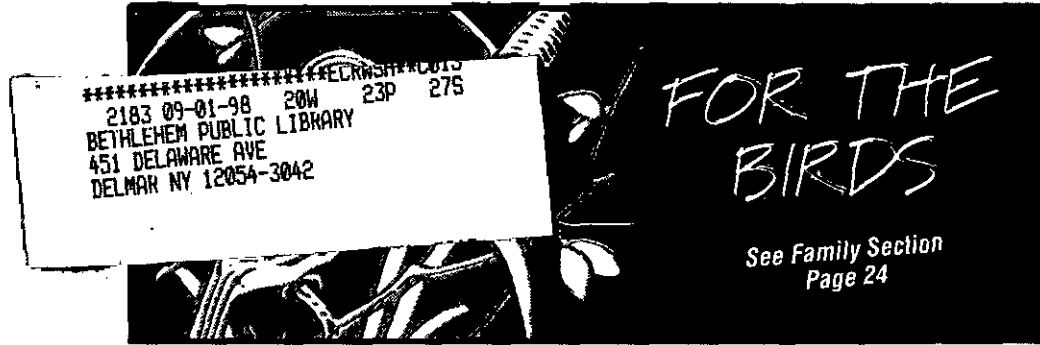


THE SPOTLIGHT



Vol. XLII No. 51 The weekly newspaper serving the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland December 17, 1997 50¢

Legislators OK Lawson Lake public use plan

By Dev Tobin
 After almost 20 years, the county Legislature is moving to a consensus that Lawson Lake Park should be open to the public.
 The legislature's Conservation Committee, unanimously approved the first public use plan for the park at its meeting last Wednesday.
 Committee Chairman Michael Richardson, D-Albany, said the new plan was based on a 1995 draft interim management plan that had been reviewed earlier in the week by county planners and members of County Executive Michael Breslin's staff.
 In November, the committee had refused to report out a resolution proposed by Breslin calling for more limited public access.
 The county has owned the 421-acre park on the Coeymans-New Scotland border for 18 years, and has reserved it almost exclusively for Camp Opportunities, a summer camp for Albany city youth.
 The federal government gave the county a \$297,000 grant to fund about half the property's cost, and an essential condition of the federal grant, unfulfilled since then, is that the park be open to the general public.
 □ PUBLIC/page 20

Zoning lawsuit charges racism

By Michael Hallisey
 Carole Riley claims she was denied a use variance by the Bethlehem Zoning Board of Appeals because she is a wealthy, black woman from Harlem.
 In a 30-page complaint filed in U.S. District Court, Riley alleges Supervisor Sheila Fuller, Building Inspector John Flanigan, and members of the zoning board of appeals met in private meetings to conspire against her.
 So she is suing the town, its supervisor, its building inspector, and zoning board members, for a total of \$15.25 million.
 The lawsuit also asks to postpone the ZBA's decision, in order for Riley to continue doing business from her 1545 New Scotland Road home. The ZBA denial stated she had to stop doing business by May 5.
 Riley refused comment and her lawyer, Peter M. Pryor, could not be reached for comment.
 Fuller, who is being sued for \$1.5 million, said she is shocked.
 "It's unfortunate that Ms. Riley has felt the need to make these allegations," said Fuller. "I'm personally offended by her reaction. There is not anyone serving in



Carole Riley, left, alleges that Bethlehem officials discriminated against her when she requested a variance for an office in her Slingerlands home, above.

public office that is a racist. They do their jobs based on the law."
 Fuller said she had met with Riley earlier in the year to talk about what would be required from her to obtain a use variance.
 "Carole Riley is welcomed in the community, on a property zoned appropriately for her business," Fuller said.
 Riley's suit claims the predominantly white suburb is a community which supports prejudice against blacks. The lawsuit states, "The Town historically has nurtured anti-black sentiments; it continues to do so and, upon information and belief, the Town is adverse to

□ LAWSUIT/page 20

BCHS principal worries about Stewart's plan

By Michael Hallisey
 For Bethlehem Central High School principal Jon Hunter, a proposed convenience store at the intersection of Elm and Delaware avenues may be too convenient for students who want to acquire tobacco and/or alcohol.
 "It is very scary to me, as an educator, to face the prospect that cigarettes will now be on sale literally at the edge of campus," Hunter said.
 Hunter's concerns echo those voiced in a recent town zoning board of appeals meeting.
 During the ZBA's public hearing, Stewart's real estate representative Tom Lewis told board members the store planned to sell tobacco, alcohol and lottery tickets among other merchandise found in its other stores.
 However, because Stewart's plans to sell alcohol, the store chain must first apply for a use variance. According to town law, it is prohibited to sell alcohol within 250

□ STEWART'S/page 11

Dinner defines spirit of Christmas

By Katherine McCarthy
 The Christmas spirit will be in full swing at the 10th annual Bethlehem Community Christmas dinner at the First United Methodist church on Christmas Day.
 "Hospitality begins at 1:30," said Arthur Copeland, who's chairing the dinner for the third year in a row, "and dinner begins at 2. We also deliver meals to people who can't get out."
 Copeland said 50 to 60 volunteers work on the dinner, as drivers, people who purchase and prepare the food, and clean up afterwards.
 Copeland said that anywhere from 75 to 110 people will come for the dinner, and another 60 to 75 will receive meals at home.
 Copeland said that everyone is welcome to attend the dinner. He, his wife Marie and their 5-year-old daughter Mary will be there.
 "It's a real family gathering," he said. "People come back year after year. It's a happy and rewarding experience. For a lot

□ DINNER/page 5



Norrine Cooke, Joyce Becker, Bob Johnson, Arthur Copeland check their lists for the 10th annual Community Christmas dinner at First United Methodist Church. Katherine McCarthy

Police charge four with DWI

Bethlehem police arrested four people on charges of driving while intoxicated recently.

James Carroll, 24, of Main Street in New Baltimore, was arrested on charges of DWI at 9:06 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5.

Police said he was stopped when he was observed driving through the Delaware Plaza parking lot without headlights on.

He was given an appearance ticket to appear in town court Monday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m.

Douglas J. Fruehwirth, 27, of Jennings Road in Hannacroix, Greene County, was arrested on charges of DWI at 2:41 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Police said he was stopped when he was observed speeding along Route 9W in Glenmont.

He was given an appearance ticket to appear in town court Monday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m.

Michael W. Peters, 35, of 80 Brookman Ave. in Delmar, was arrested on charges of DWI at 3:50 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Police said he was stopped when he was observed crossing over yellow pavement markings along Kenwood Avenue.

He was given an appearance ticket to appear in town court Monday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m.

David R. Lengyel, 40, of 1676 Western Ave. in Albany, was arrested on charges of DWI at 6:35 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

Police said he was stopped when he was observed hitting a curb and crossing over the yellow pavement markings several times while driving along Kenwood Avenue.

He was given an appearance ticket to appear in town court Monday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m.

Country club begins major renovation

By Dev Tobin

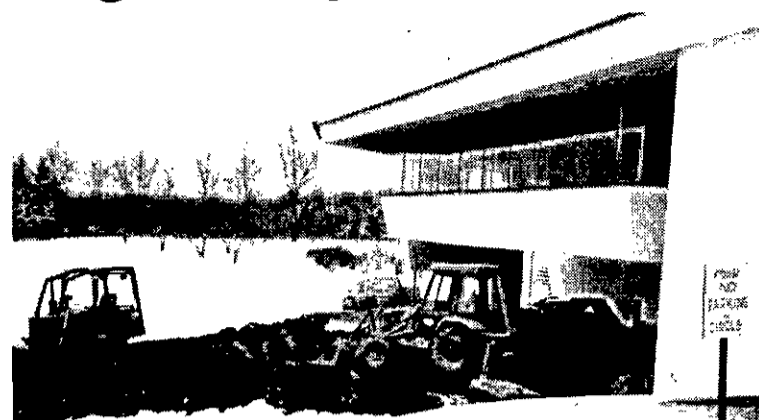
The dramatic modern architecture of Colonie Country Club on Route 85A in New Scotland has held up pretty well, although the facility is 34 years old. Even so, the club has embarked on a \$2.5 million renovation of the clubhouse, according to general manager William Aperance.

"This will bring us up-to-date, making our clubhouse more modern and efficient," Aperance said. "There is no finer course in the area, and after this project is finished, there will be no finer clubhouse."

The work includes a new 19th hole grille room and terrace overlooking the ninth and 18th greens, enlarging the ladies' card room and the banquet room, and remodeling and redecorating both locker rooms, the dining and banquet facilities and the office area. The project will add about 5,000 square feet to the facility's 25,000 square feet.

"Back in the early 1960s, members' needs were different from today," explained Aperance, adding that current members are "more casual, and the new grille and terrace will bring them closer to the course in a more casual atmosphere."

The club's membership of about 275 is about 50 below its



Foundation work is under way for the new 19th-hole grill and terrace at Colonie County Club. Dev Tobin

peak, and Aperance noted that the project will make the club more attractive to new members.

"All clubs have seen a boost in membership after a renovation project," he said.

And, in general, golf is growing, he noted, due in part to the Tiger Woods phenomenon, but more essentially to demographics.

"As baby boomers hit their 40s and 50s, golf will do nothing but increase over the next 10 to 15 years," Aperance said.

The renovation will be financed by loans from Albanc and Capital Bank & Trust. To repay the loans, current members will pay a

monthly assessment and members who join the club following completion of the project will pay an initiation fee of \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Aperance noted that members who join now would not have to pay the initiation fee. "Now's the time to join," he said.

The current dues and assessment for a family membership is \$390 a month, he added.

The project will be completed by May. The general contractor is Sano-Rubin of Delmar.

Church to sponsor breakfast with Santa

Glenmont Community Church will sponsor a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The cost for the breakfast buffet is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children ages 4 to 12, and free for children 3 years-old or younger.

For reservations, call 462-1588.

Everyone in the community is invited to the children's pageant, Christmas Around the World, on Sunday, Dec. 21, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 7 p.m.

The church is located on Chapel Lane in Glenmont, behind K-Mart.

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Cablevision hikes anger residents

By Michael Hallisey

At last week's town board meeting, officials from Cablevision tried to explain to board members and a handful of angry cable customers why its rates are going up again. But, after 90 minutes, no one appeared convinced.

"I'd just like to state an observation I've made," said Councilman Ted Putney. "And it's one that I have seen before. There is a lack of response to the residents of Bethlehem. You were asked if this is the most (expensive rate) allowed by the Federal Communications Commission, and you failed to answer that. You also were asked about the exact number of residents who had requested the Golf Channel and, though you made it clear that information is not at your fingertips, you failed to answer that as well."

Residents appeared to be upset over an apparent price hike due to the addition of a channel they said they did not want—the Golf Channel.

The price for basic cable access increased 77 cents a month. The family cable package, which includes access to channels such as Nickelodeon, ESPN, C-SPAN, and the Weather Channel, increased \$1.47 a month.

When Delmar resident Sherwood Davies wanted to inquire about changes in his service and rate after reading a letter he

received from Cablevision general manager George Smede earlier this month, he said he could not find a return address or phone number.

Smede and Cablevision sales

Bottom line, we are in business to make money. To put a worthless program out there would not do it. What we are trying to do is offer the most attractive viewing package.

George Smede

and marketing manager Will Kuebler said the addition of the one channel was not the reason for the price hike.

"We have to pay for the investments we make," Smede said. "And we make the investments to improve the quality of programming and services we provide."

Phone numbers and addresses are printed on monthly bills, said Kuebler.

The rates are figured out through a federal Communications Commission formula that includes programming costs, the inflation rate and the cost for competitive alternatives, such as wireless cable or satellite, Smede said.

"Bottom line, we are in business to make money," Kuebler said. "To put a worthless program out there would not do it. What we are trying to do is offer the most attractive viewing package."

Cablevision has approximately 30,000 customers in the Capital District, about 8,700 in Bethlehem. In order to find what customers would prefer to see on TV, Cablevision conducts phone interviews of 400 customers each year.

"These are choices we made, by what we think the viewers want, based on our surveys," Smede said. "What's good for you may not be good for someone else."

Other customers felt they were getting less for their money than those in neighboring communities serviced by Time-Warner, which also provides Internet service for an additional fee.

Delmar resident Vic Olivett asked why a family in Albany could receive about 20 channels more, for approximately \$3 more, than a family in Bethlehem.

"It's a monopoly," Davies said.

"No, it's not a monopoly," Smede said. "You have choices, like C-Band satellite service, wireless cable or on-air or Direct TV."

At the end of the presentation, Smede said to Putney: "I take exception to your remarks. I think we have answered all of those questions. I think by our appearance here tonight, we are accessible to the people."

Smede also listed local charities the company supports, despite comments that Cablevision is "not a part of the community."

Town water report remains on hold

By Michael Hallisey

Consulting engineering firm Gannett Fleming said it would take a month to compile a report on the town's new water infiltration system.

That was in September.

Nearly three months after the town board allowed LeBouef, Lamb, Greene & MacRae—the New York City law firm the town retained in July—to hire Gannett Fleming, the law firm has yet to see the report.

"It's not timely," said lawyer John A. Rudy. "I expect to get

information soon."

He would not say why the report has taken so long, but said the firm has "had a lot of documents and they have to work through them."

Unlike when O'Brien & Gere, an engineering firm from Syracuse, presented an analysis on the water system in a public hearing, Rudy said information gathered from Gannett Fleming will "assist the town with their legal rights and will not present an analysis."

"We are not interested in throwing stones, so to speak," said Rudy. "That is if there are any stones to begin with."

Supervisor Sheila Fuller said, "I'm assuming I'll be hearing something from John Rudy soon."

Fuller said she is not sure of how the information will be used. If Gannett Fleming's report reveals wrongdoing on behalf of the water plant's designers, it could lead into a lawsuit. And, if no one is found negligent, a presentation like the one O'Brien & Gere conducted in September could be made.

Meanwhile, the town board has been fielding questions and comments on the water plant. The latest of which was an allegation the plant's designer knew there would be possible clogging of the system before the plant opened in January 1996.

The water system is supplied by wells that tap into an aquifer

under the Hudson River. It was designed to provide up to six million gallons for residential and industrial use.

But, fewer than 10 residents are hooked up to the system and the majority of the 2.4 million gallons of water now drawn from the plant is consumed by industries such as General Electric and Selkirk Cogen.

The plant was opened in January 1996.

New Scotland to revise facilities use policy

By Dev Tobin

The town of New Scotland cannot insure the contents of the new historical museum in the Wyman Osterhout Community Center because it doesn't own them, insurance agent John TenEyck told the town board last week.

Holiday schedule

The *Spotlight* office will be closed for the holidays Dec. 24 at 1 p.m. and for the entire day Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1.

Advertising/community news deadlines are as follows:

Dec. 31 issue — Dec. 24 at 1 p.m.

Jan. 7 issue — Jan. 2 at 5 p.m.

Banners on display



Eight banners depicting the story of the birth of Christ adorn the walls of Community United Methodist Church in Slingerlands. The banners were created by church member Pat Dolder of Delmar and will be on display this Sunday for a Christmas concert beginning at 10 a.m.

