

SULLIVAN COUNTY Democrat

www.scdemocratonline.com
VOL. CXXV NO. 77 3 SECTIONS | 40 PAGES

WEEKENDER EDITION

Published twice-weekly
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016 ONE DOLLAR



MEN AT WORK: What they do every day. **INSIDE**

CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS: Fun and games for a good cause. **1B**

TOP JOB: Ryan Baldock new M-W football coach. **8B**

Supervisor recuses himself from Millenium discussion *Near capacity crowd at Highland Board meeting*

BY KAITLIN CARNEY

ELDRED — Another near capacity crowd was present for the meeting of the Town of Highland Board on Tuesday.

Supervisor Jeff Haas opened the meeting by reading a prepared statement. "Before we go any further, I, Jeff Haas, Supervisor of the Town of Highland am recusing myself from any future votes or discussion regarding the Millennium Pipeline. A relative of mine is employed by a subsidiary of Millennium pipeline and Deputy Supervi-

sor Jim Gutekunst will manage any of the discussions moving forward."

Town Clerk Doreen Hanson reviewed correspondence, including an announcement of the Sunshine Hall Free Library centennial on June 30, and approximately "149 emails opposing [the] gas compressor station and supporting a resolution against it."

Gutekunst announced that Millennium Pipeline has announced an Open House on the Eastern System Upgrade for March 31 from 6-8 p.m. at the Sullivan-Ramada

in Rock Hill. The event is scheduled to include representatives from FERC and the Millennium project, who will answer any questions the public has.

Public comment on the agenda included opposition to the proposed compressor station. Alycia Egan an environmental specialist who lives with her husband Mark on Kieferle Road (directly across from the proposed site), proposed that language on environmental justice be included in the resolution opposing the project.

Eric Jasper, a town resident,

had questions about the type of power to be used at the station, reminding everyone that if it were diesel, "they would have to conform to tier-four emissions standards. And either way, you have to transport the gas from one place to another."

Seeing no additional public comments, the Board moved to hear reports from committee members where Councilman Jim Hanson updated the public in the Renaissance Awards recently held at Bethel Woods, which included an award granted to Catskill Mountains Resort for

"Best Restoration of a Property" for their revitalization of the former Sokol Gymnastic property.

Reviewed and passed resolutions included a proposal to advertise for river clean up.

Hanson read into the minutes a detailed resolution opposing the Town of Highland Millennium Compressor Station, including the language proposed by Alycia Egan earlier in the meeting. An amendment, proposed by Councilman Bosch and seconded by Councilman Hanson to include language that "if FERC approves the appli-

cation, we require they use an electric powered compressor" failed to pass. Gutekunst said, "Maybe down the road, but that is not appropriate now. We need to defend our existing law without compromising." The proposed resolution passed 4-0 in a roll call vote, with Haas abstaining.

After the vote, Gutekunst asked the board for the "authority to put intellectual assets together to look at what we can put forth against this." That additional resolution was moved, also with Haas abstaining.

Fallsburg's accelerating growth



DAN HUST | DEMOCRAT

Residential construction sites like this have become common sights in the Town of Fallsburg, which is experiencing a surge of development.

BY DAN HUST

FALLSBURG — All eyes may be on Thompson and its casino these days, but it's the Town of Fallsburg where growth has already arrived — and is accelerating.

"We're definitely looking at between 2,500 and 3,000 units," Fallsburg's code enforcement officer, Mollie Messenger, told the town

board at Monday's worksession.

And each of those units can be occupied by more than one person. Conservatively assuming three occupants per unit, that's 9,000 new people in a town with a year-round population of just under 13,000, according to the U.S. Census.

Some of those units will be seasonal, but Fallsburg offi-

cial and residents — already wrestling with heavy traffic from the summer swell of visitors — are seeing a need to manage that growth intelligently.

"Everyone's looking at the amount of development here, and we're all feeling a little uneasy," acknowledged Fallsburg Supervisor Steve Vegliante at Monday's meeting.

Considering moratorium, consultant, and comprehensive plan update

That's why he invited Sullivan County Planning Commissioner Freda Eisenberg to explain some of the township's options.

"That is a lot [of development]," she affirmed, adding, "We would love to be partners with you, because the significance of what's happening in Fallsburg has implications countywide."

Eisenberg suggested the town revisit and ultimately revise its near-decade-old comprehensive plan, starting with convening a steering committee to guide the process, followed by a larger

PLEASE SEE GROWTH, 3A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Erin Slaver and Chris Carmack have been very open on social media about their love for one another, and most recently, their engagement.

