

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Historic Red Hook Invites Public to a History Happening!

Red Hook, NY, May 31, 2019 –On Saturday, June 8, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Historic Red Hook celebrates the grand opening of its new Elmendorph Green with great food, live music and plenty of fun for families and historians of all ages.

“There will be face-painting, whirligig-making, scavenger hunts and puzzles with tantalizing (and historical!) clues to solve,” says Historic Red Hook president Claudine Klose. “And kids of all ages are welcome to clamber aboard two shiny red antique fire trucks drawn up in front of the Elmendorph for the occasion by the Red Hook and Tivoli Fire Departments, who are marking their Centennials this year.”

Red Hook’s own Maggie Rothwell leads off the day’s music, followed by Finial, a trio of historic preservationists from Troy on guitar and drums. Radio 98.1 WKZE music director Rick Schneider and his band Mister Roper, who hail from Woodstock, then take center stage. For the hungry, Papa’s Best Batch from Red Hook’s Greig Farm will serve up their ‘sammiches’ – “Like a sandwich, only tastier” reads their motto. Clermont’s Tousey Winery and Hudson Valley Distillers will offer tastings of their wines and spirits.

More special features to entice the curious include:

- “Alexander Gilson: From Property to Property Owner,” an exhibit inaugurating Historic Red Hook’s new Story Studio about an African-American slave on Montgomery Place who, after being freed, became an acclaimed horticulturalist and Red Hook business owner;
- “The Cemetery Next Door” booth offering tales of those buried in Cherry Street’s 1840 Methodist Burial Ground, including Alexander Gilson, his mother, sister and other local families;
- A Victorian-era mourning wreath woven of human hair by the Martin sisters of Red Hook, and
- Displays by local residents recounting the histories of their houses and neighborhoods, including Cherry Street.

Old-timers and newcomers to Red Hook alike are welcome to share their stories of hearth, home, family and community with Bard College’s Mobile History Van, which records and preserves oral histories for posterity in partnership with Historic Red Hook. For those with a yen to revisit their “school daze,” the Red Hook Alumni Association will have a raft of old yearbooks and other school memorabilia to pore over.

Lastly, homeowners, architecture buffs and do-it-yourselfers won’t want to miss hands-on demonstrations by a blacksmith, stone wall builder, painter and a timber framer. There will be plenty of information on architectural styles, landscape design, zoning, tax credits and adaptive reuse offered by experienced artisans, architects, designers, planners and preservationists, as well as tips from homeowners who have rehabbed their old barns and houses. Festival goers are encouraged to bring questions!

Historic Red Hook’s Klose says, “History doesn’t just happen... here’s a chance to explore how history connects us to the past and contributes to our sense of place and community. And we are very fortunate that this History Happening is made possible with support from the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.”