Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

October 2023

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| **2023 Elections Edition** |
| **MAGA Playbook Gone Local**  We’ve seen this before on the national stage—the dog whistles, innuendos, outright lies. It’s now come to Ulster County. When the local Republican Party decided not to run a candidate against the popular Jen Metzger but instead put their energy in the DA’s race, who would have expected that they would stoop to the same GOP tactics that have stained our national political landscape?    Manny Nneji is in the GOP crosshairs and they are executing a whisper campaign about Manny’s personal life. Sound familiar? Remember the smear campaign of 2008--Obama was born in Kenya; Barack and Michelle shared a terrorist fist bump; Obama is the food stamp president. Then in 2018, the same playbook was used with Antonio Delgado. Remember? Oh, his hoodie! Oh, his rap career! Oh, he’s anti-cop! Now Manny is the target. If you hear a rumor, please check out the Manny Nneji [Fact Check page](https://mannyforda.com/fact-check). Our best defense is the truth—and going to the polls to vote for our Democratic candidates. Decency is on the ballot. Vote Democratic.    **The Rubber Hits the Road**  Local elections are the nuts and bolts of democracy. Too often, voters sit on the sidelines during these crucial elections. Help educate the public about our great town and county candidates and work to get out the vote. Please sign up to canvass by emailing Mike Harkavy at [mharkavy@hvc.rr.com](mailto:mharkavy@hvc.rr.com) or Liz Buono at  [lizbuono@gmail.com](mailto:lizbuono@gmail.com" \t "_blank) or signing up at this [link](https://forms.gle/vWbWPfV9MnJNLzB48). Mike and Liz will make this an easy process by providing you with a turf that you can complete at your leisure—maybe not leisure but within the week. Our Saugerties voters will appreciate your dedication to democracy and will be happy to learn more about our candidates.    **Our Endorsed Democratic Slate**  On the town level—supervisor, council members, town justice—one candidate is unopposed, Town Supervisor **Fred Costello**. Of the three legislative candidates representing Saugerties, two candidates are unopposed, **Aaron Levine** (Legislative District 1) and [Joe Maloney](https://www.joeforsaugerties.com/) (Legislative District 2). On the county level, one candidate is unopposed, [Jen Metzger](https://jenmetzger.com/). And on the state level, of the three Supreme Court justice candidates, two are unopposed—[Daniel Lynch](https://lynchforsupremecourt.com/) and[Sherri Brooks-Morton](https://scnydc.org/candidates/sherri-j-brooks-morton/). Regardless of being unopposed, they need your vote. We need to send a strong message: we support our Democratic candidates.    And now for our candidates who have opponents—from the town to the county to the state.    **Town Candidates**  Many see **Leeanne Thornton** as the glue that holds the town together. She is an active member of the Saugerties Chamber of Commerce, the president of the Esopus Creek Conservancy and the town board liaison to countless town committees. As Deputy Supervisor, she has been instrumental in creating town budgets that provide needed services while safeguarding taxpayer money. She remains committed to growing Saugerties gracefully while protecting our natural resources and environment.    **Mike Ivino**, running for a second term on the town board, secured state grants for the Animal Shelter and for improving the town infrastructure. A fiscal stalwart, Mike has successfully negotiated three union contracts. Mike owns a small business and is in his 15th year of serving as a volunteer firefighter, currently the Assistant Chief of the Centerville Fire District.    Vote for *both* Leeanne and Mike!    Our Town Justice candidate, [Aimee Richter](https://aimee4justice.com/), is the only lawyer running for this position. Her 30 years as an attorney meshes with the NYS Bar Association’s call for *all* justices to be lawyers with at least five years of experience. As a family law attorney, Aimee has helped countless people navigate difficult life circumstances such as housing insecurity, domestic violence, child custody and more. Aimee will uphold the principles of the law, protect the rights of all individuals, and treat everyone with dignity and respect. Although only securing the Democratic line (she was just 7 votes shy for the Working Families Party line), Aimee is endorsed by the Saugerties Democratic Committee, the Working Families Party and Ulster County Democratic Women. Vote for Aimee on the Democratic line!    **Ulster Legislative Candidate**  The Saugerties Legislative District 3 Democratic candidate, [Keith Gurgui](https://keithforulster.com/), is a lifelong resident of Ulster County who became disabled in a swimming accident when he was 18. Keith has worked to ensure accessibility for all as a staff member of [Resource Center for Accessible Living](https://www.rcal.org/) and as a disability rights advocate. Recognizing that we are all an accident or illness away from personal challenges, Keith is committed to affordable housing, addressing the opioid crisis, environmental protection, rail and freight safety, and expanding public transportation. Keith is endorsed by the Saugerties Democratic Committee, the Town of Ulster Democratic Committee, the Town of Kingston Democratic Committee, the Ulster County Democratic Committee, Working Families Party, Caring Majority Rising, Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), Ulster Activists, and NYS Young Democrats. If you live in a different Legislative District, consider [volunteering](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf57RV5_DwZUgsNlwgzASxfEtKsWApV6Oo7LIpZhsLy4yZvUw/viewform) to help get Keith elected. And, of course, if you live in LD 3, vote for Keith!    **Countywide Candidate**  Our countywide candidate for District Attorney, [Emmanuel “Manny” Nneji](https://mannyforda.com/), is the most experienced DA candidate in the history of Ulster County. With more than 30 years as a prosecutor, Manny has worked for both Republican and Democratic DAs. He was originally hired by former District Attorney Mike Kavanagh Sr., was recruited by then-New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo to be the Assistant New York State Attorney General, was recruited back by District Attorney Don Williams, and continued through two other District Attorney administrations. Manny has served under four Ulster County District Attorneys of different political parties, prosecuting the [toughest cases](https://mannyforda.com/cases). Manny will serve with integrity and dignity and will prosecute without fear or favor. A sampling of Manny’s endorsements includes Ulster County Democratic Committee, Working Families Party, Planned Parenthood, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, Communication Workers of America, and Ulster County Democratic Women. Vote for Manny!    **State Supreme Court**  The only Democratic State Supreme Court Third Judicial District candidate with an opponent is [Richard Rivera](https://www.judgerichardrivera.org/). Last year’s election saw a similar GOP strategy of running just one Supreme Court candidate—the conservative, anti-choice and [Federalist  Society](https://www.npr.org/2018/06/28/624416666/what-is-the-federalist-society-and-how-does-it-affect-supreme-court-picks) member Thomas Marcelle—in a three-way race. The strategy was successful and the staunchly conservative Marcelle sits on the bench. It’s important for voters to cast their ballot for *all* three Democratic candidates—**Richard Rivera**, **Daniel Lynch** and **Sherri Brooks-Morton**. We cannot afford another anti-choice, reactionary justice on the bench.    **Turn Over the Ballot**  There are five propositions to consider. The Saugerties Democratic Committee has not taken a position on these propositions. However, the Ulster County Board of Elections has prepared a [brief summary](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/sample-ballots-2/) of all the propositions in each town. Learn more about them before you go to the polls. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **September Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting\***  The SDC met on Tuesday, Sept 26, at the Senior Center. NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey, the guest of honor, updated us on the workings of the State Senate. Additionally, the committee discussed the need for a robust outreach for the elections, including canvassing and phone banking. The committee also allocated funds for the various candidates’ campaigns.    \*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: Oct 24, Nov 28. Meetings at Senior Center. All welcome. |
| **News & Newsworthy** |
| **Dianne Feinstein Dead at 90**  For many people, Senator Dianne Feinstein was the old, addled and stubborn woman who wouldn’t step down from the Senate. There have been calls for her to resign for several years. Until the end, she did it her way, leaving the Senate through death.    In reality, Feinstein was a trailblazer and political powerhouse. She became mayor of San Francisco on November 27, 1978 after the assassination of [Mayor George Moscone](https://www.kqed.org/news/11708263/remembering-george-moscone-the-peoples-mayor-of-san-francisco) and [Supervisor Harvey Milk](https://library.law.howard.edu/civilrightshistory/lgbtq/harveymilk) by former supervisor [Dan White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_White) (his trial became famous for the [Twinkie Defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twinkie_defense)). This was not the first time Feinstein dealt directly with political violence as she herself had been a target of a bombing by the [New World Liberation Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_World_Liberation_Front).    In 1992, Feinstein was elected to the U.S. Senate, becoming the first female Jewish senator. Months later, Barbara Boxer was sworn in as a U.S. Senator, making Feinstein and Boxer the first female pair representing a state in the Senate. Feinstein was known as a staunch gun control advocate and spearheaded the passage of the federal assault weapons ban in 1994. She was the longest-serving female senator in U.S. history. Rest in Power, Dianne Feinstein.    **Dining and Dancing for Democracy: Thanks for a Successful Fundraiser**  Nearly 200 people came out to Cantine Field Pavilion for the Saugerties Democratic Committee fundraiser. Because of the generosity of so many people, SDC was able to financially contribute to all our contested races. Thanks to Stone Pony for a fabulous spread, Peggy Schwartz of Town and Country Liquors for the generous donation of wine, and to Pops and the Weasels for your wonderful dance music. Now on to victory in November! |

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| **October Community Happenings** |
