

RECORD REVIEW

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KLSD

Debating rules of public comment

By EVAN ROBINSON-JOHNSON

After three hours of celebration for newly tenured and retiring educators on June 1, the Katonah-Lewisboro School District Board of Education got down to business at its second to last meeting of the year.

On the table were several proposed changes to the public participation policy which outgoing trustee William Rifkin described as “fundamental” and “contentious.”

The first involved a loophole. Current policy states that every meeting should have at least one agenda item for people to comment on, “unless impracticable.”

Trustee Rory Burke said that caveat “could potentially be abused” if future boards want to shut down discourse. “It’s a little bit too vague and could be taken advantage of,” he said.

Education boards are not required to provide periods of public comment at all meetings, but KLSD has made that input a priority, Superintendent Andrew Selesnick said.

The second and most debated change was about stakeholders. The board currently allows students, alumni, current residents, district taxpayers, staff and local business owners to speak at meetings, while non-stakeholders are encouraged to send their comments in writing.

Mr. Rifkin and Mr. Burke argued that instead of limiting who can speak, the board should maintain civility by limiting the time and tone of comments. “I don’t think we should muzzle anybody,” stressed Mr. Burke.

But several other trustees worried about disruptions from bad actors. Trustee Elizabeth Gereghy said national groups could soon parachute in, using politicized topics like book bannings to sow chaos. “We need to think

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DUVELL CAMPBELL/ORAINA PHOTOGRAPHY

Showing their true colors

Female Overall Winner Sydney Leitner crosses the finish line at the second annual Pound Ridge Color Run on Saturday. The community event, part of Pound Ridge Proud, celebrates Pride Month and the Indian festival of Holi. See Pages 6 and 7 for stories and more photos.

As wildfire smoke filled the air this week, health warnings mount

By EDWARD BAUM

Tuesday was bad. Wednesday was worse.

As smoke from Canadian wildfires thickened in the area, health warnings and event cancellations mounted. The Katonah Fire Department called off its annual parade and carnival opening night on Wednesday. Bedford Central and Katonah-Lewisboro schools cancelled outdoor and after-school activities.

On Thursday morning, citing the unhealthy air quality rating, the Town of Bedford announced it would not open its three municipal pools.

“We certainly hope the air quality will improve, and we will be able to open tomorrow. We appreciate your understanding, stay safe!” Bedford Parks officials urged.

By Thursday afternoon, conditions seemed to start improving. The curtain of haze and smell of fire — which at their worst seemed almost apocalyptic — started to ease. While the air quality index remained stubbornly high in the “unhealthy” range, the weather forecast called for continued improvement Friday and into the weekend. One highly welcome feature was an expected shift in the wind direction from north to west.

State health authorities Wednesday urged residents to stay indoors with windows closed and conduct as little outdoor physical activity as possible.



ROBERT J. CUMMINGS PHOTO

Smoky haze from Canadian wildfires settles on Lake Truesdale Wednesday in South Salem.

Extra caution was advised for higher-risk individuals such as the very young and those with respiratory conditions.

“Infants and people with asthma, heart disease or other respiratory conditions should limit their time outdoors while this haze of fine particulate matter is present in our area,” said Westchester County Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, M.D.

“With the air quality index at an unhealthy level today, all residents should limit strenuous outdoor activity. This may be a good day to skip that outdoor run.”

Also on Wednesday, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Health issued adviso-

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Bedford’s Phase II sewer work could start in August

By JEFF MORRIS

Work on the next phase of the Bedford Hills-Katonah Sewer Project could begin as soon as August, Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn said at the June 6 Bedford Town Board meeting.

Also at the meeting, the board continued its environmental review of a proposed Bedford Village Sewer District.

Mr. Winn’s remarks came as the board approved four contracts for Phase II of the sewer project. He reported that bids were received on April 27 for four separate contracts. He said the low bid contractors are qualified to perform the work and assured the board that the bids will work within the town’s budget after incorporating several changes in scope and approach.

The four bids he recommended for approval were: Katonah gravity sewer, Montesano Brothers Inc., \$5,171,136; Bedford Hills pump station and force main, Brennan Construction Co., \$5,433,000; wastewater treatment plant general construction, Kemp Group, \$1,258,011; and wastewater treatment plant electrical construc-

tion, Naber Electric Corp., \$198,765.

