



Let's Save This Elm Tree

For more than five years, Ancram resident Choral Eddie has been working to save what she considers “one of the most beautiful American Elm trees in our area” from the deadly Dutch Elm disease.

You may have passed this tree on trips to and from Millerton – it’s off Winchell Mountain Road and near a new wind turbine. With the Pulver family’s permission, Choral hired The Haupt Tree Company to give the tree injections to kill the fungus that is carried by the elm bark beetle. The cost for one treatment that lasts for three years is \$753.

To help save this tree, send a check to: Choral Eddie, PO Box 57, Copake, NY 12516.

5 Ways You Can Contribute to Ancram Community Days

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, August 14, and Sunday, August 15, for the Second Annual Ancram Community Days, held on Ancram Town Hall property. Proceeds will go to fund the Ancram Youth Commission’s new playground.

Here’s how you can make our Community Days a big success:

1. Volunteer. We need people to help set up and take down tables and chairs, direct traffic and parking, etc. If you can help, contact Community Days Chair Jim Miller at 329-1474 or send an email to: councilmanmiller@townofancram.com.

2. Donate. The Ancram Youth Commission plans a silent auction to raise money for the playground – please donate gifts that will appeal to kids (and gifts that adults will buy for kids), such as, toys, games, puzzles, books, school bags and supplies, and gift certificates to kid-friendly restaurants. To donate, contact Youth Commission Chair Ruth Wittlinger at 329-2037 or email her at rudis31@aol.com.

3. Sell and Buy. For \$20, you can rent a table to sell arts, crafts, food, plants, whatever. To reserve your spot, call Jane Shannon at 329-0123 or email her at janeshannon@fairpoint.net. Bring plenty of cash to spend – it’s all going for the best cause: kids.

4. Eat. Yes, Matthew Boice will be there again with his fabulous milk shakes! The Fire Company will offer both a hamburger lunch and their famous award-winning chicken BBQ dinner. The Ancram Hotel will offer breakfast plus pizza for lunch.

5. Look! Watch your kids enjoy a water slide, see the tractors try to defy gravity, enjoy (and buy) the DVD of the way we were in 1985 Ancram. **On a special note:** please bring in your old photos of family and places to scan into our town’s permanent historical archives, maintained by Ancram Town Historian Clara Van Tassel and Robin Massa.



Chocolate macaroons made by Ella Santos were delicious.

Neighbors Raise \$2,423 for Ramp

For four years, Annie Walwyn-Jones has chaired a successful fundraising Pig Roast on Memorial Day weekend for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which donates the proceeds to organizations like the Youth Commission and the Fire Company. This year, the proceeds will contribute to the cost of a portable ramp for Fellowship Hall of the Ancramdale Presbyterian Church, so that the site can be handicapped-accessible on election days.

Joan Osofsky, owner of Hammertown Barn, donated a \$750 basket of cookware and more for silent auction, which raised \$1,000.

Town Board Approves Town Garage Renovation and Expansion

At the June 17 meeting, the Town Board passed a resolution authorizing spending up to \$500,000 to renovate and expand the town garage from 80 by 32 feet to 80 by 80 feet at its current site on Town Road. The board also authorized borrowing up to \$400,000 to help finance the garage renovation and decided to hold a special election for town voters to approve the proposed garage renovation and borrowing.

Architect Joe Iuviene of the Architectural Bureau, Chatham, spoke at the meeting about the site plan and preliminary design concepts for the garage and the salt shed.

On Friday, July 2, at 6 p.m., the Town Board will hold a special board meeting at Town Hall to review the garage SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review), which is an environmental impact assessment, and to review and approve resolutions about borrowing for the garage and setting the date for the special election.

Ancram Fails Census

Every 10 years, the U.S. government conducts a census to see how many people live in the towns and cities across America.

Census results determine the amount of money a town is eligible to receive in federal, state, and county aid. That's why it's really important that every person living here is counted. Ancram's current census response rate is next to the lowest in Columbia county – fewer than half of our residents completed the census form. (Only Copake had fewer residents complete the census.)

