Dutchess County Office for the Aging's

AGING NEWS

For the week of November 23

Thanksgiving Week Hours

The Office for the Aging and OFA Friendship Centers are closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 26th.

OFA Friendship Centers will also be closed on Friday, November 27th. The OFA office in Poughkeepsie will be open regular hours.

Ants and Scams and Holiday Shopping

If you find two ants in your kitchen, the best estimate of the total number of ants in your kitchen is…more than two.

If you notice two holiday shopping "bargains" that look too good to be true because they're scams, the best estimate of the total number of holiday

shopping scams is...over 100,000, according to the Scamwise 2026 Holiday Shopping Report.

And that number grew in the time it took you to read this sentence.

Scammers used to traffic mainly in bootleg and knockoff products, and it was fairly easy to spot the bogus goods. Now they can fake the whole store, using the same digital infrastructure and advertising networks that legitimate sellers and Fortune 500 brands use every day.

Scammers Always Have Product In Stock

A "fully-stocked" fake online store can be enough to trick people into thinking that they've found that gift that's been sold out everywhere else. Everything looks real: size charts, return policies, detailed product descriptions, slick sales pitches, even heartfelt family-focused mission statements. It's all fake, most likely generated by artificial intelligence (AI).

The top three categories of fake online stores:

Clothing and apparel

Electronics

Tools and equipment

One easy way to avoid this kind of online shopping scam: SHOP LOCAL.

Scam Stores Abound on Facebook

Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with friends and family. The Office for the Aging has found it tremendously useful in spreading the word about our services and events.

But scammers have noticed Facebook's inability (or unwillingness, depending on one's opinion) to turn away fraudulent advertising. A 2025 Reuters

investigation found that internal Facebook documents projected that 10 percent of its 2024 revenue would come from scams and advertising for banned products. In financial terms, that's $16 billion.

We told you scams were *big* business.

Scammers' Sales Calendar

Right now they're focusing on fake holiday sales. This summer, they peddled fake tickets to the World Cup and NBA Finals. In the late summer, fake back-to-school sales made the rounds. Over the winter, you can expect to see fake deals related to Valentine's Day and tropical vacations.

More Tips For Spotting Fake Online Stores

- A brand you've never heard of. Search the brand's name plus the word "scam;"

- A too-good-to-be-true discount, especially if you haven't seen it elsewhere;
- Seasonal urgency, like a countdown clock. Creating false urgency is a favorite tool of scammers; and
- Anything you're still not sure of, after checking with trusted sources.

We'll say it again: *shop local*. Plenty of stores right here in Dutchess County have just what you might be looking for, and your purchases will support the local economy and local families.

Watch Your Email…Soon

…for a special announcement from OFA and County Executive Sue Serino.

2026-27 Homebound Vaccination Program Now Underway

Are you a homebound Dutchess County resident over age 60, or the caregiver for one? If the homebound individual in question is unable to get a COVID booster and/or influenza vaccine due to their condition preventing safe travel to a conventional provider, OFA can facilitate the vaccination(s) at home.

This year's vaccines are being administered countywide to homebound older adults by Pine Plains Pharmacy, with appointments arranged by OFA.

For this program, "homebound" is defined as a Dutchess County resident over age 60 who is unable to leave home due to physical limitations, cognitive impairment, other chronic conditions, a lack of transportation, visual impairments, and without caregivers available to get the individual in question to a vaccination provider in person.

OFA will accept reservation requests through close of business Friday, February 19th, 2027. Call OFA during business hours to find out more: **845-486-2555.**

"Support Our Seniors" Continues

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and the Office for the Aging are continuing the “Support Our Seniors” giving program that made its debut in 2025. We’re looking for donations of new, unwrapped gifts:

- non-slip socks
- blankets and throws
- gloves and mittens
- Slippers
- Scarves

Gifts can be dropped off until Monday, December 14th, at the OFA main office at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie, weekdays from 9:00am-4:30pm. There’ll be a donation box in the lobby.

Gifts can also be dropped off until December 14th at any OFA Friendship Center. Operating dates and hours are listed below:

Beacon - 1 Forrestal Heights

Mon-Fri, 10a-2p

East Fishkill - East Fishkill Community Center, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction

Mon-Fri, 10a-2p

Millerton - NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex

28 Century Blvd., Millerton

Mon-Thu, 10a-2p

Pawling - Town Hall Annex, 154 Charles Colman Blvd. (lower level)

Tue-Thu, 10a-2p

Red Hook - 59 Fisk St. (Red Hook Community Center)

Mon-Fri, 10a-2p

South Amenia - First Presbyterian Church, 229 South Amenia Rd., Wassaic

Mon-Thu, 10a-2p

Tri-Town - First Presbyterian Church, 1576 Main St., (US 44), Pleasant Valley

Mon-Thu, 10a-2p

For additional information, email ofa@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-2555.

Volunteer gift wrappers are also welcome. Contact OFA for more info.

Rhinebeck/Red Hook Lions Thanksgiving Meal Delivery

The Rhinebeck Lions Club (www.lionbeck.org, rbk.lions@gmail.com, 845-876-6705) is preparing and delivering free Thanksgiving meals for those in need in the Rhinebeck/Red Hook community. Meals may be requested through November 23rd.

Volunteers are welcome on Thanksgiving morning starting at 9:30am at the Rhinebeck American Legion (6361 Mill St., Rhinebeck).

Contact the Lions for more information.

Other news:

Our first thoughts on the viral Saturday Night Live "Sister" sketch? That more of us, caregivers and older adults alike, need to get to know the Office for the Aging before they need us. Doing nothing and hoping for the best isn't a plan.

Aging brains, according to new research, are more resilient to sleepless nights.

What kind of memory loss is "normal" aging...but when is memory loss something more than that?

This week's birthdays:

11/21: NBA Hall of Famer Earl "The Pearl" Monroe (82)

11/22: Director/actor Terry Gilliam (Monty Python) (86)

11/23: Singer/songwriter/pianist Bruce Hornsby (72)

11/24: Drummer/songwriter Pete Best (The Beatles, for a little while) (85)

11/25: Singer/songwriter Amy Grant (66)

11/26: Sportscaster/baseball player Harold Reynolds (66)

11/27: Entertainer/scientist Bill Nye (71)

Bad Jokes as a Thanksgiving side dish? We're in!

Why did the turkey pass on the pumpkin pie? *He was stuffed*.

What did one combative pumpkin pie say to the other?

"You wanna piece of me?"

In what state did the pilgrims arrive? *Exhaustion*.

How do potatoes cross the sea? *On gravy boats*.