Headline forty point
Water foes undaunted

By Mel Hyman

Despite suffering a major setback last week, opponents of Bethlehem's new water system are not yet ready to say uncle.

Delmar attorney Joseph Glazer, who prepared a petition to the state Department of Environmental Conservation that sought modification, suspension or revocation of the operating permit for the town's new plant, said Cleanwater for Bethlehem activists retain the option of going to court. The citizens organization fears water originating from the plant, which will tap an aquifer beneath the Hudson River, will be tainted by pollutants in the river.

In the meantime, Supervisor Sheila Fuller said EnCon's rejection of the Glazer petition vindicates the Bethlehem Town Board, which has supported the $119 million project since its inception more than three years ago.

The plant is projected to go online in late fall and will provide the town with up to six million gallons of water daily - most of which will be directed to the Selkirk Cogen power plant.

Grubs hunkering down
But some questions - pesticide remedy

By Mel Hyman

An underground operation is creating a big stink in Delmar. Kevin McCarty, manager for the commercial department of the Chemlawn company in Colonie, said his office has been "inundated with calls" from Delmar residents upset that "skunks are tearing up their lawns looking for grubs."

The grubs are "like prime ribs" to the skunks, McCarty said. "They're a delicacy."

Whether it's skunks, possums or crows that are wreaking havoc on the well-manicured lawns in the Trivillage area, there's no doubt that grubs are a problem. The only real question, it appears, is how to best deal with them.

"The grubs are a real problem," said Bethlehem Supervisor Sheila Fuller. "You see lawns all over town that are completely gone - my own lawn for one."

But Fuller said she hadn't caught a whiff of any concern about a skunk invasion. "That's news to me. I didn't know the skunks were taking control of town."

Valuing diversity a priority at BC Middle School

By Susan Graves

Sometimes school isn't the perfect place to learn "real-life" experiences, but the eighth-grade C-Team at Bethlehem Central Middle School recently got a chance to explore life beyond its Rensselaer Avenue borders.

As part of an attempt to help students appreciate diversity, teachers Donna Varrlale and Karen Cole began planning an African-American Day at the beginning of the school year. The goal of the project and the day was, in part, to "accept our differences, even celebrate them, by knowing each other as individuals," Varrlale said.

Varrlale, a social studies teacher, said the project that culminated in a daylong program was part of the district's goal "to find ways to value diversity.
Spotlight sister paper captures press awards

The Colonie Spotlight racked up seven awards, including a first place in the sports feature category, in the New York Press Association’s 1994 Better Newspaper Contest. The awards were handed out this past weekend at the NYPA state convention, held at the Desmond.

Michael Kagan, who joined the Spotlight staff when he was in high school, grabbed the top honor in the sports feature category. Contest judges praised Kagan’s story on former Negro League baseball player Art Mitchell, which appeared in the Aug. 9 issue.

Kagan, 19, of Delmar, began covering high school sports for Spotlight Newspapers in eighth grade, and later worked as an editorial assistant in the office. He is currently a sophomore political science major at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Kagan wrote the piece while working as a full-time reporter for the Colonie Spotlight last summer.

“Michael Kagan is a truly exceptional young man,” said Spotlight Newspapers Publisher Richard Ahlstrom. “His maturity and responsibility are unusual for one of his age—or, indeed, any age—and his intelligence and writing talent are remarkable. I wouldn’t be surprised if we’re all working for him someday.”

The Colonie Spotlight was competing against weekly newspapers of comparable circulation across the state.

The third place award in the sports feature category went to Spotlight staff member John Thorpe for a page one feature story on just-champion Kristi Stenglein.

Colonie Sports Editor Eric Bryant, also won several awards at the convention, including third place honors in the Writer of the Year category. The award is based on a collection of 10 feature and news stories written by a reporter during the preceding year. Bryant also won third place in the in-depth reporting category for a three-part series on inclusion in the North and South Colonie school districts.

Bryant has been a reporter for Spotlight Newspapers for three years, and sports editor of the Colonie Spotlight for two years.

The paper’s staff also received third-place awards in the Best Front Page category and for coverage of the environment, and an honorable mention for coverage of local government.

Another Spotlight Newspaper staff member, Composition Supervisor Mark Hempstead, took home a second-place award for graphic illustration.

College student gives advice at conference

Cheryl Davies of Delmar, a junior sociology major at SUNY-Plattsburgh, presented a paper at the recent inaugural conference of the Upstate New York Writing Centers Consortium at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y.

Davies is a peer writing tutor at the Claude J. Clarke Learning Center at SUNY-Plattsburgh. The title of her presentation was “Fostering a Positive Writing Lab Environment.”

She described how tutors in Plattsburgh’s writing center create a positive learning environment.

Davies graduated from Bethlehem Central High School in 1992.

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- Salmon
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"Catch" Times – Tues-Sat 10-7pm
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Voorheesville tops controversial survey

By Dev Tobin

Voorheesville is No. 1 and proud, and Voorheesville school officials are touting, after publication of the 1995 Grading Schools report in the Capital District Business Review.

The business newspaper's third annual ratings of public schools are deja vu all over again locally; with Voorheesville rising to the top spot, Bethlehem falling further away from the Top 10, and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk improving from the mid-90s to the mid-40s.

For Voorheesville, it marks the first time the small suburban district has finished on top, after second- and third-place rankings in the previous years' ratings.

For Bethlehem, its 24th-place ranking marks a drop from 11 and 13 in the two previous years.

For RCS, its 46th-place ranking is a modest improvement from 55 and 54 in the two previous years.

The rankings use data from the State Education Department's February Regents exams, the June Regents exams, the State's (which covers the 1993-94 school year), the New York Times dropout rates, Regents diplomas, pupil-teacher ratio, sixth-grade reading and math levels, and results from Regents exams in English, Math I, biology and history.

"The staff and kids are doing a pretty steady job, and it's a nice feeling to know their hard work is recognized, especially by an outside agency," said Voorheesville Superintendent Alan McCartney.

Outside recognition is nothing new to Voorheesville, where the district's two schools were both honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence in the 1990s.

As with last year's rankings, Bethlehem Central administrators took issue again with the Business Review survey's methodology.

"Any ranking that has Nick-skylaruns at 13 and Bethlehem at 24 is clearly suspect," said Superintendent Leslie Loomis.

The Business Review's choice of relatively low-level Regents exams like Math I and Biology is one problem with the rankings' methodology, Loomis noted.

"Math III and physics, which come at the end of the sequence, are better indications of excellence," Loomis argued.

Judith Wooster

WTJ

THE SPOTLIGHT

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Delmar dolls

By Mel Hyman

The Bethlehem Planning Board, which has lost some of its most veteran members over the past two years, will suffer another key departure after its April 18 meeting when board member Gary Schwartz resigns after five years on the job.

Except for Marcia Nelson, who was appointed in 1978, Schwartz is the board's longest tenured member.

Swan is relocating to the Schoharie Valley, where he has been working since 1982 as vice-president of Support Services Alliance, a trade association representing more than 10,000 small businesses in New York State.

A town resident for the past 22 years, Swan has long been a high-profile member of the community.

A former Republican committeeman and party activist, he is a past president of the Bethlehem Kiwanis Club and for two consecutive years (1991 and 1992) he chaired the committee behind Community Bethlehem—a town-wide spring cleanup day.

In 1986, Swan waged an unsuccessful primary battle against town attorney Bernard Kaplowitz and current Assemblyman John Faso for the Republican nomination in the 102nd Assembly District.

"I don't know how to characterize my involvement with government and politics," Swan said. "Obviously, it's been interesting."

Most interesting has been the work of the planning board over the past several years, said Swan believes Bethlehem faces a "tremendous challenge" in terms of controlling development and retaining the rural/suburban feel of the town.

"I'm very hopeful that the LUMAC report (town master plan) will have a positive effect on the overall character of the community," he said.

Longtime planner sings swan song

By Mel Hyman

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County exec race shapes up as all-Bethlehem affair

By Mel Hyman

Former Bethlehem Supervisor Kenneth Ringler knows he needs to win the suburbs if he wants to become the next Albany County Executive, and he plans to start with his home town.

Ringler announced his candidacy last week, and is the pre-emptive favorite for the county GOP's endorsement, which is likely to occur in May.

With the Democrats holding a substantial enrollment edge countywide, Ringler said he will be spending a lot of time in Bethlehem and Colonie trying to garner support in his campaign to unseat Democratic County Executive Michael Breslin.

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"I don't see any reason why we shouldn't win in Bethlehem," he said. "I've won two elections there in the past, and Mike (Breslin) has already lost one as far as I know," Breslin ran unsuccessfully for town justice in the 1970s.

Regarding Colonie, Ringler said he's picked up a great deal of support since officially announcing his candidacy last week. "People have been looking to help with my campaign, I expect to spend a lot of time in that town.

"The Colonie constituency has been very supportive of Mike Hoblock in the past, they do not want to return to the patronage system operated by the Albany County Democrats, he said.

Ringler, Bethlehem township supervisor from 1990 to 1993, plans to emphasize changes Hoblock made in county government.

"I want to work in the spirit of Mike Hoblock and move the
county forward," he said. "We need professionalism, and (Hoblock) proved that we can save money without sacrificing the high level of services."

Breslin said he plans to run hard this fall in every part of the county and that when "people know who I am, I will have widespread support in every town."

Regarding Ringler's chances in Colonie — the home base of Hoblock — Breslin asked, "Is Mr. Hoblock running now?"

According the latest figures from the Albany County Board of Election, there are 88,196 enrolled Democrats in the county, 42,576 Republicans and 41,022 independents.
Playwriting contest on tap

Hudson River Classics will hold its third annual playwriting contest for playwrights throughout the state.

Entries are being accepted from new or established artists who have previously unpublished works they would like to submit.

Submissions should be 60 to 90 minutes long and capable of being presented as a reading by professional actors. The winning playwright will receive a $500 award.

Local rabies clinics slated

The Albany County Department of Health and the Capital District Veterinary Medical Society will host a series of rabies vaccination clinics for dogs and cats this spring.

The clinics will be held Tuesday, June 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bethlehem Town Park on Elm Avenue in Bethlehem, and Tuesday, June 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Cosmans Municipal Building on Russell Avenue in Ravena.

There is a donation of $5 per animal. All dogs and cats must be on leashes or in carriers. Clinics are open to all Albany County residents.

For information, call 428-1359.

Clearwater for Bethlehem holds forum on pesticides

Clearwater for Bethlehem will present an informational meeting on Tuesday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Public Library at 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar.

The meeting will feature two speakers, Patrick J. Higgins, an attorney with the Delmar law firm of LaFave Associates, will discuss the legal issues regarding pesticide use and regulation. The firm handles toxic poisoning cases.

Terry Lavinge of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County will give a presentation on pesticide run-off into ground water and surface water, and its effects on drinking water supplies.

Indian Ladder, farm for all seasons

By Dev Tobin

The season for apples is crisp, cool fall, not wet, warm spring.

But for the area’s premier apple orchard, Indian Ladder Farms on Altamont Road outside Voorheesville, the spring and summer months are an opportunity for a new series of special events with agricultural themes.

“We want people to know we’re here all year round, not just in September and October,” said Laura Ten Eyck, coordinator of the new programs at the orchard under the Rockefeller escarpment.

While not all the events will be as busy as last weekend’s Baby Animal happening, all will attempt to entertain and inform in a casual country atmosphere, Ten Eyck said.

The once-a-month special weekends are “not necessarily related to apples,” Ten Eyck said.

The first special weekend in April featured baby lambs and a demonstration of wool weaving and spinning. Future events will focus on the essential role of bees in pollination, with an observation hive, and sheep-shearing.

“The first one was great. We had good weather and a lot of people came out with their kids,” Ten Eyck said.

Although last weekend’s weather was more like the traditional apple season, hundreds of people still came out to see and learn about baby rabbits, chicks, lambs, pygmy goats, a calf and a baby pig, Ten Eyck said.

Families can make a day of it by visiting nearby Thacher Park for spectacular views of the Hudson Valley before or after stopping in at Indian Ladder, Ten Eyck noted.

Indian Ladder also features a country store, with crafts, cards, gifts, local produce, a restaurant, and, of course, apples, cider and other apple-related products.

Outside there are trails through the orchard and a picnic area nestled in the pines with an excellent view of the escarpment.

Embroilers to meet at Lutheran Church

The New York Capital District Chapter of the Embroiderers’ Guild of America will meet on Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 87 Elm Ave. in Delmar.

Celebrated textile artist Pam Watts will lecture on contemporary embroidery.

For information, contact Nancy Schlegel at 477-4511.

Author/Illustrator to visit town library

The Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave. in Delmar, plans a tribute to children’s author/Illustrator Kevin Henkes on Monday, April 17, at 2 p.m.

Participants will meet some of Henkes’ best-known characters and take part in fun crafts.

To register, call the library at 439-8914.

Button club to meet

A meeting of the Half Moon Button Club of the Capital District is slated for today, April 12, at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to attend. Participants should pack a bag lunch.

