



HUDSON VALLEY NEWS

Amenia & Wassaic

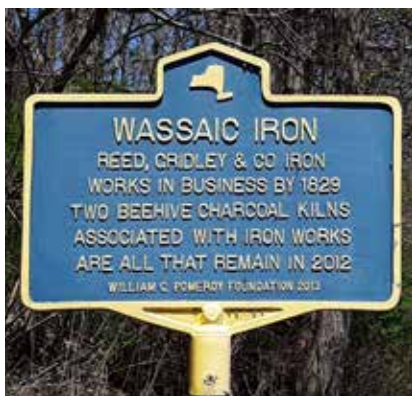
APRIL 7 - 13, 2021

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS FROM DUTCHESS COUNTY AND BEYOND

INSIDE: DOMESTIC TRAVEL QUARANTINE NO LONGER REQUIRED • SOROS GIVES \$500 MILLION TO BARD PRICE: \$2.00



FRANK SPANO'S SPECTACULAR RESTORATION PAGE 10



THE MAN WHO BUILT WASSAIC PAGE 4



UNIQUE PONY PROGRAM FOR KIDS PAGE 8

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER: FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 8

Back to the 60s...

FOUR BROTHERS CONTINUE TO INNOVATE



BY PAULA E. YOUNG

Four Brothers Drive-In Restaurant in Amenia. Photo submitted.

As with most classic stories, this one began once upon a time, in a small village along the ancient mountainous peninsula of Peloponnese, Greece. It was 1970. Billy Stefanopoulos, young and ready for adventure, decided to travel to America to visit his newly married sister Maria, who had recently immigrated to the United States with her husband John Nicholas and settled in Waterbury,

Connecticut. In letters to her family back in Greece, Maria spoke of great opportunity in her new homeland, so, suitcase in hand, Billy made the journey and was soon followed by his brothers Peter, George and Nick.

John Nicholas worked in the pizza business, and as the newly arrived four brothers needed to find work, they all joined in,

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Check out photos from the Easter Egg Hunt in Amenia....

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HUDSON VALLEY NEWS

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENTS

Kingston man arrested on drug charges

A Kingston man has been committed to the Ulster County Jail on \$50,000 cash bail following his arrest on Thursday, April 1.

Kingston detectives located Leon Peters, 35, on Broadway at Liberty Street around 11:30 a.m. He was wanted on a felony warrant for criminal possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell. During the arrest, Peters was found in possession of a .380 handgun. He fought with officers and attempted to flee, but was taken into custody without injuries to anyone.

In addition to the drug charges, he was booked on felony criminal possession of a loaded firearm and the misdemeanor of resisting arrest.

21-year-old arrested for attempted murder

A 21-year-old local man has been arrested for the shooting of a teen last year during an attempted robbery.

Carl Hannan, of Poughkeepsie, was arrested on Tuesday, March 30, for the shooting which took

place on Thursday, February 13, 2020 in the City of Poughkeepsie, said Det. Lt. Matt Clark of the City of Poughkeepsie Police.

Clark said the then 17-year-old male was shot at multiple times, and hit once during an attempted robbery while in an alley by 71 Garden Street in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Hannans was charged with attempted murder, attempted robbery, criminal use of a firearm, two counts of criminal possession of a firearm, and possession of a controlled substance.

Hannan was arraigned Wednesday, March 31, and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail on a \$10,000 over \$20,000.

DWI/Drugs arrest in Poughkeepsie

A 34-year-old man has been arrested for alleged DWI/Drugs following a wrong-way driving crash in the area.

Jason Miles, of Ancramdale in Columbia County, was arrested on Thursday, March 25, following a three vehicle crash in the Town of Poughkeepsie in which one of the cars rolled over. Officers re-

sponded to the crash in the area of Haight and Raymond Avenues and found that Miles was driving his vehicle westbound in the eastbound lane of traffic on Haight Avenue when he collided with two other vehicles.

Miles was arrested and charged with DWI/Drugs, reckless driv-

ing, resisting arrest, and various traffic violations. Miles was arraigned and released on his own recognizance.

The Town of Poughkeepsie was assisted by members of the Arlington Fire Department and Mobile Life Services.

DOMESTIC QUARANTINING NO LONGER REQUIRED

BY HV NEWS STAFF

Domestic travelers in New York are no longer required to quarantine after entering New York from another state or U.S. territory.

A mandatory quarantine of 10 days remains in effect for international travelers, and all travelers must continue to fill out a state-issued Traveler Health Form, as well as abide by social distancing and mask wearing

rules.

