

THE SPOTLIGHT

September 21, 1988

Vol. XXXII, No. 40

The weekly newspaper
serving the towns of
Bethlehem and New Scotland

Mine approved with conditions

New Scotland planners split on water, other issues

By Patricia Mitchell

The New Scotland Planning Board has granted permission to William M. Larned and Sons, Inc., to mine 27 acres on the former Tall Timbers Country Club.

Tuesday's 4-3 vote, after two days of public hearings three weeks ago, culminated almost three years of controversy on the proposal, and reversed a 1986 decision by the planning board to not allow the mine.

The debate over the mine has become more emotional in the past year after Larned and Sons offered to donate \$150,000 and make a well on the mine site

available for use for a water district in the neighboring Orchard Park area. The offer was part of an agreement between the town and the miners to settle their legal disputes over the mine.

One part of that agreement was to send the special use permit application for the gravel mine back to the planning board to decide on the basis of the zoning in effect in 1986.

The mining operation could be started in "a couple weeks," said Wayne Smith, attorney for Larned and Sons. The company's Department of Environmental Conservation permit must be

amended before the mining will start and that "could take a while," he said.

Smith said he was glad the planning board brought some stability to the town and ended the debate over the mine. He said he hoped this was the end of it.

However, Concerned Citizens for New Scotland, Inc., a citizens group fighting the mine, intends to bring a show cause order in state Supreme Court to stop the Town of New Scotland from allowing the mine, said its chairman, Robert Morrison. He cited negative impacts of the mine and a lack of positive effects.

Morrison said there may not be a water district as long as the mine operates.

The planning board is scheduled to adopt a formal resolution granting the special use permit to the miners at its Tuesday, Sept. 27, meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m.

Planning board Chairman Robert Hampston, who voted to approve the mine, suggested several conditions to the board to be added to the special use permit. They include:

- That the special use permit last

(Turn to Page 46)

Voters stayed home

By Mark Stuart

If tree falls in the woods and no one hears it, does it make a sound?

If a Conservative primary is held in Bethlehem and only two votes are cast, does it make a difference?

Those two questions may sound equally rhetorical, but Bethlehem Conservatives are seriously looking for an answer to the latter.

On Thursday, the Albany County Conservative Committee held a primary for 60 committeeman seats, including two in Bethlehem's 11th Election District and two in the 16th district. The Bethlehem results: with seven people running for four seats, only two votes were cast, for Chester J. Becker in the 16th District. No votes whatsoever were cast in the 11th District.

The primary cost the town about \$400 according to Bethlehem Town Clerk Carolyn Lyons. That includes \$60 for voting machines (two per district and two back-up machines at \$15 apiece); \$320 for election inspectors (eight election inspectors at \$40 apiece) plus about \$20 for miscellaneous custodial costs.

According to Ken Hahn, the Bethlehem Republican Party liaison to the Conservative Party, the primary was a good example of how "surplus Democrats in Conservative clothing" are trying to work their way onto the Conservative line without actually taking a genuine Conservative position.

As much as the Republicans are accusing the Democrats of infiltrating the Conservative ranks, the Republicans themselves may also be accused of the same ploy.

Sound confusing? It is. The confusion stems from the battle for control over the Albany County Conservative Committee between G. Scott Morgan and Anthony Promiscuo. Promiscuo has held the position of county Conservative chairman and is being challenged by Morgan, who himself claims to be the new Conservative chairman. Morgan is a candidate in the November election for the 42nd State Senate seat now held by Howard Nolan, and has the Republican endorsement as well as the

(Turn to Page 2)

When do stop signs make a difference?

By Mark Stuart

The advisability of using stop signs for speed control is back on the Bethlehem Town Board's agenda, and once again it appears the board will overrule its own Traffic Safety Committee.

This time, however, the board appears ready to move ahead faster than it did with the Jefferson Rd. stop sign issue.

"I don't want this to drag out for a year," said Councilman Sue Ann Ritchko last week. "We've been through all of this before."

With that in mind, the board quickly moved ahead and set a public hearing for Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. to discuss putting up three stop signs at the corner of Willowbrook Ave. and Orchard St. in South Bethlehem.

The board has received a petition signed by 50 South Bethlehem residents requesting



Residents of Willowbrook Ave. in South Bethlehem are asking the town to put up stop signs to deter speeders.

Mark Stuart

that stop signs be put up along Willowbrook Ave., a narrow road posted for 30 m.p.h. According to some neighbors, the road is becoming a thoroughfare for heavy traffic and speeding

commuters who use Willowbrook Ave. as a shortcut. Residents claim that eastbound motorists speed along Rt. 396 and turn onto Willowbrook Ave. to get to South Albany Rd.

In one account, Lena Norkin of Willowbrook Ave. told the board of a van that sped past a stopped school bus with its flashing red lights only a few days earlier.

The neighborhood petition requesting either stop signs or speed bumps was given to the Traffic Safety Committee for review three months ago. The committee conducted a speed study and found that there is a speeding problem. To the chagrin of the neighbors, the committee decided against stop signs (the speed bumps were out of the question because of the safety problems posed) and recommended more police radar surveillance when there is available manpower.

Police Lt. Fred Holligan, chairman of the Traffic Safety Committee, said the stop signs offer a false sense of security and

(Turn to Page 6)



Cub Scout Matthew Pilatzke, left, shovels bark at the PTSA Ecology Day held at the Voorheesville Elementary School. Cub Scouts from Pack 73 worked throughout the day on



improvements to the school's nature trail. At right, Five Rivers environmentalist Al Breisch discussed some of the animal life that can be found in the Vly Creek. Lyn Staff

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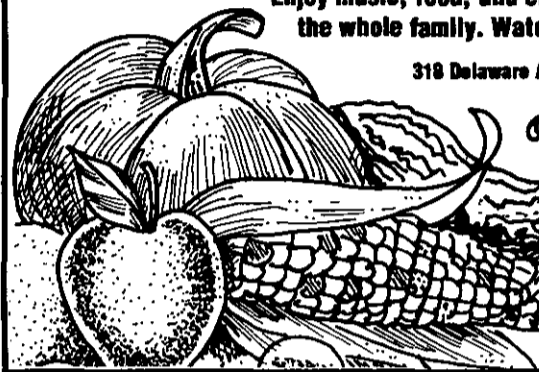
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Primary

(From Page 1)

Conservative line in that race. He claims that the state Conservative Party has named him as county chairman and that Promiscuo is no longer recognized by the state party.

The primary in the 60 election districts is part of that battle for control over the county committee.

In the Bethlehem primary last week, there were four candidates up for two Bethlehem seats, one in the 11th District, the other in the 16th. According to Hahn,

there are about 80 Bethlehem residents registered as Conservatives.

It's important to remember that a person running for a committeeman seat does not have to live in the district he or she intends to represent. The person does, however, have to live in the same state Assembly district, which in this case is the 102nd.

In the 11th District, which covers the area around Westchester Woods, Winne Rd. and Fernbank Ave, four people were running for a primary seat: Amy Wight, Margaret Matheny, Joanne O'Brien and Neil F. O'Brien.

According to Hahn, the O'Briens are the "only real Conservative candidates" in that race. Hahn said Matheny listed her address as Ravena.

Wight listed her address on the primary petition as 216 Winne Rd. But when a reporter attempted to contact Wight at the address, her grandmother said she did not live there any more, but was living in Florida and was using Winne Rd. as a legal address.

The O'Briens were unable to vote for themselves in the 11th District (although they tried on primary night), according to Hahn, because they are registered to vote in a different district in Bethlehem.

In the 16th District, Hahn said, the "only true-blue Conservative" was Becker, a resident of Nathaniel Blvd., Delmar. Becker's wife, Kathleen, is a Bethlehem Republican committeeman, a member of the Board of Appeals and a party official.

The 16th District is roughly located along Delaware Ave. from the Adams St. to Nathaniel Blvd. Becker was the only candidate who actually lives in the district he was running in.

He was being challenged by Stephen Mantor of Coeymans Hollow and Joyce Mantor of Ravena. The Mantor name is not new to the Conservative Party, according to Hahn. Attempts to contact Stephen or Joyce Mantor on Tuesday were unsuccessful.

It will be up to the county Conservative Committee to appoint a committeeman in the 11th District. After the primary, both Morgan and Promiscuo are continuing to claim control of the the county Conservative Party chairmanship. In a year when the Democratic and Republican parties have introduced the "L" word as if the word "Liberal" was the Scarlet Letter of politics, one would wonder if this is the year Albany County Conservatives are afraid of using the "D" or "R" words.

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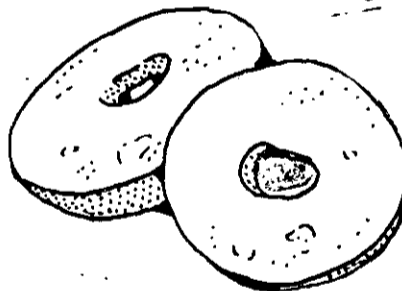
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Civic center

Firm hired to keep construction costs down

By Patricia Dumas

Looking for another state loan to help offset the high costs of building its civic center, Albany County is hiring an outside construction firm to see if the project cost can be kept down and construction speeded.

The county legislature at its September 12 meeting authorized payments of \$980,000 to the Indianapolis firm of Huber, Hunt and Nichols acting as "representative and consultant" on the civic center. The sum covers a monthly fee of \$51,875 with a ceiling of \$830,000 and reimbursable costs of up to \$150,000.

According to Harold L. Joyce, the legislature's Democrat majority leader and chairman of its Civic Center Committee, the decision to hire outside help was based on a recommendation by New York State's Urban Development Corporation (UDC). As Albany County's funding partner on the civic center, the UDC is concerned with the construction timetable which is lagging behind schedule for the project's completion by the end of 1989. In April 1986, the UDC promised to loan the county \$6.5 million which is to be paid back through income from operations at the 15,000-seat convention/sports facility.

Although the county to date has not received any of the loan money, Joyce told reporters he would like to have the state authorize another loan early next year. To make that request to the state legislature, Joyce would have to be supported by the county legislature's Republican minority. But Minority Leader W. Gordon Morris Jr. of Bethlehem told *The Spotlight* that "it would take a great deal of soul-searching" before Republican legislators could support any more borrowing or spending for the civic center.

"The Republicans have not supported the civic center in the past because the Democrats have made it their personal project. They have not made us a part of it and it is rather late when it becomes a disaster," Morris said.

"But", he added, "we're not unreasonable people. We can't say ahead of time what we will or won't do. We have to wait and see what happens. But unless the majority does something to get a handle on this project and approach it intelligently, I doubt that the Republicans can support it in any way. The idea of pouring more money into it is offensive. They're not looking for anything to stem the flood. They're only looking for how to get more boats to float on the water."

Republicans and Democrats debated angrily last week when resolutions related to the civic center came up on the legislative agenda. There were two resolutions besides the one that authorizes the county to hire the Indiana firm. One permits the county to contract with the Albany law firm of Herzog, Engstrom, Burke, Koplovitz & Cavalier at fees ranging from \$80 to \$125 for assistance —with— construction-related litigation. The other authorizes a \$43,750 contract with Crozier Associates, Albany architects, for design of corporate suites at the civic center. All three resolutions were approved on long roll call votes that counted Democrats among the Republican dissenters.

Republican legislators objected to hiring the outside construction firm and the Albany law firm mainly because the authorizing resolution's lack information on exactly where the money for payment is coming from and how it will be spent.

Robert W. Hoffmeister of Delmar warned: "Think about

the consequences of voting for this when you don't have the faintest idea what you are getting for it." He said that the county's concern at this time with possible litigation points up the "lack of planning that has gone into the civic center project since Day 1." Money for legal fees, Hoffmeister said, should have been budgeted.

Kenneth MacAffer Jr. of Colonie expressed concern because the resolution for the legal assistance did not specify that the work would be related to the civic center alone.

"When we started this civic center fiasco, we put our feet into a bucket of cement and we'll go down in history as the darndest bunch of fools that ever sat in their plush chairs," he declared.

Democrat Henry Dennis questioned why the county needs to hire a consultant on construction when Beltrone/McManus already has the construction contract for the center.

"If we need Huber, Beltrone should not be there," he said. He noted that a delay in steel delivery was the major reason for slowing down the center construction.

"If that steel doesn't get up, we'll be seriously behind schedule," Dennis said. "But, I don't think it will go up any quicker if we hire Huber."

County Attorney William Conboy III and Joyce defended the resolutions for the contracts. Conboy said his staff already has a full work load and does not have experience in construction litigation. Joyce said the county has saved about a million dollars because of bids that came in below estimate. He termed the UDC "a valued partner" and said its recommendation for getting outside help would "put some can-do into this project."

Church installs pastor

By Sal Prividera Jr.

For the first time in nearly a century the Unionville Reformed Church will have its own full-time pastor.

Rev. Roger Eernisse was installed as the church's pastor by the Albany Classis of the Reformed Church of America during a service Sunday. The church previously shared a pastor with the New Salem Reformed Church.

Rev. Eernisse said he is "excited" about his return to upstate New York, having previously served as pastor of the Woestina Reformed Church in Rotterdam Junction.

He plans to spend time through December "getting to know the community, building the enthusiasm of having a fulltime pastor and exploring what it means."

"After the first of the year," Rev. Eernisse said, he would like to meet "with a group of folks to begin to dream about what they would like the church to be and hopefully by Pentecost Sunday, 1989, have a game plan."

"Quality of life, spiritually, emotionally and physically, is what the church needs to be about," he said. Unionville's new pastor considers himself and his spiritual work to be "people oriented and centered."

Rev. Eernisse holds a master of divinity degree cum laude from



Rev. Roger Eernisse

the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, N.J. and became a pastor after he had "left the church for nine years."

He said he came back to the church and "found a sense of wholeness by putting all of his life in a spiritual concept" to give it meaning. "In the process of living my own life, in my own way, there were a lot of painful experiences. I looked at the success of my life and having to answer the question, 'Is that all there is?'" He said in his search for "something else, I came back to the church, and there was."

Rev. Eernisse is a native of Iowa and holds a bachelor's degree in

political science from Central College in Iowa. He served in the U.S. Air Force for three years and also worked as a marketing representative and instructor for the Insurance Company of America.

He spent two weeks in the Soviet Union during 1985 as part of a National College of Churches peace group.

Among the pastor's hobbies is motorcycle riding. He said he looks forward to riding around the Unionville area and enjoying the scenery.

Rev. Eernisse and his wife, Sharon, have four children.

Correction

An article on the Tri-Village Area Directory in last week's *Spotlight* incorrectly identified which children can be listed in the directory. The directory's new policy is that only children over 18 years of age who live at home for the entire year may be listed. No children 18 or younger will be listed because of space reasons.

Some 400 volunteers are currently gathering updated information for the directory, which covers the Delmar, Elsmere and Slingerlands areas.



Constitution week

Lona Perkins, regent for the Tawasentha Chapter NSDAR, displays a proclamation by Bethlehem Supervisor J. Robert Hendrick designating this week as "Constitution Week" in honor of the signing of the American Constitution.

Mark Stuart

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A day of reflection

Individuals of all faiths might well benefit through taking a leaf from the Book of Life as members of the Jewish community are doing today, the holy day of Yom Kippur.

A day of introspection, of contemplation as to how one can live a better life, of renewal for the year ahead — this is the significance of the high holiday.

Many of the decisions to be made now will change our lives in the next year. But because most of us don't take the time during the rest of the year to stop and look at where we are going, this can be the opportunity to obtain a different perspective, gain an idea of the new directions we wish to take.

Yom Kippur, replete with spiritual and ethical meaning, summons individuals to be more serving, more selfless through

EDITORIALS

accepting the responsibility to look inward. It is a time to make amends and heal whatever wrongs may have resulted from one's words or behavior. It is a time to improve one's approach to family and to community.

According to Jewish legend, God records the deeds of the past year beside every name in his vast book. He is said to write down what the year of each person will be like, but in truth it is each person who is determining what his or her year will be, by the changes to which each commits the future.

A beautiful occasion, indeed, this time for reflection.

Good neighbors

Philanthropy is one of the highest virtues of mankind, and numerous activities within our towns attest to its beneficent presence here.

Probably few have such a consistently useful record as the voluntary contributions of the General Electric Company to the Town of Bethlehem.

In immediately past years, the total of contributions made by GE through the General Electric Foundation has reached \$100,000. This is a figure that almost surely is hardly realized by citizens, as grateful as they are for the individual results of the benefactions. In recent years, the Foundation has funded the construction of a pavilion in Elm Avenue Park, the purchase of the "Senior Bus," which is so usefully employed every day, improvements at Magee Park, home of Little Leaguers, and most recently the purchase of a mobile

command vehicle for the town's police department.

Each of these has been for \$25,000. They have been forthcoming on virtually an annual schedule from the Foundation on the recommendation of managers at the GE plastics plant at Selkirk. As they explain the Foundation's interests and concerns, "Higher education historically has been and remains the primary focus of the Foundation's support, but the current mission is also directed to social, environmental, cultural, and political issues of interest to the company, its employees, the communities in which it has facilities, and for the betterment of society as a whole."

Demonstrably, the Foundation's contributions to this community fulfill various of those purposes. It's a fine mission indeed, and the act of a truly good neighbor.

Our purchasing power

The Spotlight's publication this week of a home-improvement section brings to mind some most interesting figures about the homes of Bethlehem and New Scotland, and about the people who live in them.

More than nine out of 10 residents who subscribe to The Spotlight own their homes — a remarkably high figure. It compares with about 50 percent homeowners in the Albany region generally.

Homeowning undoubtedly is encouraged by the impressive fact that the average income in households in these towns is greater than any other town or city of Albany County — far higher in most instances . . . some 70 percent higher than

in the cities of Albany, Cohoes, and Watervliet; comfortably higher than in Colonie and Guilderland; markedly higher than in other towns.

Little wonder that readers of a newspaper such as The Spotlight are markedly better customers for home furnishings and home-improvement supplies than is the case with other citizens.

Little wonder, too, that home maintenance and improvement services make up, collectively, the largest "industry" that is carried on locally.

Ours is indeed a proud and vital community. And the residents are intent on keeping it that way.

So shine on...

As we reach these first official days of fall's return, we find reminders aplenty that the season is filled with more than football, pumpkins, and election campaigns.

The briskness of early mornings, with their rising mist, the early touch of saffrons, ochres, and garnets in the treetops, the nodding clusters of goldenrod, all these assure us that autumn has not forgotten us. Perhaps the surest signal is

the Harvest Moon, which is due on Sunday — the full moon nearest the autumnal equinox. Rising at nearly sunset, for several days at about the same time, the Harvest Moon can be expected to give us a greater sequence of moonlit evenings than usually is the case.

And may we not forget that we are now within a fortnight of the first anniversary of last October's devastating snowfall.

Family's contribution to water district noted

Editor, The Spotlight:

In response to your comprehensive article of Aug. 24 by Patricia Mitchell regarding water in New Scotland, it could be noted that the money contributed by Henry Klersey in the amount of \$30,000 for development of the Font Grove Water District was funded by \$20,000 of our money to provide water to our house. That money was put in account with the Town of New Scotland in the fall of 1986.

Likewise we contributed two-thirds of the money for the construction of Talon Dr. and gave up ownership of the acreage on which it is located. Further development in this area designated as the Windridge Subdivision is not possible as we purchased two-thirds of the 30 acres involved, and Mr. Klersey has agreed to build no more than two houses on the remaining 10 acres.

Vox Pop

It now looks as though the water improvement will be a reality and we are ready to see it. In the almost two years that our money has been in account with New Scotland, we have not received one penny of interest. Additionally, we have had to jerry rig a system to give us water pressure to allow our house to function in a halfway normal fashion — an additional cost of \$2,000. This has been a very expensive proposition for the Whites, and we will be very happy to have adequate water pressure to serve our house when it finally arrives. We have paid our part.

David and Marg Carol White
Slingerlands

Fan questions BC coaching

Editor, The Spotlight:

I am writing this letter as an "Eagle Faithful". I have attended almost all of the Bethlehem Central football games in the past four years and continue to be puzzled. I was quite surprised when we emerged victorious at the Shaker game, but was truly disturbed by what I saw at the Colonie game.

I have a number of questions. I have heard from numerous players that we have "depth on the bench"; if so, where? With a score of 31-0 last week, I thought I would have a chance to see some of the other players. It was obvious the first string was not

doing the job.

Will this attitude continue for the rest of the season, with the coaches expecting the parents of the players, as well as other spectators, to support the football program? Why do we have a 33-player roster if they are not going to play, but are expected to give the same dedication at all practices and events during the season?

I am not, or ever will be, the parent of a football player in this district. I am and would like to continue to be a faithful fan.

Name Submitted
Delmar

Vox Popis The Spotlight's public forum. All letters from readers on matters of local interest will be considered. Writers are encouraged to keep their letters as brief as possible, and letters will be edited for taste, style, fairness and accuracy, as well as for length.

Letters from candidates for public office are subject to special rules and deadlines. All candidates are urged to contact the editors as soon as possible for a printed copy of the rules.

Letters should be typed and double spaced if possible. All letters must be signed and must include a telephone number where the writer can be reached during the day and evenings. With satisfactory reason, letter writers may request that their names be withheld. The regular deadline for letters is 5 p.m. of the Friday before the Wednesday of publication.

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UNCLE DUDLEY

A web of mingled yarn

A friend pointed out to me a few lines that struck both of us as rather apt for many aspects of the human experience — and especially for the passing scene in an American political campaign, when we tend to see so many blacks and whites.

They are Shakespearean lines, and they appear in *All's Well That Ends Well*. A French lord is speaking:

"The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together: our virtues would be proud if our faults whipped them not; and our crimes would despair if they were not cherished by our virtues."

The men who are running for high national office this fall surely present mingled skeins of yarn to us, "good and ill together." Yes, indeed, one or another of them may annoy us, or anger us, if it is basic to our nature to be skeptical or hostile to what their party (or their person) conveys to us. Similarly, we may at least occasionally feel disappointment in the candidate who is our preference.

I doubt that any partisan of George Bush (including his wife, who often seems to be better material for the presidency) is not at least somewhat distressed by a couple of aspects of his campaign: the mindless selection of a running mate, and his persistent harping on non-issues that reflect more on his standards than on his opponent's.



And I question whether even the most diehard Democrat is not disappointed in the Dukakis campaign, including especially his presentation of himself as a person. The man seems utterly lacking in warmth and other qualities that contribute to an attractive personality. His judgment, too, is flawed on numerous issues, where he often seems parochial in concern, ill-informed, and either stubborn or transparently yawning in accommodation to the polls.

But one of these men will be the President of the United States in another four months, and the decision will have to be made by the American people. I suspect that not very many people will cast their votes enthusiastically and without crossed fingers. There seems to be ample reason to expect that a low voter turnout will result this year. Without a clear-cut choice (as I see it) and

(Turn to Page 6)

CONSTANT READER

A true story of our times

This week, let's turn to the daily press. This past week was the occasion for the first appearance in the NYC/LI *Newsday* of the columns of Jimmy Breslin, who transferred from the *Daily News*. You may have missed the first one, and I'd like to quote from it. The first quote is by a male nurse in the nursery at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn:

"Look at birth, at the point of reproduction, and that tells you the society you live in."

He stood by a bassinet holding twins named Tory and Tony. "The mother, deranged on crack, shrieking her way along the streets, her belly out, had been brought into the psychiatric building, one of the nine high, gloomy, dark stone hospital buildings that rise into the smoky Brooklyn sky. On May 10, she gave birth to twins, got up and walked out into the Brooklyn streets. The twin boys remain. People sometimes will take twin girls, but nobody wants boys who come from a mother who was one of the Crack Eaters."

The nurse spoke of another baby, whose mother "also is a Crack Eater and has AIDS."

"The woman has three teenage sons and three pre-adolescent children," the nurse said. "The mother then had a two-year-old daughter who died here of AIDS. She now has an 18-month-old daughter here in the hospital, in another room. The daughter has AIDS."

Breslin: "The nurse picked up her newest baby, a boy, two weeks old and perhaps infected with AIDS. Oh, yes, this is how a true story of our times reads."

"There are now 13.1 infant deaths per thousand in New York. A civilized place like Europe would scream at a figure that high. There are well over 5,000, probably closer to 10,000 babies who will be born this year infected with crack and congenital syphilis and of course AIDS."

"But AIDS children are only a problem for a short while. The others will be raised in a place

(Turn to Page 6)

Words for the week

Running mate — Originally, a horse entered in a race to set the pace for a horse of the same stable; now used chiefly to refer to a candidate for a subordinate place on a ticket; also, just a companion.

Mindless — Unintelligent, inattentive, heedless.

Yawing — Deviating erratically from a course, as with a ship; also, alternating.

Reading The Spotlight

By Tom McPheeters

Editors usually have mixed feelings about surveys, and I'm no exception, despite the fact that the reader survey done for *The Spotlight* has some unusually flattering results.

The survey was conducted by the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis of the State University at Albany in conjunction with the New York Press Association. This is a pilot project for the press association, which is attempting to build a state-wide profile of its member newspapers and their readers. For us, part of the purpose of the survey was to tell us more about you, and part of it was so you could tell us what you think about us.

It is not unusual for newspapers to ask their readers for feedback, but often it seems that we pay very little attention when we get it. There is some truth to this — newspaper people take very seriously the notion that we perform a public service, and that as professionals we have an obligation to make judgments that aren't based on popularity polls. This attitude is responsible for some of the best, and some of the worst and most arrogant, aspects of journalism.

