

Taconic Valley News

PETERSBURGH

Water District Renovation Plans Delivered

by Alex Brooks

Tom Suozzo and another engineer from his firm Cedarwood Engineering came to the April 19 meeting of the Petersburg Town Board to present plans for the new water treatment building at the Water District property next to the water tank. The new building is a pre-engineered metal building with LED lighting and gas heat and adequate space for the regular pumping and control equipment, the carbon filtration equipment that removes PFOA from the water and a separately enclosed chlorination room.

The plans have been submitted to the State and County health departments for approval. Suozzo said he hopes to get health department approvals within 30 days, but the time it takes for health departments to review and approve plans varies considerably, so that time frame cannot be reliably predicted. Once approved, it would be put out to bid, which usually takes about thirty days, and once the contract is awarded, the start date for construction would depend on the contractor’s schedule.

The agreement with Taconic specifying the portion of the project that it will pay for has not been finalized and Supervisor Dennis Smith said he will call them to set up a meeting and he hopes to have a signed agreement within a few weeks. The project cannot be put out to bid until an agreement with Taconic is in place, since it will be paying for a significant portion of the project.

Youth Director & Summer Program

With summer approaching, the Board took up the question of whether the Town will run a summer

youth program this year. The Town did not run a program last summer because of the pandemic, and last December long-time Youth Program Director Cindy Mars declined to be re-appointed for this year. When Supervisor Dennis Smith sought to advertise for a new Youth Program Director, he could not find a job description for that position and decided that a job description was needed before the position could be filled. He asked Town Clerk Deidra Michaels to work on this and when it came up on the agenda, he asked her to speak. She said the Youth Program Director is a civil service position and candidates must pass the civil service exam before being hired. She said it is probably too late to hire a new Youth Director and have that person put together a summer program, but she said she believes the Library, the PVMCC, and the Parks and Recreation Committee could pull together a program for this summer. Heinz Noeding expressed skepticism about that idea and suggested that the Town arrange instead to send Petersburg kids to the Grafton Summer Program and have Petersburg pay the fee. Grafton is accepting kids from neighboring towns for a fee of \$75 per child per week. Supervisor Smith said he would contact the Grafton Youth Program Director to make arrangements and he will contact the Berlin School District to see about arranging a bus to take kids from the Petersburg municipal center to the Grafton Youth Program site.

Landfill Update

Tom Berry said DEC has not yet commented on the report submitted by the Town’s engineers, but it plans

Continued on page 14

TACONIC VALLEY NEWS AND NOTES

“Welcome to Your Library”

Thank you to the Rensselaer County Legislature for the recognition of “Library Week” for all the libraries in our county. National Library Week was first celebrated in 1958 to acknowledge the value that libraries provide to our communities. The April observance highlights the important contribution of educational and historical resources, services, and gathering spaces for all our neighbors and community members. Come in and visit us – we appreciate all your support!

Pleasant Valley-Meadowlawn Cemetery

The Cemetery Association plans its annual meeting for Saturday, May 8 at 9:30 am at the Petersburg Town Hall. All individuals with an interest in the cemetery are welcome to attend.

Seeking Volunteers - The Association is accepting letters of interest for the positions of President and Vice President. Interested individuals are asked to respond to P.O. Box 313, Petersburg, NY 12138 by May 1.

Spring Clean-up - The Association’s Spring Clean-up Day will be held on Saturday, April 24 at 9 am. Anyone interested in helping to clean the cemetery grounds located at 108 Hewitt Road is asked to drop by. The rain date is Sunday, April 25, also at 9 am.

Cindy Harrison Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Petersburg Fire Department Cindy Harrison Scholarship from those continuing their education through either college or vocational training. Current or former

Continued on page 5

STEPHENTOWN

Fire Recruitment Drive

The Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department will hold an open house and recruitment drive at the fire station on NYS Route 43 on Saturday, April 24. The event will highlight the duties and rewards that come with being a volunteer. Students can join at age 16-17 as junior members. With no upper age limit, we welcome retirees. They can be a huge asset for our emergency services, especially as drivers.

