

Historic Farming Community Moving Forward

Union Cemetery Fence Gets a Fresh Look

"We've continued to celebrate our historic and natural resource assets with community activities.

Page 1 details the painting of the Union Cemetery fence, now almost 300 years old, accomplished by 30 volunteers.

Page 2 reviews the Historic Farming Community Tour, featuring some of the oldest structures in town.

These activities that preserve our resources are a good way to keep Ancram the way it is, only better!"

*-Art Bassin
Ancram Supervisor*

Painting the Union Cemetery fence was a fun chapter out of Tom Sawyer!

Painters were organized in teams of two on opposite sides of the fence. Neighbors had a chance to visit and in many cases, get to know each other for the first time...all while appreciating this fine historic iron work at close hand.

Heritage Resources Committee Project. This was the first volunteer effort of the Heritage Resources Committee, selected because of its visibility in the center of the hamlet and ability to be accomplished quickly and easily.

Bob Murphy volunteered to spearhead the project along with Susan Friedlander. The town paid for the scraping and priming done by Jason Miles of Ancramdale. Bob and Jack Lindsey donated the

paint and painting materials. Susan solicited donations of refreshments but did the lion's share herself.

All went well for 2 hours until a storm rolled in.

Undaunted, the crew kept painting, until the rain became too heavy.



B. Docktor

The next day, volunteers returned and the fence was completed with a beautiful, protective coat of historically-accurate dark green paint, seen above. As a finishing touch, the letters in the arch got a new coat of white paint.

With all the volunteers, the whole fence was painted in less than 4 hours, over the two days.

"There are several cemeteries throughout town that could use a little TLC," says Bob Murphy. "Given how well this first project went, we'll look to tackle the others. One cemetery a year seems about right."

About 30 volunteers pitched in. Thanks to all:

Bob Murphy, Susan Friedlander, Jack Lindsey, Jack Seiber, Bob Barton, Gerry Fultz, Lorraine Coyle & Oliver Koppel, Clara Van Tassel, Bob Blechman, Jen Boice, Susan Hillel, Barbara Stimmel, Woody Baxt, Hugh & Sheila Clark, Roger Mooney, Donald Steele, B. Docktor, Dick Novik, Nancy & Bob Sparan, Sally Berg, Choral Eddie, Bryce Kirk, Laura Ponkos, Lynne Perrella, Carol & Mark Pollard and Terri Mendelsohn.

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B. Docktor

2 September 21 Historic Farming Community Tour: Take this photo tour of all 12 stops!

1 Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area, one of two "parks" in Ancram run by the Columbia Land Conservancy.



2 Fox Hill Farm Grassfed Beef - Run by the Lampman family since 1882, and now a grassfed heritage breed beef farm, raising British White,



Murray Grey, and crosses, Larry Lampman above talked about the farm and breeds. "Our visitors liked it A LOT!" he said.

3 Toll Gate Holsteins at Beckenrah Farm, a top quality Northeast milk producer for Hudson Valley Fresh, carries



on the tradition of farming in this location since before 1858. The Davenports provided tours of their operation throughout the day with samples from Hudson Valley Fresh.



4 Copper Star Alpaca Farm, one of Ancram's new farming operations. Visitors got up close and personal with the alpacas, held a cria (baby alpaca) and met a potbellied pig. Demonstrations of soap felting and spinning were enjoyed.



5 Ancramdale Presbyterian Church This historic church has served the predominantly agricultural hamlet of Ancramdale since 1847. The nineteenth century bell tower rang on the hour, announcing a presentation of the church's history. Stained glass windows and historic artifacts were on display.



6 The Farmer's Wife Already established as the H. Rockefeller Store by 1858, this historic building has housed retail establishments for over 175 years. Today, The Farmer's Wife features "Taste of Ancram" products from local farms in their breakfast, lunch and catering menus.



7 Chaseholm Farm Dairy Sarah Lyons Chase recently took over the family farm, converting it to sustainable agricultural practices, and providing milk to her brother Rory's cheese company (#8 below). Sarah announced, "I just received my raw milk license and am hoping to open up my store on Saturdays this winter."



8 The Amazing Real Live Food Company Rory Chase provided tours of the farmstead



throughout the day with tastings of a variety of their delicious cheeses.

9 Hillrock Farm & Distillery Hillrock is one of the few "field-to-glass" whiskey distilleries in the world and traditionally floor malts its naturally grown grain and hand crafts premier spirits at the estate.



10 St. John's Lutheran Church had a bake sale and offered old-fashioned bagged lunches for the first time. "It was such a fun day and we sold 29 sandwiches," said Chad Malarchuk. "I was overwhelmed by the help we got!" Built in 1847, St. John's is listed on the National Historic Registry.



11 Ancram Town Hall 2013 is the 210th anniversary of the incorporation of Ancram and the 10th anniversary of the Town Hall. Visitors saw the exhibit about Ancram's one-room schoolhouses, historic artifacts, and the 1850's Ancram Quilt.

12 Herondale Farm offered a tour to meet the grass-fed cows and sheep and the pasture-raised pigs and chickens.



Then, visitors entered the **Jacüterie** kitchen at Herondale, another new "Taste of Ancram" farm business. There, they learned about the handcrafted dried sausages and charcuterie inspired by the best old world traditions and flavors, made from many local products.



