

## Flood Dollars, Continued from C1

Wait. There is more to this story and other funding pools in which to dive such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program (CWC FHMIP) and the New York City Flood Buyout Program (NYCFBO), likewise tapping DEP bucks.

The contact person for information on those programs is Michelle Yost, director of the Watershed Assistance Program, a branch of GCSW headquartered in Tannersville. The phone number is (518) 589-6871.

“We are very fortunate in this watershed. We have an enormous amount of funding for

flood mitigation with multiple agencies serving as the local gateway for the New York City grants,” Yost says.

Those agencies act as independent entities, making decisions on the local level about how to best spend the DEP money in terms of the short term and long range benefits to communities and regular folks.

The list of examples is ever-lengthening related to projects completed and work ongoing or in contract, including:

—Mitchell Hollow streambank restoration in the town of Windham,

repairing a failing wall along Madd Brook which flows through the center of the Main Street business district and has been a source of destructive flooding.

—Community Resiliency Planning in the town of Lexington, facilitating the visioning of possible actions to revitalize and protect the hamlet district of Lexington, a once bustling downtown that has become commercially silent.

—Buyout of the frequently flooded and deteriorated highway garage in the town of Lexington, along Route 42.

—Feasibility study for the relocation of the village highway garage in Tannersville, studying options to move the building out of the flood plain.

—Huntersfield Creek and Main Street (Route 23) bridge enlargements in the town of Prattsville, recommended in a Local Flood Analysis report, working with FEMA and the State Department of Transportation.

—Feasibility study for

the relocation of the volunteer fire department in the village of Hunter, moving the firehouse out of the flood plain.

—Elevation of a Main Street cafe in the village of Tannersville, averting redundant flooding, a priority of State government in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene’s destructive flooding in the summer of 2011.

—Relocating the Greene County highway

garage in the town of Ashland, out of harm’s way, deeming it a “critical facility.”

“New projects are always bubbling to the surface,” Yost says, noting the various programs are administered at no cost to applicant.

There are many “old sayings” that apply to life in the rural watershed. One that rings true here is “nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

## Free Workshop for Streamside Landowners March 18th

The Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) is offering a FREE Workshop highlighting the importance of riparian (streamside) buffers to water quality, wildlife habitat, and healthy streams. This workshop will take place on Wednesday, March 18th, from 4:30pm-6:00pm at the Mountain Top Library (6093 Main Street) in Tannersville, NY. The workshop is geared for streamside landowners interested in native habitat restoration.

Not sure if this is the right workshop for you? Try answering the following questions:

Are you a community

member or landowner with streamside property?

Are your streambanks showing signs of erosion?

Do you have a mowed lawn next to your streambank?

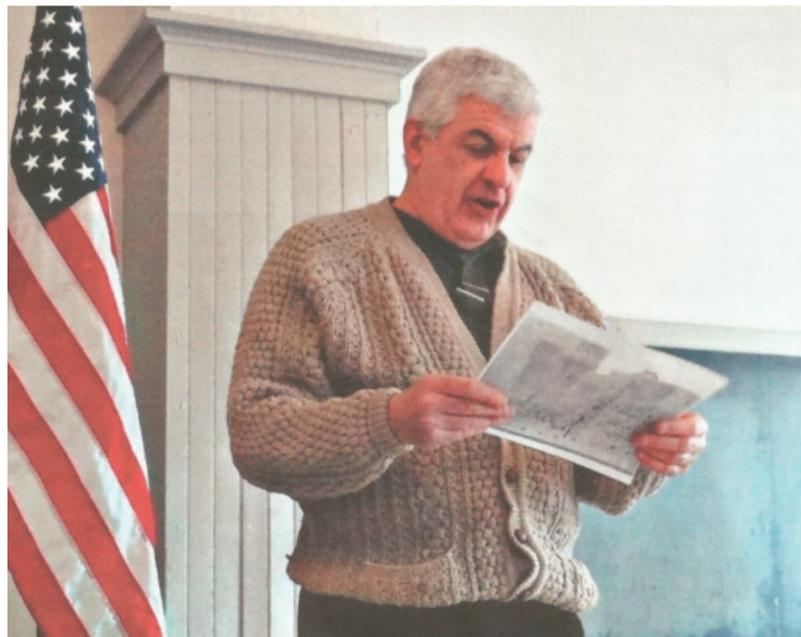
Are you interested in learning new techniques to maintain the health of your streamside area?

Are you interested in learning how native trees and flowering shrubs can protect your streamside property and attract birds and pollinators?

