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PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

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# Twenty-six mile Harlem Valley Rail Trail beckons

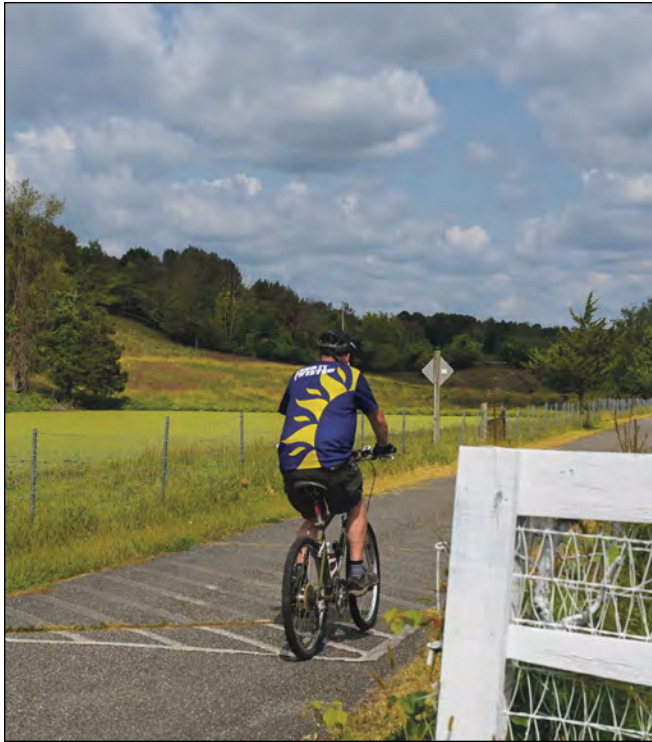


PHOTO BY JOHN GOSTON

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail courses through the rural landscapes of Dutchess and Columbia counties.

With crisp days and blue skies overhead, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail provides leaf peepers and nature lovers a chance to leave their cars behind and travel through the countryside on a secure paved path.

Residents and visitors of all ages are welcome to enjoy The Trail which runs through forests, farmlands, wetlands and villages. It follows the path that railroads took for some 100 years as they transported goods to New York City, allowing the area to thrive.

Conceived of in the 1980s and eventually opened in 1996, The Trail utilizes the space that was left behind when those railroads — once the economic life-giving arteries of the area — were left behind in the 1960's.

There is no charge for use of the 26-mile trail, which is open from dawn until dusk throughout the four seasons running from Wassaic to Copake. Reservations are not required, but visitors should check the website to see if a portion might be temporarily closed for repairs.

There is trail parking on Mechanic Street in Amenia leading to Rt. 343 and the town. The Millerton trail entrance is located next to the Irondale Schoolhouse on Main Street with parking in a free lot around the corner on South Center Street. Both provide easy access to small town charm with restaurants suited to every taste, a variety of shops and even the Millerton movie theater for a stop before or after traveling The Trail.

Paid parking is available at the Wassic Train Station with free parking at Undermountain Road in



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Ancram, at the entrance to Taconic State Park in Copake Falls, and at Orphan Falls Road in Copake Falls.

Lisa DeLeeuw, Executive director at Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association says in addition to access through those parking areas, riders can also “just jump on and off The Trail at any road crossing.”

According to DeLeeuw, trail regulations are simple and basically follow general “rules for the road.” Details may be found at hvrt.org under Usage at the About tab. They center around safety and courtesy involving littering, noise, and disruption of wildlife or the environment. They are based on common sense with fire, camping, and alcoholic beverages banned.

Neighboring properties and their residents should to be respected. Animals are permitted, but owners are expected to clean up after them.

Electric mobility wheelchairs and Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are permitted, but horses and “motorized vehicles” are not.

For the convenience of trail users, portable toilets are available in Millerton, Coleman Station, Amenia and Wassaic.

The Trail is maintained by a cooperative effort of professionals and volunteers who keep vegetation in check and aid in clean up as seasons change or nature brings occasional surprises..

If trail users notice any problems such as downed limbs or necessary work, they may contact DeLeeuw through the website or call the Dutchess County Parks at 845-298-4611. Emergency calls can be made to 911.

