Democrats in the Albany County Legislature have picked a new leader — Charley Houghtaling of Feura Bush.

Houghtaling acknowledged that he wasn't "the first or second or third to be asked" to challenge Harold Joyce of Albany for the post of majority leader.

In a caucus Sunday, Joyce withdrew his name from consideration, paving the way for Houghtaling's official ascension to the mantle Monday.

Houghtaling, 60, a 10-year veteran of the Legislature, owns and operates Houghtaling's Market in Feura Bush. He said his perspective as a small business owner would help him tend to the "business of the Legislature."

"There's a lot of work to be done, especially with the changes in the charter," approved by the voters in the 1995 elections, Houghtaling said.

Houghtaling added that he had a good relationship with new Republican minority leader Peter Crummey of Loudonville. "I think we can work together," he said.

Bethlehem faces big pension bill

By Mel Hyman

Town Comptroller Judith Kehoe estimates that Bethlehem will need to ante up about $2 million for back payments to the state and local retirement system.

For a town like Bethlehem, with an annual budget of about $8 million, that could end up being a real burden for local taxpayers. Town officials, however, have begun putting money aside for the payback so the impact on the town budget will not be too severe.

Bethlehem is not alone, of course. All across the state, municipalities will be asked to chip in because the state recently lost a lawsuit pertaining to its handling of the pension fund.

"The governor and the Legislature, in their infinite wisdom," devised a new formula several years back in which part of the annual payment into the retirement system would be deferred, said former Supervisor Ken Ringler.

The state was looking to save money by reducing its own contributions, Ringler noted, while municipalities were ostensibly benefiting by making smaller annual payments on behalf of their employees.

But the state's public employee unions, concerned about the long-term health of the pension fund, took the state to court and had the revised formula overturned.

Thus all the money that Bethlehem and other municipalities saved since 1990 will be lost, Ringler said.

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Developers fall out and head to court

By Mel Hyman

Delmar Village, a controversial subdivision approved in 1989 after five years of public wrangling, is about to enter a new phase — the courts.

Bethlehem developer Briand Parenteau filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit last month against HMC Associates, the owners of Delmar Village, for breach of contract and fraud. The principals of HMC, Albany real estate developer Norris MacFarland and state Sen. Howard Nolan, D-Albany, have been seeking to develop 232 apartments and 56 single family homes on a 92-acre tract between Orchard Street and Delaware Avenue.

Parenteau had a contract to purchase approximately 45 of the 92 acres and develop 56 single family homes on the parcel. He is seeking $10 million on both the breach of contract and fraud charges plus attorney's fees.

Fuller wants to continue excellence

By Mel Hyman

Bethlehem Supervisor Sheila Fuller launched her first year in office Monday with a promise to "encourage debate" as a means of finding solutions to the thorny issues facing the town.

In brief remarks made to a packed audience in the courthouse chambers of the town hall, Fuller expressed her desire to "continue the tradition of excellence in government that has been our inheritance," and to "improve the system that needs improvement."

It appears that she will need little help in encouraging debate as neighborhood groups in town have already started to press their agendas.

Fuller acknowledged that she plans to sit down with some residents of Rural Place this week to discuss their opposition to the being of a gourmet delicatessen at the corner of Rural Place and Delaware Avenue.

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The residents of this Delmar Street
Kiwanis looking to boost club membership

By Susan Graves

With only 17 members, the Kiwanis Club of Delmar is spread thin given the number of community projects it is involved in and supports.

But Mark Becker, who joined the club last year, is hoping this year's membership drive will bolster the ranks of the service group. "Membership really dropped down," over the years, said Becker, who is working on the membership committee.

Of the 17 current members only about 11 are active. No women currently belong to the Delmar group, but anyone who lives or works in Delmar is welcome to join. Kiwanians Dom DeCecco said the club is "trying very hard to attract women."

DeCecco, who has been a member for two years, particularly likes the Kiwanis because it devotes a great deal of time and energy to two groups he is particularly fond of — children and the elderly.

For Becker, joining the Kiwanis was an opportunity to "get involved in something." He chose the Kiwanis because he said he remembered they had sponsored his troop when he was a Boy Scout. He vividly recalls the late Charlie Fritts, who was a scout leader, and the dinners and special events the Kiwanis sponsored.

And today, despite the dwindling numbers, Delmar Kiwanians are involved in a host of activities. During the holidays, club members were bell ringers for the Salvation Army. Christmas and Navy Day, sponsored a Christmas party for children at the Normanskill Community Church. The Kiwanis also sponsor the Key Club at the high school, participate and contribute to the annual bike rodeo and Toys for Tots and host a one-ring circus at Elm Avenue Park. "It's very hard fund-raising," for all the activities, said Becker. The club also donates equipment such as wheelchairs and special tables to the Bethlehem Senior Citizens office and finances the purchase of Christmas food baskets. In addition, club members spend time with senior citizens in town.

Roger Mead, Kiwanis president, admits the group is not a large one, but said he's hoping to encourage people who might be interested "to see what it's all about." There will be a special membership meeting on Monday, Feb. 14, and all are welcome.

Kiwanis was formed in 1915 by Joseph France in Detroit, Mich. Today, there are about 300,000 members who belong to 8,000 clubs in 71 countries. The original name was the Benevolent Order of Brothers, which was changed after one year to Kiwanis, derived from an Indian term 'Nin Kee-wanis,' which translates roughly to self expression.

The Delmar Kiwanians meet on Mondays at 6:15 p.m. at the Days Inn on Route 9W in Glenmont.

V'ville woman listed in serious condition after auto crash

A Voorheesville woman remains in serious condition at Albany Medical Center Hospital after an accident at the junction of Blessing and Krumkill roads last week.

Deborah J. Stow, 39, of 254 Dorset Court, incurred multiple injuries on Wednesday, Dec. 30, when the vehicle she was a passenger in was struck by a vehicle driven by Rachel Lee, 21, of Clarksburg, Bethlehem police said.

Stephen M. Stow, 32, also of Dorset Court in Voorheesville, suffered back and neck injuries from the accident.

He was released from Albany Medical Center on Friday.

Lee, who was not injured, was ticketed for failing to obey a stop sign. The accident occurred at 7:45 a.m. when Lee attempted to make a left turn from Blessing onto Krumkill and struck the Stow vehicle, which was traveling east along Krumkill, police said.

Police Officer Keith J. Becker investigated.
The board made two appointments to the zoning board of appeals — Judy Wing, for a five-year term, replacing Tony Cross, whose term expired, and Fred Carl to a two-year term, replacing Scott Houghtaling following his election to the town board.

The board also re-appointed Bob Stapf as chairman of the planning board and Bud Danckert as chairman of the ZBA.

In a move that may raise Republican hackles, the board appointed Patricia McVee, Reilly’s account clerk, as a part-time assistant to Assessor Richard Law.

Reilly and Law closed several times last year over the reassessment project compiled by Cole-Layer-Trumble and coordinated by Bob Reilly.

New Scotland town board members, from left, Victoria Ramundo, Scott Houghtaling, Herb Reilly and Ed Donohue.