The Katonah gravity sewer contract attracted five bidders, ranging up to \$7,328,725. Three bids were received for the Bedford Hills pump station, with a high bid of \$6,697,570, and three bids also came in for general construction of the wastewater treatment plant, with a high bid of nearly \$7,990,000. Naber Electric was the only bid received for the electrical portion.

Mr. Winn also requested and received approval of two change orders. One lowered the amount of the Montesano Brothers contract by \$651,000 and the other reduced the Brennan Construction contract by \$413,000. The lower totals were achieved by eliminating replacement of the existing concrete road subbase from the work scope and having the town use its own paving contractor to perform a full width paving restoration. Woodward & Curran, in evaluating these project details, noted that the Montesano bid included replacement of existing concrete road subbase in certain roads, but that “this item can be eliminated, instead ensuring adequate compac-

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Bedford Central

Glass summarizes mixed survey results

By JEFF MORRIS

At an abbreviated Bedford Central Board of Education meeting Wednesday, Superintendent Robert Glass provided a brief summation of results of the district’s recently completed culture and climate survey. He also revealed how he was moving forward with recommendations from the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee.

The meeting was shortened because of air quality concerns.

Mr. Glass began by announcing that all of the action items he had included in the district success plan had been completed on time. One of those items, he said, was to conduct a climate and culture survey.

The district utilized a School Culture and Climate survey from Panorama Education, and Mr. Glass said using that tool would allow them to compare the results with national surveys. Separate surveys were conducted among district families, teachers and students.

At this stage, he said, he was just providing a brief overview of the survey results, which will be posted on the

district website.

“First of all, from the family survey, we found that our perceptions of the overall school climate were very high,” said Mr. Glass. Ninety-eight percent of those respondents “perceived it well; on a 5-point rubric, they would be in the top two, ‘extremely well’ or ‘quite well.’” When asked “How comfortable are you reaching out to the school staff regarding your child?” the same percentage had a favorable response.

In terms of school fit, when asked, “How much of a sense of belonging does your child feel in his or her school?” he said, the favorable rating dropped to 68%, “but that correlated very high to the national benchmark,” he stated.

Sixty-two percent felt favorably about how the district prepares children for the next academic year. The response to a question on how well the activities offered at the child’s school matched their interest was 56% favorable.

“I just wanted to give you some examples and samples of the kinds of

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Lewisboro celebrates long-awaited inclusive playground

By IZANIA GONZALEZ

As the sun peaked through clouds at Saturday’s festivities at Lewisboro Town Park, hundreds of families enjoyed the new playground. There was no shortage of children testing out the playground’s new facilities, from an accessible zip line to the gaga pit.

Over the course of the day an estimated 2,000 people showed up to witness the playground’s makeover and enjoy face painting, food trucks, and the sounds of School of Rock Bedford.

The June 3 grand reopening capped three and a half years of planning and renovation, led by a group of dedicated residents and supporters.

The community park’s playground dates back to 1994 and, with the lifespan of a playground being roughly 25 years, it was long overdue for a renovation.

This journey began in 2018 when community members started discussing the need for a new playground as some believed it had become a safety issue. In July 2019, a small dedicated group of community members formed the Lewisboro Town Park Playground Improvement Corporation as a sign of their commitment. It was spearheaded by Valerie Cancro and established as 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Ms. Cancro, president and project manager, first became involved with the project when the only people discussing the playground renovations were community members. She made it her mission to see the successful implementation of this facility for the enjoyment by local children and children from all over the county.

The project’s first fundraiser was scheduled for May 2020, but when the pandemic hit all plans for donations and events were stalled. The following year, project committee members ramped up their fundraising, trying to make up for lost time. They designed events that would not only raise the money for their dream playground, but also bring together the community after so much social isolation due to COVID-19.

On a chilly day last October, the Playground Improvement Corporation’s vision started to take shape when ground was finally broken for the new playground. Work continued through the winter to ensure the facility would be completed when the warm weather returned.

According to Tony Gonçalves, Lewisboro town supervisor, the project committee took charge of what the final product would look like. In 2021, the town received the concept plans



ROBERT J. CUMMINGS PHOTO

An aerial view of the new playground in Lewisboro Town Park.

for the facility. Mr. Gonçalves said he deferred to the Playground Improvement Corporation members to make the final decisions about which elements and structures should be incorporated into the design to fulfill its inclusive mission.

