This week Pulse thought with the coming of spring we should provide a note of optimism. The information on the right is from a NY Times article on March 15, 2021. Take a look at it and let us know your thoughts.

Below when looking for another snapshot on the regional economy we came across this chart from the Brookings Institute. The chart depicts the percentage of households in large metro areas, where achieving self-sufficiency with a $15 hour wage is hard to do. We have to admit that we were pretty startled when one of the areas was right here in the Hudson Valley. The Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown (Metropolitan Statistical Area or MSA) was on the list TIED FOR SECOND.

Data points like this are going to influence decision making in what appears to be a "K" shaped recovery from the pandemic.

1. The ketchup might be ready to flow
   An innovation, no matter how revolutionary, will often have little effect on the larger economy immediately after it is invented. It often takes many years before businesses figure out exactly what they have and how it can be used, and years more to work out kinks and bring costs down.
   It looks as if companies have been putting in a lot of work for no return, but once those returns start to flow, they come faster than once seemed imaginable.

2. Battery Technology

3. Emerging innovations can combine in unexpected ways

4. The pandemic has taught us how to work remotely

5. Crises spur innovation

6. Tight labor markets spur innovation, too

7. The offshoring revolution is mostly played out

8. Baby boomers can't work forever

9. The millennials are entering their prime

**COVID IN THE U.S.A.: LATEST COUNT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.6 M+</td>
<td>539,198</td>
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**WEAKLY ECONOMIC INDEX (WEI)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over Recent Months</th>
<th>Percent (GDP Growth Units)</th>
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