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TOP STORY

CAPITAL REGION FORWARD

Our action plan for safely reopening businesses and reinvigorating the economy.

Reopening Albany

County health czar warns this doesn't signal the end for coronavirus

By **JIM FRANCO**
francoj@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — When the Capital District begins the arduous process of reopening by the latest today, businesses will need to, in writing, agree to follow the rules and regulations designed to keep COVID-19 in check and spread of the virus will be monitored with as much, if not more, vigilance than it has over the past two-plus months.

On order to open, employers will have to supply masks and will have to disinfect many areas that are touched frequently, according to the plan released on Saturday, May 15. Workers who can should still work at home and a four-day work week and/or staggered shifts should be considered.

According to a new directive announced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday, May 18

all workers who were laid off or furloughed will need to get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to work under any of the four phase plan to reopen.

Dr. Elizabeth Whalen, head of the Albany County Health Department, said just because things will start to open back up, it doesn't mean the virus is going away.

"I have no doubt opening up will lead to an increase in cases and our ability to control that is essential to avoid a hospital surge capacity and other issues," she said during the daily press briefing on Monday. "As we move forward it is going to be essential we continue to increase the number of people getting tested so we can rapidly ID and contain cases as they come up."

She said COVID-19 takes between two and 14 days to incubate so there will likely not be a spike in numbers for a few days and an increase

Continues on page 8

Illustration courtesy of Albany County

NEWS



Windy day

Rain and high winds tore through town on Friday night, causing damage.

Story on Page 2

ENTERTAINMENT



Dining out in business

Local eateries are adapting now to new world of social distancing.

Story on Page B1



LIFE AFTER 50



COMING NEXT WEEK!

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■ POLICE, COURTS and EMERGENCY CALLS

Several trees fell across town

Caused temporary disruption, no injuries reported

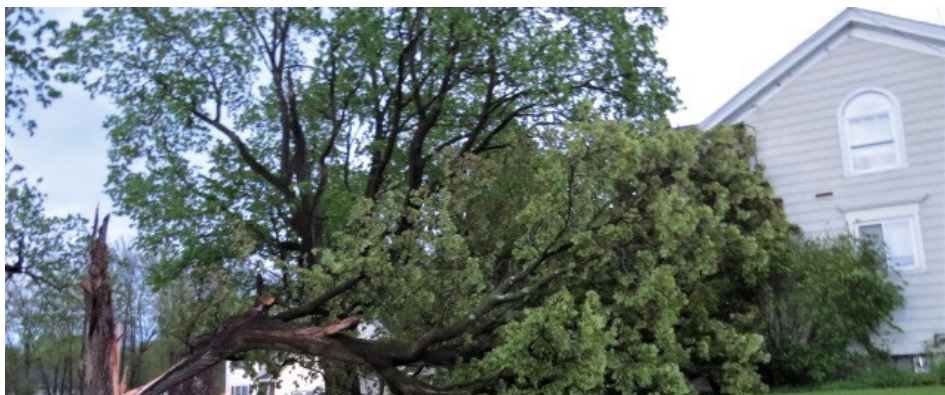
By **DIEGO CAGARA**
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — A few trees fell down across Delmar on Friday evening, May 15, according to the Bethlehem Police Department.

A tree fell onto power lines and the roadway itself near the intersection of Fernbank and Elsmere avenues. While causing localized power outages in the area, the stretch of Elsmere Avenue between Wellington Road and the Delmar Bypass was temporarily closed and reopened by 11:30 p.m. that same night.

Another tree fell onto a house on Wemple Road.

Photos by Tom Heffernan Sr. / Special to Spotlight News



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COVID-19

Nursing homes still an issue

Twice weekly testing presents logistical, financial problems

By JIM FRANCO
francoj@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — There are 411 residents and employees at 11 nursing homes in Albany County who have tested positive for COVID-19, up from 312 two weeks ago. There have been 42 fatalities attributed to the virus and one suspected.

With congregate, isolated living by the most vulnerable population, nursing homes are an issue across the country and New York state and Albany County are no exception.

Last week, in response sweeping criticism of the state's handling of the issue, Gov. Andrew Cuomo, by Executive Order, said all nursing home residents and employees must get tested twice a week.

While it does sound good on paper, it presents a logistic and financial nightmare to the localities who have to carry out the mandate.

"Maybe we can test everyone once a week. But how do you do every worker and resident twice a week? I don't know how to do it," said Albany County Executive Dan McCoy. "If you test on Monday and then again on Friday you are playing catch up. We want to comply and we want to do it but we don't know how. I

FACILITY	RESIDENTS	EMPLOYEES	DEATHS
Bethlehem Commons	0	1 (0)	0
Daughters of Sarah in Albany	9 (6)	3 (1)	1
Eddy Village Green in Cohoes	0 (0)	1 (1)	0
Eddy Village Green in Slingerlands	0 (0)	1 (1)	0
The Grand in Guelderland	37 (27)	11 (8)	3
Hudson Park in Albany	72 (71)	12 (10)	4
Our Lady of Mercy in Guelderland	44 (47)	18 (16)	12
St. Peters Nursing and Rehab in Albany	18 (0)	5 (0)	2
Teresian House in Albany	70 (29)	29 (23)	17
St. Margaret's in Albany	0 (0)	1 (0)	0
Shaker Place in Colonie	53 (48)	26 (24)	9
Total	303 (228)	108 (84)	42

Data from the Albany County Department of Health. The number in parenthesis is the number of positive cases on Sunday, May 3. The positive cases represent anyone who was associated with the facility and not necessarily currently there and the total number does not differentiate those who are asymptomatic, currently ill, recovered or died. The number of deaths are reported by the New York State Department of Health on May 12. There was one presumed COVID-19 death at Our Lady of Mercy.

can't meet something that is not meetable. If you want me to meet this give me the tools to meet it."

He said right now it takes about three weeks to test all nursing home residents and employees just once.

To do it twice a week would take more kits, more people to administer the tests and more lab capacity to process the samples.

He said it would cost about \$200,000 a month, or \$2.4 million a year, just to test at Shaker Place, the county's nursing home.

McCoy said representatives from the state Department of Health were at Shaker Place last week and he had no choice but to agree to the mandate or the nursing home would be at risk of losing its license.

"There are practical considerations like lab capacity to do the tests and staffing to conduct the tests," said Dr.

Elizabeth Whalen, head of the Albany County Health Department. "The theory, which is good from an infection control perspective, is a layer above what is being done already, and while it certainly helpful to address the high rate of mortality in nursing homes across the state, it has to be considered from a practical perspective too."

Stephen Hanse, president and CEO of the New York State Health Facilities Association and the New York State Center for Assisted Living, which represents over 400 skilled nursing providers and adult care/assisted living communities, applauded the governor's directive but he too questions the logistics.

"New York has 614 nursing homes with over 140,000 employees and roughly 500 assisted living facilities with over 45,000 employees. As such, the governor's Executive Order

requires over 370,000 tests to be conducted every week," he said in a statement. "To date, the state has tested approximately 1.2 million individuals and this requirement will eclipse that total in short order."

For it to work, he said, the state will have to allocated the required number of test kits and, as importantly, the staff and funding to administer and process the results.

Also, he said, since more testing will lead to more positive results, the state has to take into account the filling vacancies of infected workers not able to work for at least two weeks.

The state regulates private nursing homes and Cuomo and his administration have come under fire for a March 25 directive that mandated nursing homes take COVID-19 positive patients from hospitals to open beds for those who require more critical care.

That fear of running out of hospital beds, particularly in the hardest hit areas of downstate, never materialized but it is widely accepted that once the virus got inside a nursing home it spread like "fire through dry grass."

That last quote is Cuomo's description.

He has defended his directive saying the fundamental requirement of any nursing home is caring for patients, including COVID-19, and if they could not do that they should transfer the patient or risk losing their license.

There have been about 5,500 COVID-19 fatalities in nursing homes across the state but many reports over the weekend say New York, unlike other states, has not counted nursing home residents who died at a hospital.

Despite widespread accolades

and high profile response to COVID-19, Cuomo has been widely criticized for his handling of nursing homes with some Republicans calling for an investigation and there are threats of lawsuits on the horizon.

To detour notions of the latter, the state Legislature passed the Emergency or Disaster Treatment Protection Act on April 6 as part of the budget and it, in part, provides legal immunity for actions taken by nursing homes and other health care professionals during a state of emergency.

"Who can we prosecute for these deaths, nobody. Mother Nature? God?," Cuomo said last week. "Older people, vulnerable people are going to die from this virus despite whatever you do. Despite all the progress in our society, and despite everything you do older people are more vulnerable."

He reversed the March 25 order earlier this month and said while nursing homes could not refuse to accept COVID-19 positive patients, if they can provide appropriate care, the hospitals could not discharge patients who tested positive for the virus into nursing homes.

In addition to the twice-weekly testing, employees must have their temperature taken before starting the workday and not be allowed to work should they show symptoms. COVID-19 patients must be isolated from the general population, employees must wear appropriate Personal Protection Equipment and Any worker who tests positive, be it asymptomatic or if they are sick, are placed under quarantine and cannot go back to work for at least two weeks.

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■ TOWN GOVERNMENT

Public hearings on moratorium, license system

By **DIEGO CAGARA**
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — The town board voted unanimously in its May 13 meeting to hold two public hearings at the upcoming May 27 meeting related to a proposed licensing system on vape and tobacco retailers, and the current six-month moratorium on vape shops.

In its June 10 meeting, the town board plans to vote on both extending the moratorium and adopting a local law for the proposed licensing system on vape and tobacco retailers. The local law would go into effect in late 2020 and the licensing system would begin issuing licenses in 2021. All state-registered tobacco and vapor product retailers in town must get a license from the town for approval.

Both the moratorium and planned licensing system aim to help better



Town Board members said in past meetings that reducing exposure of vape products to children and teenagers is an important issue in Bethlehem.

regulate vape and tobacco product retailers and reduce exposure of vape products to children and teenagers. Also, selling flavored tobacco and vape products is illegal in the state starting Monday, May 18.

The original six-month moratorium was extended by another six months in December 2019 and is set to expire on June 26.

Leslie Lombardo, the town's Planning Division's senior planner, encouraged the extension of the current moratorium by another six months so that town staff can continue preparing the licensing system and application documents; determining how much the application and annual license fees would be; and training staff and reaching out to existing businesses.

