” poster.

a press release from the school.

Tickets are available at <https://www.storyscreenpresents.com>.



Barbara Slate

Let's Be Creative!

Tis the season to be crafty! Crafting is a wonderful creative outlet and a way to relieve stress. It was 35 years ago when my great friend, Jane Gennaro invited me to do “clothespin dolls”. I knew what a clothespin was but clothespin DOLLS eluded me.

Jane’s kitchen table overflowed with beads, papers, felt, crayons, paint. I watched as her sisters and brother turned clothespins into soldiers, ballerinas, nuns, angels—I was hooked!



Do you have a craft?

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Photo contributed

First Day hiking is a popular activity.

Take two hikes, then draw a masterpiece

GREENPORT—Two First Day Hikes and an afternoon of drawing are slated at Olana State Historic Site, 5720 State Route 9G, Thursday, January 1.

In the morning, 10 to 11 a.m. go on a First Day Hike with the “Dogs of Olana” a special pup-friendly hike. All dogs must be kept on a leash during their time at Olana and the site is a carry-in carry-out facility.

In the afternoon from noon to 1 p.m. go on another First Day Hike without the dogs.

Celebrate the New Year with expansive views. Channel 19th century artist Frederic Church’s taste for exploration during hikes of Olana’s 250-acres of winter landscape.

Both hikes begin at the Wagon House Education Center at the historic farm complex at the bottom of the site and cover about one mile with an uphill portion; wear weather-appropriate

apparel and comfortable footwear. Check out other #DogsofOlana on their Instagram at @OlanaFredericChurch. Hot beverages (coffee, tea and hot chocolate) and sketching materials will be provided in the Wagon House Education Center as part of this free First Day Hike celebration. Registration is required. For more information contact education@olana.org or call 518-751-6938.

Cap off the day with New Year’s Day Drawing, from 1 to 3 p.m. Celebrate the New Year by getting creative. After exploring Olana’s winter landscape, drop by the Wagon House Education Center any time to participate in special drawing prompts and warm up with seasonal refreshments. The event is free and appropriate for all ages.

For more information go to <https://olana.org/programs-events/>

Choose a moderate or easy hike to start the New Year

COPAKE FALLS—Ring in the New Year and join Taconic State Park staff for a free, fun, guided, moderate four-mile, round-trip hike out to Bash Bish Falls, from the Copake Falls Park Office 253 State Route 344, January 1 at 1 p.m.

This hike includes moderate terrain and incline in some areas. There are some benches along the beginning of the Bash Bish Falls trail. All visitors are encouraged to wear proper winter footwear. Hiking poles also encouraged. An alternative walk will be lead along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail on the same day. This trail is flat and paved but is subject to

winter elements. Updates will go out on social media. A bonfire and hot chocolate will be served on return to the park office. This event happens in rain, snow or shine. It is for all ages, leashed and well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Consider the weather and potential trail conditions when choosing footwear—lace up hiking boots are necessary with additional ice spikes or cleats in certain conditions. Stay tuned to social media for trail condition updates.

Advance registration encouraged, call 518-329-3993 for inquiries and to register.

‘Tis the season of light

Hillsdale’s Town Hall, 2609 Route 23, glows with new holiday decorations this year. Spearheaded by the Hillsdale Hamlet Committee, the brightly lit wreaths and garlands adorn three sides of the historic 1924 red brick building.



Photo by Bart Ziegler

County celebrates 250th anniversary of Knox Expedition

KINDERHOOK — A series of public events commemorating the historic 1776 passage of the Knox Expedition through northern Columbia County during the Revolutionary War will be held from January 4 to 10 at locations in Kinderhook and Hillsdale.

The Knox Expedition was one of the war’s more heroic achievements and gave the Continental Army one of its earliest victories. Sixty tons of cannon and munitions were transported 300 miles from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, secretly and in the dead of winter, to drive out British forces who had been pinned down by local militias since the Battle of Bunker Hill the prior June.

Leading the expedition was Colonel Henry Knox, a self-educated, 25-year-old Boston bookseller who had impressed General George Washington with his knowledge of military strategy and engineering.

• January 4, 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the James Vanderpoel House, 16 Broad Street, Kinderhook, Columbia County Historians and the Columbia County Historical Society (CCHS) will commemorate the Knox Noble Train of Artillery, which entered the Kinderhook



Photo courtesy of FortTiconderoga.org

Fort Ticonderoga oxen in the snow.

District January 4, 1776. This event will be an opportunity to speak with local historians and CCHS staff about the Noble Train’s impact on the Revolutionary War.

• January 9, 10 a.m. at the James Vanderpoel House, 16 Broad Street, Kinderhook, Knox Train re-enactors will be in the Village of Kinderhook to discuss the passage of the Noble Train through Kinderhook. The presentation begins at 10 a.m. followed at 11 a.m. by refreshments and remarks under a heated tent.

• January 10, 11:30 a.m. at the Hillsdale Firehouse, 9387 State Route 22, Hillsdale will host costumed re-enactors

from Fort Ticonderoga in an entertaining, educational program about the Knox Train of Artillery, which passed through North Hillsdale (then called Nobletown) before crossing into Massachusetts January 10. Free food and beverages will be served.

“The Revolutionary War’s early battles took place at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, but the conflict spread rapidly to other colonies; nearly one-third of the war’s engagements actually occurred in New York, many in the Hudson Valley,” Hillsdale’s Co-Town Historian Lauren Letellier said in a press release. “While

Columbia County did not see any battles, it was strategically important to both American and British forces as a corridor for troop and supply movement. The Knox Expedition was one of the most stupendous logistical feats of the war and Knox and his crew completed it over challenging terrain in only 56 days.* Bringing this piece of revolutionary history to life at the local level will be exciting and fun for everyone involved.”

*Source: <https://parks.ny.gov/news/press-releases/series-events-commemorate-250th-anniversary-knoxs-noble-train-artillery>

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Free meal tradition continues for 18 years

VALATIE — Since 2007, during the months of January, February and March, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 1010 Kinderhook Street (Route 9), has offered a free, hot meal to everyone in the community Tuesday evenings. Each week between 100 and 150 people are served.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for beverages and fellowship.

Meals are served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The first meal for 2026 will be “Breakfast for Dinner” served Tuesday, January 6. The sponsors are the “Wednesday Walkers” and for those who can afford it, they request donations for

the Valatie Food Pantry.

The last meal of the season will be served March 31.

In this community-wide event, both churches and secular organizations volunteer to provide the main meal each week. Volunteers from St. Luke’s in Valatie and Emanuel Lutheran Church in Stuyvesant Falls do most of the prep work. Others in the community help as well, including students from Ichabod Crane, the Girl Scouts and members from other area churches.

In addition to St. Luke’s, the organizations that are cooking the main dishes this year include: The “Wednesday Walkers,”



Image contributed

Eat breakfast for dinner.

Emanuel Lutheran Church of Stuyvesant Falls, First Presbyterian Church of Valatie, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church of Valatie, Christ Our Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Chatham, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church of Stuyvesant Falls, Kinderhook Elks, The Garden Club of Kinderhook, Boy Scout

Troop 113, Valatie Rescue Squad, Seventh Day Adventist Church of Kinderhook and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church of Kinderhook.

For more information contact: St. Luke’s Lutheran Church Outreach Committee Chair Betty-Jean Roppolo at bjroppolo@gmail.com or 518-320-6232.

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Best wishes for a warm and joyful holiday season

Editorial

Our annual winter double issue

THIS IS IT — our annual winter double issue (December 25, 2025 — January 1, 2026). We are taking the week of January 1, 2026 off, so no new paper that week. We will be back in print and on newsstands January 8.

For breaking news go to our website at www.nyvtmedia.com. If you have any questions, concerns or tips, please email us at news@columbiapaper.com and/or call us at 518-642-4122.

Happy Holidays! Have a wonder new year!

– The Columbia Paper

Letters

He worries about what Trump represents

To the Editor:

National polls indicate that President Trump has a loyal base of supporters, with roughly a 40% approval rating. Judging by the lawn signs I saw this past election cycle, I believe Mr. Trump’s local approval in Columbia County is even higher.

Personally, I find that reality upsetting. I know many in our community. They are hard-working, honest people; good-natured and kind. So, it is difficult to understand how such folks can support a man who refers to fellow human beings, including a sitting Congresswoman, as “garbage”. Yet, Donald Trump has a long history of making such vile comments on a daily basis.

At this time of year, I am reminded of the seven deadly sins – Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Wrath, Envy and Pride – and the seven heavenly virtues – Chastity, Temperance, Charity, Diligence, Kindness, Patience and Humility – that have guided Christianity since Pope Gregory I laid them out in AD 590. I also cannot help but see that Mr. Trump embodies all of the qualities we view as sinful and none of the offsetting virtues.

Joseph Cannisi
Copake

A reflection and thank you from CK’s Carole Clark

To the Editor:

As the end of 2025 is approaching and this is the season of reflection and thanks, I want to share my profound gratitude for the Columbia County community and its commitment to the people whom Columbia Kitchen has had the opportunity to serve.

When the Covid pandemic began in 2020, there was tremendous concern for the families and individuals who would be severely impacted. This compelled me into immediate action, using my knowledge, experience, contacts and energy to create an organization that supported people experiencing food insecurity, those underserved communities lacking reliable access to healthy food during the pandemic.

My idea deeply resonated with friends, family, former colleagues, farmers and strangers looking to make an impact during this trying time. In just weeks, our group, then named Columbia County Recovery Kitchen, had a small kitchen in Hudson and a cadre of volunteers ready to do whatever was needed to make this happen.

Now, with a new large kitchen, even more volunteers plus a staff, over 2,400 healthy meals are cooked and delivered each week. A new culture emerged from this, friends and neighbors with shared values and great generosity wanting to make a difference, continue to volunteer their time and expertise.

I want to thank everyone, numbering over 200 volunteers and farmers, who through the years have enabled CK to help put food on the table for those in need.

After five years I am stepping back, confident that new leadership guided by the executive director, Joan Kowee, will provide a bulwark against suffering due to food insecurity. It has been an honor to have had the privilege of receiving the ongoing support of people dedicated to the achievement of my vision. What began as a response to a specific crisis has morphed into recognition that widespread food insecurity preceeded the Covid pandemic and it still continues to be a threat to the health and well being of vulnerable residents. Fueled by compassion and dedication, CK has had a transformative effect on both volunteers as well as recipients. May the spirit and shared values of Columbia Kitchen prevail!

Carole Clark
Livingston

Chairman plans county administrator committee

HUDSON — Has the time come for Columbia County to introduce a County Administrator into its Board of Supervisors form of government?

