

Habitat ready to rehab SF house

Finger Lakes Times

SENECA FALLS — Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County's newest housing project is underway.

Volunteers began to rehabilitate a dilapidated, long-abandoned house at 31 Miller St. for use as temporary housing for families waiting for their Habitat homes to be completed.

While the actual rehabilitation work will begin in January, five New York Chiropractic College students teamed with union electricians Anthony Calabrese and Cory Bunn Saturday. Together, they demolished the interior walls in preparation for

new wiring.

Earlier, Seneca Meadows Landfill volunteers removed several Dumpsters of debris from the house before it was declared safe enough for volunteers to enter.

The four-bedroom home will need to have the foundation repaired and the floor jacked up to make it safe.

Habitat purchased the property from Seneca County for back taxes. "When we got here, there was so much debris inside we couldn't even open the doors," stated Habitat board member Sue Case.

For information about volunteering, email volunteer@habitatsseneca.org.



Submitted photos

Anthony Calabrese of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 840 in Geneva cleans debris from the upstairs of the four-bedroom home at 31 Miller St. in Seneca Falls. At left, five New York Chiropractic College students, all from Canada, check in with Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County board member Sue Case (foreground) Saturday prior to beginning volunteer work at the home. From left are Stevie Newman Szeps, Andrea Toader, Harmonder Dhaliwa, Mae Li and Chris Lombardo.



Submitted photo

Waterloo Rotarians and some of the nearly 500 food items donated to Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency in honor of the late Carm Speno.

Rotarians collect food in honor of Carmen Speno

Finger Lakes Times

WATERLOO — Carmen Speno died several years ago, but the Waterloo Rotary Club member is remembered each fall on his birthday.

The club pauses to remember Speno and collect food items for the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency (SCCAA) in his memory.

Speno was known for urging Rotarians to bring in food items each week to donate to the SCCAA food pantry.

The tradition began six years ago in honor of Speno's 90th birthday. Rotarians were challenged to bring in 90 food items in his honor.

The annual goal is to collect at least one food item for each year that Speno would have celebrated on his birthday.

This year's goal was 95

food items. Club members brought in 497 cans, boxes and bottles of food, exceeding last year's 467 items.

"Rotarians are proud to remember Carm each year and his commitment to help feed the hungry by donating food in his honor," said project chairwoman Kathy Sigrist.

SCCAA Director Anne Wilkes said the food will be a big help for the pantry. She said as food prices increase and the money families have to purchase food decreases, the pantry is a viable option for many needy families.

"When I began a year ago, we distributed food monthly. But because of the growing demand, we now distribute twice a month," Wilkes said.

Wilkes said the Rotary Club donation will ensure that families will have a great Thanksgiving and will have food throughout the holidays.

ADOPTION

County has had 13 adoptions this year

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has been living with them for a little over a year. Jacob is one of nine foster children the Cannas have had over the years, including four now in their home. "When we hear about kids in need, we do something," said Anne. "I'm a teacher, so being around

kids is very natural to me. It's like breathing."

The ceremony will include live music performed by John Tyo and Marissa Waterman. Tyo is also the attorney representing both families in the adoptions.

Vicki Waterman noted that earlier this year, Tyo won the "Angels in

Adoption" award, a Congressional honor, for his longtime work in the field.

A reception with light refreshments will follow the ceremony, and information will be available for anyone interested in foster care or adoption.

"What we like to see first and foremost is children being returned to their parents, but when that can't be done due to safety issues, the best case scenario is for a child to have a loving family who will

meet their needs and they can count on for the rest of their lives," Waterman said. "I'm proud to say that almost all of our foster families adopt."

Waterman said there have been 13 adoptions in the county this year and nine more are in the process of being completed. She added that two other Ontario County couples, Karen and John Scheele of Honeoye and Kate and Gary Ingalls of Farmington, have won the national Adoption Excellence Award.

"It takes a lot to win this award," she said. "The criteria is very stringent."

The Scheeles, who are now in Washington, D.C., to accept their award, have adopted six foster children over the years and the Ingalls' three. Waterman said adoption is generally a two-year process.

"We think it's great that Ontario County couples have won this award two years in a row."

Waterman said the day is a bittersweet one for families and child advocates.

"Even though National Adoption Day is a happy day, you have to remember for the birth family it's a day of loss — they are losing a child," she said. "We are very excited for our adoptive families. When we heard Kaylee and Joe really bonded with Cheyenne and wanted to adopt her, we were thrilled."

FINAL DAYS

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Police chief to give board an update on possible school resource officer

Finger Lakes Times

SENECA FALLS — Police Chief Stuart Peenstra will provide an update and information on the possibility of having a school resource officer in local schools at Thursday's 7 p.m. board of education meeting.

School district officials, Peenstra and the Town Board's Public Safety Committee have been discussing the possibility of a town police officer serving as SRO for the 2015-16 school year. The district

and town would split the cost of the position.

Also Thursday, the board will conduct a third reading of a policy governing the admission of non-resident students and enter executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

Prior to Thursday's school board meeting in the middle school library and media center, the budget committee will gather at 5:30 p.m., followed by the audit committee at 6:15 p.m.

Parish hosting craft show Saturday

WATERLOO — St. Francis-St. Clare Parish will hold its 41st annual Christmas Bazaar & Craft Show from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Parish Center, 35 Center St.

More than 55 crafters are expected. Santa will be available for photos from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees should take a camera.

Beverly Animal Shelter also will bring dogs and cats available for adoption.

Homemade cookies and candy will be sold by the pound, and pies and cakes will be sold by the slice and a la mode. Lunch also will be available for purchase, and there will be basket and 50/50 raffles.

For details, call Kathy at 539-8006 or Judy at 539-9614.