Index

Editorial Pages.....	6-9
Obituaries.....	20, 21
Weddings.....	22, 23
Sports.....	12-15
Neighborhood News	
Voorheesville.....	18
Selkirk/South Bethlehem.....	10
Family Entertainment	
Business Directory.....	30
Calendar of Events.....	27
Classified.....	29, 31
Crossword.....	25
Dining Guide.....	26
Legal Notices.....	28
Real Estate.....	29

"We don't even know the value of the property" in the two-room museum established earlier this year by the town's historical association, TenEyck said.

Indeed, the town should be requiring the historical association and other organized groups that use town facilities to have their own insurance, TenEyck said.

"It's the prudent thing to do—risk transfer," he said.

TenEyck explained that while the town's policy does cover the building, the premiums are based on experience rating, so if the town faced a number of claims arising from outside groups' use, its insurance costs would rise.

He noted school districts routinely require insurance certificates for outside groups that use fields, rooms or other facilities.

Responding to board members' concerns that some groups may not be able to afford their own insurance, TenEyck said the board should set the requirement and then allow groups to petition for exemption based on hardship.

Supervisor Herb Reilly said the town will "come up with a new policy on how we handle certificates of insurance for the community center and town parks."

The policy will allow smaller town-based groups to apply to use facilities without insurance.

"Otherwise what's the point of having it called a community center if these small groups can't use it?" Reilly said.

In other business, the board set its year-end meeting for Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. and its 1998 organizational meeting for Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.

Eagle Scout projects improve Five Rivers, town park

By Michael Hallisey

It's the highest obtainable merit badge a Boy Scout can earn.

And this year, three local Scouts — Philip Fibiger, Kevin Corrigan and Peter Emminger — received that honor.

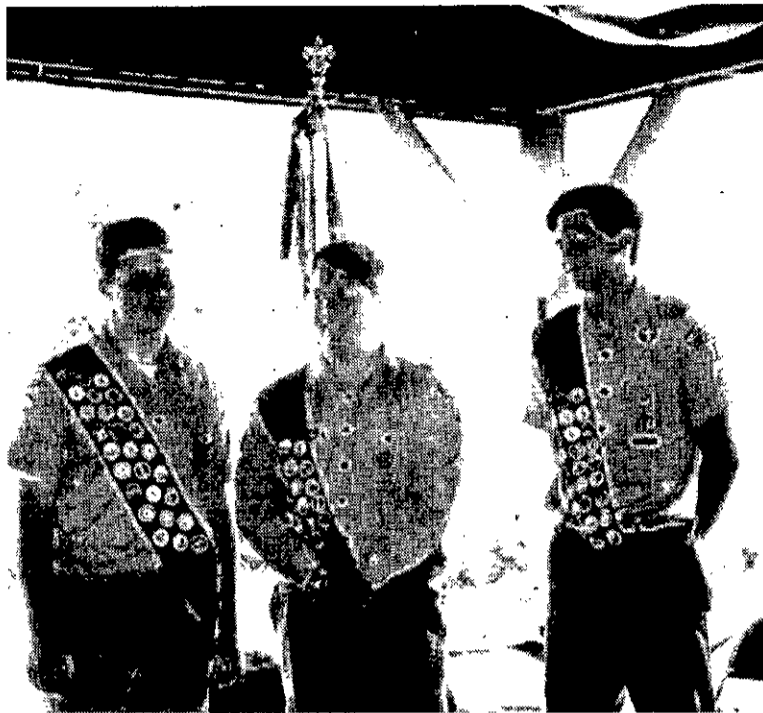
To qualify as an Eagle Scout, one must first earn 21 merit badges, known as "eagle trackers." The Scout must then plan and complete a project that will benefit the community.

"It's definitely an honor," said Fibiger. "When I first started out at Boy Scouts, I met with my Scout leader to ask about the Eagle Scout."

Fibiger designed and planned the construction of three recycling bins at Elm Avenue Town Park. As part of his project, he had to raise the funds to purchase the materials. And he had to collaborate with David Austin, parks administrator.

While planning the project, Fibiger admits he had his doubts. "Towards the end, it looked a little bleak," Fibiger said. "I was worried it would get in the way of grades."

But, it didn't. Fibiger graduated from Bethlehem Central in May



Kevin Corrigan, Philip Fibiger and Peter Emminger relax after earning Eagle Scout awards.

and now attends Cornell University, where he is studying for a degree in computer science.

"It was sort of a relief,"

Emminger said of his project. "It took so long."

Emminger designed and oversaw the construction of a wheelchair-accessible observation deck on the handicapped trail at Five Rivers Environmental Center.

Unlike Fibiger, Emminger did not have to worry about his grades, since the plans and construction of the deck took place over the summer.

Earning an Eagle Scout has its advantages for both the community and the individual who re-

ceives the award.

"When I first approached Mr. Austin about it, he said he felt this would be very beneficial," Fibiger said. "Now, there seems to be some kind of order as far as recycling goes. I hope it made a difference."

"It's definitely opening a few doors for me," said Corrigan, who is now attending GMI Engineering and Managing Institute, a co-op school in Flint, Mich.

As Corrigan interviews for jobs, the Eagle Scout award on his resume has turned into a conversation piece. Sometimes, it takes up the entire interview, he said.

"The whole Boy Scouts thing will help prepare me for the future," Corrigan said. "With the leadership it entails and the organization, there is a lot of work involved."

Corrigan designed and constructed eight signs for the new handicapped-accessible trail at Five Rivers. Supervising younger Scouts and their fathers, he was able to install all the signs in just one day.

As college students, Corrigan and Fibiger have seen what people outside of their community think of being an Eagle Scout. Though Emminger is still in high school, he too has seen a difference.

Emminger is a senior at Bethlehem Central, and is looking at schools such as New York University and the University of Southern California.

Because he hopes to study technical theater to become a scene designer, Emminger said, "People are definitely interested in the fact

I built a deck."

For the three most recent recipients of the award, they each feel a sense of accomplishment.

"At first, I don't think (Eagle Scout) was so much of a goal," Corrigan said. "But once I started getting things done, it started to become a goal. It's a great thing to do."

RCS schools install new phone system

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District has installed new phone system that will allow for easier access to district staff via voice mail.

The new number for the main switchboard is 756-5200. Other district numbers are:

- RCS Senior High School
 - Main Office — 756-5200
 - Guidance — 756-5291
 - Health Office — 756-5200
- RCS Middle School
 - Main Office — 756-5245
 - Guidance — 756-5293
 - Health Office — 756-5200
- A.W. Becker Elementary School
 - Main Office — 767-2511
 - Health Office — 767-3199
- Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary School
 - Main Office — 756-8190
 - Health Office — 756-9163
- RCS Central Administration
 - Superintendent's Office — 756-5201
 - Board of Education — 756-5202
 - School Business Administrator — 756-5204
 - Personnel/Secretary to Business Administrator — 756-5205
 - Purchasing — 756-5206
 - District Treasurer/Taxes — 756-5207
 - Accounting — 756-5208 and 756-5210
 - Payroll — 756-5209
 - Pupil Services/CSE — 756-5211
 - Instructional Services — 756-5213
 - Communications — 756-5215
 - CPSE — 756-5216
 - Facilities and Operations — 756-5236
 - Transportation Department — 756-5241

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Indian Ladder Farms plans open house

Indian Ladder Farms on Altamont Road in Voorheesville will host a holiday open house on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 4 to 9 p.m.

The event will feature horse-drawn sleigh rides, tunes from Fraser and the Firs, stories by Mary Murphy, visits with Santa, a living manger scene and much more.

The store is packed with unique Christmas gifts, and the holiday barn has Christmas trees, wreaths and arrangements of greens.

Visitors can enjoy a light supper or snack from the Yellow Rock Cafe.

For information, call 765-2956.

Dinner

(From Page 1)

of people, Christmas is a sad time, as they look back on happier years. This dinner brings some joy to the day. It's a real community effort; we're all working with people who want to share their God-given time and talents."

Copeland said the dinner was a way of celebrating in community. The Glenmont Job Corps cooks the turkeys, and extras like punch, cranberry sauce and stuffing are donated by area churches. Contributions also come from the Police Benevolent Association, as well as other local organizations and individuals.

"The food comes in on Christmas Eve," Copeland said. "Our chef, Bill Pearce, comes in that night and gets the platters ready, then spends the next day cooking."

After the meal, all the leftover food is packaged in individual dinner boxes, frozen and donated to Ronald McDonald House. Leftover desserts go home with dinner attendees.

Copeland said most of the people who work on the dinner are veteran volunteers. Bill Pearce has been the food chair; Joyce Becker the transportation chair; Norrine Cooke handles donations; Becker and Cooke together have done the promotion, Edward McEwan handles set-up of the dinner, and Robert Johnson oversees the hospitality portion of the afternoon.

Copeland says they are all set with food and drivers this year, but could use more volunteers for the big day.

"We especially need more clean-up volunteers," he said.

Those interested should call Copeland at 439-4050 or Bruce France at 459-8818.

There's always room for one more at the table, and those wishing to attend, or receive a delivered meal, should call Joyce Becker at 439-4955, ext. 170. Becker will arrange transportation for those over 60.

The meal at the church begins with grace, and, led by Copeland, a Christmas carol. For Copeland, the reason for the dinner is simple. "Christmas can be self-ingratiating if you let it," he said. "This dinner is a way to give out instead of just taking in. It gets to the spirit of Christmas, in celebration and giving."

The church is at 428 Kenwood Ave., just west of the Four Corners in Delmar.

Albany county budget passes unanimously

By Martin P. Kelly

ALBANY — The 1998 Albany County budget includes more than \$1 million to add 32 new officers to the Albany County Correctional Facility and appropriate additional resources to staff a new medical wing currently under construction at the jail.

County Executive Michael Breslin's third budget, with increased spending on public safety initiatives while holding the line on property taxes, was passed unanimously by the county Legislature Dec. 8.

The budget also has sales tax relief on clothing and home heating fuel.

Revenues for the \$325 million 1998 budget will include 26 percent from departmental income, 30 percent from local sales taxes, 11 percent from property taxes, 14 percent from federal aid and 19 percent from state revenues.

As part of the public safety program, the new budget adds six new positions to the Probation Department to handle increasing workloads.

It also establishes a "coordi-

nated response team," consisting of an assistant district attorney, an investigator in the sheriff's department and a caseworker in the Comprehensive Crime Victims Assistance Program, to assist victims of domestic violence through the legal system.

"For the third year in a row, we have preserved needed services

while holding the line on taxes," Breslin said. "This budget eliminates the sales tax on home heating fuel and provides for additional sales tax relief on clothing purchases."

Michael Breslin

For the third year in a row, we have preserved needed services while holding the line on taxes.

Breslin spokeswoman Susan Pedo said that the budget includes the 3 percent raise negotiated last year for all employees. This includes salaries paid for 1997 and retroactive for 1996. She said that the 1998-99 contract is being negotiated now.

The 1998 budget proposal maintains the 9 percent property tax cut achieved in Breslin's past two budgets and plans for further sales tax reductions.

The county will participate in the weeklong sales tax exemption on clothing next year — surrendering the county's 4 percent of the 8 percent sales tax that week

— while preparing for the permanent elimination of the sales tax on clothing proposed by the state for December 1999 at a cost of more than \$9 million in the year 2000. The budget also provides for the elimination of the sales tax on home heating fuel, effective March 1, saving residents more than \$2.5 million a year.

To enhance economic development efforts, the 1998 budget creates two new positions in the Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning to work on job creation and retention and to optimize use of a Geographic Information System to attract new businesses to Albany County. It also increases the Business Development Incentive Fund from \$200,000 to \$360,000 and invests an additional \$500,000 in technology to enhance delivery of Albany County services.

"We will continue to enhance the productivity of the county workforce by investing in new technology and training," said Breslin, noting that the 1998 budget provides \$500,000 for technology and \$500,000 for training, bringing the total investment to \$4 million over the past three years. "Clearly, this investment is already paying off in tax cuts and service improvements."

Slingerlands church sets Christmas service

Slingerlands United Methodist Church on 1499 New Scotland Road will hold a Christmas worship service with special choral music on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m.

The choir will perform pieces from Handel and Mendelssohn as well as contemporary selections.

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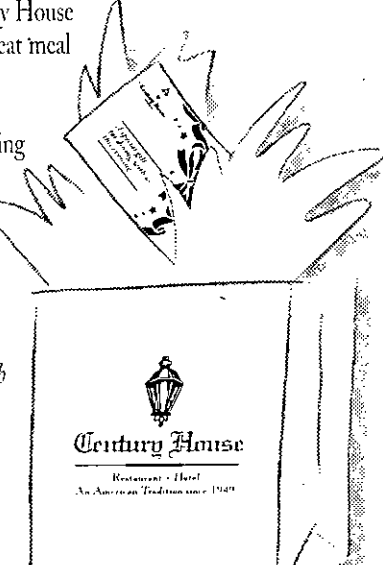
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Matters of Opinion

Move things along

The Bethlehem town board should light a fire under the engineers commissioned to study the town's water infiltration system, given the history of this highly controversial issue.

Editorials

The report was to have been presented to the board in September, but so far mum's the word from Pennsylvania engineering consultant Gannett Fleming.

The process needs to move along to determine what problems there really are with well yield so that they can be addressed and corrected.

It's not a good idea to move into 1998 without any sense of resolution to the water plant, which is producing less than a third of what was projected by its designer Fraser & Associates.

We suggest the board's New Year's resolution should be to get to the root of the problem and take steps to correct it. The more time that elapses will simply give rise to speculation and suspicion, which there has already been enough of.

Lawson Lake at last

It took a barrage of negative publicity and a federal investigation, but Albany County is one step away from doing the right thing — opening its 421-acre Lawson Lake Park to the public.

The park on the Coeymans-New Scotland border, purchased in 1979 with about \$600,000 in county and federal funds, has been reserved since then almost exclusively for a summer camp for Albany city youth.

Anyone who wanted to enjoy its natural beauty, even when the camp was closed, risked arrest for trespassing.

Last week's unanimous vote by the county Legislature's Conservation Committee augurs well for the vote by the full Legislature on Dec. 22, and for general public access next year to a splendid natural resource.

The public use plan for the park calls for appropriate passive recreation — hiking, bird watching, picnicking, canoeing, cross-country skiing and fishing — that will not disturb the park's natural charm.

We commend County Legislator Peter Clouse, R-Coeymans, who responded to his constituents and worked for years to open up the park, and County Legislator Michael Richardson, D-Albany, whose committee leadership helped fashion the necessary bipartisan consensus.

Too much for too little

The Bethlehem school board will again consider the merits of full-day kindergarten at its meeting Jan. 7.

There are strong feelings among parents on both sides of the issue.

In its meeting this month, the data presented by Helen Salamone, director of the Early Learning Center, indicate that the long-term benefits of full-day kindergarten are negligible.

That in and of itself should be reason enough to proceed with caution, given the cost of mounting a program.