For information, call Terry Venn at 783-4725.
N. Scotland, V'ville set Easter week services

A Holy Thursday tenebrae service, including Holy Communion, on April 13 will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville.

Tenebrae, or shadows, symbolizes the darkness that came over the world with the death of Christ. Experiencing this service is intended to prepare worshippers for a greater joy at Easter.

A luncheon Good Friday service for members of Voorheesville United Methodist, New Scotland Presbyterian, and New Salem Reformed churches will be held at the New Scotland Church on April 14 at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Peter Krug, pastor of the New Salem Church, will give the sermon.

Easter services New Scotland area

The congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, the New Scotland Presbyterian Church, and the New Salem Reformed Church invite everyone to an Easter Sunrise Service at 5:30 a.m. sharp on Sunday, April 15.

The service will originate in the parking lot of the New Scotland Church on Route 85 and move from there to a mountain vista where the service will include prayers and music and the proclamation of the good news of Easter.

A breakfast will follow at the First United Methodist Church in Voorheesville.

For breakfast reservations, call any of the participating churches by April 12.

The main Easter celebrations of the three churches will follow later in the morning. Services at 9 and 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville will include music by the choirs, a time for children, and the Easter sermon by the Rev. George Klockich, pastor.

The Easter service at 10 a.m. at the New Scotland Presbyterian Church will feature special music and the sermon by the Rev. Gregory Pike, pastor.

The New Salem Reformed Church will hold its Easter service at 10 a.m. The service will include special choral music, the Rev. Peter Krug, pastor, will give the Easter sermon.

Blanchard American Legion Post

gives awards to local police, firemen

The Nathaniel A. Blanchard American Legion Post 1040 recently gave out Man of the Year Awards to outstanding members of local protection services.

Winners were John Baide of the North Bethlehem Fire Department, Edward Wroblewski of the Delmar Fire Department, Paul Millhausen of the Elsmere Fire Department, Louis G. Corsi of the Bethlehem Police Department, Jonathan P. Vandermolen of the Bethlehem Reserve Police and James Daly of the Delmar Rescue Squad.

Five Rivers planning Earth Day events

Five Rivers Center on Game Farm Road in Delmar will host an Earth Day open house on Saturday, April 22, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Hands-on activities, demonstrations and nature walks will focus on wildlife and wildlife habitats.
Matters of Opinion

McCarroll's to return

Almost five years ago, the headline on the front page of The Spotlight read: "Butcher shop closing after 27 years is huge." Many of us saw the closing of McCarroll's meat market as the end of an era. That was bad news then.

The good news now is that McCarroll's is returning to Delmar. Within the next few months, Jim McCarroll III will open his new meat market at the Four Corners as part of the expansion of the Delmar Convenient Express store. It will be known as McCarroll's Village Butcher.

Going to McCarroll's was for some almost a ritual. And it has been sadly missed. Newcomers to the tri-villages have a treat in store for them when they shop at Jim's new meat market.

Firemen reinstated

Back in January 1993, two firemen in Selkirk Fire Department No. 1 were suspended. One was Terry Ritz, the chief, and the other was John Clark, his first assistant. It was alleged that they had violated district policies when they conducted the controlled burn of a vacant building on Creble Road in December 1992.

In March of this year, the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court ordered that Ritz and Clark be reinstated to their former positions starting April 6.

The dispute has finally been resolved. The two men are back on the job. One of them, however, has said that the past hasn't ceased and that his feelings toward the fire district will never be the same as they were before the dispute. Furthermore, the taxpayers will be out about $15,000 because the fire district is responsible for paying the men's legal expenses.

Each side in the dispute no doubt had very compelling reasons for feeling that it was in the right. But this internal struggle should not have had to pay the men's legal fees.

Angry acts won't fix complex problems

The author of this Point of View is Pastor of the Delmar Presby- terian Church.

By the Rev. Larry A. Deysy

The age of reason, the age of faith, the age of anxiety, are de- fining periods of human history. Perhaps the one human period could be called "the age of anger." Angrily abounds in our society. The reason for feeling that it was in the right is that this internal conflict that we find today is, of how deep and especially on the state level.

Why all of this anger? There are many reasons.

Loss of the familiar leads to anger. Our world is changing. Things are more complicated. Competition has increased in all sectors. The old and familiar ways are slipping away. With that loss there is grief, and grief, when it is not fully acknowledged and dealt with, becomes anger.

Fear breeds anger. We see and read daily stories of mayhem and murder in the news. Homes that never used to be locked are now tightly secured. We have responded to crime and the loss of security with anger. Hence, we enact a death penalty.

Frustration over complex problems increases anger. Consider the talk show programs that abound today, and exploit the anger. With that level of anger, there is no question of whether or not we are increase anger. The more we are increase anger. The more we are increase anger. The more we are increase anger. The more we are increase anger.

Individualism and self-interest increase anger. The more we are out to "take care of ourselves," the more we look to separate from others, and the easier it is to see others as objects instead of persons. The language of Martin Luther King, Jr., they are no longer "thou" but "it."

Anger abounds because for many of us there is too little outside of ourselves. We have become our own god, our own ends.

In our own day, we need to seek not only our own well-being, but the well-being of the larger whole. This means we need to move from the frame of our own personal lives and focus on the bali­ khanization that is taking place in our country. We need to move to a frame of reference that is willing to see the whole with community in all of its complexity.

We must reclaim simple courtesy. We need to practice the basic social graces which are the lubricant that allows people to live together without generating friction. Daily courtesy can be practiced everywhere, in the office, on the road, and in the market place. Courtesy acknowledges that we respect each member of our community.

We need to be involved in our various communities of faith. Worshiping within a community of faith helps us to realize the worth of our community.

If we are going to make the kind of world that we want for our children, then we need to stop listening to the peddlers of hate who capitalize on society's anger.

Jeremiah, speaking for God, gave this advice for their well-being: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. "(Jer. 29:7)

For all of that and when the were freed to return home, many were reluctant to leave, so well were things going for them in this new land.

Ice cream yea, pastrami nay

Editor, The Spotlight: How I came to attend the town (voting) board of appeals public hearing on Friendly's putting in a carry-out window and find no Rural Place Residents Association members there to object.

After all, they had taken the time to stand on Delaware Avenue and count cars when Manning's Menu was applying for approval. Approaching the Friendly's carry-out window will bring more traffic and one of Rural Place's biggest gripe's was the traffic on Delaware Avenue. (As is there's no problem at any of the other sides streets off Delaware Avenue). Why weren't they there at this meeting?

It was interesting to read in the March 29 issue of The Spotlight the letter that someone wrote about the Bethlehem planning board meeting on March 21. The writer felt that the planning board gave only a "curious review" of the March 29 Bethlehem School project.

At the Manning Menu final site plan meeting, the planning board voted and rejected it before they made any final plans. The architect insisted that they look at the plan and most of the board did dissonant presentation.

The plans were well done and objections to parking and trucks turning around were corrected. The plans were revised again, and again rejected.

What a way for a town to treat an ambitious, native family man out of making an honest living.

Barbara Fulmer Delmar

Letters
**Concerns over senior housing**

**Editor, The Spotlight:**

I am writing in regard to letters in The Spotlight concerning the proposed 50-unit Marie Rose Manor complex at the end of Marquis Drive in the north end of Bethlehem. My neighbors and I, who are vigorously opposing the project, are trying not to stop it but to have it modified.

Currently, it is to be built at the rear of a single-family enclosed development with approximately 40 children under age 12. Because of the lack of sidewalks in the development and resulting adverse impact to the area.

We are concerned about the safety of our children because of the volume of traffic that will be generated. The fact that traffic will no longer be by residential traffic, but by large vehicles, will increase the speed on Marquis Drive.

We are also concerned that the development is not planned as a town residential complex, but would be for predominantly seniors, and there is no mention in the proposal as to how the site will be changed and impact to the area.

The opposition is wrong in stating that we are prejudiced against seniors or because the project is for low-income individuals. We are concerned that our development does not change, and we have the same concerns for the next generation.

The sole access to the project is being considered. We suggest that instead of being the end of the road, it should be high-income individuals.

I am writing in regard to letters concerning the death of a pet cat. Someone was responsible for killing it on Font Grove Road, leaving it on the road and going on as if nothing had happened.

I am referring to the death of my pet cat. Someone was responsible for killing and hitting it on Font Grove Road, leaving it on the road and going on as if nothing had happened.

I sincerely hope that whoever killed our cat will be more careful in the future. It seems as though they were in such a hurry that they didn’t stop and check to see if our cat could have been helped. What if it had been a toddler running and playing?

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Be considerate of runners

Editor, The Spotlight:

This past Sunday at 9 a.m., approximately 300 walkers, runners and wheelchair racers participated in the 7th annual Delmar Dash.

As a volunteer traffic guard, I was able to witness men, women and children of all ages and various athletic abilities challenge themselves as they made their way around the five-mile course.

It was exhilarating to cheer these people as they ran past with determination and effort etched on their faces. They are to be congratulated for their efforts!

Unfortunately, as a traffic guard, I also witnessed an ugly side of the Delmar Dash. I affectionately refer to it as "the mad Delmar driver syndrome." As I directed cars away from the corner of McGuffey and Wisconsin, I found angry drivers stopping, pulling down their windows and yelling, "This is ridiculous, I will be late for a meeting." I couldn't help but wonder what meeting they thought could possibly be going on at 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Other drivers argued that they were taxpayers and that the Town of Bethlehem would recover all for this inconvenience. When I asked one man who was particularly frustrated on driving onto the course to wait 10 minutes until the runners passed, he nodded and then defiantly drove around me.

It is unfortunate that some drivers are not aware of how dangerous it is to have cars driving on a running course. Runners are busy concentrating on finishing the race, and it is up to the traffic guards to protect them.

I don't feel that it is too much to ask drivers to be considerate during an event such as the Delmar Dash which lasts for one hour and provides many people with a fun and healthy way to challenge themselves.

Veronica Ambruster
Delmar

Cohoes Savings style

Editor, The Spotlight:

As an architect and a long-time Bethlehem resident, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the Cohoes Savings Bank on the recent completion of their new Delmar facility.

The siting and the landscaping of the building, choice of materials and the building's architectural style do not fit comfortably within the scale of our Delmar Community but enrich their quality of life.

I am hopeful that as additional development takes place along Delmar's "Main Street," our officials will encourage the high standards which the Cohoes Savings Bank has put forth, so that Delmar will continue to develop as a quality community in every sense.

Steven L. Einhorn
Elsmere

Letters policy

The Spotlight welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local interest. Letters are subject to editing in keeping with our rules of fairness, accuracy, style and length. All letters must carry the writer's signature, address and phone numbers.

Write to Letters to the Editor, The Spotlight, 125 Adams Street, Delmar NY 12054. Letters may be faxed to 439-0690.

A Place For you to Celebrate

Easter - April 16, 1995

~ Worship Services ~
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Choral Presentations and Brass Accompaniment at both services
10:00 a.m.
Complimentary Light Breakfast for all
Children's Celebration Activities
* Nursery Care Available All Morning *

Delmar Reformed Church
386 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY (at the Four Corners) 439-9929

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Dear America: A Case For You to Celebrate

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Use common sense, Governor Pataki

Letters

package for IBM, a multi-billion dollar company. What assurance do we have that IBM won't pull out of New York State after this "sweetheart deal" is finalized?

The governor is said to be business-friendly. Apparently, he has not taken into consideration what impact these moves would have on the businesses of the Capital Region of New York, large corporations, small businesses, and mom and pop operations.

I see the governor's plan as robbing Peter (Albany) to pay Paul (Albany Valley). This is not economic development.

In Michigan there was consolidation, but it was accomplished by keeping personnel in Lansing, the state capital. I have spoken with computer specialists in New York State who are familiar with the Michigan operation and they are not as up to speed as we are.

I urge the governor to hire new business to the IBM facilities, if they are so user-friendly. This would create real economic development in the private sector, not just the shuffling of state jobs.

Finally, in 1985 an estimated $300 million in sales tax will be collected in Albany. This will be a windfall to the city of Albany, and the towns throughout the county.

The effect of the Pataki plan will be devastating not only to the families of the thousands of workers who can leave the State of New York and Albany County, but it will prevent the towns from providing necessary services because of lost revenues from the sales tax.

My heart goes out to the business community, shopping malls, etc., who have moved to Albany, investing millions of dollars here because of the 4.1 percent unemployment rate.

Because of the severe impact the Pataki plan would have on the capital district's economy, I appeared before the Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Development on March 23.

I asked the committee to encourage the governor to use common sense in operating state government, not just shuffle state jobs for political purposes.

Mary Lou Bartolotta-Connolly
32nd Legislative District
Albany County Legislator

Ask the Remodeler

Thank you, America, for your warm welcome

Editor, The Spotlight

Finally we were asked to stand and recite the oath, and after that we were called one by one to go onto the stage. I was handed a certificate, an American flag, a pencil, and a little handbook.

I don't expect a regular citizen to understand how touched I felt when I returned to school and everyone congratulated me, but all the same I would like to thank everyone for being there for me.

