



# HAPPENING IN HURLEY

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

WEBSITE: [TOWNOFHURLEY.ORG](http://TOWNOFHURLEY.ORG)

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

YOUTUBE: [@TOWNOFHURLEYNY](https://www.youtube.com/@TOWNOFHURLEYNY)



From Town Supervisor Mike Boms

## As spring nears, programs are taking root

As spring approaches, several Town projects have been initiated, including the first steps toward building a new Highway Garage.

We have met with all involved parties, and the filing of necessary paperwork has begun. We hope to have the first shovel in the ground by late summer or early fall. From paperwork to the end of construction, the process should take about two years.

Also, we are restarting the Town recreation program. John Perry, our Deputy Supervisor and Recreation Director, needs Hurley residents

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## UPCOMING TOWN GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 12, Town Board (workshop), 6 p.m., W. Hurley Firehouse

Thursday, March 14: Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, March 26: Town Board, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, March 28: Planning Board, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, April 9: Town Board (workshop), 6 p.m., W. Hurley Firehouse

*For a complete schedule of town meetings, go to [townofhurley.org/calendar](http://townofhurley.org/calendar).*

# Heritage Day returns

Hurley Heritage Day will be held this year for the first time since 2019!

The event, along Main Street in Old Hurley, is planned for Saturday, Sept. 21 (rain date Sept. 22) – the weekend of the Autumnal Equinox. Organized by the Hurley Heritage Society, Heritage Day will include walking tours, music, food trucks, numerous vendors of food and other items, information booths, and access to some of the neighborhood's historic stone houses.

Schoolhouse Lane, off Main Street, is expected to be closed to traffic during the event.

Hurley Heritage Day will be free to attend. The only cost to visitors will be for items purchased from vendors.



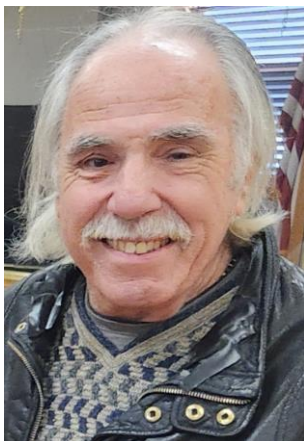
Some of the historic stone houses on Main Street in Hurley

More information will be forthcoming, but for the time being, anyone who would like to volunteer or participate in the planning process in any way should email Ellen Richards at [eschiander147@msn.com](mailto:eschiander147@msn.com) or the Hurley Heritage Society at [info@hurleyheritagesociety.org](mailto:info@hurleyheritagesociety.org).

## Supervisor's message (continued)

*From page 1*

to serve on the Recreation Committee. The Town's goal is to have a summer day camp for our children, youth baseball and softball, and adult softball. Anyone wishing to join the committee should send an email to [supervisorsec@townofhurley.org](mailto:supervisorsec@townofhurley.org).



*Town Supervisor Mike Boms*

The Hurley Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, meanwhile, is working on updating a document that was last revised in 2006. As part of the process, the Town Zoning Task Force is advising the committee by recommending zoning changes.

With a favorable ruling from the New York Public Service Commission (PSC), the removal of the Hudson Valley Water Co. (HVWC) from all five of its private water districts in Ulster County, including

two in West Hurley, is now one step closer to fruition. The PSC in February gave the company a March 1 deadline to show cause about "why the Commission should not appoint a temporary operator for the HVWC."

Regarding the Town's closed landfill, which has been declared a New York State Superfund site, negotiations about a cleanup are ongoing with the state Department of Environmental Conservation. The DEC, however, has given the Town tacit approval to continue operating the nearby Transfer Station on Dug Hill Road. So to be clear, the Transfer Station is NOT closing.

The Town also is forming a Safety Committee, headed by Councilperson Debra Dougherty and Deputy Supervisor John Perry. The committee will address safety concerns throughout the Town of Hurley, including in the hamlets of West Hurley and Glenford. Any residents who have concerns they feel need to be addressed by the committee should send an email to [supervisorsec@townofhurley.org](mailto:supervisorsec@townofhurley.org).

There still are more projects taking root, and with springtime coming, we hope to see them blossom soon!

# Hurley residents can rent Town Park for gatherings

As springtime draws near, Hurley residents might be thinking about renting the Town Park on Dug Hill Road for an event or gathering.

For a rental application, go to the Town Clerk's Office page on the Hurley website, [townofhurley.org/town-clerk](http://townofhurley.org/town-clerk), click on the "Documents" tab, then click on the link called "Park Rental Application." (There's also a link called "Park Rental Rules" that lists requirements for patrons).

