

# Southern Dutchess News

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Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Town of Wappinger, Town and City of Poughkeepsie

October 23-29, 2024

## PSC cites 'apparent violations' by Central Hudson during investigation of WF explosion



The PSC recently released results from a preliminary investigation into the Nov. 2023 natural gas explosion on Brick Row in Wappingers Falls. Pictured is one of the injured being assisted by first responders after the explosion last year.

-Archive photo

By Kristine Coulter

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) ordered Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation on Oct. 16 to show why a civil enforcement proceeding should not begin and why civil penalties or other remedies should not be imposed by the Commission "for apparent violations relating to a gas-related explosion that occurred in Wappingers Falls." The gas-related explosion, in which multiple people were injured, occurred at 7 Brick Row on November 2, 2023. The utility has 30 days to provide a response. The Department of Public Service staff released a report describing the results of its preliminary investigation last week.

According to the report, Central Hudson in Nov. 2023 "was conducting natural gas distribution upgrades in the Wappingers Falls area as part of a distribution improve-

ment project. These gas system upgrades included excavating gas facilities located under roadways and walkways to replace steel gas pipelines with new plastic pipelines, as well as installing new service lines to ratepayer residences." During operations, states the press release, "Central Hudson contractors struck an unmarked natural gas service line, causing a natural gas leak. Minutes later, the residence at 7 Brick Row exploded, severely injuring multiple individuals."

The Department, which is the staff arm of the Commission, investigated. According to the release, the Department determined that there appears to be "sufficiently credible evidence indicating that Central Hudson had prior knowledge of the residence's active natural gas service line. The residence contained an active natural gas meter that had

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The annual Halloween Parade will take place in the Village of Fishkill on Sunday, Oct. 27. The photo is from the 2023 parade on Main St.

-Archive photo

## Halloween events set in East Fishkill, Village of Fishkill

By Kristine Coulter

Residents of East Fishkill and the village of Fishkill can attend Halloween events, that include parades.

### Town of East Fishkill party

The Town of East Fishkill will have its annual Halloween Costume Party for residents of East Fishkill on Wednesday, Oct. 30. The annual event will be from 4-6 p.m. at Mill Creek Caterers, 17 Route 376 in East Fishkill. One cannot attend the event without registering prior to the party. If one has trouble registering at for the event, <https://eastfishkillny.myrec.com>, call 845-226-8395. RSVP by Oct. 25.

East Fishkill Recreation Director Bill Green said, "We'll have the same fun events but on the night before Halloween (Oct. 30) not a Sunday afternoon as in the past. There will be cos-

tume parades for all age groups, a goodie bag of treats to all in attendance, music, cider and donuts, prizes for all participants including the adults."

Town officials expect "400-500 people to attend," said Green.

All ages have a "great time," said Green, "seeing the super costumes and the fun competition for prizes."

Green thanked Mill Creek Caterers "for their continuous generosity providing their beautiful facility (fantastically-decorated for the holidays) and the treats they also provide."

### Halloween in the Village of Fishkill

The annual Halloween Parade will take place in the village of Fishkill on Sunday, Oct. 27. Line up is at 12:30 p.m. at Main St. and Bedford Ave. The parade steps off at 1 p.m. There will be refreshments and

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Southern Dutchess News  
Your News



## Mayor Flowers appoints Rich Wilson City of Poughkeepsie Police Chief

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers announced last week that Rich Wilson, who has served with the Police Department for more than three decades, has been named the city's Police Chief. Wilson has been serving as Interim Police Chief since Tom Pape retired in May.

Wilson joined the department in 1994 as a Police Dispatcher and worked his way up through the ranks. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2001 and served in Community Policing and then the Neighborhood Recovery Unit before being named a Police Lieutenant.

He became Police Captain in 2016, tasked, in part, with oversight of the Patrol and Detective Divisions, the Neighborhood Recovery Unit, the Community Policing Unit, and the Traffic Safety & School Resource Detective. Wilson also served as the Commanding Officer of the Emergency Services Unit.

"Rich Wilson has a wealth of experience with the City Police Department and has distinguished himself at every step along the way," said Mayor Flowers. "He is well known throughout the community and brings strong leadership skills to this critically

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City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers confers with Rich Wilson, who has been named the city's Police Chief.

-Courtesy photo

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# Viewpoints



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.

**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 Southern 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 and 300 words or less.
- Letters appearing on the Viewpoints page are the views of the writers alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Southern Dutchess News.