The town's Economic Development and Planning Department and Building Division will administer the local law and handle the licensing system.

The local law would require retailers to display the license on its premises. The drafted licensing system would include restricting vapor product sales within 1,000 feet of schools — selling tobacco products would be still be permitted within that distance; have a priority list for new license applications; and establishing a cap and winnow with a floor.

Lombardo said the town may issue licenses to the 15 existing tobacco retail businesses if they apply in the first licensing cycle in 2021, meaning that there would hypothetically be 15 licenses issued that year. As a license is valid for one year, existing businesses will each have to apply for a renewed license every year afterwards while new

businesses must apply for a new license.

Regarding the cap and winnow with a floor concept, Lombardo explained that the town would reduce the number of issued licenses over time by only issuing one new license for every two licenses that do not get renewed from the previous cycle or year. This reduction would apply until there are seven or fewer licenses left that can be issued in a cycle — the cap is seven total licenses.

If the number of new businesses applying for new licenses exceeds the number of licenses that the town can issue, a priority list will be used. Any new business that is located at least 1,000 feet from a school and does not plan to renew an existing license for a location within 1,000 feet of a school would be prioritized first. The second priority would go to any business located at least

1,000 feet from a school and the third priority goes to any establishment that takes steps to limit entry to only people aged 21 and up. A lottery system will decide any remaining license applications.

As part of the local law, the licensing system includes an application fee — which covers processing the application and may include store inspection — and an annual license fee — which covers enforcing the license and may include education, periodic store inspection and training.

Lombardo said town staff are researching how much fees other municipalities with similar licensing systems have established in order to determine how much the fees should be in Bethlehem. The fee schedule will be referenced in the local law that would be adopted on June 10 but

Continues on 15

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SPOTLIGHT ON FINANCE

KeyBank can help you navigate these challenging times

By RUTH MAHONEY,
President,
Capital Region, KeyBank

Over the past two months, our world has dramatically changed. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced vibrant businesses to close or make operational adjustments, Americans have had to social distance and many individuals and families find themselves facing economic hardship due to sudden unemployment or job furloughs.



Ruth Mahoney

Navigating these historic times can be challenging—full of uncertainty and concern, especially financially. Your bank can be a good resource to help you answer questions, develop a plan and even provide much needed relief. Below are some options KeyBank is providing.

Consumer Relief

Existing Key borrowers experiencing financial hardship related to COVID-19 may be eligible for assistance such as a temporary assistance loan or a payment deferral.

Generally, a deferral extends your payment due date, giving you more time before your payment is due.

Affected Key borrowers can request a deferral for a variety of KeyBank products including mortgages, home equity loans and lines, auto/boat/RV loans, lines of credit and credit cards.

You can contact Key at 1-800KEY2YOU (539-2986) or visit Key.com's Borrower Assistance webpage for more information.

Small Business Relief

As a top national Small Business Administration (SBA) lender, Key has a variety of options and programs built to keep businesses running, as well as decades of experience with government programs.

To find out more about the SBA disaster recovery loans, visit disasterloan.SBA.gov.

For any service-related questions, contact us at 1-888-KEY4BIZ (539-4249).

Assistance for Non-COVID-19 Related Financial Hardships

Unemployment, decrease of income, rising expenses, declining property value, divorce, injury or illness are all considered hardships. If you're experiencing a financial hardship not due to

the coronavirus that makes it difficult for you to pay your bills, there may be help. Depending upon the type of Key product you have, some options may include: Reage, Modification, Forbearance or Extension.

You can visit Key.com's Borrower Assistance page for more information.

Financial Wellness

If you're still employed, it's a good time to develop a plan that can help you navigate challenges that could come in the future. If you don't have an emergency fund yet, consider starting one. Having cash on hand for emergencies means you won't have to divert money from your other goals when you face an unexpected expense.

Paying off debts is another important component of a good financial strategy. Make sure you're setting aside money to pay the minimum on each of your debts. If you can afford to, make larger payments toward the account with the highest interest rate.

Also, be purposeful about your spending. Look at each category of your budget and think about whether your purchases are going toward things you really need. Are there opportunities to cut costs? You may find that money you're spending would be better used to pursue a goal or to grow your nest egg.

Community Assistance

If you are in a position where you can help organizations in your community get through these challenging times, consider making a donation to a nonprofit or charitable cause. Many employers are helping their workers contribute by matching funds given.

The KeyBank Foundation announced an initial \$1 million commitment to communities

across the bank's footprint. These funds will be in addition to a 2:1 match for employee gifts up to \$2,000 made between March 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020. The KeyBank Foundation also committed to shifting resources to supporting projects designed to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on communities' most vulnerable members, small businesses, and neighborhoods.

The challenges we all face now will pass and when they do, it will be because we all came together to help each other. If you're facing financial hardship, reach out to your banker to ask how they can assist you.

About the author: Ruth Mahoney is regional retail leader and president of KeyBank's Capital Region. She may be reached at either 518-257-8619 or ruth_mahoney@keybank.com.

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Mortgage refinance considerations

If you've looked at your mortgage statement recently and wondered, "when should I refinance my mortgage?" you're not alone. While refinancing your mortgage can be a powerful financial decision, it helps to know the details before making the leap.

When you refinance your mortgage, you're replacing your existing mortgage with an entirely new mortgage. Here are some of the reasons people refinance their mortgages:

- To shorten their loan term (e.g., from 30 years to 15 years)
- To lower their monthly payment
- To consolidate debt
- To switch from an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) to a fixed-rate mortgage, or vice versa

There are two basic types of refinancing:

- **Rate-and-term:** This allows you to refinance your existing mortgage balance in order to change the interest rate and/or term of the loan without advancing new money on the loan. The term is the number of years it will take to pay off your mortgage, assuming you always pay the amount due on time. This differs from a cash-out refinance in which the new money is advanced.

- **Cash-out:** For homeowners with equity in their homes, you'll take out a new mortgage for more than your current loan's balance. From there, you'll receive the difference between your current mortgage balance and the new mortgage in cash.

If interest rates are lower now than when you bought your home, you could lower your monthly payment and potentially, overall interest paid by refinancing. Talk to your bank or a local mortgage broker for more details.

BETHLEHEM BUSINESSES ARE OPEN & NEED SUPPORT

Small businesses need your support more now than ever. We are sharing information that we have at this time regarding Member shops, services & restaurants. Please support them and all our local businesses during these difficult and uncertain times. Last updated 5/10/20.

Together we can get through this.



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A New England Nanny: still servicing our clients for housekeeping and childcare

A Phillips Hardware: offering delivery for those in need (min. order \$25), email or call to order (Altamont 518.861.5364, altamont@shopphillips.com; Delmar 518.439.9943, delmar@shopphillips.com; Voorheesville 518.765.2377, voorheesville@shopphillips.com); normal delivery fee waived w/in 3 miles of stores, over 3 miles reduced rate of \$15

Best Cleaners: Delmar shop open M-F 8am-2pm (Glenmont & Slingerlands currently closed), home delivery service running; sign up for delivery via website

Bethlehem Area YMCA: providing critically needed childcare to all essential workers, providing food for children in need, and connecting with seniors, families and children through virtual classes and social media messages

Bethlehem Food Pantry: open with changes: taking appts. for regular pantry hours. Call to make appt., we will ask what essentials you need & what you do not want. Bags will be packed for you & food will be delivered at side door at the time of your appt. All calls are to be made to 518.439.4955 x 1173. We will try to get you food for three (3) days.

Crossfit Spur: loaning equipment to members, emailing/posting workouts and demo videos, started a quarantine fitness contest, and our yoga instructor (Barefoot Space) will be doing livestream class Sundays at 10am

Delmar Beverage: open as of March 18th, call ahead for curbside pick-up (518.439.7275)

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Four Corners Pharmacy: offering home delivery and drive-thru pick-up, call 518.439.8200

Gally's: open, call 518.432.3333

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Herzog & Primomo DDS - Dental Wellness of Albany: available for dental emergency appts & phone consultations for existing & new patients in this time of need, call 518.427.2447

Integrative Studio: offering online vocal life, mindful movement, self-care development, and communication skills consulting (especially for how to communicate on camera); email melissa@melissahurt.com

Joyelles Jewelers: gift certificates available, email joyellesjewelers@gmail.com to order & include phone number so they can call you; gift certs will be mailed or can be delivered

LGC Nutrition: we are virtual - visit our website to schedule an insurance covered appt.

McSharry and Associates Realty: available for virtual home showings and telephone or online appointments; info@mcsharryandassociates.com

Merriman & Pfister's Marketplace: order online for delivery, visit merrimanpfister.com

Metabolic Meltdown: members can access Metabolic Online Facebook Group, which offers 5 unique workouts per week (join by clicking link in bio)

Resolute Tattoo: e-gift cards available, visit Facebook for link to order

Rocklein Physical Therapy: open & providing Physical Therapy services in clinic for those in need (only seeing 1 patient in clinic at a time, disinfecting all surfaces between patients; can also provide telehealth visits), call us or email info@rockleinphysicaltherapy.com

Robinson's Ace Hardware: home delivery and curbside pickup available, call 518.475.9483 for Slingerlands store or 518.456.7383 for Guilderland store

School's Out: Enrichment Center open to essential worker families, visit www.schoolsoutinc.org/about1-c1z94 for details and to register

Sawyer's Screen Printing & Embroidery: open and can process no-contact orders (order via phone or email with curbside pick-up); rob@sawyershirt.com

Steiner's Sports Ski & Bike: open and offering no contact appointments via curbside or delivery, call 518.427.2406

TACS Auto Body & Service: open but with limited hours 8am-4pm M-F, closed Saturdays; 518-462-3977 or email tacsautobodyservice@gmail.com

Tangora Technologies: offering services and products such as indoor air quality, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, heating and air conditioning installations and maintenance, hot water heaters, whole home generators, or any other technology related needs

The Cheese Traveler: open normal hours as of March 18th

The Wine Reserve: open as of March 18th

Uncrushable Nutrition: providing touch-free ordering – call 518.469.5411 to order

Upstate Wine & Spirits: curbside pick-up and delivery (\$25 minimum delivery order, Town of Bethlehem only at this time), call 518.439.4361

