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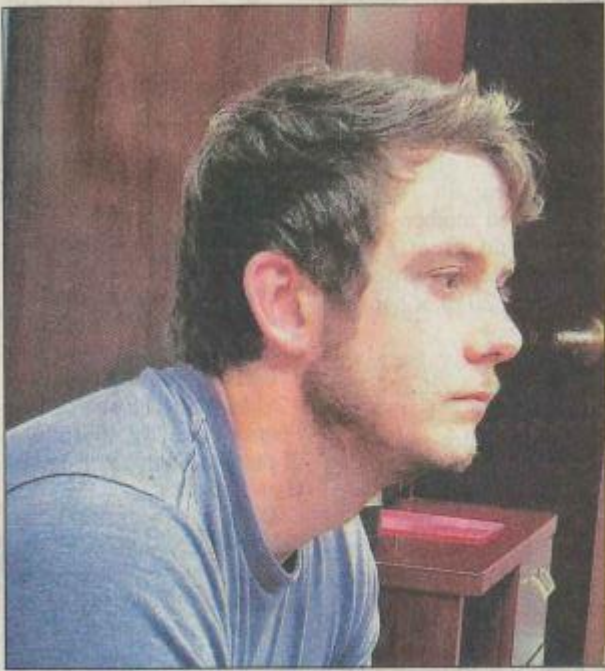


Photo by David Prenatt

Sherman resident Brandon VanCuren attended the village board meeting to discuss plans for the vacant buildings on Main Street.

## Newly donated buildings in Sherman need rehabilitation

By David Prenatt

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SHERMAN — The process of receiving donated buildings on Main Street in Sherman is nearly complete, but the buildings themselves will need considerable rehabilitation before they can be occupied, village board of trustee members were told at their regular meeting Oct. 1.

Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder, emphasized that, even though the village has plans to locate several organizations in the four buildings which were donated by businessman Van McConnon, it will be some time before anyone will be able to move in. "No decisions have been made regarding the future of any property use, beyond the permanent home of the food pantry," she added.

Village employees have put in many hours to prepare a space for the food pantry, just to bring it up to code, Meeder said. She noted that the materials purchased for the bathroom and flooring in the food pantry totaled \$3,610.

"The expenses were unforeseen. We'll only have to do this once, though," said Village Clerk, Jeanette Ramm. "As soon as it is approved, it will become the permanent location of the food pantry," Meeder added.

During the public participation segment of the meeting, Sherman resident Brandon VanCuren, suggested that the village con-

sider inviting Crossroads to use space in the old Ford garage. Meeder responded that, while this is a good idea, there are many requirements that must be fulfilled first.

The first of these is an environmental study that must be completed for the old Ford garage (SEQRA). "Right now it's an open slate," Meeder said. "So, whatever the possibilities, I want people to share their ideas."

In a related matter, Meeder told the board that the American Legion inquired about having a dedicated space where they could display their banners, flags and memorabilia, along with a space in which to hold their meetings. "This is absolutely possible, and will be noted as we discuss the properties," Meeder said. "However, I explained that, in their current state, the properties are far from suitable for occupancy."

In another matter, Meeder told the board that she has met with Panama Mayor Bill Schneider, Sherman Central School Superintendent, Michael Ginestre and Bert Lictus of Panama regarding having one sign to celebrate various achievements of the school, in lieu of several smaller signs. She recommended waiting until spring to act on this, and said that, in the meantime, "we're going to compare with other municipalities to see what the best size is."

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## BUILDINGS, From Page 1

Meeder also updated board members on the Village's "Cat Trap, Treat and Release Program" which was initiated at the last board meeting. She said there has been a very good response from the community, with many people volunteering to help capture the cats for treatment.

The Village is also considering the creation of a welcome center, which could be located at Rose Lynn's Emporium, Meeder told the board, "we should be putting together a Sherman Visitors' Guide, along with the Chamber of Commerce, and discussing the welcome center idea more formally," Meeder said.

Board members also discussed creating a welcome packet for new residents. Board member Donna Higginbotham said the members of her church used to create a welcome basket and pay a visit to new residents. Meeder said that is a need for a brochure covering everything a resident would need to know, but Martha Sanders has the experience and insight into what else should be included. "Martha and Jeanette are going to work on that project together," Meeder added.

In addition to passing several resolutions related to the USDA Rural Development grant acceptance and loan resolution, board

members also agreed to open a checking account with Community Bank in the name of the Village of Sherman USDA Sewer Project for the express purpose of collecting and expending funds relating to the wastewater treatment project.

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