



HAPPENING IN HURLEY

Serving the Ulster County communities of Hurley, West Hurley and Glenford

WEBSITE: TOWNOFHURLEY.ORG

FACEBOOK: [TOWN OF HURLEY, NY](https://www.facebook.com/TOWN OF HURLEY, NY)

INSTAGRAM: [TOWN_OF_HURLEY](https://www.instagram.com/TOWN_OF_HURLEY)



From the Desk of Melinda McKnight

Supervisor’s message: Fall in full swing

As October arrives, students are enmeshed in back-to-school routines, cozy sweaters and coats are re-emerging from storage, and we are all making the shift to autumn.

Fall also is a busy time at the Town Hall. In September, the Hurley Town Board:

- Approved two appointments in the Building Department.
- Authorized gutter repair at the Town Hall.
- Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the county Sheriff’s Office for a centralized arraignment court.

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UPCOMING TOWN GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

- Tuesday, Oct. 3: Town Board (workshop), 7 p.m., Town Hall
- Thursday, Oct. 12: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m. Town Hall
- Tuesday, Oct. 17: Town Board, 7 p.m., Town Hall
- Tuesday, Oct. 24: Town Budget Public Hearing, 6 p.m., Town Hall
- Thursday, Oct. 26: Planning Board, 6 p.m., Town Hall

For a complete schedule of town meetings, go to townofhurley.org/calendar.

Building Department welcomes new staff members

Hurley has filled the two positions in its Building Department that became vacant last month.

Paul Economos has been hired as full-time Zoning Enforcement Officer and Fire Inspector, and Troy Ashdown is the new part-time Building Inspector and Municipal Code Officer. The appointments were approved by the Town Board on Sept. 19, and the two came on board Sept. 21.

Economos was a Building Inspector, Zoning Officer and Flood Plain Inspector for Hurley from 2002 to 2007. He also has held Building Department positions in the Towns of Kingston, Saugerties and Ulster, and the City of Kingston.

Ashdown previously worked as a Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Kingston and a Fire Inspector for the Town of Catskill.

Central Hudson rate hike hearing to be held Oct. 18 in Kingston

An in-person public hearing about Central Hudson Gas & Electric's proposed rate hike will be held by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, in the Ulster County Restorative Justice and Community Empowerment Center at 733 Broadway in Midtown Kingston.

Because parking is limited near the hearing site, shuttle bus service will be provided from the area of the Hannaford supermarket at Kingston Plaza.

Central Hudson has asked the PSC to approve a 16% rate hike for the delivery of electricity and a 19% rate hike for the delivery of natural gas. The PSC has said the hikes it approves typically are far lower than what utilities request.

Supervisor's Message: Continued from page 1

- Set a public hearing for updates to our procurement law.
- Authorized repairs to the roof of the historic former library building on Main Street.

If you are unfamiliar with what the Town Board is up to, the text of every resolution it takes up can be found on the Town Board page of the Hurley website (townofhurley.org). The "Town of Hurley, NY" page on Facebook is our other official source of information.

Fall also is the time of year when the Town Board and I work on the budget for the following year. The Town of Hurley oversees the budget that's funded by your Town property taxes, the Town's portion of Ulster County sales tax collections, mortgage transfer taxes, fines, fees and state aid. We have no say over the taxes levied by the county, school districts, fire departments and libraries.

When it comes to budgeting, we have to consider how best to provide the services residents want and need. Our top priority is keeping property taxes low while improving efficiency and services. Since 2021, Town property taxes are down almost 5%, and the tax levy in 2024 will be the same as in 2023.

The Town's draft budget for 2024 – which can be found on the home page of our website – is about 11% smaller than the 2023 budget. This is the result of streamlining services and eliminating redundancies; and budgeting without a reliance on savings, a departure from the past.

The Town is financially sound. According to the most recent Fiscal Stress report issued by the Office of the New York State Comptroller, Hurley has a Fiscal Score of 3.3. Scores are on a scale of zero to 100; the lower the score, the less fiscal stress a municipality is experiencing. To put this in perspective, not until a municipal government has a score between 45 and 54.9 is it deemed "susceptible to fiscal stress."

As we work on the budget, know that input from residents is important. You can email comments about the proposal to supervisorsec@townofhurley.org and/or attend the budget public hearing scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Town Hall, 10 Wamsley Place.

Whether October to you means spooky décor, contemplative walks surrounded by fall foliage or a mug full of a pumpkin spice beverage, I wish everyone a safe autumn, full of the best of the season.