Patricia Sandison
Grade 7, Team A
Bethlehem Central Middle School

Editor's note: Patricia Sandison was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. She and her family recently became U.S. citizens.

Town library closing for Easter holiday

The Bethlehem Public Library will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 16. It will open again for regular hours on Monday, April 17, at 9 a.m.
Nominating petitions for candidates for the RCS Community Library board of trustees are available at the library. There are three vacancies: two full terms of five years each, and one unexpired term of three years. Residents of the RCS school district who are at least 18-years-old are eligible to run. Each petition must have the signatures of 40 registered voters residing in the district.

Petitions must be filed with the clerk of the library no later than Tuesday, May 9, at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12 kickoff National Library Week. RCS community library will show off its best that evening. Stop in and see what’s new and improved. At 7 p.m. Dorothy Percival, clerk of the library no later than 6:30 p.m. for Penny Productions “Doodles ‘n’ Razzamatazz.” Children can doodle cartoons, sing along stories or help act out plays in costume at the free program.

**Check It Out**

**Ravenna Public Library**

Call the library to register.

In children in grades two are invited to a tribute to author/Illustrator Kevin Henkes. Meet Owen, Shelia Rae and some of Henkes’ books. Registration with the library, Monday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Call the reference desk to receive a copy of the current title.

Robert Mulligan, associate history curator at the state Museum, will present The Home Front in World War II on Wednesday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Mulligan will focus on the social changes that occurred during the war, as well as New York’s role in providing weapons and supplies for soldiers fighting in Europe and the Pacific. Please bring questions and reminiscences from the audience. Reservations for the free program are appreciated but not required.

For information on the programs, call 439-9314.

Anna Jane Abernathy

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**Ravenna church lists schedule of events**

Grace United Methodist Church at 16 Hillcrest Drive has announced its schedule for the week of April 16.

On Thursday, April 15, the junior choir will rehearse at 5:30 p.m., followed by a senior choir rehearsal. The church will hold an Easter Sunrise service at 7 a.m. A Good Friday service will be held at Wesleyan Church. On Sunday, April 16, an Easter Sunrise service will be held at the South Bethlehem Church. Sunday school will begin at 9 a.m.

Out of school with no place to go? The library has the cure for school vacation week blues.

Join storyteller Penny Conklin on Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. for “Penny Power!” There will be wiggly stories, puppet crafts and plenty of puppet fun.

This week also includes programs for adults. The Book Discussion Group will meet to talk about The Aisy Flower by Henry James on Tuesday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the adult lounge.

The selection for the May 16 meeting is The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy.

For information, call 756-2033.

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**Church planning May garage sale**

The finance committee of South Bethlehem Methodist Church, under the auspices of Dorothy Percival, are making plans for a garage sale and flea market on Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the church parking lot on Willowbrook Avenue.

There will be homemade baked goods, plants and an art sale for signatures of Petitions for library seats at library. Some surprises are in store for children of the library.

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**Petitions for library seats at library**

**Volunteer programs**

The United Methodist Women of South Bethlehem will meet tonight, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. for a covered-dish supper. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., with Peg Flanders as devotional leader.

Flanders will present the evening program, with a video on missions and the Roll Methodist women in World Missions.

For information, call 767-9503.

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For information, call 756-2033.


**Easter service at park**

The Maple Avenue Cultural Society's annual Easter float parade is set for Saturday, April 15. The parade starts at 2 p.m. at the Voorheesville firehouse and makes stops at Smith's Tavern, the First United Methodist Church, the SuperValu market, Circle Lane and Apple Blossom Lane.

The Easter Bunny and his helpers will give each child along the parade route candy and Freiholter's cookies.

**Congregations to conduct Easter sunrise service**

The congregations of the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, the New Scotland Presbyterian Church, and the New Salem Reformed Church are planning an Easter sunrise service at Thatcher Park.

The group will meet at the New Scotland Presbyterian Church parking lot at 5:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 16. The service begins at sunrise and is over by 7 a.m.

A breakfast will follow at the First United Methodist Church on Maple Avenue. To make a reservation for breakfast, call the church office at 765-2806 or contact any of the participating churches.

The First United Methodist Church will have two services, at 9 and 11 a.m., on Easter. Nursery care will be provided.

Services at the New Scotland Presbyterian Church and New Salem Reformed Church will start at 10 a.m.

**Schools closing for spring recess**

Students in the school district For FREE in-home shopping

**HIGHWAY CLEANUP DAY SCHEDULED APRIL 29**

Saturday, April 29 is Adopt-a-Highway Day in Voorheesville. Organizations are being asked to volunteer to clean up a section of village streets. The cleanup starts at the village hall at 9:30 a.m.

A picnic for volunteers will follow on the village green. To volunteer, call Jack Halligan at 765-8877.

**V’ville planners to meet Tuesday**

The next meeting of the Voorheesville Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, at 7:15 p.m. at the village hall on Voorheesville Avenue.

**Historical association to study river artists**

The Town of New Scotland Historical Association is planning a local history lecture for Wednesday, May 3, at 8 p.m. at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center on The Old Road in New Salem.

For information, call the community center at 861-6022.

---

**Supermarket**

**Food Specials**

**As Fresh As It Gets! In order for our associates to enjoy the holiday with their families, we will be closed Easter Sunday.**

**IGA Tastemaker Quality Whole Boneless Hams Water added $1.69 lb.**

**Hot Coupon Buys! Kraft Miracle Whip $1.49**

**Gold Medal Flour 49c lb bag with coupon from IGA store**

**Ice Cream 99c per half gallon with coupon from IGA store**

5 Maple Rd., Rt. 85A, Voorheesville • 765-2829

Open Monday - Saturday 7-9, Sunday 9-6 • CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY

SUN. APRIL 8TH - SAT. APRIL 15TH

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**New Notes**

**Voorheesville**

Elizabeth
Committ-Dineen

765-2813

_ St. Matthew's announces Good Friday service _

St. Matthew's Church on Moun-

tainview Street will hold a special 

children's Stations of the Cross 

service on Good Friday, April 14, 

at 3 p.m.

The church will hold a Mass of 

the Last Supper on Thursday, April 

13, at 7 p.m., Lord's Passion on 

Good Friday, April 14, at 7 p.m., 

Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, 

April 15, at 8 p.m. and Easter 

Sunday Masses on April 16, at 8:30, 

9, 10, and 11:30 a.m.

The St. Matthew's Men's Asso-

ciation recently announced that 

this year's recipient of the Jim 

McDonough Award for outstand-

ing service is Karen Flannery of 

Voorheesville. Flannery organ-

ized the publication of a new picto-

rial directory for St. Matthew's 

and served as co-chairperson of the 

Christmas bazaar.

The association also announced that it has awarded its annual col-

lege scholarship award of $200 to 

Voorheesville High School senior 

Jennifer Oates.

The bird theme continues at 

evening story hour tonight, April 

12, when Meg Gruber-Hughes en-

tails families with stories "All 

About Eggs." Kids are welcome to 

come in their pajamas. The fun 

starts at 7 p.m.

Regular story hours will take a 

spring break from Friday, April 

14, until Monday, April 24.

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**Window Coverings on SALE Now! 60% OFF all Kind & DEL MAR**

**Verticals**

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**DESIGNS BY ANNE**

10 years experience

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**PANNI**

Gourmet sandwiches made with our own Italian bread. Served with dill pickle.

I. Fresh hand made mozzarella, roma tomatoes, basil & extra virgin olive oil... 5.25

II. Fresh roasted turkey, brie cheese, honey mustard dressing...... 6.50

III. Fresh roasted eggplant, fontina cheese, sundried tomatoes, fresh basil & extra virgin olive oil ...6.50

IV. Smoked salmon, cream cheese, Bermuda onions, fresh cucumbers....... 7.00

V. Prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, roma tomatoes & olive oil ................. 6.50

Come in for Lunch and enjoy a Complimentary Hot or Iced Cappuccino for dining at Mediterranean

**In Addition To**

Wood Fired European Style Pizza – Calzones Hot Italian Sandwiches – Salads & Additional Side Items Delectable Imports for Quality Chefs

**Free Lunch Delivery within limited area 11:30 - 2pm**

333 Delaware Avenue, Delmar NY 12054

Eat in or Take out 478-7217 Open Tues-Fri 11-9, Sat & Sun 1-9

**Nice Easter Gift – $5.00 OFF Any Gift Tin**

Expires 6/1/95
7th annual Delmar Dash attracts record 346 runners

It was a chilly Sunday morning as hundreds of people headed down Delaware Avenue in the seventh annual Delmar Dash. The five-mile race started and ended at the corner of Delaware and Erie avenues. The race was sponsored by Blue Shield of Northeastern New York. Refreshments were provided by Bruegger's.

Tom Dalton, 36, of Schenectady, won the men's division race in 24:51. Dalton also holds the course record of 24:33.

A record number of people (346) competed in the seventh annual Delmar Dash Sunday even though it was a chilly, overcast day and not terribly conducive to running.

The men's division winner was Tom Dalton of Schenectady. Dave Twang finished second and Bill Starz came in third.

Linda Kinney of Clifton Park, who finished second last year, captured first place in the women's division.

Last year's winner, Jen Faziolli of Avondale Park, finished second this year. Lisa Faist-Stanton came in third.

Other winners included Benjamin Barsheid in the under-19 men's category, Steven Caminella in the 20-29 men's, Dan Cantwell in the 30-39 men's, Vinny Reda in the 40-49 men's, Ed Bowra in the 50-59 men's and Gerald Barney in the 60 and over men's category.

Amber Galbraith was the first place finisher in the women's under-19. Brenda Beavers finished first in the 20-29 women's bracket; Jeryl Simpson won the 30-39 age group; Jo-Anne Spinelli won the 40-49 age group; and Ann Keller of Delmar won the 50-59 women's and Regina Tumida-Jawicz won the 60 and over women's category.

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Have you ever felt faint while having dental work done? If you have, you are not alone. Many people, at one time or another, have had a low blood sugar episode called Hypoglycemia. Usually these episodes only last for a short time and require some rest in a reclining position and a drink of fruit juice. The condition mimics fainting, and is more likely to occur in people who have skipped a meal or have not eaten a sufficient amount of food.

Some dental procedures require the use of a local anesthetic with epinephrine (adrenaline) in them. Even though the dosage of epinephrine is very minimal, in some sensitive individuals it can cause a quick drop in blood sugar. The brain senses this immediately and responds by making one feel faint. Remaining in a horizontal position will allow more blood (containing sugar) to get to the brain, allowing for a quick recovery.

How does one avoid Hypoglycemia? Eating a well balanced meal before your dental appointment will help. If you know you are particularly sensitive to epinephrine, ask your dentist if there is another local anesthetic available that does not contain epinephrine. Also make sure to relax. Due to new techniques and materials, dentistry today is very gentle, and can be a very positive experience.

Prepared as a public service to promote better dental health. From the offices of: Dr. Thomas H. Abelo, D.M.D. Dr. Geoffrey B. Edmunds, D.D.S. 344 Delaware Avenue Delmar, N.Y. 12054 (518) 439-4228

We would like to offer free screening mammography during the month of April, to anyone over the age of 40, who is non-medicare, and who is medically uninsured or who feels that they have put off mammography because they current commercial medical insurance still leave them with a deductible that they feel, for whatever reason, they can't afford. We can usually let you know the results the same day, before you've left. There's no catch.

Save with Nationwide's HOMEOWNERS DISCOUNT

Don't use a local anesthetic with epinephrine in them. Even though the dosage of epinephrine is very minimal, it holds the course record of 346.

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The Country Gentleman Antiques

Galbreath E. Palmer

Now Open for the Season
FURNITURE—COLLECTIBLES—GLASS—PAINTINGS RT. 401/405 - 1/4 MI. Off Rt. 32 - So. Westerlo, NY

COME VISIT US!

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Other winners included Benjamin Barsheid in the under-19 men's category, Steven Caminella in the 20-29 men's, Dan Cantwell in the 30-39 men's, Vinny Reda in the 40-49 men's, Ed Bowra in the 50-59 men's and Gerald Barney in the 60 and over men's category.
Tri-Village LL opens on April 24

By James Williams

It was picture day on Saturday, April 8, for the Tri-Village Little League — normally the unofficial kickoff for the upcoming season.

It’s the harbinger of a special spring madness that excites kids, and both delights and frustrates their parents. The Tri-Village Little League baseball season is nearing the opening pitch, which will be on Monday, April 24.

During the first week of games, more than 660 boys and girls will be playing in ballparks that have undergone some big changes.

One new diamond has been created at Magee Park, the league’s home on Kenwood Avenue, bringing the total number of fields to five.

Additionally, two of the diamonds have been refurbished with new turfs and drainage systems designed to make them playable shortly after an episode of bad weather.

The added playing field reflects the increased number of players coming into the league, due in part to a change in policy that adds 6-year-olds to the player rosters this year. In the past, only five- and six-year-olds were permitted into the beginners division.

But the league received a large number of requests from the parents of the younger children, asking that they be accepted, into the league, according to the league’s player activities chairman Howard Bresin.

