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# FINGER LAKES

TIMES-

FRIDAY, OCT. 10, 2014



**PUMPKIN FUN** 

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# **Depot a funding priority**

Seneca White Deer group supports the possible designation

By DAVID L. SHAW

dshaw@fltimes.com

ROMULUS — A draft of the state's Open Space Conservation Plan includes the former Seneca Army Depot as a priority area for possible funding through the state's Environmental Protection Fund.

Seneca White Deer Inc. is supporting that designation.

The depot is a very worthwhile candidate as it contains more than 7,000 acres available for the protection of the world's largest herd of white, white-tailed deer, as well as open space and a vast array of recreational opportunities for people of all



Money

visit and experience," Seneca White Deer Dennis President Money said in a news release. Nine public hearings

have been scheduled throughout the state on the plan. The one  $_{
m the}$ Environmental of

Department Conservation's Region 8 Advisory Committee is set for 4 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 22 at DEC's Region 8 headquarters in Avon. The Region 8 Advisory Committee selected the depot for possible funding.

Money will speak Oct. 22 in support of the former depot, which is in the towns of Romulus and Varick.

Seneca White Deer is recommending the state acquire a major portion of the depot with EPF money and operate it as an eco-tourism center under the control of the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Money has long been a proponent of DEC supporting the management of wildlife and habitat within the former depot.

Seneca White Deer conducted tours within the depot's conservation area in 2006, '09 and '12. All the

■ See DEPOT on Page 4A

#### Fire department lessons



Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

Members of the Geneva Fire Department visited schools during Fire Prevention Week. The visits included timed fire drills, first-grade fire safety and a fifth-grade fire poster contest featuring a theme that working smoke detectors save lives. A fire safety trailer (above) was presented to all third-grade classes at St. Francis-St. Stephen and North Street schools. The students are brought through the "house," where both hazards and safety items were pointed out. Then a room fills with "smoke," and they have to "get low and go" to get out. They feel the door they came through, which is "hot," so they need to find another way out, which is the back window ladder.

# Students studying downtown Ovid

By DAVID L. SHAW

dshaw@fltimes.com

OVID - A group of Cornell University students is developing ideas to improve the downtown streetscape in this Seneca County village.

The students are part of the Design Connect program at Cornell, a multidisciplinary student-run community design organization that provides planning services to improve local communities. The downtown project is sponsored by Seneca Towns Engaging People STEPS is a Solutions -Rural Health Network project made possible by a grant from the Greater



Some Cornell University students are developing plans to help revitalize downtown Ovid, which was ravaged by a fire in March.

Rochester Health Foundation — and Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Part of Main Street was ravaged by a March fire. The blaze destroyed three businesses and

apartments.

This semester's project will involve developing ideas for the downtown streetscape. The students will create conceptual ideas and renderings of a re-envisioned downtown, as well as possible economic strategies to achieve the

vision. "We hope that this will be the first project in a successful, ongoing relationship between the group and the STEPS neighborhood," STEPS project director Theresa Lahr said. "We know many of our residents already have more project ideas that include each of the four southern

■ See OVID on Page 4A

# Judge issues stay for co-op

By DAVID L. SHAW

dshaw@fltimes.com GENEVA — Neither the

city nor Jeff Henderson got exactly what they wanted Thursday in city court.

Acting City Judge Stephen Aronson Canandaigua issued a "stay" of the city's order to show cause served on Henderson

over his solar panels and chicken egg cooperative at 48-50 State St.  $_{\mathrm{He}}$ 

directed that the issue go before the Henderson city's Zoning



Board of Appeals to determine the answers to two questions.

The one being asked by the city is: Does the zoning code require a setback and buffer variance application?

The question asked by Henderson's lawyer is: Was city Zoning and Planning Coordinator Neal Braman right in telling Henderson he didn't need to go to the ZBA and then changing his

The stav Henderson does not have to remove the two dozen hens on the industrially zoned property or the four rows of solar panels, which have not yet been hooked into the electrical grid.

City Attorney David Foster said he was happy the matter will go before the ZBA. He contends Henderson should have gone to the board to seek a variance from the zoning code requirements regarding a 100-foot buffer zone from neighboring residential properties.

Henderson's lawyer, Cheney Donald Canandaigua, said he's satisfied because the ZBA will hear his appeal of Braman's actions.

Cheney said Braman told Henderson verbally after the city Planning Board unanimously approved his site plan and architectural review Aug. 21 that he did not have to go to the ZBA for a variance. Henderson claims he had applied for a variance and was ready to present his case before the ZBA on Aug. 22 but was told by Braman it wasn't neces-

The next ZBA meeting is scheduled for Oct. 22.

