



HABITAT HAPPENINGS

Our Seasonal NEWSLETTER

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BUILDING SIMPLE, DECENT HOMES SINCE 1989

SUMMER 2018

A WORD FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

By Mary Ann Dowdell

Did you think spring would ever come this year? That groundhog was right – we had weeks and weeks and weeks of winter after he wisely went back to his den to sleep it off. However, even before the trees budded and the grass greened, Habitat for Humanity Otsego County (HFHOC) committee members started spring planning and developing an action plan for the 2018 building season. After a winter hiatus, work resumed on the house being built in Middlefield on May 3rd with the Bartleson partner family and volunteers painting the interior, installing baseboards, etc. Work continues on this house with an anticipated completion in late September.

Before the last snow even melted, the underground electrical service was designed and approved by NYSEG for the first four lots in McFarland Meadows. With the arrival of the spring thaw the electrical service was installed for those lots. In the meantime final building plans were completed for the first house to be built in the allotment. On May 17th ground was broken for that first house (see article, page 3). Once again, we will be working with students from the Job Corps to build the foundation for the house. When they complete that, Habitat volunteer builders will construct the deck for the first floor of the house, raise the wall frames, and be on our way. After considerable study, We have decided to use a new (to us) heating technology for this latest house. For the first time we will be installing a geothermal heating system with radiant heat. This will provide heat in the winter months, as well as some of the heat for the domestic hot water for the house. We expect it will provide substantial savings in energy costs for the family. We will keep you posted on our progress.

As always, our partners the Conforti family, the potential home owners, will work side by side with the Habitat volunteers. Come join the work on this rewarding project. With two building sites we need lots of volunteers. We work each week on Thursday and Saturday. Come meet like-minded volunteers and members of potential home owner families as they put in “sweat equity” toward the required 250 hours per adult family member. Instructions and training are offered so come lend a hand and learn new skills. We want to thank all of the volunteers who have helped with construction and providing lunches for the builders on Saturdays thus far this spring.

Watch our website habitatotsego.org or Facebook at facebook.com/Habitat-for-Humanity-Otsego-NY for details of what we are doing each building date and directions to the building site. See the article on page 2 to see how you can get involved with building, lunches or behind the scenes. Enjoy your summer!



Mary Ann breaks ground on McFarland Meadows with Colleen Dorsey-Conforti and her two children.

WE ARE OFF TO A GOOD START

Volunteer Recruitment Update

Efforts to recruit additional volunteers have gotten off to a pretty good start BUT WE NEED MORE!

Various Committees of Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County need more volunteers, for instance fund raising, building, partner family selection, volunteer and more.

We can also ALWAYS use more workers at the job site, particularly folks who have some building skills.

Interested in volunteering with HFHOC? Reach out to Marjorie Pietraface at 607-432-1485 or Marjorie.pietraface@oneonta.edu.

MIDDLEFIELD UPDATE

By Jason Capron

Work at the house in Middlefield is proceeding smoothly. The new owners have been working hard alongside the other volunteers and everyone is excited to see the final product. The interior doors are being finished and hung, and the kitchen cabinets are almost ready. Work is starting on installing the stove, sink, dishwasher and light fixtures. The shower enclosure is ready to be installed, and numerous other small tasks are being scratched off

the list. Holes are being dug for the porch footings, which is one of the last big projects. Overall, the home is nearing completion, and if things go smoothly we should be finishing up around the end of July!

Below: our wonderful volunteers working on the Bartleson's home in Middlefield.

Bottom row: Our partner family, Patrick & Sherri Bartleson.



EMPTY LOTS BECOMING PLACES FAMILIES CAN CALL HOME

By Karyn Wendrow

McFarland Meadows' potential is beginning to be realized as ground was just broken on the first building site on May 17, 2018. The entire property will eventually become home to nine deserving families.

McFarland Meadows was donated to HFHOC in December 2013. The land was determined to be large enough for nine building lots and was subsequently subdivided. Over the next four years, much work was done behind the scenes to develop plans, lay the practical groundwork, and negotiate the legalities for such a project. In 2017 activity began again on McFarland Meadows and an access road was built, giving the property a connection to Otsego County route 205. Earlier this year underground electrical service was designed and we were ready to begin construction.

Brad and Colleen Conforti will be the first partner family to help build their house on this land. Colleen and the Conforti children were present for the ground breaking (see photo on page 1) and helped Mary Ann Dowdell, HFHOC Board President, with the first shovel of earth. Parker Excavating then took over and began to dig out the foundation later that day.

With warm weather here, HFHOC is excited to continue with work on the Conforti house throughout the summer. Stay tuned for more updates on the first house and the other lots at this special plot of land. If you are interested in volunteering at a the job-site, or curious about other ways to get involved please see page 2!



Parker Excavating working on the foundation of the first building site at McFarland Meadows.

HOME ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATE

By Steve Londner

HASP (Habitat's Home Accessibility and Safety Program) is moving forward with two approved projects, and one prospective project. The first is a residential wheelchair ramp in the Town of Oneonta. It will be our largest project to date. Work should begin in late June.

The second, and still larger project, is in the Village of Milford. Its a new wheelchair ramp affording easy access to the building that was the American Legion Hall, now operated as a community center by a local nonprofit. This project is being funded by the Milford Rotary, which has received a supporting grant for this work from District Rotary #7130. The design is being finalized and the needed variances and permits are being applied for. Work should commence in July.

Early this month, we made the initial assessment visit on a third project in Unadilla, a residential ramp.

In the last newsletter we wrote of exploring possibilities to develop a ramp "loan" system – to support lower-income families who expect to need a ramp for less than a year. We went down various paths seeking a feasible way to make this idea a reality. We had the General Counsel Office at Habitat for Humanity International speak on our behalf to our common Insurance agent. But we could not find a path to success. Our existing builder's liability policy could not be extended to cover this new risk. Nor could we avoid potential liability by contractual means. And the additional separate insurance that would be needed was too costly. Regrettably, we had to shelve this idea for now.

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WIN A QUILT!

Homemade quilt for raffle

Is there anything quite as relaxing as curling up in a cozy quilt on a chilly evening? We wish you could feel how soft and warm this lovely lap quilt is. Our newest data base manager volunteer, Nancy Wolters, is not only a whiz on the computer, she is an avid quilter. She made the quilt pictured and has donated it to HFHOC for a fund raising raffle.

The quilt measures 50" by 66" and has cream colored squares with squares of various adorable winter scenes interspersed. The borders are a warm, dark blue flannel.

It could be yours! The raffle drawing will be held in December, just in time for the holidays and wintry weather. However, you can get your chances now. Only 200 tickets will be sold at \$5.00 each. Contact one of the HFHOC board members, message us on Facebook, email us at HabitatOtsego@gmail.com, or call 607-432- 7874 to inquire about tickets.

