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# NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

Volume 12, Issue 4 • January 22-28, 2020 • 50¢

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## Summit speakers urge proactive approach to cyber-security

by Kristine Coulter

More than 300 people turned out to participate in the Hudson Valley Cybersecurity Summit at Marist College on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Dutchess County Government hosted the event and Marist sponsored the summit.

"When you leave here we want you to leave with the tools to be successful," said Glenn Marchi, Dutchess County Commissioner OCIS.

Marchi told those in attendance there were 18 counties, which included Orange, Westchester, Rockland and Putnam, at the summit. Among the agencies represented were school districts, BOCES, villages, towns and colleges.

The intent of the day was to give participants "the keys necessary to improve," he said.

Geoffrey Burkett, Executive Vice President/Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, said, Marist has a 30-year partnership with IBM.

"Marist is extremely proud of our long tradition in technology," remarked Burkett.

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said the summit was secured by a federal grant.

Molinaro remarked how the Hudson River was once the information superhighway and then came the railroads. Then how the way information was shared has changed.

He said, "Think of how far we've come in less than 30 years."

What once divided us, said the County Executive, the rivers, highways, no longer do with the interconnection. There is an "invaluable

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## Opinions vary as DC officials address new bail, discovery laws



County Executive Marc Molinaro



DC District Attorney William Grady



DC Public Defender Thomas Angell

by Curtis Schmidt

New bail and discovery laws are on the books for 2020 in New York and officials in Dutchess County, like their colleagues across the state, are working to implement the new laws.

In April 2019, New York State passed sweeping criminal justice legislation, strictly curtailing the use of cash bail and pretrial detention, overhauling rules governing the sharing of evidence (Discovery Law), and strengthening measures intended to ensure a defendant's right to a speedy trial.

Change always comes with its share of

challenges, and the new laws definitely have seen their share of supporters and detractors in the first few weeks of implementation.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been quoted in newspaper articles and on radio reports, terming the new bail law "a work in progress."

In reference to the bail law, for most misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies, cash bail is no longer permitted. Judges must release individuals charged with those crimes with no cash bail, either on their own recognizance or with release conditions designed to ensure that the individual

returns to court, such as pretrial supervision and text message reminders for court dates.

For those charged with the most serious crimes — including almost all violent felonies and certain nonviolent felonies, such as sex offenses and witness tampering — very little has changed in New York. In those cases, judges will retain the option to set cash bail.

Most local officials agree with the need for bail law reform — but some have issues with time allowed for implementation and a variety of particulars, because each case is different.

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## FLASHING LIGHTS: STATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

### Committee explores ways to improve EMS delivery in Dutchess

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles highlighting the current delivery method for emergency services in Dutchess County, the opportunities and challenges the current methods present, and a vision for emergency medical services that is patient-centered, consistent, reliable, affordable and sustainable.

Residents are encouraged to take survey to help assess current knowledge and service expectations.

by Kate Goldsmith

You're driving along, and suddenly in the rear-view mirror you spot an ambulance, a police car or firetruck approaching rapidly, lights flashing, sirens wailing. You pull over to let the vehicle get to where it's going, hoping the emergency that summoned it will be resolved with the best possible outcome.



Emergency services personnel at the Roosevelt Fire District Station 3 on Route 9G in Hyde Park include, from left, 1st Lt. Nicholas Trio, Capt. William Marshall IV, EMT Debra Keefe, Driver William Marshall V and EMT Joseph Alecksynas. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

Or, maybe you're the one whose circumstances — a car accident, a house fire — have prompted the call to 911 that has dispatched such assistance.

In either case, you're witnessing emer-

gency services in action, delivered by a myriad of providers on the state, county and local levels — a combination of law-enforcement agencies, volunteer and paid

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# HV Hospice, Astor Services named organizations of the year

Hudson Valley Hospice, along with Astor Services for Children and Families, has been named one of the Martin Luther King Jr. Organizations of the Year by Catharine Street Community Center (CSCC). Organizations of the Year are selected based on recommendations from CSCC staff, volunteers and community members with first-hand knowledge about the organizations' contributions, services and overall positive impact on the quality of life in the community.

Guidelines for consideration of nominees include:

- provision of services in the Mid-Hudson Valley for a minimum of 10 years;
- promotion of diversity and inclusiveness within the workplace and community;
- facilitation of career advancement and learning opportunities for employees;
- operation of direct and indirect educational and support services for individuals, children and families locally and county-wide;
- an earned reputation for quality services and care and implementation of inclusive programs and services for individuals with limited education and financial resources.