The Trail is supported by a combination of public and private funds. Appreciating donations, DeLeeuw says, “We always need matching funds for our projects.” She notes a ‘Bridge to Nature’ is currently being developed and will eventually provide a “series of nature and history signs that will be right at The Trail head by the double bridge by the Railroad Plaza” in Millerton.

The goal of the HVRT Association is to eventually use all 46 miles of former track land in order to reach Chatham. A map of The Trail, both present and future is available on the website.



MAP COURTESY HARLEM VALLEY RAIL TRAIL ASSOCIATION

# The Dover Oak: 300 years strong

Twelve stalwart middle schoolers, and their intrepid teachers hike annually through a four-mile section of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Eastern Dutchess County, NY. As they wind their way down the path from a sunny apple-tree filled meadow, they come upon the massive 300-year-old Dover Oak. Since the early 1700s, when the Algonquin tribe still walked the land, its life was contained in an acorn. This Eastern White Oak (*Quercus alba*), the largest on the length of the Appalachian Trail, the 2,180-mile footpath from Georgia to Maine, has been growing strong and steady. A witness to three centuries of its local history, this ancient survivor has withstood the march of time.

It was a sapling in 1778 when General George Washington blockaded Fredericksburgh, New York, with his 13,000 troops (to keep the British in New

York City) and established his Headquarters in the house of John Kane in Pawling, a few miles from the Dover Oak. Surely during our Civil War in the 1860s, the now larger oak gave shelter to Union soldiers in NY's Fifth Regiment. Then in 1916 when W.E.B. Du Bois and other activists met in the historic Amenia Conferences at Troutbeck, whose purpose was to advance the standing of black citizens in America, (culminating in the NAACP), travelers exclaimed at the breadth of the limbs of the Dover Oak. How does a tree survive de-forestation, being chopped up for firewood, disease, air pollution, drought, and now the impact of climate change?

Your journey on the Appalachian Trail begins at the Great Swamp, New York State's third largest freshwater wetlands. A bridge allows you to cross the Swamp River, and the hardest part of the trek

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PHOTO JENNIFER ALMQUIST

The 300 year-old Dover Oak in Pawling, Eastern Dutchess County, New York is 22 feet in circumference and 114 feet tall.

begins as you head up through the woods. Reaching the top of Corbin Hill, your pathway opens onto the sunny farmland following the perimeter of the fields. Carefully walk down the fieldstone steps, then crane your neck to see the massive limbs of a huge, 114-foot tree reaching skywards above you. You have reached the Dover Oak on West Dover Road in Pawling. This magnificent landmark is on the New York State's Big Tree Registry as the largest Eastern White Oak.

To stand near it is overwhelming. Embracing the 20-foot circumference is like hugging an elephant. The sunlight filters down endless convolutions of gnarly bark. You might see a gossamer spiderweb undulating in the wind, catching rainbows from the sun. Squirrels and chipmunks gather on its branches. The base of the trunk resembles the foot of a giant elephant. The surrounding soil is tamped down by the feet of many pilgrims who pay homage to this wonder of nature and survival.

Tom Fahsbender, Director of Experiential Education at the Washington (CT) Montessori School and math and science teacher, has been bringing groups of his middle school students on hiking and backpacking trips on various sections of the Appalachian Trail for the past twenty years. "The trail from the AT train stop on Route 22 to Telephone Pioneers shelter is a favorite of my students, mainly because of the Dover Oak. We generally have about 8 to 10 kids, and the hike is rigorous. After we trek up the hill, over the crest and then slog down through some consistently muddy sections, we climb down a few stone steps and suddenly we are confronted by this glorious, monstrous tree. At this point in the hike the kids are pretty tired, but they get so excited being in the presence of this ancient oak. We spend time talking about its age and all the things that it's seen, we join hands to measure its circumference and pace out the vast reach of its branches, but mostly the students just like being with the tree. They touch its bark and try to find creatures in the crevices or up in the branches. It is, in the truest sense, awesome."