All three options for bringing full-day kindergarten to BC would have long-term effects on taxpayers, and the most expensive option — building another eight-classroom early learning center — would tack on another \$470,000 to the school budget, every year after the center was built.

Spending this much on something with a debatable return is not a prudent way to go.

The school board really needs to address problems that have already been identified, rather than invest a great deal of money on bricks and mortar.

With the Regents mandate and 64 additional students projected at the high school, more teachers will be needed, and will be a better way to spend our money.

The spirit of Santa Claus lives

By Katherine McCarthy

The writer is a full-time mother, part-time writer and firm believer in Santa Claus.

Christmas-time in New York City is magical, especially if you are 24 and have just moved there after graduate school in an orderly northern European country full of stoic, reserved people.



New York is bright lights and high energy, and people who talk to themselves and each other all the time.

In December, sedate white lights illuminate fancy restaurants, and garish blinking ones adorn balconies and windows on neighborhood streets. Women wear big fur coats over their little black dresses, and tuxedoed men don cashmere coats and white silk scarves, off to the kind of glamorous parties profiled in the Style pages of *The New York Times*.

On random corners and in front of accommodating supermarkets, Canadians arrive hauling loads of Christmas trees, all priced between \$60 and \$150. But the smell of pine in the concrete jungle is free, and everyone seems to slow a little and savor the scents of the season.

One mid-December Friday evening, I sat in a cross-town bus, watching the holiday whirl outside. Across from me, a businessman read *The Wall Street Journal* while his son, who looked to be about 8, talked to him about school and friends and sports. Then things got serious.

"Bobby says there's no such thing as Santa Claus," he said. "Says that really his mom and dad bring all the presents, and only little kids still believe in him. What do you think, Dad?"

The day's financial news held the dad's attention, and his son posed the question more directly.

"Is there a Santa Claus, Dad?"

Point of View

The dad looked up, still caught in his adult world, and as he started to say no, caught my eye. I raised my eyebrows and looked at him warningly, and he looked surprised. He turned to his son, who waited expectantly for an answer.

"Well," the man said, "there's the spirit of Santa Claus."

"Yeah," his son interrupted with relieved enthusiasm, "that's what mom said. That it's not really so important whether or not we believe in Santa Claus, as long as we believe in his spirit. I knew you'd agree, Dad."

The next corner was their stop, and as they got off, the child still chatting, the dad leaned towards me.

"OK?" he said, and I nodded.

Fourteen years later, I remembered that moment when my 7-year-old announced in early November that Santa didn't bring presents; Mom and Dad did.

"Scientific evidence points to

I'm treasuring Christopher's "time on the edge" — reminding him of the spirit of Santa Claus, while taking real joy in the fact that 5-year-old Cormac has a few years of total faith left.

it," Christopher said. "Nobody ever sees him, and people have been to the North Pole, and nobody ever reported a big business there. Besides, all the Santa wrapping paper is the same as your wrapping paper."

Wrapping paper evidence is hard to shake, even though I'd been saying for years that sometimes Santa needs to borrow paper.

Seven seemed so young to be a nonbeliever, but Christopher is a

serious child with millions of questions about how the world works. My first instinct was to insist upon Santa's existence, to preserve this aspect of childhood for my rapidly growing up little boy.

Not believing in Santa is an important step on the journey out of childhood, a trip that can't happen fast enough for kids but moves way too quickly for me. My two boys' belief in Santa Claus has imbued often frenetic Decembers with a sense of magic.

Santa stories have become part of our family lore. There was the Christmas Eve when Christopher was 19-months-old, and we wondered if he really "got it."

After putting the presents under the tree and turning off the lights before we went to bed, we stood over his crib, gently touching his sleeping back.

"Santa," he whispered to our delight and amazement.

Last year, when our kids came downstairs to check out their loot, 4-year-old Cormac's first reaction was "Wow! Christopher, look at all the presents Santa brought! We must have been very good boys this year!"

Wanting to leave Christopher a viable out on the Santa front, I took the bus dad's tack.

"Well, Christopher, I believe in Santa, and some people don't, but there's always the spirit of Santa, of goodness and gen-

erosity, and that's what's important."

No go; he remained convinced that Santa was a myth. So I bade a part of childhood farewell, and gave him strict instructions not to ruin Cormac's, or any other children's, belief in Santa.

We've seen some wavering since then, when faced with letter-to-Santa time, and the various incarnations of the big man himself in stores. My husband says he's hedging his bets, but I think this

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Your Opinion Matters

too is an important part of growing up, wanting to believe but knowing you shouldn't.

Wouldn't it be great if there really was a Santa, a big benevolent guy who brought you most of the things on your wish list? Imagine an adult list — bills always paid, housework always done, easy success at every endeavor, financial security, robust health for every loved one, and a long and happy life for our children.

Just like Christopher knows that Santa doesn't bring presents, I know nobody can bring me all I wish for. But once a year, it's nice to pretend that someone can. For a little while, I'll put aside my daily worries and invest that energy in fresh greens on the mantel and presents under the tree, peace on earth, good will toward men.

In our Santa lore, we will remember 1997 as the year when Christopher started to doubt and passed over the Santa-belief threshold.

I'm treasuring Christopher's "time on the edge" — reminding him of the spirit of Santa Claus, while taking real joy in the fact that 5-year-old Cormac has a few years of total faith left.

Marijuana use leads to lifelong consequences

Editor, The Spotlight:

While recent reports have highlighted the dramatic rise in marijuana use among 12-to-17-year olds, some readers may not realize the consequences these youth face.

Marijuana interferes with thinking and reflexes. Accidents, violence and car crashes can occur under the influence of marijuana.

The Drug Abuse Warning Network August 1996 preliminary report shows that medical emergency episodes related to marijuana use have increased 200 percent since 1990. In 1995, 47,100 people went to hospital emergency departments for medical care because of their use of marijuana.

Letters

Marijuana impairs judgment, which can lead to lifelong negative consequences.

Marijuana is illegal. Using, holding, buying or selling can result in school suspension or expulsion and a police record.

Marijuana can affect memory, learning and motivation. Young people who regularly use marijuana report they are unable to maintain satisfactory grades and performance levels. Class work, sports activities and relationships can fall by the wayside, lessening a young person's chances for a solid future.

If young people don't take the

consequences seriously, and if we as parents and other significant adults don't help them understand, their dreams could go up in smoke.
Jeffrey Riker
Delmar

Letters policy

Letters are subject to editing in keeping with our rules of fairness, accuracy, style and length. All letters must carry the writer's signature, address and phone numbers. Letters that can not be verified will not be published. Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054. Letters may be faxed to 439-0609.

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Your Opinion Matters

Polluters cause problems

Editor, The Spotlight:

We are writing to express our thanks to the Delmar Fire District and water district personnel who responded to our home on Saturday, Dec. 6. We returned midday to find a strong odor of gasoline in our house, especially in the basement.

A quick response from NiMo determined that it was not natural gas, but seemed to be coming back up from our sump pump drain in the basement.

A call to the fire department resulted in the very swift arrival of a full team of officers.

Fortunately for us, our house was cleared quickly, and the source of the problem was discovered.

The odor was the result of a care-

Letters

less polluter. The fire and water teams found a storm drain, where someone had dumped oil and gas. This can reflux back up the drain pipes into basements. It also flows out to the destination of the storm drain which is a local stream running through residential neighborhoods.

We are grateful to our local public servants, but we are disappointed that people would dump toxic materials right into our backyards.

Delmar

Jim and Robin Storey

Junior League seeks volunteers

Editor, The Spotlight:

In the interest of recruiting volunteers, I would like to tell you about an extremely vital project being conducted by the Junior League of Albany.

Five years ago, the Junior League began a community service project called the Food Shuttle, which is designed to help fight hunger and food waste in the Capital District. The shuttle is a network of more than 100 volunteer drivers who pick up prepared and perishable food from grocery stores, restaurants and other donors. The drivers then transport the food, free of charge, to local shelters, soup kitchens and food pantries. The shuttle operates in

Albany, Clifton Park and East Greenbush.

Thanks to support from both our drivers and donors, the shuttle has salvaged more than 650,000 pounds (325 tons) of fresh food that would otherwise have gone to waste since 1992. Our donors include Price Chopper, Hannaford, Cowan & Lobel, Pizza Hut, Starbucks, Au Bon Pain and the Marriott hotel on Wolf Road.

Some of our recipients are Albany Meals on Wheels, the Anchor, Arbor Hill Community Center, City Mission, Concerns-U, Equinox, Grace and Holy Innocents Church, Interfaith Homeless Shelter, Mercy House, Salvation Army, St. Peter's Addiction

Recovery Center and Trinity Institute.

The Food Shuttle hopes to recruit more drivers and continue making a difference in our community. If you have questions, call the Food Shuttle at 462-1111 or me at 426-7023.

Cathie Love

Junior League public relations chairwoman

Postal officials thank patrons

Editor, The Spotlight:

On behalf of the Postal Service in Albany and Branch 29 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, we would like to express our sincerest thanks to our customers for their participation in the carrier food drive during the week of Dec. 1.

This year, postal customers in Albany alone contributed nearly 92,000 pounds of food to the food pantries of the Capital District. Albany letter carriers were especially proud to celebrate their 10th year in the drive.

Their example has promoted the annual event to become a national effort for the Postal Service.

Thank you for your generosity. We wish you and your families a safe and healthy holiday.

Morris J. McCabe

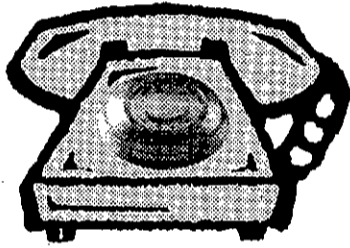
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Your Opinion Matters

Price Chopper helps out Hamagrael kids' food drive

Editor, The Spotlight:

Hamagrael Elementary School would like to thank Price Chopper for letting Ms. Schade's, Mrs. Szczech's and Mrs. Judge's classes go on a shopping field trip.

Each child brought in money that they earned. Then we separated into groups. A parent volunteer came in and helped each group. We went to Price Chopper and spent our money.

We had about \$250. We gave the food to the food drive in our school. Price Chopper gave our classes

Letters

a gift certificate. We bought ham and peanut butter, and we added these items to the food drive.

Many families in Bethlehem will enjoy this good food. Thank you, Price Chopper for being generous and for being a good neighbor, from all the kids at Hamagrael who participated.

Marianne Schwab, Ben Himmelfarb and Megan Braaten

Arbor Day offers free booklet

The National Arbor Day Foundation has published a Conservation Trees booklet which is available free of charge.

The Conservation Trees booklet uses colorful photos, illustrations and easy-to-understand descriptions to help people plant and care for conservation trees.

The guide provides information

on how to use shade trees and windbreaks to save energy in your home, how to attract songbirds to your yard, how to save trees during construction, and the right way to plant and prune trees.

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<p>Johnnie Walker</p> <p>Red 750ml.....\$17.99 Black 750ml.....\$26.99 Gold 750ml.....\$55.99 Blue 750ml.....\$169.99 50ml. Gift Set - 1 of each \$24.99</p>	<p>Bacardi Light & Gold</p> <p>\$18.99 1.75 Ltr. -2.00 rebate \$16.99 Final Cost</p>	<p>Absolut Vodka 80°</p> <p>\$25.99 1.75 Ltr.</p>	<p>Beefeater Gin</p> <p>\$26.99 1.75 Ltr. -5.00 rebate \$21.99 Final Cost</p>															
<p>Jack Daniels</p> <p>\$29.99 1.75 Ltr. Gentleman Jack Gift Set \$19.99 750ml</p>	<p>Southern Comfort</p> <p>\$19.99 1.75 Ltr. -3.00 rebate \$16.99 Final Cost</p>	<p>Black Velvet</p> <p>\$15.99 1.75 Ltr. -3.00 rebate \$12.99 Final Cost</p>	<p>Smirnoff Vodka</p> <p>\$15.99 1.75 Ltr.</p>															
<p>Jose Cuervo</p> <p>\$13.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with a Free Liter of Margarita Mix</p>	<p>Ketel I Vodka</p> <p>\$16.99 1 Ltr. 750 ml. gift set with sterling silver shaker \$41.99</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LIQUID LUXURIES</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>Bailey's Irish Cream</p> <p>\$15.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>B&B</p> <p>\$22.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%;"> <p>Romana Sambucca</p> <p>\$17.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Frangelico</p> <p>\$17.99 750 ml. Gift Tin -5.00 rebate \$12.99 Final Cost</p> </td> <td> <p>Courvoisier</p> <p>\$19.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p> </td> <td> <p>Drambuie</p> <p>\$26.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Chambord</p> <p>\$16.99 375 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free Champagne glasses</p> </td> <td> <p>Grand Mariner</p> <p>\$28.99 750 ml. \$16.99 375 ml.</p> </td> <td> <p>Di Saronna Amaretto</p> <p>\$17.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Remy Martin</p> <p>VSOP \$33.99 750ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free snifters</p> </td> <td> <p>Cuvee du Centenaire 100th</p> <p>\$103.99 750 ml. • Du Centinquantenaire \$164.99 750 ml.</p> </td> <td> <p>KAHLUA</p> <p>\$29.99 1.75 Ltr. -4.00 rebate \$25.99 Final Cost</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Emmet's Irish Cream</p> <p>\$7.99 750ml. -3.00 rebate \$4.99 Final Cost Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p> </td> <td> <p>Crown Royal</p> <p>\$17.99 750ml. \$9.99 375ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p> </td> <td> <p>Irish Mist</p> <p>\$17.99 750ml. *375 ml. Gift Boxed w/2 Free Cordial Glasses \$9.99</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Bailey's Irish Cream</p> <p>\$15.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed</p>	<p>B&B</p> <p>\$22.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p>	<p>Romana Sambucca</p> <p>\$17.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed</p>	<p>Frangelico</p> <p>\$17.99 750 ml. Gift Tin -5.00 rebate \$12.99 Final Cost</p>	<p>Courvoisier</p> <p>\$19.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p>	<p>Drambuie</p> <p>\$26.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p>	<p>Chambord</p> <p>\$16.99 375 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free Champagne glasses</p>	<p>Grand Mariner</p> <p>\$28.99 750 ml. \$16.99 375 ml.</p>	<p>Di Saronna Amaretto</p> <p>\$17.99 750 ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p>	<p>Remy Martin</p> <p>VSOP \$33.99 750ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free snifters</p>	<p>Cuvee du Centenaire 100th</p> <p>\$103.99 750 ml. • Du Centinquantenaire \$164.99 750 ml.</p>	<p>KAHLUA</p> <p>\$29.99 1.75 Ltr. -4.00 rebate \$25.99 Final Cost</p>	<p>Emmet's Irish Cream</p> <p>\$7.99 750ml. -3.00 rebate \$4.99 Final Cost Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p>	<p>Crown Royal</p> <p>\$17.99 750ml. \$9.99 375ml. Gift Boxed with 2 Free glasses</p>	<p>Irish Mist</p> <p>\$17.99 750ml. *375 ml. Gift Boxed w/2 Free Cordial Glasses \$9.99</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Joseph Phelps 1995 Carnaros Chardonnay \$16.99 750 ml.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">3/\$24.99</p> <p>Mix & Match over 25 wines to choose from all 9.99 & up values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass Mountain • Meridian • Jekel • Estancia • Benziger • Kahn • Villa Mt Eden • Kendall Jackson • William Hill • Hogue • Dunnewood • Forest Glen • Fetzer • Mirassou • Willamette • Columbia Crest • Sterling • Robert Mondavi Coastal & Many More 																
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WINE TASTING EVERY FRIDAY 4-8 PM & SATURDAY 2-6 PM

Library collects food to help needy

The RCS Community Library is collecting nonperishable food to help supply local food pantries.

