School aid: some surprises

BC to decide what an expected aid shortage means

By Patricia Mitchell

Ten-year-old school aid figures from the state Assembly could mean good news for Voorheesville and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk school districts, but the figure for Bethlehem Central is $219,000 less than what district was expecting.

The figures were released Thursday from state Assemblyman John Faso’s (R-Tedord) office, and spokesmen for all three districts cautioned that they are still tentative. Lawmakers continue to work on the state’s 1988-89 budget and no school aid package has been approved, so the final figures may change.

State lawmakers may also be considering extra aid to school districts to help out with costs of hiring a consultant to put together an asbestos management plan that is mandated by the federal government for October.

BC’s Business Administrator Franz Zwicklbauer Monday morning said the tentative state aid for district was $4,367,749, an increase of 4.29 percent, all about $219,000 short of what the district had been using to calculate its 1988-89 budget. The school board was expected to meet Tuesday (today) to discuss what the shortage could mean to the district.

If the budget of $22,696,379 was approved by the school board at its March 30 meeting in time for the May 4 annual election, and budget vote.

In the RCS district, a higher-than-expected state aid package, combined with new assessment figures, could spell a decrease in taxes throughout most of the district, including Bethlehem. Superintendent William Schwartz said the tax rates recalculated for Monday night’s budget hearing show “significant reductions.”

RCS is targeted to receive $6,676,258 in state aid, an increase of almost 11 percent, under the Assembly package. It has been using a state aid figure of $6,094,261 in its $14,332,952 proposed budget.

Because of state aid and the new assessment figures, tax rates are now estimated at $178.48 per $1,000.

(Vturn to Page 9)

State grant for home repairs

By Patricia Mitchell

The Town of Bethlehem will receive $40,000 to be spent on a revolving fund for low-income senior citizens for emergency housing repairs.

The funds are included in the state Legislature’s 1988 budget bill. “We are really excited about it,” said Mayor Robert Hefner, director of the town’s senior citizen committee.

“We are looking now to help senior citizens stay in their homes longer,” said Hefner. “Housing is the key.”

“The town is still working out the mechanics of the program,” said Hefner. “It will be up to the town to be used.”

While the mechanics of the program are still being worked out, Hefner said many of the town’s seniors want to be able to stay in their homes to avoid the costs of long-term care.

According to information supplied by the town, there are an estimated 2,000 low-income senior citizens in the town. Of the 2,000, 300 are expected to benefit from the program.

Emergency situations will be dealt with as they happen, with a home owner eligible for one rehabilitation project a year, according to the application. “The greatest needs are for repairs to roofs, foundations and plumbing,” Hefner said. “Many of these problems can be dealt with by storms that cause a threat to life.”

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The program will be set up as a revolving fund to maximize the amount of dollars available, so when a senior citizen borrows money, it will be paid back to the town to be used again.

While the mechanics of the program are still being worked out, Hefner said that the town does not want to see any of the funds fall through the cracks. “We want to make sure that nobody gets screwed,” he said.

(Vturn to Page 15)

After the storm: a plan for disasters

By Tom McPheeters

Four days after the Oct. 4 storm, with the town still paralyzed by power failures, Bethlehem Supervisor J. Robert Hendrick was trying to find out from Niagara Mohawk what was going on. A number of optimistic predictions for the restoration of power had come and gone, and the supervisor hadn’t been able to get a straight answer.

Several calls on an unlisted number he had obtained from a senior NISO official and asked for help. The official obliged by meeting the next day for a briefing at town hall. The briefing took place, and Hendrick found out what he needed to know. That evening, he sent town workers driving up and down the streets of Bethlehem, listing those areas still in the dark — so the town could give Niagara Mohawk an up-to-date list.

Would the town handle a disaster differently now?

"Yes," says John E. Brennan, Bethlehem’s new director of civil defense. "But that’s all hindsight.

Hindsight is part of what has led Bethlehem to prepare a formal disaster plan, with Brennan playing a central role. An event 89 budget and no school aid package has been approved, so the final figures may change.

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(Vturn to Page 15)

Voorheesville approves school budget

By Sal Prividera

New Scotland taxpayers could see an increase of 6.76 percent in their school taxes under Voorheesville Central school district’s proposed $7.8 million budget.

That figure includes the to-be-built public library, but does not include any funding for handling the district’s asbestos problems or building improvements. How the district will deal with those issues is pending a recommendation from the facilities committee, which is expected on June 6.

The proposed budget of $7,882,061 is a $662,244 or nine percent increase over last year’s budget and proposals totaling $7,219,817.

The budget, presented Thursday by Superintendent Louise Gonan, was adopted unanimously by the board at Monday night’s regular board meeting after one change. Both Thursday’s presentation and Monday’s adoption were held in open meetings, which were not attended by any district residents.

The one change to the budget was the addition of $12,000 for three additional handicapped students. Gonan said she was “uncomfortable” with the numbers provided by BOCES and said the district should add to the funding for 27 students already in the budget. The move was unopposed by the board.

If approved by voters on May 11, the budget would mean an estimated tax rate of $344.25 per $1,000 of assessed value, an increase of 6.76 percent over $321.40 for New Scotland. Guildersland residents could see a rate of $24.70 per $1,000, a jump of 18.8 percent or $3.91 and Town of Berne residents could have a rate of $65.65 per $1,000 of assessed value, an increase of $67.77 or 11.37 percent.

(Vturn to Page 15)
Delaware Plaza . . . Spring Weekend

**SALE EVENT**

**This Friday, Saturday, Sunday.**

Now’s the time to buy those things you’ve been admiring at fabulous SAVINGS. All throughout Delaware Plaza find record-breaking savings at your favorite Delaware Plaza store.
**Tours on promotion**

By Patricia Mitchell

Bethlehem Police Officer Cynthia Reed-Kerr will be taking the sergeants exam next week because she should not be promoted to police sergeant.

The suit follows an Albany County Civil Service Commission finding that Sgt. Louis Corsi should not have been promoted because time previously served with another department should not have counted on pre-exam application. The mistake has been attributed to a "clerical error" at the commission.

The Bethlehem Town Board, which passed a special official notification that Corsi should be declassified from his promotion, is expected to discuss the situation at its meeting Wednesday (today).

A nine-year veteran on the force, Reed-Kerr is the department's first and only woman police officer. She placed first on a Civil Service exam for sergeants last year. She had alleged sexual discrimination when the town was slow with the promotion last December.

Reed-Kerr's attorney, Robert Rudolph, said the promotion is not part of this latest action. The sergeants exam was held during special term in state Supreme Court on Friday, April 26, said Rudolph. He had a certified exam for sergeants with a certified list of those who passed, Roche said. He said the town has to appoint a sergeant off this list.

With Corsi apparently no longer on the civil service list, that leaves Reed-Kerr, Officer Marvin Koonz and Officer Robert Picard. Rudolph said, Roche has apparently applied for retirement.

Koonz scored first on last year's civil service exam, Koonz second, Corsi third and Samuel fourth. An appeal for promotion had been made from the eligible officers with the top three scores on the exam.

Roche said Reed-Kerr also has a letter from Police Chief Paul Currie that Reed-Kerr would be taking an interview for the promotion.

Town Attorney Bernard Kaplowitz said the town will argue in court that Reed-Kerr does not have a high enough score to be appointed. He said he doesn't believe the court can force the town to promote her — at the Police the town does not even know who is now on the eligibility list for the position.

This town has delayed taking any action about Corsi's decertification since the March 16 Civil Service hearing, appealing for official notification. The commission hearing found that Corsi should not have been promoted last December because he did not have 36 months with the department as was required to take the sergeants exam. Corsi had been with the department for two years when he was promoted, and had previously been an Albany County sheriff's deputy.

Kaplowitz said it is not the town's place to appeal the county Civil Service Commission finding when the town has not done wrong nor was it advised.

The Civil Service hearing was held at the request of Council 82 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and Koonz, who is also president of the Bethlehem Police Union local.

Corsi's appointment to sergeant was controversial when it was approved by the town board in December on a recommendation from Koonz following interviews by the chief and the department's three lieutenants. Reed-Kerr said at the time she intended to file a civil rights discrimination lawsuit against the town, claiming that remarks made by supervisors indicated she was not chosen for the promotion because of her sex.

Koonz presented petitions and asked the lieutenants to resign as a protest of the promotion. The issue of Corsi's eligibility to take the test and be promoted was also raised at that time.

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**Moquin gets 3-9**

By Sol Prividera

Deborah Ann Moquin, who pleaded guilty last month to seven counts of vehicular manslaughter in the August 1987 crash that killed 15-year-old Cathleen Quinn of Delmar, was sentenced Monday to three to nine years in jail.

The sentence handed down by Albany County Judge John G. Turner Jr. was shorter than the sentence sought by District Attorney Sol Greenburg, who said an appeal is being prepared.

Moquin pleaded guilty before Turner last month to second-degree manslaughter, second-degree vehicular manslaughter, two counts of vehicular driving while intoxicated, two counts of vehicular assault, and misdemeanor reckless driving. At that time, Turner dismissed an additional charge of second-degree murder, ruling that Moquin acted without considering the consequences.

Greenburg said Monday he was not surprised by the sentence being shorter than the five to 15 years his office asked for. He said an appeal would be made of the dismissal of the second-degree murder charge, which his office sought because they felt Moquin showed "depraved indifference to human life."

Greenburg said Turner had a desire to get help for Moquin through the corrections system. The corrections facility at Albcan was found to have an extensive alcohol rehabilitation program, but Moquin could not have a maximum sentence longer than nine years to go to the facility, Greenburg said.

Once the second-degree murder charge was dropped, Turner "pretty much had his own way" giving Moquin the concurrent three to nine year sentence, Greenburg said. Moquin will have to serve three years before being eligible for parole, he said. With the crowded conditions in the state prison system, Greenburg said, Moquin would receive parole in three years if she did not "act up." The remaining nine years of the sentence would be served with probation, he said.

Bethlehem Central High School students, and friends of the Quinn family, delivered their sentiments to Turner last Friday in the form of a petition. The signers pledged not to drink and drive.

The district attorney's office is researching its appeal of the charge dismissal now, he said. "If the dismissal is reversed, the sentence would be set aside and we would be back to square one," Greenburg said.

Moquin had been previously convicted of DWI three times, he said. Turner "based on his experience, and I agree, (said in his ruling) a drunk is a drunk and will drive," Greenburg said. That is why there are other charges, he said.

Greenburg said while riding with her parents, Dr. Brian and Alice Quinn, on Rt. 82 near the Thruway overpass, Moquin crossed into the oncoming lane to pass another car and struck the Quinn's car despite the collision. Alice Quinn suffered multiple injuries in the crash, while Brian Quinn escaped unharmed.

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**Call us, say Bethlehem police**

By Patricia Mitchell

People who are concerned about a friend or relative being involved in drugs should phone the Bethlehem Police Department, where there will be a certified personnel available to talk to them.

"The problem is not going to go away unless they take that first step," said Det. Supervisor Charles Rudolph. "They get a problem, we'll listen."

Rudolph said the police response is not always to arrest the suspected user. But he also warned that in many cases there will be no quick solution to the problem. Rudolph said he believes the town should set up a special narcotics unit to handle the increased cases.

By calling the police department and asking for the detective office, a concerned friend or relative can help a person get counseling, Rudolph said. The police are not just out to arrest people but also to help them, he said.

Rudolph said he believes parents have to be aware if their children are taking drugs, and that lack of action will just let the situation worsen. If parents can't handle the situation, Rudolph said, they should call the police.

All reports to the department are be made in confidence, he said.

Bethlehem police are citing an increase in illegal drug abuse in Bethlehem — including cocaine and heroin — and are asking residents to be more aware of what goes on around them. Many other crimes are also attributed to drug abuse, and police said they were also recently warned by the Albany County Police Department about a potential rise in drug-related crimes from the New York City area.

While the police will listen if a concerned parent or friend calls, Rudolph said, callers should not expect miracles or an overnight cure. Police officers do not have all the answers, and if they cannot help, they will try to put the caller in touch with some other agency, Rudolph said.

Illegal drug use is an ongoing problem and will get worse, Rudolph said. The community will have to come together to combat it, he said.

Another factor in the police department's effort to combat illegal drugs is the area manpower. Rudolph said the force of white collar members, the same as in 1969. The three-man detective office also works on other crimes, and Rudolph said he believes it is time for the town of Bethlehem to have a special narcotics unit.

In a related matter, a bill that would have provided money to municipalities to fight street-level crime will not be funded in the state budget, but Assemblyman John Faso (R-Rensselaer) said he hopes to get supplemental funding later this year.
Where or when?

**Editorial**

forward as quickly as possible is money well spent. It does seem likely that, as some specifics begin to emerge, the overwhelming approval vote might be diminished a bit. Specifically, as to the site. Three people out of five said they favor central Delmar — which, in fact, would seem to be a highly unlikely location because of the unavailability of usable land.

Related questions appear: Which would prevail, a site near a popular cluster, or a central geographic locale? It does seem evident that the poll’s respondents must have a little more imagination than a football field. (That’s a lot bigger than a breadbox).

And that’s only the beginning folks: Parking worse, but an area much larger? A closely related, and vital, issue must be accessibility — on existing (or new?) roads and streets. Impact on a neighborhood would be another factor. None of this was taken up in the telephone inquiries.

It’s time for the Town Board to get involved, and produce some hard-and-fast answers. Fast.

Based on the comments of town officials, it is becoming increasingly clear that a high-level consensus is forming. That a master plan is necessary is becoming increasingly clear. That a master plan is necessary is an area large — A closely related, and vital, issue must accessibility — on existing (or new?) roads and streets. Impact on a neighborhood would be another factor. None of this was taken up in the telephone inquiries. It’s time for the Town Board to get involved, and produce some hard-and-fast answers. Fast.

What exactly is a master plan? The existing document, created in the 1960s, is very broad-brush, and has not exactly been very persuasive in getting its seeds to take root. What purpose does such a document serve? What does it encompass? Is it more process-oriented than result-oriented, and how long does it take to prepare it?

In the meantime, what happens to development in Bethlehem? Several town officials have said, informally, that they feel the town should go ahead with development that have already had zoning changes, such as Delmar Village and Brookhill Village in North Bethlehem, while holding off on any new projects that require zone changes, such as Windham Village in Glenmont.

There are some problems with such an arbitrary distinction. For one, the planned unit development concept under which the projects mentioned above are proceeding is a two-stage process. Delmar Village and Brookhill are in the second stage, site plan approval, but that stage is important enough to require a full environmental review under state law. Why then should they not be included in any moratorium the town declares in order to develop a master plan?

Secondly, if there is a concern over the impact on town services and schools, what about those developments that do not require rezoning? Residentially zoned land can be developed as subdivisions, which can have as much, if not more, impact on town services as Delmar Village.

A review of the town’s existing zoning and location of population center are appropriate. So far, however, the case has not been made for a moratorium on development, or any particular part of it. And the inordinate amount of time it has taken to come up with a simple plan for the review of the Rt. SW corridor — not the review itself, but the delay in producing a plan for the review — is reason enough for caution about any new studies.

**Our primary system**

Editor, The Spotlight: Recently I have become aware of the primaries and their importance in the political process. I have prided myself on never having failed to vote on election day. Lately something new has been added — some Presidential aspirants have become very persuasive in getting their followers to enroll in a party and therefore have a built-in following when they run.

At this point I decided I too had too much involved to sit on the fence. I set out to register to vote. I asked at least six of my friends and surprisingly, they just didn’t know how. I finally called the Albany County Board of Elections.

I found to my dismay I had waited too long to vote in the primaries this year. I received in the mail a form to be filled out so that I could at least vote next year.

It is widely expected that Dukakis will win three of the six slots, and three of the others are likely to go for Gore. Although Jackson could win two.

The most popularly elected of the six Delaware delegate candidates would win the first of those three positions. The most popularly elected delegate from the south would be the first to win the second slot, and whoever is in line gets the third.

