

The Spotlight

BETHLEHEM
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January 11, 1979
Vol. XXV, No. 2

20¢

Graphic newsweekly serving the towns of Bethlehem, New Scotland and nearby communities

WATER

New Scotland to Bethlehem: 'Stop!' Bethlehem to New Scotland: 'Sorry.'

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Salem Hills sewer hassle lands in court

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Who will be Bethlehem's '79 Snow Queen?

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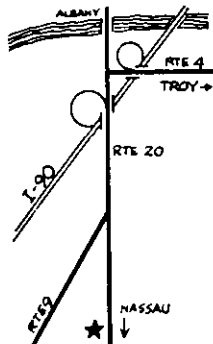
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Spotlight CALENDAR

Town of Bethlehem Town Board, second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Planning Board every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Board of Appeals first three Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 393 Delaware Ave. Town offices are open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Bethlehem Memorial Auxiliary to Post 3185, VFW, third Monday, Post Rooms, 404 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Bethlehem Sportsmen's Club, first Tuesday, Dunbar Hollow Rd., Clarksville, 7:30 p.m. Guests welcome

Trap shooting, Bethlehem Sportsmen's Club, Dunbar Hollow Rd., Clarksville, Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m. Information 439-4273.

The Spotlight

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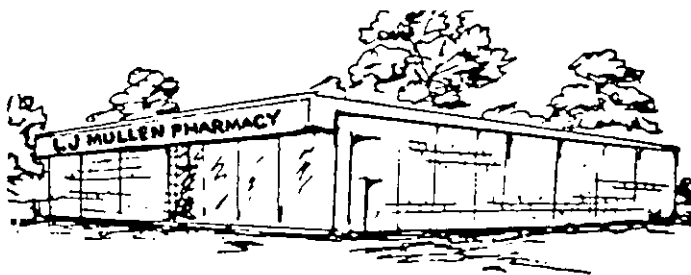
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Town of New Scotland Town Board meets first Wednesday at 8 p.m., Planning Board second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Recreation Commission third Tuesday at 7 p.m., Board of Appeals meets when necessary, usually Fridays at 7 p.m., Town Hall, Rt. 85.

Village of Voorheesville Board of Trustees, fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m., Planning Commission third Tuesday at 7 p.m., Zoning Board second and fourth Tuesdays at 7 p.m. when agenda warrants, Village Hall, 29 Voorheesville Ave.

Half Moon Button Club of Albany, third Wednesday, Bethlehem Library, noon. Information 872-0068.

Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post, American Legion, Poplar Dr., Elsmere, general meeting, first Monday, 8 p.m.

Tri-Village FISH, 24-hour-a-day voluntary service year 'round, offered by residents of Delmar, Elsmere and Slingerlands to help their neighbors in any emergency, 439-3578.

AARP, third Tuesdays, First United Methodist Church, Kenwood Ave., Delmar, 12:30 p.m.

Bethlehem Youth Employment Service, Mon.-Fri. 1-4:30 p.m. 439-2238.

Welcome Wagon, newcomers or mothers of infants call 785-9640 for a Welcome Wagon visit, Mon.-Sat. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Rd., Delmar, open daily during daylight hours. Exhibit room open daily 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Bethlehem Recycling, town garage, 114 Adams St. Papers should be tied, cans flattened, bottles cleaned with metal and styrofoam removed. Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Delmar Community Orchestra, rehearsals every Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Delmar Methodist Church.

Bethlehem Jaycees, first and third Wednesdays, Center Inn, Rt. 9W, Glenmont, 8 p.m.

Kiwanis Club of Delmar, Mondays, Center Inn, Rt. 9W, Glenmont, 6:15 p.m.

New Scotland Kiwanis Club, Thursdays, New Scotland Presbyterian Church, Rt. 85, 7 p.m.

Rotary Club of Delmar, Tuesdays, Albany Motor Inn, Glenmont, 6:15 p.m.

Glenmont Lions Club, second and fourth Tuesday, La Casa Restaurant, Selkirk, 6:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Information Charles Sperbeck, 439-9165.

Bethlehem Lions Club, first and third Wednesday, La Casa Restaurant, Selkirk, 6:30 p.m.

League of Women Voters, Thursdays, Bethlehem Library, 9:15 a.m. Babysitting available. Information 439-5786.

World War I Veterans luncheon, second Tuesday, La Casa Restaurant, Selkirk, noon. All WWI veterans welcome.

Albany County Pistol Club, Winne Pl. and Maewin Dr., Delmar. Guests welcome at indoor pistol range Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Information: Dave Herbach, 439-4372 or Tom Corrigan, 439-3301.

Slingerlands Fire Co. Auxiliary, fourth Wednesday, Slingerlands fire hall, 8 p.m.

Bethlehem B.P.O.E. 2233, first and third Wednesday, Lodge in Cedar Hill, Rt. 144. Ladies Auxiliary second Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Albany Chapter Railroad Evangelistic Assn., third Saturday, First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 7:15 p.m.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Bethlehem Senior Citizens Club, Bethlehem Community Center, 125 Adams St., Delmar, 12:30 p.m. Business meeting, card games, bingo.

Monthly luncheon, American Legion, Blanchard Post, Elsmere, 12 noon.

Ladies Auxiliary, Elsmere Fire Co. "A," fire hall, 8 p.m.

Films "In the Best Interests of Children," noon, and "Who are the Debolts?" 7:30 p.m. Bethlehem Library.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Quilting workshop, sponsored by the Voorheesville Library, traditional quilting patterns displayed and discussed, and technique of stitched design discussed, at the Library, 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Women Emerging Support Group, women who have completed the library's Career/Life Planning Workshop for Women are eligible to join, Bethlehem Library, 1-3 p.m.

Bethlehem Women's Republican Club, speaker, Bill Howard, Civil War buff, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m. Public invited.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Delmar Community Orchestra, First United Methodist Church, Delmar, 7:30 p.m.

Book discussion group, "Thousand Cranes," 1968 Nobel prize winner

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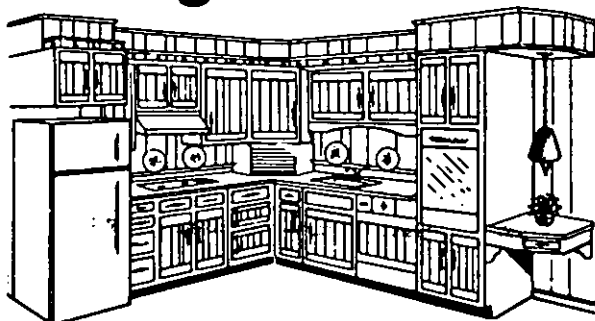
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by Yasumari Kawabata, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

Preschool films. "Time of Wonder," and "Dragon Stew," Bethlehem Library, 10-10:30 a.m. and 2-2:30 p.m.

AARP. Tri-Village Chapter No. 1598, speaker, Nathaniel A. Boynton, "Influence of the Media on Public Thought and Action," First United Methodist Church, Delmar, 12:30 p.m.

Free blood pressure clinic, Bethlehem Community Center, 125 Adams St., Delmar, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

The Second Millers, luncheon, Methodist Church, 12:30 p.m. Reservations, Don Stevens, 439-3569.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Delmar Progress Club, antiques study group, Bethlehem Library Committee Room, 7:30 p.m.

Registration deadline for cross country ski workshop, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar. Information, 457-6092.

Public hearing, Bethlehem town board, to consider changing the cable television franchise monthly service charges, Bethlehem town hall, 7:30 p.m.

Bethlehem Central board of education, business meeting and budget

listening session, Educational Services Center, 90 Adams Pl., Delmar, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Bethlehem Tri-Village chapter, AARP, monthly meeting, speaker, Nathaniel A. Boynton: "Influence of Mass Media on Public Thought," First United Methodist Church, Delmar, 12:30 p.m.

Tri-Village Welcome wagon, "A Thing of Beauty Luncheon," Normanside Country Club, cocktails 12, noon, luncheon, 12:45 p.m. Reservations by Jan. 11, Mrs. Fran Wingardner, 439-0690.

