

Solar home
in Glenmont

○ See Page 3

Two comedies
at Cap Rep

Feestelijk 2004

○ Supplement inside

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The Spotlight

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem & New Scotland

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April 28, 2004

Land-use team begins town study for growth

By KRISTEN OLBY

The creation of a comprehensive land-use plan for Bethlehem kicked off Thursday night, at the first of several public meetings to be held throughout the yearlong process.

The Saratoga Associates consulting firm is working to identify the state of the town's current development, and how Bethlehem should grow over the next decade and beyond.

A team comprised of engineers, planners and attorneys will be crafting the plan with the help of a town committee and input from residents.

The plan will identify areas suitable for commercial development; infrastructure needs; open space to be preserved; and aspects of the town that should be protected. The plan will also seek to update the town's zoning codes, which date back to the 1950s.

A group of about 50 gathered at town hall to provide feedback on the first step in the planning process — identifying Bethlehem's attributes and faults that should be addressed through the comprehensive plan.

Some in attendance were drawn to the event out of a desire to be prepared for the arrival of additional homeowners and businesses.

"A general concern is that the town be able to have a plan that helps future growth in a meaningful and effective manner," explained Jessica Locke Richer, a Bethlehem resident since 1990, of why she was there.

Audience members were divided into

small groups and asked to list attributes of the town they treasure.

Several comments made at previous public forums held last year continued to top the list.

Residents enjoy the small-town feel of Bethlehem; quality neighborhoods and schools; open space; and recreational opportunities.

The imbalance between residential and commercial development continues to plague the school district and drive up the tax rate.

A boost to the commercial tax base would be welcome, according to the majority of the crowd.

"There should be more opportunities for people who live in town to work in town," said Ed Kleinke, a small business owner in Delmar.

Traffic congestion along main thoroughfares, namely Route 85 and Route 9W, must be also addressed in order to accommodate future growth, according to attendees.

Loretta Simon of Glenmont believes some of the town's traffic problems could be alleviated if more streets had sidewalks.

"Delmar is very walkable, but when you get into Glenmont, the neighborhoods have developed separate from one another and you can't get to them," she said.

Audience members listed an underutilized riverfront as a town attribute that could be capitalized on in the years ahead.

A general concern is that the town be able to have a plan that helps future growth in a meaningful and effective manner.

Jessica Locke Richer

Needs home base



Danielle Burney hugs Dudley, a pitbull, at an adoption clinic at Indian Ladder Farms last Saturday.

Jim Franco

Glenmont couple launch dance troupe

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

It's all things Armenian at The Egg on Sunday, May 2, as the Sipan dance group takes to the stage at 4 p.m.

Garo and Maria Derian of Glenmont founded the dance troupe in November 2001 and are the artistic directors and choreographers now. The couple, who own Glenmont Self Storage, used to travel to the metropolitan New York area to dance with the Antranig Dance Ensemble of New York, a semi-professional dance group that's about 35 years old.

"We left after work on Fridays," said Garo Derian, who came to the Capital District from Armenia when he was 11. "We'd go to New York or New Jersey, and practice three times over the weekend. We'd come home again on Sundays. We did that for three years."

LAND-USE/page 39



Members of the Sipan Dance Group perform a traditional Armenian dance. The group will perform at The Egg this Sunday.

Town to reinter Indian bones

By KRISTEN OLBY

Arrangements are being made to properly bury the skeletal remains of several bodies inadvertently unearthed last summer in Selkirk.

An excavation crew hired by the town to dig a trench on Dinmore Road in August uncovered the bodies.

Archeologists have determined the remains are those of Mahican Indians who inhabited the land around 1000 A.D.

Two adults and five children were

BONES/page 40



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Bethlehem chamber to honor community achievers

By KRISTEN OLBY

For the 20th consecutive year, outstanding members of the Bethlehem community will be recognized for their volunteerism and personal achievements.

The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual awards dinner Thursday, April 29, at the Albany Institute of History & Art.

This event will be held in memory of Kevin Shea, former town building inspector and Elsmere fire chief, who died suddenly in January after responding to an emergency call.

This year's recipient of the Community Spirit Award is Bernie Smith of Delmar. Smith

regularly donates his culinary skills to feed St. Stephen's Episcopal Church parish in Delmar during activities, fundraisers and community events. Often, his talents extend beyond the church, as he coordinates a crew of volunteers to transport and serve food in an Albany soup kitchen.

"In his trademark low-key style, he'll stand over a hot stove for hours turning chicken breasts or stirring soup," wrote one of the anonymous people who nominated Smith.

Smith also serves on the board of Bethlehem's Masonic Temple Association, where he takes part in patrolling Kenwood Avenue on roadside pickup days. When he's not volunteering, Smith can be

found donating.

"Bernie donates gallons to the Red Cross blood bank," wrote his anonymous nominator. "He recently became an apheresis donor, enduring a two-hour process that helps people with cancer, leukemia and bone marrow transplants."

Retired from the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve, Smith is now in the voluntary military working on homeland security.

Parker Mathusa of Elsmere is recognized as this year's Citizen of The Year. A lifelong resident of Bethlehem, Mathusa serves on at least 11 volunteer boards, acknowledging even he's begun to lose track of an exact count.

In January, he was named chairman of Bethlehem's planning board. He volunteers his time with the Bethlehem Grange, Four Corners Group, Capital Improvements Committee at Normanside Corporation, Delmar Kiwanis and the Bethlehem Historical Association board of trustees, among others.

Mathusa's nominator described him as a role model for others in the community.

"He has a gentle non-bragging way of sharing his ideas and knowledge, and he never shies away from rolling up his sleeves, getting his hands dirty, whatever it takes to get the job done," the nominator wrote.

Mathusa's inspiration to give back to his hometown hails from the example his father set, when he volunteered his time with many local groups.

"He taught me that you really have to respect three aspects of a person's personality: pride, self-esteem and dignity," said Mathusa. His other inspiration is his first-grade teacher, Marie Wiedeman of Glenmont, who taught Mathusa to contribute to the community.

Parker and his wife, Polly, are the parents of four daughters and grandparents to nine.

In 1998, Mathusa retired from the New York State Energy Research and Development

Authority where he had been a program director. It's no surprise that he continues to serve on the agency's board of directors.

The Delmar staff of Hudson River Bank & Trust is being honored as Business of the Year.

The chamber's board of directors found the branch staff serves as an example to the entire business community, showing that one company can make a difference.

"These employees with full, busy lives still take the time to offer their expertise and cheerful personalities to as many organizations as they can," said Mark Bryant, chairperson of the chamber's board of trustees.

The staff offers banking training to students in the Bethlehem Central High School Life Skills Classes.

Bank employees also volunteer their time with the Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Club of Albany, Elsmere Fire Company, American Legion and PTAs and are the largest fund-raisers for Bethlehem's Feestelijk celebration.

"Over the past 10 years, we have tried to make Bethlehem a better place to work and live by becoming involved in every facet of the community," said Branch Manager Shoham Piorentino.

The awards dinner starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45.

To make a reservation, call the chamber at 439-0512.

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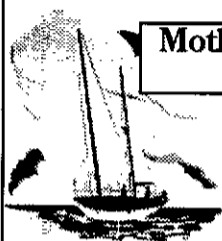
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Parents ask for new grading policy

By MARTIN J. BANNAN

Whether Voorheesville High School's juniors and seniors shy away from academic challenge to maintain higher grade averages was a topic of discussion at the April 19 school board meeting. Principal Mark Diefendorf said they do not, but some parents and school advocates disagreed and are seeking adoption of a new grading policy for students enrolled in advanced placement courses.

According to Rosemary Wargo, a mother of two children attending Voorheesville High School, students are dropping out of or avoiding AP courses. She told the school board that her daughter, who is enrolled in AP courses, said that fellow classmates were quitting AP classes to maintain their academic standing.

"I think we should reward students who take advanced placement classes by putting them on an even playing field with their peers taking traditional classes," she said, adding that school trustees support higher scholarship but aren't willing to reward students who go the extra mile.

Advanced placement courses allow students to earn college credit before graduation. They are more demanding than traditional courses and thus usually attract top performing students.

Paige Macdonald, a member of the high school and middle school's site-based management team, recommended giving weighted grades as an incentive to encourage more students to take challenging courses.

"By weighting grades, students earning a 'B' in AP could have their grades curved higher in keeping with standards applied in a regular class," she said.

Site-based management, according to Macdonald, is a way for a school's stakeholders - including parents, students, teachers, administration and unions - to have a voice before educational policy makers.

Macdonald, who is running for a seat on the Voorheesville school board, is executive director for Families Together in New York State, Inc., the state chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

"Students avoid enrolling in advanced placement classes because they fear hurting their class rank and average from getting lower grades in a more demanding course," she said.

Diefendorf disagreed.

"I haven't seen any evidence of this," he said. "We have more students enrolling in advanced placement classes. The numbers show this as we have doubled sections to accommodate

demand."

Diefendorf said school records show that teachers give deserving AP students high grades.

"Going through grades given by my nine advanced placement teachers, I know that they all gave above 90 percent in all classes," he said. "If a student works hard in a class they get the higher grade."

Diefendorf added that colleges know when grades are weighted.

"They don't want to see students walking through high school without challenges," he said. "Knowing this, students demand more enriched higher level classes."

Macdonald also asked the board to restore 5:30 p.m. bus service for students staying late for athletic practice or other extracurricular activities. Many parents work until 6 p.m. and depend on their children having transportation until then, she said.

"We keep looking at the numbers. That's what drove our decision," said Superintendent Alan McCartney of the bus schedules.

Macdonald said that such decisions point to the need for more site-based management. "There are assumptions policy makers make without knowing what various stakeholders want or need," she said.

V'ville school board OKs budget

By MARTIN J. BANNAN

Voorheesville school board members unanimously approved a 2004 - 2005 budget of \$18,442,445 at the board's April 19 meeting. The budget means that the tax rate will increase between 6.5 percent and 7.2 percent, for a tax of \$25.37 per \$1,000 of assessed property values in New Scotland, according to Superintendent Alan McCartney.

"What we still don't know about is state aid, local assessments, new mandates and staff retirements. If any of these figures come in positive, the budget figures drop," McCartney said, also warning that federal No Child Left Behind mandates are undergoing changes that could affect budget expenses.

With costs passed down to districts in the form of mandates, fixed state aid, skyrocketing health insurance and retirement expense, schools are learning to become more resourceful to make ends meet.

"We are examining how we do business and finding ways to cut costs and generate revenue," said Sarita Winchell, school business official for the district.

One source of revenue, Winchell said, is the University High School Program.

"Juniors and seniors sign up for advanced placement courses at Schenectady County Community College," she said. "We give them high school credit

and the college gives them credits as well. In return, Voorheesville schools become part of the enrollment and earn a portion of the college's state aid."

Last year, Voorheesville schools received \$14,000 through this program.

Another anticipated source of revenue is the school district's expanded swim program.

"This year's use has generated \$30,000 in revenue to pay for chemicals, cleaning, heating and other expenses," Winchell said. "We need to increase awareness and find more vehicles to get more people swimming."

Ideas on the table include competitive swim programs, apart from interscholastic teams.

As for cost savings, Winchell said that the school saved \$8,000 by doing its own snow plowing. Future efforts include possible energy self-sufficiency and reduced workers' compensation insurance premiums.

At the April 19 meeting, the board voted to enter into a feasibility study with Atlantic Energy Services to explore possibilities for co-generation of heat and electricity.

The study, McCartney said, comes at no cost to the district and would take two to three months to complete.

It would include taking measurements as well as collecting information regarding the school building's physical structure and, of course, energy use.

"When the study comes back we can decide what to do," he said.

Winchell added that any energy performance contract has to have a savings or it can't be approved.

During the same meeting, Winchell discussed a proposal to enter into membership with the Schoharie Area Workers' Compensation Trust Plan.

Being part of that plan, Winchell said, means the district could save as much as \$15,000 in the first year, and as much as 50 percent of costs in future years. Current premiums are \$93,000, Winchell said.

John Panici, president of Med Claim USA, made a presentation explaining how the plan works.

"Insurance companies want to make money," he said. "They want to take more than they pay out. In the trust, there is no profit. It operates like an insurance company but is owned by the districts who participate. They pay rates running 15 percent less than what insurance companies offer."

Panici added that entering into the plan will provide long-term savings through lower administrative expenses and better claim management.

Board members asked to see feasibility and performance studies by other school districts before bringing the proposal to a vote.

"I want to know who's in this group and what they are experiencing," said trustee John Cole.

Member school districts include Green Island; Berne-Knox-Westerlo; and Scotia-Glenville.



Solar roof panels allow Mother Nature to power Christian Grieco's home.

Glenmont man uses the sun to power home

By KRISTEN OLBY

In honor of Earth Day, one Glenmont homeowner is paying tribute to Mother Nature by utilizing a unique electricity source.

Christian Grieco's Henderson Colonial house in the Woodhill Estates subdivision began producing its own electricity this month by tapping the sun's rays. Grieco expects the energy source to supply all of his future electricity needs and even some of his neighbors'.

Solar photovoltaic panels attached to the south-facing roof of the home absorb the sunshine, as power inverters in the basement work to convert the electricity into a form the house can consume.

"Producing my own power from the sun has always been a dream of mine," said Grieco, who first learned of the option when he chaired the Capital District Earth Day Steering Committee in 1990. "Why pay Niagara Mohawk for electricity when I can pay myself back to produce it on my own?" he said.

An agreement between the utility and consumer, called "net-metering," allows NiMo to provide a credit to the homeowner if the system generates more electricity than the house is consuming. The system feeds any surplus electricity back into the utility's electric grid. The energy is then available for neighboring houses to use.

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the homes next door to me," explained Grieco, who finds generating his own electricity to be rewarding. "It's very liberating to see your electric meter spinning backwards, knowing that I am producing pollution-free electricity from a renewable resource for myself and a portion of my neighborhood."

The system has the capacity to produce 3.8 kilowatts of electricity per hour, with one kilowatt equal to 1000 watts.

During the first two days the system was operational, strong sunlight enabled it to produce more than 50 kilowatt hours of energy.

Christian Grieco

On dreary days, when the home is consuming more energy than the solar system can provide, the house will pull power off of the grid.

The alternative energy system cost \$31,000 to install. Grieco paid for the installation — completed by Global Resource Options of Vermont — using equity in his home and an incentive from the state that covered nearly half the cost.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) offers cash incentives for homeowners and businesses to install photovoltaic energy systems. In Grieco's case, NYSERDA's incentives totaled \$15,360. New York state also offers a tax credit up to \$3,750 to homeowners who install such systems.

Grieco estimated the energy system will pay for itself in 15 to 20 years and believes it has substantially increased the value of his home.

"Maybe not to every perspective buyer out there," he acknowledged. "But it has sure increased the value to me. Decentralized power production is key to sustainable energy and environmental policy, in my mind."

With all of his work complete, Grieco and his wife, Deborah, have no plans to sell their four-year-old environmentally friendly home anytime soon.

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The joys of this old house, and its very old personality

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

My house and all the things in it are either staging a job action, or quitting. Really. A month ago, everything was fine, and then Christopher jumped down the stairs, putting the full weight of his ever-increasing, incredibly awkward almost-14-year-old body on each step, until one broke right under him. Cormac put a "Caution — Broken Step" sign up so that we don't incur any lawsuits from visitors, and I'm taking bets on when it'll be fixed (smart money's on Christmas 2004, the next time lots of relatives will be here).

Anyone who thinks that houses can't have personalities of their own clearly hasn't lived in my beloved old bungalow. Perhaps in solidarity with the stairs, other parts of the house and our yard are also breaking down, creaking to a stop, or just not performing as they should. They all seem to be conspiring to exhaust me — and my bankbook.

Yes, the flowers outside are blooming and the trees are budding — only not on those dead branches that hang over the driveway and make me nervous when cars are parked directly under them. Windy nights keep

COMMENTARY:

Mom's
the
Word



me awake, as I listen for the crashing of a tree limb that has finally given up the ghost. Finding a tree guy is like finding a contractor — the one everybody recommends is booked up for a year, and the one who can come and do it sure does want an awful lot of money.

The kids got to use Dad's saw in a down-low lawn cleanup recently, and they'd love to shimmy out a limb and saw off the offending branches — just what every parent wants her child doing this spring.

It's cheery that the grass is turning green — only how did the lawn's one bare spot become three vast expanses of dirt? No chemicals, ever, is our firm motto, but maybe a little aeration, top soil and grass seed might keep the federal authorities from panicking that a second dustbowl is starting in a suburban backyard of the Capital District. Spring in our house often means an issue with the water mains.

"What is with that downstairs sink?" 11-year-old Cormac asked after using that basin to clean out some old bottles that he and a friend had dug up in his friend's backyard. "It takes forever to drain."

Those of us who wash our hands on a more regular basis than our future archeologist already knew about the slow-draining sink, but surely dumping the dirt of the ages in it didn't help matters.

That sink backs up every few springs, as does the double-utility sink that serves as the first drain for the washing machine in the basement. I'd been adjusting the timing of laundry loads accordingly for a month, guessing which payday would include the line item of plumber, as I paid my devotions to my patron saint, Our Lady of Perpetual Laundry.

