



## Sea Cadets raise flag for ceremony

Two Navy Sea Cadets and students at Bethlehem Central Middle School were given the honor of raising the American Flag during Flag Day ceremonies held outside the school.

See story on Page 3.



## Music festivals cater to any taste

You can get jazzy or you can go folksy this weekend, as two festivals celebrate their longevity on the entertainment front.

See story on Page 21.



## Olympic achievers

Remember the old sports adage, "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game?" Chuck Probst does.

So do Sari Virkler, Kelton Rose and all the other athletes from around the state that competed at last weekend's Special Olympics New York Summer Games in Albany.

See story on Page 34.

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# Spotlight

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VOLUME L NUMBER 25 75¢ JUNE 21, 2006

# Change in venue

## Judge orders Porco trial to Orange County

By JIM CUOZZO

So much for having to screen over 800 Albany County residents for potential jury selection in the Christopher Porco murder trial.

The Third Appellate District in Brooklyn has ordered the trial be moved to the Orange County town of Goshen, about two hours from the Capital District.

"I feel the Appellate Division made a very intelligent decision," said Judge Jeffrey Berry to the members of Albany County District Attorney's office and the defense team who were present in

Albany County Court on Thursday, June 15, the last day of pre-trial proceedings. Christopher Porco is charged with the murder of his father and the attempted murder of his mother.

"I was wondering if we would ever get a judge here," said Berry, who believes it will be no problem selecting people from Orange County to sit on the jury. "I may still do a



Christopher Porco

pre-screening process, but I don't think anybody in this county knows about this case." Berry believes he will only have to pre-screen 50 to 60 potential jurors when jury selection begins June 26.

It is Berry's opinion that the trial should not last longer than three or four weeks; however, if Thursday's court proceedings are anything like the up-

coming trial, it could take much longer.

"We have about 135 witnesses, and I do plan on calling a majority of them," said assistant district

□ Venue Page 35

## PBA backs deceased detective

By JIM CUOZZO

The president of Bethlehem Police Department's police benevolent association and members of the town police force gathered outside the station Tuesday, June 20, at 11 a.m. to defend the late Det. Anthony Arduini, a 31-year veteran of the Bethlehem Police Department who officers believe is having his reputation tarnished by Terence Kindlon. Kindlon is defending Christopher Porco, who is charged with the murder of his father, Peter Porco, and attempted murder of his mother, Joan Porco, on Nov. 15, 2004.

Scott Anson, PBA president, said Kindlon "crossed the line" when he accused the fallen detective of tampering with evidence in Porco's murder trial.

"He stepped over the line, he knows what the truth is, and he grossly distorted the facts," said Anson.

In pre-trial testimony, Kindlon stated that Arduini may have "tampered" with a toll ticket that

□ PBA Page 35



Last Thursday, Bethlehem residents marched from the middle school to the Four Corners in support of a yes vote on the school budget re-vote. Board president Dick Svenson addressed the crowd from the steps of Delmar Reformed Church. As of 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20, there was an 11 percent increase in the number of voters compared to the original budget. By that time, 800 people had already cast their ballots on a budget reduced by \$802,000 following defeat of the original budget on May 16, according to Fred Burdick, an election inspector for the district.

Lindsay Wilkinson

# Man protests reval with tea

## Drawing inspiration from the past, resident reacts to tax increase

By JIM CUOZZO

He wasn't throwing crates of tea over the side of a ship in Boston Harbor, instead Brendan Mooney staged his own 'Boston Tea Party' by quietly handing out tea bags outside town hall from his green minivan in protest of Bethlehem's reassessments.

"Fix the mistake before it's too late and impose a five year moratorium so town incomes can catch up with town taxes," urged

Mooney. He continued his plea in front of the town board urging residents to revolt like the forefathers of this country during the 'Boston Tea Party' when Americans rebelled against an unfair tax imposed by the British.

"Taxes are going to drive my husband and I out," said Slingerlands resident Ann Rinski. "I don't see how we can stay here." Selkirk resident George Lamora called the situation "a dirty rotten shame." "We bought the house we live in because my wife grew up in this area but when we retire, we're leaving," said Lamora.

□ Tea Page 35



A Town of Bethlehem taxpayer signs a petition submitted by resident Brendan Mooney protesting the Town's new assessments. Mooney attended the Town meeting passing out tea bags to residents and officials calling his protest The Bethlehem Tea Party.

Jim Cuozzo



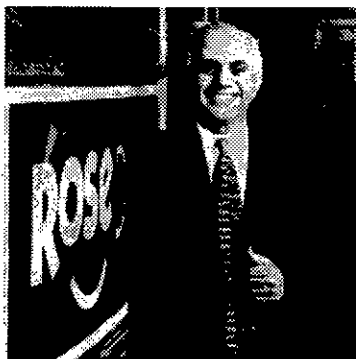
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## Two charged by police for bad check operation

The Bethlehem Police Department is currently investigating an operation involving bad checks. On Thursday, June 15, police arrested Eric T. Dawson, 29, and Lynn M. Edwards, 46, of Delaware Avenue, Albany on charges of petty larceny and issuing a bad check, both misdemeanors. According to police the two have been in the Albany area since April and have been involved in issuing bad checks at computer stores, electronic stores as well as other local merchants. Police are currently in possession of several hundred business

checks drawn on various financial institutions. The checks police say are in Dawson's or Edwards' name or in the business name of Dawson's Computer Service, 13 O'Connell Street, Albany or 202 Delaware Avenue. The investigation is ongoing with additional charges pending. Dawson was arraigned in Town Court and remanded to Albany County Correctional Facility on \$5000 bail. Edwards was released on her own recognizance. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Bethlehem Police Department or their local police department.

## Driver charged with DWI after one car accident

Bethlehem police charged a 41-year-old Catskill woman with DWI and felony aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. According to police, Kimberly Mary Heath of 25 Skinner Lane told police she fell asleep while driving her Ford Escort on Sunday, June 18, along Route 9W. Police report that Heath was observed crossing the yellow double line several times before her car struck a curb and a signpost then swerved across the road landing in a ditch.

Heath was not injured in the accident but police said she did fail all three field sobriety tests given by police. Heath was sent to Albany County jail in lieu of \$2,500 bail and was scheduled to appear in Town of Bethlehem Court June 20th.

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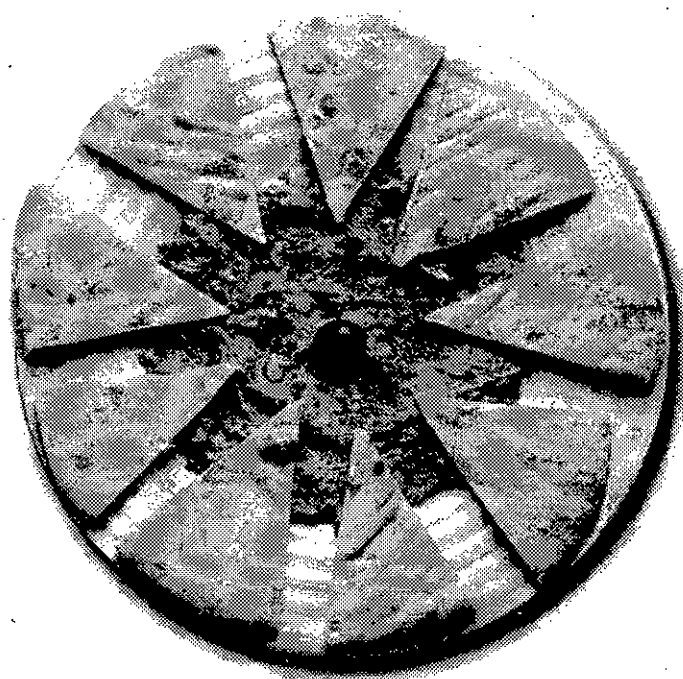
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## Delmar native directs Park Playhouse production

By JIM CUOZZO

Delmar native Owen Smith will be busier than most folks this summer. That's because Smith who is assistant producer of Washington Park Playhouse summer season will also be directing the Park Playhouse production of "Beauty and the Beast" premiering July 11.

"I think it has become a tradition for most people to go down to the park in summer and

***"I think it has become a tradition for most people to go down to the park in summer and watch the show."***

Owen Smith

watch the show," said Smith. "Into the Woods," and "Wizard of Oz," were two shows Smith directed the past two summers for Park Playhouse II - Youth Theatre Program. Although Smith currently lives most of the year in New York City he has spent the last 10 summers in Albany at Park Playhouse.

"I started in the Park Playhouse II Youth Theatre training program," said Smith. He worked at the Playhouse during summers off from college where he attended New Paltz. "I first worked as a general office assistant and executive assistant and from there, I began training to be a director," Smith said. "Though I still act and love to do both, I have been directing the past two years."

This summer is a Disney summer at the Park Playhouse with the Youth Theatre Program performing Disney's "Aladdin Jr.," and the Park Playhouse under Smith's direction performing "Beauty

and the Beast."

"Twenty-six people will be in the cast itself with a crew building the stage right now in Washington Park as we speak," said Smith. Rehearsals began in mid June and performers have about one month to work on their characters. For Smith, however, directing is a year-long process. There are the costumes, designs, stage, script review and revision and a myriad of other components that go into to putting on a successful play. "It's a lot of work, but it's nice to be back in the area," said Smith.

Smith grew up in Delmar and attended both St. Thomas the Apostle School and Bethlehem Central High School studying in the school's theater program. "Jim Yeara, Joe Farrell and Fran Coccozza were some of my teachers and influences on me at Bethlehem when I was in theater," said Smith. Even though directing is a difficult task, being back in the area for the summer is more relaxing and less stressful than working with a National Touring group of "Fiddler on the Roof" where Smith played the role of Constable.

"A lot of nights you shower, eat, sleep for 3 or 4 hours then go back on the bus and head to the next show," said Smith. "I had a seven month contract, and we traveled 45 states, the Park Playhouse feels like home compared to that," Smith added.

"Beauty and the Beast" will run from July 11, to Aug. 20, at the Park Playhouse with nightly performances Tuesday through Sunday at 8 p.m. The performances are held at the Lake House in Albany's Washington Park and amphitheatre seating is free.

Premium seats are available by calling 434-0776. All seating is free for Park Playhouse II-Youth Theatre Performance's of "Aladdin Jr."



Bethlehem Middle School Navy Sea Cadets Justin Folger and David Ridgeway raise the middle school flag on Flag Day June 14.  
Jim Cuozzo

## Honoring their country

### BC Navy Sea Cadets raise school Flag Day flag

By JIM CUOZZO

Two Navy Sea Cadets and students at Bethlehem Central Middle School were given the honor of raising the American Flag during Flag Day ceremonies held outside the school.

Justin Folger and David Ridgeway are participants in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The NSCC is a youth program for young Americans between the ages of 13 and 17. Active participants are taught patriotism, courage, self-reliance and other values while training at various sights across the country and even participating in a boot camp.

"I learned about the program from my grandfather," said Justin Folger, 14, who holds the rank of seaman apprentice. Justin said he would like to enter the military in a few years. "My mom agrees to

that as long as I go to the Naval Academy first," said Folger.

Folger is a seasoned Sea Cadet veteran having served in the program the past three years. Ridgeway, 13, is a seaman recruit and has been a Sea Cadet since January. "I'm enjoying the program," Ridgeway said. "I've learned a lot from it." The two local Sea Cadets have already participated in training and basic military drills at West Point. Sea Cadets usually meet once a month and are taught a broad range of subjects including the importance of strong maritime forces, naval history, seamanship, and other courses designed to enhance their skills if they decide to join one of the sea services of the military.

Cheryl Hoffarth and Jeannette Folger, the proud moms of the two local Sea Cadets were on hand to watch the raising of the

school's flag and take pictures of their sons in their Sea Cadet uniforms. "I am so proud of him that he has taken this responsibility on," said Hoffarth, the mother of David Ridgeway. "It's good that they try to instill morals and values in kids these days," Hoffarth added. Both Ridgeway and Folger participated in Troy's Flag Day ceremonies considered one of the biggest ceremonies in the nation. The local sponsor of Sea Cadets in the Capital Region is the State Department of Military and Naval Affairs headquartered in Latham.

Flag Day ceremonies are observed to commemorate the adoption of the official U.S. Flag in 1777. President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 established June 14, to be Flag Day in honor of this event. Only the state of Pennsylvania observes Flag Day as a federal holiday.

## Bethlehem team takes first place in Masterminds competition

Match to air on TV at end of June

By JIM CUOZZO

Bethlehem Central High School has the No. 1 team in New York in the academic Masterminds competition. The undefeated team won both the Capital Region playoffs and then the state competition against three other regions.

"I'm very excited," said Paul O' Reilly, high school biology teacher and team adviser who has

been mentoring the Bethlehem Masterminds team since its inception.

"It's wonderful to see them working together and teaching each other through the year with their knowledge," said O' Reilly.

Masterminds is a game show competition similar to television's Jeopardy, but in this case it is a team of students competing against another team. Twenty-eight teams comprise the Capital Region's Masterminds from area schools.

"The kids practiced every Friday in my room with a buzzer system and game type setting," said O' Reilly. The toughest match of the year was the regional final against a Saratoga team.

"They were very good and we won that match 265-250," said O' Reilly. "It was very high scoring and both teams were excellent."

Bethlehem's team has only one senior, Jacob Abolafia. The



Bethlehem's State Champion Mastermind Team: (From left to right) Liam Bowen, Mike Ernst, Bobby O' Connor, Coach Paul O' Reilly, Stefan Weijola, Maggie Chu, Dan Bell, Anna Scaife and Peter Bonventre.

rest of the team is made up of juniors who will be back to defend their title next year.

Captain Stefan Weijola was named tournament MVP and an MVP for his regular season play.

"Winning is pretty cool," said Weijola. "The state championship

presented a challenge because our senior and captain Jacob Abolafia couldn't make the tournament. Playing without your best player is tough but everyone stepped up to fill the void."

Abolafia was also named an All Star. No slouch himself, Weijola scored a perfect 2,400 on his SATs.

"Talent attracts talent and success breeds success," said O'

Reilly. "Once you get talented students involved, they attract other talented students and that leads to success." O' Reilly said one of the students on the team knows all the presidents of the United States by number. A Bethlehem High School Masterminds regular season match will be shown on Time Warner Cable's Channel 3 during the week of June 26.

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# Matters of Opinion *in the* Spotlight

## Attention shoppers

It's remarkable to witness just how retailers would have us celebrate the holidays.

Last week, many of the area's larger stores were pumping lots of energy into making Father's Day a big day for big things that cost a lot of money. All kinds of big shiny tools peppered the aisles for as far as the eye could see. Pictures of happy dads with safety glasses on the box indicated just how delighted dad would be to have this or that big tool in his workshop, even if it's just a corner in the garage or basement. Surely dad would be disappointed if he were passed by on this wonderful opportunity. The word guilt doesn't even need to be written anywhere on the box.

Fourth of July will bring even more gadgets with something (expensive) for everyone in entire family. Subliminal messages — like you're an unpatriotic slob — draw us to everything red, white and blue — from a colorful outdoor table ensemble to a sassy patriotic pool liner.

Of course ride-on mowers are a must, and wouldn't it be perfect to have a decorative red, white and blue ribbon on it when dad first sees his new must-have?

Some folks buy into the shopping so completely that they even choose to miss the holiday, whatever it happens to be, and flock to the malls for more bargains on the day itself.

Kids must have a skewed idea of what the whole deal is all about. If you ask what Fourth of July stands for, you'll likely get an answer that it's 40 percent off day at the mall for all red, white and blue items.

We've gotten used to this brouhaha around the "major" holidays like Hanukkah and Christmas, when the sky's the limit in terms of cost.

Still, we wonder just how much more the holiday traffic will bear.

For the holiday weary, August is the only holiday-free month and should save us a bundle technically — except buying going back to school clothes and supplies is almost like a holiday.

Problem is we already owe so much, our credit cards are almost maxed out and Labor Day is just around the corner. But wait, isn't that when the malls offer 50 percent savings on everything, no matter what color it is?

## Editorial

## It's time for alternative fuels

By JAMES TEDISCO

*The writer, a Republican from Schenectady, is the minority leader of the state Assembly.*

Since June 1, motorists have been saving between \$.04 and \$.10 per gallon when they fill their vehicles up at the pump, thanks to a new law that caps the state sales tax at \$2 (county governments have the option of doing the same and many are). This represents the first step of the two-step plan that the Assembly Republican Conference introduced on April 26 to bring relief to motorists suffering from skyrocketing gas prices.

Capping the sales tax was the morally correct thing to do. Of the seven different taxes on a gallon of gasoline in New York state, the sales tax was the only tax that was pegged to the price of gas, meaning that as motorists struggled to pay higher fuel prices, the state was reaping an unanticipated windfall.

The second step in our plan represents our long-term solution to high gas prices. It calls for using half of the remaining sales tax revenue on gasoline to create the "Alternative Fuel Incentive Fund." The fund would provide tax credits, grants, investments and other incentives to encourage ownership of hybrid and flex-fuel vehicles and the building of alternative fueling stations and refineries to expand the availability of these fuels in New York.

Accelerating the transition to alternative fuels would lower fuel costs through lessened demand for gasoline, as well as provide for a cleaner environment, more agricultural jobs, more manufacturing jobs and greater national security through greater energy independence.

There are many theories as to why gas prices have skyrocketed the way they have: lack of refining capacity; price gouging from the oil companies and gas retailers; discontinued use of the

## Point of View

additive MTBE; growing demand from India and China; and geopolitical situations in Iran, Nigeria, Venezuela and Iraq.

It could be any one of those. It could be all of them.

However, the fact remains that the United States is the top

of a cellulosic ethanol refinery (Cellulosic sources for ethanol are: corn stalks, switchgrass, sawdust, paper pulp).

• \$30 million for research and development.

Currently, there are about 50 models of vehicles representing more than 5 million cars on the road that can use E-85 fuel, a fuel that is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline (to see if your vehicle can take E-85 go to

**Hydrogen-powered vehicles are most likely the long-term solution, but hybrid vehicles, flex-fuel vehicles, ethanol fuel, bio-diesel and other alternative fuels are available now and should serve as the bridge to begin the transition from Point A to Point B.**

consumer of oil worldwide, consuming 300 times more than China, the second largest oil-consuming nation. That makes us far too dependent on foreign oil, market disruptions and supply and demand shifts.

The best thing our state and our nation can do to address these issues is to transition to homegrown alternative fuels.

We must accelerate the transition away from our dependency on foreign oil.

