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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Getting Results for America**  A look at President Joe Biden’s time in office clearly shows that we are all way better off today than January 20, 2021 when Biden took office.  Biden and Congressional Democrats passed a landmark climate and clean energy bill, the [Inflation Reduction Act](https://rooseveltinstitute.org/2023/08/16/one-year-into-the-inflation-reduction-act/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw9MCnBhCYARIsAB1WQVUmTmiJcyH1d0pK5JSx-rtUgCycgXgHykTF_kCJZSL1WeFITbkasRkaAmESEALw_wcB) (IRA). One year into its passage, the IRA is proving to be one of the most successful pieces of legislation in history with American businesses announcing 270 new clean energy projects that have added more than 170,000 jobs in 44 states with $278 billion investments in local economies. High paying jobs have been added across the country with over half the jobs located in Republican Congressional districts.  The IRA is a win for workers, as 75% of new clean energy jobs do not require a four-year college degree. And those who complete a learn-and-earn apprenticeship will make on average $300,000 more in wages and benefits over the course of their career than those who don’t. That’s just on the jobs end.  The increase in wind and solar power has created a more reliable energy grid, including propping up the Texas power grid during this summer’s brutal heatwave. This investment has allowed the cost of wind and solar to decrease by 54% and 37%, respectively, and the cost is now lower than oil, coal and methane gas. And with a commitment to “Made in America,” spending on manufacturing has reached its highest level in 60 years.  Bidenomics, as the president’s detractors like to call it, has thus far produced a strong economy. Unemployment is at 3.4%, the lowest rate since 1969. Black unemployment is at an all-time low at 4.7%, for Hispanics, 4.4%, Asian Americans, 2.8%, and for women overall, 3.1%. Wages and salaries have increased 4.6%, finally outpacing inflation at 3.2%, which is down from 9.1% at its peak in June 2022. This good economic news is not an accident. Instead, it is the result of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Act](https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/site/a-user-guide-to-the-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-bil/), the [CHIPS and Science Act](https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-potential-of-the-chips-and-science-act-for-rural-america/), and the Inflation Reduction Act.  This week, we saw another benefit of the Inflation Reduction Act, the naming of the first 10 drugs that will be subject to price negotiations between Medicare and drug companies—Eliquis, Jardiance, Xarelto, Januvia, Farxiga, Entresto, Enbrel, Imbruvica, Stelara, NovoLog. These medications are used for treating cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. President Biden worked for consumers rather than Big Pharma, [saving seniors thousands of dollars.](https://abcnews.go.com/Health/americans-new-medicare-drug-price-negotiations-save-thousands/story?id=102723803)  And we haven’t even touched on Biden’s mastery of bringing U.S. leadership on the world stage—from rejoining The Paris Climate Agreement, strengthening NATO, and supporting democracy in Ukraine without bringing us in direct conflict with Russia. Not bad for a little over two years.  **Metzger Delivers**  Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger has taken solid steps to fulfill two of her campaign promises—mitigating climate change and addressing the affordable housing crisis.  In January, Metzger issued a 13-point executive order that would bring the county in line with state climate goals, including an 85% reduction of greenhouse gases. In August, Metzger signed into law a bill, passed unanimously by the legislature and aligned with her executive order, that will speed up the transition to a zero-emission fleet of county vehicles.  Declaring affordable housing a public purpose, Metzger proposed the creation of a housing action fund of $15 million that would support affordable housing with units that will only use renewable energy. The fund balance would be maintained by dedicating 25% of the hotel occupancy tax and through grants. A Housing Policy and Oversight Committee, consisting of four appointees from the executive’s office and three from the legislature, will oversee the process and the funds.  The proposed units would be available to households making up to 80% of the county’s median income--$81,300 for a four-person household and $56,950 for a one-person household. On August 15, the county legislature approved the housing action fund.  Both the climate and housing bills are first steps toward tackling these two crises. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **August Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting\***  The SDC met on Tuesday, Aug 29, at the Senior Center. [Manny Nneji](https://mannyforda.com/) spoke to the committee about his vast prosecutorial experience, his values and why he is running for Ulster County District Attorney. He provided the audience with an extensive list of cases he successfully prosecuted, including murders, sexual assaults, gang violence, fraud, animal cruelty and white-collar crimes. This was followed by a Q&A.  The committee also discussed the upcoming fundraiser, Dining & Dancing for Democracy (*see below*), and approved donations to our local campaigns. Based on the success of the fundraiser, additional funds may be allocated to candidates in September.  \*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: Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28. Meetings at Senior Center. All welcome. |