At the same time, town officials and supporters began looking for outside funding for their undertaking. Working alongside state As-

semblymember Chris Burdick, they went in search of state grants. In October, they were awarded a key grant from the State and Municipal Facilities Program for \$400,000.

In an unanticipated development, upon close inspection engineers on the project made note of the site’s poor sewage and drainage. Prior to the renovations, the site experienced erosion during heavy rain, but local

officials did not realize the extent of the drainage problems. They took the opportunity to install proper drainage while the site was under construction.

Complicating matters, the town park borders New York State Department of Environmental Conservation wetlands, which means the park’s stormwater runoff must be contained to protect the neighboring area from direct runoff or pollution. Roughly \$140,000 of the project’s overall budget was allotted to repairing the drainage.

The project committee raised funds through numerous events. They staged a car show, food truck nights, a bootcamp, an Oktoberfest party, the sale of shirts and other memorabilia, as well as the sale of engraved bricks that are now installed at the playground with the names of loved ones and shoutouts from parents to their kids.

The committee is still raising funds through the sale of a poster celebrating Lewisboro and the surrounding hamlets with drawings of different landmarks and locations significant to the community. Fundraising will continue for the park’s continued maintenance and costs.

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Pound Ridge

LOOSE CHANGE: The Invasives Project-Pound Ridge reminds residents that if you see opossums, don't harm them. They helped develop antidotes to snake venom, they don't get rabies and they eat ticks.



Talk of the Town

By ELLEN S. BEST

This is what it's all about." That was the general sentiment in town last weekend, especially with the Village Green adding such a welcoming central spot for community connection. It was easy to feel even more Pound Ridge Proud with the Pound Ridge Partnership's Beautification, Bake-Off, Chick Show and Color Run (co-sponsored with the Pound Ridge Human Rights Advisory Committee, chaired by **Sharbari Kamat**). During Beautification on Sunday morning, Scotts Corners was spruced up by energetic volunteers and at Pound Ridge Elementary School, the Love 4 Lucas Memorial "River" Path around the front of the school had a complete makeover thanks to a team of parents and students, headed up by PRES parents **Deann Grogan**, **Annie Fernald** and **Alia Ornstein**.

It was glorious to see and feel the jubilation of the winners at the Bake-Off, especially one of the youngest ones, **Maxwell Siders**. When his name was called, he thrust his hands up in the air and ran full speed, gleefully, with a smile from ear to ear, up to the stage to pick up his prize. Bake-Off judges were **Jason Bowman**, owner, BreadsNBakes; **Jehan deNoue**, chef at Albano's; **Vajaira Velez**, head baker at The Market at Pound Ridge Square; **Liz Larkin**, founder, Mrs. Larkin's; **David Schlack**, owner, North Star; **Kevin Hansan**, town supervisor; **Stephanie Bell**, PRES principal; and **Sam Dodge**, Pound Ridge Fire Department.

Bake-Off winners were as follows: in the juniors category, first place, **Elena Len**, marzipan petit four cake; second place, **Lillian Siders**, oink oink cookies; third place, **Maxwell Siders**, chocolate surprise cookies. In the adults category, first place, **Anya Leist**, carrot cake; second place, **Jessie Housman**, coconut macaroons; third place, **Adam Starowicz**, coconut cream cake.

The Grand Prize went to **Erin Trostle**, who is also Pound Ridge Town Clerk, for her orange sunshine cake. In her acceptance speech, she said that she didn't have an electric mixer on hand when she made the cake, so she had to use a whisk, adding, "It was really great that the prize I won was a new mixer!" A plaque will be displayed in Blind Charlie's announcing the Bake-Off Grand Prize winners from this year and future contests.

At the event, the **Pound Ridge Partnership Scholarship** of \$1,000 was awarded to **Cole Decker** for his Eagle Scout project, which was building a Veterans Memorial Wall at the Town Park. Cole plans to go to Bates College in the fall, where he will be playing baseball.

