

# THE HOMER NEWS

FREE

VOLUME VI

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2015

ISSUE 2

FREE

## "National Day of the Cowboy" at Living History Center July 25

National Day of the Cowboy—Preserving Pioneer Heritage & Cowboy Culture to be celebrated at the Central New York Living History Center, Cortland, NY on Saturday, July 25 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The CNY Living History Center, 4386 Route 11, Cortland, NY (between Homer and Cortland) will sponsor a series of demonstrations, exhibits and acts depicting life in the Old West which will be fun and educational for all ages. These will be presented by several Old West re-enactor groups and individual as a part of National Day of the Cowboy.

The "Ghost Ryders", an old west re-enactment team from Endicott, will be participating as well as: "Cowboyologist" Doug Corey with his Circle C Chuck Wagon from Phoenix, NY; retired bronco rider Steve Mahar and Cowboy singer Robert Brown. Additionally, members of the "Shadows of the Old West" re-enactor group AND a guest appearance by the "History Horses", Big Red & Rebel Yell will be featured. These re-enactors tour New York State and Pennsylvania throughout the year providing a fun glimpse of historically accurate life in the Old West

All of the Old West exhibitions, skits and demonstrations are accompanied by cowboy historians available to answer questions about cowboy life during the period after the Civil War and before civilization spread through many of the western states. We will have food and drink for sale during the day, and the CNY Living History Center will be open for visitors all day.

The CNY Living History Center has organized this local celebration of the National Day of the Cowboy as a part of its continuing commitment to providing interesting, educational and historically accurate presentations to the Central New York community. All outdoor demonstrations and exhibits are free. We will also highlight our pioneer heritage inside the museum; a special event admission fee of \$5 per person will apply inside. Come have a great day of fun and learning at the CNY Living History Center!!!

FREE

# THE HOMER NEWS



**The Voice of the Town**

**THE HOMER NEWS**

Published for Homer Residents

THE HOMER NEWS is published in Homer by The Homer News. Distribution is every other Thursday to all households and businesses in Homer.

THE HOMER NEWS is a community-based newspaper dedicated to informing townspeople of current events and issues; serving as a forum for the free exchange of views of town residents; and celebrating the people, places and happenings that make the Town of Homer unique.

Editor: Donald Ferris  
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On Line, [www.TheHomerNews.com](http://www.TheHomerNews.com)

All opinions expressed in Letters and Commentaries are those of the writers and not of THE HOMER NEWS, which is published as an independent, non-biased community service and forum.

# Around Town

## Little Italy Pizzeria Has New Owners



Maureen, Janelle and Paul Hess

When you go to the Little Italy Pizzeria on South Main Street you will be greeted by the new owners. But don't expect to see a new face running the restaurant. Long-time employee (30 plus years) Paul Hess and his wife, Maureen (Sweeney) have purchased the restaurant from original owners Maria and Nunzio Giordano.

Little Italy Pizzeria was established in 1984 at 6 N. Main Street by Maria and Nunzio. Paul was one of the first 3 employees hired when the restau-

rant opened and he has worked there since.

On June 29, 2015 Paul and Maureen took ownership of the restaurant, which they will operate along with their children, son Kyle, 15, and Janelle, 8. Paul and Maureen are both graduates of Homer High School, class of 1983 and Paul grew up about a football field away from the current restaurant location. The residents of the Village of Homer both plan to work full-time at Little Italy along with their children and the

full staff of employees.

In addition to working at Little Italy, Paul was an active member of the Homer Fire Department for 27 years, having been a Deputy Chief and holding several other positions.

The hours of operation will remain the same: Monday through Saturday 11am to 10pm; Sunday noon to 10pm. You can expect to see some small changes to the menu, with a few additions and deletions. They will continue to have a dinner special which will change weekly. The menu currently includes pizza, specialty pizzas and pasta dishes; hot and cold subs; strombolis; calzones and pepperoni rolls. Several types of salads, appetizers and desserts are also available.

Paul says, "The Meat Lovers Pizza is the most popular." Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages are also on the menu to round out your dining experience, and any food item on the menu is available for take-out. You can call ahead and have your order ready for pick-up, or check with them for delivery availability.