After printing and filling out the application, bring it – with any applicable deposit and fees – to the Town Clerk's Office in the Hurley Town Hall, 10 Wamsley Place, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on a weekday.

Only residents of the Town of Hurley are permitted to rent the park.

Questions about the park should be directed to the Town Clerk's Office at (845) 331-7474, option 2.



The pavilion at the Town Park on Dug Hill Road in West Hurley is shown in 2023.

## NYC reports paying Hurley more than \$650K in '23 property taxes

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which operates the Ashokan and several other reservoirs in the city's upstate watershed, owns 26 parcels in the Town of Hurley. The department reports it paid \$655,723 in town property taxes to Hurley in 2023.

The DEP said it also paid \$4,023,772 in property taxes to Ulster County last year, as well as just over \$8.2 million in school taxes to the Onteora district and about \$168,000 in school taxes to the Kingston district.



A complete breakdown of reservoir-related municipal, county and school taxes paid by the DEP can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/DEP-taxes](http://tinyurl.com/DEP-taxes).

## Town Board OKs 14 resolutions

The Hurley Town Board approved 14 resolutions at its meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, in the Town Hall.

The text of each resolution can be viewed online at [tinyurl.com/022724-reslist](http://tinyurl.com/022724-reslist). (The meeting video is posted in three parts at [tinyurl.com/Hurley-vids](http://tinyurl.com/Hurley-vids)).

Each resolution was approved by a vote of 4-0.

### Your Town Newsletter

#### HAPPENING IN HURLEY

**Vol. 2, No. 2: March 2024**

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

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**Editor:** Jeremy Schiffres, Hurley Community Relations Specialist, (845) 331-7474, ext. 316, [informationofficer@townofhurley.org](mailto:informationofficer@townofhurley.org)

**Page 1 photo:** Pedestrians walk along the Ashokan Rail Trail in West Hurley earlier this year.

## Myer's 'Thon' encourages students to read, benefits PTA



Ernest C. Myer Elementary School in Hurley is holding a student Read-A-Thon from March 1 to 15. The goal of the event is to encourage the school's students to read more, and it serves as a fundraiser for programs put on by the Myer School PTA.

Anyone who would like to support the Read-A-Thon can do so by going to the website [tinyurl.com/myer-spons](http://tinyurl.com/myer-spons) or by sending an email to Bernadette at [bbbaughman@gmail.com](mailto:bbbaughman@gmail.com)

Businesses that would like to support the school can do so by becoming a Read-A-Thon sponsor. To do so, go to [tinyurl.com/myer-ads](http://tinyurl.com/myer-ads).

## NY offers Free Fishing Days in June, September, November

Continuing a tradition dating back more than three decades, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has scheduled several Free Fishing Days for 2024.

The program, now in its 34th year, allows New York residents and visitors who are age 16 or older to fish without a freshwater fishing license on designated days. (Persons under 16 never need a license to fish in New York.)

This year's first two Free Fishing Days were February 17 and 18, but they were announced too late to be included in the February newsletter. The upcoming Free Fishing Days:

- **June 29 and 30.**
- **September 28** (National Hunting and Fishing Day).
- **November 11** (Veterans Day).



Except for a license not being required, all other New York State fishing regulations apply on the Free Fishing Days.

The DEC's Freshwater Fishing web page is at [tinyurl.com/NYS-fish](http://tinyurl.com/NYS-fish).

## Some Town meeting videos now on YouTube

The Town now has a YouTube channel that features video recordings of some Town meetings.

The channel, called "Town of Hurley, NY" – with the YouTube handle @TownOfHurleyNY – can be accessed at [tinyurl.com/Hurley-vids](http://tinyurl.com/Hurley-vids).

Meetings are recorded by a multi-directional Owl camera, which adjusts itself as an event progresses to focus on the most prominent sights and sounds in the room. Owl technology is excellent, but imperfect. When numerous things happen at once, the video and audio recording devices might give prominence to the wrong element. In general, though, the Owl does an outstanding job of relating the content of meetings.



