

# Southern Dutchess News

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Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Town of Wappinger, Town and City of Poughkeepsie

May 11-17, 2022

## Festival of the Arts to highlight artwork by WCSD students



John Jay High School teacher Robyn Talbot, right, instructs students, Kathleen, Christian and Jack, on how to complete their photography artwork for display in the upcoming Festival of the Arts on May 14. The annual Wappingers Central School District event takes place in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

**By Kristine Coulter**

Want to see thousands of pieces of art without traveling out of the local area? Stop by the annual Festival of the Arts by Wappingers Central School District students at Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls on May 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"I enjoy the sense of community. Whether it is family fun or other teachers from the district getting together and

celebrating, especially now...any chance we get to get together is really special," said John Jay High School teacher Robyn Talbot. Talbot was working with one of her photography classes on May 4 getting their artwork prepared to be displayed.

"They chose their artwork [to be displayed]," said Talbot. She said she thinks it is important for them to choose the pieces the community will see.

"It's also interesting to see what they like best," Talbot remarked.

Nicholas, a senior at John Jay, shared one of the photos he will have on display during the festival. It was a photo he took when he was shoveling.

"This is my bus stop. It's super foggy," Nicholas said about another photo he

Continued on page 8

## WCSD vote set May 17 on budget, propositions, BOE candidates

**By Kristine Coulter**

Registered voters in the Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) will go to the polls on May 17 to cast their ballots regarding the 2022-23 school budget and trustees. There are three other propositions on the ballot (capital improvements, bus replacements and lease Givens Lane parking lot). Polls are open 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For information on the budget, email budget@wcsdny.org.

Proposition one is regarding the 2022-23 proposed budget. According to the District's budget information, the budget remains within the tax cap at \$265,714,022.

"The 2022-23 Budget provides our students with the programs and services that are necessary for our students to be successful and have the ability to reach their highest potential. The major priorities of this budget include student safety and student mental health and wellness, which is necessary now more than ever before due to the COVID Pandemic. In addition, the 2022-23 Budget is fiscally responsible to our taxpayers and, for the first time since the inception of the tax cap in 2012, comes in below the maximum amount allowable to remain under the tax cap. The tax levy increase for the 22-23 school year is .83%," stated WCSD Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk.

No Federal funding will be necessary to balance the General Fund budget so as to meet the needs of students as well as goals and priorities of WCSD Board of Education, said Bonk.

According to Bonk, the proposed budget would provide:

- Additional 14.4 positions to support health and wellness for students and staff (i.e.: social workers), ENL teachers, special education, counselors, nurses, office staff, and Safety and Security Officer (SSO) at WJHS (Wappingers Junior High School) and VWJHS (Van Wyck Junior High School)
- School Resource Officer (SRO) at WJHS and VWJHS
- Additional 4 custodial positions for District buildings as well as overtime for activities and event coverage
- Boys volleyball and Girls modified lacrosse teams added (coach, supplies, etc.)
- Marching band at RCK (Roy C. Ketcham High School) and JJHS (John Jay High School) (stipends, supplies, etc.)
- Additional 1 Personnel staffing to assist with the increased reporting needs related to human resources

Continued on page 2

## Naming of Lt. Gov. places Delgado, Molinaro in spotlight

**By Rich Thomaselli and Curtis Schmidt**

Now what?

After Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro announced his intention to run for Congress against incumbent Democrat Antonio Delgado, to represent New York's expansive 19th District in Washington, D.C., it seemed fairly straightforward as to the next steps.

If Molinaro lost to Delgado in November, he would return to Poughkeepsie to serve out his County Exec term until 2023. If he won, Deputy County Executive William O'Neil would take over and complete Molinaro's term as per the Dutchess County Charter.

Rarely do things go as planned, however, as we saw last week.

Delgado dropped out of the race and will resign his seat in Congress after being named as the new New York State Lieutenant Governor to join Governor Kathy



Antonio Delgado



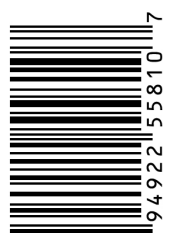
Marc Molinaro

Continued on page 3

### • OPEN FOR BUSINESS •

FKCS Attorneys	page 2	Baerhands Theatre	page 8	Libby Funeral Home	page 2B
Walkway Over the Hudson	page 3	WKZE-FM	page 8	Ulster Savings Bank	page 3B
Germania of Poughkeepsie	page 3	WCSD Festival of the Arts	page 9	Hudson Valley Hospice	page 4B
McCormack Law	page 5	The Ridge School	page 10	Fishkill Rural Cemetery	page 4B
Roosevelt Cinemas	page 5	Supporters of 4-H	page 11	Sabellico Greenhouses & Florist	page 18B
Chris Ruggiero	page 5	County Players	page 1B	Adams Fairacre Farms	Price Chopper

