

Family mission leads  
Stanford Grange’s  
125<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
event

by Curtis Schmidt

Families helping families in one way or another has been at the forefront of the mission of the Stanford Grange #808 for 125 years.

In recognition of those efforts, the Stanford Grange is conducting its 125th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, July 10, at 2 p.m. on the recreation fields behind the Grange Hall on Route 82.

One of Saturday’s member award recipients, Louise Woodcock, recalls how her family became involved with the Grange more than 40 years ago.

“Our sons, Jason, Stephen and Lloyd, were involved as Junior Grangers,” said Louise. “Through their activities, Lloyd (her late husband) and I felt a sense of community. Therefore, we joined the Grange in 1981.”

Her most memorable times as a Grange member were the “Cutie Pie” baseball games, which were held for a couple of years.

“The men in the Grange dressed up in women’s clothing and played a baseball game against the Junior Grangers, with a covered dish supper afterwards,” she said. “It was all in good fun, and we always looked forward to these events!”

Jason was involved in the talent contests and Louise said, “We met many wonderful people as we traveled to different Granges throughout the state for competition.”

Lloyd (her husband) was “Master of the Grill” along with Ken Straley for the Stanford Community Day Chicken BBQs. That event carries the title “The Lloyd Woodcock Memorial Chicken BBQ.”

“Looking back, members became extensions to our family, and close,

continued on page 3

FDR graduate Burns heads to  
World Rowing Championships

by Rich Thomaselli

Franklin D. Roosevelt High School graduate Rhett Burns is off to the Czech Republic to represent the United States in the 2021 World Rowing Under-23 Championships.

The event will take place July 7-11 in the village of Racice near the Labe River, a popular site for international crew competitions.

“He made it by determination and desire on his part,” Roosevelt crew coach Harry Harrington said. “He was always a good young athlete for us, but to make an international competition you have to have a little more than that.”

Burns got involved in crew because his older sisters competed and were highly successful. His sister, Desiree, is a multi-year Junior National and Under-23 National rower. The Under-23 World Championships were last held in Prague in 2009, where she competed.

“His sophomore year he decided to scull and fell in love with it,” Harrington said. “And he just got stronger and stronger and stronger. He just got better every race he went to.”

And Burns has continued to get better at Northeastern University, where he rows on the college level.

“I am very proud of Rhett’s development through his college career so far,”



Former Franklin D. Roosevelt High School crew team member Rhett Burns, left, congratulates a Northeastern University team member. Burns is representing the U.S. in the World Rowing Under-23 Championships in the Czech Republic from July 7-11. *Courtesy photo*

Northeastern Interim Head Coach Justin Jones said in a statement. “Rhett trained hard during a very unusual and unsure year, and was a staple in the Varsity 8+ this entire 2021 season. He is in good company among the best American collegiate oarsmen in the country.”

Burns was named the team captain at Northeastern for the 2021-22 season and is studying physical therapy.

Burns competed in the Northeastern varsity eight boat for the entire 2021 season. A junior, Burns was in the three

continued on page 5

Millbrook partnership plans  
to usher in a new era in Village

by Kate Goldsmith

MILLBROOK—For years, there have been calls to transform the long-empty Thorne Building, which overlooks the Village of Millbrook atop Franklin Avenue, into an attraction for locals and visitors, and to deal with the hazardous



Two Village of Millbrook landmarks that have seen better days, the Thorne Building (above) and the former Bennett College (right), will be reimagined through the newly formed Millbrook Community Partnership. *Courtesy photos*

eyesore that was Bennett College at the gateway to the Village along North Avenue. News last week has spurred hope and excitement that both situations will be resolved through a new partnership that bodes well for Millbrook’s future.

