

### Oswego County Fair plans changes for '93

by Marie K. Parsons

It may be mid-winter, with snow and ice alternating to keep most North Country residents pre-occupied with the daily weather, but the volunteer officers and workers for the Oswego County Sandy Creek Fair are busy planning for the 130th Fair this year, with plenty of changes for the better in store for 1993 Fair-goers.

A very enthusiastic group of about a dozen "Fair people" from Oswego County, headed by Fair Association president Jerry Thomas, attended the New York State Fair Convention at the Hotels in Syracuse, Jan. 9 through 12. There, entertainers, midway representatives and agricultural fair officials from across the Empire State gather each year to exchange ideas and line up new activities for the county and town fairs put on each summer and fall.

The biggest change in the Oswego County Sandy Creek Fair for 1993, according to Mr. Thomas, is growing to seven days.

"Because the Fourth of July falls on Sunday and makes Monday the 31st a legal holiday, our Fair will last seven days, June 29 through July 5. We have some special new events geared to children since we are planning to have three children's days during that week. And, we haven't forgotten the senior citizens. They'll have two days at the Fair this year. And, there're more changes to come," Jerry concludes.

The additions and adaptations reflect part of the reason for the long life of the Oswego County Sandy Creek Fair, for the officers and volunteers have always tried to keep the good and improve the lively mix of events and exhibits which make for a successful agricultural fair.

The Sandy Creek Fair began 1858 when a number of local businessmen formed the Sandy Creek, Richland, Orwell and Watkinson Agricultural Society. They held the first annual Cattle Show and Fair" at the market of Washingtonville, as

Several town fairs were also held within the county during the mid-to-late 1800's including, Constantia, New Haven, Oswego Town and Florida. Early editions of the countywide society had also been held in Central Square and Putahki. The longest lived one of the single community fairs was that of Oswego Falls (Fulton's west side), organized in 1856 and active until about 1920.

By that date, the "Sandy Creek Fair" was the only active Agricultural Association left in the county. Because of its ability to adapt to the changing times and active support from Oswego County government since 1936, it has grown into a modern agricultural exhibition and fair. The most dramatic result of that consistent financial support over the past decade has been a complete rebuilding of the exhibit and activities buildings from village to village in the county before permanently locating in Mexico. However, by 1987 the first organization was worn out, and the Oswego Agricultural Fair Society took over the older society's franchise and held their first fair in Oswego City 1988, in a westside fairground.

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### Support groups

**Grief Recovery Group-Hope for Bereaved** - 7 p.m. Fulton-Holy Family School, 43 W. Third St., Fulton, Thursday, Feb. 11. Topic: "Healing the Broken Heart."

**Separated and Divorced Support Group** - 7 p.m. Fulton-Holy Family School, 43 W. Third St., Fulton, Thursday, Feb. 11 and 25. Please call Mary, 593-3097, for information.

**"I" Rebuilding** - 10 E. Sixth St., Oswego, Tuesday, Feb. 2 and 16. Topic: "I rebuild."

**All newly separated and divorced are welcome as well as anyone who is separated or divorced. Confidential.**

**Single Parent Support Group** - 7 p.m. Oswego-Patrol Center, 108 E. Sixth St., Oswego, Tuesday, Feb. 9 and 23. Information and support for any single parent.

**Business Group** - 7 p.m. Meets every Tuesday at Sacred Heart Church in Scrib. The church is located on County Route 4 and Route 176. This group is for never married men and women over 18. Discussion with some activities. Please call Helen at 343-9905.

**Coming Events: World Marriage Day** - Feb. 14.

**Candle Show and Fair** - at the market of Washingtonville, as

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**NOTICE CITY OF FULTON RESIDENTS** Due to the President's Day Holiday, Monday's regularly scheduled garbage and recycling pickup will be done on Tuesday, February 16, 1993. However, if adverse weather conditions occur, garbage and recycling pickup on the west side may be delayed until later in the week.

Signed: Raymond K. Graham, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works

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