WHO WE ARE, how to get in touch with us

All 3-digit extensions can be reached by calling (845) 331-7474 and then keying in the numbers at any time while the recorded message is playing.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE (phone option 5)

Melinda McKnight, Town Supervisor: Ext. 300, supervisor@townofhurley.org
 Samara Genee, Executive Assistant to the Supervisor: Ext. 301, supervisorsec@townofhurley.org.
 Leslie McKewan, Bookkeeper: Ext. 340, bookkeeper@townofhurley.org
 Jeremy Schiffres, Public Information Officer: Ext. 316, informationofficer@townofhurley.org

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE (phone option 2)

Annie Reed, Town Clerk: Ext. 303, clerk@townofhurley.org
 Donna Cudney, Deputy Clerk: Ext. 304, deputyclerk@townofhurley.org

PLANNING AND ZONING (phone option 6)

Maggie Colan, Clerk: Ext. 335, planning@townofhurley.org
 or planning@townofhurley.org

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE (phone option 4)

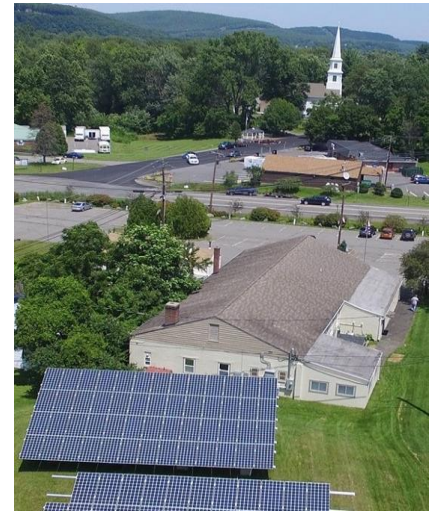
Brittany Santarelli: Ext. 302, assessor@townofhurley.org
 Patty Smith, Assessor Clerk: Ext. 305, assessorclerk@townofhurley.org

BUILDING DEPARTMENT (phone option 3)

Paul Economos, Zoning Enforcement Officer/Fire Inspector: Ext. 317
 Troy Ashdown, Building Inspector/Municipal Code Officer: Ext. 315
 Erin Stewart, Building Clerk: Ext. 310, building@townofhurley.org

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mike Shultis, Superintendent: mshultis@townofhurley.org
 John Wiacek, Deputy Superintendent: highway@townofhurley.org
 Michele Bergenn, Secretary: Ext. 402, highway@townofhurley.org



TRANSFER STATION

hurleytransfer@townofhurley.org

COURT (phone option 1)

Roy Hochberg, Town Justice
 John Parker, Town Justice
 Erma Moore, Clerk:
emoore@nycourts.gov

TOWN BOARD

Peter Humphries,
 Deputy Supervisor:
pumphries@townofhurley.org
 Michael Boms:
mboms@townofhurley.org
 Jana Martin:
jmartin@townofhurley.org
 Gregory Simpson:
gsimpson@townofhurley.org

Looking for something on the town website? This should help



- **Homepage:** townofhurley.org
- **News and announcements:** townofhurley.org/node/1/news
- **Calendar:** townofhurley.org/calendar
- **Town budgets:** townofhurley.org/about/pages/budget

- **Town Board meeting minutes (from 2007 to 2023):** townofhurley.org/node/1291/minutes
- **Disaster preparedness:** townofhurley.org/disaster-preparedness
- **Highway Department:** townofhurley.org/highway-department
- **Transfer Station:** townofhurley.org/transfer-station-recycling-center
- **Job and board/committee openings:** townofhurley.org/job-and-board-openings

AROUND THE TOWN HALL: Info from our departments

Assessor’s Office: School tax bills were mailed to Hurley property owners in September by the Kingston and Onteora districts. If you did not receive yours, reach out to your school district’s tax office.

If your mailing address has changed recently, please notify the Town Assessor’s Office of the change by calling (845) 331-7474, option 4; or emailing assessor@townofhurley.org.

Building Department: Residents who wish to report possible violations of the Town Code – such as improper construction on a neighboring property, or the use of a property that violates its zoning – should submit a written complaint to the Town Building Department that includes as many specifics as possible.

Complainants can use the form posted on the town website at tinyurl.com/yv3264z8 or simply submit their own written description of the situation.

Verbal complaints will not be accepted unless there is an imminent threat to public health or safety.

Written complaints can be brought to the Building Department Office in the Town Hall, 10 Wamsley Place; mailed to Town of Hurley Building Department, P.O. Box 569, Hurley, NY 12443; or emailed to building@townofhurley.org.

Once the complaint is in hand, a member of the Building Department can launch an investigation, including a visit to the property in question.

Town Clerk’s Office: We’ve made great strides in organizing the office, updating files for improved records management, and developing new strategies for managing the day-to-day activities efficiently and effectively.

