

## Central County News

### SOUTH SCHODACK

## Fire Company Chicken Barbecue

Please come to the South Schodack Fire Company on Bame Road on Saturday, April 10, from 3 to 6 pm for its pick-up only Chicken Barbecue. The menu will consist of ½ chicken, potato, coleslaw, and a roll for \$13. Children (under 12) dinners are available for \$7 (1/4 chicken). This fundraiser assists the fire company with buying supplies and equipment for the upcoming year. No reservation is required.

### GRAFTON

## Spending Time In The Cemetery (Above Ground)

Take a walking tour of the Grafton Center Cemetery and meet some of Grafton's notables. The narrated guided tour will feature visiting the grave sites of some of Grafton's most notable people. Included will be a judge, photographers, store owners, factory owner, men who fought for our country's freedom and others. The program will be held on Sunday, April 18 from 2-4 pm. Rain date is April 25. It is sponsored by the Grafton Community Library and the Grafton Historical Society and will be led by Anne Kiely. Tour size is limited and pre-registration is required. Please contact the library at 518-279-0580 or in person to register no later than April 15. All pertinent COVID-19 restrictions will be observed.

### TROY

## Washington Park Association Transitioning After 181 Years

The Washington Park Association (WPA) is transitioning after more than 150 years to become a new homeowners association.

Lynn Kopka, who served as president of the WPA for more than 20 years, will not be heading the new homeowners association. Instead, she will be continuing her community building work under the banner of "Washington Park Neighborhoods," serving the Washington Park, Osgood, Little Italy, Riverside and Historic Sage neighborhoods. Ms. Kopka will continue in her role as president of Friends of Washington Park, the nonprofit organization created to secure funding for neighborhood improvement projects.

## Schodack Planning Board Highlights

by Denise Wright

Businesses seemed to be the central focus of the April 5 Schodack Planning Board. The Planning Board held a public hearing on the Green Dale Community Solar Farm on County Route 32. One resident, an adjacent landowner, asked a question about sound from a transformer station that will be located on the property. She did say that the company had been easy to work with and highly forthright with her. The Board informed her that if the sound did become an issue, she should come to the town that could then enforce noise ordinances. This project will be getting reviewed by the Town Board in the future.

One major topic of discussion was Scannell Properties' proposed Sales Distribution Center on Route 150. The approximately 270,000 square foot center will have an almost 17,000 square foot office space in the building's front with 442 employee parking spaces. The 41-acre project will contain 25 acres of green space and two infiltration basins to manage stormwater run-off. Some changes were added to the project since its last presentation. There will be a 15 foot high, 600 foot long sound wall in the southwest corner of the property, the location of a water storage container was switched from near the entrance driveway to near the exit driveway. The presenters discussed the traf-

fic impact and explained that Route 150 would have some changes such as signal modifications, dedicated left-turn lanes, and possibly widening the road to accommodate the extra lanes. According to the project presenters, anticipated truck traffic should be 90 percent heading towards the north while 10 percent will be heading south and would affect exits 11 and 12. The traffic impact study was submitted to the New York State Department of Transportation for review. Noise concerns were also brought up, and the study discussed a "minor increase" of three decibels, but the Board wanted to see more of the boundary broken up with landscaping to assist in muffling sounds. The Board approved being the lead agency on the project and will discuss this topic at the April 19 meeting, where it hopes to hear the DOT's comments on this project. Once it reviews the comments it will set up a public hearing on this project in May.

Hart Commercial Business Park on US Route 9 received a favorable recommendation to the Town Board after having its resolutions approved on the project's environmental impact. A tire sales and part-time installation business on Route 9 were presented to the Board for its initial review. The Board discussed concerns about fencing as well as storage of discarded tires. The Board referred this project to engineering for review.

### GRAFTON

## That Is A Big Easter Bunny



The Grafton Youth Commission sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt on the field at the former Grafton Elementary School on Saturday morning, April 3. There to surprise and greet all the children was the world famous Easter Bunny.

The children collected plastic eggs in their baskets and brought them back to redeem for candy and other sweet treats. In this photo, many of the children run to greet the six foot tall rabbit who visited Grafton courtesy of the Brunswick Elks Ladies Auxiliary. Photo by Doug La Rocque.



Lynn Kopka, in front of her 195 Second St. home where she recently replaced a broken historic fence by hiring Ross Valve Manufacturing Co. to recast the structure. Photo provided.

"I want to build on what's already in place and continue the services that WPA previously provided over the years — bringing our neighborhoods together to support each other," said Kopka. "WPA always aimed to bring everyone together to cooperate and collaborate."

The now-transitioning WPA began in 1840 and was instrumental in preserving the historic integrity of Washington Park.

Kopka is especially proud of the stabilization of 8 Washington Place, a row house that was severely decayed and threatened the structural integrity of the adjacent ensemble of houses. While row houses are common throughout the area's neighborhoods, these 10 feature a single façade. The neighborhood association spent nearly a decade raising more than \$90,000 to stabilize the deteriorating building before it was purchased and renovated.

The Friends of Washington Park also completed a \$200,000 restoration project to preserve and restore the original Belgian block pavers on Washington Place, a short street bordering the south end of the park.