Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

February 2023

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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Yet Again**  The sixth leading cause of death among young Black men in the United States is use of force by police. Among all groups, Black men and boys face the greatest risk of being killed by police—1 in 1,000 over the course of their lifetime. Social scientists and public health experts identify police contact as a key factor in health inequality. The brutal murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of Memphis police officers is the latest high-profile killing by law enforcement. With each case, there are calls for police reform. Yet, no meaningful legislation has passed. For those who are feeling helpless and outraged, consider signing the latest [NAACP petition](https://naacp.org/actions/action-alert-uniformed-police-reform) or [joining](https://naacp.org/join-naacp/become-member) the NAACP Ellenville Branch (the only Ulster County branch). You can also join the folks who have stood vigil every Saturday from 1:00 to 2:00 PM at the corner of Market & Main since the murder of George Floyd. As Charles Blow powerfully reminds us, people may make immediate demands and then they just move on, but this is [America’s shame](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/27/opinion/tyre-nichols-video.html?unlocked_article_code=uts2_rRMrZlBNewsSGMtb3c46hiSgTyqjHgpgm5S-sLH208EqMuDAdcmkvV29NEYepC0LcJKlN07u85xC23z6TMVBGF1w8FbVFuz9quIsGYhPH478BhU-OUIJ92B98Y2X5YC-oNI3Ls2vLWvTbAyKhhRIfjj950N871_6vRNKROmq8grg8t3P9hmxeckw3vzGV4kJT3sPuoDI0UQ_W8hfPCBhNIV_WkB-xgPD5PkdmdNJegDCrzQZVXdhsJ8VtuTmMTSx6kY6TMshz0fv-IAuwj6PeC7rOnSrhIyTDhxo9Vl_8jSAFWzbvOgPU2th5rBJrujS8SXwBFGJ5p3&smid=share-url).    **The 118th Congress**  We have learned now that Kevin McCarthy sold his soul to the devil—or at least to the diabolical—in order to become speaker of the House. After 15 humiliating ballots, McCarthy won the gavel but lost the power. That power is instead in the hands of the most extreme right-wing, election-denying zealots of the Republican Party, with Marjorie Taylor Greene, Lauren Boebert, Paul Gosar, and Scott Perry sitting on the House Oversight and Accountability Committee. Its chair, James Comer, has promised to make investigating the Biden family its top priority.    Jim Jordan, named by the Select January 6 Committee as a “significant player” in the attempt to overturn the 2020 elections, heads up the House Judiciary Committee. He has publicly stated that he will investigate the “weaponization” of the federal government and has demanded that the Justice Department turn over documents related to President Biden’s handling of classified documents. (Jordan and the rest of the Republicans are the same people who have rallied around Trump, who not only had boxes of classified documents at his homes but refused to hand them over.) For a little humor, watch [Wanda Sykes explain](https://twitter.com/TheDailyShow/status/1617870331783385088) the “Biden scandal.” The next two years will not be pretty. And we haven’t even touched on the [George Santos lies](https://gothamist.com/news/heres-a-list-of-ny-rep-elect-george-santos-lies-deceptions-and-fabrications), the Republican [proposed 30% sales tax](https://americansfortaxfairness.org/issue/oppose-maga-republicans-30-national-sales-tax/), [abortion bans](https://wapo.st/3jebnqI), and more.    **Molinaro Watch**  Marc Molinaro, who ran as a moderate, has been anything but with [his first votes](https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/69202/marcus-molinaro). Since taking office, he has voted with Republicans on anti-abortion bills and pro-fossil fuel bills. He joined with the Republican election deniers with his vote to establish a Select Committee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government. His first vote before he was even sworn in was to put Kevin McCarthy in charge. Soon after, he voted to [gut the Office of Congressional Ethics](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/jan/05/house-republicans-office-congressional-ethics-santos-january-6). We must remain vigilant and hold Molinaro accountable. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **January SDC Meeting\***  The Saugerties Democratic Committee met in a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, January 24, where we heard from candidates who are seeking SDC’s endorsement. The candidates spoke for five minutes and then took questions for an additional five minutes. Candidates for Town Supervisor, Town Board, Town Receiver of Taxes, Town Justice and Ulster County District Attorney appeared at the meeting. Additionally, there was a brief discussion on Neighbor to Neighbor (*see below*).    The meeting concluded with a tribute to our late SDC committee member Pam Ross. In addition to viewing some photographs, many members spoke about what Pam meant to the committee, to the town, and to the people whose lives she touched.    \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/). Meeting schedule for 2023: Feb 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28. Meetings at Senior Center and Zoom. All welcome. |
| **News & Newsworthy** |
| **An Antidote to Democracy Threats: Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N)**  Turn off MSNBC. Put down your copy of *The Nation*. Stop reading DeSantis’ tweets. Don’t fret over the latest polls. Or despair over the state of the world. In the words of union organizer Joe Hill, “Don’t mourn, organize!”    Come organize with like-minded Democrats through the Saugerties N2N program. What is N2N? It’s an opportunity to build relationships with your Democratic neighbors, bringing them trustworthy information and listening to their concerns.    Throughout the country, N2N programs have helped to turn out voters and elect Democrats. In Ulster County, N2N towns had the highest Democratic turnout in 2021 and 2022 and led the way for our county to show the rest of New York that when you speak to voters, they show up at the polls. Still need to be convinced this is for you? Watch this [video](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Kz6TBJUaROgeKRALfqvfIli7ternb0R/view).  Democracy needs you. Please contact [chdinsmore@gmail.com](mailto:chdinsmore@gmail.com) or 914-388-4590 to learn more.    **Ulster County District Attorney**  District Attorney Dave Clegg announced that he is not seeking reelection. Dave began his career with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in 1977 and later became an attorney with VISTA, where he worked with the Lakota Sioux. He is a deacon in the United Methodist Church. As DA, NYS data show that his office’s record is comparable to previous Ulster County DAs and better than NY State overall. Thank you, Dave, for your commitment to fair and equal justice. |

