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Ellsworth plan: Turn former LG Magic Forest into 180-unit residential

By Ben Westcott
Chronicle Staff Writer

Ruben and Danna Ellsworth seek to turn their Lake George Expedition Park property — formerly the Magic Forest — into 180 residential units.

"We are proposing what is needed for Lake George. We both are from this area and have seen COVID buy-outs, short-term rental increases and unaffordable housing where no one can afford to live here," the Ellsworths told The Chronicle in a statement.

'We know the theme park will be missed, but this is what is needed in Lake George'

"We have a great location for this proposal, it borders Lake George Elementary School's property, access to the bike trail, close vicinity to the Northway, and the most important part is that it's in Lake George. Yes, we know that the amusement park will be greatly missed, but the housing is so needed in Lake George and we feel we are making a difference for the future of Lake George.

"We love it here and want our children to be able to love it as much as we do."

In all, the plan is for 40 multifamily quadplex units, a 3-story building with 100 senior dwelling units, and a commercial and residential building with 10,000 sq. ft. of first floor commercial space and 20 residential units. Self-storage units are also planned.

Estimated project cost is $15-30 million with four years of construction time, said the application submitted to the Town of Lake George Planning Board.

The Ellsworths write, "Our proposal has duplexes to sell which would be of market value, hoping to get first time homebuyers, families and couples that would love to live

Please turn to page 16



Ruben & Danna Ellsworth: 'We love it here...we want our children to be able to love it too.' *Photo/Ben Westcott*



The Lake George Expedition Park would stay open for 2027.



On the way: Balloons shaped like the Space Shuttle & American flag

Balloon Fest to honor 250th

By Cathy DeDe
Chronicle Managing Editor

"Celebrating America's 250th" will be the theme of the 53rd Adirondack Balloon Festival, **September 17-20.**

Balloon Festival President Mark Donohue tells *The Chronicle* that **special shape balloons** will include:

- United States Flag
- a new-to-the-festival Space Shuttle balloon
- "Tet," a tetrahedron shaped balloon in red, white and blue with stars
- Several more traditional

Please turn to page 25

Her students were in on Chronicle start

To the Editor:

I was delighted to see an article in the NY Times about The Chronicle of Glens Falls, NY and proud to say that I was around at its origin.

I was a 3rd grade teacher at St. Alphonsus Elementary School 1979 -1981.

Mr. Frost came into my classroom and spoke with my students.

They were eager to participate in the "School Views" feature. Some of my students' responses were published

Please turn to page 17

Bob Curtis: Sadness, grief, Vietnam wall

Mark:

As a Vietnam era veteran I felt compelled to view the Replica Vietnam Wall Memorial at Crandall Park on August 23rd. I went and immediately felt immense sadness and grief.

Nearly 58,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces died or were missing as a result of the war. The majority of those who died — a little over 33,000 — were only 18 years old ! Let that sink in for a moment. Without debating politics or motives, my prayers

Please turn to page 18

Re planned Dept. of Finance: Don't just add layer of govt.

Mark,

As a Warren County taxpayer, I appreciate the difficult position facing our Board of Supervisors and understand the need to act following the independent forensic investigation, which revealed serious financial control weaknesses, not just the $3.3 million fraud.

But I question whether creating another Department of Finance is the right solution.

Local Law No. 7 creates a

Please turn to page 18

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