Capitalizing on a once-in-a-century opportunity to reimagine two Village of Millbrook icons, The Millbrook Community Partnership Inc. (MCP), a 501c3 organization, has been established to create a new park on the former Bennett College property while simultaneously renovating and restoring the Thorne Building into a community center.

continued on page 4

INDEX	
Letters	4
Dispatches from the VFW	8
Community Calendar	15
Creative Living	10-13
Get Growing!	11
Suguru	12
Crossword Puzzle	12
Sudoku	12
Love to Cook	13
Obituaries	15
Public Notices	16-17
Classifieds	18-19



• OPEN FOR BUSINESS •

Brookmeade Community	p 10	Milan Community Yard Sale	p 8	Williams Lumber	p 6
Center for Physical Therapy	p 9	Pleasant Valley Dept. Store	p 10	INSIDE:	
Conway’s Equipment	p 11	Roosevelt Cinemas	p 14	Adams Fairacre Farms	
Coppola’s of Hyde Park	p 5	Ulster Savings Bank	p 20		



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS welcomes your letters. Letters must be submitted via e-mail to be considered for publication; e-mail to [northern.dutchess@sdutchessnews.com](mailto:northern.dutchess@sdutchessnews.com) and include the phrase “Letter to the Editor” in the subject line. Include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. We look forward to hearing from you.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTE: Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Dutchess News.  
Letters must be e-mailed to be considered for publication. We cannot accept handwritten or faxed letters.

### Are the brilliant experts always correct?

To the editor:  
Early in high school, my father ran a ten flat 100 yards, and a mile in four and a half minutes. In days when the four-minute mile had yet to be breached, those were championship-level times.  
But his athletic fate, and much else, had been determined years earlier, during a bout with rheumatic fever, leaving him with a heart murmur, which led the school to end his running.  
As Canadian pathologist Dr. Roger Hodgkinson explains, the heart is less able to heal itself than other organs, so damage in youth can persist.  
My father left high school to work, eventually embarking on a long road of night school while working to secure high school and college degrees. I wonder what his life might have been like had he been able to continue with track.  
The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) may have set up several hundred, possibly several thousand, young people to reprise such heart-related life changes.  
While still early in vaccinating youth against COVID-19, already several hundred heart effects linked to vaccination, far more than expected, have been reported. Although young people are at minuscule risk of death from COVID-19, still the committee voted to let their vaccination continue.  
David Halberstam’s “The Best and the Brightest” explains

how brilliant experts led us into the disaster of the Vietnam War. Are the ACIP / CDC experts, wedded to “vaccines are the answer,” disputing treatment successes, downplaying side effects, disregarding other experts and evidence, perhaps leading us astray?  
Frank Stoppenbach  
Red Hook

### Renegades staff goes above and beyond

To the editor:  
I want to give a shout out to the amazing people who work and intern at Dutchess Stadium. I went on Friday, June 25, to the Hudson Valley Renegades game and had a wonderful time.  
The staff could not be more pleasant and accommodating. At one point I was bringing a few sodas and hot dogs back to my seat when I dropped one of the hot dogs. A staff member came running to help me and when he saw I had dropped the hot dog - which was totally covered in foil. He told me that he would bring me another hot dog, which I said was great, but since the dog was covered, there was no problems with it. He insisted and did bring me a new hot dog to my seat. I want to see the Major League ball park (personnel) do that.  
Once again, thank you to all the staff who made our night totally enjoyable.  
Marc Savino  
Tivoli

## Serino to host women’s networking event

After going virtual last year, Sen. Sue Serino’s Annual Women’s Networking Event will return in-person to Locust Grove on Wednesday, July 21, at 5:30 p.m. Serino and a host of dynamic community leaders will help local women bolster their own networks as they speak to the theme, “Rebuilding in the Wake of a Challenge.”  
This year’s event will offer a virtual component, as well, for neighbors who cannot attend in-person.

Event speakers include:  
• Serino’s 2021 Women of Distinction Nominee Sabrina Cruz, owner of Ultimate Auto Detailing;  
• Satara Brown, founder of Rebuilding Our Children and Community Inc.; and  
• Kelly Formoso, executive director of the American Red Cross Hudson Valley Chapter.  
This year’s event is being sponsored by the Women’s Professional Network and the Women’s Leadership Alliance.

Due to COVID-19 occupancy restrictions, space is limited, so individuals are asked to RSVP to Serino’s Hyde Park Office at (845) 229-0106 or email [serino@nysenate.gov](mailto:serino@nysenate.gov). For more information, call the office.  
Individuals interested in attending this event virtually via Zoom can request the secure link by emailing [serino@nysenate.gov](mailto:serino@nysenate.gov).  
All COVID-19 health and safety guidelines will be observed.

