

Southern Dutchess News

Vol. 72, # 28 75 cents

Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Town of Wappinger, Town and City of Poughkeepsie

July 12-July 18, 2023

Wappingers Falls home of award-winning art banner project

By Kristine Coulter

As one drives or walks through Wappingers Falls, one can see banners from local artists who are supporting Wappingers Rises banner program. The banners went up earlier this year and will be in place until November.

"A few years ago, we got those black lampposts. When I saw them, I thought how neat it would be to rotate art seasonally," said Courtney Urciuoli Kolb, one of the organizers of the project.

Asked what the overall goal of the project, Urciuoli Kolb explained, "To give artists an outlet to showcase the medium they practice in, who they are as artists, include all ages/stages of career, build community, brighten our business district/Main St."

So, how were artists selected, and how many of them are participating?

"There are 43 artists displayed. We made a call and in just two weeks we received over 50 pieces. I also contacted Wappinger Central School, Wappinger Senior Center, all local art organizations to make it as inclusive as possible. We placed Wappinger artists first. Then did a lottery for remaining places. I then asked those who weren't selected if we can hang onto their pieces for the next round which we hope to do next spring," Urciuoli Kolb said.

Urciuoli Kolb explained a bit about some of the artists whose works are highlighted. "Marieken Cochius and Brian Zickafoose are village residents. They have always supported all efforts in the village and work to make a difference and unite the community. Laura Golben and I published our first children's book inspired by our daughters. Her work of art is a page from our book we launched during this campaign," she said.

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Artist Sarah Davida recently stands under her banner in the award-winning Wappingers Rises art banner project in the Village of Wappingers Falls. Forty-three artists are participating in this project.

-Courtesy photo

Local libraries offer new program to learn a variety of languages

By Kristine Coulter

Patrons at local libraries can now use Transparent Language Online.

"Transparent Language Online is a database through which patrons can learn languages foreign to them. There are 120 languages other than English for English speakers and lessons in English for speakers of other languages," explained Peg Siebert, who is with Blodgett Memorial Library, which is located in the Village of Fishkill.

The previous program offered was Mango. So, how does Transparent Language Online differ from Mango?

"There are more languages in Transparent Language Online. The age-appropriate lessons are geared to the needs of students in grades K-12 and adults in the business world. The database also includes lessons in preparing for the citizenship test," said Siebert.

Patrons "will have more languages and services to choose from with Transparent Language Online. If they have been using Mango, they will need to switch to Transparent Language Online to continue lessons," Siebert stated.

Kristen Salierno, director of the Howland Public Library in Beacon, said, "Howland Public Library patrons now have unlimited access to lessons in more than 110 languages, including English courses for speakers of over 30 languages. There are even full-length alphabet courses for 18+ languages to familiarize you with new writing systems like Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, or Arabic. Our subscription also includes KidSpeak for Libraries, languages course created for kids 6+ to learn Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish."

Salierno noted, "Patrons can visit <http://dutchesslibraries.info/lan/guage/> and click on Howland Public Library to sign up with their library card number. A quick link will be coming to our website's homepage in the next few weeks as well."

Patrons should have a current library card to use the program. Transparent Language Online became available on July 1, said Siebert and patrons can access it

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Thorpe named top pitcher in June for leading Renegades to key wins

By Rich Thomaselli

Another week, another award. Well, make that two awards. Hudson Valley Renegades pitcher Drew Thorpe has been named the South Atlantic League Pitcher of the Month for June. He is the first Renegades player to win a monthly award since 2021. Additionally, new Renegades outfielder Christopher Familia was named Florida State League Player of the Month for his performance with the Single-A Tampa Tarpons.

Thorpe was one of the best pitchers in Minor League Baseball in June, posting a 0.31 ERA by allowing just one run in 28.2 innings pitched, while striking out 34 and walking only six. The right-hander led all pitchers in both Minor and Major League Baseball in ERA in June (min. 17.0 IP).

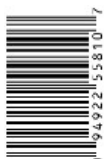
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Hudson Valley Renegades pitcher Drew Thorpe was one of the best pitchers in Minor League Baseball in June, posting a 0.31 ERA by allowing just one run in 28.2 innings pitched, while striking out 34 and walking only six.