That’s the question Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell is interested in having answered. To that end, Chairman Matt Murell (Stockport) plans to create a committee charged with getting answers to the question of the advisability of establishing a County Administrator position in its governing structure.

“The last time this idea was looked at was back in 2011 by a county committee. It seems there’s no better time than the present to revisit this subject. Fifteen years later, I for one am keenly interested in seeing how such a position could work for us now,” said Chairman Murell, in a press release.

According to the release, a County Administrator differs greatly from a County Executive in that a County Administrator would serve as the Chief Operating Officer, with the key distinction that the position would report to, and work under the direction of the Board of Supervisors.

A County Executive, on the other hand, places political power and day-to-day county operations in the hands of a single elected official, rather than the current system of 23 elected town and city supervisors working together as a governing unit. A county executive effectively strips the county Board of Supervisors of its authority.

Chairman Murell said that as part of the yet-to-be formed committee’s activities, a few county administrators from the region will be invited to address the committee.

Hudson supervisor lists accomplishments while in office

To the Editor:

Serving as the 1st Ward Supervisor, a member of the Planning Board and HIDA for the City of Hudson has been some of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences of my public life. It has been an honor to represent my neighbors while working collaboratively to address the many critical issues facing both Columbia County and the City of Hudson.

I have genuinely enjoyed working with my colleagues in the Democratic caucus, as well as partnering across the aisle with supervisors of differing political perspectives. While we may not always agree, there has often been a shared commitment to respectful dialogue, practical solutions, and putting the needs of our communities first.

Throughout my service, I have focused on initiatives that strengthen Hudson’s long-term economic stability and quality of life. This includes helping bring new jobs and millions of dollars in public and private investment to the city, expanding transportation access for students traveling to local colleges, and reclaiming underutilized industrial properties to grow the tax base and ease pressure on local taxpayers.

Housing has remained a central priority of my work. I helped craft and advance a City of Hudson resolution that led to foreclosure relief for city residents, providing families with critical stability during times of financial hardship. I have supported the creation and preservation of senior, affordable, mixed-income, and market-rate housing, stood firmly against proposed Medicaid cuts, and helped organize landlord-tenant “Know Your Rights” and Fair Housing events.

Public safety and public health have been equally important. I have worked to expand 911 services, secure funding for the hiring of new mental health professionals, and support recovery services, including funding for a new Recovery Kitchen food delivery van.

Protecting Hudson’s character and environment has also guided my approach. I have worked to preserve and protect the Hudson waterfront and helped resolve long-standing concerns related to the Allen Street tree-cutting issues.

Good government depends on transparency and accountability. I have called for accountability in the handling of the county’s change-of-government petition process and have been a leading advocate for the creation of an elected County Administrator to improve oversight and efficiency.

Finally, I have consistently pushed for the adoption of innovative technologies to improve efficiency in city and county operations thus saving taxpayer dollars while delivering better services.

Public service is about stewardship, collaboration, and respect for democracy. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served and for colleagues willing to work across political lines, and for all the residents of Hudson. In the future I plan to focus on regional housing issues and remain deeply engaged in shaping the future of our city.

Randall Martin
1st Ward Supervisor
Hudson

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She supports congressman’s push back on soaring electricity rates

To the Editor:

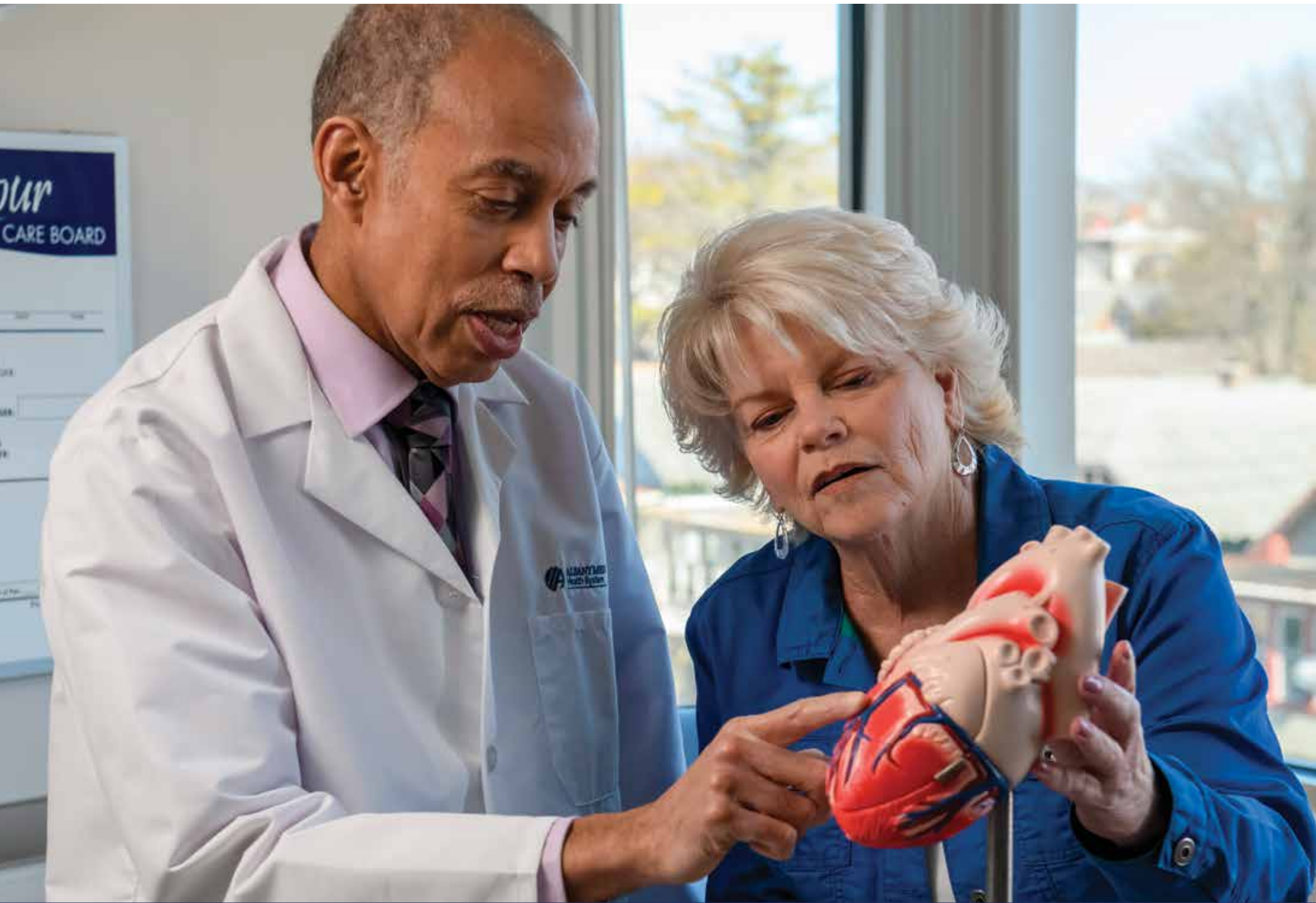
This letter is in support of those people in our local government who can and will stand up and do something about the soaring price of electricity in Columbia County. I write this as we endure an unseasonably cold December. My house, built in 1980, is all electric, heated by electric baseboards and with recent price hikes by our local utility, NYSEG, the cost of electricity is scandalously high.

I recently read that at least one official is pushing back on high power prices, our Congressman, Josh Riley, has launched an investigation into the rates charged by NYSEG and other utilities in his district. He is examining whether these hikes are aimed at helping boost the profits of the overseas company that owns NYSEG. Riley has asked state utility regulators to demand justifications for the increases.

Those of us who rely on NYSEG for our power source have yet to see relief from the high prices, but I am in great support and am thrilled to know that Congressman Josh Riley is making an effort to do something about the high NYSEG prices.

Marianna Houston
Hillsdale

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Affordable farmland is conversation topic

CHATHAM — The next Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) Community Conversation is about affordable farmland and conservation, January 8, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Community Conversations is an opportunity to join local experts and community members virtually. This program series addresses important issues, from affordable farmland to building a community forest, and explores how they connect to conservation. One-hour Zoom sessions include brief presentations, time for questions and answers, and the opportunity to connect with others.

This month, Community Conversations will explore how, with some creative thinking, affordable farmland and conservation efforts can go hand-in-hand.

Finegan Ferreboeuf and Jason Gold, the farmers of Steelbow Farm in Ancram, will be joined by Terence Duvall, director of Land Protection & Stewardship at CLC, to discuss affordable farmland access and



Finegan Ferreboeuf and Jason Gold are the farmers of Steelbow Farm.

Steelbow Farm’s transition to Ancram. Mr. Duvall will provide an overview of affordable farmland models, highlighting CLC’s protection of this farm through a ground lease model and the search for new farmers. Ms. Ferreboeuf and Mr. Gold

will then share their farming history, how they came to this property, and what’s next at Steelbow Farm.

Register for the conversation at <https://clctrust-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/>



White-breasted Nuthatch at bird feeder.

Feed wild birds safely and responsibly

COLUMBIA COUNTY—For many birdwatchers in New York, this is an exciting time of year—backyard bird feeders can go back up! To avoid conflicts with bears, the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) highly recommends only feeding birds when bears are inactive.

There are many natural sources of winter food for birds including birch catkins, spruce and fir cones, dried seed heads from native grasses and flowers, and lingering fruits on plants. Bird feeders can supplement these natural

foods and may attract more birds to your yard. A simple tube feeder with black oil sunflower seed is a great place to start. Depending on where you live, you might expect to see chickadees, nuthatches, juncos, and goldfinches. Adding suet is a sure bet to draw in woodpeckers. To provide a source of water, try installing a birdbath heater or bubbler and regularly refreshing the water.

If you are drawing wild birds into your yard with feeders, try these tips to keep birds safe:

- Provide nearby cover

such as evergreen trees, native shrubs, or even discarded Christmas trees

- Place feeders away from windows and make windowpanes bird-safe with screens, netting, decals or vertical tape

- Clean feeders regularly to avoid spreading disease

- Store extra bird seed indoors

- Keep cats indoors

- Feed pets inside to avoid attracting feral cats, rodents, or other wildlife

- Take down feeders in the spring to avoid bear conflicts.

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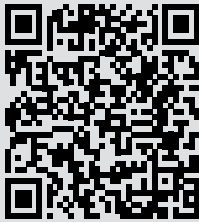
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Columbia-Greene

Habitat for Humanity®

December 2025

Dear Friends,

It's been another big year for Columbia-Greene Habitat for Humanity. With your support, we have further strengthened our capacity to build homes and improve the quality of life in Columbia and Greene Counties.

