

Southern Dutchess News

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Time capsule buried during East Fishkill Flag Day dedication



The dedication of the flagpole at Unity Park, off Route 82, took place on June 14, Flag Day, in East Fishkill. There was the burying of a time capsule as well.

By Kristine Coulter

A dedication ceremony was held at the flagpole at Unity Park presented by the East Fishkill Rotary Club in East Fishkill. The park is located off Route 82, near the Acme and Chase Bank. The location is in the center of Hopewell Junction. The highlight of this Flag Day ceremony was the American flag flying at top of the more than 80-foot-flagpole. There was also the burial of a time capsule.

It is "a nice little park we have," said Town of East Fishkill Supervisor Nick D'Alessandro.

There was a previous ceremony held

for the groundbreaking for the flagpole in November 2024. The support of the local and business community "is amazing," remarked the supervisor.

Dan Oberhauser, a member of the American Legion Post 1758, said, "being ex-military, the flag is very special when you're thousands of miles across the world and when you see the flag, it is most reassuring."

Oberhauser served in the U.S. Navy for three years and almost eight months. Among some of the locations he was deployed were the East Coast of Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean.



Pictured are the East Fishkill Rotary bench, ceremonial programs and the time capsule, which was buried at Unity Park in East Fishkill.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter

For the younger generations, Oberhauser said, "I hope they can appreciate much of what the veterans' [sacrificed]. People don't understand what the flag means to the veterans and this country."

East Fishkill Rotary President Nicole Magro said, "I'm very happy that everyone worked so hard to plan for this and it has come to fruition."

"We want this flag to be a symbol of unity for our little corner of the world," Magro remarked.

Inside the time capsule will be pictures, an old Rotary banner, and other historical items regarding Hopewell Junction, explained Magro.

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Summer Kick-off Party at Martz Field on June 25



A Summer Kick-off Party will be held at Martz Field in Wappinger on June 25.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

Ready to celebrate summer? The Town of Wappinger will host a Summer Kick-off Party on Wednesday, June 25, from 5-7 p.m. The festivities will take place at Martz Field, 109 Pye Lane. The event is free.

"Last year, I had this crazy idea we should really be celebrating the end of the school year and getting these kids and families out to the parks," remarked Town of Wappinger Supervisor Joseph Cavaccini. "Last year we did it. It was a great success."

There will be food trucks. One can make crafts. There will be a bounce house for the kids and more.

During the event, children enrolled in the Town's summer camp program can also meet some of the camp's counselors. If one is not signed up for the summer camp program, they can still attend the kick-off party.

This is a way "to get people out in the parks and use them," said Cavaccini.

This year the camp program will be at two sites. The first site is at Martz Field and the second will be at Castle Point Park, 312 River Road, noted Cavaccini. There will be a brand-new playground at Castle Point Park. The current playground at that park is almost four decades old, according to the supervisor.

"We're turning recreation around in this town," said the supervisor.

The Beacon City School District represents 40 percent of the town of Wappinger, said Cavaccini. "We're doing something on this side of town," he said. There will be a new parking area.

The parks are "becoming the centers of the community," said Cavaccini.

Residents see improvements in the parks and "their tax dollars working for them, while offering a tax decrease for them this year," said Cavaccini.

For more information, please visit www.wappingerrecreation.com.

DC Transportation Council sets comment period for improvements

The Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC) is currently accepting comments from the community about its Draft FFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - the prioritized listing of federally funded transportation projects in Dutchess County.

Developed as part of the DCTC's metropolitan transportation planning process, the TIP is one of the DCTC's core products, where agencies and municipalities commit to carrying out federally funded projects. The TIP provides details such as the sponsor, scope, schedule and cost for each project, and the DCTC updates it every three years. The Draft FFY 2026-2030 TIP covers the period from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2030, and will program over \$164 million in

federal transportation funding for state and local projects in Dutchess County. The five-year program will fund critical repairs to local bridges, maintain state and local roads, and support local bus and commuter rail services; residents can also view the DCTC's online TIP Viewer map for more details about the projects. The Draft TIP proposes four new highway projects:

- Repaving Route 9 from Route 113 (Spackenkill Road) in the Town of Poughkeepsie to West Dorsey Lane in the Town of Hyde Park (\$15.5 million) (2026)
- Improving the CR 114 (Main Street)/Grand Avenue intersection in the Town of Poughkeepsie (\$4.3 million) (2028)
- Making pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Beekman Street in the City of Beacon (\$3.8 million)

(2029)

- Replacing the Parsonage Street Bridge in the Town of Rhinebeck (\$3.2 million) (2028)

In addition to projects located solely in Dutchess County, the Draft TIP programs federal funding for systemwide maintenance projects across the seven-county region of NYS-DOT-Region 8, which includes Dutchess County. These projects cover work such as bridge and culvert repairs, road paving and traffic signal and sign improvements on State highways.

The comment period provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft TIP. Comments may be submitted by mail, email or phone, using the contact information below, by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 23.

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Your News



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Summer Nights & Smooth Jazz: Bernie Williams returns to Millbrook Vineyards & Winery for 4th Annual Summer Jazz Concert

Celebrating music, wine and the Dutchess County community, Millbrook Vineyards & Winery (Millbrook Winery) will host former New York Yankee centerfielder and jazz musician, Bernie Williams and his Band of Friends, for its fourth annual summer jazz concert overlooking the vineyard on Saturday, June 28 at 6 p.m. with the lawn and food trucks opening at 4 p.m.

As part of a shared commitment to music education and supporting future musicians, Williams and Millbrook Winery will donate \$10 from every concert ticket sold, as well as a portion of wine sales that evening, to the music programs at Dutchess Community College (DCC). DCC's music program offerings are as diverse as they are dynamic, providing a strong academic foundation for students preparing to transfer into four-year programs in performance, education, studio production, music therapy, business, and more. With instruction spanning styles from classical to jazz, the College prepares aspiring musicians, educators, and industry professionals for success. Beyond the classroom, DCC fosters a vibrant musical community through ensemble opportunities, private lessons, and non-credit classes open to learners of all ages and backgrounds. By making high-quality instruction accessible to both degree-seeking students and passionate community members, DCC reflects Williams' lifelong advocacy for the arts and the winery's affinity to supporting its local community.

"Returning to Millbrook Winery and being a part of something that blends music, wine and community is always one of the highlights of my summer," said Williams, on the partnership. "Sharing the stage with the next generation of musicians and supporting music education makes it all the more meaningful to me."

"The Performing Arts program is thrilled



for the chance to have members of the DCC Jazz Ensemble open for the Bernie Williams annual concert at Millbrook Winery on June 28," said John Howell, assistant professor of music and supervisor of the performing and fine arts music program. "The Jazz Ensemble consists of a wide range of musicians: DCC students and alumni, students from local Dutchess County high schools, and musicians from the community at large, and they welcome new members every semester. We are grateful to both Millbrook Winery and Bernie Williams for giving our students an opportunity to perform."

Coupled with the concert and philanthropic partner, the 2022 vintage of "Bernie's Blend," a red wine blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, aged to perfection, along with a newly created 2023 Chardonnay and the 2021 Pinot Noir varietals blended by Williams himself and Millbrook's Head Winemaker, Ian Bearup, will debut at the evening of the concert. Becoming a family



Former New York Yankees centerfielder and jazz musician, Bernie Williams and his Band of Friends will perform at Millbrook Winery on Saturday, June 28.

-Courtesy photos

tradition, the wine blends will be adorned by a custom label created by Williams' daughter, Beatriz Williams, a Brooklyn-New York-based artist. The label artwork features a symbolic guitar held by two sets of hands — one older, one younger — representing the passing of musical knowledge from one generation to the next. This visual pays tribute to Williams' own journey, inspired by his father, who first taught him to play guitar.

"Working with Bernie on each year's wine blend is a true reflection of the passion and artistry that winemaking and music share," said Bearup. "Each vintage of 'Bernie's Blend' is crafted with care and it's an honor to see our work come together each year, especially as we celebrate our 40 year anniversary this year."