We will be implementing a new tax look-up and “pay online” system for property taxes in 2024. The

goal is to organize the office systems in an intuitive manner for future clerks and their staffs.

Our hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, and after hours by appointment. We’re happy to accommodate folks whose schedules prevent regular business hour visits.

The Town Clerk’s Office can be reached by phone at (845) 331-7474, option 2, and by email at clerk@townofhurley.org.

Public Information: The next steps in Hurley’s Disaster Preparedness outreach effort – being coordinated by the Town Public Information Officer and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Ulster County – are a social media campaign and the distribution of glossy cards containing disaster preparation and recovery tips.

The social media campaign, primarily on the “Town of Hurley, NY” Facebook page, highlights individual elements of the Disaster Preparedness Plan and provides links to more detailed information about each on the town website.

The cards, printed by Copy Hut at Cornell Cooperative Extension’s expense, are available for free at the Town Hall and various community gathering spots, such as libraries and post offices, so that Hurley residents can have a quick reference guide at their fingertips about what to do before and after a disaster.

Additionally, any town resident who feels particularly vulnerable to disasters – or knows of someone else who is – and wants to receive disaster-related notifications from the town should send the appropriate email addresses to informationofficer@townofhurley.org.

The “Disaster Preparedness” section of the town website is at tinyurl.com/2k5w6x3z.

GET TOWN NEWS IN YOUR EMAIL:

Sign up for email alerts from the town by going to our website, townofhurley.org, clicking on the button shown at right (located at the bottom of the home page), and selecting the types of alerts you’d like to receive.



‘Burning’ weekend includes walking tours of Old Hurley



The Hurley Heritage Society will host walking tours of Main Street in Old Hurley on Sunday, Oct. 15, as part of this year's "Burning of Kingston" commemoration.

Participants will learn where people lived in Hurley after they fled Kingston to escape invading British troops in October 1777, see where the New York State capital was temporarily relocated, hear about the hanging of a British spy in Hurley, and gain knowledge about our community's 300+-year-old stone houses.

The tours will begin at 1, 2 and 3 p.m., lasting about 45 minutes each. Participants should gather at the front door of the Hurley Heritage Society building, 52 Main St., 10 minutes prior to their start time.

The tours are free, but online preregistration is required as each tour will be limited to 12 people.

To sign up for the 1 p.m. tour, go to tinyurl.com/bdfw29he. For the 2 p.m. tour, go to tinyurl.com/583rcmuw. For the 3 p.m. tour, go to tinyurl.com/4aj927yb.

A timeline of the British attack on Kingston and its aftermath can be viewed online at tinyurl.com/2p8j47h9.

Complete details about this year's "Burning of Kingston" event – scheduled for Oct 13-15 – can be found at burningofkingston.com.

... in other invasion news, THE SCARECROWS ARE COMING!

The Hurley Heritage Society is hosting a scarecrow display and contest this month.

All are welcome to create a scarecrow and deliver it to the front lawn of the HHS building at 52 Main St. between 3 and 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9. Each scarecrow must be on a post placed in the ground, and must include the creator's name and contact number (on a sign or in a baggie attached to the scarecrow).

Prizes will be awarded for Most Creative, Scariest, Most Historical and Most Traditional scarecrow. And one scarecrow will be chosen as Best in Show.

For more information and to reserve a spot, call (845) 338-7686.



Other Hurley Heritage society events planned for October, November

Details at hurleyheritagesociety.org

- Hurley Walking Tours: Fourth Sunday of each month, though October, starting at 2 p.m.
- Oct 18-29: Autumn Auction
- Nov. 25-26: Holiday Sale
- Herbal Wreath Workshop: Check website for dates.

- Library/children's events: Check website for schedule.

The Hurley Heritage Society Museum, at 52 Main St. in Old Hurley, is open from 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sundays through Oct. 29. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Improvements being made at Town Hall and town park

The Town of Hurley currently is undertaking several repair projects to address aging infrastructure.

At the Town Hall, problems with the septic system are being addressed, and gutter work is being done. Gutters are being cleaned and a leaf guard is being added, a disconnected downspout is being reattached, and an extra downspout is being added.

Problems with septic system at the town park in West Hurley also are being addressed.

The cost of all the work is being covered by the town's Building Reserve Fund.



Libraries participate in 'Food Fight' to end local hunger



Libraries across Ulster County, including the Hurley Library and West Hurley Public Library, are participating in the 4th Annual Ulster County Food Fight, which aids area food pantries in their efforts to end hunger.

Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the libraries – 48 Main St. in Hurley and 42 Clover St. in West Hurley – through Oct. 21, 2023. The libraries, in turn, will hand off the items to food pantries.