Hydrogen-powered vehicles are most likely the long-term solution, but hybrid vehicles, flex-fuel vehicles, ethanol fuel, bio-diesel and other alternative fuels are available now and should serve as the bridge to begin the transition from Point A to Point B.

The \$265 million annual investment in the Alternative Fuel Incentive

Fund would go toward:

- \$500 tax credit for the purchase of a hybrid or "flex-fuel" vehicle.
- A tax credit equal to 30 percent of the costs associated with putting in an alternative fueling pump at a gas station.
- \$27 million to provide each of the 27 state Thruway stops with alternative fueling stations.
- Elimination of the state and local sales tax and motor fuel excise tax on alternative fuels.
- \$20 million for construction

www.E85fuel.com <<http://www.e85fuel.com/>>.

The big problem is that the owners of these vehicles have nowhere to go in New York to purchase E-85. To get the ball rolling, we are proposing to open up the six current E-85 state-owned fueling stations for public access. We also need to offer the 30 percent tax credit to gas retailers who put up an E-85 pump ("If you build it ... they will come").

Once there are enough E-85 pumps available, with the tax-free fuel being significantly cheaper than gasoline, supply and demand economics will take over accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels, lowering the costs for both gasoline (once demand is lessened) and alternative fuels such as E-85 (once supply is increased).

This transition must be a top priority of this state and the nation. Only then can we begin to regain control of the situation and not be beholden to the painful cycles that have gripped our nation periodically ever since the gas shortages of the 1970s.

The Alternative Fuel Incentive Fund is a winner all around and it must be an essential part of our strategy to combat high gas prices.

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# Matters of Opinion *in the* Spotlight

## RCS says thanks for support

Editor, The Spotlight:

On behalf of the RCS board of education and the entire school district, I would like to thank the many volunteers and community members who came together on May 31 to deliver an important message to the juniors and seniors of the high school.

The participation of the Ravena Fire Co., Ravena Rescue Squad, Coeymans Police Department, Albany County Sheriff's Department, Ravena town

justices George Dardani and Virginia Pearson and the Babcock Funeral Home in a mock DWI crash at the high school was pivotal to getting the message out about the dangers of youth and all face in making a wrong decision.

Their continued support of the school district and the community is greatly appreciated.

Vicki A. Wright

Ravena Coeymans Selkirk School Superintendent

## Audubon should be course steward

Editor, The Spotlight:

Colonial Acres golf course is a shining example of how physical recreation and environmental stewardship can be mutually inclusive.

Give credit to the owners of the course, superintendent Patrick Blum, and to Ronald Dodson, president and CEO of Audubon International for working together to develop a recreational environment that allows for the coexistence of animal, plant and people; a desirable alternative to "forever wild."

An intriguing idea is that Audubon International should buy the 33-acre golf course and

operate it as a nonprofit activity. Greens fees would sustain the preservation of the wildlife habitat in keeping with Audubon's mission, and it could add income for its other good works.

Financing for the purchase would be backed by a reputable national organization; the many townspeople who have petitioned the town for the course's preservation would undoubtedly be financial contributors and subscribers.

The many service clubs in town would enjoy volunteering for some of the maintenance and development.

The town youth recreational

program would provide paid learning golfers. EnCon and EPA would likely provide grants. The industries in town—GE, Corning, National Grid, Air Products and others — would contribute to a charitable organization committed to environmentalism.

The town is sounding like a financial shortfall is looming in the future; the school budget went down because of a large budget increase; homeowners are reeling from reassessment in a bubble housing market and the cost of energy has increased prices of necessities. The town can't afford to buy the course.

To be profitable, a golf course needs a restaurant and a bar. And that just isn't going to happen at Colonial Acres. If the town were to get into the golf course business, it should consider an 18-hole course with full amenities.

If ever Normanside becomes available, the town should jump at the chance to acquire this first-class recreational wildlife habitat.

But Audubon could make Colonial Acres work as a nonprofit operation and everyone wins.

John T. LaForte  
Delmar

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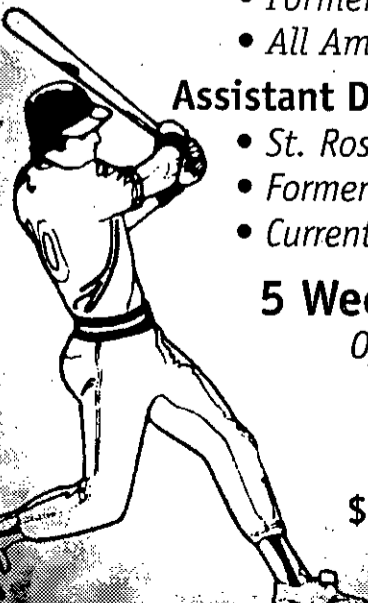
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# Your Opinion *in the* Spotlight

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In memory of my father, Donald Bradt, Dec. 9, 1905 – Feb. 11, 1992.

For My Dad  
If I could pick a father  
Out of all the ones there are  
I'd pick and chose and then  
réfue

Cause you're thè best by far  
You are tall and debonair  
And very distinguished too  
But they are not the reasons  
Why I'm in love with you.  
Come back with me in time  
Before I can remember  
How happy you must have  
been

When first announced my  
"gender"  
Sitting on your lap, hearing  
stories told

But now I guess for that I am  
too old

Cutting my bangs, piggy back  
rides

Thistle, my dog and I would  
hide

My playhouse, my blue bicycle  
You never denied me any  
popcycle

The pictures you took every  
step of the way

I can smile and say: That's my  
Dad today

When I hurt myself you held  
me tight

You kept the boogieman away  
at night

Kisses at night while in your  
uniform

I thought my Dad could do no  
wrong

The mosquitoes you drove  
away with your pipe

Special gifts for my teachers,  
so well liked

Giving rides for my friends  
after a dance

Never gave the other parents  
a chance

My horse that you bought and  
we rode

That you took care of land later

sold

Always giving never asking a  
return

I never thought I would ever  
yearn to be a little girl again

When you hurt I hurt too, then  
I wondered

What would I do without you?

My mom and my brothers two

All love being with you

My Daddy and I grew up  
together

Never a man I could ever love  
like I love my Dad —

Deborah VanWie  
Clarksville

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# Public waits to hear evidence ruling

## Lawyers know what will be admitted in the Porco trial

By JIM CUOZZO

A toll ticket, a videotape, a nod, and a Miranda Rights issue are at the heart of the evidence being decided in the murder trial of Christopher Porco.

Porco is charged with killing his father Peter Porco and attempting to murder his mother Joan Porco with a fireman's ax as they were sleeping in their bedroom the early morning hours of Nov. 15, 2004 on Brockley Drive in Delmar.

The prosecution team, led by Albany County Assistant District Attorney Michael McDermott, believes Porco drove from the University of Rochester late Sunday night, Nov. 14, 2004, arriving in Delmar in the early morning hours of Nov. 15, cut the wires to the home security alarm and went upstairs while his parents were sleeping to attack them.

Judge Jeffrey Berry has already told both prosecutors and the defense team led by Terence Kindlon what evidence can stay and what can be thrown out when the trial begins in July. At *The Spotlight's* press time this week, the decisions had not yet been made public.

It is believed a six-and-a-half hour videotape made by Bethlehem Police the night after the killings will be excluded by

the judge. The taped interrogation was made inside the squad room of the police department after Christopher Porco voluntarily decided to meet with police after arriving at Albany Medical Center to see his mother Joan who was in critical condition at the hospital. Porco was never read his full Miranda Rights but initialed a document given to him by police advising him of his rights. A lawyer and close friend of Peter Porco, John Polster, told the court during pre-trial testimony he was acting as Porco's attorney at the time of the interrogation and was

## Porco



not allowed to see his client. Police maintain that on the videotape Porco denied having an attorney.

Another new key piece of evidence is a toll ticket that prosecutors believe matches the ticket Porco used to drive from Rochester to Albany and back the night of the murder. In a year and a half time span, the ticket has traveled from the Rochester toll booth to the Albany Thruway Authority Headquarters, to a State Police lab for DNA testing back to the Bethlehem Police Department where it sat sealed in an evidence room before reappearing in a lab in

Pennsylvania for more DNA testing this year. Initial DNA tests were not conclusive but a later mitochondrial DNA test matches Porco's fingerprints, according to prosecutors. Mitochondrial DNA links people to their mothers. Kindlon is alleging that the late Anthony Arduini, a police detective with the Bethlehem Department, tampered with the toll ticket evidence by showing it to potential witnesses working at the Thruway Authority while investigating the crime.

"I don't want to sound like some wild-eyed conspiracy theorist but sometimes evidence gets planted," Kindlon told the judge. "We have grave concerns that Det. Arduini may have contaminated that ticket with DNA he had from Christopher's shirt." The shirt Porco was wearing was taken as evidence the night police questioned him.

The reason Kindlon believes this is because Porco dated both of Arduini's daughters and was dating the younger daughter at the time of the attack.

"We know that the morning of the murder Det. Arduini went directly to Bethlehem High School to see if his youngest daughter Chelsea hadn't run away with Christopher," said Kindlon.

Arduini recently died and Assistant D.A. McDermott called Kindlon's allegations "reprehensible."

"Det. Arduini had nothing to do with that ticket," McDermott said.

Another key piece of evidence witnessed by four people the morning after the attacks is that Joan Porco may have nodded 'Yes' when asked by police whether her son Christopher had committed the crime. That evidence along with other circumstantial evidence involving Christopher Porco's financial affairs and prior robberies of the Porco family home leading up to the attacks is considered key for the prosecution. Jury selection

begins in Orange County on June 26, and the trial begins immediately after the jury is seated. The trial was moved out of Albany County because of a crush of pre-trial publicity. The anticipated extra costs to Albany County because of the trial being moved is expected to be around \$300,000.

When Christopher Porco's trial begins, *The Spotlight* will have daily coverage of it on its Web site, [www.spotlightnews.com](http://www.spotlightnews.com).

## Summer reading for adults, young adults starts next week

"Basking in Books," a summer reading program for adults and high school students, begins next Monday. From June 26 to Aug. 18, you are invited to read any and all types of books, in any form — print or large-print, cassette or CD, or downloadable.

If you wish, you can fill out a comment slip for each book you read. Slips will be posted, so that readers' comments can be shared. Each slip will be entered in a weekly drawing for prizes from local merchants.

This is a great opportunity to share your love of books with your friends and neighbors. Some of the Bethlehem merchants supporting this new venture are: Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, Delmar Marketplace, Gold Coin, I Love Books, Mr. Subb, Perfect Blend and Prestige Photo.

For information on how your business can support "Basking in Books," contact adult services librarian Meryl Norek at 439-9314 ext. 3029.

### Summer reading for kids and teens

Children in kindergarten through grade eight can register for "Books, A Treasure" at the library beginning next Monday, June 26. Besides reading and reporting on books, participants will enjoy special events, craft and writing workshops, book discussions, cooking classes, prizes and games. Look



for details in the July/August edition of footnotes, the library newsletter mailed to all households in the Bethlehem Central School District.

### Evening book discussion

AfterDinner Books gets together for its last meeting of the season at 7 p.m. tonight. The topic is *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* by John Perkins.

AfterDinner Books and its companion group, DayBooks, resume this fall.

AfterDinner Books and DayBooks meet once a month from September to June. New members are always welcome in both groups; it is not necessary to preregister. Copies of the book under discussion can be picked up at the information desk; large-print, CD and downloadable versions are often available.

Next season's books will be listed in the September/October edition of the newsletter.

Louise Grieco

• All library programming is free and open to the public. The Bethlehem Public Library is located at 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar. For information, call 439-9314.

## Books, ice cream focus of event

Make your own gooey ice cream sundaes and listen to a talk about the very best books to read this summer Thursday, June 29, at 7 p.m. There will be door prizes, a craft table and an "I Spy" game.

### Summer reading sign up

Summer reading program registration is going on now. Stop in and receive your reading packet and learn about the fun and fascinating summer plans we have. As well as reading rewards, special events, Cook's Club and an author visit, we are offering Teen Nights, stories in the Village Park, and — brand new this year — a Junior Nimblefingers group for young people to join the experienced crafters to work on projects. Expect a grand kickoff event July 6. It is all free, and it's all fun.

### Censorship

Selections from an exhibit circulating from the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship are on display in the hall gallery for



a limited time this month. Read the stories behind the efforts to remove certain books and materials from school and library shelves. Controversy has raged over such issues as teen magazines, Internet access, AIDS and sex education.

### Summer concerts

Mark these dates: July 12, The GTOs; July 26, Dyer Switch Band; Aug. 9 Annie and the Hedonists.

### Storytimes

Regular storytimes resume July 11.

Barbara Vink

• All library programming is free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. Voorheesville Public Library is located at 51 School Road, Voorheesville. For information, call 765-2791 or visit [www.voorheesvillelibrary.org](http://www.voorheesvillelibrary.org).



# July 4th Advertising Deadlines

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## Spotlight

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# Finance *in the* Spotlight

## Surviving college: a parental guide to a strong financial future

By Anthony J. Lanzillo,  
Senior Vice President,  
Retail Banking, KeyBank

**F**or parents of high school seniors, June is a month of conflicting emotion. There is pride for what your child has accomplished, excitement for their future and fear of letting go. In many ways, the tossing into the air of their graduation cap is, for many kids, symbolic of their flight away from home toward college and a life beyond parental supervision.

It's no wonder then, that parents of soon-to-be college freshmen fill the months after high school graduation with advice and warnings for their children: go to class; get to know

your professors and academic advisor; don't procrastinate; maintain a healthy diet; persevere through homesickness; don't travel alone at night; don't accept drinks from anyone; and the list goes on and on. Often included in that list but many times at the bottom is "be responsible with money." It should be at the very top.

### Financial Responsibility

Anyone familiar with today's college campus realizes that students are considered a prime consumer market. Credit card companies with enticing giveaways at the college gates are now as common a sight on campus as kids playing Frisbee and reading in the commons outside the student union. The reason they're there: to give

students spending power. The reason they're dangerous: many students have poor financial management skills and dig themselves into overwhelming debt, which haunts them for years.

However, in the hands of a financially literate student, securing a credit card is about much more than buying clothes, CDs or a Playstation. A credit card is a tool to begin building a financial future and developing a strong credit rating, which is as important to early success and opportunity as a good job. In fact, the difference between poor credit, good credit and excellent credit can be the difference between the type of housing your child will have access to, the type of job he or she may be able to

work and thousands upon thousands of dollars in increased interest when financing a car, house or any other large expense.

So, how can you help your child be credit smart beyond encouraging them to keep their balances low and make timely payments? There are a number of ways. Advise them to:

- compare fees because various card providers charge different credit fees to the user (for example, annual fees, transaction fees, late fees and over-limit fees);
- understand how the card provider calculates interest.
- read their monthly statements; and
- pay more than the minimum balance.

Additionally important is to steer children toward financial responsibility before they ever enter the doors of academia. While in high school you should have your child open a checking and savings account to learn how to manage money. You should promote financial independence by encouraging your son or daughter to work and save a portion of the money earned. This will prepare them for real jobs that offer 401(k) plans. Studies show that young professionals do not take full advantage of matching funds when available. This is throwing away free money. Children who learn to be smart savers at a young age often carry this characteristic into their adult lives.

Also emphasize the importance of maintaining strong credit, which includes protecting themselves from identity theft and monitoring their credit report. They can do this by:

- reviewing all bank and credit card statements;
- shredding all financial information before discarding, including all mailed financial offers (invest in a cross-cut shredder your child can bring with them to college);
- ordering merchandise online only from secure Web sites identified with the Verisign or Entrust seals of approval;
- updating computer virus protections and never downloading files sent by strangers;
- photocopying all credit and debit cards and securely storing copies and phone numbers for canceling stolen cards; and
- checking credit reports annually (a free annual credit report is available online at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) or by calling 877-322-8228)

### Short- and Long-term Planning

Parents can also teach children a valuable lesson by beginning to plan for college expenses when their children are still young. In addition to reducing the amount of money that students will need to borrow to pay for their

education—and by extension the amount of debt they will graduate with—early planning demonstrates to children that planning is an important aspect of managing finances.

### 529 College Savings Plans, for example, allow

contributors to save and invest on a tax-deferred basis, with the contributions treated as gifts for federal tax purposes.

Making your children assume some responsibility for financing their own education, either through work-study programs or summer jobs, is also important. They can

also reduce the cost of education by investigating scholarship and grant options during the admissions process. (For the sake of leaving no stone unturned, it is in your best interest to be part of this investigation.)

More important, make your children responsible for their monetary decisions. Before they leave for college, work with them to develop a realistic spending plan. You can attempt to remove their need to apply for their own credit card by sending them off to college with a low-limit card that you can monitor. You can also promote smart spending by providing them with a debit card that you can channel money into as needed and as the spending plan dictates.

### Realistic Expectations

In 2005, young professionals, those graduating from colleges, began their careers and adult lives with debts averaging \$17,000 to \$20,000 in student loans and nearly \$3,000 in credit card debt. Many students believe that walking away with a college degree from a reputable university secures their future. The reality is that more and more companies look more closely at the individuals they hire than the universities they attended. This includes background checks and pulling credit reports. And the bottom line is that all things being equal, a company is going to hire an individual who has demonstrated an ability to manage money wisely in college over someone who has not. In fact, studies have shown that people with strong credit scores and low debt are better employees than people with poor credit and high debt.

Unfortunately, making an eighteen-year-old, eager-to-conquer-the-world young adult see the long-range implications of all of this is difficult. As parents, we have a responsibility to be at least a persistently reminding thorn in their side. After all, we send our children to college to get ahead in life—not to fall behind.

**About the author:** Anthony Lanzillo is senior vice president of KeyBank and heads the Capital Region's Retail Banking team. He can be reached at 518-257-8598 or [anthony\\_lanzillo@keybank.com](mailto:anthony_lanzillo@keybank.com).



Anthony Lanzillo

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## IN BRIEF

**Historical museum to open for visitors**

This summer, as in past summers, the Bethlehem Historical Association will be open for visitors on Sunday

afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. during July and August. Visitors to the museum at the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse 1003 River Road, Selkirk, will see an exhibit of local artifacts. The theme of this summer's exhibit is "Colonial Life

in America."

To open the exhibit the Bethlehem Historical Association will hold an open house on Sunday, June 25, from 2 to 4 p.m.

For information, call 767-9432 or 439-7470.

**Alcott takes office as president of bar association**

Mark H. Alcott, a senior

litigation partner with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, has assumed the office of president of the New York State Bar Association, becoming the leader of the 72,000 member Association, the nation's largest voluntary state bar.