“We’re going to see how it works out,” Bresin said. He emphasized that it will be a difficult time for the managers and coaches of the Youth Ball teams because they must teach the game to kids who tend to get quickly bored, especially during the quieter moments of the game.

“I’m very excited about the upcoming season,” said league president Megan O’Toole. “I look forward to watching my son Ian play. We were going through the winter, wondering if there would be a regular major league season this year, but then you realize you can always rely on Little League for a lot of fun and excitement.”

Even as this season is about to get under way, O’Toole is looking to the future. “We need new board members and volunteers,” she said. “There will be a big turnover of board members next year.”

The Voorheesville Horseshoe League will begin its third season on Wednesday, May 3.

League games will be played on each subsequent Wednesday beginning at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

This year the league will be broken up into three six week divisions. The first division will begin May 3 and continue until June 7. The second will begin June 14 and continue until July 19 and the third division will begin on July 26 and continue until Aug. 30.

Players may participate in one, two or all three divisions. However, each player is asked to make a commitment to the entire six week period. The champions and runners-up of all three divisions will play for the 1994 league championship on Sept. 6.

This year, as last, the league will be open to all ages, to both men and women, and to players of all calibers. Senior citizens are encouraged to come out and get in some decent exercise each week.

League rules can be picked up at the first night of play or earlier at Village Hall. Anyone who has a question about the league can contact Dennis Sullivan at 765-2468.

7 Dolphins qualify

Seven Delmar Dolphins recently left for Princeton University to compete for four days against some of the fastest young swimmers from Maine to Virginia at the Eastern District Zone Championship Meet.

These Dolphins won spots on the Adirondack District team by finishing either first or second in their events, and meeting strict time standards. The Dolphin contingent includes Becky Corson, Bobby Crow, Lisa Fong, Stephanie Fong, Elyse McDonough, Thalis Orie-tas and Teresa Rosetti.

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BC sluggers win opener

By Joshua Kagan

The Bethlehem baseball team (16-1, 1-1) and its first-year coach Jesse Braverman won its opening game last week in a 5-0 victory on the road against Burnt Hills on Friday. "It felt good (to win the first game)," Braverman said. "I was more concerned with the team getting its first win than getting my first win. It's good for the team to get that first win out of the way."

Brett McGuckin scored the Eagles' lone run on a ground ball by Sorenson in the first inning.

Bethlehem used three pitchers, Mike Delucci, Nate Sajdak and Kevin Blanchard, against South Glens Falls. Sajdak gave up two unearned runs and Blanchard pitched two scoreless innings. Beyond Kosoc, BC's pitching staff is still shaping up, and Delucci, Sajdak and Blanchard look to figure strongly in it.

"We have a lot of good pitchers," Braverman said. "None have had the amount of experience as Nate (Kosoc) has. We have a lot of hopes for the other pitchers, but we'll have to prove them by their pitching."

Bethlehem hosts Shenendehowa today, April 12, at 4 p.m.

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PAGE 14 — April 12, 1996

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PAGE 14 — April 12, 1996
Spring 95
Home Garden

Spring fix-up, cleaning & planting time is here!
Experts say birds will flock to feed on certain seeds

Correct choice of food helps to attract feathered friends to backyard feeders

By Eric Bryant

Fishermen say that if you want to catch a fish, you have to think like the fish. The same holds true acrobatically to catch a fish, you have to think like the fish. The same holds true acrobatically, according to Depart­ment of Environmental Conservation educator Ray Perry.

“Feeding birds is something we do primarily for our own benefit. Studies have proven that most birds get the majority of their food in the wild.” —Ray Perry

Experts say birds will flock to feed on certain seeds that most birds get the majority of their food in the wild. For example, black oil sunflower seed seems to attract the greatest variety of birds, but sometimes they still prefer the black oil sunflower seeds most popular with birdwatchers.

Feeding birds is something we do primarily for our own benefit. Studies have proven that most birds get the majority of their food in the wild.

Correct choice of food can make it easier to keep squirrels away from bird feeders. Installed correctly, most baffles can make feeders squirrel-proof. But it’s amazing how resourceful a hungry squirrel can be with a lot of time on its hands.

“I think most people, birdwatchers included, like squirrels,” said Coulter. “They’d just like to find a way to keep them out of your bird feeders.”

One solution, Coulter said, is to use safflower seeds, a mix that’s generally distasteful for squirrels but the birds will still go for.

Another tool for distraction — special devices for holding ears of corn. The squirrels will go after it, Coulter said, but sometimes they still prefer the black oil sunflower seeds most popular with birdwatchers.

Choosing what seed to use is key to getting birds in the yard. “The black oil sunflower seed seems to attract the greatest variety, so if you were going to choose one seed, that would probably be the best,” Perry said. “Ideally, what you’d like to do is provide them with a variety to choose from. You can buy a mix which will include some millet, sunflower and other seeds. Cracked corn is good to put on the ground or on a low platform for ground-feeding birds.”

Some birds are especially attracted to certain types of food. Suet, which can be hung in a variety of ways, attracts chickadees, woodpeckers and nuthatches. Cut-up fruit can draw the occasional oriole or tanager to your yard. Thin thistle or Niger seed, which requires its own specialized feeder, can attract a clamor of goldfinches.

“Feeding birds is something we do primarily for our own benefit,” said Perry. “Studies have proven that most birds get the majority of their food in the wild.”

The environmental educator, based at New Scotland’s Five Rivers Center, cited a study in which chickadees in an area with many feeders, still found 80 percent of their food through foraging.

“They were only getting 20 percent from all feeders combined,” Perry said. “The idea behind a feeder isn’t really to feed the birds but to get them to where we can enjoy seeing them.”

Birdwatching — considered the second most popular hobby in the country behind gardening — continues to grow, spurred in part by growing awareness of and interest in the environment. “You don’t have to go too far to watch birds,” said Dianne Scoville, owner of Backyard Birds Nature Shop in Clifton Park. “They’re right there in your backyard.”

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By Susan Graves

Patrick McKeough is celebrating a 35th birthday this year—not his own, but rather that of his landscaping business, which was started by his father, William McKeough.

In 1960, William McKeough decided to branch out on his own after having worked as a manager for Verstandig's and for Delmar Gardeners. At that time, Patrick, who is now head of P. McKeough, Inc., recalls that the nursery started out in "our rock yard" before it found a new permanent home on Upperонт Grove Road in Slingerlands.

Since then, the company has landscaped hundreds of homes throughout the Capital District, he said.

One thing about us, we're not going anywhere, and you can take that to the bank.

Patrick McKeough

"Most of our work is local, and one of our goals is to do creative landscaping to enhance the homes and offices," in the area, said McKeough.

McKeough, who took over ownership of the company in 1992, said he looks at each potential job as a challenge, even after having landscaped "hundreds and hundreds" of jobs throughout the Capital District.

He plans landscaping jobs with the future in mind, he said, while at the same time trying to achieve his goal "to do creative landscaping to enhance homes and offices." That goal is in part realized through brick and stone walkways, walls and patios that are made up one of the company's specialties.

"We look at each potential job as a challenge," he said. Part of that challenge includes making a landscape that "looks mature at the onset," he said. "We're constantly trying to find ways to improve our ability."

According to McKeough, working with an established landscaping firm is to the customer's advantage "since many landscapers are here today, and gone tomorrow." McKeough's office is on 14 Snowden Ave. in Delmar.

"One thing about us, we're not going anywhere, and you can take that to the bank," he said.

McKeough is a member of the New York State Nursery/Landscape Association and is an EnCon certified pesticide applicator.

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A stone walkway, benches, flowers and shrubs form a peaceful backyard retreat in this landscape designed by Patrick McKeough.

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A stone wall, benches, flowers and shrubs form a peaceful backyard retreat in this landscape designed by Patrick McKeough.
By Dev Tobin

What was white and then brown is now mostly green, and spring rains, warmth and sunshine are slowly reviving suburban lawns.

Basic spring lawn care begins with a strong raking to get the thatch out and let water and sunlight into the grass roots, according to local experts Joan Faddegon Graves, owner of Faddegon’s Nursery in Latham, and Jim Plummer, owner of Price-Greenleaf Nursery in Elmer.

The mild winter means that fertilizing is essential to “help the lawn get a jump-start” on its growing season, Graves noted.

Spring is the “golden time” to apply pre-emergent crabgrass control” along with the fertilizer, she added. “Once crabgrass comes up, it is difficult to control.”

The major spring lawn pest problem is grubs, small white worms which feed on grass roots, and also attract animals such as skunks and moles who cause additional lawn damage.

Graves cautioned against applying insecticides to kill grubs without first checking to see if long grass, over two inches, is present in the lawn. “Grubs prefer, and cut out one square foot of turf. If you see five or more grubs, then you need some kind of treatment,” Graves said.

If you can wait until May, non-toxic treatments, like parasitic nematodes, will control grubs, she added.

If using a chemical insecticide like Dylox or Oftanol, be sure to read the label, understand what you’re using and, most important, water in the insecticide to minimize exposure to children and pets, Plummer advised.

While fall is the preferred time to reseed, you can rehabilitate a thin or bare area in the spring, as long as you prepare the ground properly, Plummer said.

“Remove all the weeds and debris, add two inches of topsoil, or loosen the top two inches of existing soil, then the seed down with starter fertilizer, and then the key is water, water, water, until you see some nice long grass, over two inches,” Graves said, and the mower should be set relatively high (one- and-a-half to two inches) for the first few mows.

Given this week’s sunny 60-degree weather, Plummer estimated that most people’s first mow will be in the next week.

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Doug Persons
Be nice to your lawn mower — before breakdowns

By Dev Tobin

Too many people think of their lawn mower as a household appliance, like a refrigerator or washing machine, rather than like their car or furnace, and as a result put off regular maintenance that can dramatically improve performance and extend the lawn mower's life, according to Bill Weisheit, owner of Weisheit Engine Works in Glenmont.

"A lawn mower is one of the most neglected pieces of machinery. It's just not a high priority for most people, until it doesn't work," Weisheit said.

With the mowing season about to start in earnest, especially given the mild winter and warm weather this week, people are well-advised to have a thorough tune-up and maintenance service done on their lawn mowers, noted Jeff Bogart, manager of Phillips Hardware in Delmar.

"Too many people wait until something goes wrong," Bogart said. "If you don't want any problems, just do it."

Of course, not everyone postpones maintenance until breakdown, as evidenced by the steady spring business at Weisheit's and Phillips in lawn mower maintenance work.

"A lot of people do bring in their mowers every spring, and have less trouble during the season," Weisheit said. "The standard maintenance service includes sharpening the blade, changing the oil (on four-cycle engines) or checking the exhaust ports (on two-cycle engines), changing the spark plug, cleaning or replacing the air filter and adjusting the choke and self-propelled mechanism."

While most people who regularly maintain their mowers bring them in once a year, a more realistic maintenance schedule is related to hours of operation, as with a boat or airplane engine, Weisheit noted.

"We recommend maintenance every 25 hours, so people who anticipate using their mowers for less than an hour a week throughout the season should have a mid-season service," Weisheit said.

"Sharpening the blade is important for the grass — it is much better to be cut cleanly rather than ripped by a dull blade," Bogart said, adding that a dull lawn mower blade, like dull scissors or dull razors, do not cut properly.

While a car can run, albeit roughly, with one fouled spark plug, a lawn mower, with just one spark plug, will simply not start if its plug is fouled, Weisheit said.

"It's good insurance to replace the plug every year, to play it safe."

The maintenance service is relatively inexpensive, under $50, so it makes sense to trust the work to a qualified repair shop rather than attempt to do it yourself, Weisheit said.

"The ultimate payoff of regular maintenance can be decades of reliable operation. "We have a 24-year-old Toro in for service now that looks like it belongs in the lawn mower junk yard, but is maintained and runs every year," Bogart said.

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Cultivate a love of gardening in children

Experts say kids learn a lot in the garden

To the young gardener, a packet of seeds holds mystery, adventure and a promise. "Planting seeds and watching a vegetable or flower garden grow is one of the most satisfying experiences a child can have outdoors," said Peter Reynolds, president of BRIO Corp., a toy company based in Milwaukee, Wis. "When the first tiny leaves poke through the soil, it's a triumph of nature and your child's skills. That sense of accomplishment grows with the plants." To nurture your children's natural curiosity about how plants grow, give them a small garden plot of their own or encourage them to work with you, suggested Reynolds, whose company makes sturdy gardening tools for children. Not only will the children delight in their gardening successes, but they'll enjoy the time spent with their parents. They'll also develop their gross motor skills by working in the garden.

With quality, durable, child-size garden tools, children can dig, rake, hoe and plant just like their parents. Made from epoxy-lacquered metal fastened to sturdy wooden handles, child garden tools look like their full-size counterparts, but they're just the right size and weight for children ages 4 and older to maneuver.

"By teaching your children to garden, you can cultivate a lifelong love of the earth in them," said Reynolds. "And by summer's end, you'll probably be surprised at how much they've taught you." Increasingly, parents, educators and youth leaders are discovering the multifaceted benefits of gardening for children, said David Young of the National Gardening Association (NGA), a nonprofit organization based in Burlington, Vt.