"Oh, sure, I remember this house," the plumber from Apex said as he headed directly to the basement.

Some of the machinery in the house is quitting, too. When DVDs were a new — and still

pricey — technology, I bought a DVD player, mostly in the hopes that those little disks would reduce the clutter in our house. I was the only one surprised that in fact they've created even more clutter, and just when I decided to actually use the yoga DVD I bought last year, the player quit. I'm grateful for the extra half-hour of sleep I get on the mornings I'm not assuming reclined cobbler pose, but now I need to hunt for somebody to repair this gadget. Increasingly, I'm told that it would cost more to repair the electronic device — video player, boom box, camera — than to buy a new one. That just seems wrong, somehow.

I wish I could pick and choose longevity among my inanimate

and takes up a ton of shelf space in our kitchen. I dream of putting a small silver microwave, coffee-pot and a toaster in that spot someday.

"You could just give it away and buy a new one," my own mother suggested once, but I cannot imagine how her 88-year-old-mother, who gave us the gift, would react.

Grandma raised a family during the Depression and finds uses for Cool Whip containers that would make Heloise envious. To discard a big-ticket item that still works would surely bring shame and dishonor upon the entire family — and even more bad karma to our appliances.

My true hope is that the overhead fluorescent light that recently started flickering somehow shorts out the U-microwave, and I will be forced to get both a new light fixture and microwave. I could probably pick up those items when I'm buying the lumber to repair the stair in December. Of greatest concern, though, is my computer monitor, which even as I write is flickering in a way that makes the kitchen light seem peaceful. I am entertaining the notion of being proactive in replacing the monitor. In a tribute to the way we live today, I could improvise around the lack of a kitchen light, but can't imagine not having computer access. The cars are in on this, too, making hideous squealing noises on right-hand turns, in addition to their regular needs for oil changes and tire rotations.

None of this is life threatening, of course, but added all together, make a laundry list of things to do when spring's warming rays are luring me outdoors. The list remains long from last year — that pile of now-indistinguishable objects is still in the corner of our bedroom, and too many of our closets hold no clothes, but still their doors won't close. Some days, all these little things are just that — things to tend to when time allows. At other times, though, they make me want to climb under the covers and hope that they magically disappear.

Sigh. A lived-in house is a well-loved house, and maybe I can convince ours to love us back just a little by holding itself together. This is not a major problem, though, for the most recent thing to break are my reading glasses. Peeling wallpaper seam, you say? Where?

In a tribute to the way we live today, I could improvise around the lack of a kitchen light, but can't imagine not having computer access.

objects, for there are some things I'd like to replace that just won't quit. My grandmother gave us a microwave when we got married 18 years ago, and I fully expect the Smithsonian to call us soon and ask if they can display it as a prototype model. It is enormous



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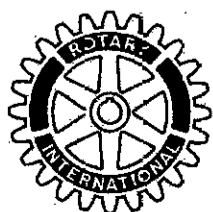
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Dog days



Steve Rothwein of Voorheesville ate nine hot dogs in 12 minutes to finish third in a hot dog eating contest at the Nichols Market. The event raised \$150 for the Jim Nichols Memorial Fund which sponsors local charities and community activities. Twelve people participated in the contest and the winner was Dan Piazza of Schenectady who ate 13 hot dogs in 12 minutes.

Student's threat causes lock-out

By KRISTEN OLBY

A senior at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk high school will appear in court today to answer charges that he threatened to blow up the building last week. The comment sent the district's four schools into lock-out mode on April 21 for about two hours.

Town of Coeymans Police charged Thaddeus Carkner, 17, of River Road in Selkirk with falsely reporting an incident, a felony.

"He had made a comment about threatening to blow up the building out of anger," said Coeymans Police Officer Gregory Darlington.

At least one faculty member

overheard the comment, which was allegedly made in the hallway around 11:15 a.m., and reported it to Darlington. News of the comment surfaced after Carkner's parents had already picked him up from school, according to Darlington, who declined to say why Carkner left before the end of the school day. Due to Carkner's absence, the district went into lock-out mode. Students remained in their classrooms.

"It's basically a heightened state of security; faculty are notified," said Darlington.

All entrances to the high school were locked. Police responded to the school and

Carkner's home. By 1 p.m., police determined that the threat was unfounded, and the district lifted the lock-out. Carkner was arraigned Thursday afternoon in Village of Ravena Court before Judge Kevin Reilly. He was sent to the Albany County jail in lieu of \$5,000 bail, which was later posted.

Carkner is scheduled to appear in Village of Ravena Court April 28 at 10 a.m. He is also facing disciplinary action by the school district.

Anglican church opens in Slingerlands

Archbishop Norman F. Strauss, primate of the United Anglican Church, recently announced the establishment of St. Michael Anglican Church in Slingerlands.

The new church will be using the sanctuary of Community United Methodist Church located at 1499 New Scotland Road (Route 85).

Sunday Mass, beginning May 2, will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited.

The archbishop has assigned the Revs. Byron Koshgarian and John Albert to serve as priests of the new parish.

For information, contact Koshgarian at 785-9096 or Albert at 381-9242.

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Matters of Opinion

End abuse

This week's Point of View that draws a parallel between animal and human abuse raises a topic that makes many of us uncomfortable.

We don't like to think that there are people out there who will use violence to intimidate, physically harm or simply abuse another person or a helpless animal.

But the shelters for both battered women and children and neglected or abused animals tell another story. Abuse is something that occurs far too often in our society, and abuse occurs in many forms. It happens both in affluent suburban areas and urban poor settings. Its scars often last a lifetime.

Victims suffer both physically and mentally from any form of abuse, and often find it difficult to remove themselves from the abuser. Children and animals, of course, have little recourse. They can run away, but do little else to change the behavior of their abuser.

Women often endure years of abuse for fear of losing the family's breadwinner, and thus become unable to support their children.

We as a society must do more to combat abuse, to not tolerate it in any form and to make our voices heard in our homes, our schools, our work places and at the polls.

Penalties for human and animal abuse need to send a clear message to perpetrators. Abusive behavior will not be tolerated and will be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

We seen some recent strides toward this end, but clearly they are only a step in the right direction. Buster's Law will, we hope, help some animals, and stricter laws regarding domestic abuse cases have helped police handle these cases more effectively.

We are all outraged when a particularly loathsome case of human or animal abuse is uncovered, but many similar cases often go undetected by authorities partly because neighbors often hesitate to report suspected cases of abuse for fear of getting involved.

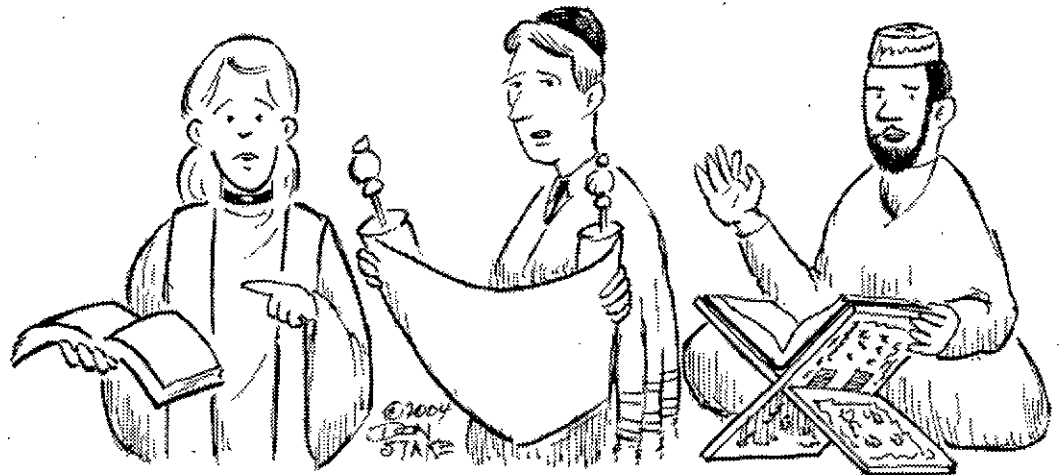
But when we suspect a problem of this severity, we should not hesitate to contact authorities.

Remember, abusers continue their repulsive behavior because they believe they can get away with it. And clearly, all too often, they do.

By not getting involved, we are condoning reprehensible actions of those who prey on the weak and the helpless. These offenses are illegal and harmful, sometimes even fatally so, and should be addressed whenever we become aware of them.

Editorials

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR



PEACE

Animal cruelty linked to human abuse

By MARGUERITE PEARSON

The writer is director of communications and outreach for the Animal Protective Foundation in Scotia.

Next week marks national Be Kind to Animals Week. As the calendar becomes ever more crowded with special days, weeks and months, we might be inclined to overlook this designation. Yet this initiative, which began in 1915 with the sole purpose of promoting kindness to animals has evolved into an effort which holds a greater social significance than most people realize.

Even at the start of the humane movement in the mid-1800s, the relationship between injustices to animals and people were closely connected. An increasingly important mission of today's humane organizations, like the Animal Protective Foundation, is to highlight the significance of relationships between animals and people. At their best, these relationships foster a greater compassion and respect for all life. At their worst, they point to the potential for future violent

Point of View

behavior against animals and/or people.

It's a little-known fact that initiatives to protect children from cruelty and neglect came only after and with the aid of humane efforts on behalf of animals. In 1866 a man by the name of Henry Bergh advocated for better treatment of New York City's horribly overworked and mistreated carriage horses. He went to Albany where he was able to increase the effectiveness of existing cruelty laws, which were not only weak, but unenforceable. Later that year, he established the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, an agency to enforce those laws. As president of the new ASPCA, Bergh worked to make animal protection a priority. Yet his efforts would also break new ground in the protection of abused children.

In 1873 a humanitarian named Etta Angell Wheeler learned of a child by the name of Mary Ellen who was being badly neglected and abused. Not knowing where to turn for assistance, she went to Bergh. With his help, Mary Ellen was removed from her miserable situation and given a new life free from the horrible suffering she had endured. As a result of this highly publicized case, the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the first organization of its kind, was founded.

By 1886, 27 humane societies and SPCAs were established in the United States. In 1877, the American Humane Association (AHA), originator of Be Kind to Animals Week, was founded to provide leadership to the geographically scattered organizations. With the dual purpose of preventing cruelty, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children and animals, one of the AHA's main goals was to introduce humane education in the United States.

Today, the number of humane organizations in the United States

is estimated to be between 4,000 and 6,000. For many of them, working to prevent cruelty and violence through humane education is becoming an increasingly high priority. Researchers believe that the seeds of violent behavior are planted at an early age. Through exposure to abuse of any type, children may become predisposed to committing acts of violence against animals or people in later life. By fostering a reverence for all life and helping to define respectful relationships between people and animals, humane education contributes to the development of healthy attitudes and good character in children.

Through the Pet Professor program, the Animal Protective Foundation delivers education on the proper care and treatment of animals to elementary school age children. However, the underlying messages in these programs stress kindness and respect for not only animals but all living things and the world in which we live. Through outreach programs to educators, we also supply subscriptions to a newspaper called *KIND News* and sponsor an annual poster and essay contest for Be Kind to Animals Week. Through these efforts we hope to encourage teachers to incorporate human education in their classrooms. There are many excellent, easy to use and free resources available to teachers. We invite those who wish to learn more to contact the foundation.

In addition to these proactive efforts with children, the overlapping issues of animal abuse and other types of abuse of neglect toward people have prompted a need for other specialized programs. Domestic abuse is an area in which cruelty toward animals and violence against family members are closely intertwined. Pets often provide an important source of comfort and stability to the victims of abuse, particularly children. So abusive family members may injure or kill pets as a way to threaten, punish, cause emotional distress or otherwise exert control.

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Matters of Opinion

According to the Humane Society of the United States, a survey of 50 of the largest shelters for battered women in the United States found that 85 percent of women and 63 percent of children entering shelters discussed incidents of pet abuse in the family.

Frequently victims are reluctant to leave their abusive homes because they are afraid of what harm may come to the pets they leave behind. Because most domestic violence shelters do not have provisions for pets, humane organizations are forming partnerships with these organizations so that the human and animal victims can be safely removed from abusive situations.

Last year the Animal Protective Foundation and the YWCA of Schenectady came together to form such an alliance. The Pet Guardian program was established to provide a safe haven for pets of women seeking shelter through the YWCA's domestic violence shelter.

Temporary housing is provided for pets as these women and their families make the transition to a safe new home. In addition, the Animal Protective Foundation provides free medical care and treatment to these animals, some of which have sustained physical abuse as well. Our annual "Canines, Cats & Cabernet" fund-raiser held in August supports this effort.

There is a growing body of evidence connecting animal cruelty with violence against people. Therefore, intentional acts of cruelty toward animals should never be taken lightly or viewed as isolated incidents. These acts are a sign of psychological distress and often indicate that an individual either has already experienced violence or may be predisposed to committing further acts of violence.

Numerous studies in psychology, sociology and criminology during the last 25 years have demonstrated that violent offenders frequently have childhood and adolescent histories of serious and repeated animal cruelty.

The FBI has recognized this connection since the 1970s, when its analysis of the lives of serial

killers suggested that most had killed or tortured animals as children.

National animal welfare organizations such as the AHA, the ASPCA and HSUS have played an important leadership role in helping people to understand and recognize the relationship between cruelty to animals and violence toward people.

With the efforts of organizations like the Animal Protective Foundation working on a local level, we hope to help break these cycles of violence in our community.

Be Kind to Animals Week is a good reminder that there are things that all of us can do to help. Here are a few: Take animal abuse seriously and report it to the police.

Encourage judges, doctors, social workers and teachers to familiarize themselves with the connection between human and animal abuse.

Serve as an example for children by showing you value people, animals and the environment. Use your political voice to vote on issues that improve the quality of life for people and animals.

Please contact the Animal Protective Foundation for guidance and resources.

Protestors have good grasp of reality

Editor, The Spotlight:

I am a freshman at Bethlehem Central High School and a member of Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace, writing in response to Mr. Cardamone's recent letter to the editor.

In his letter, he mentioned the people standing vigil show "a complete and utter lack of understanding or the realities of the world."

However, my experience with Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace has taught me exactly the opposite is true.

The members I have associated with have been, in fact, extremely knowledgeable about the realities of the world, including detailed knowledge of the history of the Middle East and the United States. They support their opinions with facts.

They and I don't "believe that we can live in peace with terrorists," but do think that the actions the Bush administration has taken in Iraq were unjustified (weapons of mass destruction were never found and thousands of people have died).

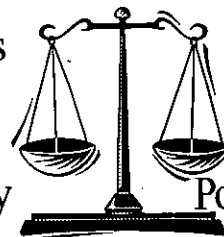
I believe Mr. Cardamone misunderstands Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace and should not criticize the members' knowledge just because he

disagrees with their views. The members are intellectuals who have taught me to open my eyes to "the realities of the world."

Rebecca Lewis
Delmar

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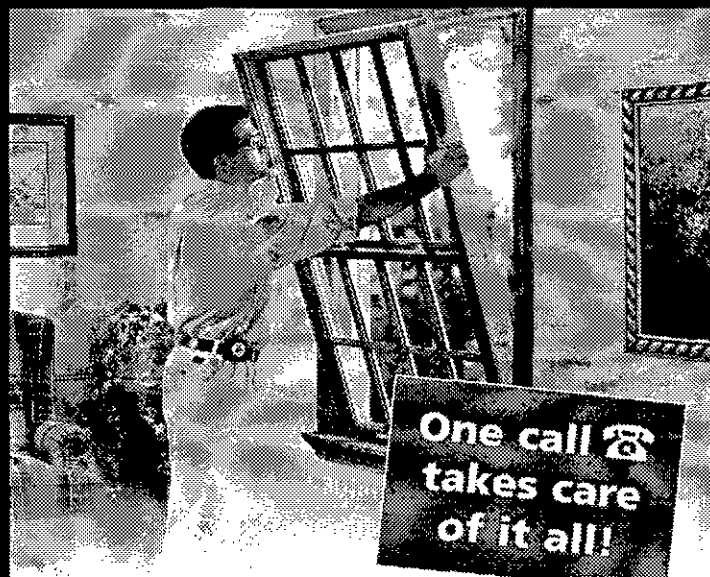


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Matters of Opinion

Dialogue should lead to resolution of BCHS class rank

Editor, The Spotlight:

I was very pleased to see the letters from Jill Rifkin and Michael Tebbano joining in the discussion about class ranking at Bethlehem Central High School.

It is through open, public

discourse that consensus can be built.

I agree with Ms. Rifkin's advice regarding students taking challenging courses. Using another sports analogy, I would like to offer a solution to the

dilemma of a potentially lower GPA when students are enrolled in rigorous courses.

At competitive diving events, it is agreed that some dives are harder than others. In order to reward those athletes who attempt harder moves, their score is modified by a degree of difficulty. Similarly, rather than eliminate ranking, would it not be better to reward those students who take harder courses using a weighting when calculating GPA?

I would also like to respond to information mailed home by the high school administration. A recent edition of High Flyer stated: "Using an example of a smaller school bordering our district, a student there who received a 98.6 GPA may be ranked within the top 10 percent of the class. In Bethlehem, where the size of the classes are much larger, the same GPA could rank a student at an unequal placement."