Alcott has extensive experience handling a wide range of major cases, in both state and federal courts in New York and throughout the United States as well as abroad and lives in Larchmont.

**Jane King leaves BCHS 'Lab School'**

By JIM CUOZZO

Jane King, co-coordinator of Bethlehem Central High School's 'Lab School' and science teacher in the district since 1982, will be retiring this month.

King will be accepting a new private sector position as associate director of curriculum development for Medical Health Sciences based in Clifton Park.

A teacher since 1973, King said she has spent every year of her life inside a classroom since she was 5 years old and is leaving the school district with mixed emotions.

"It has been a great experience since day one, but leaving after 33 years is really strange," said King. "It's absolutely the hardest part about this."

Bethlehem's 'Lab School' is an innovative curriculum brought to the community in the early 90s by former Bethlehem school teacher James Nehring. Thirty students each year are selected for 'Lab School' designed to allow students independent research in a smaller setting, like a school within a school.

"I was a teacher at the school when I heard about this program and contacted Mr. Nehring and asked if I could join his team," said King. After two years of planning the first 'Lab School' class began in 1993. The curriculum is Regents based with plenty of research and even internships to keep the student busy.

"Our kids are wonderful writers, confident speakers," said King. "They do a lot of research." King said because 'Lab School' students stay within the same structure all four years there is greater interaction between parent, teacher and student. "They really get to know each other," said King.

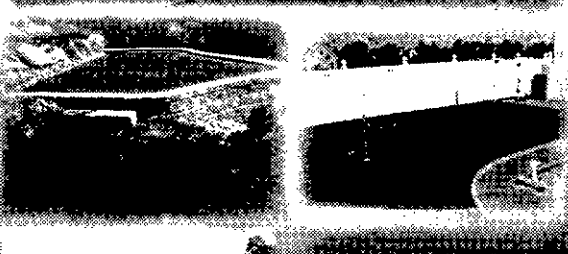
Her new job will offer her an opportunity to apply everything she has gained from her teaching experiences for a national company.

"This is an absolutely wonderful opportunity for a teacher that you don't often get," said King.

Superintendent Les Loomis said the 'Lab School' is a unique concept in the Capital District because of its success.

"Jane King has been a real force in the development and success of 'Lab School,'" said Loomis. "She has combined her special skills as a teacher, her love of students and her vision for the 'Lab School' as a program to create a good deal of success for an innovative concept."

King said the school district has been very supportive of the concept since its inception. "Our teaching techniques are different," King said. "The more time a student spends in 'Lab School,' the more you feel the difference." King's last day of classes was June 13. A picnic was held in her honor by parents and 'Lab School' alumni at Thacher Park. They presented King with a proclamation for her years of service to the school district signed by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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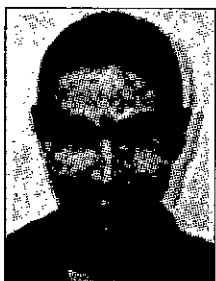
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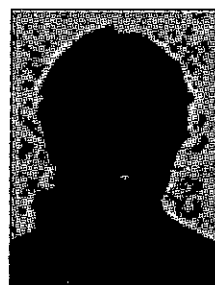
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# Landmark business celebrates 80 years of serving the community

By JIM CUOZZO

There's family run businesses and then there's the family business. Eighty years of working in the Bethlehem community through three generations since 1926 and living in the first homes that you and your father both built is something Harold Geurtze Jr. is quite proud of.

"The business began when my dad built the first home at 9 Burhans Place (Delmar), where I was born," said Harold Geurtze Jr. His father sold the home before it was finished and then bought a lot at 110 Adams Place and moved there in 1927. He continued to build homes while his son helped out after school and weekends until a home at 21 Woodridge Road was purchased and remodeled in 1940. "We built about 20 homes in that vicinity and around Greenleaf Drive with another 30 homes built around Poplar Drive," said Geurtze. "I built my first house in 1949 while I was going to college."

Over the next 20 years, more Geurtze-built homes popped up

around Delmar.

"The company just kind of evolved by word of mouth from residents," said Geurtze, who continued the family business after his dad, Harold Sr., died in 1960. Geurtze entered into a partnership with John Mooney, who began working with the company in the early 1950s as the business began to change from one of home building to home remodeling and renovations, which is the core business today.

"We are still family owned and operated now in the third generation," said Patrick Mooney, who now owns the business with

his brother Mike and father John. Harold Geurtze Jr. retired in 1992.

"I am proud to keep the tradition going, it makes me feel good," said Mooney.

The business continues to grow with new customers as the community expands and the company reputation grows.

"We now do work not only in Delmar but in Loudonville and for people who move away from Delmar and purchase a home in a new location," said Mooney.

Geurtze Builders celebrated its 80th anniversary earlier this month. Many current and former

employees met to talk about the long-standing business and to reminisce about old times. In 1964, Geurtze and Mooney bought land and built the first automated car wash in the area that still operates today along Route 9W. For \$1 you would receive the full wash and 25 cents would get you a few minutes in the self-service bay.

"We worked 10 hours a day

building homes and then went to the car wash at night," said Geurtze.

Realtors used to promote a Geurtze house when selling one of their homes in the community.

"They learned that our homes were well-built homes," said Geurtze. The family operation moved out to 230 Delaware Ave. where it is today.

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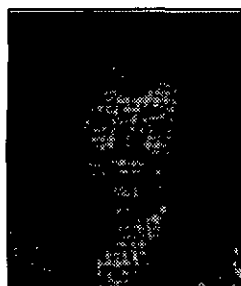
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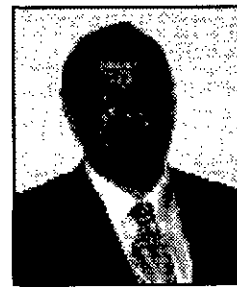
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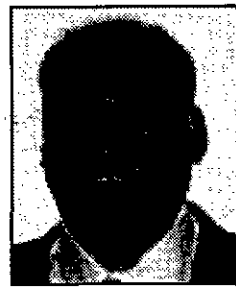
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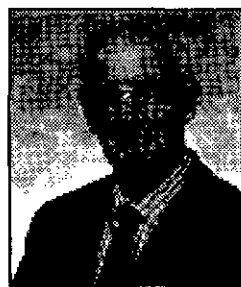
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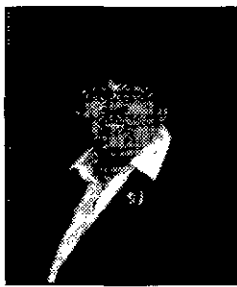
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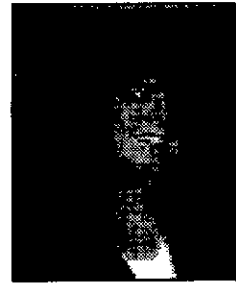
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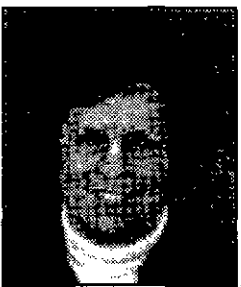
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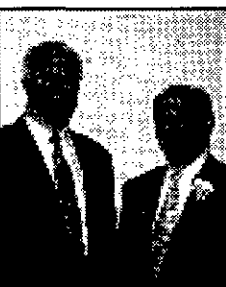
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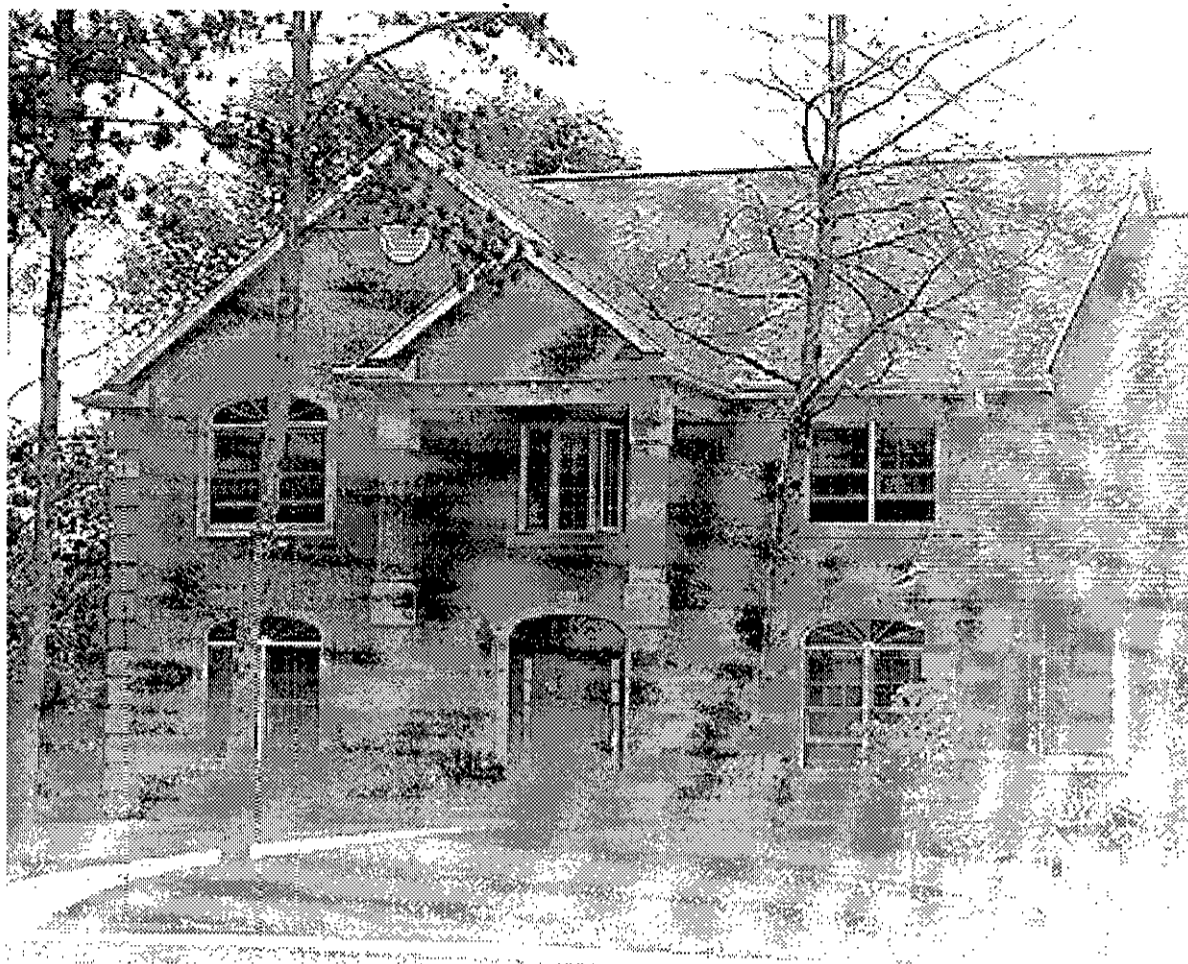
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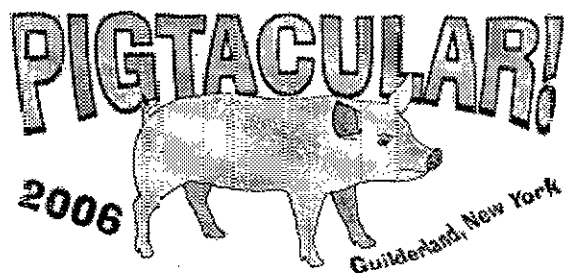
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# Use Your Power To Choose.

In New York's new competitive energy marketplace, you no longer have to buy your electricity and natural gas only from your local utility. Instead, you can shop among the new Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) that are competing for your business. This change should bring efficiencies and innovations that will give you better value for your energy dollar.

The combined services once offered by your utility have been split into two parts — supply and delivery, with the supply portion open to competition. You can choose to switch to an ESCO or continue buying your energy supply from your utility.

Regardless of where you buy your supply, your utility will still deliver energy to you through their existing wires and pipes. The safety and reliability you depend on won't change, and you'll still call your utility during emergencies or service interruptions.

## A new choice for your energy supply

When you shop for electricity, you can now consider selecting Green Power providers for some or all of your supply.

Green Power providers supply environmentally friendly electricity generated from renewable fuel sources such as solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and low-impact or small hydro. For only a few pennies more a day, you can choose Green Power and make a world of difference for generations to come.

## The Environmental Disclosure Label

Another benefit of New York's competitive market is that you now have access to information that lets you assess the environmental impacts of the energy you buy. Twice a year in your electric bill you receive an Environmental Disclosure Label showing the mix of fuels used to generate your electricity and the related air emissions. Knowing about electricity generation, fuel sources and their environmental impacts will help you make informed choices. You can also receive this information by visiting [www.PowerToChooseNY.com](http://www.PowerToChooseNY.com) and entering your zip code.

## Strength in numbers

Purchasing electricity and gas with others, called "aggregation," gives your group

greater buying power and may save you money. For example, the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) members (municipalities and school districts in Central New York) saved approximately \$2.7 million on their electric bills last year, which translates into average savings of 12%. The Council of Industry's Electricity Aggregation Group, representing more than 40 members, saved approximately \$1 million in 2005, representing a savings of 10%. You may belong to a community or business association that can coordinate with ESCOs for the best package of prices and services. For a sample of a Request for Proposal for Bids for your group's use, go to [www.PowerToChooseNY.com](http://www.PowerToChooseNY.com) and click on Contact Us and send us an e-mail, or call us at 518-474-1540.

## Choosing a supplier

To shop for an ESCO, evaluate their offerings, compare them with your utility's offering, and decide which is best for you. You should:

1. Call your utility or the Public Service Commission at 1-888-Ask-PSC1 (1-888-275-7721) for ESCOs serving your area. Or go to

[www.PowerToChooseNY.com](http://www.PowerToChooseNY.com) or your utility's Web site for a list, and then call the companies. The ESCOs and their offers do change, so continue to check periodically.

2. Compare prices, services and terms offered.
3. Consider customer services such as toll-free numbers, Web sites and complaint handling.
4. Check out billing and payment options.
5. Confirm the details of the agreement.
6. Choose your supplier and monitor your bills and service. If you are not satisfied, you can switch back to your utility or to another ESCO, subject to any applicable contract terms.

For a list of ESCOs and more information, visit the Public Service Commission Web site at [www.PowerToChooseNY.com](http://www.PowerToChooseNY.com), call 1-888-Ask-PSC1 (1-888-275-7721) or contact your local utility listed below:

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**Consolidated Edison**  
1-800-780-2884  
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**KeySpan Energy Delivery**  
718-643-4050 (New York City)  
1-800-930-5003 (Long Island)  
[www.keysenergy.com](http://www.keysenergy.com)

**National Fuel Gas**  
1-800-365-3234  
[www.natfuel.com](http://www.natfuel.com)

**National Grid**  
1-800-642-4272  
[www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com)

**New York State Electric & Gas**  
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[www.nyseg.com](http://www.nyseg.com)

**Orange and Rockland**  
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[www.oru.com](http://www.oru.com)

**Rochester Gas & Electric**  
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[www.rge.com](http://www.rge.com)

**Customers of Long Island Power Authority (LIPA)**  
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George E. Pataki, Governor

# Use Your Power To Choose your energy supplier.

**In the past, you had no choice of who provided you with your natural gas and electricity supply – it was your local utility.**

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In New York State, companies other than your local utility, called Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), are competing to provide you with electricity and natural gas. No matter which supplier you choose, your utility will still deliver your energy safely and reliably, and respond to emergencies.

## Why Choose an ESCO?

Competition gives you greater choice and better value for your energy dollar in purchasing energy products and services, including:

**Fixed Pricing** – Some ESCOs offer a fixed price for your natural gas or electricity supply.

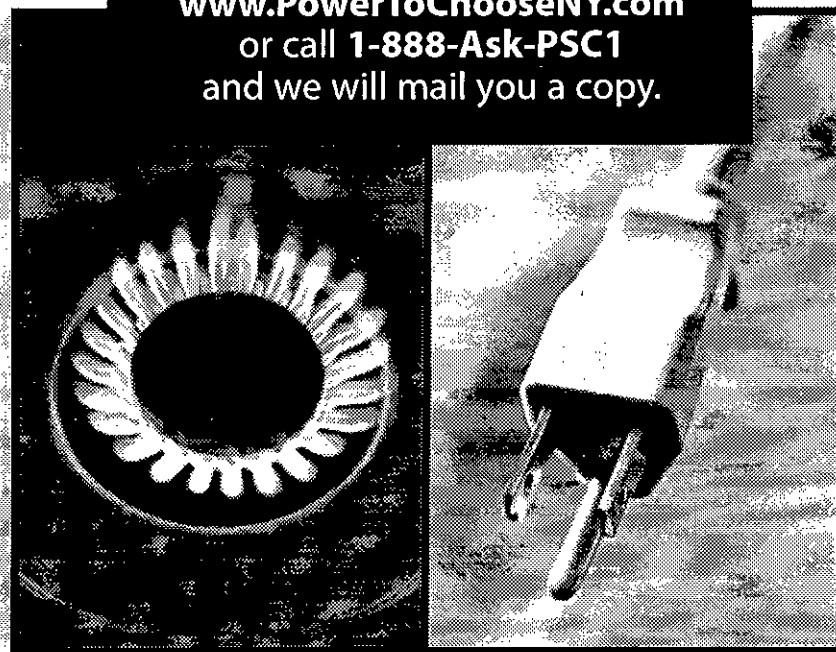
**Variable or Capped Pricing** – You may see a variety of offers from ESCOs, including a variable price and capped pricing mechanisms tailored to meet your individual needs.

**Green Power** – Some ESCOs offer products from renewable energy sources that are environmentally friendly such as solar, wind, biomass, and hydropower. New York State and the Public Service Commission have made a commitment to promote the use of Green Power and foster the development of renewable energy generation resources. Purchasing Green Power helps the environment and encourages alternative power generation.

**Other Value Added Benefits** – Ask about other options including appliance repair, service contracts, and other benefits.

**Join the over one million New Yorkers who have already made the choice to switch to an ESCO!**

For an energy supplier guide, visit  
**[www.PowerToChooseNY.com](http://www.PowerToChooseNY.com)**  
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**New York State Public Service Commission**  
Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223  
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**1-888-Ask-PSC1 • [www.PowerToChooseNY.com](http://www.PowerToChooseNY.com)**

# Voorheesville Recreation programs planned for summer

The Village of Voorheesville will be holding its summer recreation program again this year geared for students in kindergarten through grade eight. Information about specific program dates, locations and age requirements for each activity is available on the registration form at the Village Office, 29 Voorheesville Ave.

