Cunningham seeks first full term as supervisor

Technology and ‘smart’ growth are key issues in campaign

By JIM CUOZZO
jcuozzo@spotlightnews.com

Jack Cunningham’s introduction to politics came in his Bethlehem High School years when he worked on Michael Breslin’s first campaign for Bethlehem town judge. Breslin is now running for another term as Albany County executive, and Cunningham, after a three-year run as Albany County legislator, will attempt to win election to his first full two-year term as Bethlehem supervisor on the Democratic and Independence party lines.

“It had been my intention at some point to run for this office,” said Cunningham, who was appointed to the position by the Bethlehem Town Board in April. Cunningham

Grady runs for supervisor

Candidate says business background can help with town’s bottom line

By KATHERINE MCCARTHY
mmccarthy@spotlightnews.com

Jim Grady is passionate about the town of Bethlehem. So passionate that the 44-year-old native is making a run for the spot of town supervisor.

D

Lead poisoning risks are not always easy to see

By ANN MARIE FRENCH
afrench@spotlightnews.com

D

Soccer playoffs

The Ravena-Cohoes-Selkirk boys and girls soccer teams both played last Thursday in the opening round of the Section II, Class B playoffs with mixed results.

See story on Page 48.
Police Blotter

Berne man charged with DWI in Delmar accident

An East Berne man is charged with DWI following a one-car accident Sunday, Oct. 21, on Delaware Ave.

Bethlehem police responded to an area of Delaware Avenue near Kensington Court after receiving a call that a person driving a 1995 Ford Taurus struck a utility pole.

The responding officer reported that Sigond’s speech was slurred and an odor of alcohol was also detected. Sigond, the lone occupant of the vehicle, was then placed into custody and the vehicle was towed.

National Grid also had to respond to the scene to inspect damage to the company’s utility pole. In addition to misdemeanor DWI, Sigond was charged with aggravated DWI, driving with more than .08 percent blood alcohol content and failing to stay in his designated lane.

He was issued a ticket for Town of Bethlehem Court. Sigond’s vehicle was also towed from the scene.

Nancy Mendick, president of the Bethlehem Business Women’s Club, with Elizabeth Schenck and Beth Weisney, members of BBW’s Custom Throw Committee, presented a check for $5,000 to Margaret Reed, vice president of Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc. toward Senior Projects, Inc.’s fundraising goal of $100,000 to replace two vans in the department.

---

Rich Mendick
County Legislature District 36

Committed to serving and keeping the people informed

Nancy Mendick
Receiver of Taxes

20 Years of Tax Office Experience
Knowledgeable, Dedicated, Involved

---

Correction

The Oct. 17 article about a candidate for town clerk Dennis Foley referred to archived records from the clerk’s office currently stored in the basement of town hall. Foley said documents stored in file cabinets are not categorized and workers sometimes cannot find the keys to open the file cabinets. He also said file cabinets were not labeled.

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Four run for New Scotland board

By JILL U. ADAMS
news@spotlightnews.com

There are four candidates for town board in New Scotland: Chuck Voss, Gary Schultz, Rich Reilly and Debbie Baron.

The challengers

• Chuck Voss

Chuck Voss has a vision. He sees a New Scotland찰am, a place where development can occur with a town green, retail, clustered housing and a lot of preserved open space. He is a founding member of the Helderberg Corridor, at the eastern intersection of routes 85 and 85A.

It's a "conceptual" approach, he says, one that New Scotland Republican Voss says he can bring to the town. A season. Even so, his disgruntlement about any development in New Scotland would keep that goal from happening.

"Public input is extremely valuable," he said. "It's not an annoyance.

Voss has 19 years of land-use planning municipal planning in Albany, Utica, and Queensbury. He is a partner in an engineering and consulting firm.

Voss has lived in New Scotland for nine years with his wife and two children. He serves on the planning board.

Voss said it's important for the town to address the process in a proactive manner about any development. Otherwise, developers come to property owners with their ideas, putting the planning and town boards in a reactionary mode.

"My concern is having the town be prepared and ready when growth comes," he said.

• Gary Schultz

Growing up as the son of a mayor of Voorheesville, Gary Schultz actively engaged in local government. He has "life experience and business knowledge" under his belt, he feels he can contribute to the Republican New Scotland, is a lifelong citizen of New Scotland who owns his own business called Schultz Swimming Pools.

New to politics, Schultz is already disillusioned by the power the political parties wield during the campaign season. Even so, his disgruntlement only serves to further motivate him.

"Schultz said that the same issues are facing New Scotland now as 13 years ago when the current comprehensive plan was drafted. Those issues, including development, infrastructure and senior housing, must be addressed.

"The comprehensive plan is outdated," he said. Further, recent changes proposed by a resident's planning advisory committee have not been made.

Without a proactive strategy, Schultz said the arrangements are "risks looking like Gaddafi.

Schultz would like to see certain kinds of land dedicated to agriculture if it is appropriate to the community and will not have a negative impact on agriculture.

Schultz is also committed to opening the town government to the people more than he thinks occurs now. An interactive town Web site is one way to invite more community involvement, he said.

Town justice candidates seek to serve New Scotland

By JILL U. ADAMS
news@spotlightnews.com

Four lawyers are running for two town justice seats in the Town of New Scotland.

Town justices preside over misdemeanor, traffic offenses, and regulatory offenses, while a judge handles the town courts, traffic. The two justices also handle small claims court.

Today she serves on the planning board for eight years and is seeking his third term.

Democrat Rich Reilly has worked on various town boards that he'd like to see through. The incentive is to attract developers to build the town, which needs only to allow them to build units at a higher density than usual.

"The incentive is to change zoning in towns," he said.

In addition, New Scotland could benefit from his experience as a planner and consulting firm, Real estate in either the town or Cohoes, "I am a lawyer at a small law firm in Albany," said Debbie Baron.

"Debbie Baron has served on the town board for four years and is running for a second term."

Since moving to Voorheesville 20 years ago, Deborah Baron has been involved in the town in some way, first PTA committees and later in her children's school, later in the town courts. Today she works as the tax collector for the Voorheesville School District.

On the town board, Baron said her specialty has been programs for the town's senior citizens. "They are a priority given the changing demographics of the town," Baron said. While the town population has decreased from 1990 to 2000, the percentage of seniors has increased.

Baron has advocated to make the senior outreach program coordinator a full-time position and helped get the "little yellow bus" program up and running with money from a 2000 grant from Albany County. The program runs buses from the school district to facilitate seniors attending events in the community.

"It's a quality of life issue," Baron said, adding that the trips are generally well attended.

Baron would like to expand the program to include trips to area hospitals, which would require additional funding from the town to lease a van.

Also, Baron wants to see a senior housing project go forward and thinks that current zoning is sufficient working with the people who appear in court cases.

"We've worked on criminal serious proposals in detail," said Reilly.

Reilly says certain aspects of the comprehensive plan do need updating, like many data fields and the inclusion of new mapping technologies.

Committed to service, Reilly said the town is a great way to be involved.

"If I wasn't on the board, I'd probably be a volunteer firefighter or something," he said.

Reilly lives in New Scotland with his wife and four children. He is an attorney and a prosecutor in animal control cases.

Town appoints new assessor

V'V'V village resident to replace David Leafer

By JIM CUOZZO

Patricia C. McVee of Voorheesville is the new assessor in Bethlehem.

McVee's appointment was made unanimous by the Bethlehem Town Board. She will replace assessor David Leafer, who is retiring after 15 years with the town.

"I have known Miss McVee for a long time and she is good Leafer," said Reilly. "I think the board is doing a good thing by moving forward Patty's recommendation," said Leafer at the Wednesday, Oct. 24, meeting of the town board.

McVee has been the assessor in the city of Cohoes since 2001. When she was assessor in the town of New Scotland from 1994 to 2000, she said, "I am very excited to be working here," said McVee. "I know the people in Bethlehem, this is where I'm from."

McVee's appointment generated discussion from a few people who questioned the new assessor's status as a real estate broker and the potential conflicts of interest that could exist.

"Selling real estate and being an assessor would be a conflict, and I think you need a ruling that this is not a conflict of interest," said Linda Jasinski.

Supervisor Jack Cunningham said McVee has offered to put her real estate work in the town of Bethlehem while assuming her new assessing duties. McVee said the assessor's position is full time, adding she will be extremely limited in any real estate work.

"My real estate license is part of my retirement plan down the road, " McVee said. "It's the work I did when I worked in New Scotland and Cohoes, I did not sell real estate in the town or city." McVee said her assessor position in Bethlehem is similar to her position in Cohoes, added she is retiring after 15 years, and I have loved every minute of it," said Leafer.

The assessor's salary in Bethlehem is $62,102 annually.
Relax in luxury with a trip to the Carolinas

By BILL GIERING
news@spotlightnews.com

Hey Travel Guy: I've been in a rut lately. Nothing's going great for almost a year, but I see a disaster looming. She wants to go out and celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary together. She likes fine dining; I'm a Burger King guy. She likes drinks with umbrella's in them after tennis; I like to pair cold can after golf. I can't afford her kind of vacation, and she will be disappointed with mine. I was in the military until a couple of years ago and don't have the resources for a five-day, luxury getaway. Any ideas?

Dear Burger King Guy: I usually think that honesty is way overrated ... but in your case you may want to have a sit-down with your girlfriend and clear the air before you both succumb. If you think you are going to have a hard time celebrating, just imagine how your relationship will go when the inevitable hard times pop up.

Maybe you will be celebrating with this lady for years, or maybe this relationship is going nowhere. In either case, you can still take her away for five days, and you both might both fall in love if you talk it over in advance.