League of Women Voters, Bethlehem unit, legislative forum, panel speakers Assemblyman Lane, County Legislator Sargent, and Town Supervisor Corrigan, Bethlehem Library, 9:15 a.m. Babysitting provided. Information, Doris Davis, 439-5786.

Town of Bethlehem Historical Assn., "Farming in Bethlehem—Past and Present," Richard Thayer to moderate a panel discussion, Old Cedar Hill School House, Selkirk, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Recycling drive, United Methodist Church at Voorheesville, back parking lot. Continuing throughout the weekend. For heavy or bulky items to be picked up, call 765-2895.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Winter Carnival, Town Park, 11:30 a.m.

German Night dinner-dance, American Legion, Blanchard Post, Elmsere.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bethlehem Video Inc. has requested the Town of Bethlehem to approve changes in the rate for Cable T.V. service.

The charges consist primarily of a \$1.89 increase in monthly charges for the first outlet in residential service, and a comparable increase for commercial users.

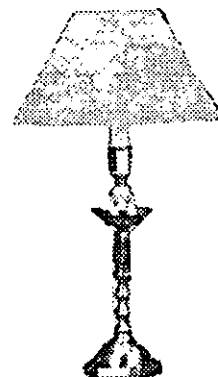
The Town Board of Bethlehem has set a public hearing for Wednesday evening, January 17th, at 7:30 pm, to discuss these proposed charges, to take evidence from Bethlehem Video why it needs the rate increase, and to hear comments from the public.

Bethlehem Video is placing this notice to invite any interested members of the public to this hearing.



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Cross-country ski workshop, Five River Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Rd., Delmar, sessions, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Information, 439-6092.

Tri-Village Little League, registration, Bethlehem Library and Clarks-ville Elementary School, 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m. First-time registrants bring birth certificate.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Preschool films, Bethlehem Li-brary, 10-10:30 a.m. and 2-2:30 p.m.

Delmar Progress Club, drama group, Bethlehem Library, 7:30 p.m.

Parents' open meeting on "Normal Development of Speech and Hear-ing in the Pre-School Child," speaker, Dr. Evelyn Brayton, Al-bany Medical Center, at Commu-nity Nursery School of Voorhees-ville, First United Methodist Church, Voorheesville, 7:30 p.m. Public welcome.

Travelogue, sponsored by the Beth-lehem Parks and Recreation Dept., John Aronson, guest speaker, Bethlehem Community Center, 125 Adams St., Delmar, 7 p.m.

Delmar Camera Club, colored slide lecture, Walt and Nancy Quillinan, "The Adirondacks," Parish Hall of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Elsmere, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

Home economics program, "Selec-ting a Ski Parka and Sleeping Bag," Albany County Resource Development Center, Martin Rd., Voorheesville, 7-9 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Career/Life planning course for women, Bethlehem Library Thurs-days, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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area arts

A capsule listing of cultural events easily accessible to Bethlehem-New Scotland residents, provided as a community service by the General Electric Co. plastics plant, Selkirk. Phone numbers are for information and tickets.

MUSIC

Midwinter Pops Concert, "Million Dollar Movie Themes," Albany Symphony Orchestra, Palace Theatre, Albany, Jan. 20, 8:30 p.m. 465-4755.

Recital, Clamma Dale, sponsored by Empire Youth Theatre Institute, Broadway singing actress, tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., Empire State Plaza Main Theater, ("The Egg"), Jan. 21, 2 p.m. special orchestra seating \$10, other seats \$6, children \$3. Reservations 473-4020.

Norman Luboff Choir, special concert, sponsored by Troy Chromatic Concerts, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Jan. 25, 8 p.m. Reservations 235-6831.

ART

Exhibition, American Decorative Arts, 18-19th century furni-ture, glass, china, silver, textiles, Albany Institute of History and Art, through March 25.

Exhibition, 12 oil paintings by Sandford Silverberg of Chatham, Center Galleries, Capital District Psychiatric Center, 75 New Scotland Ave., Albany, through March 3.

LECTURE

"China Glimpsed from a Flying Horse," slide talk by Mrs. Erastus Corning II, Albany Institute of History and Art, Jan. 19, 8 p.m. Free.

"Development of Shaker Communities," John Ott, director of Hancock Village, Pittsfield, Mass., Albany Institute of History and Art, Jan. 14, 2:30 p.m. Reception follows. Open to public.



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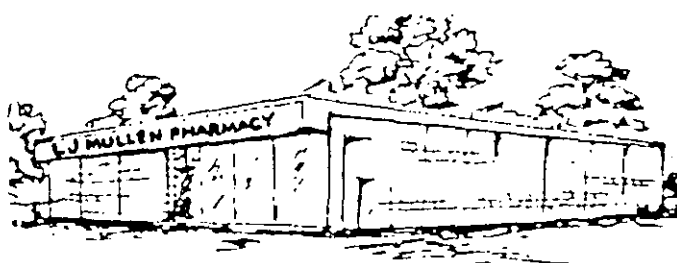
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NEW SCOTLAND

Bethlehem deaf to water pleas

The action in New Salem's water shortage last week was minimal, but significant.

First, the New Scotland town board, meeting in its first regular session of the new year, rejected a move by Councilman Herbert W. Reilly, Jr. to draft a resolution calling on the neighboring town of Bethlehem to suspend pumping operations in two wells just off Rt. 85 in New Salem.

The board instead supported Supervisor Steve Wallace's announced intention to make a personal appeal to Bethlehem Supervisor Tom Corrigan to halt the pumping until the water table in the affected area "comes back" to permit the dried-up wells to produce once again.

Next, Wallace came up empty handed in his appeal to Corrigan the following day in Delmar. Corrigan told the Spotlight: "Steve asked if we could stop the pumping long enough to let the affected wells recover. I told him we're not in a position to do that."

Meanwhile, a steady rain over New Year's weekend, coming on top of the unexpectedly heavy snowstorm on Christmas Eve, gave Bethlehem's Vly Reservoir in New Salem a major boost. The reservoir, Bethlehem's main water supply, serves as a basin that catches the runoff from the nearby Helderberg escarpment.

Paul Wagner, director of operations for Bethlehem Water District No. 1, said the level of the reservoir rose 1.7 feet during the 13-day period between Dec. 26 and Jan. 8, accounting for a net addition of



Nine Bethlehem police officers have completed a radar training program taught by Det. Charles Rudolph, left, and Sgt. Joseph W. Sleurs. The course included four hours of classroom work. In the photo are James Haker, center, Inspector Richard LaChappelle and Joseph Mosca, standing, and Cynthia Reed. Also in the course were Anthony Arduini, James Corbett, Steve Demarest, Joseph Mastriano and Paul Roberts.

Photo by Carol Gregory

some 85 million gallons to the reservoir.

That news brought small comfort to the beleaguered homeowners in the Meadowbrook Pl. mini-subdivision off New Salem South Rd. a quarter of a mile west of the reservoir's impoundment dam. Several homes have had their wells run to silt and clay, and have been without water for more than six weeks while less than half a mile away the Bethlehem water district continues to pump 1.1 million gallons a day on a 24-hour basis from two wells on district property. Last week a homeowner who originally insisted he was unaffected by the pumping saw his well run out of water (see Vox Pop, p. 29).

Neither the residents nor New Scotland town officials appear to have any legal means to halt the pumping. The town of Bethlehem started putting together tracts for the reservoir more than 50 years ago, and now is New Scotland's second largest taxpayer (behind Niagara Mohawk) with a current property tax tab of \$42,700.