-Photo by Dave Janosz

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Your News



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"I loved the idea that Wappingers Rises presented, of showcasing local artists' work on banners along Main Street," Cochius said. "It is absolutely an honor to participate!"

Cochius noted, "What a great way to show and share with the community and its visitors what you do as an artist, and that this variety of artists is also something Wappingers Falls has to offer. I am proud any time I look at the banners!"

As far as the feedback received, Cochius remarked, it "has been wonderful. Ranging from 'I have seen your art at the Boathouse!' to even 'maybe you can do a sculpture for us?'"

Urciuoli Kolb stated that the artwork recently won Hudson Valley Magazine's Best of Hudson Valley in the category of Best Art Walk

"We didn't know about the nomination (there was a mix-up and it was sent to someone else) when we found out weeks after the announcement we were so excited and proud!" she said, adding "This is the first time the village has supported an art project of this scale and it shows positive community response."

Cochius said the project was "[v]oted by the community and visitors...I am moved and proud to be a part of this."

The next open call is still to be determined, said Urciuoli Kolb. It is hoped to be January 2024.



Forty-three artists are participating in the art banner project by Wappingers Rises in the Village of Wappingers Falls. The project is scheduled to run through November.

-Courtesy photo

One may follow @wappingers.rises for updates on social media and email wappingersrises@gmail.com to get updates.

When the exhibit closes in November, Urciuoli Kolb said these banners will be retired and a closing ceremony will

be held.

"The Village has certainly had its hardship hit the people who run small businesses, live here, work here, are so special. Everyone bounces back. If The village hasn't been on your radar before I would encourage people to come for a stroll, pop into our businesses meet the people behind what makes the village so wonderful - and likely meet many of the artists! There's so much talent here," said

Local libraries offer new program to learn a variety of languages

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through their local library's website and follow the directions to create an account. "Then they can explore and enjoy," she said.

As a reminder, "There will be an overlap in services. Mango will last until July 31, while Transparent Language Online begins on July 1. This gives patrons a month to use both and compare," said Siebert. Salierno said library staff is avail-

able to assist anyone who needs help with the new system.

Salierno stated, "Patrons will be happy to know that Transparent Language also offers an American Citizenship Test Prep course. We have received many requests from the community members looking for resources to prepare for taking the U.S. Civics test, so we are thrilled to now be able to offer this service.

The East Fishkill Community Library in East Fishkill also offers this program.

Town of Poughkeepsie transfer station hours

The Town of Poughkeepsie Highway Department will open its Transfer Station 12 times, from April through September for town residents to discard unwanted bulk items at 8 Burnett Boulevard on the dates listed below. All dates are Mondays & Tuesdays. Operating hours are from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Current proof of Town residency and a photo ID must be provided before entering the facility. Commercial haulers and businesses will not be allowed access to this station. A complete list of acceptable items may be picked up at the Town of Poughkeepsie Town Clerk's office or Highway Department offices, or www.townofpoughkeepsie.com.

*They do NOT accept TVs or

Computer Monitors*. (Other electronic equipment will be accepted.)

One may call Solid Waste Management Dept. at 845-486-3604 or 463-6020 for information; how to dispose of certain electronics & hazardous materials. NYS DEC also requires that all open vehicles or trailers need to be tarped. Brush and lawn debris will be accepted.

Dates opened:
July 17, 18
August 14, 15
September 18, 19

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Sidewalk improvement project on Innis Ave. in Poughkeepsie

Improvements are being made by Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) to the sidewalk along the western side of Innis Avenue (CR-75), between East Arnold Road and the north leg of Jackman Drive, in the Town of Poughkeepsie with the anticipation of construction was to begin July 10.

Construction includes widening the sidewalk to 5 ft. and upgrading crossings to meet American Disabilities Act standards. Work will also include necessary changes to the drainage system. Access will be maintained to driveways during construction, according to officials. Though no road closure is planned for the this project, lane closures and traffic interruptions are anticipated during construction, which is anticipated to be completed in November.

For anyone who has questions, call the County DPW Engineering division at 845-486-2925.