This concern over the role of newspapers (or radio or television news) is at the heart of my ambivalence over our survey results. It is good to hear what our readers have to say about the sorts of news they read, but that will be only one factor in my decisions about what *The Spotlight* will cover in the future. It is good to know which columnists are read most, but we will still make our decisions on columns and features based on our own assessment of their quality and importance. It is good to know how people rate our credibility as compared to the competition, but there will still be some times when an editor's decision to run or not run a story will be based not on what the competition did (or will do), but on what we think is right. And it's good to know that what we write influences some people's thinking, but it's important that we keep in mind that we are not writing to have influence, but to inform.

Approximately 80 percent of those responding to the survey say they frequently read the news about their "local town or village boards and zoning and planning issues." Virtually no one said they consistently ignore news articles on these subjects; only about two percent say they rarely or never read such articles.

Frankly, I was somewhat surprised that this is the most read category of news item. I'm gratified too, because we put a lot of time and effort into this coverage, and it sometimes seems to muscle out the more exciting stuff. But it reinforces my feeling that our readers do rely on *The Spotlight* to keep them informed in a way that other media cannot.

Would it have influenced my decision-making if the survey had revealed a lower level of interest in town board meetings? I doubt it. My reaction, I think, would be that we need to work harder to make this news more interesting and readable — and to make more effort to tell our readers why they should be reading about what the town board does.

As it is, 88 percent rated our coverage of local news good or excellent.

News about schools is also followed closely. About two thirds of those responding to the survey said they frequently read *Spotlight* articles "about local school boards, school budgets and elections." On the other hand, high school sports appeal to only a minority. Only about half of the survey respondents read these articles, and only 20 percent read them frequently.

We may have some bias here — the survey respondents were all adults, while we know that more than a third of subscriber households have children under 18. Nevertheless, it appears we have some work to do to make our sports coverage more attractive to the general reader.

When it comes to columnists, Allison Bennett's "Looking Back" is the most widely read, with about a third of the survey respondents reading it frequently and another 40 percent occasionally. This is certainly no surprise, since Allison Bennett is a widely known author, has been associated with *The Spotlight* for many years and has a devoted following.

Editor's Report

The other columnists we asked our readers about — Jim Nehring (whose column on education has been suspended while he writes a book), Susan Gordon ("On the home front"), David Vigoda ("Money talks"), and Focus on Faith (rotated among area clergy) — all attract about the same readership. Around 15 percent read them frequently and another 30 to 35 percent occasionally.

This response highlights a problem for us. Not since Norman Cohen's popular Family Matters column several years ago have we been able to run a column on a consistent, every week or every-other-week basis. This makes it difficult to establish new columns in the minds of our readers, and may very well dilute their impact. We hope to do better, but the realities of publishing a small newspaper are that space is often at a premium, and other priorities prevail.

Our readers tell us that they value attention to detail, the vital signs of the community. About two thirds regularly read the obituaries, and about half the births, weddings and engagement notices. And our calendar of events is read frequently by half of our subscribers and occasionally by another third. Frankly, we didn't need a survey to tell us this — the calls on any Wednesday and Thursday from people who didn't see their item are enough to tell us how important it is. When we miss something, we hear about it.

Our editorial pages, which are now nearly a year old, has been very well received, but it comes as no surprise that the *Vox Pop*, or letters, column is the best read feature. Two thirds of the survey respondents read the letters frequently, and nearly everybody reads them at least occasionally. Slightly more than half of our readers frequently read our editorials, and as with the letters, nearly everybody reads the editorials occasionally. The Point of View feature, usually contributed by a member of the community, is also of great interest to our readers, with 40 percent reading it frequently and 80 percent at least occasionally.

Most readers — about three quarters — say that their "opinions about local issues" are influenced at least some of the time by editorials and letters appearing in *The Spotlight*.

The amount of interaction between a newspaper and its readers is something that no survey can adequately measure. To me, one of the best things about being the editor of *The Spotlight* is that you, our readers, care about what we do. You call us with information and ideas, you let us know when we goof, and you even compliment us when we do a good job. We get more letters than any other paper our size that I know of, and we do our best to print them all because we believe they make a real contribution to the community's understanding of the issues.

Just as we are constantly reminded that we perform an important service to the community, we are also made aware that we do not report in a vacuum. The survey tells us that nearly 90 percent of our readers also read *The Times Union*, and we know that we have competition in the New Scotland-Voorheesville area from the *Altamont Enterprise*. Competition is healthy, and even fun, as long as we do not lose sight of the fact that our primary purpose is to inform.

The statistic that I am most proud of in the survey is the one about *The Spotlight's* credibility. More than 70 percent of the survey respondents say they would be more likely to believe *The Spotlight* than another source in the event of "conflicting reports about local or community news."

"In this respect," say the researchers, "*The Spotlight* compares favorably to other community newspapers in the state."

There is one other statistic about our readers that makes me very happy. More than 95 percent of you read the paper every week. Almost half of you read it more than once during the week. Your average reading time for *The Spotlight* during the week is about 40 minutes.

Thank you!

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

□ UNCLE DUDLEY

(From page 5)

with well-founded doubts as to how it will all turn out, many of us will find it easy to stay away from the polls. But that's not proper way to choose our President, so it's better to swallow hard and pin the tail on the donkey. (That's a reference to a game, not a political statement.)

But let us remember, too, the good and ill together, the mingled yarn of virtues, faults, and crimes. Both of the potential Presidents hold within themselves the fine as well as the clay. Each presumably is capable of rising nobly to the challenge of the demands of his high responsibilities.

So we must hope, and on Nov. 8 go to the polls with a fateful determination of our own. The expectations of the American people seem to have a magnetic pull of their own toward an ultimately good result. It may be up to us to help guide these all-too-human men (and their successors) toward the paths of righteousness.

We have had experience with this, as a matter of fact. One thinks back to FDR's choice of Harry Truman as his running mate and successor — and the shock waves that went through the voters at the prospect of such a little Kansas City haberdasher leading the country. One recalls the force of public opinion that forced LBJ out of office. Of the morality code that saved us from Spiro Agnew in the White House. And of other forces and events that, somehow, turned out for the better in the face of national

distress, alarm, and trauma. "Our crimes would despair if they were not cherished by our virtues."

□ CONSTANT READER

(From page 5)

that, this year, seems to be headed toward 1,800 homicides, with the median age of the victims down to age 26.

"Through the days and nights of the city at this time, 20-year-olds drive Volkswagens through south Jamaica and wear beepers that summon them to drug deals, and somewhere, South Americans wring cocaine out of their leaves and send it here; and police try to chase and politicians anguish and don't know enough about the subject to discuss it."

"Meanwhile, life in the year 1988 all comes down to a baby in diapers in a hospital who has brain damage and a mother out on the streets eating crack and conceiving more children."

In a later column, Breslin took on the Pledge, interviewing an elementary school principal in south Jamaica, who said, "It's crazy to talk about it. We've been doing it every day for the last 22 years that I've been here and we're going to continue to do it no matter what anybody says." Breslin: Of course, he then talked about the only thing of importance, drugs.

And, he suggested, there would "be so many people who now have the chance to call Dukakis a liberal scoundrel, and a runt to boot, and that could take care of that."

Jimmy Breslin's column is published a few times a week in *Newsday*. This is a tabloid newspaper with the colorful

covers and with headlines less frantic than those of the *News* and *Post*. You will find it in limited quantity on some newsstands, and if you have the patience to sort through the endless pages of ads, it does have quite a lot to offer for your information diet.

Among things I like about it is that somehow *Newsday* gets a full account of the Mets' night games into the morning paper, whereas the *Times* doesn't even make the effort.

□ Signs

(From Page 1)

in some cases "breed disrespect for traffic control devices." He said studies have shown stop signs actually cause motorists to speed up to make up for lost time. If the driver of the van was "crazy enough to drive past a stopped bus with its lights on, he's crazy enough to drive through a stop sign," he said.

Another side of the problem facing the board is that Willowbrook Ave. is not capable of handling a "large" amount of traffic. According to Richard Pulice, the road was originally a stagecoach path leading to his home, which was the home of the stagecoach driver. Public Works Commissioner Bruce Secor told the board that putting up stop signs would be one way of "regaining town control" over the road and diverting traffic back to Rt. 396. Secor said that a resident of Fernbank Ave. in Delmar had told him that the number of cars using that road as a shortcut decreased after two stop signs were put up several years ago.

Secor said he was not in favor of using stop signs to control speed, but did advocate the use of stop signs when conditions become unsafe. In the Willowbrook Ave. case the increased amount of traffic justifies the use of the stop signs, Secor said.

Although he said he was not in a position to commit himself to either side of the issue, Town Planner Jeff Lipnicky said that if stop signs would help keep Willowbrook Dr. a residential street, he would favor them. "If the streets are laid out as part of a subdivision, they should be treated as such," he said.

Councilman Frederick Webster introduced the idea of making the road a one-way street, particularly since the majority of the traffic is eastbound, according to the Traffic Safety Committee study. The idea was not received well by the board after Councilman Dennis Corrigan pointed out that the residents who live along the road would face a daily inconvenience, especially in the winter when they would have to drive westbound to the top of a hill.

Councilman Robert Burns, who was perhaps the most outspoken board member on the Jefferson Rd. issue, again took the position that the town should handle each traffic situation as a separate issue and should not base its judgement on a blanket policy, whether it be the state Department of Transportation policy or previous board decisions.

Burns himself, a resident of the development through which Jefferson Rd. runs, took the position Wednesday night and during the Jefferson Rd. proceedings that although the state Department of Transportation Vehicle Traffic Safety Code advises against stop signs for speed control, the code does not prohibit the town from putting the signs up if it wishes to do so.

The final vote in the Jefferson Rd. issue was 3-2 for the stop signs with Town Supervisor Robert Hendrick and Webster voting against. Both dissenters cited a Jefferson Rd. traffic study that showed there was no speeding problem.

It appears again that by opening the stop sign issue to a public hearing, the board may overrule the recommendations of the Traffic Safety Committee for a second time this year. Hendrick dismissed the Jefferson Rd. overruling and the potential overruling in the Willowbrook Rd. issue as not serious. "It was always known that the committee would make its recommendations to the board; I don't think it was ever intended for the committee to serve as a rubber stamp of the board."

Clapper Rd. barn fire under investigation

Bethlehem police are investigating an early Sunday morning barn fire at Glenmont Farms Inc. on Clapper Rd.

The barn was fully engulfed in flames when the Selkirk Fire Department arrived, police said.

Police said the cause of the fire was suspicious.

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At Glenmont Elementary Warning light funded

By Mark Stuart

The Bethlehem Town Board Wednesday unanimously approved the funding of \$5,000 to purchase flashing warning lights on Rt. 9W. at the Glenmont Elementary School.

Bruce Secor, the Bethlehem commissioner of public works, said he expects to have the lights installed and operating by Dec. 1 if the town can work out some details with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. He said Niagara Mohawk has required that the town install metered service for each individual light. Secor said he had originally planned to have the lights installed by the end of September, but the metering requirements will slow the project down.

The town decided to move ahead and install the lights after requests for traffic signals to the state Department of Transportation by the school district, a parents' group and the town were turned down.

In the same approved measure, the board okayed a \$10,000 transfer from the insect control account to the Highway Department account to purchase signs and posts for the townwide posting of a 30-mph speed limit.

All of the \$15,000 was taken out of the town's insect control account, leaving \$17,000. Bethlehem Town Supervisor Robert Hendrick said as of Wednesday, the town had not used any funds from the insect control account this year.

False alarms

The board set a public hearing

for a proposed amendment to the town's Emergency Alarm System Law for Oct. 12 at 8 p.m.3

The board is looking to increase the size of fines for false alarms by residential and commercial permittees.

As of Jan. 29, 1987, any time an emergency alarm system is installed in either a private residence or business, the town requires that a permit be issued to someone assuming responsibility for false alarms. The permit is required for automatic alarms connected to the police or fire departments, automatic dialer systems or any alarm with an audible alert.

Josh Effron, counsel for the Bethlehem Police, told the board that every time an alarm is set off, it requires that at least two cars respond, often at high speed, which leaves parts of the town unpatrolled. Whenever a bank alarm is activated, all patrol cars respond.

According to figures provided by Bethlehem Police Chief Paul Curry, the number of false alarms haven't decreased by much since the law was put into effect.

In 1987, there were 484 false alarms; 176 (36 percent) were from private residences, 223 (46 percent) were from commercial businesses and 85 (18 percent) were from banks. The monthly average was 40.

During the first nine months of 1988, there have been 100 false alarms from private residences (39 percent), 116 from commercial businesses (46 percent) and 48 from banks (15 percent.)

According to Curry, if the current trend continues, there will be a nine percent decrease from last year's figures.

In other business, the board set a public hearing for Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a proposed trunk sewer main replacement in the Delmar and Elsmere sewer district.

According to Secor, the cost of the project is so low, it will not affect the tax rates for residents in the sewer district.

There will also be a public hearing on Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a proposed amendment to the zoning law limiting filling station sales to fuel, oil, tires, batteries, auto maintenance fluids, candy, coffee, single-package cigarettes, soda and individual-sized packaged foods. The proposed amendment would prohibit the sale of grocery and food items, delicatessen food, lottery tickets, case soda, cigarettes in cartons and videos.

Kittens found in dumpster

Four kittens were found tied in a plastic bag in a dumpster at the Norton Apts. on Beaver Dam Rd., Selkirk, Bethlehem police said.

The kittens were discovered by two girls, who noticed a bag moving in the dumpster, police said. The girls told their mother and she pulled the bag out, police said.

Three of the one-week-old kittens survived and were taken to a Delmar animal shelter, police said.



'Do I hear \$3?'

Auctioneer Lou Dusek gets ready to conduct the auction that will be part of the South Bethlehem United Methodist Church's fall festival. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 24, beginning at 10 a.m. and will also feature a chicken barbecue, craft fair and a flea market.

Cheryl Clary



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Committees set to increase public input

By Sal Prividera Jr.

The Voorheesville Board of Education took several steps forward in its goal of increasing community participation in the the budget and other district issues by establishing four committees Tuesday night.

Budget, staff, program and a board operations and communications committees were established by unanimous votes.

The budget committee will involve eight to 12 community members as well as the board of education and members of the school administration, teachers and students. The committee was instituted following the second consecutive year in which the district's budget proposals were voted down.

Board President Joseph Fernandez and board member David Teuten worked on the budget committee proposal. Fernandez said he did not "see the committee getting into every item," but that it will listen to presentations on areas of the budget by members of the administration and make recommendations.

Some board members were concerned the committee would be superceding the board's budget authority and responsibility, which Fernandez said would not be the case. "The budget will be adopted by the board of education," he said.

All members of the board of education will be "de facto"

Voorheesville

members of the committee, Fernandez said.

The budget committee meetings will be held from January to April, when the board anticipates adopting a budget. The meetings will be open to the public and co-chaired by Fernandez and a member of the community.

Any community member interested in joining the budget committee should call the district superintendent's office at 765-3313 and leave their name. The community members will be selected at the November regular meeting, Fernandez said, adding the board will attempt to select people to ensure that a variety of groups of people are represented.

The time commitment for a member of the committee will be attendance at three meetings per month. Fernandez said, "hopefully the meetings will be just a couple of hours."

Staff relations

The purpose of the staff relations committee is to "improve the collective relationship with staff," said board member John McKenna, adding the committee would be for items outside of the collective bargaining process.

The committee will meet with teaching and non-teaching members of the district's staff to "feel out issues that we might reason

together on," he said. In addition to trying to improve district practices and procedures, McKenna said the committee would attempt "to help the staff do a better job and feel better about their jobs."

The committee, chaired by McKenna with another board member and the superintendent of schools, will meet with representatives of the different employee groups to determine their interest in participating in the program.

Meetings would be held as needed, McKenna said, adding that he expected them to become more frequent over time. He said the committee would not deal with grievances, but would deal with "procedures and practices that are chafing before they become grievances."

Program committee

The program committee was established for providing "an in depth look at various programs that are instructional," said board member Steven Schreiber, adding that the areas labeled instructional include academic program, student support services, co-curricular activities and inter-scholastic athletics.

The committee would be made up of a standing set of members with opportunities for community members to have input, said Schreiber, who along with board member Mary Van Ryn drew up the guidelines for the committee.

The function of the program committee will include exploring standards for program analysis and the assessment of program quality.

Van Ryn said she did not want "the committee to decide if a program is to continue or not . . . rather it would come to the board with a report."

The committee will establish its own priorities once it begins to meet and will be chaired by Schreiber.

Board operations and communications

The board operations and communications committee was established with board member John Zongrone as chairman. The details of how the committee will operate and what issues it will address were left to be worked out at later meetings. One of the committee's potential projects will be to devise a survey of the community.

Teaching position added

By Sal Prividera Jr.

A fourth full-time grade six teacher has been added at the Voorheesville Elementary School in order to reduce class size. But funding for the position will be unusually "tight" because the school board has already eliminated three-fourths of one of the extra teaching positions usually budgeted for during this year's effort to get a budget passed.

Superintendent Louise Gonan gave a report to the board Tuesday on the class sizes for the sixth grade, which she described as "always on the borderline," and made the recommendation for a fourth teacher. "Frankly, I think we crossed over the border."

The additional teacher was approved by a 6-1 margin after a 30-minute executive session, with David Teuten casting the lone opposing vote. The cost of the new position will be between \$30,000 and \$35,000 depending on the experience of the teacher, said Joseph Fernandez, board president.

The district usually budgets one-and-a-half extra teaching positions in case of an extended

teacher illness or other emergency, Gonan said. The board eliminated \$20,000 from the instruction budget category for extra teaching positions when it made cuts after the second budget defeat. "We should be able to handle it (the additional salary)," Gonan said. "It will be tight."

The board cut over \$188,000 out of their twice-defeated proposal before voters approved the 1988-89 spending plan, which called for a tax rate increase of 14 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value in the Town of New Scotland.

The board's decision met with approval from the nearly 25 parents who attended the meeting over the class size issue.

The class sizes, including mainstreamed BOCES handicapped students, were 29, 29, and 26, Gonan told the board, adding that an additional student was expected to join the sixth grade in January. She said the district does not receive notification of how many handicapped students it will have until the beginning of the school year.

The district was using a part-time teacher to help reduce the

size of the reading and math classes.

With the new teacher, class sizes will be "about 22 with the BOCES students," Gonan said.

Gonan said she made the recommendation based on the number of handicapped students at the grade six level, which increased the total grade level to 84 students. She said she took a "profile look at the impact (of the class size) on students, and teachers."

"Sixth grade is a transition grade. . . I feel at this time we have to give them individual attention as much as we can."

Teuten said he did not "have a problem" on an educational level, but "was trying to understand the level of our new concern with the advent of four (new students) to teach. I fail to see where we're over the cusp." Later, Teuten asked the parents in attendance to "please remember our budgets have been defeated four times...not just by nine votes, but by 700 votes. Remember this in May."

The new teacher will be on board within a maximum of two weeks and the transition to four classes will be "with the least possible disruption" of the students, Gonan said.

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Voorheesville parents' nights planned

Parents will be heading back to the classroom next week for parents' night programs at Voorheesville Elementary School. Parents are invited to meet their children's teachers and learn what will be covered in each curriculum area.

This year's schedule is as follows: Tuesday, Sept. 27, kindergarten, resource room, gifted and talented, learning lab, music, physical education and speech; Wednesday, Sept. 28, second, fourth and fifth grades, and art; Thursday, Sept. 29, transition first, third and sixth grades. Each program will begin at 7 p.m.

Flyers concerning the programs will be sent home with students. For information call 765-2382.

New members sought

The Voorheesville PTSA will continue its membership drive at the upcoming parents' night meetings. According to Nan Bonham, membership chairman, prospective members may call 765-2438.

Ambulance squad seeks members

The Voorheesville Area Ambulance will hold an information night at the ambulance building on Voorheesville Ave. on Sunday, Sept. 25, beginning at 7 p.m. Ambulance squad representatives will speak about the need for new members to assist in providing vital emergency service to Town of New Scotland residents. Officers and members will answer questions concerning membership requirements, duties and scheduling of volunteers. Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting may call Captain Paul Jeffers at 765-4978 or Kathy Martin at 765-2278 for details.

Firehouse car wash Sunday

The Voorheesville Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary will hold a car wash on Sunday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., at the firehouse on School Rd. All are welcome.

Church organizing bazaar

The First United Methodist Church will hold this year's auction bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The auction will begin at 11 a.m. at the lower parking lot.

Anyone interested in donating good used items may arrange to have larger items picked up by calling 765-2795 or 765-2895. Smaller items may be left in the church hall.

Cub Scouts extend welcome

Cub Scouts from Voorheesville Pack 73 welcome boys in first through fifth grades to register during the "School Night for Scouting" at Voorheesville Elementary School tomorrow (Thursday) at 7 p.m.

Boys in second through fifth grades may sign up to become Cub Scouts. Boys in first grade are eligible to be Tiger Cubs.

According to Cubmaster Bob Panthen, last year's Cub Scout activities included trips to the Herkimer Diamond Mine, Water Slide World, Camp Pinnacle and the Rotary Scout reservation.

Anyone who is unable to attend the meeting may register by calling Panthen at 861-6806 or Bob Pilatzke, assistant cubmaster, at 765-2932.

Veteran Cub Scouts will meet at the Panthen Farm this weekend for their fall camping trip. Last weekend some of the Cub Scouts assisted at the PTSA Ecology Day.



Voorheesville News Notes

Lyn Stapf 765-2451

Soccer season closes

The Kiwanis soccer program will end with a championship game at Voorheesville Elementary School on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 10 p.m. The game will be followed by a pot luck picnic at the town park.

The program for boys and girls in grades 4 through 6 began during August and ran on Monday and Wednesday evenings at the grade school. Bob Stapf, youth commissioner for the Kiwanis, said more than 40 players were registered in the program.

Kiwanis to install officers

Next week the Kiwanis Club of New Scotland will install its new officers following a dinner at the Cranberry Bog on Wolf Rd.

Officers for the 1988-89 year are: Bruce Martelle, president; Jim Coffin, first vice president; Jim Ryan, second vice president; Bill Childs, treasurer, and Warren Schlickerrieder, secretary. New board members are Ron White, Harry Van Wormer and Jim Hladun.

Individuals interested in joining the local men's service group may call Mike Lancor, president, at 765-4883.

Preschool registration set

Registration for the preschool program will be held after all Masses this weekend, Sept. 24 and 25, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Mountainview Rd., Voorheesville.

Classes are held for children 4 and 5 years during 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday mornings. For information call Lyn Stapf at 765-2451 or Mary McKenna at 765-4826.

Blackbirds homecoming

Voorheesville will celebrate homecoming weekend on September 30 and October 1. The

weekend will kick off with a bonfire, pep rally and dance for Clayton A. Bouton Junior-Senior High School students Friday evening.

On Saturday all alumni will be announced at the half time of the home game. Those who wish to do so may contact Pat Duncan at 765-2551 or Rhonda Farley at 861-5008. That evening SPIRIT will sponsor a community wide homecoming dance from 8 p.m. until midnight in the high school gym. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens and may be purchased by calling Pat Duncan, 765-2551; Jack Stevens, 765-4350; Joanne St.

Denis, 765-4548 or Sherrie Burgoon at 765-4387.

Basketball leagues merge

St. Matthew's CYO and the Community Basketball leagues have merged this year to include all area youngsters. Any boy in grades 3 through 8 or any girl in grades 3 through 6 can register. Forms are available through the schools and at the church rectory. Deadline for sign-up is September 30.

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WE DELIVER

South Bethlehem church celebrates fall

The South Bethlehem United Methodist Church will hold its 11th fall festival on Saturday, Sept. 24, beginning at 10 a.m. Among the highlights will be a flea market and craft fair, a harvest booth, fresh baked goods and candy. The two silent auctions that will be held during the day will end at 1 and 7 p.m. A live action with Lou Dushek as auctioneer will begin at 1 p.m.

The festival will close with a chicken barbecue and beef spare rib roast. To make reservations or place take-out orders, call 767-

NEWS FROM SELKIRK AND SOUTH BETHLEHEM

Cheryl Clary 767-2373



2764, by Sept. 21.

Support group to meet

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Special Education Support Group will hold a meeting tonight (Wednesday) at the office of the board of education on Thatcher Street in Selkirk. The meeting

will begin at 7 p.m.

All parents of area children with handicapping conditions are invited.

Experience Las Vegas

The Bethlehem Elks invite area residents 18 years and older to their Las Vegas Night on Friday, Sept. 23, from 7 to 11 p.m., at the Cedar Hill lodge.

Games of chance will include blackjack, a money wheel, roulette and joker seven. A buffet will be available from 6 until 7 p.m. for \$3. No admission will be charged.

Becker PTA makes plans

The A.W. Becker PTA began organizing many activities for the school year during their recent meeting. The group plans to sponsor pot luck dinners for each grade. Also in the works are: parents' night, which will be held on Thursday, Oct. 6, at 7:30 p.m.; meet the principal night, Oct. 18; school pictures, Oct. 14 (Volunteers are needed to help the children spruce up beforehand), and roller-skating at Guptile's in Latham, Nov. 7 (School will be closed on Election Day, Nov. 8.)

Parents are invited to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 7:30 p.m. A guest speaker will look at the building expansion plans for the Pieter B. Coeymans and A.W. Becker

Elementary Schools. Babysitting will be available for \$1 per child or \$3 per family.

District welcomes volunteers

Orientation for volunteers in the RCS School District will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at A.W. Becker Elementary School. Anyone who might be interested in giving a few hours of time, is invited to attend the meeting or call Al Keating, principal, at 767-2511.

