

## **BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION CALENDAR**

Kellie Nardin, Chair of the Copake Bicentennial Committee, has announced the schedule for the bicentennial celebration. The wide variety of events will be held during the spring and summer of 2024 and include something for everyone. The town has received generous support from the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation as well as Columbia County Tourism to fund these events. The schedule is as follows:

### **Special Town Board Meeting - April 4, 2024**

The bicentennial celebration will commence with a Special Town Board meeting in the Copake Town Hall at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 4, 2024. The meeting marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first town meeting. The public is invited.

### **“Your Town” – a Musical at the Copake Grange - April 5 - 7, 2024**

Local playwright Carl Ritchie has written an original play, titled “Your Town.” Featuring local talent as well as professional actors, the play is loosely based on “Our Town” by Thornton Wilder. The play will be directed by Mr. Ritchie and performed at the Copake Grange Theater, with evening performances at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6, and matinee performances at 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7. The costumes are designed and donated by J. Kevin Draves.

### **Rail Trail Art Project – July 6, 2024**

This event for children will include art activities based on nature and the area’s history. The event will be held at the Pavilion in Taconic State Park in Copake Falls at 10:00 am. Pre-registration is required. Please register by sending an email to [Copakebicentennial@gmail.com](mailto:Copakebicentennial@gmail.com).

**“Come Home to Copake” Picnic - July 13, 2024** 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at Copake Memorial Park. Rain Date: July 14, 2024

Current residents and anyone who has ever lived in Copake are invited to attend this town picnic. The event will feature live music, an art exhibit, car show, and attractions to amuse children, including a hot dog eating contest and sack races. A dessert baking contest will be judged by Nancy Fuller of Copake and the Food Network Show Farm House Rules. Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch and/or dinner, but food will also be available for sale. Copake Fire Company will be doing a Chicken BBQ with pre-sale tickets only. They can be purchased at Copake Town Hall. The Ghent Band will play at 2:00 pm and another band (TBA) will play at 6:00 pm. The picnic will be an opportunity to share memories, renew old friendships and make new friends.

**Bicentennial Parade and Picnic - August 17, 2024** Rain Date: August 18

The finale of the bicentennial celebration will be a parade in the Hamlet of Copake, followed by a celebration at Catamount. The parade will line up at 2:30 pm by the Copake Fire Department on Center Hill Road and will step off at 3:00 pm. All local

organizations and businesses are invited to participate in the parade. Grand Marshalls are former supervisor Angelo Valentino, former town clerk Vana Hotaling, Flora Bergquist and Edgar Masters. To register for the parade write to [CopakeParade@gmail.com](mailto:CopakeParade@gmail.com)

The grounds at Catamount will open at 5:00 pm. Attendees are welcome to bring picnic dinners or may purchase food and drink at Catamount. There will be live music and chairlift rides. The evening and the celebration will conclude with fireworks.

### **HISTORIC PANELS: A SERIES OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS FEATURING LOCAL RESIDENTS**

Town Historian Howard Blue is presenting four panel discussions to be held at the Copake Grange. The schedule is as follows:

#### **Friday, June 14, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

##### **Looking Back: Life on a Copake Farm**

Moderator: Howard Blue

Panel Members: Stosh Gansowski, Dean Pells, Wayne Miller, Judy Ackley Whitbeck

#### **Saturday, June 29, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

##### **The Copake Pharmacy, Growing up in Copake**

Special shared talk by Steve Kaufman, Nancy Fuller

#### **Sunday, June 30, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

##### **Copake Falls and Copake Lake: A Retrospective Look**

Moderator: Steve Kaufman

Panel Members: Edgar Masters, Fran Miller, Jane Peck, Jed Luchow

#### **Saturday, July 20, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

##### **Copake Businesses**

Moderator: Howard Blue

Panel Members: Heather Thomson, Vana Stang Hotaling, Dick Barton, Steve Kaufman, Mike Fallon

### **ROELIFF JANSEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

For the 2024 season, the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society has planned a series of events focusing on the bicentennial of the Town of Copake. The three special presentations, all to be held at RJHS during the spring, are:

**Sunday, March 17, 2:00 pm**

**Mohican Heritage: Past, Present and Future**

Sponsored by the Copake Mohican Allyship Committee

**Sunday, April 28, 2:00 pm**

**The Rent Wars: Criminals or Crusaders?**

Presented by Jill Knapp, author of the *The Time for Redemption*

**Sunday May 19, 2:00 pm**

**The Bash Bish Inn - A History Shrouded in Mystery**

Presented by Linda and Kim Crossman

The RJHS summer exhibition, "The Copake Bicentennial," will open on Saturday, July 6, 2024 and will be open every Saturday and Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 pm until October 6, 2024. The summer exhibition and all spring events will be held at the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society, located at 8 Miles Road, Copake Falls, New York.