We began 2025 by selling the houses we built in Philmont to local families. At a dedication ceremony held in May, the new homeowners spoke movingly about their journey to homeownership and how our program has positively impacted their lives.

Our team is nearing completion of two additional 3-bedroom, 2-bath homes – one in Valatie and another in Niverville. These projects help more essential workers, such as teachers, nurses, and retail staff, to remain in our communities. At a time when the market continues to provide only the highest wage earners with the possibility of home ownership, Columbia-Greene Habitat has become the only developer in the area that is building for our average wage working neighbors.

Building houses wasn't the only thing keeping us busy. We've been out doing vital safety repairs for homeowners through our Habitat Helping Hands program. A few weeks ago, we took a big step forward by moving our offices and the ReStore to a new location at 3521 Route 9 in Livingston. Our ReStore is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10-5, selling high-quality furniture, housewares, and more to support our construction projects.

As we close out another year of progress and visible impact in our communities, your support is more important than ever. Your tax-deductible donation will give Columbia-Greene Habitat the foundation it needs to keep building in 2026 and beyond.

As a community-supported organization, our ability to grow to serve you comes from the ongoing generosity of our neighbors and our friends. It's extraordinary to live and work in an amazing community that understands that access to housing is the foundation of maintaining the character and vitality of Columbia and Greene Counties.

Join us now—make a donation and help us build a stronger community together.

Sincerely,



Joseph Giovannelli

President, Board of Directors



Al Belenchia

Executive Director/CEO



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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 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 nonprofit community organization.

AREA ATTRACTIONS

CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE, 1 Clermont Ave. 500 acres on Hudson River. Grounds, hiking trails open daily, 8:30 am–sunset, free. Tours Thurs–Sun, 11 am–4 pm, \$7 adults, \$6 students/seniors, under 12 free. Visitor Center open Fri–Sun, 10:30 am–4 pm. 518 537-4240, nysparks.com/historic-sites/16/details.aspx.

COLUMBIA COUNTY MUSEUM & LIBRARY, 5 Albany Ave, Kinderhook. Research library, galleries featuring rotating exhibits. Galleries open Sat & Sun, 11 am–4 pm, admission \$5. Research appointments 7 days a week by advance request. cchsny.org. 518 758-9265.

COPAKE IRON WORKS, 35 Valley View Rd, Copake Falls. 15-min self-guided tour available on website, podcast providers. Trails open. info@friendsoftsp.org, 518 329-3251. Pomeroy Family Railroad at Copake Iron Works resumes service Memorial Day weekend from 2- 4 pm. Every weekend & holiday until mid-October. No reservations required, rides free. Copake Iron Works Museum opens at the same time.

FASNYS MUSEUM OF FIREFIGHTING, 117 Harry Howard Ave, Hudson. Open Wed–Sun 10 am–4:30 pm. Closed major holidays. Adults are \$12, children aged 2-17 are \$8, and children under 2 are free. 518-822-1875. fasny-firemuseum.com

ICHABOD CRANE SCHOOLHOUSE & 1737 LUYKAS VAN ALLEN HOUSE, 2589 Rt 9H, Kinderhook. Open select Saturdays, 11 am–4 pm. Grounds & trails, including free outdoor exhibit, Early Heritage of Columbia County, open daily dawn to dusk. cchsny.org. 518 758-9265.

JAMES VANDERPOEL HOUSE, 16 Broad St, Kinderhook. Circa-1820 Federal home featuring exhibition galleries, museum shop. Sat & Sun, 11 am–4 pm, admission \$5 (no entry fee for shop). cchsny.org, 518 758-9265.

LIVINGSTON HISTORY BARN, behind Town Hall, 119 CR 19, Weds. & Sat. 10 am–1 pm, or by appt. Collection of items from colonial times through present: personal items, military uniforms, farm implements, more. 518 851-7637.

MARTIN VAN BUREN National Historic Site, 1013 Old Post Rd, Kinderhook. Grounds & trails open year-round, 7 am–sunset. Daily guided tours at 10 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm. Half hour tours 11 am & noon. 518-758-9689. nps.gov/mava. MAVA_info@nps.gov.

MUD CREEK Environmental Learning Ctr, 1024 Rte 66, Ghent. Trails open daily, dawn to dusk. Trailhead next to pavilion, half-mile inner loop and one-mile outer loop returns to parking lot. Leashed dogs permitted. Free.

OLANA STATE HISTORIC SITE, 5720 Rt. 9G, Greenport, home & estate of Hudson River School painter Frederic Church. Tours of house & landscape, guided Fri–Sun, 11 am–3:30 pm. Visitors Center & Museum Store Tue–Sun 9:30 am–5 pm. 250-acre grounds daily, 8 am–sunset, free. olana.org. 518 828-0135.

OLD AUSTERLITZ, 11550 Rt 22. oldausterlitz.org.

RIDERS MILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 112 Riders Mills Rd, Chatham. Original 1795 one-room school house, tour by graduate. Available by appointment Sat–Sun, 9 am–5 pm. 518 794-7264 or 518 794-7146.

ROBERT JENKINS HOUSE, 113 Warren St. Hudson. Open for library research, tours on scheduled days, by appointment. 518 828-9764, hudson-dar.org.

ROELIFF JANSEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM, 8 Miles Rd, Copake Falls. Showcases documents, maps, photographs, objects related to Copake's five hamlets; Copake, Copake Falls, Copake Lake, Craryville & West Copake. roeliffjansenhs.org. 518-329-0652.

SHAKER MUSEUM Mount Lebanon, 202 Shaker Rd, New Lebanon. Self-guided tours, pasture, hiking trails open. 518 794-9100. shaker-mi.org.

THOMAS COLE NAT'L HISTORIC SITE, 218 Spring St, Catskill. Home, studios of Hudson River School painter. Audio tours. Guided tours Fri–Sun, 10 am–4 pm, lantern tours, 4 pm. Tickets thomas-cole.org.

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.

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 Community Center on Facebook and @MaldenBridgecc on Instagram.

First Mondays
EXERCISE FOR SENIORS: Live a physically safe, vibrant and functional life, Malden Bridge Community Center, 1087 Albany Turnpike, 10-11 am with Ithor Evanick. Get more info at nncc1info@gmail.com.

SILENT BOOK CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 6 pm. Bring your own book; no assigned readings; all book formats welcome. Enjoy an hour of dedicated reading, followed by time to socialize or just keep reading. Refreshments provided by the Hawthorne Valley Farm Store. Let the library know you're coming at <https://forms.gle/eFHyxgSKxzj12Jq6>, chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us, or 518-392-3666.

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

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 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>

Mondays, Tuesdays
OPEN ACCESS HOURS, Columbia County Mental Health Center, 325 Columbia St, Hudson, 8:30-10:30 am. 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>

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. Catholiccharitiescg.org.

MAH-JONG CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, Chatham, 10:30 am Mon, 2 pm Wed. For experienced players. Chathampubliclibrary.org, 518 392-3666.

FIBER ARTS CIRCLE, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 1 pm, free. All levels, experiences welcome. claveracklibrary.org, 518 851-7120.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
VALATIE SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER, 3302 Williams Street, Valatie. 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.

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 nonperishable 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. 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 <https://philmontlibrary.com/> or call 518-672-5010 for hours.

Tuesdays
TAI CHI, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 10 am, free. David Haines leads. 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/>

ADULT 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, 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.

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. Twincountyrecoveryservices.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 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, 518 965-3027, danaerin1222@gmail.com.

Second Tuesdays
AS THE PAGES TURN BOOK CLUB, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 12:30 pm. <https://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 Mesurvey 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.

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 [@qtconnectioncg">instagram @qtconnectioncg](https://instagram). 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

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 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

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 <https://namiccny.org/> For more information call 518 336-0246 or write to 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.

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

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 if you have any questions. The pool will be closed over the NLCS D winter holiday, with the pool opening on Tuesday 1/6 for Open Swim.

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 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.

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.

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.

CLAVERACK BRIDGE CLUB, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, noon. 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. Twincountyrecoveryservices.org.

EVENTS

Calendar

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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, 518 392-3666.

HANDCRAFTS CLUB, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 12:30 pm. Knitting (loom and stick), sewing, crochet, felt work, embroidery and cross stitch. Bring your projects to work on as the group chats, shares and teaches each other. No registration required.

CHATHAM/GHENT SENIORS, West Ghent Reformed Church, 1039 CR 22, 1 pm. Refreshments, guest speaker. ghentnry@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 or call 518-325-4101.

GENTLE CHAIR YOGA, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 1:15 pm. <https://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.

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@literacyconnections.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.

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 gtmysoccer@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

BOARD MEETING, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 6 pm. Public welcome. For more information, email director.philmontlibrary@gmail.com

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

COOKBOOK CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 6 pm. Take on recipes, meet at library for potluck. Copies of month's book available at circulation desk. RSVP: bit.ly/Jan_CPLCookbookClub. 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, Vatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 12:45 pm. For adults, no registration required. 518 758-9321, valatielibrary.net, valatiefreelibrary@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 Dille leads movement/meditation class. All welcome, no previous experience with dance or meditation needed. Registration timeand-space.org/dance-yoga.

QUEER & TRANS CONNECTION NETWORK: Community Night, 1 Taconic Place, Chatham, 5-7 pm. Snacks, connection, support. Follow us on [instagram @qtconnectioncg](https://www.instagram.com/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 at youth@roejanlibrary.org 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.

BOARD MEETING, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 6 pm. Public welcome. Agenda & materials on website week ahead of time. No February and August meetings. 518 794-8844. NewLebanonlibrary.org.

Third Thursdays
COMMUNITY DAY, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rt 9G, Greenport, 11 am-3:15 pm, free. Monthly tours & programs; Dos visitas guiadas en español se ofrecen durante este día. olana.org.

HEALTHCARE CONSORTIUM REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 1 pm. Meet with a Healthcare Navigator for help signing up for affordable health coverage, including Medicaid and Child Health Plus. NewLebanonlibrary.org.

BOOK MARKS CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 1-2 pm, free. Nonfiction book group. Led by Robin Gottlieb. circulation@roejanlibrary.org, 518 325-4101.

NY CONNECT PROGRAM, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 1-4 pm, free. Get information, help connecting with services including home care, respite care, care coordination, caregiver supports, transportation, home-delivered meals. 518 828-2273, 800 342-9871.

WARM UP AMERICA, Valatie Presbyterian Church, 3212 Church Street, 2-4 pm. Group makes warm things for others in need. Create afghans out of knitted squares or use yarn provided to make mittens, hats, scarves, neck warmers. Work at home or at the meeting. Many charities benefit.

