



Christmas on the Farm returns

By NADINE CAFARO
ncafarotcnewspapers.com

What better way to celebrate Christmas than a community Christmas party consisting of a tree lighting, yummy soup, hot chocolate, caroling and a warm bonfire?

Pine Bush residents Sarah Gailie and her husband Robert Gailie decided to throw a Christmas party last year for local residents in need of Christmas presents during the holidays. Determined to help out their community, they reached out to local organizations and ended up hosting around 60 to 70 people. Now Christmas is around the corner, and they want to do it again.

The idea for this event originally came from a possible community Thanksgiving dinner last year. “I envisioned doing a Thanksgiving dinner that would involve the community. I grew up in a big family and my wife grew up in a big family so we always had places to go, but not everybody has that opportunity. We thought it’d be a nice thing to be able to create an event for people that don’t have a place to go, so we brought it up with some of our other family and it was a little too late last year, so it ended up getting pushed into a Christmas party,” said Robert Gailie.

This year’s Christmas on the

Farm event, which will take place on December 11 at 4 p.m. on 531 River Rd. Montgomery, will be a little more than just giving out Christmas presents. The Gailies reached out to a group home full of kids in Newburgh this year as well as posting on Facebook to hopefully create an even greater turnout.

“We encourage people that don’t have somewhere to go [during the holidays] to come have a bowl of soup and hang out with us. [We can] sing carols and make new friends,” said Sarah Gailie.

Last year the pair worked with non-profit group Operation Dalmatian, an organization that brings together schools, organizations, local businesses, churches and the Walden Fire Department to buy gifts for families and children in need. Sarah Gailie mentions her family started Operation Dalmatian, and they’ve been serving Walden since 1999.

Both Sarah and Robert Gailie volunteer as much as they can, mostly through their church, Goodwill. However they also help with Operation Dalmatian and volunteer wherever they can. “I just helped out serving food at a women’s ministry the other day,” said Sarah Gailie.

The Gailie’s extended family is also helping with the event, including Sarah Gailie’s mother, aunts and uncles. There is a barn on the farm that is owned by Sarah Gailie’s Aunt Sue, who



Sarah Gailie with local children who received gifts at the 2021 Christmas on the Farm Event.

donates it for this event.

“We had a guy messaging us saying that he hasn’t had a family for the last 10 years and it’s just been him on Christmas. He’s really looking forward to speaking with people,” said Sarah Gailie.

All are welcome to this event but are asked to RSVP so the Gailies can have enough soup to serve. Reach out to Sarah Gailie on Facebook or at 845-800-0551 to reserve your spot for this fun Christmas-themed event.

Holiday Lights in Bloom underway at the Orange County Arboretum



The Orange County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation is pleased to announce it will present the 14th annual “Holiday Lights in Bloom” program weekends from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Arboretum in Thomas Bull Memorial Park.

It may be chilly out but the Arboretum will be in “full bloom” with

beautiful, garden themed light displays in the forms of flowers, animals and insects. Children, and adults alike, will be charmed as they stroll through the various themed gardens created in lights.

“Holiday Lights in Bloom” is a walk-through program that is free. It will be open to the public from 5

to 8 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting November 25 through December 18 and then nightly from Dec. 19 to Dec. 23.

Due fire damage in the Ottaway Education Center there will not be a Holiday Boutique or access to restrooms other than Porta-Johns. No buses or groups larger than 15. Pets

are not permitted. Please arrive by 7:30 p.m. to insure you have time to park and enjoy the lights as they are turned off promptly at 8 p.m.

The Arboretum is located at 41 Grove St., Hamptonburgh, within Thomas Bull Memorial Park For more information, please call 845-615-3828 or visit orangecountynyparks.com.

It's beginning to look alot like Christmas!

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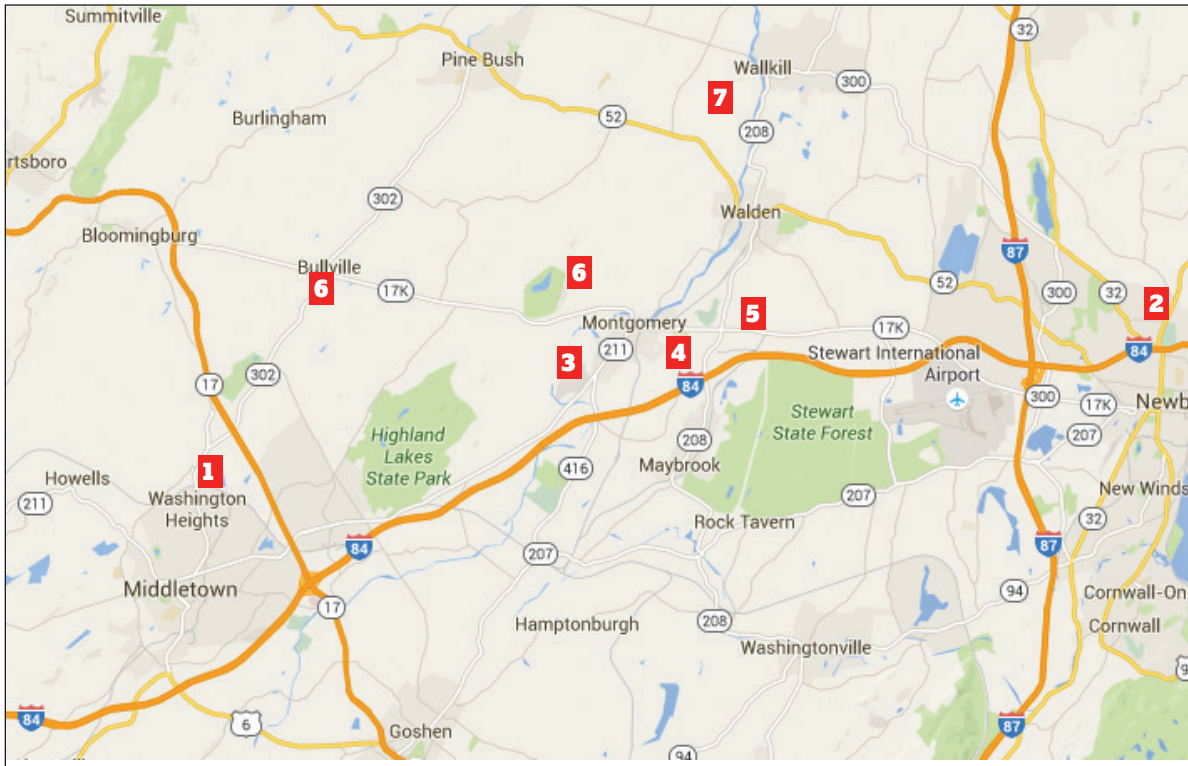
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