"Gardening is a vehicle for learning about life, nature, food production, problem-solving and teamwork," said Young. "Older, more-experienced kids can move to larger plots and more diverse plants. Choose a sunny, roamly spot, and plant sunflower seeds. Be sure to keep the soil wet until the seeds sprout. Your little gardeners will be delighted when the giant flowers tower over them. "Gardening provides a great opportunity to work with your child through the stages of watering, weeding, thinning and, ultimately, harvesting," Young said.

Additional tips and a variety of fun gardening activities can be found in the NGA's "Guide to Kids' Gardening," written by Lynn Ocone and Eve Prantis, and published by John Wiley & Sons. The book is available at public libraries and specialty toy stores. For a list of stores that carry BRIO toys, call 1-800-658-6863, ext. 5. A number of BRIO toys have won national and international awards for fun, quality, safety and durability.

BRIO's line of garden tools features a spade, hoe, metal rake, three types of shovels, two brooms, a leaf rake, watering can, hand trowel, hand rake and hand shovel. It also includes a metal wheelbarrow with wooden handles and metal pail with a wooden grip.

BRIO's garden tools and other toys are available at specialty toy stores. For a list of stores that carry BRIO toys, call 1-800-658-6863, ext. 5. A number of BRIO toys have won national and international awards for fun, quality, safety and durability.

New rose named for country singer

Lynn Anderson, a new variety of hybrid tea rose named for the singer who "Never Promised You a Rose Garden," promises to be one of the world's great roses. The flowers are large, perfectly formed and a beautiful creamy white, finely edged with raspberry pink.

"The Lynn Anderson rosebush is easy to grow in all climates, requiring only good soil, plenty of water and a top dressing of fertilizer once a month. It can be purchased at most nurseries and garden centers.

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(See Next Page For More Information)...
Biological pollutants pose threats in homes

Biological pollutants are living organisms. They promote indoor air quality and might not be a major cause of days lost from work or school, or of death and hospital visits.

Some common indoor biological pollutants are:

- Asbestos fibers (minute scales from hair, feathers or skin)
- Dust mites
- Mold (fungi)
- Infectious agents (bacteria)
- Pollen

Some of these substances are in every home, especially in the kitchen and bathroom. When the climate is often moist. Even a spotless kitchen and bathroom might permit the growth of biological pollutants.

Two conditions are essential to support biological growth: nutrients and moisture.

Some simple, practical actions to help remove sources of biological pollutants, to help get rid of pollutants and to prevent their return are:

- Use dehumidifiers and air conditioners, especially in hot, humid climates, to reduce moisture in the air, but be sure that the appliances themselves don’t become sources of biological pollutants.
- Use exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens to remove moisture to the outside (not to the attic). Vent your clothes dryer to the outside.
- Clean moist surfaces, such as showers and kitchen counters.
- Remove mold from walls, ceilings, floors and paneling. Do not simply paint mold with paint, stain, varnish or a moisture-proof sealer, as it may resurface.
- Replace moldy shower curtains or remove them and scrub well with a household cleaner and rinse before replacing them.

Organic matter helps save time & money on lawn

If it seems lawn care is requiring more of your free time and money than you’re willing to give, consider “gardening from the ground up.” You can cut lawn-care chores in half and avoid unnecessary expenses by improving your soil with organic matter.

A soil that is high in organic matter is ideal for growing healthy lawns, and one of the best organic materials available is Canadian sphagnum peat moss, a natural soil conditioner that helps regulate moisture and air surrounding plant roots.

“The more you improve your soil, the less time you’ll have to spend maintaining it,” says Jeff Ball, NBC-TV “Today” program garden expert and “Lawn Care in the Smart Yard” author. “That means adding organic matter, like sphagnum peat moss, that keeps moisture and nutrients close to thirsty roots.” Pest moss creates ideal growing conditions.

Tips to keep insects under control

Some bugs are beneficial

If you’re really bugged by garden pests, consider that insects are essential to the health of our plants and that many insects are actually beneficial. A few common sense tips can help you discourage damaging bugs or control the ones that are bothering your plants.

Begin by choosing strong, healthy plants. Weak plants tend to attract more insect pests. Choose plant varieties that are pest-resistant and hardy for your region.

Simple things such as watering regularly can help reduce the risk of pests. Underwatered or overwatered plants can become stressed and be an easy target for hungry insects. And, it’s important to use plant foods according to the package directions. Overfeeding plants causes them to be more attractive to certain pests.

Even after taking these simple precautions, your well-tended garden can get insect pests. Many gardeners today are turning to more environmentally friendly methods to cope with bugs.

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Computer removers launch business into cyberspace

By Tom Murnane

When it comes to getting onto the information superhighway, Capital District home remodeling firms have been slow to make the leap from paper and pencils to computer monitors in their trade.

Only a relative handful of local businesses are using computers to help customers make-up their minds about what colors and styles could be used "has been around only a year or two," Kaplowitz said. "It's just now beginning to catch on in the Capital District."

The idea of using computers to help customers make-up their minds about what colors and styles could be used is extremely helpful for us and for them.

Stephen Deitcher

Of the 45 members of his group, only five or six use computers to show customers the myriad of options they have for their homes, he said.

The problem is, some of these guys are in their 40s or 50s, and computers are pretty scary. But they better learn," Kaplowitz said. Kaplowitz, whose company specializes in bathrooms, kitchens and room additions, said customers can come in to his store to use his computer, but that he prefers to bring his desktop computer to clients' homes, where he can input the room measurements and quickly show them their options.

"This way, when a husband wants one thing, and the wife wants something else, I can make the changes right in front of their eyes on the computer's screen," he said. It's really the way to go, and the next step for me is to go out and bring a desktop computer to the customer's house, he said.

In addition to computer interior redesigning, the same techniques are also being used for people who are thinking about changing the exterior of their homes.

Both professional and amateur home-improvers can also treat themselves to CD-ROM programs that show different types of merchandise and services that are available.

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available to them, Kaplowitz said. For example, the National Association of Home Builders, in conjunction with Builders Magazine, sells a “Buyers Guide.”

For Stephen Deitcher, owner of Deitcher’s Wallpaper Outlet and Design Center in Cohoes, computers are here to stay in the home remodeling business.

He agreed with Kaplowitz that computers are still new to the local trade, but that “the knowledge is here, it’s just the application that is lagging behind a bit.”

Deitcher said his JBM 486 can display the store’s entire selection of patterns to give clients “an idea of what might look good and what won’t in their home. It’s not an exact thing, but it gives people a good idea.”

Deitcher’s suppliers are also getting into the act. Once upon a time, they might have merely placed books of sample wallpapers around the store, but now CD-ROMs which serve as electronic catalogues are bring businesses into the era of computing.

Schumaker and Waverly, two of Deitcher’s largest suppliers of wallpaper and fabric, have come out with a CD-ROM displaying their entire line of wall coverings and fabrics, he said.

“This really helps the customer decide what he or she wants to do, so computers are extremely helpful for us and for them,” Deitcher said.

Pool specialists list checks

Pool maintenance specialists recommend that owners use the following safety checklist when opening their pool:

- Are the fence and gate in good repair and up to code?
- Are the ladders and handrails safe and secure?
- Is the diving board safe? No cracks or rusted bolts?
- Is the coping on perimeter solid and secure?
- Are there any tiles loose, cracked or missing?
- Are the ladders and steps secure?
- Is your pond deep enough to create ponds almost 10 feet in diameter.

How do you construct a garden pond? Start by selecting a location on your property where the ground is fairly even, although some leveling can be achieved when digging your pond. The pond should be placed where it will get approximately six hours of sunlight a day.

While you can place your pond anywhere, it is not recommended to conform to your landscaping scheme. Build a rock border around your pond, allowing the rocks to overlap the edge of the pond by 1 or 2 inches. You can landscape back around the pond and even build a patio if desired.

To maintain the pond, permanent filters and air pumps, as well as a full line of water chemicals and foods are available. And, if you want to add a waterfall or fountain to your pond, water pumps are also available.

What kind of fish should you put in your pond? The hardestiest are large Common or Comet goldfish. These hardy fish can withstand the worst climates, as long as the water in your pond does not freeze to the lowest depths.

For information, write Tetra/Secondnature, 3301 Commerce St., Blacksburg, VA 24060-6671, or contact your local pet store or lawn and garden center.
We have an advantage over the chain stores, said John Schultz, co-owner of Schultz Nursery and Garden Center. “We grow most of what we sell, so we can control the quality and care for them properly after we put them out.”

The flowers found in the chain stores “almost always go bad after a few days.”

Perennials are a little tougher (than annuals) and can tolerate the cold weather a little more,” he said, but caution should be exercised with those as well, especially with a cold spring like the one we’re experiencing now.

As a result, it takes time for the plant to recuperate — assuming it does — and the flowers don’t bloom right away. “You buy something in a smaller container, and it will take longer to take off,” Verstandig said. “It’s more of an immature plant.”

The “chains don’t really hurt us,” he added. “While the average person might be unaware of these things, the person who’s more into gardening knows what the situation is.”

One word of caution for people starting to plan their flower beds, Verstandig said, is that annuals should not be put out too early. “A lot of people jump the gun, and it’s not good because annuals don’t like cold nights. They won’t die, but they’ll just sit there. There’s no need to rush them. They’ll grow fine if you can just wait until the middle or end of May.”

Annuals shouldn’t really be planted outside until the danger of frost has past, according to Schultz. Pansies and violas are probably the hardiest of the annuals but even those should be given until the first of May.

“Perennials are a little tougher (than annuals) and can tolerate the cold weather a little more,” he said, but caution should be exercised with those as well, especially with a cold spring like the one we’re experiencing now.

The most popular annuals are still impatiens, geraniums and petunias, Verstandig said. That’s mostly because they are low maintenance plants that require little care or attention.

And most annuals bloom from the day you plant them all the way until the first frost.
Painting techniques can affect finished product

To get the best-looking paint job, experts agree that you need to choose a top quality paint and apply it properly. Here are some tips on applying latex paints (the type preferred by most do-it-yourselfers), courtesy of the Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute.

Even before you dip into the paint, moisten your brush or roller cover, then shake out excess water. Pre-moistened brushes and roller covers will apply paint more easily and evenly. (In very hot weather, rinse out the brush or roller cover occasionally to avoid paint buildup.)

Don’t be stingy when loading your brush or roller. Dip your brush down into the paint about two-thirds the length of the bristles, then lightly slap the brush against the inside of the paint can to help knock off any excess. Load rollers generously, then lightly roll off any excess on the rippled part of the paint tray.

To achieve a smooth, uniform appearance when brushing, apply paint to the wet (just-painted) part of the surface and brush into the unpainted area. i.e. “brush from wet to dry, not dry to wet.” This is especially helpful when working with semigloss and gloss paints.

Extra brushing may be okay with oil or alkyl paints, but you should avoid it when working with latex paints, especially semigloss or gloss paints. Just a few strokes per brushload or rollerload will produce a thick paint film with the best flow, hiding, appearance — and durability.

When painting lap siding, it is best to start at the top of the wall and work horizontally all the way across several boards, rather than stopping in the middle of a board. Otherwise, an unsightly “lapping” effect may occur, which may show up immediately upon drying, or months later. Likewise, when painting vertical siding like grooved plywood or board-and-batten construction, complete one vertical section from top to bottom of the wall before moving on to the next section.

When painting porous exterior surfaces like weathered stucco, cinder block or brick — especially in warm or windy weather — moisten the surface prior to painting. This will help prevent water-based latex paint from drying too quickly, and will aid in the formation of a durable paint film.

When rolling interior walls, apply paint in a “W” or “M” pattern, then fill in, working in various directions. This will help ensure complete coverage.

Some other quick tips from the Paint Quality Institute:

- Invest in quality brushes and rollers.
- Take time to do good surface preparation.
- For the best performance, use only top quality paint.
- Try to work in moderate weather when doing exterior painting.

Condensation can point out moisture trouble

Condensation may be a sign of deeper problems. Water droplets forming on the inside of windows this spring may indicate costly moisture damage occurring in the home.

According to a recent article in Family Handyman, homeowners can control condensation and prevent long-term damage to the home’s wood structure and paint by regulating the humidity of the home, improving air circulation and installing insulated windows.

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Non-fatal solutions to bird problems

Any bird can become a problem. From drilling holes in your house to eating your raspberries, which attract woodpeckers, may work in another, or may work only raspberries, chances are starlings, for a short time. Shooting, trap-orioles, robins, blackbirds and a bird in one situation may not work. Wild birds (except pigeons, English sparrows and protected by federal and state laws. Plants, while netting is the best solution for large bushes and trees.

Any bird can become a problem for farmers. Most bird problems do not have tin can lids on a string; wind chimes are the best to metal gutters, house siding and television antennas. Suet feeders, which attract woodpeckers, may divert them from your house or attract them to the house’s vicinity. Scare techniques—balloons, a pinwheel, your child, flash tape, tin can lids on a string, wind chimes—often work the best.