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Challenger wants to wake up fire district

By Mel Hyman

A last-minute write-in effort by former North Bethlehem fire chief Frank DeCerce netted him 19 votes in his quest for a spot on the board of fire commissioners.

But it still left him 15 votes behind the 34 tallied by Phil Schweppenhauser, board chairman and one of the founding commissioners of the North Bethlehem Fire District.

"I was approached by a number of people at the last minute," DeCerce said, "so I gave it a shot. Maybe this will wake some people up." DeCerce said he fully expects to be elected to the board at some future point. If he feels a commissioner isn't doing the job, he promised to "come out early and campaign for the job."

"I have my own feelings" about how the district should be run, he said, declining to be more specific.

"What made it ironic is that (DeCerce) signed my nominating petition more than two weeks before the election," Schweppenhauser quipped. "From that I assumed he thought I was doing a good job."

In seeking his third, five-year term on the board, Schweppenhauser said he found the unpaid position exciting and interesting.

"I enjoy working for the district and watching it grow," he said. "I probably got on a number of people's bad lists when we tried to get bonding for the firehouse back in '86. It took us three votes and each time we scaled it back so it wouldn't cost so much."

The final price tag on the Russell Road firehouse was $475,000. "It's not like we have a $500,000 building like they have in Guilderland or a $1.2 million facility like Niskayuna. We have a no-frills building and it suffices."

Everything in the district is done aboveboard, and the public is welcome to attend any of the monthly board of fire commissioner meetings, Schweppenhauser said.

He acknowledged that North Bethlehem has "probably the highest tax rate in the town," mainly due to debt service incurred by the firehouse.

"But it's starting to go down slowly now because of all the construction going on around here."

The 1994 fire district budget is $179,000. "We try to do one project a year," Schweppenhauser said. "That way we know it will get done. For this year we're looking to level off the field behind us and perhaps put up a pavilion."

The board of fire commissioner meetings are held at the firehouse on the last Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. They are open to the public.

Beth PBA elects 1994 officers

Officer Anthony Auriaini was recently re-elected president of the Bethlehem Police Officers' Union. Local 3364 of AFSCME Council 82.

The other officers serving for 1994 will be Det. John Cox, vice-president; Officer Robert Hellgrcss, secretary; Officer Joseph Mosca Jr., treasurer; and Officer Christopher Pauley, delegate-at-large.

BOU seeks volunteer to copy newsletter

Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited is searching for one or two volunteers to work on its newsletter. A volunteer is needed to copy the newsletter during each time at General Electric in Schenectady for one-half to one hour once a month. A volunteer is also needed to fold, label, sort and mail the newsletter, which should take two to three hours monthly and can be done at the volunteer's home.

For information, call 475-1316.

Historical association to sponsor lecture

A slide show and lecture has been slated for Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 8 p.m. at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center in New Salem.

Charles Gehring will present "The Secret History of Peter Stuyvesant." The lecture is sponsored by the town of New Scotland Historical Association.

For information, call 765-3071.

BOU slate meeting

Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited has scheduled its next meeting for Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar.
Neighbors organize against compost plant

A neighborhood group is forming to oppose the building of a composting facility on Waldenmaier Road.

In keeping with the planned closure of the North Street landfill, Bethlehem officials this year are looking to develop a six-acre parcel at the junction of Route 32 and Waldenmaier Road for a brush and composting facility.

Not so fast, say residents living in the sparsely populated area. A petition will be presented to the town board on Wednesday, Jan. 12, asking for a study of alternative sites for the facility.

“We have a lot of concerns,” said group spokeswoman Susan Martin. “No one has addressed the questions of odor, drainage or the proximity of the site to the Elm Avenue Park, which is very close by. Our hope is that the town board will at least put the brakes on this until we can get an environmental study done.”

Public Works Commissioner Bruce Secor said the proposal is not etched in stone, although Waldenmaier Road appears to be the best spot for the facility.

The town purchased the property at Waldenmaier and Route 32 several years ago to use as a drop-off point and transfer station for recyclables. Since the site is no longer used for that purpose, it is available for other uses.

But before plans for the facility can move ahead, the town must first acquire additional land surrounding the former Waldenmaier meat packing plant, Secor said.

RCS seniors get tax break

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District has raised the cap on the income a senior citizen can earn and still be eligible for a tax break, allowing more senior citizens to get a tax deduction on their school taxes.

The tax exemption may be taken by anyone 65 or older who owns property within the district and earns $21,300 or less. The previous cap was $19,800.

Those with incomes up to $16,500 are eligible for a 50 percent exemption. Those earning $16,500 to $17,100 are eligible for a 45 percent exemption. Those earning $17,100 to $17,700 are eligible for a 40 percent exemption.

Bethlehem chamber offers phone bargain

The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, in proclaiming January "Cellular Phone Month," is offering members a deal to save $50 per cellular phone line after paying full price for the first line.

The chamber will waive the first year $50 annual administrative fee per individual member on subsequent phones placed on the Chamber Cellular Plan, after the customer pays the $50 annual fee on the first phone.

If the chamber does not save a customer money, it will pay for the removal of the cellular phone.

Only chamber members in good standing with an A&A verifiable credit rating are eligible for the deal. For information, call NYNEX Mobile at 452-8491.

Five Rivers schedules guided plant walk

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on Game Farm Road in Delmar is planning a guided walk on Sunday, Jan. 9, at 2 p.m.

Center naturalists will lead the walk along some of Five Rivers’ trails to observe plant life, focusing on natural history, uses and legends of dried wildflowers, trees and shrubs.

The walk is open to the public. Participants should dress for the outdoors. For information, call Five Rivers at 475-6291.

Quilters to meet

Quilters United in Learning Together will meet on Friday, Jan. 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave., Delmar.

Shirley Hedman will lead the general meeting, which will be followed by a workshop on planning, cutting and sewing a Star of Bethlehem, using pasted paper in place of fabric.

For information, call Stella Muzicka at 283-0522.

Bethlehem sets winter parking rules for town streets

Bethlehem residents are reminded that there is no parking on town streets and highways between the hours of 1 and 7 a.m. from now to April 15.

Police Sgt. Joseph Sleers also cautions people against parking in handicapped zones, especially with the onset of bad weather. This has become a serious problem recently, particularly in the shopping plazas, Sleers said.

Police will not hesitate to ticket vehicles that are illegally parked in violation of the winter parking ordinance or the handicapped parking law, Sleers said.

In Clarksdale, The Spotlight is sold at P.J.’s Mini Mart and Stewarts.

Five Rivers funders
Matters of Opinion

Make charter reform work

After more than a year and half of exposure, argumentation, and persuasion, the long-sought revision of the Albany County Charter was approved in November by the voters. It was a victory particularly for County Executive Michael J. Hoblock, Jr., who came into office two years ago carrying the reform banner from his predecessor, generally, and more significantly, the vote was a victory for the county’s residents who finally found their voice in requiring that many provisions of the old, slanted document be replaced by certain clauses generating a new efficiency.