HUDSON AREA LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, Hudson Area Library Community Room, 51 N 5th St, 8 pm. The general public is welcome to attend. For more information, contact info@hudsonarealibrary.org.

MAKE IT & TAKE IT: CRAFTS MEETUP FOR ADULTS, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 6:30 pm. All materials provided. Registration is appreciated, call 518-794-8844 or email info@newlebaonlibrary.org.

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 lebanonseniorcitizens@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/mhastro/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 non-perishable 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 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 rj304@gmail.com.

Fourth Saturdays
MOUNT LEBANON WORK CREW, Historic Mount Lebanon Site, 202 Shaker Rd, New Lebanon, 9:30 am-noon, April thru October. Maintain seasonal growth, contain spread of invasive species around Great Stone Barn & North Family Site. No minimum commitment needed. Registration shakermuseum.us/events.

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.

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 (except Saturday after Christmas, 12/27), hudsonfarmersmarketny.org

SPECIAL EVENTS
Through December 31
HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE, Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Ave, Visitor Center, Thursday-Sunday, 10:30 am-4 pm. Needed items: shelf-stable milk and dairy, cooking oils, canned meat (chicken and fish), canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter and jelly, dry cereals, hearty canned soups and chilis, baby food, boxed pasta rice, stuffing mix, easily prepared meals. Monetary donations also accepted. All proceeds support the Germantown Food Pantry & communities it serves. Anyone who needs food assistance, can visit the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York to find the nearest food pantry or soup kitchen at regionalfoodbank.net/find-nearest-agency/.

Share the snow during late deer hunting seasons

ALBANY — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton recently announced that late bow and muzzleloader deer hunting seasons will reopen throughout most of New York’s Southern Zone from December 26 through January 1 for the Holiday Deer Hunt. DEC encourages deer hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts to respectfully share the snow.

“The Holiday Deer Hunt gives young hunters the opportunity to hunt while they are off from school and gathered with their families and friends for the holidays. Time outside during winter is valued by many. Whatever brings you afield, be safe and respect others also enjoying the outdoors,” Commissioner Lefton said in a press release. To participate in the Holiday Deer Hunt, hunters



Deer are out there in the snow.

Photo contributed

must possess a hunting license and bow or muzzleloader privileges. Unfilled Regular Season deer tags may be used for a deer of either-sex (antlered or antlerless). There is no Holiday Deer Hunt in the Northern Zone, or in Wildlife Management

Units (WMUs) 9C, 1A, or 2A within the Southern Zone. In WMUs 8C and 4J, deer hunters can only use archery equipment (crossbows or vertical bows). Additional deer tag and season descriptions can be found in DEC’s hunting and trapping regulations guide. There are many great outdoor activities to participate in during this time of year and DEC reminds the public to “share the snow.” DEC encourages all recreationists to take time to plan their trips with safety top of mind and with awareness and respect for their fellow outdoor enthusiasts. Hunting has an exceptional safety record, and the requirement to wear blaze orange when muzzleloader hunting helps maintain this record. Other recreationists are also encouraged to wear bright colors so they can easily be seen. Hunting, hiking, skiing, snow-

shoeing and other activities can all safely co-occur, and DEC appreciates the generosity of landowners who allow the public to access their land for these purposes. Be aware that others may have permission to ski, hike, or ride on property where hunting is permitted—there are no prohibitions in place during the Holiday Hunt. DEC encourages all outdoor enthusiasts to be alert to other users. Hunters must practice safe firearm use. Properly preparing for winter conditions is essential for a more enjoyable and safer experience. Visit DEC’s website for safety and preparedness tips for winter’s shorter, colder days. Hunters are also encouraged to harvest and donate deer for those in need this holiday season. Learn more about hunting on DEC’s website: <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/deer-bear>.

SOFT PAWS

By CHARLENE MARCHAND

Pets are for life, not just the holidays

MERRY CHRISTMAS, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa! Though written for the holidays, the following “Talking Points” about getting a new puppy or dog apply all year long, and include cats and other companion animals whether adopted or purchased. The message is timeless. These points for family discussion were featured in the November/December 2002 issue of the American Kennel Club’s Public Education Corner. TALKING POINTS Think twice before giving your friend or family a dog or cat of any age – puppy, kitten, or otherwise – over the holidays. • While holiday cards are filled with images of irresistible puppies poking their heads out of stockings, the reality of introducing a puppy to your household over the holidays can be quite different • A puppy, dog, cat, or kitten is not a stuffed toy. It will not take kindly to being ignored once a newer, brighter toy is discovered • All companion animals need attention, discipline, health care, and a lifetime supply of love and commitment • Overexcited children may scare a puppy, dog, or cat, or worse, neglect it, especially after it chews up their holiday toys or has an accident on the rug • Cute puppies soon become full-size dogs. Remember an impulse gift over the holidays can last for 10 years or more • A dog will need training, food, shelter, medical care



Photo contributed

Alibi, or Allie, is an 8-year-old Belgian Malinois who was surrendered because she didn’t get along with another female dog in the home. Don’t let her age or her grey muzzle fool you; Allie is highly active and would thrive in a home that can give her plenty of stimulation and many games of fetch! She hasn’t been tested yet with other animals, but we believe she’d do best as the only pet. She’ll more than make up for it with her incredible love for human affection and loyalty! Allie is pictured with CGHS/SPCA Animal Care Technician/Cruelty Investigator Kyle Miller.

and exercise, exercise, exercise, and more training. Day-to-day management is the most important discussion of all • If you want to give someone a puppy, don’t have it be a surprise. Dog ownership is a big responsi-

bility. Owners must be prepared for the costs and time involved in owning a dog • It’s always best to allow the actual owners to pick out their own pets. The person taking care of the new addition for years to come needs to carefully consider adult dog size, disposition, appetite and grooming • Take your time choosing a dog. Puppies aren’t the only option. If you want a purebred, there are many great rescue organizations through which you can adopt adult purebred dogs, many of whom may already be housetrained or more. Deal with LOCAL shelters or LOCAL rescue organizations that you can trust for any dog adoption • Consider a gift that will help someone choose the right dog for his or her lifestyle. The AKC publishes “The Complete Dog Book” and “The Complete Dog Book for Kids.” Both make great gifts (and are easier to wrap than a wiggly puppy). You can also get photos and detailed information about different breeds of dogs by visiting the AKC Web site www.akc.org • Getting a dog from a responsible breed specialist may take more time than you think, depending on when the next litter is expected, but the wait will be worth it. Visit www.akc.org for specific puppy-buying tips and names of breeder referral contacts near you • Wrap up a box with some basic supplies such as a leash, water and food bowls to put under the tree and symbolize the dog to come. Make a box with bowls, litter box, litter, and

toys for the cat or kitten to come • Attending local dog shows and finding and talking with reputable breeders will help decide what breed is best for you. The AKC publishes several free brochures on being a responsible dog owner. All are available through the AKC Web site at www.akc.org • Keep in mind that an animal is for life — not just for the holidays • A fabulous feline will afford you much more flexibility and ease of management than a dog. Once you’ve shared a home with a cat, you’ll never be without one! ATTENTION CAT LOVERS...We have many gorgeous kittens for adoption... Feel free to call us with any questions at 518-828-6044 or visit our website at www.cghs.org. Our Food Bank is open to any from the public in need of pet food or for those wishing to donate food from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Spay/neuter clinics for cats are \$110 male or female, including a rabies vaccination and a 5-in-1 feline distemper combination vaccination. Nail clipping services are available every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the shelter for a donation of \$10 for cats and \$15 for dogs (currently prepaid only). Charlene Marchand is the Chairperson of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA Board of Directors. She may be contacted at cghsaaron@gmail.com.

Obituaries

Anthony J. Welcome (1948 - 2025)

VALATIE—Anthony J. “Tony” Welcome, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, educator and friend, peacefully passed away December 14, 2025, joining his parents, Rudolph J. Welcome and Ida (Belogi) Welcome, in the embrace of God. He was surrounded by his wife and his three loving children.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 51 years, Linda Ann (Caminiti) Welcome. Together, they raised three wonderful children: Jennifer Lynn (Jarrod) Beebe, Jaime Leigh (Thomas F.) Eastman, and Andrew Anthony (Melissa Call) Welcome. His legacy also lives on in his five cherished grandchildren: Evan Eastman, Harper Beebe and Madeline, Addison and Aidan Welcome, who brought immeasurable joy to his life.

Born in Cohoes, July 1,



Tony Welcome

1948, he was a proud graduate of Cohoes High School, class of 1966. He went on to earn his master’s degree in education and Certificate of Advanced Study from the University at Albany. His career was a testament to his passion for education and his dedication to the Ichabod Crane School District. Over the span of 50 years, he impacted countless lives—first as a teacher of fourth and fifth grade for 17 years, then as assistant principal of Martin Van Buren and Martin H.

Glynn schools. He served as principal of both Van Buren and Glynn schools for 14 years before becoming the principal of Ichabod Crane Primary School for the final 10 years of his professional career, retiring in 2006. After a brief retirement, he continued to serve his community by being an active member of the Ichabod Crane Board of Education for nine years, six of those years as president.

Outside of his professional life, he had many passions. A lifelong fan of the Baltimore Orioles and Indianapolis Colts, he was also an avid lover of Broadway shows. His love for theater took him to New York City to see a variety of performances, with three of his all-time favorites being “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” “Miss Saigon” and “Wicked.” His love for the

arts extended locally, as he was a season ticket holder at the Mac-Haydn Theatre, Capitol Repertory Theatre, and Schenectady Light Opera for many years. He also enjoyed bowling and was an accomplished league bowler in his younger years, boasting a 200 average.

His warmth, kindness and dedication to others will be sorely missed by all who knew him. He leaves behind a legacy of love, learning and community. His memory will continue to inspire those fortunate enough to have crossed his path.

A funeral service was held at St. John the Baptist Church, Valatie, December 22, 2025. Calling hours were at the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Valatie.

Janet S. Heald (1944 - 2025)

BALTIMORE, MD—Janet Shineman Heald, 81, passed away May 31, 2025.

She was raised in North Chatham and graduated from Ichabod Crane High School in the Class of 1962.

She went to Baltimore to attend Goucher College and remained there throughout her life. Her work career started at the Maryland State Lottery, where she helped develop the initial program. Her path continued to Monumental Life Insurance Company until her retirement after more than 25 years of service.

She was kind, thoughtful and generous.

Among her favorite things were the cultural offerings of Baltimore, a good conversation, fine food, music, reading, her beloved pets and Silver Lake in Harrisville, NH.

Her longtime companion, Dr.