Wildbird Junction Backyard Nature Shoppe: offering curbside pick-up, call 518.478.9453

RESTAURANTS

Akira** 385 Route 9W 518.434.8880	Dunkin* 232 Delaware Avenue 518.439.7661	Nicole's Restaurant & Catering** 556 Delaware Ave 518.436.4952	Shogun Sushi & Sake Bar** 318 Delaware Ave 518.729.5727	Tomo Asian Bistro** 1365 New Scotland Rd 518.439.8666
Angela's Pizza & Pasta** 329 Glenmont Rd, Town Squire 518.427.7122	Emma Cleary's Café** 1926 New Scotland Rd 518.439.8700	Normanside* 15 Salisbury Rd 518.439.4505	Swift's Restaurant & Pub** 367 Delaware Ave 518.475.1111	Track 32 Italian Restaurant & Pub** 1368 Indian Fields Rd 518.439.0032
Bake for You* 5000 Dunhill Crt 518.207.5430	Los Panchos Mexican Grill & Bar** 180 Delaware Ave 518.729.4757	O'Slattery's Irish Restaurant & Pub* 318 Delaware Ave 518.439.5634	The Real McCoy Beer Co.* 20 Hallwood Rd 518.698.9082	Twisted Vine Wine & Tap** 384 Kenwood Ave 518.439.3241
Bellinis Italian Eatery** 1365 New Scotland Rd 518.218.1105	McCarroll's The Village Butcher** 406 Kenwood Ave 518.478.9651	Perfect Blend Café and Bakery* 376 Delaware Ave 518.439.6537	Taco Bell** 237 Route 9W 518.621.1857	Yanni's Too** 16 Marina Dr 518.756.7033
Chontong Thai Restaurant** 155 Delaware Ave 518.915.1907	My Place & Co.** 241 Delaware Ave 518.439.7610	Sam's Italian American Restaurant* 125 Southern Blvd 518.463.3433	Taj Fine Indian Cuisine** 1365 New Scotland Rd 518.977.3050	*Take-Out Only **Take-Out + Delivery

COMMUNITY

Memorial Day Parade postponed

July 4 is a possible new date

By **DIEGO CAGARA**
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM

— The American Legion Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post 1040 has postponed its annual Memorial Day Parade for now due to crowding and safety concerns amid COVID-19.

However, its Memorial Day Ceremony and an additional honorary ceremony for late veteran Francis S. Currey — these two ceremonies are only for Legion Post members and their families — are still happening on Monday, May 25.

Lyle Maddock, the Legion Post's commander, said, "[The parade is] postponed for now and to be determined. I've reached out to Town Supervisor [David] VanLuven to see if we can do something for the Fourth of July. I have to discuss it with our board of directors when we next meet again hopefully next month."

He expressed disappointment about postponing the parade.

"No one thought [the pandemic] would come to this magnitude but we have to ensure safety for people and the veterans who are elderly," Maddock said.

VanLuven said there may be ways for people to social distance "but we just can't have people gather along the sidewalks or along the parade route."

He also welcomed the idea of postponing the parade to July 4 if the pandemic slows down then.

"For many years, the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard American Legion Post has organized the Memorial Day Parade," he said. "The parade is a defining part of our town culture and something we all look forward to."

Although the Memorial

Day Parade is postponed, the Legion Post's Memorial Day Ceremony will still happen on May 25 where members will meet at the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard's gravesite in the Bethlehem Cemetery at 10:15 a.m. for the 10:30 a.m. ceremony.

Members will also visit the South Bethlehem Cemetery at 11:30 a.m. for an additional honorary ceremony for local veteran Francis S. Currey who died at his Selkirk home in October 2019 at the age of 94.

Born in 1925, Currey was one of the last three living World War II veterans who received the Medal of Honor.

Color Guard members and the Honor Guard are requested to be there.

If any members are sick or don't feel well, they are encouraged to not attend. All attendees must wear face masks and except for family groups, maintain social distancing.

Maddock said to his knowledge, this year was the first time the Memorial Day Parade has been postponed though.

This year's parade's grand marshal was to be longtime Legion Post member George E. "Gerry" Decker Jr. and Maddock said he will still be if the parade happens on July 4.

Born and raised in Delmar, Decker, who now lives with his family in Slingerlands, graduated from Bethlehem Central High School in 1965.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1966, completing construction mechanic school and was assigned to the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, or Seabees, in Gulfport, Mississippi. He also completed two combat tours, lasting 21 months, in

Vietnam where he provided construction support.

Decker enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1974 and retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer after serving in several Seabee commands in 1998. He has been a member of Legion Post 1040 for 51 years, where he used to serve as its commander and is now on its executive board.

Maddock said he helped choose Decker to be this year's parade's grand marshal "because he has done so much over the years. He felt honored and he's really well-known throughout the community and it was a great selection on my behalf and Scott Edward Anson, the chairman of our board."

In a written letter that was meant for the May 25 parade booklet, Maddock wrote that is important "to remember all that have ultimately given the most for their beloved country. Pray for those that have died or got injured serving this nation of ours."



The parade's grand marshal, George E. "Gerry" Decker Jr. Provided photo

Remember the families, friends and neighbors that live today because of those fallen heroes that defended our freedom around the world."

If the parade eventually cannot happen on July 4, Maddock said he expects to "definitely have the best parade ever had in Bethlehem next year."

Bethlehem WE NEED YOU



Regional Food Bank OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

Help Us FILL A BUS for Good.

The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York is adapting quickly to the ever-increasing need caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Since March 16, the Food Bank has provided enough food for 7.7 million meals through an expansion of distribution efforts. The Food Bank has partnered with city, county, and other emergency response organizations to provide food for quarantined and high-risk individuals, the unemployed, and children.

Due to the pandemic, the Regional Food Bank canceled its largest food drive campaign, which was to occur in March. In years past volunteers have helped collect approximately 10,000 bags of donations for the Annual Neighborhood Food Drive, bringing in over 20,000 pounds of food. On May 23 in response to this crisis, volunteers in Bethlehem will hold a "Help Fill the Big Red Bus Memorial Day Food Drive." Non-perishable food donations will be accepted to benefit the Regional Food Bank on Saturday May 23 at two drop off locations: from 9 a.m.-11:00 a.m. in the Lowe's/Applebee's parking lot and from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. at the Delaware Plaza/Hannaford parking lot. Social distancing will be practiced and volunteers will have protective face masks to keep our food drive safe. Contact Barbara Collura at BJSC2000@gmail.com or at (518) 505-5257.



"Fill the Big Red Bus" FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, May 23rd

2 LOCATIONS

9AM-11AM
Lowe's/Applebee's
Parking Lot
GLENMONT

12PM-2PM
Delaware Plaza
Parking Lot
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This information was up-to-date as of May 17.

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athosrestaurant.com

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 518-438-1144
barcelona-albany.com
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City Line Bar & Grill
 1200 Western Ave.
 518-504-1200
citylinebar.com

Maggie McFlays - Take-out
 1 Crossgates Mall Rd
 518-608-5647
maggiemcflys.com

MezzaNotte
 2026 Western Ave.
 518-689-4433
albanyirvana.com

Orchard Tavern West
 2050 Western Ave.
 518-672-3237
orchardtaverns.com

Route 20 Café
 1823 Western Ave.
 518-456-4223
facebook.com/route20cafe

Via Fresca
 1666 Western Ave
 518-452-1179
viafresca.net

World of Beer
 1 Crossgates Mall Rd.
 518-207-0448
worldofbeer.com

RETAIL & OTHER SERVICES

CeCe's Wool Yarns & More
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ceceswool.com
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**Guilderland Farmers Market
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shopphillips.com

Robinson ACE Hardware
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robinsonshardware.com

The Spinning Room of Altamont
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spinningroom.net

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From page 1 ... Reopening Albany

in deaths may not come for two weeks or more.

Under the reopening plan for the Capital District, restaurants, which will come in Phase II, two weeks after Phase I begins, will have to cut capacity by 50 percent and there will not be salad bars, buffets or publicly accessible beverage fountains. Employees cannot gather at break time or for lunch without a mask or maintaining social distancing protocols.

There will be a portal for business owners to get information on grants and loans, get guidance on regulations and protocols and to report any problems they may encounter.

Hospitals will need to maintain a 30-day supply of Personal Protection Equipment and will need to maintain 30 percent of available general beds and ICU beds for COVID-19 patients.

"It is about opening safely for the residents and making sure the safety and welfare of our residents and our employees are first and foremost," said Albany County Executive Dan McCoy. "If our matrix goes the other way, we will close down."

Five regions of the state were given the go ahead to open on May 15 — The North Country, Finger lakes, Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley. Western New York was given the OK to open Tuesday, May 19 and the Capital District was expected to hit its last matrix, the number of contact tracers, by Wednesday at the latest. The Hudson Valley, Long Island and New York City will remain closed until at least May 28.

Phase I includes construction, manufacturing and some retail with curbside pickup. Phase II, set to begin two weeks after Phase I if the number of infections remains within the set parameters, will include professional services, finance, insurance, more retail and real estate. Phase III, two weeks after Phase II, will include restaurants and bars while Phase IV will include the arts, entertainment, recreational facilities and schools.

While the protocols

for businesses to open and remain open are handed down by the state, as per Center for Disease Control guidelines, enforcement of new regulations will fall to the local authorities.

Testing and contact tracing will continue in earnest at mobile sites, doctor's offices, drug stores and hospitals across the Capital District. There will also be a yet-to-be-determined location to isolate those who have to be quarantined and who do not have the capability to do it themselves.

Seven of the eight counties in Capital District — Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Columbia, Greene, Washington and Warren, signed off on the plan. Saratoga County did not, according to McCoy but they are still considered part of the Capital District and under the state's state of emergency, have no real power to open on its own.

The Metrics

According to the state, the Capital District had to hire and train 166 contact tracers to reach the 383 needed to meet the 30 per 100,000 resident requirement for each region in the state.

Dr. Elizabeth Whalen, head of the county Health Department, said the county would tap into other departments to get additional tracers, employees who track the footsteps of a COVID-19-positive patient to determine if anyone else is susceptible and to quarantine when necessary.

