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C O N F I D E N T I A L

Volume 22
Number 6

FALL 2022



mysterious
meanderings

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ON THE COVER

Traveling along a beautiful wooded
 lane you arrive at a getaway that could
 easily invoke the feelings of stepping
 back into another time.
 Please see our story inside on page 14.

Autumn Schanil photo

The Rose Cottage in De Bruce



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autumnal stirrings

It's almost fall here in the Sullivan Catskills. Soon the landscape will be filled with the brilliant colors of fall foliage—orange, red, and golden tones. Come take a drive through the mountains and river valley to truly take it all in.

Explore our towns and villages where you'll find Catskill-icious farm-to-table dining, cute coffee shops, and stores with everything from antiques to locally-made wares. Stop by a farmers' market to find fruits and vegetables fresh from the fall harvest.

Families can enjoy corn mazes, pumpkin patches and more at Cunningham Family Farms and apple picking at Majestic Farm; we have all the fall activities.

Returning this year is Peace, Love & Pumpkins at Bethel Woods. Running October 14 through 30, this walk-thru experience features thousands of unique hand-carved jack-o-lanterns and glowing themed pumpkin art.

Also held at Bethel Woods is the Harvest Festival. Held every Sunday until October 2, this annual event features more than 80 regional vendors, live music, food trucks, corn and hay mazes, and special offerings.

Explore our walking and hiking trails to breathe in the fall fresh air and scenic views. Get your gear from our suppliers like Fortress Bikes and Morgan Outdoors in Hurleyville.

Spooky season begins in October and you'll find a truly spooky historical Halloween event at Fort Delaware. Visit our website events calendar and our app to find up-to-the-minute events in our communities.

We have a variety of stunning accommodations you can cozy up in, from full-service resorts to charming inns to boutique hotels. Or check out a vacation rental, and you can have a whole house to yourself (and your travel buddies).

Our Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail is a great way to get outdoors and explore. Now featuring 60 Dove sculptures, the trail is in towns, villages, and businesses throughout the area. Can you find them all? (Take a picture and tag #SullivanCatskillsDoveTrail).

There's so much more to discover, and autumn is the perfect time to take a trip to the Sullivan Catskills. Visit www.sullivan-catskills.com for more information, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



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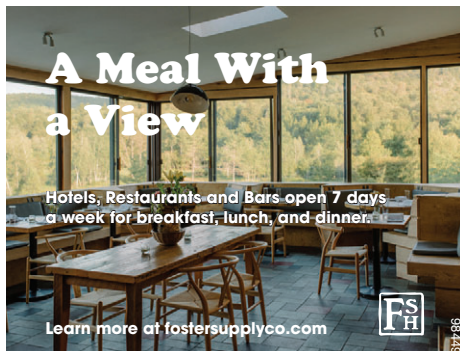
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In celebration of *by Autumn Schanil* creativity



The annual Callicoon Art Walk is just around the corner. Coming into its ninth year, the Art Walk will take place on Saturday, October 8, in the hamlet of Callicoon showcasing local artists and artisans from all around the region.

Arts and music will be on display wherever your feet take you - in storefronts, galleries, restaurants and cafes. There will be outdoor art installations, public performances, video projections, dance, workshops, artist meet and greets, interactive projects and more, well into the evening hours, with many Main Street merchants staying open until 8pm.

It's an event you don't want to miss, so mark your calendars and enjoy a spectacular day of art.





At the Callicoon Art Walk you'll have the chance to get hands on during workshops, browse artwork along Main Street, and witness artist performances.

Details of the day's events will be listed at <http://visitcallicoon.com/callicoon-artwalk> and their Facebook page www.facebook.com/callicoonartwalk



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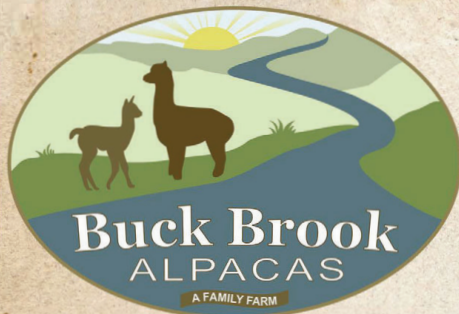
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The Burn Brae Mansion is as elaborate outside as it is inside from the stonework, round windows, and detailed trim to the jeweled chandeliers, archways, and treasures found in each and every room.

