



Age-old issue

Legislators appoint county nursing home LDC, but decision receives lackluster support.
See Page 2.



Pretty petals

New York in Bloom, now in its 23rd year at the New York State Museum, is a welcome respite from winter's chill.
See Page 9.



Not as easy as it looks

Watching curling on TV is one thing. Trying the sport at the Albany Curling Club open house proved to be something else.
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Citizens group calls to close Clapper

Town says upgrades necessary meet current and future water usage

By MARCY VELTE
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Responding to concerns voiced by a group of town residents about water usage and its cost, Bethlehem officials said few changes could be made because of federal regulations,

safety standards and the town's water contract with Albany.

Commissioner of Public Works Erik Deyoe gave a presentation to the Bethlehem Town Board on Wednesday, Feb. 12, outlining the reasons a previous board opted to fund upgrades to the Clapper Road Water Treatment Plant in 2010. This came after a new citizen's group calling

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themselves the Committee to Protect Our Resources, or POUR, said they felt the Clapper Road facility should be shuttered because the town was using far less water than it pays to receive from the city of Albany.

"Our preliminary estimates indicated the potential for saving millions of taxpayer dollars

through better management of capital and operating expenditures," said resident and former town board candidate Dan Cunningham, who formed the committee. "At a minimum, there is strong evidence that the town needs to defer additional capital investment at Clapper Road until the problems of excess water capacity and lost water resources is addressed."

Cunningham said POUR

☐ **Water Page 8**



Altamont Mayor James Gaughan celebrated the last step of its new senior van purchased being completed on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The village had waited more than four years to receive \$12,000 from the state.
John Purcell/Spotlight

Senior van unveiled

Village of Altamont waited several years for state funding after purchasing new vehicle

By JOHN PURCELL
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Seniors had cheered years ago at an Altamont Board of Trustees meeting upon hearing a new van would be bought, but the mayor recently was the one cheering after state funds for the purchase finally arrived at Village Hall.

"It languished for years in the bureaucracy, the budget problems," Mayor James Gaughan said. "Because of (Sen. Cecilia Tkaczyk), who released it from the bowels of the earth, we just got it literally weeks ago."

Gaughan said seniors had lobbied to get a new bus, which cost the village

around \$40,000 and was bought about two years ago. The village tapped reserve funds and sold the old bus to the Town of Guilderland to purchase the new bus. Then, local officials waited longer than expected for \$12,000 of state funds to come through.

Gaughan memorialized the bus, which was purchased about two years ago, alongside Tkaczyk and local senior advocates in the parking lot at Village Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Gaughan said Gov. Andrew Cuomo cracked down on member items of state legislators, which is where the village funding had been lined up.

☐ **Van Page 4**

A core concern

Forum focuses on Common Core problems facing special education

By JOHN PURCELL
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Parents and educators shared a common concern at a recent forum: special education cannot work properly under the Common Core's blanket standards.

Senators Cecilia Tkaczyk and Neil Breslin and Assembly members John McDonald and Phil Steck listened to comments from several speakers Tuesday, Feb. 11, discussing how implementation of the Common Core curriculum has exacerbated challenges for students with special needs. The forum was held at Farnsworth Middle School in Guilderland, and a few dozen people attended and listened to comments stretching from the classroom to home.

Bianca Tanis, a special education teacher and parent of two children with autism, kicked off the evening and set the tone for the forum.

"I find these reforms to be one of the worst things that

☐ **Core Page 8**

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Legislators appoint county nursing home LDC

Some supporters weary of shifting operations, McCoy wishes board selected sooner

By JOHN PURCELL
purcellj@spotlightnews.com

Lawmakers established the local development corporation and appointed the seven-member board tasked with taking over operating the Albany County Nursing Home, but some supporters were less than enthusiastic.

The Albany County Legislature approved creating the nursing home LDC by 27-10 at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 10, with votes split across party lines, and appointed its board of directors. The finalization of the LDC was seven months after the resolution was sent to the Special Committee on Elder Care.

Albany County



The Albany County Legislature appointed a local development corporation board to oversee operation of the county nursing home in Colonie. *Spotlight file photo*

Executive Dan McCoy wanted to privatize the nursing home to remove its burden on taxpayers, but legislators offered forming an LDC as a compromise. Some Democrats voting

in support were still unsure if forming the LDC was the best option.

“I don’t know if this is the right answer or not ... but it is better than sitting back as we have been for the last year and a half doing nothing but arguing,” said legislator Gilbert Ethier, D-Cohoes. “I am not wholeheartedly in favor, but I think it is a step in the right direction.”

Legislator Mary Lou B. Connolly, D-Guilderland, said she was giving the proposal “a chance” and hoped it would work as she envisions.

One nursing home supporter viewed the LDC as the best option remaining, with continuing as-is off the table.

“We would of course prefer ... that the legislature oversees it,” said Renee Barchitta of the Albany County Nursing Home Core Family Council. “If it comes to either selling it ... or closing it, then we support this wholeheartedly. We think it is the best out of those three options.”

Barchitta said she called most of the proposed board members and was “very impressed” with their qualifications and “concern” for residents. She said most supported keeping county employees.

The LDC Board of Directors was formed through the legislature chairman and majority leader, with each of them selecting three members and the minority leader selecting one member. The board members include Fiscal Policy Institute Executive Director Emeritus Frank Mauro, CDPHP Medical Director of Senior Services Kirk

Panneton, the Rev. Kenneth Doyle, former City of Watervliet Mayor Robert Carlson, City of Cohoes Comptroller Michael Durocher, former Albany County Department for Aging commissioner Judy Coyne and University at Albany Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy professor Kevin Bronner.

Legislator Bryan Clenahan, D-Guilderland, said he supported forming the LDC because he believes it would maintain his goals of keeping county employees, running the home effectively and efficiently, and continue allowing all patients “regardless of their ability to pay” or the severity of health issues to be served.

“I vote for this on the assumption that the seven people being appointed to the LDC board share these goals,” Clenahan said. “If they end up not supporting these goals, then I will ask for their resignation.”

Legislator Deborah Busch, R-Knox, spoke against the resolution on behalf of the minority caucus.

“The resolution before

us tonight does not meet our expectations for the LDC,” Busch said. “It was our original understanding that we would experience some type of relief from the nursing home’s current fiscal burdens. ... However, the vague and incomplete nature of this resolution does not provide us with any ability to assess if this is the case.”

Busch said the minority conference feared passing the resolution would result in “virtually writing a blank check,” because the resolution said the LDC would assist with the “ongoing operation” of the nursing home.

Legislator Richard Mendick, R-Selkirk, said several financial studies on the nursing home reveal the same issues regarding the levels of staffing, compensation and benefits.

“As we talk about continuing to have county employees at their current wages and level of benefits, and we are going to continue to pay for those losses, it seems like we completely ignore all of the analysis that has been,” Mendick said.

Legislator Gary Domalewicz, D-Albany, disagreed with Mendick and viewed approving the LDC resolution as a “win-win” for everyone.

“We are taking the first step in moving forward and creating a viable environment for the residents out there and the workers of Albany County that work at the nursing home,” Domalewicz said. “I still believe we should be building a new nursing home somewhere down the road, once we get this nursing home up and running in the proper manner that it should be.”

McCoy, while pleased progress is being made, said the LDC should have been formed several months ago. He continued saying the county “shouldn’t be in the business” of running the nursing home, but agreed seniors must be protected.

“I know we need that safety net and we need to be there, but people want tax relief,” McCoy said. “We have to be there in their time of need and do things differently and be thinking creatively.”

He said there isn’t time for any more delays and it can’t wait another year to transfer options to the LDC.

“This should be up to the Health Department in the next 30 to 60 days,” McCoy said. “In order to achieve a property tax cap again for next year, we have to achieve different things for savings.”

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Bethlehem approves new open space program

Group would continue work of earlier committees

By MARCY VELTE
veltem@spotlightnews.com

While a new open space program has been formed in the Town of Bethlehem, some residents felt no more could be achieved than what had already been discussed in prior community groups.

Formation of the new open space program was approved Wednesday, Feb. 12, by the town board. The main objective is to establish a citizen advisory group, which would work to evaluate lands the town may want to preserve for open space.

“The goal is to identify criteria that can help the Board in making decisions on open space preservation in the event that properties and willing land owners come forward to preserve their land or look for the opportunity for the town to purchase land or development rights,” said town Planning Director Rob Leslie.

The subject of open space has been a major issue in the town for more than a decade as officials and residents work to make sure there is a balance between new development and

land preservation. A number of former citizens groups have discussed the topic, such as the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation and the more recent Comprehensive Plan Assessment Committee.

Leslie said the new program was meant to create the criteria, which would recommend the preservation of land, establish a capital reserve fund for the purchase of land and work on education and outreach. Once land was obtained, it would also be the group’s mission to decide what would be the best way to preserve the land, through zoning or a land trust.

Supervisor John Clarkson said the issue was being taken up again because residents have repeatedly indicated they would support such an effort.

Lisa Evens, a representative of the local conservation group Bethlehem Tomorrow, said her organization was in favor of the group and once again brought the Town Board a petition from two years ago with 900 signatures asking for such a group. Mark King, executive director of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, also commended the town for “tackling” the subject.

“I know this is a tough issue,

but one that I think is really important to the town’s future,” he said.

Others were unsure what more could be done if landowners weren’t willing to cooperate, and some didn’t like the possible idea of the town using its own money to purchase land or the fact that any preserved land would be taken off the tax rolls.

Valerie Newell of Wemple Road, who served on CACC, said she thinks many of the large landowners in town could be weary of the town having an open space program because they might feel like they were not always heard. She also said she thought a lot of time had already been spent on the topic.

“One of the things I would like to see as we go forward, because I guess we are going forward, one of the things I would like to respectfully request is that we look at the lands that are going to be prioritized on the basis of only those lands of a willing landowner,” Newell said. “I think that is extremely important.”

Bethlehem resident Linda Jasinski echoed many of Newell’s thoughts and said she felt there were enough nonprofit organizations within the town that could tackle the issue themselves

without help from the town.

Leslie agreed that the program’s objectives were consistent with the work that had already been done by other groups, but little action had taken place. Clarkson said he hopes with the new program, the town could actually start preserving land.

Five Rivers asks for buffer

At the same meeting, Friends of Five Rivers President Robert Gordon asked the town board if anything could be done to help create a buffer around the environmental education center’s 446-acre property.

Gordon had first written a letter to the town board members and was then invited to speak at the next town meeting to coincide with the open space discussion.

“What we’re here asking for is the town to consider — due to the unique nature of Five Rivers as a natural, educational and open space resource to the town — any development plans that would affect it warrant heightened scrutiny, and accommodations that can protect this great resource,” he said.

Gordon said “McMansions” can now be seen from some of the outer trails. Only about 50 acres of the of the Five Rivers property is within the Town of Bethlehem. The rest lies in the Town of New Scotland.

The group is asking for a buffer of land in between their land and developments. Trees have been planted, but Gordon said it could be nearly two decades until they are tall enough to be effective.

“This is sort of a real example of what we were just talking about of what an open space program could do,” said Councilman Jeffrey Kuhn.

Gordon said a number of things could be done to help, such a having an entity purchase the development rights, creating a conservation easement to limit the number of homes that could be built in the area or protecting small portions of land to create trails.

Jasinski said a buffer wasn’t needed given the size of the property.

“Building up around it has nothing to do with the oasis there,” she said. “Central Park in New York City is very much appreciated, and it has apartment houses all around it.”

Youth soccer club offers new program

Academy-style training will pair preschool children with coaches

By MARCY VELTE
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A variety of changes are coming to the Bethlehem Soccer Club.

As the youth sports program prepares to partner with Afrim Sports on the construction of a new indoor soccer dome on its Wemple Road property, it has also decided to begin providing more thorough lessons for a younger level of athletes.

Beginning this spring, Bethlehem Soccer Club instructors will provide lessons for the area’s preschool age children. Club President Jeremy Martelle said the “academy-style” training is being offered because kids are getting involved in sports earlier than in previous years, and the club’s board saw a need in the community.

“This is something we’re offering to not just Bethlehem children, but the Capital District as a whole,” said Martelle. “We are excited to offer this program because we will be able to provide more structured training then you can find elsewhere for this age level.”

Martelle said the idea came from within the club. Many participants have younger siblings who also wanted to the type of training provided to their brothers and sisters. To be eligible, kids must have been born before Dec. 1, 2009 and entering kindergarten in the fall of 2014.

