



**Mary Jane Vosburgh**, Clara Van Tassel's mother, is featured in one of six images in a special set of note cards that also includes the 1856 Ancram Quilt, collages of historical imagery by Lynne Perrella, and two photos from the Ancram Historic Archives.

You can buy card sets at Ancram Community Days for \$15; proceeds will go toward the cost of the new town playground. Stacey Moore of Moore & More Printing, Millerton, donated part of the cost of printing the cards. (See image, p. 4.)

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## Ancram Community Days Celebrate Kids, Families, and Our History

Bring the family and join your neighbors on Saturday, August 14, and Sunday, August 15, for the Second Annual Ancram Community Days. Proceeds will go to the Ancram Youth Commission's new playground, so you'll see lots of kid-friendly activities—a water slide, face painting, pony rides, exotic amphibians, and donated gifts for kids—you can buy chances to win and then share the gift with the little one of your choice.

### **Saturday—tractor pull, food, fun for kids, historic quilt**

The tractor pull starts at 9 a.m. near Town Hall, and you'll be able to buy breakfast and lunch, and later enjoy the Ancram Fire Co.'s chicken BBQ starting at 5 p.m. Call 329-3430 to reserve.

Indoors, you'll find Clara Van Tassel and Robin Massa, and they invite you to bring in your historic family photos or old photos of places in Ancram—they'll have a scanner at the ready so your memories can become part of our town's history.

At 11 a.m., in Town Hall, the Ancram Preservation Group (APG) will present to our town an historic 1856 quilt that includes the names of farming families from that time. Jack Lindsey, former Town Board member and APG member, notes that the APG tries "to save the important histories of local families, and the quilt represents one in a series of initiatives, including preserving Simon's Store and the Steihle House."

Over at Simon's General Store, you'll find a tag sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., sponsored by the Ancram Angels and the APG. Featured items include an antique quilt, Victorian-era birdcage, vintage clothing and accessories, home décor, Japanese kimonos, chandeliers, books, and music. You'll find wonderful things to buy, and all proceeds go to help build the playground.

### **Sunday—all-faith service followed by potluck brunch**

Come to the all-faith service at 9:30 a.m. at the Ancramdale Presbyterian Church, followed by a potluck brunch at next-door Fellowship Hall at 11 a.m. Bring a dish your family loves, and the rest of us will probably enjoy it just as much.

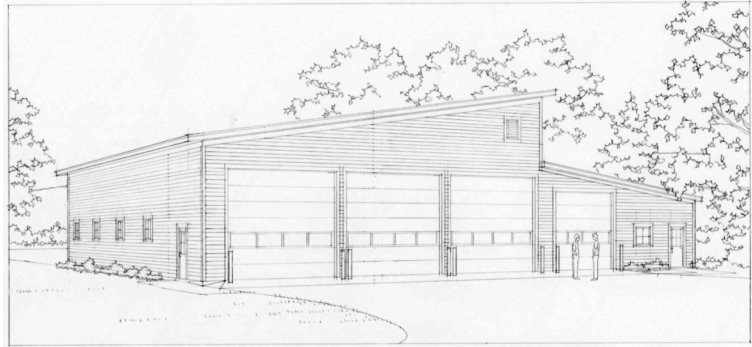
## Let's Play!

The Ancram Youth Commission recently sent a fund-raising letter to all town taxpayers and voters asking for contributions to a new playground next to Town Hall.

Ruth Wittlinger, president of the Youth Commission, notes the group has raised about \$30,000 to date toward the total cost, estimated at \$90,000. Please help if you can—see page 4 for how to donate.

### **Bike Riders Welcomed In Ancramdale**

On Sunday, July 25, the Ancram Angels organized a rest stop for the Harlem Valley Rail Ride, a yearly bicycle event sponsored by Bike New York. “Our rest stop is next to The Farmer's Wife in Ancramdale, and we always receive high marks from the riders for a cheerful and enthusiastic welcome,” says organizer Lynne Perrella. Volunteers for the event included: Steve Sorman, Keith and Betzi Bendis, Robin McDonald, Mary Watkins, Laura Ponkos, Chuck Currie, Martha Holmes, Adrienne Citrin, and Lynne and John Perrella.



Sketch of new town garage by architect Joe Iuviene, AIA

## Vote August 21 on Highway Garage

The Town Board voted to hold a special election on Saturday, August 21, from noon to 9 p.m. at Ancram Town Hall to get approval to borrow up to \$400,000 toward building a new highway garage at its current site.

Although the Town will have approximately \$650,000 in the bank by the end of the year, and could pay for the garage renovations without borrowing, the Town Board elected to get voter approval to borrow up to \$400,000 in order to keep higher reserves in case the economy worsens.

The Board has said there will be no new taxes needed to pay any loan back. The Board has determined it can reduce the annual budget by \$100,000 and pay back any loan within five years.

