

## A busy start to a happy New Year!

**An Eagle Scout Award** ceremony for Carl Jamieson was held at Town Hall Nov. 3rd, followed by a reception.

Carl's community project to earn his Eagle Scout badge was the commemorative stone walkway at Town Hall, leading to the flagpole.

"Carl impressed me, and everyone in town, with his professional approach and outstanding workmanship," said Art Bassin. Art was asked to participate on Carl's Eagle Scout Board of Review and to speak at the ceremony.

"Carl is an exceptional young man, and one who has, through his hard work and dedication to scouting values, definitely earned the rank of Eagle Scout."

Congratulations to Carl, son of Jamie & Sheila Jamieson, who wore the family tartan to receive his badge!



### Ancram Hamlet: 82/7 Intersection... we're Sculpting for Safety

The program to improve this dangerous intersection (see below) is on its way with Phase One!



The State's right-of-way will be "shaved" back on the NE corner to improve sight lines down Rte 82 from Rte 7, as simulated in the photo below. The retaining wall between the Tinsmith House and Porter's Store will also be stabilized.



Ancram's Intersection Committee and County Commissioner Dave Robinson defined this as the first phase. Having County and State approvals means the work can begin early in the spring. Once started, the project will be completed in a week or so.

The next phase will address the sight line up Route 82 from the NW corner.

*An Ancram Revitalization Project*



### Firehouse News: Hot Off the Press

Ancram voters made two trips to the Firehouse in December.

One of five Fire District Commissioners is elected every December for a 5-year term. On Dec 11, John Ingram, also Planning Board Chair, was elected 44 to 2, replacing Perry Miller.

On the 18th, the Fire District's referendum for a \$895,000 bond to build an extension to the firehouse (pictured above) was approved 106 to 18. This will be a fitting home for the new fire truck, purchased last summer.

Website: [www.ancramfire.com](http://www.ancramfire.com)

### Saving A House from a Rainy Day

Marjorie Butler's roof was leaking and her house in danger of slipping into the creek. Heavy rains and floods had undercut the bank perilously close to the foundation.

Neighbor Chuck Boyles called Art. Was there anything that could be done? Art worked with Marge and her daughter in Florida, Gail Kohler, to apply for emergency home repair assistance for qualifying seniors, from the Housing Resources Corp.

Approved work on the roof and to stop the erosion should be completed next spring!

If you are over 65 and own your home, you could qualify. Call Art to learn more.

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### Clara Van Tassel accepts CCHS Award

The Roeliff Jansen Historical Society was given a Heritage Award by the Columbia County Historical Society for its "dedication to rich history" and "historical collaboration."

Current President, Ancram's own

historian Clara Van Tassel, accepted the award for the RJHS,

in existence for nearly 40 years. Robin Massa, Ancram's Assistant Historian, is RJHS Museum Director.

Award presenter and CCHS Trustee Libby McKee is also from Ancram.



## TownNews

Got some news?  
Contact Art Bassin  
Town Supervisor  
329-0921  
[abassin@aol.com](mailto:abassin@aol.com)

Getting your news by  
email saves the town  
money and keeps you  
more up-to-date.

Contact Madeleine Israel  
to make the change,  
329-7483  
[airjazz@taconic.net](mailto:airjazz@taconic.net)

*Lynne Perrella  
talks about the  
Ancram Angels'  
2012 selection*



### ***"An Angel in our Midst ...Matt Boice"***



Photos on this page by B. Docktor

Beautiful decorations, elegant wrappings and a sumptuous potluck dinner put everyone in a holiday mood at the Ancram Angels' annual party December 8 at Town Hall. This raffle fundraiser for the Community Rescue Squad, now in its 18th year, has always included a holiday songfest. This year was no exception! Sophie McConnell, Lynne Perrella and Melissa Sorman, shown below in the doorway, led the 75+ in song. Sophie asked for spirited renditions, not dirges, telling the carolers "I'd like you to sing the holiday songs really fast!" It was very peppy and lots of fun!



"As I was thinking this fall about who should be honored as "Angel of the Year" at our annual Ancram Angels Holiday Party, I read an announcement about local teenager Matt Boice and his yearly Haunted House production at the Firehouse. It occurred to me that Matt would be the perfect honoree -- someone who uses his unique talents and creativity to contribute to our town. After I got the OK from Matt's parents, David and Jennifer Boice, I asked Joan Arnold of the Ancram Opera House to meet with the family to find out more about Matt and his various interests and accomplishments."

"Although his Haunted House productions got our attention, there are endless reasons to admire Matt and his devotion to family, music, sports, and community involvement. Following her meeting with the Boices, Joan stopped off at my house. 'Well!' she reported, 'Matt is quite a remarkable kid!'"

"At our celebratory Holiday Party on December 8, 15-year-old Matt became the youngest "Angel of the Year", following in the footsteps of previous honorees Clara Van Tassel, Art Bassin, Jane Moore, Bob Blechman, and others."

"The Angels, under the leadership of Lizette von Gal, started giving our yearly holiday party 18 years ago, in the community room of the firehouse. When the Town Hall was built in 2003, Supervisor Gerry Simons encouraged us to move the party there."

"We've always taken a lot of pleasure in transforming the businesslike meeting room into a holiday fairyland -- perfect for bringing everyone together for an evening of festivity, holiday cheer, and raising funds for the Community Rescue Squad, an important part of our community."

2012 raffle proceeds reached \$2,000 and will be presented in early January to Jeannie Scotti of the Rescue Squad.



Boice family L to R: Johanna, David, Jen & 15-year-old Matt, 2012 Angel of the Year, youngest ever selected.