**NEWS NOTES**

**Voorheesville**  
Betsy Glath  
765-4415



Completed registration forms and payment must be returned by Friday, June 23.

The program has a \$5 fee for all children who are residents of the village of Voorheesville and the fee for those outside the village has increased to \$10 a child. This fee will help defray program expenses and covers participation in all summer recreation programs. For information, call the village office at 765-2692.

ages 7 and older. In the event of inclement weather, plan to meet at 9:30 a.m. the following day. For information, call 872-1237. • Stargazing will be held at Thacher Nature Center on Saturday, June 24, at 8 p.m. Join amateur astronomer Ken Dubois near the Nature Center parking lot. Cloudy skies will cancel the program. For information, call 872-0800.

• A bird walk with Jocelyn Calkins will be held on Saturday, June 24, at 7:30 a.m. at Thacher Nature Center. For information, call 872-0800.

### Thacher plans summer programs

The weekly Thacher Park walk in the woods will meet Thursday, June 22, at 9:30 a.m. at the Paint Mine Picnic area. The walk is appropriate for

### Beach to reopen at Thompson's Lake

Due to unusually heavy rainfall this spring the beach has been closed at Thompson's Lake. The beach due to open June 24. For information, call Chris Fallon at 872-1237.

### Heldeberg Workshop set for registration

The Heldeberg Workshop is open for registration. Registration forms can be obtained on the Web site at <http://heldebergworkshop.org> or for information, call at 765-2777. All classes must be received at least one week before the start of the class and enrollment is on a "first come first serve" basis.

### Summer programs offered by town of New Scotland

The town of New Scotland is offering summer programs for children in kindergarten through grade four—tiny tots coop ages 3-5, archery for grades five through eight, boys lacrosse for grades four through nine, drama camps for kindergarten through grade eight, art camps for kindergarten through grade eight, mixed sports camp for grades one through eight, boys and girls basketball for grades four through six, coed basketball for grades seven and up, youth and varsity tennis, adult tennis, coed soccer for grades three through eight, flag football for grades five through eight, girls softball for grades three through nine and boys baseball for grades three through nine. Participants will be grouped appropriately by age. Visit the front page of the town Web site at [www.townofnewscotland.com](http://www.townofnewscotland.com) for details. Non residents will be charged an additional \$5 per program.

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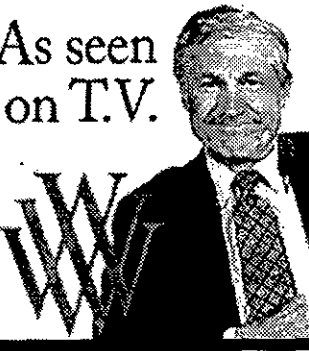
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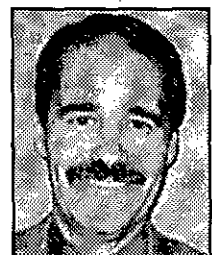
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# HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

June 21, 2006

A supplement to  
Spotlight Newspapers

## Survey: Many need to 'brush up' makeover skills

Call them weekend warriors.

Millions of Americans tackle home improvement projects every year spending \$214 billion, but when it comes to admiring their work, the reviews are mixed.

Most home improvement horror stories stem from painting project faux pas, according to the KILZ Roller Report: Makeover Mistakes Edition, which polled 1,500 self-proclaimed "do-it-yourselfers" across America. America's top three makeover mistakes, in order of frequency, involve painting, plumbing and general remodeling/makeover touch-ups.

"Painting is one of the easiest ways to quickly and inexpensively change the look of a room," said Lee Snijders, host of HGTV's "Design on a Dime." The trick is making the job look flawless when you're a beginner. It's possible for a novice to create a professional-looking paint job. All it requires is the right tools and a few smart insights.

In fact, three in 10 "do-it-yourselfers" said they were "too intimidated" to attempt painting a room in their home. And when thinking about previous home improvement projects, nearly half of survey respondents who were embarrassed by their results pointed the finger at "poor paint projects." The Roller Report also found that poor execution when replacing old flooring, windows and lighting fixtures also can turn out to be quite an embarrassment, followed by mismatched furniture.

The good news is home improvement projects can be rebuilt from disastrous to delightful with the addition of a few insider tips. Snijders, who



has helped countless homeowners make over their homes, recommends three easy ways to avoid telltale home improvement mistakes.

### Insider tips

1. All roller covers are not created equal.

Because roller covers are disposable, many people choose

inexpensive ones. However, fibers will come off inexpensive roller covers, mix with the paint and stick to your freshly painted wall. Choose a high-end roller - this will help ensure a smooth surface after applying your primer or top coat paint.

2. Laying it on thick doesn't get the job done faster.

Applying a thick layer of top coat paint doesn't get the paint project done faster or better. Thick paint will dry unevenly and slowly, leaving an uneven or "wavy" result. The real time saver, used by many professional painters, is to prime first. Primers seal the surface, ensuring the top coat color is not absorbed by the surface. Most primers cure in an hour and are water-based, so it can be cleaned up with just soap and water.

3. Don't rush with the same brush.

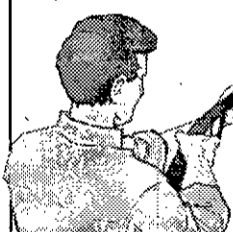
Sloppy edging along ceilings and baseboards comes from using the wrong brush. Fine lines, such as those needed when edging, require an angled applicator. Place the angle in the corner, and make one, long stroke for a straighter line. Larger spaces can be tackled with a wide applicator.

### Whose Fault Was That?

When it comes to who in America is making home improvement mistakes, men and women have an equal share. Women say they are most likely to make errors when painting (50 percent), but men make the most mistakes with plumbing projects (48 percent). Sixty percent of KILZ Roller Report respondents said that they have argued with someone about a home improvement project, and as many as 73 percent said this disagreement has been with a spouse. Forty-one percent have blamed their spouse for a makeover mishap, but married men were more likely than married women to admit that they had made a home improvement error. Following the common joke, more married women than married men say they followed the project's directions.

No matter what the project or who is involved, Snijders says that careful preparation goes a long way. "When you go to the store to buy your supplies, don't be afraid to ask for help. Receiving advice from a professional about everything from the type of paint to the best brush to use for the project will pay off later."

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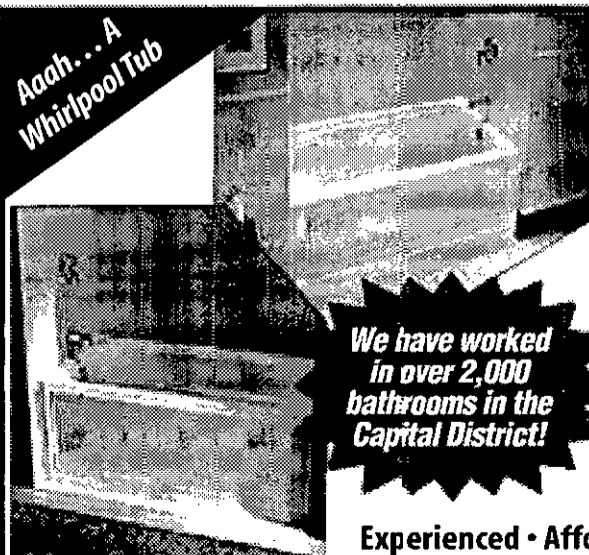
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## Tame home improvement costs with some serious planning

Have you made a mental list of all the home improvement projects you want to tackle this summer?

To make sure your good intentions stay on track and those important projects get completed, now is the time to write those things down and start making serious plans.

With any home projects, time and cost are the two biggest obstacles to getting things done, so budgeting time and money are important. Write down your list and then prioritize it according to the most important projects - that can mean the ones you're most excited about, like a new deck, or repairs that really need to be taken care of, say fixing the roof.

Estimate how long each project will take and check your spring and summer calendar. You don't want to start a long-term landscaping project right before your summer vacation.

Next, get an idea of how much money it will take to finish these various projects. If you haven't

started a home improvement fund, there's no time like the present to start putting away a little money every week to help defray the cost of materials and supplies. Planning ahead can also save you money by allowing you to take advantage of sales - if you know what you need, you can check weekly ads at your local hardware or big box store to see if you can get a deal on anything on your list.

You'll also want to get your truck ready for hauling those supplies. We all know trucks are tough, but we also want our vehicles to be good looking. Loading lumber, tools, landscaping rocks and other heavy, odd-shaped objects can take a toll on the finish of your truck bed. Take steps now to protect the paint job and you won't have any dings or scratches left behind when the project is done.

Spray on bedliners are a great choice; they bridge the gap between rugged and handsome. They conform to the contours of

your truck bed, leaving you maximum space for hauling. Line-X, a leader in the industry, uses a specially formulated polymer, to provide an attractive finish and ultimate protection. The product creates a permanent bond to the truck's bed, and offers protection against everything from chemicals and hail damage to rust. The shock-absorbing properties of the product can even dampen noise from vibration, for a better ride.

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the experts at Line-X will prep your bedliner by sanding the paint, taping it off and applying a dewaxer/degreaser to ensure maximum liner adhesion. Then, a trained and certified applicator will spray the interior of the flatbed. The liner will withstand extremes of temperature, both hot and cold. It is warranted for peeling, blistering, flaking, bubbling or other workmanship issues. Bed lids, camper shells, fiberglass tops, 5th wheel hitches, tie downs, utility boxes

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Now that your truck is ready and your list is complete, there's no excuse to put those projects off any longer.

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## Energy-saving techniques help protect the home and pocketbook

Does your looming list of summer chores also involve home improvement projects? If not, consider adding energy-saving techniques to the list and you'll spare yourself the shock of this season's high energy bills.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that once again residential energy costs will be on the rise, so start your home improvements by inspecting for interior or exterior areas that could cause your energy bills to escalate.

Air leaks are the leading cause of home cooling loss. "Most homeowners don't realize that there are holes, gaps and cracks around the foundation, window and door frames, electrical outlets and plumbing lines. Even under the siding and in the basement," explains Kevin Huber, project manager for a home builder in the DC-metro area. "By sealing these areas, the problem can easily be fixed."

Fixing these problem areas shouldn't break your pocketbook though. "With a 400 percent increase in heating and cooling costs over the past decade, air-sealing your home is just one of many ways to save money and make your home more comfortable," says Jeff Fancher, global brand manager for foam sealants at Dow. One of the simplest ways to seal cracks is with Great Stuff Insulating Foam Sealant by The Dow Chemical Company.

Fancher recommends the following home improvement tips to make your home more comfortable and energy-efficient:

(Continued Page 4)

# Biting back

## Keep your house cool during the dog days of summer

It's not easy keeping a house cool during the long, hot, dog-days of summer, but according to interior design experts at The Art Institutes, there are steps you can take to not only make your house cooler, but also more environmentally-friendly, energy-efficient and enjoyable to be in.

Start with windows. Even in the summer, homeowners want to experience the long days of daylight the warmer months bring, but old or inexpensive windows can make a house hot by allowing heat to transfer into rooms.

Mishelle Lewis of the interior design faculty at The Art Institute of Atlanta explains, "If you want your home to be cooler in the summer, and warmer in the winter, good quality vinyl or wood windows can make a significant impact on your home's energy efficiency." Look for windows that use low e-glazing on the glass, she says, which cuts down on UV's and heat transferring from the outside.

Consider horizontal blinds or shutters on both interior and exterior windows, says Christopher Priest, academic director of interior design at The Art Institute International Minnesota. "When using blinds or shutters, position them so the sunlight is directed upwards towards the ceiling. This imitates the effect of a skylight by providing indirect, natural light indoors with little impact on cooling cost," he says. Wood blinds and shutters make the best choice because metal blinds can actually conduct heat into a room.



Fans are another popular way to cool a home when air conditioning is not an option. According to William B. Lanigan, chair of the interior design department at The Art Institute of Houston, "Fans are a cost effective and efficient way to cool the house. Heat rises so fans help disperse the heat and circulate air. It's all about air circulation when you are trying to beat the heat in the summer."

**If you've chosen central air-conditioning to stay cool, don't forget to maintain it.**

Don't forget lighting. Lewis recommends minimizing overhead lighting. "If you are reading or doing a task, use a lamp instead of turning on an overhead light," she says. Every time you turn on an overhead light, "You not only burn energy through the light source but the incandescent light bulbs produce heat that your AC must now work harder to cool."

Lewis also likes compact fluorescent lighting, which has "come a long way." Daylight bulbs are bright and white, but there are also soft tones, which are closer to the standard incandescent light bulb. Compact fluorescent light bulbs use less energy and produce less heat.

As for fabric and colors, Jerry Van Slambrouck, an instructor in the Interior Design department at The Art Institute of California - San Francisco, subscribes to the British tradition of using light colored fabric slipcovers over furniture in the summer. "This is true for floor coverings as well," says Van Slambrouck. "Wool, oriental carpets are rolled up in the summer and light colored sisal area rugs replace them."

This follows the basic principle that dark colors absorb and hold heat while light colors reflect heat. Van Slambrouck uses this approach for interiors he designs today as well. "I recently designed the interior of

a Victorian Napa ranch house, using dark, plush Oriental rugs on the floors and darker colored mohair and wool upholstery fabrics for the seating. I also had sisal area rugs made in the same sizes as the Oriental rugs and white muslin slip covers for the furniture for summer."

The Art Institutes (www.artinstitutes.edu) with 32 educational institutions located throughout North America, provide an important source of design, media arts, fashion and culinary arts professionals.

If you've chosen central air-conditioning to stay cool, don't forget to maintain it. Andrea Russo, owner of Crisafulli Bros., a local heating and cooling company, said that a study from 2005 showed that a precision tune-up of your air conditioner

could save \$32.76 per month, and restore 25 percent of lost cooling capacity.

"People are definitely tuned in to the cost of energy savings," Russo said. "Maintaining your system helps it run optimally. If you've got an older system, you may want to look at the EnergyStar models, which will keep you cooler and run more efficiently."

Russo also suggested using your automatic thermostat in the summer as well as in the winter.

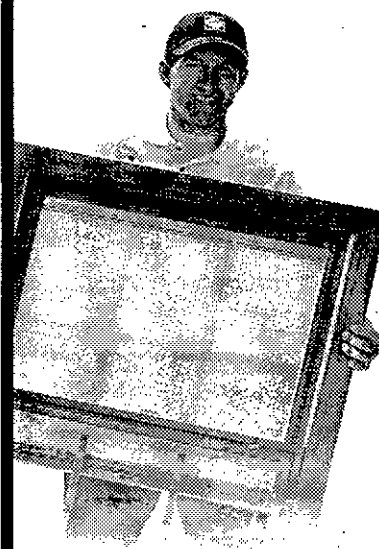
"Rather than wait for bedtime and turn the thermostat way back to 65, you can set it earlier to cool the house to where you'd like it when you get home," she said.

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# Expand your living space by heading outdoors

Admit it. You love the great outdoors. Entertaining friends. Watching the kids run through the sprinkler. Napping on your patio. There's a host of life happening outside the home, and more homeowners than ever are seizing the opportunity to make their patios and yards extensions of their living space.

"We're finding that people want to utilize every square inch in and out of the home," says Leslie Segrete, carpenter on the TLC show "While You Were Out" and co-host of the syndicated home improvement radio show "The Money Pit." "They're turning patios and garages into family rooms. They're creating outdoor bedrooms from screened-in porches."

The key to enjoying these spaces is keeping things simple and functional. By emphasizing your lifestyle and needs, you can create a space that's 100 percent you - and 100 percent useful.

Define Your Style. Define Your Space. Whether you're faced with just a small patch of yard - or

acres - the first step is to define your lifestyle needs and the physical space you want for your outdoor activities. Will you be using the space for entertaining friends? Relaxing? Do you need a play area for the kids?

Keep It Simple. Rain, cold weather, extreme wind and harsh sunlight are all culprits that can ruin any outdoor area. With some upfront planning and smart shopping, Segrete notes, you can minimize Mother Nature's effects.

"You don't want to worry about moving furniture every time you're not using it. If you use items that withstand the test of time, you'll make your life a lot simpler." Segrete recommends good, exterior grade furniture in a weather-sturdy material like teak, and cushions that are waterproof and fade-resistant. If you live in a high-wind area, consider concrete anchors on furniture and decorative items.

Water is one big outdoor need that's come a long way over the years. "When I was a kid, my



mother would fill our little pool, and the water would be freezing. She'd rush inside to get warm water to try to make it more comfortable. With today's new water options, you don't have to worry about that."

Moen Incorporated recently introduced a single-handle, hot-cold sill faucet that's designed for today's outdoor needs. This unique outdoor faucet features simple one-handle operation that delivers both hot and cold water, just like a faucet you'd find in the kitchen.

"With the right water source

outside, you can wash away dirt from the yard, car and pets no matter what the temperature, and keep the inside of your home cleaner," says Segrete. She advises placing outdoor faucets within easy reach of common activities, reducing the need to move and coil up yards and yards of hose. "It's all about making your life easier."

Extend Your Opportunities. As outdoor areas become more stylish and functional, homeowners are looking for ways to enjoy them longer - in the evening - and longer when the

weather gets cold.

Gone are the days of the messy firepit that required constant attention and cleaning. One tip Segrete has is to put modern technology to use for your comfort. "You'll find beautiful copper dishes with fake logs that you can hook up to a propane line. They are simple to use and easy to set up. It's a no-nonsense way to generate heat and ambiance."

When it comes to outdoor lighting, look beyond harsh floodlights for maximum drama and impact. "You want to create something that replicates moonlight - always from above, never from below," says Segrete. Hanging lights or lanterns that surround your space will assure you can entertain or relax well into the evening.

So open the back door, and start imagining. With the right ideas, your yard can become not only an extension of your living space - but also an extension of your personal style.

For more information about Moen's outdoor hot/cold sill faucet visit [www.moen.com](http://www.moen.com) or call (800) BUY-MOEN (800-289-6636).

## Energy-saving techniques help protect the home and pocketbook

(From Page 2)

### Landscaping

Not only can a well-designed landscape add beauty to your home, it can also reduce your heating and cooling costs. Since you might already be planning to landscape this season, beautify your home while you reduce your monthly energy bill. Newly planted trees will begin shading windows in their first year and will reach the roof in years five to 10. Add a row of shrubs or plants to create dead airspaces that insulate your home in both winter and summer.