Now it's too late to mail your forms in. However, census takers will continue through mid-July visiting homes and helping you complete the forms. Please cooperate so that our town gets all the aid money we rightfully deserve.

Comprehensive Plan Strengthens Town *by Town Supervisor Art Bassin*

The Town Board adopted Ancram's Comprehensive Plan at the April Town Board meeting. The Comp Plan describes how we, the residents of Ancram, want our town to be in 20 years. As you know, it is based on considerable community input over the past three years, including three public hearings that showed the community's very strong support.

The Comp Plan serves as a guide. The Plan specifies not only where we want to be, but also how we are going to get there. It describes the projects the town should work on, as well as how town government should conduct itself. Of the 52 top priority action steps recommended, 23 are already underway, including the formation of the important Zoning Revisions Committee, which will recommend land use changes needed to implement our Plan.

The Comp Plan encourages resident involvement. The Plan emphasizes the need for more frequent, more accurate communications about what is going on in the community and in town government, and more citizen participation.

We've changed Town Board meeting agendas to encourage questions and comments throughout the meetings. And more community participation is happening *between* meetings, through the expanded number of residents serving on boards, commissions, and committees.

More frequent communication also builds confidence that we all know what is going on, and pride in what we are able to do when we set our minds to it.

Working together, we will make Ancram a stronger community, better able to take advantage of opportunities that will come up, and more ready to deal with the problems we will face.

Seniors Can Attend Some Classes for Free

If you're 62 or older, you can audit some classes at Columbia-Greene Community College. Call 828-4181, ext. 5514, to find out which classes are available.



GAR Reviews Property Tax Assessments

GAR Associates, experts in property tax assessments and revaluation, reported that Ancram's assessed values were equitable overall, but there were some properties that should be reviewed by the assessor to see if assessed values were over or under market value. In addition, GAR suggested the town develop communications to let town tax payers know how the assessment process works and how to seek relief if they think their assessments are too high.

Please Contribute

The Ancram Fire Company is raising money to help the family of volunteer fire-fighter Tim Slater, injured when a car he was working on fell on him. Tim and his wife have five children. Send your tax-deductible contributions to:

AFC/Tim Slater Fund
Ancram Fire Company
PO Box 8
Ancram, NY 12502

The Ancram Youth Commission is raising money to build a playground for children ages two to 14. Mail your tax-deductible contributions to:

Ancram Youth Commission
c/o Ancram Town Hall
1416 County Route 7
Ancram NY 12502.

No Smoking, Please

At the June Town Board meeting, the Town Board passed a resolution proposed by the Rip Van Winkle Smoke Free Action group to post signs that prohibit smoking in outdoor public places frequented by children, like parks, the pool, and the ball field.

Upcoming Events

July 2, Special Town Board Meeting about the Town Garage, 6 p.m., Town Hall.

Come Swim July 1 to Labor Day, swim at the Ancram Blass Memorial Pool (behind the Ancram Fire House), open Saturday and Sunday noon to 5; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Swim lesson sign-ups on July 5 from 9 a.m. to noon for ages 5 and up.

July 15, Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Ancram Town Hall.

July 17, Chicken BBQ at the Ancram Pavilion, sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church, Ancram. Continuous serve from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for \$12. Call Cindy, 329-0038, to reserve.

August 14 and 15, Ancram Community Days, near Ancram Town Hall.

October 8, Fall Festival, Ancramdale, featuring local food vendors, sponsored by Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

October 23, Ancram Preservation Group House Tour.

For more, visit:

www.townofancram.org

Get news faster, and help the town save money by receiving this newsletter via email. Send your name and mailing address to Madeleine Israel (see below) so we can take you off the print mailing list.

To save money, we have not been mailing the newsletter, we've been distributing it at:

- Ancram Town Hall
- Ancram Post Office
- Ancramdale Post Office
- The Farmer's Wife
- The Firehouse Deli
- Citgo Station, Rte. 22
- Undermountain Golf Course

If you have comments,

suggestions, news, or want to help, contact: Madeleine Israel, Ancram Town Council, and Chair, Communication Committee at 329-7483 or misrael@townofancram.org.

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