Community members are invited to bring canned and bottled goods, dried foods and other nonperishable items to the library.

Food items will be accepted in lieu of fines for overdue books.

Donations will be collected until Saturday, Dec. 20.

Honor society members to sell flowers

Members of the National Honor Society at the high school will sell flowers on Friday, Dec. 19, to raise funds for programs.

Special story hour planned for tots

Stop by the community library for a cookie-fest story hour on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.

The event features stories and desserts and is suitable for very young children.

Library forms kids' drawing club

Children between the ages of 8

NEWS NOTES

Selkirk
South Bethlehem
Linda Marshall
756-3520



and 12 who like to draw and write are invited to join the new kids' drawing club at the library. It meets on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m.

For information, call 756-2053.

Artist offers origami lessons

Barbara Bennett will offer the second in a series of origami lessons for children on Saturday, Dec. 27, at 10 a.m.

The class will work on basic origami folds so that participants can progress to more complicated projects.

Call 756-2053 to register.

Library sets holiday hours

RCS Community Library will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

DAR presents Good Citizen award

RCS High School senior Meredith Wyche was named a Good Citizen by the Hannacroix Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, RCS youth group, Girl Scouts and student government. She also plays volleyball.

Wyche was recently commended as a National Merit Scholar.

RCS senior named soccer all-star

RCS High School senior Jenn Jones was named soccer all-star at the annual soccer awards banquet.

She is the daughter of Barry and Cheri Jones.

*In Voorheesville
The Spotlight is sold at
Stewarts, Voorheesville Mobil
and Supervalu*

Legal collection grows

Questions about legal matters are becoming more frequent at the reference desk, according to reference librarian Karen Levi-Lausa. To meet the public's need, the library has updated and expanded its collection of self-help legal material.

of-state legal information can be obtained readily via the Internet.

When the library's public access Internet terminals are on line, reference librarians can help by directing the patron to the many Internet sites available on the subject.

The growing trend toward self-help law is aided by the increasing availability of standardized legal forms. For certain legal documents such as living wills, health care proxies, and simple complaints it may not be necessary to retain a lawyer.

Timeliness is important, and the consumer should be aware that laws are subject to change, and deadlines and statutes of limitation apply.

Self-help might not be advisable or appropriate in more complex cases. Reference librarians can provide a starting point, but the ultimate responsibility lies with the consumer. The library's self-help law collection is a supplement to, not a substitute for, legal advice.

Louise Grieco



A bibliography of about 75 new holdings is being produced and will be available in January. Sub-topics include consumer rights, custody, landlord and tenant, immigration, patent and copyright, retirement planning, estate planning, tax and debt.

The library plans to update the collection annually. Multiple copies of some books have been purchased to provide both a circulating and reference copy. A few materials are also available in audiovisual format.

New York state versions of publications have been purchased as laws vary from state to state. Out-

DELAWARE PLAZA LIQUOR STORE

SINCE 1967

CAFE LOLITA COFFEE LIQUEUR \$8 ⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -2 ⁰⁰ 750 ML \$6⁹⁹	EVAN WILLIAMS EGG NOG \$6⁵⁹ 750 ML	KORBEL CHAMPAGNE BRUT-EXTRA DRY \$9⁹⁹ 750 ML	BLOSSOM HILL Chardonnay or Cabernet \$7 ⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -1 ⁵⁰ 1.5 L \$6⁴⁹
CANADIAN MIST \$14⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -3 ⁰⁰ 1.75 L \$11⁹⁹	ABSOLUT VODKA \$27⁹⁹ 1.75 L	JACK DANIELS \$29⁹⁹ 1.75 L	BACARDI RUM \$18⁹⁹ 1.75 L
MARTINI & ROSSI ASTI \$8 ⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -2 ⁰⁰ 750 ML \$6⁹⁹	JOHNNIE WALKER RED \$31⁹⁹ 1.75 L	KENDALL JACKSON Chardonnay \$10⁹⁹ 750 ML	KAHLUA \$28⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -4 ⁰⁰ 1.75 L \$24⁹⁹
SEAGRAM'S VO \$18⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -4 ⁰⁰ 1.75 L \$14⁹⁹	BEEFEATER GIN \$25⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -5 ⁰⁰ 1.75 ML \$20⁹⁹	CANADIAN CLUB \$17⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -4 ⁰⁰ 1.75 L \$13⁹⁹	DEWAR'S \$30⁹⁹ 1.75 ML
BAILEY'S IRISH CREAM \$15⁹⁹ 750 ML	RIUNITE LAMBRUSCO \$7⁶⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -2 ⁰⁰ 1.5 L \$5⁶⁹	BLACK VELVET \$15⁹⁹ MAIL IN REBATE -3 ⁰⁰ 1.75 L \$12⁹⁹	SMIRNOFF VODKA \$15⁹⁹ 1.75 L

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BOLLA
SOAVE VALPOLICELLA
Pinot Grigio, Merlot, Bardolino
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at

Quintessence

— APPETIZERS —

Baked Brie en Croute with Granny Smith Apples,
Toast Points & Raspberry Chambord Sauce

Shrimp Cocktail - Butterflied Shrimp served with a tomato horseradish sauce

Spanikopita - Spinach and Feta baked into a pastry dough

— SOUP —

Roasted Peanut with Butternut Squash and Carrot

— SALAD —

Mesclan Greens, Grilled Red Peppers, Carrots and Butternut Squash
with Apple Cider Walnut Vinaigrette

— ENTREES —

SHRIMP AND SCALLOP NEWBURG OVER ANGEL HAIR PASTA ... \$25
Sauteed Shrimp and Scallops in a thick creamy Paprika Sauce finished with Sherry

PAN SEARED SALMON TERIYAKI ... \$35
Seared Salmon Filet in an authentic Japanese sweet soy-sauce preparation

CHICKEN LABELLA ... \$25
Chicken, Sundried Tomatoes, Artichoke Hearts and Button Mushrooms in a tomato cream sauce served over Angel Hair Pasta

GRILLED RACK OF LAMB ... \$38
Encrusted with Almonds, Pistachios, Fresh Herbs and Honey, served with Lamb Bordelaise

TOURNEDOS OF FILET MIGNON QUINTESSENCE ... \$38
Sauteed with Shallots, Artichoke Hearts, Mushrooms, Shrimp and Scallops, finished with Brandy and Sherry served with Bernaise Sauce

COQUILLES ST. JAQUES ... \$35
Sauteed Scallops in a Mushroom Brandy Cream Sauce with Shallots, served in their shells with Duchesse Potatoes

ROASTED DUCKLING ... \$25
Served with Raspberry Chambord Sauce

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11 New Scotland Ave. Albany 434-8186

Stewart's

(From Page 1)

feet of a school.

The sale of alcohol, tobacco and concerns over traffic troubled members of the zoning board, as well as those in attendance at the public hearing.

Lewis asked the zoning board to grant a probationary period of six months, where if store employees violate the law by selling tobacco, alcohol or lottery tickets to minors, the town should revoke the store's certificate of occupancy.

Board members asked Lewis to provide information on other Stewart stores in the state that are located near school property.

In response, Stewart's mailed a list of approximately 40 stores located within 500 feet of school properties.

Hunter said last week he was not aware of Stewart's plans to sell alcohol in the proposed store.

"That obviously would be another area of concern," Hunter said. "Alcohol can have an impact on a child's safety, a child's health,

as well as a child's learning."

Hunter also said he was afraid the school would be "competing" with the proposed school for some students' concentration.

"If they are going to be here, we have to work together," Hunter said. "I'm hoping we will continue to work well like this," referring to Stewart's request for his input on the store.

The ZBA had also asked Stewart's to conduct a traffic study on the intersection.

The corner-property has been abandoned since 1984. It was last used as a gas station by Gulf.

Two years later, the property was bought by Cumberland Farms, where they planned to open one of their convenient store chains and a gas station. But that application was never approved by the zoning board.

At the time of the Cumberland Farms application, the board thought a retail store with a gas station would cause a significant impact on traffic.

Because of the size of the site

(21,000 square feet) Stewart's has decided against selling gas there, said Lewis.

In a traffic study conducted over the last week of October, Stewart's claimed there would be virtually no additional traffic congestion at the intersection.

"Average delays between 17 and 23 seconds are not unusual for an urban intersection and could be significantly worse," the traffic study states. "The addition of Stewart's traffic at the subject intersection will have no significant impact on travel conditions."

The study said the 17-to-23-second delay would occur during

morning rush hour, evening rush hour, and when the high school lets out. At most, the study said, a new store at the intersection would cause a 1 to 2 percent increase in traffic delay.

Lewis said Stewart's stores do not produce additional traffic because the vast majority of its customers are already on the road, not making a special trip to the convenience store.

Though the property has been vacant for more than 13 years, there have been other proposals for the site.

As recently as 1993, the zoning board accepted a proposal to build

a two-story business complex which would have included the neighboring property of John LaForte. But, before the applicant could start building on the site, it was discovered the soil was contaminated from gasoline.

If the proposal is accepted, Stewart's would have to remove the contaminated soil.

The public hearing is scheduled to continue Jan. 7.

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Sports

Bethlehem takes Colonie basketball to school

Girls team up to win 53-43

By Christine Potter

The Bethlehem girls basketball team defeated Colonie 53-43 last week.

"It was balanced scoring by the team," said coach **Kim Wise**. "Everyone who played contributed."

Bridget Murray was the team's high scorer as she netted 15 points, including two three-point baskets.

Nicole Conway turned out a well-rounded performance as she scored six points, pulled down nine rebounds, earned five assists and notched six steals on defense.

Megan Sellnow scored seven points and pulled down a team-high 11 rebounds.

Other starters included **Katie Smith** and **Karly Decker**. Smith had eight points while Decker had

10.

Lauren Murray came off the bench to score seven points, including a three-point basket.

Despite the win, Wise said she is not satisfied.

"I think we could have played better," said Wise, "but we won. We have to work hard to get ready for the teams we're going to play this week."

The girls are on the road this week to play Columbia and Shenendehowa.

Bethlehem faces Columbia Wednesday, Dec. 17, then plays Shenendehowa Friday, Dec. 19.



Nicole Conway defends on the in-bound pass.

Tara Gerber

Boys come back after poor start

By Karly Decker

On Friday night, the Bethlehem Eagles had a big win over the undefeated Colonie Raiders, 70-62.

The team found themselves trailing 31-27 at halftime, after a lackluster eight-point performance in the first quarter.

Mark Svare and **Chuck Abba** led the Eagles with 18 points each. But, it was **Geoff Hunter** who took charge in the third quarter, scoring 12 of his 15 points, to give BC a two-point lead going into the final quarter.

Team heroics did not stop there, as the game came down to foul shots in the final minutes of the game.

Kevin Russell, who finished the game with 12 points, hit six of eight foul shots for the Eagles in the fourth quarter.

Last Tuesday was just as close as BC beat Mohonasen 59-55.

Eric Hjeltnes and **Svare** led the team with 18 and 15 points respectively. The Eagles continue with a winning record of 2-0 league and 4-0 overall.

Next Friday, the Eagles play their first home league game at 8 p.m. against Suburban Council rivals Shenendehowa.

BC swimmers win two

By Tim Kavanagh

The Bethlehem boys swimming and diving team captured two victories this past week, against Albany Academy and Amsterdam.

BC's **Steve Corson** broke one pool record and came close to another, as BC beat Academy 117-78.

Corson set a pool record in the 500-freestyle, with a time of 4:58.6. Though Corson said this is not his best time, he felt it was not bad for the second meet of the year.

Corson also won the 200 freestyle.

In addition to Corson's performance, BC divers also fared well.

First-year member **Mike Smith** qualified for Sectionals with his excellent scores.

The Eagles beat the Rams 110-76 earlier in the week. After the team of **Scott Strickler**, **Ilya Furman**, **Chris Shaffer** and **Drew Golden** posted a time of 1:49.98 in the 200 medley relay, the team coasted to the win.

Highlights of the meet included Corson's 1:50.83 in the 200 free, and **Brendan Jordan**'s sectional-qualifying performance in diving notched a final score of 157.95.

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Last second heroics lift 'Birds over Boys Academy

By Meg McGinty

The Blackbirds defeated Albany Academy 54-53 on a buzzer-beater from senior Joe Dougherty in an intense boys basketball game in Albany last week.

"The team played tremendous basketball," said coach Bill Logan, whose team has volleyed between wins and losses in a young 2-2 season. "We played as a whole which is something that we definitely needed to do. I was really impressed with the amazing defense they played."

Dougherty led the team with 22 points. Joe was followed by seniors Karl Meier and Bill Meade who each added eight points.

"We were basically behind the entire game," said Logan, "then Dougherty hit the shot at the buzzer. I couldn't have chosen a more perfect way to end the game. Everybody contributed a great amount, I was happy with everyone's performance."

The win came after a bitter 68-53 loss at home to Schalmont.

Two weeks ago the team beat Waterford 68-54. Voorheesville guards scored 20 points in that win, but against Schalmont, the guards only managed six.

Junior John Krajewski led the way with 21 points followed by Meier who contributed 13 points. Dougherty added nine.

Krajewski poured in 31 points in the win over Waterford.

The Blackbirds play home against Averill Park Friday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Ladybirds beat Holy Names 44-32

By Chris Bonham

The Voorheesville girls basketball team came into Friday night's game, after an impressive 71-13 win over Cohoes last week, and beat undefeated Holy Names 44-32.

Basketball

"They played tough throughout the game," said head coach Jack Adams.

The Ladybirds' victory maintains the team's championship reputation as they played strong defensive ball against a persistent

Holy Names team.

Senior Jane Meade continued where she left off last year. The senior guard again piloted the Ladybirds to victory, scoring 20 points.

Meade has maintained her leadership role as she has scored 22 points in each of the Ladybirds' two previous basketball games.

Junior guard Caryn Adams scored eight points for the Ladybirds.

In first quarter action, Voorheesville allowed Holy Names only six points, while the Ladybirds more than doubled their rivals score with 13 points. The game

tightened in the second quarter with Holy Names outscoring Voorheesville 12-10, but the Blackbirds continued to preserve its lead by the end of the third.

The Ladybirds (4-0) hope to extend their winning streak as they play against Lansingburgh at home.

CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE Business Meeting / Public Information Meeting

December 18, 1997 • 3:00 p.m.

Capital District Transportation Committee
5 Computer Drive West, Albany, NY

CDTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady area.