PHOTO JENNIFER ALMQUIST

The advertisement features a background image of a lightning bolt striking a field. On the left is a blue logo of a lightning rod. The text is as follows:

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PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Hiddenhurst Farm in North East, New York, was the estate of businessman Thomas Hidden.



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# Historic sites recall our history

The Wappingers, part of the Lenape People, lived along the Hudson River, forming the foundation of the region's heritage. Their land, Lenapehoking, spanned from the Catskills to New Jersey. European settlers later expanded farming, commerce, and politics. Visitors today can explore historic sites ranging from colonial homes and Revolutionary War landmarks to 19th-century schools and churches.

These are a few of the sites that offer glimpses into the rich historical and cultural legacy of Dutchess County.

## **Akin Free Library**

*Pawling, NY*

Victorian stone building from 1898.

## **Beekman Meeting House**

*LaGrangeville, NY*

Quaker meeting house and cemetery from 1809.

## **Madam Brett Homestead**

*Beacon, NY*

Oldest building in southern Dutchess, early 18th century.

## **Bykenhulle**

*Hopewell Junction, NY*

Greek Revival house, mid-19th century.

## **Dover Stone Church**

*Dover Plains, NY*

Notable 17th-century geological and cultural site.

## **Innisfree Garden**

*Millbrook, NY*

Chinese-inspired public garden from 1930.

## **Friends of Spencer's Corners**

### **Burying Ground**

*North of Millerton, NY*

One of the oldest cemeteries in Dutchess County, with burials dating back to 1701.

## **John Kane House**

*Pawling, NY*

George Washington's headquarters during the Revolution.

## **Irondale Schoolhouse**

*Millerton, NY*

Late 1850s one-room schoolhouse, relocated to the rail trail and restored for community use.

## **Oblong Friends**

### **Meetinghouse**

*Pawling, NY*

1764 Quaker meetinghouse.

## **Eleanor Roosevelt**

### **National Historic Site**

*Hyde Park, NY*

Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's home.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## **Coleman Station.**

## **Coleman Station Historic District**

*North East, NY*

A 3-square-mile historic farming area.

## **Troutbeck**

*Amenia, NY*

Historic estate hosting key civil rights meetings.

## **Vanderbilt Mansion**

*Hyde Park, NY*

Beaux-Arts mansion, built 1896-1899.

## **Wethersfield Estate**

*Amenia, NY*

Public garden with over 20 miles of trails.

*continued on page 10*

## ... historic sites

continued from page 9

### Howland Library

Beacon, NY

Now The Howland Cultural Center, the original Howland Library was designed by Richard Morris Hunt in the 1870s.

### Graham-Brush Log House

Pine Plains, NY

A historic two-room log structure with a wood frame lean-to, built around 1776.

### Hiddenhurst

North East, NY

This home was the estate of businessman Thomas Hidden and built in the early 20th century

### Parker Training Academy Dutch Barn

Red Hook, NY

One of the last New World Dutch barns in the Hudson Valley, built between 1790 and 1810.

### Elmendorph Inn

Red Hook, NY

1750s house is oldest building in Red Hook; now a community center.

### Ezra Clark House

Millerton, NY

Intact 1780 brick farmhouse is second-oldest in Coleman Station.

### Beth David Synagogue

Amenia, NY

A 1929 synagogue built by a small, local community of Russian Jewish emigrants.

### Tioronda Bridge

Beacon, NY

One of the last bowstring truss bridges in the U.S., built between 1869 and 1873.

### The Village Diner

Red Hook, NY

Originally built in 1951, this diner reflects the mid-20th-century diner style.

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# Farm stands abound with produce, meats

Explore fresh, local produce, meats, and more from these standout farm stands. From organic veggies to pick-your-own experiences, enjoy the region's rich agricultural heritage.

## Dykeman Farm

Pawling, NY

Homegrown vegetables and local fruit with after-hours honor system.

## Montgomery Place Orchards

Red Hook, NY

Home to rare apple varieties and regional farm produce since 1802.

## Mead Orchards

Tivoli, NY

180-acre farm offering pick-your-own fruits and vegetables.