In the past, parent volunteers coached the younger children. The new

“professional model” will help the kids build their technical skills in the game. A licensed, professional coach will act as training director. Technical coaches will then be available to help the parent volunteers.

“Individual academy practices will focus on teaching basic soccer skills in a fun, kid-friendly environment,” according to a statement about the program. “Academy practices will be one hour in length. The first 40 minutes of the session will focus on basic skills training. The last 20 minutes will focus on team activities and a short scrimmage.”

Although the changes to the program will allow the club to take on a greater number of kids, Martelle said the club isn’t expecting to raise more funds. The registration fee remains \$75.

“The dome is already being funded through our partnership, so that isn’t the reason at all,” said Martelle. “This is just a perceived need and something we’re hearing other club members would like. If the organization grows because of this, then at least we are keeping kids involved and engaged in the process.”


For years, the Bethlehem Soccer Club had attempted to build an indoor soccerplex

on its own. In June, the organization announced it would be partnering with Afrim Neza, owner of two other Capital District soccer facilities, to build an indoor soccer dome. The partnership would mean both the club and Neza would pay for the facility to be built. After construction, day-to-day operations would be left to Neza, with the Bethlehem Soccer Club acting as a landlord. The project is now before the town’s Planning Board.

A meeting will be held on Saturday, March 1, at 9:30 a.m. at Bethlehem Central Middle School to highlight how the program will work.

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Police Blotter

Third arrest in Glenmont buffet ID theft case

Bethlehem Police Department detectives arrested a third person allegedly involved in August's identity theft case from the Golden Town Buffet in Glenmont.



Bao Hua Liu

Police arrested Bao Hua Liu, 51, of Manhattan, on Wednesday, Feb. 12, on identity theft charges. In August, the Bethlehem Police Department, assisted by multiple local police agencies as well as the New York State Police, Homeland Security and U. S. Secret Service, executed a search warrant at the Golden Town Buffet on Route 9W in Glenmont after

an investigation determined that credit cards were being skimmed at that location. The ongoing investigation has determined that Liu was allegedly involved in facilitating the use of counterfeit credit cards with the identities of multiple individuals who were victimized at the business. Liu was allegedly involved in using these cards at multiple locations for the purchase of merchandise and gift cards. Liu was arrested by Bethlehem detectives, U.S. Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security Investigations and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Liu was later arraigned in the Town of Bethlehem Court by Judge Ryan Donovan. He was charged on two felony counts of identity theft in the first

degree, felony counts of criminal possession of forged instrument in the second degree, grand larceny in the third degree and scheme to defraud in the first degree, as well as misdemeanor counts of conspiracy in the fifth degree and criminal facilitation in the fourth degree. Liu was remanded to the Albany County Correctional Facility without bail. He was returned to the Town of Bethlehem Court on Feb. 14 for a preliminary hearing. Additional charges are pending.

Other arrests

• Guilderland police arrested Daniel Richard Curry, 21, of 16 Country Road in Albany, at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, and charged him with burglary in the second degree and criminal mischief in the second degree, both felonies. Police said Curry was arrested following a "DNA hit" from a burglary in 2012. Curry turned himself in and was arraigned, police said.

• Guilderland police arrested Aaron W. Teeter, 34, of 8 Wilmer Ave., first floor, in Cohoes, around 3:40 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, and charged him with assault in the second degree, a felony, criminal possession of a weapon

in the fourth degree, menacing in the second degree and harassment in the second degree. Police said Teeter was involved in a verbal altercation that turned physical. He allegedly struck a victim in the arm and face with a doorknob and attached stem. He also allegedly "repeatedly" punched and scratched the victim on the right side of the face, which caused pain, abrasions and swelling.

• Guilderland police arrested Brendan Jay Ragotzkie, 20, of 14 Remington Road in Schenectady, at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31, and charged him with sexual abuse in the first degree for forcibly subjecting another person to sexual contact, a felony, and unlawful imprisonment in the second degree. Police said Ragotzkie was arrested based upon an ongoing investigation of the department.

• Guilderland police arrested Eric John Larcom, 21, of 3 Okara Drive, Apt. 18C, in Schenectady, at 12:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, and charged him with grand larceny in the fourth degree, a felony. Larcom allegedly stole merchandise from a Stewarts store located at 2446 Western Ave. where he was employed, according to police. He

also provided a written statement saying he stole from the store, police said.

• Guilderland police arrested Brian R. Wood, 27, of 1755 County Highway 10-7 in Amsterdam, around 3:50 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, and charged him with felony DWI for having a prior conviction, failure to keep to the right and failure to obey a traffic device. Wood allegedly made an illegal left turn out of McDonald's on Western Avenue and drove westbound in the center turn lane until around Crossgates Mall Road. Police stopped Wood and observed him to have the odor of alcohol on his breath, glassy eyes, impaired coordination and a "confused demeanor." A pre-screen device revealed he had a BAC of 0.17 percent, according to police, but he refused a chemical breath test later during arrest processing.

• Guilderland police arrested Gerardo I. Taboada, 34, 621 Myrtle Ave. in Albany, around 4:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, and charged him with possession of a forged instrument in the second degree, a felony. Police said the prior day around noon, while Taboada was working for The Standard in Crossgates Mall, he allegedly handed

a fake state non-driver's identification card to the mall security office. He handed over his ID to gain access to the roof to fix a plumbing issue for the restaurant, but the security officer turned to ID over to a security director, who then turned it over to police. He was not able to provide police with any other form of identification and a fingerprint inquiry was negative, according to police. He was remanded to Albany County jail without bail and was scheduled to reappear in Guilderland Town Court Thursday, Feb. 6.

• Guilderland police arrested Jamie F. Young, 33, of 42 Woodlake Road in Guilderland, around 6:10 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, and charged her with driving while ability impaired by drugs, leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and following too close. Police said Young was involved in a personal injury accident at 5:36 p.m. Tuesday and left the scene, with her driving to her apartment. A breath test revealed she had not consumed alcohol, but police said she determined to have been impaired by drugs. A blood test could not be secured due to her having collapsed and calcified veins, but a urine test was secured.

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Van

(From Page 1)

"There are some aspects of member items that were really good because little places like us could be helped for really critical items," Gaughan said. "Some remnant of it, I think, should be returned."

Stan Dean, senior van driver, said the village stayed with a similar vehicle holding

12 passengers. If the vehicle held just a few more passengers, it would require a special license, which he said would be a hassle to obtain.

Dean said a lot of seniors in the village use the bus, which helps residents get to doctor appointments or other errands. The seniors also hold a weekly lunch on Tuesdays.

"I think it is needed for the folks around here," said Lee Capano, one of the "kitchen angels" for the senior center. "It makes it so much more convenient for them."

Dean said the older bus was starting to break down and had a lot of mileage on it. Gaughan said the former van's roof was leaking onto passengers in the front.

"Like all equipment, it has to be safe," Trustee William Aylward said. "We want an up-to-date bus that is safe."

Gaughan said the village also had looked into buying a vehicle with a wheelchair lift, but the cost exceeded what the village was able to fund.

"It was financial and just practical to go with the same bus we had," he said.

Aylward first approached Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Delmar, more than four years about getting funds to help offset buying a new van. During the process of trying to attain the funds, state senate district lines were redrawn, which pushed Breslin's district out of Altamont. Village officials then worked with Tkaczyk, D-Duanesburg, after she was elected to the newly drawn district.

"I am so happy to see it here," Aylward said. "It is so useful, and people really depend upon it."

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Northrup’s story told by area author

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Enslaved in Louisiana for nearly 12 years, Northrup was eventually able to get word to friends in New York and then return home as a free man. In 1853, Northrup published a book about his harrowing experiences entitled “Twelve Years a Slave” – now a major motion picture – and traveled around the Northeast giving speeches and helping fugitive slaves get to Canada.

David Fiske is co-author of the new book “Solomon Northrup: The Complete Story of the Author of ‘Twelve Years a Slave,’” as well as author of “Solomon Northrup: His Life Before and After Slavery” and numerous local history articles. He is a lecturer, professional librarian and professional genealogist.

“Minute to Win It” Olympics
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This event is for tweens in grades 4 through 6. Please call 456-2400, ext. 4 to register.

Photo editing family portraits
On Thursday, Feb. 20, two members of the Digital Photo Forum will show everyone you how to turn a good family portrait into a great one.

The forum is starting a series of more intensive sessions on digital photographic skills. Herb Brown will detail how to effectively use exposure correction functions that are common to most

photo editing software. Then, Rick Connery will lead a sharing session about taking better family portraits. You are welcome to bring examples of portraits that you would like to discuss. Bring work on your laptop, flash drives, CDs or memory cards. Printed photos welcome too.

Read, build, play for preschoolers
Preschoolers aged 3 years through 5 years are invited to “Read, Build, and Play” at GPL on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m.

This evening playtime is full of fun read-alouds and time building a story element with Lego Duplo blocks. Children will also have free play time with Duplos, Lincoln Logs and building blocks.

In addition to being just plain fun, playing with building toys increases a child’s school-readiness by developing math, science and engineering skills.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call 456-2400, ext. 4 to let us know you’re coming.

Lego Lego
Tweens, “Lego” some of your expanded vacation time (remember the Valentine’s Day snow day you had) at GPL on Friday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. at this session of the Tween Lego Club, which features Lego gaming.

What better time to show off your mad Lego-building skills with friends? Bring your own bricks, or create with ours. As usual, creations that you bring to show off will be kept separate from the library supplies. You can also take a turn on the Wii system to play a Lego videogame. We meet in the Helderberg Room. Lego friends in grades 3 through 6 are welcome to drop in.

Classic film: A dozen angry men
Most movies just don’t get to you on a TV screen as they do in the movies, and – for raw grit and emotion – there is arguably no better example than the classic film showing at GPL on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m. That’s why we’re showing it on the Helderberg’s Big Screen, so you get the full effect.

Director Sidney Lumet crafted this gem about 12 angry men serving in a sweltering Manhattan jury room.

Senior citizens night at the theater

The Guilderland Players’ next musical is “All Shook Up.”

Senior Citizen Night is Thursday, March 13, at 7 p.m., and tickets are available at a cost of \$5 each (cash only) in the Senior Office in February (call ahead to check on ticket availability at 356-1980).

The musical is a comedy based very loosely on Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night”, but takes place in a small town in the 1950s, and every musical number is an Elvis Presley song.

Transportation will be provided to this event.

Movie of the month
“Captain Phillips” Feb. 27 at 10:30 a.m.

In this newly released exciting adventure, based on true events that made international headlines, Tom Hanks portrays Capt. Richard Phillips, who is taken hostage by Somali pirates after they hijack his cargo ship, and the U.S. Navy’s efforts to rescue him.

Rated PG-13. 134 minutes. Sign up by Feb. 20 by calling 356-1980, ext. 1940.

Town of Guilderland SENIOR CALENDAR

Yarn donations needed
Our Needlecraft Class makes lap afghans and baby sweaters to donate to those in need in our community. Any donations of yarn would be greatly appreciated.

Wednesday, Feb. 19
Scheduled Shopping
9 a.m. Cardio Circuit
10:30 a.m. Strong Bones +
10:30 a.m. Sr. Fitness
1 p.m. Needlecraft
1:30 p.m. Strong Bones +

Thursday, Feb. 20
Scheduled Shopping
9 a.m. Strong Bones +
9:30 a.m. Scheduled Legal Appointments
12:30 p.m. Mahjongg
1 p.m. Pinochle

Friday, Feb. 21
Scheduled Shopping
10 a.m. Painting
10 a.m. Bridge
1 p.m. Quilting

Read in and enjoy some pizza on Feb. 21

On Friday, Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m., drop in for our Winter Reading Club Read-In held in the library community room. Stay for a few minutes or spend the day. You can win special prizes, such as Amazon, iTunes and local bookstore certificates. Prizes will be awarded at various times throughout the event. Free pizza will be served at lunch, along with snacks and beverages throughout the day.

Caring for your family’s papers
The library archivist, Jim Corsaro, will be presenting this program on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Learn how to care for your family paper treasures, from Grandma’s recipes to old photographs. Bring one item for preservation advice. Please call 765-2791 to register.

Going, going ...
There are just a few more days for you to stop by and see the handcrafted items on display by our local Nimblefingers group. They really put a lot of



work into this show, and when it’s gone....it’s gone for another year.

