



*Special Town Activities of Interest:*

Volume 1, Issue 1  
Spring 2002

- **Movie In the Park Night** — Wednesday, July 31st
- **Town Fall Festival** — Saturday, October 19th
- **Winter Holiday Party** — Saturday, December 14th

## Welcome from Supervisor Joan Pagones

Dear Neighbor,

It is my pleasure to present our Town's first Newsletter to you this spring.

With the busy lives we lead today, it is difficult to keep up with the activities of our Town. The Newsletter we have developed will keep you informed of what Town government has to offer, as well as what your Town Officials are doing for you, our Town residents.

I believe you will find it informative. I invite you to also visit our web site at [www.fishkill-ny.org](http://www.fishkill-ny.org).

As always, if you would like to visit personally, please stop by our Town Hall, 807 Route 52, from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm, Mon-Fri. I welcome your visit. Stop by to introduce yourself and have a cup of coffee or tea.

It is our intention to continue with newsletters on a periodic basis throughout the year.

Sincerely,



*Supervisor Joan Pagones delivers her State of the Town address February 7, 2002.*

# The Fishkill Periodical

TOWN OF FISHKILL NEW YORK

## 225th Anniversary of the NYS Constitution

by Willa Skinner, Town Historian

Did you know that the first constitution of the state of New York was printed in April, 1777, by Samuel Loudon on his press at Fishkill? Loudon was the official state printer who set up shop in Fishkill after fleeing from the British in New York. He was also the postmaster when Fishkill was the only post office in the state during the War for Independence.

During the fall and early winter of 1776-77, delegates to the New York Provincial Congress were meeting at the Dutch Reformed Church to formulate laws for the new State of New York and conduct official state business. Because they were meeting here, Fishkill became the temporary capital of New York State from Sept. '76 to Feb. '77 when the Congress moved to Kingston, where work on the constitution was completed.

Loudon turned out 2,090 copies of the constitution for distribution. When the Revolution ended, he packed up his press and print shop and returned to New York City to resume business there. The Fishkill post office went out of existence and was not reopened until the 19th century. Loudon Drive in The Park, incidentally, is named for the man who was an outspoken patriot.

A 225th anniversary celebration of the State Constitution will be held in Kingston on April 20th where, among other displays, you will see an exhibit of the original document with the name spelled "Fish-Kill" on the front cover.

### Inside this issue:

Your Police Department	2
Approved Projects Report	2
Summer Rec Program	3
Public Notice — Assessor	3
Taxes — Q & A	3
State of Town Highlights	4

## Services of the Town of Fishkill Police Department

by Chief Donald F. Williams

*"The department protects the rights of all persons... to be free from criminal attack... to be secure in their possessions... and to live in peace..."*

The Town of Fishkill Police Department functions to protect and to serve the residents of the Town of Fishkill. The police department protects the rights of all persons within its jurisdiction to be free from criminal attack, to be secure in their possessions and to live in peace. The department serves the people of Fishkill by performing law enforcement functions in a professional manner, and it is to these people that the department is ultimately responsible.

The Town of Fishkill Police Department operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days each year, and can be reached directly at 845-831-1110 for both emergencies and general information. Our staff of 40 police officers and 18 dispatchers are always ready and willing to serve.

In the year 2001, the police department responded to a total of 11,797 complaints, processed 482 arrests, and completed 417 accident reports.

Administrative requests for information, such as copies of accident reports, must be made in person. There is a fee charged for copies of reports. Preferably, these requests should be made between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm. A column runs weekly in the Southern Dutchess News with recent arrest information.

The department sponsors a Cadet Explorer Program through the Boy Scouts of America for youths ages 14-21 interested in law enforcement. Additional outreach includes Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in area elementary schools, a Community Policing Division working with local businesses and residents, Neighborhood Watch Program coordination, and a Juvenile Aid Bureau/Juvenile Officers working with the youngest residents of our community. Community Policing officers are certified to install and inspect car seats and safety restraint devices. Residents may contact the department to set up an appointment for this service.

## Recent Projects Approved by the Supervisor & Town Board

by Steven V. Ferguson, Councilman/Deputy Supervisor

Listed below are a number of approved projects & activities that I have been assigned to head up:

**New Police Contract** — As of January 1, 2002 the Town of Fishkill and the PBA for The Town of Fishkill Police Department have approved a four year contract. This contract provides reasonable progress for both parties. The biggest plus for all concerned is that we have a stable financial planning base for the next four years. Negotiators for the Town of Fishkill were Town Supervisor, Joan Pagones, and Deputy Supervisor, Steve Ferguson. For the PBA were PBA President, Vincent Guarino & PBA Vice President, Scott Bierce.



Architect's rendering of the new Police facility now under construction.