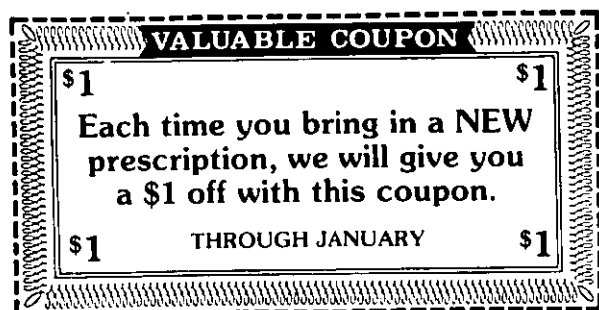
The Albany County Dept. of Health, which in the past two years has taken an active role in monitoring the town of Bethlehem's fragile water situation, is remaining aloof from the conflict over the pumping in New Salem. Richard W. Svenson, a Delmar resident who is director of the division of environmental health services for the

department, said he had discussed the situation with Charles McKinley, a Meadowbrook Pl. resident who has been without well water for more than six weeks, and with both Wallace and Corrigan. The county, which has kept pressure on Bethlehem to upgrade its present water system and accelerate its quest for new supplementary sources of supply, takes the position that the town should chart locations of the exhausted wells and compile other data for future system planning. The county, Svenson points out, cannot step into the current hassle because Bethlehem has the blessing of the state Dept. of Environmental Conservation to pump annually up to 400,000 gallons a day from the New

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Salem wells. By turning on the pumps during the months prior to the Spring runoff, the town can extract over a million gallons daily and still stay within the 12-month ceiling fixed by EnCon's regulatory arm, the Water Resources Commission.

Meanwhile, Bethlehem's quest for new water sources continues. The town's test well in the Schermerhorn Island section of Cedar Hill is now being pumped at a stepped-up rate of 500 gallons per minute. The pumping had been set at 350 gallons per minute until a transformer burned out last month. Engineers say, however, that the iron content of the water here is high.

Water from another test well on the Emery property near Rt. 9W and Clapper Rd. in Selkirk is being analyzed, according to Corrigan, who has taken a leading role in the push for additional water supplies.

In a related development, the town announced this week that tests would start Wednesday of this week on the recently completed emergency hookup with the Albany's city system, whose main trunk traverses the town en route from the Alcove Reservoir. The interconnection, completed in November, is located on Kenwood Ave. at Dumbarton Dr. in Elsmere.

The tests may cause Bethlehem water users to notice "a slight difference in water taste and pressure" for an unspecified period, a water district official said.

Star Wars at Palace

Julius Hegyi will conduct the Albany Symphony Orchestra in a Midwinter Pops concert of "Million Dollar Movie Themes" featuring the stellar spectacular, "Star Wars Suite" by John Williams, on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 8:30 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, Albany. Great music from such other film masterpieces as "Summer of '42," "Pink Panther," "Sting" and "Dr. Zhivago" will also be performed. Continuing in the pops culinary tradition at the Palace, concertgoers can enjoy a hot dog, sauerkraut and a beer before the concert.

GLENMONT

Police nab trio in burglary ruse

When two men called at the residence of an elderly Glenmont couple and identified themselves as taking a survey for New York State, they were shown through the house. The survey, they explained, was in connection with a state appropriation for a new sewer system.

Shortly after the visit at 4:30 p.m. Friday, the 82-year-old husband reported the incident to Bethlehem police, who issued a teletype description of the suspects. Several hours later Colonie police notified Bethlehem headquarters that three white males had been arrested on suspicion of several burglaries in the Colonie area.

A Bethlehem police car transported the Glenmont couple to Colonie, where they identified the two men who had visited their home that afternoon. Frank Lach, 38, of Providence, R.I., and Ernest J. Thomas, 46, of Westport, Mass. were arraigned before Bethlehem Police Justice Roger Fritts on charges of burglary, third degree, a felony, and criminal impersonation, a misdemeanor. They were remanded to Albany County jail to await court action.

Poster contest winners

The Bethlehem Lions Club has announced the winners in a poster contest to advertise the town of Bethlehem's 1979 Winter Carnival, scheduled for Jan. 20 at the Elm Ave. Park, Delmar. Contest winners will receive a U.S. savings bond. They are: Stephen Stasiuk, Grades K-3; Tania Stasiuk, Grades 4-6; Jim Ferrari, Grades 7-9, and Edie Osterman, Grades 10-12. The posters in the contest are on display at the Bethlehem Library and at business locations throughout the town.

FIRE CALLS

Dec. 25 - Onesquethaw - Apartment house fire, Clarks-ville.

Dec. 29 - Onesquethaw - assisted Rescue Squad, Clarks-ville.



Albany County Sheriff John J. McNulty, Jr. joins Gale Conklin of Guilderland, left, and Doris Rowland of Delmar in checking food preparation for the Jan. 14 "Thanks For Giving Ball" sponsored by the Albany County unit of the American Cancer Society at the Turf Inn, Colonie.

BETHLEHEM

Students asking to rate teachers

A Bethlehem Central High School senior, who feels that students should be listened to, is taking matters into his own hands to try to assure that students will have some say in the kind of education they receive.

Chris Heaphy, of 12 Park Pl., Delmar, along with many of his classmates, wants to have student evaluation of teachers a mandatory part of each semester in an effort to encourage teacher self-improvement and aid in course selection. Now evaluations are optional, with teachers themselves deciding whether or not to pass out the forms.

Last Spring, according to Heaphy, only three teachers passed out the evaluations to their students.

"Students want additional input and participation in the decision making process," says Heaphy, who considers last Spring's response "a poor turnout." To assure a better

response in the future, Heaphy asked the board of education for support and then went to the school senate, which eventually ratified unanimously the idea of more student participation.

Some teachers Heaphy talked to think that student evaluation would be a good idea, but others contend that mandatory evaluations would violate teachers contracts, he said. Heaphy feels that it is up to the board, which is reviewing his proposal, to determine the project's ramifications.

"No one knows the proper process," says Heaphy. "If it is against the teachers' contract, I'm afraid it will be just another throw-away item in the negotiations."

Doug Payne

GOP women meet

The Bethlehem Women's Republican Club will have Bill Howard as speaker at their meeting Monday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 at Bethlehem Library. Howard, a senior at Bethlehem Central High School, is a collector of Civil War material. His first book, a biography of Albany's Gen. Louis Benedict, will soon be published. The public is invited.

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SALEM HILLS Sewerage flap lands in court

Attorneys for the Salem Hills Sewerage Disposal Corp. say the 40-percent boost in the monthly fee for the subdivision's private sanitary system isn't enough, and they are taking the Voorheesville village board to court.

Louis Dempf, Jr., of Delmar, counsel for Rosen-Michaels, Inc., developer of Salem Hills, formally notified the village board by letter last week that the utility had rejected the increase as being insufficient, and that the company would seek recourse in the courts.

The five-member village board climaxed a six-month controversy last Nov. 28 by approving a rate hike from \$10 to \$14 per month per dwelling, effective Jan. 1. The sewerage firm, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rosen-Michaels, had applied last spring for a rate of \$29.05 per month, citing a growing deficit caused by increasing operational losses and a cumulative debt in the face of system improvement costs mandated by state and county environmental agencies.

The village board, sitting as a municipal public service commission, voted the \$4 increase after a series of public and private hearings involving homeowners in the subdivision, a citizens' advisory panel and an independent audit by an Albany accounting firm. The subdivision, one of the largest in the area, has 282 single-family dwellings.

Mayor William J. Wenzel told the Spotlight that he was confident the board's action would stand up in court. "I feel that what we did was fundamentally sound and fair, and we consider our action wholly defensible," he declared.

In setting the new rate, the board said it was allowing for a 9-percent "inflation factor" and a five-year amortization of \$4,000 for the cost of the independent audit.

Last June the utility distributed a balance sheet that

showed operating losses averaging \$10,000 a year for the past several years and an accumulated deficit of \$78,000 as of the end of its fiscal year on April 30, 1978. It said the cost of the system improvements required to fend off a lawsuit filed by the State Dept. of Environmental Conservation could run as high as \$70,000.



James H. Lenden

In executive post

James H. Lenden has been promoted to vice president, marketing, of United Telecommunications Corp., a private interconnect telephone company headquartered in Latham. Lenden will be responsible for developing marketing and sales programs in the company's operating area, which includes New York State and northern New Jersey. He is a member of the board of directors and vice president of Child's Hospital and Child's Nursing Home, Albany. He resides in Delmar with his wife, Joanne, and five children.