Birds often pick what seem to be the strongest places to nest, such as the gutter, clothes drier, kitchen fan vent or a bucket in your garage. The time to act is when the nest is built. Try offering these birds an artificial “nest” nearby. If you live in rural areas, waterfowl may be the biggest nuisance, especially if you are near water. One strategy for farmers is to delay fall plowing to allow waterfowl to feed in harvested fields. Scarecrows are the traditional choice to frighten fowl, but they can be time-consuming to create. Anything that moves and makes noise, such as a dog, is fine. Pieces of plastic bags on short poles are easy and effective at one flag per acre.

Since about 82 million Americans feed wild birds, sooner or later there are bound to be some problems. Here are some things to watch out for and/or remedy:

- The ground below a bird roost can be contaminated. Elevated feeders can be used by all birds and will reduce rodent problems.
- If you’re going on vacation, never leave the feeder full. A bird can become trapped inside, especially in feeders with ports smaller than 1 inch.
- If you offer your birds a bird bath, make sure it has less than 3 inches of water to prevent small birds from drowning. Hose out the bath daily and wash it with hot, soapy water once a week to kill algae and bacteria.

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First you rake

Tackling the first spring lawn care chore last weekend were Maryann and Ed DeSantis of Oakwood Place in Delmar. Dev Tobin

Weedkillers’ effect varies

If at first you don’t succeed, spray and spray again.

This used to be the answer for homeowners trying to get rid of unsightly weeds and grasses growing in and around driveways, patios, trees and fences. In fact, many consumers have been disappointed by the results of their weed and grass killers simply because they didn’t understand how these products work.

Before making that same mistake, the makers of FinaleTM Grass Killer encourage you to look at the label claims made by some of the most common weed and grass killers.

Some products, known as “top-kill,” promise results in as fast as 24 hours. Weeds treated with a top-kill product may die quickly, but can grow back in as little as two weeks. That’s because top-kills don’t destroy the roots. Just read a top-kill product label closely.

In contrast, complete or “total-kill” products are formulated to kill the entire weed. They provide long-lasting results by killing the weed, roots and all. Weeds may not grow back, but they often take two or more weeks to die. Some labels warn of slow results that could take up to four weeks for the most stubborn weed varieties.

Knowing the difference between top- and total-kill products may help eliminate your confusion, but it doesn’t solve your problems. Top-kills can lead to costly reaplication, while some total-kills can be time-consuming. Unlike other weed and grass killers, Finale kills the entire weed in as little as one to four days.
Flowers splash vibrant colors

Playing dress-up isn't just for kids anymore. Gardeners can dress up their yards with colorful annuals and perennials to give it fashionable splashes of vibrant color.

Whether they're used as a temporary border for fresh lawn and flower arrangements, plants such as petunias and impatiens are the perfect accessories to any garden ensemble. To enjoy your own flower garden, follow these planting tips.

Creating a beautiful flower garden really begins at your local greenhouse or garden center. Because healthy and colorfull plants start with healthy plants, Gardeners should carefully inspect annuals and perennials before purchase.

Robot mower uses solar power

"Doing the lawn" is one of those montonous weekend chores that keep you from more entertaining tasks—such as prunning the roses or watching the kids play. Allow yourself the comfort of your favorite lawn chair. Wouldn't you be excited if there was a method of cutting the lawn that didn't chance the health of your cinnamouous trees, or tell you there's an important ball game on the tube.

The new Weed Eater Robotic Solar Mower is not a Hollywood fiction prop, but the world's first fully automated, emissions-free, solar-powered lawn maintenance system. This simply means that you can turn it on in the spring and let it run until winter.

A flat oval shell, or top, imbedded with 34 solar cells, provides enough energy to trim yards up to 1/2 acre. It is the same size as a traditional mower, but is made of lightweight (12.1/2 pounds) polycarbonate and, as you might guess, has no handle.

The mower's computer constantly processes information and identifies areas of the yard where the grass needs trimming, which most flowers will thrive in well-drained, airy soil that is rich in organic matter. Whether your soil is sandy or clayey, adding organic matter, such as sand and compost, mulch and a balanced fertilizer, applied in recommended amounts, is the best way to condition soil with the nutrients flowers need. Compost also improves drainage and increases the soil's water- and nutrient-holding capacity.

Gardeners also know that great soil is almost completely weed-free. This is important because weeds are more than just an eyesore; they challenge plant roots for available water and nutrients, and usually win. To help prevent these unsightly garden pests from growing wild in your flower beds, install a landscape fabric atop conditioned soil before planting.

Unlike traditional black plastic, which can cause soil suffocation and landscape fabric is manufactured with thousands of tiny "microchannels" that allow water and air to reach the soil and plant roots, while blocking out most of the light that broadleaf weeds need to grow.

Watering new and established plants is crucial to their survival. As a general rule, annuals and perennials should be watered deeply, but not too often, tying irrigation to the needs of the particular plant, its age, the season, the weather and the nature of the soil. If flowers begin to wilt, water immediately, thoroughly soaking the entire root zone.

The mower's computer continually monitors the particular plant, its age, the season, the weather and the nature of the soil. If flowers begin to wilt, water immediately, thoroughly soaking the entire root zone.
Find a broker who's right for you

All the details involved in home buying, particularly the financial ones, can certainly be mind-boggling. That's why you'll want to find a real estate professional to work early in your search for the perfect home.

A real estate broker will be well-acquainted with all the important things you'll want to know about a neighborhood. He or she will help you figure the price range you can afford, and acquaint you with all the important things you'll want to know about a neighborhood. He or she will help you figure the safety of the neighborhood, the traffic volume; a real estate expert will be aware of these factors and able to answer pertinent questions for you through the paperwork, and be there to hold your hand and answer last-minute questions when you sign the final papers at closing.

Incredibly enough, all this valuable help from the real estate broker is free. Brokers receive a commission that is paid by the home seller, not you, the buyer.

The following are some tips to help you find a real estate broker who's right for you and your family's needs.

1. You'll want to start searching for a broker as soon as you decide to buy a home. Talk to several brokers to find someone you think you'll be comfortable working closely with.
2. Many of your friends and relatives have probably bought and sold their homes through brokers. Make some phone calls and get the names of the real estate professionals they've had good experiences with.
3. You can find out which brokers specialize in the type of property or the area you want by looking in the yellow pages or your local newspaper's classified real estate ads. Or, drive through neighborhoods and make a list of the brokers' names on "for sale" signs. In addition, if it's a good idea to check with the local chamber of commerce.
4. When you talk to prospective brokers, ask questions about the areas and types of homes in which you're interested. Do they seem knowledgeable? Is their personal style a good fit with your own?

Paper can function as overall design

Most people know that wallpaper can lend richness and polish to a room, but they don't realize that this is just the beginning of what they can do. In a new book, "Displaying With Paper," Donna Lang and Lucretia Robertson show how printed and cut papers can add texture, color and pattern to walls and furnishings in any home. By boldly combining, cutting into and layering papers and applying them in witty ways or to unexpected surfaces, Lang and Robertson have reinvented and simplified the classical art of découpage.

In Decorating With Paper, Lang and Robertson enlist entire rooms, from ceiling to baseboard, with such whimsical patterns as leopard prints, grape leaf border and tortoiseshell texture paper. They show you how to add borders to your bathroom or kitchen, and how to create beautiful, sophisticated boxes and accessories that add detail to your design.

Decorating With Paper offers a wealth of wallpaper and découpage, as well as meticulous descriptions of each creation in the book. Lang and Robertson cover the rudiments of choosing a wallpaper and figuring out how much is needed for each room. There is also a directory of suppliers and resources so that you can find the paper and tools you need for this creative approach to decorating.

Ordinary but practical off-white window shades become an attractive part of a kitchen design scheme when brightly colored fruit is added along the bottom edges. The fruit was cut from an all-over fruit-printed wallpaper and artfully placed low enough to allow the shades to be raised and lowered.

The fruit motif is repeated in the trumeau's armoire panels and in a more delicate way on the checkerboard wallpaper. A diagonal strip of the checkerboard was run around the room to finish off the wall at the ceiling line.

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Most look to save

How important are energy-efficient windows? Sixty-eight percent of consumers say they would spend an extra $2,000 for energy-efficient features to save $250 a year on energy costs, according to "Professional Builder" magazine's annual consumer survey.

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370-2486
425 Consaul Rd., Colonie
Peat moss promotes healthy lawn

If it seems lawn care is requiring more of your free time and money than you’re willing to give, consider “gardening from the ground up.” You can cut lawn-care chores in half and avoid unnecessary expenses by improving your soil with organic matter.

A soil that is high in organic matter is ideal for growing healthy lawns, and one of the best organic materials available is sphagnum peat moss, a natural soil conditioner that helps regulate moisture and air around plant roots.

“The more you improve your soil, the less time you’ll have to spend maintaining your lawn,” says Jeff Ball, NBC-TV Today program garden expert and “Lawn Care in the Smart Yard” author. “That means adding organic matter, like sphagnum peat moss, that keeps moisture and nutrients in, and cuts thrifty roots.”

Peat moss creates ideal growing conditions in these ways:

- A aerate plant roots by loosening heavy soil and adding oxygen to sandy soil.
- Saves water by absorbing and holding moisture.
- Reduces leaching of nutrients present in or added to the soil, releasing them over time.
- By not having to water and fertilize your lawn as often, you not only spend less time caring for your lawn, but you also cut back on your water bill and fertilizer costs.
- In addition, a healthy lawn requires less costly maintenance and repair for major problems, such as disease and insects.
- By top-dressing your existing lawn with sphagnum peat moss, you can reduce disease, thatch and the amount of water your lawn requires.

Anstace Esmonde-White, co-host of the PBS television series, “From a Country Garden,” recommends top-dressing existing lawns once every year or two, anytime during the warm weather growing season. “We’ve found that peat moss helps build up the soil, so that in dry weather, the lawn holds moisture better,” she says. “If your lawn is sparse, mix in seed with the peat moss, and spread with a rake.”

To get the maximum benefits of peat moss, aerate the lawn first. Aeration removes plugs of soil from the lawn, loosening compacted areas and promoting deeper grass root growth. Once the lawn is aerated, simply spread a half-inch layer of peat over the entire lawn with a leaf rake.

Whether seeding or sodding, always prepare the soil first to ensure a healthy lawn and future growth. Dig or rototill 2 inches of peat moss into the top 6 inches of soil.

If seeding, spread high-quality grass seeds, about 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Fertilize and water with a fine spray. Then top-dress with a half-inch layer of peat moss over the seeds.

If sodding, lay the sod over the prepared soil, then fill the cracks around the sod with peat moss.

For information on lawn care and other gardening activities, get a free copy of “Easy Care Lawns and Lawn Repair Tips” by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to CSPMA, Dept. MSP1, Box 385102, Minneapolis, Minn. 55438.

New catalogs offer variety of great gardening goods

As the chill of winter is replaced by the eagerly awaited spring thaw, the promise of fragrant flowers and delicious homegrown fruits and vegetables is foremost on every gardener’s mind. But before the first brood is hatched, some help might be needed to create the kind of blooming success every gardener dreams of.

The Just Between Us Catalog has pages of products that help gardeners watch little things grow. 

Get a Grip—Soft cushioned handles make these heat-tempered steel garden tools a pleasure to use. They comfortably conform to your grip and won’t slip, even when wet. The boxed set includes a trowel (6 inches long), a cultivator and fork (each 11 inches long) to assist in the most arduous gardening tasks. (Garden Tools Set — #736063, $24.98).

Garden Artistry—This ingenious collection of seeds turns a delicate Into Claude Monet’s gardens at Giverny. Five varieties include 30 varieties of colorful, easy-to-grow flowers that are authentic to those found in Monet’s gardens. (Le Petit Flower Garden of Monet — #726594, $14.99).

The Miles Kimball Catalog offers many ways to make gardening more productive and fun.

Daily Helpful Hints—Useful tips and facts abound in this informative calendar from the same people who produce “The Old Farmer’s Almanac.” Every month is full of ways to make a good gardener into a great one. (Calendar — #545550, $8.95)

On Bended Knee—For those people who like to kneel in the dirt for hours and putter in the garden, this useful, padded knee rest will bring great comfort to weary joints. (Knee Rest — #513694, $13.99).

For a free Just Between Us Catalog, gardeners and their friends can call 1-800-258-3750. For a free Miles Kimball Catalog, they can call 1-800-546-2255.
Master bathrooms offer good return on investment

It's no secret that the bathroom plays an integral role in today's lifestyles, which are both hectic and home-oriented.

In the morning, the bathroom is all business, accommodating a two-career couple getting ready for work simultaneously. At day's end, it takes on the character of a mini "spa," functioning as a much-needed retreat. And of course, it needs to present an attractive face to any guests who might use it.

No wonder, a thoughtfully designed, well-equipped bath offers an excellent return on the homeowner's investment. Creation of a master suite, with oversized bedroom, private bath and walk-in closet, will return 85 percent of the homeowner's investment in the first year.