This scenario would give Dukakis one of the six Delaware delegates. No matter who runs second, that candidate would be the other alternative. By contrast, the recently enacted change in the method for writing in names for president is designed to simplify the process. The change is only with regard to the convention and uncommitted delegates. It is aimed at a situation where there is a late developing serious

**Too late to vote**

Editor, The Spotlight: I agree with large parts of your editorial of March 30, 1988 on unfairness,” although I must take exception to your comment about a recently enacted change in the method for writing in names for president.

First, however, some background on our primary election system, which is widely misunderstood. In fact, there will be two or three elections on primary day.

I will discuss the Democratic side since that is where the big questions exist this year.

The first election will assign the six Democratic delegate slots based on a popularity contest among the candidates. It is then necessary to have the delegates elected by the members of the party they represent. The days of handpicked delegates is a thing of the past. Allowing the candidates to pick the delegates would be similarly unfair, especially when some candidates will drop out before the convention and uncommitted delegates would be impossible if candidates picked them all.

Once slots have been won by a given candidate, it becomes meaningless to count the votes for the delegates of the other candidates. Obviously, if Gore does not win a delegate slot, it won’t matter how many votes he gets in the last general election, in order to vote in that party’s primary election April 19.

With salis factory

In the meantime, what happens to the existing factory

In the meantime, what happens to the existing plans, or at least a thorough reevaluation of the issues that were involved to implement a master plan?
What makes you think so?

Actually, there's little risk for him to go along with the game. Participation has become too common for ordinary people such as Gary Hart and Joe Biden, to make fools of themselves in the nation's 21 inch screens. The networks' power is supreme; their control is absolute. The networks' power now, even now, feel some of the vibrations.

One or another of the aforementioned front men presumably will be duly elected in November and go through the time-worn process of speculating in January. But don't count on you and I. After all, the current practitioner, who was a master in this game when he took over the White House, has worked hard and perfected his act over these eight years. He's got to stay, not only on that nice little campaign trail with the President, but rather than going to those ridiculous town meetings.

Mr. Gore, you have one of the most impressive hard covers have occurred. The original, moderately significant for American Heritage, has disappeared. If the execs have their way, we'll see those coy little hard covers, which have their way, and (they're getting it). What is the most part of the surprising, suspenseful, unpredictable Mr. Gore/Schweizer might be?

Reagan took office.

I'm not familiar with the networks.

What is the most part of the surprising, suspenseful, unpredictable Mr. Gore/Schweizer might be?

Write your own history

Once upon a time, there was a magazine that was founded with an apples and oranges mission. It emerged in 1954 in hard cover, looking something like a potato, though like a book. It was called American Heritage, and lots of people fell in love with it. Some of them have saved on family bookshelves.

The contents were thoughtful, alcoholic even. But the editors and professionals tended to be both exciting and exciting. An important aspect of its founding and its stature was the purpose to which it served. As I remember it, American Heritage was a product of one or more organizations of historians and historians, such as the American Association for State and Local History.

Over the years, American Heritage has wavered somewhat in the clarity of its purpose and in the explicitness of its execution. Though I'm not intimately familiar with its origins, I've heard, in the past one-third of a century, I have the impression that at times it has been nothing more than a vehicle for the efforts of the people who have written for it. Indeed, having been founded when we were in the middle of the worst and longest war was only germinating, when Ronald Reagan was just a kid in college for GE, and John F. Kennedy was president. It was just a kid in college for GE, and John F. Kennedy was president. It was just a kid in college for GE, and John F. Kennedy was president. It was just a kid in college for GE, and John F. Kennedy was president.

Eisenhower wanted quickly but had a theme been developed that has survived: A facility should exist to serve as a community center; that is, a center for activity for all segments of the town's population. The center was to be located at Town Square, with the four sides labeled: "Children," "Teens," "Adults," and "Seniors." The center opened and it was two years later, in the spring of 1986, that another vacant building became the incentive for community action. This time the Deimar Athletic Club was closing its doors and the building was available. A combination of factors price, size, parking and location, ended that discussion. At the same time, the New York State Dormitory Authority announced it was relocating its offices located in several buildings on Northandskill Drive, across from Delaware Plaza.

A series of meetings were held to gather support from community leaders, including town officials, business leaders, representatives of churches and schools and a number of interested citizens. Several studies were conducted to assess space and facilities needs of local groups and the willingness of these groups to pay for use. A community center group visited centers in Capital District communities such as Cohoes and Guildford.

A proposal was developed that would allow for lease of the building to a private organization, for use as a community center. The proposal included the Town Board's full support.

The group involved in this project was the Deimar Athletic Club with an offer on the Dormitory Authority building.

The group hoped for a commitment of $75,000 for the first year's lease and operation of the center. Instead, the board voted to include $5,000 in the budget, and for further study of the issue and appointed a committee to conduct the study and make recommendations.

The committee has worked for the past year and has conducted several studies, including an assessment of the adequacy of existing facilities, needs of local organizations and surveys of interested citizens. Several studies were conducted to assess space and facilities needs of local groups and the willingness of these groups to pay for use. A community center group visited centers in Capital District communities such as Cohoes and Guildford.

The committee's data gathering and evaluation report revealed a need for a center. A survey that shows broad support for the proposed center, but lesser than expected, was also on the previous two community center committees.

By Rob Lillis

Bethlehem is a town, but it has a town center. This must be understood before the role of the center and the community involvement can be put in perspective.

Bethlehem is not as densely populated as a city. We have some rural area but most of us do not live there. We share the cost of a public school system which provides education for our children, but most of us don't participate in its operation. We don't share a common philosophy, personal or political.

Raisin and I can say we're not too close to a typical town resident and you'll most likely get an unintended result of agreement. But try this one: we don't often share our leisure time with more than a few people. It seems we might not live in the town. The response to this will be, "Where?"
VoX Pop

Into a somewhat meaningful gesture.

Joseph W. Geis
Albany

The writer is a member of the City Republican committee and a former political writer for the Associated Press in Albany.

Many donations for friendship project in Stuyvesant School

We wish to thank all those who participated in the drive to send school supplies to the children of Barrio Domitila Lugo in Managua. To date two hundred and fifty people have signed in support of the Friendship Towns project, which is very encouraging. We will continue to receive donations for this project at Friendship Towns, 1578 New Scotland Rd, Box 337, Slingerlands, 12150.

Gaston L. Cadez
Slingerlands

Scouts thank for help on spring sports mart

Editor, The Spotlight

On Saturday, April 9, Boy Scout Troop 76 held a Spring Sports Mart and Uniform Exchange. We wish to thank the following merchants for their donations: McDonald’s of Delmar and Ravena, Curtis Lumber, and F.W. Woolworth Co.

We would also like to thank the School Districts of Bethlehem, Voorheesville, and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, as well as Brownell Insurance and the Tri-Village churches for their help in spreading the word of our sale.

Finally, thank you to Boy Scout Troop 75 for their guidance in this project.

Mary C. Phillips

Delmar

Proposed budget ‘measures up’

Editor, The Spotlight

A good school budget must be designed to do a lot of good for our children while it minimizes the financial burden it brings to the community.

If it is thoughtfully developed it will not only provide for the present, it will also lay a strong foundation for the future.

The 1988-89 Bethlehem Central School budget measures up to these standards in every way.

It brings to our elementary children 5.6 teachers and 2.3 elementary aides at a time when the first wave of eight or nine expected enrollment increases is about to begin.

It brings to our Middle School children a new foreign language teacher when a serious staffing weakness threatens the quality of the language program. It brings to all our schools the promise of a stronger guidance service with a proposal to reorganize the Guidance Department and the appointment of its first department head.

In addition it proposes to add a brand new basal reading system to fortify and revitalize the present elementary reading program.

But that’s not all. In addition to doing a lot of good for our children the administration and the board have worked hard to minimize the financial burden our schools bring to the community.

For example, in order to stretch our tax dollars efficiently they are proposing a plan to finance the new foreign language position at the Middle School by reallocating resources instead of raising taxes.

Another example of thoughtful budget management deals with the bond issue proposal for the bus replacement program. The administration and the board accomplished two things by separating the bus replacement program from the budget.

First they insured an adequate supply of buses to accommodate the enrollment increase for next year. And second they minimized the disruptive effect this particular program could have on the school districts cash flow and our tax liability because of its tie to state aid.

Under this plan the district can postpone the payments for the buses. The financial assistance arrives from the state. Otherwise we would have to raise enough money to buy the buses and they wait until next year to get reimbursed by the state.

These tactics coupled with very careful budget analysis give us a strong budget increase that is lower than some of our neighbors.

Let me explain further. When you compare Bethlehem’s total budget expenditure broken down at a per pupil basis to the per pupil expenditures at the other Surburban Council School, you find that our school district ranks 8th out of 11 schools. This means that, while we will be spending $5,540.63 per student, the average Surburban Council School will pay out $5,552.00 per student or $152.42 more than us. And the freest spending school will pay out $5,667.47 more per pupil than we will because they will be spending $6,857 per student.

Your children and my children aren’t being short changed though. It’s clear from my involvement in our schools for the past three and one-half years that we have a superbly managed educational operation here in Bethlehem. An operation that runs as much on wisdom, creativity, and imagination as it runs on money, and it deserves our support.

The 1988-89 school budget is clearly the kind of budget you would expect from our school district. It’s thoughtful...balancing the present with the future...it is not, you can get a copy FREE!

Your Home Town Bank

Our IRAs create interest!

Term 60 to 49 months 48 to 37 months 36 to 25 months 24 to 13 months

Annual Yield 8.56% 8.46% 8.03% 7.60%

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This booklet, which appeared in the New York Orthopaedic Journal, has been successful not only with back problems, but also with a wide variety of health problems, including asthma, arthritis, headaches, and many others.

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If you do not know much about chiropractic and its method of care, you should.

If not, you can get a copy FREE!

Did you know that chiropractic is the non-surgical cure for the cause of most back problems? If you have back pain, consider chiropractic care.

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Rt. 9W study plan is outlined

By Bill Cote

With its Rt. 9W study proposal in hand, the Bethlehem Planning Board will take a couple of weeks to consider the alternatives before making a recommendation to the Town Board. The proposal presentation last Wednesday may have cast more heat than light on the future of the town’s major underdeveloped commercial corridor.

The special meeting last Wednesday was three hours long. First came a presentation by Thomas Nedercorn, leader of the Syracuse-based Planning/Environmental Research Consultants (PRC). Next was a presentation by Bethlehem’s town planner, Jeffrey Lipnicky, who outlined the town’s expectations and the boundaries of the Rt. 9W corridor. The final section asked for public response. About 50 residents attended the meeting, with one resident, a developer, suggesting another approach.

However, the mood was mostly positive with almost everyone expressing support for the recommendations in the planning board and Lipnicky’s efforts and interest in public response.

Nedercorn was hired last November to prepare a “scope of services” study based on the preliminary proposal the planning board drafted earlier in 1997. The plan was to produce a study guide for more focused studies.

Nedercorn’s proposal suggested that there should be three elements in the study:

1. Step one is to analyze existing conditions with an emphasis on boundary lines of the corridor. He listed traffic, visual and natural characteristics as areas that will be explored and also mentioned that points of conflict will have to be balanced. He noted, for example, that the road serves a dual function of carrying through traffic and serving as access to adjacent lands.
2. Next, he said, is to identify regional growth trends. Nedercorn said that Bethlehem will have to consider state and county trends and expectations in context with the local zoning ordinance and maximum land uses. He identified school district changes as a trend to be considered.
3. The final step is to recommend plans for action. Nedercorn said that once policy statements have been established, the specifics will have to be addressed. His “action agenda” would include prioritizing plans, assessing funding sources and establishing time schedules. He said the study should come in phases to allow adequate attention to the hot spots.

“We’re trying to focus on the needs of the people who live on and around the road,” Nedercorn said. He said the plan is “not a development plan” but an environmental use study for the eastern half of Bethlehem. Lipnicky said the corridor is “relatively narrow,” but stressed that the line is flexible and “will have to be expanded for certain portions of the study.”

Lipnicky said that the study could be complete in five to six months, with the resulting process adding a couple of months.

“My concern is what will happen between now and the time this is implemented,” said Jim Couch of Glenmont. “If there was ever a case for a limited (building approval) moratorium, I think this is it.”

Bill Strong, a developer and 26-year resident of Van Wies Point in Glenmont, suggested his own plan of action. He asked, “are we really going to get anything out of it (the study)?” Strong argued that New York State classifies Rt. 9W traffic as a scale of 30 for safety and comfort. He said that the road will have to be classed as a four before the state would look at it. The incidence of accidents must rise significantly to drop the rating, he said.

Strong presented a two-pronged plan. First, he suggested that the commercial zones along Rt. 9W be moved into South Bethlehem and replaced with residential zoning. Noting that a large portion of the traffic on Rt. 9W originates outside the town, he suggested that a convenient Thruway entrance in South Bethlehem would alleviate the congestion on the North end of Rt. 9W.

The executive director of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, Chungchin Chen, attended the meeting and voiced his support for the town’s plan. He suggested that a 20-year planning horizon be set for the project and offered technical support of his office to the town.

Broken windows investigated by police

Bethlehem police are investigating two incidents of criminal mischief that resulted in broken windows.

A Fears I Bushman reported that his garage window was shot out during the overnight hours Thursday, police said. The window, worth $200, was believed to have been shot out by a BB gun, police said.

Also under investigation is a separate incident at the Snow White Laundromat on Delaware Ave. A $200 glass door at the laundry was shattered during the overnight hours last Wednesday, police said. There are no suspects in the incident, police said.

By the way, I’ve discovered a publication that has a name I’ve heard before: It’s called Pitch, that’s new to me: It’s called Exchange.

I have absolute evidence that the section of the Albany Church exchange will serve as liturgist for the parsonage service of the church. It’s published monthly at Delmar. It’s called Exchange.

Mr. Judd Wanniski’s administered technique of searching for a rationale after discovering he possessed an incontrollable theory is truly a parody of all economist jokes. Mr. Timothy C. Forbes apparently does not have a sense of humor.

“Let me try this one you one. I have absolute evidence that the Great Depression ended not with the advent of World War II, which many believe, but when they removed the banana flavor from Twinkies.”

With down-to-earth common sense and the stubborn conviction that things can’t all be bad! And by the way, I’ve just discovered a publication that has a name I’ve heard before: It’s called Pitch, the official newspaper of the Metro. It’s published monthly at Delmar. It’s called Exchange.

I Delmar

Ronald Reagan (what else) is a significant adviser to the current administration’s economic-reform program. This is paperwork that is new to me: It’s called Nixons.

I have absolute evidence that the Albion Church exchange will serve as liturgist for the parsonage service of the church. It’s called Exchange.

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**BC budget receives high praise**

Board candidates endorse $22.6 million spending plan

By Patricia Mitchell

Bethlehem Central's proposed $22.6 million budget received high praise from school board candidates attending last Tuesday's budget hearing.

Most school board members endorsed the proposed budget and appealed to the community to endorse it when they adopted it on March 30.

The spending plan will go before the voters on Wednesday, May 4.

The hearing was sparsely attended, with five of the six school board candidates making up most of the audience.

The budget contains no frills and is a bare bones budget, said Lynne Lenhardt who is challenging Charles Reeves for his seat. Some items included are definitely needed, such as new teachers and continued improvement in instruction, she said, and the budget also provides for responsible building maintenance. She said it is important for board members to take a stand on the budget as the district's representatives, and she urged voter approval.

Reeves, who abstained from voting when the school board adopted the spending plan on March 30, made no comment on the budget Tuesday. He said at the March 23 budget workshop he thought the increases are excessive but he doesn't want a negative vote on it to be perceived as a lack of trust in Superintendent Leslie Loomis.

While the budget may be too tight in some areas, Lawrence Faulkner said he is impressed that it deals with building needs such as the start of a rerouting of the stage lights for the high school auditorium, teachers, and a part-time guidance coordinator, even though more counselors could be used. He also praises the new elementary reading program, but he said more of it could have been adopted after two years of pilot study.

Faulkner is one of four candidates for board President Robert Ruslander's seat. Ruslander announced earlier this year he would not seek reelection to the board. Other candidates are Marcia Roth, Greg Maher and William Collins.