### Uneven Room Temperatures

Because only 20 percent of

homes built before 1980 are well insulated, uneven room temperatures are a common complaint with older homes. This issue can be traced to air leakage, a poor HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning) distribution system and insufficient insulation. The solution may be as easy as checking your HVAC system, installing proper insulation or air-sealing all areas that contribute to air leakage in the affected area.

### Insulation and Air Sealing

If you feel uncomfortably

cold in the winter or hot in the summer, or if you own an older home and haven't added insulation, consider doing an energy audit to check the insulation levels. Additional insulation can protect against air leaks, control moisture and save you 10 percent or more on your energy bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

### Mold, Mildew and High Humidity

In areas like the attic, humid air may become trapped inside the windows, producing condensation, and could eventually lead to mold and mildew. When left unchecked, it can cause wood to rot and could lead to respiratory problems for those with sensitivities and allergies. To minimize the problem, air-seal and insulate gaps between the attic and living quarters.

An added benefit to insulating your home is a reduction in pesky insects. "Aside from sealing gaps and cracks, a permanent foam sealant will close open pathways where insects enter the house," added Fancher.

For more information and energy-saving tips, visit [www.dowgreatstuff.com](http://www.dowgreatstuff.com).

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# New options making a big impact in small kitchens

By DEAN BUSHEY

The writer is the kitchen designer at Creative Kitchens of Glenmont.

The National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) defines a small kitchen as one that's 150 square feet or less. Of course, even a larger kitchen can feel small if piles of snacks, dishes and junk mail have taken over the countertop, or if the design and décor contribute to a closed-in rather than an open, airy look. To create a more spacious room or at least the illusion of one, the NKBA recommends using quality kitchen cabinet manufacturers with unique storage solutions, mixing natural and ambient light, choosing appliances wisely and adding personal touches.

Take advantage of all the new storage options available. Extend wall cabinets to the ceiling to accommodate rarely used items and eliminate dust traps. Make lower cabinets more accessible with ingenious internal fittings like roll-out shelves, p-bins, lazy Susans, pegboard, dish drawer organizers, and roll-out tray dividers. These accessories ensure every inch of space is available and within easy reach. Just think, no more crawling into the back of the corner cabinet to find the waffle iron.

Thoughtful placement of your appliances can greatly improve traffic flow in a small kitchen. Save counter space by using a range or by placing a cook top over the

To create a more spacious room or at least the illusion of one, choose quality kitchen cabinet manufacturers with unique storage solutions, mix natural and ambient light, and add personal touches. Top: a newly remodeled kitchen by Creative Kitchens. Below: the kitchen before work began.

oven. If you must have a double oven, install both units under the counter instead of stacking one over the other. You will appreciate the extra counter space. Choose a built-in microwave or install a combination microwave hood above the cook top. An appliance garage can keep the toaster, can opener, and other appliances concealed and out of the way when not in use. Chrome plated backsplash systems with cookbook holder, spice racks, and wire

baskets also reduce clutter and keep recipes at your fingertips.

The importance of lighting is often overlooked. Good lighting is critical in a small

space. Bring natural light in by removing window coverings, valances and soffits.

Install recessed lighting for general purpose and task

**It's important to do your research in order to get what you want out of your kitchen, but also remember to enjoy and have fun doing it.**

lighting. Be sure to put different zones on separate switches. Install under-cabinet lighting to illuminate the countertops. Express yourself with decorative pendant fixtures above a peninsula or island and control the "mood" with dimmer switches.

Be sure to inject your own personal style into your plans, to create a kitchen that performs as well as it looks. Using light cabinets, wall colors, countertops, and flooring will create an opening and brightening effect. To add depth and a sense of space, try open shelving and glass doors.

Homeowners are in a better position now than ever before to obtain their dream kitchens, and a small kitchen has all the potential to offer you both form and function. It's important to do your research in order to get what you want out of your kitchen, but also remember to enjoy and have fun doing it.

You can reach Creative Kitchens at 432-1320, or check out the Web site at [www.creativekitchensofglenmont.com](http://www.creativekitchensofglenmont.com).



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## Summer decorating made elegant

The days of summer have finally arrived, and it is time to throw open the windows and bring life back into the home. The summer months are the perfect time to incorporate a seasonal touch of bright colors or fresh flowers to create a relaxed, welcoming look.

The appeal of summer is that entertaining can be casual, yet infused with elegance and style. And Americans like casual. In fact, 72 percent of U.S. adults described their own entertaining style as casual, according to the Sixth Annual Lenox Gift-Giving and Etiquette Survey.

Lenox's gift giving and etiquette expert Denise Dinyon suggests thinking light and airy when preparing your home for the summer months. "Summer decorating is the perfect time to create a relaxed but elegant look for your home that is welcoming to guests," Dinyon says. "Think light colored pieces of furniture paired with bright accessories." She offers some additional tips below.

**Seventy-two percent of U.S. adults described their own entertaining style as casual, according to the Sixth Annual Lenox Gift-Giving and Etiquette Survey.**

### Suggestions

- Do some restyling around the house this summer. Replace dark colors with lighter, brighter ones. A wicker table and chairs can replace heavier, darker pieces, and dark accessories, such as wool blankets and velvet pillows, should be substituted with light-colored ones to help create a cheery color scheme.

- When planning for an evening with friends, greet guests with a mix of bright-colored place settings on a plain, white tablecloth.

- Revive your home by tossing out old, brown plants and bringing in fresh new ones. Place bright red tulips in the guest

bedroom or as a centerpiece on a table to brighten up a room. Place the bouquet in a simple crystal vase to let the flowers' color stand out.

- Swap heavy drapes for light, airy ones that can blow in the breeze on a summer day. Painting rooms in pale yellows, greens and blues for the summer will also help the home appear brighter. Add white wherever possible to open up a room. Lighten up wooden bookshelves by painting each shelf a bright white. Accent the white shelves with a colorful bowl or picture frame.

- Place scented candles throughout the bedroom or bathroom to add a breezy, freshness to the room.

While making changes around the home to prepare for summer, Dinyon suggests sticking to one theme to keep the décor consistent. Potential ideas include floral, Tuscan, nautical or tropical.

For information, decorating ideas and products, visit [www.lenox.com](http://www.lenox.com) or [www.dansk.com](http://www.dansk.com).



## Sit back and relax on this project: Teens can do it themselves

In some ways, decorating a baby's room couldn't be easier. The room's primary occupant really doesn't have much to say about the décor. Enter the teen years. Now, she hates the pink carpet and floral curtains you thought were precious beyond

words. He's into Japanese anime, and your clever pirate theme makes him want to walk the plank.

If your teen's room is overdue for a makeover, there is some good news: Your child is probably old enough now to do a lot of the work him or herself.

"Teenagers are all about independence, control and being cool," says Lisa Jerlstrom, parent of a teenager, and a trend-watcher and art buyer for Environmental Graphics Inc. "Allowing your child to redesign his or her room not only lets them express their independence and look cool in their own space, it can be a great way to teach important budgeting and home improvement skills."

Here are five simple steps to help your teen tackle his, or her, own room makeover project:

part-time jobs to gifts from grandparents. Either way, make sure she understands she must accomplish her redesign with the

are your teen will have an idea of a theme he would like to pursue. Encourage him to choose a theme that will grow with him, or that he will enjoy at least until he's a college freshman.



**Step 3.** Enhance the theme with color and artwork. Painting the walls and hanging artwork are two of the easiest ways to underscore a design theme. Most teens are capable of painting. They can also enhance the theme with a wall mural.

"Today's wallpaper murals make it easy to customize your room theme and accomplish the job on your own," says Jerlstrom. Numerous teen-friendly wall murals can be found at [www.urbanoutfitters.com](http://www.urbanoutfitters.com). Living with a surfer dude? Try a beach scene. Have a budding Broadway-bound star on your hands? Why not set the stage with a cityscape mural of Manhattan?

**Step 4.** Don't forget the floors. There are several quick (and relatively low-cost) fixes for flooring. A large area rug that fits the new theme can hide the objectionable flooring. Give existing carpeting a good scrub with a rented carpet cleaning machine. Or, use fabric paint to create a pattern, design or scene on the old carpet — but only if you would have been throwing the carpet away otherwise.

**Step 5.** Finish with furniture. Early in the redesign process, your teen should decide if his existing furniture needs to be replaced, updated or is fine as it is. Maybe he can live with painting or refinishing his old dresser if it means he will have the cash for a new bed. Perhaps her old bed will work with her new theme if she removes the canopy and posters. Explore discount stores, consignment shops or charity-sponsored stores that resell reconditioned donated furniture.

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# Get your toolbox ready for summer spruce-ups

Now that summer is here, and you're spending more time outside, you're probably noticing the toll that winter took on your home. Before you tackle these home repair jobs, make sure your toolbox is stocked with the supplies you'll need and that your tools are in good repair and ready to use. Taking a few minutes now to double check means you won't have to waste time running to the hardware store in the middle of a project.

First, take inventory of what needs to be done and what you'll need to do it. Since many repair projects involve dark corners of the house like the crawlspace or attic, be sure to have a flashlight handy. The NightStar flashlight uses magnetic force instead of batteries — so it's always ready when you need it. Simply shake, and the flashlight provides 20 minutes of light on a single charge. To keep your hands free, use the convenient holster, which clips to any belt or waist band. The holster also has an extra pocket for small tools.

Once you know what jobs you're tackling, you'll have a better idea of what should go in the toolbox. If you are comfortable doing big projects like home renovation, you'll need more tools than a homeowner who leaves the big jobs to the pros, but does smaller projects herself. But any toolbox should include some basics:

**Hammers:** An 8-ounce curved claw or 16-ounce rip claw hammer are ideal for household tasks.

**Pliers:** Standard options include 7- or 8-inch slip joint pliers and diagonal cutters. Look for pliers with a slip mechanism to keep the handles in place.

**Level:** This versatile tool is ideal for hanging pictures or wallpaper, laying tile or hardwood, and installing shelving.

**Screwdrivers:** Consider

investing in a full set of screwdrivers or one all-purpose tool, which is an inexpensive alternative. All-purpose screwdrivers, like a 6-in-1 model, contain standard and Phillips bits in the handle, which can be easily interchanged. Ratcheting screwdrivers also come with a variety of bits and save the user effort by doing most of the work.

**Flashlight:** Home repair jobs often involve getting into tight, poorly lit places, so a reliable flashlight is important. The NightStar flashlight never needs batteries or bulbs and can be counted on even after years of abuse and neglect. When shaken, a high-strength magnet passes back and forth through a wire coil. The electrical energy is stored in a capacitor that be recharged repeatedly, will work in extreme temperatures and will never corrode — even in humid or salty environments. NightStar flashlights have state-of-the-art LED technology that puts the flashlights' beam on par with conventional bulb flashlights. It's also a handy tool to find the fuse box in case of an emergency. The available illuminated wall mount holder means you won't have to grope in the dark — the mount's special luminescent material glows for hours, enabling any regular size flashlight to be easily located whenever light is needed.

**Tape Measure:** A 16- or 25-foot retractable tape measure is ideal for most measuring tasks.

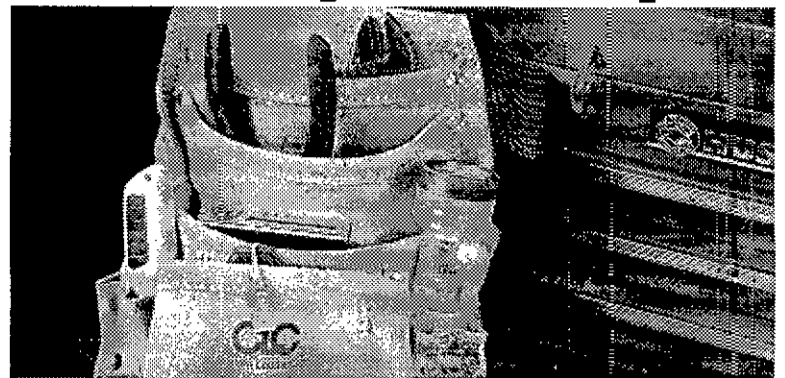
**Snips:** These versatile cutting tools are ideal for cutting a variety of materials from thin gauge wire to light sheet metal.

**Adjustable Wrenches:** A set of three quality adjustable wrenches in small, medium and large sizes can fit a variety of nuts and bolts.

**Utility Knife:** When selecting a utility knife, it is important to choose one that is suitable for a specific job (i.e.

cutting carpet) to ensure quality results.

NightStar flashlights are available at hardware, sporting goods and marine supply stores as well as many big box retailers. For information about NightStar flashlights and other accessories, visit [www.appliedinotech.com](http://www.appliedinotech.com), or call (303) 857-1405.



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## Raising roofs an uplifting experience for Habitat for Humanity volunteers

Looking for a rewarding activity that will get you out of the house? Consider helping someone in need get into a home of their own. Volunteers across the country are finding many ways to help meet a growing need for affordable housing – and achieve their own giving goals at the same time.

With home prices skyrocketing over the last few years, more and more Americans have

been squeezed out of the housing market. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, an estimated 5.4 million households face worst-case housing needs. Receiving little or no government housing assistance, these families are unable to find a decent place to live at a price they can afford.

One organization offering hope for these families is Americus, Ga.-based Habitat for Humanity International. The nonprofit Christian housing ministry has built or rehabilitated nearly 57,000 homes throughout the United States and more than 150,000

homes overseas since it was founded in 1976. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat's 1,700 U.S. affiliates build basic houses with the help of partner families who will own the homes. The homes are sold to the families at no profit and financed with affordable, no-interest loans. Payments on the loans are used to build still more Habitat

houses.

If you'd like to help build some of those future homes, a new opportunity to consider is Minneapolis-based Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' Thrivent Builds Homes program. The national effort will join the nearly 3 million Thrivent Financial members with Habitat for Humanity volunteers, other Lutherans, their families, and their communities to build more than 300 homes across the United States in 2006. Thrivent Financial funds 70 percent of the cost of each home, with the remaining 30 percent raised by the local Thrivent volunteers' chapters and Habitat affiliates.

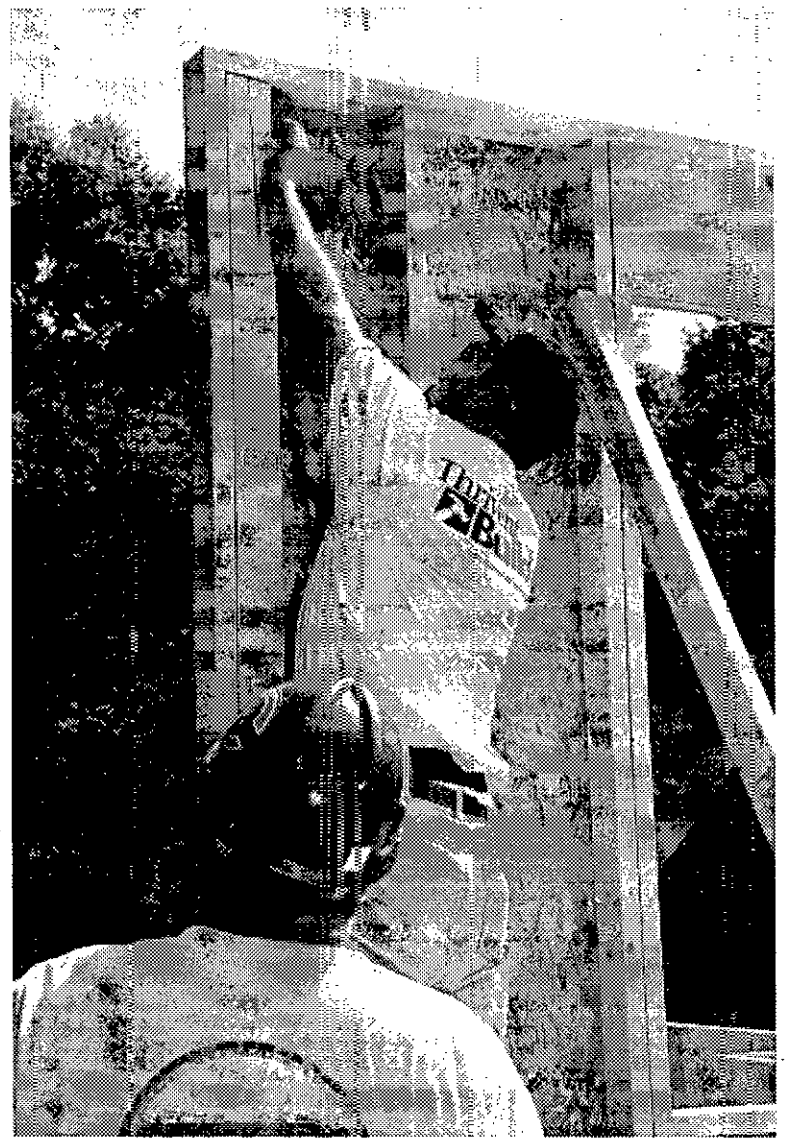
The program expects to boost annual U.S. construction to 500 homes by 2008.

Thrivent Financial, whose members already have worked with Habitat to build more than 500 homes since 1991, makes it easy to get involved in local construction efforts. Just visit [www.thriventbuilds.com](http://www.thriventbuilds.com) to learn more. What's more, no previous building experience or skills are required.

Paula Page, a Thrivent Builds Homes volunteer in Michigan, gained handy carpentry skills along with a sense of purpose on her project. "We were assigned to build fly rafters on the roof, but I had no idea what fly rafters were," she related. "With our team leader's patient guidance, we soon learned how and were navigating the table saw with near-expert precision."

Volunteers receive a lot more than new building skills, though, said Mark Andrews, executive director of Thrivent Builds. "From the first nail to the last, building a home with Habitat for Humanity is a profound experience for all involved. It's not just sticks and blocks. It's tears and smiles, born of hard work and faith. And it's the knowledge that you've helped change lives."

Not only that, boosting families' standard of living tends to benefit our society overall as well, Andrews continued. "A



home is the biggest asset most families own, and a key ingredient to achieving economic independence," he said. "Helping hundreds of families get on the path toward economic independence fits well with Thrivent Financial's business

purposes of helping members achieve their financial goals and care for others."

For information about the Thrivent Builds Homes program or to find a local build, visit [www.thriventbuilds.com](http://www.thriventbuilds.com).

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## Create an art gallery for high impact

Summer parties mean more people viewing your décor and less time for you to spend on decorating your house. Creating an art gallery in your home is a great way to achieve high impact with modest effort. Your art selections will tell your guests a lot about your personal style.

Plus, a home art gallery is easily changeable to suit the season, a special occasion or your mood.