## 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)

Michael Boms, Town Supervisor: Ext. 300, supervisor@townofhurley.org

John Perry, Deputy Town Supervisor, jperry@townofhurley.org

Samara Genee, Executive Assistant to the Supervisor: Ext. 301,  
supervisorsec@townofhurley.org

Jeremy Schiffres, Community Relations Specialist: Ext. 316,  
informationofficer@townofhurley.org

### TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE (phone option 2)

Tracy Kellogg, Town Clerk: Ext. 303, clerk@townofhurley.org

Wendy Trojack, Senior Account Clerk, Ext. 340,  
bookkeeper@townofhurley.org

### PLANNING and ZONING (phone option 6)

Planning Board – Maggie Colan, Clerk: Ext. 335, planning@townofhurley.org

Zoning Board of Appeals – Samantha Mort, Secretary

### 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, Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer: Ext. 317

Troy Ashdown, Municipal Code Officer, Fire Inspector: Ext. 315

Harold Castellano, Municipal Code Officer, Asst. Building Inspector: Ext. 313

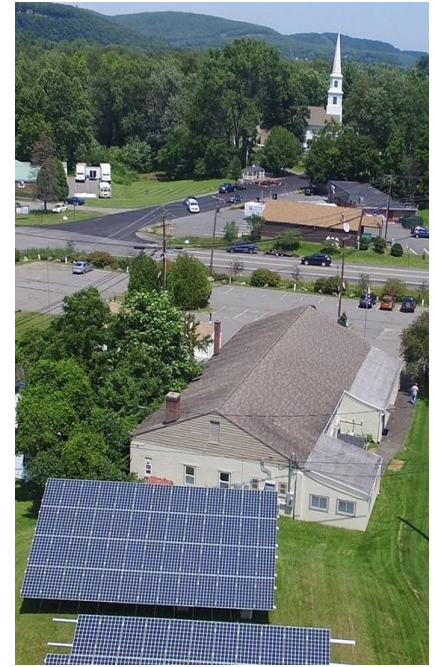
Erin Stewart, Building Clerk: Ext. 310, building@townofhurley.org

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Michael 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

Diana Cline:

dcline@townofhurley.org

Debbie Dougherty:

ddougherty@townofhurley.org

Tim Kelly:

tkelly@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:** 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

Healthful Hints

**Plastic in our food and drinks**

*By Peter McKnight, Registered Dietitian*

Most of us probably don't think about it much, but plastic has entered our food and beverage supply, and it's been there for a while. This has only



Peter McKnight

increased as bottled water has become more popular, and reheating in plastic containers in the microwave has become a habit for many.

Consumer Reports estimates the average American consumes the equivalent of a credit card's worth of plastic every week. So should we be concerned? The answer is yes.

Chemicals in plastic – such as di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, or DEHP – have been linked to insulin resistance, high blood pressure, reproductive issues, early menopause, and other concerns at levels well below the limits set by regulators.

In addition to the chemicals that leach from plastic into our food and beverages, tiny bits of plastic also can enter our bodies in the form of tiny microplastics and the very tiny nanoplastics, which may affect us at the molecular level. Recently, microplastic pollution has been detected in human blood for the first time, and scientists found the tiny particles in almost 80% of the people tested.

A concern is that the particles can travel around the body and may lodge in organs. The impact on health remains unknown, but microplastics cause damage to human cells in the laboratory, and we already know that air pollution particles enter the body and cause millions of early deaths each year.

So what can we do to reduce our exposure to plastic in our food and drinks?

- Cut way back or eliminate bottled water and other beverages contained in plastic. Most tap water is safer and better regulated than bottled water. And if there is a chlorine flavor in your water that you find distasteful, use a filter such as Britta or Pur.



- Don't reheat food in plastic, even if the container says "microwave safe." Put it on a non-plastic microwave-safe plate or bowl, or heat it on the stove.
- Don't wash plastic in the dishwasher. Hand wash it or look into non-plastic alternatives for storing leftovers, such as pint-size mason jars or Pyrex storage containers.
- Don't rely on processed foods wrapped in plastic. Eat fresh food as much as possible.
- Don't assume your impact is limited to what you do in your personal life. Encourage others in your community to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics and to embrace a healthier lifestyle with less plastic and all of its negative effects on us and the environment.

*Peter McKnight, the Chairman of the Town of Hurley Planning Board, is a Registered Dietitian whose "Healthful Hints" column appears regularly in the "Happening in Hurley" newsletter. Readers can email nutrition-related questions to Peter at [pmcknight@townofhurley.org](mailto:pmcknight@townofhurley.org). Some questions will be addressed in future columns.*

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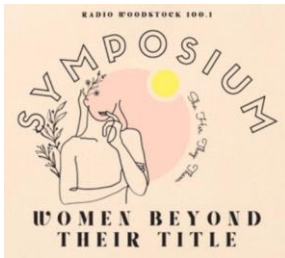
**GET TOWN NEWS IN YOUR EMAIL:**

Sign up for email alerts from the Town by going to our website,

[townofhurley.org](http://townofhurley.org), clicking on the 'Subscribe to E-alerts' button (pictured) at the bottom right of the home page, and selecting the types of alerts you'd like to receive.



