

# City of Newburgh

## Press Release

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for immediate release

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### Dan Tooker, Return Engagement

Last November, the Visitors Center in Downing Park was home to a photography exhibit titled *Birds, Big Cats, and Fast Cars*, the work of Dan Tooker. This year, through the



month of July, the Downing Park Planning Committee will host an exhibit of Tooker's recent photographs of native birds and wildlife taken in and around the Park. Tooker has become an active member of the Downing Park Planning Committee and was instrumental in obtaining nesting boxes for the wood ducks

Born and raised in Goshen, Tooker left the area to attend York College in York, Pennsylvania where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Photography courses deepened an interest that was born when an uncle gave him a 35mm camera and lenses years before.

He says, "I now had the skills to photograph, paint and illustrate with accurate detail."

Tooker spent many years photographing and painting racing cars. In 1975, he began covering the racing circuit for the Newburgh Evening News, which later became the Hudson Valley News. He did photographs and stories on local and top drivers.

"After the paper folded, I did the photography for Lime Rock Park in CT. I also worked with Keeping Track of Corvette Magazine doing art work, photography and articles," Tooker commented. He has photographed Paul Newman, Tom Cruise and many other less well-known race drivers.

In 2006, Tooker retired from the racing circuit and began photographing local fauna. He was fascinated with the variety of birds in this area and, "was hooked when we went up to Mongaup Blind and saw over 30 American Bald Eagles. One day I was going past Downing Park and caught a glimpse of a Great Blue Heron. I immediately stopped to take a picture of it. I hadn't realized how much wildlife there is in this park."

This exhibit will be on view from July 1-31 at the Visitors Center Gallery, located in the Shelter House in Downing Park, at Carpenter Avenue and Third Street, Newburgh. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.- 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. For information call 845-565-5559.