The public is welcome to comment on transportation-related issues within the Capital District.

TO REGISTER TO SPEAK, CALL 458-2161

Local teen places in skate event

Matt Primomo, of Glenmont, placed third in an open skateboarding competition at the Boys Club in Rotterdam, Sunday, Dec. 7.

Skateboarding

Sponsored by the Empire Skate Park in Albany, the event consisted of beginner, intermediate, advanced and sponsored divisions.

Primomo, 14, was the youngest competitor in the tournament.

A new pair of skateboard sneakers was his reward.

Fire district slates meeting for Jan. 13

Slingerlands Fire District's organizational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the firehouse on 1520 New Scotland Road.



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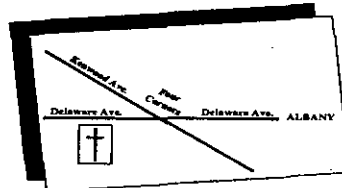
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BC's winning formula: 10 goals ÷ two games = two wins

By Andrew Hartman

After starting the season 0-3, the Bethlehem hockey team turned it around to go 2-0 for the week against Mohonasen-Schalmont and South Glens Falls.

BC a 3-2 win.

The win against South Glens Falls was BC's second win of the week.

Hockey

We haven't really changed. We just played more as a team.

Jeff Smith

"We haven't really changed," said senior **Jeff Smith**. "We just played more as a team. We knew it would take a few games to find our niche. We now know each other and it is easier to play together."

The Eagles front line showed real signs of life.

An offensive barrage and tough defense was the proving factor in an upset over 3-0 South Glens Falls.

Jim Corrigan turned out a two-goal performance, while **Steve Guglielmo** scored another, to give

BC poured on the goals to beat Mohonasen-Schalmont 7-0 last week.

Corrigan and Smith each scored twice for the Eagles, while **Mike Coker**, **Brad Colacino** and **Jon Albert** each scored one.

BC goalie **Adam DiMuria** snagged 26 saves for the shutout.



Jim Corrigan, shown here with the puck against LaSalle, accounted for four of Bethlehem's 10 goals last week. *Rob Tocker*

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Exciting season opener for BBC

The Bethlehem Basketball Club started its 10th season of play recently at Bethlehem Central Middle School.

In "Big Ten" action, Dan Hjeltnes poured in 20 points to lead Northwestern over Wisconsin 39-22. Russell Ellers had eight in defeat. Iowa edged Michigan 39-25 with Michael Dax's 12 leading the victors and Paul DuBois's 13 in the loss. Ohio State overcame Michigan 32-18. Josh Lewis scored 12 points in the paint for the Buckeyes and Dan Seeba's six were not enough for the Wolverines.

Indiana ran past Purdue 51-17 as Craig Oskam hit from all over the floor for 26. Tom Rood had six for the Boilermakers. In the division finale, Minnesota beat Penn State 30-14 behind Evan Marsh's solid 10 point performance. Kathleen Getz put in five for the Nittany Lions

St. John's 40-36 squeaker over a tough Providence team started "Big East" competition. Josh Ciccone had eight for the Red Storm and Sal Signorelli scored 10 for the Friars. Pitt overwhelmed Georgetown 53-24 as Conor McMahon drove the lane for 15. Jason Colocino had seven for

Dolphins do well at Shaker High

Thirty-nine members of the Delmar Dolphins attended the Pilgrim Pride swim meet at Shaker High School recently.

Taking first in their events were Becky Corson, Justin Murphy, Teresa Rosetti and Rick Grant.

Twelve-year-old Courtney Arduini, swimming with the 15-and-older age group, finished second and all four of her events.

Finishing in the top six were Hana Segerstrom, Martha Grady, Alex Parker, Tyler Dudas, Matt Pasquini, James Traylor and Caleb Bonvel.

And those swimmers achieving personal best times were Lauren Sullivan, Barbara Pohl, Katie O'Donnell, Alyssa Sullivan, Julia Cardamone, Hilary Edmunds, Zoe Edmunds, Nathan Foley, Jimmy Kivlen, Jessica Szczech, Tiffany Bowdish, Sarah Lackner, Katie VanHuesen and Sarah Richardson.

Larissa Suparmanto, Caleb Bonvel, David Richardson, Kevin Perazzelli, Ann DeLucco, Lauren Grady, Katherine Keyes, Larry Gloecjler, Sean Kennedy, Hannah Gold, Joe Cardamone, Alex Sbenyi and Lauren Grady also reached personal bests.

Lady Eagles plan basketball clinics

The newly formed Bethlehem Lady Eagles Basketball Club is conducting clinics on Sundays during the basketball season.

Girls in grades-three to eight are invited and encouraged to attend the skills clinics. For information, call 439-2007.

the Hoyas. Jonathan Susman's stingy defense held Miami's shooters at bay in the closing minutes to highlight Syracuse's 37-36 victory. Nick Criscione was high scorer with 12.

In a tough defensive tussle, Notre Dame squeezed out a 15-14 win over West Virginia: Kevin McKeough's six points for the Irish offset Emily Bango's six for the Mountaineers. Tom Lackner hustled his way to seven points as Connecticut toppled Boston College 36-25. Kevin Gutman had eight points for the Eagles.

In the "NBA," Eric Zimmer's desperation toss from the corner found home to give the Lakers a

38-36 victory over the Suns. Justin Lavelle had 20 to lead all scorers. The Sonics beat the Nuggets 45-31. Jim Morrill had 12 points for the winners, and Brendan Hughes scored 13 for the losers.

Josh Rusinski poured in 22 points as the Bulls beat the Rockets 62-47. Josh Walas had 17 for the Rockets. Paul Stewart's 16 points was most decisive in the Knicks 37-32 victory over the Spurs. Sean Myrtle scored nine in defeat. Mark Bulger had 14 for the Magic, but they succumbed to an aggressive Celtic squad 48-37. Brian Geurtze muscled in 16 for the winners.

Softball sign-up dates set

Bethlehem Tomboys softball league will hold final registration for the 1998 season on Saturday, Jan. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon at Bethlehem town hall on Delaware Avenue.

Registration is open to girls in grades-one through 12. Participants must turn 6-years-old by Dec. 1.

First time registrants must

show a copy of their birth certificate.

Practices start in April. League games generally run from May through early July.

Parent volunteers are needed for the board of directors and to serve as boosters, managers/coaches, groundskeepers and fund-raisers.

For information, call 439-4636.



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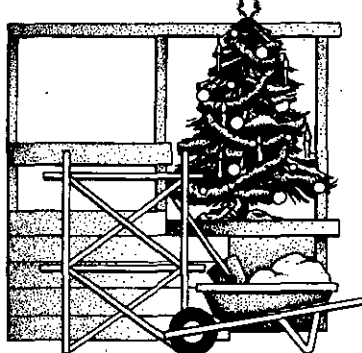
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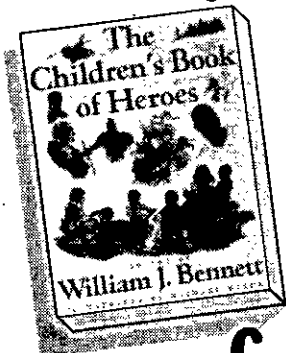
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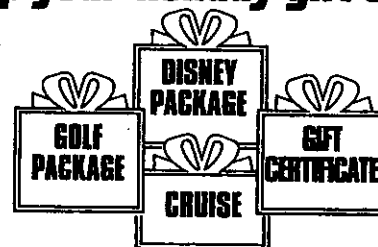
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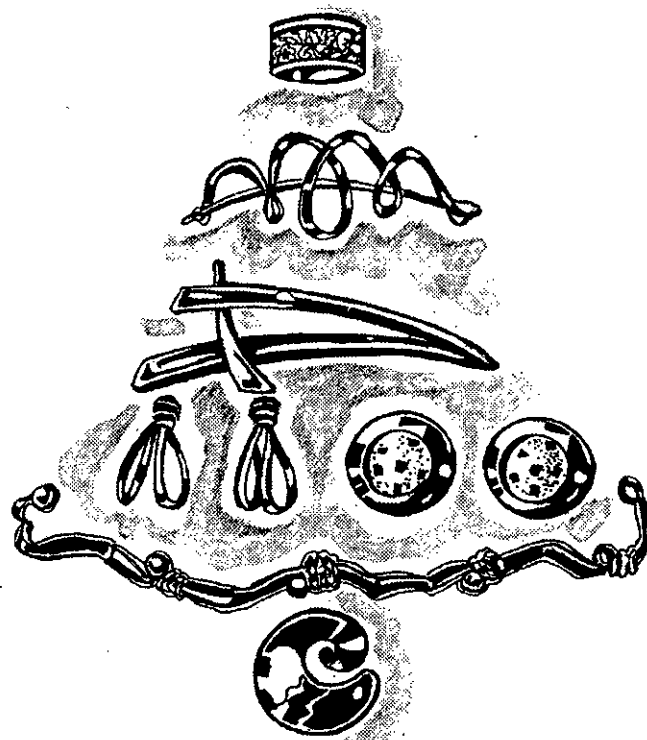
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Methodist Church to host community Christmas festival

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. when First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville will host the eighth annual Voorheesville community Christmas festival.

A combination of traditional and contemporary music will be performed by an ecumenical choir under the direction of Ken George.

There will be plenty of opportunity for the audience to join in on their favorite holiday carols.

At 5 p.m., a living creche will assemble on the lawn of the church.

The creche will be made up of members of the youth fellowship

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville
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Society's annual holiday float parade on Saturday, Dec. 21, beginning at 2 p.m.

The float starts at the Voorheesville firehouse and makes stops at Smith's Tavern, First United Methodist Church and SuperValu market.

Treat your child to breakfast with Santa

American Legion Post 193 on Voorheesville Avenue will serve a special breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 8 a.m. to noon. Pictures with Santa will be available or you can bring your own camera.

of the church and members of the congregation. It ends at 7 p.m.

For information, call the church office at 765-2895.

Santa to parade down Maple Avenue

Santa and his helpers will spread holiday cheer and hand out special treats to area children during the Maple Avenue Cultural

All-you-can-eat helping of eggs, sausage, french toast, home fries, toast and beverages cost \$4 for adults and \$2 for children ages 5 to 12. Children under age 5 eat for free.

Indian Ladder sets holiday open house

Indian Ladder Farms on Altamont Road will host a holiday open house on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 4 to 9 p.m.

The event will feature horse-drawn sleigh rides, tunes from Fraser and the Firs, stories by Mary Murphy, visits with Santa, a living manger scene and much more.

The store is packed with unique Christmas gifts, and the holiday barn has Christmas trees, wreaths and arrangements of greens.

Visitors can enjoy a light supper or snack from the Yellow Rock Cafe.

For information, call 765-2956.

Schools to close for winter recess

Voorheesville schools will be closed for winter recess from Dec. 24 through Jan 4.

Children to perform in Christmas pageant

St. Matthew's Church on Mountainview Street has scheduled its annual children's Christmas pageant for Sunday, Dec. 21, at the 10 a.m. Mass. A reception will follow in the parish center.

An Advent bereavement service is also set for Sunday, Dec. 21, at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Candlelight service set for Christmas Eve

A traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service with carol singing and choral music is planned for Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 11 p.m.

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at First United Methodist Church on Maple Avenue.

The family service is at 7 p.m. and will feature a re-enactment of the Christmas story by children. The junior and cherub choirs will sing.

Christmas Day services are at 10 a.m. with lessons, carols and prayers.

St. Matthew's schedules Christmas services

St. Matthew's Church on Mountainview Street will hold a special children's Mass with a children's choir on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.

Due to crowding at this Mass, there will be reserved seating for families of choir members. Tickets are available by calling Mary McKenna at 765-2373.

There will also be a folk Mass at 7 p.m. and a 9 p.m. Mass with the adult holiday choir.

On Christmas Day, there will be only one Mass at 10 a.m.

Counselor offers parenting workshops

A three-session workshop for parents of preschoolers is scheduled for Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 13 and 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville on Maple Avenue.

Ann Chatterton, a church member and owner of Children's Counseling Services, will conduct the programs.

The series will teach parents step-by-step skills they can use in dealing with preschoolers.

Topics include discipline methods that work, how to prevent tantrums, ways to build a loving bond with your child, best ways to child-proof your home, stages of early childhood development and suggestions for taking care of yourself.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

The cost is \$30 for one parent and \$50 for both parents. There is also a \$13 materials fee.

Childcare will be provided. For information or to register, call Betsy Bates at 765-4478.

PTA collecting Box Tops for Education

The PTA reminds everyone to collect General Mills box tops. The group receives 15 cents for each

qualifying cereal box top and 10 cents for each snack and Yoplait yogurt multi-pack box top as part of General Mills Box Tops for Education Program.

Check all General Mills products for the 1997-98 Box Tops for Education symbol.

The PTA also collects Campbell's soup labels.

Money received from labels and box tops will be used to purchase equipment for the school.

Collection bins are located at the school, public library and at SuperValu market on Maple Avenue.

Elementary school sponsors birthday book club

Family members and friends of elementary school pupils are invited to participate in the Birthday Book Club as a special way to celebrate birthdays and support the school library.

Donors choose a book from a wish list prepared by the school librarian.

A bookplate recognizing the child is placed in the front of the donated book.

At the end of the school year, a party is held for all children whose families have donated a book.

For information, contact school

librarian Annette Zemser at 765-2382.

Check radio stations for school closings

School closings due to emergencies or inclement weather will be announced on radio stations WROW, WTRY, WQBK, KLITE, WGY and on Channel 6.

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Public

(From Page 1)

public.

On behalf of the federal Department of the Interior, the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is conducting an investigation into whether the grant funds were misused.

The new public use plan calls for access to an improved loop trail for hiking and a shoreline trail for hiking and fishing, two drop-off points for people who want to use canoes or other small non-motorized boats on the lake, handicapped parking near the lake, proper signage and, in general, year-round passive recreation access to all of the park, except the facilities used by Camp Opportunities while the summer camp is in session.

"We tried to look at each aspect of the facility," Richardson said.

Committee members debated only two minor areas of the new plan — where to place the parking lot and who would be responsible for group reservations of park facilities.

County Legislator Peter Clouse, R-Coeymans, argued that the parking lot should be as close as possible to the lake, while the draft public use plan called for a lot near the caretaker's house, about 200 yards south of the camp's west gate.

A lot inside the gate "would provide easier access," Clouse said. "Thacher Park works nicely with lots inside the main gate."

The committee decided to recommend a preferred site inside the gate if it is feasible, and the area near the caretaker's house as a backup site.

Clouse also suggested, and the

committee agreed by the only non-unanimous vote of the evening, that the Office of Natural Resources in the county planning department, and not the Department of Public Works, take charge of group reservations of park facilities.

Richardson said the legislative intent is to have the park open as soon as possible following expected approval of the resolution at the Legislature's year-end meeting Dec. 22.

Richardson said there is \$25,000 in the county's 1998 budget for improvements at Lawson Lake, adding that leaving the shoreline trail in its natural, sometimes wet state will substantially reduce the costs of opening up the park.