The state has recruited former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to coordinate the complex system of tracking the history of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 and testing and isolating those who run the risk of contracting it. Technology, such as smart phone apps, will certainly be incorporated into the ongoing, massive plan to track thousands of people across the state. How or when the final plan is completed or when it will be implemented is not yet known.

On Saturday, May 16 the Capital District was short on two of

the metrics: a required decline in the number of hospitalizations over a 14-day period or a three-day average of less than 15 new hospitalizations over the same time frame and a 14-day decline in hospital deaths or a three-day average of fewer than five deaths over the same two-week time frame.

"There has been a shift in the Capital Region and in Western New York and they are now qualified for reopening," Cuomo said on Sunday, May 18 day 78 of the pandemic. "There is still a need to increase tracing and that is a pure administrative function and we will be working with the Capital Region and Western New York to get additional personnel and get them trained and get them ready."

Capital District officials, including McCoy and Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin, said the state's numbers were wrong, in that they just look at aggregate numbers and not where the patients are from who are admitted to regional hospitals like Albany Med and St. Peter's.

County leaders also said nursing home numbers should not be included in the data generate from the general public. In Albany County, 60 percent of the fatalities are from nursing homes.

It is not clear if the state took those concerns into consideration or if the aggregate numbers dropped below acceptable thresholds.

"We went to the health departments and hospitals and we feel the numbers are wrong and we submitted it [to the state] on Friday," McCoy said. "The state is taking information from 62 counties and hospitals so I get the difficulties but the problem is St. Peters and Albany Med are regional hospitals and they [the state] are not taking the time to trace where all these people come from."

For example, he said, on May 8 there were 60 residents from the Capital District hospitalized according to the local authorities but since the state just looks at raw numbers and it counted 98 patients.

"We made our point but we have to play on their field and their guidelines," he said.

■ TOWN GOVERNMENT

Plans for a new 147-acre park in Bethlehem



The town plans to establish walking and mountain biking trails in the planned park, called Normans Kill Ravines. It will use its Parkland Set Aside Fund to pay for this \$146,900 project. Provided photo

To be located less than a mile north of the Four Corners

By **DIEGO CAGARA**
cagarad@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — The town plans to create a new 147-acre public nature park called Normans Kill Ravines in Delmar and Elsmere.

The park, roughly the same size as the Elm Avenue Park, is planned to have walking and mountain biking trails. It will also protect 3,000 feet of the Normans Kill shoreline as well as forests, ravines and floodplains.

“As we’ve seen throughout the region, a lot of the existing preserves in the town like parks are getting used by walkers and those who want to go outdoors during this pandemic,” said Robert Leslie, the town’s director

of planning, who presented about the planned park at the virtual May 13 town board meeting. “This presents us an opportunity to expand our opportunities for outdoor walking and recreation.”

The park would consist of a 68.8-acre property in Elsmere — the town looks to purchase this property from the Normanside Country Club — and a town-owned 85.7-acre parcel in Delmar north of Wright Lane. The Wright Lane parcel, however, includes eight acres that will not be part of the park because it is reserved for the town’s Highway Department which uses it for snow stockpiling.

Leslie said the park can benefit from being located near local businesses and neighborhoods. It will be around ¾ of a mile north of the Four Corners in Delmar and within walking distance of the Albany County Rail Trail.

Town Supervisor David VanLuven said the town, its Park and Recreation Department and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy began working on this project two years ago. The project would cost \$146,900 and use the town’s Parkland Set Aside Fund — paid by developers — to pay for it, meaning no taxpayer dollars will be spent.

Leslie said using the Parkland Set Aside Fund will also not be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. “In times like this where some folks may ask certainly how the town can afford to buy land in such uncertain fiscal times, the money we have here on the Parkland Set Aside Fund is only established and set up for use of parklands,” he explained. “It can’t be used for anything else, can’t be used to balance the town budget and can’t be used to help take on unexpected revenue loss. It can only be

used for parkland purposes.”

Leslie noted that the Normanside property that the town seeks to purchase comes with a pre-existing 10-year bow hunting lease that was signed in July 2019 by the four-member Salisbury Road Deer Management Group with the Normanside Country Club. This lease gives the group the right to bow hunt on the Normanside property during the hunting season for deer — VanLuven said last year’s season was from October to December.

Before moving forward with the Normans Kill Ravines project, the town must amend Chapter 79 of its town code which states that hunting of any kind is prohibited on town parks. Amending Chapter 79 will only apply to the Normanside property and hunting will still be prohibited in all other town

Continues on 15

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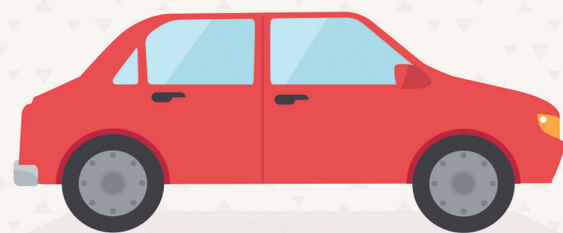
In recognition of the multi-generational nature of the modern household, we are merging *Capital District Parent Pages* with *Senior Spotlight* to create **Family Now**, a monthly publication with timely features for every age and stage of family life.

With **Family Now**, readers will find all the great columns and features they already enjoy every month, plus so much more.

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LIBRARIES

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There are so many benefits to learning a new language, not the least of which is keeping your brain sharp at a time when all of the days seem to flow together.

While there are a lot of language-learning programs out there, Pronunciator, the library's newest online language resource, takes a personalized approach to make learning work for you (without the hefty price tag).

Just select the language and topics you love, the skills you want to build, and how much you want to study each day, and Pronunciator will build a personalized course just for you — in a matter of seconds.

You can choose from over 160 languages to learn, including American Sign Language.



Bethlehem cardholders can access Pronunciator on the library's Research page (www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/webapps/research.asp), along with these resources and more: Consumer Reports, Ancestry.com and Chilton's Online Auto Repair.

Let's talk

To bring back the opportunity for connection and conversation, we are holding online Community Chats through Zoom. At the Community Chats, we will give a short introduction or presentation and then open up the meeting for questions or discussion. A librarian will be on hand to facilitate, but the forum is

really about you and what's on your mind.

Upcoming chats include a talk with Town of Bethlehem Historian Susan Leath, genealogy tips with librarian Frank Somers, an introduction to our databases, children's literature tips and more.

Visit our online calendar (go to www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org and click on the "Calendar" tab) to see what's coming up.

To participate in a Community Chat, click on the session you are interested in below, and sign up with your e-mail address. The library will send a Zoom invitation when the chat is scheduled to begin. If you are new to Zoom video conferencing and would like to know more about how it works, please e-mail us at information@bethpl.org.

— Kristen Roberts

Reopening plans

While libraries throughout New

York State await further guidance from Governor Cuomo on which of the four phases we fall under for our eventual reopening (as of May 15), we are diligently finalizing plans for this gradual transition, in conjunction with the 28 other UHLS locations.

We appreciate your patience as we work through several key considerations in full compliance with Executive Orders, ever mindful that the health and safety of our staff and patrons is our highest priority.

Voting

Voting on our annual budget and Board of Trustees candidates will be conducted solely by mail-in absentee ballot this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Guilderland



Central School District will automatically mail absentee ballots with a prepaid return envelope to all qualified voters. Completed ballots must be received to the school district by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9. Please see guilderlandschools.org for further details, including information on voter registration.

Guilderland Public Library has five candidates for three open Board of Trustees positions - three incumbents and two first-time candidates. They are, in ballot order: Marcia Alazraki, Herb Hennings, Mark Keeling, Philip Metzger, and Richard Rubin. More information on these candidates, and our proposed budget, may be found by clicking on the last two links at the bottom of this web page: <https://>

guilderlandlibrary.org/get-to-know-us/people/board-of-trustees/.

Food Drive

The Teachers Association at Lynnwood Elementary School will hold a food drive in our parking lot on Thursday, May 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. All non-perishables collected will be donated to the Regional Food Bank. Thank you for supporting our community!

Board of Trustees meet

On Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m., the Guilderland Public Library Board of Trustees will hold a virtual business meeting, streamed live on the GPL Facebook page and archived there for future viewing. Questions and commentary may be directed to: pio@guilderlandlibrary.org

— Luanne Nicholson

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LIBRARIES

Summer Adventure

Imagine Your Story” at the Voorheesville Public Library!

We are excited to offer a summer reading program where we will read, create, and learn together as individuals, families, and as a community.

We are imagining something entirely new for the summer of 2020.

Be on the lookout as we unveil this summer’s program very soon.

Check the library’s website for up to date details.

Voorheesville cares

The Voorheesville Public Library is part of the Voorheesville Community Assistance for Covid-19 Coalition. This partnership includes community support groups, the Voorheesville Central School District, religious organizations,



Kiwanis, etc. The group has created a support line and email address.

As we continue to navigate the Coronavirus pandemic, please know that your community is here to assist you. Please contact us if you or someone you know is in need of assistance in any way! Community volunteers can help with shopping, prescription pick-up, mail, accessing technology, fellowship and spiritual support, and more! Call us at 518-288-8910 or contact us by email at voorheesvillecares@gmail.com.

Library book discussions

Library book discussions are going digital!

Adult readers should join the Voorpl Book

Group on Facebook.

There, we will host various formal book discussions and informal chatter about book related topics.

Request to join this closed group and get accepted by VPL to get the private links to the discussion meetings.

