

New Community Newsletter

In an effort to keep our community advised of upcoming events and information, the Schoharie Promotional Association is partnering with the Village of Schoharie to include a newsletter with quarterly water bills.

Organizations are welcome to share information about events and projects for the upcoming quarter. Businesses can share information about special events, change of hours, etc. but space won't allow for individual advertisements. Plans are to focus on a local business each quarter, as well as an interesting short story and/or picture.

Information for the newsletter can be submitted to the Schoharie Promotional Association's email account at schohariepromo@yahoo.com. Deadline dates are January 15th, April 15th, July 15th and October 15th. Keep in mind that each newsletter will cover a three month period.

Update on the Parrott House

The Parrott House is a landmark in the Village of Schoharie and a monument to Schoharie County's role in tourism and hospitality at the turn of the century. The Parrott House was acquired in 2019 with the intention of renovating and reopening the property as a boutique hotel and restaurant.

The Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation (SEEC) reported at the February village board meeting that the current owners have reaffirmed their commitment to restoring the historic hotel to its former glory despite pandemic related setbacks. SEEC has been working with the village and the owners to secure grant funding that was previously awarded to aid in the redevelopment of the property.

SEEC went on to report that the owners had to reevaluate the project costs to account for pandemic related increases and that they were just waiting for Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) plans to move forward with their search for contractors.

In the prevailing time between the onset of this project and the update provided by SEEC there have been building improvements to ensure that there is no further degradation in the structure. A new roof and windows have been installed in the Parrott House and masonry work is underway to stabilize the building and repair some of the building's façade.

All parties involved are excited by the project's potential and to begin work in the coming months! Please contact Spencer at SEEC if you have a commercial building improvement project proposed to learn grant potential and tax incentives, email progress@seecny.org. Visit www.seecny.org to learn more about SEEC initiatives that foster economic growth in Schoharie County



A blast from the past Main Street 1960



Today's Message from the Mayor

"Thank You!" These are probably two of the most important words I get to use on a regular basis, but I think that maybe some folks don't get to hear it often enough. I say 'Thank you' to the Schoharie Promotional Association, for all of the projects they get done for our Village. Today's Newsletter is just the latest in a long line of smart, savvy, forward thinking projects they manage to handle to promote the well-being of our Village. Holiday Lights, Park Improvements, Banners, Signs, Concerts, 'The Lily Festival', Quality Website Info., the list goes on and on. They are Hard Working volunteers who get things done.

"Thank You!" Goes out to the Village Public Works Crew who get our roads plowed and move an awful lot of snow out of everyone's way. Storm after storm, week-in and week-out, they do a fantastic job making our Village safer and better looking -- despite what Mother Nature throws at us.

"Thank You!" To all of our Main Street businesses who do their part and often go above and beyond to keep their sidewalks clear and keep their businesses looking beautiful. A particular shout-out to our very own Village Laundromat. This business is always "dressed to the nines" with seasonal decorations, displays and lights that really build a festive mood & feeling in the downtown.

"Thank you!" To the volunteers who have given us "Ice Skating" in the Fox Creek Park. Weather allowing {and this has been a somewhat 'weird' winter with a roller-coaster of high and low temperatures} we've had a wonderful rink that rivals professional rinks in the Capital District. The main person behind our Ice Rink is Floyd Guernsey, III. Floyd has spent countless hours working and perfecting the ice to make it something we can all enjoy and truly be proud of. Without his efforts we'd never have the truly magnificent surface, & well manicured rink that gives our residents yet another venue for free, family friendly, winter-time fun.

Anytime we have the opportunity, we should take a moment to look around and acknowledge how blessed we are to live where we live, and to have the friends and neighbors, the Village "Community" that we have here in Schoharie. The world has plenty of problems, to be sure, and no one has to look very far to see that the last two years have pushed many things to the limit -- and beyond. We're not out of the "woods" so to speak, even yet. But here in the Village of Schoharie, I acknowledge that we have, despite everything which is "tough" and makes for challenging times, a beautiful Village full of caring and wonderful people. It's a good life, in a beautiful place. And for that, I say: "Thank You!"

Beverages on the Bridge

With widespread interest in brewing and wine making, The Schoharie Promotional Association is sponsoring a new event on May 21st, 1 to 4 pm on the covered bridge on Fort Road. Local breweries and wineries are being invited to participate and planning is continuing to showcase the bridge and Lily Park.

