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# NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

Volume 9, Issue 40 • Oct. 4-10, 2017 • 50¢

A division of The Southern Dutchess News ~ Entirely produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959 ~ www.sdutchessnews.com

## Thorne Building Committee sets public meeting Oct. 10 in Millbrook

by Mary Keelan

At its first public meeting scheduled for the Millbrook Firehouse on Oct. 10 at 7 p.m., the recently formed Thorne Building Committee will convene and is determined to succeed where others have stumbled in revitalizing the historic Thorne Building in the Village of Millbrook.

The committee is chaired by Charles E. Pierce, Jr. and funded with a \$100,000 planning grant through the Tribute Garden Foundation.

Carole Martin, the Maine consultant who will guide the process in engaging the community, is planning an open meeting with all participating. In order to hear the views of as many voices as possible, she will facilitate a breakout into smaller groups, each led by one of the 12 members of the Building Committee who represent different sectors of the community.

When talking informally about the project, committee members emphasized that they are "committed to an open process," which will guide them in eliciting "suggestions, views and hopes" from residents in diverse settings.

Martin's consulting theme is "Moving big ideas to action. Making complicated theories useful."

Envisioning the dilapidated Thorne Building as a thriving community and cultural center when many in the Village of Millbrook or Town of Washington have never been inside nor experienced it as a vibrant venue, will likely be "a big idea" and very complicated.

To remedy one aspect of this and explain the project to the community,

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## 'Feeding the Hudson Valley' highlights hunger, food waste



Volunteers help to "glean" areas at the Vassar College Farm in preparation for Saturday's "Feeding The Hudson Valley" event on the Walkway over the Hudson. From left are Sarah Salem of Dutchess Outreach, Jamie Levato of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Rich Schiafo of the Hudson Valley Regional Council, Sevine Clarey of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project and Culinary Institute of America students Michaela Duke and Luane Cuesta. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

by Stacey van den Thoorn

A variety of local organizations are working together to address the issue of hunger in our neighborhoods while creating awareness of the vast amount of food waste that occurs in the region.

The second annual "Feeding the Hudson Valley" event will take place Saturday, Oct. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the Poughkeepsie side of the Walkway Over the Hudson. It is being sponsored by The Hudson Valley Regional Council, along with Dutchess Outreach, the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, UlsterCorps, Orange County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Long Table

Harvest and other regional and community organizations. Representatives of the groups will be presenting information to the public on how to reduce food waste right here in the Hudson Valley.

The Hudson Valley Regional Council, led by Rich Schiafo, is comprised of seven counties in the Hudson Valley. The council is an outgrowth of the region's materials management working group where solid waste managers and recycling organizers voluntarily meet to discuss ways in which to share information on services and the reduction of food and organics waste.

According to Schiafo, the goal is to create a solution to food insecurity - a term

used to explain when people do not know where their next meal will be coming from.

"By changing the way people buy, cook, recycle and eat food," said Schiafo, "we can create a more secure food system and minimize waste in our landfills."

At "Feeding the Hudson Valley," everyone who attends will be treated to a delicious free feast, sourced from fresh, top-quality produce that would have been wasted. The ingredients to be used for the feast come from local farms that were "gleaned" by volunteers.

The term "gleaning" dates back to biblical times and refers to the action of picking

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## American folk art icon tops Fall Antiques at Rhinebeck

by Stacey van den Thoorn

Looking for a great way to usher in the fall season with a memorable and enjoyable weekend?

The Fall Antiques at Rhinebeck Show on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7-8, at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds is the perfect opportunity to enjoy an engaging and interesting event comprised of 130 diverse and exceptional exhibitors.

This fall's antique show includes pieces from period Americana, English and Continental furnishings and accessories, to fine art, Asian culture, exceptional vintage textiles, early glass and ceramics, mid-century modern art and sculpture, estate and vintage jewelry, Oriental rugs, industrial design, collector watches, garden décor, early toys and banks, prints and maps.

In addition, a special exhibit that push the envelope of art and sculpture will add drama and intrigue to (the remove) this show with "The Sculptural Works of Harris Diamant," an icon in the world of American Folk Art Dealers based in Kingston.

Diamant's vision and creativity is credited to literally helping define and establish the field. Diamant's utilization of materials, metals, and folk art in his design and complexity are evident in the sculptural, futuristic and compelling works that will be displayed at the show allowing an intimate look into the world of this contemporary, visionary sculpture.

"We are so excited about this year's Fall Antiques at Rhinebeck Show on all levels, especially the incredibly talented exhibitors that make Rhinebeck special," said show

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The sculptural works of American folk art icon Harris Diamant will be featured at the Fall Antiques at Rhinebeck this weekend at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Courtesy photo



## 'Feeding the Hudson Valley' highlights hunger, food waste

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whatever is left that can be used for food preparation, after the farmer has harvested their crop. As a result, gleaning not only helps the farmer clear their fields, but most important helps in the process of feeding those in need and minimizes food waste. Currently, there are three active gleaning programs in the area where volunteers can participate mid-to-late September.

Due to the uncertainty of what types of foods will be gleaned and the quantities collected, "Feeding the Hudson Valley" is a true chef challenge, as chefs involved will not know what ingredients they will have to work with until the last minute. That will make the event all the more interesting.

In addition to a free lunch, Betty and the Baby Boomers will lead several groups providing musical entertainment. Also performing will be Music by Maggie and Abby Lappen.

