

# NYSDOT to install flashing beacon at dangerous Tivoli intersection

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Commissioner Joan McDonald announced last Friday that the Department will install a four-way overhead flashing beacon at Route 9G and Broadway/West Kerley Corners Road (Dutchess County Route 78) in the village of Tivoli, in an effort to improve safety at the intersection. NYSDOT is collaborating with Dutchess County on the beacon installation.

"Safety is the number one priority at the Department of Transportation, and this new flashing beacon will provide a very visible warning to motorists that they need to proceed with caution," said Commissioner McDonald. "This signal will help enhance safety at the intersection for all roadway users."

Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro said, "The installation of a flashing light at the intersection of 9G and West Kerley Corners (County Route 78) in Tivoli

is an important step toward improving the safety of this intersection. We are grateful to the New York State Department of Transportation for hearing the concerns of our community and working with us to address this critical safety issue. The County is committed to working with the NYSDOT and local officials to enhance the safety and conditions of the critical gateway and corridor."

"I am pleased by the recent decision of the New York State DOT to install a flashing yellow light at the 9G/Broadway Intersection," said Tivoli Mayor Bryan Cranna. "This decision follows a dialogue I began with the DOT in 2009 prior to being elected mayor. I thank the DOT for their recent attention to this intersection and for their previous efforts as well to address concerns. I look forward to continuing to discuss the Route 9G corridor from Tivoli to Bard College with the DOT to improve signage that will alert

drivers to a village and college tucked off of this major highway.

Cranna added: "Additionally, let us remember those who were victims of accidents along this corridor and their families as well. Let these improvements be part of their legacies."

The new overhead Intersection Control Beacon will flash yellow to traffic approaching the intersection from both directions on Route 9G, and flash red to drivers approaching from Broadway and West Kerley Corners Road. Beacons are proven to be effective at raising driver awareness that they are approaching an intersection and must be on the lookout for other vehicles and pedestrians.

"This much needed improvement, combined with the repairs to the shoulders and driving lanes that will begin soon, should make this intersection much safer for those who drive, walk and bicycle along this route," said County Legislator Micki

Strawinski (D-Red Hook, Tivoli). "The promptness to which this issue has been addressed, by all who pressed for immediate action, is greatly appreciated."

The flashing beacon will supplement the oversized stop signs and stop ahead signs on the Broadway and West Kerley Corners Road approaches. Since those signs were installed in 2009, crashes at the intersection have been reduced by 80 percent.

"I commend the NYSDOT, Dutchess County, local officials and the advocacy of many in our community for working together in our shared effort to make this intersection safer," said State Sen. Terry Gipson. "I look forward and am committed to continuing to work with all involved in making further progress."

Work is under way to survey the intersection, and construction on the new signal is expected to begin this spring. The new flashing beacon should be installed and operational by Memorial Day of this year.

## VILLAGE ELECTIONS ROUNDUP

### Tivoli restores incumbents; Rhinebeck gets new trustee

by Kate Goldsmith

The villages of Tivoli and Rhinebeck held votes from noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18.

In Tivoli, incumbents Joel Griffith and Jeanann Schneider were easily re-elected to serve on the Board of Trustees. Griffith received 68 votes, and 54 cast ballots for Schneider. There were also four write-in votes cast. Trustees in Tivoli serve two-year terms and receive \$2,500 per year.

"I'm looking forward to being involved as a Trustee to keep Tivoli moving forward," said Schneider. "We've got some really fantastic projects on the agenda that I'm excited to be a part of."

The Village of Rhinebeck re-elected Trustee Heath Tortarella, who currently is serving as Mayor in the wake of Jim Reardon's resignation earlier this year. Gary Kenton was elected to the trustee position held by Brant Neuneker, who chose not to run again.

Rhinebeck trustees serve two-year terms and are paid \$5,000 per year.

Tortarella received 164 votes and

Kenton got 131. Neuneker received 58 votes; his name appeared on the ballot because his decision to not run for re-election was made after the filing deadline. Four write-in ballots were also cast.

"I was pleased by the turnout of voters for this election and greatly appreciate the support of my friends and neighbors in the Village of Rhinebeck," said Tortarella. "It has been an honor to serve this community over the last year and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue doing so."

"It is very gratifying to be elected to public office by your fellow citizens," said Kenton. "While national and international issues get most of the attention, it's the small decisions made on the local level that have the biggest impact on our lives and provide the best opportunity for true democratic participation. I am looking forward to working with the other Village Trustees on all the important matters that come before us."

The Rhinebeck Board of Trustees will appoint a member of the board sometime in April to serve the remainder of Reardon's unexpired term through March 2015.

## Power line implications worry farmers

continued from cover

If rights-of-way are expanded, Quinn would lose his farm and all his plants.

"I can't do this if I'm going to lose everything," he said. Quinn planned to distribute plants to other farmers, boosting agriculture by introducing a "niche" crop.

Quinn produces several currant products; some are sold at Adams Fairacre Farms and Rhinebeck Health Foods, but most of his sales come from the CurrantC website. While Quinn is already in business, establishing the Polish plant varieties could be a boon to New York State farmers, and allow Quinn to increase his production between five- and tenfold.

"That's a big deal. That's the Holy Grail in farming," he said. "And I think they're better flavored."

McFarland, who owns a horse farm, is concerned about negative health impacts from exposure to EMF (electromagnetic field) radiation.

"My health concern for my children is number one, definitely," she said. McFarland has heard passing comments

about potential health impacts from living within the electromagnetic field, exposed to radiation, but can't find definitive information.

The McFarlands could also lose the portion of their land on which an indoor riding arena was planned. A horse enthusiast since age three, McFarland and her husband own a nine-acre horse farm in Pleasant Valley. They were considering building an indoor arena so Mary Jane could ride year-round. The planned location for the arena is right in the path of the proposed power lines.

"I'm very angry because how they can come and just take our land?" she said. "We have thoughts about moving, but at the same time, who would buy? So we're just waiting."

McFarland fears for her neighbors, too.

"I'm worried about what it's going to do not just to myself, but people could be losing their entire homes, their entire property. I look at the power lines there now and think, if they are expanded, that person could lose their house," she said.

## Family Health and Safety Day set at Poughkeepsie Galleria

On Saturday, April 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse's Teen Parenting Program hosts a "Family Health and Safety Day" at the Poughkeepsie Galleria. There will be free raffles, workshops on health and safety topics, community tables, massages, kid's activities and more available to the public.

The Red Cross and Department of Health will be on hand. The event will be held in the community room, the Best Buy Court area and the food court parking lot.

For more information, call the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse at (845) 454-0595 or visit [www.thecpca.com](http://www.thecpca.com).



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