

# Positively Greene

## COUNTY-WIDE UPDATE



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

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

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

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

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

Special Edition: 2024 A Year-In-Review

January 2025

### Legislative Actions

The Greene County Legislature strongly advocates local priorities, while continuing to work closely with our elected federal and state lawmakers to bring resources and support to our businesses and communities. In 2024, significant successes included:

- [GC Legislature tells NYS to stop underfunding our Community College.](#)
- [US Congressman Molinaro secures federal funding for infrastructure in Leeds, NY.](#)
- [NYS Senator Hinchey creates Short-Term Housing law to protect local revenue.](#)
- [GC Legislature approves Durham Public Health and Economic Development Study](#)
- [\\$1 Million NYS Grant for Improvements at Leeds Hose Company #1](#)



### New Business Growth/Projects

2024 witnessed the expansion of existing businesses within Greene County, as well as the establishment of new ones. Sales tax revenue exceed expectations for the 12th straight year, and economic development funding continued to provide needed capital to help our communities thrive.

#### MULTI Grant Awards Help Businesses Expand

As part the GC Microenterprise Assistance Program, awards were provided in reimbursement grants for up to \$25,000. Legislators, community & business leaders celebrated the recipients and their impact on our economy during official presentations. The following Greene County Business met the criteria for the program and received awards:

- [The Pro Ski & Ride in Hunter](#)
- [Log Cabin Café & General Store in Round Top](#)
- [Johnk Family Farm in Greenville](#)
- [Via Ravioli in Coxsackie](#)
- [Subversive Malting + Brewing in Catskill](#)
- [Stirred Water Herbs in Durham](#)
- [Storybrook Hollow in Cairo](#)
- [Catskill Bicycle Supply Company](#)
- [Red Star Cafe & Bakery](#)
- Hudson Valley Crusaders
- South Cairo Wine & Liquor Store
- Blackbear Lodge

#### Small Businesses Expand in Coxsackie & Cairo

Community leaders and well wishers attended the opening of the [Cairo location of The Juice Branch](#). Starting in Catskill, this popular healthy living destination has a new presence in the Cairo! In West Coxsackie, patrons eagerly welcomed the expansion of [Simone's Kitchen](#) on 9W after a long closure for renovations.

#### Former Save-A-Lot Distribution Center Sold for \$20.5 Million

The 333,386-square-foot building at 1 Van Bergen Lane in West Coxsackie was purchased by Winstanley Enterprises LLC of Concord, Massachusetts, one of the largest regional owners and operators of commercial real estate in the Northeast. It will be upgraded and rebranded to attract industrial tenants that want access to the Thruway and Hudson Valley region. [Read the full story](#)



## GC Communities Receive Restore NY Funding

Under this NYS program, the Town of Lexington will receive \$1 million for the rehabilitation of seven vacant and dilapidated commercial structures in the Town's primary business district. The Lexington Hotel, Barn and

Old Post Office properties will be rehabilitated as a hotel and new events center and commercial space designed to accommodate tourism. The Village of Catskill will receive \$550,000 for the redevelopment of the historic Community Theatre into a new Film and Live Performance venue. The re-opening of this long-time community asset is eagerly awaited!

## Indicators/Statistics

**Key economic indicators in the areas of access to capital, workforce and housing development and infrastructure continue to make Greene County communities some of the best places in New York to live, work, start a business and raise a family.**

### Moody's Upgrades GC Bond Rating for the Second Time in 5 Years

On November 27th, Moody's Investors Service upgraded Greene County's bond rating to Aa1 (second only from its top rating of AAA), an improvement over the previous rating of Aa2, reaffirming the county's strong financial management as evidenced by consistently sound reserves, conservative budget management and a formal policy to maintain reserves. [Read the News Release](#)

### NYS DEC Smart Growth Grants to Greene County

Greene County Communities and organizations within the Catskill Park were awarded over \$678,000 in grant funding for Smart Growth initiatives. These capital projects and

community development initiatives will support economic development, tourism, and recreational opportunities. The towns of Hunter and Prattsville were each awarded \$125,000, while the Village of Tannersville was awarded \$172,500 for various projects.

