

## Central County News

### SCHODACK

## Amazon "Middle Mile" Facility Disclosed

by Denise Wright

Business development was the central topic of conversation at the May 17 Schodack Planning Board, and Amazon was in the spotlight again. The meeting began with two public hearings. The first was for a proposed eating establishment on County Route 7 on Nassau Lake in the old Pirates Lakeside Grill site, which was a popular establishment for approximately 70 years.

Owner Terry Frederick hopes to run it in similar fashion with chicken, hamburgers and an increase in the amount of fried seafood. He also hopes to have ice cream, sundaes, floats and catering. He said that the neighbors have been extraordinarily supportive and hopes that the closeness to the bike trail will bring some good business. He plans for the business hours to be from 12-8 pm and hopes to be open no later than July 1. The Board approved the unlisted action by a negative environmental impact declaration and granted the special use permit.

The second public hearing brought a great deal of controversy. The Scannell Properties #508 LLC's proposed sales distribution center was publicly disclosed as an Amazon "middle mile" facility. This building would be where packages are brought in, broken down, bundled and shipped to other delivery stations. While it will have some full-time positions, most of the employees will be part-time with staggered 5-6 hour shifts throughout the day and night at the 24/7 facility. The presenters explained that they had made amendments to their site plan, including more extensive landscaping, a more oversized noise wall and less intensive outdoor lighting. Traffic was

also a significant concern that they are planning to address by adding left-turn lanes, signals that will help with pedestrian traffic and widening Route 150.

Several residents, including the local fire department, phoned in and wrote letters about the sales distribution center. Many voiced concerns about the lack of notice disclosing that Amazon was the client for this new warehouse and wanted another public hearing to allow residents time to prepare a response. Residents brought up to the Board their various concerns that revolved around light, sound and traffic issues that have been an ongoing concern with the current Amazon warehouse on Route 9. One resident described it as being "unfair to residents" to incur the cost of items like fixing their lawns and mailboxes since increased truck traffic and wrong GPS coordinates have disrupted the Richwood neighborhood. Safety concerns about employees walking to the Route 9 warehouse from the CDTA stop on Route 150 who have had many "close calls" was explained. Traffic on roads like Brookview, Sunset, and Schuurman will have increased traffic concern issues because people will avoid the approximately 360 trucks per day from the facilities on Route 9 and 20. Many of the residents begged the Board not to "be pushed around by large developers" like Amazon. The residents wrote that the Board had been given "a second chance here," and they did not want the "rural character" of Schodack to be destroyed by congested roads with delivery trucks. One resident pleaded not to make Schodack "one big noisy 24/7 parking lot." Because of the residents' responses, the Board decided to extend the public hearing for ten days until June 7 to allow more comment in writing.

The final element was the approval for a June 7 public hearing for the three-lot subdivision for the Route 9 Commercial Business Park. Steve Hart disclosed that they have been working with the Department of Transportation and Rensselaer County Health on curbing and septic matters, and there have been no significant issues. Trojan Energy and Dibble Equipment, two Schodack businesses, are pending tenants for the park.

### BRUNSWICK

## Another Solar Complex Proposed

by Doug La Rocque

CrossBoundary Energy, known as the CBE Group, appeared before the Brunswick Planning Board a month back to announce plans to build a 5 megawatt solar facility on Blair road, north of Hoosick Road. That was called a sketch plan. The same group was before the Brunswick Town Board on Thursday, May 13, to further details their plans. The reason for the appearance before the Town Board is the land they hope to build on is only partially zoned for solar. The remaining portion, where they would also like to install solar panels and require an easement for an entrance road, is not so zoned. They are asking the Board to change that zoning.

This is a worldwide group based in the Netherlands which currently has several solar projects in place in Massachusetts and three under construction in Western New York. They contend up to 1,000 residents could benefit from reduced energy costs. They also donate \$1 per panel to local environmental projects.

Their spokesman said they plan to attend the May 20 Zoning Board meeting to formally file their site plan and special use permits. They will also have to file with the Zoning Board of Appeals for a set back variance. The Planning Board cannot take concrete action, however, until the Town Board makes a decision about the zoning issue.

### Summer Camp

Town Supervisor Phil Herrington says the town plans to go ahead with their six week summer camp program, in conjunction with the Brittonkill School District. One part of the camp's activities involves a swim program that the school district has agreed to provide a bus for. Registration fees are up about \$50 over 2019, because costs have gone up considerably since then. Applications for the program are out.

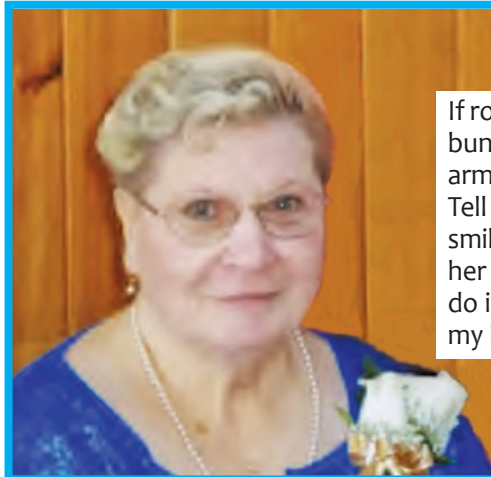
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### GRAFTON

## Town Wide BBQ

The Town of Grafton and Greywacke Meadows are planning a BBQ for town residents on Saturday, June 5 from 3 to 6 pm. The event will take place at Greywacke Meadows on Dunham Road. Music will be provided by the River Road Band as well as Grafton native Christina Reger and Friends.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and the like will be provided. There will also be a covered dish and dessert contest, with prizes handed out in each category.



**Thelma I. Culver**

May 19, 2014

If roses grow in Heaven Lord, please pick a bunch for me and place them in my wife's arms and tell her they are from me. Tell her I love her and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while. Remembering her is easy, I do it every day, but there's an ache within my heart because I am missing her today.

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