Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

April 2023

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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Politics of Guns: Are We Doing Enough?**  It is impossible to write anything new about children being massacred by guns in the U.S. As of this writing, 61 children under the age of 11 have been killed by [gun violence in 2023](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/), with an additional 135 injured. Teenagers dead by guns this year—356. Since 2016, the number of young people killed or injured by gun violence has jumped 61%. Besides pointing out that the GOP has blood on its hands, what can we do? A bigger question is, are we as citizens doing enough? Let’s vote out every “thoughts and prayers,” NRA-backed politician and replace them with elected officials who care more about children than guns. Find the candidate who gets an F from the NRA and work hard to get them elected. [Donate](https://nonprofitpoint.com/best-gun-control-charities/) to groups where money will make a difference or join with [Moms Demand Action](https://momsdemandaction.org/act/) in the fight to end gun violence.    **Politics of Energy: Are We Doing Enough?**  For the first time ever, electricity from renewable energy—solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, hydropower—surpassed electricity generated by coal, 21 % and 20%, respectively. Yet, the largest source of U.S. electricity is natural gas at 39%, meaning that coal power’s demise is not about a clean energy revolution. The good news is that between the Democratic Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in 2021 (when Democrats held both the House and the Senate), clean energy’s share of electricity could jump between 71 and 90 percent by the end of the decade. The “could” part of that equation depends on whether we elect climate champions or climate change deniers.    **Back Off Our Benefits Bus Tour: Next Stop Saugerties**  On Wednesday, April 12, at 2:00 PM, come greet the [Courage for America](https://courageforamerica.org/) national bus tour as it stops at the Saugerties Senior Center to demand Congress to “back off benefits” that seniors, veterans and working families depend upon. Begun in California, the bus continues to travel through MAGA Republican districts including NY-19. Each stop highlights how Congressional Republicans are threatening to default on our national debt unless our hard-earned benefits, such as Medicare and Social Security, are cut, voucherized or privatized. Hope to see you there. In the meantime, sign on to the “Back Off Our Benefits” [petition](https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/tell-speaker-mccarthy-and-members-of-the-house-majority-to-back-off-our-benefits-1).    **Molinaro Watch**  Despite Marc Molinaro’s evasive answers at his March 15th [Saugerties Town Hall](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRTKF5uBexk) (other than stating he was against taxing billionaires), on the floor of Congress, Molinaro continues to show his true MAGA colors. Among his many [egregious votes](https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/69202/marcus-molinaro) was co-sponsoring and voting for the misnomer “[Parents Bill of Rights Act](https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/us-vs-them-toxic-vision-parent-engagement).” More accurately, this is the “banning books, censoring history and discriminating against minorities act.” He is pandering to extremists rather than addressing the real issues that most parents care about—[plummeting math and reading skills since the pandemic](https://www.cbsnews.com/video/covids-education-crisis-a-lost-generation/#x) and school shootings. Molinaro also voted to overturn the Clean Water Act and revert to the Trump-era regulations that [a court previously threw out](https://wapo.st/42TExNV). |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **March SDC Meetings\***  The Saugerties Democratic Committee met in person on Tuesday, March 28. The highlight of the meeting was a thorough and productive discussion on the petition process, including the role and responsibilities of committee members to endorsed candidates. This discussion will inform the executive committee as it works to upgrade the SDC’s bylaws.    \*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: April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28. Meetings at Senior Center. All welcome. |
| **News & Newsworthy** |
| **Local & State Legislative News: A Sampling of Democratic Legislation**  Ulster County legislator **Joe Maloney** (LD2) sponsored a resolution, passed unanimously by the legislature, requiring every corporation, association, partnership or limited liability company doing business with the county to identify everyone who has at least 10% ownership in the business or at least 10% company stock holdings in the case of a not-for-profit corporation. This will provide for more government transparency and help ensure that the county is acting in the best interest of its taxpayers.    The NYS Senate passed Senator **Michelle Hinchey’s** [bill](https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/s1478) to study and improve access to services for people with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The bill, inspired by 23-year-old [Hannah Berryan’s struggle to get services](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/hudson-valley/health/2021/09/28/traumatic-brain-injury-care-hudson-valley), would require a comprehensive statewide study on regional delivery of services for people with TBI. This is a first step toward people getting appropriate services without having to leave their home like Ms. Berryan.    Three Democratic elected officials—**Michelle Hinchey**, **Joe Maloney**, and **Fred Costello**— worked together to ensure that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds continue to benefit Saugerties. With county money from ARPA, a Maloney legislative resolution to match municipal and state funds for water and sewer allowed the three-way partnership of state, county and town to extend sewer and water lines along Kings Highway to Mount Marion Firehouse. This connects homes and the firehouse to the municipal water and sewer system.    **Sarahana Shrestha’s** “tax the billionaires” measure made it into the [NY Assembly’s budget](https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2023/03/15/shrestha-backed-initiatives-make-it-into-assembly-budget/?share=ysmoihi3ithaiuhneea1). Stay tuned as we watch the ongoing NYS budget process.  **Wisconsin: A Consequential Race Most Have Never Heard About**  The April 4th Wisconsin Supreme Court election [could determine](https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/28/wisconsin-supreme-court-race-00089271) whether Republicans will continue to gerrymander their way to Congressional majorities. There’s still time to help get out the vote. Sign up to [phone bank](https://www.mobilize.us/wisdems/event/545075/?fbclid=IwAR3qEcKxuswLtK5TAZ9KLMF-hSLifAocNeZPs0_aH-zIONhpQHbdwy8Oxww) for Janet Protasiewicz. Democracy will thank you.    **In Other News: Oh by the way,** [**Trump got indicted**](https://wapo.st/3Kn7Lxg)**!** |