Those who have been exposed to COVID-19 need to take the following steps:

- Continue daily symptom monitoring through Day 14;
- Self-isolate if any symptoms develop and contact the local public health authority or their healthcare provider to report this change in clinical status.

DUTCHESS WOMAN, 30, KILLED IN HEAD-ON, WRONG-WAY CRASH

BY HV NEWS STAFF

A 30-year-old woman was killed in a head-on crash on Easter. The victim, from Wappingers Falls, was killed around 5:54 p.m. on Sunday, April 4, during the crash on Route 9 in front of Nine Mall Plaza in the Town of Poughkeepsie, authorities said.

The crash occurred when an 83-year-old Wappingers Falls man was traveling south in the northbound lane of Route 9 and collided head-on with a 2019 Nissan Sentra driven by a 28-year-old man, also of Wappingers Falls, said Town of Poughkeepsie Police Captain Joseph Cavaliere.

The 30-year-old woman, who was a passenger in the Nissan, sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported to Vassar Brothers Hospital where she died from her injuries, the captain said. Her identity has not yet been released.

The police department was assisted by the New Hamburg Fire Department and Mobile Life Support Services.

The investigation is ongoing and police are asking anyone who may have witnessed the crash to contact the Traffic Enforcement Unit at 845-485-3680.

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FOUR BROTHERS

each day working side by side, learning everything they could about how to make not just pizza pie, but a superb pizza pie. Why pizza? Is that not typically an Italian specialty? Peter Stefanopoulos laughs as he answers. “Some people, they say pizza is Chinese, some people say French. I say, maybe it’s Greek. After all, pita...pizza, both round, both made of dough....very similar, you know?”

The four men arrived in Amenia in 1976. “All of us were living and working in Connecticut,” said George. “We had many customers there who came from Dutchess County, and they kept saying that Amenia was a great place, that it was a crossroads through which many travelled, so, we came to visit and liked it.”

The brothers proceeded to purchase land at the main intersection in Amenia and built

their restaurant. “People ask how we manage to work together so well,” said George. “It is hard sometimes, but it is hard work that brings success. We discuss everything, and we listen to each other.”

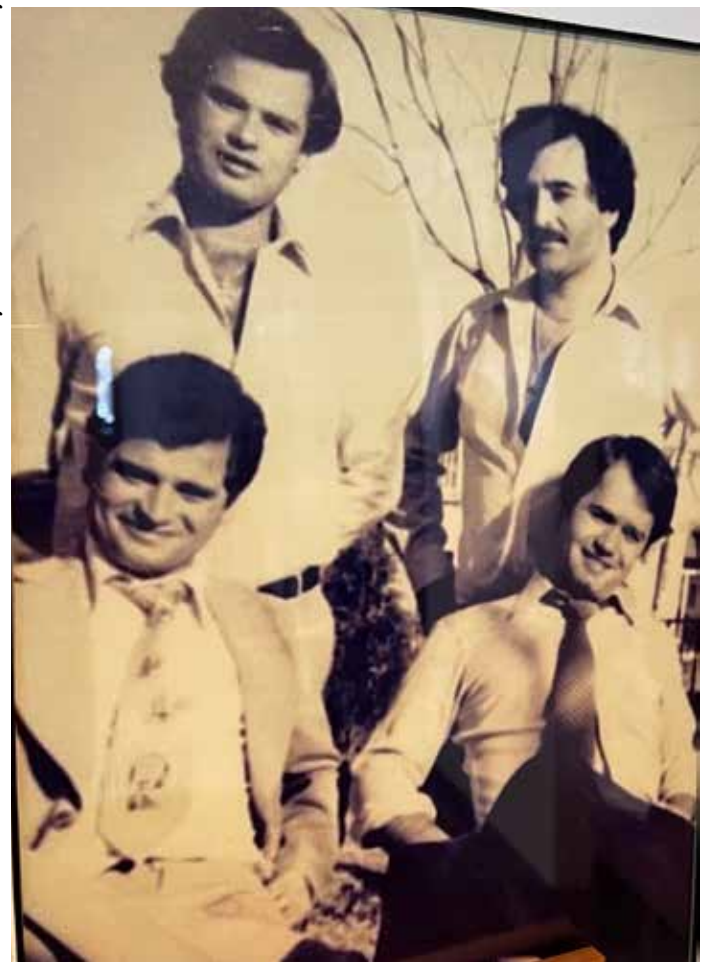
“Sometimes we all agree, sometimes it is three to one,” adds Peter, “but always we do what is best for the family first, and then what is best for the business. We are here over 40 years. We care very much about Amenia and the community, and every community where we work. We are truly blessed to be here. Truly blessed.”