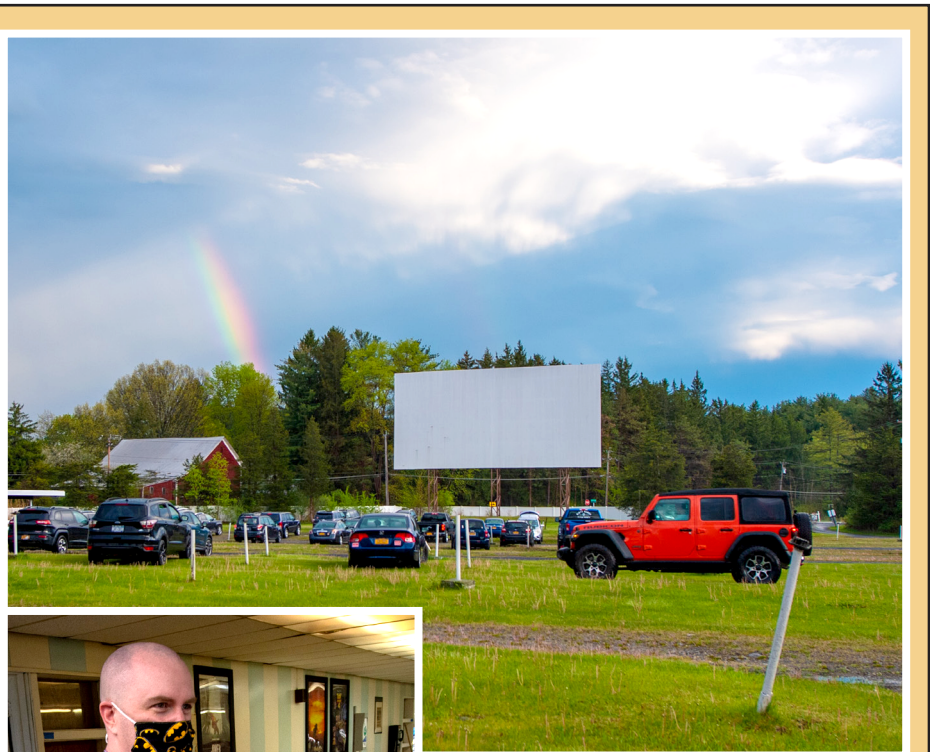
- The Talk & Taste Cookbook Group will meet on Thursday, May 28 at 6 p.m. to discuss

- Cook Like a Pro by Ina Garten and any recipes found on her Barefoot Contessa website.

Email the librarians at reference@voorpl.org with any questions about book clubs, registration, or for help accessing digital services.

Librarians will be available to answer your emails during our regular business hours.

— Lynn Kohler



Movie Night

The hottest ticket in the Capital District was for Opening Night at Jericho Drive in on Friday, May 15. New York state allowed for the opening of area drive ins. The Glenmont movie theatre laid down obvious guidelines for patrons to follow and practice safe distancing from each other. Ticket owners were also assigned parking spots before arriving Friday night.

Photos by Jim Franco / Spotlight News

George W. Frueh

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LEGALS

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NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

WELLSPACE MANAGEMENT LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/14/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process

LEGALS

against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 882 Warren Street, Floor 1, Albany, NY 12208. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-244317

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

WONTANARA PRODUCTIONS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/09/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 108

LEGALS

E. 4th Street, Apartment 12, New York, NY 10003. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-244179

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

WOOSTER 39-41 INVESTORS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/20/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 51 Wooster Street, Floor 3, New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-244595

LEGALS

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

WOOSTER 76 INVESTORS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/20/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 51 Wooster Street, Floor 3, New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-244596

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Early Deadlines

MAY 27, 2020 issue

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May 13-19, 2020

Spotlight on Opinion

www.spotlightnews.com PAGE 14

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Thank goodness for nights at Jericho

This shutdown is for the dogs. The summer used to be for the dogs, but virus-related shutdowns has canceled summer. We are forced to roll up the sidewalks on just about everything we hold sacred after Memorial Day.

Oh, wait. That's canceled, too.

As we write this, Saratoga Performing Arts Center announced it has shelved its classical season. For the first time in 53 years, we won't see the City Ballet. We can't see the Philadelphia Orchestra. Yo Yo Ma was going to be there this year. Yo

Yo freakin' Ma and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center will not be featured on the SPAC stage as it was promised earlier this year. The rock concerts managed by Live Nation are dropping off at a piecemeal rate, but you can bet they will be canceled, too.

If you think you're disappointed, imagine how Elizabeth Sobol feels.

You can be angry all you want at the powers that be who are dismantling your summer plans piece by piece, but the businesses that are forced to come to these decisions are cutting off a proverbial arm and

leg. The economic impact on individuals is counted by the billions of dollars in what has been only two months. In the case of entities such as SPAC, they bank on out-of-town traffic clogging the Northway to get here and spend their money. Without it, it's a nightmare.

Sobol, SPAC's president and CEO, is living that nightmare. In March, when theatre owners started sweating over the climbing numbers of COVID-19 cases in New York City, Sobol was still pitching SPAC's summer events. The details of SPAC's classical season were so

ingrained in her memory, a local radio personality marveled at how she recited that schedule without any notes. That should give you an indication of the level of dedication and passion she has about her summer plans.

But, it goes deeper than that.

Beyond feelings of inconvenience and inability to live out memories of yesterday, this shutdown is cutting deep into the lifelines of millions of people. Far from that, it threatens many of the names and places that have strolled along with us through our lifetimes.

JCPenney filed for bankruptcy late last week. Shutdowns forced the struggling department store chain to lay off most of its workers, and the income severed from more than 800 of its stores threatens to slam perhaps the final nail in the coffin. This is a store where some of us purchased our Cub Scout uniforms, or where we went to have our family portraits taken. And, when we were kids, we dove into its annual wish book as we planned to fill out our Christmas List.

With the setting of every sun, there comes a time where we all have to put down the tools of our

trade and reflect back on the day. Did we set out what we accomplished? How did our effort amount to helping towards our goals? And, afterwards, we have to resolve to the fact that nothing else can be done today, and that new answers await us tomorrow.

Ironically — or, perhaps, prophetically — our own summer staple opened its doors for the first time last week. The Jericho Drive-In embodies everything about summer in Albany County. An icon from the days of bowling shirts and poodle skirts defines how we now have fun in 2020.

Thank goodness!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bake sale

To the editor,

Looking for something to do safely, socially distanced and outdoors?

Attend Bethlehem Grange No. 137's Sidewalk Plant Sale and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Outdoor plants, garden plants, flowers, catnip, houseplants, hanging plants and more, plus a bake sale — all outdoors! Please wear masks!

Thank you,
Carol Carpenter
Master, Bethlehem Grange
No. 137

Reader: Town has cut public comments out of open meetings

Dear Spotlight
Newspaper Editor:

I have a strong concern about the public comment opportunities provided to the citizens as an ongoing process of open government in the town of Bethlehem.

Everyone understands the challenges we all face during this COVID-19 pandemic. The open government process is a high priority for all government processes and most importantly for all of us here in the town.

For the past two

months, town board meetings have been conducted via the Zoom meeting process, but hasn't included the opportunity for the public comment part of the agenda to include citizens comments live via its waiting room function. Public comments are to be submitted by 3 p.m. of the day of the announced board meeting to be included.

On Monday, May 11, at 8:07 p.m, I sent an email to the entire Bethlehem Town Board for the scheduled meeting

and posted agenda for Wednesday, May 13, specifically about the agenda item — Normans Kill Ravines Park.

The very next morning, I received an emailed acknowledgement from Town Supervisor David Vanluven, stating, "Thank you for sharing these thoughts." The day of the meeting, I received an email reply acknowledgement from Board Member Maureen Cunningham, saying "I appreciate hearing your perspective."

As the Wednesday, May 13 Town Board Meeting began at 6 p.m. and the Supervisor began to move through the Agenda Items, it became apparent that the posted agenda had been suddenly modified to have deleted the long accepted and always included public comments line of the town meeting agenda.

My writing this letter is to alert and advise that it appears that the open government process here in town has been suddenly modified by unnamed

elected town officials for some unknown and unusual reasons.

Restricting the public's continued opportunity to make public comments during the town of Bethlehem business meeting process is just egregious behavior by our elected town officials and I would like to be provided an explanation.

Thank you in advance for your response.

Steve Peterson
Glenmont NY

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From page 4 ... Public hearings

town staff will continue researching and present their findings and recommendations at a later meeting to the town board which would vote on the fee schedule at the end of this year.

Town Board member Jim Foster said he wants the fees to be “as small as humanly possible.”

“We’re proposing ongoing fees that are a burden on our local businesses, regardless of where they’re located, no matter how far from a school,” he said. “I’m kind of concerned as I don’t want to put an additional burden on our already strained businesses. ... I would argue that we should effectively eat the administrative costs in administering the program of our own creation.”

Town Board member Maureen Cunningham said it’s important to keep in mind that businesses are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic too.

Foster added that he would like the town to reach out to the 15 existing businesses before the June 10 public hearings so that “they’re not caught off guard by all this.”

Cunningham, Town Supervisor David VanLuven and Town Board member Dan Coffey agreed that informing the businesses about the public hearings in advance would be beneficial to them too.

Robert Leslie, the town’s director of planning, acknowledged their concerns and said the town could send letters to each existing business with information about the public hearings as well as the drafted local law and licensing system.

The public hearings will solicit public comments through June 10.

From page 9 ... New 147-acre park

parklands, including the Wright Lane property.

If the town purchases the Normanside property, amending the town code beforehand would continue to honor the pre-existing bow hunting lease, meaning that the Salisbury Road Deer Management Group can continue bow hunting until at least July 2029 even when it becomes town property.

Town Attorney Jim Potter said the lease includes a provision for 12 guest licenses per year but on a single day, there can only be up to six hunters on the premises.

“The [Salisbury Road Deer Management Group] is a very responsible group and they’ve been hunting on the property with permission from the Normanside Country Club for over 30 years.”

While stressing that safety in town parks is the top priority, Leslie pointed out that many state parks, nature conservancies and preserves statewide — including the John Boyd Thacher State Park near Voorheesville and the Holt Preserve in New Scotland — allow bow hunting so allowing it in the Normans Kill Ravines will not be unheard of.

Hunters must have valid deer hunting licenses and follow state and federal regulations.

Sarah Walsh, the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy’s conservation director, said her organization has managed hunting on three of its preserves for almost three decades now.

She said, “We’ve had a good relationship with the hunters and they’ve done a great job of not only being on the land and keeping us informed of any issues but they also volunteer time to help with trail issues.”

She continued, “We’ve also experienced that not only do the hunters tend to be away from the trail system but they also don’t go out at around the same time of day as hikers and walkers on the trail system. They’re usually out early in the morning or later in the afternoon. Often times, hunters and hikers never interact.”

She brought up that bow hunting “is one of the least dangerous of options for deer hunting and it’s a careful shot.”

VanLuven said bowhunters hunt from tree stands above, giving them a better vantage point and refuting the misconception that such hunters shoot long range at ground level which places passers-by more at risk.

Walsh added that reducing and controlling the deer population reduces ticks which helps improve forest health.