Little League signups

Registration for the Tri-Village Little League will be held on two consecutive Saturdays from 10:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 20 and Jan. 27 at the Bethlehem Library and Clarks-ville Elementary School. First-time registrants are required to show birth certificates. The league is open to boys and girls who live in the town of Bethlehem or the Bethlehem Central school district.

BETHLEHEM

Subdivision road remains blocked

Bethlehem's planning board denied the request of a Delmar developer to open a new street to traffic, upholding a 1976 decision.

In a 5-0 vote, with members William Weber and Al Greenwood abstaining, the board refused the petition of Biates Corp., developers of the Brookfield subdivision off Delaware Ave., to open Grantwood Rd., connecting Longmeadow Dr. with Brockley Dr.

Developers wanted the road unblocked at Brockley Dr. because the first finished house on the 131-unit development is near Grantwood Rd.

The previous decision requires 10 homes ready for occupancy before the barricade can be removed. The board was concerned that opening the road would mean heavy construction vehicles and increased traffic for the residents on Brockley Dr.

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The Campus Arts Center on the Holy Names Campus is accepting registrations for second semester music lessons, as well as classes in guitar and ballet. Private instruction is offered in piano, clarinet, flute, guitar, electric bass, mandolin, organ, violin and viola. For information and a brochure, call Ann Brandon at 438-7895.

Senior citizen fitness

The Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Dept. sponsors a weekly exercise class for senior citizens every Wednesday at 11 a.m., at the Bethlehem Community Center, 125 Adams St., Delmar. Participants in the class work out until they're tired. A physician's permission slip is needed for new members of the class.

QUALITY PHOTOCOPIES

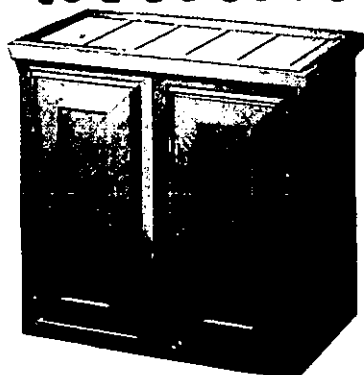
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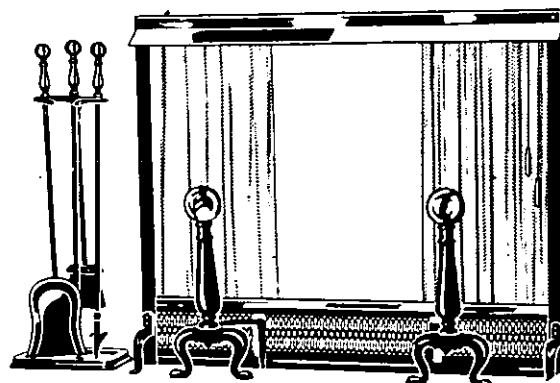
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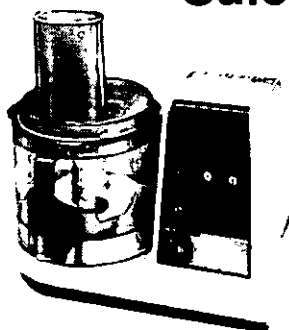


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NEW SCOTLAND Rt. 32 to get '79 facelifting

The State Dept. of Transportation is receiving bids today (Jan. 11) on contracts for 14 proposed highway, bridge and flood control projects across the state.

The list includes reconditioning of Rt. 32, Indian Fields Rd., for a distance of 1.2 miles in the town of New Scotland between County Road 301 at Mead's Corners and the Coeymans town line. The 18-foot-wide highway will be widened to 22 feet and resurfaced with asphalt. Several short sections will be rebuilt on improved alignments to ease curves and dips. Drainage will be improved and new guide railings installed, the DOT said.

BETHLEHEM

League to host political seminar

Legislators on three law-making levels will form a panel of speakers at an open forum sponsored by the Bethlehem unit of the League of Women Voters Thursday, Jan. 18, at 9:15 a.m. at the Bethlehem Library, Delmar.

The speakers will be Assemblyman C.D. "Larry" Lane, representing the New York State Legislature; Edward H. Sargent, Jr., a member of the Albany County Legislature, and Thomas V. Corrigan, Bethlehem town supervisor.

Carol Bullivant, a league officer, will moderate the session, which will be open to the public. The speakers will discuss public concerns and legislative issues, and will participate in a discussion following the presentation.

Babysitting will be provided at the library. For transportation and information, call Doris Davis, 439-5786.

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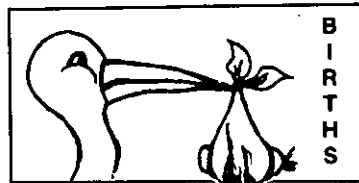
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Boy, Richard McGraw, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hadley, New Canaan, Conn., Dec. 24. Mrs. Hadley is the former Sara McGraw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James L. McGraw, Delmar.

Albany Medical Center

Girl, Anneliese, to Mr. and Mrs. P. Christian Vogel, Delmar, Dec. 21.

Boy, Nathaniel, to Mr. and Mrs. George Walker, Delmar, Dec. 7.

Girl, Elizabeth, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoover, Altamont, Dec. 9.

Boy, Matthew, to Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Frese, Ravena, Dec. 10.

Girl, Catherine Dwyer, to Mr. and Mrs. John Stutzman, Albany, Dec. 30. Mrs. Stutzman is a sales representative for the Spotlight.

Enterprise back to a sole owner

For the first time in 28 years, the Altamont Enterprise is under the proprietorship of a single owner.

Last week's issue of the area's oldest continuously published weekly newspaper carried a Page 1 announcement that James E. Gardner, 42, a part-owner of the paper for the past 11 years, has purchased the shares of his two partners.

The late Howard Ogsbury, one of the area's best-known newspapermen and the second generation of a half century of family ownership at the Enterprise, sold one-third shares in the paper to James Pino and Marvin C. Pino in 1951. Ogsbury sold his remaining one-third share to Charles D. Stewart, an employee, in 1974. Ogsbury died in 1976.

In recent years the paper has been owned and managed by Gardner, Pino and Stewart. Gardner, a native of Guiderland and for the past 20 years a resident of nearby Knox, joined the Enterprise as a part-time employee in 1955 and became a partner in the ownership on Jan. 1, 1968. He previously was associated with a Rotterdam printing company.

Under Gardner's leadership, the Enterprise, now in its 96th year, has made steady gains in circulation without widening its coverage area. It is the dominant weekly paper in the towns of Guiderland, Berne, Knox and nearby communities, is the official newspaper for virtually all the towns and villages and school districts in its circulating area, and is widely respected for its quality in maintaining wide coverage of local happenings. It is the last of the area's "hot-type" (linotype composition) newspapers, and one of the last to retain the eight-column "broad-sheet" format.

In recent years Gardner, a versatile newspaperman with long experience in the printshop and production end, has been taking a more active role as a newswriter and editor, and has also done some photography for the news columns.

BETHLEHEM

Fish may sue for \$20 million

Bethlehem's suspended chief of police Peter Fish has filed a "notice of claim" for \$20 million against the town of Bethlehem for an alleged "conspiracy" by town officials he says deprived him of his "rights, privileges and immunities"

under the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The action was filed by Fish's attorney, William J. Cade, as a technicality preliminary to filing a formal lawsuit at the expiration of a 90-day waiting period.

Fish was suspended last March and charged with 34 counts of misconduct in office. He has since been indicted by

an Albany County grand jury of four felony counts and one violation involving perjury and criminal possession of stolen property, and is awaiting trial.

A \$5-million slander suit brought by Fish against Supervisor Tom Corrigan and Bethlehem town officials was dismissed last November by Judge Con Cholakakis in State Supreme Court in Albany.

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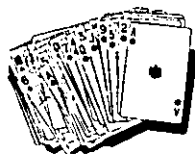
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BETHLEHEM

Taxpayer's plea: lift class ceiling

A growing trend to slow down the escalating costs of public school systems has motivated a Bethlehem resident to call on the board of education to permit an increase in class sizes.