Everyone was delighted to see and hold the adorable chicks at the first Chick Show, which spotlighted local farmer and chef **Adam Starowicz** and some of his flock. Adam and his wife, **Sarah**, who is also a chef, run **Oak Forest Farm** with its 100 chickens, a busy kitchen with cooking classes, an egg and food delivery business, and, oh yeah, three active kids; oakforesteggs.com

Did you know that **The Kitchen Table** has pop-up music on Friday or Saturday nights? This weekend, **Jeremiah Ryser** is playing folk/rock acoustic covers and some originals from 7 to 8 p.m. The second set is the band, **Flower**, with duo **Alex and Jack Lanza** playing rock originals until 9:30 p.m. Food will be served from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

TKT continues to function as a community hub, which is exactly what owners **Daphne** and **Robbie Everett** had envisioned when they opened it in 2015. What they didn't plan for was Daphne's massive stroke which she had two months ago, though you'd never know it looking at her now. It began with her feeling tired, driving home, and then losing feeling in the right side of her body. Robbie is a member of the Pound Ridge Ambulance Corps and recognized that she was having a stroke, calling 911. Daphne miraculously recovered 100% in just a few days, thanks to the quick action by the emergency response team and doctors at Norwalk Hospital that pulled her through. Life is grander for her these days. "I feel grateful for this second chance at life," she said in an article at nuancehealth.org, and summed it up by telling me, "I no longer sweat the small stuff."

Pound Ridger parents **John Grogan**, recreational league director of the Bedford Pound Ridge Baseball Association and League Commissioner **Josh Radin** invite everyone to the annual end of season **Championship Day** this Sunday, June 10, at Bedford Village Memorial Park, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kids from kindergarten through seventh grade will be playing. The day will feature majors and minors championships, a home run derby and barbecue.

As we bring more flowers inside these days, it's always helpful to get some design inspiration. After the **Pound Ridge Garden Club's** member-only floral design workshop on Monday, the finished products will be on display at the Pound Ridge Library on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 13 and 14, as an informal flower show. The show will feature floral designs by teams of two reflecting the different design themes such as "underwater" and "transparency."

Save the dates: At the Village Green, Saturday, June 17, **Battle of the Bands**, from 10 to 7 p.m., and Monday, June 19, **Allison Shearer Quartet**, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Please send your quips, blips and blurbs regarding town activities, nature notes, travels afar, scholastic accomplishments, sports achievements, engagements, weddings, new babies and grandchildren to esbest8@gmail.com. All topics are appropriate for inclusion in this column. Please submit items by the weekend before the following Friday's issue, or earlier if you can.

Meetings

Note: The Town Board and other boards and commissions are resuming (or are beginning to resume) in-person meetings. Visit townofpoundridge.com/meetings for specific meeting details.

Bedford Central School District meetings have resumed in-person as well but continue to be cablecast live from Fox Lane Campus at bcsdny.org and available afterward on demand.

Katonah-Lewisboro School District meetings are archived at klschools.org.

OEM

Thursday, June 8, 8 a.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

Recreation Commission

Monday, June 12, 7 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

Town Board

Tuesday, June 13, 8 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

Historical Society

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

Water Control Commission

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

Veterans Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.; Katonah American Legion, 136 Jay St., Katonah; veterans@bedfordny.gov.

BCSD Board of Education

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m.; Suzanne Grant Theater; bcsdny.org.

K-L Board of Education

Thursday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.; John Jay High School; klschools.org.

Board of Assessment Review

Tuesday, June 20, 5 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

Landmarks & Historic District

Tuesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com. Land Conservancy

Wednesday, June 21, 7 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

ZBA

Wednesday, June 21, 7 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

Planning Board

Thursday, June 22, 7 p.m.; townofpoundridge.com.

Open space, power contract on board agenda

By NEAL RENTZ

The Pound Ridge Town Board voted unanimously June 6 to approve the 2023 NYSEG Participation Memorandum of Understanding for the purchase of electrical power.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the board heard an update from the Open Space Acquisition Committee.

Westchester Power Program Director Dan Welsh told the board this week the MOU sets the timing and criteria for the bid, which includes the maximum allowable price per kilowatt-hour, or "price-not-to-exceed." The MOU is provided to bidders through a Request for Proposals to assure them that if there are bids that meet the criteria, a winner may be selected and municipalities will sign the associated Electric Service Agreement. A contract would lock in the cost of energy for one year, Mr. Welsh said.

