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### WEEKEND HAPPENINGS

- Beacon Players to perform 'Rock of Ages' ... 1B
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# Southern Dutchess News

Vol. 68, # 46 75 cents Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Town of Wappinger, Town and City of Poughkeepsie

Nov. 13-19, 2019

## Knights distribute wheelchairs

### Hudson Valley Honor Flight receives 60



Members of Knights of Columbus Council #4065 recently distributed wheelchairs to local organizations. One of those organizations was Hudson Valley Honor Flight.

-Courtesy photo

By Kristine Coulter

The Knights of Columbus Council #4065 distributed wheelchairs recently. Sixty of the wheelchairs went to Hudson Valley Honor Flight.

"All our wheelchairs are collected by donations over the years," remarked Jennifer DeFrancesco, Executive Director of Hudson Valley Honor Flight.

Honor Flights take World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans to Washington, D.C. for the day.

"We provide the wheelchairs for them so they can see their monuments," said DeFrancesco.

The Honor Flight that occurred on Oct. 12, said DeFrancesco, was Mission 24.

"It's amazing," she said about seeing the veterans in D.C. "Every flight is dif-

ferent. We're doing the same thing but each one is special."

Funding for the wheelchairs was raised during the summer at the annual Backyard Olympic Games. East Fishkill Councilman Peter Cassidy organized the games and the recent distribution of wheelchairs. He is a member of Council #4065. Also in attendance that day was East Fishkill Councilman Emanuele Marinaro and Legislator-elect for Dutchess County Legislature District 21 Stephen Caswell.

Gary Leonardo and Mike Griffin are with the Putnam Conference. They assisted with the unloading and loading of wheelchairs.

"We try to distribute them to different places," said Leonardo. They work with

the American Legion Post in Peekskill with dividing the wheelchairs to various locations in their area.

New York State Council Knights of Columbus State Deputy Walter "Wally" Wych said, "It's a fantastic program." Wheelchairs go to churches when a Knight sees there is a member of the church in need of a wheelchair, said the Wappingers Falls resident.

As for the reactions of people who receive a wheelchair, Wych said, "In most cases it's disbelief. They're very appreciative. A lot of tears are shed. Their lives would be very different if they didn't have it."

Continued on page 3

## Albra defeats LaColla in Town of Fishkill



Ozzy Albra

By Kristine Coulter

Town of Fishkill voters chose Ozzy Albra to represent them as supervisor for the coming four years beginning in January 2020. According to unofficial results from the Dutchess County Board of Elections, Albra, who ran on the Democratic, Conservative, Working Families and Independence lines, received 2,663 votes to 2,550 received by incumbent Bob LaColla. LaColla, who was seeking his third-term as supervisor, ran on the Republican line.

"I was extremely happy," said Albra about the results of the election.

In 2015 LaColla and Albra also sought the supervisor position, with LaColla winning that race.

As for what issues he ran on this time around that were ones that resonated with Fishkill voters, Albra responded, "Traffic and development were the number one issues by far."

Asked what his number one priority will be after taking office, Albra replied, "My first priority when I take office is to stop the Rolling Hills project and stop Continental Commons." The Rolling Hills Project consists of approximately 55 acres along the Route 9D corridor and proposes to develop a multifamily residential community.

The Continental Commons project proposes a hotel, retail development and an interactive learning experience on just over 10-acres owned by the property owner. The property is east side of Route 9 and is just south of Interstate 84. It is located next to the Van Wyck Homestead Museum and is part of what was known as The Fishkill Supply Depot.

Albra also plans to pass term limits. "They're tired of seeing long-time politicians," said Albra of what residents told him during the campaign.

LaColla said during the Fishkill Town Board meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 6. "I want to thank everybody in the Town who exercised their right to vote."

He said, "I want to thank the residents of Fishkill for giving me the past eight years as supervisor." He thanked the town hall staff.

LaColla congratulated Albra. "Looking ahead, I want to make a firm commitment to the people in the town. I will work with Mr. Albra" and make it a smooth transition, remarked LaColla.

Albra said he would like to tell the residents "thank you very much for your support and I'm going to do you proud."

Albra said he expects to have a simple swearing-in ceremony at the beginning of January.

Continued on page 2

## Thurston re-elected Wappinger supervisor

By Anna Barton and Kristine Coulter

Town of Wappinger supervisor Richard Thurston was re-elected on Nov. 5. His challenger was former supervisor Lori Jiava.

"Many thanks to Wappinger voters for the amazing turnout in this off-year supervisor's election. Over 79 percent of voters (before absentee counting) returned me to office. This overwhelming approval of my accomplishments encourages much more progress during the next two years," Thurston stated last week.

Thurston, who was on the Democratic and Republican lines, received 4,839 votes. Jiava, who ran on the Libertarian and We the People lines, had 1,273 votes, according to the unofficial results from the Dutchess County Board of Elections.

"Moving forward, I pledge to continue to be the peoples' representative who will focus on promoting and safeguarding the safety and welfare of Wappinger, our residents, and businesses. To see is why we are elected," said Thurston.