Both the Legislature and the Executive gained strength in the revisions. The Executive will now be better able to assume responsibility and accept accountability for the way the county government works on a day-to-day basis. That office as of this week will have better control over many personnel policies, including the hiring decisions in top departmental jobs. The Executive likewise will be more capable of making his judgment stand up against a testify legislature, by virtue of extending his veto powers.

The Legislature, on the other hand, is given tools—which, it must be hoped, will be employed effectively—to guard its own prerogatives and thus preclude some future tempests such as it experienced in the Cowney years, when the Executive repeatedly went out of control, charter or no.

The struggle for revision and reform became essentially bipartisan, despite some laggards who resisted all the way to the end. Now it is up to men and women of good will, in both parties, to work together in the interest of helping assure that the new charter’s provisions are employed as fully and effectively as the county’s voters expected when they gave their approval to reform.

Honor for Houghtaling

For the first time in the Albany County Legislature’s three decades, its chairmanship is going out of the city of Albany and into our territory.

It is a pleasure to note that the Democratic majority in the Legislature wisely selected one of its most respected members, Charley Houghtaling, to mend an internal rift and provide the leadership answer to the question of who should have the decisive role in legislative proceedings.

Mr. Houghtaling, a resident and merchant in New Scotland, is well suited for the responsibility by experience, reputation, and temperament. A legislator since 1983, he has reserved judgment on many of the issues that have embroiled other lawmakers—including the leaders of his own party—in fruitless squabbling.

Partly, his opposition is less controversial than some other aspirants, and also in part because he is so well regarded by colleagues.

Work counsel: a library service

Not really coincidentally, both the Bethlehem and Voorheesville public libraries are just getting under way with very timely outreach efforts: job counseling.

Using funds channeled through the Upper Hudson Library System, and largely originating in the U. S. government, the libraries have recruited experienced career counselors to meet one-on-one with individuals seeking employment or contemplating a job change.

Choosing a town board person

Bethlehem’s Republican committee, apparently intent on limiting its search for a fifth Town Board member to one of its own, carries a significant responsibility into its sessions later this month. Despite the nearly 50 percent vote the Democrats’ candidate received in November, they presumably will shut out once more from receiving consideration when the existing Town Board members elect their newest colleague.

It surely is the prerogative of the (now barely) majority party to work its will under prevailing regulations. Whether or not this is the wisest policy for the long run is another matter. An objectively independent voice and vote on the board—perhaps an enrolled Democrat, perhaps not—could lend credibility both to the board’s proceedings and to a partisan organization which showed itself once again to allow too much of representation to the under-represented.

That latter category includes, of course, women. Most recently, the Town Board included two women among the five members. As of now, that number is reduced to one.

Thoughts on writers in a tumble of words

By Mike Larabee

Writing is thinking,” a college professor of mine used to say. Though I struggled through his courses, I learned a great deal along the way; he had a reputation among the undergraduates in SUNY Albany’s political science department for a remarkable ability to bring to life insights with an almost magical clarity and succinctness. Poof! Plato pulled from a haze. Tadah! Rousseau sawed in half.

Twice a week, I left his lectures with my head spinning. I walked across the wind-swept grounds of the campus toward my apartment nearby, stopping again and again to capture on paper thoughts that stepped forward from the swirl. The sturdiest and surest of those ideas became the foundation for later arguments on paper, where his point was proven: The gaps in my thinking weren’t closed until I took up the assigned reading long before myself. I learned as I went, and I learned as I wrote.

Nothing I learned from him about politics sticks with me today like that statement. "Writing is thinking." He meant it, too. Completion of those classes called for more writing than almost any other thing I took while pursuing a Ph.D. toward my degree. "If you want to find out if you really know what you think you know, try and write about it," was the message. Only then are half-baked opinion and incomplete understanding flushed from their lurking places in the dusty corners of the human mind.

Lately, though, it’s been more the reverse for me. I’ve been thinking about writing. As I look back on the last five years at The Spotlight, I am thinking about the things brought home to me, made me glad I’d come and finally made me regret I’d stayed. I’ve been thinking about our papers’ editorial staff for a four-year period ending this month, is now a freelance writer and editor.

The writer of this Commentary, a member of Spotlight Newspapers’ editorial staff for a four-year period ending this month, is now a freelance writer and editor.

Commentary

* * * * *

It is heady stuff. I walk in a haze. My mind is lost in the reel-whirling world of words that encompass the hands-on, physical world like a cover of clean, in alternating turns shaping and shrouding the landscape like a magician’s cape.

I cannot think about writing now without thinking about the writers here. Their voices, sometimes clear and apparent, more often obscured by the newspaper reporter’s well of fact and form, are our sense and substance. If you read us, you know them, and if you know them, you’ve been privileged to a parade of talents, some young, some not, marching past on careers taking shape along zigzagging courses that brought them here for a time, then took them away.

It happens too fast, but it’s a price we pay. It’s a devil’s bargain. Hyper-local by definition, small by nature, our newspapers face an uphill battle while competing against larger media for skilled writers. With some of them, it’s usually with an understanding that sooner or later they are likely to leave us for new challenges and higher stakes. What’s surprising, then, is how many good ones we’ve lost, but how many we’ve managed to keep.

The reporters at our paper literally breathe life into our pages. The product that arrives at newsstands and in mailboxes is their words made flesh, week-in and week-out their diligence on display.

At The Spotlight, we pay attention not just to the heights of each reader’s opinion...
Whistle while you work

A kind of cousin of mine, whom we kids knew as Aunt Mame (honest), was one of the country's earliest radio performers. She had a program on the local station out in Jamestown, which consisted of her whistling the day's tunes. I doubt that she ever was a match for Bing Crosby or Elmo Tanner in the vocal-carrying department, but perhaps witnessed by the fact that she never did get on the networks. This was, mind you, seventy years ago.

Aunt Mame was versatile, for she was the stringer correspondent in her little hamlet for the Jamestown Journal. She would write the news, and it seems to run in the family.

I myself am also indebted, in a sideways sense, to Edward Bok, who was quite a noted editor in his early-20s career way. He must have been successful at it, too, because he built the object known as the Bok Tower in Florida. When I was a mere tad, my Uncle Frank sent a postcard that showed the singing tower in lots of colors. Charming enough, that point. I decided that I should become a journalist, too . . .

I started practicing at it, and still am so engaged, on the theory that practice will eventually make perfect. There was a slow start on the high school weekly paper, all they let me do was be the treasurer. For the paper at college, I didn't ever make the staff except as a type editor, which I am proud of.

I believe I mentioned that this seems to run in the family. Witness, two of the offspring have been really and truly pros at this business of prose.

And now again, age and grace, is engaged in writing a book, which he is dictating to his mother. Unless I am mistaken, I understand that the title is to be read the work of really top-notch journalists—Maureen Dowd, Tom Friedman, Frank Rich, Frank Fitzsimmons, for example—every day in The Times. The other morning I happened across a gem that made my day. It was in an unexpected place, one that ordinarily I don't read, Pierre Franey's culinary column.

It fits nicely into the context of his writing about certain dishes that day, but it went far beyond in possessing a special meaning for people like me who admire and love the culinary craft more or less regularly. You'll find it here, duly credited, and one of these days you probably would see it also posted on various walls where I inhabit.