| **News & Newsworthy** |
| **New York Bar Association Calls for All Justices To Be Attorneys**  The New Yor State Bar Association’s Task Force on the Modernization of Criminal Practice, which included prosecutors, defense attorneys and jurists, took a deep dive into state’s criminal courts in 2023. They determined that “basic fairness demands that all justices be lawyers” with a minimum of five years of experience. Their June 2023 report states that constitutional principles that guarantee every person accused of a crime has the right to be represented by an attorney are undermined when a judge hearing the case does not have adequate education and training in the law. The report references retired Court of Appeals Chief Justice Judith Kaye who stated, “A lay person, regardless of his educational qualifications or experience, is not a constitutionally acceptable substitute for a member of the Bar.” Democratic candidate [Aimee Richter](https://aimee4justice.com/) is the only attorney running for Saugerties Town Justice. She has nearly 30 years of legal experience.  **Fun-Raiser Fundraiser: Dining and Dancing for Democracy**  It’s that time of year again—the spectacular and inspiring Saugerties Democratic Committee fundraiser. Join your friends and neighbors at the Cantine Pavilion on September 14 for dinner of barbecued chicken or vegetarian entrée and all the fixings, wine, beer, soft drinks, dessert and live music. Here’s our chance to have fun while helping to raise money for our fall campaign. The festivities begin at 6:00 PM.  You can purchase your tickets from a Saugerties Dem Committee member or online at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/diningdancingdemocracy>. Remember a party that eats together, stays together. See you soon. |

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| **September Community Happenings** |
| **Sept 1:** End of Summer Picnic; music, poetry and more; bring food and blanket; Saugerties Beach; 5:00-8:00 PM  **Sept 2, 9, 16, 23:** [Saugerties Farmers Market](https://saugertiesfarmersmarket.com/); 115 Main St.; 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  **Sept 4:** Labor Day; all government offices closed  **Sept 5:** Village Board meeting; 43 Partition St.; [pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org](mailto:pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org); 5:30 PM  **Sept 5:** Town Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting; Saugerties Senior Center; 7:00 PM  **Sept 6:** First Day of School at Saugerties Central School District; full day for all students  **Sept 6, 20:** 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  Sept 7: Saugerties Library Budget Vote & Trustee Election; 91 Washington Ave; 10:00 AM-8:00 PM  **Sept 8:** Light as a Medium: Allison Midgley, Erica Pagerey; Saugerties Library; 5:00-6:30 PM  **Sept 10:** [Horsin’ Around Saugerties Brunch & Auction](https://www.accelevents.com/e/horsinaroundsaugerties); HITS Showgrounds; 454 Washington Ave. Ext; 10:00 AM  **Sept 10:** VFW All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast; 30 John St.; 8:00 -11:30 AM  **Sept 11:** 9/11 ceremony; Mosher Drive Monuments; Cantine Field; 5:30 PM  **Sept 11, 25:** Housing Smart Task Force meeting; Saugerties Senior Center (small room); info at [saughstf23@gmail.com](mailto:saughstf23@gmail.com); 5:30-7:00 PM  **Sept 12:** Saugerties Transportation Advisory Committee; Building Dept. Conference Room, 4 High St.; 6:30 PM  **Sept 12:** Saugerties School Board meeting; Senior H.S. Media Center; 6:30 PM  **Sept 13:** Village Planning Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St., 6:30 PM  **Sept 14**: Saugerties Democratic Committee Fall Fundraiser Dining & Dancing for Democracy; Cantine Pavilion; tickets from SDC members or [here](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/diningdancingdemocracy); 6:00-8:30 PM  **Sept 14**: Saugerties Library Board of Trustees meeting; 91 Washington Ave; 6:00-7:00 PM  **Sept 15, 16, 17:** Arm-of-the-Sea Esopus Creek Puppet Suite; The Tidewater Center, 61 East Bridge St; [check here for times](https://www.armofthesea.org/see-a-show/our-2023-esopus-creek-puppet-suite-tidewater-center-saugerties-ny)  **Sept 18:** Historic Preservation Commission meeting; Saugerties Senior Center; contact [jeremy@thingsrelevant.com](mailto:jeremy@thingsrelevant.com); 7:00 PM  **Sept 18:** Village Board meeting; 43 Partition St.; [pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org](mailto:pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org); 5:30 PM  **Sept 19:** National Voter Registration Day; learn more [here](https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw0bunBhD9ARIsAAZl0E0LDGjkoeMjEH2WHkbkxBXjphkOZ0BUZJY3pAzIp7f7l5c1Hs_E6XQaAmr3EALw_wcB)  **Sept 19**: 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  **Sept 20, 27, 30:** Support the new music, arts, and culture venue [The Local](https://www.thelocalsaugerties.com/); check out the calendar [here](https://www.thelocalsaugerties.com/calendar)  **Sept 21:** [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)  **Sept 22:** Community Action Farm Stand; free food distribution; Saugerties Senior Center; 10:00 AM-1:00 PM  **Sept 26:** Village Zoning Board Meeting; 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Sept 27:** Saugerties Chamber of Commerce Mixer; Salt & Fire, 124 Partition St; 6:30-8:00 PM  **Sept 27:** Village Historic Review Board meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Sept 30 (& Oct 1):** [Hudson Valley Garlic Festival](https://www.hvgf.org/); Cantine Field; 10:00 AM-6:00 PM  **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.* |