“Today, it isn’t just my dad and his brothers,” said John Stefanopoulos, 33. “There are also five of us kids involved in day-to-day operations, and as we grow, the business grows. We continue to come up with new ideas, such as the drive-in movie theater here in Amenia, where we show all first run movies as well as classics on Thursdays, and soon, we are thinking of installing a seasonal

mini-golf course.”

The Four Brothers Group designed the drive-in around the spirit of American imagination, ingenuity, and lifestyle. The model is based on family, entertainment, and creating beautiful memories. It’s vintage in its full sense. You can order food (and cocktails) over the phone, online or at the Shack and have it delivered to your car. The drive-in is located at 4957 Route 22 in Amenia. It’s currently open on Fridays and Saturdays but will open seven day a week for double features starting April 23.

“I have learned so much from my family,” John continues. “It was through focused determination, vision and belief in one another that they achieved what they have. Theirs are big shoes to fill. They have taught us that no one can do it all alone - everyone has their strengths. Being united is the hardest thing sometimes, especially in business when money is involved. People can try to take over for personal gain, but that has not happened



The four brothers. Photo submitted with us. Everyone has an opinion, of course, but ultimately, we all want the same thing, which is to succeed and grow together. There is love and respect and that is what unites us above all else.”

Today, the four brothers and their families own and work at nine Four Brother’s pizzerias located throughout Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties (Amenia, Dover Plains, Hillsdale, Mahopac, Millerton, Pleasant Valley, Rhinebeck, Valatie, and Great Barrington), as well as three fine dining establishments, the Millerton Inn, the Boat House and the Chatham house. The family uses their local farm to supply the restaurants with certain dairy products and their olive orchards in Greece for olive oil.

For more information, visit www.fourbrothersrestaurants.com.



George, John and Peter Stefanopolous. Photo submitted.

THE TOWN THAT NOAH GRIDLEY BUILT

BY PAULA E. YOUNG

Train tracks still cross through the middle of Wassaic, a tiny hamlet found outside of Amenia, New York. The tracks, a small gothic church, and the now defunct Borden Milk Plant are almost all that are left to show where, once, for a brief shining moment, was the gem in the crown of industrialist Noah Gridley.

Gridley, his wife Emeline and their children moved from Connecticut to Wassaic in the early 1800s. There, Gridley established the the Deep Hollow Iron Factory where charcoal in deep pits was used to fuel the Gridley Blast Furnace. During its heyday, ore smelted into charcoal pig iron was produced at that location in quantities of 8,000 tons per year.

Needing a way to transport his product, Gridley, a master of charm, convinced his friend Cornelius Vanderbilt to extend the Harlem River Railroad line north into Wassaic.

Soon after, and with a spank-

ing new train to boast of, Gridley was able to persuade Gail Borden to open a condensed milk plant smack in the middle of downtown, on land that it just so happened Gridley owned. To sweeten the deal, Gridley also offered to help finance the enterprise, and soon the New York Condensed Milk Company (as Borden was then known) opened its doors for business.

Gridley, seeing a thriving community of commerce springing up around him, then opened the Wassaic House Hotel across the street from the milk plant, thereby providing housing for businessmen who travelled in from New York City for both ironworks and milk transactions.

Gridley's wife, Emeline, became tired of having to take a horse-drawn sleigh to the South Amenia Presbyterian Church during the cold winter months to attend Sunday services. Her urging prompted her husband to build

a house of worship closer, and in 1873, Gridley erected a small Gothic Revival-style chapel, which also provided religious education for his children and that of others living there. The site Mr. Gridley selected for the chapel was directly across the street from his house.

As the town continued to grow, enough members of the "South Amenia

congregation" attended services at the chapel that in the 1940s, it became known as the First Presbyterian Church of Wassaic.

Noah and Emeline Gridley passed away in the late 19th

century. Having lost one son to the Civil War and another to illness, the couple had no heirs. A new family eventually purchased the Gridley residence and hotel, converting the latter into a novelty manufacturing business. Today it houses the Wassaic Project, a non-profit arts center.

While the ironworks operation is long gone and the milk plant has long since shifted operations, the Borden factory and the Gridley Chapel remain in lasting legacy to the man who decided to build a town around himself, thereby transforming a quiet community into a major center of industry.



Wassaic House Hotel. Photo submitted.



Gothic Revival-style chapel in Wassaic. Photo submitted.



Train track in Wassaic. Photo submitted.



Former Gridley residence, which is now home to the Wassaic Project. Photo submitted.

HUDSON VALLEY STOP & SHOP PHARMACIES NOW OFFER COVID-19 VACCINES

BY HV NEWS STAFF



Stop & Shop announced last week that all its pharmacies in Dutchess, Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties, as well as those on Long Island and select pharmacies in New York City, have begun to administer either the two-dose Moderna or single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Availability of Moderna or Johnson & Johnson varies by store and is determined by New York state.