Mysterious mansion with a history

story and photos by Autumn Schanil

Autumn is upon us here in the Catskills, and with the changing of the leaves, cooler temperatures, and the stillness of the nights comes ghost stories by the fire and setting out decorations for Halloween.

But what if the ghost stories told with toothy grins and flashlights under chins were actually real? A night's stay at the Burn Brae Mansion in Glen Spey just might answer that question.

Burn Brae Mansion was built in 1907-08 by Margaret Ross MacKenzie Elkin and her husband, Charles. Margaret, the daughter of George Ross MacKenzie (third president of the Singer Sewing Machine company), was one of seven children who built elaborate summer mansions in Glen Spey after their father's death in 1892. Burn Brae is one of three mansions still standing.

Since the Elkins, the Mansion has changed hands five times, serving as a boarding house, a tea room during prohibition, separated as apartments, and as a bed and breakfast.

"We've been here for about 30 years," said Pat Fraysse, who owns the Mansion with her husband, Mike. "My husband was a cycling coach, and so that was the original idea when we bought the house, was for Mike to have his own training camp.

That's how everything started."

Mike coached three Olympic teams, several World's Championship teams, and ran training camps for the Cycling Federation and the International League, so when they saw the mansion was for sale he jumped at the opportunity to start his own camp.

When Mike and Pat purchased the home, an older couple in their 80s who had been living on the second and third floor, came

with it.

"There was absolutely no way we could tell them to move," said Pat, "so they stayed with us until they passed away at 98 and 99."

During that time, Mike with the help of skilled local carpenters and craftsmen began restoring the original character of the house. Taking down walls that had been put up, restoring pillars, archways, and stained glass

windows to the living room, repairing the main stairway, and fixing leaks in the roof, all while training riders.

Many of those young riders who finished school early would come and stay at the mansion for weeks at a time.

"They were actually the ones who started telling Mike and I things that they were seeing or experiencing," explained Pat, "but we kind of just brushed it off and thought it was crazy."

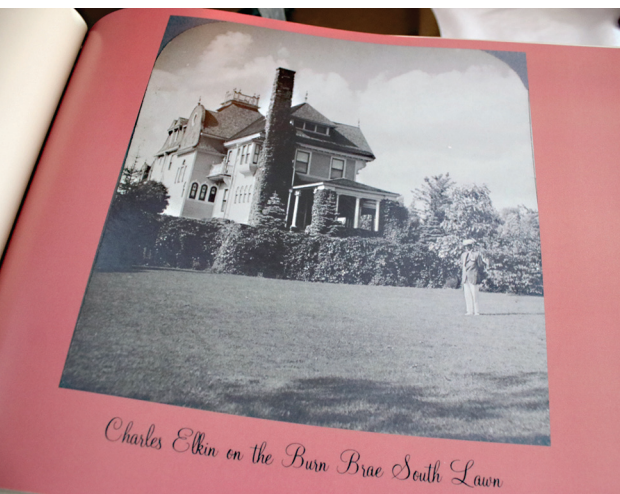
Eventually, Pat's daughter Susan, suggested that on their off-season months they should turn the Mansion into a bed and breakfast, and so Pat and Mike agreed.

"Suddenly guests were telling me that someone was touching their hair or pulling their foot in the middle of the night," Pat said turning on the lamp in an upstairs bedroom. "Other guests told me they heard people talking or moving furniture in the room above them where no guests were at the time."

That's when Pat and Mike started talking to the previous owners to see if they had ever experienced anything, and invited a professional paranormal group that had been working with the paranormal for 35 years - as suggested by their son-in-law - into the Mansion.



continued on page 16



BURN BRAE MANSION

You can visit burnbraemansion.com for more history, photos, or information on bookings and special events, or call the Burn Brae office at (845)856-3335.



continued from page 15

"The stuff they found..." Pat said pausing, placing her hand on her chin, "still gets to me when I think about it."