The example provided by the administration is farfetched. According to the information on file in the high school guidance office, in the last four years, the

top GPAs appear to have been 97, 97, 98 and 96. While anything could happen, in reality a student at Bethlehem with the same GPA as the one given in the administration's example would in fact have been ranked No. 1 in his/her class and well within the top 10 percent. In addition, depending upon the year, any

student who had a GPA of 92 or 93 would be within the top 10 percent of the class.

I would encourage others to add their voices to this dialogue, so that as a community we can determine the best possible solution.

Ira Goldstein
Delmar

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Board was wrong to pass anti-Patriot Act resolution

Editor, The Spotlight:

I was disappointed to read in the April 21 issue of *The Spotlight* that the town passed a symbolic resolution condemning the Patriot Act.

While I agree in principle with what the resolution had to say, it is not the town board's responsibility to make a formal opinion on such matters.

Just as I oppose the Patriot Act, I wouldn't dream of forcing that opinion on the rest of my community.

Special interest groups like the Bethlehem Bill of Rights Defense

Committee have succeeded in doing just that.

Debate on the issue during previous meetings has made it obvious the resolution cannot be an accurate assessment of the entire town's views, so I feel that passing it was irresponsible.

The fact that 20 supporters of the resolution walked out during Mr. Jasinski's comments makes it strikingly clear that while they fight to exercise their freedom of opinion, they're far less willing to grant the same to the opposing point of view.

Adam Lenhardt
Slingerlands

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Dexter will be greatly missed

Editor, The Spotlight:

The Bethlehem community is poorer since Thomas Dexter of Delmar passed away on April 15.

Tom generously gave of his huge heart to make this world a better place. His tireless work in child welfare services at Job Corps, St. Anne's Institute and the planned Child Advocacy Center was recognized for its creative and intelligent problem-solving.

Tom leaves behind as part of his legacy the gratitude of the many people on whom he bestowed his ample gifts of energy and good will. He truly cared for his community.

As former neighbors of this fine person, we were greatly privileged to have known and loved him for more than 30 years.

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Your Opinion Matters

Story didn't capture essence of meeting

Editor, The Spotlight:

Kristen Olby's article "Bethlehem takes stand on Patriot Act" in the April 21 issue is of interest not so much for what it says, as for what it does not say.

As one of those who were unceremoniously "warded off" by Supervisor Egan, I feel compelled to dissent from Ms. Olby's account of this unfortunate event.

Briefly, the resolution itself consists of meaningless platitudes and has no practical impact on anything. Its true purpose is not to correct imperfections in the law, but to discredit President Bush, the war on terror and the U.S. generally. If you doubt this, I suggest you watch Channel 18's tape of the "forum" that was held on Jan. 11, ironically in the room where the board meets.

Despite prior attempts to force such a resolution through the town board, the revised draft that passed had never been discussed openly, because it had not been made available prior to the board meeting. Therefore, the board's decision not to permit discussion prior to the passage was decidedly undemocratic and a violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the state's open meetings law.

Given the sensitive nature of this resolution, it would have been appropriate for the board to have, at the very least, provided some explanation, clarification or statement outlining its rationale for adopting it.

Failing this, I think it is fair to conclude that the four board members who voted for the resolution consider it to have no intrinsic value and regard it as nothing more than a sop to a very insistent activist minority.

As shameless as this may be, it is probably an accurate reflection of the new political alignments within the town and is perhaps, an omen of things to come.

John Collier
Delmar

Garden club has high hopes for town

Editor, The Spotlight:

It is with hope and anticipation that the Bethlehem Garden Club explains the goals of our Community Project Committee. Our endeavor is a grass-roots effort, and the changes we plan could be incremental, depending on our funding.

Our mission is to enhance entrances, streets and public spaces in the town by promoting and facilitating safety, beauty and business. Using benches and plantings are possible options to achieve this goal. The use of trees, flowering bushes and hedges that could welcome home residents and greet visitors is being addressed.

The garden club will strive to assist in the achievement of a community, friendly to walkers, shoppers and drivers.

In the past, proceeds from the

Bethlehem Garden Tours, planned and funded by the garden club and Bethlehem First Community Appearance Committee, enabled our members to beautify various locations in town.

This year's tour will be held on June 16. Tickets will be available in the Slingerlands Price Chopper parking lot on that day.

In 2003, the club installed a perennial highway garden between Cherry Avenue Extension and Kenwood Avenue, which is now visible with brilliant daffodils donated by the community appearance committee. This garden will bring forth summer flowers as well. The

cooperation of the town and state DOT has been significant, and this success would not be possible without it.

The committee is in the progress of broadening our scope with a long-range plan. We have renewed our relationship with the town and have met with Supervisor Theresa Egan and Public Works Commissioner George Leveille.

Our next planning meeting is on Thursday, April 29.

For information, write the Bethlehem Garden Club, P.O. Box 485, Delmar 12054.

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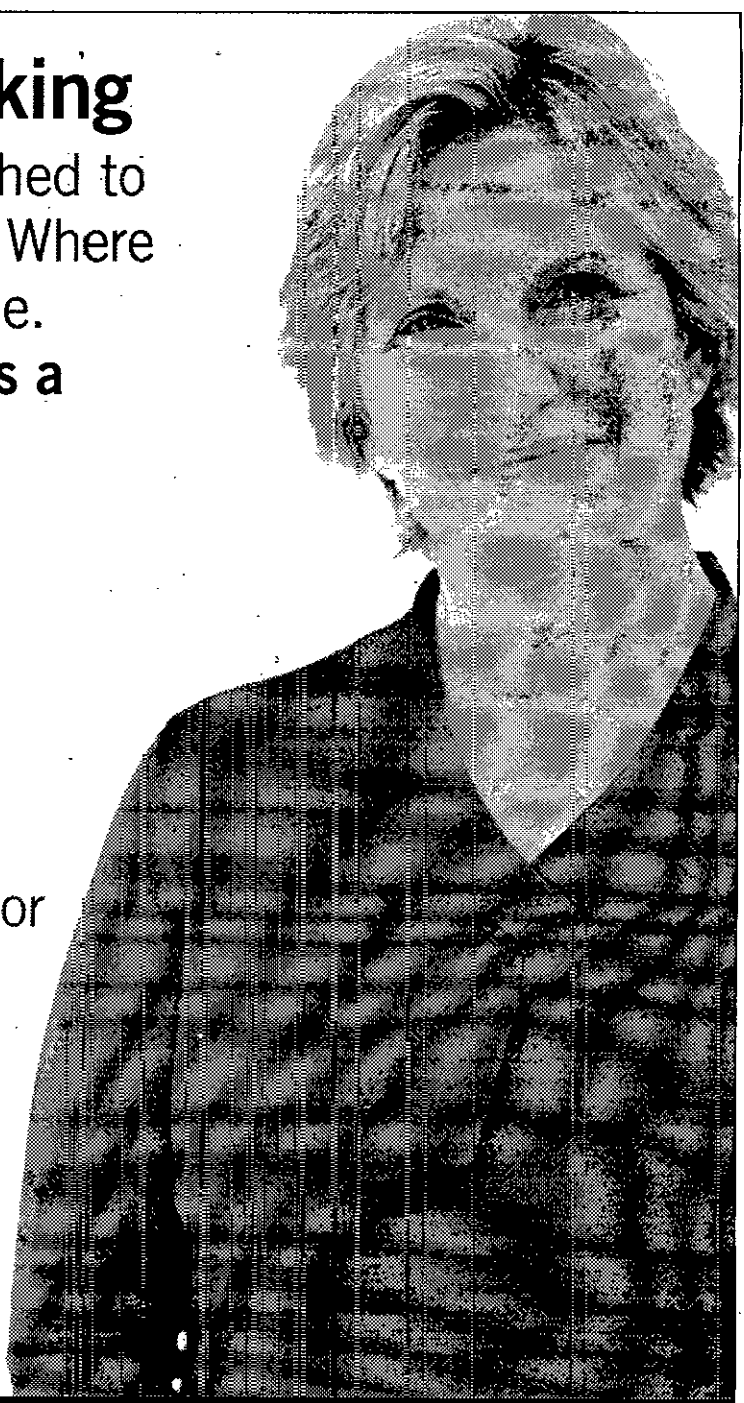
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Matters of Opinion

Program to focus on Bethlehem's communities

Editor, The Spotlight:

At the end of March, the town of Bethlehem passed a law establishing a one-year morator-

ium on residential construction to allow for a thorough look at the effects growth has had, and will continue to have, on the town.

The moratorium will enable the town board, the Bethlehem Planning Advisory Group and Saratoga Associates time to enact a comprehensive plan for future development which will help maintain the quality of life for Bethlehem residents.

As part of this process, the town wants to learn what characteristics its inhabitants desire to preserve and protect as Bethlehem enters this new era of growth. And so does Bethlehem Tomorrow.

On Monday, May 3, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Elsmere Elementary School auditorium, Bethlehem Tomorrow will host "Hamlets: Their History and Promise," another in its series of public forums addressing issues raised by Bethlehem residents as a result of the "Community Conversation" on Oct. 2.

"Hamlets: Their History and Promise" will focus on how Bethlehem's small communities remain a unique characteristic and legacy of the town's original development.

Will these residential and commercial settlements survive the rapid encroachment of today's development?

The forum will begin with an identification and brief historical overview by Joseph Allgaier, town historian, of the various hamlets in Bethlehem, accompanied by a

slide show of current conditions in the hamlets, presented by town residents Sue Kilgallon and Mike Daley.

Landscape architect Ed Klienke will then speak about the attributes and importance of small communities and hamlets, natural settings and agricultural businesses, and how they can be nourished, sustained and preserved in changing times, especially as surrounding residential communities expand.

He also will discuss what planning tools are available to address these issues.

Also included will be insight from the business community, as represented by Steve Bolduc of Keystone Builders and Marlene Brookins of The Little Country Store, on designing successful small businesses.

Additional panelists from the business community available for questions will include Roberta Bastow of The Perfect Blend, Bob Verstandig of Verstandig's Florists, and Ed Daly of Curtis Lumber.

Public comment is welcome. The forum, including audience questions and concerns, will be recorded and shared with the Bethlehem Planning Advisory Board and the town board. We look forward to seeing you there.

Susan Plank
Slingerlands

Board took easy way out on Patriot Act

Editor, The Spotlight:

I was disappointed to read in *The Spotlight* of the town board's adoption of a resolution on the Patriot Act.

My concern is not with the merit, or lack thereof, of the Patriot Act or the resolution.

What troubles me is that I get a sense that the board took an easy route out by responding, at least minimally, to pressure from a special interest group, the Bethlehem Bill of Rights Defense Committee.

I hope the board's action is not representative of the policies we can expect from our elected officials in the days ahead as they grapple with town issues.

I voted for board members trusting they would live up to their campaign pledges, exercise good judgment and represent all residents in the affairs over which they have authority.

I hope future policy will not follow this pattern of the tail wagging the dog. Bethlehem residents deserve something better.

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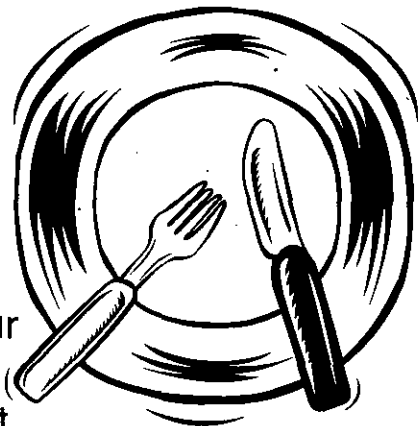
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Your Opinion Matters

We need some straight answers from our national leaders

Editor, The Spotlight:

I'm prompted to write by the March 31 *Spotlight* concerning the "protestors for peace" who assemble at the Four Corners, and the troops whose service to the country is deemed to be ensuring the freedom of those protestors to express themselves.

In 1965, I questioned the purpose of our nation's presence in Vietnam that I saw as support for a military dictatorship not representative of the Vietnamese people.

Many of the soldiers who served in that war came home disillusioned that they had given years of their lives; for some, their limbs; and for all, the lives of their friends and comrades in a battle for a cause that was a lie.

The definition of what constitutes a lie is harder to come by now; than I recall it being in my youth. Is a person who really

wants to believe a particular thing, such as, Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, guilty of telling a lie? Does Colin Powell really want to believe that others in the administration used him by providing false information?

Recent newspaper stories have raised questions about the administration preventing accurate figures as to the cost of Medicare drugs being supplied to Congress by threatening to fire the actuary who prepared the estimate.

And there is the leak of the identity of the CIA employee whose husband was critical of the administration.

Corporate executives lie, or at least I feel they do. Perhaps they just wanted to believe they could siphon millions from their companies without affecting the financial statements — or if they falsified the financial statements, those millions would not

Market needs community help

Editor, The Spotlight:

Nine years, ago, Nichols' Market, formerly SuperValu, opened its doors in Voorheesville.

Since then, they have been a wonderful addition to our town. This family-owned business has offered a convenient place to shop, and has provided jobs, sponsored village events and generously donated countless items to our school and community.

After a difficult year financially, Nichols' Market needs our help. If you pause to imagine life in Voorheesville without this friendly store, we are sure you would agree that it would be a tremendous loss.

Please recognize that your support of this business is essential for it to remain a part of our community.

Kathy and Rick Zimmerman
Voorheesville

be missed.

As much as one might like to believe the men and women in our armed forces are serving a noble purpose at the direction of honest leadership whose only interest is in protecting this nation, the possibility that in the end it will turn out to be a lie should not be dismissed.

The men and women currently serving in the armed forces are not in a position to carry on this public debate, although I'm sure many of them have serious

reservations as to their mission. That task is being performed by, among others, Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace.

Those that question the war, its motivation and its leaders are doing so in the service of this country, including and on behalf of, those who are not free to question their commanders.

When I was imprisoned in 1965 for refusing military induction, there were voices in the country calling for peace, and the death toll in Vietnam was close to 900,

according to statistics from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. When I was released in 1967, there were more than 12,000 dead. Eventually, there would be 58,178.

We currently have a death toll in Iraq of about 700. We need to question our leadership and insist on honest answers. And when it comes to issues that we just don't want to believe, we need to question our own blindness.

William P. McMillen
Delmar



Virginia Plaisted,
D.D.S.
drplaist@nycap.rr.com



Todd Vaccaro,
D.D.S.
toddvaccaro@yahoo.com

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Call 439-1843 for information.

Writer uses family dynamic as grist for memoir

The May 7 book discussion features the work of author Elizabeth Cohen, who will be visiting the library in May to hold a reading and a workshop for writers.

The book, *The House on Beartown Road*, is about Cohen's life in a rustic farmhouse in upstate New York with her artist husband and their year-old daughter Ava, and, unexpectedly, her father, who had developed Alzheimer's disease.

On Friday, May 14, at 7 p.m.



the public is invited to hear Cohen read from *The House on Beartown Road*, which has been praised for its flowing poetic style and affords insights into what it is like to raise a child and care for a relative whose mind is fading. It is an important book on Alzheimer's and its effects on family and community.

Cohen, who is currently a

reporter and opinion columnist for the *Press & Sun Bulletin* of Binghamton, has written a touching and loving tribute to three generations of her family. She is at work on a new memoir about motherhood. She is also leading a writing workshop at the library on Saturday.

These literary presentations are made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program. Friends of the Voorheesville Public Library have provided partial funding for these programs.

The first Sky Camp program for the whole family will be Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m. Blue Heron is a local company that sold one of its powered parachutes to the makers of the last James Bond film. It became Bond's vehicle,

the Parahawk.

The program will feature a video, a hands-on demonstration with the canopy and a simple flight talk.

Another Sky Camp program at 7 p.m. on May 6 invites children in grades two to five to stop in to build paper airplanes with the assistance of sixth-graders from Voorheesville middle school. It should be a fun evening of "folding and flying." No sign-up is required.

The Sky Camp project is supported by Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, awarded to the State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Call the library for program information or visit the newly revised library Web site at www.voorheesvillelibrary.org.

The Friends are keeping a list

of volunteers to work at the annual book sale in May. Bakers are also needed for the bake sale. Please sign up to help.

Lifelines, the prose writers' group, meets on Monday, May 3, at 7 p.m. No sign-up is necessary.

The May/June "Bookworm," including the budget message, should be in your homes by the first week in May. Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, May 18, at the high school.

Regular story times will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:15 a.m. through May 28. There will no programs or story times during the week of May 17, while we are working on the book sale.

Barbara Vink

Five Rivers to hold guided bird walks

Early Birder guided bird walks for spring are scheduled for Thursdays mornings, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, 56 Game Farm Road, Delmar.

This is the time of year that all birders have been waiting for. The program starts at 7 a.m. with refreshments and birding at the feeder; the walk begins at 7:30.

Center naturalists will offer tips and tricks for bird identification with the beginning birder in mind. Participants will seek out birds visiting the area as well as species that live here year-round.

The early morning walks are free. Beginners are always welcome.

A walk in search of the elusive woodcock will be held on Friday, May 7, at 7 p.m., at Five Rivers.