Customers in New York can visit the Stop & Shop website at stopandshop.com/pages/ss-pharmacy to determine their eligibility and to learn whether appointments are available at a convenient location.

Appointments can be made through a link on that website.

Under New York's current distribution plan, Stop & Shop is only approved to vaccinate customers ages 30 and older, teachers and school faculty, and those with documented health conditions who live, work or study in New York. The state requires proof of eligibility.

Customers must complete the state's COVID-19 vaccine eligibility form, available at forms.ny.gov/s3/vaccine, before receiving a shot. New York lowered the state age eligibility last week, and is anticipating opening up vaccines to anyone 16 or older starting this week.



OPINION
USUALLY RIGHT

BY JIM LANGAN

FDR HAD IT RIGHT

A few years ago my then eight-year-old grandson Reed came for a visit. His father told me Reed was particularly excited about the trip because we live so close to Hyde Park and the FDR Library. Apparently Reed had been tasked in school to give a presentation on FDR. In anticipation of Reed's arrival I called my friend Clifford Laube, the Public Programs Specialist at the FDR Library. I explained how excited Reed was to visit FDR's Home and Library and asked if there was anything special he would suggest for my little guy. Laube asked what Reed liked to do and I explained he loved history and baseball, maybe not in that order. He then said he had an idea and would meet us at the library upon Reed's arrival.

The gracious Laube greeted us soon thereafter and presented Reed with a copy of an important letter FDR had written to Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the legendary commissioner of baseball on January 15, 1942. The letter was FDR's response to Landis's inquiry about whether he should suspend Major League Baseball for the duration of the war. This exchange of correspondence was taking place a little more than a month after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Roosevelt's letter made it clear he was expressing his opinion as a private citizen and not as the president. What got me thinking about the letter is the current controversy about moving the All-Star game from Atlanta. I include a few key quotes indicating the role FDR felt baseball played in American life.

"I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going. There will be fewer people unemployed and everyone will work longer hours and harder than ever before. Baseball provides a recreation that does not last over two hours and which can be got for very little cost." Roosevelt also believed baseball was an integral part of American life and one of the few activities that would contribute to a sense of normalcy. He considered baseball to be a recreational distraction at a time when America was facing extraordinary challenges at home and abroad.

Baseball like many institutions in America has evolved over the years, but its primary function hasn't. It's something to do or root for on an endless summer day. It's a team and lore passed from generation to generation. Baseball was never intended to be a vehicle for social change or redress. Yes, breaking the color barrier was that but it was also part of positive social change across the board.

If every activity and organization is going to be subject to arbitrary political litmus tests and corporate extortion, we will soon be living in a country more resembling North Korea than America. There are many ways to address real or perceived injustices, I'm just not sure a meaningless exhibition game in Atlanta is the proper venue. We are on the road to finding something objectionable about every American city, demonizing anyone we disagree with and creating racial divisions where they don't exist.

Baseball and the All-Star game is the personification of diversity and opportunity and exactly the kind of recreational distraction we need in these troubled times. How about we leave politics at the door and simply "Play Ball?"

**Enjoying the paper?
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Email: carolinemcarey@thehudsonvalleynews.com

Your source for local news in Amenia, Wassaic and the surrounding Harlem Valley communities.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

BY JIM LANGAN

- We were watching the coverage of that tragic shooting at the Capitol on Friday and thinking how many left-wing reporters were probably scrambling to find a link between the suspect and the Trump “insurrection” in January. When it was determined the killer was a Louis Farrakhan supporter and black, the media’s curiosity evaporated and it was right back to the George Floyd trial and moving the All-Star game.
- We hope you got to see Hunter Biden’s interview hawking his book. He now says the infamous laptop could be his or the product of “Russian disinformation.” So the story the media buried in October about the laptop and its contents was true? I want social security numbers on anyone dumb enough to buy that book.



- How pathetic was that video of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg unloading a bike from his security detail’s SUV and then riding it a couple of blocks to a Cabinet meeting to appear environmentally hip. No, Pete, that’s called being busted by somebody with a cell phone.
- Speaking of phonies, it looks like Florida’s Rep. Matt Gaetz’s 15 minutes are up. The bloviating Republican is knee deep in sex trafficking accusations and claiming he’s the victim of an extortion plot. Nobody’s buying it.
- We had to laugh at the Yankee announcers on opening day calling the attendance a “capacity crowd.” They neglected to say COVID restrictions limited the crowd to 10,000 fans so that was a pretty low bar. Then again, Yankee president Randy Levine continues to pretend his \$2,000 box seats behind home plate are sold out when we can see on the TV that nobody’s sitting in them.
- There’s a report out of Iraq that a baby has caught the attention of the Kardashian sisters. Apparently a baby boy has been born with three penises. Talk about a triple threat. As this is a family newspaper, we’ll just leave it there but

thought you’d like to know.

