

Museum fundraiser Sept. 18

Finger Lakes Times

Guests attending the upcoming Finger Lakes Museum's fundraising brunch and auction will be entered into a drawing to win a "Winter Weekend of Luxury" at the Aurora Inn on Cayuga Lake.

The weekend package for two includes breakfast.

Guests at the Sept. 18 brunch, set for 11:30 a.m. at Bristol Harbour Resort in South Bristol, will hear John Adamski, founder and board president of the museum in Branchport, discuss the museum's concept and outlining plans for its first location at the former Branchport School building and its permanent site at Keuka Lake State Park.

Rochester television news anchor Lia Lando will emcee the event that features wine tastings and sales by Eleven Lakes Winery in Seneca Falls. A live and silent auction will be conducted by auctioneer Carol Ritter Wright. Auction items include Finger Lakes "adventures," weeklong and overnight getaways, photographs from regional photographers, outdoor gear, handcrafted furniture, regional wines and paintings.

View the list of auction items at www.fingerlakesmuseum.org.

Tickets are \$40 per person, including taxes and gratuities, and can be ordered by calling the museum office at 595-2200 or visiting www.fingerlakesmuseum.org. People must be present to win the "Winter Weekend of Luxury." No tickets will be sold at the door.

Reservations are due by Sunday.

Sizing up the field



Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

Jeff Chartrand, of Rochester, and his daughter Madeline, 4, watch the horses enter the track Monday at Finger Lakes Race Track.

Town of Seneca Falls gets \$406K from state to aid transition process

By **DAVID L. SHAW**
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SENECA FALLS — The state Department of State has awarded the town a \$406,500 grant to aid in the transition process resulting from the dissolution of village government.

Supervisor Peter Same announced the news at Tuesday night's Town Board meeting. The state Department of State confirmed it yesterday.

He said the community is one of only 29 to be given a local government efficiency grant, adding that additional funds can be sought in the future.

"We will share this grant with the village," Same said.

Village government will cease to exist Dec. 31. The town will take over village

services Jan. 1, 2012.

Village voters approved the dissolution in March 2010 by a margin of 86 votes.

In the dissolution study, the possibility of a state grant to aid in transition was considered likely.

In other action, the board:

- Heard Linda Solan of the Seneca Museum of Waterways & Industry and the Seneca Falls Visitors Center say the number of visitors to both has tripled since the Visitors Center was moved to the Fall Street museum from the Partridge Building.

- Heard Diane Laws of the Seneca County Substance Abuse Coalition talk about the high level of underage drinking in the county and urged adults to fill out a survey about the problem.

- Authorized an application for a \$30,000 Justice Court Assistance Program grant.

If received, the money would help in the move of town court facilities from the former St. Patrick's School gymnasium into a proposed new municipal building at 10 Fall St.

- Agreed to decide in October if there is sufficient money to hire a consulting firm to help the village and town merge their code books into one.

That process is expected to be lengthy and involve public input and hearings, Code Enforcement Officer Steven Turkett said.

Turkett urged the town to get started as soon as possible.

- Scheduled town board workshops regarding the 2012 town budget for 1 p.m. Sept. 23 and Sept. 29.

Geneva town Dems pick board candidate

By **DAVID L. SHAW**
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GENEVA — Town Democrats selected Mark Venuti to run for a seat on the Town Board in the fall election.

However, no one was nominated to run for the second Town Board seat on the ballot this year at Wednesday's caucus.

Venuti, 56, lives at 329 White Springs Road. He is an attorney in private practice and was elected town justice in 1998. He was re-elected to two more four-year terms, the last one ending in 2009.

He did not seek re-election two years ago.

"As a judge, I could not get involved in civic affairs or issues," Venuti said. "I didn't want to have that restriction, so I didn't run again so I could run for something like this, where I can speak out on important issues."

He said his priorities are to help the town protect and preserve its natural resources of land, clean water and clean air, as well

as promoting wineries, tourism and agriculture.

"I think being a lawyer would help me as a board member," Venuti said. "I have no major beef with the Town Board. I can work with them and [Supervisor] Mary [Luckern] as part of a team."

Venuti is a 1973 graduate of DeSales High School and a 1977 graduate of Cornell University with a degree in industrial labor relations. He earned a law degree from the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1980.

Venuti and his wife, Belinda, moved to Geneva in 1990 and raised three children, who now range from 20 to 24 years old.

Venuti will oppose Republicans Richard Larsen, an incumbent, and Patrick Malcuria in the Nov. 8 election.

Republican incumbent Anthony Capozzi is not seeking re-election.

About a dozen Democrats attended the caucus held at the American Legion on Lochland Road.

Silver Creek honored

Finger Lakes Times

WATERLOO — The Seneca County Chamber of Commerce selected Silver Creek Golf Club on River Road as its Business of the Month for August.

Norm Sharman, who has owned and managed the course for nearly two decades, was honored at the Chamber's Stephen B. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament last month.

Silver Creek features an 18-hole course that covers about 6,168 yards. The par-71 design is also filled with extensive, mature landscaping and a creek. Amenities include the Club House Restaurant and Bar, the Dungeon Lounge and a refreshment bar on the course, also known as The Shack.

The Business of the Month program is sponsored by the *Finger Lakes Times*. Candidates are chosen by the Chamber's Economic Development Committee. Businesses must be located within county borders, be a Chamber member and current on dues, have been in business for at least one year, made an economic impact in the community and be civic-minded.

Visit www.senecachamber.org for more information.

OIL

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the area's first biodiesel, a replacement biofuel for diesel-powered vehicles. Coia said his business is buying the production equipment now; once installed, production should begin around Christmas, he added.

Biodiesel is a clear, renewable biofuel used for trucks, farm tractors, bus fleets and home heating oil.

The two operations will employ 10 people to start.

Seneca BioEnergy Park also houses Top Quality Hay Processors.

Coia said the town of Romulus and the Seneca County Industrial Development Agency have helped secure funding for the project, as has State Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-54, of Fayette.

In addition to electrical and natural gas improvements, the building's water supply and sprinkler system were upgraded.

The site has direct access to Route 96 and an fully operational truck scale.

"It's been a long journey since 2008," Coia said. "It's been a rough economy, but we have our financing in line and I'm happy we are finally going to production."

Coia said he's financing the project through Seneca Falls Savings Bank.

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