

Volume 7, Issue 1
April 12, 2006
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Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County

Steele Road Project Under Way

The affiliate's next project, on Steele Road in the Town of Waterloo, is now under way.

A lot was purchased during the winter and in early March the work of clearing the site to prepare for construction began. See the president's column below for information on groups getting behind the project.

The wooded lot has to be prepared for the installation of the basement, which is due to arrive on May 1. The work of framing the three-bedroom house will begin as soon as the basement is in place.

The affiliate has been looking for a location in the Waterloo School District for its entire existence but until now a suitable lot hadn't been found. The lack of a lot and the need to raise more money for the house resulted in no construction work being done in 2005.

Construction materials are all up significantly in price over the past year, due at least in part to the need by peo-

ple rebuilding in the wake of last year's hurricanes. As a result, the new house promises to be the most expensive the affiliate has built, despite all the efforts of Construction Chairman Chuck Bosman and his crew to keep costs down as much as possible.

Volunteers will be welcome as soon as the framing starts. Check on the affiliate's web site, www.habitatseneca.org, for the latest in construction plans so you can plan when you can help out.



President's Letter:

Groups Urged to Help Complete Home

Habitat for Humanity was originally formed under the premise that the community should work together with those affected to eliminate homelessness and substandard housing.

As we begin our fifth home this year, the Board determined to place more emphasis on actively seeking community organizations to participate in particular portions of the new home construction. We are pleased to note the following commitments made by the community:

- Cameron Burluson has chosen to work on the Habitat Home to meet one of the criteria to earn his Eagle Scout. Cameron has worked with his group to clear the acre lot of shrubbery and trees and plans to sell the wood and wood by-products to provide additional funding for his Scout troop.

- Finger Lakes Christian Fellowship of Seneca Falls has formed a group to assist in placing the main flooring beam and joists on May 13.

- Students from the New York Chiropractic College have signed on to build the exterior walls on May 20.



- Skip Ritter of Seneca Falls is working to put together a group to install the roof joists and rough roofing on June 3.

- The Seneca Falls Savings Bank will be providing a crew to work on the interior of the home in July, depending on the home's progress.

If any group or person is interested in organizing a work group for the Waterloo project, please contact us. For those dates where a group is already scheduled to work, please do not let that hinder you from stopping in on that date to offer a hand! The future owners of the home will also be on site to assist in the building of

their home, and I know that they appreciate all of the help too.

We also ask that you remember those families that continue to live in substandard housing or that have no homes at all. We received a phone call this week from a 6 person family living in a one-bedroom apartment. There are several others that have contacted Habitat with similar stories. We need to get more homes built! The cost for new construction is becoming more and more prohibitive as are renovations. But, the good news is that as more homes are built, the ongoing self-funding increases. Habitat families actually purchase their homes from Habitat using a no-interest mortgage from Habitat. The monthly payments received from the Habitat families are then used to finance new homes. Monthly payments received from fifteen homes will finance the construction of one new home per year. Your faithful support has helped us to build four homes thus far, with our fifth home is underway, and we appreciate your willingness to help us meet the needs of our community.

- Menzo Case

Habitat — The Excitement is Building

Need for Home Sites Never Ends

One of the more difficult challenges facing Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County is finding land that can be used to build homes.

It's something all supporters of the affiliate can lend a hand with.

If you have land which you would like to donate or sell for a reasonable amount, please let the affiliate know. If you know of someone who may be able to give or sell land to us, please be a booster for the affiliate's efforts and put in a good word for Habitat.

What is a good building lot? First of all, it has to be buildable — large enough to meet local requirements, but not so large as to make it a burden for the future homeowners. It needs to be something which can be developed at a reasonable cost; for example, a lot which wasn't level could increase expenses to the point where it wasn't feasible.

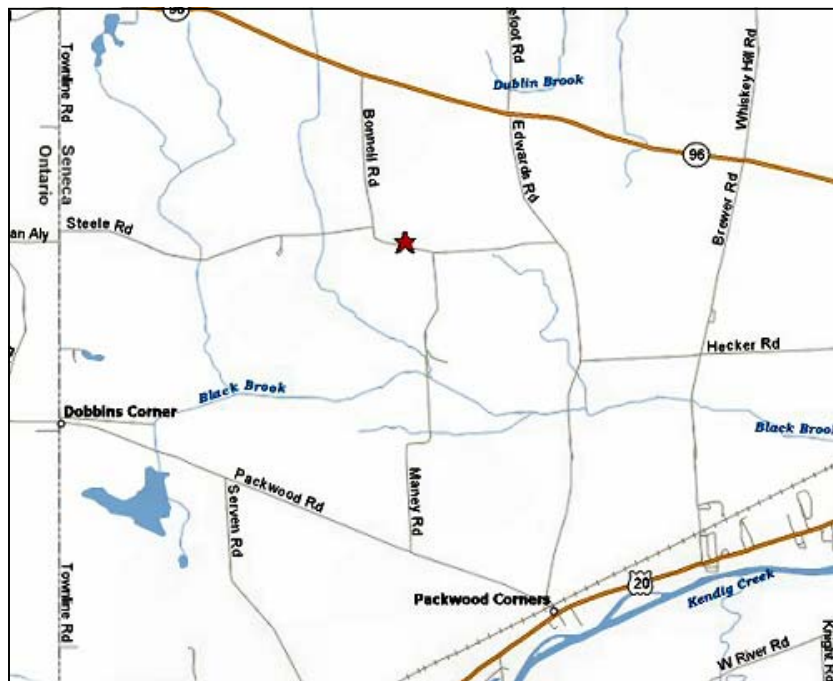
When the affiliate evaluates a property, it looks at the any cost of buying the lot, the cost of developing the lot, and the long-term costs associated with the site. The long-term

costs include the property tax burden the family which purchases the home will have to bear.

Distribution around the county also is a value for the affiliate, as most of the applicants for each home come from the school district where the home is located. So far the affiliate has built two homes in the Seneca Falls School District (Seneca Falls and Tyre) , two homes in the South Seneca School District (Ovid and Interlaken) and now one in Waterloo in the Waterloo School District.

While a donated lot would do the most to further the affiliate's program, the affiliate will purchase a lot but can only do so if the price fits into the overall budget for a Habitat home. If the price is too high then the final sale price of the home will be too expensive for the Partner Families we work with, families that make half of the median income for the county.

With the 2006 project under way, the affiliate would benefit from knowing where its next project will be as soon as possible.



Directions to Steele Road Site

The Steele Road site is in the town of Waterloo, west of the village of Waterloo.

To get there from the village, go west on Routes 5 & 20 (Waterloo-Geneva Road) and then turn right onto Packwood Road (the intersection between the Mobil station and the used car dealership). Proceed on Packwood Road until you get to Maney Road; turn right. At the end of Maney Road, turn left. The home site is on the right or North side of the road.

From Route 96, turn south onto either Edwards or Bonnelli Road and then turn onto Steele Road.

You'll see the Habitat sign marking the lot — and hopefully a lot of volunteers busy working.

Habitat Golf Tournament is June 14 at Silver Creek

The annual Habitat for Humanity of Seneca County Golf Tournament will be on Wednesday, June 14, at the Silver Creek Golf Club in Waterloo.

The event, one of the three major funding sources for the affiliate, is an important one for the affiliate. If you are a

golfer, round up a team and join in the fun. If you aren't a golfer, you still can help by working with the committee to prepare for the event, or being a sponsor for the event.

More information on the tournament will be posted on the affiliate web site when it becomes available.

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