

General News

Berlin CSD Response To Letter To Editor

In keeping with our journalistic ethics, *The Eastwick Press* reached out to the Berlin CSD administration about the contents of Ms. Dodge's letter. On Wednesday, April 28, we received a call from District Superintendent Joseph Dhara, who acknowledges there was such a program and that it was his understanding it has been taking place for many years. He emphasized several points. First and foremost, he says this is an option for the students, not a mandate, as is wearing face masks in rainbow colors. He also strongly urged any parents who have questions or concerns about any school programs to call the District administration office for answers or for a discussion of these concerns. Mr. Dhara also emphasized the District supports diversity and respect for people of any color, religion or persuasion.

Rensco Youth Attend The Virtual National Agri-Science Summit

The purpose of the National Agri-Science Youth Summit is to continue to fuel the discovery of new solutions and solve big challenges in human health, agriculture and food sustainability. It is critical to cultivate the next generation of leaders in science, so Rensselaer County 4-H sent two teens, Amanda Thrasher of Troy and Travis Michel of Valley Falls, to the virtual conference on March 5 through 7.

The summit is usually held at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD, but this year it was a virtual format due to COVID-19. The Summit welcomed high schoolers and adults from 27 states to immerse them in an agenda focused on a variety of Agri-Science topics relevant today. The attendees could pick from various workshops led by leaders in the agriculture industry on topics such as: Ag Literacy, Ag Technology, Animal Science, Food Security, Food Science and Plant Science.

The 2021 National Youth Summit on Agri-Science was sponsored by Bayer and Science Matters. Both are organizations committed to creating innovators in science and agriculture by providing hands-on experience and tools to youth worldwide.

Even with the change in format for the 2021 summit, the youth who represented Rensselaer County had a great time expanding their knowledge on different topics and careers in agriculture and creating ideas on how to increase the support of local farms and future youth programs within the county.

TROY

Local Market Returns For Spring Refresh

After an 8-week winter inaugural season indoors in Lansingburgh, Make It Up State (MIUS), a local business development organization, will move outdoors to celebrate warmer weather along the Hudson River and local, regional producers of goods, food, music, art and more. The Make It Up State Riverfront Marketplace will run every Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm in Troy's Riverfront Park through mid-October, excluding July 4th.

"Our first eight-week season in Lansingburgh proved to us that the want and need for this type of market was there," said Erin Pihlaja, co-owner/co-founder of MIUS. "The response from both vendors and customers was tremendous."

MIUS focuses on "makers" and for them, the definition is broader than most people consider. "We

believe that making looks like a lot of things for many people," Pihlaja explained. "This market celebrates creativity, which takes place in many forms. These small businesses are making their own paths and futures and it's rewarding to share their experiences."

With a rotating lineup of over 50 vendors, meaning each week will be different, organizers say there is something for everyone. "Our lineup is very diverse," said Lynette Tarrats, co-owner/co-founder of MIUS. "Some of our vendors have decades of experience, for others this is a brand new experience. Prepared take and go meals, farm goods, wine and spirits, jewelry, fine art, desserts—it's a one stop shop for people looking for unique products. We really are bringing a slice of upstate to you!"

Organizers are looking forward to what the new location in Riverfront Park will provide. "Highlighting the Hudson River while showcasing local makers is a natural fit," added Pihlaja. "Manufacturing of goods and products helped to develop upstate cities and towns in New York state, and the Hudson River played a key role in that. Today people seek the waterfront for recreation and meditation. The park is a great asset to Troy and other upstate communities."

The park's main lot will be open for public parking.

fund to any graduating high school senior who is a resident of Poestenkill. The student, be he/she from public, private or home schooling, must be planning on furthering his/her education at a two or four year college.

A 500 to 750 word message, based on the student's love of reading, must be received by May 21. No particular font or spacing is required. Do not include the student's name on the essay, as judging will be based solely on the content of that essay. Please instead, attach a cover sheet with the student's name, address and phone number, as well as the school currently attending and the college he or she plans to attend this fall.

Entries can be mailed to P.O. Box 305, Poestenkill, NY 12140 or emailed to info@poestenkilllibrary.org. Should the applicant wish to drop off the essay in person, that can be done at the library, but please call 518-283-3721 first for instructions.

Freedom Scholarship

Applications are being accepted for the scholarship award of \$300 for the best essay on "What Freedom Means To Me" by a graduating senior from Brunswick Central School District or Berlin Central School District who is continuing on with their education. The essay should not be less than 250 words or more than 500 words. The scholarship is being given by the Carner, Etman, Smith V.F.W. Post 6340 in memory of a former member Elmer A. Grogan.

The deadline for applications is May 10. Applications are available at the guidance counselor offices of both high schools and should be mailed to: Carner, Etman, Smith V.F.W. Post 6340, PO Box 361, Grafton, NY 12082, Attn: Commander Len Claus Jr.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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 Berlin graduates who have overcome obstacles and/or struggled through adversity are eligible. Cindy was a Petersburg firefighter and officer that despite battling cancer continued to be an active member until just before her death.

The successful applicant should exemplify the interests and values of Cindy as evidenced by a caring nature, active involvement in the community and concern for others. Applications are available at the Berlin Guidance office and must be postmarked by June 1.

The Beryl H. Moul Memorial Grange Scholarship

The Beryl H. Moul Memorial Grange Scholarship was established in 1958 by West Sand Lake Grange #949 in memory of prominent Grange Member Beryl H. Moul. Applicants must be graduating high school in 2021, Rensselaer County residents (for at least four years), be accepted in an accredited two or four year college program in New York State and pursuing a career in agriculture, home economics, nursing, natural resource management, environmental engineering or pharmacology. The application deadline, which includes an official High School transcript, is May 1. The application and instructions can be found at any Rensselaer County High School Guidance Office or at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County website at www.ccerensselaer.org under 4-H scholarship tab. For questions, please contact the CCE office of Rensselaer County at 518-272-4210. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing equal program and employment opportunities.

Poestenkill Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship is being offered by the Poestenkill Library/Clement Memorial Scholarship

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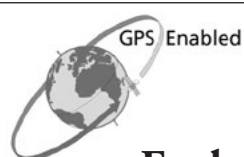
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