On her campaign Facebook page, on Nov. 6, Jiava thanked those who voted for her. Her statement partially included, "Please do not think for one moment that I did not know that the cards were stacked against me, because I did. This election was meant to be about the people and the issues of the town, not the politics that go on behind closed doors."

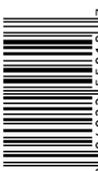
For Ward 1, incumbent William Beale, who ran on the Republican, Conservative, Green and Independence party lines, received 711 votes. John Tyliszczak, who ran on the Democratic and Working Families party lines, had 578 votes.

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Richard Thurston

Southern Dutchess News  
Your News



# Molinaro, Kendall re-elected to county-wide positions

By Curtis Schmidt

Incumbent Republicans in two of the three county-wide contested races won re-election last week, according to unofficial results posted by the Dutchess County Board of Elections.

County Executive Marcus Molinaro, defeated Democratic Party challenger Joseph Ruggiero by a count of 39,871 to 28,235. County Clerk Brad Kendall defeated Democrat Kenya Gadsden, 36,260 to 29,936.

In the race for District Attorney, incumbent William Grady has a narrow lead over Democrat challenger Richard Berube, 33,687 to 32,873. Absentee ballots still need to be counted in all races and the Board of Elections will post updated results in approximately two weeks.

Molinaro was re-elected to a third term. He said, "I am humbled by and grateful to residents of Dutchess County for the honor of a lifetime. Our work together has led to unprecedented success, but

there are still challenges to overcome, problems to solve and lives to help," he said. "With their vote, residents have given us the opportunity to serve and challenge to lead. The opioid epidemic remains the public health crisis of our lifetime. While our county has led the country in education, prevention and diversion, we will increase our efforts to continue saving lives."

He added, "We are inspired to keep moving Dutchess County in the right direction, and the next four years offer vast potential. This new term offers unlimited opportunity to continue to improve our community and lives of those who live and work here. I am excited to serve again and eager to move Dutchess County forward together."

Kendall, who won a fourth term, said, "Thank you to the people of Dutchess County for the honor of serving as County Clerk for another term. I look forward to continuing technological innovation in the Clerk's Office, working with the



Marc Molinaro



Brad Kendall

NYSDMV (New York State Department of Motor Vehicles) on their modernization project and expanding the offerings of our Department of History."

Grady declined comment until the

results are official.

Incumbent County Sheriff Adrian "Butch" Anderson did not have an opponent and totaled 45,526 votes.

# Republicans gain at least one seat in Legislature

By Curtis Schmidt

The Republican Party majority in the Dutchess County Legislature has grown by at least one seat after local elections on Nov. 5.

According to unofficial results from the Dutchess County Board of Elections, the 14-11 Republican majority grew to 15 with the election of Republican challenger Lisa Paoloni over incumbent Democrat Francena Amparo in District 14, which covers the Town of Wappinger. Paoloni totaled 1,434 votes to 1,111 for Amparo.

One race is undecided and is awaiting the counting of absentee ballots. That is the District 11 race in the Towns of Rhinebeck and Clinton, where incumbent Democrat Brennan Kearney holds a one-

vote lead (2,165-2164) over Republican challenger Howie Traudt.

Legislature chair Republican Gregg Pulver (Towns of North East, Milan, Pine Plains and Stanford) defeated Democratic Party challenger Dick Hermans (1,798 to 1,575).

Pulver said, "We are extremely grateful for the show of support from Dutchess residents allowing us to continue leading the County Legislature. We will continue governing together - that's what is right and what is needed. All of our candidates ran races to be proud of and made a positive impact on their communities. In the 2020-21 term, we will continue passing productive laws and working with the County Executive on delivering services."

Minority leader Hannah Black of

District Four (Hyde Park) defeated Republican challenger Paula Young-Borra 1,196 to 1,002.

She said, "As always, it is a privilege to serve the community as a Legislator, and those that were re-elected are grateful of having the opportunity to continue to represent the people in their respective districts."

She added, "The Republicans already have a majority in the Legislature and have entire control over what goes on or stays off of the agenda. Each committee is chaired and vice chaired by Republicans. The Chair of the Legislature has full

authority over committee chair appointments. They will maintain that majority and the Legislature will have more Republicans and less Democrats.

"I do think the Legislature could work better for the people if there was a mix of both Republican and Democrat legislators serving as Chairs on our legislative committees. As we move forward, I think we should be looking at how we can foster working together, and this would be a good first step to ensure that happens."

Complete unofficial results of the Legislature races are given on Pages 5 and 6.

# Wheelchairs donated



Jennifer DeFrancesco, Executive Director of Hudson Valley Honor Flight, right, and Carol Deacon, Guardian Coordinator, with one of the 60 donated wheelchairs for Hudson Valley Honor Flight veterans.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

Continued from page 1

Anthony Spaziani, a resident of East Fishkill, has been a Knight for 41 years.

"It's wonderful," he said.

Spaziani volunteers at the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System Castle Point campus. "They have about 10 of our wheelchairs. They're in use every time,"

he noted. "They're very much appreciated." Spaziani said the wheelchairs are light, which makes it helpful when getting the user in and out of cars.

Spaziani remarked, "Our faith encourages us to do things for others and this is an easy way of doing it."

"This definitely is changing lives," said Wych.

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