

## Early voting starts Oct. 26

Information from  
<https://elections.dutchessny.gov/>

Early voting gets under way in New York State on Saturday, Oct. 26. In Dutchess County, voters may visit any of the poll sites listed below. Please be aware that your typical poll site is likely closed for early voting.

Pavilion at Brookmeade, 34 Brookmeade Drive, Rhinebeck  
 Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill

Boardman Road Library, 141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie  
 Cornell Cooperative Extension, 2715 Route 44, Millbrook

Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium, 105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie  
 Board of Elections Training Facility, 4280 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park

Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls  
 Senior Citizen Center, Tymor Park Barn Complex, 8 Tymor Park Road, Lagrangeville

### Early Voting Dates and Hours

Saturday, October 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, October 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, October 28, Noon-8 p.m.

Tuesday, October 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday, October 30, Noon-8 p.m.

Thursday, October 31, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday, November 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, November 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, November 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### A reminder from the New York State Board of Elections:

Early Voting is just like voting on Election Day. Early voters privately mark and scan their ballot.

Early voting results are counted, tabulated and included in (unofficial) election night totals.

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# Red Hook CSD celebrates completion of solar project

Roughly 30 percent of the Red Hook Central School District's energy usage for the future will come from solar power harvested on the roof of its school buildings. The district and its partners celebrated the completion of the \$1.7 million solar project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Mill Road Elementary School on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

The implementation of solar energy aligns with the district's goal of increasing sustainability and reducing its impact on the environment. The 1,200 solar panels now affixed to the elementary, middle and high school buildings will generate more than 630-megawatt hours of energy annually and are expected to generate roughly \$80,000 in utility credits annually, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 80 metric tons — the equivalent of consuming nearly 9,000 gallons of gasoline.

"One of our goals as a district is to increase our energy efficiency and decrease our carbon footprint," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Janet Warden. "In utilizing solar power gathered through solar arrays on each of our school buildings, we're showing students everybody can be involved in supporting the environment and will perhaps encourage them to take small steps to do so at home. All the while, the project will also reduce energy costs, which aids all district residents."

The project, which was approved by



From left are New York Power Authority Director of Distributed Energy Resources Advisory Ben Cuzzo, Village of Red Hook Mayor Karen Smythe, NYPA Senior Project Manager Mark Ruhnke, and Red Hook Central School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Janet Warden view solar panels at Mill Road Primary and Elementary School. *Courtesy photo*

voters in 2019, was financed by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and the district received grant funding from NYPA and the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority. It was constructed by Solar Liberty.

Dr. Warden in her comments thanked both entities for moving the project through a prolonged development period slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. "Red Hook's new solar energy systems

reflect the district's commitment to sustainability and climate action," said NYPA President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll. "NYPA is proud to support its public-sector partners with clean energy solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs." NYPA assisted in the design of the systems, which are the first NYPA-supported solar projects in Dutchess County.

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# Thriving in Rhinebeck returns to Rhinebeck High School

Thriving in Rhinebeck: a Showcase of Services and Resources to Support our Multigenerational Community will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Rhinebeck High School. Approximately 40 organizations are expected to participate, ranging from health care / home care organizations to cultural / educational resources, transportation services, advocacy groups, and an array of civic organizations with programs benefiting older adults.

Rhinebeck High School students from the Interact Club will be on hand to greet attendees and help them navigate the

school spaces.

"Our target audience is Rhinebeck and our neighboring communities, and we hope to attract a wide range of interested people — not just older adults, but their families, their caregivers, and others who will at some point really need to know how and where to reach out," said Nina Lynch, President of Rhinebeck at Home and a member of the organizing team. "We are trying to help build an age-friendly, resourceful community."

Informational tables will fill the lobby and gym of Rhinebeck High School. Breakout sessions on Financial Literacy

and Nutrition Tips will be offered in classrooms. Printed programs for attendees with the schedule and names of all participating organizations will be available.

In addition to Rhinebeck at Home, the organizing team includes Archcare at Ferncliff, Rhinebeck Central School District, Rhinebeck Rotary Club and Education Network for Teachers and Artists (ENTA).