New York New Jersey Trail Conference received \$73,443, and the Mountain Top Arboretum received \$35,000.

### Workforce/Senior Housing Report Addendum

Last June, Greene County focused on a Workforce Housing Assessment and decided to include an addendum that analyzed the existing age-restricted housing inventory versus the growing senior population over the next decade. [Read the addendum](#)



## Messaging & Communications

**Greene County continues to promote and celebrate successes and initiatives within our communities through a robust system of news releases, social media posts, and electronic newsletters to subscribers. Below are some notable examples of well received communications.**

### Seven Coxsackie Projects Receive \$4.5 Million in NY Forward Funding

In the fall of 2023, the Village of Coxsackie was awarded a \$4.5 million grant from New York State through the NY Forward program to assist the Village's revitalization efforts. On May 20, 2024 New York State announced seven projects slated to receive funding. This award of NY Forward funds created significant opportunities for the revitalization of Downtown Coxsackie. [See the Project List](#)

### Greene County Jail Receives NYSSA Accreditation

In April, the Greene County Legislature was proud to announce the Accreditation of the Greene County Sheriff's office Jail Division by the New York State Sheriffs

Association (NYSSA). Legislators welcomed Sheriff Peter J. Kusminsky and his team to the Frank P. Stabile, Jr. Legislative Chambers in Catskill to officially receive this honor. [Read the Full Release](#)

### EPA Awards Greene County \$1.5 Million in Brownfield Assessment Funding

On May 20th, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency awarded Greene County a \$1.5 million Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant, marking the County as one of 29 awardees for this program in the Country. The grant calls for a coalition to be formed that is focused on inventorying, characterizing, and assessing potentially contaminated sites within a specific target area while also deploying preplanning and community engagement activities. [Read the EPA Announcement](#)



## Community Investments



The Greene County Legislature celebrates investments in our communities that promote business, education, culture, destinations for visitors and quality of life for our residents.

### Greene County Supports Youth Fair with New Building

Ground was broken in July for a new building for use by the Greene County Youth Fair at the Angelo Canna Town Park in Cairo. Plans are for a single-story steel structure measuring 40' x 80'. Greene County invests significant time and resources into the fair each year, with the ongoing goal of supporting its continued growth and success in the community. [Read the resolution by the Greene County Legislature](#)

### Thomas Cole National Historic Site Unveils New Visitor Center

The Thomas Cole NHS celebrated the grand opening of its new Visitor Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in July. Designed by renowned architect Stephen Shadley, this standalone building is the first cultural structure of its kind. New York Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado joined the festivities for the official unveiling of the "Cole Center," made possible by a \$360,000 grant from Empire State Development and the generous support of countless others.

### Workforce Board Opens Office in Catskill

The GCEDC joined the Greene County Chamber of Commerce, legislators Jay Lucas and Sherry True, and business & education leaders from Greene & Columbia counties to cut the ribbon at the new Workforce Development Center on Main Street in Catskill. Columbia-Greene Workforce NY bolsters the local economy by streamlining access to local, state, federal and private employment services.

### New Stewart's Opens at Exit 21 East Site

The GCEDC along with Greene County Chamber of Commerce, Legislators Pat Linger, Matt Luvera, Harry Lennon, Sherry True, Jim Thorington and Jay Lucas were joined by Assemblyman Chris Tague, and notable community and business leaders at the ribbon cutting for the brand new Stewarts Shop at the Exit 21 East Site in Catskill. Future development of the Exit 21 East site will include a new hotel under the Hilton franchise. [Watch the Video](#)

### Renovation Completed at Cohotate Preserve

Greene County Legislature Chairman Pat Linger welcomed leaders and students from Columbia-Greene Community College and an array of county leaders to the rededication of the newly renovated Cohotate Preserve Field Station. Senator Michele Hinchey facilitated a \$100,000 grant from NYS. Greene County Soil & Water Executive Director Joel Dubois cited that GCSW contributed \$400,000 to the project. The station is now a year-round research facility complete with climate control, plumbing, and high-speed internet. With the help of many dedicated individuals, C-GCC is now the only NYS Community College with a campus directly accessing the Hudson River.