Changing land use practices and other factors have had a significant effect on the American woodcock throughout the East.

Join us for a look at woodcock management as we search field and meadow for this most extraordinary bird. Other birds that are active in the evening will also be featured.

This program is free. Participants should dress for an evening outdoors and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Bring binoculars and bird identification books if you have them. Five Rivers also has equipment available for loan.

For information, call Five Rivers at 475-0291.

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Presbyterian church to dish up supper

New Scotland Presbyterian Church will hold its annual spring supper on Saturday, May 1, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the community meeting room in the church.

The menu consists of roast pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, green bean salad, rolls, butter and homemade pies.

The cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children and free for children

under age 5.

Take-outs will be available. For information, call 439-6454.

Staff appreciation lunch

Voorheesville PTA will hold a staff appreciation lunch for all the staff of the Voorheesville elementary, middle and high school on Wednesday, May 5, during the lunch hour.

To help out, either by sending

NEWS NOTES

Voorheesville
Betsy Glath
765-4415



in food, setting up, serving or cleaning up, call Linda Pasquali at 765-4990.

Seniors plan Cape Cod trip

The New Scotland Seniors are planning a trip to Cape Cod on May 17 to 21. The cost of the trip is \$399 per person.

For information, call Lois Bristol at 765-2901.

Piano recital

Shirley M. Greené will present her annual piano recital on Sunday, May 2, at 2:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at the high school.

The public is invited to this free event. Light refreshments will be served.

Volunteers needed for budget vote

The PTA has been asked by the school district to find a parent

volunteer to work at the polls from 2 to 5 p.m. during the school budget vote on May 18.

The district is also looking for three to four volunteers as alternates who would be home and could be called on to come to the school.

The hours for the alternates would be from 5 to 7:30 p.m. or 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For information, call Heather McMaster at 861-5692 or 402-6134.

Seniors to view slides from China

Rosemary Zongrone will show slides from a recent trip to China at the New Scotland Seniors meeting on Wednesday, May 5.

Friends of Music schedule meeting

Voorheesville Friends of Music will meet Tuesday, May 4, at 7 p.m. in room 159 at the high school.

Middle school to present 'Annie'

Voorheesville Middle School will present the play Annie on Friday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, May 16, at 2:15 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Thacher nature center to host spring programs

Learn about spring wildflowers at Thacher nature center on Saturday, May 1, at 11 a.m. with botanist Ruth Schottman. The program has a \$1 fee.

Enjoy a spring evening walk, listening for spring peepers and wood frogs and looking for salamanders in vernal ponds with ecologist Doug Fraser on Friday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m.

For information on the meeting places, call 872-0800.

Teacher workshop set at Five Rivers

A Project WET teacher workshop will be held Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, 56 Game Farm Road, Delmar.

The workshop, open to teachers and youth leaders, will introduce Project W.E.T. (Water Education for Teachers), an interdisciplinary program which emphasizes water and the creatures that inhabit it.

Participants who successfully complete this one-day course will receive a teacher's manual plus other materials.

Teacher in-service credit is available for this workshop; documentation for credit will be coordinated through the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center.

This workshop is free. Participants should dress for the outdoors. Pre-registration by Thursday, April 29, is necessary.

For information or to pre-register, call Five Rivers Center at 475-0291.

Church to hold strawberry supper

Jerusalem Reformed Church will be holding its annual Strawberry Supper on May 1.

The event will feature baked ham for dinner and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Servings will be at 5 and 6:15 p.m. with a bake sale that starts at 4:30 p.m. and ends at closing. The prices for the supper are \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children 5 to 10, \$9 for takeouts and free for children under 5.

Call Pat Gardner at 439-2212 or Gerry Martin at 439-6693 for reservations.



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4

BY LIBBY SCHIRMER

It seems farther than half a mile from the hurried gee-whiz of the traffic that travels routes 4 and 32 through Stillwater into Rensselaer County. During the off-season, Lock 4 of the Champlain Canal sees very little traffic, whether by foot or car or boat.

Beginning May 1, on weekends in the summer, Lockmaster Ken Billings said, Lock 4 is a verifiable hot spot, with pleasure craft speckling the waterside and bobbing on the water.

Billings, who plans to retire after more than 20 years of service, seems a man of few words, so perhaps it's by design that he works through the winter in such a peaceful place, where only the occasional

calls of birds can be heard.

"Oh, you couldn't ask for a better place to work," Billings said, looking down the length of the canal. "There's no place like it."

In the off-season, all the work is done behind the scenes at Lock 4.

Shut behind blue metallic cubes are grids and control boards that manipulate motor and valve speeds and resistance. Straight from 1910, the controls are stored in their original wood cabinet. Every winter, grids are redone. About five

years ago, the wiring on the grids was redone, to modernize it a bit, Billings said.

"Maintenance is the key to keep things running," Billings said. "This stuff will be running way after we're gone. Years ago, they built stuff to last."

General Electric manufactured just about everything that makes the lock go, Billings said, speculating that the gears will never wear out, partly because they're run at such a low speed.

Billings said the motors run on resistance. Lockmasters open and shut valves by way of the control boards, to move things along or to flush debris out of the canal.

Every winter,

Billings expects spring to bring pretty much the same thing, though some years that bring a lot of runoff can be tough, he said.

As winter drew to a close recently, everything from driftwood to a corked wine bottle was washed up against the gates of the lock. Billings said he's even seen propane tanks in there.

"We'll get that flushed out of there before the season," Billings said. "There's such a short distance between here and the next lock, and if the wind is blowing right, some of the stuff will just drift back. Always plenty to do."

This winter, a beaver moved in and chewed a hole through the bottom of the gate, keeping his teeth sharp, but not causing much damage, Billings said.

For the July and August traffic, the park has cookers and picnic tables. It's not uncommon for Billings to allow some boaters, canoers or kayakers to pitch a tent and camp out for a day or two.

The canal system was developed for use by pleasure boaters as well as commercial barges.

"They're trying to get some more commercial boats, which would be real good for the canal," Billings said. "It was called a barge canal. But there are no more barges."

Billings said barges carrying loads of wood and paper, or anything that wouldn't spoil, traveled the system. One of the last commercial loads he remembers was of jet fuel heading up to the now-defunct Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

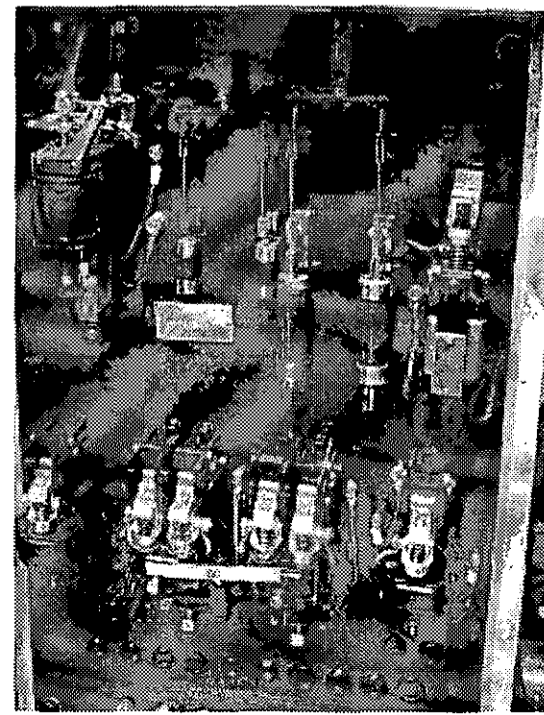
The lock sees about 20 to 30

boats a day during the season.

"On the weekends, there's always more," Billings said.

Billings said he saw his share of funny

Undercurrents of the Capital District



Top, the view from the top, home of the lockmaster and the lock's controls. Bottom left, the Champlain Canal awaits summer traffic. Upper right, freshly painted jacks will open and close the lock's gates. Bottom right, the grid box with its just-shined brass, controls the valves at the lock.

moments when boaters were allowed to drink on their crafts, though he rarely sees a drunken boater these days. Billings clearly loves his job, and it's easy to imagine why.

There are no rapids that roar like lions or angry women at the Champlain Canal. Just a quiet lapping of water at its gates, constant and content to be what it is: a symbol of industry and simple recreation, shying away from muttering motorists and calling to playful boaters.

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Spring cleaning



Caity Fiero, Jonathan Zeb, Sarina Fiero and Peter Zeb pitch in at New Scotland's Volunteer Day, held April 24. More than 100 volunteers spent much of the day helping seniors and disabled homeowners with spring cleaning throughout the town.

Spring peeper search and seasonal walk set at Five Rivers

An evening walk in search of spring peepers and other signs of the season will be held on Friday, April 30, at 7 p.m., at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. The walk will take you to one of Five Rivers' marshlands to hear the evening serenade of Hyla crucifer. This program is free. Participants should dress for the outdoors.

search of the smallest frogs, the spring peepers. These tiny tree frogs have voices out of all proportion to their size.

For information, call Five Rivers Center at 475-0291.

All-night scrapbooking event slated

In honor of National Scrapbook Day an all-night scrapbook event will be held Friday, May 7, from 6 p.m. until midnight at Clarksville Community Church. The fee is \$25 and includes 6 hours of time to work on albums, dinner, dessert, a goody bag and prize drawings. For information and to reserve a spot call Donna Bell at 768-8217.

Monopoly tournament benefits center

The 12th Annual SEFCU Monopoly Tournament to benefit the Center for the Disabled will be held on Tuesday, May 4, at the Albany Country Club. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and the preliminary round of play starts at 6 p.m. There will be a light buffet dinner, and then the final round of play is scheduled for 8 p.m. The fee is \$30 per player, paid either by a donation from that player or through pledges. Sponsorship of corporate tables is available for \$250. Prizes will be awarded. There is limited seating. Call Bernadette at 464-5243 for reservations and information.

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Two candidates vie for library board of trustees

Aaron Matthew Baldwin and Rachel R. Baum will be on the ballot in May for a position on the library's board of trustees.

Baldwin is a senior associate attorney with the Albany law firm of Maynard, O'Connor, Smith & Catalinotto. He is a graduate of St. John's University School of Law and a member of the Albany County Bar Association. He is a five-year resident of Bethlehem.

Baum, a 15-year resident of Bethlehem, was recently appointed assistant dean of the School of Information Science and Policy at the University at Albany.

Until March of this year she



served as manager of outreach, adult and information services for the Upper Hudson Library System — a position she held for more than 11 years. She received a degree in library science from the University of Michigan.

Her volunteer service has included work with Literacy Volunteers, Parents as Reading Partners, United Way and the Hudson & Mohawk Humane Society.

The new trustee will replace Rena Button, who retires from the board on July 1 after serving a five-year term.

Ballot proposition

Also on the ballot will be a proposition to discontinue the seat-specific nature of trustee positions in future elections.

In other words, if there are three vacancies, two for a full five-year term and one for a partial term, voters would choose trustees at-large, rather than fill specific vacancies as defined by years remaining in a term.

The two full terms would go to the candidates with the highest

and second-highest vote count; the partial term would go to the candidate with the third highest number of votes.

Library budget review

The May 10 meeting of the library board will begin a half-hour earlier, at 7 p.m., in order to present the 2004-05 library budget for review.

All board meetings are open to the public.

Polls will be open to Bethlehem Central School District voters on Tuesday, May 18, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the middle school.

Louise Grieco

Massage studio to hold open house

Balance Massage Studio of Main Square, 318 Delaware Ave., Delmar, will be hosting its annual spring open house on Saturday, May 1, from 3 to 6 p.m.

The event will include complimentary chair massage, a gift basket drawing and light refreshments. The first 25 guests will receive a free gift.

Library hosts grand opening reception

Bethlehem Public Library trustees will hold a grand opening reception and open house on Sunday, May 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the library's refurbished community room.

The gala event celebrates the completion of the library's \$1.6 million Facilities Renewal Project earlier this spring.

Renovations include new lighting, wiring, carpeting and furnishings, ADA upgrades, acoustic work and updated community kitchen. Three group study rooms and a local history reading room were also constructed.

Kids hiking club slated for summer

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County is offering a summer hiking club for kids ages 10 to 14. Kids will discover that Albany County is a big, beautiful and intriguing place.

From the Pine Barrens to the Helderbergs, Albany County offers a grand variety of outdoor adventures. Animal tracks, tree and flower identification, local history and ecology will be highlighted.

An orientation packet, maps and educational material will be offered along with trail snacks. Only 10 hiking club spaces are available at \$65 per student.

Destinations include the Pine Barrens, Cole Hill State Forest, Black Bear Swamp, sections of the Long Path and Blue Circle Wetlands trail. Hikes will leave Cornell Cooperative Extension's headquarters in Voorheesville at 9 a.m. sharp. Students will return at noon.

The leader is a New York state licensed guide. The weeklong program will be held on July 12 to 16. The group will hike rain or shine.

Call 765-3522 for information and to register.

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Welcome Spring




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Sports

Eagles can't stop Shen attack

By ROB JONAS

The Bethlehem baseball team can score runs. Preventing opponents from scoring runs is another matter.

The Eagles' record fell to 2-5 in the Suburban Council with a 15-9 loss to Shenendehowa last Saturday.

"It's the first time we've fought back (from a deficit) this season because they had us 9-2 at one point," Bethlehem coach Rob Helm said.

The Eagles (4-5 overall) scored

three runs in the top of the fourth inning, two more in the top of the fifth and one in the top of the sixth to close the gap to 9-8. But Shen tacked on six runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to pull away for good.

"We had five errors against Shen, and you can't give a good team like Shen five extra outs," Helm said.

Andrew Stanton belted a home run and added a double to lead Bethlehem's comeback attempt. Brian Caron drove in four of Shen's 15 runs with a home run and two singles.

The loss to Shen capped a week in which Bethlehem lost to defending Section II, Class AA champion Shaker 8-7 in extra innings last Monday and defeated Mohonasen 16-7 last Wednesday in a Gold Division game.

"It's been the story of our season," Helm said of the Shaker loss. "Three of our five league losses have been in extra innings."

The Eagles get a chance to avenge one of their three extra-inning losses Wednesday when they host Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake. The Spartans defeated the Eagles 8-7 in their season opener April 6. Bethlehem then visits Columbia Friday and Amsterdam Saturday for a non-league game.

"It's going to be a good week," Helm said. "It's going to tell us what our chances are of making Sectionals. We already have five league losses, so we can't afford too many more losses."

Chased by a devil



Bethlehem's Joe Conroy, left, is pursued by a Columbia player during last Saturday's Suburban Council game. The Blue Devils topped the Eagles 11-4. *Jim Franco*

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Club slates Mother's Day race

The Hudson Mohawk Road Runners Club is holding its annual Mother's Day race Sunday, May 9, in Delmar.

The 3.5-mile women's road race starts from Hamagrae Elementary School on McGuffey

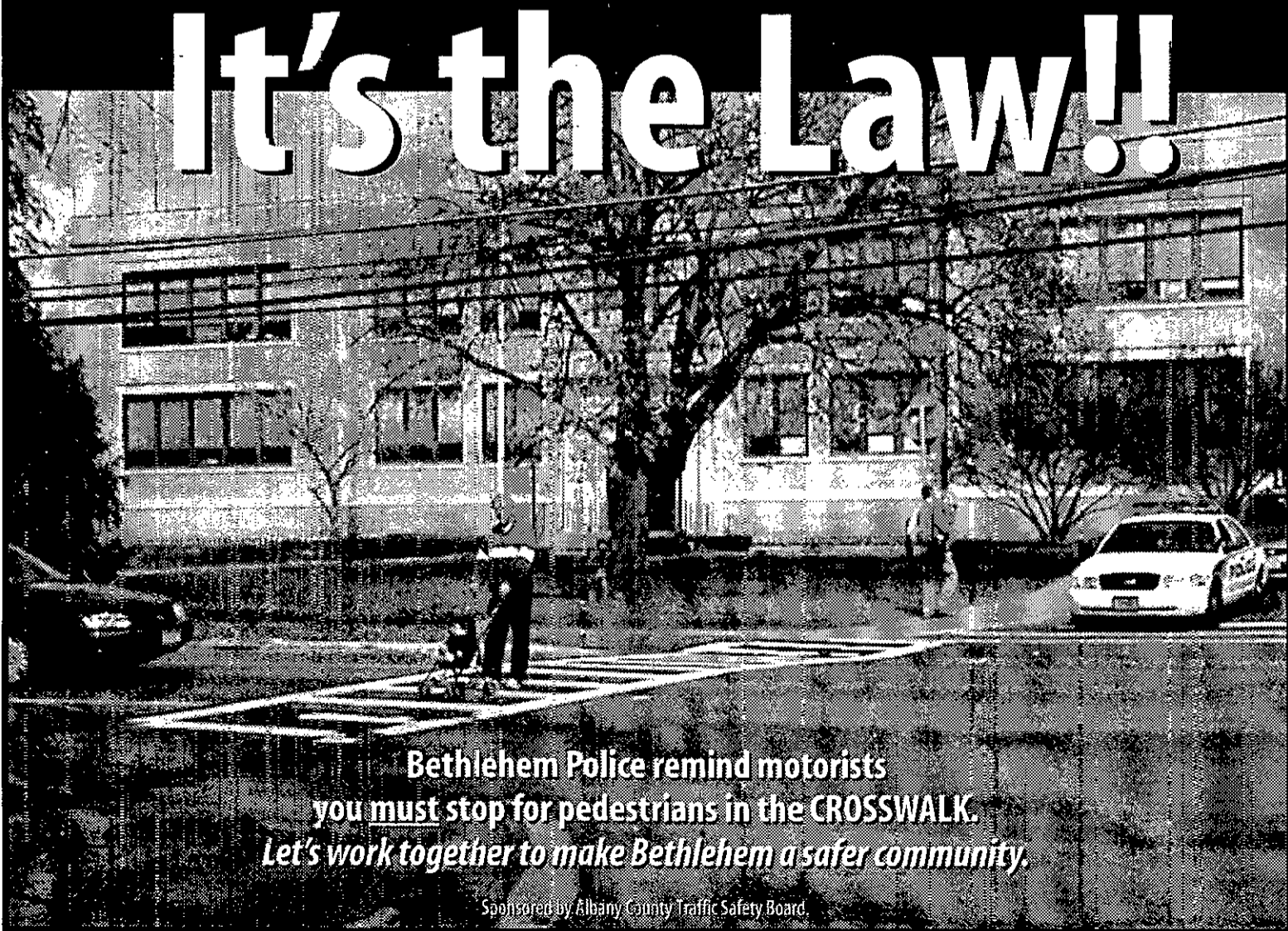
Lane at 10 a.m. Awards will be presented to the top three finishers overall, as well as winners in each age group. The first three mother-daughter teams also receive awards.