A parent of a handicapped child, Roth said she was glad to see three special education classes incorporated into the district that would have gone to BOCES, and to see handicapped students' transportation needs also taken into account in the proposition to buy seven buses. The budget is also responsive to the growth at the elementary level and the decline at the high school, she said, but alternative funding must be found for the stage lights.

After hearing about discipline problems on the 81-student buses, Quinn Davey of Glenmont said some parents from his area may campaign against the bus proposition if it specifically includes two of the large buses.

The bus purchase plan, which also includes three 59-passenger busses, a wheelchair bus and an eight-passenger van, is part of a replacement plan and they are very much needed, Loomis said. He said it would be ill-advised for parents to express their opinion by rejecting the proposition down, since discipline has little to do with the size of the bus.

This is the first school board has heard of any discipline problems on the large buses, and Loomis said he was a little disappointed over that. However, he said, if parents have a concern he would be willing to meet with them.

Marion Martin, the Delmar PTA Club representative, said she was disappointed that more people did not attend the budget hearing.

The proposed 1988-89 budget package of $22,698,379 is an increase of $2,017,761 or 9.76 percent over this year's budget.

Tax rates are estimated at $192.12 per $1,000 of assessed worth, or $114.51 or 6.4 percent and at $274.38 per $1,000 in New Scotland, a decrease of $1.04 or .38 percent. However, those rates may go up when final state aid figures are calculated.

In presenting the proposed budget, Loomis said it will allow an excellent return on every dollar invested and deserves community support. She urged its support for continued high quality education.

Faso will speak at women's club luncheon

State Assemblyman John Faso (R-10th) will be the speaker at the annual spring luncheon of the Bethlehem Women's Republican Club, to be held Tuesday, April 26, at the Normansville Country Club.

The luncheon, open to the public, will be served at 12:30 p.m. The program also includes presentation of the Ruth Miner Awards. Tickets are available for $8.50 and reservations may be made with Kathleen Noonan, Peg Mull, or Sharon Fitz by Wednesday, April 20.

New personnel in the budget are five elementary teachers, a middle school foreign language teacher and a part-time guidance supervisor, a new bus driver, part-time attendants to help the new teachers, a part-time hour aide and other elementary aides. Funds are also included for the start of a 10-year rerouting program beginning at the high school and for upgrading the high school stage lights.

The walls of the upper gym at the high school will be padded, telephone lines will be upgraded and installed, hallway space will be modified at Clarksville School for classrooms and the play area at Hamagrael School will be modified.

McCabe speaks about Australian outback

Tim McCabe, an entomologist with New York State's Science Survey, will speak about his trip to the Australian outback at the next meeting of the Albany County Audubon Society on Thursday, April 14. The meeting will be held at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Rd., Delmar, at 8 p.m. For information call 438-4035.

Open house at ambulance service

Members of the community will have an opportunity to view the new Bethlehem Volunteer Ambulance Service ambulance during an open house at the Glenmont Firehouse on Sunday, April 17, from noon until 4 p.m. The open house will also feature demonstrations and a history of the ambulance service.

Community quitting bee at library

Community quitting bee to complete the Bethlehem Public Library's 75th anniversary will be held at the library April 15, 22, 23 and 29, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sewing experience is not required. For information call 439-9314.

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Norstar Bank area drive-in tellers are now open at 8:30 a.m. Plus, many area offices have extended their regular banking hours. Call or visit the Norstar office near you for details.

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School gets lights, town thanked

By Patricia Mitchell

The Town of Bethlehem has been recognized for its help in getting the project underway at the entrance of the Glenmont Elementary School.

Bethlehem Central Superintendent Leslie Loomis said he feels Town Supervisor J. Robert McAndrews was personally responsible for getting the lights after months of discussion.

The lack of lighting at the Rt. 9W school was identified as a top priority for the year, Loomis said. A request from the district was rejected by the state Department of Transportation, as was a similar request for Delaware Ave. at the high school.

However, he is interested in pursuing those requests further.

The school district should also indicate its interest in Bethlehem's study of the Rt. 9W corridor because of safety concerns, Loomis said.

In other business at last Tuesday's meeting, the school board approved adding three representatives to the AIDS Advisory Committee. The suggestion was made at a public input session on March 29 by a high school student.

Assistant Superintendent Briggs McAndrews said the committee believes it is particularly appropriate for the students to join now. Students who have already gone through I.C.'s curriculum may be asked to participate.

The idea is an excellent one, said board member Velma Cousins, because teenagers still are not aware that AIDS can effect them.

The AIDS Advisory Committee is now made up of staff, teachers, parents and community members, and is working on adapting state Education Department guidelines for an AIDS curriculum at BC.

By Patricia Mitchell

The Total Look

Grasso called the district's revenue estimates, including state aid, "conservative." The district has been using an estimated state aid figure of $2,942,500, an increase of $137,937 over last year's, to calculate its proposed $7,870,061 budget.

This state aid figure is slightly lower than the state Assembly's estimated state aid for the year, Loomis said. However, the figures are not official until now it was for vinyl. Ceramic tiles will last longer, he said.

During a meeting with the assistant principal on the matter. Hendrick

He said he asked the PTAs to work with the school PTA's, Loomis said. A request for an AIDS study of the Rt. 9W corridor because of safety concerns, Loomis said.

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The AIDS Advisory Committee is now made up of staff, teachers, parents and community members, and is working on adapting state Education Department guidelines for an AIDS curriculum at BC.

The school board went into executive session for personnel matters once at the end of the meeting, but Loomis said no action was taken.

The next regular meeting of the school board is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 at 8 p.m.

Raymond J. Acciarro, Sr.

Vetern-created hate

The school board also approved placing ceramic tile floors in Elsmere School's stairrooms instead of vinyl floors as part of the 1985 capital improvements bond issue work.

Business Administrator Franz Zwicklbaumer said the district believed it was bidding for ceramic floors and didn't realize until now it was for vinyl. Ceramic tiles will last longer, he said.

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Welcome Wagon, newcomers and members, Thursdays, 7:35-9:45 for Welcome Wagon meeting. Monday-Saturday, 8:30-4:30 p.m.

Lea College of Delaware, meets one Thursday each month to share breastfeeding experiences, 5 p.m.

For meeting schedule and breast-feeding experiences, call 443-4736.

Town of New Scotland, Town Board meets first Wednesday at 8 p.m. Planning Board second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Board of Appeals meets when necessary, usually Fridays at 7 p.m. Town Hall, Rt. 85.

Town of Bethlehem Youth Employment Service, hours for your interest during part-time work. Bethlehem Town Hall, 1-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Information, 439-2238.

AARP, Bethlehem Tri-Village Chapter, are offering free tax counseling for those persons 60 years of age and older, Wednesdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Harry D. Schaefer Jr., Tax Counselor. Office hours, Town of New Scotland, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Belleville Landfill open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday closed Sundays and holidays. Resident permits required; permits supplied at office. Office closed on holidays. For more information, call 439-2000.

Belleville Board of Education meets third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 90 Adams St. Delmar.

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Board of Education meets first and third Mondays of each month at the district offices, Thistle St., Selkirk.

Voorheesville Board of Education meets second Monday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Voorheesville Elementary School, 107 Fourth St., Voorheesville.

Project Hope, preventive program for preschool children and their families, open house. Thistle St., Selkirk.

Project Equities, Delmar Satellite Health Center, sets evening counsel meetings for substance abuse programs, all contact confidential. By appointment, call 434-8135.

Feorc Bush Funders, 6-H group for parents between eight and 19 years, meet every Thursday, Jerusalem Baptist Church, Voorheesville, 7-8 p.m.

Village of Voorheesville, Board of Trustees, fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m., Planning Commission, third Thursday at 7 p.m., Zoning Board, first Thursday at 7 p.m., when agenda warrants, conservation advisory council, as required, Village Hall, 295 Voorheesville Ave.

Town of Bethlehem, Town Board second and fourth Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Board of Appeals, first and third Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Planning Board and third Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave. Town offices are open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

New Scotland Landfill open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays only. Resident permit required, permits available at town hall.

Public Television for a Better Community, call 439-4006 for more information. Monday-Wednesday, 1-7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 235-7969.

University at Albany Performing Arts Center, Art, April 17-19 and 25-28, 8 p.m. Information, 439-4385.

Dix Lasso, State University at Albany, April 15, 2 p.m. Information, 439-5502.

Anne Figi, Empire State Plaza Convention Center, April 15, 8:00 p.m. Information, 439-1428.

The Rose Tattoo by Tennessee Williams, Home Made Theatre, Saratoga, April 14-15, 8 p.m. Information, 439-9390.

Jodie Zander, State University at Albany University Art Galleries, April 17-29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Information, 439-2891.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Community College of the Mohawk Valley, April 15, 8:00 p.m. Information, 760-5251.

DANCE

"Dances of All Nations" by the Charles Monroe Dance Theatre, Page Hall, State University at Albany, April 15-16, 8:00 p.m. Information, 443-5220.

Nayde Baum and Company Renert, Winter, Page Hall, State University at Albany, Saratoga, April 14-15, 8:00 p.m. Information, 443-5791.

Edward Wilson and Dennis." The Art of Partnering," The Equinox, April 17, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-2232.

MUSIC

Albany Symphony Orchestra, concert, April 15 and 16, 8:00 p.m. Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Troy. April 16, 8:00 p.m.

Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Troy. April 10, Palace Theater, Albany. April 15, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

New York University-Juilliard School's, St. Joseph's Auditorium, College of Saint Rose, Albany, April 18, 8:00 p.m.

Prefet/Galeazzi Classical Guitar Duo, at Andrew's Church, Marlboro and Madison Ave., Albany, April 17, 8:00 p.m. Information, 217-0171.

College of Saint Rose Wind Ensemble, St. Joseph's Auditorium, College of Saint Rose, Albany, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

FILM

"Machinist, Latin Jazz Magician," Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Ave., Albany, April 16, 8:00-10:30 p.m. Information, 445-4725.

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Rands — Suite La Tambourin

Rands — Commercial Pieces, No. 2 (U.S. Premiere)

Schubert — Symphony No. 5

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chronic nervous symptoms. First
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439-9314.
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—Kanan O’Keefe, center, AAG Class of 1997, member of the Class of 1991 at Williams College.
Clarksville Community Church, Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. Cotter following service, nursery care provided. Information, 766-2825.
Community Quilting Bee, to complete a quilt, Bethlehem Public Library, 1-5 p.m. Information, 439-8314. Open Houses, Bethlehem Volunters Ambulance Service, Greenfine Fire House, noon-4 p.m. Information, 439-2027. Albany Bethlehem Chapter of Hadassah, buffet brunch with dancing, 10 Parkwyn Dr., Delmar, 9:45-11:30 a.m. Information, 439-2325.

MondaY 18

TEMPLE CHURCH
7:30 p.m. Information, 883-2500.

Delmar Kiwanis, meets Mondays at Starline Restaurant, Rt. 9W, Glenmont, 6:15 p.m.
All-Ann Group, support for relatives of alcoholics, meets Mondays at Bethleham Lutheran Church, Elm Ave., 8:30-9:30 p.m. Information, 439-2123.
Delmar Community Orchestra, rehearsal Mondays, Bethlehem Town Hall, Delmar, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-4028.
Alatien Meeting, Mondays, support group for young people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Delmar, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Information, 439-4561.
Quartz Rehearsal, United Pentecostal Church, Rt. 45, New Salem, 7-11 p.m. Information, 766-4410.

BIRD PROGRAM
for kindergartners and 1st graders, with songs and activities. Bethlehem Public Library, 10 a.m. Information, 439-8314.

TUESDAY 19

DELMAR ROSARY GROUP
meets Mondays at Starline Restaurant, Rt. 9W, Glenmont, 6 p.m.

New York Democratic Social Club, welcomes third Tuesdays at Meals Connect, Rt. 3, 9:30 p.m.
AARP, third Tuesdays, First United Methodist Church, Kenwood Ave., Delmar, 11:30 a.m. Information, 439-4161.
Legion Auxiliary, Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post 1046, Poplar Dr., Elsmere, third Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Blood Pressure Clinic, free testing, third Tuesdays through April, Bethlehem Town Hall, Delmar, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Information, 438-4655.

Delmar Rotary, meets Tuesdays at Starline Restaurant, Rt. 9W, Glenmont, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY SPECIAL

Oceans Eleven

Seafood and Steak Restaurant
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SaturDAY NITE - PRIME RIB OF BEEF
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4 Corners, Delmar
CLOSED SUNDAYS
Mon. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

"Owned by the Brockley Family since 1952"

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Correction

An article in last week's Spotlight on a spilt of liquid fertilizers misspelled the name of John Geurtze, Bethlehem's director of field operations in the Department of Public Works.
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**APRIL 17 12 - 4 pm**

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**WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL**

See Education Program, "Talking to Your Kids About Sex," Community Health Plan Health Center, 1201 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, 7-4 p.m. Continues through April 17. Information, 783-3110.

PM Support Group, Women's Health Care Plus, 2603 Western Ave., Guilderland, 7-9 p.m.

Capitol District Women's Political Caucus, meeting with program on child abuse prevention by Stephanie Washook. Room 303Diaper Hall, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, 7-9 p.m. Information, 452-3456.


Concerned Friends of Hope House, support group for parents of substance abusers, 1500 Western Ave., Albany, 7:30 p.m. Information, 454-2441.

Children's Gardening Program, with stories and activities. Delaware Branch of the Albany Public Library, 517 Delaware Ave., Albany, 3:30 p.m. Information, 469-3800.

Third District Federated Garden Clubs, spring meeting, Holiday Inn, Kinzington, 8 a.m. Information, 459-2085.

Political Lecture, "New York, Albany and Siena: A Perspective," Siena Hall, Siena College, Loudounville, 8 p.m. Information, 739-3431.

Decorating Workshop, "Do's and Don'ts of Proper Home Decorating," Turf Inn, Colonie, 7 p.m. Information, 459-2088.

American Red Cross, Sponsor Recognition Breakfast, Desmond American Inn, Albany, 8 a.m. Information, 462-7461.

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**SATURDAY 16 APRIL**

Kids' Fair, "For Kids Sake Follies," Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 32 Second St., Troy, 7 p.m. Information, 482-2008.

Hudson Valley Haymakers Square Dance Club, mainstream dance, Schenectady Elementary School, 8 p.m.

Old Songs Country Dance, Guilderland Elementary School, Rt. 20, Guilderland, 7:30 p.m. Information, 765-2015.


Amnesty International Chapter 361, bend concert, Saratoga Winners, Latham, 8 p.m. Information, 436-5993.

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**SUNDAY 17 APRIL**


State Park Lifeguard Testing, State University at Albany. 4 a.m. Information, 739-3431.


Albany County Historical Association, Lecture on Boscobel, by Frederick Stanyer. Ten Broeck Mansion, Albany, 2 p.m. Information, 436-9206.

American Heritage Day, sponsored by the Kings and Daughters of Vartan, with music, art, and literature. State Museum, Albany, 11 a.m. Information, 474-5877.

CROP Walk for the Hungry, College of Saint Rose, 432 Western Ave., Albany, 11 a.m. Information, 456-3102.

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**FRIDAY 15 APRIL**

Chamazon, self-help group for adolescents using drugs and alcohol. 1090 Western Ave., Albany, 7-8 p.m. Information, 869-1172.

Capitol District Mother's Center, drop-in evening, 405 Quell St., Albany, 9-3 a.m. Information, 482-4808.

Internet Retail, by Trevor P. Farnutre. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany, 7:30 p.m. Information, 454-5102.

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**SATURDAY 16 APRIL**

**MONDAY 18 APRIL**

Family Theater, "The Bremen Town Musicians," presented by the Schenectady Children's Theater. State Museum, Albany, 1 and 3 p.m. Information, 474-5877.

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**TUESDAY 19 APRIL**

Political Lecture, "Civilian-Based Defense: Neither Pacifism Nor Just War," by Gene Sharp. Roger Bacon Hall, Siena College, Loudounville, 8 p.m. Information, 782-2431.