### Shoreline Restorations at the Historic Catskill Point

The Greene County Legislature voted in favor of awarding a \$1.04 million bid to make much needed improvements to the shoreline at the Historic Catskill Point. This stabilization project includes the repair, renovation and installation of shoreline structures, the wooden deck, bulkheads, and docking facilities. [Read the full story](#)

## Campaigns

Greene County continues to promote our communities, businesses, and destinations with engaging campaigns through videos, social media, and promotional materials. Impactful efforts in 2024 included:



### The Best Kept Secrets of Greene County, NY Podcast

In 2024, co-hosts Thomas Boomhower and Mark Gustavson produced 10 episodes that “Let the Catskills out of the Bag” through conversations with Greene County businesspeople ranging from startup entrepreneurs to well-established companies. Available wherever you get your podcasts, you can listen & subscribe at <https://greenecountyedc.com/best-kept-secrets-of-greene-county-ny/>

### KRM Delivers Biannual Report

As Agency-of-Record for both the Greene County Economic Development Corporation and Greene Government, KathodeRay Media, Inc. finalized their MidYear report in July. Executive VP Mark Gustavson delivered the report on behalf of the Agency, detailing the effectiveness of the wide array of marketing efforts under the Buy In Greene and Invest Greene initiatives. Online engagement continues to grow year-over-year, due to the dynamic social media posts and videos, online quizzes, helpful eBooks on starting a business in Greene County, as well as traditional advertising created by the Agency. [Read the report](#)

### “Build Success In Catskill” One-Sheet

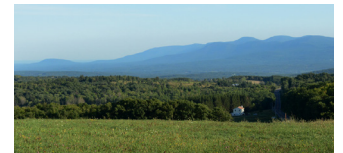
As part of the ongoing effort to promote Greene County communities to prospective new business owners, the Village and Town of Catskill have been added to the Invest Greene Build Success campaign (Joining the Towns of Cairo & Greenville). The promotional flyer highlights the unique attributes of both the Town and Village, encourages entrepreneurs to learn more about starting their business here, and directs them to more information online. [Download the flyer](#)

### 2024 Holiday Buy In Greene Jingle

For the last 5 years, Jon Meredith and the students at the Greenville High School Music Technology Program have been contributing their musical talents to the production of Buy in Greene’s holiday spot. This year’s jingle is based on tune of “Frosty the Snowman” and aired on WRIP and TheCAT, with the video sing-along is running online. [View the Sing-A-Long](#)

## Planning

Significant progress was made in 2024 in the areas of infrastructure, brownfields remediation and preserving farmland within the Greene County.



### Coxsackie to Receive Water Infrastructure Funding

The Village of Coxsackie will receive over \$4.4 million in NYS grants and over \$1.5 million in interest-free financing for planning, design, and construction of sanitary sewer collection and stormwater system improvements to reduce sanitary sewer overflows during storm events. [Read the press release](#)

### Adding Land to Our Agricultural District

From November 1 through November 30 of each year, any municipality whose territory is in Agricultural District No. 124, any State Agency or any landowner within or adjacent to the district may request an addition to the district. Agricultural District 124 Application Forms for 2024 were completed by applicants and sent to Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning, by November 30. [Find out more](#)

### Legislature Restructures Greene County Planning Board

In December, The Greene County Legislature authorized the restructuring of the county planning board to include only five members representing a broad cross section of interests within the county. It also authorized the Chairman of the Greene County Legislature to execute agreements with local municipalities exempting certain actions from County Planning Board review. The legislature appointed James Hannahs (GC Economic Development & Planning), Robert J. VanValkenburg (GC Highway Dept.), Audrey Terwillinger (GC Real Property Tax Service), April Ernst (GC IDA), and Joel DuBois (GC Soil & Water Conservation District) to serve a 3 year term beginning on January 1, 2025.

## Tourism

Throughout 2024, the Great Northern Catskills of Greene County NY Tourism Team promoted local events and touted our county's destinations and natural splendor at regional and national conferences. County communities continue to be sought after film locations, and recognition by media and influencers abound.