## Women's Day symposium March 8 in West Hurley



WDST will hold a symposium called “Women Beyond Their Title” on International Women’s Day, March 8, at the radio station’s studio, 1360 Route 28, West Hurley.

The event, from 5 to 8 p.m., will feature entertainment, speakers, an honorees panel, complimentary hors d’oeuvres and refreshments, and a marketplace featuring local vendors.

Admission is free. For details, go to the website [tinyurl.com/WDST-symp](https://tinyurl.com/WDST-symp).

## Grant will fund ‘Natural Resources Inventory Project’

Hurley has been chosen to receive a grant totaling \$36,800 that will allow the Town’s Conservation Advisory Committee to conduct a “Natural Resources Inventory Project.”

The award is funded by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Hudson River Estuary Program.

A Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) compiles and describes important, naturally occurring resources within a given locality, such as a municipality, watershed or region. Cultural resources – such as those that are historic, scenic or recreational – often are included in an NRI, as well.

The inventory has two basic purposes: To provide the building blocks for comprehensive land-use and conservation planning; and to allow natural resource information to be included in local planning and zoning.

The grant application submitted by the Hurley Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) stated, in part:

“The CAC, working with the Town of Hurley, will engage the services of a consultant to develop a Natural Resources Inventory that will set the stage for identifying areas to protect, including water resources, habitats and wildlife, and natural areas important for climate resilience. The NRI, together with the 2018 Hurley



OpenSpace Plan and an updated Comprehensive Plan, will give the CAC and the Hurley Zoning Task Force the tools to revise the Town Zoning Code to incorporate climate resilience and mitigation elements, improved wetland and watercourse protections, critical environmental area protection, and a tree ordinance.”

The Conservation Advisory Committee also stated that Hurley plans to overhaul the Town Zoning Code based on the updated Comprehensive Plan to better balance the needs of development and sustain the economic vitality of the town while protecting unique natural and scenic resources.

Additionally, the CAC stated, a wetlands and watercourses protection law will ensure the safety of Town residents’ drinking water, which is supplied entirely by wells, and the Lower Esopus Creek and its tributaries within the Town of Hurley.

From the Climate Smart Task Force

## Learn about clean energy at Town Board meetings

An ongoing “Electrification Opportunities Series” is providing helpful information about transitioning to clean energy and supports the \$20,000 grant challenge from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) that’s underway in Hurley.



Tom Konrad

At the Feb. 27 meeting of the Town Board, Tom Konrad, an energy coach and chairman of Marbletown's Environmental Conservation Commission, spoke about split air/heat pump installations. (A summary of his presentation can be viewed online at [tinyurl.com/heatpumps-0227](https://tinyurl.com/heatpumps-0227).)

When we report five installations in the Town, we are eligible for \$5,000 in grant money; 10 installations can get us \$10,000. (See grant details at [tinyurl.com/grants-opp](https://tinyurl.com/grants-opp).)

At the March 26 Town Board meeting (starting at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall, 10 Wamsley Place), we'll talk about signing up for Community Solar. There's no cost to enroll in the program, which saves money on electric bills and supports solar energy.



At the April 23 meeting (also starting at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall), we'll take a closer look at electric vehicle (EV) ownership, sum up the clean energy program, and discuss financial incentives.

If you plan to install a heat pump or sign up for Community Solar, please let Climate Smart Hurley know by sending an email to [climatesmart@townofhurley.org](mailto:climatesmart@townofhurley.org).

Four EVs have been registered in Hurley since Nov. 29, 2023. One more purchase makes us eligible for a \$5,000 grant.

*Climate Smart Task Force meetings in 2024 are on the first Tuesday of each month (with the July and November meeting dates subject to change), and are held virtually. To join a meeting online, go to [meet.google.com/eee-uuvh-ehy](https://meet.google.com/eee-uuvh-ehy). To join by phone, call (912) 712-4401 and enter the PIN 283 106 119#.*

## Town Board hears pitch for Hurley to start composting program

Shabazz Jackson and Josephine Papagni, of Greenway Environmental Services, made a presentation to the Hurley Town Board at the board's Feb. 13 meeting about the possibility of implementing a Community Composting Program in Hurley.

Greenway Environmental, which is hoping to oversee such a program in the Town, recently responded to a Request For Proposals that was issued last year.

The highlights of the Feb. 13 presentation by Jackson and Papagni can be viewed in a 7-page document posted at [tinyurl.com/Hur-Compost](https://tinyurl.com/Hur-Compost).

