

# Beacon

by Corey Dwyer

Beacon, NY has undergone many transformations over the past few decades, with many more imminent changes to be made within the coming years. Though the essence of Beacon will remain the same, I expect the logistics of the city to change relatively dramatically over the next fifteen years. Beacon had changed drastically in the years preceding the new millennium, and such a pattern will inevitably continue in the coming decade.

Officials of the city of Beacon have recently announced new building plans for the city. One, a luxurious hotel is in the process of being built next to the Hudson River in order to cater to the growing number of commuters and travelers coming to and from New York City. Also, a bed and breakfast complex will be built on Main Street, replacing a disastrous-looking former factory. A 600-seat theatre is to be built, as well as several studios for Beacon's variety of artists. Beacon has long been a noteworthy city in the Hudson Valley for history and art, with half of Main Street dedicated to shops, galleries, museums, and restaurants. Coinciding with that is the recent addiction of the DIA:Beacon, which is recognized as one of the finest art museums in New York state, and obviously brings many tourists to the city (another reason for the building of the hotel). As always, Mt. Beacon is a nature-lover's dream, and the continued insistence on its preservation will obviously make Beacon just as, if not more, scenic as it is today. Several utopian-style neighborhoods have been built in Beacon, which will inevitably rise the standard of living and the population. Beacon is now considered relatively average in terms of income per household, if not slightly below, but that number should increase in the coming years with the new market of expensive houses coming about. In subsequence, all other costs are expected to rise in the next decade or so. In the mid-1990s, Main Street was a haven for drug dealers and was prone to murders and robberies, but such has greatly diminished since then. Without question, Beacon brings many positives to the lower Hudson Valley, and the next fifteen years should see it become an economic and culturally dynamic city.

The new Beacon High School is undoubtedly the most technologically advanced school in Dutchess County, and certainly one of the best in the state. The high school unavoidably adds to the city's educational market. With a video production studio, multiple high-tech computer labs, state-of-the-art boards that are compatible with computers, and much more being offered, it is impossible for the educational dynamic experienced by Beacon's youth not to be felt. As teachers and administrators become more aware of how to best put the technology to use, the state of education in Beacon will become more advanced. In terms of what Beacon will be like demographically fifteen years from now, I expect the city to remain relatively similar with regards to ethnicities and ages. There will obviously be more families with young children moving into Beacon, but that shift on the median age will be counteracted by the growing number of retirees choosing to spend their golden-age in Beacon.

Beacon is without question a changing city, and the future looks very promising. The onslaught of tourists and new families and retirees have created a new financial market for the city, and with that coming advancements in various respects. Beacon, will undoubtedly prove itself to be a prosperous environment for families and businesses alike to grow in.