

Dutchess County Office for the Aging's

AGING NEWS

For the week of February 3

“ROMANCE BAITING” – A NEW NAME FOR AN OLD SCAM

Intergovernmental police organization Interpol is asking for worldwide help in fighting the online scam commonly known as “pig butchering” - by using some other phrase for the term so that victims will be less likely to feel shamed, and more likely to report the crimes. The new term favored by Interpol is “romance baiting.”

Romance baiting fraudsters lure their victims by posing online or over the phone as someone who's well-to-do but lonely. Victims fall for the promise of a relationship and are then convinced to invest in cryptocurrency schemes. Once the fraudster gets their hooks into the victim's money, they and the money both disappear. The scam often leaves victims with

devastating financial and emotional losses, which can make it less likely that the victim will report the crime.

Will reporting a scam or scam attempt solve crimes? Not usually by itself; however, a report can be a piece of the puzzle for investigators, and can only help reduce the likelihood of scammers finding new victims.

Our latest Scam Prevention Resources flyer is available at **dutchessny.gov/scamprevention**. It contains key contact information for local, county, state and federal agencies that investigate the countless types of attempted fraud you're likely to encounter.

If you're looking for somebody to talk to just to pass the time, OFA's "Friendly Calls" program is just what you may need. We're looking for both participants (must be Dutchess residents over age 60) as well as volunteer callers (can be any age over 18).

Reach out to OFA at **845-486-2555** or **ofa@dutchessny.com** to find out more or visit **dutchessny.gov/friendlycalls**.

With OFA's "Friendly Calls" program, you can choose to make phone calls to older adults at risk of social isolation, or you can choose to receive calls - or you can do both. For those of you who haven't volunteered before and are exploring your possibilities, "Friendly Calls" can be ideal. A typical "Friendly Calls" series takes place once a week, for 20-30 minutes a call, for eight weeks. "Friendly Calls" volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Those who wish to receive calls must be Dutchess County residents at least 60 years of age.

Upcoming "Friendly Calls" orientations at OFA headquarters at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, 2/4/25, 10:00am

Monday, 2/10/25, 1:30pm

Tuesday, 2/18/25, 10:00am

Monday, 2/24/25, 1:30pm

To schedule your volunteer orientation – they last about an hour – here at our Poughkeepsie office, call 845-486-2555 during business hours, or email ledgar@dutchessny.gov.

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS – A REMINDER

Dutchess County Government offices, including the Office for the Aging and all OFA Friendship Centers, are closed on Wednesday, February 12th in observance of the Lincoln’s Birthday holiday, which is observed as a legal holiday in New York State and seven other states. Another closure is scheduled for Monday, February 17th, the national Presidents Day holiday.

Clients of OFA’s Home Delivered Meals program receive shelf-stable meals in advance of legal holidays, as well as anticipated inclement winter weather.

“SENIOR PARK PRINTS” RETURNS FOR OLDER ADULTS IN DUTCHESS

(FILLING UP FAST!)

The annual Senior Park Prints series art class for beginners age 60 and up is about to get underway, co-hosted by the Office for the Aging and Dutchess County Parks. If you're a Dutchess County older adult (60+) who's looking to develop a new skill, register and join us at one of the following free classes:

- **Tuesday, February 11th - 10:45 am** - Red Hook OFA Friendship Center, 59 Fisk St., Red Hook
- **Tuesday, March 18th - 2:00 pm** - Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie
- **Tuesday, April 8th - 2:00 pm** – Millerton-Northeast Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton
- **(AT CAPACITY) ~~Thursday, April 17th - 2:00 pm~~** – ~~East Fishkill Community Center, 890 Route 82, Hopewell Junction~~

Space is limited to 12 registered older adults per event, one class per registrant. Call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 to register.

All art supplies will be provided, and each artist can take home their new masterpiece after class.

HARRISON FORD AND...OFA'S EXERCISE PROGRAM?

There are many great reasons for older adults in Dutchess County to join an OFA Exercise class, but we must admit we didn't include "looking good in a kilt at age 82" as one of them. [For that, we must rely on Harrison Ford](#) in this new ad for Glenmorangie whisky from Scotland. For more information on OFA Exercise classes, whether you're interested in participating and/or leading a class (we provide all training), visit dutchessny.gov/seniorexercise, call 845-486-2555 during business hours, or email ofa@dutchessny.gov.

(Whisky not permitted at classes, as per OFA Nutrition recommendations, and state law.)

