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Lois unseats comptrroller Coughlan

Dutchess County GOP Comptroller Jim Coughlan has conceded to his Democratic opponent, Robin Lois.

In a letter sent out Friday (see page 4), Coughlan said: "I'm humbled by the over 32,000 votes I've received so far, and although the Board of Elections is still counting absentee ballots, it is evident that we came up around 600 votes less than my opponent, which is less than one percentage point short of victory... I graciously concede to Robin Lois in our race for Dutchess County Comptroller."

After the Nov. 7 election, Lois led Coughlan 31,620 to 31,208 with more than 3,880 absentee ballots to be counted. Though that count is still going on, Lois has extended her lead during the process and Coughlan realized he would not catch her.

Coughlan, an eight-year incumbent, said during the campaign his experience made him the better candidate.

Lois touted her background in accounting and independent voice as

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Robin Lois. Courtesy photo

Demolition of buildings leads PV library expansion



The final portion of the Virginia Gunn House is about to be flattened in this photo of the demolition process in the first major step in the expansion of the Pleasant Valley Free Library. Both the Gunn House and an old office and education facility at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish have been demolished in the past two weeks. Photo by jim donick

by jim donick

Thanksgiving week and the week after saw the first major tangible steps completed toward realizing the vision of an expanded and renovated library for Pleasant Valley with the demolition of two structures.

The library's Board of Trustees has been slowly advancing its planning process for an expansion and renovation of the Library.

The former home of Virginia Gunn, built in 1951 at 18 Church St., came down to help make room for the Pleasant Valley Free Library's expansion and renovation project. The property, in very poor repair, sits directly behind the library. It was

acquired by the board with the assistance of a generous private benefactor and will be used for additional parking as well as a staging area for the construction once it begins.

Another building on the property of St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, was also razed.

Dave Kruger, president of the Library's Board of Trustees, was there to watch the process in bringing down the Gunn building with a couple of other members of his board.

"This is an amazing step," he said. "We've been at this now off an on for easily the last 15 years. It's the last three and a

half, though, when we've finally managed to get our renovation and expansion program moving."

The process was complicated by the presence of a small amount of asbestos on the building's chimney, resulting in a need for specialized skills from the demolition firm. Washington Estates Transport Inc. from Rosendale, was brought in to carry out the project. The asbestos abatement took place prior to the actual demolition of the building.

Jim Mihm, the vice-president of Washington Estates, managed the project on the ground. He also ran the machine that

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Millbrook Board to vote on Thorne Building's future

by Mary Keelan

According to Deputy Mayor Joseph Rochfort, speaking at a Village of Millbrook regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28, the fate of the Village-owned deteriorating 19th-century Thorne Memorial Building will move toward resolution on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m., when

Mayor Rod Brown and the Village trustees are preparing to review and vote on a promised proposal from the recently formed not-for-profit entity, the Thorne Building Community Center.

The expectation is that the Village will transfer ownership of the Thorne Building to the newly formed corporation. Rochfort explained that the meeting on Thursday,

Dec. 21 is not a public hearing. It represents a rescheduling and combining of the regularly scheduled Village meetings for Tuesday, Dec. 12, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, which have been cancelled.

According to Rochfort's views and that of Michael Herzog and Kyle Van DeWater, the only other trustees present on Nov. 28, the public has had ample time to comment about Thorne Building issues at the meetings held under the auspices of the Thorne Building Committee on Oct. 10, Nov. 27 and scheduled for Dec. 9, as well as at Village meetings, all of which are open to the public. Rochfort offered to check with the Village lawyer to ascertain whether a public hearing was necessary for transfer of

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COMMITTEE SETS DEC. 9 PUBLIC MEETING

The Thorne Memorial Building Planning Committee, chaired by Charles E. Pierce Jr., will hold the last of three public meetings for 2017 on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Millbrook Fire House.

Carole Martin, the consultant for the Committee, will lead a discussion targeting weekenders and others who may have missed two earlier meetings. According to a flyer for the event, "Our agenda will include a brief recap of the 501(c) 3 nonprofit status, a summary of the breakout sessions from our October meeting, and a recap of the November 27 meeting." Everyone is welcome.