Homegrown and making it big

Our very own Sullivan County celebrities

BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

SULLIVAN COUNTY — "Wow, thanks everyone for all the love! I'm overwhelmed with happiness from your kind thoughts!" wrote Erin Slaver of her engagement, on her Twitter account online. Slaver is a girl of many talents from Liberty, who is locally known as being "an awesome fiddle player."

She began playing the violin at the age of three and soon after discovered her love of fiddling. Slaver spent much of her childhood and teenage years giving concerts, accompanied on guitar by her father, John. She continued her classical studies

PLEASE SEE HOMEGROWN, 3A

More than mailboxes: closure of Westbrookville P.O. resisted

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHARON MACGREGOR

WESTBROOKVILLE — Last year, after 30 years as the Westbrookville Postmistress, Marlene Roe gave a six month notice to both the United States Postal Service, as well as the post office landlord, Marcelle Matthews. At 70 years old, a cancer patient and recent widow, she has decided it is time to start the next chapter in her life.

On February 18, customers of the Westbrookville Community Post Office received notice their facility would close effective March 31 and their mail would be available at the Cuddebackville Post Office, just under four miles away from their current post office.

The hamlet's borders are defined by the same perimeter the Westbrookville

Fire Department uses which means some residents may now incur a 25-mile roundtrip to gather their mail.

"Many senior citizens have their prescriptions mailed to them," Roe explains, "but I have been told the lobby will be open 24 hours a day, seven days per week in Cuddebackville. Also, residents would not have to change their Westbrookville mailing address or update their driver's licenses, passports, billing address or other documents. Their mail will simply be delivered to the new location."

Mamakating Council Member and

PLEASE SEE CLOSURE, 3A

Postmistress Marlene Roe talks things over with Julius Greenberg. Greenberg is interested in taking over the post office.



ABOUT BOOKS	2B
ALMANAC	5A
CLASSIFIED	3B
COMING UP	5A
CROSSWORD	3B
DEALS ON WHEELS	7B
DINING/ENTERTAINMENT	5A
EDITORIAL	6A
GARDEN GURU	10A
LETTERS	7A
LIFELINES	6A
OBITUARIES	2B
REAL ESTATE	6B
RELIGIOUS SERVICES	4A
RETROSPECT	10A
SPORTS	8B
SPORTSMAN OUTDOORS	7B



Village elections are this Tuesday

BY DAN HUST

SULLIVAN COUNTY — Though there aren't many contested races in the five local villages holding elections this Tuesday, March 15, some voters will have critically important choices to make.

Polls are open from noon to 9 p.m. in each of the village halls.

BLOOMINGBURG

The only contested mayoral race this year is in Bloomingburg, the tiny village that continues to make big headlines over allegations of corruption and anti-Semitism.

Incumbent Mayor Frank Gerardi Jr. is running for re-election to

his two-year seat on the Rural Heritage line, while Russell Wood Jr. is challenging him on the self-titled Wood line.

There's also a two-year Trustee race afoot, with Rural Heritage incumbent James Johnson facing a challenge from Unity candidate Rikvah Mosessen.

JEFFERSONVILLE

As usual, Jeffersonville's elections are uncontested, with two Trustee seats available for the next two years.

However, while incumbent Greg Brewer is running unopposed for re-election, fellow incumbent Randall Harris isn't running at all. His seat has but one contender: William Chellis.

LIBERTY
Incumbent Democratic Trustees Joan Stoddard and Robert Mir are asking voters to keep them for another four years, while Republican candidate Daniel Wright is hoping to land one of those two open seats.

Wright is also running on the Conservative and Independence lines, as is Mir (who's also running on the Republican line himself). Stoddard is also running on the Liberty 2016 ticket.

MONTICELLO

Monticello Mayor Douglas Solomon has landed the Democratic, Republican, Conservative and Independence lines in his unopposed bid for the four-year seat.

Meanwhile, four people are vying for two open four-year Trustee seats.

Incumbents Carmen Rue (Democratic, Conservative and Independence) and Larissa Bennett (Democratic and Conservative) are seeking to stay on the village board, while facing challenges from George Nikolaidos (Republican and Working Families) and Charles Sabatino (Republican). The two top vote-getters will land the seats.

WURTSBORO

A single two-year Trustee seat in Wurtsboro is being sought by just one candidate: incumbent Lyman Holmes, running on the Wurtsboro First line.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

It's that time of year again. Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour this Sunday.

The time changes officially at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, but we won't tell anyone if you want to do it the night before.