Civil War display
Beginning March 8 and running through the end of April, the Voorheesville Library is proud to present a very special gallery exhibit. Coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War’s battle of Cold Harbour, the

library will be hosting an exhibit, on loan from the Knox Historical Society, honoring Knox Officer Lt. Michael Henry Barckley.

In conjunction with the Civil War display, the library will be hosting artists John Elberfeld and Jane McLean. John and Jane are two of the driving forces behind the Helderberg Quilt Barn Trail (HGBT) we’ve all been hearing so much about. If you’ve ever wondered what those big square quilt designs on the

sides of barns and houses are, then you really must visit the library and find out. John and Jane will be displaying some Civil War era patterns, as well as some of their other designs which decorate many area buildings. They will be hosting an open house on Sunday, March 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. Please be sure to stop by, visit with your hosts and enjoy their art.

Who knows? There may even be a Civil War re-enactor dropping by.

Lynn Kohler

Sundays in February

Museum Open Hours

Exhibits on our town's history - currently featuring

"Farming in Bethlehem"



Sunday Afternoon 2-4PM February 23rd

Families and friends welcome ~ No admission charge



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Sat. March 1st, 2014

Bethlehem High School 700 Delaware Ave Delmar	Eat In 4:00-6:30 Take Out 3:30-6:00
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Chicken Dinner \$10 Rib Dinner \$12
Youth Dinner \$8 *Dinners include baked potato, coleslaw & roll*

Vegetable Lasagna \$10 Half Chicken \$7

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susie2742005@yahoo.com

Advanced ticket purchase recommended but not required.

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From the Editor's Desk

The core issue should be students

With the state Board of Regents' decision last week to delay full implementation of the Common Core program for five years, it has become pretty clear that, as far as the state is concerned, it is not a matter of *if* but *when*.

To be fair, you will find few who argue against the idea of holding New York students to high standards, and the decision to delay full implementation gives districts the time they need to meet the demands of the program. The problem is, all this Common Core discussion is becoming increasingly about what the adults want and not the very students who will be impacted most.

It seems like a good time to ask ourselves what we would like the graduates of 2020 to embody. The stricter Common Core curriculum promises to promote critical thinking skills and the ability to synthesize ideas across different disciplines. This is certainly a noble goal, but we wonder how well a standardized test is going to measure that outcome. Common Core curriculum also promises to raise the level of math proficiency in students, and again, you would find few people sounding the call to hold our children back.

But when we envision this 2020 graduate, STEM-proficient and able to

navigate a complicated system of testing, there is no guarantee that he or she will be better prepared for life beyond the schoolyard than the students who are graduating today.

Does this focus on Common Core and its required testing come at the detriment of activities and skills that make a student an individual and a productive adult? Does this insistence that there is only one kind of successful student — the Common Core proficient one — ignore the fact that individuals have different skill sets that can be just as valuable to society? Does judging teachers on the results of those tests without considering the variables that differ among districts make them better educators?

Delaying the full Common Core implementation does not answer these questions, but the extra time is certainly necessary if districts are going to make it work — for the students.

There are new textbooks and computer software to buy that will help students learn the skills the program says will prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce. Also, math and English teachers must change their lesson plans to fit the program's requirements. These are items that cannot be checked off overnight.

And at what cost — financial and otherwise — will these changes be implemented?

Districts are already cutting costs because of decreases in state aid over the last several years, not to mention the 2 percent tax cap they must now adhere to or risk homeowners' ire if they miss out on a tax rebate, thanks to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's new directive that ties the two together.

And if our schools are using those limited resources to put these changes in place, we can only imagine ever deepening cuts to music, art and athletic programs, which are, sadly, not deemed Common Core worthy.

If Cuomo is serious about getting our schools up to speed, he should make it a priority to increase funding or establish grants to help districts purchase the necessary equipment.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with holding teachers and students to high standards. After all, we want our children to be prepared for life after high school. Being able to read, write and perform essential math skills (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing) at high levels are all important, but let's not forget about those who have no say in the changes that will most directly affect them — the graduates of 2020 and beyond.

The word on the street

What do you do on snow days?



Johanna Hernandez, The Bronx

"Ideally, I would do stuff I don't get to do on other days. Relax, watch movies or catch up with family."



Daniel Rabbani, Woodmere

"Stay in and watch Netflix. 'House of Cards, Season 2' is out, so I gotta catch up with that."



Emily Wallsh, Albany

"Go snowboarding at a local mountain, like West Mountain or Jiminy Peak."

Asked Friday, Feb. 14, at the University at Albany.

What do you think?

Go to spotlightnews.com to take the poll.

Guest Commentary

Be aware of hidden dangers

The following article is provided by National Grid.

There is still plenty of winter weather ahead and National Grid reminds its Upstate New York customers to use caution when clearing snow to avoid covering or damaging natural gas lines, meters, regulators, and intake and exhaust vents for gas appliances. Customers should keep their gas meters clear of snow and should be careful not to drop heavy, rooftop snow onto any outside meter. Customers should also use care when shoveling or plowing near outside gas lines, because damage to this equipment can result in a natural gas leak.

As the winter months continue, National Grid reminds customers about what actions they should take if they suspect a natural gas leak and how to avoid exposure to potentially deadly carbon monoxide.

Report Natural Gas Leaks

Like any fuel, natural gas is safe when used properly. In the interest of customer and public safety, National Grid crews continually test, repair and improve the underground system that delivers natural gas, but the possibility does exist for a gas leak in or near your home. Natural gas is odorless, but National Grid adds a harmless substance called mercaptan, which has a strong odor similar to that of a rotten egg, to natural gas so that you can tell if gas is escaping.

Any natural gas leak is a potentially hazardous situation. If you or a loved one detects a natural gas leak, National Grid recommends that you evacuate the

premises for your own safety while taking the following immediate actions:

- Do not touch any electrical or light switches, appliances, thermostats, doorbells, phones or anything that could cause a spark.
- Do not turn any electrical equipment on or off.
- Do not pull any plugs from outlets.
- Do not smoke or light matches.

If you have a gas range or oven, make sure the controls are turned off. Extinguish any easily accessible open flames such as lit candles, but never try to put out a fire you suspect may be caused by escaping gas. Leave immediately.

National Grid advises its customers who suspect a natural gas leak to call National Grid's gas emergency number from a safe location: 1-800-892-2345. National Grid technicians respond immediately to any calls about gas leaks.

Do not return to your home until National Grid tells you it is safe.

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that can be deadly if left undetected. It is the byproduct of the incomplete burning of fuels such as natural gas, butane, propane, wood, coal, heating oil, kerosene and gasoline. Common sources of carbon monoxide include malfunctioning forced-air furnaces, kerosene space heaters, natural gas ranges, wood stoves, fireplaces and motor vehicle engines. During the heating season when windows and doors are tightly shut, fresh air is sealed out, creating the

potential for carbon monoxide to build up over time.

The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to those of the flu. Depending upon the amount of carbon monoxide in the air and length of exposure, symptoms may include headaches, weakness, confusion, chest tightness, skin redness, dizziness, nausea, sleepiness, and fluttering of the heart or loss of muscle control. If you suspect carbon monoxide is present in your home, go outside immediately and call 911. After calling 911, call National Grid's emergency contact number at 1-800-892-2345.

Carbon Monoxide Prevention Tips:

- Arrange for an annual check of your heating system by a licensed professional heating contractor. If you haven't had your heating system inspected yet, call them now.
- Have your chimney or flue checked for debris, bird nests or other blockages, and have them cleaned periodically.
- Be sure space heaters and wood stoves are in good condition, have adequate ventilation and are used in strict compliance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never use a gas range for heating or burn coal or charcoal in an enclosed space.
- Install a government-approved home carbon monoxide detector on every floor.
- If you use a back-up generator to supply power during outage, be sure to operate it outdoors. Open windows do not provide sufficient ventilation to safely operate a generator indoors.

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The book that inspired ‘Downton Abbey’

When British author and screenwriter Julian Fellowes was approached to create a TV series, he was reading “To Marry an English Lord” by Gail McColl and Carol Wallace. For Fellowes, that book was “a marvelous and entertaining study of the American girls who came over to England, mostly between 1890 and 1914, to marry into the British aristocracy.”

Because of that book, Lord Grantham’s wealthy American wife, Lady Cora, was the first character Fellowes imagined for the BBC’s immensely popular “Downton Abbey.”

Carol Wallace will talk about her book and its real-life characters this Sunday, Feb. 23, at 1 p.m. Her talk will be accompanied by photographs and anecdotes of the society women who helped inspire “Downton Abbey.”

Some of you might remember that Wallace co-authored “The Official Preppy Handbook,” which became a best-seller in 1980. Since then, she has written 19 more books and dozens of magazine articles. Her areas of specialty have been humor, social history, parenting and fiction. In 2006, she earned a masters degree in art history from Columbia University; her thesis was the basis for her historical novel, “Leaving Van Gogh” (Random House, 2011). She has recently completed the manuscript for a new historical novel, “Madame Manet.” Wallace lives with her family in New York City.

Carol Wallace’s talk is



cosponsored by Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. A book signing and sale will follow, courtesy of I Love Books.

Vacation fun

It’s school break week this week, and we have a lineup of great programs for kids. Check the listing in the library newsletter, stop by for a schedule or visit www.bplkids.org.

Louise Grieco
Public Information
Specialist

Lego Club

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 4p.m.
We supply the Legos, you supply the imagination. Try Lego challenges and build friendships. Kids and families.

Teen Lounge

Friday, Feb. 28, 3:30-4:30 p.m. The Community Room will be “your space” to hang out, be yourself and talk with your friends. Games, crafts and snacks available. Grade 6-12.

A Little Sunday Music: Zephyr Wind Quintet

Sunday, March 2, 2 p.m.
A new chamber group led by flutist John Van Voris.

Knit One, Purl One

Sunday, March 2, 2 p.m.
Bring a current project or, if you’re a beginner, bring size 8 knitting needles; we’ll provide some yarn to get you started. Adults, children age 9 and up.

The Sound of Music at the Y

The Y is alive with the sound of music! Or, at least it will be soon. The Bethlehem YMCA will soon be expanding its opportunities for young children to learn about the arts and develop their talents in music, singing and performing for an audience.

For the future Alicia Keys or Justin Timberlake, there will be a beginner singer class designed for both aspiring singers as well as those who just love music. The class will teach a complete understanding of the physical aspects of singing, including how the vocal chords work, how the lungs work in relation to singing, the importance of breath support and how to properly place your voice – all basic singing techniques. Classes are divided up for kids age 5 to 10 and for adults and seniors.

Maybe your child is the next piano prodigy or guitar virtuoso. Develop that talent through the Bethlehem Y’s parent/child music program that focuses on simple songs, rhythms and self-expression through music. This is a fabulous opportunity for you and your child, ages 3 to 5, to bond via interactive musical play.



What if you have a son or daughter in middle school or high school that could be the next Matt Damon or Jennifer Lawrence? The Y will offer a performance class to build confidence and develop valuable skills for acting, speaking and performing in front of an audience. Two classes for young people ages 10 to 14 and 15 to 18 will focus on understanding performance techniques or helping someone get over stage fright.

If your child loves to dance, the Y will have a pre-school ballet class

that combines the joy of movement with fun, kid-friendly music that emphasizes simple ballet terms, floor warm-up exercises and bar work, for ages 3 ½ to 5 years.

\$13 for the first child and \$7 for each additional child. Sign up at the Y front desk.

New YMCA youth program brochure

Information on these and other youth programs is available in the new YMCA program brochure. There is truly a class for everyone, including: TBall, one-on-one volleyball training, pickleball and under-10 tennis. We also have educational programs such as the Black & Latino Achievers and Youth In Government program for teens.

At the Bethlehem YMCA, we make youth development a priority mission and, as you can see, we offer a broad range of fun, active and educational programs to back that up.

Drumming program at library

Make plans to bring your children to the library for our Get the Beat drumming program with local percussionist Brian Melick. On Thursday, Feb. 20, at 10:30 a.m., kids age preschool and up will get to “jam” with Brian as he shares his knowledge of world rhythms with them.

Registration is required; call 756-2053 or email info@rcscommunitylibrary.org.

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Kids Construction Zone Friday

If it is school break, it must be time for a Lego Construction Zone at the library. Bring a friend on Friday, Feb. 21, at 10:30 a.m. for free play with the library’s Lego collection. We will have some games

and challenges, too. Open to kids preschool age and older.

