

## Viewpoints

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. Deadline for letters is Friday at noon. Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to [newsplace@aol.com](mailto:newsplace@aol.com), and the phrase "Letter to the Editor" should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or management of the Southern Dutchess News Group.

### Methodist Church congregation in Wappingers Falls will be missed

#### To the Editor:

Before the present stone bridge was built over the Wappingers Creek in the village there were two Methodist Churches in the area, one on Church St., off of West Main St, and one on Middlebush Road. In 1870s, on land donated by the Mesier family, the two united and built the present day United Methodist Church.

Thus began the history in this village with its generous participation in the social and community life of all residing in the area. Who can forget summer picnics, holiday parties, Saturday night suppers, yard sales, clothing drives and the generous donation of the use of the social hall for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups, nursery schools and day care. More recently, there have been free Thanksgiving dinners and the "Feed The Children" program during the summer months.

As a native of the eastside of the village, these were all my friends and neighbors. Many still are and that's why I feel their loss. Most of the active members will join the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church on Route 376 in the town of Poughkeepsie and I'm sure they will continue their mission to reach out to the community.

I wish them many blessings in the future and thank them for all they've been to our village...they will be sorely missed.

Christina Contelmo  
Village of Wappingers Falls

## State DEC announces ban on residential brush burning

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced a statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning will begin March 16 and run through May 14. With spring approaching, DEC is reminding residents that conditions for wildfires are heightened in springtime when most wildfires occur.

"While many associate wildfires with the western United States, the start of spring weather and the potential for dry conditions increase the risk for wildfires in New York," Commissioner Seggos said. "To protect our communities and

natural resources, New York prohibits residential burning during the high-risk fire season to reduce the potential for wildfires. The burn ban has effectively reduced the number of wildfires over the last decade, and we're encouraging New Yorkers to put safety first."

Even though areas of the state remain blanketed in snow, warming temperatures can quickly cause wildfire conditions to arise. DEC will post a Fire Danger Map rating forecast daily for the 2020 fire season and the NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App, on DEC's website. Currently, fire conditions in most of the state are low risk.

## Municipal officials state actions taken regarding COVID-19

By Kristine Coulter

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rolison announced that City Hall was in for a deep cleaning over the weekend of March 14 - 15.

"Due to the evolving situation involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) issue, we feel it is prudent to take these steps at this time," Rolison said in a press release.

He also noted that to get the latest updates on the COVID-19 and the impacts on the area, the public should go to <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>.

The Mayor said he is encouraging the public to avoid all but essential trips to City Hall when it reopened on Monday, March 16. Residents can contact City officials by phone, and a list of appropriate contacts is available at <https://cityofpoughkeepsie.com/contact-the-city-of-poughkeepsie> and by using the various tabs at that link to find the appropriate department.

Payments for city services also can be done through the website at <https://cityofpoughkeepsie.com/finance/>, by mail at 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or by using the drop box near the front door at the Police Station on Mansion Street.

"While we understand this will be an inconvenience for people in some instances, we believe it is a wise decision at this time," Rolison said. The Common Council has cancelled its meeting set for Monday, and the Mayor has cancelled other public meetings scheduled for next week.

Town of Fishkill Supervisor Azem "Ozzy" Albra said in a release, "The Town of Fishkill has been working closely in conjunction with the Dutchess County Department of Community and Behavioral Health and Emergency Response to plan and prepare for the COVID-19 virus here in our community. With the declaration of COVID-19 and [confirmed cases] here in Dutchess County, Government Agencies are recommending the suspension of community and social gatherings of more than 20 people, as a precautionary measure, until the end of April."

He said, "This guidance will be updated and revisited regularly over the coming days and weeks. In keeping with this recommendation, the Town is suspending all Senior Center activities until further notice, as well as many Rec Center programs and community events."

Criminal Court was canceled on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17. Anyone who was scheduled to appear on those dates received an adjournment date in the mail, stated the supervisor. All cancellations and postponements will be posted on the Town of Fishkill website and social media pages.