M. Franey's little musings will carry lots of meaning of column-writing folks around the country as it repeatedly reprinted. Hope you will appreciate it, as well.

Follow your instincts

Constant Reader

The greatest daily pleasure, however, is in the opportunity to 'I suppose that writing a newspaper column is much like preparing a fine meal: you pour your heart and soul into the task, taking the time to do it right, only to watch it be devoured in minutes. All that's left are delicious memories.' —Pierre Franey

Supervisors' views of future

Town's history provides a pattern for future

This Point of View was contributed by the new Supervisor of the Town of Bethlehem.

By Sheila Fuller

This is an appropriate time for reflection and resolution. Many of us conduct a self-analysis of strengths and weaknesses, gains and losses, opportunities seized or missed, action that we might have taken and did, or the actions that we did take and would have been better off had we not.

We then engage in reflection to be bet in a wide variety of ways, both small and large: to lose weight, exercise, study, or work harder, slow down, speed up. Many of us—increasingly in short to make ourselves better persons.

This type of self-analysis is healthy and is not limited to individuals. Now is a particularly appropriate time for such reflection and resolution for the community of Bethlehem as we begin our third century.

Consideration of Bethlehem's past is a rich and rewarding experience. "Bethlehem Revisited," a publication of the town's bicentennial commission, is an excellent vehicle for starters. A simple walk or ride around town can be even more revealing for the past has led us to the present and is certainly prologue for our future. One finds on such a trip well-kept homes, farms, gardens, trees and flowers, courteously attended businesses providing goods and services to meet our needs, churches of worship, parks and recreational facilities, excellent schools, a multifaceted library, and more.

If you can make an analogy to the human body, I would suggest that the litany just described is our skeletal structure. The heart and soul of the body Bethlehem and what gives us our being is the people, each of you, your families, and your friends and neighbors. Regardless of our station in life, we are all connected, concerned, responsible, caring, and selfless.

The evidence is abundant. All of our people voluntarily add to their own daily responsibilities something which enriches another and thus enriches us all. A call or visit to a sick or home-bound friend, coaching or teaching our youth, attending the meeting of a civic group, the political, the social, or the religious.

The collective qualities and their results clearly have been present over the past two hundred years and abound today, making Bethlehem a community in which one chooses to live. We are a community of choice.

What of the future?

I wouldn't be much of a public servant if I weren't prepared to provide a lengthy list of problems confronting us. There are many—never mind that the list would include, in such a list, solid-waste management, consideration of the Lunac report, federal and state mandates and budget cuts, and new subdivision regulations. Early 1994 should see a new master plan and substantial progress on the road project.

The highway department will be replacing some of its older trucks with a new vehicle and new plumbing.

New Scotland keynotes: cooperate and produce

The contributor of this Point of View is beginning his fourth term as Supervisor of the Town of New Scotland.

By Herbert W. Reilly, Jr.

On Nov. 2 the people of New Scotland sent a clear message to Town Hall—they want a cooperative and productive administration.

They elected candidates with varied backgrounds and education. The new board members come from both ends of the town and we will also be fortunate to have the mayor's point of view and voice.

• Victoria Ramundo brings the drive that has made her a dedicated State employee and a recent graduate of Albany Law School.

• Ed Donohue provides many years of public service from the library, Village Hall, and Elks.

• Scott Houghtaling is from the hamlet of Fours Bush and brings expertise in financial matters.

With these new board members and the two years of experience from Councilman Dick Decker, we pledge to bring good government to good people.

The most pressing questions on most people's minds are taxes and water.

On the latter, the board has established a water committee to explore feasible solutions to very real problems. It is difficult to believe, but some existing homes are not marketable because of a lack of sufficient quantities of drinkable water. This committee is made up of people with engineering backgrounds who represent all areas of the town.

Early 1994 should see the signing of an agreement for an option to explore for water on a six-acre parcel of land at the end of Smith Lane. We hope this project will produce water for Route 155, Orchard Park, Route 86-A, and Forest Road. The committee will seek meaningful discussions with Guilderland about a water source for the area along Wormer and Normanskill Roads.

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On the latter, the board has established a water committee to explore feasible solutions to very real problems. It is difficult to believe, but some existing homes are not marketable because of a lack of sufficient quantities of drinkable water. This committee is made up of people with engineering backgrounds who represent all areas of the town.

Early 1994 should see the signing of an agreement for an option to explore for water on a six-acre parcel of land at the end of Smith Lane. We hope this project will produce water for Route 155, Orchard Park, Route 86-A, and Forest Road. The committee will seek meaningful discussions with Guilderland about a water source for the area along Wormer and Normanskill Roads.
The reporters at our paper literally breathe life into our pages. The product that arrives at newsstands and in mailboxes is their words made flesh, week-in and week-out their diligence on display.

I like that, but it’s not quite right. You don’t have to be a writer by vocation to be affected by the glories of sentences. Me, I’m made for sentences. Whether or not I ultimately continue my own writing professionally after leaving Spotlight Newspapers, I’ll continue to champion their cause until poetry supplants football on my mind.

Dinosaurs, I know. A being striding in motion, a being.

Something new is born, the thrill and spills of a mind prodded to motion!

I counted 13 major articles and pictures which make the issue a real goldmine—especially at a cover price of $3.95.
Rural Place sues town on approval for deli

Vox Pop
meeting had occurred and approval even.

Disappointed with the decision, we went to the town offices to review the application file. We were told the file had been misplaced. Later, when the file was located, we learned to our amazement that several pages were missing. Several visits to town offices and a filing of a Freedom of Information Request were needed to obtain the complete record.

We then petitioned Supervisor Ringler and Supervisor-elect Fuller to intervene on our behalf. Mr. Ringler, a former Planning Board member, was less than helpful. Ms. Fuller never responded. Building Inspector John Flanagan posted a perfunctory response.

Our efforts over several months to obtain relief from our elected cold. Of our recent holiday season.

In summary, we bear Mr. Manning no ill will. We feel, however, that establishment of a catering service and take-out delicatessen as described in his proposal is not an appropriate business for a quiet residential neighborhood. We do not believe the proposal complies with town zoning or site-plan requirements.

John Mladinov's life still an inspiration

Delmar

Editor, The Spotlight: Thank you for your warm and well-written obituary in the Dec. 29 issue for our neighbor, John Mladinov.

It was very well done, and I am sure it was welcomed by John's wife, Barbara, and her family. Hopefully, it tempered the bitter cold of our recent holiday season.

I would like to add only a small piece to your excellent obituary: John's abilities, dedication, and productivity have been, and will continue to be, the strongest possible inspiration to young (and older) professionals in New York State public service.

Thank you, John Mladinov!
Neal L. Moylan

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St. Thomas School pupils improve on state CAR report

By Dev Tobin

The results of this year's Comprehensive Assessment Report for St. Thomas School in Delmar, based on tests taken in the 1992-93 school year, show continued improvement, almost to the point of perfection.

The Comprehensive Assessment Report, required by the State Education Department, analyzes several tests to find out how well public and private school pupils are learning basic skills such as reading, writing and math. The report, based on tests taken during the previous school year, is usually released in December.