Some ideas from Kohler Coordinators include:
- Two lavatories. Having two lavatories in the master bath eliminates the morning bottleneck in the bathroom shared by a working couple. Beyond the basic two lavatories in the vanity, there's a separate luxury shower. The separate shower is the newest must-have item for the well-equipped master bath. Our hasty-up lifestyle demands a quick in and out of the shower. But we still enjoy our little indulgences, and now, custom shower configurations offer strategically positioned, multiple showerheads with a variety of spray patterns and intensities that add fun and massage to an everyday shower.
- Pressure balancing shower valves. The most important part of the shower, the pressure-balancing valve (which is required by code in many areas), prevents unpleasant and potentially dangerous hot and cold surges. These valves provide an added measure of safety by automatically compensating for pressure changes that can cause temperature fluctuations.
- Water-saving plumbing products. The '90s are the green decade, and a new federal law, which went into effect on Jan. 1, 1994, requires manufacturers to produce only plumbing products that meet strict water-conservation requirements. Installing water-saving toilets, faucets and showerheads is an easy way to save precious water without changing your lifestyle.
- A bidet. Common in Europe, the bidet is handy for foot baths and other localized cleansing as a water-splashing option to drawing a full bath.
- Attractive, functional accessories. Plan for an adequate number of conveniently placed towel bars and rings, and think about such conveniences as tumbler/toothbrush holders and wire baskets to hold bathroom paraphernalia. Mirrors are essential for grooming, but they can also be used to brighten a room and give the illusion of a larger space.
- Easy-care surfaces. No one has time for lengthy cleanups. Durable, low-maintenance finishes like ceramic tile, the new solid surfacing materials as well as natural stone, treated woods and washable paints, wallcovering and fabrics, will make it easy to keep your dream bathroom looking great with a minimum of effort.

To learn more about creating a master bathroom (or any bath) for today's lifestyles, contact Kohler Coordinators for a free introductory guidebook. Write to Kohler Coordinators, P.O. Box 308, Dept. F83, Mt. Olive, N.J.

This master bathroom includes two grooming areas along with a whirlpool large enough for two...
Rank your kitchen before going for overhaul

When considering a kitchen remodel, the best place to begin is with your current kitchen. That’s the advice of Certified Kitchen Designer Al Patterson of Kitchen Komer in Aldergrove, British Columbia.

“Studying photos of different kitchen designs will give you a good idea of the colors or styles you prefer,” explains Pattison, “but evaluating your present space will help you determine exactly what needs to be improved and what good idea of the colors or styles you prefer.”

The following questions, developed by the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), are designed to help you evaluate your kitchen:

- Do the cabinets feature time-saving accessories such as rollout shelves, divided drawers and lazy susans?
- Are there enough upper shelves, divided drawers and lazy susans?
- Are the cabinet door style and color up to date?
- Is there a place to sort recyclables?
- Based on the way you cook, re the oven and cooktop located where you want them?
- Do you have a microwave oven, conveniently located?
- Are all of your appliances in good working condition?
- Questions to ask when evaluating surfaces and countertops include:
  - Are the surfaces easy to clean?
  - Is there enough counter space?
  - Is the counter space located where you need it?
  - Are the counters the right height for you to work comfortably?
  - You must also consider the lighting and mechanical elements.
  - Do you have task lighting above the countertop?
  - Do you have enough electrical outlets?
  - Is there good ventilation in the cooking center?

Finally, you should think about the overall space of the kitchen. This entails some of the following questions:

- Does the kitchen relate to adjacent rooms the way you would like?
- Is the kitchen arranged so that “people traffic” is directed away from the cook’s activities?
- Is there a casual dining/conversation area in the room?

The list is quite extensive and yet, it doesn’t even cover everything! Suddenly, a kitchen remodel might seem like an impossible project. However, by evaluating your current kitchen, you will get a clear idea of what items need to be changed in order to create a space that’s perfect for you.

According to Pattison, the evaluation will also be quite useful when you take the next step and visit a kitchen showroom.

“You will be able to clearly communicate to the kitchen design professional, such as a member of NKBA, what you are looking to achieve with your new space,” says Pattison.

When you meet with an NKBA kitchen specialist, he or she will also conduct an in-depth interview with you to further define your wants and needs.

In order to create a design that suits your lifestyle, a kitchen professional will need to know who will serve as the primary cook; what type of cooking is normally done; if the kitchen will be used for entertaining and socializing; and what type of feeling or style you would like the space to have. The answers to these questions will affect the size, layout and type of equipment you need for your new kitchen. With this information your kitchen specialist can plan the shape of your kitchen and, together, you can choose appliances, fixtures, surfaces, etc.

“At this point,” Pattison warns, “budget becomes very important. The amount of money you would like to spend on your new kitchen will influence which components are included in the design.”

Again, it’s important to use a checklist. Your kitchen specialist can assist you in this process. Make a list of various items that could be included in your new kitchen. The list should include features such as new cabinets, a new floor, a new dishwasher, trash compactor and recycling bins. When the list is complete, review the items to determine those that you “need” and those that you “want.” By doing this, you can focus on the features that are most important to you and ensure that they are included in the design.

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Turning kitchen scraps, lawn clippings and weeds into compost produces a nutrient-rich, organic additive that improves garden soil and keeps unnecessary waste out of landfills. But for all its benefits, both to the soil and environment, many gardeners find composting takes too long and requires too much effort for the end result.

How can you make the work of composting easier and more effective? According to Randy Monk, executive director of The Composting Council, add Canadian sphagnum peat moss to the compost bin. “Research has clearly shown that the combination of peat moss and compost is very beneficial,” said Monk. “It’s good for landscaping, horticulture and agriculture. Peat moss and compost each show their strengths when combined, making an excellent soil amendment.”

Peat moss is a natural, organic soil conditioner that saves water by absorbing and holding moisture, loosens heavy soil and adds body to sandy soils. In the compost pile, peat helps produce better compost by speeding up the process, reducing odors and controlling air and water in the compost pile.

Simply mix a 1-inch layer of peat to every 4 inches of compost materials. Using a garden fork, flip over the top layers of organic materials every week or two. Add water when needed, so the center of the pile stays moist. To cut down on odors, put a 2-inch peat cap on top of the pile.

Once your compost is ready for the garden, make the most of this rich, organic matter by blending the compost with equal parts of peat moss. According to Gerry Hood, president of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, the two complement each other and provide long-lasting benefits for your garden.

“Peat decomposes much more slowly than compost — several years versus several months for compost, ensuring longer-term organic matter in the soil,” Hood noted. “Peat also reduces compost’s tendency to compact.”

For more information on composting and other gardening activities, write for a free copy of “Get the Most from Your Compost” by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to CSPMA, Dept. MSP3, Box 33S3-T2, Minneapolis, Minn. 55438

Rose park to host annual celebration

Just west of Shreveport, La., in the small community of Greenwood, is America’s largest park dedicated to the national flower — the rose.

The Gardens of the American Rose Center are comprised of 42 acres carved out of the 118-acre woodland park. The center is home to approximately 20,000 roses of 450 different varieties in 60 individual gardens.

The most popular event in the garden takes place in late April and early May when the garden hosts an Antique Rose Symposium and First Blossom Festival. Each event includes speakers on a wide variety of horticultural topics, not to mention 20,000 brilliant roses in the peak bloom.

The garden is also headquarters of the American Rose Society. The society was founded in 1880 and, today, has 75 affiliated local societies with more than 30,000 regular and affiliate members.

For information, write to the American Rose Society, P.O. Box 30,000, Shreveport, La. 71130-0000.

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Some experts recommend adding peat moss to a compost bin.
Hardwoods add warmth to bathrooms

Ask architects and interior designers why they put hardwood floors, cabinets and woodwork in bathrooms, and the word they use is "warm.

"Hardwood's a natural — it generates a warm feeling."

"It's softer, warmer material than tile."

"It's clean, without being sterile. I like to use natural materials to warm up a room."

The Hardwood Manufacturers Association (HMA) recently asked design professionals about solid hardwoods in bathrooms, where practicality meets comfort.

"I just did a whole walnut bath," says Grant E. Scott, AlA, an architect in Pittsburgh, Pa.

"But what about moisture? With the right sealant, there's no reason not to put hardwoods in a bath," says designer Marie Schwartz, ASID, of Baltimore, Md.

"There's nothing like hardwoods. I used a hickory floor with cherry molding."

Perchuk adds, "Hardwoods in the bath are very classical, very European. Vanities, floors and paneling can all be done in hardwoods."

Installation tips from the experts: Wood should be given time to acclimate to the humidity of the room before installation. And before installation, make sure both sides are finished, just in case moisture does penetrate.

Florence Perchuk, ASID, a New York interior designer, agrees. "Nothing is maintenance-free. But I've never had a problem with hardwoods in a bath."

Hardwoods fit in from floor to ceiling, according to Steve Hawkins, AlA, a Pennsylvania architect. "I'd go with a wood floor anytime. In one older home, I used a hickory floor with cherry wainscoting, chair rail and crown molding."

"Hardwoods are perfect for bathroom cabinetry — long-wearing and beautiful, too," she adds. "They're non-yellowing acrylic finish. It stands up well to spills."

Hardwood manufacturers are available across the United States.

Hardwoods in the bath are very classical, very European. Vanities, floors and paneling can all be done in hardwoods.

Florence Perchuk

"Hardwoods are perfect for bathroom cabinetry — long-wearing and beautiful, too." She recommends a non-yellowing acrylic finish, "It stands up well to spills," she tells the HMA. Another designer noted that today's finishes resist water and "just about anything else you'll find in a bathroom."

Custom, solid ash doors and pull-adorn this twin-sink cabinet add a touch of no-fuss luxury. Hardwoods such as oak, maple, beech, birch and cherry are available across the United States.

Safety first when planning a bathroom remodeling project, there are many items to consider. Cabinets, color, fixtures, space and surfaces must all be given careful thought. Perhaps the most important consideration when planning a new bathroom, however, is safety.

Safety is an important issue that designers are very cognizant of and it's one that homeowners are placing more value on as well.

It's no wonder. According to the National Safety Council, 200,000 people are injured annually in U.S. bathrooms.

The most common injuries result from slips and falls and scalding.

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Safety tips can prevent kitchen fires

The United States has one of the highest fire death and injury rates in the world. Fire — in the form of flames and smoke — is the second leading cause of accidental death in the home.

More than 4,000 people die each year in home fires. Every year, there are more than 300,000 residential fires serious enough to be reported to fire departments.

Cooking equipment is estimated to be associated with more than 100,000 fires annually, and almost 400 deaths and 5,000 injuries. Gas cooking equipment accounts for about 30,000 fires, and electric cooking equipment for about 55,000 fires.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends the following procedures to prevent possible fire problems in the kitchen:

• The storage area above the stove should be free of flammable and combustible items. Never place or store pot holders, plastic utensils or towels on or near the range.

• Short or tight-fitting sleeves should be worn while cooking. Roll up or fasten long, loose sleeves while cooking. Long, loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire or to catch on the stove's range.

• Items that could attract children, such as candy or cookies, should not be kept above the range or in the immediate area. If kids climb on cooking equipment, their clothing catching on fire.

• The stove should not be left unattended when cooking, especially when the burner is turned to a high setting.

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**Water**

(From Page 1)

"I am gratified that EnCon has found the petition to be without merit," Fuller said. "When Mr. Glazer first came to this town, he and I were not on speaking terms."

EnCon officials, in conjunction with the state Health Department, carefully reviewed the petition asking for reconsideration of the permit, said EnCon regional permit administrator Bill Clarke, "and we have determined there are no grounds" for the actions requested.

As far as EnCon and DOH staff are concerned, the "system meets all of the regulatory criteria."

Clarke said the agency carefully considered whether there were any nearby areas of contamination that the aquifer could draw upon, such as a landfill, and "none of that was found."

One area that EnCon refused to rule on was whether the Town of Bethlehem had properly conducted its own environmental review of the project as part of the SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) process.

Fuller said that while she doesn't expect the issue will die as a result of the EnCon ruling, she expressed hope that the decision "will demonstrate to our residents that concerns being raised by some are totally unsupported by the facts."

(From Page 1)

**Moratorium**

New Salem, Feura Bush and Unadilla.

The density-doubling stirred up a hornets nest of opposition among farmers and other large property-owners, who turned out in the hundreds at public hearings on the new law.

Opponents of the lower density limit also spoke against the moratorium extension, and applauded the two board members who voted against it.

"Think of the (construction) jobs you will stop, jobs that feed families and keep money in this town," said farmer Colleen Stanton.

"The effect of the moratorium is to tie up property rights, and I think it's morally wrong to do that," said Karen Moreau, Stanton's sister.

"If the planning board needs more time, give them more time, but stop this fooling around," said dairy farmer Charles Van Wie Jr.

Several people commented on the moratorium extension's effect on Tall Timbers, a proposed 170-lot subdivision on Hilton Road that may develop water and sewer utilities for the surrounding area.

Tall Timbers developers have said that the project would not be financially feasible under the proposed new moratorium.

"We would really be hurting ourselves to lose the Tall Timbers people," said Judith Von Ronne, chairman of the town Republican committee and 1993 GOP supervisor candidate.