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| **February Community Happenings** |
| **Feb 1:** Empire State Winter Games Torch Relay from NYC to Lake Placid, Kiwanis Ice Arena; official stop for Torch Relay Arrival & Parade; 4:00 PM—6:00 PM  **Feb 3-5:** [Saugerties Snow Moon Festival](https://saugertiessnowmoonfestival.com/); a weekend of celebrating light, joy & hope; various activities for the family; proceeds donated to Saugerties food pantries  **Feb 4:** American Legion Open House for Snow Moon Festival; 30 John St., 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  **Feb 5:** VFW Buffet Breakfast; VFW Post 5034; 30 John St.; 6 and under free, 12 and up $12, 7 to 11 for $10; 8:00 AM-11:30 AM  **Feb 5:** [Saugerties Boys & Girls Club](https://bgclubsulstercounty.org/saugerties-main-club) Bowling Tournament; sign-in 12:30 PM, begins 1:00 PM, call Dan Whalen for more information—845-338-8666  **Feb 6:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM  **Feb 8:** Village Planning Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St., 6:30 PM  **Feb 8:** Town Board Meeting (in-person & [Webex](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/294)); Saugerties Senior Center; contact [stanley@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:stanley@saugertiesny.gov); pre-board at 6:30 PM; board meeting at 7:00 PM  **Feb 9:** Saugerties Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting; all welcome; Library Community Room, 91 Washington Ave.; 6:00 PM  **Feb 14:** Saugerties School Board Meeting; High School Media Center (Library); 6:30 PM  **Feb 15:** SDC Special Meeting with County Legislature candidates; Zoom only; 7:00 PM  **Feb 16:** [Climate Smart Task Force](http://www.climatesmartsaugerties.org/) meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM; Town Hall Conference Room  **Feb 19:** [Saugerties Pro Musica](http://saugertiespromusica.org/); Argus String Quartet; Saugerties United Methodist Church, 67 Washington Ave.; 3:00 PM  **Feb 20:** Presidents Day, Federal Holiday, government offices and schools closed  **Feb 21:** Town Planning Board Meeting; Saugerties Senior Ctr; 7:30 PM; [agenda posted](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/144) prior to meeting; for info, contact: [bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov)  **Feb 21:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM; for info, contact: [lmayone@villageofsaugerties.org](mailto:lmayone@villageofsaugerties.org)  **Feb 21:** Village Zoning Board Meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM; contact: [lmayone@villageofsaugerties.org](mailto:lmayone@villageofsaugerties.org)  **Feb 22:** [Saugerties Chamber](https://discoversaugerties.com/) Monthly Mixer; UpRiver Studios, 1 Tomsons St.; 6:30 PM  **Feb 22:** Village Historic Review Board meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Feb 24-26:** NY Amateur Hockey Assoc. Varsity Hockey Champions; Kiwanis Ice Arena; all day  **Feb 27:** Historic Preservation Commission Meeting; Senior Center; 7:00 PM; for info, contact Jeremy Russell at [jeremy@thingsrelevant.com](mailto:jeremy@thingsrelevant.com)  **Ryan House** [Support Group Meeting Schedule](https://www.raisingawarenessrun.com/r-y-a-n-house-schedule/) at 19 Barclay Street, Saugerties (ongoing)    *Check Saugerties Democratic Committee* [*website*](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/) *for calendar updates.* |