How about a destination where you can still find real value, but such a place that has got to be the best vacation choices that may satisfy both of your celebration goals? What about a trip where you will find top-notch tennis resorts, deep-sea fishing in the Atlantic, five-star golf courses and Broadway shows every night, as well as magnificent gardens, walks on a moonlit beach and some of the best restaurants and shopping on the eastern seaboard?

And if you told me that this same destination has the best stay-and-play golf deals in the area, where you will find conditioning swimming pools, bars with happy hour specials, hot tubs, and you can imagine what the steaks are amazing and anything chocolate by pastry chef Andy Kilz is a must. That sounds a bit too hyper if you head south, where a mile stretch of Atlantic coastline between Georgetown, Waccamaw Golf Trail: Caledonia Golf and Fish Club, has recently purchased by Chip Smith, who plans on keeping its five-star rating and building some spectacular villas around the property. Both of these courses will leave you with lasting memories and are well-designed that they are fun just to ride around, if your girlfriend does not want to play.

The Caravelle Resort in Myrtle Beach in a while, I think you are going to be amazed by the transformation that has taken place in this once wild town. It will work for your beer budget and her Champagne tastes. Another thought might be to try to share some of your military background with her and get her to let you know better by visiting Fayetteville, N.C., the home of Fort Bragg, a U.S. Army post and Pope Air Force Base. A must-see is the Airborne & Special Operations Museum (ASOM), which relates the history of these exceptional troops through superb scenery, equipment, maps and audio-visual presentations and photography.

Fayetteville is an exciting, revitalized city with a thriving brick-paved main street lined by busy sidewalk cafes, which serve a mean cappuccino under the shade of very old trees.

Theaters, art galleries and boutiques, along with the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens, provide, off-course interest while the choice of where to eat and drink ranges from casual brew pubs in renovated historic brick buildings to more elegant surroundings set in one of the antique houses-turned-restaurant. Very nice.

In addition to some great value, priced golf and stay packages, Fayetteville's a wonderful little town that would give both you a chance to find time to discover each other.

For information, visit the following Web sites:
www.fayettevillengolf.com
www.visitfayettevillenc.com
www.golfholiday.com
www.shark.com
www.visitpawleysplantation.com
www.waccamawgolftrail.com
www.pawleysplantation.com

Got views?

Spotlight Newspapers welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for space, style and length and should be 500 words or less. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Spotlight Newspapers reserves the right to limit the number of letters published from a single author.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@spotlightnews.com, faxed to 439-4890, or mailed to Spotlight, P.O. Box 100, Delmar, 12054.

The deadline for all letters is noon Friday prior to publication.

Spotlight Newspapers also welcomes longer opinion pieces for the Point of View section.

For information about submitting a Point of View, e-mail Editor-in-Chief Katherine McCarthy at mccarthyk@spotlightnews.com or call 439-4890.

Bill Giering is a former travel editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, and has written travel articles for the New York Times, USA Today, the Miami Herald, and others. Look for his column on Travel Guy - the Spotlight every Wednesday.

**Weekly Weather**

**Albany Almanac**

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**Rivers & Recreation**

**Sun & Moon**

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**Festival**

Hautlie Theatre Festival

**Moon Phases**

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**ANNUAL PRECIPITATION**

35.50 inches as of Thursday, October 25

**Sunset**

6:18 pm

**Sunrise**

6:31 am

**This Week in Weather**

November 3, 1827. During the Great Vermont Flood, 9" of rain fell in 2 days, devastating the Winooski Valley and putting western New England, France, etc., on a new course.

Six cars were lost in Vermont and a total of 200 in New England. Albany recorded 3.28" of rain on the 3rd.

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Tuesday November 6th Vote For The Democratic Team
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The Right Experience The Right Team

✓ Jack Cunningham
Town Supervisor

✓ JoAnn Dawson
Town Board

✓ Mark Hennessey
Town Board

✓ Denis Foley
Town Clerk

✓ Paul Dwyer
Town Justice

✓ Patti Parsons
Receiver of Taxes

Tuesday, November 6th
Polls open 6am - 9pm

Paid for by Committee to Elect Cunningham
**Smart parents let kids do math**

**By ROBIN SHIRGER SUITOR**

news@spotlightnews.com

Don't have adults anything better to do than worry about whether or not they are smarter than a fifth grader?

Fifth graders can't drive. They can't vote. They can't get a driver's license. Most fifth graders don't care much about personal hygiene. They have to be reminded over and over to brush their teeth.

And yet, all across the land, fully grown men and women are willing to go on national television to find out whether or not they are smarter than a 10-year-old.

I've never really seen the game show "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" but I've heard about it from friends and family.

I was told that one of the questions asked on the show was "What is the capital of the city Charles Lindbergh traveled to on his transcontinental flight?" I didn't know the answer. And apparently neither did the fifth grader or the adult contestant. I was closer because I guessed "somewhere in Europe." The adult on the show picked a city in California.

A tougher general question to ask adults is, "Are you as smart as you were when you were fifth grade?" I think the television networks should keep track of the fifth graders who appear on the game show. In 25 years, they can gather them up for a televised reunion and ask them the questions from the 2007 shows.

Adults today have so many hard questions to answer, such as "Deal or No Deal?" and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" The adult who is selected to participate is usually "because it's enough money to buy a car, even a small car, that I can drive to work."

The question to the second question is, "Everyone, excluding those individuals who've made a vow of poverty."

I watched the "Millionaire" quiz show when it first came out. The contestants would telephone to "phone a friend" for help with a question. It would drive me crazy when the contestant would take forever to read the question to the friend I'd be yelling at the TV: "You only have 30 seconds total. Don't use it all up on the question. Your friend will have no time to answer."

Last year I believed I was at least as smart as the fifth grader living in my town. But then she moved on to sixth grade and my whole intelligence rating shifted.

The very first math homework she brought home had me confused. It was about integers, whole numbers and irrational numbers. Sure, I'd heard all the terms before, but suddenly I didn't remember what they meant.

Is "negative 2.327" a whole number? I thought it might be but I wasn't sure. So Rachel brought over her enormous math textbook with "negative 2.327 numbers" in the index and turned to the page indicated. On the page there was a box. Inside the box was a little white school "negative 2.327 numbers" followed by "0, 1, 2, 3, ... as examples."

I looked at the box and said, "Maybe negative 2.327 is not a whole number." Just to be sure I decided to ask five people if they were just any friend, but a friend who teaches math. I took less than 10 seconds to ask my question: "Can a negative number be a whole number?" She said no. She also explained that whole numbers start with zero. She said, "Whole numbers start with the dot state." And then we talked ever so briefly about what constitutes a repeating pattern after the decimal point in a rational number. And then the call was over.

I started to worry. Already I needed outside help and this was simple stuff. What's going to happen when the math homework becomes more complex?

More troubling was the fact that I had known these answers at some point. For goodness sake, I took calculus in high school and even earned college credit. And now a mere, um, 25 years later I'm not sure about whole numbers?

To my relief, I found I was not alone. I polled several people on whether "negative 2.327" is a whole number. Every adult I asked said "no." That's what I thought, I told them, and then explained that I had relearned that whole numbers come from zero and include only positive numbers.

On the heels of whole numbers came the "associative property of multiplication" and the "commutative property of addition" and other principles that require thought. I was so glad that my daughter would be the one taking the quiz.

As my friends with older children knew, I don't want to have been through sixth grade. I don't have to do it again. This time it'll be different.

Recently, I asked her some questions about a poster she was working on. I felt like she wasn't really listening. "Mmm!" she snapped, clearly exasperated. "You've asked me everything I've already told you what I'm going to do to all right, then" I replied, purging my lips and walking out of the room.

She followed me into the kitchen and then was going to apologize for snapping at me, but instead she said it wasn't really a question since I always gave her the same question. "I'M THE ONE WHO'S ANNOYING?!?"

I was so happy to help yet I told her. When you forget some homework in your locker last week, did Daddy say, "I am not going to phone a friend at school or did he say, "Don't worry, I'll take you back to the school?"

I decided to phone a friend. Not "Are you smart enough to help with your homework, or do I sit down and talk through ideas with you?"

Now it was my turn to start at me.

Finally she said, "It's just that when we talk about math I have a hard time over and over it makes me feel like you're not listening."

Is my head was swimming. "You ARE smarter than a fifth grader?" But "Are you smart enough to help with your homework, or do I sit down and talk through ideas with you?"

Having a contest about who was more annoying wasn't going to serve any purpose. Trying to explain that I actually asked her the same question three different ways before I wasn't satisfied with her answer was also not going to end this standoff. And I was still making her feel like I wasn't listening.

The question for adults today is why "Are you smarter than a fifth grader?" But "Are you smart enough to help with your homework, or do I sit down and talk through ideas with you?"

Luckily, real life isn't as easy. We all evoke the right to get the answer wrong, you generally get another chance. But there is a line when making her feel like I wasn't listening...

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Show your presence at the VOTING booth and VOTE to REelect Howard A. SHAFAER (Lever 9A or 9E)
On Tuesday 06 November 2007, 6:00 AM - 9:00 PM

First, Howard A. SHAFAER has earned the right to run on these three political party lines - Democrat 9A - Working Families 9E - In the Public’s Interest 9E

Second, let us set the record straight - the Albany County Charter Section 202 states “Each County Legislator shall reside in the district from which that County Legislator seeks election . . .”

One of the other candidates lives at 39 Peel Street which is NOT in the election district.