Ravena PTO schedules events

The Ravena Schools PTO made plans for a fall fund raiser during their recent meeting. Between Sept. 27 and Oct. 11, students will sell country accent Christmas items, as well as cheeses, chocolates, sausages, gift wraps and holiday cookies. Proceeds of the sale will be used to fund field trips.

Evening open houses have been scheduled for the following dates: Sept. 21, fourth grade at P.B. Coeymans Elementary School; Sept. 26, kindergarten at Ravena Elementary School; Sept. 27, pre-first, first grade, second grade and developmental kindergarten at Ravena Elementary School; Sept. 28, fifth grade at P.B. Coeymans, and Sept. 29, second and third grades at P.B. Coeymans.

The PTO will present the ESIPA production of *The Pied*

Piper for students at Ravena and P.B. Coeymans Elementary Schools during May. An evening performance open to the public will be held on May 17. Tickets will be available during January for about \$2.

The next Ravena PTO meeting will be held on Oct. 4. During the meeting, the expansion of the P.B. Coeymans and Becker school buildings will be discussed.

Constitution being celebrated

Constitution Week, honoring the 201st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States, continues through Friday, Sept. 23. A Constitution Week exhibit has been assembled by the Hannakrois Daughters of the Revolution for display at the Ravena Library and the Bethlehem Historical Association Museum.

After-school care offered

ASAP Inc., an after-school child care program, is accepting students at the A.W. Becker School site. The program offers an enriching environment from school dismissal time until 5:30 p.m. The fee is \$25 per week per child. For information call 756-3933 or 767-3459.



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THE SPOTLIGHT

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Making a garden for all seasons

A new house takes on color

By Theresa Bobear

When Andrea Modney moved with her husband and son into a newly constructed home off Elm Ave. in Delmar two years ago, she saw an opportunity to create the gardens of her dreams. Now, as she enjoys the autumn flowers and prepares for winter, her gardens are a testimonial to the great care taken in their planning and tending.

Modney, who has completed the Cooperative Extension master gardeners program and several college courses in botany, attributes her joy in gardening to "the excitement of it. I enjoy seeing the landscape around my house develop to my own taste and with my own ideas."

"Every day something new is happening. It keeps you occupied all winter planning and all summer putting it all together," she said.

She welcomed the task of landscaping her home. "I started with the foundation plantings," Modney said. "That was the first thing — to get something around the house."

She planted juniper in front with rhododendrons and a burning bush. "That turns bright red in autumn," she said. She also planted marigolds and hollyhocks.



Andrea Modney used logs in building the terraced garden to the rear of her Delmar home. Next year Modney plans to grow

clematis, a climbing plant, on the tree stump to the right. *Spotlight*

She put in spring bulbs, including varieties of crocus, hyacinth and iris, near the front walk. "I like having them right near the door," she said. "Coming out they're a real pick me up."

"I've planted a lot of dogwood around here because I like them

very much," she said. "They're the first to bloom in spring."

Her 85-foot border garden features mixed perennials with a background of lilac, mock orange, purple sand cherry and other flowering shrubs. "As the shrubs fill out, I'll put the plants

forward," she said.

Some players in this show of botanical splendor are achillea ptarmica, autumn joy, silver mound artemisia, lamb's ear, day lilies and delphinium.

(Turn to page 16)

How loans, taxes mix

By David Vigoda, CFP, CFA

When the hearts of area homeowners turn to home improvement, chances are their eyes look to home improvement loans. Questions abound when most consider loans and how the financing their project will fit in with their planning for income tax time.

Generally, interest is fully deductible on any loan used to buy, build or substantially improve a first or second home. This is only true on loan amounts up to \$1 million, but I suspect most of us will squeeze in under that ceiling. The tax law calls these loans "acquisition" loans, even when used for home improvement rather than purchase, and distinguishes them from "home equity" loans, which may or may not correspond to what banks call home equity loans.

When you deduct interest payments on your tax return, how does the Internal Revenue Service know whether or not this was an acquisition indebtedness? Moreover, how does it know whether you actually improved your home or merely maintained? I'm sorry, but if you're going to confuse me with logical questions, we're just not going to get very far.

I noted back in my June 1 "Money Talks" column that Greg Lurie, a Delmar accountant,

(Turn to page 20)

Inside . . .

Outdoors

Getting the house and garden ready for winter,

Pages 16-19,34

Indoors

From furniture to flowers, everything for the home,

Pages 21-29

Ways & means

Buying, selling or simply looking?

Pages 31-33

Stenciling brings art to the home

By Theresa Bobear

Whether you're trying to eliminate the stark aura of bare walls in your new house or searching for a way to brighten and renew the place you've called home for many years, a variety of decorative arts, including stenciling and toile painting, offer ways to add warmth and personality to the homestead.

Both Linda Mannella, owner of The Stencil Studio in Delmar, and Sharon Weber, owner of Sharon's Crafts in Delmar, are offering classes, supplies and artistic advice to people in the community who want to learn the decorative arts or simply complete a home decorating project.

These relatively inexpensive decorative arts provide an outlet for creative energies, and may fit in with Colonial, Spanish, Victorian, Oriental or modern furnishings.

"Anyone can be creative; and, everyone has talent that we will help to bring out," said Weber. "A lot of people say to me that they are not crafty at all or they are not artistic; but, they take a class with a good teacher and they find that they can create something beautiful."

Mannella offers stenciling as an inexpensive and more personalized alternative to wallpapering at The Stencil Studio. "Stenciling is very personal. You have much more choice in picking your own design and color," Mannella said. "It's an art form. There's a lot of personal pride to be able to point to something and say, 'I did that.' Yet you don't need a lot of talent because it's the stencil that does all the work."

"Stenciling has been around for thousands of years in one form or another. It's really just the process of applying paint to a cutout. When you lift the cutout, a design has been left behind," said Mannella. "It's just another layer of paint on the wall."

After learning the art of stenciling to assist a neighbor in decorating her home, Mannella said, she gradually began to

(Turn to page 16)



Garden

(From page 15)

Modney estimates that several hundred different varieties of plants, trees and shrubs grow in her gardens.

She said her son Joshua, who is almost three years old, enjoys searching for strawberries in the terraced backyard garden.

Clematis, phlox, gaillardia, helenium, cockscomb, highbred loosestrife and borage grow in the rear garden. She has also planted popular herbs — sage, parsley, thyme, oregano and rosemary.

"Every once in a while I look out my window and it will be like Grand Central Station out here. Once I looked out and saw about 10 different types of birds," said Modney. She recalled seeing hummingbirds near her red flowers and pileated woodpeckers on an old tree. "I'm very honored that they drop by."

As winter draws near, Modney is taking steps to be sure her gardens will prosper in the next growing season.

She continues to water the beds. "You want the garden to be moist until it really freezes," she said.

She plans to remove dead plant material from the gardens and place it in the compost pile. She also plans to cut back most of the perennials and mulch the gardens with grass clippings. She is planning to join with friends in purchasing a leaf mulcher.

"I'm probably going to be cutting some more bed. Autumn is a good time to do that — cutting and turning over, and composting," she said. "I'll be putting in some more bulbs."

Modney said lawn fertilizing is



Andrea Modney surveys the vegetables, herbs and flowers she has grown in her terraced backyard garden. The garden's evergreens are visible from the rear windows during winter.

Spotlight

recommended for three times of the year — Memorial Day, Labor Day and near Thanksgiving.

The master gardener said she will use branches of trees to shelter the more tender perennials in the garden.

And what of the winter months when the snows conquer all but the evergreens?

Modney, who holds a bachelor's degree in music, will be imagining

a springtime symphony of flowers and green.

"I study all winter," she said. "The library has a very good selection of gardening books and magazines." She said many of the plants are available from area garden shops.

Her eyes smile as she looks about her garden and contemplates the growing season. She explained, "It's just a very grand event in the yearly cycle of plants."

Indoor annuals add winter color

By Ernest F. Schaufler

Flowering annuals that have sent out blooms throughout the summer may be brought indoors before the first frost for winter enjoyment.

Most annuals, including zinnias and marigolds, may be started from cuttings. The cuttings produce roots well in vermiculite. Geraniums, however, root easily in moist sand but the rooting period is much longer — up to one month. Ivy geranium tends to root more rapidly than bush types.

Flowers or flower buds, if any, should be pinched off so they will not drain energy from the cutting. To maintain humidity, cover the pot with a clear plastic bag. Leaves touching any part of the bag may rot.

The rooting medium should be kept moist, but not soggy. Check the cuttings daily, and remove any decaying leaves immediately. Otherwise, the entire cutting may be lost. During the rooting period of up to 10 days, keep the cuttings in an area with good lighting, but out of direct sunlight.

Cuttings from many annuals may grow one-inch roots within seven to 10 days. The plants may then be transplanted to four- to six-inch pots. Once potted, the plants should be protected from direct sunlight for the first two or three days. After that, place them in the brightest spot in the room.

To produce a bushier plant with more flowering branches, pinch off the tip of the main stem. Before bringing the container-

grown plants indoors, cut the plants back to between four and six inches. Select plants that have leaves remaining on these short stems. Petunias, geraniums, impatiens, lantana and coleus, along with other annuals, should do well indoors.

Be sure to check the plants for insects or diseases before bringing them inside. If infested with spider mites or tiny aphid eggs, two chemical sprays a week apart are needed to get rid of the bugs.

After spraying, feed the plants liberally and place them in good lighting, such as south or west windows. New leaves will soon emerge and will adapt to indoor conditions. The plants will start blooming in six to eight weeks.

Light plays a critical role in growing annuals indoors. Some outdoor flowering annuals will not bloom indoors under light conditions acceptable to African violets and the many house plants of tropical origin.

Coleus, impatiens and some fibrous begonias will grow and bloom with less light than zinnias, marigolds and other sun-loving annuals.

If you have little natural winter light available for indoor plants, stay with coleus and ivies.

Ernest Schaufler is a floriculturist and professor in the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

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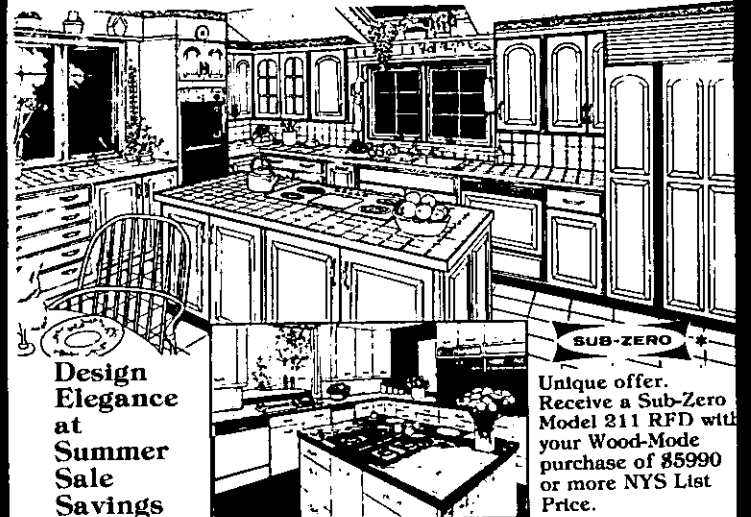
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Cover crops protect garden plots

By Roger A. Kline and Robert D. Sweet

The garden plot, that area of tilled ground that offers an abundance of high-quality vegetables, is commonly used for only five months in New York State.

What normally happens to the garden in the off-season is wasteful and destructive. Wind and water may carry away the enriched topsoil. Rains move minerals down through the soil and away from the root zone of vegetables. The impact of rain

causes compacting of soil. Weeds may become established and leave their seeds or perennial roots to plague the garden in future growing seasons. Some insects and diseases of vegetables winter in the weeds and infect the next crop.

All these problems can be reduced or eliminated by growing a cover crop. This crop offers not human food but a rejuvenation of the garden soil. The benefits will be reaped in future vegetable harvests. Traditional cover crops

are ryegrass, winter rye, winter wheat, oats, white clover, sweet clover, some legumes and buckwheat.

Cover crops can do even more than retain the soil, prevent mineral leaching, reduce soil compacting and competitively shade out weeds. A lush top growth, termed "green manure," will add organic matter when tilled into the garden soil. A cover crop's root system offers both organic matter and structural granulation as its roots grow through the soil. The roots improve aeration and drainage of garden ground, and the tops intercept light energy at times when the garden would not be planted.

Success in growing cover crops requires proper crop selection, timing and management.

Grasses are much easier to establish than legumes. Small-seeded crops are slow and more difficult than large-seeded types such as oats. Winter rye and ryegrass grow very densely and are more effective at shading out seeds than oats or small-seeded legumes.

Late planting of the cover crop will dictate which types can be used. By October, only rye and winter wheat can be successfully started.

Ryegrass, oats and buckwheat are easiest to work with next spring. Perennial ryegrass and winter rye produce a massive amount of top growth in the spring and will tangle in a rototiller. Leaves should be cut back once with a mower, weed eater or scythe before they grow too large. Perennial ryegrass makes a tight mass of fibrous roots that may be difficult to manage. Tilling may be avoided entirely by mowing the plot and covering it with black plastic. The absence of light will kill the cover crop within two weeks, and transplants or large-seeded vegetable crops can be planted directly through the plastic. This no-till technique maintains an excellent soil condition, controls weeds, and usually gives high yields.

For New York conditions, ryegrass should be the first garden cover crop considered. The extensive root system occupies the same root zone as the vegetables will. Winter rye is an excellent second choice and best for late planting. It is a biennial, and mowing will stop its growth in spring.

Roger Kline and Robert Sweet are employed at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department of Vegetable Crops.

Plant now for spring

Area garden centers are currently displaying the wide variety of spring flowering bulbs available for home plantings. While October is the best month to plant all the spring-flowering bulbs, some preparation and planning is necessary to avoid disappointment.

First consider the planting site carefully. Very few of the hardy, spring-flowering bulbs tolerate wet, soggy soil conditions. Plant them in an area with good drainage and where there is no danger of standing water in winter or spring. Tulips and narcissi, which are especially sensitive, should be planted in a site that is dry and sunny throughout the summer.

While the buds for next year's bloom have already formed in the bulb, fertilizer added to the soil before planting will improve and maintain vigorous growth for the following year's bloom. A commercial fertilizer (such as 5-10-5 or 5-10-10) is recommended for application at the rate of 1 pound for every 100 square feet of surface area. The use of bone meal at planting time is also recommended to encourage root development.

The depth for bulb planting is often confusing but also very important. For narcissi and daffodils, the depth of planting makes considerable difference in the growth of the bulb. Tulips are slightly more tolerant of unfavorable depths. Tulips and narcissi do best with the tops of the bulbs five inches below the soil surface. In light, sandy soils, plant tulips deeper than in heavy, clay soils. Smaller bulbs, such as scillas, grape hyacinths, crocus and snowdrops, should be planted with the tops about two inches below the surface. As a rule, the depth of soil above the top of the bulb should be about twice the diameter of the bulb.

The space between bulbs also makes a difference: Plant larger bulbs (tulips and daffodils) approximately 8 inches apart.

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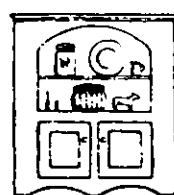
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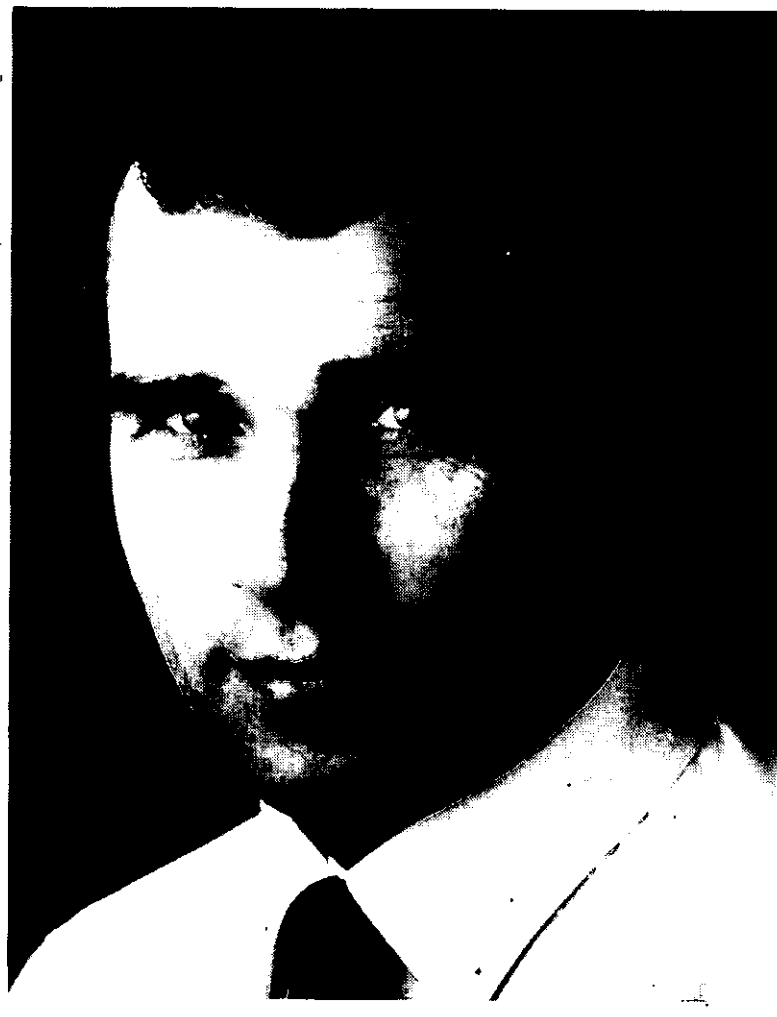
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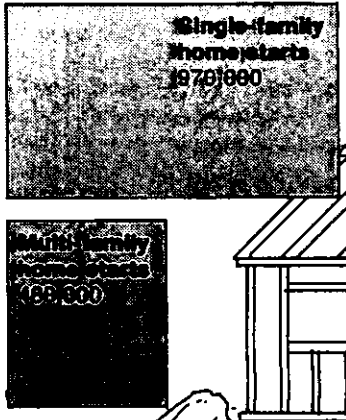


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 Copley News Service

Five Rivers hosts Fall Festival
 The Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Rd., Delmar, will hold its Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 1, from noon until 4 p.m.
 The festival will include a "touch" aquarium, insect-catching expeditions, and herb garden demonstrations.
 There will also be live animals on hand at the festival, including the owl, Archimedes.

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Copley News Service

A well-tended yard is not only lovely, it also can add up to 10 percent to the value of your home. But no one wants to be a slave to green growing things — especially during cool-weather months. A few simple precautions will keep your yard, tools and outdoor living areas low-maintenance until spring.

Landscape tips

If you are beginning to landscape, understanding the site is the first commandment, says Larry Shapira, professor of horticulture at Northern Virginia Community College.

Variables include the yard's sun and wind exposure, the type of soil you are dealing with, drainage and climate.

Not sure how to evaluate these? Consult a professional landscape contractor. You'll save time, effort — and, because of discounts to contractors — money.

Shapira advises against consulting the "next-door neighbor who knows everything" when it comes to yard planning and plant pruning. He says garden centers are a more appropriate source for advice on when to put down lime, how to prune roses and the best way to get rid of Japanese beetles.

"The responsibility doesn't end when a person puts the plant in the ground," says Shapira, who

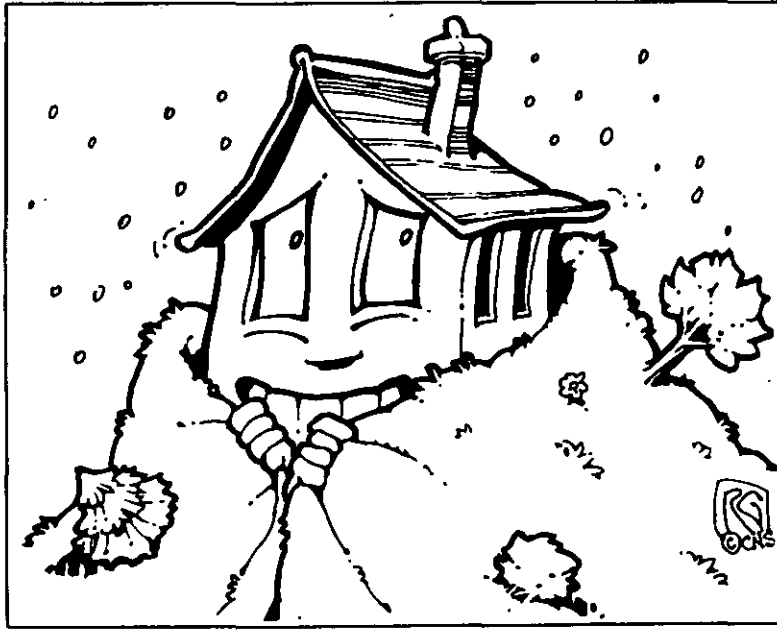
adds that maintenance prolongs and ensures the life of the plant.

Check your local bookstore for gardening guides that apply to your region and the specific cool-weather requirements of your plants.

Water watch

Even though rain may temporarily free you from irrigation duty, check now to ensure your system's year-round efficiency.

Watch your sprinklers operate. Adjust them so they don't soak the



For the do-it-yourselfer, a weekend or two of work laying precast pavers — a relatively inexpensive project — can create a low-maintenance, visually aesthetic yard. Many shapes, sizes and colors, from huge red hexagons to 4-inch cobbles, are available.

driveway or sidewalks. Repair bad hose connections and leaky faucets.

Cover your spa and pool during low-use seasons. Uncovered pools or spas can lose more than an inch of water a week through evaporation. Nearly 1,000 gallons a month can evaporate from a 400-square-

foot pool.

Soil directs water to plant roots and minimize runoff. On hillsides, use root irrigators or drip irrigation.

Eliminate weeds. They compete for water and nutrients.

Work ample amounts of organic matter into the soil. This helps sandy soils hold more water and clay soils absorb it more easily.

Water will penetrate into your lawn more efficiently if you install low-precipitation sprinkler heads or water in short cycles. Now is a good time to dethatch or aerate your lawn.

Pot preservation

If you garden in pots, reduce the amount of care they need by grouping them together. This makes watering easier; they also shade each other.

Add soil polymers to the potting mix. These granules plump and retain water, holding it until the plant roots need it.

Move root-bound plants into larger containers. Glazed pots minimize evaporation.

Protect your potted plants from frost by moving them indoors. To insulate those that will be exposed to chilling temperatures, add a layer of stones or bark to the top of the soil. Sink smaller pots into larger ones; between the two pots, add a layer of sand or gravel.

Preventive maintenance

Spare yourself the spring surprise of unusable garden tools and equipment that refuses to budge.

The basic winterizing job for tools is rust prevention. Remove rust from blades and metal parts of hand tools with either liquid rust remover or steel wool.

Tools with sharp blades or edges — such as hoes, shovels, spades, shears and knives — should be sharpened.

Store the power mower in a dry place where it won't be exposed to freezing temperatures. Protect the exterior surface with a heavy coat of wax to prevent rusting. Check air cleaners and spark plugs; replace if necessary.

Get your snow blower ready to go. Inspect the drive belts, drive chains and gears. Lubricate as recommended by the operator's manual.

Deck wreckers

Winter storms can damage a deck. A quality stain and wood preservative will keep it smooth and glowing.

Begin by removing all dirt, mildew, oil or grease with a stiff brush, warm water and a low-sudsing, non-abrasive household detergent.

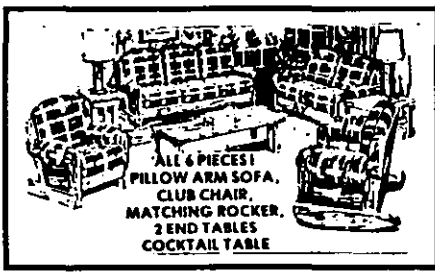
If the wood has mildewed, apply a mixture of two parts water and one part bleach with a kitchen sponge or pump-up garden sprayer.

Next, use sandpaper to smooth out rough spots. Caulk and seal all cracks in the surface.

Finally, check the color of the stain by applying some of it on a sample of the deck wood.

Brush it on ... and you're done. One coat should last through this winter and the one beyond.

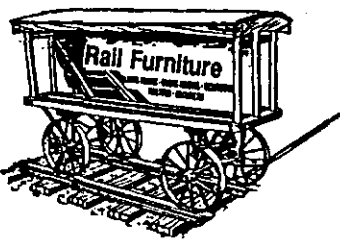
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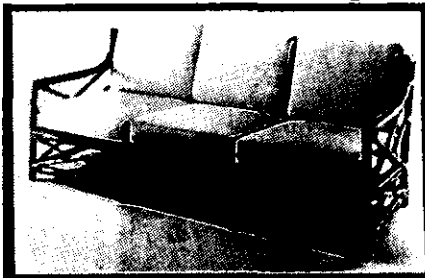
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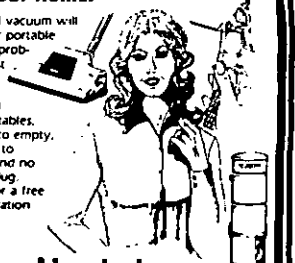
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Copley News Service

Let the cold winds blow. Bring on the pouring rain. Your house is a fortress, a safe haven in the worst of winters.

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"Even those homes that are in overall good condition still require a certain amount of upkeep," says Thomas E. Finney, vice president of HouseMaster of America.

"The more you keep up with the care of your home, it's less likely that you'll be surprised with a major expense down the line."

Finney recommends that home owners perform a routine check of the house — the exterior and interior — each fall.

Start by examining gutters and downspouts. Check to see if any sections are misaligned or have pulled away from the edge of the roof. Clear debris from gutters. While you are up there, repair or replace broken brackets and patch holes in the troughs.