As part of the resolution, the committee also approved a new five-year license arrangement with Camp Opportunities for its use of

Lawsuit

(From Page 1)

outsiders and outside commercial activities."

Flanigan is also alleged to have approached Riley's property only when it became "common knowledge" the home was occupied by a black female.

Flanigan, both as a town employee and private citizen, is being sued for \$11 million.

In February, Flanigan informed Riley of her zoning violation after he discovered her business, with seven to 14 employees, in the Slingerlands home.

Riley later pursued a use variance, claiming hardship because she bought the home under the advice from her real estate broker that the \$460,000 home would be "perfect" for an in-home professional office.

She moved to Slingerlands intending to manage the 47 Pizza Hut restaurants she co-owns from her home. She had hired a lawyer and real estate agent to help her find a suitable home as she arranged to move from Manhattan

to the Albany area.

Theodora D'amico, the real estate agent hired by Riley, said the Slingerlands property was deemed suitable for business according to a multiple listing service used by nearly all area real estate agencies.

The property's information was entered into a computer service by a listing agent, based on the building's past use, said D'amico. The previous owner had a small one-person office.

Town zoning codes defines a professional office as one that does not "accommodate outside help" and is permitted use for doctors, surgeons, dentists, teachers, engineers, architects, musicians, lawyers and other professionals.

The Capital Region Multiple Listing Service printed a disclaimer along with the information on the property, claiming the listing was "recommended but not guaranteed."

According to zoning regulations, a zoning change due to hardship can be granted under four situations — applicant is deprived of reasonable use of property, the hardship is unique and does not apply to a substantial portion of the neighborhood, the use variance would not alter the neighborhood's character, and the hardship was not self-created.

The board decided on Nov. 5 that the hardship was self-inflicted. Riley had a month to file an appeal of the decision. However, no appeal was filed in Bethlehem Town Hall.

In September, Pryor named several home businesses, all on land zoned for residential use, conducting business in the neighborhoods around Riley's home, for example, Coventry Construction and Charles Youngblood's law office, both on New Scotland Avenue, are zoned residential "AA," and Joanne Van Woert's doctor's office is in a residential "A" zone, same as Riley's property.

Pryor also noted the close proximity of two restaurants, a deli and the Slingerlands Firehouse to Riley's home.

Riley's suit charges that the town is selectively enforcing its zoning regulations.

Flanigan said Riley's office, with seven employees, surpasses the usual personal home business and is more suitable in a designated commercial zone.

The house, which was built in the early 1800s, had been used as a hotel, post office and tavern during the 19th century.

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Obituaries

Beatrice Myers

Beatrice Anna Opey Myers of Delmar died Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Community Hospice of Albany County.

Mrs. Myers, an Albany native, worked for Western Union, the Department of Motor Vehicles and Farm Family Insurance.

She was a homemaker and a member of Bethlehem Senior Citizens.

She was the widow of James Myers.

Survivors include a son, Alan J. Myers of Delmar; a daughter, Janet M. Wilson of Rochester; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to Community Hospice Inn, 315 S. Manning Blvd., Albany 12208.

John Davi

John Lawrence Davi of South Bethlehem died Thursday, Dec. 11.

Mr. Lawrence, a native of Root, N.Y., was a self-employed construction worker.

Survivors include one son, Lance Davi of Delo Bethlehem; two daughters, Delores Monette of North Fort Myers, Fla., and Rebecca Rasmussen of Albany; two brothers, Joseph Davi of Nelliston and Anthony Davi of Canajoharie; three sisters, Nancy Davi of Ocala, Fla., Anne Darrow of Sprakers and Mary Zuccarello of Ocean Township, N.J.; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Services were from the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Joanne Matias

Joanne Foody Matias of Delmar died Friday, Dec. 12, at Community Hospice of Albany County.

Ms. Matias was born in Binghamton. She attended Syracuse University and graduated in 1953 from Harpur College of Binghamton University.

Mrs. Matias retired in 1994 as the personnel manager at Parsons Child & Family Center in Albany. She also worked in the personnel departments of Albany Medical College, Wilson Memorial Hospi-

tal in Endicott, Broome County, and Tompkins County Hospital in Ithaca, Tompkins County. She was a member of the Delmar Progress Club.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas R. Matias of Delmar; and two sons, James Matias and Timothy Matias, both of Rensselaer.

Services were from the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Spring burial will be in St. Paul's Cemetery in Norwich, Chenango County.

Contributions may be made to the Parsons Child & Family Center, 60 Academy Road, Albany 12208 or to the Alzheimer's Association, Northeastern New York Chapter, 85 Watervliet Ave, Albany 12206.

Leadership seminar to select students

High schools throughout eastern New York have begun the selection process for next year's Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation (HOBY) Seminar in Albany.

Each participating high school will select one student to attend the three-day seminar in May.

HOBY Leadership Seminars bring together outstanding high school sophomores and top government and business leaders to discuss the economy, media, environment, the future and other vital issues.

The group currently holds more than 100 three-day seminars in the United States and several foreign countries.

For information, call John Swartwout at 457-0639.

Tendercare opens second facility

Tendercare Child Centers has opened its second facility at 569 Elm Ave. in Bethlehem.

The new facility is designed to accommodate 48 children between the ages of six weeks and 12 years.

Tendercare's rural setting features age-specific, fenced playground areas and small, personal groups led by competent, caring and qualified staff.

Children participate in a wide range of activities designed to meet the needs of each individual child.

Tendercare strives to create an environment that is an extension of the home, where each child's self-image is considered vital to his/her success.

The center offers competitive rates and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information, call 478-0787.

Deputies collecting donations for needy

The Albany Sheriff's Department will hold its sixth annual Christmas in the Hilltowns drive.

The program needs donations of nonperishable food items and new toys.

Contact Sergeant Mike Winnie or Deputies Amy Carman or Debbie Gilham at 765-2351.

Monetary donations can be sent to Sergeant Mike Winnie c/o Albany County Sheriff's Department, 390 New Salem Road, Voorheesville, N.Y. 12186.

Make checks payable to ACSO Hilltown Christmas Fund. Donations should be received by Dec. 19.

Delmar Carpet Care

QUALITY CARPET CLEANING

- WALL TO WALL
- UPHOLSTERY **439-0409**
- ORIENTALS AND AREA RUGS

Tim Barrett



Your Neighborhood Funeral Home



Meyers Funeral Home

439-5560

Ben & Stephen Meyers

A Tree will be donated in Memory

741 Delaware Ave Delmar
Opposite Bethlehem High School

DOWNTOWN ALBANY STORE CLOSING 30% - 70% OFF our already low prices!



Mon-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4
All Major Credit Cards and Cash Accepted

Ten Eyck Plaza
40 North Pearl St.
Downtown

The Spotlight remembers

This week in 1987, these stories were making headlines in *The Spotlight*.

• Bethlehem police Officer **Cindy Reed-Kerr**, the department's only female officer, said she would probably file a sex discrimination lawsuit against the town following the promotion of another officer to sergeant.

• The state Department of Transportation posted the Wolf Hill Road bridge in New Scotland for closing due to erosion of its southern abutment. The bridge was the third in the town to be closed, joining bridges on Cass Hill and Plank roads.

• Residents of Bicentennial Woods asked the Bethlehem town board for several stop signs and a 15 mph speed limit in the subdivision.

• The Bethlehem Central boys basketball team won the first two games of the season, defeating Scotia 72-60 and Niskayuna 63-55. Key players were **Todd Wright, Jim Blendell, Neil Breslin, Jeff Hawley, John Peyrebrune** and **Kyle Snyder**.

KLINE'S

Harness & Saddle Repair Shop

HUGE SELECTION **GREAT PRICES!**

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Northway Mall, 1440 Central Ave., Albany, NY 456-8535

Let the ALBANY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Swim a few laps • Share a song or laugh

Albany Jewish Community Center

Be Our Guest

Read a good book • Dribble a few balls

Save You Money and Get You Into Shape

Clip out this ad and SPEND A DAY GETTING FIT ON US*

*You must be over 18 to use the pass. Please call 438-6651 Member Services for scheduling and availability. ext. 127

— CARD OF THANKS —

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to our friends and neighbors for flowers, food, cards of sympathy and memorials sent at the time of the loss of my wife and our mother, Hester J. Ginter.

A special thanks to Reverend Reynolds, the United Methodist Women and the Ladies Auxiliary.

It is such a comfort to know so many people share our loss.

— Edward Ginter & Family

Scharff's

Oil

& Trucking Co., Inc.

For Heating Fuels
Bulk Diesel Fuel

"Local People Serving Local People"

Glenmont So. Bethlehem
465-3861 767-9056

Death Notices

The **Spotlight** will print paid Death Notices for relatives and friends who do not or have not lived in the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland. The charge for a paid death notice is \$25.

We will continue to print Obituaries of residents and former residents of the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland at no charge.

In Memoriam, and Cards of Thanks will also be printed for \$25.



Edward Blekitas and Susan Cassidy

Cassidy, Blekitas to marry

Susan E. Cassidy, daughter of Gerald and Eileen Cassidy of Delmar, and Edward P. Blekitas, son of Bruce Blekitas of Franklin, N.H., and Pauline Boska of Milford, N.H., are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be, a graduate of Notre Dame College, is employed

as a graphic designer by Schneider Automation in North Andover, Mass.

The groom-to-be is a graduate of University of Lowell and is a plastics engineer.

The couple plans a May wedding.

Births

St. Peter's Hospital

Boy, John Wolcott Vandervort, to Margaret and Todd Vandervort of Voorheesville, Oct. 24.

Girl, Kathy Mae VanAlstyne, to Catherine VanAlstyne of Selkirk, Nov. 5.

Boy, Joshua David Carey, to Lisa and Michael Carey of Delmar, Nov. 29.

Girl, Margaret Ann Daley, to Carolyn and Shawn Daley of Delmar, Dec. 6.

Boy, Mitchell William Young, to Allison and Robin Young of Delmar, Dec. 7.

Out of town

Boy, Vincent Joseph Perry III, to Jill and Lt. Vincent Perry of Norfolk, Va., Dec. 2. Paternal grandparents are Vincent and Bonnie Perry of Voorheesville.

Class of '97

SUNY Oswego — John Deys (bachelor's in political science, *cum laude*), Ryan Donovan (bachelor's in political science), Michael Lurie (bachelor's in accounting) and Michael Pelletier (bachelor's in sociology), all from Delmar; and Kevin Murphy of Glenmont (bachelor's in marketing).



John and Amy White

Shultes, White marry

Amy M. Shultes, daughter of Robert and Janet Shultes of Glenmont, and John L. White Jr., son of John and Diane White of Cohoes, were married Sept. 6.

The Revs. Lynn Joosten and Julian Davies performed the ceremony at Glenmont Community Church, with the reception following at the Quality Inn in Albany.

The maid of honor was Molly Shultes, the bride's sister. Bridesmaids were Nancy White, the groom's sister, Cindy McDonald, Gerilyn Berdar, Nicole O'Brien, and Carol Emsing. The junior bridesmaid was Marcy Shultes, sister of the bride.

The best man was Jamie McDonald and ushers were Dan Berdar, Jeff Guzy, Dave O'Brien, and Ed White, the groom's cousin.

The flower girl was Morgan Mazone, a cousin of the bride, and the ring bearer was Greg Klopfer, also a cousin of the bride.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Hudson Valley Community College. She is employed by Key Bank in Albany.

The groom is a graduate of LaSalle Institute and is a manager at Grand Union.

After a wedding trip to Niagara Falls and the Bahamas, the couple lives in Cohoes.

Youth Network

A BETHLEHEM NETWORKS PROJECT

Networks helps fight substance abuse

Bethlehem Networks Project is a community approach to substance abuse prevention, funded by The Task Force on Integrated Projects for Youth and Chemical Dependency.

The project is supported by the Bethlehem Central School District, Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited, Capitol District Physicians' Health Plan, Albany County Stop DWI, Main Square and other organizations.

There are many causes of substance abuse among our youth. Bethlehem Networks Project provides a variety of solutions by working with youth, families, schools, town agencies, community groups and businesses.

Examples of project activities are: providing the community with accurate alcohol and other drug information, providing parenting classes, developing positive alternatives to alcohol and other drugs, and helping educate young people about life skills.

Bethlehem Networks Project and Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited sponsor the Bethlehem Community Partnership, a coalition of caring individuals who have been working to assess the problem of alcohol and other drug use.

Some accomplishments of the Bethlehem Community Partnership are: Don't You Trust Me?, a guide for high school parents, an award-winning video on teen drinking, and an award-winning fact sheet on marijuana and the law.

The Bethlehem Networks Project is located at 318 Delaware Ave. in Main Square, sharing a space with the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce. The phone number is 439-7740.

Mona Prenoveau is the project coordinator. She will be happy to discuss project activities with you.



Corporate neighbors committed to serving the community

Mail weddings, engagements

The Spotlight would like to publish your engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement and photo. There is no charge for this community service.

Black and white photos are preferred, but color photos are acceptable. Polaroid photos cannot be printed.

For information and submission forms, call 439-4949. Mail announcements to 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054.

Special on Wmht CHANNEL 17

The Julliard Opera: Hansel and Gretel
Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Mystery: Poirot VII
Thursday, 9 p.m.

Great Performances: San Francisco Opera
Gala Celebration
Friday, 9 p.m.

Wining and Dining with Yves Durand: A
Holiday Celebration
Saturday, noon

Hallelujah! The Messiah from Scratch
Sunday, 10 p.m.

Carols from Atlanta: The Morehouse-
Speiman Christmas Concert
Monday, 10 p.m.

Frontline: Easy Money
Tuesday, 9 p.m.

Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
supports public television
for a better community

Owens-Corning is Fiberglas





Above, Gaye and Edmund Rukwid Jr. today and, below, in 1947



Rukwids celebrate 50th

Edmund and Gaye Rukwid of Delmar celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party given by their daughter at her home in Delmar.

The couple was married Nov. 22, 1947, in St. Matthew's Lutheran

Church in Albany.

Edmund is retired from the New York Telephone Company and Gaye is a homemaker.

The couple has one daughter, Cheryl Dennin, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Church sponsors Santa visits

Santa can come to your house if you live in southern Albany County — including Bethlehem, Delmar, Slingerlands, Voorheesville, New Scotland, Altamont and outlying areas.

Santa visits are available through Tuesday, Dec. 23.

The cost is \$15 for a 15 minute visit, and \$10 for an additional 15 minutes.

The visits are sponsored by New Salem Reformed Church on Route 85. For reservations or information, call 765-3784.

Legion Post plans breakfast with Santa

American Legion Post 1493 on Voorheesville Avenue in Voorheesville will host breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 21, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Pictures with Santa will be available, or you can bring your own camera.

Breakfast includes all-you-can-eat portions of eggs, sausages, french toast, home fries, toast, coffee, tea and juice.

The cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children ages 5 to 12. Children under age 5 eat for free.

Delmar church offers children's program

Delmar Reformed Church on 386 Delaware Ave. will offer a Christian child care program on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help preschoolers through fifth-graders prepare for Christmas.