Children's races of 200 meters, 400 meters and one mile will start from the elementary school at 11 a.m.

Runners may register up till 15 minutes before the 3.5-mile race. The cost is \$10 for club members and \$12 for non-members.

For information, visit the club's Web site at www.hmrrc.com.

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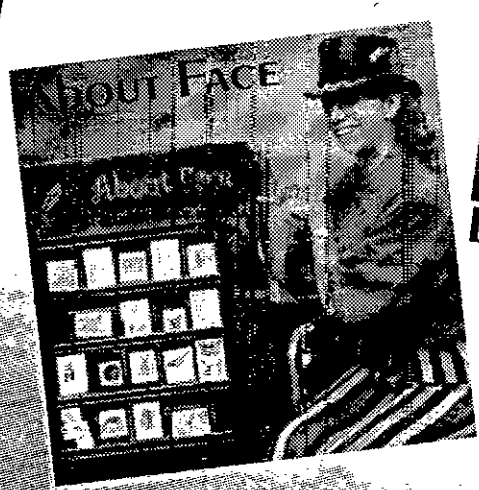
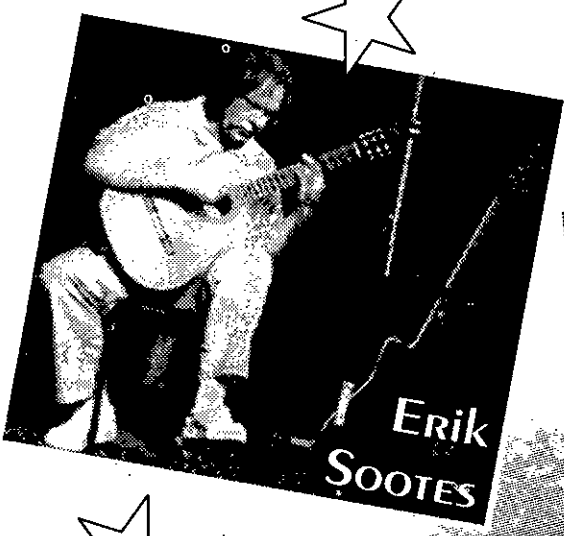
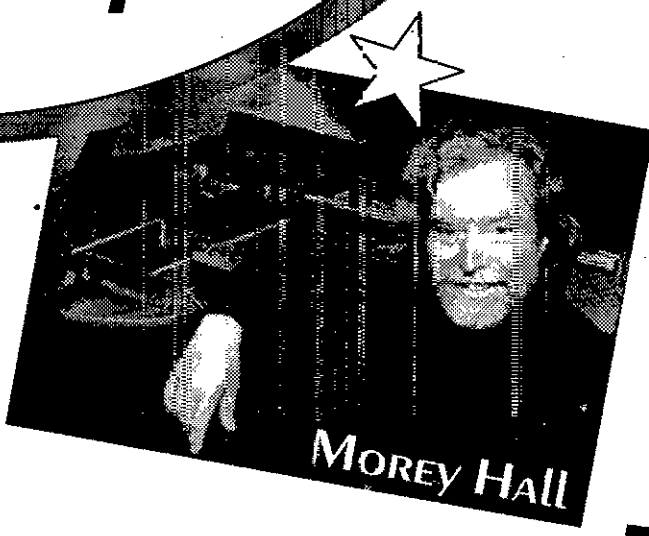
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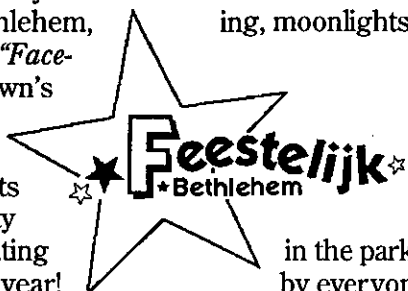
2004
Feestelijk
 Bethlehem
 Saturday ★ May 1 ★ 2004

Saturday, May 1
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.



Feestelijk 2004 welcomes new and old acts

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 1st. Feestelijk Bethlehem, (pronounced: "Face-tel-eeh") the town's annual celebration of performing arts and community will be celebrating its 8th exciting year!



BCMS's very own Jeff Klamka who besides teaching, moonlights as a singer-songwriter. The Village Volunteers make their annual appearance in the parking lot; joined by everyone's favorite, "Crackers the Horse" and the juggling talents of Joe Carusone.

The festival showcases a myriad of entertainment offerings in 13 venues located along the Delaware Avenue corridor. Headlining this year's line-up are local/national blues legend, Ernie Williams, along with The Brits, (early Beatles tribute band), featuring Delmar's own Tom Raider as John Lennon! Their performances will be at The American Legion tent on W. Poplar St.

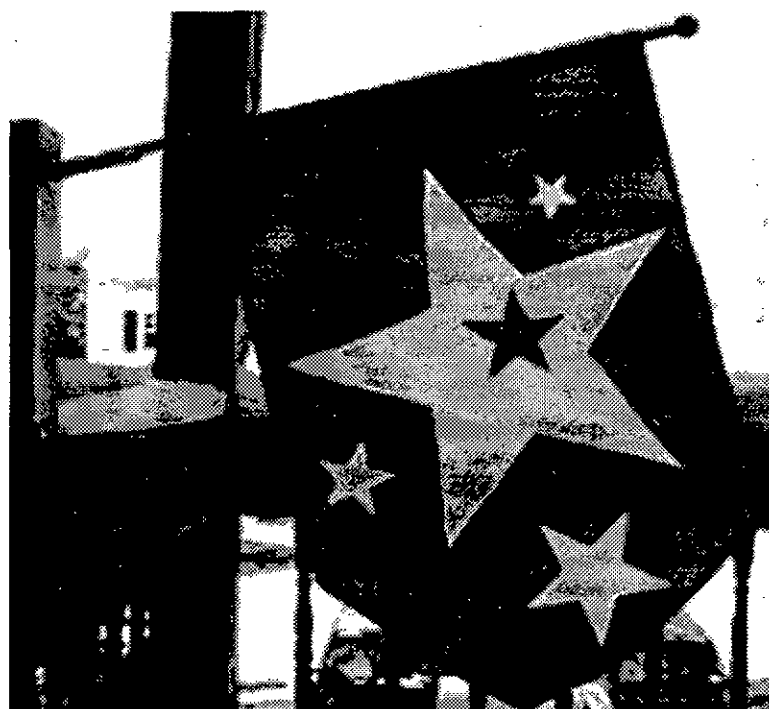
Featured at Bethlehem Central Middle School will be an array of children's entertainment and popular volunteer-sponsored arts and crafts. Performers include: Silvia Markson "The Magic Trunk," Cranberry the Clown, Dean Davis's "Animals That Nobody Loves," and

New performers this year include: Erik Sootes (guitar virtuoso), Morey Hall (concert pianist), Band of Gold and Rant 'n' Rave (oldies and classic rock). All will be at Delmar Reformed Church. Young pop-rockers, Wide Awake and Dudek at the Masonic Lodge. Also, Shirae with special guest, Rasinhead, will be holding court at Blue Sky Music Studios. In addition, perennial favorites, blues man Jeff Gonzales, The Swing Docs Orchestra and psychic, Tita, will be on-board at First United Methodist Church Hall, Bethlehem Town Hall and HSBC bank respectively.

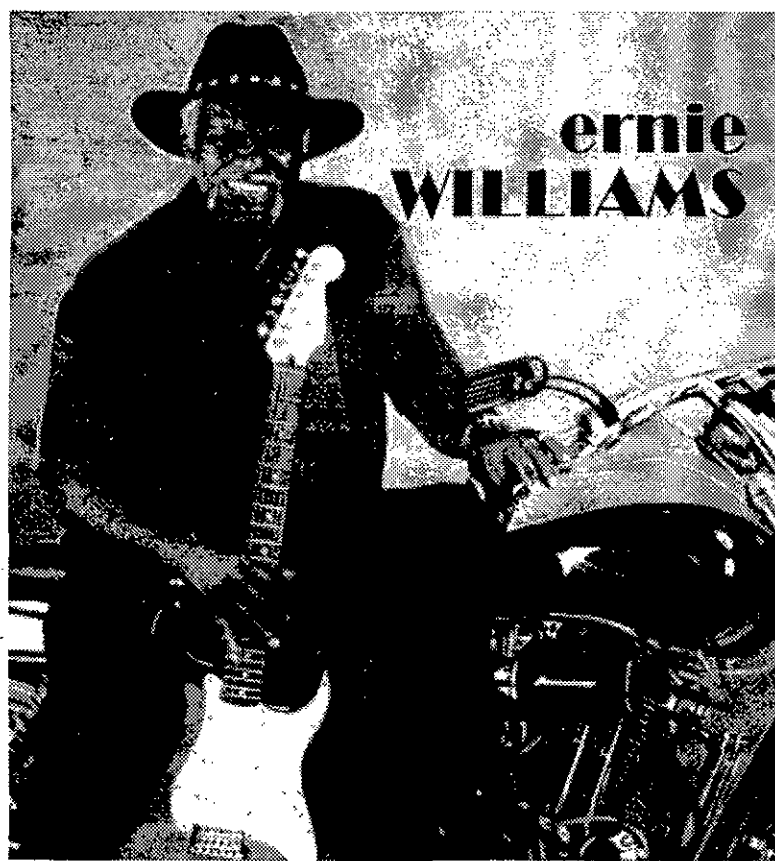
Feestelijk will also be hosting a new venue featuring artistic demonstrations and interactive workshops. Creative Art Time Studio will be presenting hands-on demos of clay sculpture, jewelry design, drawing-painting-cartooning, and stone carvings. All ages are encouraged to participate!

This year's event will feature the return of trolley service; escorting festival attendees to most of the venues on the tour. Festivities begin at 6:00p.m. (BC Middle School), and 7p.m. at all other venues. Admission buttons are \$6 in advance and \$8 that evening. For more information, please call the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce at: 439-0512 or visit our website at: www.feestelijk.com

Organizers wish to thank our town officials, business community, non-profit entities and many volunteers who donate their time and resources to the production of Feestelijk Bethlehem on an annual basis.



Feestelijk flags fly outside of homes and businesses to show support for annual community arts festival.



Ernie Williams

Ernie Williams played his first guitar in the 30's when he was 13 and is still going strong. Over the decades, he has maintained his post as a fixture of Albany's blues community, a scene hidden away in the dingy rooms of the city's toughest neighborhoods.

Ernie has remained one of the most beloved performers in the region. He has opened for major recording acts such as B.B. King and Aretha Franklin, Ernie has been a force to be reckoned with.


Ernie's charisma has landed him both magazine and TV spots. He was selected by Canon for their ad campaign for their new line of copiers called "Canon Blues". Ernie has also appeared in several television and radio commercials. At 79 years young, Ernie continues to say "this is just the beginning".



The Brits

The Brits bring you the music of The Beatles playing songs covering everything from The Beatles first #17 hit "Love Me Do", right through "Nowhere Man". The Brits feature material from each Beatle record and including performances from both movies "A Hard Day's Night" and "Help". Seasoned professionals, The Brits enjoy the privilege of bringing the exciting, energetic, charismatic

music of the early Beatles to Fab Four fans everywhere. Their goals are simply to give their best and be the best at it. Fun and a sense of humor are nearly as important as the music itself and this is what the group wishes to bring to the stage at every show. The Brits perform in full "Beatle" costumes and use exact replica and vintage equipment with a full range of authentic Fab guitars and drums.



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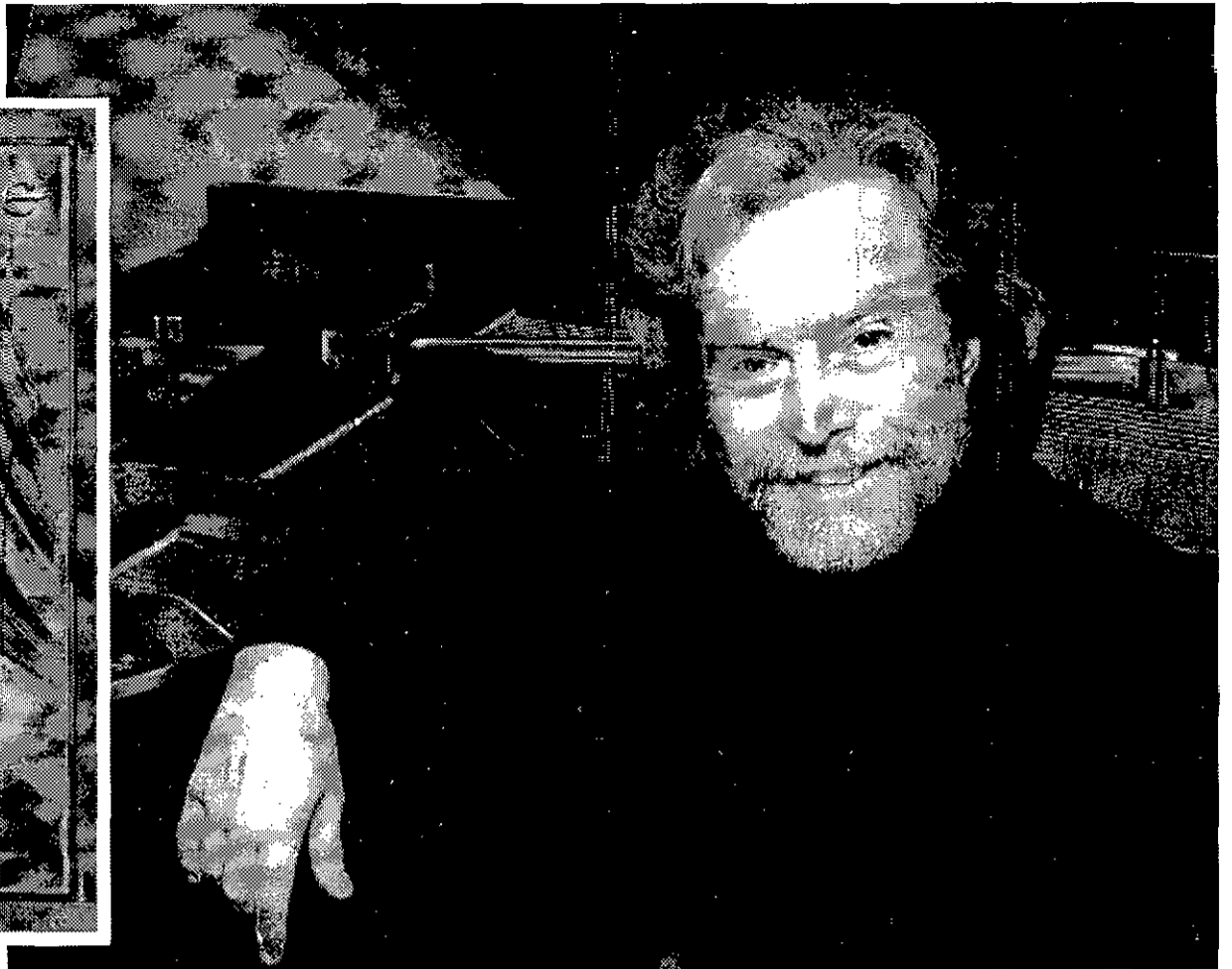
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(Guitar soloist)



↵ Rant 'N Rave

(Classic rock)

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(Contemporary rock)



Spaceship seen at Turtle Pointe

This year, appearing at Turtle Pointe Gift Shop from 7pm - 10pm, we have "A Spaceship Theory", a nine-piece horn band with many of the players from the Steely Dan tribute band "Luckless Pedestrians". They will be playing mostly Steely Dan mixed with several classics from

the 70's and a couple of originals by Bruce Winn, owner of Turtle Pointe Gift Shop. Featuring Bruce Winn of Electric City Horns, Brian Egan and Tim Keenan of Captain Squeeze & The Zydeco Moshers, special vocalist Liz LoGiudice,