According to the group Climate Smart Hurley, 33,000 tons of the solid waste produced each year in Ulster County – about 22% of the total – is

compostable. Climate Smart Hurley says that in a Community Composting Program, residents would be asked to separate and drop off their food waste at pre-determined sites in the Town or do their own backyard composting.



Josephine Papagni, left, and Shabazz Jackson are shown at the Hurley Town Board meeting on Feb. 13 in the West Hurley Firehouse.



## Things to do at the Hurley and West Hurley libraries

### HURLEY LIBRARY 48 Main St.

(845) 338-2092, [hurleylibrary.org](http://hurleylibrary.org)

#### MONDAYS

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

Drop-In Tech Help – 3 to 5 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAYS

Scrabble – 1 p.m.

Chair Yoga – 5:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAYS

Story Time – 10 to 11 a.m. Register at [tinyurl.com/HLib-story](http://tinyurl.com/HLib-story).

Drop-in Tech Help – 3 to 5 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, March 7

Library Board meeting – 6 p.m.

#### FRIDAYS

Dungeons & Dragons – 4 to 6 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, March 15

Representatives of Assemblywoman Sarahana Shrestha available to public – Noon to 3 p.m. Make appointment online at [bit.ly/mobile103](http://bit.ly/mobile103) or by calling (845) 845-338-9610.

### WEST HURLEY LIBRARY 42 Clover St.

(845) 679-6405, [westhurleylibrary.org](http://westhurleylibrary.org)

#### MONDAY, March 11

Book Discussion Group – 6 to 7 p.m. Topic: “More Than You’ll Ever Know,” by Katie Gutierrez. To sign up and get a copy of the book, call the library.

#### MONDAY, March 18

Lego Lab – 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAYS

Knit, etc. – 6 to 7:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, March 20

Library Board meeting – 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAYS (except March 1)

Preschool Story Hour – 10 to 11 a.m.

#### FRIDAY, March 8 and 22

Home School Scientists (for ages 5+) – 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 8 topic: Skeletal system (register at [tinyurl.com/whl-skel](http://tinyurl.com/whl-skel)); March 22 topic: Muscular system (register at [tinyurl.com/whl-musc](http://tinyurl.com/whl-musc)).

#### SATURDAY, March 9

Comic Workshop with author/illustrator Kayla Miller – 1 to 2 p.m. Free. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/whpl-comic](http://tinyurl.com/whpl-comic).



## Hurley Town Hall schedule for remainder of 2024

The Town Hall, at 10 Wamsley Place, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, except for the remaining 2024 dates listed below, when the building will be closed. (**NOTE:** When the Town Hall is closed on a Monday, the Town Transfer Station, at 1043 Dug Hill Road, is closed the following day. If a Town Hall holiday falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, the Transfer Station is closed the same day.)

**Monday, May 27:** Memorial Day

**Wednesday, June 19:** Juneteenth

**Thursday, July 4:** Independence Day

**Monday, Sept. 2:** Labor Day

**Monday, Oct. 14:** Columbus/Indigenous People’s Day

**Tuesday, Nov. 5:** Election Day (but open for voting)

**Monday, Nov. 11:** Veterans Day

**Thursday, Nov. 28:** Thanksgiving

**Friday, Nov. 29:** Native American Heritage Day

**Wednesday, Dec. 25:** Christmas

*Also: The Town Hall and Transfer Station will close at noon on Dec. 24 and 31*

## Applications for Ag District inclusion due by March 30

The application period for adding land in Ulster County to a New York State-certified Agricultural District is now open. It ends March 30.

During the period, the County is accepting applications from landowners to have their predominantly viable agricultural parcels included in an Agricultural District.

Landowners seeking inclusion must submit a completed 2024 "Agricultural District Inclusion Application," which can be accessed online at [tinyurl.com/ucag-app](https://tinyurl.com/ucag-app); and a copy of the relevant portion of the tax map. (A description of the land also may be submitted, but it is not required.)

The items should be mailed (or brought) to the Ulster County Planning Department, 244 Fair St.,

P.O. Box  
1800,  
Kingston, NY  
12402-1800;  
or emailed to  
[bsam@co.  
ulster.ny.us](mailto:bsam@co.ulster.ny.us).  
Mailed and  
hand-

delivered applications must be received by the close of business on Friday, March 29. Emailed applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, March 30.

For more information, call Burt Samuelson at (845) 339-2490 or go to [tinyurl.com/4jdy6wd3](https://tinyurl.com/4jdy6wd3).

The New York Agricultural District Program creates economic and regulatory incentives that encourage farmers to continue farming by providing them with certain benefits and protections. For more about the program go to the website [tinyurl.com/4bv3tar9](https://tinyurl.com/4bv3tar9).



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