The notice further stated, "We (committee members) would like to better understand what types of activities and programs we could have at the new Thorne Building to interest you and your families."



Serino, Vet2Vet serve veterans at Appreciation Dinner



Sen. Sue Serino, right, is pictured with the Director of the Dutchess County Division of Veterans Services Nelson Rivera (standing center), his wife Christina and local veteran, Anthony Sorci at the event. *Courtesy photo*

This Veterans Day weekend, Sen. Sue Serino (R, C, I-Hyde Park) once again joined Mental Health America's Vet2Vet program to honor local veterans at their second appreciation pasta dinner of the year at the Knights of Columbus in Wappingers Falls. Serino and Vet2Vet, along with community volunteers, served hundreds of local veterans and their guests over two seatings at the event.

"It is rare opportunity to have a chance to serve those who have served our country and our community, and I look forward to it each and every year," said Serino, who has joined forces with the Vet2Vet program to coordinate the events twice per year since taking office. "These events not only play a direct role in connecting our local veterans with critical community resources and one another, but they serve as an important reminder to our local veterans and their families that they have a community behind them who remains grateful for their service and their selfless sacrifices."

Adam Roche, program manager of MHA Dutchess Vet2Vet Veterans' Peer Services, said, "MHA of Dutchess County Vet2Vet program is proud to sponsor Senator Serino's Veterans' pasta dinner. We look forward to this event every year to meet and support our local Veterans of Dutchess County."

The events—the first of which was held at the American Legion in Wingdale this year—are funded through the Dutchess County Vet2Vet program, a program established locally after Serino secured funding in the state budget through the state's Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Program.

While each dinner aims to bring the

area's veterans together and honor their service, they also help to highlight the program's important work and remind veterans of the various resources that are available locally. Vet2Vet was established by veterans, for veterans and leverages peer to peer services to help local veterans who may be struggling with the effects of PTSD, TBI, addiction or mental health issues. For more information about the program and available services, visit <https://mhadutchess.org/vet2vet-resource-office/> or call Adam Roche at (845) 443-7332, ext. 1307 to make an appointment. Referrals are not necessary to access the program and it is open to veterans of all ages.

As always, non-perishable food items were collected at the event and will be donated to Castle Point Veterans Food Bank. Carmine Romeo of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department performed for the veterans and Adam Nowik and Bob Monaco—also of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office—volunteered as the event's chefs. Students from Ketcham High School, Spackenkill National Honor Society, St. Martin de Porres Confirmation class, Boy Scout Troop 26 and MHA's Young Adult and Teen Challenge, volunteered at the event.

Door prizes were donated by the Poughkeepsie Galleria, Texas Roadhouse, Chili's, Antonella's, Stop and Shops in Hyde Park and on Route 44 and Route 9 in Poughkeepsie, Price Chopper, Foam and Wash Car Wash, Red Lobster, Longobardi's, Umberto's, Shop Rite in Poughkeepsie, Joe Cristiano's, Adams Fairacre Farms, Hopewell Drug Store, McDonalds, Nick's Pizza and The Odyssey Diner.

GOLDEN LIVING

*News for Senior Citizens
Todd N. Tancredi, Director
Dutchess County Office for the Aging*

HELP SENIORS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The homebound seniors of Dutchess County need our help more than ever during the winter, and you can do your part to help by volunteering to join our Home Delivered Meals program. The program provides nutritious hot midday meals for homebound seniors on weekdays, along with shelf-stable meals for weekends and emergencies like winter weather preventing our drivers from getting out on the road. We're in particular need of volunteer delivery drivers on Fridays throughout the county, and any day of the week in eastern Dutchess from Millerton south to Pawling, along with LaGrange, Pleasant Valley and Poughkeepsie. For more information, call (845) 486-2555 or e-mail nbhargava@dutchessny.gov.

Office for the Aging calendar of events:

Thursday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m. - "Mindful Eating During the Holidays" with OFA nutrition coordinator Nimesh Bhargava, South Amenia Senior Friendship Center, 229 South Amenia Road (Wassaic). Call (845) 486-2555 for details.