Foster had filed an order showcause Henderson, bringing the matter to court. It sought

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#### **WORD OF MOUTH:**

"Insist mathematics include the study of property and sales taxes, mortgages, development fees ... - Michael J. Fitzgerald, Page 6A

**TOMORROW** 

**High:** 57 Low: 35





# PumpkinPalooza adds wine tasting

Event also expands antique show, sale

> By JIM MILLER jmiller@fltimes.com

LYONS — This year's PumpkinPalooza, which begins Oct. 16, will feature an expanded antique show and sale.

Previously a Saturdayonly event, the show will kick off Friday night with a pre-sale and wine tasting.

"I think it kind of upgrades it a little bit," Joan Delaro, manager of the Lyons Main Street Program, said. "It gives it a little more personality. It was a part of our program that was in some ways neglected a little bit.

People didn't seem to know that it was still going on.'

The show will feature 10 vendors, with offerings ranging from collectibles to furniture, she said.

Also new this year are historical walking tours led by Pat Alena of the Lyons Historic Society and Hotchkiss Museum PumpkinPalooza began

six years ago. Old favorites, including pumpkin carving and the Pearl Street Pumpkin Roll, will return again this year.

The pumpkin carving will be held Thursday, with the resulting jack-olanterns displayed on the courthouse steps.

"The kids have a lot of fun with that," Delaro said. "They can make a big mess, and mom doesn't have to clean it up."

The pumpkin roll is scheduled for Saturday.

"That's the highlight of the whole thing," Delaro said. "It just amazes me how excited people get about pumpkins rolling down a hill."

This year's events begin at 6 p.m. Thursday with the pumpkin carving in Village Square Park. Here's a look at the rest of the schedule:

• Oct. 17: Preview antique show and sale, wine tasting and silent auction, 3-7 p.m. in the former Trombino's Restaurant. The cost is \$5 a person.

• Oct. 18: Lyons Farmers Market, 7:30 a.m.; 5K Run by the Lyons Community Center, 9 a.m.; Antique show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Trombino's; vendors and festival open, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; live music from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; kids' costume parade, noon on William Street; A Stroll Through Historic Lyons, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., beginning at the Hotchkiss Museum on Water Street; corn husking competition, 1 p.m.; screaming contest, 1:30 p.m.; tug-of-war, 3:30 p.m.; casket race, 4 p.m.; pumpkin race, 4 p.m.; raffle for Lyons Main Street gift basket; Zombie Walk, 5:30 p.m., beginning in front of the Ohmann Theater, with a Thriller Dance-off.

PumpkinPalooza serves as a fundraiser for the Lyons Main Street Program, which organizes the event.

### **JUDGE**

#### Matter to go to zoning appeals board

#### ■ Continued from Page 1A

to order Henderson to immediately stop all work on the State Street project pending a proper zoning determination, to remove the chickens from the property, to not make the solar panels operational and directed that the project be submitted to the ZBA for a determination.

Foster argued that the Planning Board approval contains a provision that Henderson also must comply with all other statutes and regulations for an industrially-zoned proper-

ty.
"He did not do that. He simply began working on the project. He was advised twice by letter from Mr. Braman to go to the ZBA, and he put it in writing that he would not do that," Foster said.

"Was he told he didn't have to do that?" Aronson asked.

Cheney said Henderson was told by Braman that he didn't need to go to the

"He was ready to go to the ZBA and was told he didn't have to because it was not a typical industrial use," Cheney said. "He proceeded and invested in the project."

But Foster said Henderson was later informed in writing that he had to, and he refused. He said the city is not seeking to force Henderson to remove what he's already built, calling that an "onerous burden." But he said the chickens should be removed until a decision is made.

Cheney said Henderson did what was required, getting Planning Board approval for his project.

The city can't come back a few weeks later and say he needed to get a vari-

ance," Cheney argued. "He had permission to do all that he's doing on the site. He said chickens are allowed in that zone. It was determined there was no adverse impacts on the neighboring properties."

"He can't have it both ways," Foster countered. "He can't say it's an industrial zone to get the chickens in place and then say it's an agricultural use and the buffer requirements don't apply.'

Henderson asked if he could address the court, but Aronson said he needed to ask his lawyer. Henderson ended up not speaking in court.

"He should go before the ZBA for a variance," Foster

"Apparently he tried to do that," Aronson noted. "Good. Let the ZBA decide. They are the

experts in these matters, Foster said. Cheney said he wants the ZBA to hear his appeal

of whether Braman was proper in telling Henderson he didn't have to seek a variance and then changing his mind. Aronson then issued his stay of the show cause

order and directed the matter go to the ZBA. Later, Henderson said

the city is alleging he "willfully" violated the law.