Southern Dutchess News  
Your News





# WCSD vote May 17

Continued from page 1

- Additional day of late runs added to the Middle Schools
  - Additional inter-scholastic sports transportation for Modified, Jr Varsity and Varsity athletic teams
  - Migration from SchoolTool to Infinite Campus, which will provide improved workflow and parental notifications to families
  - NYS district-level building project (\$100,000 maximum)
  - Restoration of funding for school level supplies and activities including field trips
  - Allocated funds for continued implementation of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program
  - Increased funding for the preventative maintenance of athletic fields and facilities
- According to Bonk, “[i]n the event that the budget is unsuccessful” the following items would be subject to elimination as the District would need to cut \$1,492,787:
- Up to 9 positions to support health and wellness for students and staff (i.e.: social workers), ENL teachers, special education, counselors, nurses, office staff, and Safety and Security Officer (SSO) at WJHS and VWJHS
  - School Resource Officer (SRO) at WJHS and VWJHS
  - 2 custodial positions for District buildings as well as overtime for activities and event coverage
  - Boys volleyball and Girls modified lacrosse teams added (coach, supplies, etc.)
  - Marching band at RCK and JJHS (stipends, supplies, etc.)

- Additional day of late runs added to the Middle Schools
  - Additional inter-scholastic sports transportation for Modified, Jr Varsity and Varsity athletic teams
  - Migration from SchoolTool to Infinite Campus, which will provide improved workflow and parental notifications to families
  - NYS district-level building project (\$100,000 maximum)
  - Partial reduction of funding for school level supplies and activities including field trips
  - Partial reduction in funding for supplies and scheduled preventative maintenance for facilities and athletic fields.
- “The Second Proposition on the Ballot is the Capital Improvement Project. By law, every 5 years, the school district must audit its facilities,” stated Bonk. He noted, “Earlier this year, a Building Condition Survey identified that approximately \$75 million in repairs were recommended for our District. The Capital Improvement Committee, made up of Board members, staff, the District architect, and community members prioritized four areas of need addressed in the Building Condition Survey: which included safety; replacement/upgrades; infrastructure; and program. By creating a Capital Project proposition, the District will receive reimbursement from the State in the form of Building Aid at 58.3% which will equate to nearly \$12 million of the 20-million-dollar project.” Without that reimbursement, the entire cost would rest with the taxpayers of the District, mentioned Bonk.
- The Third Proposition is the Bus Replacement Purchase which is \$2.2 million dollars and will include the replace-

ment of 22 buses. According to the superintendent, “[Twenty-two] buses are in need of replacement as they have over 134,000 or are 11 years of age. As the safe transportation of our students is paramount, and since we have and will continue to have the largest District-owned and operated Transportation Department in New York State, this proposition is essential.”

The Fourth Proposition is the Lease of Givens Lane Parking Lot. “The Wappingers Central School District owns two parcels of land at Givens Lane in the Village of Fishkill. In 2001, the District determined that the property was not useful for school district purposes, and has since leased the property to the Village for

\$1 a year. The property is currently a public parking lot behind Fishkill Tire, providing 32 parking spots in a congested area. The Village maintains and insures the lot at no cost to the District,” said Bonk. He added: “Since this arrangement has been mutually beneficial, the District and Village propose to extend the lease, with the same terms, for an additional 20-year term, to expire in September of 2041.”

There are three seats on the ballot for the Board of Education. The eight candidates for the BOE are: Keri Cahill, Virgil Capollari, Anthony Ciro DiLullo, Ariana Dingman, Marie Johnson, Cheryl Migatz, Daniel Peña and Eddy Slosower.

## Wappinger PTAs set meeting of candidates on May 11 at RCK

The Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) of Wappingers Junior High, James S. Evans and Sheafe Road schools will conduct a meeting for Wappinger Central School District candidates on Wednesday, May 11 from 7-9 p.m. at the Roy C. Ketcham High School Auditorium.

The goal is to learn more about the eight candidates who are running for the three available seats on the Board of Education.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Individuals

may use that time to write down questions they wish to ask the candidates.

Each candidate will be given three minutes to introduce themselves. There will be approximately five questions that each candidate will respond to and each candidate will be given two minutes for a closing statement.

For questions, please call the moderator: Lori Jiava at 845-234-3456

The school board election is Tuesday, May 17.

## MHA of Dutchess County Vet2Vet Support Group set May 18

MHA of Dutchess County Vet2Vet Support Group will be held May 18 from 3 – 4 p.m. at 515 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie. These groups serve as an outlet for veterans to discuss with peers their opinions, challenges, successes and anything else in order to regain balance in their lives. Masks required and social distancing

The groups are free, confidential and judgement free. They are open to all veterans despite discharge type, time in services or period of service. Active & Inactive and National Guard members are welcome as well. RSVP required.

For more information, call 845-473-2500, ext. 1306 or 1307 or 1365.

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Pictured, from left to right, are FKCS partners Jeffrey M. Feldman, Kathryn C. Collins and Robert R. Sappe

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# Rotarians honor students in Wappingers Central School District



The Wappingers Falls Rotarians recently honored the Students of the Month for April.