FILM, "Willy McLean and His Magic Machine," State Museum, Albany. 1 and 3 p.m. Information, 474-5877.

Compassionate Friends, self-help group for parents whose children have died, Westminster Presbyterian Church. 65 Clinton St., Albany, 7:30 p.m. Information, 438-7318.

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**WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL**

Mims Show, with Harle Thomas, State Museum, Albany. 1 and 3 p.m. Information, 474-5877.

Literature Lecture. by Tony Morrison, Albany Public Library, 4 Washington Ave., Albany, 8 p.m. Information, 449-3350.

Embracider's Guild of America. meeting. Delmar United Methodist Church, Delmar, 10 a.m. Information, 4335414.


Poetry Reading and Workshop, with Page Dougherty Delane, Foy Campus Center. Siena College, Loudounville, 7:30 p.m. Information, 783-2431.

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**Corrections**

A notice in last week's Spotlight on the election of board seats for the Voorheesville Public Library misstated the area served by the library. The library serves the entire Voorheesville School District, and any qualified resident of the district is eligible to run for the board. Petitions were due April 8.

Also, an article in the same issue incorrectly noted that the school board must approve all expenditures for the library, in fact, only expenditures relating to the new library building will be approved by the school board.

Nature program offered to youth

An evening walk for organized scouting and youth groups will be held at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Rd., Etna, on Friday, April 22, at 7 p.m.
Hindsight on the storm

(From Page 1)

Hendrick's experience was not unusual. In its analysis of Niagara Mohawk's storm response, the state Public Utilities Commission said, "all but two of the smaller communities (surveyed) claimed that although the company had unlisted numbers, they still had trouble reaching the company.'

The FSC made a number of recommendations, most of which Niagara Mohawk says it has already implemented. Bethlehem also learned a lesson, chief among them that the town had better learn more about how to fend for itself. Bethlehem's review committee of the town's response to the storm has four major conclusions, but nearly all of them get back to that one point: self-reliance.

The review committee headed by Councilman Fred Webster recommended that Bethlehem:

• Set up a civil defense director with an assistant. The previous director, Sid Kaplan, had resigned prior to the storm, saying there were no duties attached to the job. Hendrick said he asked Brennan, who he knew from their service together as Elsmere fire commissioners, to take the job because he had a new role in mind.

• Set up a formal program to call in town employees who volunteer to perform needed functions, such as the switchboard and food preparation, during an emergency. Special attention should be given to the role of Karen Pelletier, the town's senior citizens services coordinator, who was credited with organizing the effort to get aid to seniors during the October storm.

• Test fire and police radio systems weekly on backup power, and provide emergency power to the senior services office and the kitchens at town hall. The police lost communications during the October storm because the backup generator failed for a time, but a program to test the backup generator is already in place.

• Look for a site for an evacuation center to handle future emergencies.

Brennan, a 15-year member of the Elsmere Fire Department and currently a commissioner of the department, was appointed by Hendrick to fill the vacant civil defense position last January.

"I envision it as a coordinating role," Brennan said recently. He views the Emergency Preparedness Plan as a first step. Brennan said; his job is to work with the volunteer fire and rescue services, the private companies that could be involved in a disaster, and also with the county and state governments. If a disaster does strike, he said, his role would be one of providing information, not directing the response.

"The storm was a learning process," said Brennan. "Although it's an expensive way to learn, 'What the town is trying to do now is prepare responses for various types of emergencies -- in a generic sense, because they're never going to happen the way you plan them.'

Brennan said his role is to put the Emergency Preparedness Plan into effect, broaden it, and make it more accessible to the many people who would use it.

The Town of Bethlehem Emergency Preparedness Plan is a half-inch thick loose leaf book that outlines procedures for dealing with various sorts of emergencies, details who is responsible for making decisions and contains contact numbers, response codes and information on hazardous materials. Much of it builds on existing procedures worked out over the years by the Bethlehem Police and the volunteer fire and rescue companies.

There is even a "strategy board" for the supervisor or the incident commander to call on at the command center.

One type of disaster is getting a lot of attention -- hazardous materials. Bethlehem is a transportation point for oil, gas, and the Thruway and the Corning Selkirk yards are two of the two major avenues for the transport of hazardous waste. There are also several manufacturers in town that deal with hazardous materials, although Brennan stresses that all of them handle their materials responsibly and cautiously.

"But anything can happen," Brennan said. The Emergency Preparedness Plan includes lengthy sections on hazardous materials, including contact numbers, response procedures for police, fire and emergency personnel, and notification lists. What is not covered is evacuation planning, and Brennan said he is just beginning to look at that question.

One major complaint, not only by Bethlehem, during the Oct. 4 storm cleanup was the difficulty in getting government assistance. The state civil defense system is designed to work as a funnel, with local agencies filtering up through the county civil defense office, and aid filtering down to the county and the local governments. But the Albany County Civil Defense proved to be nothing but a bottleneck, according to local officials.

Brennan says he has met with Terry Ryan, the new director of the Albany County Civil Defense office, and also with the state Emergency Management Office. 'I'm very optimistic as to the relationship between the state and county and the county and towns,' he said.

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Patricia L. Becker 456-0498
Veeders Rd., Guilderland
A bill in the state Legislature that would allow Ravena-Coeymans-Stevens School students to take a full week of spring vacation has been withdrawn.

Assemblyman John Faso (R-102nd) said he has withdrawn a bill he co-sponsored that would make school districts exempt from a 380-day school year because of last October's snowstorm.

Assurances could not be received from the state Education Department to get their recommendation to the governor to sign the bill and because of the delay in passing a state budget, it was too close to the scheduled spring vacations, Faso said.

Locally, however, RCS would have been the only school district to benefit from the bill, Superintendent William Schwartz said the district is short one day of its school year, and therefore the spring vacation from April 18 to 22 will be cut short with students attending school on Monday, April 18.

Four snow days were built into the district's calendar, with two days used by October's snowstorm and the other two days used by the district was April 18. Superintendent Louise Gonan. The district lost only one day made up.

The original application was turned down. The town last year applied for assistance in the transportation category of $12,723

Faso said he then introduced the Women's Organization of the Normanside Country Club, which is also included.

The increase also in the transportation category due to the reduction of a nurse-teacher position and the purchase of a fifth day used by the district was April 18.

Several areas in the proposed 1988-89 budget will decrease, including $13,623 for all district insurance premiums, $12,641 in the health service category due to the reduction of a nurse-teacher position, $10,000 for the reduction in gas prices and the reduction of $1470 due to the purchase of only one bus, a lower estimate on gas prices, said Faso.

A reduction in the contract labor category due to the reduction of a nurse-teacher position and the purchase of a fifth day used by the district was April 18.

Under plant operation, there is an increase of $88,858 that includes continuing replacement of classroom desks, chairs, cafeteria tables and for locker repairs, Gonan said. It also includes $15,000 to $30,000 for the federally required asbestos management plan and testing, she said. It has to be in place by October.

Under supervision, there is an increase of $31,812 for administrators salaries and purchase of office computers.

An increase of $27,250 for business administrators budgets, including salaries for the business staff, a computer for the treasurer, and an increased program on computers, Gonan said.

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Church serves chicken dinner

A chicken and biscuit dinner will be served at the Oneonta Reformed Church, Tarrytown Rd., Feura Bush, on Saturday, April 23, at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Admission is $6.75 for adults, $1.50 for children 5 to 12 years and 50 cents for children under 5 years.

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Jane Bloom and Cross, wrote the article. The assemblyman said the increase would be mainly for regular school teaching, which is "mostly salary" for teachers, Gonan said. The increase also includes equipment for the music and technologies programs, she said.

An increase of $72,715 in medical, dental and insurance services that are the result of the district receiving notification from its carrier, Blue Cross, that there will be a 20 percent rate hike.

An increase of $54,819 for teacher retirements.

An increase of $40,398 for interest on the bond for the public library.

Snow days: only RCS gets stuck

"We're exactly even" as long as spring weather holds out and it doesn't snow, he said.

If additional days were needed, Friday, April 22, would have been the last day, then Thursday, April 21, until the snow days were made up.

Voorheesville Central students will also have their regularly scheduled spring vacation, said Superintendent Louise Gonan. The district lost only one day during October's storm, and two snow days were allotted in the calendar this year.

Grant

(From Page 1)

citizens.

Local churches and the Red Cross will provide temporary shelter for senior citizens during work to their home, and local service organizations will be solicited to contribute supplies, according to the application.

The town lost only applied for funds under a similar program sponsored by the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal, but was turned down. Faso said he then introduced the program in the assembly as a member item.

The original application was part of the senior citizen housing committee's work and was written by Jane Bloom and Pelletier.

Golf rally planned

The Women's Organisation of the Normanside Country Club will hold a dinner meeting and golf rally on Thursday, April 21, beginning at 6 p.m. For reservations call 439-3532.

On the revenue side of the budget, the district is expecting to receive $2,942,502 through state aid, an increase of $137,357 aid over last year.

The district's state aid figure is slightly lower than the figure Assemblyman John Faso (R-102nd) expects Voorheesville to receive this year. According to Assembly figures released this week, the district could receive $3,005,238 and Faso said they were rather definite. However, the state budget has not been approved, he said, and the figure is still preliminary.
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and a FREE Tee Shirt

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Indian Hills receives approval

By Bill Cote

A 125-lot Slingerlands subdivision received conditional final approval at the Bethlehem Planning Board last week.

The single-family project known as Indian Hills lies between Runkmill and Russell roads and along the New York State Thruway. To be built in three phases, the project by Belmonte Builders dates back to February of 1986.

Tobacco-Greeting Cards-lottery Games

The planning board reviewed and approved changes in alignment of the interior roadways. Previous plans suggested a slight offset in two opposite roadways that abut the same through street. The new plan shows them directly opposite each other.

A negative State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) determination was made in August of 1986, meaning a variance that cuts through the parcel and the board decided to require a soils analysis on the affected sections.

Soil tests have been planned for phase two and three of the proposal, according to Lindsay Boutilier, land surveyor and spokesman for the developer.

In other business, the planning board voted to make a significant procedural change in the way it handles site plan revisions after a plan receives board approval.

In preparation for discussion of a Westphal Drive three-lot subdivision, board Chairman Ken Ringler asked board attorney, John T. Mitchell for a legal opinion on the issue.

“The planning board retains jurisdiction and control of filed subdivisions at least to the extent that changes in lot lines must be the subject of the planning board subdivision regulations,” Mitchell wrote. He supported the opinion with legal precedents. The board restated its right to call an additional public hearing if the proposed changes are deemed to be "substantial.”

According to Building Inspector John Flanigan, the previous planning board attorney, Earl Boutelle, restated its right to call an additional public hearing if the proposed changes are deemed to be "substantial.”

The board granted Markus a variance that cuts through the parcel and the board decided to require a soils analysis on the affected sections.

The board also granted Dennis O'Shaughnessy’s request to display vehicles for sale along Rt. 9W. He was informally denied a variance the previous week.

In other action, the board:

• Approved a preliminary proposal for a Perusha Rd. subdivision. The land owned by Mrs. and Mr. William Morin is located at the McCumb Drive intersection. Previous planning department concerns over the lot size and set back requirements were addressed at last month’s hearing by the surveyor. He provided drawings of two possible building envelopes, one for a structure fronting each roadway. A building envelope outlines an area of a plot in which town zoning ordinances will allow a building. The Albany County Planning Board requires that the driveway not open onto Perusha Rd.

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...
Explore historic houses

House, like people, grow old. If they could talk they might tell interesting tales of their early years, no doubt in the popular style of the time. Perhaps, they could discuss the building materials used and the alterations they have undergone in later years.

Michael F. Lynch, a licensed professional engineer specializing in historic preservation, will present "The Old House Detective," a lecture and program of slides, at the April 21 meeting of the Bethlehem Historical Association in the Schoolhouse.

Lynch is a senior restoration coordinator with the New York State Office of Historic Preservation. He teaches courses at Union College and at the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown.

Lynch resides in Troy with his family in a temple front Greek revival house (circa 1847) that he restored.

Jazz sounds tonight

Jazz will be presented by the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk music department tonight (Wednesday). The first portion of the program will feature junior and senior high school musicians. The second portion of the program, directed by Paul Enoviesich, will entertain for the remainder of the evening.

Students in concert

The elementary instrumental music programs at A.W. Becker and Peter B. Coglan elementary schools will welcome spring with a combined concert at RCS senior high School on April 28. The elementary instrumental music program at A.W. Becker and Peter B. Coglan elementary schools will welcome spring with a combined concert at RCS senior high School on April 28.

Registration deadline soon

April 15 is the deadline for filing applications for the 1988-89 after-school program. The applications, which were sent to all district residents with the most recent directory, must be returned to the address printed at the top of the form. Parents will be notified about acceptance in May.

Paper drive planned

A paper drive, sponsored by the young people of the South Bethlehem United Methodist Church, will be held on Saturday, April 23. If you live in the area of the church, please leave bundled papers in plain view on your property. If you wish to contribute papers but live outside the immediate area, call youth group leader Roberta Osborne to arrange pickup at 767-9953.

Lectures on gospels

Lectures on gospels. At 7:30 p.m., at the church on Main Street in Ravena. The program is designed to help participants to better understand the Gospels. To receive further information on registration, contact Patricia O'Neill at 767-2325.

Student music festival

Congratulations to the 41 RCS students who represented the school at the Greene County Music Educators Spring All County Festival held at the Greenville Jr. Sr. High School last week. Elementary band and chorus members participated in the rehearsals and presented a combined concert on Friday, March 25.

Hadassah plans brunch

The Albany-Bethlehem chapter of Hadassah is planning for a buffet brunch on Sunday, April 17, from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m., at the Delmar home of Naomi Reiss. The brunch will be catered by A Unique Selection of Country and Pastries.

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Blue Circle completing EIS

By Sal Prividera

An environmental impact statement may be completed by May on Blue Circle Atlantic Cement Co.'s proposal to burn waste solvents at its Rt. 9W plant.

The cement plant's proposal is at the draft environmental impact stage, where the plant is addressing issues and concerns raised by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the community, said William Rowan of Blue Circle.

Representatives from the Blue Circle Atlantic Cement Co. and two firms assisting the company in its plan to burn waste solvents updated the Ravena-Coeymans Selkirk Board of Education on the status of the project at the board's meeting last Monday.

Under the proposal, waste solvents would become 33 percent of the plants fuel supply, replacing 100 tons of coal, Rowan said.

The cement plant would not use more than that due to the need for coal ash in its cement product, Rowan said. Blue Circle Atlantic has received a $450,000 major construction grant from the state Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) toward the project's cost if it is completed.

If the permitting process goes according to expectations, a trial burn is according to expectations, a Monday's presentation was to held in October and a public hearing on the proposal would be held in November.

Since the schools are so close, the draft environmental impact statement will study "human health risk assessment and potential hazards to human health from a sudden problem or long-term exposure," said Bradley.

The effect of the plant burning wastes on plants and animals will also be studied.

"We can't say we know the effect that's why the study," he said.

The stacks will be monitored for emissions continuously during burning, Rowan said, calling the solvent "clean fuels." "There is no threat of raw emissions coming out of the stacks," he said.

"Every safeguard and health potential will be incorporated into the reframing of the storage tanks, Rowan said. The tanks will have a double bottom made of concrete, the joints will be sealed with a special epoxy impervious to the benzene stored inside, and a vapor recovery system will be installed, he said. The refusal of the tanks is expected to cost $1.8 million.

Approximately 850,000 gallons of the solvents will be stored at the cement plant site, which will have 40,000 gallons per day, Rowan said.

The waste solvents, which will include wastes from printing, ink, dry cleaner and turpentine manufacturers, will be brought in by truck when the burning process starts and eventually will be brought in by train and rail, Rowan said.

"This product (the waste solvents) is not as dangerous as products we've transported before," Rowan said.

The handling of a transport truck accident near the school would be controlled by county and state disaster plans, he said. Every truck would contain a map of its contents to tell response groups what the truck is carrying. The trucks are specially licensed and permitted by the Department of Transportation, Rowan said, adding the trucks would likely be required by DEC to be routed through areas with the least risk.