- Here’s some encouraging COVID news. Alcohol sales fell dramatically in February and March after surging 55% at the beginning of the pandemic. Sounds like a few folks are putting down the bottle and actually leaving their houses.



- I think I’ve figured out why disgraced New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo won’t resign. He’s waiting for everyone to file charges and lawsuits before he bails, leaving the state to pick up his legal fees. And, could CNN fire his smarmy brother already! Not surprised to read on Sunday that Andrew was cheating on Sandra Lee as well.
- You had to love the video of Donald Trump crashing a wedding at Mar-A-Lago and launching into a Biden diatribe before the stunned guests. Donald, it’s over, move on. Here’s hoping Melania has a great set of earplugs.

far on lesser charges than the above men faced. Valid point.

- Jeffrey Epstein’s gal pal Ghislaine Maxwell’s new attorney made a great point last week. Why were the likes of wealthy men like Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby and Bernie Madoff all granted bail and she isn’t? Maxwell has been locked up for 260 days so

- We’re sorry to report that former Rhinebeck resident and founder of the Rhinebeck Russell Rescue, Dale Mountan, has passed away at 75 in Virginia. Mountan took in unwanted Jack Russell terriers on her property off Route 9G. I interviewed her there shortly after a 2014 fire destroyed the refuge and killed many of the dogs. She was a kind and generous woman who never fully recovered from that awful tragedy. R.I.P.
- Dutchess County Fair organizers tell HVN no decision on the fair has been made as they await word from Gov. Cuomo.



HOUSE
of the
WEEK



1460 Jackson Corners Road, Red Hook \$1,399,000

Welcome to River House - a safe haven in turbulent times. This lovingly restored home sited on the banks of the Roeliff Jansen Kill features all of the latest amenities while still maintaining the historic rural character that makes it the ideal place to relax and enjoy the year round beauty of the Hudson Valley.

From a wall of triple pane windows you can watch the Roe Jan roll by. Or you can enjoy any number of outdoor activities from tennis and swimming to fishing and picnicking. Outdoor amenities include

a tennis court, an inground gunite pool and pool house, a private gazebo and a streamside fire pit. Local lore says that famed vaudevillian Sophie Tucker spent her summers at this spot.

When the colder weather ar-

rives you can stay inside and enjoy the spacious chef's kitchen or warm up by one of the four fireplaces that grace this home. Rest assured that the whole house geni-



erator will keep the place cozy even in the most severe weather. All the major systems from roof to heating have been recently updated. If you are looking for a classic country estate conveniently located near the Taconic Park-

er will keep the place cozy even in the most severe weather.

All the major systems from roof to heating have been recently updated. If you are looking for a classic country estate conveniently located near the Taconic Park-

way and equidistant from Rhinebeck and Hudson, then a visit to River House should be on your agenda.



SAVORY BREAD PUDDING

BY CAROLINE CAREY



I consider bread pudding just about magical. You take stale bread, add in a simple egg custard and suddenly you have a spectacular pudding.

And you can use any bread product you have on hand. From a baguette, left over croissants or even apple cider donuts. It is up to you to choose to make it sweet or savory. While one of my favorite bread puddings has dark chocolate and bananas with croissants, this recipe is savory. It went very well with our Easter ham. And you can use any cheese you have on hand. Try it with cheddar or Swiss. You won't throw away stale bread ever again!

ARTICHOKE BREAD PUDDING

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ¼ cups milk
- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 large baguette, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 12 ounces marinated artichoke hearts, drained and rinsed, if needed
- 6 scallions, trimmed and cut into 2-inch lengths
- 1/2 cup parsley
- 1 large garlic clove, finely grated or minced
- 1 teaspoon Tabasco or other hot sauce, plus more for serving
- 2 cups grated Gruyere cheese

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Butter a 2-quart shallow casserole or gratin dish. Butter one side of a piece of foil large enough to cover the dish during baking.

In a large bowl, whisk together milk, eggs and salt. Gently toss in baguette cubes, and let the mixture sit while you prepare the remaining ingredients, stirring it occasionally.

In a food processor, pulse together the artichokes, scallions, parsley, garlic and hot sauce until finely chopped.

Place half the soaked bread into the casserole dish and arrange in an even layer. Top with half the artichoke mixture and half the cheese. Repeat layers of bread, artichokes and cheese. Cover with aluminum foil.

