

The Photo News



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Betsy Utnick of the Monroe Temple and Jason Greenberg, head of the temple's religious school, with the donations of food to be used in the preparation of the temple's seventh annual Christmas dinner at Our Father's Kitchen in Monroe.

Holiday tradition

Temple members remember their Christian friends and the hungry with their annual Christmas dinner

MONROE — As has been the tradition for the last seven years, members of the Monroe Temple will again help their Christian friends by preparing and serving a full Christmas dinner at Our Father's Kitchen, located in the Sacred Heart Chapel in Monroe.

One week a year, temple members take over all of these duties to give those volunteers a chance to enjoy their holiday with their family and friends.

'A caring community'

Christmas day coincides with Hanukkah this year, but that doesn't change the commitment of temple members to help those in need of a hot, homemade meal.

Why?

"We are blessed to be part of a caring community where all faiths and houses of worship come together to support and nurture those in need," Rabbi Jesse Gallop. "It really is that simple."

This year, Chef Sam Turk, who has been involved since 2009, has again created a dinner menu with the assistance of temple volunteers. Members of Congregation Eitz Chaim will once again provide desserts. The temple's choir will sing Christmas songs.

"Santa's busily filling his bag, as he and his elves will make several appearances Christmas afternoon," said Betsy Utnick, who helps oversee the dinner. "Our tem-

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Gilbert Street construction wrapping up for the winter

The street is now fully open

MONROE — The road closures on Gilbert Street due to ongoing construction are done for the winter, according to Mayor James Purcell.

While there is still some temporary patch work that needs to be completed, Purcell said in a statement that Gilbert Street will remain open and the signs signalling detours will be covered.

The street has been in the process of getting new water lines and drainage improvements. The Route 17M/Gilbert Street intersection will eventually be widened to include a turning lane.

Earlier, Purcell said that the work being done on

the street was taking longer than expected due to thick bedrock.

Gilbert Street is also near the site of the planned 181-home Smith Farm housing project, which has been delayed due to the town building moratorium, leaving building materials marked for the project left on the sides of the road.

Purcell noted that local businesses on Gilbert Street are open, and encouraged Monroe residents "to continue to support them as you always have."

- Erika Norton



PHOTOS BY ERIKA NORTON

The old Tuxedo IGA building, which will be transformed into the Tuxedo market opening next summer, is decorated for the season with lights, wreaths and winter scenes.

Tuxedo Sloatsburg revitalization project making progress

First attractions to open in spring 2017

BY ERIKA NORTON

TUXEDO — Cars driving home from work on Route 17 can be seen slowing down to check out the elaborate Christmas decorations at the old Tuxedo IGA Market, one of the numerous historic buildings that will be renovated as part of the Revitalization Project of the Tuxedo Sloatsburg Corridor.

The decorations are just part of the efforts by Michael Bruno, founder of the Tuxedo Hudson Company spearheading the project, to give local residents a feel for what type of project is coming to the Town of Tuxedo and the Village of Sloatsburg. The goal of the project is to revive the area's commercial economy by transforming a number of the historical buildings along

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The Victorian-style houses along Route 17 in Sloatsburg, which will become a hotel, are lit up by the garland along the fence and the dripping blue icicle lights in the trees.

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Decorations

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Route 17 into places for antiquing, world-class cuisine and lodging.

The project

Included in the finished project will be a market, a bike shop, a restaurant, a hotel, a coffeehouse/cafe, a small wedding chapel and an antique shop.

In Sloatsburg, the first phase will be turning the three Victorian-style houses along Route 17 into a hotel, which will include a pool and poolside dining and a coffeehouse/cafe near the hotel.

"The four houses on the front, the old Victorians that will sort of make up the personality of that whole complex, are now vacant and are well on their way to being under construction," Bruno said, "and those four should be ready for occupancy in April (2017)." In total, that will be about 22 rooms.

The second phase in Tuxedo will be turning the old IGA building into the Tuxedo Market, a place for fresh, local food with a restaurant, bar, and lodging upstairs for about 28 people. Bruno said they spent about two months having asbestos removed, a much bigger project than they expected, but in late January 2017 construction will start on that building and it will open over the summer.

The top floor of the market will have room for 28 people, with a hostel area of shared bedroom and bath creating more space. Bruno is hoping to attract the New York City crowd for weekend trips of hiking, biking and shopping at the Woodbury



The decorated old Tuxedo IGA building will become the Tuxedo market, which will include lodging upstairs for 28 people.

Common Premium Outlets nearby.

"It's really connected to the trails," he said, "so it'll be a hiking destination."

"The bottom line is by spring, we'll have a cafe/coffeehouse open along with 22 rooms in Sloatsburg," Bruno said, "and then by summer, we'll have the market and another about 12 rooms, but altogether it sleeps about 28 because of the hostel part."

Recent grant

The Tuxedo Hudson Company also recently received a \$750,000 grant from the Mid-Hudson Economic Development Council to help fund the project. The grant, he said, will make a big difference because the work they are doing is on a very high level, such as installing wood shingle roofs, replacing aluminum

siding with wood siding, and changing the aluminum windows to wood windows to maintain the character of the historic buildings.

The four Victorian houses are also being renovated to be extremely energy efficient, Bruno said, with every room having control of its own air conditioning and heat with all brand new systems. It will be so efficient that if the air conditioning's on and someone opens a window, the air conditioning will turn off.

New plumbing and all new electrical systems will be installed as well, he said, "so that it's good to go for another 100 years."

Community response

To let local residents get a taste of the project, a farmer's market and courtyard

was set up over the summer in Sloatsburg, Bruno said, so residents wouldn't be so concerned with the changes, but instead enjoy the process. So far, the response from the local community has been positive, he said, with at least 500 people coming to the farmer's markets on the summer weekends.

Local residents and officials have also said they love the holiday decorations at the Tuxedo Market and the Sloatsburg Victorian houses.

"I mean who doesn't want someone coming and spending millions and millions in their community revitalizing," Bruno said, "especially if you do it with a sensitive touch toward historic renovation?"