Rob Cohen & Pete Rocco of Funksquad, Brian Kaplan of the Brian Kaplan Band, Kevin Hendrick of Maximo Sabor, and Dick Nalbert of G4. And, back by popular demand, the juggling act of Joey "Wails" Scannell during intermission.

high energy dance rock n' roll

Feestelijk Bethlehem

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

- ★ 1 BETHLEHEM MIDDLE SCHOOL**
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 Village Volunteers (Fife and Drum) 6:00-6:30
 Bob Viviano and "Crackers the Horse" 6:30-8:30
 Joe Carusone - Juggler 6:00-7:00
Cafeteria
 Children's Arts and Crafts 6:00-8:00
Media Center (Library)
 Child ID Program 5:00-8:00
Upper Gym 1
 Cranberry the Clown 7:00-9:45
Upper Gym 2
 Sylvia Markson "The Magic Trunk" 6:00-6:30, 7:30-8:00
Lower Gym 1
 Jeff Klamka 6:30-7:00; 7:45-8:15
 BCMS teacher by day/Singer balladeer by night!
Lower Gym 2
 Dean Davis - The Reptile Man 7:15-7:45; 8:15-8:45
Auditorium
 Middle School Stage Band 8:30-9:30

- ★ 2 DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH**
Fellowship Hall
 Rant 'n' Rave 7:00-7:45, 9:00-9:45
 (Classic Rock featuring the "Girl")
 Ethan the Dog (Rock band) 8:00-8:45, 10:00-10:45
Sanctuary
 Morey Hall (Classical pianist) 7:00-7:45, 9:00-9:45
 Erik Sootes (Guitar soloist) 8:00-8:45, 10:00-10:45

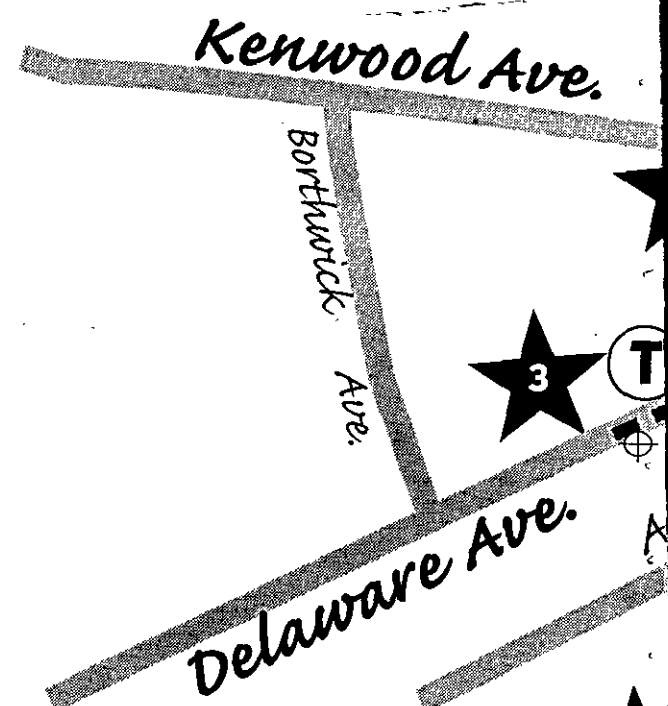
- ★ 3 BETHLEHEM TOWN HALL**
Auditorium
 Nisky Dixie Cats (Dixieland Jazz) 7:00-8:00
 Swing Doc's (Swing/Orchestra) 8:30-11:00
Conference Room 101
 Ed Stander - Musical Glass Player 7:00 - 10:00

- ★ 4 CREATIVE ART TIME STUDIO**
 Student Art Show/Refreshments/Raffle 7:00-10:30
 Drawing and Painting - all ages 7:00-8:15
 Co-ed Jewelry making & Chainmail, Brazing demos 8:30-9:45
 Stone Carving display/talk, Blacksmithing demo 10:00



Free trolley ride
 from 7:00-10:00
 two convenient

Please keep in mind that all ente



- ★ 5 FIRST UNITED METHODIST**
 Acoustic Hartland (Pop/Rock)
 Jeff Gonzales and Friends
 (Rockin' Blues)

- ★ 6 MASONIC TEMPLE**
 Wide Awake (Rock 'n' funky r)
 Dudek (Contemporary rock)

- ★ 7 BLUE SKY RECORDING**
 Shirae - with special guest R
 (Contemporary Celtic A)

- ★ 8 TURTLE POINTE GIFT S**
 A Spaceship Theory (Eclectic)

- ★ 9 EVERGREEN BANK**
 Dublin Train Wreck (Celtic an
 Newspaper Taxi (Acoustic clas

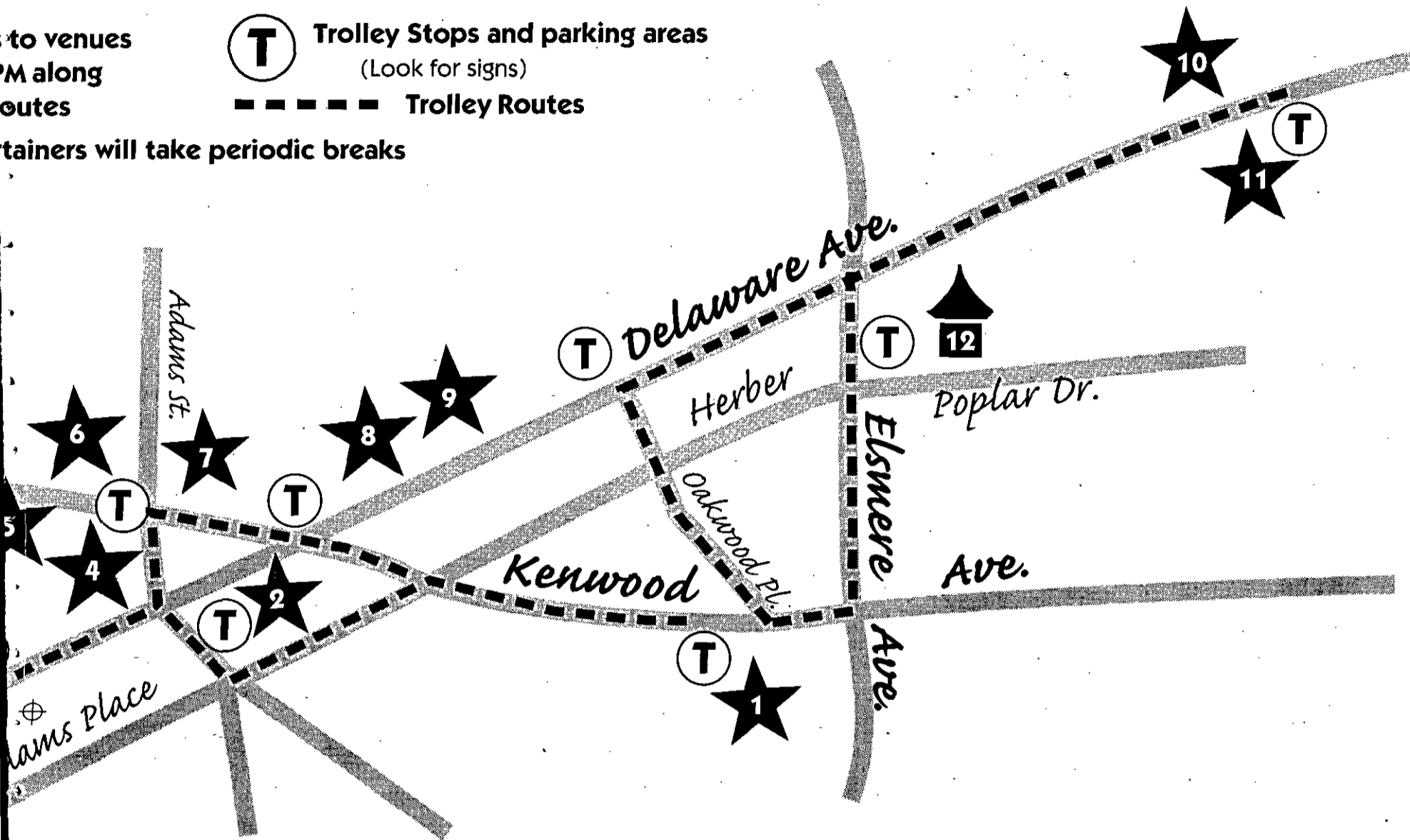
em Schedule of events

to venues
M along
outes

T Trolley Stops and parking areas
(Look for signs)

----- Trolley Routes

ainers will take periodic breaks



Del Lanes will offer \$2 per game bowling to button wearers from 8:30-11:00pm

WFLY 92FM "Roving Remote Van" at Del Lanes and along the Feestelijk route 7:00-11:00pm

ST CHURCH

7:00-7:45, 9:00-9:45
8:00-8:45, 10:00-10:45

hythms) 7:00-7:45, 9:00-9:45
8:00-8:45, 10:00-10:45

STUDIO

aisinhead 7:00-7:40, 8:00-8:40
tists) 9:00-9:40, 10:00-10:40

HOP

Fusion) 7:00-8:00, 8:00-9:00,
9:00-10:00

d folk) 7:00-7:45, 9:00-9:45
sic rock) 8:00-8:45, 10:00-10:45



10 HUDSON RIVER BANK AND TRUST

Jazz Factor 7:00-7:45, 9:00-9:45
(Traditional and contemporary jazz)
Byrne & Barrett 8:00-8:45, 10:00-10:45
(Old Irish and Scottish Folk)



11 HSBC BANK

Tita (Psychic) 7:00-8:00, 9:00-10:00



12 AMERICAN LEGION TENT

The Brits ("Beatles" music tribute) 7:00-7:45, 9:00-9:45
Ernie Williams & band 8:00-8:45, 10:00-10:45
("Ambassador of the Blues")
About Face 6:30-9:30
Face Painting and Body Art
Joe Carusone - Juggler 7:00-10:00

Back by Demand!



Ed Stander ↵

A Delmar resident who shares dual citizenship between Canada and the US, Stander plays the glass harmonica, an eerie-sounding instrument comprised of glass bowls filled with water that Stander vibrates to create a lyrical, hypnotic humming sound.

↵ The Magic Trunk



↵ Dublin Train Wreck

Based in the Capital Region of New York, Dublin Train Wreck is rapidly becoming known as one of Upstate New York's premiere Celtic/Acoustic duos. Con-

centrating on harmonizing both vocally and instrumentally, they have been compared to the Kingston Trio and the Everly Brothers. Their vocal range allows them to cover songs from the Clancy Brothers and the Wolfe Tones to Mary Black and Delores Keane.



Jazz Factor ➡



↵ The Swing Doc's Orchestra



The Nisky Dixie Cats ↵

The Nisky Dixie Cats play as an 8-piece ensemble in the New York Capital District and surrounding areas. They are a family-friendly band dedicated to playing tuneful, Dixieland-style music for special events and charities. The Nisky Dixie Cats aim to have fun and sound good. Tap your feet or dance to the sound of Jelly Roll Morton and other greats of America's original jazz. They have

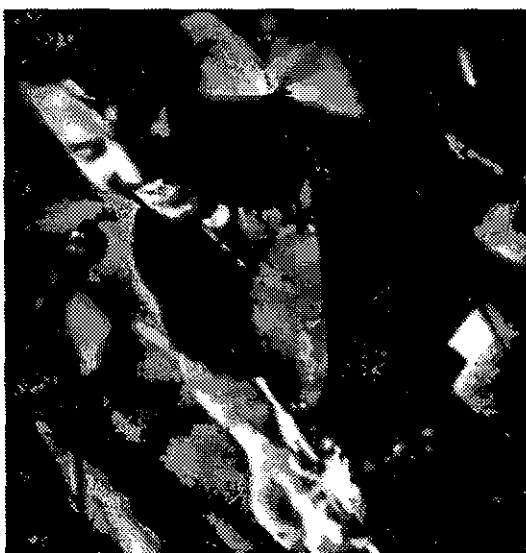
appeared at Saratoga First Night 2001, O.D. Heck Developmental Center, the 100th Anniversary-First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, "Niska Day" at Niskayuna Co-op, Albany Times Union Race for Literacy, the Saratoga Chalk Festival, Saratoga Dance Flurry, Catskill Balloon Festival and many other venues.



About Face ↵

Jeff Gonzales ➡

A guitarist since age 14, when Jeff Gonzales discovered the music of the greatest acoustic pickers including Blind Blake, Bo Carter and many more. Jeff Gonzales then moved into a period of musical experimentation that allowed him to explore all the various blues styles. Playing originals and borrowed tunes, he and his "power trio" quickly generated excitement as "the band with the unbelievable slide guitarist. Increasingly conscious of his music evolving into a diverse triad, he planned a recording triad to reflect his diverse musical personality.



Additional must-see acts



Jeff Klamka
(Guitar soloist)



Byrne & Barrett
(Old Irish and Scottish Folk)

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- Bethlehem Public Library
- Parks and Recreation Office
- Blue Sky Recording Studio
- Hudson River Bank & Trust
- Friar Tuck Bookshop and Newsroom

On May 1 only at:

- Town Hall - 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- McCarroll's, The Village Butcher - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- American Legion Tent - 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- Middle School - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- I Love Books - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

- Blue Sky Recording Studio - 11:00 am - 8:00 pm
- The Floral Garden - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Delmar Reformed Church - 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- The Paper Mill - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Hudson River Bank & Trust - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Visit us on the web at <http://www.feestelijk.com> ★ For more information, call 439-0512



Blackbirds soar back toward top of Colonial

By ROB JONAS

After some struggles last year, the Voorheesville softball team is

back in the hunt for the Colonial Council title.

The Blackbirds owned a 4-2 league record heading into



Voorheesville's Cyrilla Suker pitches during last Wednesday's Colonial Council game against Academy of Holy Names. Rob Jonas

Tuesday's game against Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk.

"We're young, but we're experienced," first-year coach Matt Fiato said of his team, which features five juniors and three sophomores on a 13-player roster. "We only have one player who didn't have varsity experience (last year)."

Junior pitcher Cyrilla Suker has led the Blackbirds toward the top of the league. Through six games, Suker has allowed only 12 hits and has recorded 105 strikeouts, including 20-strikeout performances against Watervliet

and Academy of Holy Names last week.

"She has very good movement on her pitches," Fiato said. "She also changes speeds really well, which keeps hitters off balance."

What has hurt Voorheesville at times has been a lack of timely hitting. In last Wednesday's 2-1 loss to Holy Names, the Blackbirds scored in the bottom of the second inning but managed only two hits after that.

"The Holy Names game was particularly tough because it was a 1-1 game in the bottom of the fifth inning and we had runners

on first and second with no one out, and we had a couple of strikeouts," Fiato said.

Fiato said he is trying to help his hitters correct their mistakes.

"We struggle a little against power pitchers, but we've emphasized hitting in practice," he said. "We've gone into the batting cage and turned up the speed a bit, and the girls have responded well. All we need to do is to do that in a game."

The Blackbirds host Lansingburgh Wednesday before visiting Cohoes Friday in a pair of league games.

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Spotlight *Newspapers*

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Supplements *2004*

Spotlight Newspapers — supplements for 2004

JANUARY

- **BRIDES AND GROOMS**
Issue Date: Jan. 7 • Ad Deadline: Dec. 19
- **HEALTH, DIET AND FITNESS**
Issue Date: Jan. 21 • Ad Deadline: Jan 7

FEBRUARY

- **UPDATE I — BUSINESS & FINANCE**
Issue Date: Feb. 11 • Ad Deadline: Jan 28
- **UPDATE II—SERVICES**
Issue Date: Feb. 25 • Ad Deadline: Feb. 11

MARCH

- **SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT**
Issue Date: March 3 • Ad Deadline: Feb. 18
- **UPDATE III — AUTOMOTIVE**
Issue Date: March 17 • Ad Deadline: March 5
- **HEALTH CARE**
Issue Date: March 31 • Ad Deadline: March 17

APRIL

- **HOME AND GARDEN**
Issue Date: April 7 • Ad Deadline: March 24
- **SPRING AUTOMOTIVE**
Issue Date: April 21 • Ad Deadline: April 7

MAY

- **SENIOR LIVING**
Issue Date: May 5 • Ad Deadline: April 21
- **WELCOME SPRING**
Issue Date: May 19 • Ad Deadline: May 5

JUNE

- **HOME IMPROVEMENT**
Issue Date: June 2 • Ad Deadline: May 19
- **SUMMER HEALTH & RECREATION**
Issue Date: June 16 • Ad Deadline: June 2
- **CLASS OF 2004**
Issue Date: June 30 • Ad Deadline: June 16

JULY

- **SENIOR LIFESTYLES**
Issue Date: July 7 • Ad Deadline: June 23
- **SUMMER AUTOMOTIVE**
Issue Date: July 21 • Ad Deadline: July 7

AUGUST

- **BACK TO SCHOOL**
Issue Date: Aug. 11 • Ad Deadline: July 28
- **HEALTH CARE**
Issue Date: Aug. 25 • Ad Deadline: Aug. 11

SEPTEMBER

- **COMMUNITY SERVICES**
Issue Date: Sept. 8 • Ad Deadline: Aug. 25
- **HOME DECORATING & REMODELING**
Issue Date: Sept. 22 • Ad Deadline: Sept. 8

OCTOBER

- **WOMEN'S HEALTH**
Issue Date: Oct. 6 • Ad Deadline: Sept. 22
- **FALL AUTOMOTIVE**
Issue Date: Oct. 20 • Ad Deadline: Oct. 8

NOVEMBER

- **SENIOR LIFESTYLES**
Issue Date: Nov. 3 • Ad Deadline: Oct. 20
- **HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE**
Issue Date: Nov. 24 • Ad Deadline: Nov. 10

DECEMBER

- **HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE II**
Issue Date: Dec. 8 • Ad Deadline: Nov. 24
- **LAST MINUTE GIFT GUIDE/NEW YEAR'S**
Issue Date: Dec. 15 • Ad Deadline: Dec. 10

All Ad Deadlines are at Noon

HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SPORTS RESULTS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19-25

Tuesday, April 20

BASEBALL

Mechanicville 13, Ravena 6

Ravena highlight: Ryan Cross 2 hits.