There are 29 Westchester municipalities that are participating in the Westchester Power program. NYSEG and Con Edison continue to provide the participating municipalities with energy distribution, which includes the

infrastructure and billing.

According to Westchester Power, the RFP is scheduled to be sent out Thursday, June 22, and a contract is slated to be finalized July 7.

Mr. Welsh said earlier in the day he was informed by NYSEG that a new contract would only allow for up to 50% of the electricity to be purchased from renewable sources in the next year.

Mr. Welsh has been telling local municipal boards throughout the county that information from Westchester Power's consultant, Transparent Energy, indicated they are not going to be able to secure a sufficient number of renewable energy certificates, or RECs, to cover 100% of the contract, but they may be able to obtain enough to cover 50%. There are not enough RECs to satisfy demand, Mr. Welsh noted.

A renewable energy certificate, as defined by the EPA, is a market-based instrument that "represents the property rights to the environmental, social, and other non-power attributes of renewable electricity generation." RECs are issued when one megawatt-hour of electricity is generated and delivered to the electricity grid from a renewable

energy resource. They are the method by which renewable energy is sold on the wholesale energy market.

"The key criterion in the MOU is the 'price-not-to-exceed' target," Mr. Welsh said in an interview this week. "Bids over this cannot be accepted so it serves as a starting point for the bidding. The originally proposed target based on the 100% renewable product was 13.5 cents, but with the modification to 50%, the final MOU sets this value at 12.5 cents."

The 12.5-cent level leaves a safety margin of 0.77 cents over current indicative levels, which Mr. Welsh suggested was advisable to allow for potential market movement before the bid. "This 'buffer' is there to avoid a situation such as occurred in 2021 when the price movements before the bid necessitated going back to the boards to revise the MOU, while the market continued to move up," Mr. Welsh explained.

Westchester Power is a Sustainable Westchester program. It purchases for its members renewable energy, but also provides a nonrenewable (standard) option. Residential customers and small businesses are enrolled in Westchester Power if they are located in par-

ticipating 29 municipalities unless they choose to opt out of the program. The structure of Westchester Power allows small businesses and residential customers to participate with no contracts, fees or penalties for withdrawing from the program.

For more information, visit sustainablewestchester.org/wp.

Open Space committee update

Also at this week's town board meeting, leaders of the Open Space Acquisition Committee provided an update.

Committee co-chair, Elyse Arnoff, gave a presentation on the committee acquisition process. "We have a really great track record," she said.

The committee's goals are to create a list of priority parcels that need to be preserved based on conservation values and high resiliency areas identified in town. High resiliency is defined as the ability of an ecosystem to maintain its normal patterns of nutrient cycling and biomass production after being subjected to damage caused by an ecological disturbance.

Wildlands and wetlands are examples

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Focus on invasives in town is year-round

Across the state, Invasive Species Awareness Week continues this week, concluding Sunday, June 11. But, in Pound Ridge, The Invasives Project generates awareness of the environmental threat year-round.

Homeowners in Pound Ridge can request a free consultation by sending an email to tipconsults@gmail.com. Barbara Gerson, a volunteer scheduler, will arrange a date with the homeowner and two volunteers. During the consultation, two volunteers walk the property with the homeowner and identify native plants to nurture and invasive plants to reduce. A typical consultation lasts two hours and afterwards a written summary is provided. "Homeowners are so grateful for what they learn about the plants growing on their property," said Carrie Sears, co-director of Growing Pound Ridge. "Besides identifying the plants, we are able to make some suggestions on deer-resistant native plants and strategies for reducing aggressive, bothersome plants."

Ms. Sears said that each consultation is personalized around the client's needs. "For some, we spend a lot of time on how to recognize poison ivy, which is actually a native with wildlife value," she pointed out.

Since it was established in 2012, The Invasives Project-Pound Ridge has completed 96 consultations, representing 442 acres. An initiative of the Hen-

'It takes constant effort, but I see progress.'

— CARRIE SEARS, CO-DIRECTOR, GROWING POUND RIDGE, ON THE FIGHT TO CONTROL INVASIVES

ry Morgenthau Preserve, the mission is to protect the natural beauty of Pound Ridge, preserve wildlife habitat, encourage the use of native plant species, and limit the spread of invasive species.