Computer/tech classes

Email: Getting Started — Learn how to send messages, reply, forward and attach files. Please note: If you would like help to sign up for an email account prior to the class, come in during normal walk-in hours. Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

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Water

(From Page 1)

consists of about 15 residents who are concerned about the amount of money the town will be spending to upgrade its water infrastructure when it already pays a steep price for Albany water. He put together his own analysis by using data provided by the town through the state's Freedom of Information law, and said he believes the water produced from Clapper Road would actually be more expensive, after calculating in facility maintenance and upgrades.

Deyoe argued that the upgrades are needed and that the Clapper Road facility is a valuable resource.

"This is a different type of beast than a factory/economic situation," said Deyoe, explaining there

is an expectation from the public that they will always have clean water coming from their taps.

According to the DPW commissioner, regulations specify the town's water supply must exceed the demand of its peak month from within the past 10 years. In order to do this, water is needed from all four of the town's resources: Clapper Road, the Albany water contract, the New Salem Water Treatment Plant and the New Salem Wells. If Clapper Road were to close, more water would need to be purchased from Albany in order to replace it.

Deyoe said the town now pays \$3.78 per 1,000 gallons of water from Albany, versus a cost of \$1.73 at Clapper Road.

Councilwoman Joanne Dawson asked if analysis had been done to show that the price of Clapper Road water would continue to be

cheaper than Albany water once the upgrades to the facility were taken into account. Deyoe said such a study had been done in 2010, and he could provide the board with those numbers at a later date.

The decision to upgrade Clapper Road was made four years ago in order to ramp up output from the plant. Built in 1994, the plant can provide 6 million gallons of water per day, but the chlorine pre-treatment system limits capacity to 3 million gallons a day. With upgrades already needed because of new federal safety standards for drinking water, the project would allow the pre-treatment system to be expanded so the plant can reach its full capacity.

Deyoe said because the town would be producing more water, the cost of production would also then decrease.

By opening up

Clapper Road's output to more of the town, the replacement of the New Salem plant could be put off for years, even with new federal quality regulations in place since 2012. Uniting the systems would make it easier for the town to deal with summer usage peaks, as Clapper Road can respond more speedily to those demands. A study was initiated in November 2013 to look into the potential designs of upgrading that facility and come up with a more precise cost.

Deyoe also said he thought closing the plant would be a mistake because of Albany's aging water infrastructure, adding that there may come a time when the city is unable to get water to Bethlehem without major upgrades needed. He said having redundancies in the system allows for storage to accommodate emergencies, equipment failures, power outages

and maintenance shutdowns. The supply also supports anticipated growth and economic development.

Supervisor John Clarkson said since the City of Albany has both a new water commissioner and mayor, he hopes they will agree to a meeting to possibly renegotiate the current water contract. Every five years, the minimum amount of water the town must take from Albany increases, according to the contract. The rate also increases each time the city increases the rate of its residents. Deyoe said from 2004 to 2014, the town paid a 191 percent increase.

As for the amount of water lost each year, Deyoe said Cunningham's calculations did not take into consideration water that the town cannot bill for. This includes water used in situations like fire drills, emergency situations and when lines

are flushed. He said there are leaks, but at an 11.6 percent loss, the leaks are reasonably low compared to other communities. Guilderland and Colonie each have a 16 percent loss, and the City of Troy is at 26 percent.

Cunningham said in a later interview that he still feels the town's math is wrong and the cost of water from Clapper Road is trending much higher than from Albany. He was also upset that a true estimate has yet to be given for the cost of upgrades to the facility.

The town has previously estimated the cost of upgrades to be around \$1.7 million.

"Re-negotiating the Albany Water Agreement is a necessary step for the Town to take, but we would do well to focus further out on the horizon as well as we plan for the future of our town," Cunningham said.

Core

(From Page 1)

could have happened to students with disabilities," Tanis, of New Paltz, said. "With the advent of the Common Core, pretty much overnight ... the achievement gap widened incredibly."

Tanis said many students with disabilities are "confused" and "frustrated," and the new standards are not helpful for students with special needs.

"(The Common Core) really promotes a kind of teaching that is not best practice for students with disabilities," Tanis said. "For many of these kids, it is like you are building the third floor without the second and the first floors. For students with disabilities, they are so sensitive to having the appropriate scaffolding and prerequisite skills."

Breslin asked Tanis if students with special needs "should just be taken out of the Common Core equation," with her responding that the standards have to change. Breslin said the age-based standards don't seem to fit special education students.

"The only thing that's different about kids with special needs is we need to think outside the box, and we need to be better teachers," Tanis said. "We say we celebrate diversity and all different learning needs, but here we are holding everybody up to these same homogenous standards."

Kathleen Ferguson, an elementary school teacher in Schenectady and 2012 New York State Teacher of the Year, said increased testing has negatively affected many students, but children with special

needs have been more greatly affected.

Special education students spend the year with material at their instructional level, Ferguson said, but are faced with testing often above their level. Their confidence is often built throughout the school year only to be crushed when tested.

"Is it fair and equitable education to be tested on material you are not prepared for because some arbitrary standard says your chronological age matches the words on the paper?" Ferguson said. "It is an anxiety-ridden exercise in futility that has time and time again brought children to tears."

McDonald asked Ferguson what could be changed to better address children with special needs.

Ferguson said the proposed three-year moratorium on "high-stakes testing" is absolutely necessary. She added teachers need more time to learn about the Common Core and more flexibility to teaching students that "don't fit the bill."

"We need time and practice to make sure that we're getting it right before we hold students accountable and tie teachers to that through their evaluations," she said.

Steck said the State

Education Department used to provide more support to individual districts, with the state creating the curriculum. He believed if the state prepared more material supporting the Common Core, with dedicated staff creating curriculum, schools could spend more time focusing on students.

"No one is saying they all should teach the same way ... but if State Ed is going to impose requirements, they have to provide appropriate support for those requirements, which they did in the past and they don't really do today," Steck said.

Ferguson said the state does provide modules for some grade levels through its website, but the information does not completely cover everything. She said teachers must be given more time to use resources.

North Greenbush resident Meredith Gavin, a single mother of a boy with autism, said Common Core assumes all children learn at the same pace.

"I feel like the majority of people assume that (a special needs) child lacks intelligence, and that is not the case. They just learn things differently," Gavin said.

Gavin said there are little options facing students with special needs when tested, with an alternative assessment

offered to "severely disabled" children or doubling the amount of time given.

"I need the word 'special' to stay in front of special education, because we are not common education," Gavin said. "And I need the word 'individual' to stay in front of the individual education plan."

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Pick
of the
week



Little wings

At miSci (museum of innovation and science), visitors can escape winter's chill and discover hundreds of brilliantly colored native butterflies at "Butterflies," a new indoor butterfly house. See monarchs, black swallowtails, painted ladies, tiger swallowtails and spicebush swallowtails flying about (and possibly landing on you!) as miSci re-creates their habitat— the edge of an open field with flowers and trees.

Admission to "Butterflies" is free with museum admission — \$9.50 for adults and \$6.50 children 3-12. MiSci is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday and is located at 15 Nott Terrace Heights in Schenectady. For more information, call 382-7890 or visit www.miSci.org.



Coming attractions

The Spotlight arts calendar highlights happenings all over the Capital District.

Page 10

A midwinter's garden

New York in Bloom gives museum displays a floral touch

By DANIA BIANCHI
bianchid@spotlightnews.com

Gazing into one of David Michael Schmidt's floral displays is like stepping into another world, one of fantasy and surrealism, and

Schmidt doesn't hold back when he adds his lavish storytelling display to the New York State Museum's annual flower show.

"Last year, and again this year, he designs these absolutely extravagant floral displays in the front lobby," said Antonia Valentine, a spokeswoman for the museum. "Last year, he took objects from the museum's display and designed a floral display around it — not your usual floral display — they are

IF YOU GO

- **What:** "New York in Bloom"
- **When:** Feb. 21-Feb. 23
- **Where:** New York State Museum
- **How much:** \$5 for adults; free for ages 12 and under
- **Info:** www.nysm.nysed.gov/programs/nybloom.

□ Garden Page 12



Last year, floral designer Michael Schmidt used a glass hearse as the centerpiece of his display.
Submitted photos



Craig Waltz Jr. of Fleurelite Floral Design created this arrangement for the Adirondack Wilderness display at the state museum.

RCS presents 'Annie Get Your Gun'

"Annie Get Your Gun" scored a bulls-eye when it returned to Broadway in 1999, and now the RCS High School Drama Club will present the Wild West show-within-a-show that frames the ageless "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" love story of sharpshooters Annie Oakley and Frank Butler.

The story also explores the romance between the younger sister of Frank's bothersome assistant, Dolly, and a boy who is (to Dolly's horror) part Native American. The Irving Berlin score features hit after hit, such as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "You Can't Get a Man With a Gun," "I've Got the Sun in the Morning" and "Doin'

What Comes Natur'ly."

The cast features Savannah Hotaling as Annie Oakley, Jake Wamsley as Frank Butler, Mick Fryer as Buffalo Bill, Emily Shear as Frank's assistant Dolly, Justin Olmeda as Charlie Davenport, Brennan Flory as Chief Sitting Bull and Joe Ennis and Rachel Neumann as the young lovers Tommy and Winnie.

Supporting roles and ensemble include: Victoria Smith, Madeline Reilly, Lauren LeClair, Matt Meacham, Logan Pugsley, Natalie Picarazzi, Carlie Doggette, Lauren Hazelton, Jessica Houghtaling, Katie Legg, Madison Brown, Emmalyn Knapp, Regina McGuire, Samantha Mizener,

Imara Smith, Julie VanAlstyne, Carly Gill, Colleen Hazelton, Nina Ignomirello and McKenna Stephens.

The RCS performance is directed by Kermit Wamsley, pit orchestra directed by Scott Andrews, stage management by Scott Peck, choreography by Maddy Wamsley and costumes by Cindy Neumann.

Show dates are Friday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 1 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m. at Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School Auditorium.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3-18. Tickets may be purchased at the door, and seating is general admission.

IF YOU GO

- **What:** "Annie Get Your Gun"
- **When:** Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.; March 1 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and March 2 at 2 p.m.
- **Where:** RCS High School auditorium
- **How much:** \$10 for adults, \$5 for children



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Arts and Entertainment

THEATER

Figaro

New adaptation of comic masterpiece about the night before Figaro’s wedding. Feb. 21 through March 22, Curtain Call Theatre, 210 Old Loudon Road, Latham. Shows: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$23. Tickets and information: 877-7529 or www.curtaincalltheatre.com.

Witness for the Prosecution

Agatha Christie’s famous courtroom drama. Feb. 7-23, Home Made Theater, Spa Little Theater, Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs. Shows: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$23. Tickets and information: 587-4427 or www.homemadetheater.org.

Murder on the Oriental Rug

Original murder-mystery presented by Schuylerville Community Theater. Feb. 21-23, Town of Saratoga Building, Routes 4 and 29, Schuylerville. Shows: 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: adults \$15, students/seniors \$12. Dessert and coffee/tea included. Tickets and information: 695-5480.

Middletown

Will Eno’s play about everyday people struggling with life’s problems. Presented by the Skidmore College Department of Theater in the Janet Kinghorn Bernhard Theater, North Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Feb. 28 through March 5. Shows: 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: general admission \$12, students/senior citizens \$8. Tickets and information: 580-5439.

Spring Awakening

Hit Broadway musical about teenage self-discovery in late 19th century Germany. Feb. 27 through March 8, University at Albany Performing Arts Center, uptown campus, Washington Avenue Extension, Al-

bany. Shows: 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 2 p.m. March 2 and 8. Tickets: general public \$20, students/seniors \$18. Tickets and information: 442-3997 or www.albany.edu/pac.

MUSIC

Jeff Warner

“From the Mountains to the Sea,” a multi-media performance featuring Jeff and Garnet Warner and Mimi Gredy. Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 South Main St., Voorheesville. Tickets: \$20. Information: 765-2815.

Reed Tetzloff

Pianist performs works by Chopin, Bartok, Franck and Scriabin. Feb. 22, 2 p.m., Niskayuna Branch Library, 2400 Nott Street East, Niskayuna. Free. Presented by The Young Musicians Forum.

Pete Seeger: An Evensong Celebration

A celebration of the late folk singer. Feb. 25, 7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany. Free. Information: 463-7135 or alent@albanyuu.org.