Donors should make sure none of the items they bring to the libraries are past their expiration date.

In 2022, library patrons across Ulster County donated a total of 4,457 items to the Food Fight effort. This year's goal is 5,500 items.

Crafts Fair at church on Oct. 7

The Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main St., is holding a Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7.

Admission is \$3 (free for children under 12), and food and drinks will be available.

Vendor spaces cost \$35 for indoors, \$30 for outdoors. To reserve one, call (845) 532-2995.

Your town newsletter

HAPPENING IN HURLEY

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Town of Hurley, 10 Wamsley Place, P.O. Box 569, Hurley, NY 12443; Phone: (845) 331-7474

Published on the 1st of each month

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Page 1 photo: The West Hurley end of the Ashokan Rail Trail is shown on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023.

Things to do at the Hurley and West Hurley libraries

HURLEY LIBRARY 48 Main St.

(845) 338-2092, hurleylibrary.org

SUNDAY, Oct. 1 and 8

Ceramic Bird Making with Jill Obrig – 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Preregistration required; call library at number above.

MONDAYS

Mile Walking Club – Meet at the library at 1 p.m.

Drop-In Tech Help – 3 to 5 p.m.

Note: The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 9, in observance of Columbus Day.

TUESDAY, Oct. 3

Signing Friends ALS Playgroup – 9:30 to 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Scrabble – 1 p.m.

Chair Yoga – 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Preschool/Toddler Story Time (Oct. 5, 19 only) – 10 a.m.

Drop-in Tech Help – 3 to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, Oct. 5

Library Board meeting – 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, Oct. 19

Budget vote and board election – 4 to 7 p.m.

FRIDAYS

Dungeons & Dragons – 4 to 6 p.m.

WEST HURLEY LIBRARY 42 Clover St.

(845) 679-6405, westhurleylibrary.org

MONDAY, Oct. 9

Book Discussion Group – 6 p.m.

(Topic: “A Woman of No Importance,” by Sonia Purnell)

MONDAY, Oct. 23

Lego Lab – 4:30 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/nhjdzwsc.

MONDAY, Oct. 30

Family History Group – 6 to 7 p.m. More info and registration: tinyurl.com/4xmm73nu.

TUESDAYS, Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24

Mixed Level Yoga – 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., West Hurley Firehouse, 24 Wall St. Cost: \$6 per session, \$20 for all four. Register at (845) 679-6405.

WEDNESDAYS

Knitting Group – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 18

Board meeting – 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, Oct. 12

“Taking Water for the City: Historical Archaeology of the Towns of Hurley, Kent and Olive” – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

More info and registration: tinyurl.com/4698653z.

FRIDAYS

Preschool Story Hour – 10 a.m.

West Hurley Library District voters approve 2024 budget proposal



Voters in the West Hurley Library District approved the library’s 2024 budget on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023.

The vote in favor of the \$251,254 spending plan was 48-11.

Elected to three-year terms on the Library Board, uncontested, were Suzanne Downie (51 votes) and Ross Lonstein (49 votes).

Information from Daily Freeman: tinyurl.com/4nvzr42s.

Town Hall holiday schedule for remainder of 2023

The Hurley Town Hall, at 10 Wamsley Place, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, except on the dates listed below, when the building will be closed. *Note: During weeks with a Monday holiday, the Transfer Station is closed on Tuesday.*

Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day: Monday, Oct. 9

Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 7

Veterans Day: Friday, Nov. 10 (because holiday is Saturday)

Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 23

Native American Heritage Day: Friday, Nov. 24

Christmas: Monday, Dec. 25

Rev. Charles Stickely, longtime Hurley pastor, being honored



Rev. Charles Stickely, retired pastor of the Hurley Reformed Church, is the announced recipient of this year's Len Cane Heart of Ulster County Award being presented by the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce in late October.

Stickely (pictured), a longtime Hurley resident, was ordained as a minister of the Reformed Church of America in 1964. He became pastor of the Hurley Reformed Church, at 11 Main St., in 1973 and served in that position for 33 years until retiring in 2006, at which point he was named Pastor Emeritus.

Stickley also has served on boards and committees for such entities as Kingston Hospital, the American Cancer Society, the YMCA and the Ulster County Office for the Aging,

Stickley will be honored during the Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Recognition Awards Celebration, scheduled for Oct. 26 at the Diamond Mills Hotel in Saugerties. (Details about the event are posted on the Chamber's website, ulsterchamber.org).

The Len Cane Heart of Ulster County Award is named for a longtime former leader of the Chamber, who died in 2015.

Town of Hurley
10 Wamsley Place
Box 569
Hurley, NY 12443