WELCOME ADDITION — Frank Canavan is one of the volunteers who help operate the Community Pantry in Arkville. The pantry will benefit from donations contributed to Fighting Hunger Friday. — Contributed photo

Keller Williams Upstate NY Properties is sponsoring Fighting Hunger Friday

Donations assist Community Pantry

Margaretville — Part of the corporate culture of Keller Williams is to give back to the community where agents live and work. When two local Keller Williams agents had a lunch meeting recently to discuss what project would be meaningful in the community, a light bulb went off. Says agent Peggy Bellar, "Here we are eating a nice lunch and yet so many people struggle on a daily basis with food insecurity. We decided at that moment to work on a project that would benefit the Community Food Pantry".

Step one was meeting with Joyce St. George and Frank Canavan, managers of the Community Pantry to determine what would be most helpful. Without hesitation they answered, money, volunteers, and awareness. The pantry serves over 400 households monthly in the Town of Middletown and St. George and Canavan often make up the difference out of pocket to keep it operating. Cash donations allow the food pantries to purchase the items they need most at the time they need them. As summer approaches more children will be out of school and without the meals the schools provide. Cash donations help the Community Pantry to bridge this difference year round. There is continual need. St. George said that most recipients work full-time and that 17 percent of our residents live below the poverty level with median incomes of about $25,000 per year.

Services donated

Fighting Hunger Friday was the brainchild of these meetings. On Friday, May 1, when you dine at any of the participating 22 area restaurants, you will have the opportunity to leave a donation 100 percent of which will benefit the Community Pantry.

Kevin Spelman of Mod Media donated his services and designed a logo for the event. This logo was appropriately printed on a small brown lunch bag that waiters at the participating restaurants will use to collect donations.

Event sponsors

Keller Williams Upstate NY Properties Margaretville branch, along with community partner Nicole Day Gray of AgriForaging, Inc. have pledged to do a matching donation of up to $1,000. In addition local Keller Williams agents will make a donation for every sale that is closed in the Margaretville office. Also, Crazy River Café agreed to make a matching donation for all funds raised at their location that day.

"AgriForaging, Inc. is honored to partner with Keller Williams on their Fighting Hunger Fridays community initiative," said owner, Nicole Day Gray. "Building on all of the energy around local foods, community groups, organizations, and businesses combined with the agricultural abundance of healthy foods being grown & produced in the Catskills; our community is in a powerful position to help the Community Pantry and in turn our friends".

Strong response

Agent Meade Camp said "We have been humbled at the enthusiasm and generosity at our restaurant partners. These are folks that work hard day in and day out and yet welcomed this opportunity to help our neighbors".

Participating restaurants include: Arkville Bread & Breakfast, Ate.O.Ate, Brushland Eating House, Bun & Cone, Cassie's Café, Crazy River Café, La Cabana, Mi Lupita, Oakley's, Phoenicia Diner, Public Lounge, Peekamoose, Queen's Mountain Café, Sam's Country Store, Shire Pub, Summerfields, The Andes Hotel, The Cheese Barrel, The Inn Between, The Flour Patch, Woody's and Zephyr.

PARK- LIKE — Roxbury's Kirkside Park lining the East Branch of the Delaware River is located just behind the Jay Gould Reformed Church and Kirkside Retirement Home on Main Street in Roxbury. — Contributed photo

I Love My Park Day celebration May 2-3

I Love My Park Day is an exciting statewide event, organized by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) in partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and local Friends groups, to celebrate and enhance New York's parks and historic sites and bring visibility to the entire park system and its needs. This year, I love My Park Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 2.

But these state sites aren't the only places that need a little TLC after a cold hard winter. So in an effort to increase visibility of our local communities and their parks the weekend of May 2 and 3 offers local opportunities for volunteerism and community connectedness.

Fleischmanns cleanup

On May 2, Fleischmanns is hosting a village-wide clean up and pot luck lunch. Those wishing to volunteer should meet at the gazebo on Main Street with rakes and shovels in hand. The group will be looking to remove winter debris from walks and streets, do some stream cleanup, and freshen up the pocket gardens along Main Street. Following the sprucing up of Main Street you can head over to the "Fire House Square" where the Tinder Box will have the barbecue lit and the community will gather for a pot-luck lunch. For more information about the Fleischmanns Clean Up contact Winifred Zubin.

On Sunday, May 3, at noon, the Town of Roxbury Parks Department, in partnership with the Greater Roxbury Business Association, is looking for volunteers to come out to Kirkside Park and help get this community gem in shape for the summer. Although there is plenty of bridge sweeping and gardening to be done, the rewards will be plentiful. At 3 p.m. after the shovels and brooms are put to rest, all are welcomed to join in a community wide pot-luck supper at the barn pavilion in the park. The Godforsaken String Band will be on hand with some old-time Appalachian music.

For more information on the Roxbury I Love My Park Day please call Carolyn Faraci at 607 326-3722 or Peg Ellsworth at the MARK Project at 586-3500.

Middletown GOP Dinner May 16

Margaretville — The Middletown Republican Committee will host its third annual Committee Dinner on Saturday, May 16 at the American Legion Hall, 903 Main Street. The event begins with a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m. and the dinner hour with the program from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The theme this year is the U. S. Constitution. The featured speaker is Congressman Chris Gibson who will give a short talk on the U.S. Constitution, its history, and its significance to all of us today. He lectures to West Point Cadets on this subject. A very nice pocket handbook of the U.S. Constitution will be given to each dinner attendee.

Also attending will be State Senator Jim Seward and State Assemblyman Pete Lopez, both of whom will give brief remarks. Also expected to attend are Delaware County officials as well as Delaware County Committee officers. A "surprise" Republican of the Year award will be presented to a very deserving individual.

This should be a fun evening with plenty of social time and a great buffet dinner by Mary's Cookin' Again.

Tickets are $37 per person. Call Chuck Freas at 586-2728 or Eleanor Mager at 586-4745 for information and tickets.

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