

# Positively Greene

## COUNTY-WIDE UPDATE



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[GreatNorthernCatskills.com](http://GreatNorthernCatskills.com)

[GreeneCountyEDC.com](http://GreeneCountyEDC.com)

[InvestInGreene.com](http://InvestInGreene.com)

[FilmInGreene.com](http://FilmInGreene.com)

October 2023

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### C-GCC Enrollment Increasing



Unlike the SUNY system as a whole, Greene County Community College is growing, not shrinking. Enrollment

was up 6.8% in 2022, and is anticipated to be up 8% in the fall of 2023 – the 3rd highest growth rate of the state's 30 community colleges. Increases came across the board, but were most significant in Health Care, Automotive Technology, and Construction Technology. Read the full story at [https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/news/columbiacounty/suny-potsdam-isn-t-alone-many-state-run-colleges-in-n-y-facing-enrollment-declines/article\\_92e305c2-d38e-5530-a2ff-c7fb43cbf5e9.html](https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/news/columbiacounty/suny-potsdam-isn-t-alone-many-state-run-colleges-in-n-y-facing-enrollment-declines/article_92e305c2-d38e-5530-a2ff-c7fb43cbf5e9.html)



### Greene County 18th out of 50 NY Counties in Small Business Success

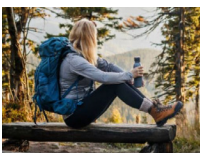
A recent report run by RochesterFirst.com cited that “Although most of the nation’s small businesses are located in major metropolitan areas, those that are located in rural areas tend to be more stable—possibly due to loyalty from local residents or the absence of competition from large corporations.” Coming in at number 18, Greene County has 1,082 small businesses (24.1 per 1,000 residents) that represent 99.7% of total businesses in the county. Read the full story at <https://www.rochesterfirst.com/new-york-state/new-york-small-businesses-thrive-in-these-counties/>



### Greene County Communities Prep for NY Forward Grants

On Wednesday September 20th, the Village of Catskill held a community workshop ahead of their application for the 2023 New York Forward Program. Members of the public were given the opportunity to learn more about, and provide feedback on, the projects slated to be included in the application, and propose new projects for consideration. Projects currently included in the project range from a new community center at Elliot Park, to renovations at the Thomas Cole House, but the bulk of the projects focused on making improvements to Main Street in Catskill. The Village of Catskill is not the only Greene County municipality applying for New York Forward funding; the Town of Cairo, The Town of Lexington, and the Village of Athens are also submitting compelling funding applications. Cairo held their own Public Engagement meeting on September 20th, inviting the community to share their ideas and help craft a vision statement for the future of their town. The Village of Athens held an informational meeting on the program and their application on September 26th. The Town of Lexington is seeking funding to revitalize three vacant buildings in the heart of their community. Greene County Economic Development & Planning provided all four municipalities with Letters of Support for their applications.

### Economic Impact of Visitors



Travelers to Greene County spent an estimated \$283 million in 2022, up \$52 million from a year earlier and \$90 million more than in 2019 before the pandemic. This, from a recently released state report generated by Tourism Economics that looked at the economic impact of tourism across every region of New York. The report groups Greene County as part of the Catskills, along with Ulster, Delaware, and Sullivan counties. Travelers in the region spent \$2.3 billion last year across a diverse range of sectors. Spending on lodging, and food and beverages comprised 51% and 14% of total, respectively. Seasonal second homes sparked significant economic activity, tallying \$456 million, 20% of the total spent. Read the full story at <https://porcupinesoup.com/travelers-to-greene-county-spent-283m-in-2022>

## TOURISM

### Tourism's Local Presence



The Greene County Tourism Office attended several local events this fall, including the Catskill Mountain Thunder Motorcycle Festival along with the Greene County Senior Day and The Cat'n Around Catskill Gala and Auction. The luau themed Senior Day, held at the Historic Catskill Point, was attended by over 250 seniors, the first since Covid. The Cat'n Around Catskill Gala and Auction was held on September 17 also at the Point and attended by the Tourism office too. The 27th annual Catskill Mountain Thunder Motorcycle Festival took place from September 16th to September 20th at Blackthorne Resort in East Durham. The event featured motorcycle rides, live music, and vendors. The festival attracted many visitors from all over the East Coast. The Greene County Tourism Office is proud to support local events. These events are a great way to promote Greene County as a top event tourist destination helping support the local economy.

View upcoming events at <https://www.greatnortherncatskills.com/events>

### Cats & Bears Auctions



The 17th Annual Cat'n Around Catskill Gala and Auction brought in a crowd of over 350 people, who gathered to bid on 66 uniquely decorated cats that had spent the summer around Catskill. The big draws this year were "Wintersong" and "Tiger Lily," both by Nancy Whelan, going for \$4,600 and \$4,500 respectively. "Wintersong" took first place for cat that "Looks like the Most Work" and "Tiger Lily" took first place for "Your Top All Around Favorite." In total the Gala and Auction raised over \$95,000 to support local programs. The Cairo Development Foundation bear auction was a record-breaking success, bringing in a little over \$60,000 from the sale of 51 bears. The highest bid was for "Esopus," the Spirit Of The Waterfalls, created by Bruce Lhuillier, which sold for \$2,100. Two additional bears, "Birdy Buffet" and "Winter Wonderland," were raffled off. The money raised from the auction will go to revitalizing the town of Cairo. The 2024 artist and sponsor packets are now available on the Cairo Development Foundation website at <https://www.cairodf.com/cairo-bears>

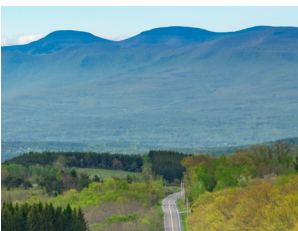
### Greene County Tourism Receives Award



Greene County Tourism won the Excellence in Overall Tourism Marketing award from New York State Tourism Industry Association (NYSTIA) for its "Let's Go Greene" Marketing Campaign created and marked by Workshop, our "Agency of Record". Tourism Director, Patty Austin attended the NYSTIA event in Rochester to accept the award. "This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Greene County Tourism team and Workshop". "The Greene County Tourism Office is proud to receive this award and to be recognized by its peers' for its work in promoting Greene County as a world-class tourism destination" stated Patty Austin. The Tourism office is committed to continuing to work hard to attract new visitors to Greene County, helping the local tourism industry grow.

## PLANNING

### Updating the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) announced the start of the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan (Plan) update process. As required by law, the Plan is updated periodically, relying heavily on the recommendations of nine Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) that are composed of people knowledgeable in open space conservation. All RAC members are appointed by county governments, or DEC, and State Parks. This 2-year process will have a Public Comment Period in the summer of 2024. Read the entire release at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/3702e0e>

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