### CONFERENCES & SHOWS



The Great Northern Catskills of Greene County Tourism Team gained valuable insights and connections at the annual New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association's (NYSHTA) Advocacy Conference, fostering collaboration within New York's tourism sector. They also partnered with Christman's Windham House and proudly showcased the scenic landscapes and premier golfing destinations at the Connecticut Golf Show. At the

Dream Destinations Spring/Summer Show at the MGM in Springfield, MA, they shared insights on adventure-filled outdoor activities, scenic landscapes, and cultural gems nestled within the Catskill Mountains. They also had a prominent booth at the Catskills Great Outdoor Expo (a one-day event that took place at the Catskills Visitor Center) and actively provided visitors with a wealth of information about the unique attractions and experiences in Greene County - sharing insights on outdoor adventures, local history, cultural sites, and upcoming events.



### EVENTS

#### Country Takes Over at the Historic Catskill Point

Over 1,500 fans soaked up the perfect weather and the sweet sounds of country music at the second annual Concert in the Catskills! Held on Saturday, June

15th, the concert was a smash hit. Rising star Jackson Dean headlined the show, bringing his electrifying energy to the stage. Special guest Alana Springsteen, fresh off her "Country Rookie of the Month" title, wowed the crowd with her impressive talent. The combination of these two rising stars along with the stunning backdrop of the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains made for an unforgettable night. Concert in the Catskills is quickly becoming a summer tradition.

#### Catskills Comedy Festival: a Weekend of Laughter

The Catskills Comedy Festival is a three-day extravaganza of laughter and entertainment. From seasoned professionals to rising stars, attendees can expect a wide range of comedic styles and perspectives. Beyond the main stage performances, the festival will offer a variety of activities for all ages. [Listen to the Podcast \(Episode 8\)](#)

#### TAP New York Coming to the Blackthorne

On June 28 & 29, 2025, TAP NY will be returning to Greene County! Established in 1998 and drawing over 100,000 beer enthusiasts, it is one of the nation's largest and longest-running craft beer festivals. With its new home at Blackthorne Resort, there will be over 60 breweries as well as over 50 food and craft vendors. [Get your tickets here](#)

### FILM

#### FILM IN GREENE

Greene County's film industry is thriving! The Film in Greene team is busy collaborating with various film productions, both major and independent. Scouting locations across the county, they've identified charming towns like Jewett, Windham, and Hunter as potential filming sites. The popular TV show "House Hunters: Cabin Dreams" recently filmed in Greene County, showcased the beauty of Jewett, Windham, Hunter, Ashland, Lexington, and Cairo. "The Bride!" (an upcoming sci-fi horror film co produced by Warner Bros. Pictures) was filmed in Ashland and Windham featuring a stellar cast including: Penélope Cruz, Christian Bale, Jessie Buckley, Peter Sarsgaard,

Annette Bening, and Julianne Hough. The production transformed Cave Mountain Motel into a 1930s motel for a scene featuring vintage cars and required the collaboration of the Greene County Sheriff's department and New York State Troopers. "Between the Temples," directed by Nathan Silver and filmed in Jefferson Heights last March, premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival, earning a Jury Prize nomination. It was screened at the Mountain Cinema in September. Additionally, the historic Catskill Game Farm served as the backdrop for the indie feature film "Oh Hi," which we're excited to see upon its release [Watch the trailer](#)



## RECOGNITION

### Greene County Welcomes UK Journalists

A group of UK press recently embarked on a FAM tour of The Great Northern Catskills of Greene County, experiencing the winter wonderland firsthand. Their journey began with a day of skiing at Hunter Mountain, where they carved up the fresh powder and marveled at the breathtaking views from the summit. After a thrilling afternoon, they checked into the charming Hotel Lilien, a historic Catskills property with a cozy atmosphere and modern amenities. The next day, they headed to Windham Mountain for another day of exhilarating runs and scenic vistas. Throughout their trip, the journalists were impressed by the natural beauty of Greene County, the friendly hospitality of the locals, and the abundance of winter activities available.

In October, Greene County Tourism, in partnership with Hudson Valley Tourism, hosted a travel and food writer from National Geographic UK. The writer, accompanied by a local tourism expert, explored the region's culinary scene and stunning natural landscapes, including Kaaterskill Falls. This collaboration aims to attract international visitors, particularly from the UK, and is expected to result in a feature article published in early 2025.