Paul and Maureen add, "We will continue to provide a quality product at a reasonable price. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the community. We would also like to recognize our staff for their hard work and dedication. Stop in to see us and try some of our specialties. You won't be disappointed."

## Senior Center Manager Leaving for New Job



Debbie Chavoustie is leaving after 13 years as Center Manager for the David Harum Senior Center in Homer Town Hall. Over her time there the Center has certainly changed. With Debbie's friendly personality the number of participants has grown and activities have varied. Her family, in their younger days, "volunteered" to help with decorating the Center for holidays & activities. At one time her husband, Andy, was always there to help with Monday Night Out and the homemade pizza. Now, other "volunteers" have been trained to make the pizza so it will still be served on the first Monday night of the month.

Winterfest in Homer was started during her reign. The Center's big fund raiser is the Winterfest Flea Market with items donated by many (for which we thank everyone) and selling Debbie's homemade pizza & now with many requests, homemade whoopie pies & cinnamon buns.

Debbie has made the Center become like a big family and a second "home" to many. She will be missed, at the Center, but anyone can stop to see her at her new position in the Office of the Aging.

## Chatauqua August 6-9 Homer Village Green

Some changes for Chatauqua in 2015: It's a little different this year! Kids can come, too!

There will be two evenings of classes (Thursday/Friday); just as we have "always done it", except that there will be 6:30 classes for kids AND a Bounce House on Friday.

When is the last time you played croquet? badminton? Helped tie a quilt for the homeless?

Watch for Saturday afternoon events!  
[www.chatauqua5K.com](http://www.chatauqua5K.com) Kids/Families can walk/run...check it out! - Saturday morning.

Saturday evening, Aug. 8 - Trivia for Families and Trivia for Adults...Kids-Who-Don't-Have-to-be-in-Bed- by-7:30

We will END with worship on Aug. 9 at 11 AM.

Check for updates at <http://cortlandchurches.net/chatauqua>

**Homer News Ads Get Noticed.**

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of The Homer News will be July 30, 2015. DEADLINE: for ads and news is July 22, 2015

## C4 Arts presents "Homer Horror Fest" Saturday Nights in July

Cinematic murder, mayhem and magic fill the big screen this July at C4A's first-ever free summer film fest, featuring a line-up of horror cult classics. Doors open at 6 p.m. for refreshments, film trivia and an informal film discussion, followed by thematically grouped film trilogies starting at 6:30 p.m. and running until approximately midnight.

Films selected are considered the most definitive works of their genre, and still set the standards for cinematic suspense. The horror genre has a large following, particularly among film buffs, and C4A looks forward to welcoming new audiences to this month-long festival.

The series includes:

### July 18 It Came From Outer Space

*Invasion of the Body Snatchers, Phillip Kaufman*

*The Thing, John Carpenter*

*Alien, Ridley Scott*

### July 25 Spirits and Demons

*Poltergeist, Steven Spielberg*

*The Sixth Sense, M. Night Shyamalan*

*The Exorcist, William Friedkin*

The fest is being organized by Peter Hartsock of Homer, a film major at Syracuse University and recent graduate of Homer High School. "This is a fun way to reach new audiences and revisit some quintessential films that span generations. These films have had a lasting impact for many who first saw them as teenagers, and still appeal to new generations of horror buffs."

The nine different directors bring unique perspectives and some of them are known as the creators of techniques pioneered in the films. Some of these also feature actors in break-out roles that launched their careers.

"We're hoping that audiences will enjoy the aesthetic of watching these classics on the big screen, along with learning some fun facts about them. Horror movies are meant to be shared, and we hope the community will come and scream together for a frightfully fun summer film series," added Hartsock.

Please note: Many of these films are rated R and intended for mature audiences, so persons under 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Parental discretion is advised.

There is no fee, but donations to the Center for Arts are encouraged.

## "Holiday in Homer" Book Sale

Homer--The Phillips Free Library of Homer will be hosting a summer book sale during Holiday in Homer. The sale will take place on the library's lower level, Saturday, July 18th, 10-2.

Children's books will be priced at \$0.25 and \$0.50; adult books will be \$0.50, \$1.00, and \$2.00; and books on CD will be \$4.00.