Both organizations will be recognized at the 29th Annual MLK Welcoming Reception and Conversation on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m., at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, which precedes their Breakfast on Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 a.m., at the M.J. Nesheiwat Convention Center (Mid-Hudson City Center).

"Hudson Valley Hospice is thrilled to be recognized alongside Astor Services for Children and Families for the meaningful work we both do within our community," said Michael Kaminski, President and CEO of Hudson Valley Hospice. "Martin Luther King Jr. treated others with kindness, fairness, love and inclusion and that is exactly what our organization aims to do with patients and their loved ones each and every day."

Hudson Valley Hospice is the premier provider of end-of-life care in Dutchess and Ulster counties. The services and support include Hospice and Palliative Care certified Registered Nurses, Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Practical Nurses, Home Health Aides, Spiritual Care Chaplains, Bereavement Counselors and Volunteers. Medical equipment, oxygen, and medications are also provided. Hudson Valley Hospice has an enhanced program which includes Music Therapy, End of Life Doula and many complementary therapies such as Pet Therapy, Reiki and other Energy Therapies. To learn more about Hudson Valley Hospice, visit [hvhospice.org](http://hvhospice.org) or call 845-485-2273.

Co-honoree, Astor Services for Children and Families promotes the well-being of children, adolescents and their families through a range of programs that prevent and treat emotional problems and facilitate healthy development.

"We are honored to have been selected for this award by the Catharine Street Community Center," said Sonia Barnes-Moorhead, executive vice president of the Children's Foundation of Astor. "Astor proudly serves the Hudson Valley and Bronx communities by providing direct support to children and families who need it most, and we strive to uphold the highest level of inclusivity, diversity and care."

To learn more about Astor's programs and services, visit [astorservices.org](http://astorservices.org) or call (845) 871-1117.

The mission of Catharine Street Community Center is to support families in Dutchess County through education, after-school and summer enrichment programs which assist individuals, children and families to acquire and strengthen the tools necessary to cope with our challenging economic and social needs and help build a better community. To learn more about Catharine Street or to get tickets, visit [catharinecenter.org](http://catharinecenter.org) or call (845) 473-2272.

# Berkshire Taconic announces grant deadlines

SHEFFIELD, MA—Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation recently announced the first round of deadlines for competitive grants and scholarships in 2020. Apply at [BerkshireTaconic.org/Grants](http://BerkshireTaconic.org/Grants) and [BerkshireTaconic.org/Scholarships](http://BerkshireTaconic.org/Scholarships).

## FOR SCHOOLS

The James C. Kapteyn Endowment Fund honors excellence in teaching with a \$10,000 prize for study or travel. The successful candidate's school will also receive a \$2,000 grant. Nominations from school principals or chief administrators are due Feb. 9. Nominees must complete their applications by March 30.

The Sustaining Education Enrichment and Development (SEED) Fund supports the development of projects that enhance and enrich the educational experience of the students and teachers in the Pine Plains Central School District. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Applications due Feb. 24.

The Dover Education Enrichment Program (DEEP) supports the development of projects that enhance and enrich the educational experience of the students and teachers in the Dover Union Free School District. Grants range from \$250 to \$1,500. Applications are due Feb. 27.

## FOR NONPROFITS

The Crane Family Fund supports environmental nonprofit organizations that propose innovative projects, particularly for programs that connect at-risk and low-income youth to the environment. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Applications are due Feb. 15.

Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management (SPNM) program is an intensive one-week course for nonprofit CEOs or executive directors who are responsible for shaping the direction, mission policies and major programs of their organizations. The program is valued at \$6,500 and will be held in July on the Harvard Business School campus in Boston, Mass. Applications are due Feb. 21.

The Green Pastures Fund supports nonprofit organizations or public entities that encourage or preserve small, community-based agricultural ventures. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Applications are due March 1.

The Northeast Dutchess Fund supports nonprofits, public agencies or community organizations that serve the residents of Amenia, Clinton Corners, Dover, Millbrook, Millerton, North East, Pine Plains, Stanford, Washington, Wassau and Wingdale. Grants of up to \$3,000 will be awarded. Applications are due April 15.

## FOR STUDENTS: SCHOLARSHIPS

The Andrea Wagner Women in Science Scholarship Fund awards \$1,500 scholarships to female residents of the Berkshire Taconic region who are currently enrolled at a four-year college and majoring in natural or physical science or engineering. Applications are due March 15.

The Ferris Burtis Scholarship Fund sponsors graduating high school seniors who have been accepted at a conservatory

or school of music to pursue a career in classical music. Scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded. Applications due March 15.