The art preservation experts at Tru Vue, a Chicago company that makes preservation quality glass for the framing industry, offer these tips for creating your home art gallery:

- Choose your theme. Will your gallery consist of works by favorite artists? Shadowboxed mementoes from personal experiences or family history? A portrait gallery of family members? Or, a mix of all these styles? Practically anything you treasure - movie tickets, theater playbills, old record covers, sports memorabilia, musical instruments, clothing - can be framed and displayed in your art gallery.

- Select the location. You will want a spot where guests are sure to see - and admire - your gallery. It's up to you if you want the gallery to be a focal point for a room, or a subtle compliment to an overall design theme. Avoid spots where your artwork will be exposed to direct sunlight, but also keep in mind that indirect light and artificial light can both damage artwork too. Never hang important pieces directly over a heat source or in an area with high humidity - such as a bathroom.

Consider creating a family portrait wall. Galleries also look great lining a staircase wall. Hang artwork at eye level for someone of average height. Place smaller, more detailed pieces in small spaces, like hallways, where impact is less important than content.

- When creating groupings, select frame styles that are compatible with the room decor, and mat styles and colors that coordinate well with each other. You might consider organizing pieces with a particular theme that compliment a specific room



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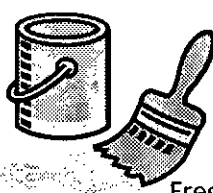
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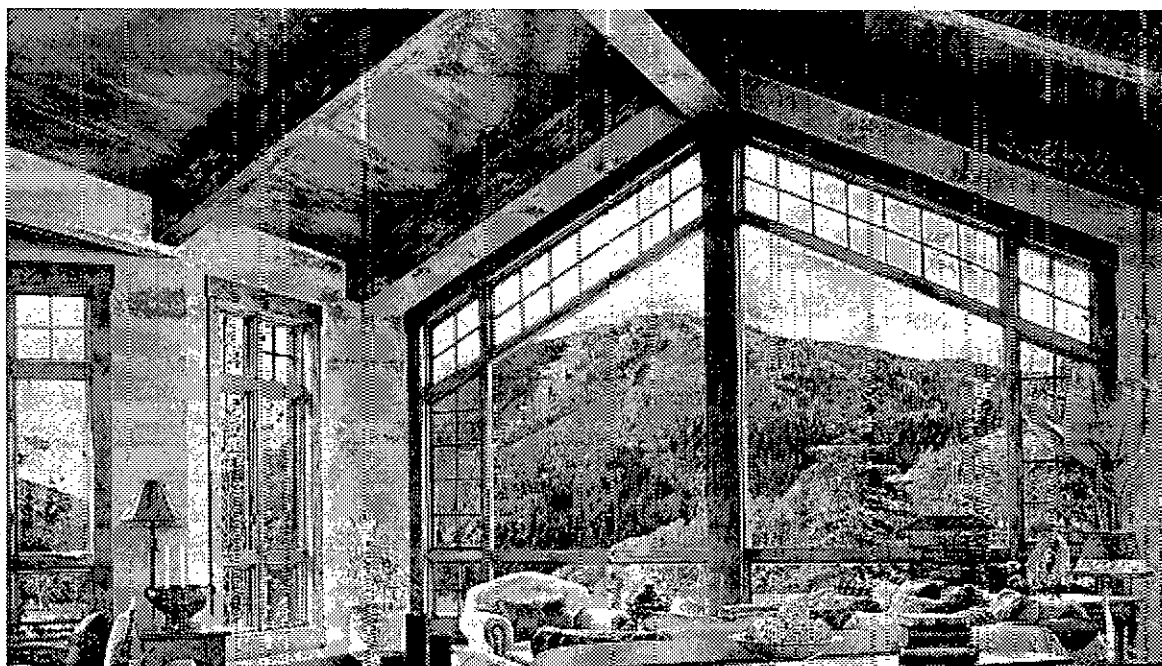
(Continued Page 3)

# Sunblock for your home: Energy efficient windows, doors

When it comes to protecting your home from the damaging effects of the sun, what you can't see - invisible ultraviolet (UV) rays - can definitely impact you. Thankfully, there's an easy and practical solution that provides built-in "sunblock" for the home.

Most homeowners know that upgrading windows and doors can help them save money and conserve energy. However, a lesser-known benefit of energy efficient windows and doors is their proven resistance to harmful UV rays. For example, windows and doors with Low-E glass block most UV rays - the invisible part of the spectrum that causes premature fading of furnishings and is linked to health hazards like skin cancer. That's because the coating on Low-E glass both absorbs heat and reflects the sun's light back into the outdoors.

For the ultimate in UV protection and energy efficiency, windows with laminated glass can block almost all harmful UV rays. Laminated glass has an interlayer sandwiched between two window panes. This gives windows the strength needed to



stand up to impacts caused by storms, and it also filters the sun's light, admitting the desirable, visible spectrum and blocking harmful, invisible UV rays.

"Homeowners are becoming increasingly sensitive to interior fading and wear and tear," said Brian Hedlund, product marketing manager for JELD-WEN windows. "It's not only because

they want to keep the carpet and drapes from fading, but also because UV exposure is perceived as an increasing health hazard."

While UV resistance is a valuable collateral benefit of energy efficient windows and doors, there are practical benefits too. Savings for a typical home from replacing single-pane with Energy Star

qualified windows ranges from \$125 to \$340 a year, depending on the region, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

For homeowners and builders, here are a few basic tips for selecting energy efficient windows and doors.

1. Consider upgrading outdated windows and doors. Replace older single-pane windows with dual-pane units,

which insulate the home from both hot and cold weather. Using both Low-E and insulating glass will reduce home energy costs.

2. Make Low-E glass a must-have. That's because Low-E glass on windows, door transoms and sidelights controls solar heat gain - a major contributor to air-conditioning costs. Low-E glass can also protect against heat loss in the winter.

3. Don't overlook the role of doors in contributing to energy efficiency. Choose doors with energy efficient cores and sills, and frames that provide a barrier to energy exchange.

4. Focus on efficiency, not bells and whistles. Window manufacturers achieve efficiency in different ways, from Low-E glass to argon gas-filled insulating glass. The bottom line is to make sure the products are tested and rated for efficiency using industry standards, no matter what technology is employed. Look for the Energy Star label appropriate for your region.

For information about achieving energy efficiency at home, visit [www.jeld-wen.com](http://www.jeld-wen.com) or call (800) 877-9482, ext. PRWD (7793).

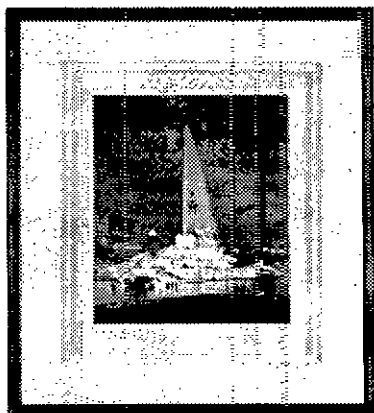
## Create an art gallery for high impact with little effort

(From Page 8)

in the house. For example, you might frame pictures of family members cooking or sharing a meal to create a food-themed art gallery in your kitchen.

• Once you've chosen a theme and location, arrange your gallery pieces by laying everything out on the floor first. This will help determine adjustments, accurate measurements and the overall look of the collection. Whenever possible, align the tops or bottoms of various pieces in the group.

• To ensure you and your guests will enjoy your art gallery for years to come, be sure to properly frame and preserve each treasured piece. A custom framer can create display cases and frames to show off and protect each memento or piece of art.



"An independent custom framer can enhance your pieces

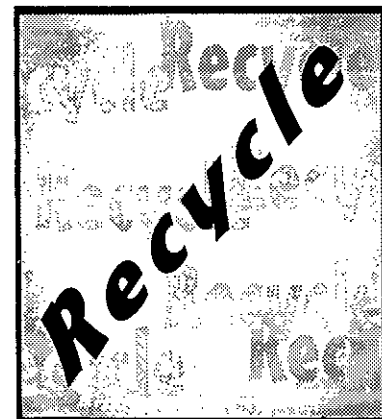
through their design talent, creativity and knowledge of preservation products like acid-free mats and ultraviolet protection glass or acrylics," says Kathy Carter McLin of Tru Vue. "Galleries and museums maintain a controlled environment so that light and humidity do not damage their artworks. Each piece in your home gallery is just as important to you."

Custom framers can help protect your gallery pieces from fading, becoming brittle or

yellowing with age by using the proper mounting techniques and quality glass such as Tru Vue Museum Glass and Conservation Series glass and acrylics. Acrylic products are more lightweight than glass and provide a secure environment for artwork. They are a great alternative to glass if you

are creating a gallery for a child's room, a high traffic area of the house, or if your home is located within an earthquake zone.

Tru Vue products are available at most custom framing shops. To learn more, visit [www.tru-vue.com](http://www.tru-vue.com).



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# Add value to your home with a summer deck project

The warmer weather is a good catalyst to get you itching to do those home improvement projects, especially those that prolong and enhance your outdoor living experience.

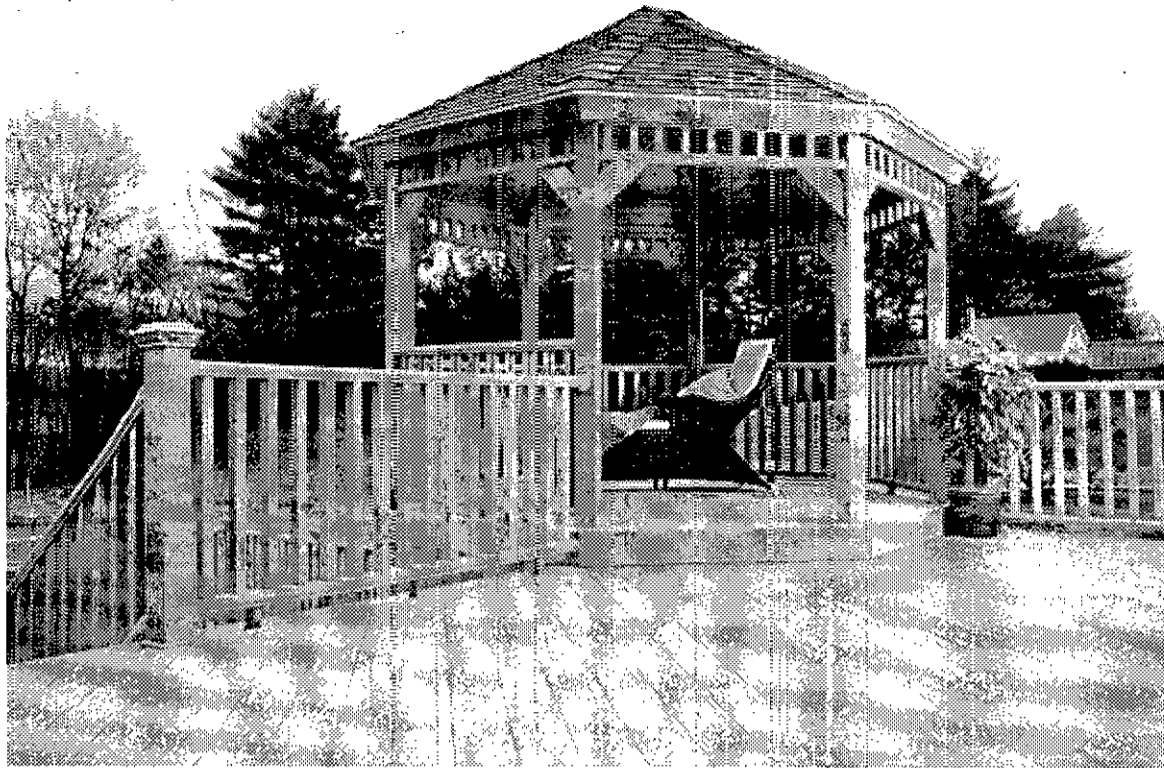
With rising interest rates and the cooling of the recent housing boom, homeowners have access to less equity to do such a project. So, now more than ever, you need to be smarter about choosing a project that will give you a better return on your investment.

Adding a new deck, or remodeling an existing outdated deck, will do more for you than just boost your outdoor living experience. It will add value to your home and its resale value.

Remodeling magazine's most recent "Cost Vs. Value Report" compares construction costs with resale value in 58 markets and gives you a city-by-city guide on what various home projects will pay back at resale. According to the report, the national average resale value of adding a deck is 90.3 percent (and can be as high as 99.5 percent in the Western region of the country).

So, for example, if a homeowner were to spend \$5,000 on a deck, the cost recouped at the time of resale would be \$4,515.

In comparison, the national average resale value for a mid-range bathroom addition is 86.4



percent; a major upscale kitchen remodel is 84.8 percent; a mid-range family room is 83 percent; and a mid-range home office remodel is 72.8 percent.

"Composite decking is a great choice to further boost the resale value of your home," explains F. John Long, who is responsible for the sales and marketing for GeoDeck, a leading composite

decking and railing manufacturer.

"While it might cost more up front, in reality composite decking costs less over time compared to pressure treated wood because it requires minimal maintenance. You don't have to stain or seal it every year, and the boards hold up over time unlike wood, so there is no need

for spot replacements. As a result, composite decking is an even better investment for your home."

According to a recent survey in Fine Homebuilding magazine, the expected annual growth of composite decking from 2005 to 2009 is 23 percent while the expected growth of pressure-treated lumber during

the same period is 0 percent.

"In addition to being an excellent investment, the rising popularity of composite decking is largely due to the fact that homeowners realize it allows them to make the most of their precious free time," continues Long. "They can enjoy their weekend on their deck rather than maintaining it."

David Mansfield, owner of Marblehead Landscape Co. in Massachusetts, adds: "More and more people are becoming involved in the design of their deck. Since they're spending so much time enjoying their backyard, they really want the space to reflect their taste and lifestyle. They're asking for things like gazebos, trellises, and built-in benches and planters. And when you build all of those things with composite decking like GeoDeck, they'll get to enjoy their entire deck for years, instead of maintaining it."

If you'd like to improve the resale value of your home while also creating or improving your outdoor living experience with a deck, and would like some design tips, visit [www.geo-deck.com/tips](http://www.geo-deck.com/tips) to get started.

## Pay back times three for new windows

Many factors have converged to make 2006 a great time for home remodeling. Projects completed this fall will increase a home's curb appeal, make it more energy efficient and reduce the homeowner's tax burden.

Escalating natural gas and fuel oil prices mean that energy-conscious home updates can result in worthwhile savings. Residential heating oil costs increased 32.7 percent in 2004 and 8.3 percent in 2005. Natural gas costs nearly

doubled from 1995 to 2005, according to the Energy Information Administration.

With the median age of U.S. homes at 34, owners of homes with original and outdated appliances, furnaces, air conditioners, and windows are really feeling the pain of increased energy costs. The typical household could save up to 30 percent of its annual energy costs by using Energy Star-rated products, according to Energy Star.gov.

"Windows and entry doors have progressed considerably in terms of energy efficiency and design in the last 10 years," said Jeff Kibler, brand manager for Peachtree Doors & Windows. "Just like a new car looks and runs better than an older model, windows and doors can update a home's appearance and energy performance relatively quickly. And the updates to an average home won't cost as much as a new car."

The federal government has further sweetened the pie with tax breaks for homeowners who install new energy-efficient windows, doors, skylights, furnaces, insulation and central air conditioners. Homeowners can receive tax credits equal to 10 percent of the improvement costs, up to a certain dollar limit, for improvements made in 2006 and 2007. Credits of \$200 are available on new windows, skylights and storm windows; and there's a \$500 maximum credit for exterior doors.

Updating windows and doors can increase a home's value while adding curb appeal. According to "Building Products" magazine, homeowners are able to recoup an average of 88 percent of their investment in new windows when they sell their home.

### Identifying energy efficient windows, doors

Several factors make windows, patio doors and entry doors more energy efficient. The composition of the window or door is a major factor. All-aluminum windows will be the least energy efficient, whereas vinyl, wood and clad windows will be the most efficient. Vinyl windows with multiple hollow chambers within the frame will perform better than vinyl windows without the chambers, which

(Continued Page 12)

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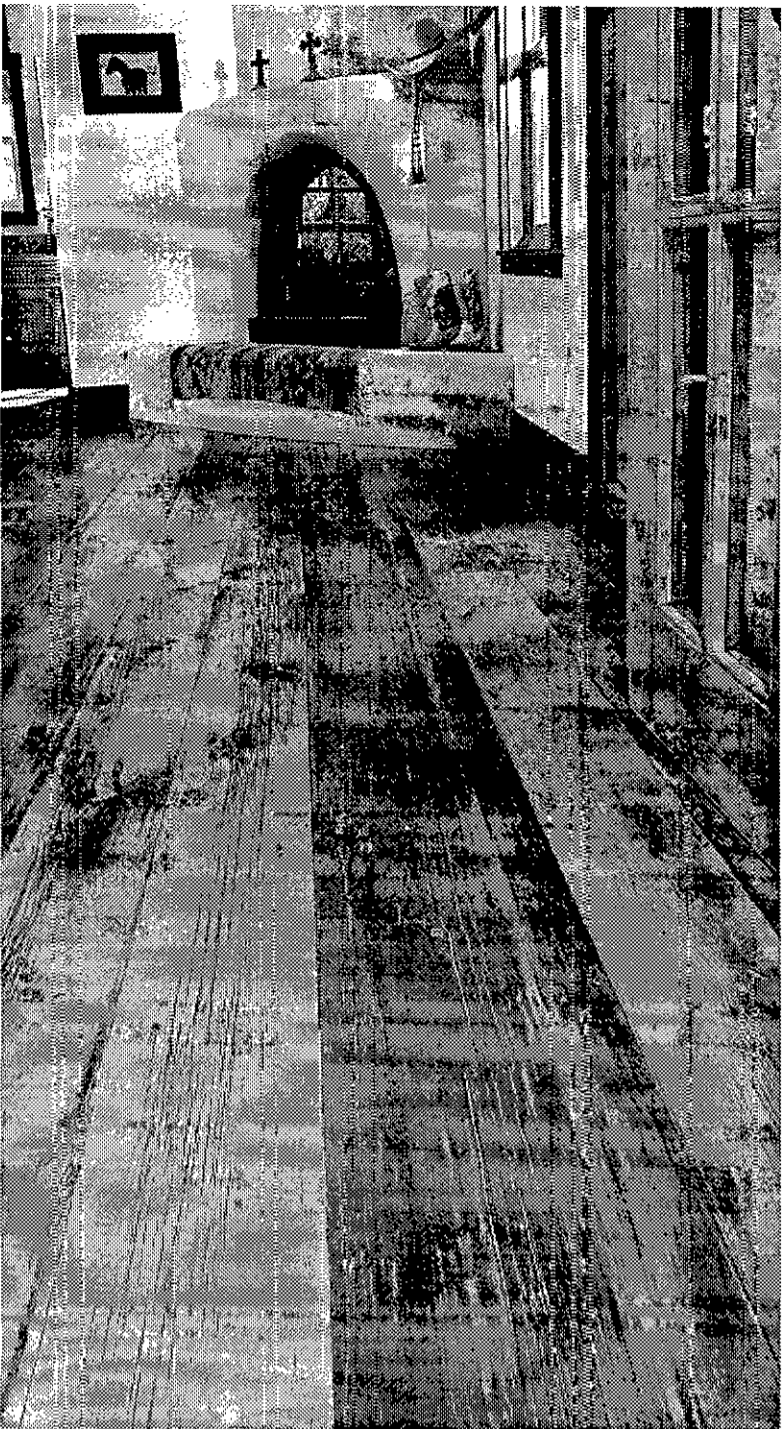
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## Old wood gets new life as reclaimed antique flooring

Where some might see a crumbling old barn or a dilapidated factory, Don Carlisle sees an opportunity to preserve history and beautify a home at the same time. Carlisle's Stoddard, N.H. based company has been reclaiming antique wood and turning it into new floors for nearly 40 years.