As with the 1991-92 report, every St. Thomas pupil scored above the state reference point in the pupil evaluation program tests, which measure third-grade reading and math, fifth-grade writing, and sixth-grade reading and math.

On the program evaluation tests, given for science in the fourth-grade and social studies in the sixth- and eighth-grades, the fourth-graders scored in the fourth (or highest) quartile and the sixth- and eighth-graders scored in the 95th percentile.

In the 1991-92 report of program evaluation tests, the sixth-graders were in the 98th percentile and the eighth-graders were in the 82nd percentile.

St. Thomas eighth-graders also improved dramatically in the numbers taking and numbers passing the Math Sequence I Regents test. Last year, 94 percent (17 out of 18) passed, compared to the previous year, when 71 percent (five out of seven) passed the high school-level exam.

"Some people hear Regents and cringe, but we like to give students who are ready for it the opportunity to take the ninth-grade test and get it behind them," said Sister Mary Frederick, principal of the kindergarten through eighth-grade school.

Perfection (100 percent passing) was the rule for the Spanish second language exam and the writing test, for the competency tests of reading and writing, taken by eighth-graders.

"We are very pleased with these results, which show that our students work very hard," said Sister Mary Frederick.

St. Thomas teachers perform an item analysis of each test, to determine whether individual or several pupils need more work in a particular area, she explained.
It's been a Republican party for the last week in Bethlehem. Supervisor Sheila Fuller received the oath of office from former Town Justice Roger Fritts on Monday, top left, and afterward former Supervisor Kenneth Ringler was cited by Fuller for his service to the town, top right. On Wednesday, Dec. 30, Ringler was feted by town employees who graciously presented him with a batch of momentos, bottom right. What Ringler plans to do with the gavel, ballot box and construction hat remains a mystery.

Photos by Hugh Hewitt and Elaine McLain

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Middle school slates ‘Night at the PIT’

The next “Night at the PIT” is slated for Friday, Jan. 14, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Bethlehem Central Middle School on Ken­wood Avenue in Delmar.

Chaperones are needed for the evening. Also, a large chalkboard and a microwave are wanted for the PIT.

For information, call 439-6885.
The library’s winter story time session for preschool children begins on Tuesday, Jan. 18. In-person registration for story times will be on Monday, Jan. 10, at 9 a.m. Telephone registration begins at 1 p.m., the same day and continues until all sections are filled.

Children meet with their storyteller once a week. Story times for toddlers, children 22 months to their third birthday accompanied by an adult, will be on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m., and Thursdays at 10:15 and 11 a.m.

Storytimes for preschoolers ages 3 and 4 are slated for Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Additional listeners ages 4 1/2 to 6 can choose Wednesdays at 11 a.m. or Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Two special storytimes not requiring registration will be offered on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. These drop-in programs are geared for children ages 3 to 6 and their families.

Toddlers have 20 minute sessions that run for five weeks. Three to 5-year-olds have 30-minute sessions that last until March 31. There are no storytimes during school vacation on Feb. 22 to 24, or on days Bethlehem shows close or open due to inclement weather.

During storytime, youngsters hear the best in children’s literature and are introduced to artists and their work through graphic art in picture books. There is also time for songs, games, rhymes, finger plays and flannel board stories. For a child new to storytime, it’s helpful if parents can arrive a few minutes early and introduce the child to the library, the storyteller and the storyhour room.

Check in at the table near the story hour room and allow time to wash up coats, greet friends, and get name tags. All the programs, children enjoy selecting a book to take home, all by themselves.

Please let the children’s room staff know if a registered child will be unable to attend a storytime. If a child will not be able to continue with the remainder of a session, please alert staff so that the opening can be offered to a child on the waiting list.

Preschoolers and a parent are invited to the library’s monthly 30-minute preschool film program on Friday, Jan. 7, and Saturday, Jan. 8, at 10:30 a.m. There’s no need to register to see “The Three Little Pigs,” “The Ugly Duckling” and “The Little Engine That Could.”

The fun continues on Sunday, Jan. 9, as young explorers take off for a “Space Venture.” Children ages 3 through 6 are invited to explore outer space with stories and songs, then take a walk on another planet. Please bring an adultotional hat as a craft.

Register by calling 439-9314 and meet us on the launchpad.

Anna Jane Abaray

Five Rivers schedules ‘Project Wild’ session

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on Game Farm Road in Delmar, has scheduled “Project Wild” teacher workshop for Tuesday, Jan. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The workshop, open to teachers and youth leaders, will introduce “Project Wild,” environmental education activities emphasizing wildlife in learning design.

“Project Wild” is designed to build basic understanding of ecological principles with active games and discussion. Participants will receive a Project Wild manual containing more than 80 activities and other environmental teaching materials for classroom use.

“Project Wild” is sponsored nationally by the Wildlife Society, the National Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In New York, it is sponsored by the state Department of Environmental Conservation and has received funds from Return a Gift to Wildlife contributions from state tax returns.

Participants should dress for indoor/outdoor activity. Registration is required. For information, call Five Rivers at 475-0291.

Collages on display

Artist Ann Warren is displaying an unusual exhibit of sea glass collages at the library this month.

The works are unique in that they are crafted entirely from raw materials gathered from the shallow waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Warren, who divides her time between Elsmere and Nantucket, was inspired to try this very different art form after seeing specimens of preserved seaweed while taking a botany class at Mount Holyoke College.

The collages must be done underwater so that the shell, algae and seaweed harvested are pliable enough to form into scenes of sea flora.

A member of both the Bethlehem Art Association and the Artist’s Association of Nantucket, Warren has previously shown with the two groups and at the Bethlehem Public Library.

The works can be seen this month during the library’s regular hours, weekdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The library’s new job counseling service is now running with individualized appointments available mornings and evenings during January, February and March.

Susan Montague will be on hand to provide expert advice that includes topics pertaining to the job search personal career inventories, or employment interviews depending on each person’s needs.

Appointments must be made to use the service and can be made by calling the reference desk at 765-2791.

Patrons should plan an hour for the session.

Parents and children searching for some fun and diversion during these cold winter evenings will want to take advantage of a special evening story hour on Wednesday, Jan. 12.

Starry, Starry Night beginning at 7 p.m. will feature stories and a craft with a celestial bent. Join us for some fun entertainment.

Regular story hours will resume on Monday, Jan. 17, with the winter schedule.

Food for Fines continues through Jan. 15. During this period, patrons with overdue books may pay them off, up to a maximum of $3 total, by using one canned good per dollar owed. All food collected will be distributed to local families through the Human Concerns Committee of St. Matthew’s Church.

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Kiwanis Club sponsors blood pressure clinic

The New Scotland Kiwanis Club will sponsor a blood pressure clinic at the First United Methodist Church on 68 Maple Ave., Voorheesville, on Tuesday, Jan. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

The clinic, which will be in the social hall, will be open to the public:

Voorheesville school board to meet Monday

The Voorheesville School Board of Education will meet on Monday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Clayton A. Bouton Junior High School cafeteria.