| **Oct 1:** [Hudson Valley Garlic Festival](https://www.hvgf.org/); Cantine Field; 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM  **Oct 2, 16:** Village Board meeting; 43 Partition St.; [pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org](mailto:pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org); 5:30 PM  **Oct 3:** Why corporate utility companies run our energy system and how we can beat them, sponsored by Sarahana Shrestha; Saugerties Senior Center; register [here](https://actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/energy-democracy-town-halls); 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM  **Oct 6, 18:** 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  **Oct 7, 14, 21, 28**: [Saugerties Farmers Market](https://d.docs.live.net/8d73d65b85eb6cbf/NY%20Dems%202018%20on/SDC%20Internal%202020%20on/Secretary/saugertiesfarmersmarket.com); 115 Main Street; 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  **Oct 7:** Mum Bowl Game; Saugerties HS football; 1:00 PM  **Oct 7:** Fall Festival; indoor/outdoor market, chili take out; Reformed Church of Saugerties, 173 Main St.; 9:00 AM-3:00 PM  **Oct 8**: [Mum Festival](https://villagesaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10064/content/LocalEventCategories/Home/:item=4&field=events;/content/LocalEvents/View/11); Seamon Park; 5 Malden Ave.; 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM  **Oct 9**: Columbus Day/Indigenous People Day observed; school and government offices closed  **Oct 10:** American Legion Lasagna Dinner; Stone Pony; eat in or take out; reservations by Oct 4; call, text or email—845-706-8033 or [kpendergast@hvc.rr.com](mailto:kpendergast@hvc.rr.com); 4:00 –6:30 PM  **Oct 10:** Saugerties Central School Board; Mt Marion Learning Ctr; meet the board at 6:00 PM; meeting at 6:30 PM  **Oct 10, 23:** Housing Smart Task Force meeting; Saugerties Senior Center (small room); info at [saughstf23@gmail.com](mailto:saughstf23@gmail.com); 5:30-7:00 PM  **Oct 11:** Village Planning Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St., 6:30 PM  **Oct 12:** Saugerties Library Board of Trustees meeting; open to the public; 91 Washington Ave.; 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM  **Oct 12:** [Lighthouse TV23](http://www.saugertieslighthousetv.com/) committee meeting; Town Hall conference room; 7:00 PM  **Oct 12, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28:** ShoutOut Saugerties; varies events; more info [here](https://www.shoutoutsaugerties.org/all-events)  **Oct 13:** Food Truck Festival; Cantine Field; 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM  **Oct 13:** Saugerties Night Market; Jane Street; Live music, food vendors; local artisans; 4:00 PM-9:00 PM  **Oct 14:** SHS Senior Class clothing drive; Saugerties High School bus circle; 8:30 AM-4:00 PM  **Oct 15:** [Mentor Me](https://www.mentormeulster.org/) Fall Festival; 98n Lighthouse Drive; children’s activities, food, school supply giveaway and more; 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  **Oct 15:** Caring Majority Rising Rally for Leg District 3 candidate (covering parts of Saugerties), Keith Gurgui; Russel Brott Senior Center; 2:00 PM  **Oct 15:** [Saugerties Pro Musica](http://saugertiespromusica.org/); Itay Goren (solo piano); United Methodist Church; 67 Washington Ave.; 3:00 PM  **Oct 16:** Historic Preservation Commission meeting;  Saugerties Senior Center; contact [jeremy@thingsrelevant.com](mailto:jeremy@thingsrelevant.com); 7:00 PM  **Oct 17:** 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  **Oct 18:** [Note: in Kingston] NYS Public Service Commission Hearing on Central Hudson rate proposal; UC Restorative Justice Center, 733 Broadway, Kington; 6:00 PM  **Oct 19:** [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)  **Oct 21:** *Murder, Mayhem & Mystery: Tales of Saugerties Past Exhibit; Saugerties Historical Society looks at our mysterious past; The Dutch Barn @ Kiersted House; 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM*  **Oct 22:** Meat the Farmer; Cornell Cooperative Extension showcases our local farmers and cuisine; Cantine Field; Tickets [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meat-the-farmer-tickets-696734179687); 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM  **Oct 23:** Last day to apply for absentee ballot by mail or UC Board of Elections portal (in-person requests available through Nov 6 at Board of Elections, 79 Hurley Ave., Kingston)  **Oct 24:** [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)  **Oct 25:** Saugerties Chamber of Commerce Mixer; Renwick Clifton House, 25 Barclay St.; 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM  **Oct 25:** Village Historic Review Board meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Oct 27:** Community Action Farm Stand; free food distribution; Saugerties Senior Center; 10:00 AM-1:00 PM  **Oct 28:** [Voter registration](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/voter-registration/) deadline for the Nov election  **Oct 28:** Animal Shelter Fall Vendor & Psychic Fair; vendors and readings (reading appointments made by calling 845-679-0339; Town of Saugerties Animal Shelter, 1765 Rte. 212; 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  **Oct 28 (through Nov 5):** Early Voting; Saugerties Senior Ctr.; daily times see [here](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/early-voting/)  **Oct 29:** Saugerties Touch A Truck; touch all the trucks and trick or treat to benefit the Community Foundation; Cantine Field; 12:00 PM to 3:00 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.* |