Homeowners and builders, increasingly aware of the need to preserve the environment and America's architectural history, have spurred the growth of the antique wood salvage business. Recycling antique wood from old buildings creates a tangible link to the past in new structures. Whenever possible, communities attempt to preserve historic structures. But if the building is beyond repair, salvaging the wood from it can be a way to preserve at least a portion of the structure's history.

"Giving beautiful old boards a new life and a new place in history gives us a special sense of preserving a piece of Americana," says Carlisle, whose company, Carlisle Wide Plank Floors was named North America's "most requested supplier of reclaimed wood products" by "National Floor Trends" magazine.

Old mills, factories, barns and houses along the East Coast may no longer be useful as structures, but they can become great

sources of antique woods like chestnut, heart pine and oak. The reclaimed wood is sorted, graded, dried, straightened and custom milled at Carlisle's headquarters before being installed in new construction or renovations.

When Carlisle, second-generation owner of the company, and his team harvest antique wood, they document as much of the structure's history as possible. "Many of our customers are interested in the history behind their floors," he notes. "They are attracted not only to the beauty, durability and character of antique wood, but also to the connection it bears to a piece of our country's history."

Recently, Carlisle reclaimed antique chestnut wood from the Geurrant Family Plantation in Franklin County, Va. In the early 1700s, the king of England deeded the 3,300-acre tract to the Geurrant family, who operated an apple orchard there for nearly 250 years. The apples grown there fed U.S. soldiers in both World Wars, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

Antique heart pine currently used in Carlisle floors was

reclaimed from the former Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company building in Windsor, Vt. The building, more than 100 years old, was home to the Windsor Machine Company from 1910 to 1916. The company

produced automatic lathes for the war effort during World War I. From 1916 to 1933, National Acme Company occupied the building. In 1936,

Goodyear bought, reopened and expanded the building to manufacture rubber soles for shoes.

"People love the idea that the wood of their kitchen floor might once have housed thoroughbred race horses, or that their living room floor was once beneath the feet of heroic factory workers who contributed to the war effort," Carlisle says.

Reclaimed antique wood can be used to create beautiful, durable, character-filled floors anywhere in the home. For more information on reclaimed antique wood, visit [www.wideplankflooring.com](http://www.wideplankflooring.com), or call (800) 595-9663.

**"Giving beautiful old boards a new life and a new place in history gives us a special sense of preserving a piece of Americana."**

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# Decorate with natural light in your home

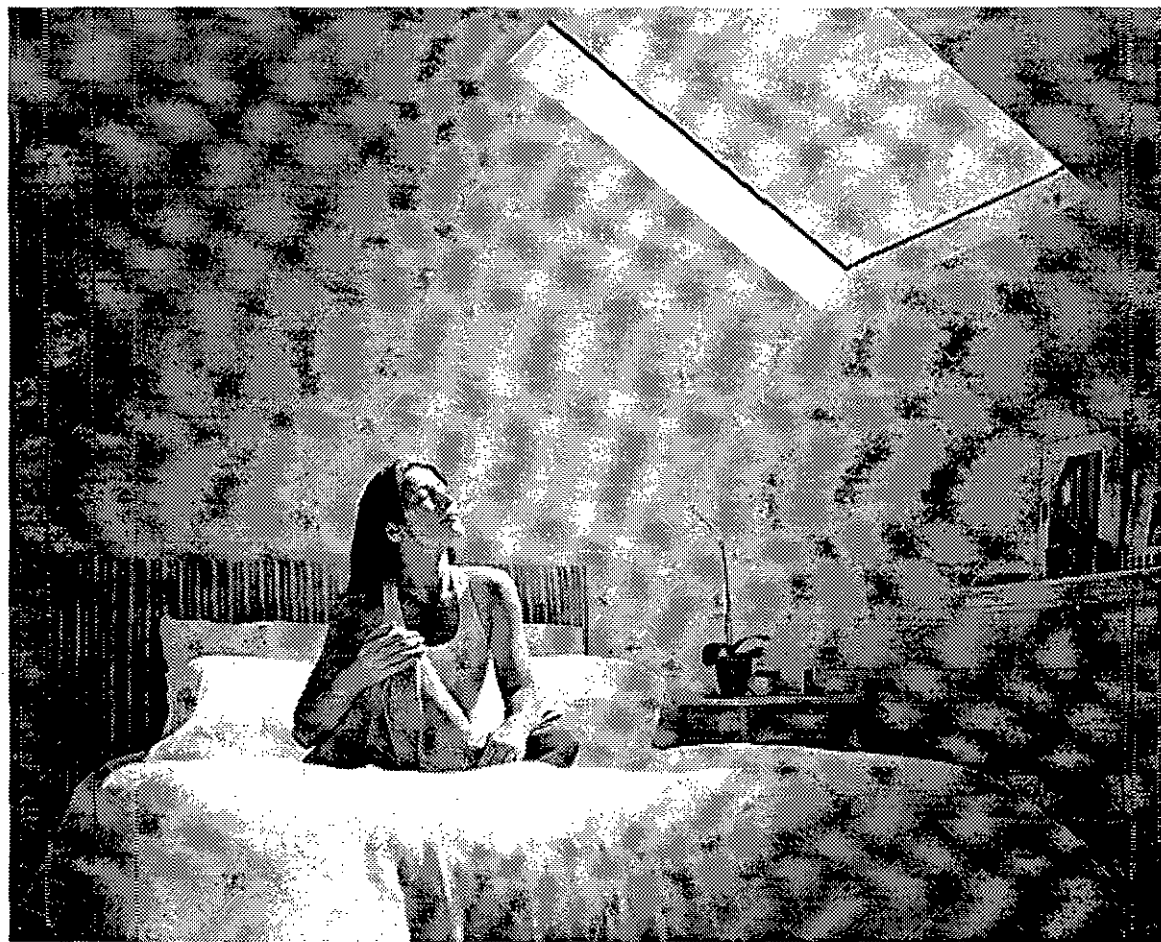
The benefits of having abundant daylight in our homes are well documented.

Studies show that students learn better, adults suffer less Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), and older Americans have less trouble reading and getting around when rooms are filled with natural light. But aside from documented psychological and physical benefits, it's obvious that living and working in a naturally brightly lit space just makes life feel better.

Who says? If you had to choose between a gloomy, dark environment and a bright, well-lighted one, which would it be?

Joe Patrick, senior product manager with VELUX America, points out that natural light comes into most homes through "vertical fenestration" — openings including doors and windows. "If there are enough of them, and if they are placed properly, they can do an adequate job of admitting light," Patrick says. "But if you want to add beauty, style and balanced lighting to your home and lift your spirits as you visually expand your rooms, consider the additional natural light that can be provided by skylights."

Light from above makes all rooms more functional and livable. Our kitchens become more enjoyable for our family



when they are bright, cheerful and free of cooking odors and heat and when moisture is allowed to escape (through venting skylights). In our baths, we can have a degree of privacy impossible to achieve with vertical windows. And we can free an extra wall for storage or decorating (where

that window is now that must be kept covered when the bathroom is in use).

While considering the "feel good" reasons for adding light from above throughout our homes, there are also economic considerations. When we're enjoying the new functionality of rooms filled

with natural light, we can know that we've made a good decision from an energy efficiency standpoint, as well.

When converting upstairs areas with energy-efficient skylights expensive dormers aren't necessary, so labor and material costs can be reduced. And finished attics and bonus

**Studies show that students learn better, adults suffer less Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), and older Americans have less trouble reading and getting around when rooms are filled with natural light.**

rooms typically appraise at 100 percent of the value of other living space while basements typically do not.

In smaller areas where traditional skylights may not fit or just aren't necessary, more light can be easily added with VELUX Sun Tunnel skylights with flexible tunnels that bend around obstructions and are simple for homeowners to install. They work particularly well in entry areas, hallways, inner bathrooms, pantries and closets.

And now is a particularly good time to consider upgrading existing skylights or adding new units to qualify for a tax credit of up to \$200 under the Energy Tax Incentives Act of 2005. Details are available at [www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm](http://www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm).

## New windows could save up to 30 percent of annual energy costs

(From Page 10)

insulate against heat and cold loss. The best performing windows have two or three panes of glass, with the airspace in between the panes acting as insulation. Manufacturers also can add special coatings or fill the airspace with a harmless gas such as argon or krypton to improve the buffering

ability.

Fiberglass and steel entry doors, which typically have a dense inner core, will be more efficient than solid wood doors. Keep in mind that the less glass there is in an entry door, the more efficient it will be.

Entry door frames can be a source of air and water leaks. Homeowners should make sure

the frame's seams are tight and the frame is level.

Windows and doors can be manufactured to Energy Star specifications for four climate zones, which signify greater energy efficiency. A low U value and a high R value also signify windows with greater thermal performance.

There are many products available for homeowners to update their windows with more efficient choices. The products range from full replacement windows to pocket windows, and sash replacement kits for single and double hung windows. Full replacement windows are typically available in custom sizes to accommodate existing openings. New construction windows can also be adapted for retrofit applications. Regardless of the options chosen, new windows and doors will pay off in reduced energy costs, tax breaks and increased home values.

For information on the Federal tax credits, visit [www.energy.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energy.gov/taxcredits).

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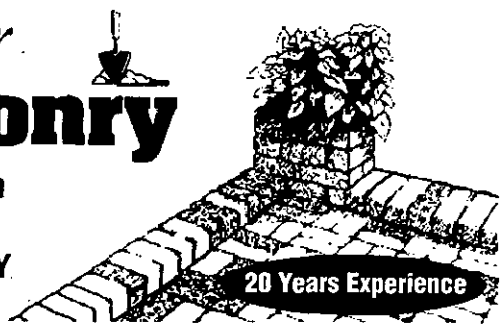
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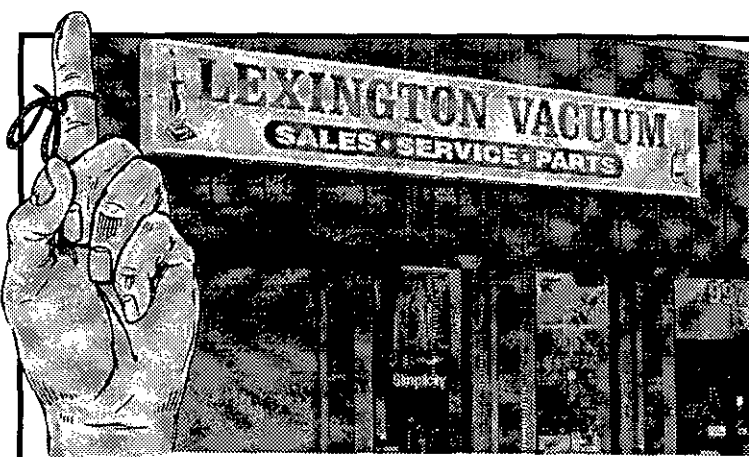
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# Obituaries *in the* Spotlight

## Gary A. Flansburg

Gary A. Flansburg, 71, of Delmar, died Sunday, June 11, at Hospice Center at Albany V.A. Hospital.

Born in Voorheesville, he later moved to Slingerlands with his family. He loved the outdoors, fishing and hunting. He retired from the Laborers Local 190 in 1966.

Survivors include his wife Nancy R. Carter; four sons, John Flansburg, Stephen Flansburg, Thomas and Gary Flansburg Jr., and a daughter, Cathy Flansburg, and 11 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Services were from the Applebee Funeral Home, Delmar and were private for the convenience of the family.

## Ryan D. Van Denburg

Ryan D. Van Denburg, 18, of Delmar, died Saturday, May 13.

Born in Albany, he was a junior at Bethlehem Central High School where he participated in volleyball and indoor and outdoor track. He was employed part-time at Mangia restaurant in Slingerlands. He was an avid reader and enjoyed spending time with friends, working on his computer and his pets.

Survivors include his parents Kenneth E. Van Ravensway and Dawn M. Butler of Delmar; grandparents, Pamela Van Ravensway of Conyers, GA; Karen Van Denburg, David Van Denburg

both from Delmar.

Services were from the Applebee Funeral Home, Delmar. Contributions may be made to support athletic programs at Bethlehem Central High School care of Ryan Van Denburg Memorial, Bethlehem Central Endowment Fund, 90 Adams Place, Delmar 12054.

## Oscar Olson

Oscar Olson, 91, of Delmar, died Monday, May 29, at St. Peter's Hospital.

Born in Brooklyn he served in the Army for four years. He lived and worked in White Plains for over 50 years and worked at Scarsdale Tailors. He served as elder and president of the Faith Lutheran Brethren Church in

Briarcliff Manor.

Survivors include his wife Jean Olsen of Delmar; three sons, the Rev. Phil Olson of Mount Holly NJ; the Rev. Paul Olson of Chariton, Iowa; Peter Olson of Spoffard, N.H., a daughter, Millie Cushing of Delmar; 14 grandchildren

Services were from the Applebee Funeral Home, Delmar. Contributions can be made to Camp Spoffard, P.O. Box 162, Spoffard, N. H. 03462.

## Mark William Fisher

Mark William Fisher, 49, of Delmar died May 28.

Born in Albany, he attended Albany Academy and Bethlehem Central High School as well as the University of Tampa and the

College of St. Rose. He worked in sales for Martisco Corp., in East Greenbush before working in his father's business, Fisher Association. The family wishes to express their gratitude to Jules Reilley for her generosity and love for Mark.

Survivors include Joyce B.

Fisher, a sister Veronica, nieces, nephews and several friends.

Services were from the Meyers Funeral Home Delmar. Contributions may be made to the Damien Center, 12 S. Lake Ave., Albany 12203.

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# Entertainment *in the* Spotlight



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Smokey Robinson

## Music is in the air

*Freihofer's Jazz Festival and Old Songs Festival entertain this weekend*

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY

**Y**ou can get jazzy or you can go folksy this weekend, as two festivals celebrate their longevity on the entertainment front.

At the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, The Freihofer's Jazz Festival will be the reason for this weekend's crowd in the Spa City. This is the 29th year of the festival.

"Forty percent of the people who come to the jazz festival turn it into a weekend event," said Vesna Gjaja, SPAC's director of development and marketing. "It's easy to see why - Saratoga's a great place to visit and we have a wonderful line-up of artists in a beautiful spot."

Festival Productions, Inc., stages the jazz festival.

"Their experience, our venue and the public make this a great event," Gjaja said. "For the jazz festival, we draw a large group of people from beyond a 50-mile radius."

Gjaja said the weekend is also a nice family event.

"We have arts and crafts, and southern-style food," she said.

Music at the jazz festival starts at noon on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25, in both the amphitheater and the gazebo at SPAC. For

information, call 584-9330 or visit the Web site, [www.spac.org](http://www.spac.org). Tickets to the festival cost between \$5 for children on the lawn and more than \$100 for a two-day pass. SPAC is located on Route 50 in Saratoga Spa State Park.

catch some Celtic music from Spain at the Old Songs Festival this weekend.

This is the 26th year that the Old Songs Festival has taken place, and along with the varied music, dancing and workshops you can participate in, there are also arts and crafts and food.

You can check out [www.oldsongs.org](http://www.oldsongs.org) for photos from past festivals. The festival is located at the Altamont Fairgrounds at 100 Main St. in Altamont. Admission ranges from \$15 for an afternoon of classes to

In Altamont, you can listen to old hits from Quebec, learn to play the pennywhistle, or

\$105 for the whole weekend with camping. For information, visit [www.oldsongs.org](http://www.oldsongs.org).



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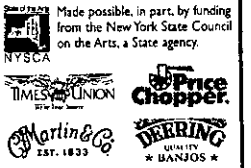
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# Sports *in the* Spotlight

## Huck Finn moves into first-place tie

Huck Finn's Warehouse and More moved into a three-way tie for first place in the Tri-Village Little League Majors Division standings with a 6-4 victory over Amsure Associates Sunday at Magee Park in Delmar.

Huck Finn's rallied for three runs in the top of the third inning to take a 3-2 lead. Amsure Associates tied the game in the bottom of the third, but Huck Finn's scored three more runs in the

sixth inning to take the lead for good.

Benji Federman's two-run double highlighted Huck Finn's sixth inning rally. Carter Broderick also had a two-run double, while Mike Deberry contributed two singles and Ethan Long added an RBI single.

Huck Finn's, Bill's Braves and Family Oil are all tied for first place in the Majors division second-half standings with 5-2

records. CDPHP, JIMCO Painting and The Heat are tied for second place with 4-3 records entering the final week of the regular season.

Family Oil and Bill's Braves both won Saturday to stay tied for first place. Family Oil defeated The Heat 6-4 on Cody Crounse's walk-off three-run home run in the bottom of the sixth inning, while Bill's Braves beat DiNapoli Opticians 3-1.

## Dolphins offer summer morning swim program

The Delmar Dolphins swim club is offering its annual summer morning program at the Elm Avenue Park pool.

Sessions run from 6:45 to 8:45 a.m. Mondays through Fridays beginning June 26 and ending Aug. 4.

The program offers an opportunity for middle and high school swimmers to maintain their fitness levels and technique between scholastic seasons. It also gives college-age swimmers a chance to stay in shape and still have time for a summer job.