"That is not the case. It's frustrating. I tried to follow the law. That's why I think there is a political motivation here. Some people just don't want the chickens there," he said.

Foster said Henderson is "mischaracterizing" the issue but hopes it can be resolved by the ZBA. He pointed to the Planning Board approval motion that contains the provision that he comply with all applicable statutes.

## **OVID**

Continued from Page 1A

town in Seneca County." Those four towns are Lodi, Covert, Ovid and Romulus.

The students will produce sample designs for vacant lots, street design, a coherent village design and signage. The designs would reflect community

input and a feedback loop between the project team and community requests, a key component in the process

"We couldn't be more excited to be chosen and we're glad we can bring resources Cornell to work with us in southern Seneca County," said Ave Bauder, Seneca CornellCounty Cooperative Extension executive director and cochairman of the STEPS

Steering Committee. "The Design Connect students see community input as vital as they work with us, so their approach ties completely into that of the STEPS project." In the next few weeks,

the students will gather community input through surveys, interviews and open meetings. The process will involve all stakeholder groups such as STEPS. Cooperative Extension, neighborhood the possibilities, needs and barriers in a project of this magnitude. Design Connect will present the final plans and

residents, business own-

ers, landowners, communi-

ty leaders and elected offi-

cials. The idea is to make

everyone understand fully

designs to the community sometime next month. Contact Lahr at (607)

403-0069 or mtlahr@ gmail.com, or Bauder at 539-9251, with questions.

# **DEPOT**

Continued from Page 1A

tours were sold out, Money said, and hundreds of other people had to be turned away.

"For a total of 11 weekends, more than 6,300 people came from all over America, one as far as Alaska, to experience the magic of the white deer and learn about the military and civilian histories associated with the depot," Money said.

He said revenues from an eco-tourism center would be available to support development, maintenance and operation of the facility.

"Experience has shown that tours can be successful with minimal state investment, while the spillover effects of the tours to other businesses is significant," Money said.

Seneca White Deer also listed the following points as reasons to support state investment in the former depot:

• ACCESS: The property is basically flat, with has a network of many miles of roadways. It has no steep hills to climb and near the middle of the state. Trails, blinds and viewing areas could be designed to accommodate people of all abilities, opening the depot to a critical and underserved popula-

SPORTSMEN AND VETERANS: Since 1956. an annual fall deer hunt has been conducted within the depot fences. It is done to keep the deer herd at the right size for the available winter food.

DEC, which is responsible for managing the wildlife resources of the state, and its Bureau of Wildlife can determine the best management tools to maintain a healthy herd of brown and white deer.

If an annual hunt is the optimal method for the management of the deer herd, it could serve as an additional revenue stream for the operation of the depot, similar to the elk hunting lottery held in Pennsylvania. It also could be utilized by military veterans.

"With its long military history, the depot could be a great location for veterans to have reunions, rehabilitate and affirm and reconnect with their military associations," Money

• OTHER USES: The depot is the largest contiguous land parcel within the Finger Lakes. The miles of roadways would provide hiking, biking and

horseback riding opportunities for a variety of populations. Trails, blinds and overlooks could be built. In the winter, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing could be offered. A 60-acre pond on the northeast side of the depot could provide fishing and camping activi-

The depot also is a major birding area, as designated by DEC and the Audubon Society, with more than 100 species of birds known live and migrate through the property.

With an abundance of wildlife, it could be a wildlife education training facility and a photographer's "dream" location for photographing wildlife and birds. It could also be a site for research and offer an educational experience unique in the state

PARTNERSHIPS: The depot could partner with Sampson State Park,

which is nearby, to highlight their significant roles in World War II and the Korean conflict. Sampson was a Navy and Air Force training center, while the depot provided and stored ammunition for those con-

Seneca White Deer also said the depot could provide overflow campgrounds and touring opportunities, with buses picking up Sampson visitors for a short trip to the depot.

"The former depot is a diamond in the rough," Money said. "With a little polishing and some enthusiastic promotion, it could become a world-class tourism destination. ... The white deer would be a tremendous magnetic attraction, but only if the depot is protected through the open spaces process acquired with Environmental Protection Fund money."

Public comment on the draft of the Open Space Conservation Plan will be accepted until Dec. 17.

#### If you go ...

What: Department of Environmental Conservation Region 8 **Advisory Committee** public hearing on state's Open Space Conservation Plan

When: 4 to 6 p.m. and

7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 22 Where: DEC Region 8

headquarters, 6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon





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