## Meadowland Farm

Clinton Corners, NY

Organic fruits, vegetables, pasture-raised meats, and a historic homestead.

## Rose Hill Farm

Red Hook, NY

Fruit-picking and cider taproom at a family orchard dating back to 1798.

## Ruby Hill Farm

Clinton Corners, NY

Natural meats, eggs, and seasonal organic produce.


*continued on page 12*



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Delicata squash ready for prep as a fall side dish.

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## ... farm stands

continued from page 11

### **Hahn Farm**

*Salt Point, NY*

Family farm with hormone-free meats, hay, and fall festivals.

### **Greig Farm**

*Red Hook, NY*

A third-generation farm with sustainably grown produce and a community market.

### **Fishkill Farms**

*Hopewell Junction, NY*

Organic vegetables, eco-certified fruit, pick-your-own events, and a CSA.

### **Barton Orchards**

*Poughquag, NY*

Pick-your-own apples, family activities, and craft drinks.

### **The Farm Store at Willow Brook**

*Millerton, NY*

Pork, beef, eggs, and local goods from the farm.

### **Paley's Farm Market:**

*Amenia, NY*

Farm market and garden center known for local produce.

### **Chaseholm Farm**

*Pine Plains, NY*

Grass-fed dairy and meat with local products in the farm store.

### **Ronnybrook Farm**

*Pine Plains, NY*

Fresh, unhomogenized milk and dairy products in glass bottles.



PHOTOS BY JOHN COSTON

Above, leeks. Right, The Farm Store at Willow Brook Farm in northern Dutchess County.



### **Silamar Farm**

*Millerton, NY*

Sustainable farming and fresh produce.

### **Daisy Hill Farm**

*Millerton, NY*

Plant starters, vegetables, flowers, and garden items, as well as fall activities.

### **Fat Apple Farm (Farm Store)**

*Pine Plains, NY*

A sustainable livestock farm prioritizing ethical practices that benefit the land and animals.

### **Sugar Hill Farm**

*Pine Plains, NY*

Raises high-quality, antibiotic- and hormone-free pork using a unique farrowing program, offering spacious areas for sows and piglets.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Silamar Farm on Route 22 in Millerton.

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# Horse boarding and training reflect long county tradition

Discover the best in equine boarding, training and sales and participate in a long tradition of equestrianism in Dutchess County. Barns cater to a wide range of skill levels and disciplines, ensuring that every unique rider has a place to fit their needs. Dutchess County is also host to a number of qualified equine therapists.

## **Mashomack Polo Club** *Briarcliff Lane, Pine Plains, NY*

Located on a historic 19th-century dairy farm in Pine Plains, the Mashomack Polo Club is an idyllic place for polo players of all levels to gather, learn and compete. The club offers professional lessons and clinics for polo players and a Saturday coaching league where players of all levels come together to play in

matches “designed to help you learn the rules and hone your game,” according to Mashomack’s website. More information on lessons and boarding is available on their website, [www.mashomackpoloclub.com](http://www.mashomackpoloclub.com), or by contacting Polo Manager Juan Olivera at (561) 601-9316.

## **Southern Dutchess Equestrian Center**

*187 Robinson Lane,  
Wappingers Falls, NY*

Southern Dutchess Equestrian Center offers a range of boarding services and lessons for riders of all skill levels. The 20 stall shed row barn boasts a heated tack room and refrigerator. Southern Dutchess aims to create a fun and relaxed atmosphere for riders, with a focus on keeping things “fun and rewarding for both rider and steed.” The barn also offers summer camps for children and serves as a venue for birthday parties.



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### **Netherwood Acres**

883 Netherwood Rd, Hyde Park, NY

This full service barn features a full cross-country course, indoor and outdoor rings and a close relationship with the Millbrook Hunt Club. Riders interested in show jumping, dressage, cross country and fox hunting can enjoy the barn's facilities and join fox hunting meets at their leisure. Netherwood also offers sale services and lessons for riders of all levels.