The policy on interscholastic sports will be discussed.

For information, call 765-3313.

Parenting workshop set at elementary school

The Voorheesville Elementary School PTA will offer an Effective Parenting Information for Children Workshop at the meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the school.

For information, call Linda Wolkenbein at 765-3314.

Driver ed course scheduled for students

Although driver education has been eliminated from the curriculum at the high school, a non-credit course will be offered this month.

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Donoe Stuart School to offer scholarships

The Doane Stuart School will offer two academic scholarships to students entering ninth grade in September 1994.

The first place award will be a $1,000 scholarship and second place will be a $750 scholarship, both renewable for grades 10, 11 and 12.

The scholarship exam is scheduled on Jan. 29.

For information, call Pamela Dearstyne, director of admissions, at 465-5222.

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PROGRAM DATES


Sat., Jan. 23 (Schenevus)

Fee: Only $40 less than just one year's savings!

Call Richard D. Ellis, Ed.D.

765-4011 for information and/or to register

Local students cited in YWCA essay contest

Several local students were recently named winners in the 14th annual African-American History Essay Contest, sponsored by the Albany YWCA. Winners were chosen from more than 700 entries.

Area winners included two Bethlehem Middle School students, Lucinda Blustein and Rebecca Minor. Minor wrote about Katherine Dunham and Blustein on Sojourner Truth.

Also selected were Pillar Oto and Tracy Roberts, both students at Bethlehem Central High School. Otto wrote on Alex Haley and Roberts on Richard Wright.

Caitlin Deighan, who attends Slingerlands Elementary School, won for her essay on Oprah Winfrey.

The winning students will attend a recognition ceremony on Feb. 15 and will appear on local television channels during Feb.

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Good deeds indeed

Kelly Fuchs, left, Shesha Loughlin, Shawna Woodworth, Lindsey Fuhrman, Alex Leckerling, Amie Lytle, Andrea Burriesci, Danica Feustel, Bridget Griffin and Laura Baboulis, members of Girl Scout Troop 80 of the Delmar Reformed Church, made some model houses for the Good Samaritan Nursing Home. Hugh Reuvers

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BC girls use defense to top Catholic Central

By Laura Del Vecchio

The Bethlehem girls basketball team (4-0, 8-0) took first place in the Lady Crusader Tournament held at Catholic Central High School last week.

In their first game on Tuesday, Dec. 29, the girls walked over Saratoga Catholic High School, 75-40, while Sheila McCaughin scored 15. Sophomore Kiley Shortell added 13, including three, three-pointers.

The final game against unbeaten Catholic Central of the Big 10 division was a nip-and-tuck affair until Bethlehem pulled away slightly during the second half.

Despite the fact that two of their starters fouled out, BC managed to hold on for the victory, 48-40. McCaughin led BC with 16 points. Junior Karen Zornow had 10 points and five blocked shots on defense.

McCaughin was named MVP of the tournament and Mineau was named to the all-tournament team.

"The team really picked up their defense," said coach Kim Zornow. "They didn't score as many points as they are capable of scoring in the second game, however, they kept playing tough defense and the defense won the game."

Zornow expects tougher competition down the road against Columbia, Saratoga, Burnt Hills, Shenendehowa and Amsterdam.

She wants the team to "keep stepping up their play and be ready for all of their games." BC takes on Columbia this Friday in an away game.

VanAlstyne falls one pin short of 300

Bowling honors for the week of Dec. 26 at Del Lanes-

Sr. Cit. Men: George Hickel 234 and 843 four games; Dick Winchell 223; and Harold Singer 524 triple.

Sr. Cit. Women: Ruth Logan 186 and 503 triple.

VV girls coach not thrilled with win

By Jacob Van Ryn

The Voorheesville girls basketball team had improved their overall record to 5-2 last week with a 53-42 win over Greenville.

The 'Birds had defeated Greenville in their first game of the season, but this was a much different opponent.

Although the 'Birds won by 11, they did not play an excellent game, according to coach Nadine Bassler. "It was not one of our better performances. They (Greenville) have improved a great deal and we were happy to get the victory."

Although the 'Birds did not play their best game as a team, there were some outstanding performances turned in by individual players. Kelly Griffin led the team with a season-high 16 points. "It was her best game of the season," said Bassler.

Kristin Person also had an excellent game with 15 points, including three, three-pointers. Jen Person chipped in with eight, while Megan McCartney added six.

Voorheesville junior Jen Person goes up for a shot during last week's game against Greenville.

Jonathan Getnick

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Voorheesville junior Jen Person goes up for a shot during last week's game against Greenville.

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Eagles lose to V'ville, but salvage consolation

By Ted Hartman

Despite losing to Voorheesville 43-42, Bethlehem was able to come away from the Helderberg Holiday Tournament with a victory.

The Eagles defeated Ichabod Crane 62-59 in the consolation game to improve their overall record to 2-5. The Eagles pulled out to a 44-30 lead at the half. The second half saw the Bethlehem lead trimmed to one by the end of the third quarter due in part to poor foul shooting. The victory was salvaged by Eagle offensive rebounds, with John Gould collecting the lion's share.

Senior Matt Follis poured in 21 points to lead the Eagles in scoring. Sophomore forward Sean Kind has been our most consistent performer on defense," said coach Jack Moser. Sophomore forward Sean Kind, who has become an important contributor, scored 15 points.

"I've worked hard to get my game to where it is," he said, "but I realize that there are areas where I can still improve. The biggest difference between the freshman and varsity levels has been defensive intensity.

Commenting on the team's loss to Voorheesville, Moser said, "We thought we would have an easy game. We were out-hustled. Also, you can't shoot in the 20 percent range and expect to win. We've had spurts this season where we've taken a lot of good shots that just don't fall. When we're thinking about our shots falling we end up also dropping the ball a lot.

"Our pride was hurt by the loss," he continued. "We told them not to worry about the score and worry about effort (going into the Ichabod Crane game). I thought Sean Berry played much better. Matt Follis rebounded from an off night. I also thought our board work was much better.

Junior guard Aaron Thorpe summed up the Eagles' victory last week's tournament action.

Jonathan Getnick

V'ville sophomore Michael Beadnell tries for two during last week's tournament action.

Delmar girl honored by athletic association

Sara Donnaruma of Delmar, a student at the Albany Academy for Girls, received several honors from Section II of the state Public High School Athletic Association for her achievements on the school's soccer team. Donnaruma was named to the First Team of the Central Hudson Valley League for Class D, to the All-Section II Team for Class D, and to the All-State Team for Class D.

Delmar woman named "Coach of the Year"

Delmar resident Elizabeth Hemstead, athletic director at the Albany Academy for Girls, was recently named "Coach of the Year" in Class D of Section II of the state Public High School Athletic Association. Hemstead received the honor for her work as the school's soccer coach.

BC grad earns post

David C. DeCecco, son of Slingerlands residents Dominick and Patricia DeCecco, has been named director of public relations of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind.

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Weinert, McKenna wed

Karyn Weinert, daughter of Gary and Pat Weinert of Glenmont, and Brian J. McKenna, son of John McKenna of Delmar and Meritta McKenna of Schenectady, were married Aug. 7.