Werner Liebich, 16 North Helderberg Pkwy., Slingerlands, speaking at last week's school board meeting, cited the board's own study of February, 1977, which showed that most taxpayers would be in favor of larger class sizes if adverse economic conditions warranted them. The study showed that more than 67 percent of those surveyed felt that class size in the Middle School and elementary schools, presently averaging about 23, could be increased by three students per class. The survey also showed that almost 75 percent favored increasing the high school class size from 22 to 25 students.

Liebich also referred to a recent study published in the

New York Times, which he said demonstrated that class size for average students could be increased substantially without harming the quality of education for the individual student.

Liebich feels the school district could save money if older teachers weren't replaced when they retired. "I think you're out of tune," he told the board, referring to the present limitations on class size. "I'm talking about quality teachers, capable teachers that can teach up to 35 students. I'm suggesting we go up to 28, but the study said you can go to 35 without impairing the level of education." Liebich advocated the increase "across the board" for all class sizes at all three levels.

Liebich figures that if his formula were followed, the district would need 18-percent fewer teachers for a 7-percent savings in costs. He calculates the move would save taxpayers \$325,000 on a 4,648,000 budget, which he considers a conservative estimate.

Board member Bertold E. Weinberg disputed Liebich's finding. "We do share your concern with costs," he declared. "The study only applied to a select group of students, and other reports seemed to have contradicted the New York Times study."

Ann Patton, board president, said that some children need more attention, not less, citing the special problems of "mainstreaming" handicapped children. She maintained that other parents want smaller, not larger class sizes, and that one of the advantages of the Bethlehem school district was its small class size. She said that the board's study was deceiving because only a fraction of those surveyed had children in any one of the three schools.

A man who wished not to be identified said that everyone paid taxes, not just those with children in school.

After the meeting Liebich said that he was first educated in small classes and learned later, in larger classes, to appreciate the different points of view possible in larger classes.

Doug Payne



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NEW SCOTLAND

Wallace is tapped for county post

New Scotland Supervisor Steve Wallace has been named to the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, a review clearinghouse for federally funded projects in a four-county area.

The appointment of Wallace, a Republican, was confirmed Monday by the Democratic-dominated Albany County Legislature.

The Schenectady Gazette reported in its Jan. 3 edition that Wallace had been recommended by the Legislature's personnel committee to succeed Carl Walters on the regional planning body. Walters, also a Republican, is supervisor of the town of Guilderland and has served on the commission since its inception in 1967.

Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II is the only other active member of the original 12-member board, the paper said.

Walters, a past chairman of the panel, submitted his resignation to Charles Cahill, chairman of the county legislature, last month, citing the pressure of other commitments. He is president of the Association of the Towns of New York State.

Wallace, 48, has been town supervisor for six years. He previously served seven years on the New Scotland zoning board and was chairman of the town planning board for seven years. He is currently the only Republican member of the Albany County planning board.

Wallace this week was awaiting word from the county attorney's office as to whether his new appointment would require him to step down from the county panel. "I've always been interested in planning," he said. "I'll be disappointed if I have to resign the county one. I can't think there'd be any conflict in serving on both boards."

Voorheesville, the Spotlight is sold at Voorheesville Pharmacy and the Grand Union.

ELSMERE

Anna Mae fund gets new boost

A community fund-raising effort to rebuild the bungalow of an Elsmere woman left homeless by a fire five days before Christmas has reached the one-quarter mark.

W. Gordon Morris of Elsmere, chairman of a civic committee formed to help Anna Mae White, 58-year-old widow, said contributions through last weekend totalled "slightly over \$5,000" toward a goal of \$20,000. Proceeds will be used to rebuild the White dwelling at 104 Elsmere Ave., destroyed by flames on Dec. 19. Mrs. White, well known as a cateress and community worker, had no insurance on the house, and also lost virtually all her possessions.

The Bethlehem Lions Club last week voted a contribution of \$1,000 to the fund, matching a previous donation by the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard American Legion post. The post, meanwhile, announced plans to put on a dinner at the post rooms in Elsmere for the benefit of the fund. The dinner, which will be open to the public, is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 25, starting at 1 p.m.

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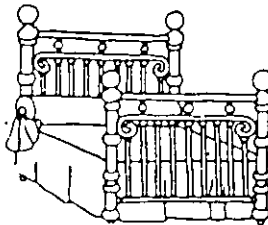
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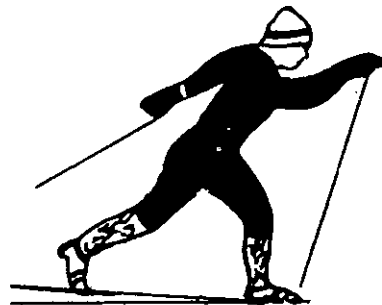


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8 students named on academies' list

Seven Bethlehem students and one from Voorheesville are among 45 young men and five young women from the 28th Congressional district nominated by Rep. Samuel S. Stratton for four vacancies at the nation's three service academies and for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, L.I.

They will compete for two vacancies at the Air Force Academy, one at the U.S. Military Academy. The nominees from Bethlehem and New Scotland are:

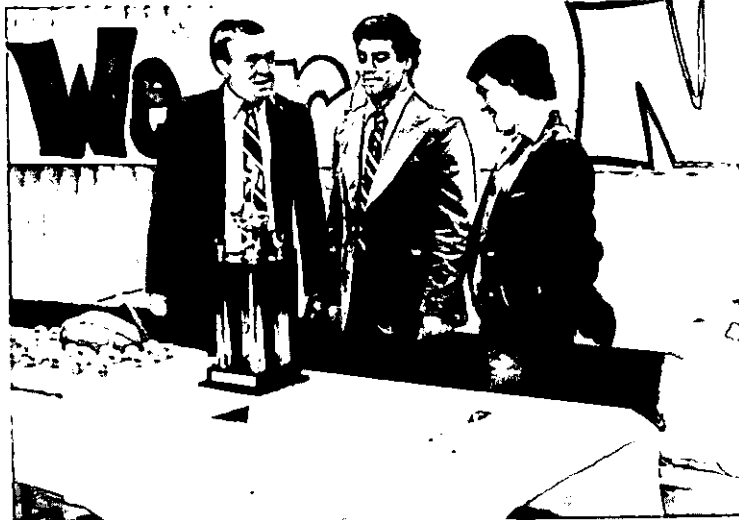
First vacancy at Air Force Academy: John F. Ferro, 34 Carolanne Dr., Delmar; Edward D. Arnheiter, Selkirk.

Second vacancy at Air Force Academy: Robert D. Roche, Jr. 20 Darnley Green, Delmar.

U.S. Military Academy, West Point: John J. Dorsey, 33 Herrick Ave., Delmar, and William D. Kavanaugh, Camp Pinnacle Rd., Voorheesville.

U.S. Naval Academy: Cheryl A. Beck, 9 Park Pl., Delmar.

Nominees competing for the 39 spaces allotted to New York State include Duncan E. Leach, 5 Coventry Rd., Glenmont, and Jaime W. Heenahan, 315 Kenwood Ave., Delmar.



Football heroes were plentiful in Voorheesville this Fall. Among those honored at a dinner last week for the Section 2 Class C champions were Coach Tom Buckley, left, and co-captains Tom George, and Jim Cillis. The cake at the left, baked by Dawn DeVellis of Picard Rd., had an enlarged chocolate football with lettering embedded in a flat cake decorated with a green football field, white yard stripes, yard marker numerals and plastic football helmets.

Spotlight

BASKETBALL

Eagles suffer foul line blues

Winless Columbia visits Bethlehem Central on Friday as Coach Jim Tedisco's contingent attempts to get back on the winning track in the Suburban Council basketball race. The Eagles also had a date at Shenendehowa Tuesday of this week.

BC dropped another heart-breaker last week, this time to defending champion Niskayuna 49-47, in overtime. It was the second straight year these two teams had battled into an extra period on the Delmar floor.

"We played a pretty good game," commented Tedisco. "We had a chance to win it when we were up by one with 20 seconds to go, but we missed a foul shot. Then we missed two foul shots with the score tied and one second to go."