On your behalf, SHAFAER has been making a presence:
Howard fought to keep GE’s PCBs out of our district
SHAFAER fought to keep Waste Management out of our district
Howard has been to every Public Hearing on the county budget four years in a row
SHAFAER was at this year’s Public Hearings on the Selkirk Fire Department budget 16 October 2007 and the Town Budget 24 October 2007
Howard serves in the Selkirk Fire Department (SFD) and works at its fund raising functions
SHAFAER has spent his whole life in Albany County and is a decorated Vietnam Marine Corps veteran
Howard has run a multi million dollar business, the Public Employees Federation, moving it from financial red to in the black in less than 4 years
SHAFAER ran for Ravena Coeymans School Board three times and served two terms
Howard is a member of SAFER (Selkirk Association For Every Resident) fighting for a Selkirk By-Pass
SHAFAER attended the League of Women Voters Meet the Candidates debate
Howard signed the Fair Campaign Practice Pledge
SHAFAER knows that part of his Legislative District #36 includes the Town of Coeymans (ToC) election district #06

His opponents:
both opponents were "absent"
both opponents were "absent"
both opponents were "absent"
one opponent “claims” to live in SFD. BUT is active in another company - the other absent

Howard’s endorses are:
Charles Schumer, US Senator states “You can’t ask for a more dedicated representative for the residents of the 36th District . . .”
Michael R. McNulty, US Congressman states “Howard . . . has demonstrated his energy and strong commitment . . . over and over again.”

On 27 of 32 Democratic County Legislators (CL)
Aida, Ayward, Besterday, Burke, Clay, Coleman
Cominsky, Dominowski, Ehler, Gordon
candidate Gross, Horstman
Houghtaling, Jr., – Chairman
Infants, Joyce, Mallo-Teboer
former CL Messercola, McCoy, Mc Knight
Monneau, Morse, Nichols, Reilly, Riddick, Shafer,
CL candidate Timmins,
Ward – Deputy Chairman
Willey, & Williams

Gerald D. Jennings, Mayor Albany
John T. McDonald III, Mayor Cohoes
Ellen M. McIntyre-Ryan, Mayor-Green Island
Jack McHuley, Former Mayor Green Island
Brian Stratton, Mayor Schenectady
Robert D. Carlson, Mayor Watervliet
Charles J. Diamond, Councilperson Watervliet
Ronald K. Hatzing, Jr., Supervisor Town of Coeymans
Michael Hammond, Supervisor Town of Knox
Margaret Warner, Chairperson Town of Berne Republicans

Gerald J. O’Malley, Democratic Chairman & Tax Collector Town of Berne
Bill Bailey, Trustee Village of Ravena
Thomas Wade, Democratic Chairman Rensselaer County
Douglas McGivney, Supervisor Town of Kinderhook, Minority Leader

Albany County Central Federation of Labor which represents over 30,000 union members & their families
Schenectady

RFA Democratic Club
Albany County Young Democrats (9A on the voting machine)
Working Families Party (9E on the voting machine)
In The Public Interest Party (9E on the voting machine)

Howard A. SHAFAER has a first term record of voting AGAINST taxes and for protecting our rights,
our seniors, our children, our farmers, our environment, and for just simply doing the right thing!

In closing – Howard A SHAFAER voted NO to the County’s 2005 28.6% property tax increase while 100% of the county legislators endorsed by the republican party, 95% of the county legislators endorsed by the independence party, and 94% of the county legislators endorsed by conservative party voted “yes”.

The choice is clear: REelect Howard A. SHAFAER your County Legislator
Paid for by the friends of Howard A. Shafer
Students, businesses provide meals

Glenmont residents proud of town

Correction regarding years of service

Tax Reduction Seminar

A GREAT IMPRESSION!

Cut your heating costs with our energy efficient Spray Foam Insulation!

DENIS FOLEY
Democratic - Independent Candidate
Bethlehem Town Clerk

“Share a passion for our history.”

Endorsed by:

- Congressman Mike McNulty
- Assemblyman Jack McEneny
- Board Members Dan Plummer and Sam Mesina
- Former Board Member Susan Burns

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Halloween Hay Day was a big success

Editor, The Spotlight:

I would like to thank all of the residents who attended the Halloween Hay Day event at the Elm Avenue Park on Sunday, Oct. 12. We had a beautiful day, and more than 600 people participated in our activities which included games for prizes, bingo, bag decorating, air brushing, balloons and of course, hayrides.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped make this free event for the residents of Bethlehem such a success: Don Glastetter, Bill Allen and Scott Turner (parks and maintenance staff); Stacey Whitely and her student staff at youth court, Christine Corson and the Bethlehem High School Freshman Class (snacks and refreshments); Peg Wore (air brushing); John Green (clown/balloons); Becky Wood; Lina Kleinhans; and Kristin Skelley (participation in government students); Kim Gallo; and Rachel Promutico.

Events like the Halloween Hay day are just another reminder of how special it is to be a resident in the town of Bethlehem.

Have a safe and happy Halloween.

Jason Gallo
Assistant Administrator
Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation

Come decorate Four Corners

Editor, The Spotlight:

The Four Corners in Delmar needs your help.

Marlene Brookins of the Little Country Store is again spearheading holiday events at Delmar's Four Corners. Assistance is needed with decorating, music, elves, and a volunteer Santa. Many businesses in the historic business district will offer refreshments and special enticements starting on Friday night, Nov. 30. There will be tree lighting at the Delmar Reformed Church that evening. Can you help? Please contact Marlene at The Little Country Store at 475-9017.

Marty Delaney
President, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce

Rich REILLY      Debbie BARON
NEW SCOTLAND TOWN BOARD

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Melody Burns and Friends of Art Scheuermann
There are seven county legislative races affecting residents of New Scotland, Bethlehem and Guilderland on Election Day.

In the race for the 31st Legislative District, incumbent Democrat William A Ayward Jr., is being challenged by Republican Ted Dant. Ayward, who is also running on the Independence line, is attempting to capture a third term in the Albany County Legislature.

Danz, who is running on the Republican/Conservative line, is a resident of Gardner Road in Altamont. He said he is running for county legislator because taxpayers are paying too much to fund an overgrown and wasteful county government.

Democrat Mary Lou Bartolotta-Connolly, a four-term county legislator, is running for re-election in the 30th Legislative District against Anton Konev. Bartolotta-Connolly has been involved in government for 35 years. Konev is running for his first political office at the age of 23. The Republican-endorsed candidate is currently a senior legislative aid in the state Assembly and a graduate of the University at Albany. He considers himself a community activist who will help to improve the quality of life to Guilderland and Albany County residents.

Longtime legislator Herbert Reilly Jr., is running for a third term in the 32nd District. The Democratic-Independence-endorsed candidate is also 23-year veteran of New Scotland town government serving as town supervisor for 12 years and councilman for 10 years. The Holy Cross graduate cross runs Reilly and Sun Funeral Home in Colonie and Voorheesville.

King's opponent is Republican/Conservative candidate Patrick Greene, an Albany attorney who lives in Slingerlands. Greene said he would like to reduce the size of county government.

In the race for the 34th District county legislator, it's a battle of newcomers, pitting newly appointed Democrat Cotofield, against Republican/Conservative Jared King. Cotofield, a resident of Altamont, is running for the 34th District seat in May replacing Jack Cunningham who accepted a position as Delmar town supervisor. Cotofield is employed by General Electric as a government contract negotiator and administrator for GE Global Research. King, also a Delmar resident, is a graduate of Bethel high School and Yale University. He works as a stock and options trader. King said voters should expect more from elected official.

"Elected, I will represent and communicate with all the citizens of the district," said King.

Albany County's 35th Legislative District also has a contested race, pitting incumbent Democrat and Independence candidate Charles S. Dawson Jr. against Republican/Mich Goldstein. Dawson, a resident of Glenmont, was first elected county legislator in 2000. Much of his legislative work in the county involves economic development. He is a volunteer firefighter and held a position in real estate management from Rockefeller College, State University of New York at Albany.

Goldstein, the president of a real estate investment and management firm, says he will reduce taxes and wasteful spending by capping county taxes on gasoline and cracking down on Medicaid fraud.

The 36th District will see a three-way race for legislator this year, pitting incumbent Democrat Howard A. Sellske, independent against Independent Leo Dorsy, Jr. and Republican/Conservative citing about Richard Shafter.

Shafter is finishing his first term as a county legislator. Formerly a fiscal analyst with the state Health Department, he is currently a member of the county's public works committee.

Dorsy is running on the Independence Party line. He was a detective for 14 years for the Bethlehem Police Department and is currently a member of the Delmar Fire Department.

Mendick holds an MBA from the University of Denver and has worked in government accounting, strategic planning and budgeting.

Information for these profiles was compiled from candidate literature and the Albany County Web site at www.albanycounty.com.

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Nutrition Spotlight

Late Frost

A s I sat down to write this column on Friday, October 26th we still had not experienced our first frost. I was all prepared to write about cold weather crops and winter storage foods but what are traditionally late summer and early fall crops, such as raspberries, tomatoes and zucchini, are still coming in. This concerned me. I decided to investigate and called the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service Forecast Office located at the Albany Regional Naval Airport. What I found out wasn't very reassuring.

According to Kimberly Sutkevich, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service the latest recorded frost for our area occurred on October 7th, 1983, however our average first frost strikes between October 1st and October 10th. Sutkevich pointed out that, the late frost aside, we have not been having typical fall weather for the entire season. She explained that the factors influencing our prolonged spell of warm weather take place far to the south and north. "We are experiencing the opposite little bit of La Nina. This has to do with the water temperature of the South Pacific Ocean. la Nina, Spanish for little girls, is an ocean-atmosphere phenomenon that causes cooler water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean along the coast of South America. La Nina winds, which blow from east to west, push the warm water at the surface of the ocean westward, allowing the cold water below to rise to the surface. Because the water is colder, it sinks into the atmosphere. We are receiving less moisture and no trade winds," explained Sutkevich. "Moisture aids in the development of low pressure weather systems which give us our wet rainy, cooler weather. Without it we have been experiencing high pressure, dry, sunny conditions."