"Reducing invasive species protects all of our local preserves. The Morgenthau is pleased to reach into the community in such an important way," said Marilyn Shapiro, co-director of TIPPR and president of the Morgenthau Preserve board.

"When I consider the unwanted plants on my property as a source of biological pollution, spreading to the properties of others, I work a little harder at getting rid of the undesirable plants," added Ms. Sears. "It takes constant effort, but I see progress. Like the Henry Morgenthau Preserve, all our local preserves, whether managed by the Pound Ridge Land Conservancy, Westchester Land Trust, Mianus River Gorge or Bedford Audubon, can use our help."

By definition, invasive species are not native to the region and cause harm to

the environment, human health or the economy. An invasive, Ms. Sears explained, can be a plant, insect or a virus, like COVID. One kind of insect, the emerald ash borer, has negatively impacted both the ecology and economy by destroying the ash trees. Forest birds have lost nest habitat as well as the variety of insects that rely on ash as a food source. In addition, the decline in ash trees has meant the loss of a wood valued for many things, including baseball bats, tool handles, furniture and traditional crafts like basket making.

"Early detection, rapid response" is the mantra of those familiar with the spread of invasive species, Ms. Sears noted.

The Invasives Project-Pound Ridge is a member of the Lower Hudson PRISM, the local chapter of the Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. It is made up of concerned organizations and individuals who work together under the auspices of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to prevent or minimize the harm caused by invasive species. The eight PRISMs in New York state coordinate invasive species management, recruit and train volunteers, provide education and outreach, establish early detection monitoring networks and implement direct eradication and control efforts.

For more information, visit lhprism.org.

Pound Ridge celebrates Juneteenth

Juneteenth in Pound Ridge will be celebrated with two events presented by the Pound Ridge Partnership and Human Rights Advisory Committee.

The first event, taking place in collaboration with the Pound Ridge Library, is a keynote presentation on African American history through the lens of jazz by Katonah resident Andromeda Turre, founder of Growing Up Jazz and SiriusXM jazz host, who will speak at the library tomorrow, Saturday, June 10, at 2 p.m. RSVP to poundridgelibrary.org to attend the Andromeda Turre event.

Critically acclaimed jazz saxophonist and Katonah native, Alison Shearer, will play with the Alison Shearer Quartet on the Green in Scotts Corners on Monday, June 19, at 6 p.m. In addition, there will be the Bazodzee food truck and Good Humor ice cream truck for refreshments.

For more information about the Alison Shearer Quartet performance, visit poundridgepartnership.org.

Feeling Proud in Pound Ridge

The Pound Ridge Partnership kicked off its annual Proud Days celebration with a full schedule of special events last weekend. The Color Run, organized in collaboration with the town's Human Rights Advisory Committee, drew nearly 200 participants. A big Bake-Off followed on the Green (see story on Page 7). Volunteers spruced up the business district and the elementary school, and a Chick Show, offering tips on how to raise and care for chickens, was a new addition.



ELLEN BEST PHOTO

Sampling the offerings at the Chick Show.



DUVELL CAMPBELL/ORAINE PHOTOGRAPHY

Top finishers Henry Griff and Bruce Lenex in the Color Run.



ELLEN BEST PHOTO

Helping hands in a garden.



ELLEN BEST PHOTO

Volunteers on a beautification project.



ELLEN BEST PHOTO

Namasha Schelling, Erin Trostle, Jessica Watts, Supervisor Kevin Hansan and Sharbari Bose Kamat.



ELLEN BEST PHOTO

Getting in the spirit at the Chick Show.

Bake-Off is a sweet treat for residents

By MILLIE BOWMAN

The Pound Ridge Partnership organization held a bake-off on the green in Scotts Corners on June 3. Residents in Pound Ridge were encouraged to enter their cakes, cookies or pies, with a chance to win the competition and prizes along with it.

The bake-off took place after the Pound Ridge Color Run, starting at 10:30 a.m. The event provided a junior bakers category for bakers 12 years of age or under who wanted to enter the competition. There was also an adult bakers category, offering the chance to become the grand prize winner and take home a new Cuisinart KitchenAid Mixer.