"These people have a water supply that will help the whole town," said Peter Van Zetten, a former town supervisor and highway superintendent.

The planning board's review of the proposed zoning changes continued last night, and the board will likely be able to produce a report by April 28, according to Ramondo, who is the town board liaison to the planning board.

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EnCon slates session on bird management

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will sponsor a public meeting on waterfowl management on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 p.m.

The meeting will take place at Five Rivers Center on Game Farm Road in Delmar.

For information, call 457-5400.

Brennan studying in U.K. this spring

Megan Brennan of Slingerlands, a junior international studies major at Colby College, is spending spring semester in the United Kingdom.

Brennan, the daughter of Michael and Mary Brennan of Slingerlands, is taking part in a program run through Boston University.

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Storyteller to host session at library

Storyteller Penny Conklin will be appear at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar, on Tuesday, April 18, at 2 and 7 p.m. Children are invited to help Conklin sing songs, doodle cartoons, and act out stories in costume.

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Sunday, April 23, 1995, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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I'm Glad I Chose the University at Albany!

“Since the University at Albany is rated one of the top schools in the country for atmospheric science, I knew it was for me,” says Gretchen Heller of Defreestville, Class of 1995. At Albany, Gretchen found exceptional faculty members, up-to-date weather forecasting equipment, and a small department where she feels at home. She had the chance to study under professors like Lance Bosart, one of the leading experts on the complex dynamics of storms. And her education extends to hands-on internships as well.

“I’ve had the opportunity through the Department of Atmospheric Science to do weather forecasting on radio station WAMC, to work at Channel 10 and meet people in my field. Through Steve Caporizzo at Channel 10 I’ve learned what goes into the actual forecasting process, and learned about the entertainment aspect of weather reporting as well,” Gretchen said.

I have opportunities like Gretchen Heller, choose the University at Albany For enrollment information, call 1-800-293-SUNY.
Georgiopoulos, Manzella marry

Anna Maria Georgiopoulos, daughter of John Georgiopoulos of Selkirk and Leta Georgiopoulos of Albany, and Michael Anthony Manzella, son of Alfred and Maureen Manzella of Slingerlands, were married Sept. 24.

The Revs. Joseph Cotugno, Peter Daratsos and James Walsh performed the ceremony in the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar, with the reception following at the Manzella residence in Slingerlands.

The maid of honor was Portia Wu, and bridesmaids were Heather Fitzgerald, Laura Hilton and Kathi Manzella-Saso.

The best man was Michael Kelly, and ushers were Frank Adelman, Peter Greenwald and Charles Kistler.

The bride is a graduate of Bethlehem Central High School and Fordham University. He owns Manzella Remodeling & Repair in Slingerlands.

After a wedding trip to Toronto, the couple lives in Albany.

Egan, Fisk to marry in July

Alison Mary Egan, daughter of John and Virginia Egan of Slingerlands, and Peter E. Fisk, son of William Fisk of North Bennington, Vt., and Patricia Fisk of Bennington, Vt., are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Clayton A. Bouton High School and the University of Vermont. She is employed as a teacher by the Burlington Public School District in Burlington, Vt., and also is studying for a master's degree at St. Michael's College.

The future groom will graduate from the University of Vermont in May.

The couple plans a July wedding.

Village Artists' show slated in Guilderland

The work of several local artists is on exhibit this month at the Guilderland Public Library at 2228 Western Ave. in Guilderland.

Works by Joan Baim, Doris Clark, Beth Craft, Robert Darow, Lois Dascher, Marian Davis, Janet Jones, Madeleine Leisenfelder, John Moore and Charles Schade are on display.

They are all members of The Village Artists, a group that meets at the Community United Methodist Church in Slingerlands.

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.

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Library slates children's author

Award-winning author Jennifer Armstrong will speak at Bethlehem Public Library on Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m.

Armstrong, a Saratoga resident, will discuss her children's and young adult works.

For information, call 439-9314.
Albert Penk

Albert Penk, 83, of Selkirk died Friday, April 7, at the University Heights Nursing Home in Albany. Born in Woonsocket, R.I., he moved to Watervliet as a child. He was a carpenter in the Town of Latham; seven grandchildren; Kathleen A. Newkirk of Selkirk; a brother, Ernest Penk of Galilee; a sister, Florence Feiden of Latham; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Norren E. Da cher Funeral Home in Albany and St. Patrick's Church in Ravena.

Burial was in Our Lady Help Of Christians Cemetery in Glenmont.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Northeastern New York Chapter, 85 Watervliet Ave., Albany 12206.

Rachel Dean Worth

Rachel Dean Worth of Delmar died Saturday, April 1, at Child's Nursing Home in Albany.

Born in West Salem, Ill., she was educated in West Salem schools and received bachelor's and master's degrees from DePauw University. She also studied organ music with Pietro Yon at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

She was president of the music department at Green Mountain Junior College in Poultney, Vt. She was also a composer, and her concerts were performed by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and in New York City. She also gave organ recitals and conducted organ and piano students.

Mrs. Worth was organist at the First United Methodist Church in Delmar for more than 20 years, and organist and choir director at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Elemere for more than 10 years. She also played on Wednesdays for the First Church of Christ Scientist in Albany.

She was a member of the Monday Musical Club of Albany and accompanist for its Women's Chorus for many years. She was a member of the Eastern New York Guild of Organists.

Survivors include her husband, Alvah E. Worth of Delmar; a son, William F. Peters; a daughter, Mary Rourke Peters; two daughters, Mary Rourke Peters; two great-grandchildren.

Burial was in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

William Peters Jr.

William F. Peters Jr., 75, of Albany died Monday, April 10, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Born in Albany, he was a gradu ator of Bethlehem Central High School and Albany Business College.

Mr. Peters was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Voorheesville. Mrs. Millet attended the First United Methodist Church in Voorheesville and the Presbyterian Church in New Scotland. She was the widow of Omer H. Millet.

Survivors include a grandson, Donald Slabom of Voorheesville.

Arrangements were by the Meyers Funeral Home in Delmar.

Contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, 262 State St., Albany 12210.

Gladys Clark

Gladys Slingerland Clark, 90, a Clarks ville native, died Saturday, April 1, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

Mrs. Clark had lived in Schenectady until 1970 when she moved to Valentown. She was a homemaker and had worked as a secretary many years ago for the superintendent of Schenectady schools.

She was the widow of Anthony R. Stefan.

Survivors include two sons, Alan T. Stefan of Guilderland and Gary A. Stefan of Tucson, Ariz.; five daughters; and two great-grandchildren.

Services were private.

Burial was in Parkview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Baxter Funeral Home in Schenectady.

Contributions may be made to the Western Turnpike Rescue Squad, 1833 Western Ave., Albany 12203.

Marian Millet

Marian Slabom Millet, 95, of Van Rensselaer Manor in Troy and formerly of Voorheesville, died Thursday, April 6, at the Manor.

Born in Altamont, she had lived in Voorheesville and New Scotland before moving to Troy in 1960.

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Voorheesville. Mrs. Millet attended the First United Methodist Church in Voorheesville and the Presbyterian Church in New Scotland.

She was the widow of Omer H. Millet.

Survivors include a grandson, Donald Slabom of Voorheesville.

Services were from the Brunke men Funeral Home in Voorheesville.

Burial was in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Good Samaritan group to make awards

The Good Samaritan group will present Good Samaritan Awards to community leaders who have contributed to the welfare of area senior citizens on Monday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home, 125 Rockefeller Road, Delmar.

Recipient of the Award for Professional Contribution is Dr. Roger Drew, former medical director of the nursing home. Stephen and Jeanne Strunzl will share the Award for Volunteer Contribution.

Former Town Supervisor Ken Ringler will be the keynote speaker at the awards ceremony.

For information, call the Good Samaritan Nursing Home at 439-8116.

Beginning birders course at Five Rivers

The Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on Game Farm Road in Delmar will offer a two­part birding course this month.

The course will run from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, April 28, and continue on Saturday, April 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. It will consist of an evening lecture and a morning field trip.

The program is designed for the beginning bird watcher, and will introduce participants to many different bird species that live in this area.

The course will cover finding and identifying birds in the field and offer information on bird feeding, binoculars and field guide books.

Pre-registration is required, and a $23 materials fee will be charged. The fee covers the purchase of "Field Guide to Eastern Birds." The fee for those who already own the book is $5.

For information, call Five Rivers at 475-0291.
Puppet show bolsters Albany-Tula bonds

In the most recent Albany-Tula exchange, a troupe of artists and educators from the Tula Puppet Theatre have traveled to the United States to give puppet performances.

In 1991, an international alliance was formed between Albany and Tula to promote cultural, educational, and commercial ties between the two cities. The alliance was seen as a way to help in Tula through the difficult conversion from Communism to democracy and free enterprise.

Since the program began, alliance members from both Albany and Tula have traveled from country to country, and collections of artwork by children in Albany and Tula have been exchanged and displayed in schools and museums.

On Thursday, April 20, the Tula Puppet Theatre ensemble will present Charles Pierrot's "Little Red Riding Hood" at 11 a.m. at the State Museum in Albany.

In the English version, a scene will be acted out in Russian so the audience can get a feel for what the Russian language sounds like and how the play might be performed differently.

After the performance, the Tulans will discuss the puppet movement in Russia and the role of arts in the education of Russian children.

Another performance of "Little Red Riding Hood" is scheduled at the Steamer 10 Theatre, 1123 Madison Ave., Albany, on Friday, April 21, at 7 p.m., followed by a display of arts and crafts created by the children of Tula.

The group will also be giving discussions, performances and seminars at Emma Willard School in Troy and Albany High School, where students of Russian studies will participate in workshops and serve as interpreters.
Resignations not complete at Capital Rep company

With the announcement this week by Peter Clough that he is resigning his post as producing director at the Capital Repertory Company, the state is now clear.

Each of these top artistic director resignations is announced that in May he will resign to search for new ventures. It is understood that he will move to California to try film directing.

After working with a theater, he returned to Capital Rep for an aborted attempt to transplant that troupe to Schenectady. In 1993 to serve as producing director.

New artistic leadership team to bring the theater to its next stage of evolution. In any event, Devane is still leading the high life in Hollywood. He has a string of polo ponies, owns a ranch in Idaho where he has given up the notion of returning to the stage.

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New artistic leadership team to bring the theater to its next stage of evolution.

The Vincentian graduate who started as a spear carrier in the military during World War II, has returned to the stage. Clough said that both he and Bouchard take particular pride in their accomplishments and are for the new team to bring the theater to its next stage of evolution.

Board president Henry M. Gridley said this week that the theater's board has concluded a national search for a new artistic director and will announce its choice soon.

The immediate problem facing Devane? The series, if any, do not appear on the schedule.

It goes ahead, until the new parlor is closed this season.

The hopeful thing for Devane is that there are many fans of Knots Landing who may follow him and the old show's writers to ABC. The other thing is that Sidfeld is talking about making a movie of Knots Landing.

In any event, Devane is still leading the high life in Hollywood. He has a string of polo ponies, owns a ranch in Idaho where he has given up the notion of returning to the stage.

With the announcement this week by Peter Clough that he is resigning his post as producing director at the Capital Repertory Company, the state is now clear.

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INFORMATION SUPERVISORY SEMINAR
Women's Press Club of Albany, Times Union building, 4th floor, Albany. 6:30 p.m. Information, 456-9613.

CONCERNED FRIENDS OF HOPE HOUSE
meeting, support group for families of addicts, Child's Nursing Home, 100 Nelson Boulevard, Albany, 7:30 p.m. Information, 867-1514.

ANGELA RAWSON
Prudential Securities financial advisor to discuss investment strategies, Wolferts Roost Country Club, Van Renselaer Boulevard, Albany, 3:30 p.m. Information, 467-1514.

LECURE ON CANCER
"Cancer: How to Cope Toward Cancer," by Dr. Khairat Khamins, Avered Institute for Public Health, 17 E. Washington Avenue, Albany, 7:00 p.m. Information, 474-2676.

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Sunday, April 16-Easter
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service and Breakfast 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship

You're invited!
To Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday (April 13)
10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Holy Eucharist

Easter Good Friday (April 14)
12 noon - 3:00 p.m.
Ecumenical Service of Hymns, Prayers, and Scripture Readings with preaching by local clergy on the Seven Last Words of Jesus

Easter Sunday (April 16)
8 & 10:30 a.m.

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RECOVERY, INC. self-help program for nervous symptoms. First United Methodist Church, 425 Delaware Ave., 9 a.m. Information, 439-9760.

caregiver Support GROUP Church of St. Thomas the Apostle. 350 Adams Place, 7 p.m. Information. 439-7367.

New York Employment Services Parks and Recreation Office. Elm Ave. Park Ave., 3:15 to 6:15 p.m. Information, 439-0630. club delmar center open house. 250 Delaware Ave. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information. 486-1864.

NEW YORK STATE LEAGUE OF NURSES youth employment services, 439-6033.


town board meeting. First United Methodist Church, 425 Delaware Ave., 10 a.m. Information, 439-9760.

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