Jody Shayne Trio

Jazz combo featuring Shayne, bassist Russ Brooks and pianist Scott Bassinson. Feb. 27, 7 p.m., The Stockade Inn, 1 North Church St., Schenectady. Free. Reservations recommended. Information: 346-3400.

DANCE

Nacre

Saratoga Springs’ modern dance company premieres “Stabat Mater” with the help of the Octavo Singers, plus two works recently premiered at Hubbard Hall in Cambridge. 7:30 p.m. March 1 and 2:30 p.m. March 2, Spa Little Theater, Saratoga Spa State Park. Tickets: general admission \$20, students/senior citizens \$15. Tickets and information: 817-3833 or www.nacredance.com.

DISCUSSION

New York State Writers Institute

Author E.L. Doctrow – famous for his novels “Ragtime” and “Billy Bathgate” – will talk about his new novel “Andrew’s Brain.” 8 p.m., Feb. 27, Page Hall, University at Albany downtown campus, 135 Western Ave., Albany. Free. Information: 442-5620 or www.albany.edu/writers-inst.

POETRY

Third Thursday Poetry Night

Philip Good will read from his work, which includes his forthcoming book “Untitled Writings from a Member of the Blank Generation.” Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m., Social Justice Center, 33 Central Ave., Albany. Open mic sign-ups at 7 p.m. Suggested donation: \$3. Information: 482-0262 or dwicx@earthlink.net.

Sunday Four Poetry Open Mic

Linda Sonia Miller is this month’s featured poet. Feb. 23, 3 p.m., Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 South Main St., Voorheesville. Information: 469-0202 or dsullivan6@nycap.rr.com.

COMEDY

Mop and Bucket Company

“Theatresports,” a weekly show of improv comedy and music, Feb.



Robin Leary (Miss Myers), left, and Devra Cohen-Tigör (Romaine) are featured in Home Made Theater's production of “Witness for the Prosecution” through Feb. 23.

21, 8 p.m., Underground at Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Tickets: adults \$14, students and seniors \$6. Information, 346-6204 or www.proctors.org.

Comedy Works

Ross Bennett and Nathan MacIntosh co-headline. Performing Feb. 14 at 9:30 p.m. and Feb. 15 at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. 500 Northern Blvd., Albany. Advance tickets \$15, day of show \$20, dinner packages \$39.95 in advance, \$44.95 day of show. Information, 275-6897. www.thecomedyworks.com.

EXHIBITS

Sorelle Gallery

“Complex Systems,” featuring works by S.C. Aldo, Julia Contacessi and Dolores Tema. Feb. 7-20. Stuyvesant Plaza, 1475 Western Ave., Albany. Information: 482-2000 or www.sorellegallery.com. Opening reception: Feb. 7, 5 p.m.

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

“Black Style,” photographs by Fred Moody. Through the month of February. 405 Washington Ave., Albany. Exhibit hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon Sunday. Free admission. Information: 463-7135 or www.albanyuu.org. Artist reception: Feb. 9, 2 p.m.

Brookside Museum

“The Women Who Work Here,” highlighting the creations of the museum’s female staff and volunteers including paintings, photography, fabric art, costumes and more. Feb. 7-27, 6 Charlton St., Ballston Spa. Information: 885-4000. Opening reception: Feb. 7, 5 p.m.

2014 Mohawk Hudson Regional Invitational

Featuring works by Mary Anne Erickson, Scott Nelson Foster and Michael McKay. Albany Center Gallery, 39 Columbia St., Albany. Feb. 4 through March 1. Opening reception: Feb. 7, 5 p.m. Information: 462-4775.

University Art Museum

“Blue Plastic Bubbles: Paintings by Lamar Peterson” and “American Playlist: Selections from the University at Albany Art Collections,” Feb. 4 through April 5. UAlbany uptown campus, 1400 Washington Ave. Information: 442-4038.

Oakroom Artists Annual Show

Featuring paintings by regional artists. Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Ave., Schenectady, Jan. 26 through Feb. 25.

SUDOKU

						3		6
					2			8
	1		5		8			
9	3				6		8	2
4			8			9	3	
								4
7		4		2	3			
	2	1						
3				4				

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Weekly Crossword

Coppers

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
			20						21	22				
23	24	25		26				27						
28			29				30							
31						32						33	34	35
36					37						38			
39				40						41				
		42	43						44					
		45						46				47		
48	49						50				51			
52					53	54						55	56	57
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

ACROSS

- 1 Tool used in autumn
- 5 Speedy
- 10 Evian and Baden-Baden
- 14 Profess
- 15 *Maria* ____: Mexican tune
- 16 Big top
- 17 Fictional alarmist
- 19 City in Sicily
- 20 ____ Tower
- 21 Clothing mender
- 23 Lofty peak
- 26 Cambridge univ.
- 27 Like pickle juice
- 28 Kitchen utensil
- 30 Wintry
- 31 Continued uninterruptedly
- 32 Century plants
- 33 Canceled
- 36 *If This ____ Love*
- 37 Classical composer Ned
- 38 Hawaiian isle
- 39 Romanian coin
- 40 ____ how!
- 41 Morley, of TV's *60 Minutes*
- 42 Loom user

- 44 Makes hard
- 45 Greeks' name for Greece
- 46 Links standard
- 47 Queue after Q
- 48 In the same place: L.
- 50 Breakfast meat
- 52 Theater seat
- 53 Miser
- 58 Very, to Berliners
- 59 Put on cloud nine
- 60 English composer
- 61 Poetry and painting
- 62 Believer in God
- 63 Actress Charlotte and Explorer John

DOWN

- 1 Olympic Games sound
- 2 Prayer
- 3 Purview
- 4 Coastal flyers
- 5 Mend
- 6 Wide-awake
- 7 Ballpoints
- 8 Country hotel
- 9 Do some woolgathering
- 10 Breastbones
- 11 Slotted casual shoe
- 12 Actress Archer
- 13 Dressing-room door

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Securing a business loan is easier if you have a plan

BY OLIVER KARDOS,
Senior Vice President,
Business Banking, KeyBank

When it comes to running a successful business, most people think it's a simple matter of offering a product or service that customers are willing to spend money on and generating profits. However, those who actually run successful businesses will tell you it's much more nuanced than that . . . that if you really want to succeed, you need to have a plan for managing every aspect of your operations, especially your finances.

Having the ability to access needed credit when your business is growing is absolutely critical. Even those not currently using any credit facilities, which includes many startups and early-stage businesses, should be focusing on factors that will affect their ability to obtain financing when the time comes. It should be a part of your business plan, and it should be revisited throughout the stages of your business's life cycle.

Early-stage positioning

In general, it's a good idea for everyone to stay on top of their personal credit rating, but if you're the owner of a small, early-stage

business, it's vitally important because your personal credit often represents an important early-stage financial resource. Also, every bank will look at an owner's personal credit history when they consider extending a loan or a line of credit to a business.

Here are three things you can do that will make your business more attractive to lenders.

1. Clean up your credit. Talk with your banker about how you can take it from good to excellent.

2. Take a professional approach to

accounting and recordkeeping. Your budgets should be created around financial projections, and your books and recordkeeping should be structured to make it easy to monitor your results against them. You should also complete all required government filings (registrations, corporate tax returns, sales tax returns, payroll tax reports, etc.) on a timely basis.

3. Network with lenders and build a relationship with a bank. When the time comes that you need outside financing, you want your business's reputation and your personal character to be well established with people who can influence decision makers.



Oliver Kardos

Use your professional support system for guidance. Your accountant, attorney or financial advisor have a lot of connections and knowledge. Don't be afraid to lean on them. Also consider forming a board of advisors comprised of individuals who have expertise in areas you do not.

Leveraging opportunities for growth

The best way to optimize creditworthiness throughout your business's life cycle is to do things right from the beginning. But if you're entering the growth stage and have not taken some of the steps discussed above, don't despair.

A good strategy to enhance your creditworthiness at this point is to demonstrate that you have developed and are using a solid credit-management plan in your business. You can do this in many ways, such as paying all your bills on time, avoiding overdrafts on your commercial checking account, adopting sound cash-flow management practices and establishing a "rainy day" fund to help navigate fluctuations in business demand.

Educate yourself about the various types of credit and their

uses, even if your business has a full-time accountant or chief financial officer. The more the person at the top of the organization appears to have a handle on the company's finances, the more favorably potential lenders are likely to view your business.

Learn and gain a clear understanding of the difference between long-term and short-term credit. Long-term credit is generally used to finance spending of a more permanent nature, such as a term loan for the purchase of machinery or improvements to a leasehold. Short-term credit usually involves a flexible instrument, such as a business line of credit and is commonly used to finance things like growth of accounts receivable and inventory. When your business is in the growth stage, you are likely to need access to both long- and short-term credit, and knowing how to use both will make you much more successful.

See beyond the numbers

Optimizing creditworthiness throughout the life cycle of your business requires foresight, planning and diligence, and it's more than just a numbers game.

Yes, good corporate governance, accurate record keeping and a disciplined approach to granting and using credit are important, but so, too, is the human element. Know the strengths of your team, from your employees to contractors and other key personnel. Understand your audience. You need to be able to demonstrate how you are promoting your products and services through various market channels to drive revenue.

Finally, value the people who know and care about your business, including your banker. These people can help you focus on what you need to achieve and how to get there. They will also boost your standing and provide you with an additional source of valuable assistance, even in areas outside your business. Lenders will look upon this favorably, and when lenders look upon your business favorably, you will have the financial backing needed to take your business to new heights.

About the author: Oliver Kardos is a senior vice president at KeyBank and heads the Capital Region's Business Banking team. He may be reached at either 518-257-8562 or oliver.kardos@keybank.com.

Tips for boosting your business's creditworthiness

For many business owners, the prospect of applying for a loan can be a daunting process. But it's not as difficult as some may believe, provided you adopt the following strategies that may make your business as attractive as possible to lenders:

- Adopt sound practices for how you extend credit to your own customers. Take a three-point approach in making decisions about granting credit to customers or clients. First, determine whether you should offer this customer credit terms at all, or if you should instead require payment on delivery. Second, if you are going to grant credit, carefully consider what terms are appropriate (i.e., 30, 45, or 90 days; interest rate, if applicable). Finally, give careful consideration to the likely impact on your business if this customer should fail to pay.
- Use vendor accounts to boost your credit history. Make sure all bank accounts and credit sources used to pay vendors are in your business's name.
- Take full advantage of the terms offered by the vendor, but always pay within those terms — especially if late payments trigger penalties or interest.
- Demonstrate sound cash-flow management and risk-management policies and strategies. Managing cash flow means using an effective annual budget on a monthly basis in a way that clearly identifies spending targets and revenue targets. Effective cash management can be a significant opportunity creator, positioning you to seize the advantage when competitors are weak, which will allow you to capture market share from them.
- Develop a risk-management plan that identifies the risks you face, the level of vulnerability each represents to your business and contingency plans to meet them.
- Maximize the value of your existing relationship with your primary banking/lending provider. Explore additional services, products and solutions they might be able to provide you, your business and your employees. Make your banker part of your board of directors or informal panel of advisors. Your banker can provide you with essential financial guidance regarding critical business decisions. They can also help you keep your personal finances on track.
- Maintain a fluid, dynamic business plan that demonstrates to lenders you know your market and competition, are positioned to capitalize on growth opportunities and will be able to generate additional cash flow needed to service any debt incurred. If your business has historically shown the ability to meet the increased cash demands of controlled growth, lenders will have confidence in your ability to execute on your current growth plans.



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This week in history in The Spotlight

Highlights from a half-century ago

Garden

(From Page 9)

From *The Spotlight*, Feb. 20, 1964

- Mrs. George W. Parker, chairman of Drama Group of the Delmar Progress Club, announces that the next meeting will be Monday evening, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m. at Hamagrael School in Delmar. The theme of this meeting will be "Theatre Through The Eyes Of The Dancer." Patricia Peterson of Ballston Spa will present a lecture and demonstration of Modern Dance. Assisting Peterson in the Modern Dance demonstration will be Ida Gilman and Mimi Brodsky of Albany; Dick Bushey, of Troy, Dance Instructor at Russel Sage; and Barbara Palamountain, Daila Krastins, Beth Drezner, Bea Swire and Suzanne Bundy from the Schenectady area. All are members of the Capitol Area Modern Dance Council, a very young organization formed to sponsor and foster Modern Dance.
- The New York Racing Association will inaugurate a new stakes race at the 1964 Saratoga meeting — Aug. 3 through 29. The new event, which will raise to 19 the number of added money events at the meeting, is the \$25,000 Jim Dandy, a one-mile race for three-year-olds named after the horse who won the 1930 Travers at 100 to 1.
- A Mother-Daughter Banquet is being planned by the Women's Society of Christian Service, of the First Methodist Church in Delmar, for Wednesday, April 29.

