

# Positively Greene



## COUNTY-WIDE UPDATE



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[GreatNorthernCatskills.com](http://GreatNorthernCatskills.com)

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April 2018

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### FORELAND Receives \$1,000,000 Restore New York Grant for Redevelopment



The Village of Catskill has received grant funding from Empire State Development, on behalf of sister property LLC, to help revitalize the

111 Water Street building and generate new economic opportunities. This former mill and furniture warehouse will become FORELAND Catskill, a commercial warehouse building with a focus on artists and the creative economy. Spaces for artists, writers, designers, and creative entrepreneurs will be available, along with a restaurant, event and retail space.

### Greene County Quantum Fund Loan Recipient Creates Hotel and Glamping Destination in Windham, NY

**Eastwind Hotel & Bar** will open June 1st. The transformation of this 1920s bunk house into a boutique hotel is the brain-child of Björn Boyer and his associates who were inspired by the property's past and the scenic beauty of the area to "create an upscale, yet accessible way for today's travelers to unplug, unwind and connect with friends and family". Eastwind is featured on **Medium.com** – a culture – technology – entrepreneurship web platform popular with millennials.



**LEGISLATIVE NOTE** - Resolutions No. 235-17 and 237-17: Authorizing Economic Development Loans Nordic House Owner LLC (Eastwind Hotel & Bar).

### Legislators Support Internet Fairness Conformity Tax

Citing the growing impact of internet sales on the budgets of local municipalities, the Greene County Legislature voted unanimously to urge NYS lawmakers to adopt a proposal that would collect sales tax from all retail businesses selling in New York, regardless of where the sale originates.

**LEGISLATIVE NOTE** - Resolution No. 81-18: Urging The State To Impose An Internet Fairness Conformity Tax As Proposed In The 2018-2019 New York State Executive Budget.

### Mountain Top Arboretum Builds New Education Center in Tannersville, NY

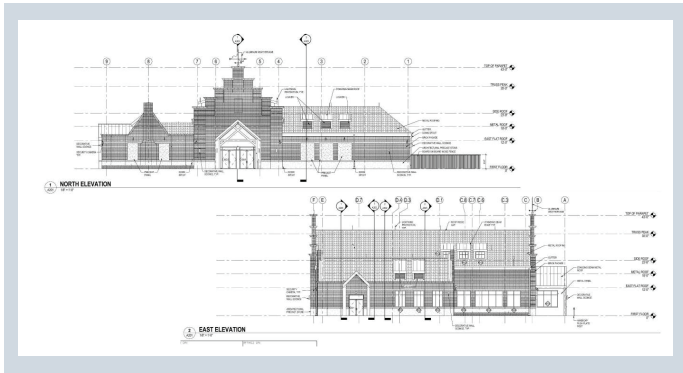
With the mission to provide the Catskills region with a beautiful living sanctuary of native and exotic trees and shrubs; engage in the applied science of horticulture, and offer diverse programs for the education and pleasure of the public, the Mountain Top Arboretum is creating a 2,100 sq. ft. timber-framed space utilizing sustainably-produced wood from 20 species of trees native to the area. Their \$1 Million capital campaign was augmented by a \$60,000 NYS grant.



**LEGISLATIVE NOTE** - The Federal Reserve raised the effective prime rate ¼ point to 4.75% on March 21, 2018. As a result, the County's lending rate for Microenterprise and Quantum Fund loans increases to 3.375%.

# TOURISM

## Capital Region Welcome Center Under Construction in New Baltimore



Inspired by the architecture of our region's Dutch Patroonships of the 17th century, the building under construction in New Baltimore will serve as the Welcome Gateway for visitors to the NYS Capital Region.

The Thruway Authority is planning to include a TasteNY shop, which will sell state-produced food and beverage products, at the new 10,000-square-foot welcome center to be built within the northbound cloverleaf that leads to the existing travel plaza.

## Ride Greene County Gets ADDY Award



The Albany Ad Club is part of the premier competition for advertising excellence conducted by the American Advertising Federation. Greene County Economic Development Tourism & Planning won a Silver Addy for **Ride Greene County** (our mountain biking video) in the category of Branded Content and Entertainment for Online Film, Video, and Sound. Check out this spectacular video at [www.greatnortherncatskills.com/mountain-bike-video](http://www.greatnortherncatskills.com/mountain-bike-video).

# PLANNING

## Hudson River Skywalk Milestones Announced

- Scenic viewpoints on the Rip Van Winkle Bridge providing unobstructed views of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains are now complete;
- Governors Office announced that NYSDOT will construct a pedestrian-friendly round-about connecting the east end of the Rip Van Winkle Bridge to Olana State Historic Site.



Details and reactions from local and state officials were published in a March 20th news release by the Governor's office.

## Change in Method of Taxation on Forest Preserve Opposed

During its March 21st session, the Greene County Legislature unanimously opposed a change in the tax law that would change the current 'ad valorem' (or valuation for tax purposes as if privately held) to a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) structure. This change will



adversely affect municipalities in Greene County within the 700,000 acre Catskill Park, as PILOT payments are subject to annual budget debate in the NYS Legislature (and may not reflect increases in taxable assessed values of the Forest Preserve). Unlike an ad valorem tax, a PILOT could be decreased over time by the Governor and the State Legislature, negatively impacting local budgets, and likely resulting in a loss of service or tax shift to other landowners in those districts.

**LEGISLATIVE NOTE** - Resolution No. 79-18: Opposing The Governor's 2018/2019 Executive Budget Proposing To Change Forest Preserve Method Of Taxation.

## Greene-Ulster-Sullivan Solid Waste Study Issued

Formation of a new solid waste management authority is being considered with the goals of improving waste management operations, creating efficiencies among the three counties, and the potential for reduction of both long-haul truck miles and their associated greenhouse gas emissions. Currently each of the three counties has existing systems in place for the management of waste and recyclable materials. The Full Feasibility Study is available on the Greene County Website.



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