Consider installing gutter guards. These sections of coarse screen let water into the gutters but keep leaves out. They rest on top of the gutters, secured by tabs that extend under the first section of roof shingles.

Next, the roof. Conduct your inspection early in the morning, before the shingles heat up and become so gooey that you leave footprints in the tar.

Search for broken and curled shingles that often cause leaks. Look at the metal flashing around the vent stack and chimney and at roof seams. Patch any places where the adhesive has cracked. Seal liberally with roofing cement, applied with a wide, flexible-blade putty knife.

Inspect the sides of the house. Sand and scrape flaking or peeling paint. Brush on a coat of primer, and after it has dried overnight, touch it up to match the surrounding surface.

Test wood siding for decay by pressing the point of a penknife into the wood. If the point goes in easily, don't despair.

New home handyman products give you the option of repairing rotted wood instead of replacing it. Check your hardware or department store for wood filler and wood hardener.

Fill splits and parted seams in trim and wood siding with caulking compound. Choose latex-base caulking, not silicone, if you plan to cover it with paint.

Don't overlook the putty around window glass. If it is moderately cracked but not crumbly, you can paint over it to reseal it. Otherwise, scrape all the old material away and apply fresh putty.

Your home will hold its warmth better if you repair or replace loose weather stripping around windows and doors. Consider in-

Winter weather checklist

Use the following checklist when you batten down your home's hatches for winter:

Interior Check

Attic

- Check ventilation openings for nests, blockage.
- Check for any evidence of leakage.

Heating/Cooling Systems

- Have heating system checked by serviceman.
- Remove (or winterize) room air conditioners.
- Clean all elements of cooling system.
- Check condition of hot water heater.
- Test and start humidifier.
- Check and secure dehumidifier.
- Service all radiators and valves.
- Repair breaks in insulation.
- Check condition of fireplace or wood stove.
- Lubricate all pumps, fans and motors.

House security

- Check charge on fire extinguishers and operation of smoke detectors.
- Review family fire prevention and escape plans.
- Have police and fire officials check home and offer suggestions.

Exterior Check

Grounds

- Check window wells, dry wells and storm drains.
- Seal driveway/walkway cracks.

Siding

- Check for finish or paint deterioration.
- Caulk joints.

Windows and Doors

- Check for finish or paint deterioration.
- Exchange screens and doors.
- Check putty at windows.

Roof

- Check for loose, damaged or missing shingles.
- Check soffits for signs of moisture buildup.
- Check condition of chimney.
- Check flashings for lifting or poor seal.
- Check all gutters and leaders.

Plumbing

- Drain exterior water lines and open taps (in cold areas).
- Insulate water lines that are subject to freezing.

(CNS)

stalling storm windows and doors to keep warm air in and cold air out.

"Before ordering a storm/screen door," advises *Better Homes and Gardens Do It Yourself* magazine, "measure the length and width of the inside of the door opening, and make sure that there is at least 1 inch of flat surface around the opening."

"Most doors will arrive prehung which makes installation easy. Many doors also come with step-by-step instructions. Check to make sure the door doesn't open while you're installing it."

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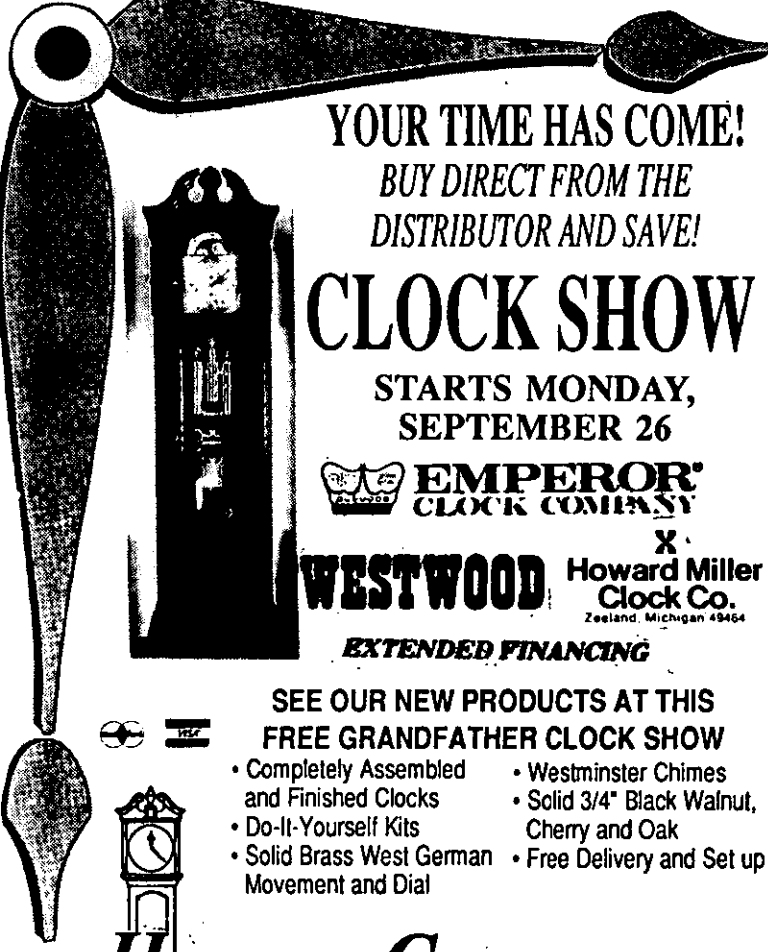
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Decorative arts challenge

(From Page 15)

build a stenciling business from her Delmar home.

"It's very addictive. You get immediate results," Mannella said. "You can do so much with it in a short period of time. I keep finding more and more things to do with it."

She soon opened a shop on Delaware Ave. and just recently moved her business to a more spacious building at 40 Hudson Ave., Delmar.

"I teach stenciling, bronzing (stenciling with metallic paint) and marbling — all of the early American decorating techniques," said Mannella. Classes in theorem painting, a form of stenciling on velvet, and tole painting are also offered at the store. A group of four or more people may schedule a special day or evening class.

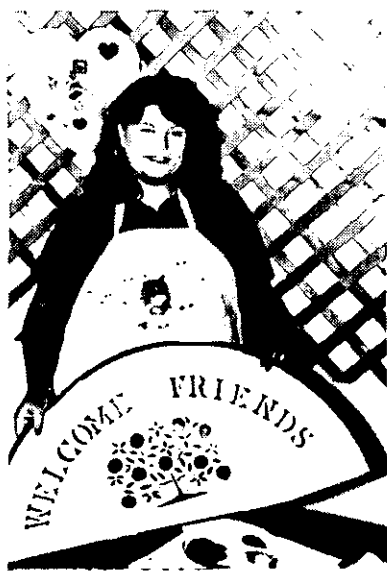
Mannella said tole painting, which requires both the use of a pattern and freehand brush strokes, was once most popular for painting tin objects.

Mannella said marbling, or painting a surface to make it look like marble, is very popular for fireplaces and old furniture where the top is marked or stained.

Mannella said some people choose to stencil unfinished wood furniture with a stain instead of paint. "It almost looks like it's an inlay," she said.

She said anyone can start stenciling after completing one two-hour course and purchasing three brushes, paints and a stencil pattern. She even teaches stenciling to elementary school children.

"I think the biggest misconception is that it is only for



Linda Mannella, owner of The Stencil Studio in Delmar, welcomes area residents to learn about the decorative arts.

Mark Stuart

Colonial (decor). Stenciling doesn't have to be any particular style. It doesn't have to be country," said Mannella as she pointed to examples of Art Deco, Spanish and children's stencil designs. "Obviously, there are some things that are very country, but there are a lot of different things you can do."

In addition to offering a wide variety of brushes, paints and wooden items for painting and stenciling, Mannella offers some 350 stencil patterns and will cut stencil patterns to match another pattern or decorative theme.

She visits homes and offers advice on stenciling projects. "Sometimes it does help to have someone come in, look at the architectural features and decide where best to put the stenciling,"

she said. Mannella will also stencil walls, furniture or smaller items for area residents.

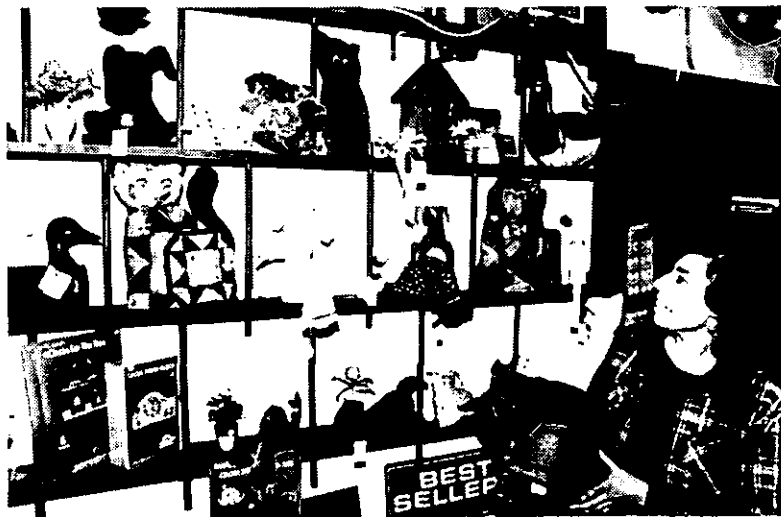
"There's a saying, 'If it doesn't move, you can stencil it.' You can put a stencil on just about anything," Mannella said. In addition to walls, stairways and floors, she listed curtains, curtain ties, tablecloths, napkins, place mats, sheets and pillowcases, mailboxes, furniture, rugs, quilts and wall hangings as candidates for stenciling.

"I actually know a lady who stenciled a car," Mannella said. "Maybe we should say anything that doesn't move on its own."

"You can make it just what you want it to be. You can really personalize," said Mannella. "It's really a challenge."

Sharon Weber, who recently moved her store from Slingerlands to the Main Square shopping center at Delaware Ave. and Oakwood Pl., Delmar, offers classes and supplies for a variety of decorative crafts, including tole painting, stenciling, floral design, cross-stitch, wreath making, macrame, bow making and scherenschnitte (German paper cutting). In the future she hopes to offer classes in pressed flower picture making and quilting. She also offers free stenciling classes for children on Sundays, as well as discounts on orders for scouts, schools, craft groups and community organizations.

She sells instruction booklets for stenciling, cross-stitch, knitting, crocheting and other crafts. The long list of art and craft supplies stocked at Sharon's Crafts includes wooden items for painting and stenciling, stenciling brushes, paints and patterns, quilting



In addition to offering lessons in the decorative arts, Sharon Weber, owner of Sharon's Crafts in Delmar offers arts and crafts kits, instruction booklets and finished decorative items.

Mark Stuart

supplies, embroidery floss, grapevine wreaths, hats and baskets for decorating, Styrofoam, moss and wire for floral arrangements, silk and dried flowers, candles, felt, latchhook kits and quilling paper.

Beverly Goodfellow of Delmar plans to teach advanced stenciling at the store this year. "It's a very versatile craft," Goodfellow said. "You can do a room in a day. You can pick your colors and have it just the way you like it." Goodfellow said stencils can be cut at Sharon's Crafts to match a decorating theme.

About one-half of the store holds finished decorative art items, including soft sculpture baskets, grapevine wreaths, handmade clocks, photographs, pressed flower pictures and recipe holders.

"I enjoy doing the floral design and the painting," said Weber, who also does most of the photographs. "We do want to offer the opportunity to local crafters to sell their things too." She said the majority of the decorative items she sells are made by artisans from the Bethlehem area.

Weber said she accepts special orders for most decorative items. "You can get things made to order to go with whatever style of furniture you like," she said. She will also offer recommendations

on color and style coordination of decorations.

Weber holds an associate's degree in commercial art from the New York City Technical College and a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Brooklyn College. She is vice president of the All Communities Arts, based in Brooklyn.

Mannella attended Canisius College in Buffalo. She is a member of the Stencil Artisans League, a member of the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters and president of the Hudson River Stencilers.

She teaches stenciling through the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk continuing education program. She has taught classes and presented demonstrations for the St. Thomas Altar Rosary Society, the Bethlehem Senior Citizens and the after-school program at Elsmere Elementary School. In addition, she has lectured at the Bethlehem Public Library and taught a class at the Stencil Artisans League Convention in Atlanta.

Season end announced

The campsite at Thompson's Lake in Berne will be closed for the season on Oct. 10, according to the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

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Plan for successful remodeling

Copley News Service

Have you ever watched someone complete a project and then said to yourself: "That looks easy, I think I'll do that myself?"

Admit it. Almost everyone has uttered that infamous phrase at least once.

But only after you bought your materials and read the instructions did you discover through frustration (and oftentimes expense) that "looks" can be deceiving. Even the seemingly clear and easy "how-to" directions, complete with pictures and diagrams, didn't help.

Don't give up. Now there is even more help for the do-it-yourselfer in the form of how-to videotapes on home improvement projects. Hey, if Jane Fonda can show you how to firm up, then videotapes can tell you how to shape your home up — or, at least, how to remodel it.

Hometime, the leading producer of retail how-to videos, features 27 videotapes that provide step-by-step instructions for do-it-yourself home improvement projects.

The Minneapolis-based company has videos on almost every project imaginable, including decks, bathrooms, kitchens, drywall, plumbing, framing, siding, lighting, hand and power tools, windows and doors, electrical, finish carpentry, cabinets, wood flooring, ceramic tile, exterior painting and interior painting and wallpaper.

And they don't cost an arm and a leg. Each videotape sells for about \$10 at home centers and hardware stores nationwide. Each comes with a project guide that includes detailed ideas, a materials list, a tool guide and a glossary of terms.

If you prefer to go by the book, fine. Like the videotapes, there are numerous how-to books available in stores everywhere.

But no matter how you attack your project, make sure you are fully prepared. Preplanning will save time and money and the disappointments and delays that are inevitable for those who aren't prepared.

If you are doing any extensive remodeling, a floor plan is the most valuable visual aid on any renovation project. Whether you draw it up yourself or get a contractor or architect to help you, your floor plan should include:

- The size of all rooms and closets on every floor.
- The location of hallways, stairways and fireplaces.
- Which walls will stay, which walls will go and which must be built.
- The size and locations of windows and skylights.
- Location of doors to each room and which way they swing.
- Location of bathrooms and all fixtures in them.
- Arrangement of the kitchen with all cabinets and appliances.
- Electrical plans, including new outlets, switches and fixtures.
- Where plumbing or heating ducts are to be installed.

A good floor plan enables you to shuffle, reorganize and visualize and dream about moving around thousands of square feet by making changes in inches.

Remember that projects that increase the square footage of your house or rearrange walls in the existing house will require a building permit from the city or county. Knowledge of their codes and regulations prior to drawing and submitting plans will save you time and trouble.

Regardless of the size of the project, make certain you have a complete list of the tools and materials you will need. Be thorough in your planning; nothing disrupts a project more than running short of materials and/or money. Preparation in this regard includes:

• Be realistic about how much money you can spend and drawing up your wish list accordingly. Do preliminary shopping for the products you want. For example, if you are remodeling your kitchen or bathroom, it's easy to get prices for major appliances, cabinets, sinks, tubs/showers and fixtures.

• Blend aesthetics with practicality. Keep it as simple as possible. Moving a sink to an opposite wall in a kitchen or bath remodel, for example, could cost several thousand dollars to change the location of a few pipes you will never see.

• Once you make your design decisions, stick with them. Whether you hire a contractor or do it yourself, changing plan design once the project is under way will likely increase your costs.

• Working as your own contractor can save 20 percent on most remodeling projects. You don't need to be a building expert. All that is required is common sense, the ability to learn a few basic technical skills and the willingness to see the job through to the end. Consider the value of your

time and judge accordingly whether it's cost-effective for you to do so.

Finally, be prepared to live through your remodeling project. Even cosmetic remodeling projects — such as refinishing floors and repainting walls — produce enough of a mess to disrupt your daily routine.

Major projects can put whole sections of the home temporarily off-limits. Naturally the worst rooms to lose — the kitchen and the bath — are the two that are most often remodeled.

To minimize your disruptions, make sure that all materials, including new appliances and fixtures, are on hand before rooms are torn apart.

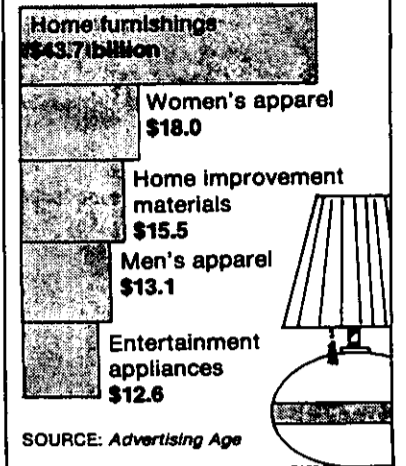
Too often, a working kitchen is dismantled on the unfulfilled promise of a supplier that the dishwasher and sink will be on the next truck.

Remodeling work creates sawdust, paint splatters and all kinds of debris, so make sure you take precautions by using enough dropcloths.

HOMEFACTS

Hottest household expenditures

Top choices for household purchases by families with incomes over \$50,000. (in billions of dollars)



SOURCE: Advertising Age

Copley News Service

Even though work may be limited to one section of the house, dust and fumes can travel throughout it unless you block off stairwells and key passageways with plastic or old sheets.

Correct tools speed tasks

Whether you're just searching for a hammer and nail to hang that new watercolor or you're trying out your skills at framing an unfinished room, you classify as a do-it-yourselfer.

And every do-it-yourselfer needs a basic, yet complete, set of tools. Following is a checklist to help you assemble and organize the tools you already have, and some ideas on new purchases to round out your toolbox.

Start with saws: An electric saber saw and hand saw can tackle a variety of jobs around the house.

Add basic tools: Must-haves for the toolbox include a level, cres-

cent wrench or complete wrench set, hammer, ax, crowbar, slip-joint pliers and an assortment of straight-bladed and Phillips-head screwdrivers.

The electric touch: Invest in a variable-speed electric drill and a set of at least 13 drill bits, and an electric pad sander with back-and-forth motion. Many handymen prefer cordless versions.

Handy accessories: You can use your imagination in this category, but some essentials include utility and putty knives, a combination square, file, tape measure and plunger.

Essential extras: Stock an ample supply of nuts, bolts, nails

and screws; glue; masking, plastic, electrician's and silver duct tapes; and patching materials that are available in paste or powder form.

Stay sharp: Once assembled, keep your tools in peak condition. Sharpening stones or whetstones, a flat, single-cut file and crocus cloth keep sharp edges sharp and smooth out those that shouldn't be. Light oils lubricate surfaces and help disperse tiny metal particles from blades. (CNS)

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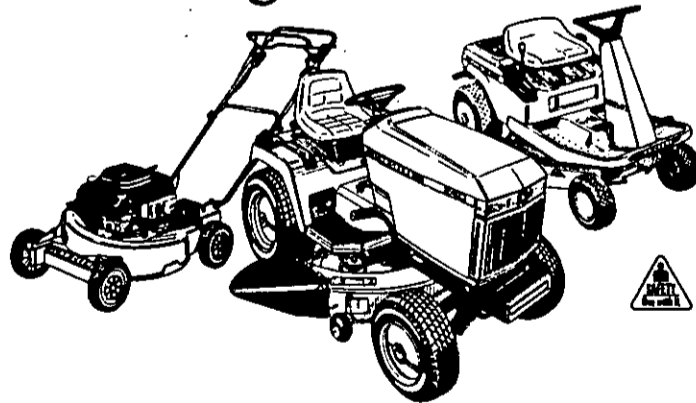
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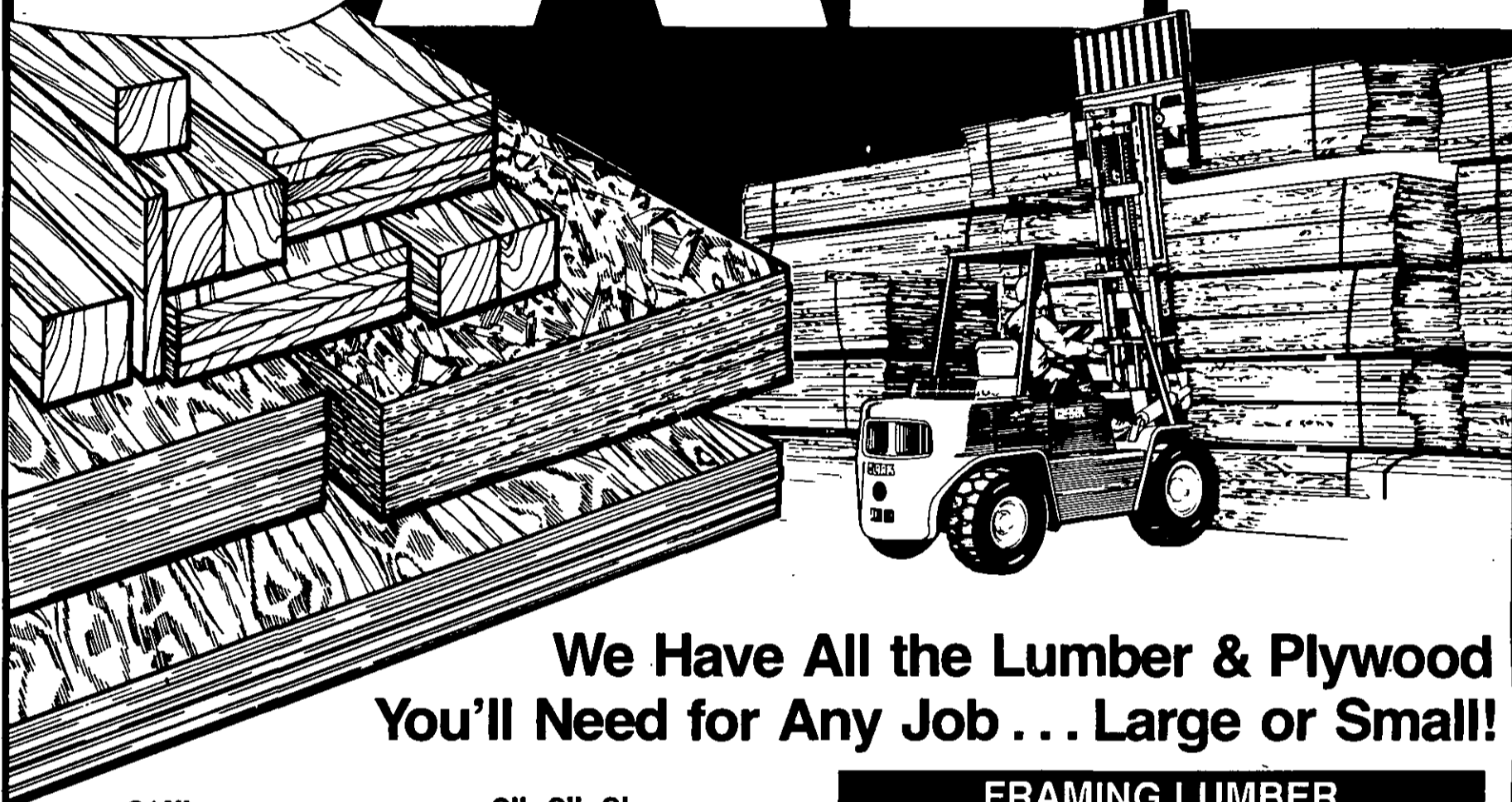
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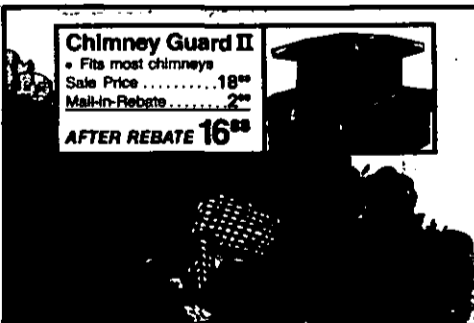
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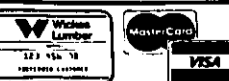
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Shaker and Scandinavian Simplicity reigns in designs

Copley News Service

For many years, excess has been the mode in American home decor.

If the growing popularity of two traditional home-decorating styles — Shaker and Scandinavian — is any indication, however, Americans are turning to a "less is more" attitude in home design.

Why? According to *House Beautiful* magazine, it's because of America's growing "weariness of overdecorated rooms, furnishings so shiny the materials can't breathe and showroom-slick styling inhospitable to life at home."

There is, in short, a trend toward simplicity, and few styles can match the elegant simplicity provided by Shaker and Scandinavian home-craft designs.

While both styles are timeless similar in their scope — both encompass exacting carpentry, fluid line and functional composition — they are different in their origins.

Shaker: spiritual simplicity

From their Protestant beginnings in 18th-century England to their dwindling days in America, the Shakers were noted for their work ethic.

"Hands to work and hearts to God" was their motto, and they lived as they spoke.

From the Shakers came such a steady stream of inventions and improvements of existing materials.

Among other contributions to the world, we owe Shakers credit for inventing the flat broom, the clothes pin and the circular saw — all designed with a sense of simple utility.

The Shakers' mandate for simplicity in design came entirely from their spiritual beliefs: They

felt perfection in work equalled perfection in spirit, and perfect spirituality was their highest goal.

The way to perfection was order, and the way to order was to keep things simple.

As June Sprigg wrote in her book, "By Shaker Hands," "The Shaker carpenter took the metaphors of moral perfection (straight, upright, foursquare) literally and made them part of his daily work."

The Shakers of old would find it ironic that people today see such aesthetic beauty in their work.

For the Shakers, beauty, as such, was something to be avoided at all costs because it was vanity, and vanity corrupted spiritual purity. The Shakers' idea of beauty revolved around usefulness.