The program includes Bible lessons, crafts, recreation, music, a snack and lunch.

The cost is \$5 per session. For information, call 439-9929.

Tri-Village Squares to host dance

Tri-Village Squares will hold a square and round dance on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 8 to 10:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church on 428 Kenwood Ave. in Delmar.

Dan Guin will be the caller and Jean and John Wilkinson will be the cuers.

For information, call 439-7571.



Kevin and Karen Bestler

Aloisi, Bestler marry

Karen Aloisi, daughter of Harry and Millie Aloisi of Clarksville, and Kevin Bestler, son of Robert and Kathleen Bestler of Delmar, were married July 12.

The ceremony was conducted by Father James Lefebure at St. Mary's Church in Albany. A reception at Zwicklbauer's on Warners Lake followed.

The matron of honor was Melissa DiBlasi, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Jennifer Bestler and Tricia Hughes, sisters of the groom, and Julie Andriano, Karen Markessinis and Dee Adkins.

The best man was Bill Krell and

the ushers were Chris Aloisi, brother of the bride, Eric Favaloro, Steve Coons, Scott Salsbury and David Van Denburg.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Sage Evening College. She is self-employed.

The groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Hudson Valley Community College. He is an operating engineer at the Norlite Corporation in Cohoes.

After a wedding trip to Quebec, the couple lives in Clarksville.

The TOTALLOOK

239 Delaware Ave., Delmar • 439-2508

(at the side of The Bookworm)

• Highlights • Body Waves • Tanning

* Booth Rental Available *

Appointments Preferred • Open Tues.-Sat.



Community

Corner



Christmas caroling at Delmar church

A community carol sing will take place on the front steps of Delmar Reformed Church, on 386 Delaware Ave., Sunday, Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Caroling books and candles will be provided, and hot cocoa and cookies will be served.

For information, call 439-9929.

Here's to a Wonderful Wedding!



INVITATIONS

Paper Mill Delaware Plaza. 439-8123
Wedding invitations, announcements, custom orders, personalized accessories.

JEWELRY

Harold Finkle, "Your Jeweler" 1585 Central Ave., Colonie. 456-6800. Diamonds - Handcrafted Wedding Rings & Attendant's Gifts.

RECEPTIONS

Albany Ramada Inn, 1228 Western Ave., 489-2981. Banquet Room up to 300 people. P.S., do it on Sunday and save a lot of \$\$.

LIMOUSINE

Super Special!!!! 3 hours for only \$99. Advantage Limousine. 433-0100
Some rest.

By Martin P. Kelly

The various gold finches, white fronted sparrows and English sparrows partaking of the back yard feeders at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar keep a wary eye out for sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks who hover in trees waiting for a likely prey.

Every so often the dozens of small birds feeding at the half-dozen feeders dart away quickly only to return moments later once the real or imagined danger has gone. They ignore the squirrels on the ground cleaning up spilled bird seed.

Ray Perry, an education officer at the Center, explained that this windowed room in which people can observe bird-feeding close up is a means for the staff at Five Rivers to explain the various species of birds which visit the back yard area.

"There were 156 different species at the Center this year," Perry explained. "That's the most Five Rivers has counted since the program was started."

He said that the staff of the Center and area bird watchers were excited about the visit of three long-eared owls to the back yard area. "Usually owls are solitary birds but the long-eared variety tend to roost together."

As Perry prepares to lead an informal session in back-yard bird watching and feeding on Sat., Dec. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m., he explained that there are 90 separate varieties of birds in North America but more than 10,000 throughout the world.

Ironically, the biggest prey of birds in the United States are house cats. "They kill upwards of a billion birds a year while another 270 million die from flying into windows and towers," Perry said.

The information to be given Dec. 27 includes some of the feed put out in back yards. "Black oat sunflower seed is one food while thistle seed attracts the gold finch," he said. "Actually, birds receive only about 20 percent of their diet from back yard feeders." He uses that information to debunk the myth that people shouldn't stop feeding in fear of starving the birds.

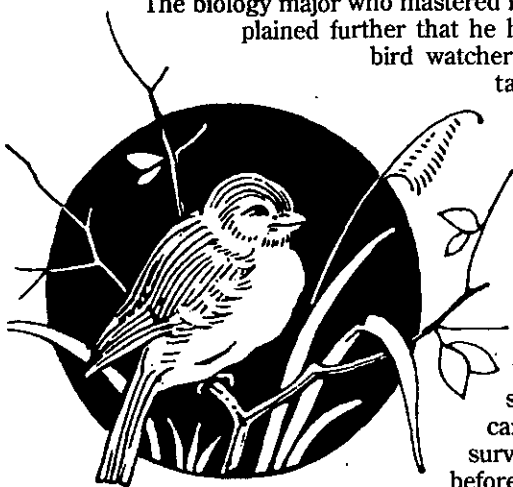
"Birds are survivors," Perry said. "If they don't get food in one back yard they migrate to another or to wild berries or whatever is available. Some species actually pass the word to each other where food might be."

The biology major who mastered in education explained further that he has to reassure bird watchers who want to take vacations that the birds they've been

feeding will not starve in the interim.

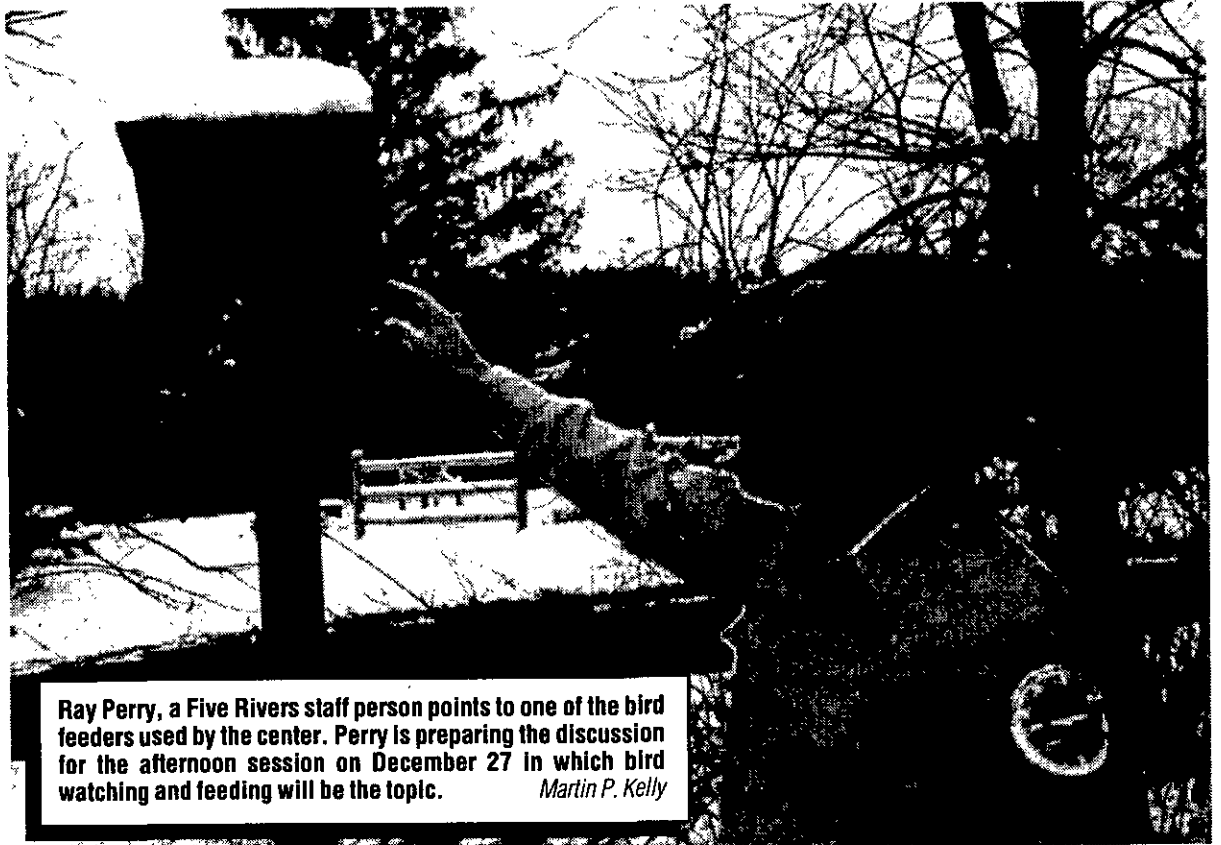
A staff member of the Five Rivers Center for six years, Perry reminds people that the facility is open 365 days a year with limited hours on Sundays.

With the winter season upon us, Perry says that people worry about the birds. "Actually, unless there is an ice storm which coats trees and bushes, birds can find food and eat enough each day to survive the night," he said. "If they can't eat before going to sleep, they may die by morning, however. They must eat every day."



Feed the Birds

Five Rivers Center hosts session on back yard bird watching and feeding



Ray Perry, a Five Rivers staff person points to one of the bird feeders used by the center. Perry is preparing the discussion for the afternoon session on December 27 in which bird watching and feeding will be the topic. *Martin P. Kelly*

In addition to the three long-eared owls which came to the Center this year, a Say's Phoebe (similar to a sparrow) was seen. This is a bird normally seen in the western United States.

"Word gets out quickly on the Internet when a rare bird or out-of-area visitor comes to the Center," Perry said. "Then, it's surprising how many bird-watchers come from all over the region and other parts of the country."

Everyone is invited to the informal back-yard birding session on Dec. 27.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Family Entertainment

CALENDAR • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A Little Princess continues in Troy run as work-in-progress

The adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic book, *A Little Princess*, is the latest project of the New York State Theatre Institute which, as its 22nd annual holiday show, is being presented through Saturday night, Dec. 20 at Russell Sage College.

The Institute has a well-earned reputation for reclaiming classic tales in new adaptations and this enhances this reputation albeit with some reservations.

The production has two major flaws — it is over-produced and it is burdened with too many non-professional child actors. The story of a young girl living in an English private school while her widower father is serving in India demands the use of a number of children as school companions. The difficulty lies in the inability of the youngsters to create individual characters or vocal attitudes. Too often, their vocal deliveries are too similar so there's little difference among them.

Emily Anne Crockett as Sara Crewe, the soldier's daughter reduced to a scullery maid when her father dies penniless because of a bad investment, has stage presence and her voice does give variety to her interpretation.

However, she is burdened with a set that demands she do many of her scenes in an attic where she's banished. The set design by G. W. Mercier has a platform high above the stage floor with long curving stairs at each side. The audience in the orchestra must look up continually while scenes are played there. And, since they involve fantasy scenes and puppetry, often the performing is confusing.



Martin P. Kelly

SPOTLIGHT

By Martin P. Kelly

The large cast, for the most part, moves well thanks to the staging by Adrienne Posner and Patricia DiBenedetto Snyder. There is choreographic movement that gives the tale a lightness but it isn't until the second act when there are more concentrated individual scenes without the large numbers of Sara's schoolmates around, that the show has some impact.

Since this production is also helped by a grant from the Warner Music Group, there is music and underscoring by Will Severin and George David Weiss, two men with Broadway credits who have worked with the Institute previously.

One song, sung by Sara and appropriate for the season is called simply "December" and it has a fine potential to enter the holiday song book.

However, the underscoring with background music to the scenes too often is overpowering not so much in volume as its passion or melodramatic tone.

Of the adults in the show, Ron Nakahara is marvelous as the Indian narrator. He moves with a dancer's ease and his firm, clear voice commands attention. So, too, Jeanne Vigilante Cherubino, in a return to the Institute's stage, registers with clarity as co-narrator and in a trio of roles.

Erika Johnson Newell is a telling villain as the headmistress who dismisses the child to the scullery when she has no more money for tuition. That she gets her comeuppance is a given.

The production plays Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm. at the Schacht Fine Arts Center in Troy. Box office is 274-3256.

A change in actresses for January production of *Always...Patsy Cline*

With the announcement little more than a week old that *Always...Patsy Cline* is returning to the Capital Repertory Company for a January reprise of its successful August run, the theater announced that Cathy Barnett will replace Joy Johnson in the role of the country singer's chief fan and good friend.

A family emergency forced Johnson out of the production but director Ted Swindley was able to secure Barnett who is no stranger to the role.

The replacement actress has played the role of the woman who maintained a friendship with the country western star until the singer's death.

Jennifer Douglas will return as the country legend, Patsy Cline, and will be seen in a cabaret set up. David Malachowski will also return as the musical director to play with the original Bodacious Bobcats who back up the Cline character.

The show is based on a true-life relationship between Cline and Louise Seger, a Houston housewife who became fast friends with the singer after meeting her at a concert.

The show itself opened in Houston in 1988 and has been a regional theater legend ever since.

Information and reservations for both shows area available at 462-4531.

AROUND THEATERS!

The Wizard of Oz at Home Made Theater at Spa Little Theater Dec. 12-21 (587-4427) ... *Over the Tavern*, a seasonal comedy at Capital Rep through Dec. 21 (462-4531)

AROUND THE AREA

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 17**

ALBANY COUNTY

WINTER FARMERS' MARKET
Concourse, Empire State Plaza, Albany, 11 a.m.

FARMERS' MARKET
Holy Cross Church, Western Avenue and Brevator Street, Albany, 2 to 6 p.m. Information, 272-2972.

SQUARE DANCE
Single Squares of Albany, St. Michael's Community Center, Linden Street Extension, Cohoes, 7:30 p.m. Information, 459-2888.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
for those who care for Alzheimer's parents, Royce House, 117 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, 1 p.m. Information, 438-2217.

RIVER VALLEY CHORUS MEETING
Glen Worden School, 34 Worden Road, Scotia, 7:30 p.m. Information, 355-4264.

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 18**

ALBANY COUNTY

CHORUS REHEARSAL
Capitaland Chorus of Sweet Adelines, New Covenant Church, 916 Western Ave., Albany, 7:30 p.m. Information, 237-4384.

LECTURE BY STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR
Albany Law School 80, New Scotland Ave., 2 p.m. Information, 462-5524.

FLY 92 ROCK TO BENEFIT DISABLED
Park West, RTE. 146, Clifton Park. 5 p.m. Cost, \$5. Information, 437-5611.

SCOLIOSIS SUPPORT GROUP
for Individuals and families, Conklin Conference Room, Albany Memorial Hospital, Northern Boulevard, 7:30 p.m. Information, 475-0859.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP
University Heights Health Care Center, 235 Northern Blvd., Albany, 5 p.m. Information, 438-2217.

FARMERS' MARKET
corner of Pine Street and Broadway, Albany, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information, 272-2972.

SENIOR CHORALE
Albany Jewish Community Center, 340 Whitehall Road, 1 p.m. Information, 438-6651.

EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT GROUP
Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave., 7:30 to 9 p.m. Information, 465-9550.

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19**

ALBANY COUNTY

MOTHERS' DROP IN
sponsored by the Capital District Mothers' Center, First Congregational Church, Quail Street, Albany, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Information, 475-1897.