Another factor influencing our fall weather lies to the north. Normally, this time of the year, the jet stream shifts south as the cold air from Canada. This year that hasn't been happening. "Usually Hudson Bay is partially frozen by now but it's not," said Sutkevich. "We are not getting that burst of cold from Canada. That has a huge impact. We are not going to get that northerly blast because it is just not there."

Could this be a symptom of global warming? Speaking for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, Sutkevich could not say. The official line is that the weather service has no conclusive evidence that our warm autumn has been caused by global warming.

What does it mean for the crops? Here at Indian Ladder Farms it is good for some and maybe not so good for others. Strawberries benefit because they continue to photosynthesize for a longer period of time, laying the groundwork for next year's crop. Apples however require what my father Ten Eyck calls, "the orderly progression of the seasons." What they need now is a short period of cold temperatures which cause the trees to go dormant. This longer, warm autumn below zero temperatures in December could cause significant damage. In the meantime we will use the light of the fragile tomatoes, basil, and cabbages.
MacKay was looking to escape the Industrial Revolution growth and growing pollution of the early 20th century.

"The trail was conceived in 1939 by MacKaye as essentially an escape from urban growth," said Martin Bartels, marketing director for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, a volunteer-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving what is now known as the National Trail System.

Myron Avery was the second Appalachian Trail pioneer, who organized hiking clubs along the length of the trail to preserve its identity.

Author Bill Bryson brought the trail more fame with his book "A Walk in the Woods," published in 1999, which covers his journey along the Appalachian Trail.

Bartels said hiking the trail is really a spiritual and special event that people never forget.

"I think what people are most proud of and what I hear most is the psychological battle, the solitude that can also be communal," said Bartels. "There are hours or an entire day or maybe even a lifetime when you don't see people."

Stannard and Sypek did meet their share of hikers and nearby residents who live along the trail in many sections, and they remembered the generosity of one man in Greenwood Lake, Orange County, who let the two stay overnight and allowed them to linger while he went to work.

"He was going to Washington, D.C., the next morning and said he would be back in a couple of days, leaving behind bagels and other food for us to eat," Sypek said. "People who know about the trail will take you in."

After having spent close to six months on the trail, in early October Stannard and Sypek trekked the final 5,000 feet up to the summit of Mt. Katahdin, which was a very emotional experience.

"I was laughing uncontrollably, and I saw other people crying," said Sypek. "It was a pretty amazing feeling."

More than 9,000 people have hiked the entire 2,175 miles of the trail, which now has 5,500 volunteers working annually to preserve it. For information on the Appalachian Trail, visit www.appalachiantrail.org.
United Methodists collecting used children’s books
The members of the Community United Methodist Church of Slingerlands are collecting new or gently used children’s reading books appropriate for the primary grades. They will be delivered to Van Cleave, Miss., by volunteers returning to that town to help with the reconstruction that is continuing after the Katrina disaster.

Members are asking the community to support this good cause by bringing books to their church at 1409 New Scotland Road by Saturday, Nov. 3.

Olde Tyme Gifts Craft Fair this weekend
The 10th annual Olde Tyme Gifts Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 38 Whitehead St., off Route 396, in Selkirk.

Many new vendors are expected.

Clarksville Elementary School to create alumni tile wall
Clarksville Elementary School is getting more than a facelift. After more than 38 years, the Bethlehem Elementary School is undergoing its most wide-ranging renovations and additions since it was built in 1948.

To commemorate the changes, the PTA will create a tile wall to decorate the cafetorium and hallways. The funds raised from the sale of the tiles will be used to outfit the cafetorium with state-of-the-art audio-video equipment.

Tiles will list the name of the alumnus and the year that graduate from Clarksville and will be decorated with the Bethlehem eagle design.

All alumni are invited to purchase tiles at $25 per tile (or $25 for two).

For information, call 475-0735 or e-mail at sg101@verizon.net.

IN BRIEF

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New Fall Hours
Wed. - Sun. 11am

Puppeteers to put on spooky classic
Old Songs, Inc. will present The Puppet People in their performance of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 1 p.m. at the Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 South Main St., Voorheesville.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children 15 and under and may be purchased at the door.

For reservations, call 765-2815. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," as presented by the Puppet People, is a thrilling comic rendition of Washington Irving's number one haunting tale. Focusing on themes of bullying, jealousy and superstition, this show features hand-crafted marionettes, two life-sized puppets, special lighting and smoke effects, and both classical and traditional folk music.

The Puppet People's husband and wife team Mark Carrigan and Michelle Smith-Carrigan, who have been entertaining people for more than 20 years.

The Puppet People have performed at many schools, theaters, festivals, museums, community centers and churches throughout New York, Massachusetts and Vermont.

For information and to reserve tickets, call 765-2815.
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“We love our home and we would build another New York ENERGY STAR Labeled Home in a heartbeat,” said homeowner Monica Niedbalec of Mechanicville, NY. “Our previous house was older and smaller, yet our utility bills were higher.”

**Multifamily Performance Program**
The New Construction component of the state’s Multifamily Performance Program is targeted to new buildings or gut rehabs with five or more units in buildings more than three stories. It is designed to improve the building energy performance by 20 percent or more compared to buildings built to standard energy code. By meeting energy performance guidelines, the building can earn financial incentives from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and receive the ENERGY STAR® label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A new ENERGY STAR multifamily building, 1212 Martin Luther King Boulevard in New York City, is providing affordable energy bills and improved health and comfort to its residents.

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Dunn Development’s 1212 MLK Apartments was the first high-rise ENERGY STAR multifamily building in the nation.

The New York ENERGY STAR Labeled Homes Program and Multifamily Performance Program, both developed under the New York Energy Smart® initiative and sponsored by NYSERDA, are designed to lower energy costs, reduce energy demand, and help protect the environment.

For more information about building to the ENERGY STAR guidelines, visit www.GetEnergySmart.org or call toll-free 1-877-NY-Smart.

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New Scotland clerk faces Republican challenger

By JILL U. ADAMS
news@spotlightnews.com

The office of the town clerk is considered the link between residents and local government. Such matters as licensing, access to town documents and official forms, and notary service take place here. The town clerk, an elected position, oversees the Hall for more than 10 years. They come to town hall.

Diane Deschenes has been working in New Scotland's Town Hall for more than 10 years. In 1996, she started as the clerk to the building assessor. In 1999, she successfully ran for town clerk, an office she has held ever since. In 2005, she also began collecting taxes as the two jobs merged into one. While Deschenes has been in office for eight years, this is the first time the Democrat has had an opponent in the campaign.

As town clerk, Deschenes said she worked to save the town money. Merging the positions of town clerk and tax collector was one way. Deschenes has also written a handful of grants over the years, bringing in more than $90,000.

One of these was a records grant, to bring the town's record keeping closer to New York State archival standards.

In brief

Saint Thomas to hold open house

Saint Thomas the Apostle School in Delmar is holding an open house on Monday, Nov. 5, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy refreshments while exploring this faith-filled, top-ranked, Middle States accredited Pre-K through 8th grade school.

For information, call Principal Tom Kane at 439-5573 or email stthomas@nyccpr.rr.com.

Art group's annual fall show nears

The annual fall show of the Bethlehem Art Association will hang during November at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar.

Painting, calligraphy workshop planned

Leigh Wen will present a workshop in Chinese brush painting and calligraphy on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave in Delmar.

Registration is limited. The cost is $30 for Bethlehem Art Association members; $35 for others.

Call 489-1882 or 439-3948 for information.

Educational Opportunity Center appoints manager

Georgia Musco of Slingerlands was recently named the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center's AT&TAIN Lab Manager/Coordinator.

Musco joined the Capital District EOC in September. She holds a master's degree in instructional technology from the New York Institute of Technology and a bachelor's degree in music from Herbert H. Lehman College.
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Friends of Music to present Cabaret

The Voorheesville Friends of Music presents Cabaret 2007 on Saturday, Nov. 3, in the gym at the Voorheesville high school. The show will begin at 7 p.m. and doors will open at 6:15. Admission for adults is $5; students and seniors will be $4.

Board of Education to meet
The Voorheesville Board of Education will meet on Monday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. All are invited to attend.

District closed for holiday
Schools in the Voorheesville Central School District will be closed Monday, Nov. 12, for the Veterans Day Holiday.

Mission Bazaar
The Voorheesville Mission Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Voorheesville Methodist Church on Maple Avenue. Lunch will be available. There will be crafts, white elephant items, and baked goods for sale.

All proceeds from the day will be used for Mission projects selected by United Methodist Women.

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Rug Hooking
Local fiber artist Lori Lufe Poleski will host VPL for Sunday, Nov. 4, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for a discussion of rug hooking.

Sleepy Hollow
Mark your calendars for Sunday, Nov. 18, for a shadow puppet presentation of the Legend of Sleepy Hollow by PuppetTree. Free and open to the public.

It is not over
The library survey deadline has been extended to Dec. 1. Visit the VPL Web site to give us your responses concerning the library's future. Two additional focus group sessions are scheduled for the public: Nov. 1, from 5 to 7 p.m., and Nov. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., conducted by our consultant Licia London. Sign up to attend by calling or emailing VPL.

On Board
After receiving a degree in history and policy studies from Syracuse University and her master's in special education from the University of Hartford, Rebecca Pahl has returned to the area with her husband, Kurt, daughter, Rachel, and their turtles, Bert and Ernie. She has been appointed to fill the remainder of the board of trustees' term of Cathy Anderson and will be eligible for election on the spring ballot.

Thanks go to Anderson for her years of service and concerns for VPL.

Barbara Vink

Voorheesville Public Library

Be an MVP Gold Strider!

