

# Railroad Day draws a crowd of train lovers

Summertime's heat and occasional downpours haven't discouraged an active community from enjoying special events.



**Barbara Bedell**

Musician-songwriter Paul Lounsbury of Grahamsville entertained at the well-attended Middletown Railroad Day, hosted by the Ontario & Western Railway Historical Society. Accompanied on his guitar, he sang numerous railroad numbers, including "Catskill Mountain Trilogy," which he wrote about the New York Ontario & Western Railroad.

Conducted at the Mulberry Senior Citizen Center, the day was railroad enthusiasts' haven with operating models of N-, HO- and O-scale trains churning around tabletop tracks, and volunteers dressed as conductors.

The staff and volunteers at the nonprofit Family Empowerment Council enjoyed celebrating another year of serving people with disabilities and promoting individualization, over a meal. More than 51 awards were given during the nicely orchestrated event at the Graham Skea Lodge Recreation Center at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Campbell Hall.

Among those honored were the staff members who have given 10-plus years. They are Julia Coughlin, Valerie Lehmann, Juanita Morales, Marie O'Malley, Marian Piccininni, Barbara Raymond, Louise Schwartz and Barbara Russell.



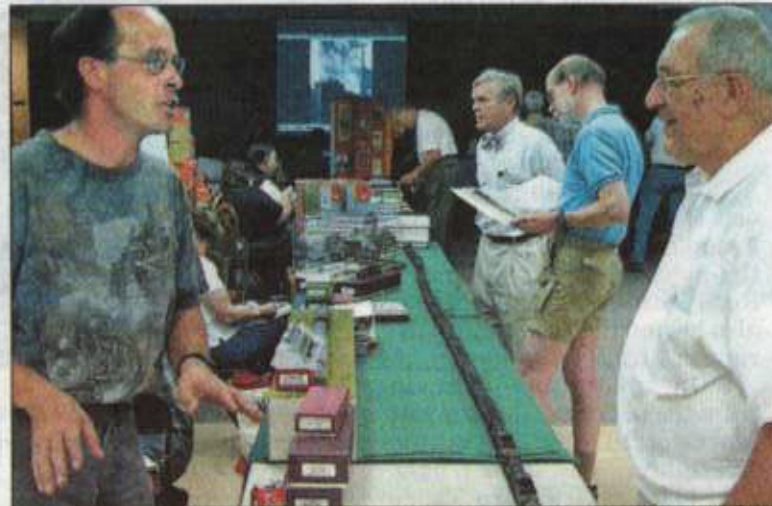
Joseph Senese, 24, left, dressed as a New York O&W Railroad conductor, and Gerhold M. Wanamaker, 90, wearing an Erie conductor uniform, synchronize the time.

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Paul Lounsbury of Grahamsville sings the song he wrote, "Catskill Mountain Trilogy," about the New York Ontario & Western Railroad during Middletown's Railroad Day.



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Brian Parr, left, president of the Middletown and New Jersey Railway Historical Society, visits during the one-day railway event.



Photo provided

Vietnam veteran Michael Werba marks off the expansion area for the War Memorial at Marlboro Middle School.

lage of Montgomery. The rally has all the ingredients of a fun, all-American-type weekend.

Reservations for the rally are due by Aug. 25. Forms are available by calling Walt Olsen at 564-2650 or John Sutton at 914-213-0542. The camping fee for two nights is \$26. The rally fee is \$72 per coach. Extra adults are \$15 and extra nights are \$13.

Ellenville Regional Hospital has been selected as the "honoree" for Congregation Ezzrath Israel's annual dinner-dance at 5 p.m. Sept. 21 at the temple's social hall in Ellenville. The shul is on property steeped in history, the site of the old Veterans Memorial Hospital.

Rabbi Frank Moshe, the temple's religious leader, said he and the congregation are proud to be part of Ellenville's history, and honored to recognize the landmark. A journal will be created as part of the celebration. For information, call 647-4450.

## This and that

The Rev. Richard Francis Champigny, the Carmelite priest who is a past president of Middletown Kiwanis, will celebrate his 50th