Town of Coeymans Fire Chief Tom Farrell, said that he was not concerned about the trucks.

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FARM family director

William L. Woosley has been promoted to director of public and health services at the Farm Family Life Insurance Company in Glenmont.

He previously held the position of pensions development manager and worked for several other insurance companies.

The company has attended the Fort Wayne Bible College and is presently taking courses through the American College to become a chartered life underwriter and a chartered financial consultant.

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THE SPOTLIGHT • April 13, 1988 • PAGE 21
Garden club program

The Helderberg Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m. in the social hall of the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville.

Following a business meeting, a program on "Annual Flowers for the Cutting Garden" will be presented by Audrey Hawkins, master gardener and member of the Fort Orange Garden Club.

Because of a change in programming, Eileen O'Gahn, originally scheduled for this month, will now be the May speaker.

The community is reminded that the club's annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 7, just in time for Mother's Day.

Junior carnival date change

The annual Junior Carnival, originally scheduled for April 9 at the grade school has been changed to Saturday, May 14, due to a conflict in scheduling with other community events. Everyone is invited on that day for plenty of food and fun.

Car wash, bake sale date

May 14 is the scheduled day for the annual Girl Scout Car Wash and Bake Sale to be held in the Grand Union Parking lot. According to Senior Scout Nancy Timmis who is coordinating the event, the cost of the car wash will be $2.50 for cars and $3 for vans or trucks. Since this is a neighborhood fund raiser all troops are expected to participate. Troop leaders are asked to call Nancy at 765-2421 to schedule working time.

Scout coordinators wanted

Beth Timmis, former neighbor chair, also reminds everyone that there are still several openings available on the scouting committee. Needed is a neighborhood chairman or co-chairman, calendar drive chair, and a neighborhood cookie chairman. According to Timmis, if people are not found to help coordinate these programs girls scouting in Voorheesville will lose many important services.

Anyone interested in these volunteer positions may contact Timmis at 765-2421. Men or women are welcome to apply and need not be presently involved in scouting. No experience is necessary for any of the positions.

Label drive successful

The Labels for Education Project coordinated at the Voorheesville Elementary School by Anne Lennox and Diane Woensam was a "souper" success this year.

According to the two, more than 15,000 labels and 3,000 bonus points were collected, earning the school physical education equipment, video cassettes and computer software. They extend their thanks to all those who donated and ask everyone to keep saving the labels for next year's drive.

Volunteers for screening

Elementary School Nurse, Michele Corrado, is still in need of volunteers to assist with the upcoming pre-kindergarten screening to be held on April 26 through 28. Any volunteers wishing to assist with vision and hearing testing should contact her at the grade school, 765-3282.

Religion class ceremonies

Religious Education classes for elementary level students will end this afternoon, April 13, at St. Matthew's Church in Voorheesville. Second grade students will receive their First Communion on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, May 1. Sunday pre-school classes will end on Mother's Day with a graduation ceremony.

Bar-B-Q to benefit the many community sponsored events coordinated by the local service club.

What's the San Diego chicken doing so far from home? Frying a stir around Voorheesville last weekend, inviting the public to the annual Kiwanis Spring Chicken Bar-B-Q to benefit the many community sponsored events coordinated by the local service club.

Developers' dispute delays water district

By Patricia Mitchell

A proposal to extend the Swift Rd. water district for one developer has been delayed while the town sees if it has to formally notify another developer who was originally included with the extension.

The New Scotland Town Board will decide on the extension at a special meeting Wednesday (today) at 8 p.m.

Swift Rd., Inc., is seeking to extend the water district to its seven-lot subdivision north of the town park, and a public hearing was held on the proposal at Wednesday's town board meeting.

This is the second extension Swift Rd., Inc., has asked for. The company and Donna Baltis, who is proposing another subdivision also to the north of the park, asked for and received town approval to extend the water district to their developments last year. However, the Baltis proposal is still awaiting Albany County Health Department approval so no agreement was ever signed between the two developers.

Thomas Coyle of Breene-Coye, the developers behind Swift Rd., Inc., said he understands since there is no formal agreement between the developers there is no way to execute. Coyle said his project is ready to start construction and has lost thousands of dollars waiting for the Baltis proposal. While Breene-Coye was willing as late as November, 1987, to go forward with the joint venture, he said, Peter Baltis, husband of Donna Baltis, never signed their agreement and therefore Coyle no longer accepts it.

Breene-Coye came into New Scotland willing to do a good job, said Coyle's partner, James Breen, but their project has been held up long enough waiting for the water district.

"We are not going to do business with them," Breen said of the Baltises. He urges the board to act on the new district.

But the Baltises' attorney, Eugene Sneeinger, told the board: "We are ready to sign that agreement."

The two developers agreed by a handshake to extend the Swift Rd. water district, but the Baltises need approval from the planning board for their project to sign the contract and contribute half of the cost to upgrade the pumping station. Sneeinger said. Even so, he said, the developers are already connected because they already have approval to extend the water district.

Sneeinger said he is not sure the town has the jurisdiction to approve the new water district extension. The town has not served any papers about the proposal on Donna Baltis, and it should consider how it will affect her rights for her water district extension, Sneeinger said. If the extension is not constructed jointly, he said, it is possible that it would cause substantial expense to the Baltises.

Town Supervisor Herbert Reilly said after the meeting a proposal is still being considered creating the Voorheesville Village Board that would divert the water district extension funds to complete a village water main loop through the town park if the village agrees to supply water to the Swift Rd., Inc., project.

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Lyn Staff 765-2451
Will the town settle Larned mine case?

By Patricia Mitchell

New Scotland officials may decide Wednesday whether to continue negotiations to settle a lawsuit with the operators of a local gravel mine or to let the lawsuit run its course.

The special meeting will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday (today) for the special meeting.

New Scotland apparently has been negotiating since a January meeting with miners, developers and town officials and organizations interested in the future of the Tall Timbers Country Club to settle the lawsuit with the miners. A portion of the country club property is owned by Ronald and Ri. is owned by the miners.

New Scotland sheriff's deputies said they were requested to go back to the planning board to ask for a special use permit to mine in the area if the case did not go to court.

Town Attorney Fred Riester said at Wednesday's town board meeting negotiations with miners William M. Larned and Sons, operators of the 27-acre gravel mine, were apparently at an impasse. The miners were unwilling to go back to the planning board to ask for a special use permit to mine in the area if the case did not go to court.

The arrest was made after the planning board walked away during a meeting of the town board. The miners were concerned that they would be asked to do something different if the case did not go to court.

New Scotland has a special use permit for mining that expires in April. The planning board was asked to consider a special use permit to mine in the area if the case did not go to court.

The arrest was made after the planning board walked away during a meeting of the town board. The miners were concerned that they would be asked to do something different if the case did not go to court.

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Will the town settle Larned mine case?
Students learn to play game

Seventy boys and girls representing the five elementary schools in the Bethlehem School District participated in an 11 week basketball season in January, February, and March. Sponsored by the PTA’s from the elementary schools, the instructional league consisted of six teams that practiced for approximately two hours each week. Games were played weekly at the Hamagrael gymnasium on Wednesday evenings. Scores and team standings were not kept but individual skills, team play, and basketball rules were emphasized with each team member receiving equal playing time in games. Over 300 hours of volunteer time were contributed by 14 parents who served as coaches and referees.

The Celts, coached by Bruce Sverzut and consisting of John Sware, Chris Myer, Peter Powell, Melissa Trent, David LaVelle, Brendan Noonan, Kevin Rice, Kelly Dobbert, Tim Cassidy, Erik Gill, and Scott Green.

The Lakers, coached by Mort Berzyskowski and Tom Birdsey, included Byarssey, Bill Birdsey, Matt Padula, Erik Bartoletti, David Berger, Jason Castiglione, Matt Hopke, Greg Redding, Cathy Witbeck, and Reva Rottenberg.

Coaches for the Pistons included Keith Arilington, Joseph Castiglione, Kelley Farrell, Jason Heim, Adam Holligan, Gabe Kuroe, Tom Kasownik, Ottawa Moore, Willie Sarnice-Silverman, and Aaron Thorpe.

The Jazz were coached by Paul Wing, Greg Sagendorf, and Jim Boyle and included Jared Beck, Jimmy Boyle, Ian Costello, Stephen Demeerest, Jeffrey Dievendich, Michael Esmond, Beth Mahony, Ian Nixon, Nikki Boyle, Cory Sagendorf, Mike Soronen, and Matt Wing.

The Sixers, coached by Warren Winterhoff and Dan Ryan, included Sara Battles, Dan Aycock, Matt Winterhoff, Greg Sick, Chris Stewy, Andrew Kinney, John Frattura, Ann Marie Lauder, Bianca Hinds, Dan Ryan, Greg Kusama, Molly Shulski, and Jenny Piorkowski.

The Bucks were coached by Mary Lussier, Lee Grady, and John Dorfman and included Nathaniel Dorfman, Terry Dwyer, Byan Gill, Lee Grady, Jason Guttman, David Lusier, Simmons McCarthy, Devin McRae, Michael Moon, Keith Timmerman, Kyle Van Riper, Paul Shogan, and Tony Vonhoffin.

Timekeepers for the Wednesday night games were Josh Myer, Mark Sware, and Kevin Russell.

Road races scheduled

The Hudson Mohawk Road Runners Club is organizing one- and six-mile runs for people of all ages and abilities on Sunday, April 25. All races will start at 9:00 a.m. in front of the State University at Albany physical education building. Registration for $1 and $2 will be held at 9:30 a.m. For information about this race and upcoming races call Sue Engle at 274-6651.

Varisty batteries start with win

By John Bellizzi

The warm weather that finally arrived last week was a much-needed respite from the hostile winter season and one of the many harbingers of a good spring. Another positive omen last week came with the opening of the baseball season. Bethlehem Central, last year’s Gold Division Baseball Champions, began their schedule with a 21-4 non-league rout of Coxsackie-Athens last Wednesday.

Bill McFerran, a senior who proved his batting talents as a member of last year’s championship varsity squad, led BC’s offense against Coxsackie with 5 hits.

McFerran batted nine innings with two triples, a double and two singles. Chris Pratt, of last year’s 17-1 Suburban Council Champion JV baseball team, hit three doubles and one single. Three Eagle runs came in on Pratt’s hits.

Offensively, the team totaled 19 hits to Coxsackie-Athens’ 7. Jon Skilbeck started on the mound and was relieved by Pat Doody.

The varsity Eagles, coached by Ken Hodge finished on the top of the division last year with an overall 18-6 record and a league record of 11-4.

John Furey is returning as JV baseball coach, following a 17-1 finish last year, the best JV record in the league. Another championship team was coached by Jesse Furey at the freshman level last year, who is aiming for a third consecutive Gold Division title as the freshmen hit a high level. The team looks strong and hopes to come out of these games with two wins.

Boating safety course offered

A two-part boat safety course will be offered at the Bethlehem Town Hall on April 23 and 30. For information call 439-4955.

BC girls win one

By Sarah Scott

Sue Sevey has come once again to the Bethlehem softball team. In an exciting game last week, the team defeated Albany, beat Catholic Central 15-8, Cheryl Lovelace, the starting pitcher was fairly consistent. She did, however, have one shaky inning, and was relieved by Kim Dale. Dale finished the game strongly. She went only one up and pitched two more shutout innings. She stood out in this game for their defensive playing. Erica Roos, the senior centerfielder, played an exceptional game. Michelle Lorette, the junior shortstop, played what Coach Kelly Keller deemed "the best playing seen in three years from Michelle. She is much more confident and enthusiastic."

BC was behind 7-1 in the third inning, but was able to come back to score eight runs in the fourth inning. Julie Francis really started the big rolling when she hit a grand slam homerun. She hit a hard drive line between the second baseman and the line. Any Krom and Lorette both had singles.

The game against Ravana was cancelled due to the wet playing field. Last Friday’s league game against Scotia was also cancelled and will be re-scheduled.

This week, Bethlehem will play Guilderland away on Monday and Shenendehowa home on Tuesday. Kim Dale will be the starting pitcher against Guilderland. Tuesday’s game will be played at the junior level, played while school fields are being looked at by contractors who will "skin" the diamonds. They should be ready by vacation. The team looks strong and hopes to come out of these games with two wins.
Plaza, New York, New York

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY INFORMATION

This application was filed and processed in accordance with the New York School District No. 1; Bethlehem Zoning Ordinance (S.C. 1968), "Perez. School Board of Trustees of the Borough of Bethlehem, County of Albany, New York, District No. 1 ("District No. 1"). The application for a proposed extension of the northern boundary line of the District No. 1, namely, on the north side of the streets of South Maine Street, has been held, in accordance with the said ordinance, for a public hearing on the said application. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the proposed extension will be in the public interest and whether it will be consistent with the public welfare. The Board of Education of District No. 1 has approved the extension and has directed the Superintendent of District No. 1 to undertake the necessary steps to carry out the extension.

THE ISSUES CONCERNING THE APPEAL

The issues concerning the appeal are as follows:

1. Whether the proposed extension of the northern boundary line of District No. 1 will be in the public interest.

2. Whether the proposed extension of the northern boundary line of District No. 1 will be consistent with the public welfare.

3. Whether the proposed extension of the northern boundary line of District No. 1 will be in accordance with the provisions of the said ordinance.

THE PROPOSED EXTENSION

The proposed extension of the northern boundary line of District No. 1 is shown on the attached map. The extension will be made in accordance with the provisions of the said ordinance.

THE PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing on the application for the proposed extension of the northern boundary line of District No. 1 will be held on the date and time specified in the notice of the public hearing.

THE LOCATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

The location of the public hearing is the Educational Services Center, 90 Delmar, New York, on April 13, 1988, at 8:30 p.m., EDT. The public hearing will be held in the presence of the Board of Education of District No. 1, the Superintendent of District No. 1, and the Assistant Superintendent of District No. 1.

THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board of District No. 1 will hold a public hearing on the application for the proposed extension of the northern boundary line of District No. 1, namely, on the north side of the streets of South Maine Street, on April 13, 1988, at 8:30 p.m., EDT. The public hearing will be held in the Educational Services Center, 90 Delmar, New York, on April 13, 1988, at 8:30 p.m., EDT. The public hearing will be held in the presence of the Board of Education of District No. 1, the Superintendent of District No. 1, and the Assistant Superintendent of District No. 1.

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THE NOTICE OF SALE

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REALTY USA 439-1882
BC looks strong, wins first matches

by Lisa D'Ambrosi

The Bethlehem boys varsity tennis team opened its season with a 6-1 win over the crushed Burnt Hills team for their first match of the year on Wednesday.

Returning singles players this year are seniors Braden Breslin who is the number-one position, Neil Brenlin who is the second seed, Brian Saule who is seeded third and Sam Ernst who is fourth. B.C.'s top doubles team is comprised of Mark Woodruff and Jeff Ellenbogen.

Coach Suzanne Schaefer says she believes this year's team to be the "excellent" well-blended team this year, and is looking to draw strength from singles and to develop depth in doubles. Coach Schaefer stated that winning would be coming up and will be doing a lot of juggling of positions to find the best possible chemistry for doubles combinations. She said she is pleased with the "fresh new players" who are acclimating well to their new varsity experience.

Coach Schaefer, the only coach in more than ten years who has taken over the tennis team, is looking forward to this year's competition.

Breslin emerged the victor in the match against Burnt Hills with a final score of 90. The varsity Eagles dominated their match against Saratoga, again with a score of 90.

Brian Saule, who has just moved up from fifth position in singles last year to a current third seat, is, according to Coach Tom Kurkjian, the team's also consists of four Junior-high players. There are seniors Mark John, Wilson, Aaron Luczak, and Brian Goldman.

The Netmen opened up with a league match against Watervliet. Watervliet blanked the Canners 7-0. In this match, Steves was victorious 6-1, 6-2, M. Andriano, Steve Smith (7), John Corcoran (6), Matt Bladwell (10), and Dave Lances (7) all defeated returning veterans. Senior rookie Matt Bates (8), and John Macleay (9) added to the squad. Mechaan has returned to play tennis after two years and will play "not in the former number 2 but is capable of being in the top five," commented Coach Tom Kurkjian. The team also consists of four Junior-high players. There are seniors Mark John, Wilson, Aaron Luczak, and Brian Goldman.