We’ve started a new season of the MVP Gold Striders Walking Club at Colonie Center! The MVP Gold Striders Walking Club at Colonie Center meets every Wednesday, now through December 19, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (meet at the Food Court). Join us afterward for free activities such as Living Well seminars and health screenings.

The MVP Gold Striders Walking Club is sponsored by the MVP Gold, a Medicare Advantage Health Plan that helps you take on life and live well.
The Musicians of Ma'alywyck launch winter concert season

The Musicians of Ma'alywyck return to Bethlehem Public Library Sunday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. with "Music in the Spanish Courts" for violin, guitar and cello.

The performance opens the library's 2007-08 winter concert series, "A Little Sunday Music." Musicians of Ma'alywyck is a flexible-size chamber music ensemble founded in 1999 by violinist Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz. In residence at the Schuyler Mansion and Albany, the group performs regularly in upstate New York, specializing in music of the 18th and 19th centuries.

For this performance, Schwartz is joined by guitarist Stefan Isachsen and cellist Petia Kassarova. "A Little Sunday Music" is made possible by a generous contribution from Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. The concert is free and open to the public.

Tech Fair this weekend
Don't forget to visit our Technology Fair this Saturday, Nov. 3. The fair runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Library staff and representatives from the AT&T Store, GE2MCs, First Lego League, New York Capital Region Geocachers, NYSERDA, Surname Sewing Machine Service, Staples, Tangora Technologies, and Upstate New York Unix Users Group will introduce the latest high-tech products and services through exhibits, mini-workshops, and hands-on demonstrations.

Appropriate for all ages and levels of technical knowledge, the fair will offer basic information about high-definition television, home computer security, home wireless access, the library's Computer Partners tutoring service, and more.

A project station for kids will be provided. So come on by; you may get some holiday gift ideas.

Donate blood at the library
We are sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive on Saturday Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, or you can preregister by calling the library at 439-9314. Donors must be 17 years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds. For information, go to www.redcross.org and click on "give blood."

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

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**Free Living Well Programs from MVP Gold**

Fall Session • Now through Thursday, December 13 • Join anytime!

**MVP Gold Moves.** Stay mobile and strong! A low-impact aerobic workout followed by using stretch tubing for strengthening, balls for dexterity and ending with stretching; all to a variety of musical styles.

**MVP Gold on the Ball.** A movement-oriented class using large stability balls. Following a low-impact aerobic workout, we will do balance, stretching and stretching exercises.

**MVP Gold Chair Move.** A chair-based, movement-oriented class so you can stay as mobile and strong as possible. We'll do mobilizing, strengthening, and stretching exercises for upper and lower limbs and trunk, with a variety of musical rhythms and moods.

**Healthy Living Dance Program.** Promotes the health of older adults by offering different styles of dance and emphasizing the importance of stretching, balance and coordination.

**Senior Services of Albany**
- **MVP Gold Moves**
- **MVP Gold on the Ball**
- **MVP Gold Chair Moves**

**Shoneodewha Senior Center**
- **MVP Gold Moves**
- **MVP Gold Chair Moves**

**Water Valley Senior Center**
- **MVP Gold Moves**

**First United Methodist Church**
- **MVP Gold Moves for MVP Gold members only**

**National Museum of Dance (NMD)**
- **Healthy Living Dance Program**

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**Mountains offering discount skiing plan**

The Bethlehem Family Fun Ski Group is looking for any interested skiers (ages 4+) and families. Willard Mountain is offering a special discounted ski program to Bethlehem residents through the Bethlehem Family Fun Ski Group. Registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 5.

Call 439-1346 for information.

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**The Bethlehem Public Library**

November 27
5 pm

Joan A. Lipton, Lazar Lipton Trust, Law Group, "Leveraging Planning." The conference is co-hosted by the Pfizer Law Group, Wilmington Trust, Foundation Source and The Hartford.

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Town hears waterfront plan

Vision includes mixed uses and renovations to Henry Hudson Park

By Jim GUzzo

Bethlehem’s first-ever local waterfront revitalization plan was presented to the public at the Wednesday, Oct. 24, meeting of the town board, and it includes plans for a renovated Henry Hudson Park, complete with a pavilion and new trails for hiking and light industrial, such as a boat restoration business.

A nine-member panel of appointees has been meeting since November 2006, plotting the best future use of the town’s nearly 10-mile riverfront corridor, which begins at the Albany city line near the I-90 corridor. The corridor is separated into south, central and north riverfront districts.

“South district begins at Clapper Road and extends all the way to the Hudson River. “This area is defined by its peaceful rural nature and open spaces.”

Rob Holzman

This area is the most complicated to understand,” Holzman said, referring to its mix of open space and industrial uses. “We strive to recognize the call for balance in this area.”

The committee is working on a way to integrate the Glenmont Job Corps site with town-owned property along Simonsen Road that could define a potential waterfront destination.

Plains for the town’s Henry Hudson Park may include a monument with a pavilion for skating in the winter and wooded trails for cross-country skiing.

“A opportunity for kayaks and small boats also exists,” said Holzman.

The next step for the committee will be to hear what the public has to say about the plan at a Wednesday, Nov. 7, community meeting in Town Hall.

From that point the plan will be reviewed by the Department of State and its inland coastal resources division. The state is assisting the town in completing the waterfront plan, which could potentially see state and federal dollars being allocated.

“We are looking for a mid-winter adoption of the local waterfront revitalization plan,” said Holzman.

After the presentation, board member Sam Messina asked how regional coordination of the town waterfront plan would occur with other riverfront locations.

“With ongoing communication between our community and adjoining riverfront communities, we need to think of our stewardship of this part of the river,” Leveille said.

The waterfront development plan was a Tier 1 recommendation of the 2005 updated townwide comprehensive plan.

Town of New Scotland

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Citizens wary of tax increases and spending

By Jim GUzzo

A handful of residents attended the Wednesday, Oct. 24, public hearing on Town’s 2008 tentative budget, which turned out to be more of a question-and-answer session between town board members and the public.

The $37.6 million dollar budget raises taxes and fees by 2.5 percent, and draws spending by 4 percent.

Selkirk property owner William Stewart said taxes are rising, and he fears losing his home to increasing town taxes.

“We are going to do to keep taxes from going up?” asked Stewart.

“Are you going to cut spending?”

Supervisor Jack Cunningham said he is encouraging commercial economic growth to ease the taxpayer burden. That growth includes more development along the Route 9W corridor, along with the сrossing of the Via Tech Corridor in Slingerlands.

“We do have a direction, and we are working toward a plan.” Cunningham said.

Resident Robert Jasinski cautioned board members on the potential overspending of general fund reserves. The 2008 budget proposes to use $2.5 million of unappropriated reserves for different town funds, including the general fund, said.

“Can’t use the general fund again? We are running out of steam,” Cunningham said.

Republican candidate for town board Art Scheuermann said the tax rate low,” said Scheuermann.

Cunningham warned the combination of flat revenues and spending increases in certain areas are what caused the tax rate increases. He pointed the cost of supplies like pool chemicals, blacktop and an 8 percent, hike in health insurance premium for areas that affected the 2006 budget.

“This year’s budget has been a challenge,” said Cunningham.

“How do our expenses continue to increase, our revenue streams are flat.”

Norman Morand said the town board approved raises for employees as costs for seniors continue to rise.

“Nobody seems to be worrying about them,” said Morand.

Board member Kyle Kotary said this year’s budget process has been open under the newly appointed board, and he said Cunningham was the supervisor because of “the difficult decisions” made.

Other 2008 budget highlights include the addition of a full-time senior outreach worker and a full-time consultant to address the town’s stormwater management problems.

“We were able to add some significant initiatives that are needed,” said Joann Dawson, town board member.

Employees across the board will also receive 3 percent cost-of-living increases. The Town board is expected to approve the 2008 budget at its Wednesday, Nov 14 meeting.
Play it safe

Keep toys kid-friendly by staying on top of recalls and safety guidelines

By JENNIFER FANNIN
news@spotlightnews.com

Any parent will say it is virtually impossible to always keep a constant close eye on young children. Consequently, they put a lot of trust in companies that manufacture children's toys.

For the most part, infant, toddler, and children's toys must meet strict safety guidelines, but when they do not, they can be dangerous and even deadly.

Children tip furniture, suffer from lead poisoning, and watch products fall on them. They may be playing with toys that are not mass-marketed to the local stores, but it too becomes an issue.

Many parents and teachers suggest stocking up on educational toys that have histories of being kid-friendly, such as blocks. Many preschoolers also like to begin exploring with role-playing and make-believe. Old Halloween costumes or clothes make great dress-up outfits.

Wonderland Nursery School teacher Leslie August said it's important to remember to stay away from items that will cause suffocation or cut off circulation.

"The home is where people feel comfortable and secure, but constant awareness is the key to keeping families safe."

Nancy Nord

"The children at our school use the dress-up clothes regularly," said August. "We know to make sure there are no ties or long scarves that the children could use to wrap around any part of themselves."

According to the CPSC, toy aggressive exposure to small magnets is when children are between 1 and 3 years of age, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. The CPSC has responded to this growing hazard by releasing guidelines for parents and caregivers to help keep their children safe.

The Spotlight - For the most part, infant, toddler, and children's toys must meet strict safety guidelines, but when they do not, they can be dangerous and even deadly.

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Many parents and teachers suggest stocking up on educational toys that have histories of being kid-friendly, such as blocks. Many preschoolers also like to begin exploring with role-playing and make-believe. Old Halloween costumes or clothes make great dress-up outfits.

According to the CPSC, a growing hazard is fast-food toys. The safety group recommends parents first check out the toys before handing them to children. Also of concern are electronic toys with batteries. The CPSC said parents should not assume safety is only an issue with young children. Older children still tend to put their hands near their mouths, and if they do so after touching a toy with a weak battery, it can be a hazard. Adult supervision is also recommended with battery chargers and adaptors.