Janet Heald

Peter L. Heymann, predeceased her.

She is survived by: her sister, Susan S. Johnston and her husband, Thomas H. Johnston III, of Keene, NH; Dr. Heymann’s sister, Esther Heymann and her husband, Benhardt Wainio, of Catonsville, MD; three nephews, Thomas Johnston and his children Owen and Grace of Oceanside, CA, Richard Johnston and children Max and Ella of Longmont, CO, Thomas Wainio of Raleigh, NC; a niece, Sarah Wainio of Manhattan, as well as many dear friends, all of whom deeply loved her and will miss her.

Laura Ponkos (1946 - 2025)

ANCRAM—Laura Ponkos, 79, of Ancram passed peacefully at home surrounded by her loved ones Wednesday, December 17.

Born in Bermuda, she spent the first few years of her life on the island before moving to New Jersey, where she was raised by her wonderful mother and grandmother. She grew up in the 1960s and was the quintessential flower child with a love for rock and roll.

She attended Newark State College, where she earned not only a teaching degree, but also new sisters by joining the Beta Delta Chi sorority. These friendships have lasted a lifetime, and her stories were full of antics at the beach and on ski weekends in the winter.

She met the love of her life during one of these ski weekends at Hunter Mountain. She and “Bob” shared more than 40 years together, turning a run-down shack into their dream home where they raised two wonderful children and many cats. They were the epitome of love and devotion.

She started her teaching career in Monclair, NJ, before moving to upstate New York, where she worked for more than 30 years in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Her dedication, love and empathy for students was evident in the hundreds of lives she touched.

In addition to teaching and raising two (sometimes three) children, she also developed a keen talent for rug hooking. She spent many long hours creating masterpieces with wool, for her



Laura Ponkos

home and loved ones, earning acclaim and recognition in a national rug hooking magazine and having her work exhibited in national shows.

After her husband’s passing, she kept herself busy by tutoring and volunteering in the local communities. She worked with Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors, helping students earn educational scholarships and helping to feed the local community. In addition, she tutored women in Hudson through Literacy Connections, helping them earn their citizenship and making lifelong friends.

She is survived by her children, Robert and Sarah.

Calling hours were held at the Peck and Peck Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22, Copake, December 22. A celebration of her life will be held for family and friends at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to: Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors, P.O. Box 97, Ancramdale 12502, <https://www.ancramneighbors.org/> or Literacy Connections (Columbia & Greene), Hudson Area Library, 51 North 5th Street, Hudson 12534, <https://hudsonarealibrary.org/programs/adult-literacy-partner-programs/>

Kerrin M. Strevell (1977 - 2025)

ALBANY—Kerrin Maria Strevell, 48, of Rensselaerville passed away December 13, 2025 at St. Peter’s Hospice Inn.

She was born in Troy to Gary and Kathleen (Stegville) Strevell, March 23, 1977.

She went to Ichabod Crane High School, graduating in 1995. She continued her studies at Central Connecticut State University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

She was most recently employed as senior manager, Software Engineering at Constant Contact.

She was quite athletic, excelling in volleyball, softball and basketball in her high school



Kerrin Strevell

years as well as finding time to play saxophone with the Ghent Band. She accepted a full basketball scholarship at Central Connecticut University.

In her later years, she continued to compete as a cyclist ultimately attaining CAT 1 Pro status. She competed in many races across the country

including the Women’s Tour of California for Team BMW, Tour of Dairylands, and many other high profile races. She was a two-time winner of the Tour of the Battenkill.

In May 2024 she had the opportunity to race in London, England, followed by the UCI Gran Fondo at Isle of Man which qualified her for the UCI Gran Fondo World Series in Denmark.

She is survived by: her parents, Gary and Kathleen; brother, Brandon and his wife Cheryl; nieces, Hannah and Juliet; best friend, Kevin Mosher; aunts, Greta Schindler, Carol Stegville, Diane (Joseph)

Blanchet; uncle, John Stegville (Wendi) and many cousins.

She now joins her brother, Michael, in Heaven.

Memorial donations in her name may be made to Columbia-Greene Humane Society.

Family extends their gratitude to St. Peter’s Hospital staff, especially Erika Buff, NP for their loving care and concern.

Friends called Saturday, December 20, 2025 at the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Valatie. Funeral services followed.

and a sister, Beverly Phelan.

A time for sharing memories and offering condolences will be held Sunday, December 28, 2025 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22, Copake. A memorial service begins at 2 p.m. Inurnment will take place privately in the Hillsdale Rural Cemetery at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hillsdale Food Pantry. For directions or to leave a message of condolence for the family visit www.peckandpeck.net

Lois E.P. Edelman (1931 - 2025)

HILLSDALE—Lois Elaine Phelan Edelman, 94, from Hillsdale passed away peacefully at home December 14, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

She was born February 3, 1931 in Warnerville. She was one of four children of the late Charles and Esther (Tingue) Phelan.

She and her late husband, Leland W. Edelman Sr., owned a small dairy farm, which she worked and ran in Hillsdale until 1968. She then worked at BD in Canaan, CT, for 25 years retiring in 1993. She also worked at the Hillsdale Food Pantry in the Hillsdale United



Lois Edelman

Methodist Church basement for 20 years and was also well-known for her homemade pies at the church bake sales. She also was a charter member of the Hillsdale Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary.

She is survived by: her four children, Sharon (Arthur Jr.) Simpson of Phoenix, AZ,

Leland W. Edelman Jr. (Mary Pollock), Sherry Eastman and Mark (Betsy) Edelman, all of Hillsdale; seven grandchildren, William Edelman from Richmond, MA, Arthur (Jen) Simpson III of Pelham, Jennifer (David) Hill of Canaan, CT, Jeremy Simpson of Scottsdale, AZ, Tina Farrance of Cazenovia, Rebecca (Wayne) Dibble of Chateaugay and Brian (Anita) Edelman of Hillsdale; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren and her sister, Mildred Phelan.

In addition to her husband, she was also predeceased by her brother, Donald C. Phelan

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Duane J. Hotaling (1935 - 2025)

NIVERVILLE—Duane “Dewey” J. Hotaling, 90, of Niverville passed away peacefully at his residence with his family at bedside, Saturday, December 20, 2025.

He was born June 30, 1935 in Hudson, to Duane B. and Frances Hotaling. He grew up in Kinderhook and graduated from Martin H. Glynn High School in Valatie in 1953.

He was employed for more than 35 years as a heating technician at Miller-Wilkins, Inc. in Valatie. During his time there, he formed many life-long relationships with his customers.

He was a very simple man, who was dedicated to his home and family. He enjoyed baseball, especially watching the LA Dodgers; in addition to everything outdoors during the summer months. He always looked forward to going camping, maintaining his garden, collecting antique tractors and attending tractor pull events, sailing, and most of all spending quality time with his family and friends. He was a life-long member of the Niverville Fire Department and a member of the Hudson Valley Old Time Power Association.

He is survived by: his son, Duane F. (Mary Anne) Hotaling of Niverville; daughter, Holly M. (Joseph) Carloti of Niverville; his two grandsons, Duane Anthony Hotaling of Nassau and Gary

Dewey Hotaling

(Jessica) Lynch, Jr. of NC; one great-granddaughter, Larissa (Benjamin) Huddleson of UT, and his furry best friend companion, Allis.

He was predeceased by: both of his parents; his wife, Arlene M. (Tator) Hotaling; son, Anthony E. Hotaling; stepson, Burton D. Pulver and sister, Marcella F. Stupplebeen.

Callers are welcome at the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Route 9, Valatie, Monday, December 29, 2025, 10:30 a.m., with a service to follow at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Nick Becker officiating. Interment will follow at the Woodlawn Cemetery, Valatie.

His family extends heartfelt thanks to the compassionate staff at Community Hospice of Columbia/Greene for their extraordinary care and support.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Community Hospice of Columbia/Greene, 47 Liberty Street, Catskill 12414.

Obituaries

Marie D.M. Bull (1932 - 2025)

CHATHAM—Marie D. (Manderino) Bull, a cherished mother, grandmother, wife and friend, died December 13, 2025.

She was born June 1, 1932 in New York City.

In 1952, she married William Bull, and together they raised six children. Their family relocated to Chatham in 1971.

She was predeceased by: her husband, William Bull; her sons, Edward and Thomas; and her grandson, Charles H. Lotz.

Dorothy A. Marchetto (1934 - 2025)

ALBANY—Dorothy A. Marchetto passed away December 18, 2025 at Albany Medical Center with her family by her side. Born October 12, 1934 in Austerlitz, she was the daughter of the late Norman and Grace Perry Anderson.

She attended Chatham Schools and along with her husband she built and operated Woodland Hills Campground in Austerlitz from 1969 to 1983.

She enjoyed being an artist, loved gardening, wood-working, tag sailing and being with family. She lived every day to the fullest.

She is survived by: her children, Diane (Michael) Faucher of Pittsfield, MA, Joseph Marchetto Jr. (Stephen O'Reilly) of

She is survived by: her children, Donna Sikoski (Joe), Deborah Lotz (Charlie), Arthur Loughman-Bull (Maura), Cindy Nack, and her sister, Lucille Santa Maria; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild. Calling hours will be held Wednesday, December 24, 2025 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at French Gifford, Preiter and Blas Funeral Home, 25 Railroad Avenue, Chatham. Condolences may be conveyed at frenchblasl.com.

Hudson, Kevin (Karen) Marchetto of Kinderhook and Suzanne (Michael) Gardella of Canaan; grandchildren, Sarah, Michelle, Craig, Scott, Logan, Kristine, Jennifer, Michael; eight great-grandchildren and her beloved dog, Buddy.

She was predeceased by: her husband, Joseph J. Marchetto Sr.; sisters, Norma (Butch) Seddon and Janice Bartku and daughter-in-law, Heather Marchetto.

A graveside service at the Austerlitz Cemetery was held December 22, 2025.

In lieu of flowers contributions in her name may be made to Saint Jude Hospital, www.stjude.org. or the Berkshire Humane Society. Condolences may be conveyed at frenchblasl.com.

Joyce R. Meservey (1946 - 2025)

ALBANY—Joyce Rosalind Meservey, 79, of Valatie peacefully passed away December 14 at Albany Medical Center surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

She was born in Catskill to Willsie C. Scott and Ella Coons, November 30, 1946. She attended Cossackie-Athens High School and graduated 1964. She went on to earn a secretarial degree and worked as a secretary for the New York State Attorney General's office for 40 years. She spent many years in Cossackie as a caregiver to her parents and then her sister and niece. After their passing she moved to Valatie to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. In Valatie, she became an active member of the Tri Village Senior Citizens Club. She worked for years as their trip coordinator and then vice president. In November she was elected president of the organization. This year she was selected to be Columbia County's NYS Office for the Aging Senior Volunteer of the Year for her work in the group. In addition to her work with the seniors, she volunteered with the Palmer Engine and Hose Company Ladies Auxiliary, acting as their secretary.