Rhinebeck High School is at 45 North Park Road, Rhinebeck. For more information, call Rhinebeck at Home at (845) 379-1114 or email [office@rhinebeckathome.org](mailto:office@rhinebeckathome.org)

## • OPEN FOR BUSINESS •

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INSIDE:  
 Adams Fairacre Farms  
 Dr. Oppenheimer



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#### OUR POLICY ON LETTERS

- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- Letters that include personal attacks will not be published
- Letters written in response to other letter writers must address the issue at hand, rather than mentioning the writer by name and must refer to the headline and date the letter was published.
- Letters referring to news stories must mention the headline and date of publication.
- The Northern Dutchess News will not be used as a vehicle to place misinformation.
- Information must be attributed to a specific individual or published item (ie- tell us where or from whom you obtained the information)
- All letters must contain a name, hometown and phone number for verification.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.

NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.  
Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

## Trump's claim of 'Best Economy Ever' is absolutely false

To the editor:

Former President Donald Trump inherited a robust economy from President Obama who pulled us out of the worst financial crisis and recession since the great depression. Trump just had to not screw it up. Obama had 70 straight months of job growth, including his last 3 years, with an economic growth of 2.3%. Trump had a 2.5% growth until 2019 when the economy started to decline (a year before the pandemic).

More than 200,000 manufacturing jobs were lost under Trump. More than 775,000 manufacturing jobs were created under Biden/Harris. Unemployment was 7.9% after hitting near 15% during the pandemic. Now it is 4.1%.

Trump touts tariffs even though most economists disagree saying American consumers pay the higher costs. U.S. farmers lost billions of dollars to Trump Era Retaliatory Tariffs as Agriculture exports to China dropped 76%. Government subsidies to farmers rose to \$28 billion, more than the entire budget of the State Department. This was to shield policymakers and voters from consequences of his actions.

Trump claimed we were energy independent, yet in 2020 the U.S. imported 7.9 million barrels of oil every day, and between 2018 and 2020, the U.S. imported over 534 million barrels of oil from RUSSIA alone.

The national debt skyrocketed by more than \$7 trillion, more than any president in history. He was the first president since Herbert Hoover to leave office with less American jobs than when he took office.

Trump sold U.S. properties to Chinese diplomats while in office and was granted a long sought after series of trademarks in China just days after he reversed his position on Taiwan and endorsed the "one China" policy.

And don't forget him bragging after slashing the corporate tax rate. Trump pushes "Made in America" and slams companies moving products overseas. Except for himself of course. His many products on [trumpstore.com](http://trumpstore.com) are from China, Bangladesh, Turkey, Indonesia and many other places. Very few are made in the U.S. Even his latest bombastic promotion Trump Bibles are made in China.

Kevin Murphy  
Millbrook

## My opponent was a no-show

To the editor:

Please read this October 10, 2023 letter (below) that I sent to NYS Assemblywoman Shrestha long before I even considered running against her. No response then, no response yet. At our Chamber of Commerce debate just weeks ago, a perfect opportunity to share her views, she was a no-show and I "debated" an empty chair.

She's been Ulster County co-chair for the Mid Hudson Valley Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America and remains a member; by failing to renounce them, she clearly supports, even celebrates, their violence. She may continue staying silent, but you'll find my positions on this and many other crucial matters clearly stated on Facebook at "Jack Hayes for the People."

Return common sense leadership to the 103rd - I humbly ask for your support at the polls.

Jack Hayes,  
Candidate for NYS Assembly District  
103, Gardiner

October 10, 2023

Dear Assemblywoman Shrestha,  
I am writing to express my concern and displeasure with the actions of a group you are a reported leader and or member of, The Democratic Socialists of America. The "rally" in Times Square,

New York City with the verbal and written messages of support for the horrific attack on the innocent men, women and children of Israel by an identified terrorist organization is unconscionable. Civilized people do not celebrate and support rape, torture and murder. I call on you to renounce any and all support of terrorist activities and make a public apology for the actions of the Democratic Socialist of America's disrespect for human life.

I urge you to consider resigning your position as Assembly member of the New York State Assembly. District 103. Enabling, inciting and condoning holocaust-like behavior is un-American. The people of New York State Assembly District 103 expect and deserve to be served by an honorable representative. The violence of the attack on Israel is not compatible with American mores and sensibilities. The people of Ulster and Dutchess County reject any justification of the inhuman assault on life and the enslavement of people. Your action in response to this apparent approval of barbarism will be a defining time in your tenure as legislator.