The Parent-Teacher store in Latham is a good local source for unique learning toys that are not mass-market-ed. Assistant manager Martha Bonaparte said there is an advantage of choosing toys from a specialty store is the one-on-one assistance.

"We have the ability to make our stock is up-to-date with any and all recalls. We can aid parents and teachers with choosing, and we can easily address any concerns," said Bonaparte.

"One of the easiest things a parent can do is follow the age-appropriate guidelines printed on toy packages."

With the holidays soon approaching, the CPSC has released guidelines for shopping. Among the top tips are avoiding toys with small magnets for children under 6; avoiding small parts for children under 3; using helmets for all ride-on toys; and being cautious of projectile toys such as rockets and darts.

Finally, they recommend parents with children of different ages make an effort to keep the kids' toys separated.

"Keep toys properly stored so that you can see if any parts become detached or broken. Examine toys right out of the package, and if it is something you are unsure about, toss it," said Bonaparte.

For tips on selecting toys and toy recalls, visit the CPSC's Web site at www.CPSC.gov.

Two Doctors say this is when children are at the greatest risk when they start playing with glow sticks and other recall items since they are generally amusing, chewable, or otherwise putting things into their mouths to increase the likelihood of ingesting the poison. Looney said that in his own experience as a pediatrician, the highest level of lead he has found in a patient came through this regular screening process with the child showing no lead or blood symptoms.

Bristol and Looney courage parents to speak with their pediatricians if they are concerned about the blood lead levels in children older than 2. Blood levels should be asked until the age of 6, said Bristol.

Testing for the toxin is easy and painless. The procedure involves the collection of a blood sample and the determination of the lead content in the blood. The test may show the presence of lead in children, but it does not necessarily indicate the child is at risk of lead poisoning.

"The children at our school use the dress-up clothes regularly," said August. "We know to make sure there are no ties or long scarves that the children could use to wrap around any part of themselves."

August also said she recommends keeping play areas stocked with oversized Legos, cardboard brick blocks, baby dolls and wooden toys such as trucks and puzzles.

"Try to only choose toys that are classics, ones we know the children love, not followed properly, the dust created from the demolition and subsequent remodeling can be passed throughout the home and all people, not just children, residing in the house may be ingesting lead."

Lead paint on the outside of homes is not given much thought, but it too becomes an issue when homeowners sandblast the paint as preparation for a new coat. The dust particles sink into the nearby soil, which children may play in or around.

While the recent recall has focused on toys found on the shelves of area toy stores, Looney said parents should also be mindful of family heirlooms. Looney said many families have items that they have been hand-downed for generations that are made of pewter, which contains lead. One example, he said, is old pewter toy sol-diers. These days, most of them are sold with warning labels indicating they are not toys intended for the use of children, but for people getting them as gifts or hand-me-downs, there is no such warning. These toys should be put out of reach and in display cases, said Looney.

Looney also said simple additions to a child's diet can make him or her less likely to have lead problems. Foods high in iron and calcium, such as chicken, turkey, spinach, milk and cheese, are said to help in the prevention of lead poisoning.

"Keeping small parts away from preschool children seems easy enough, but there are other aspects of play that can be overlooked."

According to the CPSC, a growing hazard is fast-food toys. The safety group recommends parents first check out the toys before handing them to children. Also of concern are electronic toys with batteries. The CPSC said parents should not assume safety is only an issue with young children. Older children still tend to put their hands near their mouths, and if they do so after touching a toy with a weak battery, it can be a hazard. Adult supervision is also recommended with battery chargers and adaptors.

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D Square
Page 20 • October 13, 2007

the devil, of course, is in

the details. Senior housing is
needed, but proper zoning can
demand that affordable units
are part of the package. Dolin
wants to make sure that the
town’s senior residents aren’t
priced out. LaGrange warns of
the temptations of the specu-
listics. He has seen current
proposals fail to address
single-floor living or wheelchair-side
downs. Industrial de-
velopment may also be
desirable, but Dolin said it’s a
struggle to attract light,
light commercial operations.
One problem is the
lack of infrastructure at target
sites. Along Route 55, the only
water and sewer systems be-
long to the town of Bethlehem.
Dolin proposed to meet with
Bethlehem representatives to
work toward a solution.
LaGrange said the town’s
comprehensive plan is solid,
but in need of updating. More-
over, he said, the specifics in
what is needed. In a case-by-case basis, must
mirror the guidelines of the com-
prehensive plan. Instead, what
he has seen is a town govern-
ment that too often reacts to
development will increase the
tax base without placing ad-
ditional demands on the small
city system.
The devil, of course, is in
s

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**Haunted happenings**

Halloween events let Capital District residents take a walk on the spooky side

By JACQUELINE M. DOMIN
dominj@spotlightnews.com

Doug Bennett’s stilt is an important tool for the work he does on suspended ceilings.

They also served as an important prop for his kids' Halloween costumes on Saturday.

Halloween on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Hall Bennett, 14, and her brother, Sam, 11, both showed up at the Jonevilles Fire Department’s open house and Halloween party in Clifton Park. Sam wore a pumpkin outfit, but for Hall, the stilts were pretty much her entire costume.

They get a lot of attention,” said Bennett. “And a lot of waves.”

Hall had hoped to use the stilts to stand tall in the fire department costume parade, but it was canceled because of the rain. There was still plenty for the crowd to do, though. There was a show by balloon artist Mr. Twisty, a haunted house and a haunted house.

Mr. Twisty, a haunted house and several bounce houses. In the cafeteria, firefighters handed out free hot dogs, fruit punch, cookies and other treats.

There was a show by balloon artist Mr. Twisty, a haunted house and a haunted house.

The schoolhouse’s front hallway was being transformed into a “tunnel of terror” for Sunday’s visitors, Hans said, while inside, family members worked on displays like a recreation of the shower scene from “Psycho” and a “dissection room” where dismembered body parts and a body bag were hung from the ceiling.

The ideas for the displays were culled from the Hanses’ years of putting on a haunted house at the house near Loudonville where Hans’ daughter, Jane Wasserbach, lives with her husband, Bill. The free haunted house was a big attraction, drawing as many as 350 visitors.

“A lot of people said, ‘Just get stocked,'” Hans said. “It just scared people to death.”

Eventually, it got so big that the family decided to pack it in a few years ago. But everything came out of storage this year when Catholic Charities approached the family about doing a haunted house as a fund-raiser.

“It was kind of hard to say no,” said Hans, noting that the haunted house wouldn’t have been possible without her five children, spouses and family friends on board.

The family worked on the haunted house for more than a month, holding brainstorming meetings and drawing diagrams.

ABOVE: Janet Hans stands ready to greet visitors to Sunday’s haunted house at the Verdy Schoolhouse on the grounds of the Prune House in Newtowmville.

**RE-ELECT HERB REILLY**

**Let Capital District residents take a walk on the spooky side**

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The scene was a common one throughout the Capital District in the past few days, as a number of charitable groups and other organizations offered cheap or free hot dogs, fruit punch, cookies and other treats.

“I just got so popular,” Hans said. “It just scared people to death.”

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Autumn a good time to trade cars for bicycles

By JULIE RIGG
news@spotlightnews.com

Everyday life seems to call for the car: get to the post office, get milk, pick up photos. You’ve factored in parking, gas, and the monotonous drive ahead. But there is an alternative: a lot of what you do can be done by bicycle.

As the bright days of autumn turn to the chilly gray that seems to ride a bike, said Dr. Kenneth Kroopnick, a pediatrician of Prime Care Physicians in Delmar. “You can layer up. We live in a very sedentary society; biking and walking are easy ways to integrate exercise.”

Most of us can probably remember the carefree childhood days of riding bikes around the neighborhood, unknowingly contributing to our overall health. There’s also a certain social aspect to biking — how can you ride down the street, pass an acquaintance or neighbor and not ride her bike. “It’s a great for balance, large muscle strength, hand-eye coordination, as well as cardiovascular health,” Looney said, adding that once children have outgrown training wheels, “it gives them a whole new skill level, they develop more independence, and it gives them a great sense of accomplishment.” Bike experts caution that safety measures must be taken into account, especially helmet wearing.

Hayes says, “I like to ride my bike to school because it’s easier than taking the bus,” Hayes said. “It’s not the type of activity you can do with a crowd. I love biking with my friends.”

To the Offering

There’s also a certain social benefit to riding a bike: get to the post office, factor in parking, gas, and the days of riding bikes around the neighborhood. “I remember the carefree childhood days of riding bikes around the neighborhood, unknowingly contributing to our overall health. It’s also a good time to trade cars for bicycles.”

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12th Annual ADOPTION FAIR
Monday, November 5, 2007 - 7:00 PM at the Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Road, Albany

This special once a year event gives prospective parents the opportunity to speak to adoption agencies, lawyers, a pediatrician, social workers, immigration representatives, pediatricians and adoptive parents. The event is free and reservations are not required.

For additional information call: 448-5295 or look for us on the web at www.timesunion.com/communities/adfa

Sponsored by the Adoptive Families of the Capital Region, Inc., and the New York State Writers Institute and UAlbany English Department.

Why should having a teenager drive your auto insurance rates through the roof?
Is every teenage driver the same? Travelers doesn't think so. And, Travelers won't automatically penalize you for having one on your auto policy. To save you money, our innovative new auto insurance looks at lots of factors when determining your rate. So you get a highly customized, highly competitive quote. Want to start saving today? Give us a call.