Potter said the hunter, not the town, would be held financially responsible if they injure a person.

“By the same token, we [the town] have more than adequate insurance that covers us,” he said. “I believe there will be adequate separation [between the hunters] and the trails. ... The lease provides for signage too.”

The town board unanimously voted to set a public hearing on Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. about the proposed amendment to Chapter 79, which Leslie said is the first essential item to address in the planned Normans Kill Ravines project.

Residents interested in participating in the virtual public hearing via Zoom have three options.

They can email their written comments to the town board at townboard@townofbethlehem.org before and after the May 27 meeting until June 10.

They can also register in advance on the town’s website’s meeting portal at bethlehemtownny.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx and select the May 27 town board meeting link.

Residents would then see that meeting’s agenda which will include instructions on how to participate in the virtual public hearing.

After the public hearing period ends, the town board will vote in a future meeting on whether to amend Chapter 79 to continue the process of establishing the upcoming the Normans Kill Ravines.

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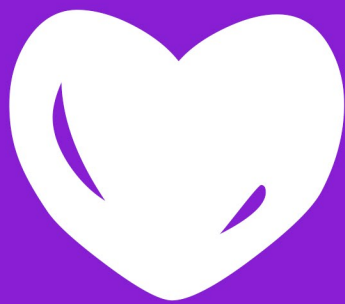
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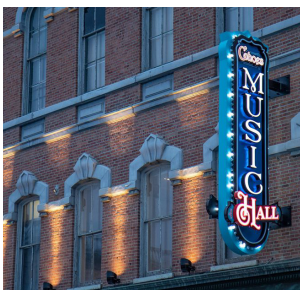
Facing an open market
The Saturday Delmar Farmers Market opened for business.
Page B15

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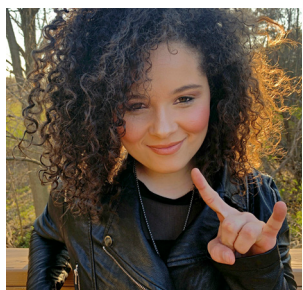
■ **INSIDE**



What's next?

Deadline for bids is this week for hall management job.

Page B3



Breaking it down

Moriah Formica shares what's behind her new music.

Page B5



New music

Solo artists headline latest music releases.

Page B10

Dining out in business



Local eateries are adapting now to new world of social distancing

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

Some restaurateurs are changing their dining rooms as they anticipate new social norms once doors are allowed open again.

Continues on page B6



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RECENT NEWS

Idol dreams come to an end



ABC / American Idol

Julia Gargano's run on American Idol ends as a Top 7 finalist on Sunday

HOLLYWOOD — Julia Gargano's dream to become the next American Idol came to an end Sunday night, May 17.

The College of Saint Rose student that became a household name as a contestant on ABC's hit television show stayed on until its season finale. However, she was voted off early in the broadcast, not earning enough votes to reach the Top Five. Nonetheless, her school immediately released a statement sharing its pride for her.

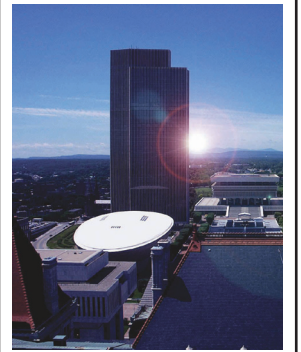
"Our Julia Gargano... didn't make the Top 5 of 'American Idol' tonight," the school shared in an online statement, "but she will always be our No. 1."

Gargano quickly became a favorite on the show, earning a spot among the contestants by performing her own song at her audition. She was welcomed onto the show with a hug from Grammy Award-winning artist and judge Katy Perry.

"We love her as much as Katy Perry," stated St. Rose, "if that's even possible. Can't wait to see her career take off."

Gargano now joins a long list of local artists who have had strong showings on national television. Gargano joins a group of talented musicians that includes Moriah Formica, Madison VanDenburg, Arielle O'Keefe (Girl Blue), Dani Moz and Sawyer Fredericks — who won the eighth season of NBC's 'The Voice' in 2015.




— Michael Hallisey



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RECENT NEWS

Management job up for bid in Cohoes

City stops accepting Music Hall bids this Thursday

By MICHAEL HALLISEY
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

COHOES — The management company that has maintained Cohoes Music Hall over the past two years is pitching for its job after Common Council terminated its contract last month.

Music Hall Arts Alliance, Inc. has until Thursday, May 21 to promote itself again for a job the city had promised it would keep until the end of 2022. However, a pandemic and a change of mayor have opened the management job up for bid.

Holly Brown, executive director of Music Hall Arts Alliance, expressed her disappointment over not having had the opportunity to restructure the agreement.

“The Mayor and Council have stated that they are in support of the Hall’s continued operation and have been pleased with the job we’ve been doing,” Brown stated in a letter sent to patrons on Tuesday, May 12. “However, the Mayor felt that the most transparent course of action would be to issue an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the management of the Hall.”

Music Hall Arts Alliance’s contract with the city runs to July 31. Its new proposal will be reviewed

“Regrettably, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic it has not been possible to have performances at the Music Hall since March, and will not be for the foreseeable future. However, I am planning for the time, perhaps 2021, hopefully sooner, when the lights are back on and the seats are filled. I envision an eclectic mix of professional and community programs – theater, music, comedy, dance – that will appeal to people of all ages and interests.”

— Bill Keeler,
Mayor of Cohoes



The Cohoes Music Hall marquee, as it shines over Remsen Street. The marquee was installed nearly two years ago. Music Hall Arts Alliance, Inc., which has managed the Music Hall for two years, had its contract voided by the city. Provided photo

along with others before a new contract will be awarded for Aug. 1.

Theatres across New York closed their doors to the public in mid-March amid state-mandated novel coronavirus-related shutdowns. The shutdowns meant to mitigate the spread of the virus have caused a strain on the economy as it has limited public access to only businesses deemed essential. The shutdown of restaurants, bars and retail stores leaves municipalities across the board without income from sales tax. According

to New York state, counties outside of New York City are projected to lose a combined \$2 billion in revenue from sales tax this year.

Cohoes Mayor Bill Keeler has said the city could neither support the contract with the management company, nor the one for Park Playhouse. Severing ties with the two companies was to save the city approximately \$200,000 this year. The former contract with Music Hall Arts Alliance

called for the city to pay a management fee of \$90,000. In turn, the city would have received \$2.50 for each ticket sold. Last season, the City Hall received back \$38,000.

“Regrettably, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic it has not been possible to have performances at the Music Hall since March, and will not be for the foreseeable future,” Keeler said in a statement. “However, I am planning for the time, perhaps 2021, hopefully

sooner, when the lights are back on and the seats are filled. I envision an eclectic mix of professional and community programs – theater, music, comedy, dance – that will appeal to people of all ages and interests. None of that would be possible if we did not take the actions we are taking now.”

Brown said her management company maintained the Music Hall off an annual budget of approximately \$450,000, 20 percent of which was from

the city. The city agreed to those terms prior to Keeler taking office in January.

“Our strong desire is to be the managing company that operates and programs the Music Hall for years to come,” Brown said. “We have made great progress in the last two years, and would hate to see that momentum be lost. ... I feel we are best poised to lead the Music Hall out of this uncertain time and into the future. I believe our track record strongly supports that.”

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MUSIC

Breaking it down

Moriah Formica breaks down her latest releases

By **KAITLIN LEMBO**
lembok@spotlightnews.com

In the two years since her short stint on NBC's "The Voice," Shaker High School alum Moriah Formica has proven she's not one to be forgotten. Catapulted to viral stardom with a stellar cover of Heart's beloved single "Crazy On You," Formica quickly accelerated through the competition with covers that suited her voice...until she didn't. Formica was eliminated (many would agree unfairly) by coach Miley Cyrus right before the top 12, igniting a firestorm of criticism of Cyrus and the show after Formica's show-stopping performances.

Now 19, Formica has also appeared briefly on "American Idol" with best friend (and fellow artist) Madison VanDenburg, performed at Empire State Plaza's Fourth of July bash with SmashMouth, headlined Rockin' on the River, rocked the Times Union Center stage with VanDenburg and fellow "Voice" alum Delaney and continued peppering the Capital District with shows. She's evolving as quickly as she's growing up; once a soft-spoken 16-year-old junior with a cannon of a

voice, her personality is starting to surface. She's a powerful, confident woman who is navigating her spotlight and moving her career forward while experiencing the typical "teen" and "20-something" milestones we all did. Relationships, teen angst, religion and emotions are all prevalent in her songwriting.

Formica has released five songs in the past two years, with her most recent in late April. She jumped on FaceTime with me during a cool Tuesday afternoon in quarantine to talk through her latest releases, in her own words.

"I Will"

"I received a message from [country artist] Sarah [Lake] asking if I would like to co-write with her. Of course, I was ecstatic. Shortly after, she had sent me the lyrics to 'I Will,' and I connected with the song instantly. It's a mantra for all things you might overcome. I had just gotten eliminated from 'The Voice' and I figured, what better time to release something like this? It felt right to me and I connected to it on a very deep level. In many cases, I don't necessarily have to fully relate to something to find where I can put some emotion in it; even if it's a small connection, I can make it work. With this,

Continues on B14



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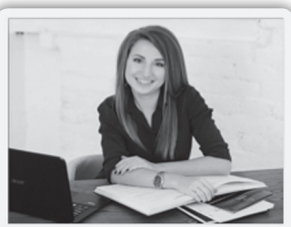
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660,000

NYS residents employed by restaurants prior to virus-related shutdowns



\$5.5 Billion

Amount of income lost to eateries in both March and April



80 percent

Number of restaurant employees unemployed or furloughed

The State of Our Eateries

Melissa Fleischut, president and CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association, shared alarming numbers around her industry during last month's public forum hosted by Aurelius Coworks. Businesses she described as 'social gathering' are being choked off from their customers.

Graphic by Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518

From page B1 ...

Eating out in business

Late last month, Gov. Andrew Cuomo unveiled his 12-step plan to reopen New York state businesses that have been closed since mid-March under the health concerns related to the novel coronavirus. That plan broke the Empire State into pieces, each monitored separately against metrics measuring the virus' decline.