### **Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue**

2699 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY

Unlike the rest of the facilities on this list, Lucky Orphans doesn't lease out space to boarders. Rather, this barn is a nonprofit rescue for injured, abused and neglected animals to come and live out the rest of their days in stress-free bliss. Lucky Orphans hosts local children and school groups for educational events and runs an equine therapy program. The farm hosts regular line dancing nights in its converted indoor ring and on Oct. 25 will be hosting a Halloween party complete with a haunted hay ride through the woods.



Casper, Monty and Ollie enjoying grass and hay in one of the paddocks at Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue in Dover. Lucky Orphans takes abused, neglected or abandoned horses and other farm animals and provides them with care and a home until their final days.

### **Runnin Broke Ranch**

123 Nottingham Road,  
Clinton Corners, NY

For those in need of western style equestrian training, Runnin Broke Ranch offers lessons and clinics in barrel racing and western disciplines. One hour private or group lessons are available for riders of all levels, even if they've never sat on a horse before. Runnin Broke also offers full and turnout board with discounts for multiple horses.

### **Mountain View Ranch**

341 Maloney Road,  
Wappingers Falls, NY

This picturesque facility in Wappingers Falls features a 1/2 mile race track in addition to its indoor and outdoor rings. The 120 acre property is surrounded on all sides by farmland criss-crossed with trails. Mountain View Ranch offers full training board for its clients with access to all facilities and trails with breathtaking views of the Hudson Valley.

*continued on page 16*



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Rick Maxwell of Danbury, Connecticut, visiting Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue's namesake horse Lucky Orphan. Members of the public are welcome to visit with the rescue animals during operational hours after checking in with the main office.

## ... horse trainers

continued from page 15

### Uphill Dressage Center

45 Ice Pond Lane, Salt Point, NY

Uphill Dressage Center is dedicated to helping its clients become the best dressage riders they can be. The regulation size indoor arena is heated and features mirrors lining the walls so riders can watch and analyze their riding from every angle. The facility also has access to miles of trails for when riders want to get out of the ring.

### Calypso Farm

25 Seelbach Lane, Staatsburg, NY

Calypso offers full service board and training to its clients and access to facilities including a large riding field, cross country course and 40 acres of trails. Lesson horses are available for riders that don't have their own, or riders can bring their horse in for lessons.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Netherwood Acres in Hyde Park has a long relationship with the Millbrook Hunt Club. Kristen Smith, the owner and head trainer, has sale horses, leased horses, and owners hunting three days a week. They have an expansive cross country field, outdoor show jumping arena, dressage arena, a large indoor arena, and trails available to ride over.

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## Connections: Mid-Hudson Regional Library System

The well known adage “There is strength in numbers” can be clearly seen through the web of facilities throughout the Mid-Hudson Regional Library System including six libraries providing the sort of resources that grow strong communities and solid, well developed citizens who, in turn, support their towns in many ways.

NorthEast-Millerton Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson says that while each library has unique qualities which makes it special, they are also banded together as members of the system which provides a number of shared services and information. Libraries can learn about everything from regulations to up coming state budget plans and the latest trends in publishing.

By sharing ideas, each library has an opportunity to grow and continue to be responsive to the current desires and needs of patrons.

Leo-Jameson explains that at a time when budgets can be tight, not every library can provide the latest best sellers nor an expansive selection of specialty publications or DVD’s. However, thanks to a robust interlibrary loan system which had recently been upgraded, patrons can search an online catalog and request material from libraries other than their own with items delivered within a day or two and streamed material available immediately.

She says that as the very expensive ebooks have been increasing in popularity, shared resources are particularly helpful. Individual libraries purchase copies of material with the items being available on a first come first served basis to that library’s patrons, but others are welcome to join a waiting list that is computer monitored to keep access fair.

While most patrons find a home at their local libraries, library cards are connected through the Mid-Hudson System and so are valid throughout the region and card holders welcome at all the networked locations. With a few exceptions, patrons have access to traditional material as well as various other items

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Millbrook Library Director Courtney Tsahalis celebrates the collection of 1018 books sent to the United Way for distribution to area children. The volumes were donated by participants in the summer reading program with one book given for each book read by a patron.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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## ... libraries

*continued from page 18*

through the increasingly extensive “Library of Things” which the libraries have developed.