Phillips Free Library is located at 37 S. Main Street, Homer, across from the Village Green. The telephone number is 749-4616 and the website is www.phillipsfreelibrary.org. For additional information, please contact Priscilla Berggren-Thomas, Library Director.

## "Ready For Medicare" Free Seminar Aug. 18

Are you about to turn 65 years of age? Have you been collecting Social Security Disability for two years?

Well then the time has come to think about Medicare and the Cortland County Area Agency on Aging is ready to help you find the answers you may have about Medicare.

The Agency is honored to have Mr. Eric Hausman, consultant specializing in Medicare education and training present this free seminar. Mr. Hausman is an expert on all aspect of Medicare and if you have questions about Medicare you will not want to miss this opportunity to hear his presentation.

The New to Medicare Seminar will be held on **Tuesday August 18, 2015** from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in room B 1 of the County Office Building, 60 Central Ave., Cortland. Be sure to call 753-5060 today to reserve your seat.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

As space permits, **The Homer News** will print a brief notice of your organization's event at no charge in the **EVENTS CALENDAR**. For more detailed notices we suggest you purchase a display ad. Please keep in mind our publishing schedule and deadlines. **July 22, 2015 for the July 30, 2015 issue.**

### FOOD PANTRY

The First United Methodist Church has a Food Pantry for Homer residents, which is open on Tuesdays, 10:00 until 1:00 and the 3rd Thursday during the summer months of May to September from 6:00 until 7:30 pm. Walk-ins are welcome. For information or emergency, call 749-7159

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# Barnyard News from 1943

By Martin Sweeney, Town of Homer Historian

Sometimes, when culling through research material for one item, you serendipitously come across another historical gem. Such was the case when I recently unearthed a



copy of the Community News Review, a monthly newsletter published in Homer and sent to local servicemen and women during the Second World War. The two-page document contained sports information, local news and gossip (progress of war bonds purchases and weddings), service news (promotions and furloughs), and humorous tid-bits from the "home front" to bring some smiles to those serving overseas. In the last category, I share this piece from this newsletter, dated October 16, 1943:

## BULL BUTTS BUTTS BRAVE BIDDY BESTS BOVINE BATTLE

A few weeks ago, Leland Butts, a 38 yr. old farmhand, suffered four fractured ribs as a result of being the butt of a bull's anger. The animal turned upon him as it was being driven into the barn, and tossed [him] 15 feet into the air, to fall helpless in the barnyard. While the bull was trying to convert this aerial forward pass into a touch-down, the farmhand's employer, Mrs. Conway, made an end-around play with a pitchfork and caused the bull to lose some yardage; an advantage she used to drag the man into the barn and tighten her defenses by closing the door. By this time, the bull had come out of huddle, and tried a hard line-buck at the door. In four tries [Sp], he failed to make even a first down and finally retired to the other side of the barn. Man and bull are recuperating for the next game.



# News from the Library

By Priscilla Berggren-Thomas

## If This is Tuesday

So, Bruce and I have only three more days in Sweden. It's been a wonderful trip. We've been here nineteen days and visited fourteen towns. We've seen twelve cathedrals, eight open air museums, five regular museums, five libraries, and two castles. At first, I thought I'd never want to come home. Once we got the train and bus system figured out, I was ready to take on Sweden. And the fact that everyone assumed we were Swedish, just made it that much more fun. Until I had to blow my cover and admit I had no idea what they were saying to me.

But, in the course of traveling for all most three weeks, I've acquired quite a few extra items. Now, when we haul our luggage on and off trains and down streets to the hotel, we resemble bag ladies, what with suitcases, assorted bags of souvenirs, and bottles of cold drinks, because there is no ice in this country! And I'm getting tired of hauling my life around on my back and in my suitcase. So, I think I may be ready to come home, while I still have the strength to carry all my acquired possessions with me.

The perk of being tired, old, and in a foreign country, is people give you the benefit of the doubt. They may still look at me like I'm an annoying American when I ask a question, but I'm a tired old person and therefore I need to be treated with care. I've gone into hotels at 7 am to ask if I can drop off my luggage for the day, and had the receptionist take one look at me and say "Oh, I'm sure we can let you check in right now." It might help, that sometimes I'm so tired I call the luggage "my furniture" by accident.

