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\$1

Ellenville Trustees **Fed Up** With Town Neglect



Will Ellenville Be Ulster's Next Big City?

The village has had enough of the town, and may seek a divorce.

Photo by Amberly Jane Campbell

By Chris Rowley

WAWARSING – With the next budget season for the village due to begin, Ellenville Mayor Jeff

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Rochester Lays Down The Laws... Five, To Be Exact

By Max Freebern

Farm Hub: Distributing Food & Knowledge

By Mary Ann Van Benschooten

HURLEY – Nine years after its founding, the Hudson Valley Farm Hub, a not-for-profit agricultural and food-supply center, continues working numerous forward-looking initiatives. The Farm Hub was previously the home of the old Gill farmland in Hurley, before a philanthropic organization funded the \$13 million purchase of the property.

Currently, 900 acres of the land are being farmed and 100 acres are in the process of being transitioned to organic farming. Another 100 acres are devoted to habitat management projects. The remaining land is woodlands or riparian.

The Farm Hub was among the NoVo Foundation's first local philanthropic endeavors; it supplied the money to the Local Economies Project of the New World Foundation. NoVo, headed by Peter Buffett and his wife Jennifer, has poured more than \$200 million into charitable contributions and other projects in Ulster County.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, food distribution became a real issue in our area. The Farm Hub answered the call by focusing on food donation, a service it still provides. Most of the Hub's produce has shifted to emergency food distribution to organizations such as People's Place and UlsterCorps that have an existing network for food distribution. Food is also donated to the Kingston YMCA Farm Stand. Beans, flour, popcorn and corn meal are sold under the brand name Milestone Mill at local farm markets as well.

In a letter this week to the Kingston community posted on the website Medium, Buffett went into further detail about the Hub's pandemic response.

"Last year the Farm Hub donated 300,000 pounds of produce into the emergency feeding system and produced well over a million pounds of grains that were distributed into regional markets," he wrote. "In addition to food production, the Farm Hub is supporting the development of a localized food system through on-farm research and demonstration, farmer training and a range of mission-aligned programming."

The Farm Hub is also focusing on educational programs geared to-



Some of The Farm Hub's people and produce.

Courtesy photos

wards regional farmers. Recently the Hub hosted a Field Crops Field Day, which was well attended by regional farmers and scholars. Farm planting techniques were discussed, including no-till farming, a process where crops are grown without disturbing the soil. The Hub uses this technique on 10 to 20 percent of its crops.

On August 10, the Hub staff is planning an Applied Farmscape Ecology Field Day, where researchers and scientists associated with the Applied Farmscape Ecology Research Collaborative will hold demonstrations and answer questions. The event is geared towards farmers, conservation professionals, land managers, and others interested in learning about on-farm ecology and the different research projects that occur at the Farm Hub.

Applied farmscape ecology is the study of the impact farming has on

nature. Scientists and students at the Hub are monitoring the natural habitat and how it's affected by various farming techniques. Another program to be offered later this year is tractor training for farmers.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to contribute to the food systems in the region, and value the partners we work with," said Amy Wu, communications manager for the Farm Hub. "We see ourselves expanding all of our programs and associated outreach, which includes specialized educational workshops, farmscape ecology and seed growing."

To receive information about these programs and others, sign up for the Hub newsletter at the bottom of their webpage at hvfarmhub.org. The Hub can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

Monkeypox In Ulster

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public health officials monitoring the spread of the infection, the first case of which was detected in New York back in June. Last week, New York City declared a public health emergency as infections are on the rise there; as of Saturday, 1,862 cases have been reported to the state Department of Health.

"We have a limited supply of the JYNNEOS vaccine to administer to individuals who meet the criteria established by the New York State Department of Health," Smith stated. "We have been engaged in a public awareness campaign to share information about monkeypox through social media and public service announcements. We also have access to treatment through the state for severe cases."

"I encourage all residents to be informed of monkeypox symptoms and to call your doctor if experiencing any," County Executive Pat Ryan stated. "We will continue to update the public to ensure full transparency as the situation develops." County officials, citing HIPAA rules, declined to identify the municipality where the case was reported.

According to the county, monkeypox is a viral infection in the same family as smallpox and spreads in several ways, such as by direct contact with monkeypox lesions through skin-to-skin contact, or by contact with respiratory droplets or saliva from someone with monkeypox. It can also spread through touching objects, fabrics like clothing, bedding, or towels, and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.

Symptoms can include a rash that a eventually forms bumps or blisters on or around the genitals or in other areas like the hands, feet, chest or face. Also common are flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache, muscle aches, chills and fatigue. These symptoms may occur before or after the rash appears, or not at all.

Currently, state guidelines limit monkeypox vaccine eligibility to individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Individuals with recent exposure to a suspected or confirmed monkeypox case within the past 14 days.
- Those at high risk of a recent exposure to monkeypox, including people who have engaged in intimate or skin-to-skin contact with others in the past 14 days areas where monkeypox is spreading.
- Individuals who have had skin-to-skin contact with someone in a social network experiencing monkeypox activity.

For more information, follow @UCDeptHealth on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, or call the Ulster County Service Center at 845-443-8888, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ask to speak to a public health nurse, if reporting symptoms. Visit the New York State Department of Health's website to learn more.



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