

Thanks to all who helped build the playground, including:



Colleen Lutz



Choral Eddie



Bob Murphy
(Continued on page 2)



Let the fun begin: all the small steps add up to a great new playground.

Ancram Children Get a New Playground Plus a New Summer Camp

Father's Day, June 19, marked the official opening of the new playground at Ancram Town Hall, which is sure to get plenty of use this summer, thanks in part to the Ancram Summer Camp, organized by Ruth Thomas, pictured below.

The camp will operate from July 5 to August 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Activities will include visits to the library, swimming lessons, arts and crafts, games, and fun.

If you want to donate to help fund the camp, send a check to Ancram Kid's Camp, and mail it to Ancram town hall at 1416 County Rte. 7, Ancram, NY 12502. If you have questions, contact Ruth at 329-7309 or ancramcamp@fairpoint.net.



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Thank you's, *continued...*



George Wittlinger



Mike Cawley



Janice Miller and Mike Cawley

Ancram Seniors Contribute to Our Community

By Ancram Councilwoman Madeleine Israel

On Tuesday, May 24, Nancy Bryant went to Albany where she was honored as one of three outstanding senior volunteers in Columbia County. Among the activities for which she was recognized are organizing, collecting, packing, and distributing turkeys and fixings for families in Ancram (and neighboring towns) who wouldn't otherwise have a real holiday dinner at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Nancy is likely to be the driving force behind any assistance a neighbor receives. Often, the help she delivers is done quietly, without most people even being aware of it. Also, our town's Communication Committee has put her fine proofreading skills to use time and again, and she edited the local cookbook produced by Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Ancram can be proud of all the seniors who live here and help to make Ancram a better place. Our town nominated four people for the honor of senior citizen of the year. Let's see if we can make it two in a row.

Next year, we'll again submit the names of Prope Dietter, Woody Hoyt, and George Wittlinger. They are among the many, many senior volunteers who consistently offer their services to the townspeople of Ancram.

Here's an example. When playground construction had to be postponed to mid-week, who was available when most of the younger people were all at work? Yes, a group of ambitious seniors led by George Wittlinger, who never sat down. He was there everyday, working and advising, so we now have an outstanding playground for Ancram.

Town Receives State Grant for Ancramdale Voting Ramp

The town applied for a grant for \$5,817 from New York State to pay for the installation last year of a handicapped ramp at the Ancramdale polling place, which is the Ancramdale Presbyterian Church. The grant was recently approved, so the town has received back the \$2,500 that the town had contributed, and has given the Church the \$1,100 it contributed, and returned the balance of \$2,217 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Remembering Our Veterans

[The following is an excerpt of Art Bassin's comments after the Ancram Memorial Day Parade.]

155 Ancram men and women have fought in America's Wars – 45 fought in the Civil War; one fought in the Spanish American War; 33 fought in WW I; 68 fought in WW II; 17 in the Korean War, 44 were in Viet Nam; 11 served in Lebanon, Grenada, and the Middle East, and four currently serve. Two died in action in WWII.

We are here today at Blass Memorial Park, named in honor of Sergeant Wallace T. Blass, who was born in Ancram in 1913, and killed on the island of Luzon, in the Philippines in April 1945, while serving with the 25th Infantry Division artillery. Stewart Mortinson, an Ancram resident when he went off to fight in WW II, was killed in Romania.

If you look at the war memorial monuments in Ancram and Ancramdale, the same names keep coming up: Belcher, Blass, Boice, Boyles, Brandt, Brothers, Bryant, Card, Coons, Decker, Dietter, Kilmer, Hoysradt, Hoyt, MacArthur, Mackay, McHugh, Miller, Near, Parsons, Porter, Proper, Rockefeller, Shook, Sigler, Sommerhoff, Stickles, and dozens more.

Today Americans are fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and around the world in the war against terrorism. Four Ancram men are currently serving, fighting in these wars. PFC Eddie Boyles is an Army medic in Afghanistan. SSgt John MacKay has served in the Army almost 13 years, with three of those years in harm's way in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and South Korea. USMC Major Kurt Sommerhoff joined the Marine Corps right out of college, and recently volunteered to rejoin the Marine Corps a few years ago. And Dan Hoysradt is in the Army National Guard, on call at any time for active duty if the need arrives.

Throughout our national history, we have been fortunate that every generation has been willing to step up, answer the call, serve in our military and make the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. So today we remember, honor and celebrate those who have served and died in the nation's wars. We pay our respects and acknowledge our debt of gratitude to fallen comrades.

Please join me for a moment of silent prayer.

God bless the men and women serving in our armed forces, and may God bless America.

by Town Supervisor Art Bassin



Photo by Sue Bassin

Columbia Land Conservancy Celebrates 25 Years

Events in July and August celebrate the 25-year anniversary of the Columbia Land Conservancy. Some events are free and many will appeal to adults, teens, and kids. To learn more, go to www.clctrust.org or stop by town hall for a brochure.

Fundraising Reports

Neighbors Helping Neighbors reports the Kentucky Derby fundraiser hosted by Long Lake residents Jane Plasman and Edward Noroian raised more than \$1,000, which provided for five two-week Ancram Summer Camp scholarships as well as a donation to the RoeJan Food Pantry.

A.N.N. raised \$2,000 at their Memorial Day BBQ for Ancram Summer Camp scholarships as well as \$1,000 for Animalkind.

Dive in the Ancram Pool!



Swim Lessons

Sign up, July 5, 9 to 12 a.m.; free for Ancram Fire District residents; non-residents must buy a family pass.

Pool Fees

Ancram Fire District residents:
Daily, \$3
Individual season pass, \$25
Family season pass, \$50

Non-residents:

Daily, \$4
Individual season pass, \$50
Family season pass, \$100 (for up to five people)

Mark Your Calendars

July 15 and 16, Friday and Saturday, RoeJan Library Arts Tour—visit 15 artists in Ancram, Copake, Hillsdale. Tickets \$30 at the library or on line at www.roejanlibrary.org.

July 22, Friday, Republican caucus, town hall at 7 p.m.

July 23, Saturday, Ancram Preservation Group house and garden tour on Doodletown Road plus wine and cheese party after. Tickets \$50 or \$40 for APG members and those who register before July 10. For more information, call 518-398-6435.

July 30, Saturday, Fire Companies Parade, Ancram.

August 13, Saturday, Democratic caucus, town hall, 4:30 p.m.

August 28, Sunday, RoeJan Library Walkathon and BBQ.

September 17 and 18, Saturday and Sunday, Ancram Community Days.

November 5, Saturday, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Pot Luck Dinner.

Get News Faster: To receive town information by email and save the town money, send your name, mailing address, and email address to Councilwoman Madeleine Israel at misrael@townofancram.org.

Ancram Town News

Communications Committee:

Madeleine Israel, chair, plus Sue Bassin, Nancy Bryant, B. Docktor, Mary Murfitt, and Jane Shannon, editor + layout. B. Docktor, photography.



Ancram Memorial Day Parade led by the Ancram Fire Company