She is survived by: her



Joyce Meservey

children, Tanya (Peter) Hunter of Kinderhook and Scott (Karin) Weis of Balston Spa; six grandchildren, Ashlyn, George, Robert, Jacqueline and Cassie Hunter and Morgan Weis. She was preceded in death by her parents, Willsie and Ella, as well as her sister, Cheryl Riley and her dog, Milo.

Donations in her memory may be made to Everlasting Hope Animal Rescue, 180 Prach Road, Hillsdale 12529. Her family extends deepest gratitude to Everlasting Hope for giving her her beloved dog, Milo, who she had the honor of doting on for the last decade of her life.

A funeral service will be held at Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Valatie, December 23 at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Cossackie. Visitation will be held at the funeral home, December 23 from noon to 2 p.m.

Roberta L.M. Shields (1951 - 2025)

STUYVESANT—Roberta L. McMann Shields, 74, of Stuyvesant passed away peacefully at home December 18, 2025. Born in Hudson, she was the daughter of Robert McMann and Druscilla Huyck.

She worked for many years as a private-duty home health aide and was known for her caring and compassionate nature. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Shields Sr.

She is survived by: her son, Scott Folsmbee; her cherished niece, Jennifer McMann; a dear friend and aunt, Dorothy Praga; her cousin, Camille Praga;



Roberta Shields

longtime friends, Lorraine Rizzi, Debbie Keil and Rosa Pfeil; along with other family members and friends who loved her deeply.

Arrangements are with the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Valatie.

Mary A.R. Geiger (1944 - 2025)



Mary Geiger

ceded in death by her sister, Janet Mercilliot.

She was born in Monticello, to Leonard Reynolds and Mildred Reynolds, January 7, 1944. She went to high school in South Fallsburg and went on to attend Orange County Community College. She worked as a court clerk in South Fallsburg, as an office manager at the Columbia County Public Defenders Office, and as an investigator for Columbia County Social Services. Over the years, she enjoyed all her time at each of

her two camps, the first in Piesco and the second at Northwoods Lodge in Speculator with all her camp-friends. She loved everything about Christmastime including masterful cookie baking and every box of her Christmas decorations. She was a serious fisherwoman on the water with her fisherman husband, and carefully tended to her black-eyed Susans and daisies. She was a captain and EMT of the Loch Sheldrake Ambulance Core and president of the ladies auxiliary at both the Loch Sheldrake Fire Department and Kinderhook Elks Lodge.

Her warmth, kindness, and dedication to her family and others will be missed deeply by all who knew her. She filled the lives of her loved ones with sunshine, happiness and the most

beautiful flowers. She leaves behind a legacy of love, community, and family. "Her memory will continue to live in our hearts forever."

Visitation will be at Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Valatie, Friday, December 26, 2025 from 9 to 11 a.m. followed by a service at 11 a.m. with Father Steve Matthews of the Catholic Community of Northern Columbia County officiating. Burial will follow at St. John the Baptist Cemetery, 1025 Kinderhook Street, Valatie.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Peter's Hospital Foundation, www.givetost-peters.org/ways-to-give/memorial-tribute-gifts/, to support others living with dementia and their families.

Virginia H. Tipple (1941 - 2025)

She always put others' needs before her own. At times, she had two or three jobs at once to provide for her family. Sitting idle was something she did not do, she was always cooking, cleaning working and doing something for anyone and everyone. When she wasn't working, she enjoyed reading, travel, watching soap operas, and an occasional casino trip. She loved to knit blankets

and scarves to give to family and friends.

She is survived by: her husband, Lloyd Tipple; son, Guy Baldwin; daughter, Serina Jorgensen; stepdaughter, Lisa Coons; stepson, James R. Tipple; grandchildren, Cole Yuhas, Timothy Baldwin and Gina Stickle; great-grandchildren, Layden, Hunter, Tyrion, Athena and Greyson; her sisters, Janice Mayer and Donna Giordon;

brother, Bradley Guy; several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her son, Billy Baldwin; sisters, Arlene Johnson and Linda Schriner.

Visitation at the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home, Hudson, will be held Sunday, December 28, 1-3 p.m., followed by funeral prayers at 3 p.m.

Salvatore A. D'Amico (1937 - 2025)



Sal D'Amico

along with several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers, James and Dominic Fuschetti, Angelo

and Michael D'Amico, along with sisters, Grace Ferranti, Josephine Casciello and Lucy Fusco.

"Sal" was a devoted parishioner of Holy Trinity Parish/St. Mary's Church. He was the lead usher for Saturday evening Mass and worked tirelessly for the Christian Service Committee. He always had a smile, and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation hours at the

Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home were held December 22. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 23 from Holy Trinity St. Mary's Parish in Hudson. Entombment will follow in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Maspeth.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions made to St. Mary's Church Rectory Heating Project would be greatly appreciated.

Mary J.S. Ross (1928 - 2025)



June Ross

for college at age 16 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

She married Andrew Sharp Ross, March 18, 1951. She qualified for a private pilot's license. She raised five children, Dorothy, Eric, Daniel, Marcia and Alan. She earned a master's degree in education and taught pre-school through second grade

for 11 years in the Beacon City School District, Beacon and the Mountain Road School, New Lebanon.

She was a member of the Sufi Order International. She was a graduate of a four-year program of Suluk Academy and was a Golden Herald of the Knighthood of Purity of the Inayati Order. She corresponded with more than 100 prisoners, as well as with family and friends. She loved music, and sang and played the piano, autoharp, ukelele and accordion. She traveled to all 50 states and to several countries, including Ireland and India.

In her later years she walked 10,000 steps a day

with her walker at home. She was actively involved with the Stephentown Federated Church and the New Lebanon Book Club until her final illness. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and family.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, December 27, 2025 at the Stephentown Federated Church, 1513 Garfield Nassau Road, Stephentown. Everyone is warmly invited to participate.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family, online at: SimpleChoicesCremation.com

Paul Schreijack (1944 - 2025)



Paul Schreijack

Milton Caterpillar in Menands as a dispatcher-clerk and warranty coordinator.

He was a past member of the North Chatham

Volunteer Fire Department. He will be missed as an avid gardener, cook, deep sea fisherman and neighbor, always willing to lend a hand.

He is survived by: his wife, Brenda Gifford Schreijack; three children, Sue (Joe) Pulver, Jennie and Eric (Kate) Schreijack; six grandchildren, Alexander (Rachel) Pulver, Anna, Claire and Kendra Pulver, Charlie and Will Schreijack and two great-granddaughters, Blake and Remi Pulver.

He has donated his body to medical research and will be interred at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery with military honors.

Donations in his memory may be made to The Community Hospice Foundation, Gift Processing, 310 South Manning Boulevard, Albany 12208. Arrangements were with the Thomas P. Mooney Funeral Home LLC, Nassau.

Public Notices

COLUMBIA COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
OFFICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING
AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION

COMBINED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PERMIT CONDITIONS, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS, AND COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUES DETERMINATION PROCEDURE

Applicant:
Hecate Energy Columbia County 1, LLC
621 W. Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60661
Attn: Matthew Levine
(312) 340-5603
Email: mlevine@hecateenergy.com

Facility Location: Town of Copake, Columbia County

Applicant's Attorney:
Noah Shaw, Esq.
Foley Hoag LLP
1301 Avenue of the Americas, 25th Floor
New York, NY 10019
(518) 226-9602
Email: ncshaw@foleyhoag.com

ORES DMM Matter No.: 24-03041

Facility Description: Applicant applied to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (Office or ORES) for a permit pursuant to Public Service Law article VIII to construct and operate a 42-megawatt (MW) solar energy facility known as the Shepherd's Run Solar Farm located in the Town of Copake, Columbia County. The facility would include, but is not limited to, photovoltaic ("PV") solar arrays; inverters; security fencing; access roads; a substation; and a point of interconnection ("POI") with the Craryville 115 kilovolt (kV) substation owned by New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG).

Applicant filed the application with the Office on December 23, 2024. A notice of complete application was issued on September 19, 2025 (see <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project Permit Application Number 24-03041).

ORES staff published draft permit conditions on November 18, 2025. The draft permit conditions may be accessed at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project Permit Application Number 24-03041.

ORES Staff Position: On issuing the draft permit conditions, ORES staff takes the position that the proposed facility, together with the uniform and site-specific standards and conditions contained in the draft permit, would comply with applicable laws and regulations. ORES staff recommends that the Office elect not to apply, in whole or in part, any local law or ordinance that as applied to the facility is unreasonably burdensome in view of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act targets and the environmental benefits of the proposed facility.

In-Person Public Comment Hearings: Public comment hearings pursuant to 16 NYCRR part 1100 to hear and receive unsworn comments from the public will be held at before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) in-person at **Town of Copake Town Hall, 230 Mountain View Road, Copake, NY 12516** on following dates and times:

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM, and

Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM.
In addition to the four in-person hearings, virtual public comment hearings are scheduled for 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. For information about how to register for and attend the virtual public comment hearings, please see the notice of virtual public comment hearings posted at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-application>, click on Project DMM Matter Number 24-03041.

All persons, organizations, corporations, or government agencies who may be affected by the facility are invited to attend the hearings and comment on the application and the draft permit conditions. The hearings will continue until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangement has been made to include their comments in the record. Lengthy comments will not be accepted and instead should be submitted in writing. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written comments. To ensure that all interested persons have an opportunity to speak, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) may limit the time available for oral comments to three (3) minutes per person. It is not necessary to repeat oral comments at each of the four hearing sessions. The ALJ will give priority to persons who have not spoken at a prior session to assure that all interested persons are heard. The public comment hearing will be transcribed for inclusion in the administrative record.

The hearing location is reasonably accessible to persons with a mobility impairment. Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should call the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Management Office at (518) 473-9463 as soon as possible. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711. Individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English are encouraged to call the Department at (800) 342-3377 for free language assistance services.

In the event the in-person public comment hearing needs to be canceled, rescheduled, postponed, or conducted virtually, notification of any change will be available at the ORES website at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores>.