Already, three of those regions — Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley — are qualified to reopen construction, manufacturing and retail jobs. Area drive-in theaters also received approval to open, but more so due to the changing of the season and the basic nature of their customers remaining inside their cars. Nonetheless, there's still the need to make some changes in order to limit person-to-person contact.

The entire economy has taken an unprecedented hit because state-mandated shutdowns have severed consumer money from

cash registers. In April, the New York State Restaurant Association conducted a survey with the National Restaurant Association. The survey collected numbers across the nation, followed by localizing the data. During an online forum hosted by Aurelius Coworks founder and CEO Tom Nardacci, the leader of the state advocacy group said, "our numbers are some of the bleakest that are out there."

Before the shutdowns, the state's restaurant industry employed close to 660,000 people, said Melissa Fleischut, president and CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association. After mid-March, half of the state's eateries closed its doors, while others continued to offer take out and delivery. Restaurants in New York have lost \$5.5 billion as of the end of April, Fleischut said. Now, 80 percent of those 660,000 are unemployed.

"That number is

incredible to all of us," Fleischut said. "The restaurant industry is a very hard working industry. Spending seven days a week, 12-15 hour days with each other, they become like family. That's a really hard statistic to deal with."

The Governor's office won't quote an exact date as to when restaurants will open again. It can't. However, with the state broken into separate regions, it allows certain pockets least affected by the virus to open earlier than those hit harder by it. The region encompassing Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Columbia Greene, Warren and Washington counties was cleared to open industries including manufacturing, construction, agriculture and retail businesses. Retail, however, is limited to curbside pickup and in-store delivery. Restaurants are not among those listed. When that day will come is anyone's guess.

"We've been reading the room," said Vic Christopher, president of Clark House Hospitality in Troy. He's banking on

that day coming as soon as next month. He is among several area restaurateurs preparing for a "new normal" that incorporates social distancing.

Christopher is renovating the long-vacant top floors of the Clark House building on Broadway, which includes his Little Pecks and Peck's Arcade.

The third and fourth floors will be converted into private dining rooms juxtaposed with modern and rustic qualities. Each private room will be enclosed with glass partitions, allowing the restaurant to maintain an authentic dining experience. Exposed brick and timber will showcase the masonry and architecture of the Victorian Age building. And, each of the rooms will look out upon downtown Troy.

"It's going to be very Troy," said Christopher. "You're going to be dining in a long-abandoned building and the backdrop is stunning."

Christopher's new business model may be the guide book under which restaurants operate once they are allowed to reopen.

Enclosed dining rooms for each table, individual hand washing stations, and meal orders taken by phone waiting at the table once customers arrive.

Christopher is among half of the state's restaurants Fleisschut quoted as those that have remained open by offering takeout and delivery services. That business has helped manage losses. He estimates business is at 50 percent from prior to shutdown.

Il Faro Restaurant & Bar is also changing its dining room. The Italian eatery on Albany's North Pearl Street is moving its bar.

"Originally, when we opened, we didn't know the area very well and we thought the dining room was going to be too big to be a bar area, period," said Jessica Lamoreaux, who co-owns to the restaurant with her partner and chef Christian Lofaro Chef. "Moving from the city, we always thought of smaller things, and as we progressed the bar became popular and people wanted to hang out there."

Lamoreaux said she had always wanted to

build a larger bar. With the restaurant closed to indoor dining, it provided the opportunity. By comparison, the original bar sat 10 patrons shoulder-to-shoulder, she said. The new, larger bar could seat 26, but she won't order new barstools.

"Why not take the time while we're closed, anyway," Lamoreaux said. "Sure, it's not the best time to be spending money, but at least construction is something where we can do a lot of the work ourselves."

Il Faro has a seating capacity of 80 people, but Lamoreaux's changes will slash that number by more than half. The new barroom will have a few tables. The previous barroom will provide for a private dining area. Together, Lamoreaux said the restaurant will accommodate 35 visitors at a time.

"So, now with thoughts of when we do open, there's going to be major social distancing for the foreseeable future," Lamoreaux said.

Il Faro is also among half of state eateries open to deliver and takeout. Lamoreaux estimates that business is at 20 percent



"This is so hard on the restaurant industry, because we are a 'social gathering' group of people [and] not a social distancing group of people. ... 'But, we're willing to work through whatever the challenges are so that we can safely and collectively come back to work.'"

— Melissa Fleischut, president and CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association

of what it was. However, she credits a loyal customer base for keeping them in business. Slashing the menu and keeping flexible to what products are available to offer has allowed them to keep inventory costs minimal.

Loans

The federal Paycheck Protection Program has allowed some businesses to remain open and refrain from having to cut staff. Billed as a forgivable loan, it was highly sought, but if recipients fail to meet the provisions of the gift, it must be repaid.

Those provisions kept Lamoreaux away. "You don't take out loans when times are unsure. That's just how my dad raised me," Lamoreaux said.

One of the provisions requires recipients to use 75 percent of the loan towards payroll. Christopher received the loan and offered 48 of his staffers to return to work. The majority of them refused.

With more than 33 million Americans applying the unemployment benefits, the federal government passed a stimulus bill that added \$600 in benefits

in addition to state-administered aid for up to 39 weeks. That has allowed some to estimate, including *The New York Times*, half of workers are earning more sitting at home than working.

Christopher was able to coax former employees back to work by hiring them to help with the renovation work.

The future

"We think take out and delivery will continue to be a huge part of the industry moving forward," Fleisschut said. "We don't know beyond that what it's going to look like. Is everybody going to wear a mask? ... Are we all going to be socially distanced?"

"This is so hard on the restaurant industry, because we are a 'social gathering' group of people [and] not a social distancing group of people. ... "But, we're willing to work through whatever the challenges are so that we can safely and collectively come back to work."

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A martini is one of the most iconic and classic cocktails around, and is typically made with gin, vodka and dry vermouth. However, martini recipes have evolved, and many different combinations of spirits are now utilized and served in the recognizable long-stemmed martini glass. These martinis can be customized with just about any flavor profile that suits your entertaining preferences.

A chocolate martini is one that will always be in favor. It is easily concocted using just a few basic

ingredients. Enjoy this variation, courtesy of Godiva Liqueurs.

Godiva Chocolate Martini

Ingredients: Serves 1

- 1 1/2 ounces your favorite Godiva liqueur, such as Godiva Milk Chocolate
- 3/4 ounce vodka, like Ciroc

Instructions

In a cocktail shaker, shake all ingredients with ice and strain into a martini glass. Garnish with your

favorite Godiva chocolate truffle and indulge.

Tips and variations: Drizzle chocolate syrup to dress up the martini glass before serving. Or top the martini with fresh raspberries or strawberries and mint for extra garnish.

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Answers on Pg. B11

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CLUES ACROSS

1. It's now called Experian
4. You can draw it
7. Very fast aircraft
10. Go quickly
11. Fifth note of a major scale
12. Biochemical abbreviation
13. Make somebody laugh
15. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
16. City in NE Morocco
19. Colorless gas
21. NE football player
23. A snake is one
24. Small spot
25. Inform
26. Republic of Ireland
27. Large statues
30. Documents about an individual
34. Helps little firms
35. Namibia's former name
36. Large insects
41. Thirsty
45. A well-defined track or path
46. One who utilizes
47. Plant-eating mammals
50. Not in tip-top shape
54. Alternate names
55. A part of a broadcast serial
56. City in central Italy
57. LOTR actor McKellen
59. Trees provide it
60. Men's fashion accessory
61. Type of screen
62. Snakelike fish
63. Possesses
64. When you aim to get there
65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

1. Hit heavily
2. Italian rice dish
3. Some are cocktail
4. A citizen of Israel
5. Read-only memory
6. Passed by
7. Northern diving ducks
8. References
9. Iranian language
13. Swiss river
14. Woman (French)
17. Gov't department (abbr.)
18. Consumed
20. Ailments
22. Balkan Jewish appetizer
27. Reciprocal of a sine
28. Skywalker mentor ___-Wan
29. Resinous secretion of insects
31. Similar
32. Female sheep
33. Cool!
37. Borders the Adriatic Sea
38. Flowers
39. It's sometimes upped
40. Immobile
41. Female body parts
42. Common request
43. Made a second thrust
44. Fell into deep sleep
47. Subway resident
48. Brew
49. The event of being born
51. Aspirations
52. Doctor of Education
53. Punk musician ___ Dee Ramone
58. A subdivision of a play

Answers on Pg. B11



■ COMMUNITY

Looking ahead

Four community-building activities

The adage “Rome wasn’t built in a day” dates back to the 12th century. Though the saying is now nearly a millenium old, its message, namely that time is necessary to create great things, is as true in 2020 as it was in 1190.

Building great communities takes time, but that process is often escalated when community members take collective action to make their towns or cities happier, healthier and safer places to live. One great way to make community-building the collective affair it needs to be is to plan activities that all community members can engage in and enjoy. The following are four community-building activities that can attract all members of the community.

1. Fun run/walk

A community fun run/walk is great for singles, families, children, and the elderly. These events typically draw crowds who will either participate in a 5K run or walk (roughly 3.1 miles) or spectators who cheer them on. The event typically begins in the center of town and then circles back so everyone begins and ends the day in the heart of town. An added benefit to this type of event is that participants usually run or walk for the benefit of a charity. Community organizers can choose a locally-based charitable organization to make the event even more community-friendly.

2. A taste of the town

A taste of the town event is a great

way to entice local foodies to get out of the house and enjoy some delicious foods prepared by local restaurants.

Host this outdoor event on Main Street or at local park or school and allow local restaurant owners to set up food trucks or stands so community members can sample their most delicious dishes. This is a great way to bring the community together and promote local businesses.

3. Music festival

Encourage local musicians to showcase their unique talents with a community music festival. Invite a local radio station to host a show at the festival and encourage local bars and restaurants to set up tents or food trucks so music lovers can enjoy some food and beverages while they watch their neighbors perform.

4. Field day

Many adults fondly recall school-wide field days when they were in elementary schools. Communities can capitalize on those fond memories by organizing community-wide field days that encourage participation from all residents.

Categorize events by age, so residents young and old can compete, and group size, so families and singles can compete against one another in events like three-legged races or horseshoes.

Community-building activities can be fun and effective ways to strengthen neighborhoods and foster strong relationships between residents of all ages.

