Rensselaer County's Community Newspaper

STEPHENTOWN

Pop-Up Vaccination Clinic Well Attended

At least 147 people stopped by the Stephentown Fire Hall on Tuesday morning, April 13, to roll up their sleeves and receive the first of two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 shot. This was the county's second such pop-up, the first being in Troy. Health Department officials said they wanted to keep the first one close to their office - should anything have been forgotten, misplaced or damaged, the situation could quickly be remedied. With that experience under their belt, so to speak, they headed to eastern Rensselaer County to help administer the vaccine to people that live some distance away from the Hudson Valley Community College Point of Dispensing. By all accounts,

When Will There Be A Pop-Up In Hoosick Falls?

The answer, according to Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin, is soon. Mr. McLaughlin visited the Stephentown site on Tuesday morning, and told The Eastwick Press that going forward, he expects one or two of these pop-ups to be conducted a week.

News that New York State, at the urging of the federal government, had paused use of the Johnson and Johnson one shot vaccine because of side effects that included blood clots broke just minutes before the clinic was to start. Health Department officials were quick to assure all that the vaccine being distributed was manufactured by Moderna.

A follow-up clinic is being planned for Stephentown to distribute the required second round of the vaccine.



Robert Montague of Stephentown receives his first dose of the Moderna vaccine administered by Dianna Clark, registered nurse and member of the Rensselaer County Medical Reserve Corp. Ms. Clark is also a resident of Stephentown. The clinic was held at the Stephentown Fire Hall on Grange Hall Road Tuesday morning. Photo by Doug La Rocque.

HOOSICK FALLS

Father Tom Is Being Transferred

Father Tom Zelker announced at Masses on Saturday and Sunday at Immaculate Conception Church in Hoosick Falls and St. Patrick's Church in Cambridge, that he is being transferred to a parish in Middleburgh (Schoharie County). He will celebrate his last mass in Hoosick Falls and Cambridge on Sunday, April 25.

Father Tom, as he is affectionately known, told parishioners he has family ties to Middleburgh and was asked by Bishop Edward Scharfenberger to consider the relocation. Apparently the Middleburgh parish has some difficulties and the Bishop has confidence that Father Tom can help solve the problems.

No replacement has been named as of press time. Father Tom indicated in his announcement that repairs to the Immaculate Conception church will continue.

The Eastwick Press has asked the Roman Catholic diocese of Albany about Father Tom's transfer, and was told just before press time "it's not unusual for priests to move from one parish to another just as a matter of course during their years of priestly ministry." Questions as to his replacement and the church's future have not been answer as yet, but we were prom-

Continued on page 7

Mountain Top Rescue In Petersburgh
Story on Page 2

BERLIN

Efforts Underway To Revive Town Ambulance

by Doug La Rocque

At the Town Board meeting on Thursday, April 8, Supervisor Rob Jaeger announced that since the effort to form a Tri-Town Ambu-(Berlin-Grafton-Petersburgh) has fallen through, at least for now, he has the backing of the Town Board to try to revive a Town of Berlin Ambulance Service. The following is the statement Supervisor Jaeger has sent to The Eastwick Press:

Taconic Valley Ambulance

At the Berlin Town Board meeting on April 8, the Town Board unanimously passed a resolution to pursue a Municipal Certificate of Need (CON) for the Town of

On Saturday April 10, Michael and Rob Jaeger met to identify the be a private entity governed by necessary paperwork to create the citizen board members, staffed Taconic Valley Ambulance. The with volunteers and/or paid per-

purpose of this squad is to provide EMT service to the Town of Berlin. Currently this is being provided by the Grafton Rescue Squad with ambulance number 5114, owned by the Town of Berlin. 5114 is crewed by Berlin residents and housed at the Berlin Municipal Complex. Once the required paperwork and approvals are in place 5114 will be transferred to the Taconic Valley Ambulance unit. The goal is to provide 24/7 coverage.

We will be looking for both EMT and driver volunteers as well as board members for Taconic Valley Ambulance. Contact us at info@taconicvalleyambulance. com to volunteer.

According

sonnel (the exact make up is still a matter of Berlin with Emergency Medical Services. It discussion) and funded by money the town has already budgeted and private billing. The former ambulance service, provided by the Berlin Fire Department, was not allowed to bill, because they were part of the fire department, an independent taxing district. This new ambulance service would be contracted by the town under the Municipal CON, to provide meeting appears on page 3.



Supervisor Ambulance 5114 currently labeled for service as part of the Church, Frank Mace, Joe Allain Jaeger, the ambulance corp will Grafton Rescue Squad and housed at the Berlin Municipal complex. If all goes as planned, it will be the service vehicle for the Taconic Valley Ambulance. Eastwick Press file photo.

would also respond to mutual aid calls for neighboring towns when available.

Supervisor Jaeger does not give a timeline for the restoration of ambulance service in Berlin, only that it plans to move as expeditiously as possible.

The report on the rest of the Town Board

Inside

County Signs Solar Agreement Page 5

New Lebanon Town Board Page 6

Hoosick Town Board

Page 10

Berlin - 2, 3 Brunswick - 8, 14

Churches - 18

Community Calendar - 15

Grafton - 8, 9

Holcomb - 20

Hoosick Falls - 10, 11

New Lebanon - 5, 6 Petersburgh - 2, 3

Public Notices - 16, 17, 18

Puzzles - 15, 18

Obituaries - 19 Sports - 12, 13

Stephentown - 2, 3

Trix Pic - 20



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