Volunteer departments respond to all types of emergencies including fires, vehicle accidents, hazardous materials, rescue and emergency medical. Our members choose their specialties, and can be trained as interior firefighters, scene support personnel, Emergency Medical Technicians, drivers, or fire police who control traffic at many incidents. Free training is provided in all these specialties. Students, this can lead to a rewarding career.

Every member of these departments is a volunteer. Filling the ranks with volunteers keeps taxes low for the entire community. We’re all neighbors helping neighbors.

Volunteer firefighters learn to do dangerous things safely. We weigh risks and benefits. We proudly serve our community. We’re the solution to all manner of emergencies. Sometimes a crew of two suffices, other times the emergency grows so we need every available member in the valley. Fielding a larger crew resolves the emergency quickly and safely. Some benefits of volunteering are scholarships for higher education and income tax credits. We need new recruits to continue to serve our community.

This drive is part of RecruitNY, sponsored by the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York, which is coordinating statewide recruiting. Numerous other departments are also holding open houses. Check recruitny.org or www.svfd1.org. For Stephentown information phone Bob Adler at 518-733-5749. Or just stop by the station for some refreshments and see what we do and how you can contribute to our community. If you have a few hours per week, we can fill them in a very meaningful way.

The Eastwick Press



34 Richmond Road
Cropseyville, NY 12052



Telephone: 518-203-7574
email: news@eastwickpress.com
Advertising Dept.: ads@eastwickpress.com
Doug La Rocque, Editor & Publisher
Tom Withcuskey, Publisher
Steve Bradley, Sports Editor
Miranda Sehl, Graphic Designer
Heidi Woofenden, Executive Assistant

Reporters: Alex Brooks, Amy Modesti,
Denise Wright, Chris Tergliafera

The Eastwick Press is the official newspaper of the Towns of Berlin, Grafton, Hoosick, New Lebanon, Petersburg, and Stephentown, the Village of Hoosick Falls, and the Berlin, Hoosick Falls, and New Lebanon School Districts.

New York Press Association
Award Winning Newspaper

Winner of 2020 Good News Rensselaer County Award presented by the Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce

Subscription Info:

A regular subscription is \$40 per year mailed by second class mail. Subscriptions outside Rensselaer County cost \$50. A Supporter of The Eastwick Press pays \$60 per year; a Patron pays \$75 per year. If you like the paper and would like to see it prosper, please consider becoming a Supporter or a Patron.

Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday 9 am to 5 pm; Friday and Saturday by appointment. Closed Thursday and Sunday.

The Eastwick Press, USPS 017-765, is published 50 times a year on a weekly schedule by The Petersburg Press, LLC except one issue is skipped in early July and one in late December. Subscriptions are \$40 per year, \$50 outside of Rensselaer County. Offices are located at 13 Babcock Lake Road in Grafton, NY. Periodicals Postage Paid at Petersburg, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

The Eastwick Press
34 Richmond Road, Cropseyville, NY, 12052

GENE’S
SEPTIC
674-5223
Since 1966



TIM GIUMARRA
Logging & Excavation
Cherry Plain, NY
(518) 658-3343

- Gravel
- Stone
- Topsoil
- Poured Concrete Foundations
- Land Clearing
- All Sitework

Established 1998 • New York State Certified and Insured

Sweeney’s
Tree & Land Management

“Managing timberlands
to insure an everlasting forest”

Forest management plans
Timber appraisal
Timber harvesting
(518) 428 9164

Licensed in New York and Massachusetts

Thomas M. Barber Funeral Home
Petersburgh, NY 12138

518-658-3751

COMPLETE PRE-ARRANGEMENT SERVICES
BURIAL AND CREMATION SERVICES
NEWLY RENOVATED FACILITY
Part of the Parker Brothers Memorial
Funeral Home Family
www.parkerbrosmemorial.com