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over the top."

The designer has been somewhat tight-lipped about the details of his upcoming creation for the museum's 23rd annual New York in Bloom to be held Friday, Feb. 21, through Sunday, Feb. 23, though he said those who like stories of a woodland fairy tale are going to like this one.

"We will be featuring some of the most amazing woodworking artistry I have ever seen," Schmidt said.

Schmidt's creation is one of more than 100 floral displays that will be featured throughout the museum during the event. Garden club members, professional designers and floral enthusiasts from all over the Capital District are busy planning colorful displays of flowers throughout the museum's galleries for the show.

Valentine said the show isn't a typical flower show, but rather unique because the flowers are intertwined with museum artifacts and backdrops. Designers are assigned a location in the museum and use



New York in Bloom floral designs, like this one from Honest Weight Food Co-op, incorporate museum elements into the display.

Submitted photo

their creativity to bring the display alive.

Schmidt said he is not quite sure how he comes up with the ideas, but the collection of pieces he finds in the museum that are not on display are key to his designs.

"As a resident of the area, I never think, 'I should go see what's at the museum today,' but I hope that by featuring items that create a story to give people a chance to stop, look and take their imagination away by telling a story," Schmidt said.

In last year's scene, Schmidt did just that by taking a glass hearse from the museum's collection to create "Once Upon

a Time," a display that intertwined flowers and props to create a whimsical fairy tale scene.

"When I looked over the thousands of items I could choose from, I kept coming back to that carriage, a glass hearse," Schmidt said. "I knew it had never been on display, and it was so incredible I had to figure out a way to bring it into the light and show its magnificence."

Schmidt said with the help of the museum, he was able to collect an array of other elements and build a storybook for people to enjoy.

The event benefits the museum's after-school, mentoring and summer enrichment programs for

children. In addition to the displays, the weekend also features demonstrations on floral design, children's activities and a flower market.

Valentine said the timing couldn't be better with the harsh winter the area has been experiencing this year.

"We are in the dead of winter ... it's freezing cold, gray and dreary outside. It's a nice opportunity to come to the museum and explore the state's history, but also an opportunity to see the signs and smells of spring at the museum in the middle of winter," Valentine said.

New York in Bloom will take place at the New York State Museum from Friday, Feb. 21, through Sunday, Feb. 23, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show will offer demonstrations for children and adults on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and a flower market will be held in the museum lobby while supplies last. Admission is \$5. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the museum or at any Price Chopper Supermarket. For more information, visit www.nysm.nysed.gov/programs/nybloom.

SPAC's winter ball has Russian theme

Inspired by SPAC's upcoming Bolshoi Ballet engagement and the excitement surrounding the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, the theme for SPAC's winter gala will be "The Winter Ball: A Russian Whiteout."

The event, slated for Saturday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. in Saratoga's Hall of Springs, is a fundraiser for classical programming presented by SPAC's Junior Committee. Tickets cost \$75 in advance and \$80 after Feb. 19 and are available at spac.org.

Guests at this year's event will be transported to a virtual Russian winter wonderland as organizers plan to transform the

ballroom of the Hall of Springs into a winter palace, complete with ice sculptures, martini ice luges, a Russian vodka bar courtesy of Tovaritch Vodka, Tsar-worthy fare, a blizzard photo booth by Heather Bohm Tallman, a raffle with glittering prizes, live music by Saving Atlantis and dancing. Guests are encouraged to don cocktail attire with a Russian twist for the chance to win SPAC event tickets and be crowned best dressed "Russian Ice Queen" and "Moscow Mafia Man," respectively.

The Junior Committee's Winter Ball has become one of SPAC's most popular fundraisers.

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Your Community in The Spotlight

Starlab visits the Pine Bush Center

Starlab is visiting the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center, 195 New Karner Road, Colonie for five shows on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Starlab is a portable, inflatable planetarium operated by Dudley Observatory staff. They will be offering three different shows: “Seasonal Stargazers” at 10 a.m. and noon, “Calendar Constellations” at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and “Native American Constellations” at 2 p.m.

Pre-registration is required for each show. The cost is \$3 per person or \$5 per family. Children under 5 are admitted free.

For more information or to register online, visit www.albanypinebush.org.

Busy weekend at Thacher Center

The Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center in Voorheesville is hosting three events this weekend.

The weekend starts with an animal signs program Friday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m. You may not see the wild animals that inhabit the nature center, but you can see the signs they’ve left behind. Learn about these “wildlife signatures” in this free program.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, there will be a family snowshoe walk at Thacher State Park at 10 a.m. The walk begins at the site of an old limestone quarry and winds through the woods. There may be evidence of porcupines, red squirrels and fishers. The walk ends with a trip back to the nature center for hot chocolate.

The final event is “Amphibians of Thacher Park” at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23. With its pools and streams, the park is home to nine species of amphibians. Ecologist Dr. Doug Fraser will talk about them, how to identify each species, interesting facts about their lives and breeding behavior, where they can be found in the park and their status from a conservation perspective.

For information or to register, call 872-0800.

Pastel painting demonstration

This month’s Bethlehem Art Association meeting



Glenmont Job Corps students shadow county clerk

Glenmont Job Corps Medical Office Support students Brittany Eggleston and Yvonne Makuza follow Albany County Clerk Bruce Hidley on a tour of the Albany Hall of Records during the national Groundhog Job Shadow Day Friday, Feb. 7, where Deputy County Clerk Marlese Dion showed them historic Albany deed records from the turn of the 20th century. Eggleston and Makuza also experienced a naturalization ceremony at the Albany County Court House.

takes place Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave.

Bev Saunders will be giving a pastel painting demonstration. Saunders is an artist who has trained in a variety of mediums, but has settled on pastels. She describes her work as “a traditional application in landscape, still life, portraiture and commissioned work.”

For more information about the Bethlehem Art Association, visit www.bethlehemartassociation.com.

Walk In Care grand opening

Albany Walk In Care Medical Treatment is holding a grand opening of its state-of-the-art urgent care center Monday, Feb. 24, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at its facility, 1971 Western Ave. in Guilderland.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony, as well as refreshments, give-aways, clinic tours and free health screenings for the community.

Albany Walk In Care is open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Blackbird Cafe returns Feb. 26

Voorheesville Central School’s Blackbird Cafe will be serving its next meal-to-go on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the high school.

This week’s meal is Chicken Parmesan with salad and bread. The cost is \$8 for one meal, \$15 for two meals or \$25 for four meals.

To make reservations up to 24 hours prior to pickup, call 765-3313, ext. 109, or email crivenburg@voorheesville.org.

Glenmont Gold Gala March 1

The Glenmont Elementary School PTA is hosting its Glenmont Gold Gala on Saturday, March 1, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Normanside Country Club in Delmar.

The night includes a cocktail hour, dinner, entertainment and dancing. There will also be a ceremony to honor Project Playground title sponsor CSXT and Glenmont teacher Andrew Kourt for their roles in the campaign to raise funds for a new playground at the school.

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 for two people, and proceeds benefit Project Playground.

For tickets and information, call Amy Scharf at 463-1154 or visit www.glenmontplayground.com.

Scholarships available

The Bethlehem Business Women’s Club is offering scholarships to any Bethlehem Central High School graduating senior, male or female. High academic standing isn’t necessary.

Applications may be found at the high school guidance office. The application deadline is March 3.

For more information, call Donna London-Hamilton at 424-3600.

Pancake supper at New Baltimore Reformed Church

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras celebration takes place Tuesday, March 4, at 4:30 p.m. at the New Baltimore Reformed Church, located at the corner of Route 144

and Church Street in New Baltimore.

The supper features all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce and real maple syrup, along with coffee, tea, milk and juice.

Donations are welcome, and all proceeds will benefit the church’s roof repair fund. For more information, call the church office at 756-8764.

Area YMCAs seek nominees

The Guilderland and Bethlehem Area YMCAs are accepting applications for their annual outstanding student and outstanding educator awards.

All students in grades 10 and 11 attending schools in Bethlehem, Guilderland, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk or Voorheesville are eligible. Students will be honored based on demonstrated leadership and dedication of service to their communities or schools, making responsible and positive choices and exhibiting a character trait that embraces the values of the YMCA.

Applications are due

Post your events to our online calendar

To submit an event to run in our online calendar, simply go to www.spotlightnews.com/events/submit/, become a registered user and fill out your event’s information in the provided form.

Submissions are subject to approval and may take up to 24 hours to be approved.

* News briefs for our community page must be sent via email to news@spotlightnews.com and may not appear online.

by Friday, March 21. Stop by the schools’ guidance departments or the YMCA, or contact program director Kyle Anderson at 456-3634, ext. 1151.

Enter to bring ValleyCats show to your field

The Tri-City ValleyCats and Hannaford are teaming up to bring the atmosphere of a ValleyCats home game to a youth baseball field in the Capital District.

The “Show on the Road” event will feature a pregame picnic, a home run derby competition and entertaining promotions throughout the game. The ValleyCats will bring their inflatable games, mascots, public address announcer, music and promotions team to create the atmosphere at the team’s New York-Penn League home games.

Area youth leagues interested in applying for the “Show on the Road” program may print out an application at www.tcvalleycats.com. The deadline is April 4.

Onesquethaw Cemetery Assoc. meeting

The Onesquethaw Union Cemetery Association is holding its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, March 3, at the Onesquethaw Reformed Church, 11 Groesbeck Road in Feura Bush. All lot owners are encouraged to attend.

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Town’s finances get high marks

Standard and Poor’s upgrades Bethlehem’s rating to AA+

By MARCY VELTE
veltem@spotlightnews.com

The Town of Bethlehem has seen an upgrade to its credit rating after Standard and Poor’s Financial Services cited the town’s superb financial status and recent budgetary decisions.

At the beginning of February, the town’s credit rating was upgraded from a rating of AA to AA+ by S&P. Chief among the reasons for the upgrade was the town’s new fund balance policy, multi-year budgeting and the capital improvement plan. Each policy was pushed for in recent years by Supervisor John Clarkson.

“We view the town’s management conditions as strong, with good financial practices,” read the report submitted to Comptroller Mike Cohen.

Clarkson said he was glad the report specifically mentioned the financial process improvements, which were made recently. The town’s fund balance policy requires it to maintain

a contingency general fund reserve of between 7.5 and 15 percent of budgeted appropriations. If this balance drops below the 7.5 percent minimum, officials are required to adopt a plan to bring balance back to the policy minimum within three years.

The report praised town officials for their advance decision to make attritional cuts in order to make up the shortfall from the loss of Selkirk Cogen’s payment in lieu of taxes payments in 2013.

“As these reductions in staff were not planned in the 2012 budget, the town realized positive budget-to-actual results,” the report noted.

Although the town’s debt is low, more is expected to be taken on in the near future as officials prepare to pay for needed capital improvements. Clarkson said the hope is the town can save money by turning investment bands into bonds and earning lower interest rates.

The report also highlighted last year’s opening of the Vista Technology Campus in

Slingerlands. Its inclusion was with the expectation that “research and manufacturing facilities continue to grow and add to the town’s tax base.” Three companies are now reportedly looking at the site, but none have yet to be named.

Clarkson said he knows some are still concerned that tax abatements were granted for the initial projects, but he did not believe Vista would ever have been constructed if they were not approved.

“What’s good about Vista as opposed to a new housing development is it brings revenues without services,” said Clarkson. “We’ve got to keep promoting the park, and I believe in the long term it’s a positive for the community and everything will work out.”

Other contributing factors for the upgrade was Albany County’s low unemployment rate, Bethlehem’s contributions to state and local pension benefits and the town’s budgetary flexibility.

“I find this rating upgrade to be very good news for our community,” said Clarkson.

• Kelly Van Deusen, of Delmar, earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2013 semester at SUNY Oneonta.

• Kaitlyn Vishneowski, of Glenmont, earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2013 semester at SUNY Oneonta.

• Anna Zajac, of Slingerlands, earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2013 semester at SUNY Oneonta.

• Carlie Bassler, of Altamont, earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2013 semester at SUNY Oneonta.

• Troy Buchanan, of Altamont, earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2013 semester at SUNY Oneonta.