SENIORS LUNCHESES
Albany Jewish Community Center, 340 Whitehall Road, 12:30 p.m. Information, 438-6651.

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 21**

ALBANY COUNTY

DANCE PROGRAM
"Polka Guys and Dolls," for children 3 and older, Cohoes Polish National Alliance, Cohoes, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Information, 237-8595.

SCOTTISH DANCING
Unitarian Church, Washington Avenue, Albany, 7 to 10 p.m. Information, 377-8792.

**MONDAY
DECEMBER 22**

ALBANY COUNTY

SENIORS LUNCHESES
Albany Jewish Community Center, 340 Whitehall Road, 4:45 p.m. Information, 438-6651.

CHANUKAH PARTY FOR DISABLED JEWISH ADULTS
Agudat Achim Synagogue, Niskayuna, 7 p.m. Information, 783-5096.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

SCOTTISH DANCING
Salvation Army, Smith Street, Schenectady, 8 to 10 p.m. Information, 783-6477.

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 23**

ALBANY COUNTY

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Capital District Church of Religious Science, 1237 Central Ave., Albany, 7 p.m. Social hour follows service.

TRUE FRIENDS
female incest survivors support group, Pineview Community Church, 251 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Information, 452-7800.

SENIORS LUNCHESES
Albany Jewish Community Center, 340 Whitehall Road, 12:30 p.m. Information, 438-6651.

CAPITAL TOASTMASTERS CLUB
for people who wish to develop speaking skills, Anthony's Park Plaza Restaurant, 27 Elk St., Albany, 5:45 p.m. Information, 489-0936.

CIVIL AIR PATROL
Albany Senior Squadron, Albany Airport, 7 p.m. Information, 869-4406.

RECOVERY, INC.
self-help group for former mental and nervous patients, Unitarian Church of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 346-8595.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

MS SELF-HELP GROUP
Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group, Sunnyview Hospital, Belmont Avenue, Schenectady, 9:30 a.m. Information, 427-0421.

RECOVERY, INC.
self-help group for former mental and nervous patients, Unitarian House, 1248 Wendell Ave., Schenectady, 7:30 p.m. Information, 346-8595.

SECULAR SOBRIETY GROUP
group for recovering alcoholics, Temple Gates of Heaven, corner of Ashmore Avenue and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady, 7:30 p.m. Information, 346-5569.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT GROUP
Christ Episcopal Church, Union Street, Hudson, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Information, 465-9550.

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 24**

ALBANY COUNTY

WINTER FARMERS' MARKET
Concourse, Empire State Plaza, Albany, 11 a.m.

FARMERS' MARKET
Holy Cross Church, Western Avenue and Brevator Street, Albany, 2 to 6 p.m. Information, 272-2972.

SQUARE DANCE
Single Squares of Albany, St. Michael's Community Center, Linden Street Extension, Cohoes, 7:30 p.m. Information, 459-2888.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

RIVER VALLEY CHORUS MEETING
Glen Worden School, 34 Worden Road, Scotia, 7:30 p.m. Information, 355-4264.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Pine Grove United Methodist Church, 1580 Central Ave, Albany, 7:30, 11 p.m. Information, 869-6281.

Phone in Your Classified Ad with Mastercard or Visa 439-4940



Breakfast with Santa at the Bethlehem Elks Lodge

December 21, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. until 12 Noon

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET

We have some exciting new menu items with many of your old favorites

Adults just \$5.00 Seniors only \$4.00
Children under 12 just \$3.00
(under 3 years old eat for free)

The proceeds from this event will go to benefit the New York State Elks Major Charity, Cerebral Palsy

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Also featuring Soups, Salads, Subs, Calzone & Sandwiches

SERVING LUNCH & DINNER
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Offer Good Thru 12/24/97



Spotlight on Dining

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120 Everett Road, Albany • (Near Shaker Road)

GIBBY'S PIZZA

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436-5188 Mon-Sat 4pm-10pm

STILL THE BEST VALUE IN TOWN AFTER 11 YEARS.
Bring in this coupon and receive a 16 inch, 8-cut, one topping Pizza for only **\$5.95**
Pick up only - expires 12/31/97

And as always, Gibby's gives **FREE WINGS ON FRIDAYS**
w/\$10.00 purchase + tax (offers may not be combined.)

The Original **Alteri's** Restaurant

Taking reservations for Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve
Open 4pm New Year's Day
Happy Holidays!
318 Delaware Ave. · Delmar · 475-1047

Sam's Italian & American Restaurant

125 Southern Blvd., Albany • 463-3433
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Serving DINNER Tues.-Sat. 4:30-10:30 Closed Sun. & Mon.

\$10.00 Dinner Special
Tues., Wed., Thurs. Only
ENTREES INCLUDE:
Baked Scrod, Veal & Peppers, Broiled Salmon served with penne or spaghetti, and soup or salad.

The Spotlight CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 17

BETHLEHEM

BC SCHOOL BOARD
district office, 90 Adams Place, 8 p.m. Information, 439-7098.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
town hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

BINGO
Blanchard American Legion Post, 16 Poplar Drive, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-9819.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 5
Elsmere Elementary School, 247 Delaware Ave., 7:30 to 9 p.m. Information, 439-0503.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Parks and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue Park, 2 to 4:30 p.m. Information, 439-0503.

WELCOMEWAGON
newcomers, engaged women and new mothers, call for a Welcome Wagon visit, Monday to Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information, 439-1531.

BETHLEHEM LIONS CLUB
Days Inn, Route 9W, Glenmont, 7 p.m. Information, 439-4857.

BETHLEHEM ELKS LODGE 2233
Route 144, Cedar Hill, 8 p.m. Information, 767-2886.

ONESQUETHAU CHAPTER, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Masonic Temple, 421 Kenwood Ave., 8 p.m. Information, 439-2181.

TESTIMONY MEETING
First Church of Christ, Scientist, 555 Delaware Ave., 8 p.m. Information, 439-2512.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
Advent service, 85 Elm Ave. 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4328.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH
1 Kenwood Ave., evening prayer and Bible study, 7 p.m. Information, 439-4314.

NEW SCOTLAND

VOORHEESVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION
village hall, 29 Voorheesville Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-2692.

NEW SCOTLAND SENIOR CITIZENS
Wyman Osterhout Community Center, New Salem, call for time. Information, 765-2109.

AA MEETING
First Methodist Church of Voorheesville, 68 Maple St., 8 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

AL-ANON MEETING
First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, 68 Maple St., 8 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

FAITH TEMPLE
Bible study, New Salem, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-2870.

MOUNTAINVIEW EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
evening service, Bible study and prayer, Route 155, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-3390.

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 18

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Route 144 and Clapper Road, Selkirk, 8 p.m. Information, 439-3916.

RECOVERY, INC.
self-help for chronic nervous symptoms, First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave., 10 a.m. Information, 439-9976.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Parks and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue Park, 2 to 4:30 p.m. Information, 439-0503.

BETHLEHEM SENIOR CITIZENS
town hall, 445 Delaware Ave., 12:30 p.m. Information, 439-4955.

AMERICAN LEGION LUNCHEON
for members, guests and membership applicants, Blanchard Post, 16 Poplar Drive, noon.

AA MEETINGS
Slingerlands Community Church, 1499 New Scotland Road, noon, and Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., 8:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
children's choir, 6:30 p.m., senior choir, 7:30 p.m., 85 Elm Ave. Information, 439-4328.

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CHURCH

women's Bible study, 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. or 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. in a local home, children's program and nursery provided for morning session, 201 Elm Ave. Information, 439-3135.

CLASS IN JEWISH MYSTICISM
Delmar Chabad Center, 109 Elsmere Ave., 8 p.m. Information, 439-8280.

NEW SCOTLAND

NEW SCOTLAND KIWANIS CLUB
New Scotland Presbyterian Church, Route 85, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19

BETHLEHEM

DUPLICATE BRIDGE
all levels, St. Stephen's Church, Elsmere, 7:30 p.m. Information, 462-4504.

AA MEETING
First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, Route 9W, 7:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

CHABAD CENTER
Friday services, discussion and kiddush at sunset, 109 Elsmere Ave. Information, 439-8280.

NEW SCOTLAND

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS
United Pentecostal Church, Route 85, New Salem, 7 p.m. Information, 765-4410.

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 20

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
live Nativity, 6:30 p.m., Holy Day concert, 7 p.m., 85 Elm Ave. Information, 439-4328.

AA MEETING
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., 7:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Glenmont Community Church, One Chapel Lane, Glenmont, 10 a.m. to noon. Adults \$5, Kids \$2. Information, 462-1588.

TRI-VILLAGE SQUARES TO HOLD DANCE
First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave., 8 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Information, 768-2882.

AL-ANON MEETING
The Crossroads, 4 Normanskill Blvd., 5:30 p.m. Information, 489-6779.

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 21

BETHLEHEM

DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH
traditional worship, 9 and 11 a.m., T.G.I. Sunday contemporary worship, 5:30 p.m., nursery care and Sunday school for children during all services, 386 Delaware Ave. Information, 439-9929.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Slingerlands United Methodist Church, 1499 New Scotland Rd., 10 a.m.

CHURCH TO HOST COMMUNITY CAROL SING
The Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., 6:30 p.m. Information, 439-9929.

UNITY OF FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Sunday school and worship service, 10 a.m., 436 Krumkill Road. Information, 438-7740.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
Sunday school and worship service, 10 a.m., child care provided, 555 Delaware Ave. Information, 439-2512.

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday school and worship service, 10 a.m., nursery provided, 201 Elm Ave. Information, 439-3135.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Holy Eucharist, 8 and 10:30 a.m., coffee and fellowship, nursery care provided, church school, 9:30 a.m., Poplar Drive and Elsmere Avenue. Information, 439-3265.

SELKIRK CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Bible lecture, 9:30 a.m., Watchtower Bible study, 10:25 a.m., Elm Avenue and Feura Bush Road. Information, 439-0358.

Christmas Service of Worship
with Special Choral Music
Handel, Mendelssohn, Contemporary
Sunday, December 21, 10:00 AM

Christmas Eve Family Service 8:00 PM, December 24
Slingerlands United Methodist Church
1499 New Scotland Road

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Westminster Presbyterian Church
262 State Street, Albany · 436-8544
(parking lot on Chestnut Street)

Sunday worship, December 21
Christmas Pageant, 10:15 A.M.
Christmas Eve Service:
Music by Catskill Brass, 7:30 P.M.
Candlelight Service at 8:00 P.M.

Share the Spirit of Christmas at Delmar Presbyterian Church
585 Delaware Avenue
439-9252

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th - 7:00 Carols and Candle Lighting
11:00pm Communion Service

SLINGERLANDS COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
worship service and church school, 10 a.m., fellowship hour, nursery care provided, 1499 New Scotland Road. Information, 439-1766.

SOUTH BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m., followed by coffee hour, Willowbrook Avenue. Information, 767-9953.

DELMAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
worship service, church school, nursery care, 10 a.m., fellowship and coffee, 11 a.m., adult education, 11:15 a.m., family communion service, first Sunday, 585 Delaware Ave. Information, 439-9252.

DELMAR FULL GOSPEL CHURCH
Sunday services, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., 292 Elsmere Ave. Information, 439-4407.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM
church school, 9:30 a.m., worship service, 11 a.m., child care provided, Route 9W, Selkirk. Information, 767-2243.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH
worship service, 11 a.m., 1 Kenwood Ave. Information, 439-4314.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
church school, 9:45 a.m., worship service, 9:30 a.m., adult classes, 11 a.m., 428 Kenwood Ave. Information, 439-9976.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
worship services, 8 and 10:30 a.m., Sunday school and Bible classes, 9:15 a.m., nursery care, handicapped-accessible, large-print materials and assistive listening devices, coffee and fellowship following services, 85 Elm Ave. Information, 439-4328.

MOUNT MORIAH MINISTRIES
Sunday school, 9:45 a.m., morning worship, 11 a.m., youth group, 6 p.m., evening service, 7 p.m., Route 9W, Glenmont. Information, 426-4510.

NEW SCOTLAND

NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MUSEUM
in the Wyman Osterhout Community Center, New Salem, 2 to 4 p.m. Information, 765-4446.

CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
Masses — Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m. and noon, 35 Adams Place. Information, 439-4951.

O COME LET US ADORE HIM CHRIST THE LORD!

YOU ARE INVITED... to celebrate Christmas with us this year!

Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for all ages with Christmas Pageant
10:30 p.m. Festival of Carols and Music
11:00 p.m. The Midnight Holy Eucharist with punch and cookies afterward

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols and Hymns

SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Rev. Darius Mojallali, Rector
at the corner of Elsmere Avenue and Poplar Drive
Delmar, New York † phone 439-3265

You're Invited!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
December 24, 7:00 and 9:15 p.m.

Christmas Day Communion Service
December 25, 10:00 a.m.

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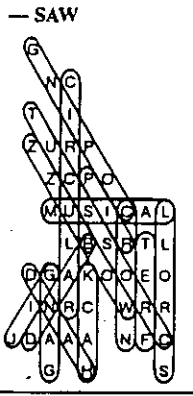
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O	T	O	E	S	R	A	R	E	A	M	E	X	P	A	P	E	R		
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1 Left At This Price. Many Others to Choose

'98 FORD TAURUS SE 4 DR
Stk# 8489, Lt. denim blue, med graphite cloth, buckets, V6, auto remote control entry, cruise, AM/FM stereo cass, pwr door locks/heated mirrors.
\$329 mo. * or buy for \$18,153 after \$750 rebate
5 Left At This Price. Many Others to Choose

Two a Few Weeks Before Christmas When All Through Jack's House All The Prices Were Lowered As A Gift To His Spouse

She Wanted Him Home On Time once Old His Wife To Snuggle By The Fire And Watch "Its A Wonderful Life"

"Yes, I Promise I'll Be There" He Did Say To Agree "Just As Soon As There's A Car Under Each Christmas Tree!"

"My Lots They Are Full There Is No Time To Wait!" He Said To His Sales Staff As The Time It Got Late

"Now Let's Sharpen Our Pencils And We'll Cut To The Quick For We Each Shall Take Turns Playing St. Nick!"

On Tracer, On Escort On Taurus, and More The Prices He Marked Down Every Ford In The Store

They Came By The Thousands, They All Got Great Deals Got Rid of Their Old, And Drove Home Their New Wheels To New Friends and Old Jack Did Make His Reply "Happy Holiday This Season And To All A Good Buy!"

* All leases based on 24 mo. 24,000 mi., 15 per mi thereafter. Tax, title req. extra. 1st payment due at lease inception. All payments include rebates and incentives to dealer. ESCORT ZX2: \$250 sec deposit, TOP \$5736. ESCORT SE: \$250 sec deposit, TOP \$5976. CONTOUR: \$275 sec deposit, Top \$6456. RANGER: \$300 sec deposit, TOP \$6696. F150: \$300 sec deposit, TOP \$6696. TAURUS: \$350 sec deposit, TOP \$7896.

Jack BYRNE

Rts. 4 & 32, Mechanicville
Sales: 664-9841 Services: 664-2571
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