## GUIDELINES FOR POLITICAL LETTERS

- Maximum 200 words
- Must be sent via email
- Provide a phone number where we may reach you to confirm you have written the letter-writers

- We will run as many letters as possible, space permitting, in our Oct. 23 and Oct. 30 issues. Please note that we will NOT run negative letters against any candidate in the Oct. 30 issue; only letters endorsing candidates will be run in that issue.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We appreciate the passion that people feel for their candidates and their political parties, but encourage letter-writers to express support for their candidates in a positive and instructive manner. It is easy to criticize others, but at the local level, we know that great things can be accomplished through cooperation. We have faith that our readers, and our communities, can rise above the partisan fray in this election season, and emphasize the good that their candidates will do.

## Dutchess County should hire a Zero Waste Management Consultant

**To the Editor:**

Dutchess County burns all its trash in an incinerator at 96 Sand Dock Rd. near IBM, but incineration is a poor waste management option because it is polluting to the environment, unhealthy for residents and expensive for taxpayers. Solution: Dutchess should hire a Zero Waste Certified Consultant to help us transition to healthier and more sustainable materials management practices.

The Dutchess County incinerator is polluting our air and water. In 2019, the Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School ranked our incinerator in the "dirty dozen" as one of the most polluting incinerators in the United States for emissions of mercury and carbon monoxide.

The incinerator emissions are bad for our lungs and unhealthy for our population. The American Lung Association estimates that 61% of Dutchess County residents are at high risk to air pollution. In 2023, Poughkeepsie was declared by the Asthma and

Allergy Foundation as the #6 worst city to live in for people with asthma.

The incinerator is expensive for taxpayers. The Dutchess County incinerator is 35 years old and it needs constant costly repairs and maintenance. Across the nation, there are only 65 incinerators left because they are so outdated and expensive.

Our county needs a better system for our waste. We could turn trash into treasure! Over 50% of garbage we currently burn is organic material that can be turned into nutrient-rich compost for farms and gardens. We need to reduce, reuse, recycle, resell and other such waste minimizing practices. Dutchess could create hundreds of new jobs implementing new strategies, but we need a professional to audit our waste. Dutchess legislators should allocate money in the 2025 budget to hire a Zero Waste Certified Consultant so we can update and innovate the solutions for our ever-growing trash problem.

Caroline Fenner  
Town of Poughkeepsie

## Come together as a community to support those affected by domestic violence

**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

## Trump 'not one of the gang' in D.C.

**To the Editor:**

I must comment on the recent letter from Kevin Murphy re: Trump never being in the White House again that was in the Oct. 16th edition. First of all, many of the "wave of Republicans" not supporting Trump are the status quo BAU folks (you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours). You know, the ones who get nothing done? Basically, Deep Staters and RINOs (Republicans In Name Only). Remember, Trump is not one of them, yet "The Donald" was loved by all before entering politics and putting an "R" after his name (right, Oprah?). Others simply hate the man for various reasons, much of it based on lies, half-truths and exaggerations. Bigotry, antisemitism, inciting violence etc.? Just the usual projection from the Left.

Regarding a stolen election, anyone who cannot see the weird shenanigans that took place in 2020 has both hands over their eyes and their ears plugged. I'll leave it at that.

"Protecting democracy, our country and our Constitution." That's rich. Mark Zuckerberg admitted that the Biden administration pressured him to monitor COVID-related content, Russia, the "tape" and Hunter's laptop. We can only imagine what else our "pro-democracy" leaders monitor and mislead about. Hillary Clinton, John Kerry and Tim Walz have all stated their disdain for the First Amendment, but Trump is the real threat to democracy? Go figure.

NEWS FLASH! Trump already served 1 term, and our country is still here. We had a great economy, relative peace in the world, a decent border situation, and groceries were affordable. Currently we have no border and all the problems that stem from it, high prices and possibly on the verge of WWII.

Donald Trump is one of the few people in Washington who actually cares about America and its people. He is not one of the gang, can't be bought, and the establishment can't stand it.

Kevin Wirsch  
Fishkill

## Cindy Maietta is the only truly endorsed Conservative candidate

**To the Editor:**

On Nov 5th voters will be heading to the polls to fill a vacant Fishkill Town Board seat. Although Cindy Maietta will not be on the Conservative line, she is the ONLY endorsed Conservative candidate.

Earlier this year, and prior to the cut-off to register for the primaries, (30+) people which included a majority of Democrat and Independent voters with close ties to the current Town of Fishkill Supervisor CHANGED their current registration to the Conservative party with the sole intention of keeping Cindy Maietta off the Conservative line on the ballot (Source: Dutchess County Board of Elections). It makes one wonder, what are they afraid of?

This election is critical. Whoever wins this seat will be the deciding vote on many important issues to be voted upon in 2025. Beyond a doubt, Cindy Maietta is the most qualified person. She exemplifies honesty, fairness, and thoughtfulness. Cindy Maietta will use those qualities to create a better balance on the Fishkill Town Board. Please look for her and vote for her on Row B.

Rob MacAvery  
Fishkill

## Southern Dutchess News

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