

Positively Greene

COUNTY-WIDE UPDATE



GreeneGovernment.com

GreatNorthernCatskills.com

GreeneCountyEDC.com

InvestInGreene.com

FilmInGreene.com

February 2021

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Owners of the Old Game Farm



For 73 years the Catskill Game Farm housed over 2,000 animals and tens of millions of people visited. It closed in 2006. In 2012, Cathy and Ben Ballone purchased the property and made major renovations including the acclaimed Long Neck Inn in the former Giraffe House. The Ballones sold the property in late 2020 and the new owners say "We are continuing to operate the most unique, luxury Boutique Inn in America, as well as private upscale campsites. Our properties strictly adhere to the most comprehensive COVID guidelines in New York State". Go to theoldgamefarm.com for more information and how to visit.

FELLOW Mountain Café Now Open in Hunter



An owner of [Scribner's Catskill Lodge](#) has opened a new destination eatery and community meeting place at 7883 Main Street in the Village of Hunter. This new venture received the assistance of [Quantum Fund](#) financing obtained through the [Greene County Economic Development Corporation](#) to facilitate the purchase of fixtures, furniture, equipment and inventory. Over a million dollars was invested in extensive renovations including lifting the building out of the flood plain. The opening of the Fellow Mountain Café will contribute to the economic benefit to the Village of Hunter.

Greene County Jobs and Employment 2020

Greene County ended 2020 with 14,000 in-county jobs, a decline of 7.7% (1200 jobs) from a year ago that was still significantly lower than the drop in New York State as a whole. COVID-19 related closings and layoffs have been responsible for the decline in in-county employees, particularly at large attractions with substantial numbers of employees. State-wide, leisure and hospitality employment was down almost 39% in the past 12 months. New York State, as a whole, had a decline of 10.3% year-over-year, or just over one million jobs.

On the employment side, there were 18,800 residents of Greene County that were employed in December 2020, down 700 from December 2019. Unemployment as measured by the New York State Department of Labor rose from 1,000 to 1,200, giving the County an unemployment rate of 6.0% for December 2020. New York State's unemployment rate for December 2020 was 8.2%, up 4.4% from December 2019. The United States unemployment rate in the same period was 6.5%, up 3.1% from a year ago.

TOURISM

February is Greene County Take-Out Month!



Greene County Tourism has partnered with the Greene County Chamber of Commerce and area restaurants to offer Greene County Take-Out Month during February 2021. Throughout the month, local restaurants

will feature a variety of takeout options, including family meals and nightly specials. "We are featuring the creative takeout options local restaurants have developed for our community," said Greene County Tourism Director Heather Bagshaw. "Our goal is to help support our area restaurants and share their unique offerings with a larger audience."

For a full list of participating restaurants, visit <https://www.greatnortherncatskills.com/takeout-month-catskills>

Greene County Destinations Celebrate Milestones in 2021



The Last Chance Cheese Café in Tannersville has been feeding and entertaining patrons for 50 years. Thomas Cole National Historic Site is celebrating 175 years in sharing the life of Thomas Cole and the Hudson River School of Art Trail. Bauman's Brookside has been hosting guests in the Catskills for 100 years. Riedlbauer's Resort's annual Round Top Senior Soccer Tournament and the Zoom Flume Waterpark both have hosted guests for 40 years. Other notable milestones include Windham Mountain Outfitters (25 years) and The Post Cottage (10 years).

PLANNING

Electric Vehicles Charging Stations in Greene County



With aggressive State climate action goals, we are seeing the

installation of additional charging stations in New York, including in Greene County. To search for electric charging stations in Greene County and throughout New York, visit the Electric Vehicle Station Locator on NYSERDA's website: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/all-programs/programs/drive-clean-rebate/charging-options/electric-vehicle-station-locator#/find/nearest>

A free toolkit that provides stakeholders with model EV policies on topics ranging from vehicle purchase to charging infrastructure to battery recycling can be found at <https://www.electrificationcoalition.org/achieve/>

GC Legislature Seeks County Role in NYS CLCPA Planning



Climate Action Council

The NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) calls for the preparation of a 'Scoping Plan' to achieve the Governor's clean energy and climate agenda. The CLCPA created a 22-member committee, the New York State Climate Action Council to develop the Scoping Plan which consists of sector-specific advisory panels and working groups, appointed by the Governor. In 2020 the Greene County Legislature unanimously passed Resolution 306-20, calling on the Governor to "establish an active and formal role for counties in planning efforts related to the CLCPA" as there are currently no County or Municipality representative on the Governor's Council. For meeting dates, meeting presentations and to receive updates on the work of the Council you can sign up to join their email list at <https://climate.ny.gov/>.

Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Planning

Warren Hart - Deputy County Administrator • 518-719-3290 • business@discovergreene.com

Great Northern Catskills
of Greene County
tourism@discovergreene.com

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Greene County Economic
Development Corporation
info@GreeneCountyEDC.com

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