Pat herself hadn't experienced much as she worked in New Jersey up until about four to five years ago, and wasn't in the house as much as her husband, Mike, who spending quite a lot of time alone was beginning to hear and see things. Since retiring from her job, Pat often hears furniture moving, and from time to time notices things that have been moved in the house.

Burn Brae has now been the subject of multiple paranormal investigations and ghost hunting groups. Bed and breakfast guests have reported unexplained occurrences like doors opening and slamming, balls bouncing, seeing a woman in a white dress, a man in turn of the century clothing, children's voices, and the distinct sound of an organ playing (there is no organ in the house.)

"We had the idea to put journals in each of the rooms where people stay so that they can write down their experiences," Pat explained turning the page of one such journal placed neatly on a dresser next to an old



mirror. "Some guests experience absolutely nothing, and others do."

Some guests stay at the Burn Brae Mansion for the paranormal experience, and others stay simply to visit the area or go to Bethel Woods.

Bed and breakfast accommodation packages include a home-cooked dinner and a full breakfast, as well as a guided tour of the mansion - exclusive to overnight guests. Rooms are available in the Mansion, which is open year-round, or the Stables Motel, a 12-room lodge converted from the original horse stables located just behind the Mansion, open April through December.

So if you're wondering if the ghost stories are real, stay a night at the Burn Brae Mansion and find out!

Old photos show what the grounds of the Mansion once looked like.

A child's room was uncovered from behind a wall.

Beautifully detailed staircases, cozy bedrooms, and long hallways with original wood flooring make up the second and third levels of the Mansion.



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A *Love Song*, a lost-and-found love story starring film legends Wes Studi and Dale Dickey, will kick off the festival on Friday.

Our festival of film by Autumn Schanil

Film Festivals celebrating and showcasing independent filmmakers and storytellers date back to the 1920s, and lucky for us, we have one right in our own backyard.

The annual Big Eddy Film Festival held at the Tusten Theatre in Narrowsburg, is 11 years young this September, and has been a Fall event that attracts film lovers both near and far to the Catskills. Produced by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA), the Big Eddy advances the traditional art of storytelling by screening some of the newest and best independent films from around the world, along with films made by artists right here in Upstate NY.

Running September 16th through the 18th, the DVAA and new Festival Director Kate Bergstrom, teamed up with partners like the Cochection Pumphouse, Bridge Street Bakery, the Chi Hive, 2 Queens Coffee, and others to bring the immersive and captivating weekend to life.

"It's a cinematic celebration of counter-current narratives,"

stated Bergstrom. "This festival sparks new cultural possibilities at the juncture of film, art, and the rural imagination."

The weekend will officially kick off Friday afternoon, the 16th, with Countercurrent Shorts + Conversation followed by a special Opening Night Party at the Cochection Pumphouse, but Thursday evening you can pop into a special pre-screening of *Woman at War* benefitting Ukraine. Kids Make Film - local and regional short films - will kick off Saturday's full day of

screenings and other events, while Sexy Breakfast: Sexy Shorts will jump start Sunday.

"I'm personally looking forward to Kids Make Film," said Big Eddy Line Producer Olivia Gilliant. "There's nothing more fun than watching young people get excited about what they've created."

It's sure to be an eclectic mix of events and creative offerings, that both inspire and spark connection. To see the full schedule of events or to buy tickets, head over to bigeddyfilmfest.com





Hellbender, directed by The Adams Family, is a coming-of-age thriller set in rural upstate New York that will have you at the end of your seat.

SOME FESTIVAL EVENTS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16 A LOVE SONG

(Narrowsburg Union.)
At a campground in the rural West, a woman waits alone for an old flame from her past to arrive. 11AM
SELF-DIRECTED:

MAKE YOUR OWN PATH
(FREE.) A documentary following the lives of 3 developmentally disabled individuals. 12PM

RURAL SHORTS
Short films celebrating local New York makers and the rural Imagination. 1PM

ACTORS ROUNDTABLE
(FREE.) Featured actors from the festival discuss countercurrent craft and the rural imagination. Moderated by Dylan Baker. 3PM