Yesterday, I was discussing getting a train ticket with a young man at the Luleå train station and he said "what time do you want to go?" I answered, "I don't care what time, but don't ask me what day it is, because I no longer know." He had the good grace to smile and just hand me the ticket.

Traveling is fun. It makes me both love another place and appreciate another culture, while also making me like my own that much better. I'd like to think I'm a citizen of the world, but I'm also very much an American. I like ice tea, which exists almost nowhere in the world except North America apparently. I like ice, lots of it. I like eating out and not paying an arm and a leg for it. But, I also like trying out reindeer meat for the first time, seeing Pippi Longstocking and Moomintrolls everywhere I go, having fika, or tea and cookies every afternoon, and talking to strangers on the train.

It's been a fun trip – a chance to escape the ordinary. But, I'm ready to

come home to my dogs, the library, the ordinary, before I buy every souvenir in Sweden!

## What's New at the Library?

### Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading this year is all about heroes. The theme for Pre-school and Elementary School age is *Every Hero has a Story*. But, summer reading isn't just for kids. There's a teen program, with the theme *Unmasked* and an adult program called *Escape the Ordinary*. And you can do all those things by coming to the library and reading this summer. Stop by the library to register.

Those in Pre-school to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will get a reading log. Kids can record the number of minutes read each day. If they read for 20 minutes a day, five days a week for eight weeks, they can turn in their logs for prizes. Each child gets a reading log and free book at registration. Logs can be turned in starting August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Teens and adults can fill out a raffle ticket for each book read. There'll be weekly drawings in July for prizes. So, the more you read, the more chances you have to win.

### Summer Reading Events:

All programs are on Wednesdays @ 10:30 and include activities for kids who just finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger, unless otherwise stated.

#### July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mini Comic Con

Come dressed as you favorite super hero! Please sign up in the library for this event.

Note times below for different ages

Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade:

10:30 am – 11:30 am

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade:

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm, with guest, author Michelle Knudsen

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade: 3 pm – 5 pm, with guest, author Michelle Knudsen

#### July 29<sup>th</sup> – Calling all Heroes!

### MakerSpace Open Hours

New Summer Hours! The library's MakerSpace is now open on Mondays from 1 pm – 3 pm. Watch on Facebook for the project of the week all summer! LEGOS Mindstorms and Story Starter sets, Cricut Explore, the digital drawing tablet and building kits and equipment

are available for use. Sign up to use the 3-D printer and digitizer. 3-D printer sign-ups are also available at other times. Call the library for information.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month is Knitters' Night at the MakerSpace. The next date will be August 11, please sign up in the library.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month is Demo Night at the MakerSpace. The next Demo Night – Tie Dye - is July 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 6:30 pm. Bring one item of clothing per person and we will learn how to tie dye and different methods of tie dying. Please sign up in the library.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month is Writers' Night at the MakerSpace. Writers' Night starts at 6:30 pm. If you have a craft or skill you'd like to share at Demo Night, please contact Priscilla at the library.

### Holiday in Homer – Book Sale

The library is hosting a book sale on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The books shelves are full and looking for a good home. You will not find a better deal on books! There is a large variety of books for kids, teens and adults. Come browse and buy some new favorites.

### Help with Nooks, Kindles, and Downloadable books

Do you need help downloading eBooks and audiobooks to your Nook, Kindle, or iPad? Let our Teen Tech Volunteers help you. During the summer months, they are available Mondays from 3 pm – 5 pm to help you with downloading e-materials and other computer questions. Call ahead to make an appointment, or drop by.

### Board of Trustees Meeting

The library board meeting is the third Monday of each month. The July meeting will be Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Community Meeting Room. Meetings are open to the public.

For more information about any of our programs call 749-4614, check out our website at [www.phillipsfreelibrary.org](http://www.phillipsfreelibrary.org), and keep up with us by liking our Facebook page: Phillips Free Library.

### Phillips Free Library Hours:

Monday	10 am to 6 pm
Tuesday	2 pm to 8 pm
Wednesday	10 am to 8 pm
Thursday	2 pm to 8 pm
Friday	2 pm to 6 pm
Saturday	10 am to 2 pm

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Priscilla Berggren-Thomas read The Homer News at the Arctic Circle.