Tour sponsored by Ancram Agricultural Advisory Council & Columbia Land Conservancy. A. Streseman, photos.

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, the Roe Jan Library will be asking voters in Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale to approve higher levels of taxpayer supported funding for the Library.

Pat Placona, the Library's Program Committee Chair, notes "people throughout the community tell us how much they value the library."

"Shall the annual contribution of the Town of Ancram for the operating budget of the Roeliff Jansen Community Library be the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000)?"

-ballot proposition November 5

Howard Van Lenten, president of the Board of Trustees, says "the Library is seeking \$30,000 from Ancram, \$55,000 from Copake and \$42,500 from Hillsdale, all the same tax rate of about \$9.50 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Van Lenten says, "If approved, this level of support can't change unless there is another vote."

Current level of support. Ancram donates \$5,000 annually to the Library on a voluntary basis. Under a ballot provision approved in 2004, Copake voters' annual allocation is \$37,000, and Hillsdale voters provide \$24,000.

"Most local libraries are funded more than 70% by local taxes," says Van Lenten. Pine Plains is 93% funded and North East Millerton is 73% funded by their own taxpayers. "The Roe Jan Library receives only 34% of its operating support from local taxes," he says, "and this will rise to about 55% if all three towns' propositions pass."

The Library was built by private donations, without any local tax money.

weekenders, borrow books and DVDs, attend free concerts, workshops and classes, and use the high-speed internet connection. Pat adds, "It was great to see so many children from Ancram Kids' Camp visit the Library this past summer."

"It's your library," says Van Lenten. Some in Ancram ask why they should provide tax support for Roe Jan when they personally use the Millerton or Pine Plains libraries, tax free.

All libraries share the expenses of the Mid-Hudson Library System so patrons can use any of the 65 libraries in the region. "The Roe Jan is assigned town boundaries that may or may not coincide with actual library use," says Van Lenten. Ours are Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale.

The idea is that if each community supports its own library, it will balance out in the end. Questions? Contact Howard Van Lenten, hvanlenten@gmail.com email or phone 917-733-1584.

More and more Ancram residents, adults and children, full-timers and



Homeowners:

to receive your Basic STAR property tax exemption for 2014 and beyond:

Register with the NYS Tax Department

Call 518-457-2036 or go to the website www.tax.ny.gov

Deadline:

Dec 31, 2013

Please note: You can no longer do this through Ken Leggett, the Town's Assessor.

You have also received notification in the mail directly from the state.

Don't forget!



B.Docktor photo

Usage of the Roe Jan Community Library has nearly tripled since the new facility opened. Traditional events, like reading to young children, rank high on residents' lists of favorite activities at the library.

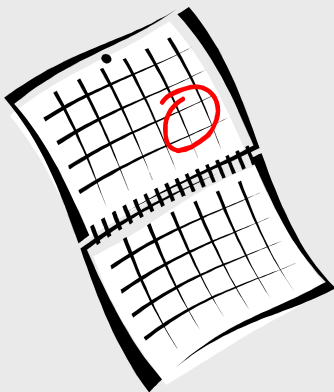
October 2013 TownNews

Got some news?
Contact Art Bassin
Town Supervisor
329-0921
abassin@aol.com

Getting your news by
email saves the town
money and keeps you
more up-to-date.
Contact Madeleine Israel
to make the change,
329-7483
airjazz@taconic.net

Community Calendar

Oct, Nov, Dec 2013



Pleasant evening of music at the Roe Jan Community Library. Many Ancram residents are seen here taking advantage of the excellent concert series, typically funded by grants. Performances offer well known professional musicians at a low ticket cost, usually a \$10 suggested donation. These programs utilize the library's facility at no taxpayer expense. B. Docktor photo.

- Oct 10 Thu** **Library 414 Proposition.** For discussion and to get your questions answered, Town Hall 7 pm.
- Oct 11 Fri** **Voter Registration.** Last postmark date for application.
- Oct 13 Sun** **Meet the Candidates for 3 Ancram positions.** St. John's Lutheran Church 12 noon. Discussion. Refreshments.
- Oct 20 Sun** **Meet the Candidates for 3 Ancram positions.** Ancramdale Presbyterian Church, Friendship Hall 11:30 am. Discussion. Refreshments.
- Oct 17 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm. Preliminary Town Budget.
- Oct 19 Sat** **Library 414 Proposition.** For discussion and to get your questions answered, Roe Jan Community Library 10 am.
- Oct 29 Tue** **Application for Absentee Ballot.** Last postmark day.
- Nov 4 Mon** **Mail Absentee Ballot.** Last postmark day.
- Nov 5 Tue** **Election Day, polls open 6 am to 9 pm.** Selection of Supervisor, two Town Board Members. Library proposition.
- All invited to an election eve Party at The Pond Restaurant, 7 pm.**
RSVP Art Bassin 329-0921.
- Nov 15 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm. Review and approval of the 2014 Final Town Budget
- Dec 10 Tue** **Election of Fire District Commissioner** at Firehouse, polls open 6 pm—9 pm.