Since retiring from the New York Yankees in 2006, Williams embarked on a successful second act as a jazz musician, earning a Bachelor of Music in jazz performance from the Manhattan School of Music. In 2021, a visit to Millbrook Winery sparked an unexpected connection. Captivated by the vineyards and the winemaking process, Williams struck up a conversation with David Bova, the winery's vice president and general manager. Their shared appreciation for baseball, music and the artistry behind winemaking

led to a unique and fruitful partnership. Each year since, Williams has collaborated closely with the winery, taste-testing barrels and carefully crafting each vintage with precision and creativity.

The 2025 concert will kick off at 6 p.m., featuring a special opening act by DCC Music Program students, who will join Williams and his Band of Friends during the second act. Led by director and saxophonist Joe North, the DCC ensemble includes standout performers, including DCC alum Ben Basile (upright bass) and current students Jevauhn Brown (keyboard), Teo Fairbanks (drums), Pedro Velez de Assis (bass), and Brianna Vivace (vocals). Tickets are on sale now on the Millbrook Winery website and offered in three tiers — VIP Deck or VIP Lawn (\$250 each), which includes a meet and greet with Williams and an open wine bar, and General Admission (\$70 each) where guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs. "Bernie's Blend" red blend, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay will all be for sale the evening of the performance.

The Bernie Williams concert is one of many in Millbrook Winery's summer jazz concert series, happening every Saturday evening, beginning June 21. A full concert schedule can be found on their website.

Reel Hope for Men's Mental Health Fishing Derby scheduled June 22

The Brain and Body Coalition (BBC) has announced that Reel Hope for Mental Health, a community-oriented fishing

event is scheduled for Sunday, June 22 from 6 a.m. – 12 noon at Sojourner Truth Park, 100 Sojourner Truth Way, Ulster

County. This event is designed to be inclusive and welcoming to all, with a particular focus on Men's Mental Health Awareness Month, addressing the critical need to dismantle the stigma surrounding mental health issues among men.

While Reel Hope for Mental Health is open to everyone, it aims to foster a supportive environment where men and boys can be themselves without fear of judgment, pressure, or shame. Fishing serves as more than a leisure activity; it is a catalyst for connection, mindfulness, and healing. Studies indicate that outdoor activities can greatly enhance mental well-being, and this event offers a collective opportunity for such rejuvenation.

No prior fishing experience is needed to participate. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own equipment, though fishing gear and instruction will be available for newcomers. Whether you are a novice or an experienced angler, you are welcome to join the community at the water's edge.

Prizes include: Largest Fish, Smallest

Fish, Most Fish and Least Fish ...and more surprises!

"We strive to craft experiences that foster connection rather than isolation, particularly for men, who are frequently encouraged to hide their struggles," stated Heather Ann Pitcher, Founder of The Brain and Body Coalition. "This event provides a straightforward yet impactful method to engage with mental health through community, nature, and joy."

The BBC expresses heartfelt thanks to Stewart's Shops, Lew's, Zebco, Price Chopper, Market 32, Poughkeepsie Orangetheory fitness, The UPS store in Poughkeepsie, Hudson Valley Pickleball, People USA, Hudson Valley Renegades, Dicks Sporting Goods and our community partners for their support in making this event a reality.

While advance registration is appreciated, it is not mandatory. To register, please visit: Register by email, Reply@brainandbodycoalition.org.

Join us, cast a line, start a conversation, and support men's mental health.

Time capsule buried during East Fishkill Flag Day dedication

Continued from cover

Suzanne DeCosta, who will be the new president of the East Fishkill Rotary Club, said this park was "a collaboration with the Town and with the Rotary members that helped us with this (park)."

DeCosta said that unity is "not only desired but is necessary."

Pastor Taylor Holbrook, lead pastor of Hopewell Reformed Church, offered a prayer.

Flag Committee Chairperson Pat Manning thanked those who donated and offered support for this project. He thanked town board members, Assistant to the Supervisor Gina Grippo and Highway Superintendent Ken Williams

and his crew for their efforts.

Manning said the flagpole goes 8 feet in the ground and is 80 feet above the ground.

There is a sign at Unity Park with the names of businesses and community members who contributed and donated to the project.

"May this new flag fly over East Fishkill forever," said Jim Reynolds, commander of the American Legion Post in East Fishkill.

D'Alessandro said he hopes "the flagpole is still here" and that "they'll see what we were doing [by] the few mementoes" when the time capsule is open decades from now.

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