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The Homer News

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# THE HOMER NEWS

VOLUME VI

JULY 16, 2015

ISSUE 2

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Reading of the Declaration of Independence



About 75 individuals were on hand for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Homer Congregational Church. Presented by Bud & Chip Jermy, this annual event began with some history of the American Revolution and background on several of the key individuals involved in the Declaration.

This year the Bud and Chip each had a microphone to use, and the friendly banter between the two made for a lively "conversation" with each other and the audience.

According to Chip, the Declaration of Independence was read for several years on the Fourth of July during the mid 1800's in Homer. The Jermy's

revived the practice 20 years ago, with only a handful of people attending, on the Village Green. Unpredictable weather was the impetus to bringing the event into the Congregational Church. The availability of pews for the attendees to sit was a welcome change, in addition to a reliable public address system and a roof to shield all from blistering sun or spirit dampening rain.

After their presentation, several of the "guests" stood and read portions of the Declaration of Independence, after which the bells on the churches and the Center for the Arts were rung 50 times in honor of the 50 states.

## Computer Programming Club at Homer Intermediate



Mark and Joy Barrett are teaching computer programming to a club at the Homer Intermediate School. Joy, a reading teacher at the Intermediate School for 9 years and Mark, a sales manager for computer software, started the club and teach the club members the various aspects of programming.

Each class consists of up to 10 students and runs for 14 to 16 weeks. The present class was funded by a \$300 grant from the Homer Education Foundation. The Barretts are seeking funding for future classes, and anyone wishing to donate should visit their web site [www.homercomputerclub.com](http://www.homercomputerclub.com). Any amount will be appreciated, so one or several sponsors can fund a session.

Mark states, "We use a visual based learning tool (Tynker) that teaches kids the logic and design thinking skills that are needed to become a programmer. These skills translate to other programming languages such as Java and Python. Each lesson is interactive with puzzles and tutorials that challenge the student to keep learning advanced concepts. Children can then take what they learn in class each week and do projects at home or from a public computer that has an internet connection. Everything we do is web based so the children can log

on anytime day or night and work on projects for the next week's class. All these kids have worked so hard and we are very proud of them.

My wife and I started the coding club because we saw the importance of having every child know at least one computer language before they graduate high school. Right now the club focuses on Homer students in grades 3-5, however we are looking to expand the classes in the future. We currently offer programming 101, 102 and are working on a new 103 class as children advance. The students tonight have already completed our programming 101 class and are working on completing 102. We will be having a new 101 class start up toward the end of this summer and will be teaching it down at the Phillips Free Library in Homer.

The Homer School District has been instrumental in helping us get this program off the ground. They have allowed us access to computers and a place to hold the classes. We could not have done it without their support. We are also very excited to have the Phillips Free Library in Homer supporting us and are looking forward to starting classes at that location as well."

If a parent has a child interested please let us know by going to our website and completing the interest form: [www.homercomputerclub.com](http://www.homercomputerclub.com).



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### Schedule of Events

- 7:30am-10:00am Breakfast, Homer Methodist Church
- 11:30am-1:00pm Luncheon @ Homer Congregational Church
- 9:00am-4:00pm Quilt Show, Sanctuary of Homer Congregational Church
- 10:00am-4:00pm Horse Drawn Wagon Rides (Sponsored by Tom Crane Stables // weather permitting, fee per person)
- 10:00am-4:00pm Dan the Snake Man
- 11:00am-3:00pm Juggler & Bubbler, Doug Rougeux (Sponsored by the Homer Village Recreation Department)

### At the Bandstand

*Sponsored by Cinquanti Real Estate*

- 10:00am-11:00am Homer Brass Ensemble
- 11:15am-11:45am The Crown City Brass (Renaissance to Contemporary)
- 12:00pm-3:00pm Jeff Love Band

### Don't Miss...

- 1:00pm and 3:30pm - Walking Historical Tours @ Center for the Arts; \$8.64 per person/ \$5.40 Senior

### Food Available

- Luncheon at Homer Congregational Church, 11:30am-1:00pm Pulled Pork Sandwich or Deli Tray
- Homer Elks Tent- all day - hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, salt potatoes
- Homer Fire Dept. Chicken Barbecue - 11:00 until sold out
- Purity Ice Cream & Strawberry Festival - Congregational Church in front of the Memorial Garden