Tom Fiato made the first of a 1-and-1 situation with 20 seconds left in regulation time, but Niskayuna roared back with the tying basket. As the

seconds ticked away, the Eagles set up a play but missed the shot. Mike Lawrence was fouled as the clock expired, but couldn't put the game away.

In the overtime stanza, the game was tied when a foul was called against BC with one second remaining. Tedisco called two timeouts in succession in an attempt to increase nervous tension on the shooter. Mike Adams, but Adams canned both his charities and that did it.

The Eagles, now 3-3 in the league and 4-4 overall, got 22 points from Joe Rutnik and 15 from John Sica. Fiato had eight assists.

First-aid course set

The town of Bethlehem in cooperation with the American Red Cross, will sponsor a multi-media first aid course on Thursdays from 9-11 a.m. from Jan. 18 through Feb. 8. The course, limited to 15 students, will be held at the Bethlehem Community Center, 125 Adams St., Delmar. For registration information, call 439-4131, weekdays.

Career seminar set

The Women Emerging Support Group will meet on Monday, Jan. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Bethlehem Library.

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SWIMMING

BC tankmen still untested

Bethlehem Central's swimming dynasty continues to splash water over all opponents, and there may be no serious challengers until next month when the Eagles hook up with state powers Rome and New Hartford.

Jack Whipple's marine juggernaut was 4-0 going into this week's meet at Glens Falls and a home date with Albany High. Whipple considers Glens Falls the strongest team in the Adirondack Swimming Conference, so there could be trouble there. In their last outing, BC swamped Burnt Hills, 110-61, handing the home team its first loss in the six-lane tank at Burnt Hills.

Ken Neff, a nationally ranked scholastic swimmer, shattered two five-year-old school records in the Adirondack League invitational at BCHS Dec. 28. Neff shaved 7/10ths of a second off Malcolm Cooper's 1973 record of 55.5 for the 100-yard butterfly, and lowered Cooper's 22.5 for the 50-yard freestyle to 22.4. Cooper is now a senior member of the Harvard varsity swim team.

Neff, unbeaten in the Eagles' four meets so far, set a new 200-yard freestyle record for the Voorheesville pool in an earlier meet, and broke an Albany Academy pool record in the 60-yard free that had stood for eight years. At Burnt Hills last week he set new pool records for the 100 and 200 free.

Bethlehem's talent, nurtured by the Delmar Dolphins junior swim program over the years, continues to feed the varsity powerhouse. This year three youngsters brought smiles to Whipple's countenance with strong performances in the Adirondack invitational. Jay

Henahan, a freshman, and sophomores Bob Holland and Mike Nyilis are among the league's top five in 200 individual medley and the 500-yard freestyle. Henahan won the 500, Holland was second and Drew Hyde third as Bethlehem took five of the first seven places.

Another pleasant surprise is Andrea Orietas, a 9th grader recently arrived in Bethlehem from Greece. Andrea, a fine sprinter, picked off 7th place in the 500, and specializes in the middle distances.

Whipple's divers are headed by Mary Reagan. Two outstanding local divers, Tom George of Voorheesville and Paul Hines of Bethlehem, are not out for their swim teams this year. George, who won the Section 2 championship last year, has decided to play basketball, where he is 10th man on the Voorheesville squad while Hines, who was runnerup to George, is concentrating on after-school employment.



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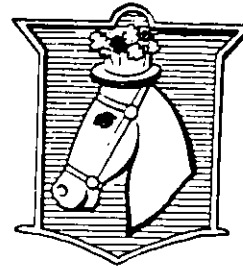
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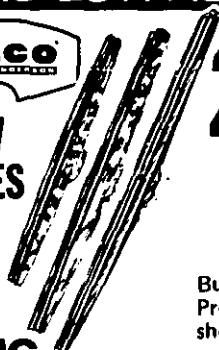
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On the cover:

Six queenly candidates and one kingly one are in the competition for Bethlehem's 1979 Snow Queen. The girls on the cover are, clockwise from upper left, Ann Marie Everingham, Ann Czerw, Leslie Duncan, Hilary Breuel, Joanne Mulkerne and Tracy Lynn Burkins.

BETHLEHEM

A male candidate for 'snow queen'

An 18-year-old Delmar male has been named one of seven finalists in the town of Bethlehem's annual snow Queen competition for the winter carnival coming up on Jan. 20 at the town park.

Bill Reagan, a six-foot, 190-pound senior at Bethlehem Central High School and the top freestyle sprinter on the school's undefeated varsity swimming team, joins six girls in the final judging by a Bethlehem chamber of commerce committee.

The presence of the blond, blue-eyed former night manager at Carvel's Elsmere ice cream store in the snow queen competition provides this year's committee with an unprecedented situation.

The former St. Thomas Church acolyte, who will graduate from BCHS in January, indicated there was no thought of "counter-women's lib" that motivated him to enter the contest considered an exclusive domain of females. "It wasn't a joke or dare or anything," he told a Spotlight reporter. "I just decided to do it. I don't know what else I can say."

Reagan faces rugged competition from the other finalists, who combine beauty with outstanding athletic, theatrical, scholastic and community achievements. They are: Hilary



Bill Reagan

Breuel, 49 W. Bayberry Rd., Glenmont; Tracy Lynn Burkins, Delaware Tpk., Delmar; Ann Czerw, 30 Forest Rd., Delmar; Leslie Renee Duncan, 1 Wisconsin Ave., Delmar; Ann Marie Everingham, 6 Borthwick Ave., Delmar, and Joanne Mulkerne, 79 Jordan Blvd., Delmar.

Presentation of the crown will be made by chamber president Robert Verstandig and 1978 snow queen runnerup Stacy Hines.

CPR course offered

The Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Dept. will offer a course in CPR—cardiopulmonary resuscitation—on Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m., beginning Jan. 18. The course is open to residents of the town and Bethlehem Central School District, and will be held at the Bethlehem Community Center.

Choral auditions set

Auditions for the Capitol Hill Choral Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 16 and 23 at Philip Schuyler elementary school, North Lake Ave. between Western and Washington Aves., Albany.

Wanted

If this were a classified ad, it would read: "Wanted: local resident with horse and sleigh, to escort Snow Queen to Bethlehem Winter Carnival at Town Park Jan. 20." The Bethlehem chamber of commerce is hoping someone with a sleigh sees this item and calls Peter Staniels at 439-9906 days or 439-2800 evenings.

BASKETBALL

Blackbird quint now on the wing

A close shave against Catskill in a home game gave Voorheesville Central's basketball team some anxious moments, but may have taught some valuable lessons, according to first-year coach Mike O'Brien.

The Blackbirds, battling for first place in the jammed-up Central Hudson Valley standings, frittered away a 12-point halftime lead last Friday before escaping with a 62-56 victory. Catskill came out for the second half with a full-court press, which O'Brien said he expected.

"When they sprung it on us, it was like they had 10 men out there, and we folded," he said. "We went from a 10-point lead to being down by four. But they (Catskill) fouled too much and hurt themselves."

Voorheesville won the game from the penalty stripe, shooting better than 70 percent. The Blackbirds had an incredible 24-2 margin in free throws made.

Catskill still had a four-point edge with three minutes remaining, and they were still pressing when they ran into trouble holding onto the ball. The Blackbirds cashed in by grabbing the defensive rebounds.

"The first half was well played by both teams," O'Brien commented. "The second half was sloppy. Our boys had a tough time, but they regrouped and we pulled through."

Tim Lewis hit for 19 points and Craig Gleason 18. Steve Smith flicked in nine points during the critical second-period spurt.

The Blackbirds, now tied with Waterford at 3-1 in the league one game ahead of Maple Hill and Catskill, had a non-league contest with Chatham of the Southern Conference Tuesday at home and entertain Cocksackie-Athens on Sat. 85A this Friday in a league match. Next week it's Rensselaer at home Tuesday, also non-league, and a bus ride to Averill Park for a big one.



Peter T. Burkart
Promoted at hospital

Dr. Peter T. Burkart of Delmar, attending physician at St. Peter's Hospital since 1975, has been appointed chief of hematology. Dr. Anthony P. Tartaglia, chief of medicine, has announced.