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| **April Community Happenings** |
| **Apr 1:** Lions Club Egg Hunt; prizes; free; Glasco Firehouse; 10:30 AM-11:30 AM (rain date 4/8)  **Apr 3:** Village of Saugerties public hearing on proposed 2023-24 budget; 43 Partition St.; copies of preliminary budget available at clerk’s office; 5:30 PM  **Apr 3:** Town Zoning Board of Appeals meeting; Senior Center; 7:00 PM; contact [bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov)  **Apr 5:** Town Board Meeting (in-person & [Webex](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/294)); Saugerties Senior Center; contact [lstanley@saugerties.ny.gov](mailto:lstanley@saugerties.ny.gov); pre-board at 6:30 PM; board meeting at 7:00 PM  **Apr 7:** Town Hall Closed for Good Friday  **Apr 7:** Glasco Fire Company Friday Fish Fry; 139 Liberty Street Extension, 4:30 PM-6:30 PM  **Apr 8:** Mount Marion Fire Dept Breakfast with the Easter Bunny; 766 Kings Hwy; 8 AM-11 AM  **Apr 11:** American Legion Chicken Dinner; info: [kpendergast@hvc.rr.com](mailto:kpendergast@hvc.rr.com); 4 PM-6:30 PM  **Apr 12:** Village Planning Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St., 6:30 PM  **Apr 13:** Saugerties Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting; 91 Washington Ave.; 6:00 PM  **Apr 15, 16, 22, 23:** Green & Clean Days in Saugerties; celebrate Earth Day by pitching in to clean up roadside litter throughout the town; sign-up sheet and orange trash bags with town logo available at the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall, 4 High St. starting on Monday, 4/3  **Apr 16:** Andrew Mullen Scholarship Award Pancake Breakfast; R.Y.A.N House; 7 AM-11 AM  **Apr 16:** Saugerties Pro Musica; 67 Washington Ave.; Tong (violin) & Shepard (piano); 3:00 PM  **Apr 17:** Village Board meeting; 43 Partition St.; [pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org](mailto:pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org); 5:30 PM  **Apr 17:** Historic Preservation Commission Meeting; Senior Center; contact: Jeremy Russell at [jeremy@thingsrelevant.com](mailto:jeremy@thingsrelevant.com); 7:00 PM  **Apr 17:** Last day to submit Board of Education candidate petition; Hildebrandt Bldg (behind Jr./Sr High School; (ballot order drawing on Apr 18 at 11 AM)  **Apr 18:** Saugerties School Board Meeting; High School Media Center (Library); 6:30 PM  **Apr 18:** Town Planning Board Meeting; Saugerties Senior Ctr; [agenda posted](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/144) prior to meeting; for info, contact: [bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov);7:30 PM  **Apr 19:** Town Board Meeting (in-person & [Webex](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/294)); Saugerties Senior Center; contact [lstanley@saugerties.ny.gov](mailto:lstanley@saugerties.ny.gov); pre-board at 6:30 PM; board meeting at 7:00 PM  **Apr 20:** [Climate Smart Task Force](http://www.climatesmartsaugerties.org/) meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM; Town Hall Conference Room; contact: [mhodonnell316@gmail.com](mailto:mhodonnell316@gmail.com)  **Apr 23 & 30:** Signs of Spring; Esopus Creek Conservancy’s and John Burroughs Natural History Society’s Tree Identification Walk; registration required: [schorvas@gmail.com](mailto:schorvas@gmail.com); 9:00 AM  **Apr 25:** Village Zoning Board Meeting; 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Apr 26**: [Saugerties Chamber](https://discoversaugerties.com/) Monthly Mixer; 9W Diner; 3 Simmons Plaza; 6:30 PM  **Apr 26:** Village Historic Review Board meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Apr 29, 30:** AKC Dog Agility Competition; Soccer Field 5; Cantine Field; 9 AM-5PM  **Apr 30:** VFW All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast; American Legion Post 72; 30 John St.; 8:00-11:30 AM  **R.Y.A.N. 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.* |