

Positively Greene



COUNTY-WIDE UPDATE



GreeneGovernment.com

GreatNorthernCatskills.com

InvestInGreene.com

FilmInGreene.com

September 2018

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Columbia-Greene Community College 24th in US, 2nd in NY!

Columbia-Greene Community College, a campus of the State University of New York, has been named one of the best community colleges in the country for the second year in a row. According to a list compiled by WalletHub, a personal finance research, surveying, and review body, C-GCC ranked second in the state and 24th in the nation out of 715 community colleges.



<https://www.sunycgcc.edu/news/suny-c-gcc-is-one-of-the-best-community-colleges-in-the-country/>

Lumberyard Contemporary Performing Arts Center and Qualified Film Production & Sound Studio

Labor Day weekend saw a surge of activity in Catskill as LUMBERYARD staged the official debut of its state-of-the-art sound stage/ multi-use event space with a sold-out performance and gala hosted by Tony Award-winning actor, Alan Cumming. NYS Senator George Amadore worked with local, county and LUMBERYARD officials to secure an additional \$1MM in funding for this Creative Economy Hub.



<https://www.greenegovernment.com/news-press/lumberyard-grand-opening-debuts-nys-qualified-production-facility>

C-GCC Offering New Online Automotive Program

Columbia-Greene Community College is collaborating with a program Subaru of America



offers colleges, called Subaru University, that will give students in C-GCC's Automotive Technology Department the chance to start the training potential Subaru employees must go through, using the exact curriculum Subaru uses to train future employees.

The program, exclusively online, will be offered for the first time in the fall 2018 semester and can be completed parallel to the students regular 2-year associate degree program.

<https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/article/c-gcc-will-offer-training-program-subaru-help-students-get-jobs-out-school>

Thomas Cole House Connecting to Skywalk

With funds provided by the NYS Department of State the Greene County section of the Hudson River Skywalk has now been approved by the Greene County Legislature. Construction of a pedestrian walkway connecting the Rip Van Winkle Bridge to the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, located in the Village of Catskill, will begin in September of 2018. The pedestrian walkway will be constructed on lands owned by the New York State Bridge Authority, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, and the Temple Israel of Catskill, Inc., with proposed improvements to include an asphalt paved walkway, fencing, unit block retaining wall, site amenities and landscaping.



DID YOU KNOW?

It's a Seller's Market for Homes in Greene County

The NY State Association of realtors reported that closed sales of homes in the second quarter of 2018 increased by 22.3% and the median housing price was \$175,000.

TOURISM

Glens Falls House: A Legendary Round Top Resort Reimagined



The Glen Falls House, which has been in continuous operation since the late 19th century, has changed hands multiple times, undergoing several expansions

in the '60s in the waning golden days of the Catskills resort boom. Most recently, in May 2017, Glen Falls House was bought by two bright-eyed entrepreneurs armed with a vision and backed by a group of private investors. Read about their improvements and new vision at <http://upstater.com/glen-falls-house-a-catskills-resort-reimagined/>

2018 Stars of the Industry Winner in Hunter

Chuck Tomajko (owner and operator of the Fairlawn Inn) has been recognized as the Bed and Breakfast/Inn of Distinction by New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association. He will receive his award at the Stars of the Industry Awards Gala on October 22, 2018 at Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY.



Tourism & Visitor Spending Up in Greene County



Tourism in the Catskills is a \$1.3 billion industry that supports nearly 20,000 jobs. In addition, the strongest growth in traveler spending in New York State occurred in the Catskills Region, representing a 7.1% increase over 2016, followed by Niagara and Central New York and beating out New York City, Long Island, and the Adirondacks. In Greene County, travelers spent \$170 million in 2017, representing 7.8% increase over 2016's reported figures. Labor income in Greene County is also up 13.1%, with over 3,000 employed by the tourism industry, Greene County is the most dependent upon tourism employment in the Catskills, representing 22% of the total share.

Were it not for tourism generated state and local taxes, the average household in the region would have to pay an additional \$1,192.00 to maintain the same level of government revenue.

<https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/article/new-state-report-shows-tourism-was-strong-economic-driver-twin-counties>

PLANNING

Mountain Biking Drives Trailhead Parking Expansion in Windham



The newly-completed Elm Ridge Trail System parking lot on Route 23 has tripled in size to handle an overflow of vehicles driven by mountain bikers. The Windham Area Recreation Foundation (WARF) finds 80% of trail users

start at this lot. "It's just indicative of the popularity of the trail system," says Nick Bove - President of WARF. "Good timing as the lot was filled to capacity all three days during the Labor Day weekend."

<https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/article/extra-parking-lift-elm-ridge-trail-system>

DEC Adopts New Regulations to Improve Safety & Visitor Experience at Kaaterskill Falls



Kaaterskill Falls is an increasingly popular destination, unique in its natural beauty coupled with steep cliffs and slippery rocks. DEC encourages visitors to the falls to use caution and the new regulations complement the State's \$1.25 million investments to improve safety and accessibility at the falls without sacrificing its natural qualities.

The goal of the DEC is to enable the enjoyment of New York's natural areas and state lands by visitors who act responsibly and are mindful of their surroundings. Read the new regulations at:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/2063650>

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