

Courier-Standard-Enterprise

THE WEEK OF MARCH 12-18, 2021

CANAJOHARIE-FORT PLAIN-ST. JOHNSVILLE, N.Y. USPS 087980

\$1.00

New Minden historian details past happenings each month

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

MINDEN — Since being appointed Town of Minden historian on Jan. 1, Eileen Chambers has jumped right into the job, creating a new bulletin board at the Minden municipal building each month detailing a facet of the town's history.

In February, the bulletin board featured a display honoring Black History Month, highlighting the achievements of Black town residents, while March's display features notable area women.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Chambers researched the history of several Fort Plain and Minden residents, of which she stated, "Not all of these ladies were born in Fort Plain. Most of them were actually born out of town, but ended up here and did make a difference."

Chambers explained that her goal will be to put up a new bulletin board on the first of each month, with April's — which has already been created — focusing on the history of local churches. In May, the bulletin board will likely focus on Memorial Day, while June's will tentatively contain photos of the area's graduating seniors.

Chambers noted that her favorite part of the bulletin board creation process is researching her subjects, as part of which, she's continually learning new



JOSHUA THOMAS/C-S-E EDITOR

Historian Eileen Chambers places historical information in the Town of Minden municipal building bulletin board.

facts and uncovering interesting tidbits of previously unknown information.

"Having been a social studies teacher, bulletin boards were one of the things I liked doing," said Chambers, explaining that the most challenging aspect of the

process has been trying to find visuals to accompany each bit of information.

Also challenging, she said, is making sure that all information she posts is

See HISTORY, page 2

LifeNet transports critically injured patient

Helicopter service used second time in 1 week

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

ST. JOHNSVILLE — The St. Johnsville Volunteer Ambulance Corps. requested use of a LifeNet of New York helicopter for the second time in a week on Tuesday, March 9, transporting a patient from their residence in the Town of St. Johnsville to Albany Medical Center.

SAVAC was requested for response to a critically injured, male patient at his Baum Road residence in at 2:15 p.m. on March 9. Upon arrival, SAVAC personnel "realized the injuries were life threatening and requested LifeNet for further interventions

See LIFENET, page 5

THIS WEEK IN THE C-S-E



VFW fundraiser a success • PAGE 7

- Calendar4
- Church service.....11-12
- Classifieds.....14-15
- Obituaries.....4
- Opinion.....4
- TV listings13



145th year – No. 9

Village Board talks Wintergreen Park pavilion rental, leaves GMVLB

BY JOSHUA THOMAS
C-S-E Editor

CANAJOHARIE — During the Canajoharie Village Board meeting on Tuesday, March 9, the council discussed potential options regarding the future opening of Wintergreen Park's pavilion, which remained closed last year due to COVID-19.

Options, said Mayor Jeff Baker, include opening the pavilion full-time with COVID-19 regulations in place (placing disinfectants in the bathrooms so guests can clean up after themselves, etc.); or only opening on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Baker asked, "does the board

'The park is generating no income at all. It generates expenses just by sitting there.'

FRANCIS AVERY
Trustee

wish to open it the whole season, every day, or Friday, Saturday, Sunday so it can be limited?" He noted that the park, which will be open to the public from Memorial Day to Labor Day, is often the busiest on weekends, and on holidays that fall on Monday.

"Won't this all be contingent on the governor opening the state?" asked Trustee Fran-

cis Avery, adding that under current state restrictions, the park would not be allowed to open. "The park is generating no income at all. It generates expenses just by sitting there," said Avery, stating that the park and pavilion could initially be observed during each open weekend.

See BOARD, page 9

Board

Continued from page 1

“If we have success ... we could open it up the rest of the week,” Avery suggested.

Canajoharie Police Department Chief Bryan MacFadden suggested keeping the pavilion open for rental all week, explaining that when attendance at the Boiling Pot got out of hand in 2020, the area was shut down as a result. The same could be done quickly at Wintergreen Park should

a negative situation arise, he said, explaining that having the pavilion open seven days a week would likely spread out attendance.

DPW Superintendent Jerry Ward brought up previous issues at the Canajoharie Gorge, explaining that there have been past incidents wherein flash flooding surprised and put park guests in danger. Several times in the past, a storm upstream unexpectedly sent water barreling down the gorge, requiring individuals in Canajoharie to be rescued.

MacFadden wondered

whether a gate could be installed at a lower level of the park, stating that it would be an additional measure (along with already-installed signage) aimed at keeping visitors out of the park’s most dangerous spots.

Ward stated that he’s mostly looking “to be pro-active on the issue of the water,” with Parks and Recreation Committee Member CJ Jones stating that the park should be shut down to avoid problems on potentially dangerous days.

Ward said that a warning system should be put in place, with

caution of inclement weather being provided from locations upstream.

The Canajoharie Village Board voted unanimously on March 9 to begin proceedings to withdraw from the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank. “There is a process to get out of it,” said Baker, stating that he’d inform the village attorney of the council’s decision.

“The way the land bank is funded presently is by the county ... therefore, in the long run, the land bank is funded through penalties that banks have to pay. Pretty soon, those

bank payments and penalties are going to disappear, and the village feels they’re going to be held responsible for the debt the land bank has incurred, which is a lot of money,” explained Baker.

The Canajoharie Village Board signed an agreement with GMVLB approximately three years ago. In the past three years, the GMVLB was responsible for the demolition of a dilapidated property. The group also owns a historic property in the village.

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