BOYS LACROSSE

Saratoga 16, Bethlehem 2

Bethlehem scoring: Andrew Kelleher 2-0, Conor O'Shea 0-1.

Bethlehem saves: Paul Munsell 8.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Bethlehem 23, Colonie 2

Bethlehem scoring: Katie Rowan 4-3, Hailey Quillinan 4-3, Kate Quinlan 3-3, McKenzie Riegel 2-2, Theresa Ladouceur 2-2, Kelly Hughes 2-1, Emma Strachman 2-0, Erica Hill 2-0, Tess McGrath 1-1, Caitlin Schreffler 1-0, Jen Akin 0-1.

Bethlehem saves: Emily Szelest 5.

GIRLS TRACK

Burnt Hills 91, Bethlehem 86

Schalmont 88, Ravena 54

Cobleskill 98, Voorheesville 22

Voorheesville 73, Waterford 21

SOFTBALL

Ravena 12, Watervliet 2

Ravena highlights: Jackie Berghela 2 singles, 2 RBI; Jamie Davis 2 singles, RBI.

Wednesday, April 21

BASEBALL

Bethlehem 16, Mohonasen 7

Bethlehem highlights: Matt Young 2 triples, double; Cameron Brown triple, 3 singles.

Ravena 11, Cobleskill 7

Ravena highlights: Ryan Cross 2-run home run, 2 singles, 4 RBI; John Lynch triple, single, RBI.

BOYS TENNIS

Bethlehem 8, Burnt Hills 1

Ravena 6, Voorheesville 1

SOFTBALL

Holy Names 2, Voorheesville 1

Voorheesville highlight: Cyrilla Suker pitched 3-hitter with 20 strikeouts.

Mohonasen 7, Bethlehem 1

Bethlehem highlight: Kaity Conklin home run.

Thursday, April 22

BASEBALL

Schalmont 2, Ravena 0

Highlight: Schalmont pitcher Joe Bonitatibus scattered six hits in complete-game performance.

Schoharie 9, Voorheesville 8 (9)

Voorheesville highlights: Greg Delaney 3-run home run; Billy Corbett home run; Pat Selby 3 hits, 2 runs scored.

BOYS LACROSSE

Guilderland 13, Bethlehem 1

Bethlehem scoring: Andrew Kelleher 1-0.

Bethlehem saves: Mike Manzione 7.

BOYS TENNIS

Ravena 4, Cohoes 3

Cobleskill 7, Voorheesville 0

GIRLS LACROSSE

Bethlehem 22, Averill Park 0

Bethlehem scoring: Katie Rowan 4-4, McKenzie Riegel 3-2, Theresa Ladouceur 3-1, Tess McGrath 3-0, Cate Quinlan 2-3, Hailey Quillinan 2-2, Tricia Primomo 2-0, Erica Hill 1-0, Caitlin Schreffler 1-0, Emma Strachman 1-0, Kelly Hughes 0-1.

Bethlehem saves: Emily Szelest 1.

Saturday, April 24

BASEBALL

Shen 15, Bethlehem 9

Bethlehem highlight: Andrew Stanton home run, double.

Watervliet 7, Voorheesville 1

Voorheesville highlight: Steve Cardinal double.

BOYS LACROSSE

Columbia 11, Bethlehem 4

Bethlehem scoring: Andrew Kelleher 2-0, Brendan Pratt 1-0,

Nate Rauch 1-0.

Bethlehem saves: Mike Manzione 10.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Bethlehem 16, Northport 15

Bethlehem scoring: Halley Quillinan 4-1, Kelly Hughes 4-0, Katie Rowan 3-4, Emma Strachman 2-0, McKenzie Riegel 1-2, Tess

McGrath 1-1, Cate Quinlan 1-1.

Bethlehem saves: Emily Szelest 7.

GIRLS TRACK

Maple Hill Invitational

Team scores: BKW 103, Maple Hill 83, Duaneburg 66, Berlin 48, Schenectady Christian 46, Corinth 34, Salem 31, Fort Plain 23, Watervliet 20, New Lebanon 16, Tamarac 13, Mechanicville 12, Voorheesville 10.

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Obituaries

Louis Ansaldo

Louis Ansaldo of Glenmont died Saturday, April 24.

Born in New Haven, Conn., he was an Army veteran of World War II, serving in the European and Mediterranean theaters and earning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

In the best national tradition, he continued civilian service in Germany from 1947 to 1950, rebuilding the country whose regime he helped defeat.

Mr. Ansaldo worked in the construction industry, retiring as director of vehicle maintenance for the state.

After retirement, he and his wife traveled the country extensively.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Betty Ansaldo; two sons, Richard Ansaldo and Anthony Ansaldo; two sisters, Claire Intellisano and Millie Gabrieli; and four grandchildren.

Services were from the Reilly & Son Funeral Home in Voorheesville.

Private burial will be in Saratoga National Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Eleanor Klemm

Eleanor G. Klemm, 88, of Beverwyck Retirement Community in North Bethlehem and formerly of Niskayuna, died April 24, at Teresian House in Albany.

Born in Chicago, Ill., she was

a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and held an Exchange Fellowship from the Institute of International Education in Freiburg, Germany. She received a master's degree in German language and literature from Columbia University.

Mrs. Klemm was a teacher at Linton High School, Schenectady from 1957 to 1971.

She was a former member of Union Presbyterian Church in Schenectady.

Survivors include her husband of 63 years, Frederick A. Klemm; a daughter, Virginia K. Wells of Springfield, Va.; two sons, R. Christopher Klemm of Frazer, Pa. and W. Jeffrey Klemm of McLean, Va.; and four grandchildren.

Her body has been donated to the Anatomical Gift Program of Albany Medical College.

Funeral services were private.

Albert Conrad

Albert H. Conrad, 72, of South Bethlehem, died Saturday, April 24, at Hospice Inn in St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in Earlton, he lived in South Bethlehem since 1956.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

Mr. Conrad retired in 1989 after many years of service with Penn Truck Lines in Selkirk.

He was a member and past chief of Selkirk Fire Co. No. 3.

He was husband of the late

Bette Conrad.

Survivors include two daughters, Cynthia VanKempen of Ravena, Bonnie Kellam of Ravena; a son, Robert Tice of Coeymans Hollow; two brothers, Edward Conrad and Phillip Conrad; a sister, Mary Ellen Scofield; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Babcock Funeral Home in Ravena.

Contributions may be made to Community Hospice of Albany County, 445 New Karner Road, Colonie 12205 or to the Firemen's Home, 125 Harry Howard Ave., Hudson 12534.

Lois Prusinski

Lois Ann Dott Prusinski, 68, of Bethlehem, died Wednesday, April 21, at her home.

Born in Colonie, she graduated from Roesseville High School and Albany Hospital School of Nursing.

Mrs. Prusinski worked Albany Medical Center Hospital for many years before retiring.

She was a devout Catholic, attending St. Pius X Church in Loudonville and St. Margaret Mary's Church and Holy Cross Church, both in Albany.

She enjoyed traveling, gardening and was a great New York Yankees fan.

Survivors include her husband, John A. Prusinski; five brothers, Edward J. Dott, Thomas

J. Dott, Ralph J. Dott, Paul J. Dott and Leo Dott; and three sisters, Emily Dott, Frances Peterson and Virginia Birdsall.

Services were from St. Pius X Church Burial was in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery in Colonie.

Contributions may be made to the Northeastern Association of the Blind, 301 Washington Ave., Albany 12206.

Joyce Harrison

Joyce Murdick Harrison, 81, of Cary, N.C., and formerly of Delmar, died Friday, April 16, at Western Wake Hospital in Cary.

She graduated from Pinellas County Florida Junior High School in St. Petersburg, Fla., and the former Milne High School in Albany. She attended the University of Alabama before transferring to Cornell University, where she graduated with a degree in home economics.

She was a dietician at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City for a year before enlisting in the Army. During her military service. She taught nursing at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany and resided in Delmar.

Mrs. Harrison later became a real estate agent for Bob Howard where she excelled, becoming a member of the Million Dollar Club for selling more than \$1 million worth of real estate in one year.

She enjoyed golf, snow skiing and curling. Her two favorite

pastimes were gardening and traveling.

Survivors include three sons, Peter Harrison of Raleigh, N.C., Robert Harrison of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, and Tom Harrison of Plymouth, N.C.; and four grandchildren.

Services were from the Brown-Wynne Funeral Home in Cary.

Burial will take place at a later date in the family plot in Evergreen Cemetery in Rutland, Vt.

Memorial service

Graveside services are scheduled at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in South Bethlehem for Ruth Wiltsie, who died Dec. 7.

The Rev. Charles Hayes, pastor of South Bethlehem United Methodist Church, will officiate.

Letters policy

The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, P.O. Box 100, Delmar 12054.

Letters can be faxed to 439-0609 or e-mailed to spotnews@nycap.rr.com.

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Obituaries

Joyce Ginter

Joyce E. Ginter, 68, of Voorheesville, died Monday, April 26, at Albany Memorial Hospital.

Born in Albany, she worked as a claims adjuster at Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 12 years before she retired.

Mrs. Ginter was active in the Helderberg Home Bureau.

Survivors include her husband, Paul R. Ginter Sr.; two daughters, Jane E. Ginter of Clifton Park and Lorraine C. Ginter of Minnesota; two sons, Raymond E. Ginter and Paul R. Ginter Jr., both of Voorheesville; a stepson, Robert A. Ginter of Coeymans Hollow; a stepdaughter, Kathleen M. Derway of Coeymans Hollow; a brother, Richard Goodrow of Voorheesville; three grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Calling hours are scheduled for today, April 28, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Applebee Funeral Home, 403 Kenwood Ave., Delmar.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home with the Rev. David Nuss officiating.

Burial will follow in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Colonie.

Contributions may be made to Voorheesville Ambulance, 21 Voorheesville Ave., Voorheesville 12186 or the American Diabetes Association, 7 Washington Square, Albany 12205.

John Dorman

John L. Dorman, 86, of Wilmington, Del., and formerly of Delmar and Slingerlands, died Thursday, April 22, at Forwood Manor Nursing Care Center in Wilmington.

Born in Watervliet, he was a graduate of Watervliet High School.

He was a graduate of the former Albany State Teachers College in 1939. He began his business teaching career at Greenville High School and then returned to teach at Watervliet High School.

In 1943, he began working in accounting at General Electric in Schenectady. He later worked for the state Department of Equalization and Assessment. In 1976, he retired from state government as director of electronic data processing for the Department of Audit and Control.

Mr. Dorman was an adjunct professor of business at Siena College for a number of years.

Mr. Dorman was a member of First Lutheran Church for the last 40 years. He served as its tenor soloist and actively participated in

the life and ministries of the church. For many years, he was choir member, elder and longtime treasurer of United Fourth Presbyterian Church of Albany.

Mr. Dorman was active in community affairs. A member of the Mendelssohn Club of Albany for over 40 years, he served as treasurer for many of those years. He belonged to the Masonic Temple, Delmar Lodge 85 and the Elks Club, Albany Lodge 49.

He was also active in the AARP of Albany, where he served as president.

He was husband of the late Pauline Greenway Dorman and Betty Rourk.

Survivors include two daughters, Carol Haverly of Wilmington, Del., and Paula Christenson of Wyomissing, Pa.; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Calling hours are scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 29, at Frederick Funeral Home, 633 Central Ave., Albany.

The funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday, April 30, at First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Ave., Albany, followed by

interment in Woodlawn Cemetery in Berne.

Dorothy McNeilly

Dorothy A. McNeilly, 86, of Selkirk, died Saturday, April 24, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Camden, Oneida County, she was a member of the NYS Buick Club.

She was the widow of Mason McNeilly.

Survivors include two sons, Thomas McNeilly of Ravena and James McNeilly of Keesville;

three daughters, Bette Post of East Hartford, Conn., Cheryl Kampe of National City, Calif., and Brenda Bolduc of Newington, Conn.; a brother, George Williams of Constantia; 16 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and her faithful cat Tom.

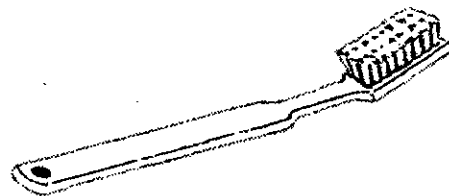
Services were private at the convenience of the family.

Contributions may be made to the Ravena Hose Co., 1 Main St., Ravena 12143.

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The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, style and length.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and a daytime telephone number for verification.

Unsigned letters receive no consideration.

All letters that are published must carry a signature.

The deadline for submitting letters is Friday at noon.

Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054. Letters can be faxed to 439-0609 or e-mailed to spotnews@nycap.rr.com.

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National contract means growth for Tangora firm

By KATHERINE McCARTHY

The future is now at Delmar's Tangora Technologies, and will be coming soon to houses throughout the Capital District.

Sears and Tangora Technologies recently signed an exclusive agreement that makes Tangora the only subcontractor the national company will use to provide home integration technology in Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties.

Inside the company's Delaware Avenue headquarters, located just on the Delmar side of the bridge into Albany, Michael Tangora held a thick piece of plastic-coated cable that's been cut open to show the four different wires it contains.

"Home integrated technology starts with an infrastructure in your home," Tangora explained. "I compare it to the body. The brain is the control center; the appendages are the things that move; and the central nervous system sends the message that makes them move. The primary basis of what we're doing is installing all three components in your home. We put in a network control center that sends the signals; the wire is the control system; and at locations throughout the house, you've got the appendages that move."

The bundled wire, containing coaxial cable for television and Internet, and Category 5 enhanced wiring for telephones, extends throughout the house,

terminating in one neat faceplate with ports TV, Internet and up to four phone lines.

In addition to those three communication basics, Tangora also provides home-theater wiring, central vacuums, security systems and home automation.

With the Sears contract, Tangora Technologies will be providing home integration systems in new houses being built in the area.

"We've been in the structured wiring business for seven years," Tangora said. "Lisa DeGoff, my right-hand person, and I had been looking at getting more business with large contractors, and the Sears contract makes that possible."

Tangora said he had read about Sears' home wiring program in a trade magazine. Sears offers its structured wiring solutions through Connected Home, a joint venture between Sears and Home Director, Inc., a nationwide company that designs, sells and installs home networking problems. Connected Home is building a nationwide network of certified installers to create what DeGoff called "forward-ready homes."

"We looked at that," Tangora said, "and asked, 'Do we want another integrator jumping in?' We did our due diligence, and liked the way Sears worked."

Sears chose Tangora from thousands of applicants to be one of 17 integrators nationwide.

"We chose Tangora because of their expertise," said Bob Baker, director of business development for integrated services for Sears.

"We were looking at major markets, and at the south, where the majority of new homes are being built," Baker said. "But when we looked at the scope of Mike's business, we were very interested. Mike Tangora offers quality and value similar to Sears; he has a rich history of taking care of his customers; and he has a good understanding of the market."

Tangora is also a certified home technology integrator, something that strengthened his credentials with Sears.

Tangora Technology currently employs eight people, a number

that Tangora anticipates will change with the Sears contract.

Tangora, 38, a Delmar resident for the past 36 years, had been working in the heating and air-conditioning business for 12 years, when he attended a 1995 trade show in Orlando, Fla., about home automation.

"Within a week, I had given notice at my job, and started my own business," he said.

Tangora built on his heating and air-conditioning background, although he painted "home automation and home theater" on his first van. In his first year in business, he added central

vacuums to his offerings. The next year, it was structured wiring.

"I've gone from a onesy-twosy market to 200 homes annually," Tangora said. "I'm on track to double that next year."

The Tangora showroom is a technology lover's dream, with big-screen televisions, a kitchen "Icebox" with a flip-down screen that is a computer, DVD player and connects to the home audio system. A central vacuum and wiring panels show the workings of the high-tech toys.


"We create a lot of smiles with our technology," Tangora said.