Written Public Comments: Written comments concerning the application and the draft permit conditions must be filed with ORES by **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2026**. Persons filing written comments are strongly encouraged to post their comments on the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document and Matter Management (DMM) system. To post a comment, go to <https://dps.ny.gov/ores>, click on "ORES Permit Applications," click on Project Permit Application Number 24-03041, and click on "Post Comments" in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

Written comments may also be emailed to ORES at ores.comments@dps.ny.gov or mailed to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, Empire State Plaza, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242. Please reference Project Permit Application Number 24-03041. Written comments will be considered equally with oral statements delivered at the public comment hearing, provided they are postmarked by **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**, or e-mailed or posted on DMM by 5:00 p.m. on that date.

Please take notice that written public comments will be publicly posted on DMM. ORES reserves the right not to post duplicate or repeat comments. In addition, ORES reserves the right to remove, without notice, comments containing any defamatory, infringing, obscene, indecent, discriminatory, confidential, or unlawful material or information of any kind.

Issues Determination Procedure: Pursuant to 16 NYCRR 1100-8.3(b), a pre-adjudicatory issues determination procedure will be conducted by the assigned ALJ. The procedure will be conducted solely on papers and briefing unless the ALJ, in the judge's sole discretion, determines that oral argument is necessary. The purpose of the issues conference is to determine party status for any person or organization that has properly filed a petition (as indicated below), and to narrow and define those issues, if any, that will require adjudication in this matter. Participation in the issues determination procedure is limited to ORES staff, applicant, and those persons or organizations requesting party status.

Filing for Party Status and Proposed Issues: Persons seeking to participate in the issues determination procedure and any subsequent adjudicatory hearing must register on DMM and file a written petition explaining whether their request is for full party status or amicus status. For the required contents of petitions for full party status, see 16 NYCRR 1100-8.4(c)(1) and (2). To determine whether an issue is substantive and significant, see 16 NYCRR 1100-8.3(c)(2) and (3). For the required contents of a petition seeking amicus status, see 16 NYCRR 1100-8.4(c)(1) and (3). Petitioners may also file written briefs making arguments in support of their petitions.

All petitions requesting party status and briefs in support must be E-Filed on DMM no later than **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026**. Instructions for registering in DMM and E-Filing documents may be found at: <https://dps.ny.gov/dmm-help-electronic-filing-registration-instructions>.

Address all petitions to Maureen F. Leary, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Hearings and Alternative Dispute Resolution, New York State Department of Public Service, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York, 12223, email: maureen.leary@dps.ny.gov.

At the same time petitions and briefs are E-Filed on DMM, a copy of all papers must be emailed to the ALJ at the email address above, and furnished to applicant Hecate Energy Columbia County 1, LLC's attorney, Noah Shaw, Esq., Foley Hoag LLP, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 25th Floor, New York, NY 10019, (518) 226-9602, ncshaw@foleyhoag.com; and to ORES at the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, Empire State Plaza, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242, (518) 473-4590, ores.hearings@dps.ny.gov. Service of petitions and briefs by email is authorized provided they are received by all of the above parties and the ALJ by the 4:00 p.m. deadline.

Any questions about filing requirements or other hearing procedures may be addressed to Chief ALJ James T. McClymonds by telephone at (518) 473-4583. ORES's regulations may be found at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-regulatory-documents>.

Statement of Compliance with Local Laws and Regulations: Any municipality, political subdivision or an agency thereof that received notice of the filing of the application pursuant to 16 NYCRR 1100-1.6(a) must file a statement indicating whether the proposed facility is designed to be sited, constructed and operated in compliance with applicable local laws and regulations in effect as of December 23, 2024, if any, concerning the environment, or public health and safety. The statement must be filed and served by **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026**, in the same manner as petitions for party status. **Any municipality, political subdivision, or an agency thereof that proposes to adjudicate any issues related to a facility's compliance with local laws and regulations must file a petition for party status as provided for in 16 NYCRR 1100-8.4(c) and include the statement of compliance with local laws and regulations.**

Applicant Statement of Issues: No later than **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026**, applicant shall file and serve on ORES staff and the ALJ a statement of issues applicant intends to raise with respect to any determination of the Office, and briefing in support. Applicant shall serve the statement of issues and brief on persons filing petitions for party status within five (5) days of such filing. For the required contents of an applicant's statement of issues, see 16 NYCRR 1100-8.4(b)(1).

Responsive Briefing and Response to Comments: No later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, ORES staff may file and serve a response to any petitions for party status, any statement of issues by applicant, and the statement of compliance with local laws and regulations. By the same deadline, applicant may file and serve a response to any petition for party status or statement of compliance with local laws and regulations. In addition, the applicant shall file and serve on ORES staff a response to public comments received during the public comment period, including any supplemental information.

Document Availability: Copies of all application materials and draft permit conditions are available for inspection at the Office's Albany office during normal business hours. Contact the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, New York State Department of Public Service, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, 14th Floor, Albany, NY 12223-1350, (518) 473-4590, ores.hearings@dps.ny.gov. Electronic copies are available at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project Permit Application Number 24-03041.

Copies of all application materials are also available at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 State Route 22, Hillsdale, NY 12529.

Statutory and Regulatory Provisions: The application is being processed and this proceeding is being conducted according to Public Service Law article VIII and 16 NYCRR part 1100.

James T. McClymonds
Chief Administrative Law Judge for Article VIII Siting

November 18, 2025
Albany, New York

COLUMBIA COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING
AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS

Applicant:
Hecate Energy Columbia County 1, LLC
621 W. Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60661
Attn: Matthew Levine
(312) 340-5603
Email: mlevine@hecateenergy.com

Facility Location: Town of Copake, Columbia County

Applicant's Attorney:
Noah Shaw, Esq.
Foley Hoag LLP
1301 Avenue of the Americas, 25th Floor
New York, NY 10019
(518) 226-9602
Email: ncshaw@foleyhoag.com

ORES DMM Matter No.: 24-03041

Facility Description: Applicant applied to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (Office or ORES) for a permit pursuant to Public Service Law article VIII to construct and operate a 42-megawatt (MW) solar energy facility known as the Shepherd's Run Solar Farm located in the Town of Copake, Columbia County. The facility would include, but is not limited to, photovoltaic ("PV") solar arrays; inverters; security fencing; access roads; a substation; and a point of interconnection ("POI") with the Craryville 115 kilovolt (kV) substation owned by New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG).

Applicant filed the application with the Office on December 23, 2024. A notice of complete application was issued on September 19, 2025 (see <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project DMM Matter Number 24-03041).

ORES staff published draft permit conditions on November 18, 2025. The draft permit conditions may be accessed at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project DMM Matter Number 24-03041.

ORES Staff Position: On issuing the draft permit conditions, ORES staff takes the position that the proposed facility, together with the uniform and site-specific standards and conditions contained in the draft permit condition, would comply with applicable laws and regulations. ORES staff recommends that the Office elect not to apply, in whole or in part, any local law or ordinance that as applied to the facility is unreasonably burdensome in view of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act targets and the environmental benefits of the proposed facility.

Virtual Public Comment Hearings: Public comment hearings pursuant to 16 NYCRR part 1100 to hear and receive unsworn comments from the public will be held before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM. The hearings are being conducted electronically through the Webex electronic webinar platform and by telephone.**

In addition to the two virtual hearings, four in-person public comment hearings are also scheduled for 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, and Thursday, January 22, 2026. In addition, a written public comment period and the issues determination procedure on the application and draft permit conditions have been initiated for the facility. For information about how to attend the in-person public comment hearings, submit written comments, and participate in the issues conference and any adjudicatory proceedings conducted on the application, please see the combined notice of availability of draft permit conditions, public comment period and in-person public comment hearings, and commencement of issues determination procedure posted at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project DMM Matter Number 24-03041.

All persons, organizations, corporations, or government agencies who may be affected by the facility are invited to attend the hearings and comment on the application and the draft permit conditions. Instructions on how to attend the hearing electronically or by telephone are provided below. Lengthy comments will not be accepted and instead should be submitted in writing. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written comments. To ensure that all interested persons have an opportunity to speak, the ALJ may limit the time available for oral comments to three (3) minutes per person. It is not necessary to repeat oral comments at each of the hearing sessions. The ALJ will give priority to persons who have not spoken at a prior in-person or virtual session to assure that all interested persons are heard. The public comment hearings will be transcribed for inclusion in the administrative record.

In the event the virtual public comment hearing needs to be canceled, rescheduled, or postponed, notification of any change will be available at the ORES website at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores>.

Document Availability: Copies of all application materials and draft permit conditions are available for inspection from the Office's Albany office during normal business hours. Contact the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, New York State Department of Public Service, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3, 14th Floor, Albany, NY 12223-1350, (518) 473-4590, ores.hearings@dps.ny.gov. Electronic copies are available at <https://dps.ny.gov/ores-permit-applications>, click on Project Permit Application Number 24-03041.

Copies of all application materials are also available at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 State Route 22, Hillsdale, NY 12529.

Statutory and Regulatory Provisions: The application is being processed and this proceeding is being conducted according to Public Service Law article VIII and 16 NYCRR part 1100. Instructions for Attending the Virtual Public Comment Hearings:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a virtual public comment hearing will be held before the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) on:

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 2026
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
Electronic Access: meetny-gov.webex.com
Event Number: 2823 585 8747
Password: Jan27-2pm
Phone-Only Access: 1-929-251-9612
Access Code: 2823 585 8747
Password: 52627027

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 2026
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
Electronic Access: meetny-gov.webex.com
Event Number: 2819 975 2820
Password: Jan27-6pm
Phone-Only Access: 1-929-251-9612
Access Code: 2819 975 2820
Password: 52627067

Any person wishing to provide a public statement on the record during the virtual public statement hearings must register to do so by 12 noon on Monday, January 26, 2026, in accordance with the instructions set forth below.

To register and provide a statement electronically:

This option is for participants who would like to provide a statement and who will log in to a hearing electronically. Participants must register by the date indicated above by visiting the Department website at <https://dps.ny.gov/calendar>, clicking on the "View DPS Calendar Listings" button under "Calendars" section, scrolling to and clicking on the Hecate Energy Columbia County 1, LLC (Shepherd's Run Solar) Virtual Public Comment Hearings for the particular hearing date, clicking the "Register" button, and providing all requested information. After registration is complete, registrants will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to join the hearing.

On the day of the hearing, when logging in to participate in the virtual hearing on the appropriate date and time, participants will be asked to "select audio system." It is recommended that participants opt to have the system "call me" or "call using computer." The "call me" option will require that participants enter their phone numbers.

To register and provide a statement by phone:

This option is for participants who are not able to log in to a virtual public comment hearing electronically. Call-in participants wishing to make a statement at a virtual public comment hearing must register to do so by the date indicated above by calling 1-800-342-3330, following the prompts to the appropriate hearing, and then providing the following information: first name and last name, address, and phone number.