John J. Hayes, Chairman  
Ulster County Conservative Party  
Gardiner

## For the Many backs regulations on short-term rentals

To the editor:

For the Many applauds the Poughkeepsie Common Council for proposing changes to the city's zoning code that will increase the city's long-term housing stock by regulating short-term "vacation" rentals that are not occupied by their owners. These rentals take housing away from the people who live here in Poughkeepsie, turning our neighborhoods into unregulated hotels and driving up costs for renters and first-time home buyers. At a time when housing throughout the Hudson Valley has become both unaffordable and unavailable, we urge the Poughkeepsie Common Council to vote to include these regulations in the zoning code as soon as possible and prioritize homes for our community.

For the Many's Homes Are Not Hotels campaign has spent years advocating for greater restrictions on certain short-term rentals to stop the erosion of Poughkeepsie's housing stock and our community. The Homes Are Not Hotels language the Common Council has proposed including in the zoning code is a reasonable compromise that allows some vacation rentals, while ensuring that they do not exceed 0.5% of Poughkeepsie's housing stock and that hosts apply with the city, pay fees, and obey regulations.

We want visitors to experience the beauty of the Hudson Valley and welcome tourists to Poughkeepsie. But guest accommodations cannot be allowed to take away from the housing stock or push local residents out of their homes. For the Many will continue advocating for Homes Are Not Hotels across the region and we will be mobilizing our members in support of the proposed zoning code until the Common Council has taken this important action to address the housing crisis. We're hopeful that Hudson Valley municipalities will continue to pass strong short-term rental regulations to ensure everyone can afford to live here.

Daniel Atonna,  
Political Coordinator, For the Many

## Domestic Violence Awareness: each journey is unique

To the editor:

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to shine a light on the challenges faced by survivors and to honor their strength and resilience. We must come together as a community to support those affected by domestic violence, raise awareness about its impact,

and advocate for change. It's important to listen, believe, and empower survivors as they navigate their healing journeys.

Together, we can foster a culture of compassion and safety for all, which begins with immediate assistance in the aftermath of violence to begin to create a safe space for healing. Counseling and therapy, especially trauma-informed therapy, helps survivors process their experiences, develop coping strategies, and rebuild their lives. Also important are advocacy and support services to assist survivors in accessing legal aid, housing, and healthcare, ensuring they have the resources needed to regain independence. Finally, community education is important to raise awareness about domestic violence and promote prevention through workshops and outreach programs.

At Astor, we have the privilege of witnessing the incredible resilience and strength of our clients who have experienced domestic violence. Each journey is unique, but it is always inspiring to see clients begin to reclaim their sense of self and agency. Initially, many feel overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty, but with work they learn to set healthy boundaries, advocate for themselves, and make choices that prioritize their safety and well-being. Another key area of progress is in the development of healthy relationships. Clients often start by feeling distrustful or isolated, but as they heal, we've witnessed many begin to form supportive connections with friends, family, or community resources. These relationships can provide essential support and encouragement as they navigate their journey. Ultimately, the progress we witness is not just about overcoming past trauma; it's about cultivating resilience, hope, and a vision for a brighter future.

There is always hope and you are not alone. Please reach out to Astor Services or your local agency if you or a loved one is experiencing domestic violence.

Virginia Guerrero, Care Manager  
Program Director of Trauma  
Recovery Center, Astor Services

## Prop 1 will not benefit a civil society

To the editor:

As if this contentious Presidential election weren't enough, New Yorkers will vote on an initiative which will have ramifications way beyond who sits in the Oval Office for the next four years.

Proposition 1 - an amendment to the NYS Constitution - will add a hodgepodge of new characteristics as "protected" categories. Among these are "age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression...reproductive healthcare & autonomy" (the sacrosanct code words for abortion.)

The Democrat Party is marketing Prop 1 as protecting abortion. This is disingenuous, as the repeal of abortion in New York is not about to happen. This approach is a tactical ruse to boost voter turnout for Democrat candidates.

Adding "age" alongside "autonomy" in anti-discrimination code will essentially make children de facto wards of the state while nullifying the role of parents. For example, could children make medical decisions in defiance of parental knowledge? Could minors be allowed to obtain a driver's license or a marriage license? Could they purchase/possess/use tobacco, alcohol or cannabis? Would age-of-consent be eliminated? Would pedophilia be a protected "sexual orientation"? If "age" becomes a protected category, then the legality of being underage is in serious jeopardy.

Prop 1 puts women and girls at risk for loss of privacy and safety in rest rooms, changing rooms, locker rooms, crisis shelters and prisons. Female students are being cheated out of athletic scholarships. They are being injured on the field.

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