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Poughkeepsie Journal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 | POUGHKEEPSIEJOURNAL.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Legislators, the public, local organizations and businesses filing in to the Dutchess County Legislative Chambers on Market Street in the City of Poughkeepsie on Sept. 14, where the fate of the Oakley Street shelter was decided.

NICKIE HAYES/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

After lawsuits, opposition, Oakley Street shelter clears final vote

Nickie Hayes
Poughkeepsie Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

It was a packed house in the Dutchess County Legislative Chambers on Market Street in the City of Poughkeepsie on Monday, Sept. 14.

Locals came out in droves in a final effort to stop the 26 Oakley St. shelter. Many of them have been speaking out for years against the shelter that will be placed about half a mile from Warring Elementary School.

Seven teens from the city representing Community Matters 2 spoke collectively about the horrific things they see in the area, from human waste on their streets to parks being overrun by drug users. They spoke of their worry over their younger family members seeing this, and their hope the county would instead put funding toward a safe, third space for young people.

See **SHELTER**, Page 2A



The property at 26 Oakley Street in the City of Poughkeepsie on June 29. Dutchess County and the City of Poughkeepsie are working towards an agreement for the property to become a homeless shelter.

PATRICK OEHLER/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

AG opens investigation into fatal collision by off-duty officer in Cornwall

Mike Randall
Middletown Times Herald - Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

The New York State Attorney General's Office of Special Investigations is looking into the death of a pedestrian who was struck and killed by a vehicle driven by an off-duty Westchester County corrections officer.

The fatal collision happened on Aug. 31.

According to state Attorney General Letitia James' office, an off-duty Westchester County Department of

Corrections officer was driving on Route 32 in the Town of Cornwall shortly before 10:30 p.m. on Aug. 31.

As the officer turned right onto Quaker Avenue, the officer struck a pedestrian.

The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital, where he died of his injuries on Sept. 5.

Under New York State Executive Law, the Attorney General's OSI assesses every incident reported to it where a police officer or a peace officer, including a corrections officer, might have caused the death of a

person by an act or omission.

Under the law, the officer may be on duty or off duty, and the person who died may be armed or unarmed. Also, the decedent may or may not be in custody or incarcerated.

If OSI's assessment indicates an officer might have caused the death, OSI proceeds to conduct a full investigation of the incident.

Mike Randall covers breaking news for the Times Herald-Record and the Poughkeepsie Journal. Reach him at mrandall@th-record.com.

Judge blocks cap on student, journalist visas

Rules offer 'vague criteria' with no appeal

BrieAnna J. Frank
USA TODAY

A federal judge blocked the Department of Homeland Security from imposing new caps on visas for groups including foreign students and journalists, saying the change was "likely to be catastrophic" to the higher education system and American economy.

Though holders of such visas have long been allowed to remain in the country for the duration of their studies or assignments, the department proposed a rule last year that limited student and exchange visas to the length of the participant's program, with a maximum stay of four years. Journalists with the "I" visas were limited to stays of 240 days, though journalists from China were limited to 90 days.

See **VISAS**, Page 2A

2.5M more New Yorkers eligible for energy bill discounts

Thomas C. Zambito
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Some 2.5 million more New York households could be eligible for monthly discounts on utility bills under a plan spotlighted by Gov. Kathy Hochul Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Downstate, four-person households earning \$162,000 or less would qualify for the state's Energy Affordability Program (EAP). Upstate, the cutoff for four-person households would be \$133,000.

Currently about 1 million New York households are enrolled in EAP, saving hundreds of dollars per month per year on utility bills. Under the new income levels, which took effect in January, millions more could qualify, the governor's office noted.

At a press conference in Manhattan, Hochul said the discounts could add up to savings of up to \$500 a year for many residents.

"So today, half of all households in the state of New York are eligible for extra help with their energy bills," Hochul said. "And that includes a lot of working families who never thought a program like this would be available for them."

See **DISCOUNTS**, Page 2A

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