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- News
- Events
- Places
- Marketplace
- Q&A
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Dispatches: The Changing American Dream

A look at how what it means to live in America is changing locally.

By Patch Staff | [Email the author](#) | August 15, 2011 | [Print](#)

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We're excited to inaugurate a new series for our Patch Readers: "Dispatches: The Changing American Dream."

Every day, the national media is full of stories about how American families, businesses, and neighbors are adjusting to these trying times. There are so many changes happening so fast that it's dizzying: national debates about unemployment, foreclosures, debt, religion, government and private enterprise all touch on fundamental ways in which we see ourselves and our communities.

At Patch, we want to explore that conversation on a daily basis so we can better understand how our neighbors are adjusting to the challenges and opportunities that surround us.

We don't think there's one American Dream, but a multitude of American Dreams that a multitude of people are working toward. Looking out across nearly almost 900 Patch sites, we see businesses holding their breath deciding whether to expand; college graduates returning home because they can't find jobs; and senior citizens bringing boarders into their homes to help pay their bills. We also see bold new volunteer efforts, inspiring stories of local businesses that succeed because they innovated, and locals who've taken these trying times as a signal to engage more, not less, in their government.

At the purely local level, we want to know where we, as neighbors, fit along these fault lines.

Chappaqua-Mount Kisco Patch is already doing these stories simply as part of the way we cover life in New Castle and Mount Kisco.

For example, the [demise of Borders](#) in Mount Kisco comes amid a national and local economic downturn, and the Food Bank for Westchester's [planned move out of Millwood](#) to a larger facility is a response to growing demand for help. Another example is New Castle's [new local law](#) for AFFH housing units, which reflects desires for some to be able to live in an area they otherwise can't afford.

And, of course, we want your help: Tell us what issues and what stories in New Castle and Mount Kisco go to the heart of your American Dream.

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