**New Police Facility** — Ground breaking for our new Police Facility has finally taken place. Residents will see continuing activity on the construction site for the next year or more as we begin to build one of the most modern police facilities in the State.

**"E" Government** — The Town of Fishkill has begun a pioneering journey on the road to becoming the first government in the State of New York to enable its constituents to conduct town business on-line via the Internet rather than in-line at the counter. We have hired a consultant, purchased all new computers and network hardware. We have contracted the use of a portion of T1 telephone switch and now have access to the Internet. We are in the process of applying for a grant from NY State that will defray some of the cost of the project.

**Grant Applications Submitted** — The Town of Fishkill has recently completed and submitted grant applications for two important grants from New York State. One of these grants will provide funding to complete the automation of our town records system. The other is a cooperative grant with the Village of Fishkill. That will enable the Village to embark on automation in the Village Hall and provide additional funding to the Town Hall for automation of other Department records such as software for mapping, etc. The grants will total \$150,000.

## Fishkill Summer Recreation 2002... Hop to It!

A REMINDER: Program pamphlets with registration forms are available at Fishkill Town Hall...



Here is an overview of the Fishkill Summer Recreation 2002 programs offered. Please call 845-831-3371 for full details on any program or stop by Town Hall to pick up a copy of the pamphlet.

**Brinkerhoff All Day Camp ~ Sports Camp ~ Geering Park Day Camp ~  
Counselor-In-Training Program ~ Basketball Camp ~ Boys Basketball League ~  
Girls Basketball League ~ Fishkill Golf Program ~ Baseball Clinic ~ Soccer ~  
Youth Winter Basketball ~ Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading ~ Tennis ~  
55 or over Softball ~ Concerts in the Park ~ Senior Drop In Center ~  
Blodgett Memorial Library Summer Reading Program ~ Fishkill Parks seasonal activities ~  
Swimming at University Settlement Camp ~ In School Recreation**

Registration: Fishkill Residents may register by mail as of March 1, 2002; walk-in registration starts March 18 at Town Hall 10 am to 2 pm; Non-residents are welcomed to register as of April 22.

The application/Registration form is in the centerfold of the program pamphlet. Each side is required to be filled out in its entirety. Your application will be processed in the order received. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Fishkill Recreation at 845-831-3371. Remember, you may use these activities as child care credit on your tax returns.



*"Assessors do not determine taxes...  
Budgets determine taxes.  
Assessors do not make values...  
Your buyers and sellers  
make the values.  
The Assessor merely extracts your  
value from the market place."*

### Public Notice

Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law, the Assessor for the Town of Fishkill has inventory and valuation data available for review by the public.

An appointment may be made to review this information by calling 845-831-7800 ext. 3337 between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm.

Paula Sarvis, Assessor  
Town of Fishkill

### Taxes: The Most Asked Questions (...and Answers!)

by James A. Foy, Receiver of Taxes

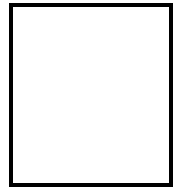
- **When should I look to receive my Property Tax Bill?**  
The middle of January.
- **When are the Property Taxes due?**  
The last day of February.
- **When should I look to receive my School Tax Bill?**  
The middle of September.
- **When are School Taxes due?**  
The middle of October without penalty.
- **Can my taxes be paid in installments?**  
No, payment is due in full in cash, check or money order.

If you have any questions regarding your taxes, please contact James A. Foy, Receiver of Taxes, Fishkill Town Hall, 845-831-7800 ext. 3333.



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*“One of the Nine Original Towns in Dutchess County”*

## A few recognition highlights from the Feb 7th State of the Town Address

for complete details of the State of the Town Address visit the press release section at [www.fishkill-ny.org](http://www.fishkill-ny.org)

**Special Recognition: John Lindstrom** — This vibrant citizen of the Town of Fishkill will celebrate his 100th birthday on July 22nd of this year.

**Our Community At Its Best** — Supervisor Pagones identified two individuals who go about their lives in what they believe is an ordinary manner. Unbeknownst to them, they make our community a caring and extraordinary place.

- **Viola Kaset** — Viola, through a random act of kindness, brought enjoyment to an entire family by making it possible for a family’s children to attend camp. She is one of Fishkill’s extraordinary people.
- **“Mr. Knick” Tom Knickerbocker** — High school teacher and volunteer extraordinaire. The Poughkeepsie Journal describes him as the person who cares about kids. Students leave John Jay High School with knowledge of the community around them and what caring for neighbors is all about, due to Tom Knickerbocker.



TOP: Mayor Jim Miccio and Supervisor Pagones with Mr. John Lindstrom.  
ABOVE: Supervisor Pagones and Ms. Viola Kaset.  
LEFT: Dr. Wayne Gersen, Tom Knickerbocker and Supervisor Pagones