



Jackie Reynolds, a.k.a. Bee Bee the Clown, celebrates 30 years of entertaining children of all ages and commemorates International Clown Week (Aug. 1-7) with performances throughout the area. *Courtesy photo*

## Clowning around for 'jest' 30 years

Milan's Jackie Reynolds celebrates a milestone during International Clown Week.

by Kate Goldsmith

We kid you not: Jackie Reynolds takes clowning around very seriously.

You might know the Milan resident as Bee Bee the Clown, delighting children of all ages at performances throughout the area. Now, as she celebrates 30 years since first lacing up her big red shoes, Reynolds will also mark International Clown Week (yes, it's a thing!) with special appearances from Aug. 1 to 7. Along with sharing laughter and joy on visits to local businesses, preschools and

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## Steamboat history comes alive in Clinton Summer Exhibit



Clinton Historical Society Vice-President and Town Historian Craig Marshall examines the features of a seven-foot replica of the "Berkshire," one of the many luxury steamboats that traveled up and down the Hudson River from the 1860s-1920s. The replica is part of the Clinton Historical Society's free summer exhibit to be on display from 1-4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday during August at the Creek Meeting House, at 2433 Salt Point Turnpike in Clinton Corners. *Photo by Curtis Schmidt*

by Curtis Schmidt

Imagine luxurious steamboats with thousands of New York City tourists traveling up and down the Hudson River and visiting ports such as Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Newburgh where residents are waiting with amusement parks,

vendors of all kinds and a great picnic atmosphere.

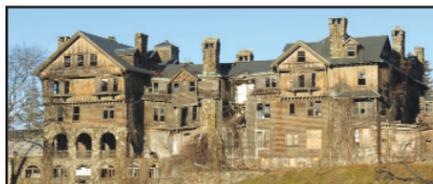
The members of the Clinton Historic Society promise to take everyone back to the days of the "Golden Age" (1860s-1920s) when such scenes were commonplace in the Hudson Valley.

It's all part of the society's annual

Summer Exhibit that will feature the history of steamboats on the Hudson River. The story begins with Robert Fulton's "Clermont" in 1807, then on to the rise of the "Golden Age," and the eventual decline of the great river passenger and freight steamers.

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## Millbrook Community Partnership sets July 29 meeting on Bennett, Thorne Building



As plans for creating a park on the former Bennett College property and renovating the Thorne Building proceed, the Millbrook Community Partnership (MCP) is inviting the public to a meeting at the Millbrook Village Firehouse on Thursday, July 29, from 6 - 8 p.m.

The event, which will be accessible online as well as in person, promises to be

A public meeting is set at the Millbrook Village Firehouse from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, July 29 and online via Zoom. Plans for creating a park on the former Bennett College property and renovating the Thorne Building will be presented. *Archive photos*

both informational and participatory. MCP President Oakleigh Thorne will provide an overview of the evolution and future of both projects. George Whalen, MCP Treasurer, will introduce Kevin Seise of Vertex, the firm that has been retained to oversee the Bennett Park project and architect Michael Sloan will present his plans for the revitalized Thorne Building Community Center.

After each presentation, questions from members of the public will be encouraged. "We are excited by the progress we are making with both projects, and we are eager to get the public's

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS welcomes your letters. Letters must be submitted via e-mail to be considered for publication; e-mail to [northerndutchess@sdutchessnews.com](mailto:northerndutchess@sdutchessnews.com) and include the phrase "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. Include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. We look forward to hearing from you.

# Commission on Reapportionment disbanded due to ineligible member

A Commission on Reapportionment, approved by Dutchess County voters last November, has been disbanded over the objections of Democratic caucus members of the Dutchess County Legislature.

At its July 8 meeting, the Government Services and Administration Committee of the Legislature unanimously adopted legislative remedies to the Commission on Reapportionment. The final vote tally was 10 yeas and 0 nays.

According to a release from Nick Joseph, Assistant to Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver, on June 23, the County Attorney deemed the Commission dissolved/disbanded due to the rule of law because a Commission member was an elected official. He noted that Section 2.012(a) of the Dutchess County Charter requires that "A member shall not currently nor have been for the three years preceding formation of the Commission an elected official. A member shall maintain eligibility while serving on the Commission."

Joseph said at the time, "There exists

one member of the Commission, appointed by the Minority Leader, who is currently an elected official of a school board."

Legislature Minority Leader Rebecca Edwards (D – Town of Poughkeepsie) said Democratic legislators walked out of the Government Services and Administration Committee in support of the commission, which has been working since February.

Democratic legislators also protested a proposed law, brought by the Republican majority, to create a new commission and ban any member of the current body from serving on it.

Since the Democratic members of the Government Services and Administration Committee were not present for the actual vote on the Reapportionment Commission, their votes were counted with the majority – per legislature rules, thus the 10-0 vote.