Bake for 30 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake until golden at the edges and springy in the middle, about 15 minutes.

Let cool for 10 minutes before serving. Serve with more hot sauce on the side.

PONY WISHES

BY ALYSSA KOGON

What child doesn't dream of owning their own pony? Data shows the number one wish kids make upon blowing out their birthday candles is to receive a horse. But wait, Mom and Dad! Don't clear the Back 40 or stockpile oats just yet. Dutchess County holds the distinction of having the largest equine population in the state. With so many riding facilities to choose from, there are endless opportunities to interact with our filly friends.

JL Performance Horses is so much more than a typical riding academy. Founded by famed equestrian Leah Struzziere, who was raised on the Poughquag farm, the mission of this mostly

children's enterprise is as unique as the owner. JL Performance Horses, the area's oldest riding academy, offers community-based, comprehensive equine educational programs and riding lessons in a fun yet instructional atmosphere.

The 20 acre farm has so many child-centered activities serving a wide range of interests that it may be hard for future equestrians to choose just one. Ponysitters, the most popular program, is a combination of 4-H, Scouting and Pony Club geared for youngsters aged five to 15. Struzziere has put together a custom curriculum with specialized programming that bridges the gap between the love

of horses and academics. Along with emphasizing self awareness and down home cowboy/cowgirl grit, the students are inspired to write their own life stories. Ethics, character and a positive attitude are lessons that Struzziere hopes will take her protégés from the barn to the board room. Of course, this is all done with the backdrop of horsemanship, physical and medical care of the horses, as well as understanding the work involved with attending to their four legged charges. Community involvement is emphasized and the kids attend a variety of events with their pony ambassadors.

Not all prospective members are chosen into the select Ponysitters program. Instead, it is a carefully chosen blend of participants including those with different abilities. The wide age range allows for younger participants to learn from their older peer mentors with the senior Ponysitters taking on leadership roles. "Everyone cheers each other on," beams Struzziere.

The time commitment to the club is what you would expect from elite scholastic aged travel sports teams. The group, which caps out at 10, meets on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday as well as bonus days and holidays. Lessons can include everything from pleasure driving (horses pull a light cart), English and Western instruction, trail rides and equine welfare, all taught by capable, knowledgeable horse people.

Recently, the club enjoyed going out with a veterinarian on his barn rounds and were invited to learn how to properly remove sutures from some of the patients. Participants are expected to keep up with their schoolwork and high speed wireless internet is available at JL so that e-learning can be completed on time.



Some equine training at JL Performance Horses in Poughquag. Photo submitted.

In case you are thinking this club must be costly, think again. The monthly tuition is \$450 with scholarship funding available for those who qualify. To put this in perspective, an individual riding lesson can cost \$65 or more. One member of the group who was gifted a scholarship went on to win national titles. A summer Ponysitters program is also gearing up which will run during school vacation.

Already featured on TV, in Hudson Valley Parent magazine and in USA Today, the Ponysitters program is perfect for horse crazy kids. If you would like to check out the barn, JL Performance Horses is holding a special open house event on April 25th in honor of National Help A Horse Day. Guests are invited to enjoy a day filled with horsey family fun. Gates open at noon and pre-registration is required. To find out more about this event or the Ponysitters program you may visit their webpage at <https://nyequine.com/> or call Leah Struzziere at 845-260-0962.








Photo submitted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT WWW.HUDSONVALLEYWEATHER.COM

HUDSON VALLEY 5 DAY FORECAST

provided by Hudson Valley Weather



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
DAY: Rain High: 62F	DAY: Sun High: 44F	DAY: Partly Sunny High: 40F	DAY: Partly Sunny High: 57F	DAY: Sunny High: 61F
NIGHT: Clear Low of 41F	NIGHT: Clouds Low of 26F	NIGHT: Clouds Low of 26F	NIGHT: Clouds Low of 39F	NIGHT: Clear Low of 39F



around town
STANFORD

BY HEIDI JOHNSON

The job of supervisor in a small town government is often a part-time position. Some elected officials therefore have alternate employment in another field. The Town of Stanford Supervisor, Wendy Burton, has the coolest second job around. Outside of her official duties in town government, Wendy moonlights as that fuzzy character you see once a year delivering eggs and candy to youngsters. Yep, you got it – her second job is serving as the Easter Bunny.

Now I know you all are saying, “But wait, the EB only comes once a year! What kind of professional gig is that?” But believe it or not, preparing for Easter is a year round position. There is planning, logistics, market research, and focus groups with the customers (kids) to determine the latest trends in candy and egg color. But

it is an extremely rewarding career, according to Wendy. “I love being the bunny!” she told me after the recent egg hunt at Stanford Rec.