Auto Home Flood Identity Theft Prevention Valuable Items

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Emphasis on energy

TOP: The Capital District First Lego League Master Minds hosted an energy fair at Bethlehem Town Hall on Saturday.
LEFT: Audrey Keefe, a member of the Master Minds, shows off an exhibit at the fair.

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Home Medical Equipment
439-8200 FREE DELIVERY FLU SHOTS NOV. 7th Call For Details

IN BRIEF

War correspondent to speak at UAlbany

Chris Hedges, Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent and author of "War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning," will be the keynote speaker at a UAlbany conference, "The Ecologies of War: Life Technologies and Planetary Conflict" on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom on the UAlbany uptown campus.

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Dear friends,

like you, everyone at Tom's of Maine is concerned about the artificial ingredients in many personal care products today. So let's talk about natural solutions. More than just a great source of shade on a hot summer day, birch trees provide our toothpaste with xylitol, a natural ingredient that helps fight plaque. Xylitol comes from plants, fruits, and vegetables. And it's one of the many safe, natural ingredients that make our Whole Care™ toothpaste so effective. Whole Care™ fights plaque, controls tartar, whitens teeth, and prevents cavities without the use of artificial ingredients.

Our mission is to make authentic natural products that not only work for you, but also work for the environment and our communities. We share your belief that products should be produced in a sustainable way. Our goal is to source ingredients from organic farms that practice sustainable harvesting and always avoid animal ingredients and animal testing. We believe in bringing out the best in nature, because nature brings out the best in us. We hope you'll enjoy our Whole Care™ toothpaste. Let us know what you think!

- Tom and Kate Chappell, founder and Tom's Climate

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The Wagging Tales reading program pairs children with special canine reading companions for 15 to 20 minutes of enjoyable, relaxing reading practice. This kind of program, nationally, has proved its value for improving children's reading abilities and attitudes.

The next reading times are Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 4, at 1 p.m. A few slots are still available for Sunday's session. Call the library at 756-2053 to sign up your child.

Children's story kits
Do you know about our children's "story kits?" Each kit contains several children's books, activity ideas, and extras such as DVDs, CDs, games and toys all with a common theme. Kits can be checked out for two weeks with a valid library card. Just some of the many story kits we have include:
- Backyard Creatures
- Weather Watch
- Let's Make Music
- All Kinds of Families

New databases
The Upper Hudson Library System's list of online databases contains links to everything you need to make life easier. These databases are available from home with a valid library card from a public library in Albany or Rensselaer counties. Just log on to www.surlib.org and click on the online databases link.

Several new databases have recently been added to the system, including:
- NewList: Offers a wide range of resources that will expand your ability to find the right book.
- Testing and education: Prepare for the Ged, civil service and military entrance exams, licensing tests for law enforcement, real estate, and other fields.
- Home improvement: This is the definitive online tool for home improvement assistance, including maintenance, remodeling, electrical work, and plumbing.

"New adult fiction"
"The Further Shore" by Matthew Eck

--

RCS library reading program pairs kids and canines

Museum to hold lecture series on Hudson Valley

The state museum will host a series of evening lectures in coming weeks focusing on the Hudson Valley, as well as a separate lecture on the massacres of New York.

- Nov. 7: The Revolution in Albany: Poverty and the Law, 1750 to 1800. Tricia Barbagallo, senior research associate at the m-
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The Careful Use of Common Sense" by Alexander McCall Smith

New nonfiction
Band of Sisters" by Kirsten Holmstrom. American women at war in Iraq.

"On the Shoulders of Giants" by Karena Abduljabbal. Describes how his passion for basketball, jazz, and the Harlem Renaissance helped to shape his life and career.

"Twice as Good" by Marcus Mabry. Condeleeza Rice and her path to power.

New children's books
"Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity" by Mo Willems

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Historical society plans WWII field camp, exhibit

Explore a recreated World War II Field Camp at the New Scotland Historical Association on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn more about World War II from re-enactors portraying soldiers from several battle-tested military units. Each will wear authentic uniforms and military equipment from the conflict.

Craig Gravina will portray a staff sergeant from Easy Company, Second Ranger Battalion, a unit famous for scaling the cliffs near Omaha Beach on D-Day. Later, the unit fought its way through the Battle of Hürtgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge.

Another unit that landed on Normandy was the 28th Infantry Division. Gary Dimiao from Pennsylvania will portray a soldier from that division, which was one of the first to enter Paris, and the first American division to enter Germany.

The recreated 101st Airborne will be represented by Howard Young. The famous " Screaming Eagles" were trained for parachute and glider assault. Their battle honors include Normandy, Bastogne and Operation Market Garden.

Christopher Pecoraro will portray a soldier from 105th New York Infantry Regiment recruited in the Capital District. In WWII, it served in the Pacific Theater as part of the 27th Division. His uniform will depict the regiment as it appeared in 1940, when an anxious United States was preparing for war.

Visitors will be able to see a restored WWII Jeep complete with a mounted 50-caliber machine gun and a rare M22 "Locust" Tank. Only 80 of these airborne tanks were made. They were designed to be transported behind enemy lines in a glider.

The Field Camp will also provide the public with another opportunity to view the exhibit titled "From the Home Front to the Front Lines: New Scotland in WWII and WWII." This exhibit highlights the contributions of New Scotland residents who served in the military and depicts life on the home front during those crucial years. Artifacts, documents and reminiscences bring the era to life. A key part of the exhibit is a recently conserved New Salem Honor Roll Banner from WWII.

Admission to the field camp and the exhibit is free. It will be located at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center on Old New Salem Road off Route 85 in New Salem.

IN BRIEF

Albany to screen "Designated Mourner"

"The Designated Mourner" will be shown on Friday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., on the University at Albany's downtown campus. Sponsored by the New York State Writers Institute, the screening is free and open to the public.

For information, contact the Writers Institute at 442-5620 or online at www.albany.edu/writers-inst.

Auditions under way for "Senior Idol"

Seniors 60 and older are invited to audition for the Senior Idol Talent Show on Wednesday, Nov. 28. Auditions are being held Thursday, Nov. 1, at the Louise Corning Center, 25 Delaware Ave., Albany.

Individuals and group acts welcome. Seniors are invited to sing, play instruments, perform comedy and more.

Call 455-3525 to reserve your spot.

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Clearance Center, 664 London Road, Latham
Next to the former T.J. Maxx
www.stickleyaudi.com

All sales will be final. No trade for transportation carry-out. There will be a charge for delivery.
Clarksville Elementary plans open house event

Clarksville Elementary School will host an open house event, "A Star Among the Stars: Revisiting Clarksville Elementary School," on Thursday, Nov. 3, to celebrate recent renovations to the school.

The open house offers parents and community members an opportunity to tour the building, including the new cafeteria, expanded library and new main office area, as well as other improvements done under the district's ongoing building plan.

The open house will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and will feature storytelling with the Dudley Observatory, tours and refreshments, selected works from Clarksville’s permanent art collection and an opportunity for alumni and student families to purchase personalized tiles for the school’s Great Wall of Art.

All parents and community members are invited to attend.

Church to hold annual fall fair

With Halloween over and a chilly breeze kicking the leaves around, thoughts of holiday shopping aren't too far away. Two events at local churches on Saturday, Nov. 3, will give shoppers — even if it's not for the holidays — a head start on the season.

The First United Methodists Church will hold its 26th annual Fall Fair, an offering of books, linens, kitchenware, appliances, furniture, holiday items, toys, sporting goods, antiques, collectibles, plants, home decor, and jewelry. Each category has its own area, and visitors will also find handmade woodworking items and baked goods.

Money raised from the fair provides for local families in need throughout the year; supports the environment by recycling high quality, lightly used goods back into the community; and raises money to sustain the work and mission of the church here and abroad — all with a great spirit of community friendship and fellowship.

This year's theme is western frontier. Breakfast and lunch will be served and warm fresh cider doughnuts will be available throughout the day.

The First United Methodist Church is located at 426 Kemwood Ave., Delmar. For information, call 439-9976.

At St. Thomas the Apostle School at the corner of Kenwood Avenue and Adams Place, the third annual "Shop Til You Drop" craft fair and Scholastic Book Fair will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Crafters will feature jewelry, handmade American Girl doll clothes and furniture, hand knit scarves, floral arrangements, religious items from O'Connor's and items from Emergency Response Embroidery.

In the cafeteria, there will be homemade clam chowder and chili all day for eat-in or take-out. The St. Thomas PTO will also have some delicious baked goods available for sale. The book fair is new this year, offering a large variety of titles available for all grade levels.

Admission is free. For information, call 439-5573.

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You've got to see it to believe it... Fall 2007 Open House, Saturday, November 10
To register, call 1-888-673-0012 or go online to www.plattsburgh.edu

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Art auction to benefit AIDS care

"Art For AIDS Sake 8," a silent art auction to benefit the Albany Damien Center, the Capital District's AIDS Community Center, will be held on Thursday, Nov. 1, at 6 p.m. in the State Room on Eagle Street in Albany. Fifty percent of the proceeds from the sale of artwork will support Albany’s artistic community, which has increased artist participation in Art for AIDS Sake 8.

View and bid on original paintings, drawings, sculpture, jewelry and other works of art from more than 100 artists from the Capital District. The event will include a reception featuring desserts, hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, complimentary Moet and Chandon champagne, and the music of Joyce Belle. Ticket prices are $30 prepaid, $35 at door.

Proceeds will benefit the Albany Damien Center, The Capital District’s AIDS Community Center, which provides programs and support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. To make reservations or for information, contact the Albany Damien Center at 449-7119 or call 436-4728.

State Assemblyman Tim Gordon, D-Bethlehem, recently presented $21,500 to To Life! and Breast Cancer Options to help the nonprofit organizations provide free-of-charge breast cancer education and support services to breast cancer patients, caregivers, family, and friends.