Tennis

The 1988 tennis season has started and Voorheesville expects to have a strong team with a top doubles team with a strong depth of returning players.

Presently the top five positions are (1) Chris Stevens, (2) Dave Miatresta, (3) Dave Larabee, (4) Tom Kurkjian, and (5) Tom Andriano. Steve Smith (7), John Corcoran (6), Matt Bladwell (10), and Dave Lances (7) all defeated returning veterans. Senior rookie Matt Bates (8), and John Macleay (9) added to the squad. Mechaan has returned to play tennis after two years and will play "not in the former number 2 but is capable of being in the top five," commented Coach Tom Kurkjian. The team also consists of four Junior-high players. There are seniors Mark John, Wilson, Aaron Luczak, and Brian Goldman.

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For most of us the February school vacation might be a dim memory by this time. Perhaps it is only the stray wad of bubble gum under the coach or the almost imperceptible flinch a mother might experience to the word “snowball fight” which still serve as reminders that the kids were home (counting a snow day) for 10 days in a row.

But before you get too used to a normal life once again, be assured that another school vacation is already looming on the horizon. On April 18 it will start all over again.

Nobody knows about the extra stress and strain of school vacations better than the Children’s Room staff at the Bethlehem Public Library. But our experience has served us well and we have just enough muscle memory in the war against “what to do when there’s nothing to do.”

During the February school break, as well as offering a fascinating selection of afternoon movies to entertain your child, we began a series of morning workshops to motivate and teach many of you with a lot to offer this summer. The first program—on Thursday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m.—is sponsored by TransDesigns, and is funded by Return a Gift to Education.

Children’s Room will sponsor more “hands on” programs for school-aged youngsters. Five Rivers volunteer Susan Theresa will present a bird identification workshop for kindergarteners and first-graders on April 18. “Spring is for the Birds” will feature bird song bingo and making a nesting wreath. On April 19, fourth and fifth graders will have the opportunity to learn about the wild world of paper folding from Children’s Room staff member Stephanie Pouliot at an Origami Workshop. And on April 21 science teacher Joan Cappello will demonstrate in a hands-on “Bubble Making” program for third and fourth graders.

Registration is necessarily limited because of the workshop nature of these programs. Be assured that a child will be accommodated if it is best to register as soon as programs are announced in the library’s newsletter.

But what will the kids do over next Christmas vacation, or next February or April? There’s no need to worry too far in advance we begin to plan workshops. If you have an interest or a collection you would like to share with a small group of children in an atmosphere of participation and fun, please call Iris Bartkowski Irene Rosenthal at the Children’s Room desk. There are surely many of you with a lot to offer this new library undertaking. What we have to offer you are some of the best, most appreciative audiences around — your own children.

Irene Rosenthal

Project WILD workshop offered

A Project WILD (Wildlife In Learning Design) workshop will be offered to teachers and youth leaders at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Rd., Delmar, on Tuesday, April 26, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Project WILD is sponsored nationally by the Wildlife Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Defenders of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In New York State, Project WILD is sponsored by the state Department of Environmental Conservation and is funded by Return a Gift to Wildlife contributions from state tax returns.

To register for the free program call 453-1806.

In Voorheesville The Spotlight is sold at Stewarts and Voorheesville Drugs.

American Legion honors leaders

Members of the Nathaniel Adams Bianchard Legion Post will honor the group’s past commanders and past presidents at a dinner on Saturday, April 24. For $8 reservations call 439-9019.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martin of Delmar have announced the engagement of their daughter, Cynthia Lynne, to David Michael La Grange, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin La Grange of Feura Bush.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and is employed by Lacy, Grange Brothers of Feura Bush.

A July 30 wedding is planned.

55 Alive course registration open

April registration is now open for the defensive driving course sponsored by the Tri-Village Chapter 1998 of the American Association of Retired Persons.

The course will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 21 and 22, from 9 to 5 p.m. at the Bethlehem Library, Delmar.

The course is open to anyone 50 years or older. Those completing the course will be entitled to a 10 percent discount on the automotive liability and collision insurance.

Early registration is encouraged due to limited class size. To register, contact John Pelletier at 439-9193 for an application and early assignment to the program.

Five Rivers sets spring programs

Two spring programs will be held at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Game Farm Rd., Delmar, on Saturday, April 25.

“Attracting Wildlife through Plantings” will begin at 10 a.m.

Both of the 90-minute, free programs are open to the public. For information call 453-1806.

Senior Citizens

Applications are being accepted for the sixth annual New York State Senior Games, June 16-19 at SUNY College at Cortland.

State residents 55 years of age and older are eligible to compete in the Games, sponsored by State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in cooperation with the State Office for the Aging and the State University of New York at Cortland.

More than 20 events are scheduled, including archery, badminton, swimming, boating, bowling, golf, racquetball, softball, tennis and track and field. Drop-in activities such as bait casting, darts and basketball are also scheduled.

In the past, most of the participants entered the Recreational Division for fun and fitness. The Competitive Division is limited to more serious competitors looking to qualify for the United States National Senior Olympics in 1989 in St. Louis or as a warm-up for the Masters Division of the Empire State Summer Games to be held in Syracuse this year.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to winners in each event in both divisions.

To insure the participant’s placements in the Empire State Games, registration is encouraged. Applications and details are available from your local office for the aging, state park regional offices or by writing: Senior Games, State Parks, Albany, NY 12238. Applications are also available by calling 1-800-340-9671.

Gardening tips from the experts

Begin to plan your 1988 garden this week, with some help from area experts.

“Designing and planting an herb garden,” a talk and meeting of the Bethlehem Garden Club this morning at 11 a.m. at the Bethlehem Library.

“Selecting Flowering Shrubs,” at the library Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. A landscaping workshop, including soil testing, by Cooperative Extension on Martin Road, Voorheesville, Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
SALE ENDS
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Surprises in state budget
Page 1

NEW SCOTLAND
Time for decision on mine case
Page 23

What next for Rt. 9W review?
Page 7

Bethlehem prepares for next disaster
Page 1

The weekly newspaper
serving the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland

Home & Garden
It's time to get outside and tackle that yard!
Our annual Home & Garden Section in this issue.
How does your garden grow?

There are certainly many gardening chores that people need to do throughout the growing season. The following list should help to remind you of activities that need attention:

**APRIL**
- Sew radishes, peas, lettuce and carrots.
- Transplant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, kohlrabi and onion sets.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs if not done in the fall.
- Start seeds of early-flowering annuals.
- Prune early-flowering shrubs immediately after flowering.
- Fertilize bulbs when tulip foliage is half-grown.
- Remove mulch from perennials.
- Transplant trees and shrubs.
- Have your soil tested.

**MAY**
- Fertilize roses every two weeks and spray weekly with an all-purpose rose spray.
- Pinch tips of chrysanthemum when six inches high and again when side branches are six inches long.
- Divide overgrown perennials.
- Keep ahead of garden weeds.
- Set lawn mower for a two inch cut.
- Inspect plants daily.
- Remove rhubarb seed stalks.
- Protect new vegetables from cutworms.
- Move houseplants to porch or patio.

**MEMORIAL DAY**
- Plant tender annuals and vegetables.

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Don’t overcrowd the vegetables Page 7
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Starting from seed: getting a jump on spring

By Cheryl Clary

There comes a time in the career of every gardener when the urge to start one's own plants takes hold of him or her good sense. As early as the week between Christmas and New Year's, the seed catalogues in all their brilliant splendor grace our mailboxes as we walk back into our houses with snow on our shoes.

With the holiday season finally out of the way and the longest months yet to come (aren't January and February each about 45 days long?) how we long to smell freshly turned earth and imagine our pleasure in a lush flower or vegetable patch.

All the pictures in these nursery and seed purveyors' offerings look so inviting as we gaze out the kitchen window at the barren winter scapes. Gardening is so easy at that time of the year when our only garden work is filling out order blanks.

But thankfully the cold days have passed and our mail order bouquets have arrived in individual little envelopes, each illustrating the glorious blooms locked inside.

Seed starting, rather than plant buying, is just another way to extend the satisfaction involved in the gardening process. It gives you a head start on the growing season long before actual outdoor activities get underway.

To start seeds does not require a large cash outlay for equipment. If you have been buying plants in packs over the last few summers you may have several plastic-teminated trays left over. These are usually called flats and will work just fine when filled with the proper growing medium.

When purchasing "soil" to start seeds, DO NOT buy potting soil. This is designed for reporting well established plants. It is much too heavy for germinating seeds. Purchase either a growing mix or finely milled sphagnum moss. These are quite inexpensive and you'll find out, as I have, that a little goes a long way. The growing medium need not resemble soil at all; they basically hold moisture and provide an unrestricted root growth.

Also available at garden centers and some mail order houses are peat pellets. These look like thick cardboard cookies into which one seed can be placed to germinate and be held there right up until the plant is ready to be put in the outdoor garden.

You will also need a light source, which will probably be a four foot fluorescent shop light with two ultraviolet tubes known as "grow lights." Most local garden centers carry the bulbs, as do stores like Sears or Ward's.

Next a little math comes into play. You must calculate when the last date of frost will be and then check each type of seed for how long the plant will take to grow before it has matured enough to be placed outside. Most usually can be started 8 to 10 weeks before the last date of frost. If you think as you read this that you've already missed the boat for this low maintenance material, one or two flats will allow for each type. You may be (Turn to Page 17)

This Co-op will grow it for you

By Ruth Fein Walzer

Some of us are backyard gardeners, and some of us just want to reap the benefits of someone else's elbow and knee work. Few of us wouldn't appreciate fresh, organically grown produce throughout the year, with little concern for how it gets to us.

Beginning this spring, a unique local source for organically grown veggies of all kinds will be serving a small number of Capital District residents, including a few in Bethlehem, with produce they have ordered to be grown and delivered year-round.

Community Supported Agriculture is a reality for Michael Wayne, its founder, after almost two years of planning. He believes it will help fill a void for the more than 80 subscribers this first season will serve, and hopefully prove successful enough to expand its services to many more in the future.

What exactly is Community Supported Agriculture? Based loosely on the traditional food co-op, it is an organization that has subscribers paying for shares of its organically grown crops, and a small staff of gardeners to service its 100-plus acre farm in Melrose, northern Rensselaer County. Subscribers choose the varieties of produce they want grown, and subscribe for either five or 10 pounds per week, on an annual basis, for $300 an individual share or $600 a family share. In addition, subscribers are asked to donate four hours of their time over the course of one year to help the group in some way.

"The group is quite varied in backgrounds," the 32-year-old Wayne said in a recent interview. "They're all people with an interest in good quality year-round... with a fair number of backyard gardeners in the group," he said.

Many subscribers are choosing to take a very active role in the farm, Wayne said, making it even more of a cooperative venture.

(Turn to page 8)

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Many robots in the picture are showing different actions. A robot with its arm extended is pushing a green button. Another robot is holding a red flower and appearing to smell it. Yet another robot is sitting in a chair with its legs crossed and a laptop computer open on its lap. A robot with a microphone is standing next to a guitar. There are also robots riding bicycles, skateboards, and cars. Additionally, there are robots dressed in costumes such as a clown and a superhero. Some robots are carrying backpacks, while others have musical instruments like a saxophone and a trumpet. One robot is even wearing a cowboy hat. The variety of actions and accessories makes this a lively scene.

These are the robots that are shown in the picture:

- A robot with its arm extended pushing a green button
- A robot holding a red flower
- A robot sitting in a chair with a laptop computer
- A robot with a microphone and a guitar
- A robot riding a bicycle
- A robot riding a skateboard
- A robot riding a car
- A robot dressed as a clown
- A robot dressed as a superhero
- A robot carrying a backpack
- A robot with a saxophone
- A robot with a trumpet
- A robot wearing a cowboy hat

The overall scene seems to be depicting a group of robots engaging in various activities, possibly to illustrate the versatility and range of capabilities that robots can have. It could be used to emphasize the idea of robots being adaptable and capable of performing a wide variety of tasks.
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In the shade!
Solving growing problems

By Ruth Fein Wallens

"Gardening is much like cooking, according to Mardel Steinkamp. "Nothing beats hands on experience," she says.

You'll never become a master chef just by reading cookbooks, and you won't become a seasoned gardener until you've experienced the many failures that go along with your coveted garden successes.

Experiment and observe are the two key words of advice that come up most often in conversing with Mardel and Paul Steinkamp of Helderledge Farm in Voorheesville. These words of experience hold true for most forms of gardening, but perhaps are even more critical when discussing gardening options for partial shade and woodland areas.

Living in a pine forest is not a prerequisite for planting a shade garden. It may be, however, that an aesthetically perfect spot for your side yard garden is exposed to a few hours of early morning sun and then is almost completely shaded from any additional day's light. This isn't the spot for a border garden of day lilies, poppies and daisies. Yet many beautiful and especially unique options exist.

"A shade garden is much more subtle than one with strong afternoon sun," Mardel explains. "But they can have plenty of

On a misty summer morning the soft, iridescent reddish-silver frost of a Japanese painted fern will bring a shade garden to life.

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The strongest advice that comes from the Steinkamps is to take only transplants. One of growing there currently, or what grass or weeds, there may not be enough light for much of anything (maple) will have the tree's roots needs some subtle light. to grow. Even a shade garden the area. Don't expect to nothing at all is growing, not even into the soil in no time, competing with each other. Of the year, and how various in planning a shade garden gardens, very informal and more formal gardens, beds of all varieties, and those of native plants only. Design may be more important in planting a shade garden because of its more subtle qualities, and the importance of mixing textures as well as color. This is where Paul reiterates that nothing heals observation. He and Mardel encourage a prospec· tive gardener to look at as many other gardens as possible, not just for ideas, but to see how your own ideas may look at different times of the year, and how various plants complement or distract, from each other. If you have a need for painting or wall paper application, now is the time to act to be assured you will be on our schedule for the upcoming season! Vogel Painting 
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Prepare your garden for spring planting

Preparing your garden for the spring growing season is an important first step to a bountiful harvest this summer. A properly prepared vegetable or ornamental garden will give your plants a strong early start that will help them get the most out of the upcoming growing season.

Seed catalogs contain descriptions of germination times, preferred soil and growing conditions, and expected yields of their products. Catalogs also describe which types of plants can be grown close to one another and which ones should be isolated. Certain types of sweet corn, for example, must be isolated from other types of corn to prevent cross-pollination.

Take the time to research the characteristics of the flowers, fruits, and vegetables you want to grow and you will not be disappointed. Once a gardener determines the types of plants to grow and where to plant them, the next step is to have the garden’s soil tested for pH level and for nutrient content.

Soil conditions in a garden might be right for some varieties, but could provide a poor medium for other types. Blueberries, for example, prefer more acidic soil, while beans grow well in more alkaline soil.

Cooperative Extension agents and Master Gardeners can help home gardeners with their soil tests. Test for nutrient levels clear, it is time to apply fertilizers and adjust the pH where necessary.

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Give your vegetables room to grow and thrive

Plants in your vegetable garden need "elbow room" just as you do. Many home gardeners, unaware of that fact, literally squeeze their carrots, cucumber and bean plants together like sardines in a can. As a result, they produce slow growing, smaller plants that mature later and yield relatively poor quality vegetables.

When plants grow too close together, the leaves and roots of adjacent plants compete with each other for light, water and nutrients. Overcrowded garden plants also create a protected, humid breeding ground for plant diseases and insects beneath the overlapping leaves.

Many people mistakenly overcrowd their gardens because they fail to realize that tiny seeds can mature into very large plants.

The best way to avoid overcrowding is to follow directions on seed packages, and in planting guides.

There is no general rule governing the spacing of plants. Each variety has its own space requirements, and a gardener should become familiar with the needs of the crops he or she grows.

For example, carrot plants need about one inch between each plant in a row. Pepper plants, on the other hand, require 18 inches between each plant in a row.