The Board estimates the new town garage will last the town 60 years or more. It can house all the town's equipment with room to spare for expansion. The garage will feature radiant heat in a concrete floor, a new septic and well, and expanded staff facilities.

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### **Protect Your Home from Fire Damage**

On Saturday, August 14, bring your fire extinguisher to Ancram Community Days between 9 a.m. and noon outside Town Hall so that representatives from Sausbiers can fill or recharge it (if possible). They will also sell extinguishers. The Ancram Fire Co. arranged for Sausbiers to provide this service.

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## We Have an Ambitious “To Do” List

*by Town Supervisor Art Bassin*

It's hard to believe it's August already. As I look back, we've accomplished a lot, and we also have important business on our “to do” list for the rest of the year.

Since January, we've brought town expenditures under better control (lower than budget), and we've provided financial updates every month. Volunteers painted Town Hall, and contributions from more than 50 donors covered all costs. The board adopted the Comprehensive Plan, and we've begun work to bring our zoning into compliance with the plan. We've moved forward on creating a much-needed, improved Town Garage.

**Looking forward**, here's what I hope we can accomplish by working together effectively the rest of this year:

- Hold town taxes flat for our 2011 budget, and allocate \$100,000 of spending from business-as-usual items to repaying the garage loan.
- Set up a capital reserve for major equipment and facilities investments.
- Continue making progress on our zoning revisions and farmland protection planning efforts.
- Expand and renovate the Town Garage where it is.
- Pass new town laws for Cell Towers, Wind Turbines, and Ethics.
- Consider passing local laws, subject to a town referendum in November, extending the terms of the town supervisor, town clerk, and highway superintendent to four-year terms, like other town officials, starting with the 2011 election.
- Begin a long-term Ancram Recreation Plan to see how to best use the Town Hall site and Blass Park, and develop walking and biking trails, and other recreational facilities.
- Establish policies and procedures for purchasing, personnel, and investments.
- Raise funds to build a new playground at Town Hall in 2011.
- Upgrade our town website, making it more informative and easier to use.
- Make Friendship Hall in Ancramdale handicapped-accessible in order to keep it open as a poling place. Neighbors Helping Neighbors has already raised more than \$2,500 for this project.



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### **Exercise Classes At the Opera House**

The Ancram Opera House offers more than music to your ears—you're invited to get off the couch and join one of their exercise classes in August!

- Alexander/Yoga, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Yoga Level 2, Tuesdays, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Gentle Therapeutic Yoga, Fridays, 9:30 to 11 a.m.
- Pilates, Sundays, 9 to 10 a.m.
- Belly Dancing, Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Mambo, Fridays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Call 518-329-7393 for prices and more information.

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### Please Contribute

#### For a New Playground

The Ancram Youth Commission is raising money for a new playground for children ages two to 14. Mail tax-deductible contributions to:

Ancram Youth Commission  
c/o Ancram Town Hall  
1416 County Route 7 Ancram  
NY 12502.

#### For a Voting Ramp

To build the handicapped-accessible ramp at Friendship Hall, Ancramdale, and keep it open as a place to vote, send a check made out to Town of Ancram (note on the check that it's for the Ramp Fund) and mail your donation to:

Ancram Town Hall  
(address above)



#### Thanks for Saving this Tree

Choral Eddie reports she's received the money needed to save this tree. Thanks!

### Upcoming Events

**August 14 and 15**, Ancram Community Days, Ancram Town Hall, Simon's General Store, Fellowship Hall.

**August 19**, Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Ancram Town Hall.

**August 21**, Vote on the referendum to borrow money to build the Town Garage, noon to 9.m., Town Hall.

**August 21**, concert with Adrianna Zuckerman, soprano, and Navah Perlman, piano, 7 p.m. Ancram Opera House, Ancram. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Call 518-329-7393.

**October 8**, Fall Festival, Ancramdale, featuring local farm and food vendors.

**October 23**, Ancram Preservation Group House Tour.

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### Ancram Town News

#### Communications Committee:

Madeleine Israel, chair, plus Sue Bassin, Nancy Bryant, B. Docktor, Mary Murfitt, and Jane Shannon, editor + layout.

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Photo: B. Docktor

**Quilt Honors Early Ancram Farming Families**—seen above is a segment of the 1856 Ancram Album Quilt, created by Mary Moon Rockefeller. It includes embroidered names of local farming families, such as, Hoystrat, Piester, Tripp, Rockefeller, Silvernail, Vosburgh, and Snyder. The Ancram Preservation Group will give the quilt to Ancram on Saturday, August 14, at 11 a.m. at Town Hall.

### What's in the Cards?

Here's one of Lynne Perrella's artful collages, which you can see at Town Hall and you can buy reproductions in the note card sets for sale to help build the new playground.