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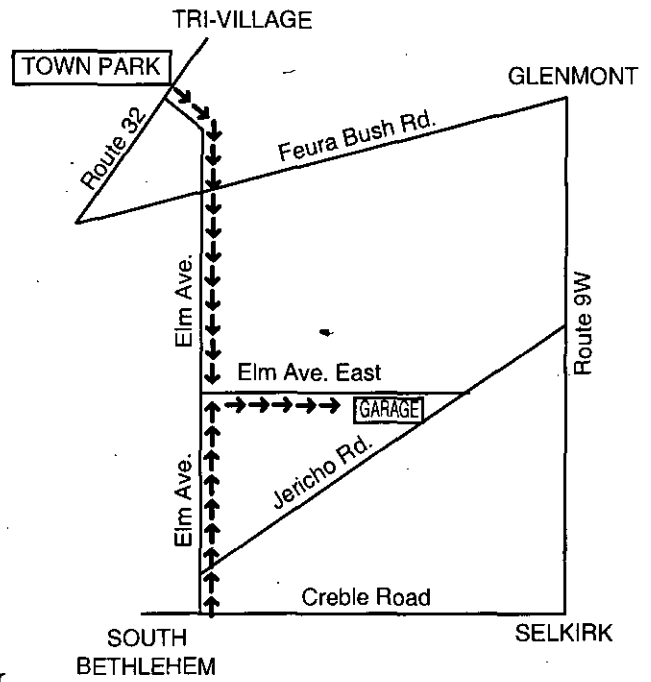
Only residents from the Town of Bethlehem and other pre-approved municipalities can participate and only home generated hazardous wastes are acceptable. A valid New York State driver's license or current Town of Bethlehem tax bill is required as proof of residence. Residents from other participating municipalities must have a special coupon for admittance.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

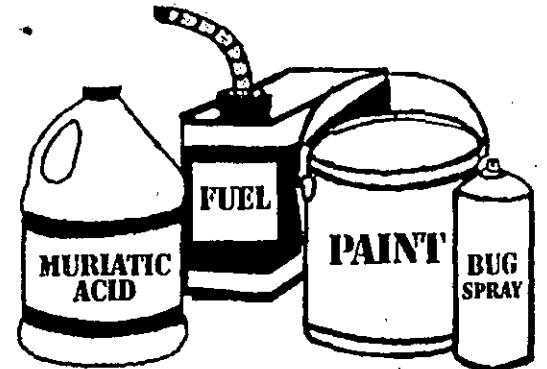
The Town of Bethlehem Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on:
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2004 BETWEEN 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM;
between 9am and 1pm, for other participating municipalities.
Hazardous wastes must be brought to the **Town Highway Garage, 74 Elm Avenue East in Selkirk.**
(Please follow special directions shown on map.)

- All hazardous wastes must be in their original, labeled containers. Tighten caps and lids.
- **NEVER MIX CHEMICALS!**
- Sort and pack materials securely in a sturdy cardboard box; use newspaper or cardboard to keep items from tipping or hitting each other.
- Wrap leaking containers in newspaper and place in plastic bags or a larger container.
- Place chemicals that may react with each other in separate parts of the car.
- **DO NOT** leave product in a hot, unventilated vehicle for an extended period of time.
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▼ Drain Cleaners	▼ Asbestos (wet and double bagged)
▼ Swimming Pool Chemicals	▼ Fluorescent Light Bulbs
▼ Hobby Chemicals/Paints	▼ Computers & Components

▼ UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS	
▼ Explosives/Ammunition	▼ Compressed Gases (aerosols are okay)
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▼ Radioactive materials	▼ Empty Aerosols
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▼ Known PCBs/Dioxins	

Before disposing of leftover products, please try to use up or give to someone who can use them.



Kristen and Kevin Pommenville

VanDuzer, Pommenville marry at Delmar Reformed

Kristen Anne VanDuzer, daughter of Alexander and Carol VanDuzer of Slingerlands, and Kevin Michael Pommenville, son of William and Marguerite Pommenville of Cumberland, R.I., were married Nov. 1.

The Rev. Sandy Damhof performed the ceremony at Delmar Reformed Church.

A reception followed at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs.

The maid of honor was Lisa Dearstyne. The bridesmaids were Melissa Mann, Sapna Patel, Sara O'Rourke, Heather Sowa and Jackie Santana.

The best man was Craig Brovilette. The groomsmen were

Adam VanDuzer, brother of the bride, Steven Pommenville, brother of the groom, Matthew Vigeant, nephew of the groom, Christopher Hughes and Rene Lambert.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.

She is a nurse at Miriam Hospital in Providence, R.I.

The groom is a graduate of Cumberland High School and Rhode Island College.

He is a nurse at the Artificial Kidney Center in Warwick, R.I.

After a honeymoon trip to New Orleans and the Caribbean, the couple resides in Providence.

Maurer, Lavigne are engaged

Nadine Katherine Maurer, daughter of William and Karen Maurer of Delmar, and Richard R. Lavigne, son of Raymond and Margaret Lavigne of Greenville, S.C., and formerly of Waterford, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and LeMoyne College. She works for General Electric in Greenville.

The future groom is a graduate of Catholic Central High School and LeMoyne College. He works for Alltel Communications in Greenville. The couple plans a Sept. 24 wedding.



Nadine Maurer and Richard Lavigne

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SPOTLIGHT ON *Family* ENTERTAINMENT

CALENDARS ◀ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Cap Rep offers two comedies

By DEV TOBIN

Spring is usually comedy time at Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany, and, this spring, there's twice as much comedy as ever.

For the first time, Cap Rep will be presenting two plays in repertory — "Rounding Third" by Richard Dresser and "Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire. Both playwrights are contemporary and currently writing; both plays are regional premieres.

For Cap Rep Producing Artistic Director Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill, doing two plays at once (and directing one of them, "Rounding Third") is twice as much work, especially since the sets have to be changed after every performance.

"We have no loading dock behind the stage, so every set piece comes in through the front door," Mancinelli-Cahill said. "We had to pick plays that would work with our physical limitations. It's arduous, not something this space was set up for."

Mancinelli-Cahill said Cap Rep was also looking for two plays where some actors could play in both.

"I had read 'Rounding Third' before it was produced off-Broadway and saw that it had two guys who could play in 'Fuddy Meers,'" she said.

Chris Hutchinson will play Don in "Rounding Third" and the Limping Man in "Fuddy Meers." Jeffery Bender will play Michael in "Rounding Third" and Millet in "Fuddy Meers."

Despite a hectic rehearsal schedule, "It's worked out really well," Mancinelli-Cahill said. "And it's fun



Veteran Little League Coach Don (Chris Hutchinson - left) explains his views on winning and "just having fun" to new assistant coach Michael (Jeffrey M. Bender-right), a man who has never played baseball (he did curling as a kid in Canada) in Richard Dresser's "Rounding Third."



Nothing is quite what it seems. Gertie (Eileen Schuyler), Claire's mother, isn't happy with Millet (Jeffery M. Bender-standing), his potty-mouthed puppet or the Limping Man (Chris Hutchinson - on floor) in "Fuddy Meers."

for people to have the experience of seeing both plays, with two very different sets and two actors in very different roles."

"Rounding Third" is an "Odd Couple" about Little

League baseball coaches — one ultra-competitive, hard-drinking and epitomizing the miserable philosophy "Winning is the only thing," the other is more laid-back, latte-drinking. "Let the kids have fun" assistant.

"Fuddy Meers" is less traditional — an amnesiac learns about her life from stories told by the strange people in her life.

"Fuddy Meers" was performed in a staged reading by Cap Rep two years ago as part of its "Basement Works" series of new contemporary plays.

One of the actors in the staged reading, Eileen Schuyler of Delmar, returns for the main stage production.

"Rounding Third" will be performed on April 29 and 30 and May 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28 and 30.

"Fuddy Meers" will be on stage at Cap Rep, 111 N. Pearl St., Albany, on April 28 and May 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29.

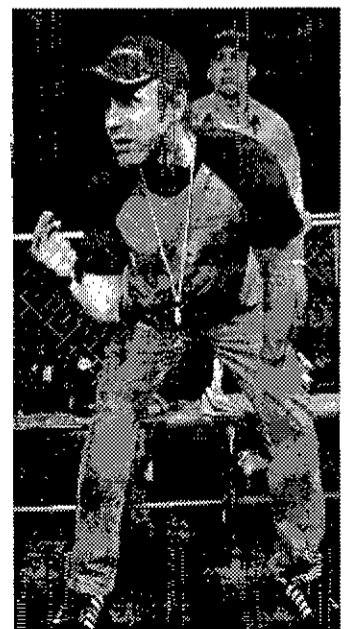
Tickets are \$31 to \$39. For information/reservations, call 445-7469.

Photos by Joe Schuyler

Vanguard showcase



The interior design event of the year in the Capital District - the Vanguard Designer Showcase will be this house at 64 Euclid Ave. in Albany. The event, a fundraiser for the Vanguard support group of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, will run daily except Monday through May 16. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 724-0357.



Little League assistant coach Michael (Jeffrey M. Bender-front) urges the team on while Coach Don (Chris Hutchinson - back) watches in Richard Dresser's "Rounding Third."

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Dance

(From Page 1)

When the group performed at Lincoln Center, the Derians' daughter was 6 months old, and they looked to form a local dance group.

There are about 2,500 Armenian-Americans in the Capital District, Derian said, and three Armenian churches in the area.

"Dancing is part of our culture," Derian said. "Food and dancing have been a part of Armenian life for as far back as you can imagine."

Today, 30 people between the ages of 5 and 22 dance in the Sipan Dance Group. Sipan, Derian explained, is the name of a mountain now in Turkey that had been part of Armenia.

The 1915 genocide, in which the Turks killed 1.5 million Armenians and took their land, was the cause of a great wave of Armenian migration.

"Before 1915, there were three million Armenians," Derian said. "After that, whoever could get away, did. The survivors migrated to Europe, Russia, North and South America. We named our group Sipan to recognize that that mountain was part of Armenian land."

One of the 25 dances that the Sipan Dance Group will perform on Sunday is a solemn dance that honors the martyrs of the genocide. Most of Armenian dancing, Derian said, is happy and lively.

"They're group dances," he said. "People form lines or circles, and there's a lot of jumping and spinning. The girls also do a lot of delicate hand motions in the dances. There are also some solo dances in the performance."

Also performing on Sunday is the Arev Ensemble from Boston, a traditional Armenian-American music group.

"Arev plays instruments that date back 2,500 years," Derian said.

One is a wooden instrument called a chvi, which Derian described as trumpet-like, and another is a dhol, similar to a drum, and held in the arms and played by hand.

The newly formed Armenian

Men's Choral Ensemble, directed by Ralph Enokian, will make its debut performance on Sunday.

Derian said the Sipan Dance Group has practiced twice a week since its founding, and have increased that to daily as they get ready for Sunday's show. Although Sipan has performed at a lot of picnics, churches, and events like the Festival of Nations, this is the group's first big performance.

"The kids love it," Derian said. "All the dances are different, and they're all complicated."

Derian is sure that Armenian dancing will appeal to everyone.

"It's energetic, and the kids are always smiling," he said. "It's happy, fast and really grabs you. Every dance tells a story, and the costumes are very beautiful and colorful."

The Derians will be available from noon to 1 p.m. to discuss the performance, and an exhibit of Armenian art from around the world will open at 3 p.m. The Sipan Dance Group, the Armenian Men's Choral Ensemble and the Arev Ensemble will perform from 4 to 6 p.m. A celebration with desserts will follow the performance.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$15 for those age 12 and under.

For information or to reserve tickets, call The Egg box office at 473-1845.

BCHS mulls hall of fame for entry

By LINDA DeMATTIA

The entryway of the to-be-redesigned Bethlehem Central High School should be a place of honor for graduates, according to Michael Tebbano, high school principal. Tebbano presented the idea of a hall of fame to the school board at its meeting last week.

"The idea of a hall of fame came about due to the work of many people," he told the board. "It started out with an interesting concept: 'What can we do to honor our graduates?'"

Tebbano said parent associations met to help refine the details of what they wanted the hall of fame to look like, and to decide the criteria for inclusion. They visited a number of places and liked the look of the halls of fame at Hudson Valley Community College and Niskayuna High School.

"The people we are looking into inducting are people who have gone into the work force and are contributing to their profession or society," Tebbano said. "We are looking for those who can serve as role models for our students. There is a real focus and commitment in pulling this off with a selection process that will be as empirical as possible so it can keep going into the future."

Tebbano said the project

would be self-funded, with a committee to oversee funding the project through donations. Inductees would receive an individual plaque during a graduation ceremony, and their names would be inscribed on a permanent plaque in the area

designated as the hall of fame.

"We are looking into a design that would be incorporated into the new design for the high school,"

Tebbano said.

Board member Jon Bartow expressed his support of the project but requested clarification on whether it would be based on achievement while at BC, or after

graduation.

"We felt contributions to the greater good would be more important than what they did here," Tebbano said. "It would be inclusion of every area, not just the arts, not just the law, but every area."

Tebbano said a short search of records revealed that the late U.S. Rep. Gerald Solomon attended BCHS, as did an unnamed candidate for vice president.

Living honorees would be asked to attend the graduation ceremony.

The award would also be given posthumously and in those cases, family members would be asked to attend to receive the plaques.

"We have many, many talented people who will supply this hall of fame for years to come," Tebbano said. "It is the kind of thing we should be doing to honor our roots."

We have many, many talented people who will supply this hall of fame for years to come.

Michael Tebbano

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Land-use

(From Page 1)

"It's very important that we take this opportunity to really address the riverfront," said Ken Daves of Delmar. "It deserves its own stand-alone plan."

The arrival of big-box stores was listed as a concern along with inconsistencies in the planning process (which some noted as being too lengthy); and a need for affordable senior housing. Services such as public libraries and recreational opportunities should be dispersed more evenly throughout the town, according to some residents.

The preservation of open space as the town grows in size also topped the list once again. Rural landowners turned out in large numbers to weigh in on that topic.

"There's a lot of fear of zoning issues now in South Bethlehem," said Ken Neff, a rural landowner in Delmar. "There are people who want to sacrifice the farms for open space." Neff listed a preservation of property owner

rights as one of his major concerns.

The information gathered at the meeting will be compiled and evaluated by the consultants.

A number of focus group meetings will be held this spring and summer to address specific topics of concern. The first will be held May 20 at town hall to discuss zoning issues, and the second on May 24 at Slingerlands Elementary School to address the Slingerlands bypass extension.

"They will focus on a specific area of the town or a specific topic," said Michael Welty of Saratoga Associates, who said additional focus groups will be scheduled on yet-to-be-

Clarification

Objects of Affection, located on Kenwood Avenue in Delmar, will be closing in Delmar at the end of the month.

The store owner plans to reopen the home décor shop in Guilderland on the corner of Johnston Road and Western Avenue in October.

determined topics.

Consultants and the committee are also expected to review 14 other planning studies and reports drafted since 1988 by the town and various community groups, identifying a plethora of issues. The documents identify several broad issues that should be considered in the crafting of the plan: land use and zoning; infrastructure and transportation; cultural and environmental resources; housing; economic development; and community facilities.

Once the plan is drafted, it will be publicly reviewed and revised, said Welty. Town officials hope to adopt the land-use plan as local law to guide future development.

Bones

(From Page 1)

discovered in the plot, including an infant, according to archeologists.

Representatives of the Stockbridge/Munsee Band of Mahicans, now based in Wisconsin, surveyed the land last fall using geo-thermal technology. The group identified a suitable burial location, not far from the original burial ground.

"It appears there's a good place we can inter the remains permanently there," said Department of Public Works Commissioner George Leveille. "We may permanently mark it with something that indicates this is a burial site."

The bodies are expected to be interred this spring.

The remains were originally buried on a plot of land known as the Goes/Van Derzee Farm site. Multiple archeological digs in the 1980s resulted in the discovery of nine other bodies on the land, all believed to be Mahicans, according to the Journal of the New York State Archaeological Association.

New officer joins Bethlehem police force

The Bethlehem police department has added another officer to its ranks, making the force the largest it's ever been.

Town Supervisor Theresa Egan swore in Officer James Cross, 26, on Monday morning before a crowd of his family, friends and co-workers. Cross has worked as an officer with the town of Coeymans Police Department for the last year.

He previously worked for the town of Bethlehem as a telecommunicator for three years. He is a graduate of the Zone 14 law enforcement academy at Columbia Greene Community College.

He will earn an annual salary of \$38,953.

The department now has 42 police officers.

Dreams of new decor dashed

By KRISTEN OLBY

A Delmar woman selected as a finalist in a local home re-decorating contest did not walk away with the grand prize.

Lois Caulfield's Fairway Avenue colonial was selected as a finalist in the contest to receive a \$10,000 room makeover courtesy of Sunmark Federal Credit Union and Delmar Interior

Design. Caulfield hoped to remodel her dining room-turned-home office to surprise her husband, Patrick, who is serving as a doctor in Iraq.

Linda Gallagher of Albany was selected as the winner, having received the largest number of online votes.

Caulfield was awarded a \$250 gift card to Home Depot.

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