Another aspect of Shaker design practicality was that they had to cram many family members under one roof. Space-saving measures were absolutely necessary. Hence such unique design features as furniture with drawers on two or three sides or pieces that served double duty.

Here are few ways to incorporate Shaker purity and elegance into your home:

- Put classic ladder-back chairs and a functional trestle table for the dining room.

- A four-poster bed for the bedroom. Drape a sheer piece of lace over the frame to create a simple canopy.

- Hang a sturdy wooden pegboard in the entry hall or kitchen. While you admire its elegant simplicity, you will find it incredibly useful.

- Shop for colorful Shaker-style quilts and pillows with simple geometric patterns.

Always look for furniture with clean, straight lines, a natural finish, top-quality materials and unwavering craftsmanship.

Scandinavian: clean and spontaneous

Shaker and Scandinavian designs share common roots — to a point. Both evolved simple design styles through necessity.

Both show a natural reverence for wood. Both reflect the home as the center for most activities. Both demand construction for heavy use and durability.

However, whereas the Shakers let their orientation toward simplicity be dictated by stringent religious beliefs, the Scandinavians have used theirs as a license to make life more enjoyable.

The Swedes have a word that aptly describes this attitude, "brukskunst" which literally means "useful art." Scandinavians don't take the approach that something pretty might also be useful; rather, they know that something useful can be made attractive as well.

It's an inherent sense of beauty, as Eileen Harrison Beere writes in her book, "Scandinavian Design: Objects of a Lifestyle." "The Scandinavian has a fundamental belief in enhancing his daily existence with beautiful things, both in his home and in public parks and buildings.

"His intimate relationship with nature is obvious in his feeling for proportion, color, and the efficient use of raw materials."

The Swedes have another word — "hygge" — which refers to design just for fun or whimsy, and that word speaks of a style that is uniquely Scandinavian.

There is a range to Scandinavian design that is absent from that of the Shakers, one which runs from restrained and practical to uninhibited and ornate. Scandinavian design is functional but never impersonal, enchanting but not ostentatious.

There are certain traits to Scandinavian design that further dis-



Bring pure simplicity and unbeatable craftsmanship into your home with Shaker- and Scandinavian-inspired designs. (CNS)

tinguish it from the Shaker style, such as painted finishes, pastel colors, airy fabrics, and whimsical elements — all of which combine to effectively create a design that, in the words of *House Beautiful*, is "as fresh as a sea breeze from the north."

Bright and cheerful, but never harsh or overdone, the Scandinavian look is easy to make a part of your home. Some of the keynotes of this northern elegance include:

- Pastels to give your rooms a tender blush of color — antique blue, soft green or yellow paired with white. Use them in furniture, wallpaper or accessories.

- Skirted chair cushions for comfort and whimsy.

- Floral motifs painted on the borders of a room or used to accent a cabinet. Also try a simple arrangement of fresh flowers on a window sill.

- Unlike the Shakers, Scandinavians like their furniture to have a

painted finish. Try a pastel wash for tables, cabinets or straight-backed chairs.

Shaker and Scandinavian designs may differ in the way they have evolved, but they are almost identical in their origins and their mutual focus on utility. These styles offer a wide range of choices in a time where simple grace is the trend for interior decoration.

And the styles offer common design philosophies. The Shaker style says, "A place for everything, and everything in its place." The Scandinavian style says, "Useful art."

American designer Billy Baldwin once made a statement that puts both philosophies into perspective and makes it clear what it is today's home decorators are looking for. He said, "A chair, for God's sake, is to sit in."

That's a design point on which Shakers and Scandinavians would agree.

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Chaise returns to popularity

Copley News Service

Chaises are very special pieces of furniture. There is something wickedly flirtatious about them — the way they invite reclining without total repose and suggest elegance and formality but retain their casual air.

They are perfect places to read a book or eat a grape. Or let the lucky Afghan or borzoi lounge.

In these precarious times of furniture design we seem to be in the midst of a chaise revival.

The major American furniture makers such as Century, Baker and Henredon all have chaises in their lines at High Point, N.C., the center of American furniture manufacturing and marketing.

Less well-known High Point manufacturers such as Thayer-Coggin also have a number of handsome chaises in recent seasons.

The looks range from linear, tubular steel pieces with leather upholstery to rounded, sculptural forms with traditional overtones.

Why is everybody making chaises? Moreover, why are they

turning into such desirable pieces of furniture?

One High Point manufacturer said chaises symbolize the "new opulence," whatever that might be. He further suggested that they suggest the highbrow over the dingy middle class. They're the good cognac and too-expensive chocolates. Shouldn't everybody want one?

Most new chaises found in major furniture showrooms are being designed for the bedroom.

They are stuffy and plump with rounded contour backs and flouncy little pleated skirts. Many look a bit too much like the sort of furniture where you would find Mae West stretched out on the satin tufting.

But chaises also adapt readily to other rooms, particularly studies and living rooms where the mood is set for quiet relaxation.

A chaise, after all, is a glorious piece of furniture on which to reread "War and Peace." Or pretend to be Carole Lombard in "Nothing Sacred" — reclining in style while a reporter turns her



A chaise lounge lends elegance to a room and provides a comfortable spot for afternoon or evening reading. (CNS)

Furniture firsts

Furniture has been in flux in recent decades. Vanities and chaises — heralders of a once-gracious lifestyle — have reappeared and given rise to a whole season of new forms for old functions.

One of the most snide observations of recent times concerning modern furniture must be attributed to Tom Wolfe in "From Bauhaus to Our House."

Wrote Wolfe: "Mies van der Rohe's S-shaped, tubular steel, cane-bottomed chairs were designed so that by the time the main course arrived, at least one guest had pitched face forward into the lobster bisque."

Modern furniture continues to be the subject of perhaps more than its share of gibes, as tubular steel chairs ride the joke circuit of postmodern architects and designers.

Many of them are borrowing from history and crafts traditions of pre-modern times in today's designs.

Modernists rejected upholstery because it looked old-fashioned, middle-class, conservative and architectural — a full-blown sofa resembled a stranded whale, argued critic Ludwig Glaeser.

They sought platonic ideals of pure form and geometry instead of comfort and flexibility.

Postmodern designers turned from form to decoration.

The most obvious to do so was Ettore Sottsass. He took the retro chic of the '50s and transformed it into a three-ring circus of the '80s. His chairs, tables and chests began to look as if they had landed from Venus.

Clearly, over the past few decades, furniture design has been in a state of immense flux.

Dormer proposes some ideas for furniture design of the future, mingling the best of the modern and postmodern thought:

"It will have a courteous charm. But it will also reflect the day-to-day visual appearance of contemporary life (taking) the surface mark of modern material, cityscapes and electronic technology and turn them into a non-nostalgic abstraction."

In simple phrases, tomorrow's living room should reflect a lot more of the Bauhaus meeting the baroque. (CNS)

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Dried flower arranging brings joy

Copley News Service

It always pays to be on the lookout for the odd and the evocative.

But most particularly if you are looking for objects and materials to compose dried-flower arrangements or their relatives, such as herb garlands and wreaths.

An extraordinarily formed pussy willow branch, a grape vine gnarled to perfection or even old gladiolus leaves twisted in a particular curl can turn the design of an arrangement from the commonplace to the distinctive.

Now is the time to start.

The making of bouquets, wreaths and garlands out of dried flowers and natural objects ranging from nuts to leaves has developed into an art of its own over the past decade.

Shops and boutiques abound with results of some of the more progressive labors. Numerous books have been published to encourage the amateur to proceed on a more professional basis.

They include "The Book of Dried Flowers" by Malcolm Hillier and Colin Hilton; Annette Miherhof's "The Dried Flower Book: Growing, Picking, Drying, Arranging"; Patricia Thorpe's "Everlastings: The Complete Book of Dried Flowers"; and "Everlasting Design" by Diana Penzner.

Any of these books, plus others on floral design in general, are good sources for the amateur wanting to learn about dried-flower arranging. For those already introduced to the art, they may provide further guides to learning special tricks of the trade.

Serious practitioners usually dry their own flowers; the less dedicated often purchase already dried foliage and flowers from a florist.

Many flowers can be dried simply by a process called air drying — hang them in small bunches from a line with the heads pointed downward until they are brittle and set.

More exotic plant life dries with better color retention if the drying process is carried out for a longer time. Anthurium, for instance, along with kangaroo paw and many other specimens, can be dried by placing stems in about 2 inches of water and letting the water disappear as it is slowly drawn up by the plant and/or evaporates. This process takes about a month.

Some plants also can be preserved with the use of chemicals

such as silica gel or glycerine.

"From the moment you begin working with dried flowers until the time you become a seasoned expert, you always need to keep specific principles and techniques in mind when creating arrangements," Penzner advises.

"Additionally, knowing how to structure one's work space, what kind of storage container to use and how to proceed neatly and logically with the arrangement without cluttering the work area all contribute to the success of the arrangement."

It is best to have a whole workroom for hanging plant life and flowers to dry, for stacking boxes to contain them when dried and for housing cutting tools and containers if space affords it and you are really serious about the business. Novices, however, can easily start on kitchen counters or a large table surface to lay out material and equipment.

The key to working with dried flowers and objects over live or fresh flowers is to treat them with extra delicacy because most are extremely brittle. Boxes allowing horizontal storage and glass jars and containers are good for safe-keeping.

The basic tools of the craft are found in hardware or garden supply stores.

They include wire cutters for cutting wires to brace stems, a knife for sawing Styrofoam (frequently used inside containers as a support base), wire, glue, tweezers, rulers and floral sprays and water colors for adding color if specimens look too dreary.

It is also important to start building a supply of interesting containers that will hold the arrangement. The likeliest candidate are baskets, raku pots, ceramic ware and ordinary bowls from the kitchen.

But fantasy containers are important, too, for they will give the arrangement less serious tones. Hats, masks and even old shoes can be put to whimsical use.

One of the striking arrangements in Penzner's book is a bouquet of tiny gold-sprayed cedar roses in a vintage high-topped gilded shoe.

Holidays present an ideal opportunity to create table centerpieces and mantel decorations employing dried flowers and found objects.

Natural items can be used on their own, but they might also be

easily incorporated with some of the bright holiday decorations found in stores.

For Thanksgiving, instead of the proverbial cornucopia spilling little pumpkins and gourds, try a low flat basket as a centerpiece filled with the things of autumn: Indian corn, straw flowers, honey-locust pods, wheat, amaranthus and golden-colored dried mushrooms.

Arrange them free-form in the basket, the smaller pieces radiating from the corn, which becomes the focal point and centerpiece in the basket.

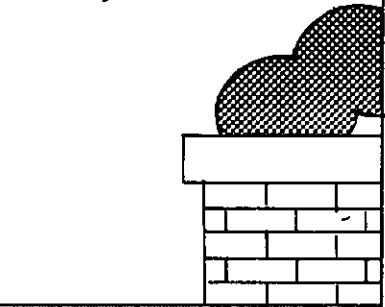
Christmas offers a wide variety of decorative ways to work with dried objects. Besides the more traditional things such as bitersweet, holly, ivy and pine cones, more unusual objects such as tiny white everlastings and dried hydrangeas can add to the holiday decor.

The everlastings play nicely in centerpieces, resembling snowflakes against vivid green sprigs of holly or pine, dried hydrangeas, sprayed in pastel colors or gilded, find increasing popularity as substitutes for traditional Christmas tree ornaments.

If you are just starting to work with dried flowers, however, a small arrangement is probably a

HOMEFACTS

■ Clean that fireplace and chimney



Cost from chimney fires
 of Deaths 10
 of Fires 60,000
 of Property Damage \$10 million

SOURCE: U.S. Fire Administration

Copley News Service

better jumping-off point than decorating an entire tree.

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Imagine no limits for interior decorating

Copley News Service

After months of hunting for just the right home or apartment. After sweating through the escrow. After the hassle of moving day.

The fun begins. For most of us, transforming a home into a home involves more than putting a sofa in the living room and hanging a few posters on the wall.

Half the fun of buying a home or moving into a new apartment is making it distinctively your own. Interiors that suit your lifestyle with flair provide an inviting refuge from the outside world.

Set decorating budget

Everyone has limits. Whether you can afford to spend

\$500 or \$100,000 on your interior, set a budget.

New home owners moving out of an apartment will already have the bare essentials. They might splurge on a gorgeous coffee table for the living room or an elegant dining table for a formal dining room.

Before you rush to spend your hard-earned decorating dollars, evaluate what you already own. More often than not, furniture from your old abode will find a place in your new home.

Gilding the lily

Once the budget is set, think about how you want the new surroundings to look.

Cull through magazines, such as *Metropolitan Home*, *HG* and *Better Homes and Gardens*, as well as

visiting furniture showrooms and your friends' homes, to get ideas for how your home should look.

Is it sleek and contemporary, with a few striking pieces set against a simple background?

Or perhaps you hanker for traditional rooms, with softer lines and a cozy clutter.

Either way, designers recommend updating the look.

Modern interiors no longer translate into sterile white rooms full of hard lines and sharp edges.

Contemporary whites are now softened blond neutrals, such as eggshell and cream, even pale pink and yellow.

Interior designers recommend doing a room in soft neutrals, then waking it up with whatever accent colors and patterns you fancy.

You will enjoy these colors longer if they are used judiciously, and it won't cost a bundle to redo the room when you are ready for a change.

More traditional rooms also have their place in the current design climate. But they don't have to be stuffy to feel at home.

Those hot citrus colors can also take country and traditional rooms into the '90s. Or for an airy, romantic look, restrain woods with a pale wash of color and use fabrics in the lightest pastels.

Expert advice

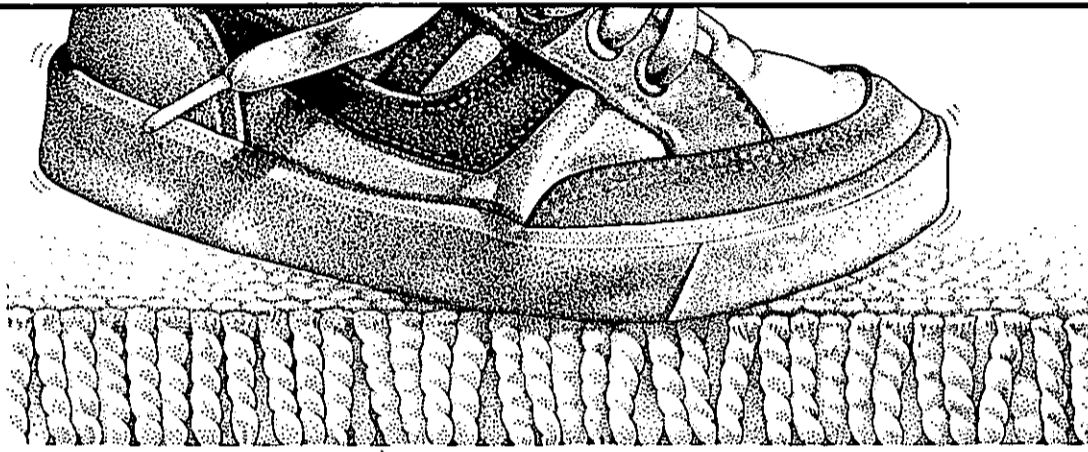
There are a lot of good reasons for hiring an interior designer. Some home owners want to get the very latest in interior design fashions. Others want design know-how to achieve the best look.

Finding the right designer is crucial to getting the most for your money. And the perfect designer for your home isn't necessarily the trendiest in town.

Before hiring a designer, arrange a preliminary consultation. Discuss your budget, as well as whether you want to do the whole house at once or a room at a time.

If you can't afford to hire an interior designer, another option is to use the complimentary design services of a favorite furniture, housewares or department store.

As the interior design market explodes, there have never been more books to help the new homeowner or apartment dweller put together a terrific interior.



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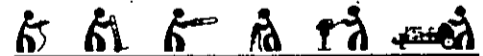
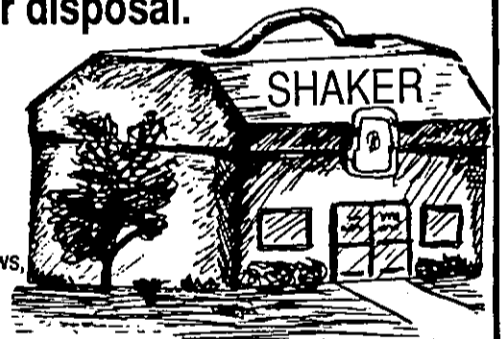
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Small spaces offer challenge

Copley News Service

If your home has adequate storage, spacious workspaces and large areas for entertaining, you probably don't need to read on.

But if you're like most people, your house, apartment or condo probably falls short of the space you need for such activities as working on hobbies, exercising and having overnight guests.

Whether by choice or economic imperative, more and more people are moving to smaller homes. Young couples can't afford large houses, and mature couples whose children have grown find they'd rather spend their time and money elsewhere.

At the same time, our need is greater than ever for a nest where we can relax, for a home that is distinctively our own.

Owners of small homes have to be a little more creative and flexible than owners of larger houses, but it is possible to create a living space that lets you have it all.

Clutter is the arch enemy of small spaces. Every piece of furniture and accessory should carry its own weight. Ask yourself what you can put to work or do without.

Tricks with color

Light colors are your allies because they make your small space seem larger. Use one color scheme and one floor covering throughout the entire home.

If the carpeting in your living

room is beige, tile the kitchen with beige, as well. And if floors are painted, paint baseboards to match them instead of the walls for another optical illusion.

If you choose patterned wallpaper or upholstery, make sure the pattern is small. Furniture covered in the same fabric as drapes and then positioned in front of them appears to take up less space.

To create added interest in a monochromatic room, depend on contrasting textures, such as lace, velvet and tweed.

Light magic

Take advantage of your windows by leaving them uncovered, if possible. For privacy, choose blinds, Roman shades, swag and jabot or balloon shades to avoid using precious space for heavy draperies.

If you do use traditional curtains, matching their color to that of the wall or their print to the wallpaper will make them seem to disappear.

Use artificial lighting to advantage. Pull sofas and chairs out from the wall and put floor lamps behind them. Open up dark corners with can lighting placed behind a potted plant and beamed upward. Illuminate wall hangings.

Use wall-mounted lighting when possible, such as over your bed, to free up space on tables. A lamp suspended over a dining table that shares living room space will

draw attention away from the rest of the area.

Try a little trompe l'oeil. Mirrors have long been known to create the illusion of doubling space.

Light can work other little wonders, too. Choose accessories in shiny brass or copper or sparkling crystal. See-through glass and acrylic tables also give the illusion of more space.

Room to live

Your comfort and convenience are your first priorities. Assess your living room, since that is the area frequented most often by the entire family.

Since most people gravitate to the ends of sofas, anyway, a love seat is more practical than a traditional three-seater.

An ottoman does triple duty: It can rest tired feet, provide extra seating or be a table that holds newspapers and magazines, perhaps a tray of snacks.

If space allows, try for two conversational groupings, since this makes a room feel more spacious.

Go all the way to the ceiling with bookshelves, and paint them the same color as the wall. These will provide soundproofing as well as storage space.

Small chests of drawers make excellent end tables and provide space for napkins, games and candles. Wicker chests or metal trunks can double as coffee tables.



Ingenuity and creativity make small spaces functional and cozy. (CNS)

Check carpet density

When buying carpeting, you should know that the more yarn per square yard, the denser the carpet and the less likely it will be to flatten out under pressure. "Looped" carpet should have a pile weight of about 35 ounces per

square yard; "cut pile," about 50 ounces. Check the label for this information.

You also can give it the "grin" test. Bend back a corner of the carpet and see how much backing is exposed. The bigger the "grin," the lower the density.

(CNS)

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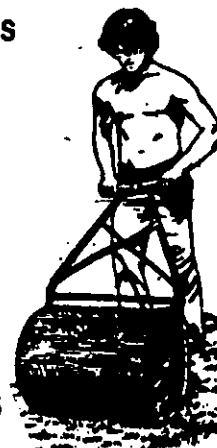
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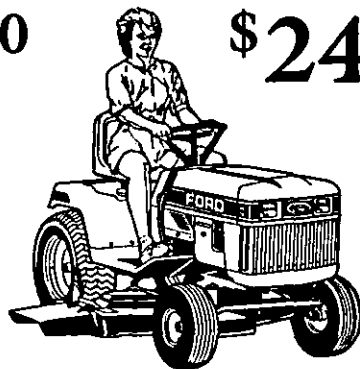


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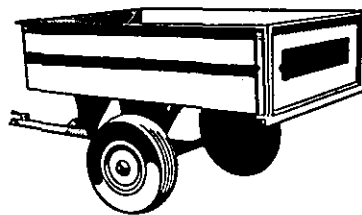
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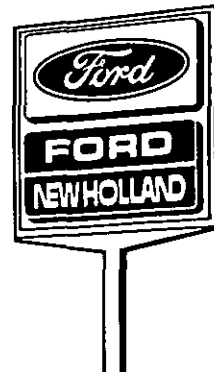


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Security system may save assets

Copley News Service

Every home has its share of locks, but until a few years ago, it used to take Ming Dynasty porcelain vases, Picasso sketches and other high-priced, high-visibility valuables for home owners to justify purchasing security systems.

But a growing rate of burglaries, which now account for nearly 35 percent of all the crimes recorded in the United States, along with fires, has changed the minds of owners of homes both lavish and modest, career-minded families who spend long hours away from home and even senior citizens who worry about being unprotected.

For about 8 percent of home owners, the VCR is now just as important to protect from burglars as the Van Gogh, the compact disc player as significant as Grandmother's antique Disneyana collection.

And, many are going a step further by beefing up their houses with high-tech smoke detectors, locks and other "smart" devices, and covering everything with paper protection — adequate home insurance.

Security systems

Home security has come a long way in recent years, both in options and prices. Microchip technology has made the newest systems even more reliable and loyal than that most lovable and popular of home alarms — the big, barking canine and accompanying "Beware of Dog" sign.

Most home security systems are built upon combinations of two key devices: perimeter and interior alarm systems.

The burglar who triggers an

alarm by breaking a window or opening a door becomes a victim of a home's perimeter security system, made up of small sensors attached by wire to a central control panel.

When he disturbs one of these sensors on a door or window, a signal is sent to a central control panel, which in turn signals action.

The prowler who makes it inside a house can signal an alarm with movement, sound or merely his presence.

These interior systems, which include infrared, microwave and ultrasound spaced microwave units, also alert a central control panel once they detect change in their realm.

Once signaled with either type of system, the control console can transmit a signal to sound an alarm or alert authorities at a professional monitoring station who will check out the situation.

There also are automatic telephone dialing devices that will dial a preprogrammed telephone number and deliver a prerecorded emergency message when an alarm is tripped.

A system combining both perimeter and interior devices could include sensors for front and back

doors and bedrooms windows, an interior unit strategically placed around an area that needs extra protection and central control panel and alarm.

Smoke detectors and alarms could be considered another type of security system since they warn wary home owners of potential fire, which have the potential of being even more devastating than a burglary.

Smoke detectors rely on sensors similar to those used in security systems; many can be incorporated into these systems for all inclusive protection.

The most sophisticated systems boast improved features such as extra-loud horns that can alert hearing-impaired individuals and the heaviest sleepers and high-intensity safety lights that can mark exits and hallways in heavy smoke. There are also false alarm control models that prevent harmless steam or kitchen stove smoke from setting off the alarm.

An ounce of protection

One illuminating idea is found in security timers — designed to fool potential prowlers into think-

ing someone is home when a house actually is empty.

These timers automatically turn indoor and outdoor lights on and off at designated times of the day.

Another version is an outdoor lighting system that's equipped with infrared sensors. The lights automatically flick on when someone approaches a house, and hopefully send potential prowlers scurrying.

Basic home improvements aren't quite as glamorous as high-tech additions, but are invaluable in terms of protection. Home owners can improve their fortresses by making simple, inexpensive changes. A few ideas include:

- Replacing flimsy, hollow doors with solid-core construction models on exterior exits.
- Securing doors leading outside with single- or double-cylinder dead-bolt locks.
- Installing peep holes that offer a wide-angle view of the area outside the door.
- Adding thumb-keyed slide bolt locks on windows.
- Planting "security shrubbery." Thorny plants that will make hiding or entering a window more difficult.

HOMEFACTS

■ How alarm systems can cut insurance rates

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■ Fire or smoke alarm



SOURCE: Nationwide Insurance

Copley News Service

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Loans and taxes

(Turn to page 15)

recommends setting up a separate account for each type of loan. If you deposit your home improvement loan in a separate account and write checks directly to the contractors, that should do it, should you (perish the thought) be audited by the IRS.