Father Jerome Massimino performed the ceremony at Siena College, with a reception following at The Desmond, Colonie.

Laurie Mendelson, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and bridesmaids were Dawn Moore, Carol McKenna and Kathleen Hensel. The flower girl was Bridget Willigan.

The best man was Andrew Moore, brother of the bride, John Holoday and Patrick McKenna. The ring bearer was Dylan O'Connor.

The bride, a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from The College of St. Rose. She is a school teacher in the Albany City School District.

The groom is a graduate of Linton High School, Siena College and The College of St. Rose. He is a pastor at the Bethlehem Central School District.

After a wedding trip to Martha's Vineyard, the couple lives in Slingerlands.

O'Brien, Glazer to wed

Gayle A. O'Brien of Delmar, daughter of William and Margaret O'Brien of Albany, and Joseph A. Glazer, son of Richard Glazer of Westchester and Patricia Glazer of Rosendale, Ulster County, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Albany High School, SUNY Albany and Albany Law School. She is an attorney with the Albany firm of Rubin & Shang.

The prospective groom is also a graduate of SUNY Albany and Albany Law School. He is an attorney at the Albany County Department of Social Services.

The couple plans a May 21, 1994 wedding in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Albany.

Seventh-grader named student ambassador

Joey Gutman, a seventh-grader at Bethlehem Central Middle School, was recently accepted as an ambassador for the People to People Student Ambassador program to represent Bethlehem in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Student ambassadors are expected to share their overseas experiences with schools, civic clubs and service organizations when they return.

The tuition for the program is $3,385, including meals and transportation. Gutman is seeking help with his goal to raise the money to be able to participate in the program. An account has been established at Albany Savings Bank for donations.

State hospitality unit elects Delmar man

Arthur Copeland of Delmar was recently elected vice chairman of the state Hospitality and Tourism Association Bed and Breakfast Council, a not-for-profit organization representing businesses and individuals in the lodging and attractions industry.

Copeland is the owner and director of American Country Collection, Reservation Service Organization.

Fryer named to post at Yale University

Glenmont resident Gary Fryer has been appointed to the expanded position of director of public affairs and special assistant to the president of Yale University.

He was formerly press secretary to Governor Mario Cuomo. Fryer and wife Joanne Segal Fryer plan to relocate to the New Haven area.

Mail weddings, engagements

The Spotlight would like to publish your engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement and photo.

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

For information and submission forms, call 439-4949.

Mail announcements to 125 Adams St., Delmar 12054.

Kailash and Michael Kendrick

Kendrick, Ratanji wed

Michael Kendrick, son of Pat and Anne Kendrick of Delmar, and Kailash Ratanji, daughter of Daya and Jumani Ratanji of Toronto, were married Sept. 18.

Judge Thomas Breslin performed the ceremony in the Pryn House in Colonie, where a reception followed.

The maid of honor was Maggie Ratanji, sister of the bride.

Matthew Labarge was the best man.

The groom is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, and works for the state Department of Transportation in Voorheesville.

The couple lives in Delmar.

Here's to a Wonderful Wedding!

Community Corner

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**Obituaries**

**Richard Rudolph**
Richard K. Rudolph, 79, of Hunter Road in Delmar, died Sunday, Jan. 2, at the Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center Hospital, Albany.

Born in Albany, Mr. Rudolph lived in Delmar since 1938. He was a sales man for Marvin Millwork in Watervliet for many years retiring in 1973. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Mr. Rudolph was a founding member of and past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus 3642 in Delmar. He was also a past Faithful Navigator and member of the Fourth Degree, Right Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Looney Assembly in Albany.

Mr. Rudolph was also a member of the Blanchard American Legion Post and communicant of the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, both in Delmar.

Survivors include his wife, El sie Y. Filkins Rudolph; four sons, Richard Rudolph II of Charlton, Charles Rudolph and Michael Rudolph, both of Selkirk, and Thomas Rudolph of Delmar; and nine grandchildren.

Services were from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, with burial in Graceland Cemetery, Albany.

Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home, Delmar. Contributions may be made to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave, Delmar 12054.

**Lisa Gerhart**
Lisa Corrine Lussei Gerhart, 43, of Daniels Street in Slinger lands, died Tuesday, Dec. 28, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

She was a homemaker and communicant of Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, Delmar.

Survivors include her husband, R. John Gerhart; a daughter, Amanda Gerhart; her parents, Welfred and Corinne Lussei of Pittsfield, Mass.; and a brother, Matthew Lussei of Simi Valley, Calif.

Services were from Church of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Glenmont.

Arrangements were by the Meyers Funeral Home, Delmar. Contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

**Elizabeth Barton**
Elizabeth Wright Barton, 90, of Delmar, died Thursday, Dec. 30, at her home. She was employed in retail sales and was a buyer for the former John G. Myer department store in Albany. She later worked for the store's successor, Denby's department store, until her retirement in 1976.

Mrs. Pilihofer was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. She was the widow of Edward Pilihofer.

Survivors include a son, Leonard Pilihofer of Ravena, a daughter, Linda Devere of Delmar; and four grandchildren.

Services were from Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Burial was in Chestnunt Lawn Cemetery, New Baltimore.

Arrangements were by the Meyers Funeral Home, Delmar.

Contributions may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave, Delmar 12054.

**Dealers**

(From Page 1)

another $10 million in punitive damages.

Parenteau, who has been building homes in Bethlehem since 1972, declined comment on the suit, saying he will not answer questions whether he holds out hope for ever developing the property, although he might have given some indication of his thoughts in the court papers filed in Albany County Court.

Parenteau is seeking to have the expiration date of his purchase option extended from Dec. 31, 1993, to Dec. 31, 2000.

Plans for Delmar Village were first unveiled in 1984. It was a source of contention right from the start as neighbors organized under the banner of Bethlehem Citizens for Responsible Planning to oppose the project.

The project review involved 40 town Meetings, hundreds of hours of analysis by town planners and four nights of public hearings on the developers' environmental impact statement.

Project manager Paul Hite, a land surveyor from Delmar, said the main problem with the project has been MacFarland's and Nolan's inability to find anyone willing to purchase and develop the land set aside for the apartments.

"Originally, 'the apartments were supposed to be built by a company from Texas called the Alliance Group,' Hite said, but the 'protracted approval process' apparently dissuaded them and 'they kind of walked away.'"

Because of the weak market conditions over the past few years, HMC has been unable to find another developer for the apartments, Hite said.

As a result, MacFarland and Nolan have been unwilling to sink $700,000 or $800,000 into building the $8 million worth of townhouses because of an expiration of the purchase option on so that the entire parcel could be sold to a third party.

**Pension**

(From Page 1)

have to be paid back.

"At the time, we were very close to the sale and we felt this was a gimmick and sooner or later we'd have to pay it back," Ringer said. Eventually, the courts agreed that the state was "politically putting the fund in jeopardy."

To ease the impact on taxpayers, the town board last month voted to set aside $300,000 from the town's projected 1993 budget surplus for the pension fund pay back.