• Kathryn Forti, of Altamont, earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2013 semester at SUNY Oneonta.

• Madeleine Hurley, of Guilderland, earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2013 semester at SUNY Oneonta.

• Lindsey Johnson, of Altamont, earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2013 semester at SUNY Oneonta.

• Erin Besse, of Delmar, majoring in Chinese business, was named to the dean’s list for the 2013 fall semester at Messiah College.

• Rachel Jordan, of Voorheesville, majoring in health and exercise science, was named to the dean’s list for the 2013 fall semester at Messiah

Milestones

Valentini named distinguished grad

Dean Valentini, of Clarksville, was honored as a Distinguished Graduate (in the top 10 percent) of The United States Air Force Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Second Lieutenant Dean Valentini is currently stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., as a developmental computer systems engineer. He is a 2007 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and earned undergraduate and graduate



Dean Valentini

engineering degrees from The University of Rhode Island.

College.

• Julie Landrigan, of Delmar, majoring in athletic training, was named to the fall 2013 dean’s list for Central College.

• Peyton Snyder, of Altamont, was named to the SUNY Potsdam Dean’s List for the Fall 2013 semester.

• Stephen McCarthy, of Voorheesville, majoring in politics, was named to the SUNY Potsdam Dean’s List for the Fall 2013 semester.

• Kaelyn Z. Haggerty, of Delmar, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2013 semester at Alfred University, School of Art and Design.

• Sarah Becker, of Delmar, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester 2013 at SUNY

Geneseo.

• Kylie Caesar, of Delmar, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester 2013 at SUNY Geneseo.

• Fiona Connors, of Delmar, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester 2013 at SUNY Geneseo.

• Chloe DeAngelis, of Delmar, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester 2013 at SUNY Geneseo.

• Rachel Gerrol, of Delmar, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester 2013 at SUNY Geneseo.

• McKinley Gray, of Delmar, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester 2013 at SUNY Geneseo.

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LEGAL NOTICE

1 Creek Place, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/07/14. Off. loc: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 1 Creek Place, Locust Valley, NY 11550. Purpose: General.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of 115 KRUMKILL HOUSING L.P. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Secy. of State(SSNY) on 12/06/2012. Office location: Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 115 Krumkill Housing L.P., c/o Omni Housing Development LLC, 40 Beaver St.,5th Fl., Albany NY 12207. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of 140-144 West 28, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/9/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Thomas Berinato, 123-40 83rd Avenue, #1D, Kew Gardens, NY 11415, the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation 212BLUE, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/31/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 38019

LEGAL NOTICE 38381

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) Name: 356 TROY-SCHENECTADY ROAD, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 24, 2005. Office Location: County of Albany. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 356 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110. Purpose: For any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 5AM ARTIST MANAGEMENT & EVENT PROMOTION LLC. Art. ofOrg. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/10/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process.SSNY shall mail process to: 142-03 Oak Ave., Flushing, NY 11355.Purpose: Any lawful activity.- 38403

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 791 McDONALD LLC. Art. ofOrg. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/9/14. Office location:Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process.SSNY shall mail process to: 1181 44 St., Bklyn, NY 11219.Purpose: Any lawful activity. -38407

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (L.P.)The name of the LP is 892 New Loudon of Albany, L.P. The Certificate of

LEGALS

Limited Partnership was filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 3, 2014. The purpose of the LP is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LP is to be located in Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LP upon whom process against the LP may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to the LP at: The Partnership, 596 New Loudon Road, Latham, New York 12110. Ad# 38826

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of @FATMAC LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/31/13. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 31-78 34th St. #1B, Astoria, NY 11106.Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Ainsworth Institute of Pain Management, PLLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 1/27/2014. Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o the LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation-AKCHA REALTY LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/6/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. Ad# 38713

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation All-Ed LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/16/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Band of Real Estate Investors, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/5/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Incorp Services, Inc., One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 805-A, Albany, NY 12210. Purpose: real estate investments and any lawful purpose. Ad#38839

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of BEL CANTO 21B PROPERTIES, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/27/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services Inc., 1218 Central Avenue, Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC).Name: BETHLEHEM MANOR LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary ofState, January 10, 2014. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: Albany County. Secretary of State is

LEGALS

agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to 20 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Albany, NY 12211.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Bourbon Holdings Corp, LLC. Fictitious name in NY State: Bourbon Holdings LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/24/13. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Arizona (AZ) on 2/25/13. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. AZ address of LLC: 4400 North Scottsdale Road, Ste. 705, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. Arts. of Org. filed with AZ Corp Commission, 1300 West Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of BUDDY REAL ESTATE INVESTORS LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/18/13. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 503 Harold St., Staten Island, NY 10314. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of BUSINESSLEX INTERNATIONAL LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 12/26/13. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of CASEY'S PAINTING & CONSTRUCTION, LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 1/31/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. Ad# 38952

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Charlton Design Co.,LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/16/14. Office location Albany County.SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Suzanne Torrison 17 Spring St.Rd.,Loudonville, NY 12211 the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose:Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of CHICEST FOODS LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 1/24/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207.

LEGALS

The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: City Placements LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/4/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to S. Hansen, 5 Saint Marks Place, #9, New York, New York 10003. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.- 38385

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of CONCEPT MACHINING LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/26/13. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 92-06 196 St. #B5, Hollis, NY 11423.Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC).Name: D&L UTILITY SERVICES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, January 15, 2014. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: in Albany County. Secretary of State is agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to 16 Hemlock Street, Latham, NY 12110.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ADOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)The name of the LLC is Danielle Fitzgerald LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on January 22, 2014. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is c/o 302 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York 12203. 38141

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of DAST JRKMP3 LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/26/13. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 228 E. 45 St. #1801, NY, NY 10017.Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC).Name: DEDHAM POST FUNDING LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, November 5, 2013. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: Albany County. Secretary of State is agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to c/o Goldman Attorneys PLLC, 210 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany NY 12203.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation-DUMBO FRO YO, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/31/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall

LEGALS

mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 38009

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC).Name: DUMPS-TER DRESS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NY Secretary of State, January 21, 2014. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. Office: in Albany County. Secretary of State is agent for process against LLC and shall mail copy to P.O. Box 990, Latham, NY 12110.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Earthgrains Baking Companies, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/24/2014. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 8/14/1928. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave., Ste. 100, Albany, NY 12205. DE address of LLC: 1675 South State St., Ste. B, Dover, DE 19901. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Educational STEM Solutions, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 12/31/13. Office location: Albany County. LLC formed in New Hampshire (NH) on 2/21/12. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., 111 8th Ave., New York, NY 10011, the registered agent upon whom process may be served. NH address of LLC: 373 South Willow St., Ste. 235, Manchester, NH 03103. Arts. of Org. filed with NH Dept. of State, 107 North Main St., Concord, NH 03301-4989. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of EL LUREY NEW YORK LLC. Art. ofOrg. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/3/14. Office location:Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process.SSNY shall mail process to: 1111 Sheephead Bay Rd. #2F, Bklyn, NY 11229.Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of EL LUREY NEW YORK LLC. Art. ofOrg. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/3/14. Office location:Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process.SSNY shall mail process to: 1111 Sheephead Bay Rd #2F, Bklyn, NY 11229.Purpose: Any lawful activity. 38395

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY 1.The name of the Limited Liability Company is ELM AVE.-SHANKS PLACE, LLC 2.The Articles of organization of the Limited Liability Company were filed on January 23, 2014 with the New York Secretary of State. 3. The office of the Limited Liability Company is located in Albany County. 4.The Secretary of State is designated as agent of the Limited Liability Company upon whom

LEGALS

process against it may be served. 5.The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of process served to the Limited Liability Company to 60 Axbridge Lane, Delmar, NY 12054. 6.The latest date to dissolve is indefinite. 7. The purpose of the Limited Liability Company is to conduct all lawful activity

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation-EVENT2EVENT,LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/16/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: FARINA CONSTRUCTION LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/17/13, with an existence date of 01/01/2014. Office location: Schenectady County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 2264 Berkley Avenue, Niskayuna, New York 12309. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FIFTH AVENUE VENTURES LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/20/13. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to:151 Lexington Ave. #8A, NY, NY 10016. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATIONOF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.-NAME: FOX VISION DEVELOPMENT CENTER, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/6/2013, with a date of formation of 1/1/2014. Office location: Albany County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC c/o Michelle H. Wildgrube, Esq., Ploff Slezak Wildgrube C.P.C., 2310 Nott St. E., STE 1, Niskayuna, New York 12309. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of FormationRF FRO YO, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/31/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 38013

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of FUDGE RED, LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 1/9/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The

LEGALS

registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

Genesis Reception LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/12/13. Off. loc: Albany Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 15 Wellington Place, Hempstead, NY 11550. Purpose: General.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation GN FRO YO, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/31/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities. 38016

LEGAL NOTICE

GREENWIL REALTY LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/3/2014. Office in Albany Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 111 Court St., 2L, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of HAMPTON DRY GOODS, LLC. Art. ofOrg. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/15/14. Office location:Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process.SSNY shall mail process to: 107 Potunk Ln., Westhampton Beach, NY 11978.Purpose: Any lawful activity.- 38410

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Hannah Rand LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/24/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of HAVILAH REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 1/6/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of HURON 2014 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/7/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. The reg. agent is: Accumera LLC at same address. Purpose: all lawful activities.#

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of KLRealtime LLC. Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 1/17/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 65 Elderberry Ct., Albany, NY 12203. Purpose: any lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITEDLIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)The name of the

LEGALS

LLC is J.A.M Business Group, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on 10/31/2013. The purpose of the LLC is to own, operate and manage a business venture, and also to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Albany County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is PO Box 121, Feura Bush, NY 12067.

LEGAL NOTICE

JENNY'S CORNER, LLC Articles of Organization of this Limited Liability Company (LLC) were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 3, 2014. The LLC maintains its office in Albany County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served to the LLC at: The LLC, c/o Young/Sommer, LLC, 5 Palisades Drive, Albany, New York 12205. Purpose: for any lawful activity for which limited liability companies may be formed under the law.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY FIRST: The name of the Limited Liability Company is JGC TWO ASSOCIATES, LLC (hereinafter referred to as the "Company"). SECOND: The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the New York Secretary of State on January 24, 2014.THIRD: The County within New York State in which the office of the Company is to be located is ALBANY.FOURTH: The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against the Company may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process is 8 Airline Drive, Suite 104 Albany, New York 12205 FIFTH: The purposes of the business of the Company is The Company's purpose is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the New York Limited Liability Law. 38149

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation Karada Detox LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/15/2014 Off. Loc.: Albany Cnty. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Accumera LLC, 911 Central Ave., #101, Albany, NY 12206. The reg. agent is: Accumera LLC at same address. Purpose: all lawful activities.#

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of KLRealtime LLC. Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 1/17/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 65 Elderberry Ct., Albany, NY 12203. Purpose: any lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) Name:

New Scotland public works commissioner becomes salaried

Town Board members surprised by lack of timecard system, retroactive fix will be implemented

By JOHN PURCELL
purcellj@spotlightnews.com

New Scotland is tweaking the pay system for its recently created position of public works commissioner, but a resident questioned how hours were being maintained and some board members were surprised to find the system lacking.

The Town Board hired Wayne LaChappelle, a retired Bethlehem police officer, in August as commissioner of public works to address a mounting workload in the department. LaChappelle started the part-time position at 20 hours a week at the rate of \$25 per hour. At the Wednesday, Feb. 12, meeting, the board approved changing it to a part-time, salaried position, with LaChappelle paid for working 25 hours a week.

The change represents a \$5,757 increase to this year's budget.

Unlike some town employees who serve the town as a whole, the public works commissioner's salary is billed to a particular water district if work performed exclusively benefits those customers. General work is billed to all taxpayers.

After LaChappelle gave a presentation to the board on work done to date, Tim Stanton, a Feura Bush resident, asked if there was any accounting done to distinguish what work LaChappelle has done for water districts.

Supervisor Tom Dolin said work done for certain districts would be billed to those customers and not the town as a whole. Stanton pushed for a breakdown of what LaChappelle's work history was to date, but town officials could not readily give an answer.

"Now that he has worked for a few months, I would think we have some kind of an idea," Stanton said.

LaChappelle simply said it was "split," but that he would "hate to guess" what percentage of his work is broken down to the different districts and town.

"You just finished telling me that each water district is allocated with time, so somewhere those numbers have got to exist," Stanton replied.