All boast a wide range of regularly scheduled programs for patrons of all ages which are listed on their web pages, as well as special programs which are presented throughout the year.

Locations and websites include: Amenia Free Library, 309 Route 343, Amenia, [amenialibrary.org](http://amenialibrary.org); Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, [millbrooklibrary.org](http://millbrooklibrary.org); NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton, [nemillertonlibrary.org](http://nemillertonlibrary.org); Pine Plains Free Library, 7775 S. Main St, Pine Plains, [pineplainslibrary.org](http://pineplainslibrary.org); Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 NY-22, Hillsdale, [roejanlibrary.org](http://roejanlibrary.org); and Stanford Free Library, 6035 Route 82, Stanfordville, [stanfordlibrary.org](http://stanfordlibrary.org).



PHOTO BY KATE SHANNON

**A huge reading tree became the center of the children’s room at the RoeJan Library in Hillsdale in late August. Assembled by library patron and carpenter Jim Germain, the popular feature contains a bench where parents can sit and read to their children as well as shelves to display books to tempt young imaginations.**



PHOTOS BY NAOMI SCHMID

**Young patrons spent a recent Saturday at the North-East Millerton Library preparing for their future world by learning to create robots. Above, Devon Johnson was delighted with her art robot. Right, Jane Wood worked diligently on creating her drawing robot.**



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# Live music, entertainment venues offer many options

Dutchess County offers a vibrant live music scene, with venues ranging from intimate bars to historic theaters. Whether you're looking for a cozy night of jazz, folk, rock, or something more eclectic, these spots cater to every musical taste. From the homey Daryl's House in Pawling to the lively Towne Crier Café in Beacon, you'll find top-notch performances alongside great food and atmosphere. Whether you're in the mood for a concert of classical music at The Chance Theater or a laid-back evening at a local pub, Dutchess County's live music venues have something for everyone.

## Daryl's House

Located in Pawling, NY, Daryl's House opened in 2014. Owned by Daryl Hall (of Hall & Oates), the restaurant and music venue was inspired by Hall's web series "Live from Daryl's House." Designed in an 18th-century barn style, it features award-winning American cuisine and an intimate music experience with a top-notch sound system.

## The Chance Theater

Located in Poughkeepsie, this theater was built in 1912 for vaudeville. One of the area's premier live music club, it hosts classic and contemporary rock bands, as well as international acts.

## Towne Crier Café

This full-service restaurant in Beacon offers live folk, jazz, blues, Cajun, Zydeco, Celtic, world, bluegrass artists and even open-mic nights. A neighborhood staple, this place is always a great option for some live music and fun with friends.



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PHOTO PROVIDED

Stissing Center in Pine Plains offered a screening of the film ‘Our Farms, Our Farmers.’

### **Stissing Center for Arts and Culture**

The restored 1915 brick building in the heart of Pine Plains is a performance space and cultural center with eclectic and diverse programming.

#### **Tavern 23**

This cool, comfy bistro in Poughkeepsie is a recently revamped college bar, which is now drawing in locals for gastropub eats and great craft brews. They offer several nights of live music for your entertainment.

#### **Mahoney’s**

This traditional Irish pub in Poughkeepsie will definitely keep you entertained! With two levels, and live music Thursday through Saturday, this hotspot is always packed with people out to have a good time.

*continued on page 24*



**Pine Plains  
Free Library**

## **New Hours**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>12pm-6pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12pm-6pm</b>
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<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10am-2pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>

7775 S. Main Pine Plains, NY  
518-398-1927 [pineplainslibrary.org](http://pineplainslibrary.org)

## ... venues

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### Max's on Main

This longtime Beacon bar is a crowd favorite. Their casual vibe and good bar food attract crowds all week long, although it's the live music every Friday and Saturday that really bring this bar to life!

### Eleven 11 Grille & Spirits

1111 Main Street in Fishkill, this restaurant has live music on Fridays.

### Piano Piano Wine Bar

This relaxing space in Fishkill offers live music Saturday evenings, ranging from R & B to Latin jazz and even a crooner. Wines served from around the world, micro brews, cappuccino, espresso and light food items.