The Karen Kisslinger Scholarship Fund supports students of Webutuck High School (as well as Housatonic Valley Regional High School in northwest Litchfield County and Monument Mountain Regional High School in Berkshire County) who have a demonstrated interest and passion for holistic, health and wellness practices. Scholarships of \$1,000 or more will be awarded. Applications are due March 15.

The Matthew D. Reagon Scholarship Fund awards scholarships of \$1,150 to graduates or graduating seniors of Webutuck High School who attained reasonable academic achievement despite facing adversity. Applications due March 15.

The Northeast Dutchess Scholarship Fund provides grants to college-bound graduating seniors of Dover High School, Millbrook High School, Stissing Mountain High School and Webutuck High School. Students will receive \$2,500 and may reapply each year for a total of \$10,000. Applications are due March 15.

The Rhoda Lubalin Art Scholarship Fund supports graduating seniors of Webutuck High School who intend to study visual arts at a college or other educational institution. Scholarships up to \$1,000 will be awarded. Applications due March 15.

The Thomas J. Berlinghoff Scholarship Fund awards \$1,000 to graduating seniors of Webutuck High School who are attending a college, university or vocational school. Applications are due March 15.

## FOR STUDENTS AND INDIVIDUALS: TRAVEL, SUMMER SERVICE AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

The Alice and Richard Henriquez Memorial Fund and Youth World Awareness Program provides grants to students ages 14 to 22 for international travel and service. Grants range from \$500 to \$1,500 for individual applicants; larger grants may be considered for groups. Applications are due Jan. 31.

The Violet H. Simmons Summer Enrichment Scholarship Fund supports summer projects for Webutuck High School graduates who are enrolled in their second or third year at a four-year accredited college or their second year at an accredited two-year college. Grants up to \$5,000 will be awarded. Applications due Feb. 15.

The Moonlight Mile Scholarship Fund supports women who are seeking matching funds to support travel or equipment needs for study or athletic competition, professional training, or support for alternative healing. Applicants should be at least 18 years old and live in New York or Massachusetts. Grants range from \$500 to \$1,200. Applications are due March 15.

The Simple Gifts Fund awards grants to young people ages 13 to 19 for participation in cultural or creative summer programs. Grants range from \$200 to \$800. Applications are due March 15.

# Tax Aide, CASH Coalition help prepare, file taxes

Free tax preparation once again is available from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's IRS trained and certified volunteers through the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition. Last year, 8,437 residents of Dutchess, Orange and Putnam counties received help preparing and filing their taxes. This year, the coalition hopes to help even more people receive the refunds they deserve.

To receive help, schedule an appointment through United Way's Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 Helpline (or by dialing 1-800-899-1479) from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. This free tax preparation service is provided to all those who are eligible thanks to AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, Hudson Valley CASH Coalition members, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region and many other community partners.

"Last year, \$6,847,975 million was returned in the form of tax credits and refunds to people who need it most in our community," noted Jeannie Montano, President and CEO of United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. "Part of the mission of United Way is fighting for the financial stability of every person in our community. We hope that individuals, families, and seniors will take advantage of this free help and call 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment."

"The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is 'one of the largest anti-poverty tools in the United States' according to the House Ways and Means Committee," stated Shannon Myers, United Way's Financial

Empowerment VISTA. "EITC and the child tax credit (CTC), greatly reduce poverty for working families. These working family credits lifted an estimated 9.4 million people out of poverty in 2017, including 5 million (or more than half of them) children. However, around 20 percent of qualified Americans do not claim their EITC every year. Last year, Hudson Valley CASH processed 987 returns with EITC, for a total refund of \$1,590,365."

The tax preparation locations are located throughout Dutchess and Orange counties and are staffed by AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers, six days-a-week, including evenings and weekends from Feb. 1 to April 15. Assistance is available for the hearing-impaired and for those who need a translator. The tax service is open to area residents of all ages who meet eligibility guidelines. AARP membership is not required.

In Dutchess County, there are 20 free Hudson Valley CASH Coalition tax preparation sites located in: Beacon, Dover Plains, Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, Hyde Park, Millbrook, Millerton, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, Staatsburg, Stanfordville and Wappinger Falls.

Appointments are on a first-come, first-served basis, so individuals should call 2-1-1 as soon as possible.

For additional information about the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition, including volunteer opportunities, go to [www.hv-cash.org](http://www.hv-cash.org) or [www.udcor.org/hv-cash](http://www.udcor.org/hv-cash).

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