Village and Town Historian

Tatiana Boba has been appointed the village and town historian. She can be reached at tboba@nycap.rr.com, 518-231-3578

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow! Clocks spring forward March 13th, First day of spring March 20th

Upcoming Events in Schoharie

March 5th: Schoharie Fire Department Las Vegas Night at the firehouse

March 8th, 5 to 7 pm: Little League walk-up registration at the firehouse; online registration through **March 8th**

March 17th, 4 pm: St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner at the firehouse

April 9th, 8 am to 1 pm: Easter activity at the Firehouse

Saturday April 2nd & Sunday April 3rd: 46th Annual Spring Antiques in Schoharie Boutique Show at the Quality Inn, 160 Holiday Way, Schoharie, sponsored by the Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association

Saturday, April 12th, 9 am to Noon: Schoharie County Youth Service Day

Saturday, April 23rd, 10 am: Adopt a Highway pickup at Rt. 443 and 30 by Schoharie Promotional Association

Saturday, April 30th, 10 am: Lily Park cleanup

Saturday, May 21st, 1 to 4 pm: Beverages on the Bridge sponsored by the Schoharie Promotional Association

Welcome to The Farmers Beef and Brew

By Jennifer Patterson



Jennie Flagler is living her best life.

Despite the uncertainties wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, Flagler has managed to keep the doors open at her restaurant, The Farmers Beef and Brew, located at 305 Main St. in Schoharie. She and her team are weathering the storm, and adapting as they go.

"We've gotten so much support from the community – it means a lot," said Flagler, who will celebrate three years in business this August.

Being in the food industry is something Flagler knew she wanted from an early age, and the restaurant becoming a family affair is a bonus.

The young bussers may look familiar to some, because they're Flagler and husband Robert Smith's daughter, Allie, and niece, Skylar. Smith and son RJ are both a frequent presence at the restaurant as well.

Flagler and Smith bought the building in the heart of the village in 2018. It was damaged during Tropical Storm Irene, and Smith did much of the renovation.

"I worked here in high school when it was Tom's County Seat as a dishwasher," Flagler said, "and the kitchen is set up the same as it was when I worked for him."

Flagler – who makes all of her own sauces, salad dressings and desserts – also works hard to source food and brews locally as much as possible.

For information, call 518-702-4270, or go <https://www.facebook.com/TheFarmersBeefandBrew>.

Schoharie Community Food Pantry

Open every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 2:00pm at the white building behind the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church. Everyone who has a need for food is welcome!

The Community Sign

The community sign (across from NBT Bank) will temporarily be updated by the village. For requests to go on the sign, either send them to Mayor.scho@gmail.com or to the Village Clerk's Office at VillScho@midtel.net.

Deadline for newsletter submission is January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, October 15th to schohariepromo@yahoo.com

Passion on Main Street in Schoharie, c 1920

By Tom Smith

The Wright House on Main Street in Schoharie was commissioned to be built by J.D. & Mae (Vroman) Wright in 1920. The couple owned the Taylor Block, which housed their dry goods business.

The Wrights, who had lived on Grand Street, liked the grand new homes of the time in the Albany suburb of New Scotland, and contracted with a builder from there to design and build such a place on a Main Street lot they'd bought in the village.

As their daughter Elizabeth remembered it, the plan was to house the crew at the Parrott House. However in that period in history the owner would not allow a dark-skinned Haitian man on the crew to stay there, so a decision was made to erect the carriage barn on the property first, and put all the men up there.

To take care of meals, a makeshift cook stove was brought in and vented out a window, and the crew slept on cots in the barn. Mae Wright designed a menu, and sent the family's young female cook to prep the meals in the barn each day. A couple of the men on the crew developed a crush on the young woman, and wound up having a duel with pistols behind the Wright property (on land that is now Brookside Drive and Hilgert Parkway) to settle the "lovers triangle."

Miss Wright recalls that one of the men indeed shot the other, and that her older brother drove the wounded worker into a hospital in Albany in his roadster. Elizabeth recounted how the drive took two hours, and how the victim bled all over the backseat upholstery of her brother's car. She did not mention the severity of the wound, nor what became of the pair of suitors or their intended romance with the cook. Miss Wright, who never married, has passed on, so unless one of her relatives knows these details, this is a mystery lost to time.



NOTE -- Tom Smith and Elizabeth Apgar-Smith bought the house from the Wright's daughter Elizabeth in 1978, shortly after the death of her parents. They are just the second family to live in the home. This account is as Elizabeth Wright presented it to them in 1978, when they purchased the house.

Little League Registration

Registration is open until March 8, 2022. The cost is \$43.00 per player with a \$100 family cap. The player must be a minimum of league age 5 to qualify for t-ball (born on or before 8/31/2017). Online registration through March 8th at <https://www.schoharielittleleague.com>. For information email Dan at dejongdp625@gmail.com or Jackie at jackiewayman82@yahoo.com. Volunteers to help with many important tasks are always needed.