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Town of Wappinger resident Kevin Connors of the C.O.L.O.R.S. Foundation picks up debris Saturday along the Hudson River as part of the Riverkeeper cleanup at Waryas Park in the City of Poughkeepsie. PHOTOS BY DARRYL BAUTISTA/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

Volunteers make clean sweep on river

Riverkeeper holds 2nd annual event to keep Hudson, city parks beautiful

By Emily Stewart
Poughkeepsie Journal

Cigarette butts, empty bottles and cans, scrap metal, foam cups and plates, discarded clothing and tires were among the trash volunteers picked up at local parks this weekend.

Some rain Saturday did not hamper the volunteers' goal of cleaning parks along the Hudson River and within the City of Poughkeepsie.

Riverkeeper, an environmental advocacy organization based in Ossining, Westchester County, organized "Riverkeeper Sweep," a cleanup of the Hudson River from New York City to Albany. The event is in its second year, said Dan Shapley, events manager for the organization.

To coincide with Riverkeeper's event, Poughkeepsie Common Council members Joe Rich, D-2nd Ward, and Ann Perry, D-5th Ward, organized the second annual "Make Poughkeepsie Shine Day," which focused on city parks, not just along the shoreline, Rich said.

Rich said volunteers cleaned Lincoln Park, Stitzel Field, Eastman Park, Hulme Park, Victor C. Waryas

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Ryan Stier, 14, of Highland picks up litter Saturday at Waryas Park in the City of Poughkeepsie.

VIDEO

Watch a video of volunteers cleaning the City of Poughkeepsie shoreline at poughkeepsiejournal.com.

Fortis faces fight for local hearts and minds

Opposition to CH Energy buy appears to slow state approval

By Craig Wolf
Poughkeepsie Journal

Key decision-making lies ahead as Fortis Inc. presses its effort to buy CH Energy Group.

The Canadian company must put its heads and numbers together to see whether it wants to sweeten its offer, not for the purchase, but for the public benefit component that is a central issue to be weighed by New York's Public Service Commission.

Fortis said it "intends to engage in further discussions to obtain the commission's approval of the acquisition."

That commission must decide whether a full-scale hearing is needed this late in the review. Citizens for Local Power called for it; commenting parties are split over the matter.

And, the five-member

FACE TO FACE

Would the area benefit from the proposed sale of Central Hudson to Canadian-based Fortis Inc.? On today's op-ed page, former Congressman Maurice Hinchey and Dutchess County Legislature Majority Leader Dale Borchert offer differing views.

ber commission eventually must decide whether to approve the sale, reject it or perhaps send it back to the drawing boards.

The commissioners are to meet Thursday. Their agenda for this regular meeting has been published, and there's nothing about this case on it.

However, spokesman James Denn said the commission can change the agenda: "If they wanted to add an item, yes."

Their next scheduled

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COMING THIS WEEK

Here's a look at what is coming up this week:

Monday: In Family Life, apps that make the process of learning new words fun.

Tuesday: Learn why environmentalists are upset about a new law affecting the use of genetically engineered plants and seeds, My Valley online.

Tuesday: Art Along the Hudson gets set to kick off the season, in Family Life.

Wednesday: In Great Tastes!, believe it or not, there is a science to good mac and cheese.

Wednesday: Spackenkill has sights set on baseball title.

Thursday: In Players, Wappingers Warriors varsity lacrosse team conducts a one-day clinic for youth.

Friday: James McCartney, Paul's son, to perform at Club Helsinki, in Enjoy!

SpeakUp

SATURDAY'S QUESTION

Have you ever stopped along a road to see a wild animal?

77 Yes

47 No

124 responses.

TODAY'S QUESTION

Did you purchase flowers for Mother's Day? See story on 1A.

LOCAL NEWS ON YOUR CELLPHONE

Text PJNEWS to 44636 (4INFO).

Get weather alerts

To receive mid-Hudson Valley severe weather alerts on your cellphone, text **pjweather** to 4INFO (44636). Message and data rates may apply.

In brief

New Paltz commencement security will be augmented

NEW PALTZ — Police will complement security at the State University of New York at New Paltz's commencement ceremony this month.

The undergraduate commencement ceremony is at 10 a.m. May 19; the graduate ceremony is at 6 p.m. May 17. Both ceremonies will be on the old main quadrangle on campus, according to the school.

"The increase in security is being put in place in light of the bombings

home. A separate line will be formed for those without bags, he said.

For more information, visit newpaltz.edu.

Weather forecasters say frost possible overnight

Frost is possible over the next two nights, weather forecasters said.

Temperatures are expected to dip into the low- to mid-30s and areas of frost are expected after 3 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, the National Weather Service in Albany said.

Wheeler Hill Road partially closed starting on Monday

TOWN OF WAPPINGER — Wheeler Hill Road will be partially closed starting Monday, Supervisor Barbara Gutzler said in a press release.

The section of the road will be closed through the second week of June to allow work on a water main on Route 9 and Old Hopewell Road.

"Residents will be able to access their homes at all times, unless notified in advance of exceptional conditions," Gutzler said.

"The town will inform the