



NEWS FROM THE DUTCHESS COUNTY COMPTROLLER MAY 2026

Hello and welcome...

...to the Office of the Comptroller's new bimonthly newsletter—one in a series of many efforts to keep you (the public) updated on the latest news from the County's financial watchdog.

We began 2026 with a beautiful swearing-in ceremony at the Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home for Comptroller Aymar Blair's first full term in office.

NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli delivered the keynote speech, and County Court Judge Kara Gerry administered the oath of office. Thanks to everyone who came out to support Dan and the important work of the Comptroller's Office!



OUT AND ABOUT

The Comptroller walked in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Village of Wappingers Falls, attended the graduation ceremony for the 29th class of the Dutchess County Law Enforcement Academy, and provided the keynote remarks at the County's Naturalization Ceremony in April. Dan happily welcomed 41 new Americans from two dozen countries. You can watch some of his speech on our social media (linked below)!



IN THE OFFICE

Back at 22 Market Street, the Comptroller's team spent the first few months of 2026 focused on paying the remaining bills from the previous fiscal year, and helping prepare departments to start paying their vendors in 2026. In addition to this annual "year-end close" process, the Comptroller's Office has released 4 reports since February, most recently a Special Report on the County's purchase of Camp Nooteeing in 2022.

AUDIT REPORTS



SPECIAL REPORT SHELTERING THE HOMELESS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY



FEBRUARY 2026



OFFICE OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY COMPTROLLER
DAN AYMAR-BLAIR, COMPTROLLER

We did a profile of the County's attempts to address homelessness going back to 2020. We found that Dutchess County's homeless population has been increasing before, during, and after COVID, and that the County has struggled to address the problem.

AUDIT REPORT GRACE SMITH HOUSE, INC. 2022-2024



FEBRUARY 2026



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DAN AYMAR-BLAIR, COMPTROLLER

We also audited a County contractor, Grace Smith House, who provides services to victims of domestic abuse, and had no significant findings.

AUDIT REPORT DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH 2022-2024



APRIL 2026



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DUTCHESS COUNTY COMPTROLLER
DAN AYMAR-BLAIR, COMPTROLLER

Our recent report on the Department of Mental Health (DMH) reviewed fiscal and procedural documentation between 2022 and 2024, again noting no major discrepancies.

SPECIAL REPORT CAMP NOOTEEMING



MAY 2026



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DUTCHESS COUNTY COMPTROLLER
DAN AYMAR-BLAIR, COMPTROLLER

Our most recent report on the purchase and operation of the 270.7-acre property located in the Town of Pleasant Valley known as Camp Nooteeing identified a number of discrepancies with County policy pertaining to the purchase and operation of the Camp, most notably in its selection of the Pathfinder Foundation in March 2022.

[The report can be read in full on the Comptroller's website.](#)



COMPTROLLER STAFF

The Comptroller's Office underwent some minor structural changes in recent months, seeing the departure of Director of Audit Heli Shah to the Department of Finance. Aileen Wagner, an Auditor with the Comptroller's Office since 2022, was promoted to the recently vacated Director of Audit position. Ms. Wagner has a BA in Accounting from SUNY Plattsburgh. Prior to coming to work for the County she was an Accountant with Foster & Schmalkuche, P.C between 2019 and 2022.

Alana Sawchuk, hired as an Executive Assistant to the Comptroller in 2022, was promoted to Operations and Communications Director. Ms. Sawchuk has BA and MA degrees in English from SUNY New Paltz, where she taught writing and composition for 2 years. Prior to coming to the County, she worked for the Village and Town of New Paltz as a Municipal Coordinator between 2018 and 2021.



**WE ARE
HIRING**

Join our team!

The Dutchess County Comptroller's Office is currently seeking a full-time **Auditor** to join our talented team of accounting professionals!

Typical work activities and minimum qualifications can be found by visiting [the Dutchess County website](#).



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