## Millbrook partnership plans to usher in a new era in Village

continued from cover

The new partnership, a collaboration between the Thorne Building Community Center Inc., The Millbrook Tribute Garden and the Thorne family, is charged with raising the \$20 million budgeted to complete both projects and overseeing the development and, ultimately, the operations of the two facilities.  
“We want to take two of our communities’ greatest liabilities – the dangerous deterioration of the Bennett Campus and the gradual deterioration of the Thorne Building – and transform them to be among our greatest assets,” said Oakleigh Thorne, president of the MPC. “These two facilities will create a vibrant platform for MCP and other local nonprofit organizations to deliver a plenitude of indoor and outdoor, civic and cultural programs.  
“These programs will provide tremendous benefit to all citizens of our community and also attract young families to central Dutchess County, thereby helping to ensure the health and vitality of our community for generations to come,” he added.  
“This is a very exciting announcement for the Village of Millbrook, because it consolidates the renovation efforts of the two anchor landmarks of Millbrook, the Thorne Building and Bennett College, into the Thorne Building Community Center and Bennett Park, which will greet every visitor to our wonderful village and benefit the entire community,” said Mayor Tim Collopy. “I wish to thank the leaders of the not-for-profit who have worked over the past few years to tirelessly push this project forward.”  
The new 32-acre Bennett Park project calls for the safe demolition of the old college buildings and re-fashioning the campus into a green gateway to the

Village, with beautifully landscaped parks, walking and bike trails, and a parking lot for ease of access. The MCP will engage a landscape architecture firm and consider further enhancements to the park after receiving public comment, and after demolition of the buildings and construction of the initial park are complete.  
MCP has obtained bids for demolition of the old campus and has begun obtaining permits for demolition, which will begin as soon as the requisite funds are raised. MCP is also planning a public meeting with Bennett neighbors and the community at large to seek input on the project and to present its demolition plans.  
The new park will encompass:  
• Land now occupied by the Bennett Commons’ swimming pool and tennis courts at the corner of Route 82, Route 343 and Franklin Avenue;  
• Land now occupied by several severely dilapidated former Bennett College buildings, including Halcyon Hall, Alumni Hall, the Chapel, Carroll Hall, the Mellon Arts Center and the Kettering Science Center; and  
• Eight acres of woodlands located north of the campus between the Kettering Science Center and the Village of Millbrook.  
Assembling this acreage was made possible by an agreement reached late last year between the Halcyon Master Association Inc. (Bennett Commons) and the Tribute Garden to relocate the condominium’s tennis courts and swimming pool to land closer to the condominium units. It is also being facilitated by donations of 12 acres from the Tribute Garden and 20 acres from the Thorne family.  
The Thorne Building project calls for the renovation of the 1890s Beaux-Arts school building at the top of Franklin

Avenue into a community center, offering film and theater programs; a technology center; co-working space for local citizens; culinary programs; gallery space; a computer gaming room; music and art studios; and public meeting, event and seminar facilities.  
To date, the Thorne Building project has been managed under the auspices of the Thorne Building Community Center Inc., a 501c3 organization, formed in 2017, which will now be effectively merged into the MCP.  
Design plans for the building have been developed by Sloan Architects P.C. of Millbrook, based on input from a planning committee of local citizens and a series of public meetings held in 2017 and 2018. The MCP also plans to hold another public meeting in the near future to present these plans and seek more input from the community before finalizing the design.  
In 2019, the Thorne Building Community Center signed a contract with the Village of Millbrook to acquire the building contingent on certain closing conditions being met, including clearing title of an old Thorne family reversion clause and obtaining approval from the Village Planning Board for creation of an overlay district that would allow the building to be used as a community center. Having cleared all conditions, the MCP now plans to close on the purchase of the building from the Village of Millbrook.  
The MCP plans to proceed with Phase 1 of the project, which will consist of asbestos removal and preservation of the building exterior, once all requisite permits have been received.  
Check <https://www.thornebuilding.org/> for project updates.