Dr. Burkart served with the Army Medical Corps at Ireland Army Hospital, Fort Knox, Ky., before coming to St. Peter's. A graduate of Siena and Albany Medical College, he completed his internship, residency and fellowship in hematology at Albany Medical Center Hospital. He also was a research fellow in Immunohematology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. He and his wife, Patricia, have three children and live at 23 Woodmont Dr.

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PICOTTE
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Shop Talk

by Judi James

What is there about Slingerlands that makes one feel charmed when just "driving through" the hamlet? According to a salesperson in one of its few shops, "there's a certain ambient quality here . . . people will just walk in to say hello!"

The salesperson was Helen Denin. The other participants in our conversation were Madeline and Irving Rosenberg. The setting was their shop called the Clothes Horse! If you don't know the shop or are a newcomer and feeling a little nostalgic for the place you used to live . . . then let me introduce you.

The Clothes Horse is located directly behind the Slingerlands post office and the Toll Gate. (And, my newcomer friend, there actually was a toll gate there many years ago. Tolls were taken as horse and buggies proceeded out of Albany and toward the Heldebergs.)

Some 15 years ago Madeline and Irving Rosenberg decided that it was a perfect spot for the kind of a women's apparel shop they wished to open—one catering to the casual way of life. They wanted to make it a part of the neighborhood. They did! However, their clientele isn't that limited! Because of their marvelous selection of sweaters, slacks, at-home and casual wear, customers come from a wide area.

Madeline is somewhat of a clothes horse herself. She'll greet you with a slow smile and probably be dressed in slim pastel pants topped by one of her matching Alpine sweaters. She looks like a model, acts like a hostess, and invariably will invite you to sit down and have a cup of coffee if you have time. If not . . . she and Helen are there to help you with your shopping or just to let you browse!

There's a special warmth to the store. The windows have a

cottage effect. There is a spinning wheel in one, adorned with knitted hats and mittens. Inside, some lovely antiques also have been used for display purposes. There's a yarn winder, a telephone, a wagon wheel and some large round wooden tables.

One of the tables is covered brightly and has an eye-boggling selection of jewelry. (A boy of about 12 was trying to make a choice for his mother's birthday as we walked in. He had his cache of savings in his hand, and was trying to choose between a pin and a pendant. Later, I saw him leave with a prettily wrapped little gift box in his hand and a grin of satisfaction on his face.)

"How did you two happen to decide on a women's apparel shop?" I asked. Mr. Rosenberg glanced at his wife and said "She likes to buy!" Madeline laughed and said, "True, I do the buying . . . and I guess it's rather in my blood, for my Dad was a sportswear manufacturer."

"I'm just part-time help," drawled Irving. He works two nights a week and Saturdays, but he really doesn't call it work. His profession is law (he's in the Attorney General's office). His hobby is weaving. You may have seen the magnificent results of his weaving in his one-man show at the Capital District Psychiatric Center's Gallery last Spring . . . or you may have seen one of his handsome wall hangings in area homes. They are brilliant with color and have the sleek design of the uncluttered artist. When he is "on duty" at the shop, you'll find him back there at his loom weaving lovely shades of soft wool . . . or possibly giving some tips to another would-be weaver.

Most merchants will agree that it's very important to keep stock moving. I thought of this as I glanced around the Clothes Horse. There is a constant awareness of change, of new items, and of coordination. On the day I visited them, I could barely keep from trying on one of the smart Burma shirts that hung near the door. One of

them in black and white was especially appealing. I could just picture it with black at-home slacks now, and sharp white ones in the summer months! Great for anyone going South!

"I don't like to keep clothes from one season to the next," Madeline told me. "So we have our half-price room where we assemble those things which have been in stock a little longer."

Everyone loves a bargain, and that "back room" creates a lot of interest. But it's really "out front" where one feels the sense of hospitality as well as good marketing. Sitting at a little table where shoppers frequently sit to have a cup of coffee, Madeline answered my question as to what was the most fun they'd had recently.

"Oh, it has to be that New Year's Eve story," she smiled. Then she went on to tell of a most attractive young lady who popped in the store just before closing time a year ago, her hair in curlers and covered with a scarf. She breathlessly said, "I have an unexpected date for tonight. . . do you have something great that I can wear?" It became a project. Madeline and Helen found that special outfit. . . long skirt and pretty top. Then they accessorized the outfit, tucked perfume behind the lucky gal's ear, and watched as she whisked off the curlers and brushed her hair. They produced a bag for the clothes she had worn into the shop, and off she sailed—dressed for the party!

"That doesn't happen often," Madeline told us, "But, I do think people like to shop here, because if I don't like the garment on them, I tell them so and try to help them find what's right for them."

Glancing at her marvelous selection of gift and birthday cards, I chuckled when I noted that they are called "People" cards! The Clothes Horse is a people place! No wonder they say it's the brightest little spot in Slingerlands! And Slingerlands is a friendly place!



**Robin Lee Rust
Donald J. Van Alstyne**

Selkirk couple to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Battisto of Grove Rest Trailer Park, Selkirk, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Robin Lee Rust, to Donald Joseph Van Alstyne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Van Alstyne, Clapper Rd., Selkirk. Plans for a Feb. 24 wedding are being made.

Both the future bride and her fiancé are graduates of Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central High School. Miss Rust is employed at Farm Family Insurance, Glenmont, her future husband at Huyek Felt Co., Rensselaer.

Named to state post

Eugene S. Sunshine of Elsmere has been appointed acting director of the State Energy Office's Division of Conservation. Sunshine, a graduate of Northwestern University and the Maxwell School of Public Affairs of Syracuse University, joined the energy unit in December, 1977, after service with the state's Division of the Budget and the Urban Development Corp. In his new post Sunshine will supervise the implementation and management of the state energy conservation plan, which is designed to reduce energy consumption in the state by at least 7 percent of earlier projections of usage in 1980. He and his wife, Holly, live at 59 Burhans Pl.

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Teresa Russell

Selkirk girl betrothed

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Russell of 30 Hackett St., Selkirk, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Teresa, to Francis J. Calabrese, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Calabrese, Troy.

The future bride was graduated from Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central High School and is employed at Albany Medical College. Her future husband is a graduate of Lansingburg High School and served with the United States Coast Guard. He is currently attending Hudson Valley Community College and is employed by United Parcel Service.

The couple have set Aug. 4 as their wedding date.



Donna Marie Weddell

Set wedding date

Miss Donna Marie Weddell of Albany and Francis William Asprion, Jr. of Glenmont have chosen March 3 as their wedding date. Their engagement was announced last week.

The prospective bride is the daughter of Mrs. Arline Bergeron of Menands and the late William Weddell. She is a graduate of Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central High School and is employed at the International House of Pancakes.

Her fiancé is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Asprion, Sr., 6 Asprion Rd., Glenmont. He is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and is employed at J.A.T. Construction Co., Selkirk.

Editor to speak

Bethlehem Tri-Village chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the First United Methodist Church, Delmar, at 1:30, preceded by a social hour at 12:30. The speaker will be Nathaniel A. Boynton, editor-publisher of The Spotlight, on the subject, "Influence of the Media on Public Thought and Action."

Slides on Tut

"Treasures of Tutankhamun," a slide and sound program from the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, will be shown free at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, in the Delaware branch of Albany Public Library, 328 Delaware Ave.

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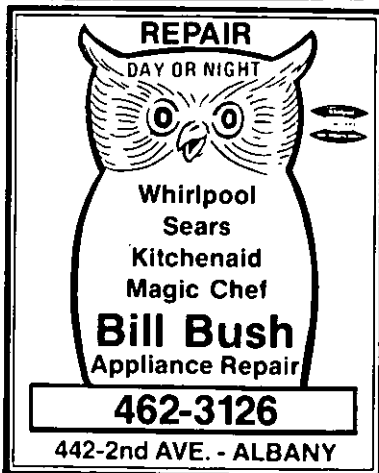
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Vox Pop is open to all readers for letters in good taste on matters of public interest. Letters longer than 300 words are subject to abridgement by the editor, and must be signed. Names will be withheld on request.