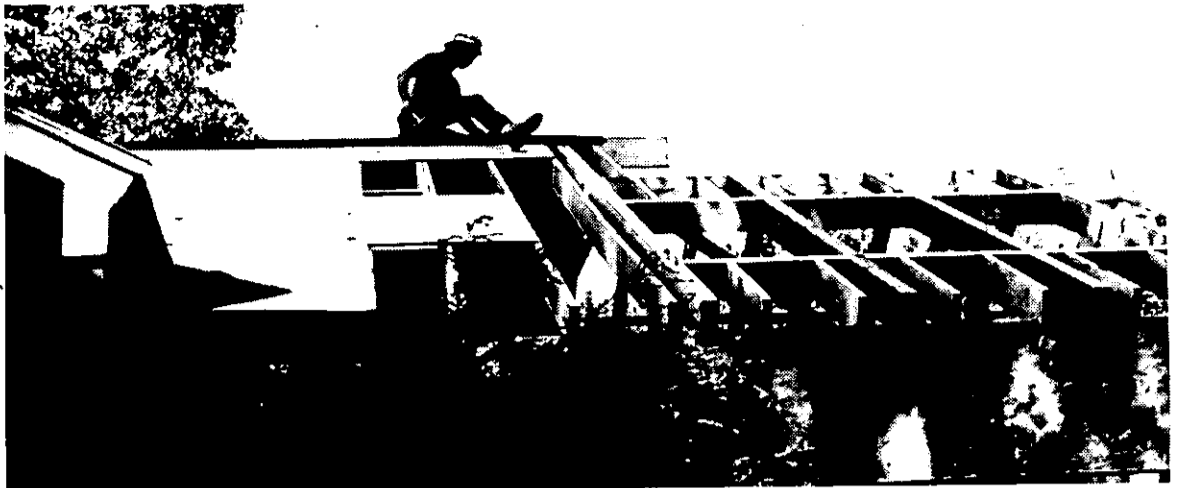
As to the second question, the easiest guideline I know is that an improvement adds to the value of the home, prolongs useful life or adapts it to new uses — and can be added to your tax basis to reduce a gain on sale — whereas a repair merely maintains the value. There are lists of expenditures that have passed muster with the IRS as improvements, so, if you want to pursue it, your loan officer, accountant or realtor may be able to help.

There is one crazy complication, though. The law requires, not merely that the loan be used to improve a home, but to *substantially* improve it. How substantial is substantial? The law doesn't say. If you're in the market for an arcane new anxiety, you might

like to worry that the IRS will disallow your interest deduction because your home improvements weren't substantial enough. Unfortunately for anxiety-collectors, this could only be an issue on loan amounts in excess of \$100,000.

Whatever you do, don't throw anything away. Keep cancelled checks, receipts, estimates . . . forever. If storage space is a problem, consider building an addition on your home. The interest on the loan may be deductible.

Banks these days have a shelf full of home-collateral loans to offer. There are mortgages — remember those? — of various types, home equity loans, and home equity lines of credit (where you can continue borrowing up to some maximum for a stated period of time). Costs, in terms of rates, points and application charges, vary substantially among lenders, so it pays to shop. Sometimes lower rates, especially temporary teaser rates, are offset by higher charges; sometimes they are a bona fide deal. An



This year's building season was a hectic one for area builders. Many area residents, including the owners of this

Slingerlands home, ordered the construction of decks and additions. *Spotlight*

accurate analysis is beyond the typical borrower, but I can assure you the effort can be worth hundreds, even thousands.

One important difference between home equity loans (and lines) and conventional mortgages is that most of the former sport adjustable rates and there are no annual limits on the increase. Don't ignore the lifetime cap — you could live to see it — and it varies from 14 to 25 percent.

A final observation: Points are generally not deductible . . . but are deductible if they constitute pre-paid interest . . . but are generally not deductible on a refinancing . . . but are generally deductible if the purpose of the refinancing is to improve your home . . . but are not deductible if the home is not your principal residence. If you care to check up on me, consult IRS Revenue Ruling 87-22, 1987 IRB 10. Your local library doesn't have it.

David Vigoda, a Delmar resident, is an independent financial consultant.

Embroiderers to meet

The New York Capital District Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild will hold its first meeting of the year on Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, Kenwood Ave. in Delmar.

Featured at the meeting will be a slide presentation and lecture by chapter member Betsy Ellsworth, entitled "Expanding Your Horizons — A Creative Approach to Needlework." There will also be a hands-on workshop on creating designs by using "window templates" and magazine photos.

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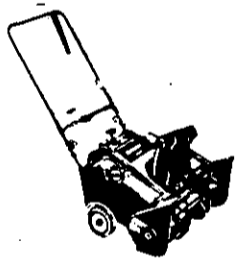
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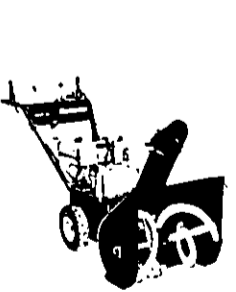
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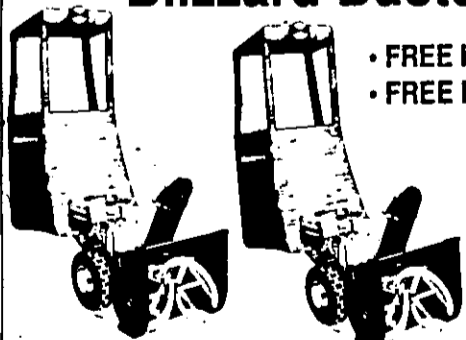
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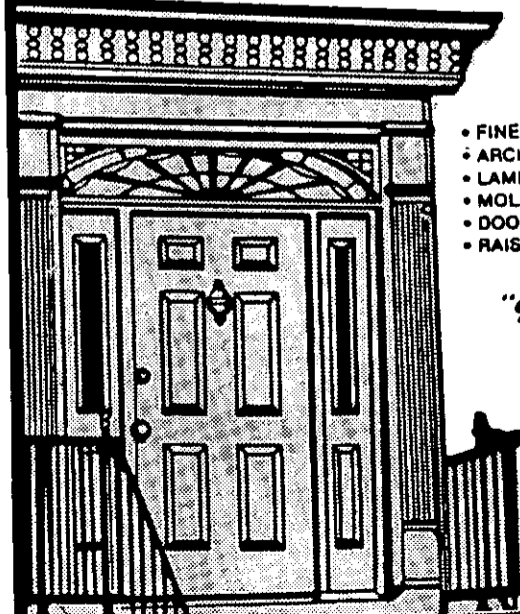
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Mortgage mania Smorgasbord of loans exists

Copley News Service

Unless you are one of the very few who can pay cash for a house, you'll have to finance the major portion of its cost with a mortgage.

Know your terms: "A mortgage is popularly regarded as a loan for purchasing property," says the Money Management Institute in "Your Housing Dollar" (Household Financial Services).

"In actuality it is the legal document you must sign that obliges you to repay the loan, typically in specified installments within a specified period."

Principal is the amount of money you borrow from the lender; interest is the price you pay for the use of it. Typical monthly payments will include the interest and at least some payment on the principal and frequently a portion of your property taxes and insurance.

By means of these monthly payments on the principal you gradually increase your equity — the difference between the value of your home and the amount owed to the lender.

The process of paying off your mortgage and gradually reducing your debt is called amortization. Other financing terms you should know include points, which are really a loan fee paid at the time of closing. Each point equals 1 percent of the total mortgage.

Increasingly, buyers are shopping the market (contacting a number of lenders) to find the best possible loan package to meet their personal needs.

Some buyers use the services of computerized mortgage information networks, which offer programs that will search the rates and terms of many lenders for individual buyers. You can find these services through real estate broker firms.

How do you know if you qualify for a loan? Factors lenders consider include income, assets, debts, employment history and credit history — as well as the location, construction and condition of the house you plan to purchase.

While most lenders qualify buyers by limiting their housing to 28 percent of the family's gross income (along with other criteria), many home buyers are taking a more conservative approach. The average housing expense/family income ratio is now 21 percent, according to the U.S. League of Savings Institutions.

The league recently conducted a study showing that the typical home buyer has an income of \$3,833 per month (about \$46,000 a year). Monthly housing expenses average \$822, which includes mortgage principal, interest, real estate taxes, utilities and insurance.

Many sophisticated home buyers pre-qualify — which means that before they look for a house to buy, they consult a broker or mortgage loan officer to determine how much of a loan they are eligible for.

The many types of loans now being offered to home buyers can be mind-boggling. You'll need to work with a competent, knowledgeable loan officer to sort it all out and make a decision you can live with for years. But it's important to take the time and make the effort.

Traditional sources of mortgage and loans in the United States include savings and loan associations, cooperative banks (in New England), federal savings banks, mutual savings banks, mortgage bankers, and some commercial banks and credit unions.

The basic kinds of financing arrangements available today from traditional lenders include fixed-rate, long-term mortgages and ad-

justable mortgage loans.

Fixed-rate, 30-year mortgages are a traditional, long-established form of home financing. Your interest rate and payments will not rise when prevailing rates increase.

And you can make additional payments anytime you desire and can afford it — payments that will be used to reduce your mortgage balance. This shortens the mortgage term and saves interest money.

If your family has a low income or you are a veteran, you may qualify for a state-sponsored mortgage-financing program, a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan, or one from the Veterans Administration (VA). These offer below-market interest rates and low down payments.

Most popular recently is the adjustable rate mortgage (ARM), where the interest rate floats with an index.

The 15-year mortgage has become increasingly popular over the past couple of years — loans that are totally amortized over a 15-year term.

Also increasing in popularity are the semimonthly and biweekly payment mortgage plans, graduated payment mortgages, shared equity mortgages and wraparound mortgages.

As for the best and worst mortgage, there is no clear answer. Each type of loan is structured for a different buyer situation. And no two experts would agree on good and bad merits.

The worst type of mortgage is the "teaser" type of adjustable rate loan. It offers an artificially low interest rate for a very brief period, usually six months or a year. Then the rate jumps substantially.

Home buyers should be aware of small-print provisions in any mortgage they are considering.

Financial checklist

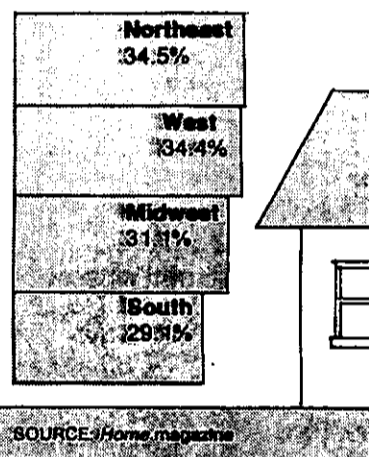
- Organize your personal finances. Compile your income tax statement, list your assets and debts. Write your employment and credit histories.
- Compare lending institutions. Find out the kinds and costs of the mortgages being made by at least two or three traditional lenders.
- Fill out an application at the lending institution that offers the financing that best fits your needs.
- Discuss with the loan agent how much and what type of a loan you can secure.
- Decide if you want a fixed-rate or adjustable mortgage. Ask about creative financing.
- Read the information the lender gives you that explains the settlement process.
- Wait. It ordinarily takes four weeks — sometimes longer when housing activity is strong — to get a decision on your mortgage application.
- A day before the closing, inspect the original settlement statement. On it should be itemized most, if not all, of the fees incurred in the process of obtaining financing and transferring the property.
- Make arrangements for payment of these costs at closing — usually in the form of a cashier's check.
- Before going to the closing, inspect the dwelling to make sure the seller did what was promised.

(CNS)

HOMEFACTS

Percent of paycheck that goes to home purchase

(Percent of income based on after-tax cash costs by first-time home buyers in 1987.)



SOURCE: Home magazine

Copley News Service

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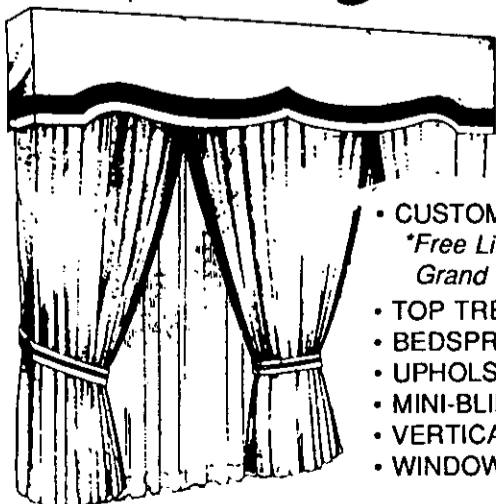
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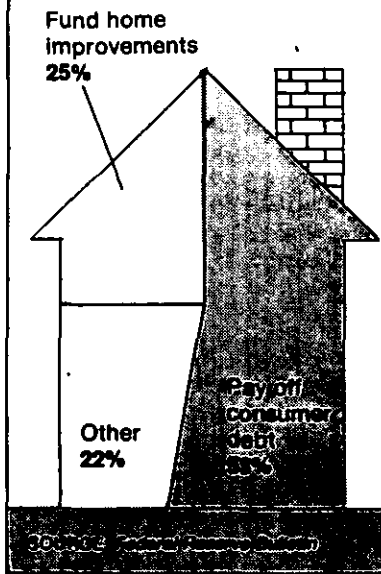
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HOMEFACTS

■ Why homeowners choose home equity loans



Copley News Service

Clean and repair for quick home sale

Copley News Service

Remember when you were shopping for your home?

Every loose floorboard earned a demerit, but you fell in love with the bay window in the living room.

When you are selling your home or condominium, look at it as critically as you did when you bought it.

The squeaking door you have lived with for two years will scream at potential buyers. Now is the time to do all those repairs you have been putting off.

"Buyers react negatively to the smallest things in need of repair," says James E.A. Lumley in "Getting Top Dollar For Your Property" (Wiley). "They see a water stain on the ceiling made by your son's squirt gun and wonder if there's a leak in the roof."

That doesn't mean you have to break the bank on major remodel-

ing projects. But necessary repairs and minor cosmetic work will add up to more dollars and a quick sale.

Remember that buyers are drawn to a house that has been cared for. Few will overlook the repairs you have ignored.

First impressions count

"If the buyer drives up and likes the outside, there's a good chance he or she will feel the same way about the inside," Lumley writes.

There is a lot of emotion involved in buying a home, and yours can be as inviting as Ozzie and Harriet's. Lumley suggests the following steps to create what real estate pros call "curb appeal."

- Wash all windows and exterior surfaces.
- Replace torn window screens. Repair, repaint and repaint broken window sashes.
- Repaint or restain damaged exterior surfaces (this goes for fences and porches, as well as the house).
- Wash dirty brick and stone surfaces. Also repair broken brick and cracked cement.
- Clean out and repair gutters and downspouts.
- Wash oil and grease spots from the driveway and garage.

Think of landscaping as enticing packaging for your home. Keep the grass cut and shrubbery trimmed.

If the front yard has been neglected, invest in reseeding the lawn — make it a lush green carpet.

Also make a trip to the local nursery for shrubs and small trees to plant, as well as bright, inviting flowers to welcome buyers.

Finish off your curb appeal by putting bright large brass house numbers where they will be easily seen. Replace with plain welcome mats doormats that have your name or initials, which might prevent prospective buyers from envisioning the house as their own.

Behind the door

Once potential buyers are primed by an inviting entrance, don't disappoint them by what is inside.

Go through the house and list anything that could frighten away prospective buyers. Do the rooms need paint? If you think they do, buyers will, too.

Fix leaking faucets. Lay down new linoleum in the bathroom. Clean out the fireplace, oven and stove. Repair holes and cracks in drywall and plaster.

Clean the house from top to bottom. Appliances and fixtures, especially those in the bathroom, should sparkle. Scrub the grout in the bath and shower.

Have carpets cleaned professionally if they need it. Areas where foot traffic is high can be specially treated to resist stains. If carpet is threadbare, invest in new, inexpensive carpet in a neutral color.

If you can't afford new carpet and the original carpet is damaged beyond professional cleaning, have it dyed to hide stains and rejuvenate matted fibers.

Think about how your house smells. Pet odors and stains in

carpeting will turn off even animal lovers.

This is also a good time to get rid of furniture that won't move into your new home. Rooms with too much furniture look crowded. Also clear appliances and personal items off kitchen counters.

Large closets are a major selling point. Make yours look larger and save time on moving day by clearing out unwanted clothes. Do the same for boxes of mementos and old furniture in the attic and basement.

Stake your claim

Now it is time to stake your "For Sale" sign in the front yard. Should you hire a real estate agent or sell the property yourself, and save the commission?

That depends on how much time you are willing to devote to the process. If you act as your own broker, be prepared to do much more than simply give prospective buyers a tour of the house.

Lumley suggests that sellers acting as their own brokers learn the finer points of salesmanship. Don't be too anxious and delicately probe prospective buyers for their needs.

He also advises tailoring each showing to the buyer's needs. Emphasize fireplaces, large closets, protected back yards if that is what they want. Is it a young family? Show them around the neighborhood if other families and schools are nearby.

Finally, be frank about problems with the property — you will have to present a written disclosure statement at the time of sale anyway.

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Make smart moves when hunting for house

Copley News Service

A house may be the most expensive purchase you ever will make. Stalk your new home one step at a time.

Whether you are shopping for a single family home, condominium or townhome, many of the things to consider are the same.

Begin by planning for future needs. Hunt a house that will fit you (and your family) five years from now.

Determine how much space you need, indoors and out. Plan for any special requirements: Do you need a home office, studio for the family artist or room for Fido to roam?

Is an older home right for you? It is if you are prepared to take on modernization or renovation work, such as updating the kitchen or repairing the roof.

Ed Gresham, president of nationwide ERA Real Estate Inc., recommends you first figure where you are moving to.

"Pack the family into the car and drive through some neighborhoods," he says.

Talk to friends about the areas they live in and determine what you can afford. Look only at homes that are in your price range.

One of the smartest things you can do is prequalify for a home loan. Not only will you find out how much house you can afford,

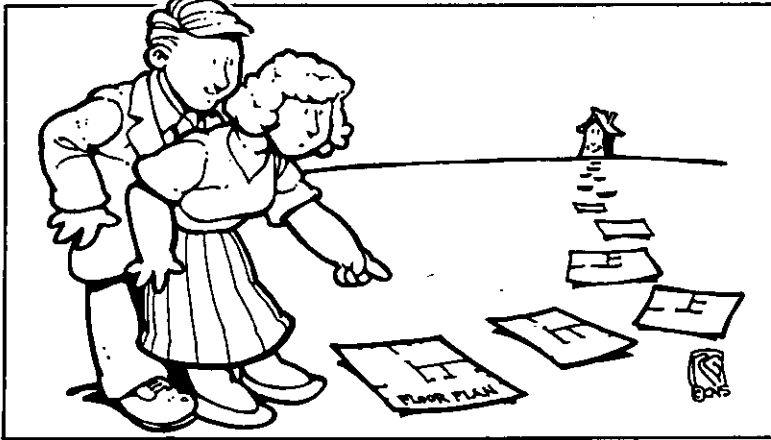
you also can act quickly "and that's a powerful negotiating tool," says Gresham.

Visit your future neighborhood during different times of the day to see what kind of people, traffic and noise you'll be living with.

Buy in an area that is stable or improving rather than one that is

After you have visited 20 open houses, you'll know more about the real estate in your target area than most agents. And you'll quickly spot a bargain.

You're better off buying the worst house on the best block. Once you spruce it up, you will



declining. A good person to ask about this — as well as other neighborhood benefits or drawbacks — is the mail carrier.

Take note of the names of brokers on "For Sale" signs so you'll know whom to contact when the time comes. (Be suspicious if there are a large number of homes for sale.) Study the classified ads to get an idea of prices and what is available.

Before you make an offer to buy a house, inspect as many as you can in the neighborhood. Attend weekend open houses in order to cover a lot of territory quickly.

increase its value by 20 percent or more.

Brokers can give you an idea of what soon will become available and inform you on local mortgage lending activity. But remember that brokers are paid by the seller.

"This understanding is very critical to a successful home purchase," says Robert J. Bruss, a San Francisco attorney and real estate broker.

"Home buyers should be careful what they tell the salesperson because that agent legally represents the home seller and is obligated to tell the seller every ma-

terial fact known about the buyer."

Even though the broker represents the seller, he or she has to tell the buyer about costly problems such as a cracked foundation, corroded pipes or other drawbacks.

Before you make an offer on a property, ask the broker for a competitive market analysis. "by adding and subtracting market value for the pros and cons of the home you want to buy, you can make an offer that is neither too high nor too low," says Bruss.

Have an appraiser inspect the premises to determine how sound the structure is and if work needs to be done on the heating, plumbing, wiring or insulation.

Termites are easy to overlook, since they do their work within the walls. Beware of freshly painted windowsills — underneath may be termite damage or rot. Peeling paint or crumbling plaster may mean too much moisture within walls.

Get a written report on the appraiser's findings and an estimate of what it will cost to correct problems — you'll need both for your negotiations.

Make your own inspection. Check the fit of the doors and windows, the water pressure, signs of water seepage in the basement and if the ceiling is stained (a sign of a leaky roof). Find out what is under the carpeting.

Whether or not you use a broker, get professional help when you're ready to tie the legal knots of your home purchase. Hire a lawyer experienced in real estate or an escrow company if this is more customary in your area.

Finally, be sure to insist on mortgage and inspection contingency clauses. They'll protect you against unexpected — but all too common — problems.

A mortgage contingency, or finance contingency, states what terms of the loan must be met, including what interest rate you want and the amount of the monthly payment. If these terms aren't satisfied, you need not proceed, and your good-faith deposit is refunded.

The inspection contingency clause allows you to call off the deal if the physical inspection turns up something unacceptable such as patched —over leaks or bats in the attic.

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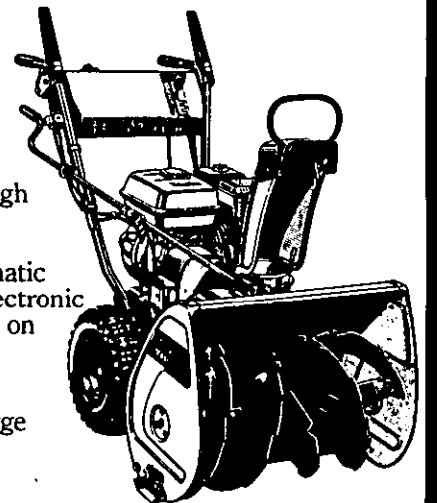
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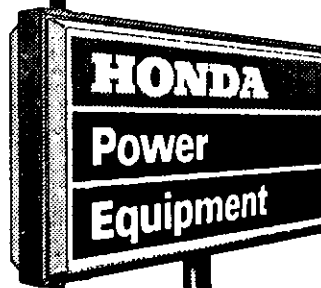
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Lawns can thrive without pesticides

By Norman W. Hummel, Ph.D.

Americans spend billions of dollars annually maintaining their home landscape, including the lawn. In recent years the public has become much more concerned about the use of pesticides in the home landscape. Many times the question has arisen: "Can home lawns be maintained without the use of pesticides?" The answer to that question is, "Certainly they can," provided some basic lawn care principles are followed.

First, the homeowner will have to have a realistic perception of what a pesticide-free program will produce. The homeowner will have to tolerate a few more weeds and an occasional dead patch in the lawn; but, these blemishes can be kept to a minimum through proper culture. A lawn that is properly maintained will be vigorous, healthy, and more tolerant of diseases and insects.

The first step in maintaining a lawn without pesticides is to select the proper species and cultivars for the site. Species and even varieties differ in their

appearance, adaptation, and ability to tolerate diseases and insects.

The *Cornell Recommendations for Commercial Turfgrass Management*, a publication of Cornell Cooperative Extension, lists the species and varieties recommended for New York State.

Kentucky bluegrass is the lawn grass species best adapted to New York State conditions. The improved cultivars survive extremes in temperature and drought. Kentucky bluegrass spreads by underground stems; therefore, it has the ability to fill in areas of the lawn that may have been damaged by pests.

Perennial ryegrass is a common component of lawn seed mixtures. Perennial ryegrass may be included in a lawn seed mixture with Kentucky bluegrass provided it does not exceed 20 percent of the seed mixture.

Fine fescues, a group of grass species including creeping red, chewings and hard fescue, require little maintenance because they do well with low fertility and moisture. They are very fine textured. The most important characteristic of fine fescues,

however, is their tolerance of shade. Use fine fescues alone or in mixtures with shade tolerant bluegrasses for shaded lawns.

The best form of weed control is prevention. Damaged lawns are most prone to weed encroachment. A balanced fertilizer program and proper mowing will give the lawn a better competitive advantage over weeds.

The soil pH should be maintained in a range of 6.0 to 7.0. The availability of plant nutrients and the activity of beneficial microorganisms are at a maximum within this range. Apply lime or sulfur according to soil test recommendations to modify the pH.

Nitrogen and potassium are required in moderate amounts for a pest-resistant lawn. Returning the clippings after mowing may reduce these requirements by 30 percent.

Lawns should be fertilized two or three times per year. If fertilized twice, it should be done in the spring and early fall. If fertilized three times, it should be done in late spring, early fall and late fall. Slow-release fertilizer sources, such as sulfur-coated urea or natural organics, will provide more uniform release of the essential nutrients. The Cooperative Extension provides more information in a "Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture Fact Sheet on Lawn Fertilization."

Proper mowing will discourage weed invasion and make the lawn more resistant to pests. A direct relationship exists between mowing height and the size of the root system. The shorter the mowing height, the shallower the root system will be, making the lawn more susceptible to drought injury, and less tolerant of root insects and root diseases. Lawns mowed too short will also allow more weed seed germination.

Mow Kentucky bluegrass and

fine fescue lawns to between two and three inches.

Proper mowing also means mowing at regular intervals. The rule of thumb is as follows: never remove more than one third of the leaf tissue with each mowing. Scalping the lawn can shock it, making it more susceptible to stress.

Lawn mowers should be kept sharp. Dull mowers leave wounds on the grass blade that serve as entry points for diseases, especially leafspot.

Lawns should be given about one inch of water when the early signs of wilt appear. Deep watering encourages deeper rooting. Frequent, light watering will promote shallow roots that are more susceptible to root insects and diseases.

The best time to water a lawn is in the early morning. Evening watering does not allow sufficient time for the leaves to dry. When the leaves remain wet, diseases are more likely to develop.

The only control alternative to herbicides is pulling weeds by hand. Since many perennial weeds will regenerate new growth from underground parts, all of the root system must be removed.

The most prevalent lawn diseases in New York include leafspot, Fusarium Blight Syndrome (necrotic ring spot, summer patch), red thread, rust and snowmold. These diseases can usually be controlled through the use of resistant varieties and proper culture.

