

2018 STATE OF THE COUNTY



“When others look to divide, to segregate, we look to each other and unite as one community with a shared sense of purpose.”

MARCUS J. MOLINARO
DUTCHESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DUTCHESSNY.GOV

In Dutchess County, we are focused on making our community more affordable by reducing the property tax levy four consecutive years; more inclusive by thinking differently about individuals with special needs and expanding the work of our Commission on Human Rights; more dynamic by recruiting innovative businesses; and more compassionate as we confront the opioid epidemic and invest in our seniors and young people. In 2018, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, by honoring the immense sacrifice of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces. Through these efforts, we continue to fulfill our shared purpose to make Dutchess County a great place to live, work and raise a family. I invite you to watch or read the complete State of the County Address online at dutchessny.gov.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

UPCOMING TOWN HALL FORUMS:

NEW HAMBURG FIRE STATION

March 15th, 6PM
15 Channingville Rd, Wappinger

ROOSEVELT FIRE STATION, NO. 3

March 22nd, 6PM
830 Violet Avenue, Hyde Park

WASHINGTON TOWN HALL

March 28th, 6PM
10 Reservoir Road, Millbrook

Think**DIFFERENTLY.**

Since its inception in 2015, Think**DIFFERENTLY.** continues to foster a more welcoming and supportive environment for residents of all abilities, and has been embraced throughout the County and the state, with more than 65 communities adopting its values.



CONTACT US:

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THIS YEAR:

- Expansion of 'Think Ahead' partnership with Dutchess Community College, offering a college experience with skill development and job training for qualified students
- Launch of the new Think**DIFFERENTLY.** website providing user-friendly navigation through the comprehensive array of resources and services available throughout the community
- Focus on universally accessible park infrastructure and identifying a first phase project for implementation as part of the County's Parks Master Plan
- Numerous community events such as Disability, Dream and Do baseball weekend at Dutchess Stadium, our popular movie days and our Special Needs Picnic

- ✓ Four Consecutive County Property Tax Cuts
- ✓ Second-Highest Bond Rating Statewide
- ✓ Low Unemployment Rate
- ✓ Reduced Costs through Shared Services
- ✓ Increased Investment in Tourism, Agriculture & Arts

state of the county

The County's economic vitality and strong financial condition enable us to provide the programs and services that support the residents of this community. We must continue to manage our costs, protect our reserves, maintain our strong bond rating and invest in economic development. This year, through our Think Dutchess Alliance for Business, we strengthen our economy in four crucial ways:

1

Invest in Municipal Centers

Utilizing pre-approval strategies and a new downtown building catalyst program

2

Create Pipeline to Jobs

Closing the skills gaps by training our workforce to meet industry demand

3

Develop Innovation Districts

Recruiting entrepreneurs to grow new, innovative businesses

4

Target & Expand Laboratories

Attracting state-of-the-art renewable energy, textile, optics, and IT laboratories

2018 YEAR OF THE VETERAN

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the end of the fighting in World War I, and in recognition of the immense sacrifice of all the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces, Dutchess County proclaims 2018 the “Year of the Veteran.” Our celebration of veterans and their families will include:

- Special recognition event for Gold Star families, who have lost a child in service to our country
- Parade honoring our veterans and their families
- Panel commemorating the service of all County veterans throughout our 300-year history, from colonial militias to present day, proudly on display at our Division of Veterans Services office

BREAKING THROUGH

Across the nation and here in Dutchess County, the public health crisis of our time – the opioid epidemic – continues to take a horrifying human toll with a total of 85 fatal overdoses in Dutchess County in 2017. This crisis leaves in its wake destroyed families mourning loved ones lost too soon. To address this complex problem, a dynamic, radical, and comprehensive approach is required. In 2018, we will move forward with the following key initiatives:

- > Expanding medication assisted treatment programs to combat addiction
- > Utilizing data to mobilize resources, connect people to treatment and reduce fatalities
- > Adding Recovery Coaches to work with those suffering and help them through recovery
- > Partnering with law enforcement to proactively engage people in need of support

The County’s existing network of support provides help to people who call or come to us. Next, we will go to them, with a proactive approach seeking out those who need help the most. Along with this new approach, let us unite as a community to break through the stigma associated with addiction and provide help and hope to those suffering.

Medication Assisted Treatment Success

300

Clients currently served in our largest Medication Assisted Treatment Program

85%

Program success rate — clients discontinue illegal use of opioids

60%

Maintain or improve employment status by participating in our program

CALL OR TEXT 24/7: HELPLINE 845-485-9700

the next generation

Services for Youth

Our greatest chance to effect long-lasting positive change throughout our community is to help every child make choices they'll benefit from – a Path to Promise. We have engaged a nationally renowned consultant group to assess youth services throughout Dutchess County – both public and private – and create an innovative framework for helping our children reach their promise and achieve their purpose. We will host a Youth Summit to engage our youth and key stakeholders to develop our action plan, ensuring we bridge existing gaps and provide every child access to the community services and programs they need to be successful.

Literacy is critical to the success of young people and to those in all walks of life. The County Executive, County Clerk and County Legislature are launching an initiative focused on early reading, workforce literacy and English as a Second Language. By providing bilingual board books to new mothers, funding expansion of Literacy Connections' Book Buddies program to Eastern Dutchess, and partnering with local libraries to create book swaps on County buses and at the DMV, we will promote reading throughout the County.

The logo for "DUTCHESSreads" features the word "DUTCHESS" in a light blue, sans-serif font. The letter "D" is stylized with a blue and orange gradient. To the right, the word "reads" is in a darker blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

the greatest generation

Services for Seniors

The County's Office for the Aging works to promote independence, dignity, and improved quality of life for the nearly 60,000 senior residents of this community. As the County's senior population continues to grow, we must meet the needs of our active seniors by expanding service at several friendship center locations to five days a week. The County will also lease a new facility in the City of Poughkeepsie integrating our office, kitchen, and improved community center space. This full-service facility will greatly improve social and educational opportunities for seniors by offering new programs such as tai chi, chair yoga, computer literacy classes, and lunch-and-learn seminars.