The deleterious effects of overcrowding can be offset to some degree by making up for the water and nutrient deficiencies that overcrowding cause.

If you must plant your vegetables a little too close together, sprinkle some nitrogen-rich fertilizer on the ground, about four inches from the base of each plant, as a sidedress part way through the growth cycle. Also, water your overcrowded garden more thoroughly.

For more information about gardening, call the Master Gardener Hotline — 765-3510 — at the Cooperative Extension Association of Albany County.

Activities for toddlers

"An Alphabet of Activities for Preschoolers at Home" is a new publication just released by Cornell Cooperative Extension. The four-page sheet was written by Jennifer Brockmayer of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the state College of Human Ecology at Cornell University.

The information presented is designed to encourage interaction between young children and the people who care for them — parents, grandparents, friends or care givers.

For a listing of fact sheets in the Resources for Parents and Others Who Care about Children series, write to the Cornell University Distribution Center, 7 Research Park, Ithaca, N.Y., 14850.
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PAGE 9 — April 12, 1988 — The Spotlight Home & Garden Section
Ah, luscious fruit!
Vegetable or fruit, tomatoes worth the effort

The tomato is tops in popularity in home gardens nationwide and worldwide. It can offer the greatest yield per area of any crop, and has varieties ready to eat 40 days after transplant — or as long as three months. Flavors come bright red or full-bodied, tart or sweet, and textures range from runny to hardball.

Any vegetable gardening book will describe the technique to grow tomato plants. Choose rich soil — but not too rich in nitrogen or fresh manure. Plant after the last frost in a sunny location. A few points should be given in more detail for better understanding and crop management. New York State is far from ideal in its climate to grow tomatoes. Because of the relatively short frost-free season, tomatoes are given an early start, grown for six weeks indoors before setting in the garden. The plant should be growing vigorously up to the time it is set out, so there is little interruption in its growth. Withholding water and allowing the plants outside for a few days before planting will let the plants gradually adapt to the rigors of outdoor sun. When the plants are out, protect them with hats caps or collars made from milk cartons or newspaper. The leaves are overgrown so their roots are crowded, the growth slows; recover time can be extensive after they are garden set. This may produce earlier type tomatoes, but total harvest will be reduced. To produce larger plants indoors, grow them in larger containers, about 1/2 inch diameter of pot for every inch of healthy plant growth.

We grow tomatoes in our gardens because we like the vegetable and its versatility, and the substantially improved taste with home production and on-the-spot consumption. Crucial to flavor production and enhancement are:

- Variety and plant type selection.
- Solar radiation.
- Plant management, reduced pruning.
- Disease control.

These factors are all interrelated in their contribution to the flavor of tomato fruit. What ever genetic potential a tomato variety has for flavor, it is the sun acting on the green leaves of the plant that gives rise to the flavor compounds. In a bright sunny season, a plant given adequate water will produce more flavorful fruit than during a cloudy growing year.

Because the sun’s effect on green leaves is what produces the good taste, the more leaves on the plant, the more flavor compounds are produced. Think of the leaves as factories manufacturing food for the fruit. When we reduce the number of leaves, we reduce the total food manufactured by the plant and less is sent to the fruit. When we start tomatoes to get them off the ground, we prune the plant of sucker shoots. But with each side leaf pruned, a site of flavor production is lost. It is better to let the entire, unpruned plant in an upright cage — a cylinder of wire fence from two to three feet in diameter. From the standpoint of flavor production, it is even better to let the total plant sprawl on the ground than to train it to a single stake.

Disease can also reduce the effective leaf area of a tomato plant. Early blight is the most dramatic, browning the lower leaves first and moving up the plant. With fewer green leaves, the plant’s ability to manufacture food is reduced. Leaf spotting caused by bacterial blights will have a similar effect. Spotting of the fruit caused by a fungus, anthracnose disease, causes an odd flavor due to other reasons.

If a plant is growing well in full sun with no diseases and has received no pruning, it will be manufacturing its maximum potential for flavor. Then the amount of flavor in each fruit is affected by how many fruit are on a single plant. The more fruit a plant has to support, the less nourishment will be available to each fruit, making each tomato fruit less flavorful. The same healthy plant feeding fewer fruit will produce more delicious tomatoes.

Small tomato types, such as Heinz 1250, New Yorkers, Pi-Bed and Campbell 1227, with bush or determinate growth habits, bear a larger fruit load for their plant size. They are not nearly as flavorful as the larger, indeterminate plants of Supersonic, Big Boy, Mountain Pride, and beefsteak types. On these there are fewer leaves first and moving up the amount of soft gel contained in the fruit caused by a fungus, and are typically the types at supermarkets.

Those varieties with lots of gel, that are soft and messy to eat, possess the best flavor. The recipe for the best tasting tomatoes follows:

- Grow plants in full sun.
- Feed, water, and remove weeds. Grow plants in full sun. Feed, water, and remove weeds.

Growing tomatoes in wire cages is an effective way to save space in the garden and keep the fruit off the ground. The height will vary according to the tomato variety.

- Let the plant grow without pruning.
- Control diseases.
- Choose a variety with a large, indeterminate plant.
- Wear a bib when savoring the delicious tomato.

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The Spotlight Home & Garden Section — April 13, 1988 — PAGE 9
Groundcovers can solve your yard’s trouble spots

Whether you live in high-density suburbia or in a spacious rural setting, your property more than likely has a problem area where grass won’t grow or where the soil washes away with every rain.

Before you simply give up or resort to paving that area, consider growing what Mother Nature uses to cover such areas in the wild: groundcover plantings.

Groundcovers include woody or herbaceous plants and vines that spread rapidly, forming a thick, blanket-like cover.

These plants, which include varieties such as crownvetch, English ivy and periwinkle to name just a few, can cover an eroded area on your property with a natural, green carpet that is both attractive to the eye and protective to the soil it grows on.

Proper groundcover plants can enhance yard maintenance, prevent soil erosion and improve the looks of your property.

There are dozens of groundcover varieties that will grow in New York State. Some plants are available at commercial nurseries or through mail-order catalogs.

Before selecting a groundcover — or any other plant for that matter — you must first define your need, what you want that plant to do and the appearance you desire on your land.

You should also investigate the soil and water limitations of your land. Information on soil testing, fertilizing, and choosing the plant varieties is available from your county Cooperative Extension Office.

The trick is to match those plants to your needs. For example, an annual flowering plant often is an ideal choice for a summer home. Correctly spaced and fertilized, the plants require little maintenance. In another case, a high, erodible bank can be stabilized and beautified by a low, dense cover plant such as crownvetch, which is widdily planted along steep slopes bordering New York State highways.

Each situation has its individual needs that must be taken into account. Talk about your particular situation with your Cooperative Extension Agent or nurseryman.

If you don’t research your potential groundcover carefully, plants may not grow well, or they could spread and take over other areas where they are not desired. Cover plants come in several general categories:

- ANNUALS provide an abundance of blooms and flowers during the summer months, but they die off each fall. They will thrive with little attention.
- PERENNIALS provide more permanent cover. Each winter they die off from the ground up, but they grow new tops each spring.
- HERBS can serve double duty; while providing attractive groundcover, they also have culinary or medicinal uses. Many herbs are perennials.
- FERNS provide attractive ground cover that, depending on the species, will thrive in either sun or shade. You can also find species of fern that are either perennial or evergreens. Ferns usually need a moist environment.
- WOODY plants grow from a few inches to several feet tall. They come in two categories: vines and shrubs.

In areas where you don’t want any plants growing, wood chips or crushed stone can be used. Wood chips are sold in most garden centers and can be obtained for free from many utility companies and highway departments which use chipping machines to grind up trees and shrubs that they clear each year.

Groundcovers can be planted at almost any time, but spring is best. Spend some time assessing your situation and learning what sort of groundcover would best suit your needs.

Cooperative Extension

Insurance coverage review is needed

The Albany County Board of Realtors, Inc. recommends that homeowners investigate the coverage that is provided under their homeowner’s insurance policy.

The advice is based on figures provided from sales of property through the realtors multiple listing services. James Ador, the board’s executive director, notes that although most policies automatically adjust the coverage each year, many automatic adjustments may not have kept pace with the rising value of property in the last few years.

Home owners are advised to contact their agent if they think their policy needs reviewing. According to Ador, the review cost would be worthwhile for peace of mind.
Arbor Day is April 29

Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future.

Julius Sterling Morton, the founder of Arbor Day in 1872, adopted this motto for his idea of setting aside a special day for tree planting. Morton, a transplanted New York native, offered a resolution to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture that April 10, 1872, be set apart and consecrated for tree plantings in the State of Nebraska and that the State Board name it Arbor Day.

New York State has observed Arbor Day since 1888 and has established the last Friday in April as the state’s official Arbor Day. Each year the New York State Arbor Day Committee selects a New York governor to be (the official New York tree) and said that the available figures indicate continued prosperity for this industry.

The only bank in the area currently offering that product, the service means that anytime during the borrowing period of the credit line, a portion or all of it may be converted to a fixed rate. According to Chuck Cronic, vice president of retail banking at National Savings, customers have been reluctant to use the service because of the variable interest rate.

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Dr. Enrique E. Figueroa, Cornell Agricultural Economist, reported at the Annual Economic Outlook Conference at Cornell that the New York State ornamental horticulture industry continued its growth in 1987. Joseph E. Ruth, Cooperative Extension Agent for Albany County, attended the conference and said that the available figures indicate continued prosperity for this industry.
An unlikely shop in the Helderbergs

By Ruth Fein Wallens

One of the last of winter’s days, when there was a bit of a wind and sunny thirty-degree skies, I found myself riding past Wanners Lake to an afternoon of unexpected pleasures — not to mention unexpected high winds and snow drifted roads.

It was, however, worth the trip. As I entered the 200-year-old renovated barn that is Pleasant Valley Gallery and Gifts, I was greeted by a warm smile (and a Lake to an afternoon of unexpected pleasures — not to mention unexpected high winds and snow drifted roads.

Guadran Bellerjue, who returned to Berne about 17 months ago after several years abroad with her husband and children, has reopened what must be among the most unique gallery-shops in the country. Displayed throughout her two-story barn — complete with the charm of original beams — is a selection of the finest porcelain, crystal, wooden toys, jewelry and other gifts that would be difficult to find assembled in one place anywhere in the Northeast.

“You would have to go to 50 shops in Manhattan to find the selectivity and quality of giftware I have here,” the German-born Bellerjue says. “I have only the very best in quality,” she adds, “From $3.50 wooden rattles guaranteed for life, to Roententhal china’s studio line,” collector creations representing the world’s most famous artists.

“Life is too short for junk,” the mother of four boys says with a determined face. “I was raised with the philosophy that you save until you can afford the best, have it for a lifetime of enjoyment, then pass it on to your children. And that’s the philosophy with which I run my shop.”

Patrons of Pleasant Valley Gallery and Gifts come to visit and browse among the collection of giftware and antiques.

Bellerjue, who grows all of her family’s food, has a masters degree in accounting/banking and public administration of international affairs. She has given lectures to more than 15,000 people on porcelain, china, crystal, silver and gems, and considers her role at the shop one of educator as well as host. She delights in spending two or three hours with her customers, walking them through every unique piece, and discussing the characteristics of the merchandise as well as its cultural history along the way.

Walking past the display of Hutschenreuther (the oldest privately owned porcelain manufacturer in the world) she explains the differences between soft porcelain we call china and hard porcelain, reinvented in 1789 in Germany, previously used only by kings. The harder porcelain is made of different ingredients and fired 600 degrees higher, making it harder, more translucent and whiter. It goes through one complete extra firing, and its glaze penetrates through the material, instead of sitting on top, as in china. These characteristics are why you will never see cracks under the glaze of porcelain as you will with china as it ages.

“I believe educating my customers is as important as pleasing them,” Bellerjue says. “I get satisfaction from this and from offering items that I see make them happy.”

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The shop has an inventory that is difficult to believe. Most of what is displayed is in stock. Instead of waiting 10 weeks for delivery, typically a customer can walk away with a complete table setting, from dishes, to crystal and flatware. And, naturally, she handles bridal registries, with free gift wrap and delivery.

With manufacturers like Wedgwood, Royal Copenhagen and Dresdner, music boxes by Reuge of Switzerland, Khoklama's wooden and lacquered pieces hand painted in Russia with pure gold, and Klokotschniz, the crystal of royalty and embassies, you might wonder if anything in the shop is affordable.

"My prices are 20 to 30 percent lower than in Europe," she says as she dusts the corner of a polished mid-century, wooden and lacquered pieces hand painted in Russia with pure gold, and Klokotschniz, the crystal of royalty and embassies, you might wonder if anything in the shop is affordable.

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**How (and when) does your garden grow?**

- **June**
  - Prune back one-half of the new growth on needle-leaved evergreens.
  - Remove old flowers from perennials and bulbs that have finished blooming. Allow foliage to mature.
  - Sow cabbage and cauliflower in late June for all crop.
  - Water tomato plants well to avoid blossom end rot.
  - Plant summer flowering bulbs.
  - Container grown plants may need daily watering.
  - Stake fall plants.
  - Fertilize hanging plants every week or two.
  - Mulch or cultivate the garden.
  - Destroy any diseased plant leaves.
  - Dig and divide spring flowering perennials.

- **July**
  - Prune climbing roses after flowering to promote new growth.
  - Cut off yellowed foliage of spring bulbs.
  - Pinch petunias to encourage bushy growth.
  - Sow carrots and beets for a fall crop.
  - Divide and transplant irises.
  - Wait three to seven days after blueberries turn blue before picking.
  - Pick off overripe fruit and faded flowers.
  - Thin and prune shrubs.
  - Tie cauliflower leaves together to blanch.

- **August**
  - Don't prune if you think they will bloom.
  - This can stimulate new growth that won't harden off before winter.
  - Cut out raspberry canes that have just fruited.
  - Begin planting beans, peas, beets, lettuce, spinach and endive for a fall crop.
  - Compost insect-free and disease-free leaves.
  - Discard or destroy leaves with insect or disease problems.
  - Clean and store spray equipment.
  - Store pesticides properly.
  - Don't mulch until ground freezes.
  - Store fertilizers in a dry place.
  - Set-up windbreaks for evergreens.

- **September**
  - Plant or transplant evergreens this month and keep them well watered.
  - Bring in all houseplants early this month.
  - Fertilize your lawn.
  - Plant spring flowering bulbs now to November.
  - Test soil for pH.
  - Divide daylilies after flowering.
  - Plant peonies.
  - Take geranium cuttings.
  - Plant mums.
  - Plant some garlic cloves.

- **October**
  - Time for general garden clean-up.
  - Compost insect-free and disease-free leaves.
  - Discard or destroy leaves with insect or disease problems.
  - Clean and store spray equipment.
  - Store pesticides properly.
  - Don't mulch until ground freezes.
  - Store fertilizers in a dry place.
  - Set-up windbreaks for evergreens.

**Source:** 1988 Garden Calendar — Cooperative Extension, University of Massachusetts; 1987 Long Island Gardening Calendar — Cooperative Extension Association of Nassau and Suffolk County.

**Search for tulip queen on**

The search continues for a Tulip Queen to reign at the 40th Albany Tulip Festival, from May 6 through 8. Permanent residents of Albany County who are between the ages of 18 and 23 and have never been married may send a photograph and a brief resume to the Tulip Queen Contest, P.O. Box TULIP, Albany, N.Y. 12201. The deadline for entries is April 13.

The 1988 tulip queen will receive a trip, a travel wardrobe and luggage courtesy of Robert Cohn Associates, Albany, as well as an educational scholarship and an original design gown. The tulip queen's first and second runners-up will each receive U.S. savings bonds courtesy of Key Bank, N.Y. Each member of the tulip queen's court will receive a suit, evening gown and accessories courtesy of the Albany Tulip Festival Committee.