### The Bardavon

The Bardavon 1869 Opera House, in the downtown district of Poughkeepsie, is the oldest continuously operating theater in New York State. The Bardavon offers affordable arts education, music, dance, theater, and film. They host renowned performers and free outdoor events.

### Fisher Center at Bard

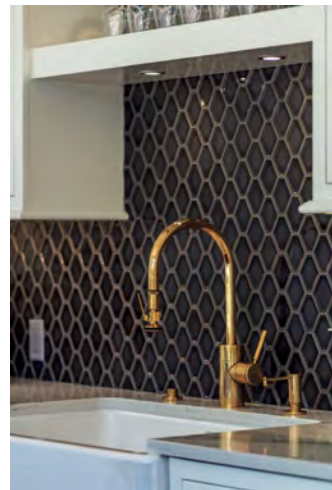
Designed by Frank Gehry, this premier performing arts venue located in Annandale-on-Hudson supports and presents a range of artistic disciplines. It serves as a hub for artistic development, education, and community engagement.

### Quinn's

Located in Beacon, Quinn's is a Japanese ramen spot with great bands and DJs playing almost every night of the week.

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PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Children enjoy the expanded, repaired and resurfaced playground on at Eddie Collins Memorial Park.

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# Community playground: Eddie Collins Memorial Park

Eddie Collins Memorial Park has been a mecca for generations of families in Dutchess County.

While it has been a hometown park for Millerton, families travel from nearby Connecticut and points south in the county to enjoy a day in the park or a Little League baseball game.

The park is named after Eddie Collins, who played major league baseball from 1906 to 1930 for the Philadelphia Athletics and the Chicago White Sox. Born in Millerton in 1887, Collins was not only a big leaguer, he was Ivy League, having graduated from Columbia College. He also was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

When the park began to show its age in recent years, a group of civic-minded volunteers launched a renovation project. Due to their efforts, the Millerton community has witnessed a phased revitalization of Eddie Collins Memorial Park over recent years. The park brings the community together, and with its continued expansion

seeks opportunities to provide accessible engagement for all.

Stephen Waite, chair of the project committee for the park, recalled that he used to play baseball at the park as a youngster.

“When my nephews started playing here,” he said, “I saw that it had really deteriorated, and I thought we should get the community and its volunteers to make it a project.”

The initial renovation of the park, located at 5991 N. Elm Ave., cost \$2.2 million, and was completed in 2022.

That included regrading of the park, a new entrance and paved parking areas, a soccer field, accessible playground upgrades, new basketball courts and pavilion improvements.

A planned pool in the next phase would feature a pool

*continued on page 28*



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

**Webutuck Little League celebrates trophy day at the Eddie Collins Park.**



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PHOTO BY OLIVIA VALENTINE

The initial phase of the park's restoration included new basketball courts.

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## ... park

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house. In addition, the project envisions a commercial kitchen, community room and other community-oriented spaces.

Lighting of the Little League field for night games will be donated by a group of private citizens. Citizens will handle the installation of the lights from start to finish, then donate them to the Village of Millerton.

In addition to the baseball field, today families enjoy a pavillion, a children's playground, the basketball courts and a soccer field.

The Village hopes to break ground on a pool in 2025.

"I spent a lot of time at the old Denney Pool as a kid and made many friends there, some I still keep in contact with," said Waite.

"The pool served the community well for 50 years until closing in 2016. It's taken eight long years, but I'm pleased that people will once again be swimming in Millerton in the not-too-distant future.

The pool, along with the rest of the park, will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Funding for this phase of the project is coming largely from a NY SWIMS capital grant that awarded \$6.385 million to the village to build a community pool, a bathhouse, community room and septic system at the park. It was part of \$38 million in grants to Dutchess County and towns and cities in the Mid-Hudson region just before Labor Day.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Learning on a two-wheeler with training wheels at Eddie Collins Park.

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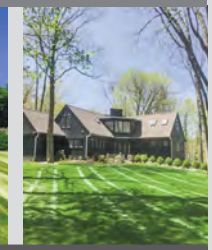
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