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LOCAL MUSIC

Solo acts headline latest releases



Ria Carval

Ria Carval

The subject of last week's cover feature dropped a special bi-lingual videp of her latest single, Friday, May 15.

Ria Carval is home in Colombia after having just finished her sophomore year at The College of Saint Rose. The miles away from the school program and the on-campus studio has not slowed her down. She released "Reflections" last month, and as a gift of gratitude to her fans that helped push the track to 7,000-plus views, she's produced a lyric video.

"Reflections" is a song about two lovers who fail to overcome their faults and insecurities.

"My inspiration for "Reflections" and writing my songs is from my own experience," Carval said. "it's really about what I'm feeling in the moment."

"Reflections" is available for purchase at iTunes.

Chris Oliver

Before forming Hartley's

Encore, Chris Oliver took his guitar and gighed down in New York City's music scene, hitting the circuit around Brooklyn and Greenwich Village. A few years ago, the Albany area native returned home and started up Hartley's Encore with Luke Malamood.

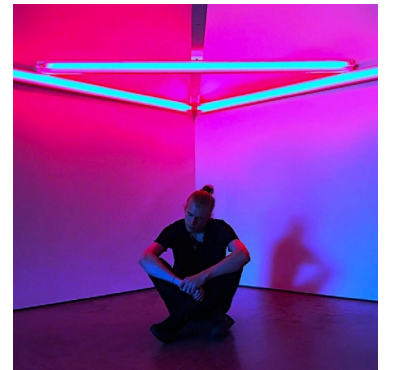
The guitarist, however, has recently begun working on his own material, and "Pieces of You" is the first product of that project. The result is a deviation from the funk and soul style we're accustomed to hearing from him.

"Pieces of You" is a summertime groove that puts



Chris Oliver

Oliver at the mic on this pop track. You can have a listen on Spotify.



Zane Agnew

Zane Agnew

Zane Agnew has his hands in a lot of projects, musically speaking.

Agnew has played guitar with Hasty Page for the past several years. In addition, he's recently been attached with This Strange Paradise and Julia Gargano. He was on stage playing guitar at Rocktoberfest behind Gargano last October. And, prior to that, his This Strange Paradise outfit

Continues on Page 13

HOROSCOPES

May 2020
Week 3

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20

After a misunderstanding with someone close, you may be licking your wounds, Aries. Don't let one or two arguments derail your friendship. Find a way to remedy things.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21

If you are tired of taking one for the team, you may need to be more assertive in your work and social circles, Taurus. Set your limits and then stick with them.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21

Try not to commit to anything out of a sense of guilt, Gemini. Rather, commit to things for the right reasons, which might make you more likely to see them through to completion.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22

Cancer, as you step out of your comfort zone, think about figuring out some thrill-seeking ideas. Now is the time to push the envelope and really see the wild side.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23

You are often a force to be reckoned with, Leo. This week will be no different. You can direct your focus in any direction. So think clearly on what you want to do.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22

Virgo, are your aspirations in tune with your actions? Long-term goals come into focus, and you now have to set the course to realize all of your goals.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23

Honest and diplomatic communication may be needed at the office or your place of employment, Libra. Others may turn to you to be a mediator. Put those skills to use.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22

Scorpio, are you spreading yourself too thin? You probably have too many irons in the fire and will have to prioritize and pull back; otherwise, you may feel overwhelmed.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21

Check all of the balances in your accounts, Sagittarius. You may have to make very important financial decisions as they pertain to your family's future.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20

Capricorn, family dynamics may be a little strained lately. It may be time for family members to redefine their roles and boundaries. Things may be sorted soon.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18

Aquarius, you will support the people you feel closest to and be their ultimate champion. However, sometimes you need to step back and let others fight their own battles.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20

Pisces, normally you are a relatively friendly, easygoing person who is apt to reconcile quickly. But this week you could be out of sorts.

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From page B10 ... New Music

made a push to open Pearlpalooza at WEQX's annual Battle of the Bands competition.

With "Maybe I'm Just Insane," Agnew breaks away from the alternative pop rock of his associates with a debut solo album steeped in the blues. Fans of Hasty Page won't be too shocked by the move, as the band has exhibited some versatility in the past.

The recent Saint Rose graduate dropped the album as part of his senior project. Each of

these eight tracks has a dark, mellow groove with Agnew crooning at the mic. Surprisingly, he said most of the music was captured from his bedroom. You'll find a featured collaboration from Gargano ("Gone"), Belina Ligotino ("Buddy"), Ben Grant and Conor Meehan ("City Lights").

Have a listen on Spotify.

Frank Palangi

Despite the name, Frank Palangi insists his latest EP "Bring on the Fear" is not



inspired by current events.

The album doesn't drop until June 5, but a video release of its first single went online on Tuesday, May 19. "Gone Mad" is the first track from Palangi's fourth studio album. He said this work is "a little bit" darker and heavier, but he still wouldn't call it heavy metal.

Palangi said "Bring on the Fear" draws from his drive to push himself out of his comfort zone. Pursuing a dream can be scary, but the only way to grow and learn and to step out and face that fear, he said.

The video pairs Palangi back with director Cameron Gallagher.

Gallagher directed Palangi's "Break These Chains" video and most recently worked on another video for American Idol's Madison VenDenburg.

"Bring the Fear" is self-produced and mastered by Grammy Award-nominated producer Robert Venable. Palangi also teams up with Kelly Clarkson's drummer Lester Estelle, and Brian Craddock and Brandon Maclin from Daughtry. The EP will feature five tracks in streaming format, but the CD that will be available for purchase on Palangi's website will include a total of 14 songs.

You can preorder your copy of "Bring on the Fear" on Amazon and iTunes.

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From page B5 ... Breaking it down

it was a song that I felt an immediate bond to.”

“I Don't Care What You Think”

“Believe it or not, I had ‘I Don't Care’ written about four years before its 2019 release. It had been kind of sitting in my archives. One day, I resurfaced it to my dad [her manager] and asked if we could release it. Like with ‘I Will,’ the time felt right. We reached out to this incredible producer in Santa Barbara, California, named James Kaufman, with a few tracks. He opted to work with this one, as well as the next release. It's my message to everyone who tells me to have a back-up plan or that my dreams are unrealistic. College will always be there, but this is what I want to do. My dreams are not unrealistic and I work very hard to get where I am. This is a real job. I don't need a ‘plan B.’ I'm going to do this and that's what this song is about. It's a massive screw you to everyone who doesn't believe I'll accomplish this.”

“I Hate”

“I Hate’ was another song James [Kaufman] had worked on. I wrote it my senior year while I was navigating some issues with someone who ended up screwing me over royally. I think the feeling of ‘I Hate’ is relatable because who hasn't felt this way? You

hate everything about the person, but you can't help but love them. I wanted so bad to write ‘I hate you’ because I was so hurt, but I couldn't bring myself to do it. I didn't hate them. When I explained my feelings to the person in question, they understood where I was coming from. I really love we combined the familiar sounds of rock but took a bit of liberty with it.”

“Champion”

“Champion’ is one of my favorites I've ever done. I really wanted to show off my range and mess around with my voice. As the song was written, I was struggling with mental health. It's really a cry for help; ‘I really want to defeat these demons, can you show me how?’ It's to God, honestly. I've been being more open in the last year and with that, I'm learning more about myself as anyone my age does. The scream where I show off my range is almost two-fold because I'm also releasing pent-up angst and getting stronger. It's a very powerful cry for peace. So many people struggle with mental health and I'm definitely not exempt from that group. I'm not as timid about my struggles anymore and I don't want to hold back. I'm not afraid.”

“Better Off Alone”

When I wrote ‘Better

“Champion’ is one of my favorites I've ever done. I really wanted to show off my range and mess around with my voice. As the song was written, I was struggling with mental health. It's really a cry for help; ‘I really want to defeat these demons, can you show me how?’ It's to God, honestly. I've been being more open in the last year and with that, I'm learning more about myself as anyone my age does.

— Moriah Formica

Off Alone,’ I was with a team who has written with Halestorm and Chris Daughtry. It's no secret that Lzzy Hale is one of my biggest inspirations as a female rocker. This song is about a very common, frustrating thing: falling for a good friend. I had developed feelings for someone I was very close to and I was so confused. This person knew I liked them and, in many ways, was leading me on. The essence of the song is ‘You pull me in every direction’ because that's what I felt. Are they feeling the same? Are they taking advantage of my feelings? Am I imagining it all? I was so frustrated and felt like maybe I was better off alone, something I know many people have felt as they enter the dating world. It's a really difficult time.”

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Jim Franco / The Spot 518



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■ HOUSE TIPS

Your outdoor haven

Improve comfort when dining outdoors

Warm weather entices people to enjoy long hours outside basking in the sun or relaxing on balmy evenings. Many of the activities people once reserved for indoors when temperatures were chilly, including dining, are moved outside as the weather warms.

Even though outdoor dining can be quite enjoyable, certain factors need to be considered to ensure that each experience is as pleasurable as possible. This means focusing on comfort whenever meals are taken out-of-doors.

Address insects

Insects are equal opportunity invaders. Once they smell sweet or savory food items, they quickly descend for an easy bite. This means extra steps are necessary to dissuade insects from coming by. Invest in citronella candles, which can be placed around the patio to repel flying bugs. Clean up



crumbs and spills promptly. Bees and wasps can be lured away with sweet traps placed around the perimeter of the property.

Offer shade

Too much sun can make outdoor meals less enjoyable. A patio umbrella, pergola or canopy can cut down on glare and make the dining area more comfortable. Check to see that the shade source can be adjusted to guard against the sun as it moves across the sky.

Dress up seating

Just because furniture is made

for outside doesn't mean it has to be uncomfortable. Many companies now produce very durable and attractive outdoor furniture. Weather-resistant fabrics mean rain or sunlight will not age items too quickly.

Reusable place settings

If you frequently dine outdoors, you may want to dine in style. Instead of disposable paper or plastic place settings, invest in colorful, durable, reusable plastic dishes, glasses and flatware, which will not break if dropped and can hold up to a dishwasher when it is time to clean up.

Create the right ambiance

Invest in outdoor lighting, candles and hidden speakers to pipe in music and create ambiance. Install privacy screens and foliage to establish a nice nook for outdoor dining.

Outdoor dining areas can be improved with some easy modifications to existing spaces.

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