



Fed minutes show officials dealing with policy split

BUSINESS, 6B

POCONO RECORD

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Foster hometown pride to grow civic engagement



Regular community events, from farmers markets to fireworks, build emotional ties to a place. GETTY IMAGES

Local patriotism one cure for sour feelings about politics

Sean Richey

Georgia State University | THE CONVERSATION

Eileen Higgins won a historic victory in December. She became the first woman ever elected mayor of Miami, as well as its first Democratic mayor since 1997. • Although the stakes in the city's Dec. 9, runoff election were high, interest was not – 4 in 5 registered voters stayed home.

Low turnout is common in municipal elections across the country. While much of the nation's political attention stays focused on Washington, the leaders who control the nation's streets, schools and neighborhoods are typically chosen by a small fraction of citizens.

Although many Americans can identify their U.S. senators or members of Congress, far fewer can name even one of their local elected officials, such as a city council member. To cite one example, a North Carolina study found that 86% of state residents could not identify their own elected leaders, including local government officials.

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Turnout in local elections regularly falls below 20%, often leaving critical decisions in the hands of small, unrepresentative groups, creating an electorate that's disproportionately White, elderly and affluent.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

People who loved their town were more likely to attend city council meetings, contact local officials, volunteer for campaigns and discuss local issues with friends. The same pattern held for civic participation – from volunteering with community groups to organizing neighborhood cleanups.



Stonehäus Meadery & Cidery at 762 Main St., Stroudsburg, is seen on Feb. 10. EMMANUELLA PIERRE/POCONO RECORD

Stonehäus building listed for sale at \$850K

Emmanuella Pierre

Pocono Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

The building that houses Stonehäus Meadery and Cidery in downtown Stroudsburg has been listed for sale.

The listing for 762 Main Street includes both the business space and the real estate, offering what's described by TACM Commercial Realty as a turnkey limited winery and brewery. The property presents an opportunity for a new owner to either continue operating it as a winery or transform the space into a restaurant, the listing says.

The property is listed at \$850,000. The building offers approximately 5,200 square feet across two floors. The first floor, about 3,500 square feet, features an open floor plan with a glass storefront. The space was fully renovated in 2021. The second floor includes a roughly 1,700-square-foot apartment that is "well-maintained and spacious."

The structure itself is more than 100 years old, with major additions and modifications completed in the 1960s, followed by its most recent renovations just a few years ago.

The meadery remains open and active. Efforts to get comment from the business were unsuccessful as of early Feb. 20.

Reach Emmanuella Pierre at epierre@gannett.com.

March brings music, St. Patrick's parades, more



Something to Think About

Debbie Kulick
Guest columnist

Here we are, the last days of February and the month of March just around the corner. March represents new growth, and its flower symbol is the daffodil. The flower symbolizes forgiveness, trust, honesty, and true love. Cer-

tainly, the days grow longer, the sun is warmer, and those last days of winter dwindle away. It is the month of changing weather, blustery days, and hopeful signs of spring.

The arrival of March brings the start of Women's History Month. In celebration of the month, the Eastern Monroe Public Library's Words and Film Sunday Matinee is presenting "The Glorias" March 1 at 2 p.m. The movie is the story of activist/journalist Gloria Steinem's life, based on her autobiography. (1002 N. 9th St., Stroudsburg)

Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) offers the Sugar Shack Scramble on March 1 with multiple starting times, 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. Hike to the Two Saps Sugar Shack and learn how to turn sap into maple syrup. The event ends with a hot pancake breakfast. \$15 per person (538 Emery Road, Dingmans Ferry). Phone: 570-828-2319 for more information.

March 7, state Rep. Maureen Madden is hosting a town hall on stormwater management at Northampton Community College from 10 a.m. to noon.

The featured speaker will be Craig Todd. (Pocono Hall, Community Room 108, 2411 Route 715, Tannersville). Learn how effective stormwater management provides environmental, social, and economic benefits to local communities.

Beginning at 4 p.m. on March 7, head over to the VFW (20 Fawn Road, East Stroudsburg) for the Annual Hops and Barley BINGO to benefit Stroudsburg Football and Baseball. Play bingo, win

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