

# Nonprofit seeks to save art and music in VC

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A new group known as ADAM (All District Arts and Music) is off and running to achieve their goal of restoring enhancing art and music exposure instruction in Valley Central School district elementary schools.

A subcommittee under the Wallkill River School, ADAM is an organized group of concerned parents, current and former students, teachers and community members that formed in response to the district's decision to eliminate elementary art and music programs from the 2013-2014 budget. Led by a five-member steering committee, the group plans to meet at least once a month to come up with a plan to restore those programs.

"The people who started this feel that there is no reason the children should not have art and music in school," said committee member Lori Cunningham.

According to Chairperson Jane Samuelson, the group met for the first time last week; one day after school officials hosted a meeting where they presented the public with different ideas and options for saving art and music. By Saturday, ADAM had a booth at the Montgomery Arts & Music Festival and on Sunday they were holding their own fundraiser on the lawn of the Wallkill River School.

The group was even gifted money from a recent Valley Central Alumni Pub Crawl 50/50, putting them at \$1,374 before Sunday's event. The event itself brought in an additional \$4,000.

"It's just been overwhelming," Samuelson said of the response from the community. "The feedback has been great and it's all for a good cause."

In Samuelson's opinion, the most realistic option outlined by the district is for the nonprofit to fund an afterschool art and music program. Under the program,



Volunteers come together on Sunday to save art and music at Valley Central. Pictured: Lori Cunningham, Bob Jurgens, Jane and Sarah Samuelson, and Tara, Alix, Jenna and James O'Connor.

## Walden farmer's market in full swing

By RACHEL COLEMAN  
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The Walden Farmer's Market is in full swing with local produce, honey, sweets, pickles and much more. Located

at the municipal square in Walden, the market is held on Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Oct. 25.

Last week the farmer's market welcomed Chef John Moultrie, who prepared his special "Summer Orange Tomato Salad" and gave away free samples to the surrounding crowd. Moultrie attends CIA and for the last 15 years has taught at libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System and at Cornell

classes would be taught by teachers who are paid a stipend; the more money that is raised, the more classes can be held.

Another option is to come up with the approximately \$200,000 needed to hire back two teachers who would be shared among the four elementary schools, Samuelson said.

No matter how much they raise, Cunningham said ADAM controls how it is used.

"We decide the purpose," she said, explaining that the money will be given to the school district, but will not go into

the general fund. Instead, it will be earmarked for art and music.

"When people give us money, that's what it's used for and for that purpose only," Cunningham said.

ADAM will be launching an official website soon but in the meantime you can find them on Facebook at "Valley Central Art and Music Fundraising." To donate to the cause, mail a check payable to the Wallkill River School (with "ADAM" in the memo line) to the Wallkill River School of Art, 232 Ward St., Montgomery, NY 12549.