On the day and time of the virtual public statement hearing, call-in registrants must dial 1-929- 251-9612 and enter the access code and phone-in password listed above.

All participants will be muted upon entry into the virtual public comment hearing. The ALJ will call upon each person who has registered to make a statement and will continue each hearing until everyone who has registered to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements to submit comments into the record have been made. Reasonable time limits may be set for each speaker as necessary to afford all attendees an opportunity to be heard. It is recommended that lengthy comments be submitted in writing and summarized for oral presentation. A verbatim transcript of each public comment hearing will be made for inclusion in the record of these proceedings.

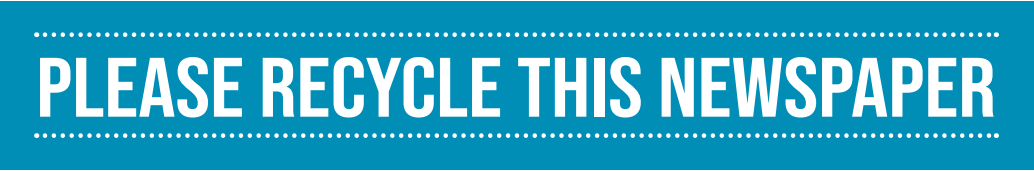
To listen to the hearings without making a statement:

Any interested person may listen to the hearings by calling 1-929-251-9612 and entering the appropriate access code and phone-in password listed above.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should call the Department's Human Resources Management Office at 1-518-473-9463 as soon as possible. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711. Persons with difficulty understanding or reading English are encouraged to call the Department at 1-800- 342-3377 or email languageaccess@dps.ny.gov for free language assistance services regarding this Notice. To request a translator or sign language interpreter so that you can participate at a specific public statement hearing, please contact the Department at least 10 days before the hearing by calling 1-800-342-3377 or emailing your request to languageaccess@dps.ny.gov.

James T. McClymonds
Chief Administrative Law Judge for Article VIII Siting

November 18, 2025
Albany, New York



Public Notices

COLUMBIA COUNTY
BID NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received as set forth in instructions to bidders until 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, January 08, 2026 at the NYSDOT, Office of Contract Management, 50 Wolf Rd, 1st Floor, Suite 1CM, Albany, NY 12232 and will be publicly opened and read. Bids may also be submitted via the internet using www.bidx.com. A certified cashier's check payable to the NYSDOT for the sum specified in the proposal or a bid bond, form CONR 391, representing 5% of the bid total, must accompany each bid. NYSDOT reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Electronic documents and Amendments are posted to www.dot.ny.gov/doing-business/opportunities/const-notices. The Contractor is responsible for ensuring that all Amendments are incorporated into its bid. To receive notification of Amendments via e-mail you must submit a request to be placed on the Planholders List at www.dot.ny.gov/doing-business/opportunities/const-planholder. Amendments may have been issued prior to your placement on the Planholders list.

NYS Finance Law restricts communication with NYSDOT on procurements and contact can only be made with designated persons. Contact with non-designated persons or other involved Agencies will be considered a serious matter and may result in disqualification. Contact Robert Kitchen (518)457-2124.

Contracts with 0% Goals are generally single operation contracts, where subcontracting is not expected, and may present direct bidding opportunities for Small Business Firms, including, but not limited to D/M/WBE's and SDVOBs.

The New York State Department of Transportation, in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation and Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title IV Program and Related Statutes, as amended, issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all who respond to a written Department solicitation, request for proposal or invitation for bid that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap and income status in consideration for an award.

BIDDERS SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT AWARD OF THESE CONTRACTS MAY BE CONTINGENT UPON THE PASSAGE OF A BUDGET APPROPRIATION BILL BY THE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Please call (518)457-2124 if a reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in the letting.

Region 08: New York State Department of Transportation

4 Burnett Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY, 12603

D265617, PIN 881611, Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Ulster, Westchester Cos., GEOTECH SOIL SUBSURFACE EXPLORATIONS REQUIREMENTS - Various Locations., Bid Deposit: 5% of Bid (~\$75,000.00), Goals: MBE: 4.00%, WBE: 8.00%, SDVOB: 0.00%

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

The name of the LLC is LBAB2025, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 18, 2025. New York office location: 461 Route 19, Town of Livingston, County of Columbia and the State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: LBAB2025, LLC; 461 Route 19, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose/ Character of business: Any lawful business purpose permitted under the New York Limited Liability Company Law. This notification is made pursuant to Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

MCD INSIGHTS LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/19/25. Office in Columbia Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 3822 State Route 203, Valatie, NY 12184, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of Jennifer Mattler Mental Health Counseling, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/05/2025. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as an agent of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Secretary of State: 71 Royal Road, Stuyvesant, New York 12173. 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
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Vellum House Holdings LLC
Vellum House Holdings LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State ("NYDOS") on **11/22/2025**. Office location: **Columbia County, New York**. NYDOS has been designated as agent for service of process and shall mail such process to: **45 James St Hudson, NY 12534**. Purpose: To engage in **any lawful act or activity** for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of New York.

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

The name of the LLC is REAP25 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 14, 2025. New York office location: 5384 Route 9H/23, Town of Livingston, County of Columbia and the State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: REAP25 LLC; 5384 Route 9H/23, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose/ Character of business: Any lawful business purpose permitted under the New York Limited Liability Company Law. This notification is made pursuant to Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

ROWEY FARM HOLDING LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/12/2025. Office loc: Columbia County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Amanda N. Miller, 6370 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

The name of the LLC is TAURCODE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 17, 2025. New York office location: 138 Scudderhook Road, Town of Livingston, County of Columbia and the State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: TAURCODE LLC; 138 Scudderhook Road, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose/ Character of business: Any lawful business purpose permitted under the New York Limited Liability Company Law. This notification is made pursuant to Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of EVIE FREE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/2025. 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 EVIE FREE, LLC: 3600 Euclid Ave., Dallas, TX 75205. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

GOFRAN GROUP LLC Arts of Org. filed SSNY 11/14/2025 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

SAVIOUR AND SHINE LLC Arts of Org. filed SSNY 11/7/2025 Columbia Co. SSNY design agent for process & shall mail to 41 STATE ST, # 112, ALBANY, NY, 12207 General Purpose

COLUMBIA COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

1. Name of LLC: *Forge & Fabrication Studios*
2. Date of Formation: *November 21, 2025*
3. County in New York: *Columbia County*
4. Secretary of State as Agent: *The Secretary of State of New York has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process is: 1740 Route 23, Apartment C, Craryville, NY 12521*
5. Purpose: *The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful business activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under New York law.*

COLUMBIA COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

Town of Kinderhook
Zoning Board of
Appeals

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Kinderhook Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 250-53 of the Code of the Town of Kinderhook on the following application(s):

Carolina Eastern-Vail Inc, 831 Route 28, Niverville, NY, tax parcel ID: 23.20-1-32.3, has submitted an application to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance for relief from the lot coverage requirements as stipulated in the Density Control Schedule of the The Code of the Town of Kinderhook.

Said hearing(s) to be held on the **8th day of January, 2026, at 7:00PM**, at the Kinderhook Town Hall, 3211 Church Street, Valatie, NY at which time all interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard. Additional information regarding this application can be obtained by contacting the Zoning Board Secretary or the Town Building Department. By Order of the Board. Respectfully submitted, Nataly D. Jones, Secretary.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSAL

The Taconic Hills Central School District is seeking Requests for Proposals for Construction Management Services for a proposed capital construction project, with bidding anticipated in Spring 2026, and a contract award period and construction immediately following. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on January 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. RFPs must be submitted no later than 1:00 p.m. on January 21, 2026. For more information, or to request a bid packet, please contact (518) 325-2891 or email amiller1@taconichills.k12.ny.us.

Alexsis Miller
District Clerk
December 25, 2025

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

The name of the LLC is Bellspond Court LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 14, 2025. New York office location: 5384 Route 9H & 23, Town of Livingston, County of Columbia and the State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: Bellspond Court LLC; 5384 Route 9H & 23, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose/ Character of business: Any lawful business purpose permitted under the New York Limited Liability Company Law. This notification is made pursuant to Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
QUALIFICATION OF
A LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Qualification of Holmes Property Services LLC. Certificate of Authority filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/16/2025. Office location: Columbia County. Limited Liability Company (LLC) formed on 03/14/2025. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Northwest Registered Agent: 82 Wendell Ave, Suite 100, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Articles of Organization originally filed with Secretary of State (SOS). 37 Stockbridge Rd, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of Asal Joon LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/25/2025. 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 The LLC: 16 Jefferson Drive, Copake, NY 10950. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

CHUKSKY LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/17/2025. Office loc: Columbia County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Nolan Robinson, Esq., PO Box 231, Kinderhook, NY 12106. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Name: Barn 46 LLC
Date of Formation: December 2025
County: Columbia County
LLC Address: 504 County Route 46, Stuyvesant NY 12173
Registered Agent: Dacia Faison-Roe, 504 County Route 46, Stuyvesant NY 12173 Description: Event Planning & Venue



COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

EJB UPSTATE LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/21/25. Office in Columbia Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 395 Highland Rd., Old Chatham, NY 12136, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of 42 Golf Course LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/01/2025. 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 Kristal Heinz, Esq.: 551 Warren Street, Suite 3F, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

GREENE COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of G&H PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/16/2025. Office location: Greene County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Michael Goldsborough : gandhph@gmail.com. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of Bryant Fitness LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/17/2025. 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 Juanita Bryant: juanitabryant16@gmail.com. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of INDUSTRIAL COMPUTE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/31/2025. 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 Kyle W Patzwahl Law PLLC: One Hudson City Centre, Suite 100, Hudson, New York, 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

The name of the LLC is Diesel and Dozer LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 19, 2025. New York office location: 70 Deer Haven Road, Town of Livingston, County of Columbia and the State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/ her is: Diesel and Dozer LLC; 70 Deer Haven Road, Elizaville, New York 12523. Purpose/ Character of business: Any lawful business purpose permitted under the New York Limited Liability Company Law. This notification is made pursuant to Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law.



Morris Memorial mural project

Photos by David Lee

CHATHAM — The murals, created by children in the Morris Memorial after school program and Super Stories, were recently installed in both the upstairs and downstairs

windows surrounding the gymnasium, resulting in a bright and fun atmosphere for the hundreds of students and community members using the facility.

The murals have been created with and for the children of the community in loving memory of Anita Fiorillo — a devoted board member, friend, and champion of the arts.



Students at work.



Grace Lang (center), of Super Stories, works with the young artists upstairs at the Morris.



After the panels were installed the kids posed for a picture in the gym.

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