CUBA IN AFRICA
(Free.) 3PM

MAP OF LATIN AMERICAN DREAMS

(Narrowsburg Union.)
Between 1992 and 2013, Martin Weber photographed Latin America. He returns now in search of one of his subjects, excavating Latin America's contradictions in history, politics, and identity. 3:30 PM

32 SOUNDS
Encore Screening 3PM

BAD AXE
An Asian-American family in rural Michigan fight to keep their restaurant alive in the face of a pandemic, Neo-Nazis, and generational scars. 6:00PM

HELLBENDER
(Cochecton Pumphouse.)
A late-night immersive outdoor screening of The Adams' Family's witchy coming

of age thriller about a mother and daughter in rural upstate New York.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18 SEXY BREAKFAST!

(Narrowsburg Union/ Adults Only.) Luscious pastries, delicious drinks and sexy short films collide in a chic celebration at the Narrowsburg Union. 10AM

KILI BIG
A group of plus-sized women from around the world attempt to climb the tallest freestanding mountain on the planet. 12:00PM

RURAL SHORTS
(do we need to include this on postcard?)
Encore screening 3:00PM

**BEFF CLOSING
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4:00 PM

ONGOING EVENTS

COUNTERCUR- RENT SHORTS: DANCE, MUSIC, ART & ARTISTS ON FILM

An immersive installation of short films take over Krauss Hall

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A series of classes celebrating embodied presence and Cinematic Playlists at BEFF
Take One: Gentle Yoga Flow. Friday, 3-4pm, Friday
Power Film Flow: Energizing Yoga Flow. Saturday, 10-11am.
That's a Wrap: Sound Bath & Gentle Yoga. Sunday, 3-4pm

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good news

CALENDAR

FALL 2022

Saturday, Sept. 17

Grahamsville Reformed Church roast beef dinner from 4 p.m. until sold out. Roast beef, mashed potatoes, corn on cob, salad, breads, homemade desserts. Dine in or takeouts available. Dinners cost \$15 each.

Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Show & Swap Meet 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Grahamsville Fairgrounds, Route 55, Grahamsville.

Anti-Racism Workshop with Adrienne Jensen at Farm Arts Collective 3 - 5 p.m. Led by Adrienne Jensen, executive director of the Human Rights Commission of Sullivan County, the workshop will focus on work place dynamics and racism. For more info visit farmartscollective.org.

Milford Readers and Writers Festival at Milford Theater & Performing Arts Center, 114 East Catharine St., Milford, Pa. All Main Stage programs will include an opportunity for conversation between the authors and the audience. On Saturday evening, a private reception will be hosted for festival speakers, and is open only to festival pass-holders. In addition to the ticketed events, the festival also offers a variety of free programs. For more information about the festival and to purchase festival passes, go to milfordreadersandwriters.com.

Jeffersonville JEMS Jeff Jamboree All Day Event, begins with Pancake Breakfast at the First Presbyterian Church from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Tractor Parade at noon, & Annual Duck Race at 3 p.m. Dunking Booth 11-4 p.m., free horse drawn carriage rides, street vendors. Call Sue for more info (845) 482-5354.

The Creek Side Concert, sponsored by Jeff JEMS at 5 p.m. in Jeffersonville at Backyard Park. Tickets are \$20. Ages 12 and under FREE, with performances by Ruthann Schulman Baler, Justin Sutherland, and B.J. Hendrickson. Purchase at the gate or online at myrivertickets.com.

Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum's Emerging Anglers Dinner - Beaverkill Valley Inn 6-9pm Honoring Hoagy B. Carmichael with guest speakers Brandon Dale and Brant MacDuff and a special presentation by the Woman Flyfishers Club. Tickets at www.cffcm.com

Fallsburg Fall Festival, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. at Morningside Park, 11 Morningside Rd., Hurleyville, NY (Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 18, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.). Free Admission and Parking. Games, Crafts, Music, Food, Vendors Market, Raffles, Face Painting, Scavenger Hunt, Twist Contest, Hula Hoop Contest, Music, and More. Lots of Prizes and Tons of Fun for the Whole Family!!! To sign up for the Scavenger Hunt, Hula Hoop Contest and/or Twist Contest, request a Vendor Application, or receive additional information, please call Jill at 845-798-6058 or Diane at 845-866-3204. Hosted by the Kiwanis of Woodridge, New York Foundation, Inc. Sponsored by: JEFF BANK, ROLLING V BUS CORP., Barriger & Company, Kristt Kelly Office Systems, and Thomp-

son Sanitation Corp."