Leafspot is most serious on Kentucky bluegrass lawns when cool, wet weather prevails, usually in the spring.

If a problem develops, introduce varieties of bluegrass and fine fescue that are resistant to leafspot into the lawn. The Cooperative Extension's "Flori-

culture and Ornamental Horticulture Fact Sheet on Turfgrass Renovation" offers advice for lawn improvement.

Two basic types of insects feed on lawn grasses. The surface feeders include chinch bugs and sod webworms. Root feeding insects include several white grub species.

In recent years, plant breeders have developed varieties of lawn grasses that have insect resistance by introducing a fungus called endophyte into the grass plant. Endophyte produces a chemical that is toxic to insects. So far, two insect resistant perennial ryegrass varieties named All-Star and Repell have been released. Unfortunately, the toxin does not move to the underground plant parts.

The most important damaging insect on home lawns in New York is the white grub. There are actually five species of beetles in New York whose larvae feed on lawn grass. The most common are the European chafer and the Japanese beetle.

Currently, two biocontrols are labeled for turf. Milky spore, a natural occurring bacterial parasite, infects Japanese beetle grubs. Unfortunately, due to winter mortality of the bacteria, milky spore has been only marginally effective in New York.

Researchers at Cornell University are currently looking at parasitic nematodes (microscopic worms) as a biocontrol for white grubs. While nematodes are available, they are extremely expensive. As mass production techniques for nematodes improve, however, the cost may drop. Unless nematodes are used, most pesticide-free lawn care programs will probably call for lawn renovation when white grubs invade.

Norman W. Hummel, Ph.D., is employed at Cornell University.



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GE Plastics

Duke brothers, Colonie ground Eagles

By John Bellizzi

Chuck and Chad Dukes of Colonie rushed for a total of 390 yards on a rainy Saturday afternoon last weekend, scoring six touchdowns to propel the Garnet Raiders over Bethlehem Central 37-6 in a Suburban Council football game. The Eagles were dealt a crushing blow as the Dukes handed them their first loss of the 1988 campaign.

"It was a tough game, no question about it. We were beaten by two quality running backs — probably the strongest in this area in ten years," said Bethlehem Central Head Coach John Sodergren. "I felt good about what we had planned to counter them defensively, but we couldn't execute it. We had people on the ball carriers, but they slid off a lot of tackles."

Sodergren also cited Saturday's poor weather conditions as a factor in the game. "The wishbone was working well for us on the ground, but under better weather circumstances, we could have gotten more out of our passing game," Sodergren said.

Colonie's victory, their second in as many games, propelled them to the top of the Blue Division of

the Suburban Council. The loss knocked Bethlehem down to third place in the Gold Division with a 1-1 record, but they are looking to resolve that situation soon, with a home game Friday night against Saratoga.

The Blue Streaks fell to the Gold Division champion Eagles last year in an exciting 7-5 contest at Saratoga. The 0-2 Streaks, normally a powerhouse in the Blue Division, are having a some problems getting started in this year's strong Council. In their season opener, the Dukes helped Colonie rally from a 21-7 deficit to defeat Saratoga 33-21. Last weekend, Burnt Hills broke a 14-14 tie with the Streaks in the fourth quarter to emerge victorious 26-14.

"They played two very good teams," said Sodergren of Friday's opponent. "They look similar to what they have had in the past." As always, Saratoga is big across the front, and running back Rich Adams looks like a potential threat.

"I'm hoping for a dry field on Friday, so we can do some more passing than we have," Sodergren said. "They're certainly going to be a formidable opponent, but beatable."

Last Saturday, the Eagles looked like they were off to a good start as they picked up 53 yards on their 16-play first series, but didn't score. "That was frustrating. We were moving the ball well on the ground, but we didn't achieve anything in time."

The optimism surrounding the first series quickly faded as a BC fumble on their own 44 during their second series was recovered by Colonie, and Chuck Dukes put the Raiders on the scoreboard by running it all the way in for a touchdown on the next play. Chad Dukes had two touchdown runs in the second quarter to give Colonie an 18-0 lead at halftime.

Colonie took over on their own 16 after receiving Bethlehem's kickoff at the onset of the second half. The Dukes pushed relentlessly downfield for the next four minutes, not letting up until Chuck completed the drive with a nine-yard touchdown run.

BC took over on their own 32. After gaining only one yard on three plays, Pete Cocozza went back to punt, and launched one over the head to the surprised Colonie punt returner into the end zone, where the Eagles recovered it. It looked to many as

if the Colonie return man had tipped the ball in flight with his outstretched hand in a vain attempt to catch it, making the Eagles' end zone recovery a touchdown. Unfortunately, the officials did not see the player touch the punt and ruled it a touchback.

"There wasn't any question in my mind at the time that the ball touched his hand, and it was there on the game tape," Coach Sodergren stated. "It was a tough break, and a very emotional situation at the time, but in retrospect, it looks like it wouldn't have been a large factor in the direction of the game."

Colonie took possession on their own 20, and soon scored once again on a 55-yard pass from QB Tony Valente to Chad Dukes, increasing Colonie's lead to 31-0.

On the fourth play of the fourth quarter, Chuck Dukes, who had been removed from offensive play for another running back, reentered the game to punt for Colonie. The snap was high, so Dukes opted to run with it instead of risk a blocked punt. Run with it he did, 79 yards downfield to score Colonie's last touchdown, giving them a 37-0 lead.

Many teams would have just buckled under and given up by this time, but Bethlehem didn't quit. Instead, the defending Gold Division Champions began to push even harder, and managed a successful scoring drive before the game ended. The Eagles pushed 70 yards downfield, and Pete Klein crossed the goal line on a two-yard run to end Colonie's shutout.

One look at the statistics shows that the Eagles played a much better game than the score indicated. "We moved the ball well, but didn't score," said Coach Sodergren. The team rushed for 167 yards on 40 attempts. Dave Sodergren was the leading

rusher, with 75 yards on 12 attempts. "Dave is doing a really good job of getting outside on the triple option," said Sodergren of his son. "He's really added to our outside capabilities."

Sodergren was named the Most Valuable Player of the week, as well as the Offensive and Defensive Back of the week by the coaching staff. "That's a real indication of the strength of those running backs, when the defensive backs have more tackles than the front men," said Coach Sodergren. John Reagan was the Offensive Lineman of the Week, Pete Bragaw the Defensive Lineman of the Week, and Paul Vichot the Bench Player of the Week. Cocozza, with a 32 yard punting average for the game, was named specialist of the week.

"We were certainly discouraged by the nature of the loss," Coach Sodergren said, "This loss doesn't affect our goals for the season, though. We're still going to be there come the end of the season."

The bad luck that plagued Bethlehem Central's junior varsity football team in the first week of play didn't let up last weekend. Shaker overwhelmed the JV Eagles 47-0 in the season opener, and the home debut Friday night against Colonie was equally disastrous, resulting in another 47-0 score. As the Eagles travel to Saratoga to face the JV Streaks on Saturday, their luck can only improve.

Good Samaritan plans lawn sale

The Good Samaritan Home will hold a lawn sale on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Good Samaritan Home is located at 125 Rockefeller Rd., Delmar. For information call 439-8116.

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Burtis tops No. 4 seed in Drysdale Memorial

Tennis pro Linda Burtis of Delmar defeated the fourth seeded Sheryl Behne in the Drysdale Memorial Tennis Tournament in Austin, Texas last weekend.

Behne is the top player from Texas in the 40's age division.

Play was suspended several times during the match due to Hurricane Gilbert. Burtis proved undistracted by the weather and defeated Behne, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. She

lost in semi-final action to the number two-seeded Susan Norsworthy of Georgia, 6-2, 6-3, in a match that took place despite a tornado watch.

Burtis was competing in Texas on the Eastern Women's 35's team for the National Senior Women's Intersectional Championships. The Eastern team defeated the Mid-Atlantic Section before losing to an exceptionally strong team from Florida, the defending champions.

Pop Warner boys sweep, weep in home openers

Colonie sweeps while Saratoga weeps, that was the cry for last weekend's Pop Warner action.

Colonie's PeeWee team 13-7 win over Bethlehem's Falcons was a hardfought contest. Hank Tripp and Steve Demarest turned in an outstanding defensive game along with Shawn James' fumble recovery. Ron Hollins 50-yard TD run was the Falcon's only score.

The Midgets also lost to the Colonie Packers, 28-0. David Miles and Ryan Green had fumble recoveries for the Bethlehem Eagles. Jeremy Jenkins led the defense with six solo and eight combination tackles. Bob Conway led the offense with 44 hard-earned yards.

The bright spot for Bethlehem's home openers was the Junior Midgets. The Hawks bested the Saratoga Colts by a 14-6 margin. Joe Comi provided all the scoring needed with two touchdown runs; Jon Pesnel had both extra point conversions. The dominating play of John Hemstead, Gary VanWormer and Drew Reynolds paved the way for a 200-yard ground game for the offense.

Next week's action sees the Midgets take their 0-2 record to North Colonie on Saturday night at 7 p.m., while the 1-1 PeeWees and the 1-1 Junior Midgets play host to Burnt Hills for a Saturday night double header starting at 5 p.m.

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A 'Make It Happen' year

Voorheesville booters boast many strengths

By Matt Hladun

In 1985, Voorheesville's varsity boys' soccer team "arrived" by making sectionals. The following year, they were "moving ahead" by taking the Section II Class C-CC Title. In 1987, they were "aiming higher" and just missed winning the Colonial Council by half a game. This year, the team is hoping to "Make It Happen".

Coach Bob Crandall, who starts his seventh season as head coach for the Blackbirds, will be faced with the problem of replacing his top three scorers from last year's 13-5-1 team.

He feels that the offense is the one questionable key to the team's success, though he feels it has come on in the last few games. Like the past years, Crandall emphasizes ball control in his offense, and he has had the team working a lot on one on one tactics in the preseason.

Crandall said that he would hope that everyone on the team could score at least one goal this season, but said he feels he will get a lot of scoring out of seniors Keith Fragomeni, Kenny Andriano, and Pat Ryan, sophomore Christiano Clark, and foreign exchange student Hiroyuki Takase.

One of the team's strongest points is their defense. This defense is lead by last year's Class C-CC player of the year, goalkeeper Kevin Davis. Davis, a 1987 member of the Adirondack Empire State Team, spent the summer playing in Europe, and could possibly be the best goalkeeper in Section II.

The other defensive leader is Brian Tracey, who plays mostly stopper, was a member on both the 1987 and 1988 Adirondack Empire State Team.

Joe Colburn will make the move from halfback to sweeper and will be joined by both Brett Hart and Brian Logan, all seniors.

The season started off with the seventh annual Leatherstocking Tournament on September 10. It was the fourth appearance made by Voorheesville. The tournament consists of four teams: Gloversville, Schalmont, Voorheesville, and Cobleskill, who hosted the tournament this year.

Voorheesville faced defending Class B. Champion Gloversville. Crandall said he felt that Gloversville played better and had a quicker midfield. The Red Dragons struck first, scoring with 13 minutes to go in the first half. The goal was scored by Mark Whitman, who found himself all alone in front of the goalmouth. The goal proved to be the game winner as Voorheesville could not get the offense going, while Davis played outstanding in shutting down the offense in the second half, saving what seemed to be sure goals. The final shot total showed that the Blackbirds were outshot 23-10.

The first league game for Voorheesville was on Tuesday as they faced a very talented Waterford team. They played a very strong first half, controlling the tempo and eventually scoring on a goal by Colin Breeze, assisted by Fragomeni at about the 20 minute mark.

The second half showed a different team. They were getting beat to the ball by the Waterford players as well as leaving players unmarked. Then, with about four minutes left, a controversial penalty kick was called. It resulted in a penalty kick for Waterford, one that could tie the game. But, Davis came through with a save of the game, as Voorheesville went on to a 1-0 victory.

The following day, they faced Queensbury in a non-league match-up. Crandall said he thought they could have used a day rest. They played well for the first 20 minutes, but they lost their offensive drive and started to get beat to the ball. Queensbury played very well and eventually won 4-0.

Once again, they had to play on the next day. Fortunately, they played a weak Watervliet team. The Birds dominated the game from beginning to end forcing Watervliet's goalie to make 20 saves, while Davis had only two.

Voorheesville won, 7-0. The scoring was done by Logan, Bill Kerr, and Tracey. Andriano and Fragomeni had two goals each. Clark added three assists.

On Saturday, the Birds played in the consolation event in the Leatherstocking Tournament against Schalmont, a team who they must face again on Monday.

Next week, the Birds have three league games. In addition to Monday's game at Schalmont, they face Lansingburgh on Wednesday and Albany Academy on Friday, both at home.



Bethlehem's Meghan McFerran moves past a Niskayuna defender in a varsity field hockey match Friday as Sascha Mayer moves in from behind. BC won, 3-1. Mark Stuart

BC field hockey team opens with 1-1 week

By Shannon Perkins

Bethlehem field hockey got off to a good start on Wednesday with a win against Niskayuna, 3-1. Co-captain Sascha Mayer scored the winning goal and Carrie Fitzpatrick played an outstanding game in the goal.

In the second game of the season, the girls lost 1-0 to Columbia. Again, Mayer played an outstanding offensive game.

On Monday, the team was scheduled to play a home game against Shenendehowa. Coach Anne Medici was expecting a

tough game but said "The girls have set goals and are taking it one game at a time."

The team is getting an early start in preparing for their games against Burnt Hills and Shaker, two traditionally tough field hockey teams. This year, the team is younger than usual. Five players on the starting line are sophomores, and only four team Medici said that although the team is young, they are very skilled and they work very well together. The offense is fast and the defense is strong.

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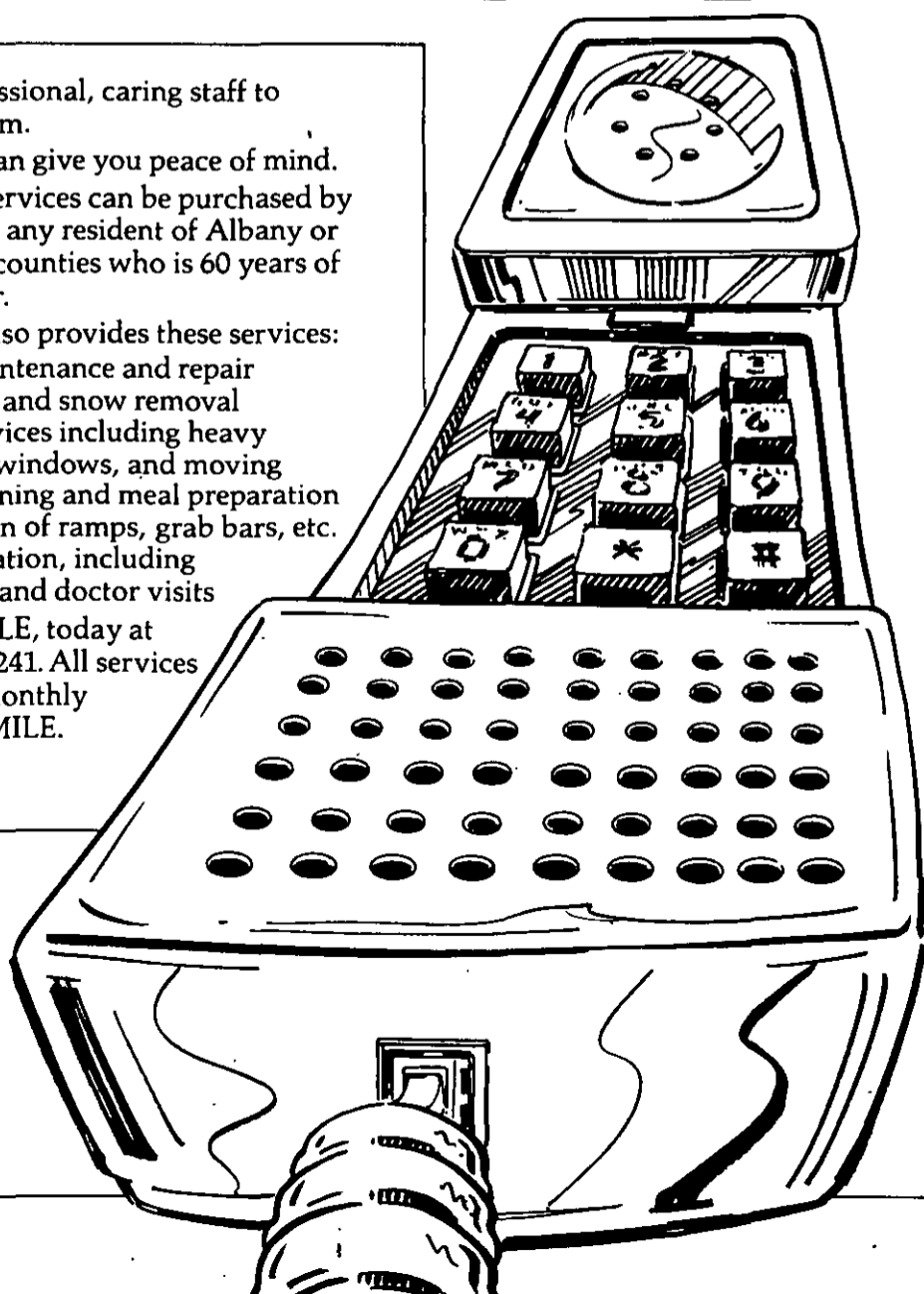
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Injuries, absences hurt BC

By Shannon Perkins

The Bethlehem cross country team kicked off its season on Sept. 10 at the Gloversville Invitational Meet. Although both the boys and girls teams were limited in numbers, there were some outstanding individual performances.

For the boys, Mike Kimelberg placed 10th and Chris Engstrom, the team captain, finished 15th. As a team, the boys placed sixth out of eight teams.

On the girls' team, Julie Hammer finished eighth. Cathy Saba, another of the team's top runners, was unable to compete.

On Saturday, Bethlehem competed in the Johnstown Invitational Meet. Because Coach John Nylis was able to enter a larger team, the boys were able to place fourth in the meet.

Kimelberg placed 10th with a time of 18.03. Number two runner

Cross Country

Engstrom did not attend the meet. Brooke Tarbell finished 17th and Anthony Scisi came in 35th.

The girls' team was unable to run as a full team because of injuries, but there were some outstanding performances. Saba, in her first meet of the season, placed ninth. Hammer finished 11th, and Kelly Walsh came in 22nd.

The team had their first duel meet of the season on Tuesday against Saratoga and Shaker. Coach Nylis was expecting some tough competition from Saratoga's team. Saratoga is a more experienced team than Bethlehem, which this year, the majority of runners for Bethlehem are seventh and eighth grade runners and new runners.

On the boys' team, there are only four returning runners from last season. The other nine members are first-time runners.

For the girls, only Hammer and Saba are returning from last year. The other four girls are running for the first time.

The girls, again, will not run with a full team on Tuesday. This is the first time the team has been threatened by the possibility of not having a full team for the full season. Kelly Jennings may be out for the rest of the season with a stress fracture, leaving the team with only five runners left. Also, Danielle Schroder has not qualified to run yet because she has not yet had enough with not enough practices in yet.

Tennis league formed for senior citizens

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Voorheesville takes first at SUNY invitational

By Zack Kendall

A new season begins with victory! The Blackbirds began a new season of cross country with an excellent performance by the freshman girls and boys at the Great Dane Invitational at the State University of Albany on Saturday.

The freshman girls and boys both placed first out of the fifteen teams competing at the invitational meet.

For the girls' team, Rachel Kelch led the Voorheesville pack in second place, Amy Sangiorgi followed closely in third, and Alexandra Kinnear and Carnella Walker were not far behind in sixth and eighth place. On the boys' team, Stefan Csiza finished fourth, Darren Ascon sixth, John Wilson ninth, and Dave Lancer 11th. According to Coach Ken Kirik, both teams look "very promising."

The varsity boys, competing with only five of the seven-man team, still managed to come in 10th out of 15 schools. Chris Stevens came in first for the team, followed by Derek Moak, Bob Sarr, Dave Mistretta, and Jeff Pjero. This is Sarr's first year on the varsity team, and Coach Kirik is very pleased with his performance.

Only one girl ran in the varsity

girls' race, the team being in short supply of older girls. But Dorinda Gifford showed how tough Voorheesville can be, and despite of suffering from a bad shoulder cramp, she brought home a trophy.

This year, Coach Kirik is trying to rebuild the team and bring it up to its peak. John Decateur, one of Voorheesville's 1987 superstars, graduated last June and is now the number one man on the cross country team at Coastal Carolina College in Myrtle Beach, S.C. This was a big loss, but the Blackbirds are training hard, and should have no trouble remaining competitive in one of the state's hardest leagues, the Colonial Council. The Birds' next meet is at Fort Plain on Saturday.

V'ville girls improving

By Kevin Taylor

The Voorheesville varsity girls' soccer team got off to a slow start this year, but is steadily improving. The Ladybirds opened the season at home against Mechanicville, the defending Section II Class C Champions.

The Raiders beat the Birds 2-0, while outshooting them 35-3. Freshman goalie Donna Zautner made 19 saves. In the second half the 'Birds managed to hold Mechanicville scoreless with only 10 players.

On September 14, the Ladybirds hosted Holy Names Academy. With :27 left in second overtime, Holy Names scored to win the game 3-2. Both of Voorheesville's goals were scored by freshman striker Nicole Solomos.

On Friday, the Blackbirds got into the win column with a 2-1 overtime victory against Shalmon.

The Ladybirds' games this week include a league game at Cohoes on Thursday and a non-league game at Tamarac on Friday.

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V'liet 'reigns' on Blackbirds' parade

By Mark Stuart

A questionable third quarter play, a candidate for Section II's Most Valuable Player award and a torrential downpour helped put a damper on the hopes of raising the Voorheesville varsity football team's record to 1-1 in a hard fought game against Watervliet Friday.

Both teams struggled to get their offensive drives off the ground, but Mother Nature grounded both team's attempts to open up what could have been a high scoring game.

In the end, the Watervliet Cannoneers defeated the Blackbirds, 19-6, in a hard fought game.

Watervliet got on the board first with a 63-yard swing pass to wide out Kevin Gedeivere. After a missed field goal attempt, the Cannoneers led 6-0.

After both sides played mud tag for the better part of the first half, exchanging futile drives ending with a punt, the Blackbirds struck deep into Watervliet territory with a 30-yard pass from Charlie Russo to Rick Leach, who was brought down on the 10-yard line. With 5:40 on the clock, Head Coach Dave Burnham sent in a halfback option pass play and quarterback Ryan Brennan found the open Craig Lapinski to put the Blackbirds on the board. The

extra point field goal attempt failed after a mishandled hold.

Again the two teams engaged in an extended period of trench warfare with neither team progressing very much on the ponding field. Then with a few seconds remaining, Voorheesville's Jennifer Eliot received a Russo pass for a 30-yard gain. But it wasn't enough as the clock ran out at the half and both teams headed for shelter with the score tied at 6-6.

Heading into the third quarter, the rain had diminished slightly, but it was still a major factor. Both teams struggled for yardage before having to punt. Then with

15 seconds left in the third quarter, Voorheesville suffered a controversial setback when the Watervliet quarterback threw the football to Fruscio. The ball hit the ground and bounced into the hands of Section II stand-out tailback Tony Fruscio. Both teams stood still. Some linemen even started heading back to the huddle. No officials blew a whistle. It was as though time stood still until the Watervliet head coach started to yell "Run!" Fruscio suddenly bolted past the Voorheesville defenders who had assumed, as did the crowd and some of the Watervliet players, that the ball was dead on an incomplete pass.

Instead, the ball was ruled a lateral and was never whistled dead. Burnham was furious.

Fruscio was stopped 43 yards downfield after being knocked out of bounds at the 12-yard line. The third quarter ended and Watervliet

scored in the fourth on a counter play from the 12 yard line. The point-after kick was successful and the Cannoneers led 13-6.

Later Burnham would say of the controversial lateral play, "I think it took the wind out of our sails. It looked to me like a forward pass, I turned around and just as I turned my back I heard everyone yelling. I just couldn't believe they made that call. I just feel it was the straw that broke our back."

Burnham said he always tells his players to lay off after a play is whistled dead, but after the game Saturday, he had some different thoughts about at what point a player should lay off a tackle or not.

"He (Fruscio) was just standing there, like he was unsure what the call was. Looking back, we could have really laid him out, but we didn't. He was just standing there," Burnham said.

(Turn to page 40)

Bethlehem soccer begins

By Bill Dixon

The Bethlehem boys soccer team opened its season Thursday by defeating Scotia, 2-1, on a last minute goal and evened its record at 1-1 by losing to a formidable Burnt Hills team 3-0.

The boys team is a new and largely inexperienced varsity team this season, which may be why the team was unable to hold together against such strong opposition from Burnt Hills, said Coach Zachary Assael, himself a newcomer to varsity coaching.

But, Assael still finds himself with an optimistic outlook for the season. With only three returning players from last year, Assael sees that the team can, with some work, eventually return to its former position as a contender for the Section II title.

"It'll come. I see a lot of potential and I have a lot of confidence in them," said Assael. "We're building here, we have to get some more experience, but I think we're going to have a good year."

The Scotia game started out close and stayed that way through both halves. Bethlehem was able to assert a small degree of dominance that worked well enough to keep the Scotia mostly on the defensive. The Eagles first goal of the game and the season was scored by junior Sean McDermott, who, along with his brother, Tim, and classmate Nick Matarrese, are veterans of last season's varsity team.

Matarrese scored the winning goal in the last minute of play, which, according to Assael, kept most everyone watching "on the edge of our seats".