In a press release sent out last week, Beacon City officials announced public meetings will now be held in the much larger public meeting room across from the Municipal Building on Route 9D at the Lewis Tompkins Hose Meeting Room at 13 South Avenue in Beacon. This will allow for social distancing. The meetings will still be televised.

The City is canceling or postponing public-supported events involving large attendance scheduled between now and the end of April - including the Parade of Green, Good Friday Procession, Easter at Memorial Park, Easter Sunrise Service and the Beacon Barks Parade.

Regarding recreation programs, "The City is following the lead of the Beacon City School District, and discontinuing programming consistent with the school district schedule. Other City-sponsored recreational activity involving small groups in large enough venues will continue, with City staff monitoring and ensuring allowance for "social distancing."

City Hall will remain open.

For more information, visit <http://www.CityofBeacon.org>.

The Village of Fishkill officials asked for its March 16 Village meeting that only the Village Board of Trustees be present. The department heads and professionals were asked not to attend, according to the Village's website. "Only necessary items will be addressed this evening such as abstracts any the other items will be addressed at a future meeting," stated the announcement on the site.

The Village of Wappingers Falls officials are posting pertinent information on its Facebook and Instagrams pages and website, <https://www.wappingersfallsny.gov/>.

On the Town of Wappinger website, <http://townofwappingerny.gov/>, Supervisor Richard Thurston wrote a blog about what town officials are doing during this uncertain time.

"Effective immediately, all indoor and outdoor events of 20 or more people scheduled by the Town to occur during the months of March and April are being postponed to a later date. Please refer to the Town's recreation website, the Town website and our Social media for further information;

**TOWN HALL WILL REMAIN OPEN** during normal working hours UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - WE ARE CONTINUING TO FOLLOW BASIC HYGIENIC PRACTICES WITHIN OUR TOWN BUILDINGS," he wrote

"At this time, we plan to keep our senior center open but want to encourage anyone who feels under the weather not to come in that day. This being said, we will ask any person showing any sneezing; coughing, other signs of possible illness to leave so we ask you to self-isolate," stated Thurston.

For scheduled public meetings, such as those of the Town Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board town officials have not yet decided whether or not to cancel any meetings. "We will advise no later than the morning of the day of the scheduled meeting. We advise as many people as possible to watch our broadcasts via cable and livestreaming," said Thurston.

On the East Fishkill website, a General Alert was issued about COVID-19.

"The Town of East Fishkill has been working in conjunction with Dutchess County Dept. of Behavioral and Community Health and Emergency Response to plan and prepare for the COVID-19/Coronavirus here in our community," stated East Fishkill Supervisor Nicholas D'Alessandro. "With the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic and a confirmed case in Dutchess County, Government Agencies are recommending the suspension of any community and social gatherings over 20 people, as a precautionary measure through the end of April. This guidance will be updated and revisited regularly over the coming days and weeks." He noted, "This suspension will include: All Planning & Zoning Board meetings, East Fishkill Senior Program, East Fishkill Recreation events and other community events. All postponements will be posted on East Fishkill websites and social media pages as well as GovDelivery."

Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Jon Baisley recommended on his town's website, "Please note that if you need to do business at the Town Hall, and you can do it by phone, it is suggested to please call first. We are still open and fully operational, but we are taking measures as a precaution during the monitoring of the Coronavirus."

It was noted that the Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Center will be closed until further notice. The Town of Poughkeepsie Transfer Station is postponed until May 2. Town of Poughkeepsie Court is closed until further notice, as of press time.

## CAMO advises Glenham residents to limit water use March 23 - April 9

Residents of the Glenham Water District in the Town of Fishkill are being advised to limit water use.

CAMO Pollution Control, Inc. will be flushing hydrants between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. beginning Monday, March 23, through Friday, April 9.

During the flushing, residents may experience erratic water pressure and

turbid water conditions. This condition will only be temporary. At all times the water will meet satisfactory sanitary quality, according to CAMO. The flushing will bring about long-term improvements in water quality.

If you have any questions, please call CAMO Pollution Control, Inc. at 845-463-7310.

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