

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRI
ICE	Clouds	Clouds
A little ice, then rain	Pouring rain	Morning rain; cloudy
HIGH	LOW	40
39	37	17

Complete weather, A2

SPORTS

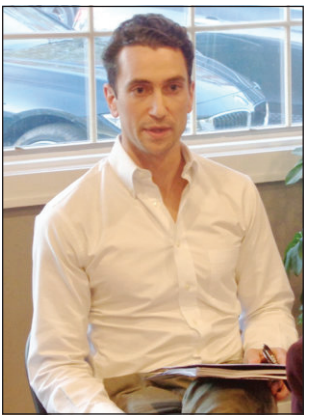


Girls basketball

Brantley stars in Cats' win over Spartans

PAGE B1

REGION



Solar proposal in early stages

Hecate sets sights on Copake for solar farm

PAGE A3

THE SCENE



Desperation and danger

Resentments explode in seething 'Les Miserables'

PAGE A7

INDEX

Region	A3
Opinion	A4
State/Nation	A5
Obituaries	A5
Sports	B1
Classified	B4-6
Comics/Advice	B7-8

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Towns share sidewalk bids

By Sarah Trafton
Columbia-Greene Media

CAIRO — Two towns are joining forces to save money in the name of pedestrian safety.

Cairo and Greenville are embarking on sidewalk projects simultaneously to increase their efficiency. Cairo's project will involve installing sidewalks from Cumberland Farms to the Cairo Elementary School, with a section running along the rear of Cumberland Farms, connecting to Dinger Road, then Bross Street and

back to Main Street, creating a loop.

"We have two projects that are really close together," Cairo Town Supervisor John Coyne said Wednesday. "We can have one staging area and save everybody money. It will be beneficial to both communities."

Greenville Town Supervisor Paul Macko did not return calls for comment.

The town is changing the scope of the project to increase its savings, Coyne said. "The previous town board

put this out to bid two times already and it [came back] too high," he said.

The two projects combined, when put out to bid in November, came back more than \$800,000 over budget, according to meeting minutes from the Greenville Town Board. Cairo's final share of



Cairo Town Supervisor John Coyne

the cost won't be determined until the bids are approved.

The town highway department and parks department will take on the "finish work" for the project, such as planting grass seed and shrubbery, Coyne said.

"I'm glad we are able to re-vamp the scope of it," Coyne said. "We will save a considerable amount of money."

The consultants on the project, Creighton Manning Engineering, are changing the bid package to reflect that Cairo will do the finish work

in-house and the project will go out to bid the middle of next week, Coyne said.

"My goal is to have a shovel in the ground before May 1," Coyne said.

The town will be responsible for 20% of the cost of the project, with the state Department of Transportation picking up the remainder of the bill. The town will not have final costs until bids have been accepted, Coyne said.

Greenville's project is

See BIDS A8



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chatham Village Police Chief Peter Volkmann joined Rep. Antonio Delgado (NY-19) at the State of the Union Address on February 4.

Local issues on big stage at address

By Abby Hoover
Columbia-Greene Media

WASHINGTON — Chatham Village Police Chief and Hudson Police Commissioner Peter Volkmann joined Rep. Antonio Delgado (D-19) at President Donald Trump's third State of the Union Address on Tuesday night.

"I just want to thank [Delgado] again for the opportunity," Volkmann said. "I mean, it's just an honor to be there and for him to see the opioid crisis as something to continue that community conversation. By asking me as a representative for that conversation is just absolutely important to me and I'm so glad to represent recovery and the hope of recovery."

Volkmann said the most memorable part of the experience for him was the people there representing America.

"During the speech, I think the most memorable point was the reunion of

the military family," Volkmann said Wednesday. "It was just amazing, and I think, I believe it got the longest standing ovation. To actually see that, and I

Volkmann described the amazing human effort of democracy behind the event on what he described as the biggest night of the year besides an inau-

"During the speech, I think the most memorable point was the reunion of the military family. It was just amazing, and I think, I believe it got the longest standing ovation. To actually see that, and I don't know if that's ever happened on a State of the Union, a military family came together."

— CHATHAM VILLAGE POLICE CHIEF AND HUDSON POLICE COMMISSIONER PETER VOLKMANN

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He said all of Trump's guests were meaningful to the country.

guration.

"The one thing that really took notice for me was the amount of energy and the support people behind the scenes of this that work real hard, from

law enforcement security, to fire department security, to staff members of congress who work really hard for this night, and that's just what I saw, and the building maintenance, and there's so many involved for that one night," Volkmann said.

Volkmann was included in Delgado's panel discussion with medical professionals, non-profit organizations, law enforcement and those recovering from addiction throughout the 19th District last fall in Glasco, and has since been working "behind the scenes" with Delgado to make progress in the opioid crisis in New York. Volkmann said Delgado wants to see programs like Chatham Cares 4 U throughout the nation.

"He's actually very interested and sees the importance of bringing the

See ADDRESS A8

New Cairo ambulance HQ in the works

By Sarah Trafton
Columbia-Greene Media

CAIRO — Officials voted Monday to put construction of the town's new ambulance building out to bid.

The project involves demolishing a residence at 25 Railroad Ave., behind Cairo Town Hall, that the town purchased in 2017, according to Greene County Property Records.

The board voted to divide the project bidding into three packages: asbestos abatement, demolition and site preparation and construction.

"By breaking it into smaller parts, it will be more possible for local contractors to submit bids," Councilwoman Mary Jo Cords said.

The project in its entirety was already put out to bid, Cords said, but



SARAH TRAFTON/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

The town of Cairo will be demolishing the blue house, pictured, and building a new ambulance headquarters in its place.

town officials did not receive any responses when the bidding period closed Jan. 31.

With the passage of the resolution, the town's consultants for the project, Kaaterskill Associates, are dividing the

project into the three packages which will be put out to bid.

Coyne is holding hope that contractors will break ground on the new building this year.

The current ambulance building is located on Route 145 near the highway garage, Coyne said.

"The existing building is definitely outdated and in need of significant repairs," Coyne said. "It is not cost-effective to make the repairs and the board felt it was appropriate to move the location and provide those quarters."

Because bids have not been accepted yet, the town does not have an exact cost for the project at this time, Coyne said. The town will be taking out a bond to finance the project, he added.

See NEW A8