

# ***Molinaro Launches Search for County Historian***

***Poughkeepsie***... Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro has initiated a search for a new County Historian. The Dutchess County Historian serves as a resource for the general public on ethnic, religious, genealogical, or other related historical information and is responsible for collecting and preserving documents, maps, photographs and other materials relating to the history of Dutchess County. The historian position has been vacant since 2008.

County Executive Molinaro said, "Dutchess County is blessed with a rich and vibrant history that must be preserved, shared and celebrated. As one of the priorities I announced in my State of the County Address, we are eager to find the right individual to serve as our County Historian and share that county history with our residents and visitors."

The Historian position was posted today and will be open through July 18<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will begin immediately following the recruitment period and a new Historian is expected to be hired in August. The position posting can be found on the County's website at:

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CivilServiceInformationSystem/ApplicantWeb/frmViewAnnouncement.aspx?AnnouncementType=3&AnnouncementID=772>

Once the Historian appointment is made, County Executive Molinaro will direct the Historian to work under the leadership of Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall. In May, the Dutchess County Legislature approved the County Executive Molinaro's proposal to transfer the functions of record management from the Division of Central Services to the Office of the County Clerk effective July 1st. This is a logical realignment as the Dutchess County Clerk provides the archivist function for county government and the functions of record management are closely related.

County Clerk Kendall has been very active in the preservation of records, painting and prints and other historic artifacts. The collaboration between the County Clerk and the County Historian enable the work of both to be maximized. Additionally, County Clerk Kendall was instrumental in bringing the Historian position to a full time capacity. The County Historian has previously been a part-time position. Through the elimination of a vacant registry clerk position, Clerk Kendall was able to

provide the necessary funding for a full-time position with no impact on the county budget.

“I’m pleased County Executive Molinaro and the Legislature agreed that moving the records management function to the County Clerk’s office makes perfect sense,” said Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall. “I look forward to working with the historian to provide information and documentation of Dutchess County’s rich history to our citizens in a cost effective and systematic manner.”

Other responsibilities of the County Historian include writing grant proposals and providing assistance to county and municipal historical societies.

Next year, Dutchess County commemorates its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of democracy. Dutchess County residents selected their very first leaders, including a supervisor, treasurer and assessor, on October 23, 1713. The Dutchess County Legislature last year voted to celebrate this milestone with a county celebration. The new County Historian will work closely with Dutchess County Tourism and the Dutchess County Historical Society to help coordinate this celebration.

“The answers to the questions of “Who Are We?” and “How We Hope to Live?” are rooted in our history, so our history must be preserved, embraced and promoted. If you are an individual who is passionate about our county history and wish to put your knowledge and skills to work for your fellow county residents, I encourage you to consider the County Historian role,” concluded County Executive Molinaro.

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