New Scotland water

Editor, The Spotlight:

I read with great interest your article in the Dec. 21 issue of the Spotlight concerning the detrimental effects on the wells of homes on Meadowbrook Pl., New Salem, caused by the prolonged pumping of large quantities of water from the town of New Scotland by the town of Bethlehem. For the record, as of Jan. 2, the well on my property at the end of Meadowbrook Pl. also went dry. For your information, my well is approximately equal in depth to those homes already affected (about 70 feet).

Your article fails to explain why residents of the town of Bethlehem can be supplied with water at the expense of the residents of the town of New Scotland. The article also prompts several questions. If "scores of homes across the town of New Scotland" have had their wells run dry, why was Meadowbrook Pl. singled out for inclusion in your article? Since there are only five homes on Meadowbrook Pl., where are these "scores" of homes? Why has the town of New Scotland not protected the interests of its residents?

It has been approximately six weeks since Mr. Donohue has been without water; it is incomprehensible that an intolerable situation such as this has been allowed to continue indefinitely. Why have no follow-up articles appeared in the Spotlight detailing measures being undertaken by the town of New Scotland to rectify this deplorable situation? It is because the town of New Scotland has done nothing to assist its residents in need of an adequate water supply?

Gregory D. Turek
New Salem

The article to which you refer was one in a long succession of reports on the sensitive water situation carried in the Spotlight over the last year and a half. Another, reporting developments last week prior to the date of Mr. Turek's letter, appears in this issue.

To answer Mr. Turek's basic question, it is important to understand that the town of Bethlehem acquired the land (and the water rights) for the Vly Reservoir some 50 years ago. The deeds for the various tracts, some of them acquired by legal leverage over the resistance of local property owners, contain no restrictions on drilling new wells or pumping water from underground sources.

In this situation, property owners apparently have little or no legal recourse to prevent Bethlehem from pumping its two wells located off Rt. 85 in New Salem north of the reservoir. Nor has the New Scotland town board. So far, appeals by residents and by the New Scotland town supervisor to halt the pumping have been politely but firmly rejected in Bethlehem.

Because of the 1978 drought, the first major dry spell since 1966, there are many dry wells throughout the area. The Unionville section is particularly hard hit, also sections of Feura Bush and Clarksville. The Onequethaw Fire Dept. has been filling residents' wells with a fire pumper for a number of weeks, but there is a lack of engineering data that would connect the New Salem pumping with the water tables (aquifers) in other nearby sections of the town of New Scotland.

The Dec. 21 Spotlight article, which was picked up by the Albany Times Union on Dec. 22 and by Channel 10 Action News that night, centered on Meadowbrook Pl. because (1) that neighborhood was directly tied by engineering data to the Bethlehem pumping, and (2) a contingent of Meadowbrook Pl. homeowners and a town of New Scotland official, Walter Miller, had met with Bethlehem water officials and engineers to

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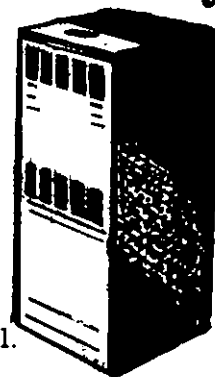
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discuss the problem the previous week. As it has right along, the Spotlight will continue to report on developments in this situation. Ed.

Limiting speed

Editor, The Spotlight:

As a concerned resident, homeowner and parent on Feura Bush Rd., I wonder how many more accidents will have to occur before something is done.

The speed limit is 45 m.p.h., which appears to be too fast considering the number of accidents that happen on this road. There are no street lights or sidewalks. Many young people use this road every day, either walking or riding their bikes. There are people of all ages jogging or just walking for exercise.

My son was forced off the road a short time ago while riding his bike, and this was during daylight hours. Fortunately he was not hurt, only his bike was damaged.

A few weeks ago on a Saturday night a 13-year-old boy was killed on this road. Why? A few months ago two teen-agers hit a telephone pole on this same road. The list of accidents grows, and there does not appear to be an attempt at some kind of remedy.

Must we have more deaths and accidents before they lower the speed limit? Our young deserve a chance to grow up, not die while walking or riding their bikes on our roads.

Marcia Patterson

Glenmont

Bethlehem Festival

Editor, The Spotlight:

I would like to extend my compliments to all the great people who furnished goods and their valuable time to help make the Bethlehem Festival (formerly called Bethlehem White Christmas) a great achievement again this year.

To the people who are not aware of Bethlehem Festival: it is a program intended to help families who are in need, not only during the holiday season, but all year 'round.

This year, for the Christmas season, Bethlehem Festival

dispensed toys, food and clothing to 41 families, helping a total of 212 people. A turkey was provided to each family for their Christmas dinner.

To all the people who are associated with Bethlehem Festival, I would like to say "thank you" for all the families who received help. Your valuable time and donations helped to make this a very triumphant year.

It is warming on Christmas to think about the good spirits that you have delivered to these needy families and how much happiness they are sharing.

*Chuck Martin, Officer
in Charge, Bethlehem Police
Youth Bureau*

Delmar

Helping hand I

Editor, The Spotlight:

At approximately 4 a.m. Christmas morning, I was preparing to make my way to St. Peter's Hospital for a delivery of a baby. Upon opening my door, I was up to my knees in snow. One minute later, my car was up to its doors in snow — spinning its wheels at the end of my driveway.

In desperation I called the Bethlehem Police Dept. The desk sergeant was courteous and concerned. Less than five minutes later, Officer John Cox was at my door and together with my white knuckles and his expert driving we were at St. Peter's Hospital in 10 minutes.

I would like to publicly thank the Bethlehem police and Officer Cox for their extra effort.

By the way, the baby was 6½-pound girl. She and her mother are also very appreciative.

Jeffrey D. Rosen, M.D.
Delmar

Helping hand II

Editor, The Spotlight:

I wish to express my gratitude to Ray Linstruth, the policeman who was so kind as to stop and offer his assistance to me when I was unable to get my car started after being stalled on the heavily trafficked Elsmere Ave. near Wellington

d. He directed traffic around my car, avoiding possible accidents and then pushed my car off to the side of the road where it would be safe.

It's nice to know that we have such fine policemen on our force in Bethlehem.

Mrs. M.R. Lilly

Delmar

Sheriff's patrol

Editor, The Spotlight:

An incident that happened last February has a bearing on the current discussions about reducing the sheriff's patrol at Voorheesville to a skeleton force.

On, Feb. 27, my wife and I were within a half mile of our home on Countryman Rd. in the hilly section of the town of New Scotland when we were involved in a head-on crash with another passenger car. Fortunately, a passing car was able to summon aid from the Onesquethaw Rescue Squad. Syd Dunston's tow truck and the sheriff's station. All of them responded immediately and within a half hour they had straightened out what had been

a terrible mess.

Now there is a proposal before the Albany County Legislature to reduce the Voorheesville patrol to one man on the desk and another roaming a very wide and remote district. If that had been the case 10 months ago, we would have remained in our serious predicament for additional hours.

Also, in the past four years, homes on each side of us have been burglarized while the owners were not present. Action taken by the sheriffs has discouraged any further crimes of this sort in our neighborhoods.

The residents of this part of Albany County rely heavily upon the invaluable services of the sheriff's patrol. While we realize there is a pressing need to pare the budget down to its lowest level, making reductions in a field that has proven, over and over, its importance to the citizens of this area does not seem to be prudent management in the public interest.

Alleyn H. Beamish

Voorheesville



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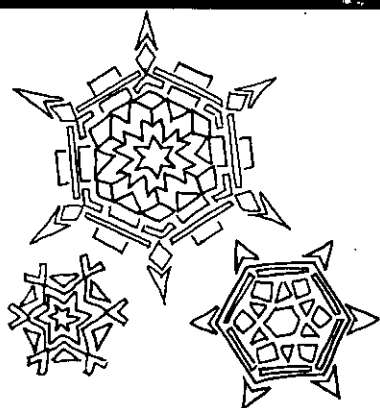
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