Chef demonstrations by Culinary Institute of America chefs and local restaurateurs will be presented throughout the day, as well as informational and educational discussions on reducing waste.

One top attraction not to be missed is the

popular smoothie machine that is powered by pedaling a bicycle.

Prior to the celebration, volunteers are welcome and needed to participate either in the meal prep events at Dutchess Outreach Lunchbox at 29 North Hamilton St. in Poughkeepsie on Wednesday, Oct. 4, Thursday, Oct. 5 and Friday, Oct. 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and also the day of the event at the Walkway to help set up, cook, serve, clean up and distribute informational materials.

"While many benefit from the great bounty of fresh and local foods the Hudson Valley offers, there are many people in our region who suffer from food insecurity, not knowing where their next meal is going to come from," said Schiafo who has an environmental management background. "We have a lot of good food here in the Hudson Valley. My main goal is to get that good food to the people that deserve it."

The Hudson Valley Regional Council reports that in New York State tons of edible food goes wasted; it is estimated that food totals 18 percent our waste stream. For more information, visit [hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org](http://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org).



Lauren McDonald of the Poughkeepsie Farm Project instructs volunteer gleaners prior to working at the Vassar College Farm. Photo by Curtis Schmidt

## Vassar Farms to host green infrastructure forum

On Thursday, Oct. 5, join Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, the Environmental Cooperative at Vassar Barns, the Dutchess County MS4 Committee and the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District for tips, tools and techniques on maintaining and monitoring green infrastructure practices.

The morning session will include presentations and case studies about green infrastructure maintenance and a green

infrastructure tool kit developed by the Environmental Cooperative. The afternoon will include a bus tour of green infrastructure practices in the Poughkeepsie and La Grange area led by the Dutchess County MS4 Committee and Soil & Water Conservation District.

The public is invited to both the morning and afternoon sessions or one or the other (indicate during registration whether you plan to attend both or one or the other.) The

morning session will run from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The bus for the afternoon session will leave promptly at noon and return at approximately 4 p.m.

A light breakfast will be provided for morning session attendees and lunch will be provided for afternoon bus tour attendees.

The forum is free. Certificates of attendance for municipal training credit will be provided.

Vassar Barns is at 50 Vassar Farm Lane in Poughkeepsie. For more information or questions, contact Michelle Gluck at [Mg822@cornell.edu](mailto:Mg822@cornell.edu) or Carolyn Klocker at [Cak97@cornell.edu](mailto:Cak97@cornell.edu).

## Thorne Building Committee

continued from cover

guided tours of the first floor of the Thorne Building were a highlight of the recent Millbrook Community Day. Two tables with brochures, posters, balloons, and signup sheets were strategically positioned on Franklin Avenue, gaining many signatures expressing interest.

According to Grace Rosa of the committee, almost 100 white balloons with a black and white photo of the Thorne Memorial Building printed on them were snatched up as souvenirs and/or used by Sam Falk, representing the Friends of Millbrook Library, to guide pedestrians from one Thorne table on lower Franklin to the other on upper Franklin in front of the Thorne Building.

At a Millbrook Library Event on Sept. 30, co-sponsored by the Friends of Millbrook Library with the Thorne Building Committee, local historian David Greenwood enlightened the attendees on Thorne Building history. Greenwood and others loaned photos and memorabilia to the library for an exhibit which continues. Accompanying Greenwood were John Gifford and Florence Prisco, graduates of the Thorne Building when it was a high school.

One of the complications is on its way to a solution, but with no guarantee that it can be effectively resolved. At the Village of Millbrook meeting on Tuesday, September 26, Mayor Rodney Brown announced that the Village was contracting with R. Peters (Pete) Hubbell & Company, Inc. to appraise the Thorne Building for potential sale of the structure. Mayor Brown is requesting a "market analysis based appraisal," which Hubbell estimates will cost approximately \$2,250. Brown said that "it will probably be a negative value," adding that "there is a lot of emotion attached to this."

The decision to sell is dependent on the Mayor and Trustees, representing the opinion of the Village residents. In the mean-

time, the newly incorporated 501C3 not for profit organization, The Thorne Building Community and Cultural Center, is positioned to accept a transfer of property ownership from the Village if an acceptable agreement is reached.

The sale of the Thorne Building, which was a gift to the Village in 1896 from the Thorne family, is hindered by deed codicils and the dilemma of the cost of ownership. In the word of Rona Boyer, president of the Millbrook Business Association and a committee member, the deed restrictions specific to the Thorne family connection, known as the "reverter clause," will be resolved by Oakleigh Thorne, who is spearheading the entire project.

It is anticipated that any surviving members of the relevant affected branch of the Thorne family will be positive in relinquishing claims or conditions when they learn of the cost of repairing and refurbishing the building.

According to John C. Waite Associates, an Albany based architectural company contracted by the current Thorne Building Committee, the cost of repairing and renovating the Thorne Building, as well as bringing it up to code and adapting for proposed uses, is estimated at \$9.5 million.

In 2003, Waite Associates rendered an estimate of \$5,255,500, according to an analogous report which is currently posted on the Village of Millbrook website. Previous to the 2003 feasibility estimates (in 1996), Waite Associates also rendered a report for the Millbrook Central School District which at the time was considering use of the Thorne Memorial Building for classrooms and administrative offices. That effort did not advance.

For more information, consult the Village of Millbrook website at [Villageofmillbrook.com](http://Villageofmillbrook.com).

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