Edwards said "It is an open question whether a school board member is or is not eligible to serve on the commission.

The County Attorney says not. Their office has stated that their opinion, as legal advisor to the Independent Reapportionment Commission, should 'carry significant weight,' but what they have done goes much further: They declared that member ineligible and told the Commission it was disbanded. The seven Commission members unanimously wrote to dispute that claim."

Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver said, "Reapportioning the County Legislature must be truly independent and having an elected official on the Commission muddies the waters too much. In 2019, Republicans and Democrats worked hand-in-hand to write the reapportionment law and we didn't foresee such a circumstance. Thankfully, the attorneys relied on sound legal precedents and doctrine to guide us through having an ineligible member. Not starting from scratch was too risky and would have left the adopted map open to lawsuits."

## Town of Poughkeepsie residents can share open space ideas; deadline July 31

The Town of Poughkeepsie invites the community to share their thoughts and ideas about the preservation and use of the Town's open spaces by participating in its Online Open Space survey. The survey will close on July 31.

The information gathered in this survey will help shape the vision and goals for the Town of Poughkeepsie Open Space Plan. Community members can

participate through the link provided on the project website at [www.townof-poughkeepsieopenspace.com](http://www.townof-poughkeepsieopenspace.com).

The survey is part of the Town's Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and Open Space Plan, a project funded in part by a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of

Environmental Conservation. The process is being facilitated by a consultant team led by MJ Engineering and Land Surveying; and is overseen by the NRI/Open Space Plan Steering Committee, which includes members of the Conservation Advisory Commission, Town Board, Planning Board, and the Town's Planning Department.

## COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

### Multiple COVID-19 cases in Red Hook highlight importance of protective measures

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) last week announced that eight confirmed cases of COVID-19 were believed to be related to a party at a private residence. The cases, included children and adults.

The cases impacted the Red Hook Central School District summer school program as well as the Red Hook Recreation Summer Camp and Pool programs, with health officials working with each organization for contact tracing, quarantines and other precautionary mitigation efforts.

There was limited impact in the Red Hook Central School District. The district has been in communication with DBCH and all impacted families. Summer school is otherwise operating on a normal schedule with all appropriate precautions. The Red Hook Recreation camp and pool programs are expected to return to normal operations in the next day or two, as there was minimal exposure risk for participants.

On Monday, July 26, Colleen Pillus, communications director for County Executive Marc Molinaro's office, said, "There were no additional cases linked to the Red Hook private party cluster beyond what we announced last week. Most of those cases have completed their 10 day isolation."

"This is a critical reminder to our community that the COVID-19 pandemic is still very much here and it is as important to be vigilant and continue to take steps to protect yourself and your family," said DBCH Commissioner Dr. Anil Vaidian.

"Those who are unvaccinated remain a vector for the virus. Getting vaccinated is the most important protection you can take, as the more people who are vaccinated, the less chance the virus has to spread."

Several of the individuals confirmed as positive for COVID-19 in the Red Hook outbreak had been previously vaccinated; of these, however, most are only experiencing mild symptoms, if any. There are no related hospitalizations or deaths.

"Though we have not had a lab-confirmed case of Delta variant to date in Dutchess County, the new, aggressive COVID-19 variants continue to spread and nationally we are seeing more instances of the variants 'breaking through' to vaccinated people. However, vaccinated individuals generally experience only mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. The risk of being hospitalized or dying is minuscule for vaccinated individuals," said Dr. Vaidian.

Residents should be alert for symptoms and in the event they do experience symptoms, such as coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath or loss of taste or smell; get tested for COVID-19 and stay home to rest and recover.

"The mitigations people took to protect themselves over these many months against COVID-19 are as important as ever to staying healthy and safe, not just against COVID-19, but basic illnesses like summer colds which are on the rise," noted Dr. Vaidian.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses, continue to practice smart health and safety measures

including:

- Washing hands regularly with soap and water; or using hand sanitizer when necessary.

- Practice physical distancing – particularly in congregate settings.

- Stay home when sick! If you are experiencing cold or COVID-19 symptoms, including coughing, sneezing, loss of taste or smell - stay home to rest, recover and help prevent the spread of virus and disease.

- Carry a mask and wear it in crowded settings, particularly when you may be in contact with people who you do not know their vaccination status or are experiencing symptoms.

COVID-19 vaccine is widely available and anyone 12 years and older is eligible to be vaccinated. To learn more about where to get COVID-19 vaccine, visit [www.DutchessNY.gov/covidvaccine](http://www.DutchessNY.gov/covidvaccine).

### Millbrook Community Partnership meeting

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input at this early stage," said Thorne.

As a safety measure for those who plan to attend the meeting at the Firehouse, all unvaccinated people must wear masks, and individuals who are vaccinated may do so if they wish. Those planning to attend virtually can access the Zoom link from the Town of Washington website, [washingtonny.org/](http://washingtonny.org/).