LaChappelle said he has kept an extensive log of his work history, but was not prepared to offer any percentages. For this year, 18 percent of his work is budgeted to water districts, which town officials said is likely going to be exceeded.

Board member Daniel Mackay asked if there was a daily timesheet to allocate for specific work, but discovered a precise timekeeping system was not implemented.

Fellow board member Douglas LaGrange said he "assumed" such a system was already in place, and he was "surprised" to hear

it was not.

Mackay also said he assumed a more precise system was implemented to properly bill water districts.

Mackay was the only member voting against changing to the expanded salaried position, because he wanted a system in place for better tracking of hours worked. Fellow board members thought such a system could be quickly implemented.

"I don't think this vote should occur before that system is in place," Mackay said. "Apparently, we have not asked (LaChappelle) to keep this type of detail,

and I have some hopes that we can recreate this detail at least going back to January."

Dolin said the new position has been "a learning process," and LaChappelle could reference his daily journal to allocate hours worked.

"I'm a little surprised a person from the audience ... has to come up with this question," Stanton said. "The people that oversee him or the people that run the town ought to be thinking of the (residents) in the way I am."

Dolin said the town is "sensitive to the issue," and he was confident records

could be audited for last year and readjusted to be properly billed.

LaChappelle started the position as salaried on Monday, Feb. 17, which is the beginning of a pay period. He was also directed to provide a retroactive accounting of his work in 30 days.

Board members commended LaChappelle on his work in the new position, which has involved tackling many projects that languished over the years. He is also overseeing the creation of the New Salem Water District, bringing water to about 170 homes.

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LEGALS

which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon it is 79 Miller Road, Latham, New York 12110. The purpose of the LLC is any purpose for which a limited liability company may be organized under applicable law.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of WPW MEDICAL, PLLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/4/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for service of process.

LEGALS

SSNY shall mail process to: 55 1st St. #105, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.- 38391

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of ZIANA LLC. Arts. of Org. was filed with SSNY on 1/31/14. Office location: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 46 State St., Albany, NY 12207. The registered agent is: USA Corporate Services Inc. at the same address. Purpose: all lawful activities. Ad# 38955

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TV

(From Page 20)

One by one, we placed one foot in the “hack” – imagine a track runner’s starting blocks sticking out from the ice, only the feet are side by side and you only put one foot in it – and the other foot on a Teflon-coated rubber sole called the “slider.” Then, we crouched down and placed our hands on two 42-pound rocks. Once in position, we pushed off with our hack foot, extended that leg backward and glided forward with the slider leg still bent up in a crouch.

It took me a couple of tries to get the movement sort of figured out. I landed on both knees on the first attempt because I forgot to extend my slider foot as the instructor told me to do. The second and third attempts were shaky, but I held the correct form. The other four people in my group – a pair of local couples – had varying levels of success in learning the technique.

As soon as we gained a basic understanding sliding, we went to the next station to learn how to get the rock to curl. This was the easiest station of the five we visited, as far as I was concerned. The only thing we had to learn was which direction the handle on top of the rock had to be pointed to get it to turn the right direction. Point the handle at 10 o’clock to get the rock to go to the right, and point the handle at 2 o’clock to go left. We also learned

the basic hand signals the “skip,” or team leader, uses to tell the “thrower” which way to send the rock.

We began putting the two elements together at the next station. We pushed off from the hack while holding our brooms to our side for stability, but we didn’t release the stone. Again, the group had varying levels of success with getting the proper form. I did okay, but I didn’t slide too far from the hack because I wasn’t pushing off with a lot of force.

From there, we got to the station where we could try throwing a stone. I felt somewhat confident I could do it, but it turned out to be more difficult than I thought it would be. I struggled keeping my feet where they needed to be, and I lost my balance all three times I tried it. My best attempt was successfully throwing the stone after falling on my side on the second try. The stone curled where the instructor wanted it to go with plenty of force. I just looked really awkward when I did it.

I should mention at this point that my fiance, Sherry, was taking pictures from the waiting room. Luckily, my fall was at the far end of the ice so she couldn’t get a good picture of it.

Finally, we reached the sweeping station. While there are few people in the world who don’t know how to sweep with a broom, you don’t really think of the motion as being the basis for an intense cardio workout until you try it on ice. We only went up and back a short distance with an instructor pushing the rock

along at a slow pace, but I was exhausted when it was over because I was sweeping like my life depended on it. Just thinking about having to do that repeatedly over three-quarters of playing surface during an eight-end recreational match still makes my head spin.

Fortunately, you don’t sweep for each of the eight rocks thrown during an end. Each member of a four-person team gets to throw two rocks, but if you’re not the skip you can wind up sweeping for the remaining six rocks. Still, you are going to get a major workout even as a recreational curler.

Most of the 140 active members at the Albany Curling Club are just that – recreational curlers. Club president Kevin Ryan said some of the younger curlers take a more competitive approach to the sport, but most of the members are there for the fun and camaraderie.

“We’re more of a have a great time, it’s a winter sport, it’s something to do club,” said Ryan.

But there is much more to curling than the physical activity. Once you get the basics down, you start getting into the strategy – where to place the rocks in the “house” to score points, how to knock your opponents’ rocks outside of the house and how to defend your rocks from being knocked out.

Strategy sessions are for another time. Just learning the proper techniques takes time. At least, you can have fun while doing it.

Seven Eagles choose their schools

Booker, Muller select Division I schools to continue running

By ROB JONAS
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Four Bethlehem Central High School senior student-athletes signed their National Letters of Intent at last Tuesday’s ceremony in the school’s library, while three more announced their college choices.

Steve Booker, Jason Clas, Natalie Muller and Sydney Shaw signed their letters of intent. Booker will run cross country and track for Rice University in Houston, while Muller will lace up her track shoes for the University of Buffalo.

“It was a great opportunity all around there,” said Booker, who placed fifth at the state cross country championships in November. “Their distance program is on the rise, plus the campus has everything I was looking for.”

“I know (the competition) is going to be a lot harder, but I’m willing to put in the work,” said Muller, a middle distance specialist on the Bethlehem girls track team.

Clas made his decision to play football at Wagner official by signing his letter of intent at the ceremony. It was a ceremony Clas said



Field hockey standout Sydney Shaw signs her National Letter of Intent to play for Stanford. Rob Jonas/Spotlight

he hoped to participate in, but wasn’t sure he would until Wagner came calling.

“It was always my goal to be part of this ceremony,” said Clas, who will play tight end for Wagner. “Seeing last year’s ceremony, I wanted to be part of it.”

Shaw is continuing her field hockey career at Stanford University, which was ranked 13th in the nation at the NCAA Division I level last season.

“It’s just been like a dream of mine to go there,” said Shaw. “I got to go out to Stanford one

summer for a camp, and I always wanted to go back.”

Three more Bethlehem seniors – Emily Conway, Mary Kate McDonough and Caroline Maniccia – announced their college selections, but did not sign their letters of intent because they have to wait until the official spring signing season.

Conway will play lacrosse for Siena College, while her teammate McDonough will move to New Jersey to play for Princeton. Maniccia will play softball for Binghamton University.

Title

(From Page 20)

finishers for Bethlehem. Guilderland’s list of place finishers includes David Wolanski (third, 99), Andy Cummings (fourth, 170), Elijah Clemente (fifth, 152) and Brian Knodler (sixth, 145).

Guilderland was sixth in the Division I (large school) team standings with 97.50 points, while Bethlehem tied Amsterdam for eighth place with 80 points. Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake claimed the team title with 177 points.

In Division II (small schools), Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk’s Logan Kunkle won the 220-pound title with a 4-2 victory over Hadley-Luzerne/Lake George’s Patrick Barber.

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Zemering shines at Sectionals

Bethlehem's Gunnar Zemering won the 50- and 100-yard freestyles at Sunday's Section II Division I boys swimming and diving championships at the Shenendehowa Aquatic Center in Clifton Park. Zemering recorded an All-American time of 20.80 seconds in the 50 freestyle, and he swam a time of 46.32 seconds in the 100 freestyle. Bethlehem's Alex Taber won the 100 backstroke with a time of 53.86 seconds.



Weekly poll

Which No. 1 seed has the best chance to win a Section II boys basketball title?

- Shenendehowa (AA)
- Catholic Central (AA)
- Scotia-Glenville (A)
- Voorheesville (B)
- Hoosic Valley (C)
- Argyle (D)

Go to spotlightnews.com and click on "Sports" to cast your vote.

Previous poll results:

Pound for pound, who is the best wrestler in Albany County?

- Chris Tangora 39%
- Blake Retell 31%
- Josh LoGiudice 15%
- Wayne Burt 15%
- Golan Cohen 0%

Curling is more difficult than the Olympians make it look

By ROB JONAS
jonasr@spotlightnews.com

Do not be fooled by what you've seen on television. Curling is harder than the Olympians make it look.

I should know. I gave the sport a try during the Albany Curling Club's open house Saturday in Guilderland.

One of the first things they made people do when they entered was sign a waiver form indemnifying them from any injuries you might incur trying the sport. You might think, "How serious of an injury can you suffer? It's curling, not hockey."

But let's not forget, curling is played on ice. And no matter how hard it is or how well they "pebble" the ice (creating little bubbles on the surface by drizzling water on top and letting it freeze), it's still slippery. If you're not careful, you can land face-first or butt-first onto it, and it will hurt. Also, you're not wearing any safety equipment. That factors into what happens when you land.

However, curling isn't what one would consider to be a



A group of curling students learn the art of sweeping the rock during the Albany Curling Club's open house Saturday.

Rob Jonas/Spotlight

"serious" sport. The atmosphere is congenial, and sportsmanship is a major component. In fact, there is a pamphlet in the lobby describing all the proper curling etiquette, including complimenting your opponents when they make a good shot, being courteous and quiet when a curler is in the "hack" (more on that in a minute) and being ready to go when it's your turn.

"You shake hands before the

game, and you shake hands after the game," said Ed Muller, a 76-year-old Guilderland resident who has been an Albany Curling Club member for 18 years. "Then, you can sit around a table afterward with your teammates and opponents and talk about what's going on in your lives over a beer."

The club asked open house participants to bring clean sneakers with them to wear on

the ice. Just in case you weren't certain about the cleanliness of your soles, you could go to a shoe washing station in the lobby where two club members were stationed, buckets and brushes at the ready. As I learned later from one of the instructors, any kind of dirt or hair tracked onto the ice can create a problem. The environment has to be kept clean in order for the ice to be perfect.

While waiting for my group to be called onto the ice, I found 2013 Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School graduate Alex Soutiere sitting at one of the tables. He was there with his mom and her boyfriend, who wanted to try the sport after seeing it on TV. As it turned out, Soutiere – who wrestled in the 285-pound weight class last year – tried the sport once before.

"I curled when I was like 8 years old, I think," said Soutiere, a two-time Section II Division II heavyweight champion. And what was Soutiere most concerned with? "Sliding. I'm watching the people (at the Olympics), and they're doing the splits out there."

I soon found myself doing the splits. When my group took to the ice, the first thing we learned was the proper sliding technique.

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LoGiudice, Lainhart win Sectional titles

Guilderland lightweight duo head back to state wrestling tournament, while Tangora waits for at-large bid

By SPORTS STAFF
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Guilderland's Josh LoGiudice and Mike Lainhart are going back to the state wrestling tournament, while Bethlehem's Chris Tangora must wait to see if he will get an at-large berth.

LoGiudice and Lainhart won their weight classes at the Section II Division I championships Sunday in Glens Falls. LoGiudice defeated Columbia's John Devine 4-1 for the 106-pound title, while Lainhart got past Saratoga's Dominic Inzanna 6-3 in the 120-pound final.

Meanwhile, Tangora suffered only his second loss of the season when Colonie's Wayne Burt pinned him 41 seconds into the 220-pound division final. Tangora was Bethlehem's lone finalist.

Bethlehem and Guilderland each had six place finishers at Sectionals. Tristan Canova (third place, 126 pounds), Jake Groesbeck (third, 285), Rowan Braga (fourth, 113), Jack Canova (sixth, 120) and Gabe Naviasky (sixth, 132) joined Tangora as top-six

□ Titles Page 19



Guilderland's Josh LoGiudice, right, signals to the crowd following his 4-1 win over Columbia's John Devine in the 106-pound finals at Sunday's Section II wrestling championships in Glens Falls.

Anne-Marie Warren/Special to the Spotlight



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