Outstanding plays also came from Josh Vogel, Joe Nathan and John Evangelista, with some strong defensive efforts led by

Dan Dunn. Craig Christian also had excellent game tending goal.

"We played good ball. We kept things dangerous around their goal. It was a very physical game, an exciting first win," said Assael. "But Saturday we had trouble. It wasn't what I had hoped for."

Bethlehem played hard for twenty minutes and showed some expert passing that often confounded a serious opposition. But soon the passes got to be too long, making them all the easier to intercept.

Bethlehem will face Guilderland on Tuesday, Niskayuna on Thursday and Mohanasen on Saturday.

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RCS gridgers top Mohonasen, 20-15

By Mark Stuart

When the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk football team took the field Friday night, it had been less than a week after they were defeated handily by Hudson.

Badly bruised but far from being spiritually broken, the team seemed to remember how they were defeated: Hudson had run over them with a strong running game and capitalized on the RCS mistakes. The Indians were taught a valuable lesson and put it to good use as they defeated Mohonasen 20-15.

The Indians allowed only one touchdown in the first two quarters and led at halftime 14-7. Running backs Bob O'Neill (118 yards, 16 carries, 7.3 yards per carry) and A.J. Nunziato (59 yards, 10 carries, 5.9 yards per carry) powered the offense.

O'Neill capped a 70-yard drive in the first quarter with a 61-yard touchdown run. Nunziato added two points on the extra point conversion. Later in the first quarter, Nunziato scored on a one-yard run after a 22-yard four-play drive.

The Indians would be outscored in the third quarter, 8-6. Mohonasen scored on a 71-yard pass play and followed with a two-point conversion to move ahead of RCS 15-14. But the Indians pulled themselves together and despite a failed two point attempt, Nunziato's 29-yard touchdown run proved to be all they would need as went in to the fourth quarter, 20-15.

The fourth quarter became a battle to see who would make the least mistakes, and unlike the week before, the Indians held tight.



Bob O'Neill

In the end, the Indians compiled a healthy 162 yards on the ground and 21 yards passing, which surprisingly was eclipsed by Mohonasen's 126 yards in rushing and 160 yards in passing. The Indians defense may have allowed more than they wanted to, but they struck like a cobra when Mohonasen was lulled into a premature sense of accomplishment. Curt VanDerzee, Julio Colon and O'Neill all collected an interception apiece to stall Mohonasen's offensive drives. The interceptions and a fumble recovery by Rob Rarick helped the defense tally up four turnovers by the end of the day.

Linebacker Joe Dillberg led the RCS defense with nine tackles, followed by Chris Mogul who had seven.

The Indians allowed only two turnovers, compared to the five turnovers they had generously given to Hudson six days before.

RCS made the most of their hard-earned yardage by only giving up 25 yards in penalties. Mohonasen, on the other hand, was penalized 102 yards.

The Indians are scheduled to take their 1-1 record against Lansingburgh on Saturday at 1:30 at the RCS High School.

Controversial loss

(From Page 39)

could have really laid him out, but we didn't. He was just standing there," Burnham said.

Watervliet put the finishing touch on the game with less than two minutes left. Burnham had sent in his second string believing that Watervliet would either run or just sit on the ball to run the clock out. Instead, they threw a touchdown pass for the final blow.

The final count was Watervliet 19, Voorheesville 6.

But despite the loss, Burnham praised defensive linemen Jim Gianatasio and Dan Jackson for their outstanding efforts. The defense was also bolstered by linebackers O'Ryan Colfer and Mark MacMillen, who both collected an interception apiece. Burnham also credited split end

Sean Joyce with an outstanding performance.

This week, Voorheesville will meet Albany Academy away at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Burnham expects an extremely physical game from the bigger Academy squad, a squad that boasts a 6-foot-8 260-pound defensive tackle "without an ounce of fat on him," according to Burnham, and a 6-foot-2 240-pound offensive guard.

"We always have a problem with Academy, but this year, they're really huge," Burnham said.

Voorheesville plans to run the ball all game long on Saturday after getting hammered by Watervliet last week during pass plays. Burnham will be working on the option from the I-formation in hopes of wearing down the Academy defenders. He said he will be working with Russo to improve his judgment as to when to keep and when to give on the pitch.

In the beginning of the season, Burnham said there were two teams he would dread playing. One of them was Watervliet. The second was Albany Academy. Hopefully, the Blackbirds will leave last week behind this Saturday

Silverware stolen from Delmar home

Over 70 pieces of sterling silver silverware and two gold rings were stolen from a Middlesex Dr. home earlier this month, Bethlehem police said.

Bethlehem shows team strength

By Deborah Cousins

The Bethlehem boys' varsity volleyball team, made up mostly of seniors, has made an extraordinary debut as it enters the 1988 fall season.

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, the team put away Mohonasen at Mohonasen High School, winning 15-2, 5-12, and 15-11.

At the next match, Thursday, Sept. 15, Coach Sandy Collins saw the team really pull together and beat Shaker High School at Bethlehem. Bethlehem lost the first game, 10-15, but won the next two 15-12 and 15-10.

The next match didn't turn out

Volleyball

as well for the Eagles as they lost in three games, but Collins said he believed that Bethlehem played a "fabulous game," and really did "very well." "It was just the breaks," said Collins.

Bethlehem won the first game 15-7, but lost the second 12-15 and the third 12-15 also.

Bethlehem's 1988 volleyball season sees six players returning to the varsity level, including seniors Bruce McAllister, Greg Jazco, John Allenson, and Ian

Berry, and juniors Steve Hammes and Chris Hudals. The team also includes seniors Tim Hanson, Tom Concolino, Jason Dubois, Mark Farina; juniors Arvid Johnson and Jason Kirkman and sophomore Brian Farrel. An added surprise is the talented Australian newcomer Jason Tainton, who together with Jazco, may prove to be the strongest members of the team, said Collins.

On Thursday, Bethlehem faces Scotia High School at Bethlehem at 4 p.m. On Friday, Bethlehem travels to Columbia for a 4 p.m. match. All matches are open to spectators



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BC girls enjoy 2-1

By Deborah Cousins

The Bethlehem Central girls' volleyball team, for the time being, is enjoying a sense of security with its 2-1 record.

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, Bethlehem defeated Mohonasen at Bethlehem High School, 15-9, 15-4. On Thursday, Bethlehem defeated Shaker at Shaker High School, 15-6, 15-5.

With the two wins under their belts, Bethlehem faced Burnt Hills, a tough volleyball rival, on Friday, and Bethlehem's offense was no match for the superior Burnt Hills squad. The match fell apart for the Bethlehem Eagle girls in a 15-5, 15-12 loss. Burnt Hills had the edge on Bethlehem by being able to return practically all of Bethlehem's attempts.

Coach Nancy Smith feels that the season will be a good one. "We will do well. I can't predict where we'll come out... at least it should be a .500 season", says Smith.

On Thursday, the Bethlehem girls' volleyball team will travel to Scotia, and on Friday will host Columbia High School. All matches start at 4 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem hereby invites sealed bids for furnishing and/or furnishing and installing one 6" vertical drive non-clog sewage pump for the Bethlehem Sewer District Pumping Station on Rocketteller Road. Bids will be received up to 2:30 p.m. on the 3rd day of Oct., 1988 at which time such bid will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York. Bids shall be addressed to Mr. J. Robert Hendrick, Supervisor, Town of Bethlehem, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054. Bids shall be in sealed envelopes which shall bear on the face thereof, the name and address of the bidder and the subject of the bid. ORIGINAL and ONE COPY of each bid shall be submitted. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, Delmar, New York. The Town Board reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all bids.

BY ORDER OF THE
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM.

CAROLYN M. LYONS
TOWN CLERK
September 21, 1988

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem in the County of Albany, State of New York, has on the 14th day of September, 1988, duly adopted, subject to a permissive referendum, a resolution, an abstract of which is as follows: The Town of Bethlehem owns and maintains a fire training tower and adjacent grounds used by the Vol-

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unter Fire Department for training purposes, and the Volunteer Fire Officers Association of the Town of Bethlehem has requested that the Town make certain improvements including: (1) paving the existing roadway to the grounds and the area around the tower, and (2) grading and installation of crushed stone around fire prop. area, at an estimated cost of \$29,000. The Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem established a General Reserve Fund on January 22, 1986 to provide for the cost of training facility and to pay for its maintenance and improvement. Said resolution directs the Supervisor and Comptroller to expend up to \$29,000, for the improvement of the Fire Training Tower and Surrounding Area as indicated above and that the expenditures be paid from the aforesaid General Reserve Fund for Fire Training Ground Improvements. Said resolution is subject to a permissive referendum under the provisions of Article VII of the Town Law, and petitions protesting against such resolution and requesting that it be submitted to the electors of the Town of Bethlehem for their approval or disapproval may be filed with the Town Clerk at any time within thirty days after the date of the adoption of said resolution.

BY ORDER OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
CAROLYN M. LYONS,
TOWN CLERK
Dated: September 14, 1988

September 21, 1988

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ONE ACRE DELMAR HOME SITE. Secluded, wooded, all utilities, ready for choice of custom home design. Keystone Builders Inc. 439-6828

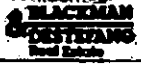
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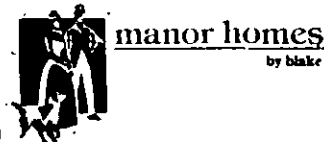
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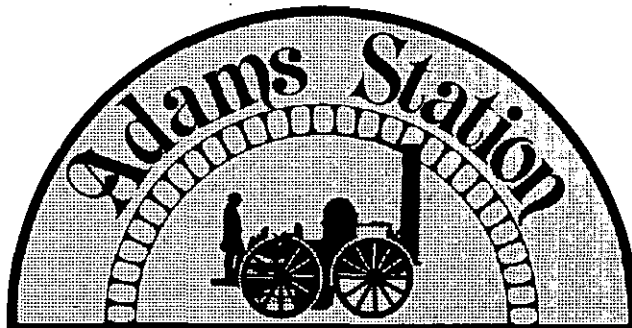
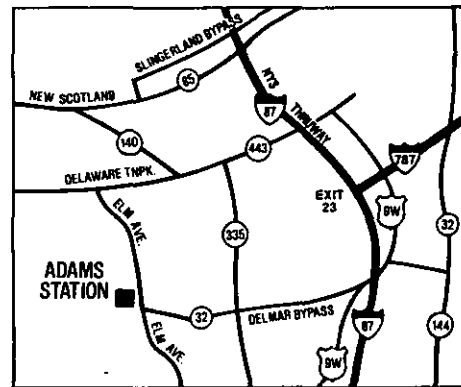
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OBITUARIES

Julius Ostroff

Julius Ostroff, 71, of Slingerlands, chairman of Albany Custom Floors, died Friday, Sept. 16 at Albany Medical Center Hospital after a brief illness.

He was born in Brooklyn and was a long-time area resident.

He was chairman of the board of directors of Albany Custom Floors, which he founded in 1946.

He was an organizer of the Urban League of Albany and served as treasurer on the national board of the Leukemia Society.

He was a member of Temple Beth Emeth and Temple Israel, both in Albany.

He was a life member of the Albany City Lodge 540 Knights of Pythias, a member of the Albany Jewish War Veterans Post 105, the Colonie Country Club, the University Club, the Masonic Temple, the Albany Rotary Club and the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce.

He was also a veteran of the Office of Strategic Services, a member of the board of the International Center in Albany and the Washington Lodge 85 F and AM.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Goodman Ostroff; three sons, Steven and Jeffery Ostroff, both of Delmar, and Richard Ostroff of Guilderland; a sister, Mollie Blacker of Albany; a brother, Sanford Ostroff of Albany; and five grandchildren.

Burial was in Beth Emeth Cemetery in Loudonville. Arrangements were made by the Levine Memorial Chapel, Albany.

Contributions may be made to St. Peter's Hospital Cardiac Surgery Program Fund or Temple Beth Emeth in Albany.

Patricia Bonanni

Patricia Jane Arceneaux Bonanni, 55, of Voorheesville died Wednesday, Sept. 14, at Albany Medical Center Hospital after a brief illness.

She was born in Ravenna and was a lifelong area resident. She was the wife of the late Anthony J. Bonanni.

She had been employed as a secretary by the Underwriters Rating Board in Colonie since 1983.

She was a communicant of the

St. Matthew Church in Voorheesville.

She is survived by three sons, Thomas Bonanni of Guilderland, Anthony J. Bonanni Jr. of East Berne and Francis Bonanni of Voorheesville; a daughter, Jeanne Thompson of Broadalbin; two brothers, Lynn Arceneaux of Ravenna and Donald Arceneaux of Mechanicville; and two grandsons.

Burial was in the Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Colonie. Arrangements were made by the Lasak and Gigliotti Funeral Home, Albany.

Mildred Lennon

Mildred Poskitt Lennon, 76, of Voorheesville died Wednesday, Sept. 14, at her daughter's residence after a brief illness.

She was born in New York City and was a resident of Manhasset, N.Y. for most of her life, before moving to Voorheesville a year ago.

She was employed as a secretary to the Manhasset town clerk for 20 years, retiring in 1977.

She was the wife of the late Francis Lennon.

She is survived by two daughters, Linda Crosby of Wellesley, Mass., and Diane Deeley of Voorheesville; two sons, F. Richard Lennon of Easton, Conn., and G. Robert Lennon of Boca Raton, Fla.; and seven grandchildren.

Leona Shea

Leona M. Shea, 85, of Delmar, a retired telephone operator, died Tuesday, Sept. 13, in St. Peter's Hospital after a short illness.

She was born in Syracuse and was a Delmar resident for 53 years. She was employed by the state Office of General Services in Albany for 19 years, retiring as a senior telephone operator in 1973.

She was also employed by the New York Telephone Co. in Syracuse.

She was a member of the New York Telephone Co. Pioneers and the Civil Service Employees Association.

She is survived by two daughters, Patricia Putnam and Barbara Jean Shea, both of Delmar.

Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont. Arrangements were made by the Applebee Funeral Home, Delmar.

Contributions may be made to the Apostolic Fund of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Mines

(From Page 1)

until the end of the DEC permit in March 1991. The DEC permit is renewable every three years.

- All vehicles traveling in and out of the mine site comply with the settlement agreement, which says they cannot travel on local routes except for a delivery.

- The miners have a complete noise survey of their operation taken for the Orchard Park area and brings those noise levels in compliance.

- The trees and bushes at the end of the haulage road from the mine site onto Rt. 155 be trimmed.

- Dead trees and shrubs planted on the berm be replaced.

- The cessation of mining if the water supplies in the area are harmed by the mining.

- An engineer for the planning board will inspect the mine periodically.

- The seasonal high water table be accurately determined.

Voting with Hampston to approve the special use permit were John Loucks, Raymond MacKay and Ann Richards. Sam Stein, Annick Belleville and William Childs voted against the mine.

After instructing planning board members to state specific reasons from the zoning ordinance when casting their vote, Hampston said the mine will have a limited, short term, minor impact on the area and that gravel is a limited resource that could be lost. There are restrictions in the agreement between town and the miners on the operation of the mine, he said. The area was mined before and it hasn't changed much since 1984 when mining was allowed in the area, Hampston said.

MacKay said that as owners of the property the miners should be able to do what they want with the land. The town has to move on from this issue, he said, and most neighbors of the mine asked the board to approve the mine. MacKay was referring to the Orchard Park Neighborhood Association's request to grant the special use permit to facilitate the start of a water district for their area.

Some members of the audience at the crowded town hall voiced objection to MacKay's statement, but Hampston quickly gavelled the room under control again.

Richards said the town is deciding now whether the north-eastern section of town may be developed, and the question is whether the town wants to develop or remain a rural community.

She said she believes two thirds of the gravel mined may be used in New Scotland.

Loucks said the question of the mine hinges on the water supply. He said experts have determined mining would not affect the

FIRE FIGHTERS CORNER

Isabel Glastetter

Date	Department or Unit	Reason for Call
Sept. 5	Delmar Fire Department	Alarm Drop
Sept. 5	Elsmere Fire Department	Mutual Aid
Sept. 5	Delmar Rescue Squad	Standby
Sept. 5	Bethlehem Ambulance	Personal Injury
Sept. 5	Bethlehem Ambulance	Medical Emergency
Sept. 5	Delmar Rescue Squad	Auto Accident
Sept. 5	Slingerlands Fire Dept.	Alarm Drop
Sept. 5	Delmar Rescue Squad	Standby
Sept. 5	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 6	Delmar Rescue Squad	Auto Accident
Sept. 6	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 6	Delmar Rescue Squad	Respiratory Distress
Sept. 7	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 7	Delmar Rescue Squad	Personal Injury
Sept. 8	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 8	Delmar Fire Department	Structure Fire
Sept. 9	Elsmere Fire Co	Medical Emergency
Sept. 9	Delmar Rescue Squad	Standby
Sept. 9	Delmar Rescue Squad	Auto Accident
Sept. 9	Elsmere Fire Co	Washdown
Sept. 9	Delmar Rescue Squad	Personal Injury
Sept. 9	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 9	Selkirk Fire Department	Brush Fire
Sept. 10	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 11	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 12	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 12	Delmar Rescue Squad	Personal Injury
Sept. 12	Delmar Rescue Squad	Respiratory Distress
Sept. 12	Bethlehem Ambulance	Heart Attack
Sept. 12	Delmar Fire Department	Alarm Drop
Sept. 12	Delmar Rescue Squad	Standby
Sept. 12	Selkirk Fire Department	Brush Fire
Sept. 13	Delmar Rescue Squad	Respiratory Distress
Sept. 13	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 13	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 14	Delmar Rescue Squad	Personal Injury
Sept. 14	Delmar Rescue Squad	Respiratory Distress
Sept. 14	Delmar Rescue Squad	Medical Emergency
Sept. 14	Bethlehem Ambulance	Medical Emergency

The Delmar Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind residents that winter will soon be upon us. It's the time to service furnaces, clean chimneys and make sure your wood stoves are properly installed and in working order.

Bethlehem Ambulance will have a training session prior to its regular monthly meeting Thursday Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. at the South Bethlehem Fire House.

The Elsmere Fire Co. Mixed League started their bowling for the year last week. The top scores were: Scott Travis with a 221 for the mens' high single; Bill Webb rolled the mens' high triple with a 570; and Isabel Glastetter scored the ladies' high single, 182, and ladies high triple with a 490.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this column contact Isabel Glastetter 439-2627.

water, but that there are no guarantees. Loucks said he has "no qualms" about the safety of the aquifer based on information he received from "so-called experts."

The vote to grant the special use permit followed a motion by Stein to reject the permit. His motion was denied by the same 4-3 vote.

In proposing his resolution to the board, Stein said that mining is not necessary or desirable and doesn't contribute to the community. Little of the gravel mined will be used by the town; there will be no benefits

economically through long-term jobs, residences, businesses or to the tax base; there was conflicting testimony on the potential effects on the aquifer; the use of the water could be delayed for six to nine years; and a proposed development on the land could be delayed or possibly restricted, he said.

The gravel mine brings a risk to the town's only known source of water, Stein said. New Scotland is caught in a vice between neighboring areas that have developed and if it is going to control development, it will have to control the water and not take the risk of the mine, he said.

It is within the planning board's jurisdiction and duty to weigh conflicting testimony on the effects of gravel mining and make a decision for the good of the town, Stein said. He added that there other uses for the property.

Childs said he believed there would be no redeeming feature from the gravel mine. The board is answerable to the public and it has an obligation to respond to the will of the people.

The issues of mining and a water district should have never been joined, Childs said, but there is no reason to chance risking the aquifer.

HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY Peggy Nelson



Love,
Sally & Jeanne

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Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Richter



Mr. and Mrs. Scott Eric Foyer

Candidates to speak

The Bethlehem Women's Republican Club will hold a "Meet the Candidates Night" on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave., Delmar, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. A "Basket of Cheer," raffle will be held.

For information call 439-5636.

Bethlehem Grange to host dance

The Bethlehem Grange will host a Round and Square Dance at the grange, Rt. 396, just west of Rt. 9W, on Friday, Sept. 23 from 9 to 11 p.m.

Featured at the dance will be caller George Clapper, and also a door prize.

For information call 474-7890.

Gardening to be demonstrated

A demonstration of daffodil planting at the Bethlehem Public Library, Delaware Ave., Delmar, will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m.

The rain date is Thursday, Sept. 29. For information call 439-9314.

Bohl, Richter marry

Cheryl Ann Bohl, daughter of George and Nancy Bohl of Selkirk, and Glenn H. Richter, son of Fred and Mildred Richter of Selkirk, were married on July 16 at St. John's-St. Ann's Church in Albany.

Eileen Wuerthele was the matron of honor. Dale Richter served as best man.

The bride, a graduate of Alfred University, is a registered nurse. She is employed by the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled in Albany.

The groom, a graduate of Hartwick College, is an accountant for Arthur Place and Company.

The couple will reside in Selkirk.

Duo to perform folk songs

Folk singers Kathy Young and Steve Metivier will perform songs for all ages at the Slingerlands United Methodist Church, 1499 New Scotland Rd., Slingerlands, on Thursday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Young and Metivier will perform songs from Harry and Tom Chapin, Simon and Garfunkel, and other folk favorites.

For information call 439-1766.

Church sponsors rummage, bake sale

The Community Methodist Church, 1499 New Scotland Ave., Slingerlands, will sponsor a Rummage and Bake Sale on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will also be a free blood pressure check offered at the sale. For information call 439-2209.

Church to hold friendship celebration

The Delmar Reformed Church will hold a friendship celebration on Sunday, Sept. 25, starting at 10 a.m., at the church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Nursery care will be provided, and Sunday school classes are available for children three years to high school.

For information call 439-0509.

Library program to discuss menopause

On Thursday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m., the Bethlehem Public Library will sponsor a program entitled "Menopause and Beyond: A Program to Separate Myth from Reality."

Dr. Howard Netter will present a lecture and slide show to explain the significance of menopause and its impact on the body.

For information call 439-9314.

Drapeau wed in Slingerlands

Diane Marie Drapeau, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Drapeau of Delmar, and Scott Eric Foyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kent Foyer of Chicago, were married on June 11 at the Community United Methodist Church in Slingerlands. The Rev. Clark Callender officiated.

The bride, a graduate of the state University College at Plattsburgh and the state University at Albany, is a teacher for

Camary Corp.

The bridegroom, who recently received an honorary discharge from the U.S. Navy, is an electrician for ATS Service Systems Inc. He will be pursuing a degree in business this fall.

The couple will reside in Slingerlands.

Joyful Noise to perform

On Sunday, Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m., the Joyful Noise, a presentation of Christian Music Ministries, will perform at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Rt. 143, Coeymans Hollow.

Joyful Noise is made up of high school and college students, who represent 20 different churches.

For information call 756-2255.

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Community Corner

Voorheesville Auction and Bazaar

The Voorheesville Auction and Bazaar will be held on the Maple Ave. grounds of the First United Methodist Church, starting at 10 a.m., on Saturday, Oct. 1.

The Auction and Bazaar will feature great bargains, good food and fantastic entertainment. All are welcome to participate in this annual event.

For more information call 765-3628.

Here's to a WONDERFUL WEDDING!



<p>Bridal Gowns Bridal Rose Boutique, 239 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Formal, Mother-of-the-Bride, Cocktail dresses.</p>	<p>Bridal Consultant Celebrations, 439-6721. Invitations, Limousine, Reception, Cakes, Music, Florist and Photographer.</p>	<p>Entertainment Disc-Jockey—ALL the music YOU want to hear. Superb sound "Total Entertainment" 24hr. Hotline 439-9712</p>
<p>Bridal Registry Village Shop, Delaware Plaza, 439-1823 FREE GIFT for registering.</p>	<p>Florist Danker Florist. Three great locations: 239 Delaware Ave., Delmar 439-0971. M-Sat. 9-8. Corner of Allen & Central. 489-5461. M-Sat. 8:30-5:30. Stuyvesant Plaza, 439-2202. M-Sat. 9-9, Sun. 12-5. All New Silk and Traditional Fresh Flower Bouquets.</p>	<p>Musical—Put the accent on your occasion with SOLO GUITAR MUSIC for the discerning musical taste. Ref. available. 459-3448.</p>
<p>Receptions Normanside Country Club, 439-5362. Wedding and Engagement Parties.</p>	<p>Jewelers Harold Finkle, "Your Jeweler" 217 Central Ave., Albany. 463-8220. Diamonds - Hand-crafted Wedding Rings.</p>	<p>HARP—The unique touch for your special occasion. Flute, guitar, vocals also available 463-7509.</p>
<p>Invitations Johnson's Stationery 439-3166. Wedding Invitations, Announcements, personalized Accessories.</p>	<p>Photography Gordon Hamilton's Candid Photography. South Bethlehem. Complete wedding & engagement photos. Packages start at under \$200.00. Negatives available. 767-2916.</p>	<p>Rental Equipment A to Z Rental, Everett Rd., Albany. 489-7418. Canopies, Tables, Chairs, Glasses, China, Silverware.</p>
<p>Paper Mill Delaware Plaza, 439-8123 Wedding Invitations, writing paper, Announcements. Your Custom order.</p>	<p>Honeymoon Delmar Travel Bureau. Let us plan your complete Honeymoon. We cater to your special needs. Start your new life with us. Call 439-2316. Delaware Plaza, Delmar</p>	



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NEW SCOTLAND
Larned mine
approved
Civic center gets
more supervision
Glenmont to get
warning light

Page 1
 Page 3
 Page 7

Safety
Are stop signs
the answer to
speeding in
residential
neighbor-
hoods?



Page 1

Fall homes
Special section, Pages 15-