### Rave Review on The Rounds at Scribner's Catskill Lodge

The Rounds at Scribner's Catskill Lodge was recognized in Travel + Leisure's 2024 article! The glowing review highlights The Rounds' unique blend of rustic charm and modern luxury, showcasing its breathtaking surroundings in the Catskill Mountains. This acknowledgment not only celebrates the lodge's dedication to hospitality but also shines a spotlight on the natural beauty of the Great Northern Catskills. Here's to The Rounds at Scribner's Catskill Lodge for its continued success in offering unforgettable escapes amidst the tranquility of nature. [Read the review](#)

### The Henson and Matilda: A Boutique Rebirth in the Catskills

Nestled in the heart of Hensonville, The Henson and Matilda has taken root, breathing new life into the familiar space once known as Hammo's. This charming boutique hotel boasts 16 stylishly appointed rooms, each a haven of comfort and modern design. The Matilda restaurant has become a culinary destination, tempting taste buds with a menu that changes with the seasons. Here, innovative dishes showcase the freshest, locally sourced ingredients, offering a truly unique and delicious experience in the heart of the Catskills.

### Greene County Charms NY by Rail Blogger

The Greene County Tourism Office, along with some amazing local partners, recently hosted a blogger from New York By Rail. Their captivating experience highlighted the ease of exploring the Great Northern Catskills by train and car. Breathtaking natural beauty took center stage, with charming towns like Leeds, Coxsackie, and Windham adding their unique flavors. And foodies, rejoice! The delicious finds included pierogies, decadent chocolates, and hearty breakfasts. A big thank you to our partners for making this visit unforgettable! [Read the blog](#)

### Winter Clove Historic Registry

Winter Clove Inn, the beloved Round Top establishment, has achieved a significant milestone. On July 28th, the inn was officially recognized as an historic site in a celebratory unveiling ceremony. The event drew a large crowd eager to honor this iconic landmark, which holds the distinction of being Greene County's oldest continuously operating lodging facility.



# Social Media Following Quarterly Update

WINTER 2025 (Following as of January 3, 2025)

## FOLLOWERS

### Buy In Greene | Invest In Greene



Facebook 12.3K

@BuyInGreene



Instagram 2,041

[www.instagram.com/buyingreenecounty/](http://www.instagram.com/buyingreenecounty/)

### Great Northern Catskills



Facebook 31K

@GreatNorthernCatskills



Instagram 32.1K

[www.instagram.com/CatskillTourism/](http://www.instagram.com/CatskillTourism/)



Twitter 2,126

@CatskillTourism

### Greene County Economic Development Corp.



Facebook 1.1K

@GreeneCountyEDC



Instagram 1,197

[www.instagram.com/greeneedc](http://www.instagram.com/greeneedc)

### Public Health



Facebook 6.5K

@GreeneNYHealth



Instagram 270

[www.instagram.com/greenenyhealth](http://www.instagram.com/greenenyhealth)



Twitter 410

@GreeneNYHealth

### Emergency Services



Facebook 3.9K

@GreeneCoNY911

### Family Planning



Facebook 315

@GreeneCountyFP



Instagram 277

[www.instagram.com/greeneountyfamilyplanning](http://www.instagram.com/greeneountyfamilyplanning)

### Greene County Public Health Children's Services



Facebook 164

@greeneountychildrensservices

### Veterans Services



Facebook 127

<https://www.facebook.com/profile>.

### Civil Service



Facebook 1.5K

@GCNYCivilService

### Human Services



Facebook 990

@GCNYHumanServices

### Hudson Valley Tourism



Facebook 18K

@HudsonValleyTourism



Instagram 277

[www.instagram.com/greeneountyfamilyplanning](http://www.instagram.com/greeneountyfamilyplanning)



Twitter 10.9K

@HudValleyTravel

### Sheriff's Office



Facebook 2.1K

@GreeneCoNY

### Greene County, NY Government



Facebook 2.7K  
(launched 10/10/2020)

@GreeneCountyNewYork