Jeff Jamboree - Please join us at the Jeff Jamboree, Main Street, Jeffersonville for a delicious pancake breakfast at the First Presbyterian Church from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., Tractor Parade at Noon, Dunking Tank begins at 11 a.m. and Annual Duck Race at 3 p.m. Beginning at 5 p.m. JEMS sponsored event in the Backyard Park - Creekside Concert will be held hosting Ruthann Schulman Baler, Justin Sutherland & BJ Hendrickson. Tickets for concert \$20, Free for 12 and under. Sorry no pets per Village ordinance. Bring a blanket or chair. Contact Sue at 845-482-5354 with questions.

Rummage Sale - BAG DAY from 9 am to 1pm, Roscoe Presbyterian Church, 1955 Old Route 17, Roscoe NY. We are loaded with good quality clothing and household items.

Sunday, Sept. 18

Roscoe Kiwanis Chicken BBQ at the Roscoe Community Center from 1-4 p.m.. Half Chicken from Brooks BBQ, baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll, water and dessert. \$13.00 TAKE OUT ONLY. More info and ticket purchase call 607-498-5397.

Neversink Rondout Antique Machinery Show & Swap Meet 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Grahamsville Fairgrounds, Route 55, Grahamsville.

Milford Readers and Writers Festival at Milford Theater & Performing Arts Center, 114 East Catharine St., Milford, Pa. All Main Stage programs will include an opportunity for conversation between the authors and the audience. In addition to the ticketed events, the festival also offers a variety of free programs. For more information about the festival and to purchase festival passes, go to milfordreadersandwriters.com.

Friday, Sept. 23

Mamakating Historical Society presents the History of the Shanley Hotel - Learn the paranormal history of the Shanley Hotel with Doug Hart at 7 pm. Located at the Mamakating Historical Society, 136 Summitville Road, Summitville.

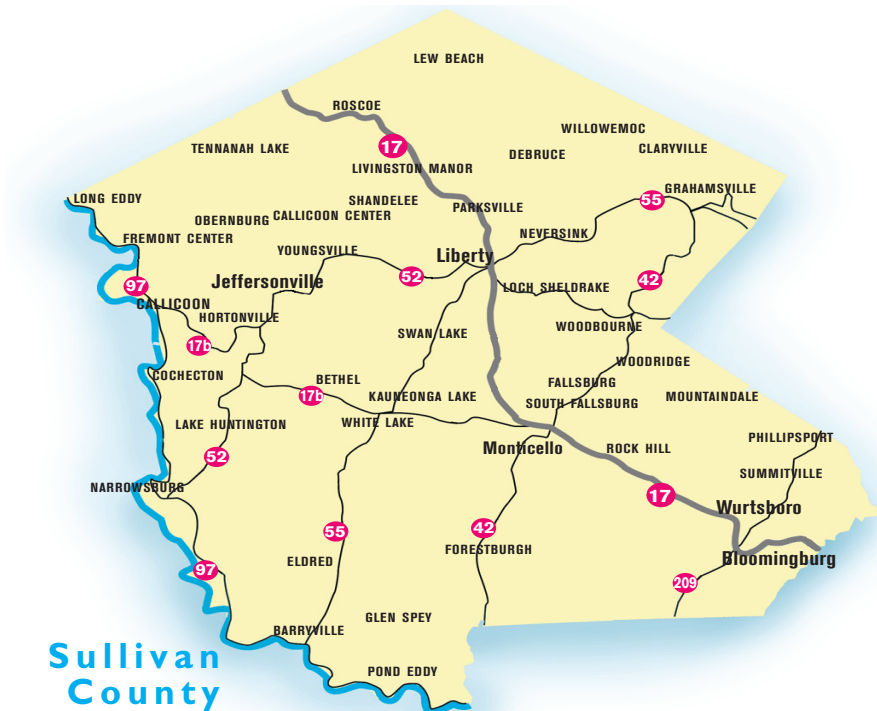
Saturday, Sept. 24

Thrift Sales at Grahamsville UMC 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The sale includes clothing, new and used, for all ages, household and decorating items, jewelry, toys and much more. Free coffee and great fellowship! Donations to our thrift ministry can be made on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 or by appointment by calling Lee at 845-985-3128 or Ruth at 845-985-7222.