Bethlehem swim team alumni Josh Alfred and Chris Rooney will be coaching the program.

The summer morning swim program costs \$160. There is an additional \$32 insurance fee for

those swimmers who have not joined USA Swimming.

For information, visit the Dolphins' Web site at [www.delmardolphins.com](http://www.delmardolphins.com) or call 475-0441.

### 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. Unsigned letters receive no consideration.

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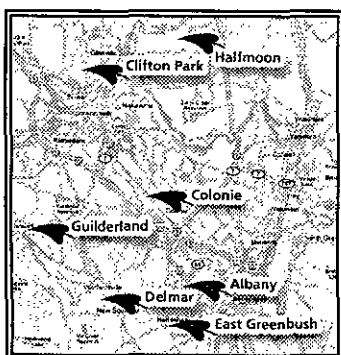
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## Games

(From Page 34)

events to take place on the UAlbany campus while they're in town. There are ways to work around that. Either the Empire State Games organizers can move the event up a week to avoid a conflict, or they can use some of this region's other colleges as host sites.

Multi-campus host sites have been done before. Last year, athletes were housed at Marist College in Poughkeepsie and SUNY New Paltz. Long Island split Empire State Games athletes between Hofstra and SUNY Stony Brook. The year the Mohawk Valley hosted the games, athletes were spread out from Rome to Hamilton.

My proposition would be less spread out than Long Island or the Mohawk Valley. Have events such as track and field, men's hockey, preliminary-round baseball, wrestling, rugby and swimming and diving at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and have the athletes who are involved with those events stay there.

The rest can stay at the UAlbany and be shuttled to the various locations events such as soccer, softball, bowling, boxing, volleyball, basketball, rowing and archery would normally be located around here. There are

## Best

(From Page 34)

Clifton Park resident. "The fact is, they are all individuals, and the ones who are here are doing it because they love it."

"I think one of the things we stress in practice is good sportsmanship," added Sue Handerman, an Albany County track team coach from Menands. "We'd like to see them win medals, but we want them to do their best."

And for many of the athletes, crossing the finish line or completing an event brings a huge smile to their faces.

"Even if I win or lose, I think I did what I could with my abilities, as well as my teammates' and my coaches' abilities," said Probst. "I don't think of it as one person. I think of it as a team."

Or as Virkler put it, "I think everyone's really special. I think everyone's a winner."

At the Special Olympics, that statement couldn't be more true.

## V'ville requests sports physical forms

Clayton A. Bouton Junior/Senior High School athletes participating in fall sports must have a current physical examination and a parent permission/health history form on file in the health office by Aug. 14.

Students will not be allowed to participate in team practices until they submit their forms.

Varsity and junior varsity football tryouts begin Aug. 14, while all other varsity and junior varsity sports begin tryouts Aug. 21. Modified soccer, cross country and girls volleyball begin Sept. 1.

Forms are available in the high school foyer.

For information, contact high school athletic director Joe Sapienza at 765-3314, ext. 208.

enough facilities within a 30-minute drive from UAlbany to make it work.

Arguably, it would be best to utilize UAlbany, which can be done if Empire State Games organizers are willing to hold the event in the third week of July instead of the fourth week. Though there is no guarantee, usually the Giants don't arrive at UAlbany that early in the month. Besides,

all six regions usually have their Empire State Games teams selected in June. The only change those coaches would need to make is scheduling practices to get their athletes ready.

No matter how it's done, though, this region should host the Empire State Games again. We did a good job hosting the event in the past. We deserve another shot.

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## Got sports news?

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Fax information to 439-0609 or e-mail Sports Editor Rob Jonas at [jonasr@spotlightnews.com](mailto:jonasr@spotlightnews.com).



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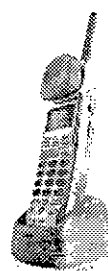
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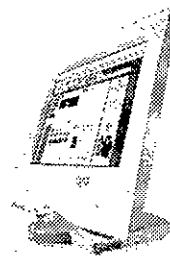
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## News & Notes

### Flynn sweeps titles at Schuylerville

Three Clayton A. Bouton High School students won medals at the Schuylerville Invitational Weightlifting Championship June 10.

Daniel Flynn led the Voorheesville-based team by sweeping gold medals in all three disciplines in the super-heavyweight division. Flynn bench pressed 310 pounds, squatted 425 pounds and lifted 225 pounds in the power clean. He also received a first-place medal for highest overall ratio of lifted weight to body weight.

Daniel Whiteley took first place in his division after squatting 350 pounds. The 14-year-old also finished second in the bench press after lifting 210 pounds.

Adam Duncan took second place after lifting 355 pounds in the 195-pound weight class squat.

Sean Fitzmaurice, Alex Zvinovski and Charlie McGrail also competed for Voorheesville at the Schuylerville Invitational. The team was coached by Joe Sapienza.

### Summer lacrosse camps scheduled

The annual Gladiator Lacrosse Camps will take place the first two weeks of summer.

There will be two boys sessions and one girls session. The boys sessions take place June 26-30 at Christian Brothers Academy in Colonie and July 5-8 at Ballston Spa High School. The girls session takes place July 5-8 in Ballston Spa.

All sessions are open to players age 8 to 18. Individual instruction, drills, skills and team strategies will be taught daily.

Sessions run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the June 26-30 camp and from 6 to 8:30 p.m. during the July 5-8 camps.

For information, call Mike Vorgang at 372-3913, Kevin Dayton at 461-9238 or Tom Schwan at 429-9399.

### Conroy joins Army lacrosse

Bethlehem Central High School senior Joe Conroy will play lacrosse for Army this fall. Conroy was a second-team All-Section II defenseman for the Eagles this season and a member of the 2004 Adirondack region lacrosse team.

## Doing their best

*Special Olympians compete for the love of the game*

By ROB JONAS

Remember the old sports adage, "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game?" Chuck Probst of Delmar does.

So do Sari Virkler of Altamont, Kelton Rose of Wilton and all the other athletes from around the state that competed at last weekend's Special Olympics New York Summer Games in Albany.

For them, the goal isn't so much to win a medal as it is to compete.

"I really don't focus on the medals. I focus on how well we play," said Probst, a member of the Capital District Devil Dogs basketball team.

"I really like to compete with other people and have a positive outlook," said Virkler, a track and field athlete.

This year's event drew more than 1,600 athletes to the region for two days of running, throwing, swimming, basketball, tennis, gymnastics, weightlifting and volleyball competition — not to mention dances, ice cream socials and other activities.

"I think it's fun being with my teammates, going to the Victory Dance, going to the ice cream social and meeting people," said Rose, who was attending his third Summer Games.

Even the coaches were less concerned with the medal count. They just wanted to see their athletes in action.

"It's fun, it's very rewarding, and I learn from it," said Larry Shapiro, a long-time coach of the Saratoga County track and field



Delmar resident Roney Davis competes in the softball toss at last weekend's Special Olympics New York Summer Games at the University at Albany.

Rob Jonas

team. "It's a great experience."

"I get so excited," added Charlton resident Sharon Biaiahoski, who is in her first season as coach of the Albany County swim team. "I'm up there cheering. I get goose bumps when I know they're coming in (to the finish line)."

The athletes — all of whom have varying degrees of intellectual disabilities — are a mix of young and old. The Albany County-based Devil Dogs range

in age from 16 to 56, something one would not see on a regular basketball team. But head coach Tom Nolan said that since most of his players have been with him for a long time, it's not a problem.

"I've basically had the same team for 17 years now. After all those years, they know what they're doing," said Nolan, a Colonie resident.

Even Probst, a Devil Dogs rookie, has had prior basketball experience.

"I've been playing for years," said Probst, who grew up in Troy. "I started learning to play hoops when I was 8 years old."

The coaches work with the athletes for several months of the year to prepare them for the Special Olympics.

"The biggest challenge is that everyone that you're working with is dealing at different (intellectual) levels," said Shapiro, a

□ BEST/page 33

## Bring back the Empire State Games

By ROB JONAS

In another month, the best amateur athletes from across New York will gather to compete at the Empire State Games.

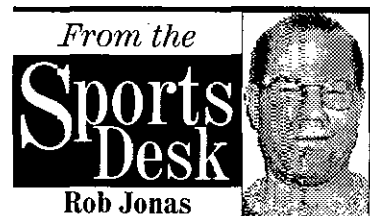
In Rochester.

Next year, many of those same athletes will be gathering ... in Westchester County.

The year after that? Probably Syracuse or Long Island. Maybe Buffalo.

Anywhere but the Capital District.

Why would that be the case, you might ask? This region has as many top-notch sports facilities as anywhere in the state. We have a number of colleges to choose from. And we've supported the state-wide event the three previ-



ous times it's been held here (1991, 1992 and 1997).

All of that is true, except for the middle part. While we have a number of colleges to choose from as host campuses, the one that would be best-suited as a central location — the University at Albany — isn't available when the Empire State Games take place, thanks to the New York Giants training camp.

The two sides tried to co-exist in 1997, but it was an awkward fit

at best. While the Empire State Games athletes were housed at UAlbany, none of the events took place on campus because the Giants were using the school's football fields and the Recreation and Convocation Center. The implied message sent by the Giants to the athletes was, "You can stay here, but you can't play here."

Is it any coincidence that our region hasn't hosted the Empire States Games since, but nearby places like Utica and Poughkeepsie have hosted the event?

It's not as if the statewide competition couldn't co-exist with an NFL team. When Long Island hosted the Empire State Games, one of the two main sites was Hofstra University, which also is home to the New York Jets training facility. The Jets didn't have

any objections to letting Empire State Games athletes compete on the Hofstra campus, which is comparable in size to UAlbany.

It's also not as if UAlbany is incapable of hosting a multi-sport competition with the Giants in town. If you take away the football fields and the RACC (which the Giants transform into a locker/weight room), you could still have preliminary-round baseball games, tennis, synchronized swimming and either wrestling or volleyball on campus without causing any safety or security concerns for the Giants. It's not like those guys need the tennis courts or the baseball field, anyway.

But let's say the Giants won't allow any Empire State Games

GAMES/page 33

## Tea

(From Page 1)

Supervisor Theresa Egan maintains the reassessment process is separate from the taxation issue. "Reassessment is not a taxing event, it's a valuation," said Egan. That comments provoked resident Robert Jasinski to urge people to vote 'NO' again for a new school budget.

"Let's vote that school budget down a second time around," he said.

At the end of Mooney's speech to the town board he passed out Lipton tea bags to each board member because he said, "I can't afford any Earl Grey's." Mooney plans on continuing his fight against the reassessments by hosting a Bethlehem Tea "Party" at his home at 38 Ten Eyck Ave. in Selkirk on June 22, at 7 p.m.

## Venue

(From Page 1)

attorney and chief prosecutor in the Porco case, Michael McDermott. "I would ask the court to modify the trial date so we can present an effective trial."

Local witnesses will now have to travel to Orange County, and the county will have to provide travel expenses and accommodations. Eight staff members in the Albany County D.A.'s office will be moving to Orange County temporarily to handle the case. Both the defense team led by Terence Kindlon and Laurie Shanks and the prosecution team led by McDermott and Assistant D.A. David Rossi will have to find office space for headquarters and accommodations for the duration of the trial. Expenses for Albany County are expected to total \$300,000.

**"I firmly believe the public has a right to know what's going on in the courtroom, the press should be here, and I stand by that."**

Jeffrey Berry

"It will be a much greater strain on you than it will be on me," said Berry. "Instead of me staying locally you will all come down here and stay."

One of the 135 witnesses expected to testify for the prosecution is legendary forensic science expert and investigator Dr. Henry Lee, founder of the Forensic Science Program at the University of New Haven. Lee is considered an expert qualified court witness in not only forensic science, but blood splatter analysis. McDermott is expected to ask for Lee's opinion on a Thruway toll ticket prosecutors believe matches Porco's fingerprints with a mitochondrial DNA test recently performed on the ticket. It is the prosecution's contention that Porco left the University of Rochester on Nov. 2004, and drove down the Thruway to his home in Delmar where he killed his father Peter Porco and attacked his mother Joan with an ax while they were sleeping upstairs in the master bedroom before leaving the house and heading back on the Thruway to Rochester in the middle of the night.

More than 600 homeowners filed formal grievances to fight their assessments with the town assessor's office. That process has been ongoing since March. Mooney has hired a lawyer to overturn the town's assessment on his Selkirk property.

In other town news, state Sen. Neil Breslin has sent a letter to the town board asking them to support a name change for Cherry Avenue in Delmar. A request has been made to change the name to the Captain Timothy J. Moshier Memorial Highway in honor of the local Delmar resident and soldier who was killed in active duty in Iraq. "If the Moshiers are comfortable with it, I am certainly willing to support the senator," said town board member Tim Gordon.

The town will send a letter of support to the senator for the request.

## Porco



"Has Dr. Lee done an evaluation?" asked Berry.

"He has been provided vital documents but has not generated any type of reports," answered McDermott. Kindlon considers an additional 1,556 pages of documents presented by the prosecutors along with this new evidence to be typical of the way the case has been handled so far by the Albany County District Attorney's office.

"This is trial by ambush and denial of due process," said Kindlon. "It's a snow job."

Attorney Michael Grygiel, representing specific media outlets, asked Berry if still photos could be taken during the trial. Berry said he will allow still photos but not televised coverage of the trial.

"I firmly believe the public has a right to know what's going on in the courtroom, the press should be here, and I stand by that," Berry said.

CBS 48 Hours Mystery was present on the last day of the pre-trial and asked if they would be allowed to film the lawyers' closing arguments in the case along with the jury's verdict. Judge Berry said filming of closing arguments would be allowed but it is up to the jury if they want the verdict to be viewed.

"I very much yield to the feeling of the jury when they are giving up four to six weeks of their life," said Berry.

Grygiel also wants the media to be allowed to obtain the 6.5-hour video tape interrogation by Bethlehem police of Porco.

"I think you are entitled to it unless I feel it hampers a fair trial," said Berry.

The Porco murder trial is expected to start immediately after the jury is convened. Orange County Supreme Court has several courtrooms. The trial is expected to be held inside the ceremonial court to allow room for all participants.

When Christopher Porco's trial begins, The Spotlight will provide daily coverage on its Web site, [www.spotlightnews.com](http://www.spotlightnews.com).

## PBA

(From Page 1)

could be a key piece of evidence in the trial. Prosecutors believe the DNA ties Porco to the scene of the crime when his father Peter Porco was murdered and his mother Joan was severely beaten with an ax at their Brockley Drive home.

"All roads lead to Christopher Porco," said Anson, who also defended the hard work the Bethlehem police department has conducted so far in this case. "If we don't get somebody fair and square, we are not going to make any arrests."

Arduini's close friend for over 40 years Pete Bukowski said the family is "hurting" because of these false accusations and that Arduini was a "great individual, a great person and wouldn't hurt anybody."

"Tony was a special type person and this is hurting the kids

big time," said Bukowski. The family is even considering a lawsuit against Kindlon for the way Kindlon is portraying Arduini.

"If we are so inept, why has Mr. Kindlon chosen to live here and raise his kids here for the past 15 years?" asked Anson.

Anson said Arduini was not the lead investigator in the Porco case, and Arduini is not the issue.

"He knows the detective was not even close to those (toll) tickets as far as I know," said Anson.

"I am here today to defend my personal best friend because he cannot defend himself right now," said Bukowski.

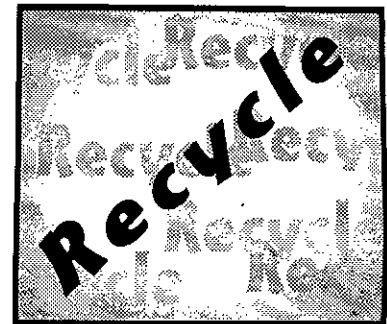
As for Arduini's daughters dating Christopher Porco, which Kindlon has alleged in pre-trial testimony, Bukowski believes the daughters never dated Porco and were nothing more than casual acquaintances.

"The closest they ever got to dating him was driving together in the same car to a swim meet," said Bukowski.

Arduini was one of several Bethlehem police officers who worked on the murder investigation of Peter Porco, and Anson believes this is not the way the hard-working police officer should be remembered.

"It is sad that we have to even be here today talking about this," Anson said.

Arduini died this past spring. Attempts to reach Kindlon were unsuccessful.





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Consumer Cash.....-\$2,500

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Prices exclude tax, title & reg. fees. Offer ends 7/5/2006. \* In lieu of consumer rebate.



# MARSHALL'S TRUCK CENTRE

\* All rebates to dealer. Trade 1999 or newer.

### '06 Envoy SLE 4WD



Silver; alloy wheels; CD; cruise; pwr W&L; tilt; privacy glass, #6t4

MSRP \$29,690

**Now \$25,495\***

### '05 Canyon 2WD Crew Cab Z71 SLE

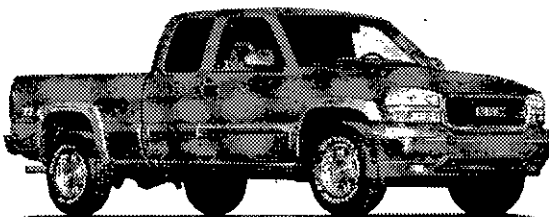


Summit White; deluxe front bucket seats; safe & sound pkg — onstar; 6 disc CD; XM; off road suspension, #5t101

MSRP \$28,580 SAVE \$6585 OFF MSRP

**Now \$21,995\***

### '06 Sierra 1500 4WD Ext. Cab



Silver birch metallic; light duty pkg; Vortec 5.3L 310 HP; HD rear locking differential; HD trailering equipment; work truck package. #6t127

MSRP.....\$28,770  
Marshall's Regular Discount.....-\$1,971  
Rebates.....-\$3,500  
GMC Trade Assistance.....-\$1,500

**Now \$21,799**

\* 48 months/48,000 mile lease; \$2000 down or trade equivalent. Tax, title, \$595 acquisition fee & registration extra.

### '06 Canyon 2WD Reg Cab



Superior blue metallic; Vortec 2800 I4 engine; auto and more. #6t147

MSRP.....\$16,485  
Marshall's Regular Discount.....-\$490  
Rebates.....-\$1,250  
GMC Trade Assistance.....-\$750

**Now \$13,995**

### '06 Yukon Denali AWD



Steel gray metallic; power sunroof; navigation radio; loaded; #6t37

MSRP \$57,085 SAVE \$13,000 OFF MSRP

**Now \$43,995\***

Prices exclude tax, title & reg. fees. Offer ends 7/5/2006.



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Since 1932, Marshall's Makes It Personal.