The event will begin with the proclamation and street scrubbing on May 6. The tulip flower show will be held on May 6 and 7. The tulip queen, corona, bike races, "Albany Plan of Union Avenue" race, Runners-kermesses and tulip ball will be held on May 7, and 8. A children's opera will be held on May 7 and 8. A. children's opera will be held on May 8. A children's opera will be held on May 8. Finally, a tulip queen and first and second runners-up will be held on May 8.
Using wildflowers for meadow garden

Have you seen the containers of seeds that inspire you to think about exchanging your lawn for a meadow? How easy is it to change your yard to a "carefree" meadow?

In order to answer these questions, it is necessary to understand what a meadow is. A meadow is a perpetual grassland. It is kept in this state by environmental factors. Alpine meadows are maintained by harsh climatic conditions. Prairies are maintained by periods of severe drought and by occasional fires.

To successfully establish a meadow, choose a mix that is appropriate for the northeast. Also, take into consideration the soil moisture, available light, and preferred season of bloom. After you have chosen an appropriate mix, it is necessary to prepare the seed bed. The soil must be tilled and smoothed before the seed is planted. Seeds can be sown in either the spring or fall. Fall sowing is recommended since weed competition is less and some seeds require a cold period before they germinate.

For the first two or three years, the plot will need to be weeded. After the meadow is established, it should be cut once a year, in the spring. The meadow may also be cut in the fall, after the seeds mature. This ensures a supply of seed for the following year. The meadow should be cut by hand with a scythe. A lawn mower cannot be set high enough for the job.

If you are willing to spend the time, meadow gardening may be for you. Just remember, meadows do require planning and care.

Carolyn Steadman
Cooperative Extension

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Keep up your hours.
Other fruits or vegetable may do well inside. Although the fruits are usually more ornamental than useful, colorful fruit trees are an enchanting sight.
Citrus and flowering fruit trees should be given a sunny southern or eastern exposure and their soil kept evenly moist. A well-balanced fertilizer should be applied every four to six weeks and leaves misted daily during cold weather.
Citrus and flowering fruit trees should be given a sunny southern or eastern exposure and their soil kept evenly moist. A well-balanced fertilizer should be applied every four to six weeks and leaves misted daily during cold weather.
Lemons, calamondins, limes, kumquats and pomegranates are good choices for indoor gardening and often will bear successive crops of flowers and fruit. Calamondin, lemon and lime trees should be available from a local or mail-order nursery, while kumquat and pomegranate trees are sold primarily by specialized nurseries.

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surprised when opening moist flower and some vegetable seed packets at just how tiny the seeds are. Small seeds should not be covered with the growing medium. Follow grower’s recommended planting depths for larger ones. Just carefully scatter the little ones across the surface. Sometimes mixing the seeds with sand makes the spreading easier.

Most seeds do not require light to germinate — only a consistent temperature of between 60 and 65 degrees and sufficient moisture.

One great way to keep plants moist is to water them not from the top but from below. An inexpensive way to do this is to place your flats in a water holding tray. I have used a small wading pool, my children have outgrown. I check to be sure that there is just enough water in the tray to keep things moist. If you don’t have such a device, water from above with a hose nozzle that only allows a fine spray. Little seedlings will get flattened out by heavy drops.

When the seedlings emerge, then the lights go on. Suspend them no further than 4 to 6 inches above the tops of the flats. If you have an automatic timer, you can set it to turn the lights on and off each day. If not, be sure to give the plants 14 to 16 hours of light per day.

You’ll be pleased to see the little plants take off after a short time with just moisture and light. When the seedlings get their second set of leaves, it’s time to thin out and transplant.

Fill the flats to be used with growing medium as before, and place no more than six to eight plants, depending on size, into depressions you have made with a large nail or pencil. Firm the soil, moisten, and put them back under the lights. Be sure to raise the lights as the plants get taller to avoid burning the leaves. An application of fertilizer designed for transplanting can be applied at this time.

As the last frost date approaches, seedlings need to be hardened off. This means exposing the plants to the outdoors for longer and longer periods of time before placing them in the garden for good. Find a sunny spot, protected from strong breezes, and set the plants out longer and longer each day. By the last frost date you’ll have many hearty plants.

**From seed**

(From Page 3)

Booklet on plant pests

Cornell Cooperative Extension has published a revised edition of Bulletin #74, "A guide to safe pest management around the home." This features a section on the diagnosis and identification of plant disorders, and pest management options for home and garden.

For information, call the Agriculture Office at 785-3510.

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ADDITIONS

The Spotlight Home & Garden Section — April 13, 1988 — PAGE 17
The 1988 New York State Pesticide Recommendations "Red book" has been released for general distribution through Cornell Cooperative Extension, according to chairman Roger A. Morse of the Entomology Department of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

William G. Smith of the Chemicals-Pesticides Program edited the materials which were prepared in cooperation with specialists responsible for making pesticide recommendations. Charts, formulations, timing of applications and regulations pertaining to New York are included to make the information easy to use.

The book is introduced annually at the New York State Pest Control Conference, and copies are available by mail from Cornell University Distribution Center, 7 Research Park, Ithaca, NY 14850. Each copy is $18, which includes shipping.

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Page 18 — April 13, 1988 — The Spotlight Home & Garden Section
Basic tools for the household

"A hammer, hand saw, screwdriver, drill and hand plane are basic tools every household should have," said David A. Warren, a skilled woodworker and home workshop writer. "Every one of the more than six million home workshops started with these five."

As investment in home workshop tools grow, a power saw usually replaces the hand saw and the drill becomes electric. But, despite power planes, the woodworking hobbiest continues to use and cherish his hand planes.

"You just can't replace the pleasure experienced or the results achieved by hands-on smoothing of wood," Warren said.

There are different planes for different uses, Warren said. "A jack plane is used for initial bench work. A try plane and is used to level a block plane, called a 'pocket plane' for the final strokes on a piece of wood surface. A smooth plane is work. An extremely long bodied tool is often used to smooth over large surfaces, and its heavier cast-iron counterpart. Other woods, the cast-iron plane looks trim and slick, half-inch thick lignum vitae, a dark colored, extremely dense wood with natural oils. In use, the bottom, or sole, is usually slick, half-inch thick lignum vitae, a dark colored, extremely dense wood with natural oils. In use, the sole polishes to a glass-like finish which allows it to glide easily over other wood.

Also, the cast-iron plane may crack if dropped, roasting its usefulness. In contrast, a wood-bodied plane is really seriously damaged by a fall. A metal plane can rust and is cold to the touch, while a stocky would plane appears heavy. The opposite is true. A wood-bodied plane is lighter and easier to handle than its heavier cast-iron counterpart.

Surprisingly, despite the craftsmanship required for production of wood-bodied planes, prices are comparable to cast-iron models.

A top of the line cast-iron block plane and its counterpart, an adjustable wood-bodied block plane, can be purchased for about $50. A little more than $40 buys a jack plane of either type.

The wooden portion of high quality European plane is composed of two parts, body and sole. Each part is made from different species of carefully seasoned wood. The body is either hornbeam, beech or pearwood. The bottom, or sole, is usually slack, half-inch thick lignum vitae, a dark colored, extremely dense wood with natural oils. In use, the sole polishes to a glass-like finish which allows it to glide easily over other wood.

Shrubs to be topic

A lecture "Selecting Flowering Shrubs" sponsored by the Albany County Cooperative Extension will be held Thursday, April 14 at the Bethlehem Public Library at 7:30 p.m. A soil test clinic will be held at 7 p.m.

For information call 765-3510
**Watering your lawn**

Homeowners can improve the appearance of their lawns by proper watering, but if watering is not done right, it can ruin the lawn. Frequent light sprinklings can make a lawn weedy in no time. Light sprinklings benefit shallow-rooted annual grasses and weeds, whereas more deeply rooted turfgrasses suffer from inadequate moisture. Eventually, turfgrasses will be taken over by undesirable annual grasses and weeds.

A few waterings should keep the lawn fairly green during the summer. The time to water the lawn is when the soil begins to dry out, but before the grass wilts and turns brown. If the grass has a purplish cast and if footprints remain after walking across the lawn, the turfgrass is wilting and needs water.

The best time to water is in mid-morning if possible, but the timing is not that crucial because good results can be achieved as other times of the day.

Home lawns, in general, require one to two inches of rainfall or irrigation a week during June, July and August. The rule is to water once or twice a week for long enough periods to apply an inch of water at test how long to leave the sprinklers running, put out several small cans or cups and calculate how long it takes to obtain one inch of water in these containers. One precaution: never apply water faster than the soil can absorb it. Clay soils absorb water slowly, whereas sandy soils absorb water more rapidly.

Most lawns, if not irrigated, turn brown in mid-summer, but they recover quickly when cool damp weather arrives. If your lawn does not survive an ordinary drought without watering, it probably needs renovating.

For newly established lawns, the first sprinkling must be thorough but gentle to avoid washing the seed or soil away. Keeping the seeded moist until the grass is well started is important. Watering may be as frequent as every other day, especially for the first several weeks. After the grass comes up, water more deeply and keep the soil moist, but do not soak wet.

After the second or third mowing, little or no watering should be required unless there is a week or more without rain. As for seeded lawns, daily watering may be needed to keep the sod moist until it has securely rooted. This usually occurs within two to three weeks after sods are in place.

More information on care of home lawns is available from the Cooperative Extension office, Martin Rd. in Voorheesville.

**First home buyers opportunity good**

According to James A. Ader, executive director of the Albany County Board of Realtors Inc., there are exceptional opportunities now for people interested in buying their first home.

He attributes it to a slowdown in the appreciation rate of residential property coupled with favorable mortgage interest rates and a strong inventory of available homes after the normal winter slowdown.

The average cost of a single-family home in Albany County in 1987 was $100,000 and has risen slightly during the first quarter of 1988. A check with the Albany County Board of Realtors shows there are 244 single-family homes and 156 multi-family homes currently on the market in Albany County for less than $100,000.

Not only is there a good inventory of available homes, but "mortgage rates are at their lowest in several years and the buying power of the dollar has increased." Today's buyers can afford a bigger mortgage, Ader said.

For those with doubts that they could afford to purchase a home in the current market, Ader recommends they consult a realtor.

"There is no fee or commitment to buy, and a realtor can suggest ways to break in on the market, identify the various types of financing for which a buyer qualifies, and has access to a current listing of available properties that fit the buyer's credit and budget. Most people may be pleasantly surprised by what they find out."

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Spring bulbs need care

To ensure continuous and large blooms year after year, bulbs need feeding while actively growing. A complete fertilizer, such as 5-10-5, should be applied as soon as shoots start poking through the snow or the ground. The amount to use is 1 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet; work the fertilizer into the top two inches of soil.

Spring-flowering bulbs do most of their growing for the entire year by the end of June. It is most beneficial to feed them in the early part of their yearly cycle.

Do not cut off any bulb foliage before leaves begin to yellow. All blooms should be removed as soon as the petals discolor to stop the bulb from using energy to produce a seed pod. Leaves often can be hidden somewhat by planting annuals in the same growing area in late May.

Crowded clumps produce many leaves but few flowers, hence they should be divided again. At the time when the leaves die, separate them and use only the largest bulbs, spaced six to eight inches apart and replanted six to eight inches deep.

Minor bulbs, such as crocus, aconitum, and snowdrop need to be three to four inches apart and four to five inches deep.

Crocus bulbs work their way to the soil surface after several years. Just replant the bulb three to four inches deep anytime when they are near the soil surface.

Caroline T. Kiang, Extension, Agent

Favorite statues or sculptures add character to the corner of any garden.

Herb garden topic

A talk on Designing and Planting a Herb Garden and on uses of some culinary herbs was the topic at today's meeting of the Bethlehem Garden Club. Mrs. Harry L. Brown, a member of the Herb Society of America, was the speaker. She planted the herb study garden at Five Rivers Environmental Center and is a member of the restoration team working at the Ten Broeck Mansion Gardens in Albany.

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Radon levels within guidelines

Results of a recently completed study indicate that more than 95 percent of single-family homes in New York have first-floor living area radon levels within guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), according to William D. Cotter, chairman of the State Energy Research and Development Authority.

"New York was the first in the country to do a statewide survey of radon levels in homes," said Cotter, who also is state energy commissioner. "We did it to get a more accurate idea of the extent of the State’s radon problem.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas resulting from the decay of natural radium in all rocks and soils. Depending on location and house construction, radon levels indoors can be much higher than those outdoors.

Extrapolation from data obtained from studies of miners exposed to high concentrations of radon and other carcinogens over long periods indicates that radon gas in the home poses an increased risk of lung cancer. The higher the radon level, the greater the risk.

For the survey, researchers divided the state into seven regions, based on geology and geography. Two thousand homes were tested over the course of a year. U.S. EPA recommends remedial action to reduce radon levels for homes which have an annual average for the living area about four picocuries (a measurement of radioactive radon in one liter of air (pCi/L)).

The homes in the survey were equipped with radon detectors for both the first floor living area and the basement. The annual first-floor readings averaged 1.13 pCi/L, with a high of 38.3 pCi/L. Basements readings generally were higher, as expected, because radon usually escapes through buildings where the structure is in contact with the ground. Higher basement levels generally do not contribute significantly to an individual’s average long-term radon exposure, since the time spent in the basements usually is minimal.

The homeowners who participated in the study have been provided with the results for their own homes.

Other homeowners who are concerned about their home’s radon level can find out how to get radon detectors free or at cost by calling the Department of Health’s Health’s toll-free Hotline at 1-800-458-1158. Information on radon and remediation methods may be obtained by calling the toll-free State Energy Hotline at 1-800-342-3722.

The statewide monitoring was part of a major indoor air quality study cosponsored by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., the Empire State Electric Energy Research Corp., the New York Gas group, Consolidated Edison Co., the U.S. EPA, the Electric Power Research Institute, the Gas Research Institute and the New York Department of State.

Other Energy Authority indoor air quality work is investigating radon levels in homes in the East Southern Tier region, high radon and other Indoor pollutants in homes that have participated in the Department of State’s Weatherization Assistance Program. Development of aff accurate, low-cost radon monitoring and demonstration of radon mitigation techniques for existing homes and new construction also are being undertaken in Energy Authority projects.

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The Spotlight Home & Garden Section — April 13, 1988 — PAGE 23
Sunlight only intensified the colors of this mixed border garden at a Delmar residence last summer.

**Deadline for tulip contest**

The deadline for entering the 1988 Frontyard Planting Contest of the Albany Tulip Festival is April 29.

For the past 40 years, the Albany Tulip Festival Committee has encouraged residents of Albany County to plant the city's official flower, the tulip. There are three contest categories: tulips planted in the front yards of Albany County residents; tulips planted in church, school, club or business yards in Albany County. Judging is based on originality of tulip arrangement, color placement and hardy growth, according to Joan Mastrianni of Guilderland, contest chairman. Assisting are Evelyn Sturdevant of Albany, former contest chairman, and Elaine Cross of Slingerlands. Judging will take place the first week in May. Winners will receive tulip bulbs as a prize.

For further information or entry blanks, contact Mastrianni at 456-6721.

**Plant diseases identified**

A new Cornell Cooperative Extension publication, "Know Your Plant's Disease," has been developed to support the 4-H programs in New York State. Homeowners who care for their landscape plantings also will find the information useful.

Author Juliet E. Carroll, an extension associate in the Department of Plant Pathology at the state College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, covers symptoms of plant disease and causal agents.

Carroll also explains the management of plant diseases for indoor and outdoor plants, trees and ornamentals.

"Know Your Plant's Disease" is available for $1.85 from the Cornell Distribution Center, 7 Research Park, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

**Hazards in daily life**

The phrase "hazardous waste" brings to mind images of huge dump sites surrounded by barbed wire and entered only by people in full protective suits. These wastes are generated by most people in the course of daily life. In an effort to provide solutions to this problem, a slide and cassette program is being made available from the Cornell Cooperative Extension to help communities find solutions to their disposal problems.

"Hazardous Waste" explains just what hazardous waste is and who generates it. The program's 58 slides and narration point out environmental factors that contribute to the problem of disposal and containment. "Hazardous Waste" then explores successful ways of dealing with disposal.

For information write to the Audiovisual Department, Cornell University, Distribution Center 8 Research Park, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.