Pictured, from left, Village of Wappingers Falls Mayor Rick Cerino, Club President Darby Fabrizio, James Evans Elementary School student Nayana Guitard, Student of the Month Coordinator Stan Straub, Myers Corners School student Jayden Rojas, Town of Wappinger Supervisor Richard Thurston, Wappingers Junior High School student Genevieve Schaefer, Village of Wappingers Falls Clerk John Karge.

-Courtesy photo

## Agricultural scholarship applications now available

Through the proceeds from the sale of the milkshakes at the Dutchess County Fair each year, the Dutchess County Dairy Committee (a not for profit organization) provides undergraduate, agricultural scholarships to Dutchess County students.

All forms must be completely filled out and received no later than May 20. Scholarship applications are available by emailing Jennifer Fimbel at jlf20@cornell.edu.

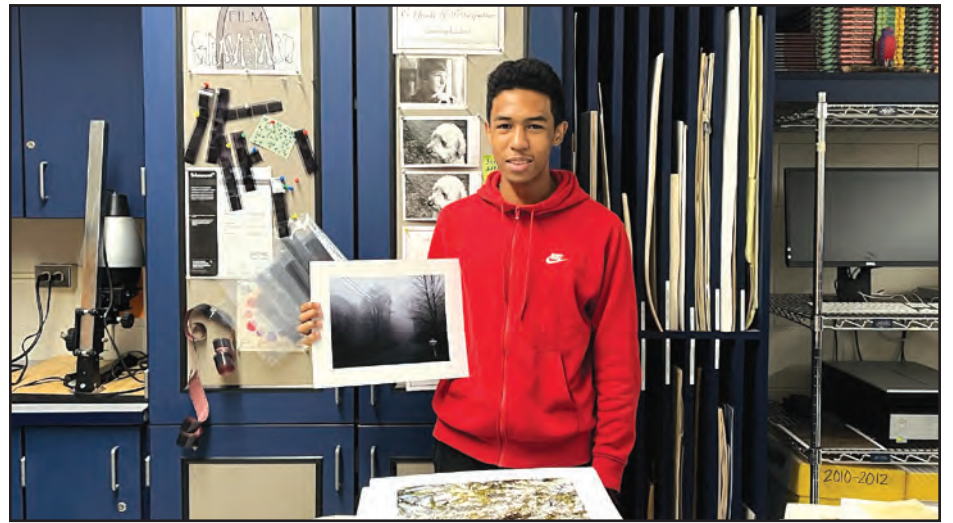
The Dutchess County Dairy Committee Agricultural Scholarship provides \$2,500 for the first year and \$1,500 each academic year thereafter, for a total of 4 years. Priorities are given to, but not limited by those students pursuing a career related to agriculture. Those careers may include:

Ag Education, Ag Engineering, Agronomy, Ag Economics, Animal Science, Pre-Vet, Communications, and Environmental courses of study.

Criteria for the scholarship are as follows:  
• The Applicant must be a Dutchess County High School senior accepted to an undergraduate 2 or 4-year program at an accredited Institution of Higher Learning. Also, consideration will be given to Dutchess County returning college students.

- Must include the applicant's current transcripts
- A Completed 2-page application form and
- Provide a handwritten paragraph as requested on the application form.

# Festival of the Arts to highlight artwork by WCSD students



Wappingers Central School District seniors Nicholas, above, and Aidan, below, show photographs they took that will be on display during the annual Festival of the Arts on May 14 in Mesier Park in Wappingers Falls.

-Photos by Kristine Coulter



Continued from page 1

"City Lights."

Stop by Zion Episcopal Church that day, 12 Satterlee Place, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a tag sale.

"Zion holds its yearly tag sale (except during the pandemic) on the same day as the Festival of the Arts to support our Food Pantry and so that people may see our beautiful church," said Sue Shultis, with Zion Episcopal Church.

WCSD Superintendent Dr. Dwight Bonk said, "We look forward to displaying the exemplary work that our students have done this year in the Fine and Performing Arts."

Aidan said about art in schools, "I think it gives an outlet" for students. "No one doubts each other when it comes to art."

Rain date is May 15 from noon - 4 p.m.

Aidan, a senior at John Jay, said, about the Festival, "For one, it's fun. Second, it's a good experience with good people. Everyone is very welcoming and nice to each other and good work from schools all around."

Aidan will have a photo of Times Square in New York City at the event.

"I like the lights and the view. Really cool picture," said Aidan. It is called

## Serino seeks nominations for 'A+ Teachers' Award

In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, Sen. Sue Serino is looking to celebrate exceptional teachers who go above and beyond both inside and outside the classroom. Local students are encouraged to nominate a teacher who they feel has made a difference in their life and has created a positive learning environment.

As part of the 41st State Senate District, the following school districts are eligible to

submit nominations: Arlington, Beacon, Carmel, Dover, Garrison, Haldane, Hyde Park, Millbrook, North East, Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, Putnam Valley, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Spackenkill, Wappingers.

Completed nomination forms are due back by Friday, May 13, and are available on Serino's website at [www.serino.nysenate.gov](http://www.serino.nysenate.gov). For more information, call 845-229-0106 or email [serino@nysenate.gov](mailto:serino@nysenate.gov).

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