If you can answer “YES” to any of the questions above, you might benefit from attending this workshop. Laura Weyeneth, GCSWCD Catskill Streams Buffer

Initiative Coordinator, will cover topics related to protecting, enhancing, and restoring riparian buffers. Participants will leave the workshop with greater knowledge about the importance of streamside forest buffers, how to protect their streamside property and water quality, and potential funding sources available for restoring riparian buffers with native plants. To RSVP for this FREE event please contact Laura Weyeneth by e-mail (laura@gcsxcd.com) or phone (518-622-3620) by Monday, March 16th. Space is limited and seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

## DAR Learns of New Baltimore History



At the February meeting of the On-Ti-Ora Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Ted Hilscher, local historian, shared the history of the Hamlet of New Baltimore. The area had originally been part of the 1672

Baron Coeymans land patent. In the 1770s the area was sold to the Bradt family who were of Norwegian descent. Over the years the economic history of the New Baltimore area reveals the Baldwin shipyard, slate mining, brick

making, the Hannacroix paper mill and ice harvesting on the Hudson River.

To learn about membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution go to: [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)

## Greene Seniors Earn Top Honors

The Administration on Aging, part of the Administration for Community Living, is pleased to announce the theme for Older Americans Month 2020, Make Your Mark. This theme is intended to encourage and celebrate countless contributions that older adults make to our communities. Their time, experience, and talents benefit family, peers, and neighbors every day. This year’s theme highlights the difference everyone can make – in the lives of older adults, in support of caregivers, and to strengthen communities.

Here in Greene County, the county Legislature proclaims May as Greene County Older Americans Month when it expresses appreciation for the commitment and valuable service of outstanding senior citizens throughout Greene County. In conjunction with this, the Advisory Council to the Greene County Department for the Aging (Human Services) conducts a search for local senior citizens to be recognized for their dedicated and hard work to make our communities a better place to live. In recognition of these significant contributions to the Greene County community, the Legislature honors nominees for the annual senior awards. From the nominees, two dedicated individuals are chosen to receive special recognition from Greene County Legislature in the categories of Senior Citizen of the Year and Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen. These two county winners are then submitted to New York State for further recognition. This year,

William VonAtzingen of Greenville has been honored as the 2020 Senior Citizen of the Year and Lula Anderson of Ashland will receive the Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen award.

After serving in the U. S. Army, William VonAtzingen, 86, moved to Greenville in 1957 and opened a clothing store on Main Street. He has been married to Susan VonAtzingen for the past 62 years. Together they have raised 3 children and have 3 grandchildren. He has been a tireless volunteer for numerous organizations including the Norton Hill United Methodist Church. He is a 60 year member of the Greenville Rotary and a

Life member of the Greenville Fire Department. From 1972 – 1988, he was a member of the Greenville Rescue Squad. From 2016 – 2019, he was a volunteer with the county’s Home Delivered Meals program. “Bill has always been there when the community needed him.”

Lula Anderson, 88, lives in Ashland. Together with her husband, George, they raised 3 sons and a daughter. She started working as an early age in boarding houses and later for New York Telephone. For over 30 years, she worked as a housekeeper at Oteora Park and other mountaintop locations. She has sold crafts and baked goods for the past 35 years. Her list of service to community organizations is quite inclusive – trustee

for the Windham/Ashland United Methodist Church where she organized and ran the Food Pantry, President of the WAJPL Golden Age Club, and Past District

Deputy for the Windham Eastern Star, Past President of the Windham VFW Auxiliary and Past Treasurer of the Ashland Cemetery Association. In the past she belonged to the Ashland Community Club, Weight Watchers and the Ashland Club Club. She would travel to Albany and New Paltz for the food pantry, as well as leave bread products on her porch for the poor to pick up. She assists her church as a lay speaker and preaches when the pastor is unavailable, is a weekly Bible study teacher and has organized many fundraisers. She is a local celebrity in that she writes a weekly column, “Ashland Speaks”, in this newspaper. Her past accomplishments in 1999 include Greene County Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen Award, and New York State Achievement Award.

Nominees that will receive Certificates of Merit from Greene County are Robert F. Gurley of Prattsville, Duncan MacPherson of Freehold, Jan Schane of Hunter and Susan VonAtzingen of Greenville.

On Friday, May 15, 2020, the Department of Human Services will recognize all this year’s nominees at the Annual Senior Citizen Day. Festivities will run from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. On May 19, Bill and Lula

will be recognized by NYS at a special ceremony as part of the 2020 Older New Yorkers Day celebration in Albany. All nominees will be honored at the May 20, 2020 Greene County Legislature meeting.

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