The Bake-Off committee chair, Karen McInerney, selected members of Pound Ridge organizations and local businesses to be the judges. The panel of judges included Jason Bowman, of BreadsNBakes, Jehan de Noue, chef at Albano Appliances, Yajaira Velez, head baker at The Market at Pound Ridge Square, Liz Larkin, founder of Mrs. Larkins, David Schlack, owner of North Star Restaurant, Kevin Hansen, Pound Ridge town supervisor, Stephanie Bell, principal of Pound Ridge Elementary School, and Sam Dodge, Pound Ridge Fire Department. The event was emceed by Patti D'Agostino.

The judges sampled all of the submissions and rated them on a scale of one to five, based on their taste, texture and appearance. Once all the baked goods were tasted, the volunteers tallied up the votes and the junior, adult and grand prize winners were announced.

Elena Len won first place in the junior bakers category for her marzipan petit four cake and was awarded a gift basket courtesy of Booksy Galore. Anya Leist won first place for the adult baker category for her carrot cake, and Erin Trostle was the Bake-Off grand prize winner for her orange sunshine cake.

Members of the Pound Ridge Partnership Junior Board and Committee volunteered at the event and helped make the transitions between the tasting of each entry as smooth as possible.

Ms. McInerney said she hopes that residents had "a delicious time" and would be inspired to get involved in more community events.

The idea for the event came from Terri Pike, the vice president of the Pound Ridge Partnership. Ms. Pike's



The Judges at work.



Grand prize winner Erin Trostle.



Junior baker first-place winner Elena Len.

mother was the head of a bake-off committee in California and "Terri thought this would be great to bring here, so she brought it here about 12 years ago when she started Pound Ridge Proud Day," said Ms. McInerney, adding, "but this is the first year it had its own stage and spotlight."

Added Ms. Pike, "In the last few years, with Karen McInerney as chairman of the event, the Bake-Off became very popular and deserved to be a major focus. On the recommendation of Partnership Board member James Best, we decided to make the Bake-Off a stand-alone event with an audience — Pound Ridge's version of a reality cooking show!"

Mr. Best hopes that the Bake-Off

will inspire residents to bring their own ideas to the Pound Ridge Partnership. "If people have a good idea and they're passionate about doing something for our town, they can present the idea to us and we can help them execute it," he noted.

Pound Ridge resident and mom of two, Juliet Scott-Croxford, believes that community-building events like the Bake-Off are "just so amazing and it's really transformed this area."

The Bake-Off was designed to bring together people in the community and connect around the shared interest of food. No matter our differences, "a warm cookie speaks all languages and all ages," Ms. McInerney said.

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HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE...

JUNE 18	JUNE 22	JUNE 24	JUNE 25	JUNE 30	JULY 9 / FREE
HOT JAZZ AGE FROLIC Eyal Vilner Big Band <i>Sport your favorite swing-era vintage look!</i>	THE HARLEM GOSPEL TRAVELERS Gospel quartet tradition of the '50s and '60s revitalized for the present.	ALL DAY ROOTS FESTIVAL! BRANDY CLARK ...and so many more artists!	FRANCESCA CACCINI'S ALCINA Boston Early Music Festival	SANDBOX PERCUSSION Andy Akiho's <i>Seven Pillars</i>	FARMING (NY PREMIERE) By Ted Hearne Performed by The Crossing Grapples with the impact of settler colonialism on current labor practices from tech to agriculture.
JULY 13	JULY 14	JULY 15	JULY 16	JULY 20	JULY 21
DAVONE TINES, BASS-BARITONE JOHN BITOY, PIANO	DAKHABRAKHA Ukrainian traditional folk mixed with punk, cabaret, rock, and hip-hop.	OUMOU SANGARÉ Global superstar and Grammy Award-winner catapults Westchester to West Africa!	ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S Hélène Grimaud, <i>piano</i>	CONRAD TAO, PIANO & CALEB TEICHER, DANCER Experience the dynamic interplay of classical piano and tap dance.	DOVER QUARTET STEVEN BANKS, SAXOPHONE
JULY 22	JULY 23	JULY 30	AUGUST 4	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 6
ALL DAY JAZZ FESTIVAL! CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT ...and so many more artists!	HANDEL'S ACIS AND GALATEA Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra	GARRICK OHLSSON, PIANO All-Chopin Program	SAMARA JOY 2023 Grammy Winner of Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album	MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER with her full band!	ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S Alisa Weilerstein, <i>cello</i>