So, there you have it. We are lucky here in Stanfordville to have a beautiful, rural landscape, an active Recreation Commission, and a famous town supervisor who loves bringing joy to our local youngsters. What fun!

**Rhinebeck CENTER
Telethon**

I just wanted to give a quick shout-out to the organizers and sponsors of the recent Community Champions Telethon held last weekend at the CENTER for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck. The event was a three hour live stream hosted by actor Donald Corren, and it raised over \$4,000 to be split evenly between the Rhinebeck Fire Department, Northern Dutchess Hospital, and the Baptist Home at Brookmeade. I was honored to be a part of this telethon



Photo submitted.

and proud that our little community theater was able to give back to those community heroes who have been supporting our community during the pandemic. Thank you to all who donated!

**Stanford Grange
Meatloaf Dinner**

Stanford Grange will be having a Meatloaf Dinner this coming Saturday, April 10. The menu will include meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, crescent roll, and a homemade carrot cake cupcake with cream cheese frosting for dessert. All food will be made in the Grange Hall kitchen, which is certified through the Dutchess County Department of Health. All CDC food preparation and Governor Cuomo's health guidelines are strictly followed. Donation is \$15 per dinner and meals are take-out only, starting at 5 p.m. For reservations or more information, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869.

**Big Rock Farmers
and Makers Fair**

Another reminder to mark your calendars for the 2021 Farmers and Makers Fair on April 24 from

11 a.m. to 4 p.m., hosted by Big Rock Community Farm Market. The market's front lawn will be the fair's center, with farmers and artists setting up displays in pop-up tents. Other town organizations are invited to join the fair with outdoor displays and promotional activities. (Note: for safety reasons, there will be no sales from the front lawn.)

Come on out and learn who our local farmers and artisans are and meet your neighbors! Masks in the front lawn will be mandatory. Eating may take place at designated picnic tables, and the market itself will be available for a few shoppers at a time. Admission is free! Call Big Rock at 845-868-3320 or email bigrockmarketny@gmail.com for more information.

That is all I have this week. See you next Wednesday.

Heidi Johnson can be reached at 845-392-4348 or heidij08751@gmail.com.



Photo submitted.

LABOR OF LOVE

BY ALYSSA KOGON

Very few people love Amenia as much as colorful resident Frank Spano. A Westchester native, Spano and his Montessori trained schoolteacher wife Betty started visiting the area years ago with friends. The couples would spend long weekends at Troutbeck Inn and enjoyed exploring all that the Harlem Valley has to offer. In 2004, the Spanos took a giant leap and bought a weekend home, as Spano puts it, “before the big

Amenia stagecoach service. Built by a Revolutionary War officer named Reynolds and retained by the same family for most of its life, Frank and Betty decided to put their own personal touch on the structure. Although it was in sound shape, years of hodge podge additions and modifications made the structure in need of rehabilitation. A sign that is displayed at the house declares, “Thank goodness you’re here. The last people had

additional room space for the Amenia Hotel, which was built in 1850 and still stands today nearby. A ballroom was added to the back of the residence for guests to enjoy. Built before indoor plumbing, closets were also not commonplace in houses. Smart layout fixed these problems and the home still retains all the original charm of yesteryear.



Frank Spano. Photo submitted



Stagecoach Trail House. Photo submitted

terrible taste.” One thing Spano has is great style. In fact, he has spent his life as a professional contributing to the design of over 500 commercial and 1,000 residential properties and creating everything from landscape architecture to furniture. Acting as weekend war-

riors, the family dug their heels in and commenced bringing the historic beauty back to life. At one time, Stagecoach Trail served as

Stagecoach Trail was additionally reincarnated into a Jewish boarding house in the last century. Spano has kept the mezuzahs, a parchment inscribed with religious texts and attached in a case to the doorpost of a Jewish house as a sign of faith, in place on every door jamb as an homage to that time period. A world class art collection is also on display at the Spano home. Years of careful collecting of museum quality pieces from such greats as Renoir, Chagall, Dali, Neiman and others are incorporated flawlessly into the living space. Spano states that his favorite part of the home is the third floor studio where a Palladian window looks out onto the woods.

Five years ago the Spanos became full time Amenia

residents. That’s how the idea for PracticalLiving evolved. Spano’s love of Dutchess County inspired him and his team to develop a business that attracts new residents to Dutchess County to live a carefree lifestyle through smarter land development and building practices.

As a former weekender himself, Spano claims the wonderful blend of people who call the Hudson and Harlem Valley home is the catharsis for wanting to let others in on the secret. If you would like to read more about PracticalLiving you may go to their website at <https://www.practicalliving.xyz/>.