DUTCHESS TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN

With OFA offices overlooking Route 9 in Poughkeepsie, we get a firsthand look at many common Dutchess County traffic concerns. Like you, we find ourselves asking the common questions:

Why's everybody going so fast?

Why's everybody going so slow?

That pothole is older than my grandchildren. How come it hasn't been fixed?

The sidewalk in front of my house is falling apart!

It's not always clear who should hear your concerns and what could be done, which is a situation the Dutchess County Transportation Council aims to alleviate with its [Safety Action Plan](#). Their goal is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries countywide, and they need your input. The link above includes an online survey and interactive map where you can note the specific locations of issues that are important to you. Both are in English and Spanish.

MILLERTON / CENTURY BOULEVARD PUBLIC INFO MEETING

(SATURDAY 2/1)

The Village of Millerton is holding a Public Information Meeting on Saturday, February 1st at 1:00 pm at the Library Annex at 28 Century Blvd., which operates as an OFA Friendship Center during the week.

The Village of Millerton will hold a public information meeting on Saturday, February 1st about developing a new 'complete street' plan for Century Boulevard. The meeting will be held at 1 PM at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex at 28 Century Boulevard. The site operates as an OFA Friendship Center during weekdays.

The meeting will introduce the public to village planning goals and begin a planning and design process to make the street safer and more functional for all users, and better its appearance.

This meeting will begin the collection of public comments on the concerns of Century Boulevard service needs, including pedestrian and vehicular traffic; public safety; parking; storm water management; and street landscape.

The meeting is anticipated to be one and a half hours long. Light refreshments served.

This planning project is partially funded through the Hudson River Greenway Community Planning Grants Program and the Berkshire-Taconic Northeast Dutchess Fund.

RENOVATIONS AT POUGHKEEPSIE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

Renovations got underway on January 30th at Social Security's office at 332 Main St. in Poughkeepsie; the office is scheduled to remain closed for in-person business for about two weeks, and is scheduled to open "a small contact station" for in-person business at the Poughkeepsie location starting Monday, February 17th.

Should a person need an appointment by phone or video, they can request one by either calling the Poughkeepsie office at 1-877-405-6747 or the national 800# - 1-800-772-1213.

During the renovations in Poughkeepsie, in-person business can be conducted at the Social Security field office in Middletown, at 85 Crystal Run Rd.

Local Social Security officials say applying online is hands down the fastest and most efficient way to file for benefits like retirement and disability, and even request duplicate Social Security cards. Visit ssa.gov to get started.

LOW/MODERATE INCOME TAX PREP

FREE tax preparation once again is available, from AARP Foundation TaxAide's IRS trained and certified volunteers, through the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition.

Last year, 6,418 residents of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties received help preparing and filing their taxes, with a goal of helping 8,000 residents file returns this tax season.

The tax service is open for low to moderate income residents of all ages who meet the eligibility guidelines. Membership in AARP is not required. This free tax preparation service is provided to all those who are eligible thanks to AARP Foundation Tax-Aide and Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition members including the Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County.

To receive help, dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment through United Way's Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 Helpline; or call 1-800-899-1479.

2-1-1 is available to take appointment calls from 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday.

Other news:

[A look at our future?](#) Cumberland County, Tennessee has one of the nation's oldest overall workforces, and a third of its residents are age 65+. That's similar to the 65+ population percentage in several of Dutchess County's rural towns.

Influenza, COVID, and...[what's RSV](#)? Another virus of particular concern to older adults. Learn more at the link.

[Is any movement coming](#) on rural cell phone coverage?

January 29th marked the Lunar New Year celebration, opening the Year of the Snake, and so there's no better time than now to share [this classic postcard from the legendary Montfort Reptile Institute](#) in Rhinebeck. Yes, those are cobras in the picture.

Thousands of Dutchess County grade-schoolers visited the institute on field trips back in the day, and none of them were scared of the snakes...right?

This week's birthdays:

1/31: Baseball Hall-of-Famer [Nolan Ryan](#) (78)

2/1: Original "Saturday Night Live" cast member [Garrett Morris](#) (88)

2/2: Singer/songwriter [Graham Nash](#) (The Hollies / Crosby, Stills, Nash and sometimes Young) (83)

2/3: Pro Football Hall-of-Famer [Fran Tarkenton](#) (85)

2/4: Musician [Alice Cooper](#) (77)

2/5: Race car driver/sportscaster [Darrell Waltrip](#) (78)

2/6: Journalist/author [Tom Brokaw](#) (85)

And here's a Bad Joke:

When my spouse told me to stop impersonating a flamingo, I had to put my foot down.