Friday, Dec. 8, 1:30 p.m. - "Enjoying the Holidays Without Weight Gain" with OFA nutrition coordinator Nimesh Bhargava, King's Apartments, 20 Pine Drive, Pawling. Call (845) 486-2555 for details.

Monday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m. - "Mindful Eating During the Holidays" with OFA nutrition coordinator Nimesh Bhargava, Friends and Family Adult Day Program, 4327 Albany Post Road (Route 9), Hyde Park. Call (845) 486-2555 for details.

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m. - "Mindful Eating During the Holidays" with OFA

nutrition coordinator Nimesh Bhargava, Rhinebeck Senior Friendship Center, 1232 Route 308, Rhinebeck (Rock City). Call (845) 486-2555 for details.

Thursday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m. - "Mindful Eating During the Holidays" with OFA nutrition coordinator Nimesh Bhargava, Beacon Senior Friendship Center, 1 Forrestal Heights. Call (845) 486-2555 for details.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018, 10:30 a.m. - "Successful Aging" with OFA outreach coordinator Brian Jones, Pine Plains Free Library, Second Floor Community Room, 7775 South Main St. (Route 82). Call (845) 486-2555 for details. Snow date: 3/14/18

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 11:30 a.m. - "Successful Aging" with OFA outreach coordinator Brian Jones, at "Lunch and Learn," Temple Beth-El, 118 South Grand Ave., Poughkeepsie. Call (845) 486-2555 for details.

To request an Office for the Aging presentation for your senior, social and/or civic group, get in touch with outreach coordinator Brian Jones at (845) 486-2555 or bjones@dutchessny.gov. All your group needs to provide is a venue that's accessible and open to the public, with space to set up a projector and screen. This time of year, we recommend you come up with an alternate presentation date you can make available in case of inclement winter weather.

We feature presentations on Successful Aging, Office for the Aging services, Medicare/Medicaid, senior housing, a wide range of topics related to nutrition, and more!

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 27 High Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Telephone (845) 486-2555, e-mail ofa@dutchessny.gov, website www.dutchessny.gov/aging

Thorne Building

continued from cover

Village-owned real property, one that is on the NYS Register of Historic Buildings.

Other impediments to the transfer of ownership, which include the so-called reverter clause and cultural education uses, are in various stages of resolution. As Oakleigh Thorne explained in answering audience questions at the Nov. 27 meeting, "It wouldn't make sense for the family to take it back," adding that the Thorne Building Community Center lawyers were checking out the relevance of the legal issues. He added that "in the last 120 years, the courts have taken a dim view of reverter clauses like this one."

Though Ms. Martin, the consultant working with the Building Committee, has yet to present a final report summarizing the public meetings held to date, and recommending "best uses of the building for the greater Millbrook community," informal comments and presentations at meetings suggest that the uses would be in line with the cultural education goals expressed in the original gift and deed from the Thorne family in 1896.

At the same Thorne Building Committee meeting on Nov. 27, Mayor Brown recapped an appraisal of the Thorne Building completed on Nov. 16 by R.P. Hubbell and Company Inc., basically confirming his own prediction in authorizing the Village monies of \$2,250 for the appraisal that it would be "a negative

appraisal." The Mayor explained how the costs of repairing and renovating the building cancelled any hypothetical comparative value of the land and building.

In a letter to Mayor Brown accompanying the Hubbell report, Grant Ackerly, the certified appraiser, said, "I have completed a consulting report of the above referenced property. The purpose for the consulting assignment is to render conclusions regarding possible alternative uses of the property, current market conditions, and the economic viability of rehabilitation. This is not a formal appraisal."

The Committee remains positive about raising the \$9.5 million estimated to repair and renovate the building for 21st-century community uses, but long-term sustainability remains an unanswered concern. For decades, the common complaint of mayors and trustees is lack of funds to properly care for and upgrade the Thorne Building. This has become the main reason to accelerate a transfer of ownership of this Village asset: it is a financial burden to the Village.

At the same time, inquiring Village residents have been perplexed for some years as to the uses of the two known trusts designated for maintaining the Thorne Building. Any effort for an historical accounting of Thorne Building revenue and expenses is regularly thwarted. It is not known at this time if the Committee has requested such in order to plan for sustainability.

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