Roscoe Volunteer Ambulance Mega Tricky Tray at Roscoe Community Center, doors open at 12, calling at 5 p.m. Admission is \$5. Attendance is not required, winners will be called. More info call 845-665-4218.

Callicoon Kiwanis sponsors a Tricky Tray Basket Raffle, at Delaware Youth Center, doors open at noon, calling starts at 1:30 p.m. Every basket is worth \$25 or more, Gold ticket items worth \$75



or more. Refreshments (hot dogs & chips) will be available for purchase. Admission Fee is \$5 and includes cookies or brownies, and a bottle of water.

Monday, October 3

Open Mic at The Tango Cafe! Held the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. The floor, and the mic, are yours! Bring your family, friends, talents, and face masks for a fun night of supporting each other in what keeps your soul happy! Hosted by the one and only Caswyn Moon! Tango Cafe, 221 Main Street, Hurleyville. For more info visit <https://hurleyvilleartscentre.org/open-mic-the-tango-cafe>.

Saturday, October 8

Thrift Sales at the Grahamsville UMC 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The sale includes clothing, new and used, for all ages, household and decorating items, jewelry, toys and much more. Free coffee and great fellowship! Donations to our thrift ministry can be made on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 or by appointment by calling Lee at 845-985-3128 or Ruth at 845-985-7222.

Saturday, October 22

Thrift Sales at the Grahamsville UMC 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The sale includes clothing, new and used, for all ages, household and decorating items, jewelry, toys and much more. Free coffee and great fellowship! Donations to our thrift ministry can be made on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 or by appointment by calling Lee at 845-985-3128 or Ruth at 845-985-7222.

Saturday, Nov. 5

Thrift Sales at the Grahamsville UMC 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The sale includes clothing, new and used, for all ages, household and decorating items, jewelry,

toys and much more. Free coffee and great fellowship! Donations to our thrift ministry can be made on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 or by appointment by calling Lee at 845-985-3128 or Ruth at 845-985-7222.

Monday, Nov. 7

Open Mic at The Tango Cafe! Held the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. The floor, and the mic, are yours! Bring your family, friends, talents, and face masks for a fun night of supporting each other in what keeps your soul happy! Hosted by the one and only Caswyn Moon! Tango Cafe, 221 Main Street, Hurleyville. For more info visit <https://hurleyvilleartscentre.org/open-mic-the-tango-cafe>.

Friday, Nov. 11

Decompositions at Hurleyville Performing Arts Center 7 p.m. Nov. 11 - 13. Decompositions is a new solo performance written and performed by Farm Arts Collective founding farmer and artistic director, Tannis Kowalchuk. It is a series of personal (de) compositions, stories, and songs composed around a pile of compost, with a black bird that watches from behind a window. Decompositions will premiere at Hurleyville Performing Arts Center in Nov. 2022. For more info visit farmartscollective.org. Hurleyville Performing Arts Center, Hurleyville.

Saturday, Nov. 19

Thrift Sales at the Grahamsville UMC 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The sale includes clothing, new and used, for all ages, household and decorating items, jewelry, toys and much more. Free coffee and great fellowship! Donations to our thrift ministry can be made on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 or by appointment by calling Lee at 845-985-3128 or Ruth at 845-985-7222.

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The only thing better than the leaf-peeping and dove touring is the Catskill-i-cious food and drink. Everyone loved sipping on the **#goodtastebeveragetrail** and the kids loved the corn maze at Harvest Festival. It's a perfect time of year for hiking or biking the rail trails. Looking forward to the Big Sip at Bethel Woods next month. **So Unexpected!** **#sullivancatskills #upstateny**

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