Sometimes in the spring of '94, taxpayers will find out exactly what we owe and what the payback schedule will be like," Kehoe said. The first payback is not expected until December 1994.

"If we put aside some more next year we'll be even better off," she said, "But that assumes the town ends 1994 with a sizeable surplus again."

The town makes annual payments into the state retirement system on behalf of about 200 full-time employees. The bill is received each December and for the past several years the lump sum payment has been about $300,000.

The annual lump sum payment is likely to increase significantly over the next few years because of a new formula the state has come up with, Kehoe noted.

State Comptroller H. Carl McCall, who supported the unions' lawsuit, said he was pleased to be returning to the "same type of level payments that the state and local governments were making before ... this imprudent budget-balancing mechanism" was installed.

"The road extension was a condition attached by the planning board that had to be met before the start of any building permits. "When you're looking at spending $700,000 in start-up costs before you even have the apartment complex under construction, that's a lot of money," Hite said.

Located on a beautiful stretch of land south of Bethlehem Central High School and not far from the New Scotland town line, Delmar Village is still a viable project, according to Nolan. "At some point in time it will happen."

As to when that might be and whether the lawsuit threatens to doom the project, Nolan said he had to decline comment on advice from his attorney.

Parenteau is alleging in his lawsuit that he lost the ability to purchase and develop the single units into the cause of HMC's failure to post the financial security for construction of the extension of Fisher Boulevard.

Sources say that HMC purposely sought to delay the project in order to forestall Parenteau's purchase of the 45 townhouses in order to sell the entire parcel could be sold to a third party.

**Fuller**

(From Page 1)

Ave.

Ful l er, who won a razor-thin victory over Democrat Matt Cuyne in November, will have an all Republican board to help carry out policies.

Also taking the oath of office prior to Monday's meeting were two new members of the town board. Republican Councilmen George Lenhardt and Ted Putney, who finished first and second respectively in November, and both embarking on four-year terms.

Town Clerk Kathleen Newkirk, Justice Peter Ishiko and Highway Superintendent Greg Sagendorph, all Republicans, were sworn in to new terms in office.

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

We will continue to print Obituaries of residents and former residents of the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland at no charge.
Winter landscape wide open to cross country skiers

By Eric Bryant

There's some snow on the ground and there's more in the forecast, so it's time to get those cross country skis out of the closet and get ready for some wintertime exercise. "Probably the best all-around aerobic exercise," according to Prevention magazine, cross country skiing offers all the elements of a well-rounded fitness activity. It emphasizes both arm and leg strength, and cross country skiing offers all the benefits, it's also a great way to explore areas - just about anywhere there's a forest preserves, golf courses, wildlife areas - just about anywhere there's a few miles of open space and a dearth of "No Trespassing" signs. With the variety of areas to choose from, the landscapes for skiers to explore stretch from the vistas of New Scotland's Thacher Park to the snow-swept dunes of Coloney's Pine Bush.

Here's a rundown of several locations in Albany County which offer cross country trails or allow cross country skiing. Some areas provide rental skis for a fee and groom trails for skiers. In other spots, you're on your own.

• John Boyd Thacher State Park: One of the most popular local destinations for cross country skiing, Thacher Park is located in the town of New Scotland, off Route 157. The park stretches across the ridge of the Helderberg Escarpment and provides an often stunning view of the upper Hudson Valley.

• Indian Ladder Farms: Perhaps best known for cider doughnuts and family activities during apple-picking season, Indian Ladder Farms also hosts cross country skiing during the winter months. The farm, which is located halfway between the villages of Altamont and Voorheesville on Route 156, offers trails through its orchards. The trails, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., provide a nice view of the Helderberg Escarpment. Maps are available at the farm store. No rentals are available.

• The New Course at Albany: The former Albany Municipal Golf Course has long been a destination for local skiers and cross country skiers during winter. Located off New Scotland Avenue in the city of Albany, the New Course has 10 kilometers of groomed trails for beginners, intermediate skiers and experts. A warming hut is provided for skiers and experts.

• Mohawk-Hudson Bikeway: Meandering some five-and-a-half miles in the town of Colonie and an additional four miles in Niskayuna, the summer bikeway provides trails for snowshoers and skiers. It also provides some nice views of the Mohawk River.

• The Pine Bush: Albany's Pine Bush is also a haven for cross country skiers who wish to see a pine forest wrapped in a snowy blanket. Access to the preserve is from Route 155, just south of the State Employees Federal Credit Union building. The entrance is off Pine Pitch Drive, near the end of Frontage Road, the access road running parallel to Washington Avenue Extension. Nature Conservancy officials say access to the Route 155 parking area may be a bit treacherous during winter because of a steep incline. They urge caution or an alternative parking site.

• Five Rivers Environmental Center: The New Scotland-based state environmental center has a variety of trails and several are perfect for the beginning cross country skier. The North Loop, for example, winds through two-and-a-half miles of varied terrain, but the trail is generally quite level. Maps are available at trail heads.

The center is located off Game Farm Road, which intersects Delaware Avenue just past Bethlehem Central High School. The center trails are open to the public from dawn until dusk. No rentals are available.

Those who haven't skied cross country recently may be surprised at the number of equipment advances made in the last half decade. With today's gear, the days of ankle twisting and choosing waxes are over. A quality total adult ski package can be purchased for less than $200.
TASTE OF ALBANY: Funky Romantic Comedy Meets Traditional Japanese Cuisine

Friday, Jan. 7, at the Egg, Albany.

Tickets: $7, $4.50 seniors.

GALLERY TOUR:

"In the Line of Fire!": A showcase of many local performers, WMTN-TV 10, Sunday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m. Information, 489-8356.

AUDITIONS:

Square Dance for Schenectady, Rondonia Hall, Airport Road, Schenectady, Jan. 12, 7:10 to 10 p.m. Cost, $3.50. Information, 290-2688.

DANCE

SWING DANCE

First Unitarian Church, 181 Western Ave., Albany, Friday, Jan. 7, 5:30 p.m. Cost, $5. Information, 463-1622.

SQUARE DANCE

Heard Auditorium, Ponderosa Hall, Airport Road, Scotia, Friday, Feb. 10, 7 to 11 p.m. Information, 382-7874.

CALL FOR ARTISTS:

CHILDREN'S SUMMER THEATER creative and technical positions open for Albany Civic Theater's summer children's production. Information, 731-8629.

AUDITIONS:


EMPIRE STATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA:

alumnae concert to celebrate the orchestra's 15th anniversary season, Tuesday, Henry T. Hoag School, The Plaza. Scholarship fund, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 3 p.m. Cost, $5. Information, 756-5319.

CONCERT:

Peanut, Mennonite Chapel, Union College, Schenectady, Saturday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. Cost, $5. Information, 362-1910.

FREE GROUP VOICE LESSONS:

Skip Parsons Riverboat Jazz Band

Fountain Restaurant, 283 New Scotland Ave., Albany, Jan. 7 to Feb. 6.

AUDITIONS:

Musaque Theater, April 28, "The Elephant Man." By Bernard Pomerance, Metropolitan Opera-Productions, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, Monday, Jan. 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information, 497-6700.

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