AMENIA EASTER EGG HUNT!





GOLDEN LIVING

News for Seniors, Their Families and Caregivers

BY TODD N. TANCREDI

CATCHING UP ON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

The COVID-19 pandemic may have interrupted your traditional spring cleaning plans in 2020, but Dutchess County Solid Waste Management (www.dutchessny.gov/solidwaste, 845-463-6020) can help you safely dispose of much of the hazardous household waste that may have accumulated over the past year.

There will be three Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic collection events in 2021, all on Saturdays: May 8th, June 19th and October 2nd. Registration for each event opens one month prior to the event, so April 8th is the first day to register for the May

8th event. The fee for each event will be \$10, payable in advance.

What is and isn't acceptable at County disposal events

You've gone into your closet, shed and garage to search for materials to be disposed of – but as you do, keep in mind that not every item that looks hazardous to you can be accepted at the county's collection events. Some items can even be disposed of in regular trash.

The county does not accept latex paint at hazardous waste disposal events – because there's a simpler way to dispose of latex paint at home. Dry the paint using kitty litter, sawdust or sunlight. Re-lid the can, put in a sturdy plastic bag and throw it in the trash.

Cans of oil-based or alkyd paints, stains, enamels, varnish and so forth are accepted at county collection events.

As for old fluorescent lights, it depends: Compact fluorescent

light (CFL) bulbs can be dropped off at retailer drop boxes, such as at Lowes and Home Depot. Traditional fluorescent bulbs are considered hazardous waste rather than electronics. If you bring any to a county disposal event, please tape them together or put in a box, to prevent breakage.

Air conditioners are not accepted at county events, but can often be disposed of at municipal transfer stations. Contact the transfer station in your community to learn more.

OTHER SPRING CLEANING TIPS FOR SENIORS

Check the medicine cabinet. Are medications stored in properly labeled containers? Be sure to store medications in a cool, dark, dry place – not your bathroom. A better place is an airtight plastic container on a shelf in a closet outside the bathroom.

If you need to get rid of outdated medications, there are 11 secure

drop-box locations in Dutchess County. Municipal police in Beacon, East Fishkill, Hyde Park, Millerton, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook, Rhinebeck and Wappingers Falls operate drop boxes, as does the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office headquarters at 108 Parker Avenue in Poughkeepsie, the DCSO satellite office in Pawling, and New York State Police Troop K headquarters in Salt Point. Contact the relevant agency for operating hours and additional details.

Outdated medications are also accepted during the summer at every OFA Senior Picnic.

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

SOROS GIVES BARD \$500 MILLION

BY JIM LANGAN

Bard College last week announced a transformational \$500 million endowment from philanthropist and international financier George Soros. The donation ranks second only to businessman and former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg's \$1.8 billion gift to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Soros has been a long-time supporter of the famously liberal Bard. The grant will establish the college's most substantial endowment ever, setting the stage for an eventual \$1 billion endowment drive. Bard indicated it has already raised an additional \$250 million from supporters, including trustees, alumnae and friends. The college expects to raise another \$250

million over the next five years.

Bard President Leon Botstein said, "This is the most historic moment since the college's founding in 1860. When this drive is complete, Bard will have a \$1 billion endowment, which will ensure its pioneering mission and academic excellence for the future. Bard has played an innovative and progressive role in American education without any historical wealth. This will allow us to continue to do so and ensure equity in financial aid, promote international education and defend the arts."

Both Bard and Soros have long been flash points for controversy over the years and this announcement was no exception. Local residents have long complained

of Bard's miserly financial contributions to its home town as well as taking more and more land off the tax rolls. HVN reader Tim Allard wrote, "Maybe Bard could give some money back to the town of Red Hook." Other locals, like Ian Bucala, said, "Ah, Bard College...where rich white families send their children to pretend how oppressed they are... where interpretive dance is understood while clown liberals cry about white privilege while living in its Mecca." Others pointed to Bard's \$75,000 tuition as further evidence of white privilege.

But it has been the long-time presence of controversial George Soros that has kept the pot boiling at Bard for years. Soros is seen

by many as a subversive anti-American, communist determined to establish an institution to indoctrinate young minds. Soros did have a few HVN online supporters including Carl Delfino who said, "Don't forget, Red Hook would look like Hyde Park if it wasn't for Bard." Frank Pardini said, "Thanks George, we appreciate all you do to piss off the poorly educated of the Hudson Valley."

Whatever the consensus opinion might be, Bard College and its far left agenda is here to stay. Whatever rumors of financial difficulties we have been hearing for years appear to be moot with one stroke of 90-year-old George Soros's pen.

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