College to hold information sessions

Empire State College of the State University of New York will hold public information sessions about its undergraduate degree programs on Thursday, Nov. 1, at 5:30 p.m.; Monday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the college’s Northeast Center location, 21 British American Boulevard, Latham. To preregister for any of the information sessions being held, please call 800-947-3000.

Information sessions also will be held on Thursday, Nov. 8, at noon at the college’s Empire State Plaza location, Room 114 of the Northwest Gallery of the Plaza.

College representatives will be available at the information session to answer questions about the college’s flexible associate, bachelor’s and master’s degree programs.

Fall Open House

Saturday, November 3, 2007

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Grady

(From Page 1)

change Commission. I'd like to get the most efficient government." Grady, a 1981 graduate of Bethlehem Central High School, following which he ran his own landscaping business. "There were, a close friend that recruited him to work for the brokerage firm of Fitzgerald, Deering and Roberts. Shortly before the Oct. 19, 1897, stock market crash, Grady had liquidated many of the accounts he held, based on reports he'd been reading, a sector of the market, and his own intuition.

"I followed my intuition," he said, "and had liquidated a lot of accounts on Sept. 30.

"Shortly after that, Grady bought a machine that could transplt fully grown trees, and started the company he ran for 20 years, Grady Trees LLC.

"My brother had a roofing business, and he was doing a lot of work in Covington Woods in Guildenberg," he said. "I worked with a lot of developer's plantings between 15 and 20 feet high. Compared to a fence, that offers more privacy."

"The Vista Tech Park project is a good example of the town, county and state working well together. There are excellent working relationships among those entities," he said. "That will bring high-paying jobs to the town, and the residents in particular with the state Department of Transportation.

"Route 9W hasn't changed since I was growing up," he said. "Traffic backs all the way up to the Thruway.

"Grady thought he'd have his dream to create a master plan out of the things that go with it," he said. "He wanted to create a new town in the heart of the town.

"I've seen a lot of change, most of it good," Grady said. Grady's parents moved to Glenmont in 1957.

"They came for the same reason people still come - the school district," he said. "When I was growing up, Farm Family was new. I went to kindergarten at the Bethlehem Pre-School.

"My sister worked in a car accident in 1955," he said. "The way the town rallied around us was really something special."

A common theme that Grady has been hearing is that people are paying too much in taxes.

"We get good services, but spending needs to be brought under control, especially for the elderly," he said.

Grady is currently managing money for some clients privately. He has a 14-year-old son who is a freshman at Guilderland High School.

His work life has given him a good feel for the Capital district economy, he said.

"I'm not a politician, I'm a business person," he said. "I would take the position of supervisor responsibly. If we build the town responsibly, we'll all benefit.

Term

(From Page 1)

replaced Teresa Egan, who accepted a position as deputy commissioner in the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

"I considered running in 2003 for supervisor, but spoke with Terri and decided not to. I think Terry should run," said Cunningham.

Grady, who grew up in a farmhouse on Elnorhoe Avenue and attended St. Thomas the Apostle school, Cunningham said he entered the job with no preconceived notions as to what to expect.

"It's an incredibly busy office," said Cunningham, who has now served close to seven months.

"I am amazed at the number of people that come in and talk to the supervisor," he said.

With 32 years of banking and information technology experience under his belt, as an employee of several banks, including First American, Trusco, Coboes Savings Bank, and Key Bank, Cunningham said he feels he can help improve the town's current technology infrastructure.

"One of our technology initiatives is the improved online assessment system, where we now interface with the statewide assessors, we can access information," Cunningham said.

Another area being addressed in the year's budget is the new online registration process in the town parks department.

"We will be able to accept credit cards over the Internet for payments and recreational programs," said Cunningham.

Embracing a new town comprehensive plan, proposed technology corridor, Route 85 road work and local waterfront revitalization work are just a few of the ongoing projects Cunningham inherited from his predecessor. Vista Technology Park is a townboard-endorsed project expected to bring thousands of new jobs to a 440 acres of state-owned land of New York State and Bethlehem. Vista Technology Park has now announced tenants, but Cunningham said he believes the project will help "balance the town's taxes base" by encouraging commercial growth.

"The commercial growth adds to the tax base," said Cunningham, who agrees that the direct revenues from Vista to the town are not substantial.

"If Vista is a fast build-out, the school district will receive more revenue," said Cunningham.

If the town had the extra $10 million to spend, "we would "repair all the sewer pipes throughout the town," he said.

"We're not laying anybody off," Cunningham said. "We are seeing that to manage tax growth,"

"I'm getting positive feedback from people," said Cunningham, who is running for a seat on the school board along with holding house parties to get his word out.

"Managing employee growth, and addressing the town's aging infrastructure needs are two areas Cunningham said he would tackle if elected. Cunningham, who said if the town had an extra $10 million to spend, "we would "repair all the sewer pipes throughout the town."" It's the first bit of negative economic news for a town that has been accustomed to hearing how businesses like the much anticipated Vista Technology Park want to locate there.

Although the first tenants will most likely be retail, Cunningham said Vista is being built to attract high-tech facilities.

"The tech park is

Cunningham

"The tech park is zoned to encourage tech companies to come in with the belief this whole area will be a technology corridor," he said.

Cunningham said he believes town property values will grow because of the presence of Vista. When asked about residents' concerns of Vista becoming another big box retail region similar to the 9W corridor, Cunningham said any retail development within the Vista Park is there to "support the local workers."

As for Route 9W, Cunningham calls the area a "region in transition."

"Wal-Mart was built prior to any comprehensive plan," said Cunningham. "Wal-Mart is a good "commercial district."

"It's an area residents don't like at all and others don't mind it being a retail commercial area," he said.

Sidewalks, not town finances are the No. 1 concern of residents Cunningham has heard from this year.

"People want sidewalks," he said. Another concern he has is that people in South Bethlehem and Selkirk feel they do not receive the same level of services as residents in the rest of the town.

"I try and talk to them about where they see that and try to address their issues," Cunningham said.

"Lower sales and mortgage tax revenue is forcing the town board to dip into the healthy fund balance reserves that stood at $800,000 or $900,000," said Cunningham, who believes the town's current fiscal plight will turn around in the next few years.

"This year, we have had some challengens, but we have a strong fund balance, and are using that to manage tax growth," said Cunningham, who believes the town's current fiscal plight will turn around in the next few years.

Cunningham's opponent is Jim Grady, who was endorsed by the Republican and Conservative parties and ran on a ticket for the Independence Party line in September, with Cunningham winning the coveted spot.

"I am getting positive feedback from people," said Cunningham, who is running for a seat on the school board along with holding house parties to get his word out.

"Managing employee growth, and addressing the town's aging infrastructure needs are two areas Cunningham said he would tackle if elected. Cunningham, who said if the town had an extra $10 million to spend, "we would "repair all the sewer pipes throughout the town."

Cunningham is married with two children, one a student at Bethlehem high school. In 2008, the town supervisor's salary is scheduled to be set at $108,776.

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By JIM CIUZZO

A sagging housing market is forcing Owens Corning to lay off one production line of workers numbering anywhere from 140 to 160 employees at their Bethlehem plant in Feura Bush by the end of the year.

"It's the first bit of negative economic news for a town that has been accustomed to hearing how businesses like the much anticipated Vista Technology Park want to locate there," said JIM CIUZZO.

Sponsor for Owens Corning Jason Saragian said the layoffs are due to a worldwide slowdown in the demand for building materials and are not tied to the overall U.S. economy. Employment at the Vista Tech Park will not be affected.

"We haven't laid anybody off and Terry Cunningham told me that the first layoffs at the local plant would not occur until Jan. 1," Saragian said. "That's why the local plant down completely, according to Saragian.

For almost a decade, the local plant was open.

"It's a tough issue due to the market," Saragian said.

The downturn in the housing market began in July 2006 and according to Saragian the trend has continued in 2007.

"We faced a market in an over-supply in the housing market," Saragian said.

Owens Corning is a Fortune 500 company founded in 1938. It is considered a market innovator in the ceramic fiber technology.
William C. Blackwell

William C. Blackwell, 90, of Delmar, died Friday, Oct. 19, at St. Peter’s Hospital.

Born in 1917, he was a graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School and RPI. He was a mechanical engineer for the state Office of General Services for more than 30 years, retiring in 1980. He volunteered as a driver for the American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society. He was a member of the Normanside Country Club for many years and a committed member of St. Catherine of Siena Church.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia (Tokin) Blackwell; their sons, William R. (Pam) Blackwell of Edinburg, Jeffery J. (Susan) Blackwell of Portland, Maine, and Christopher M. (Kelli Batcher) Blackwell of Edinburg; Jeffery Blackwell of Edinburg; four stepdaughters, Janice Blackwell of Maine, and Christopher M. Blackwell of Edinburg; three stepdaughters, Janice Blackwell of Maine, and Christopher M. Blackwell of Edinburg; and seven great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Menands.

Helen Donato

Helen Donato, of Voorheesville, died Monday, Oct. 25, at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter’s Hospital in Albany.

Born in Liberty, he served in the Army during World War II. He retired from the state Office of General Services. He was a life member of the American Legion Post and of the Boyd Hilton VFW Post.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Cox; two daughters, Sandra Gooley and Sharon Lukens; a daughter-in-law, Lauren Cox; three stepdaughters, Linda (David) Gardner, Diane (Timothy) Gilligan, Jo-Anne (Mark) Stulmaker; a sister, Alice (Amos) Hallenbeck; and several grandchildren.

A service was held at the Fredendall Funeral Home, Altamont.

Raymond H. Cox

Raymond H. Cox, 83, of Guilderland, died Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter’s Hospital in Albany.

Born in Liberty, he served in the Army during World War II. He retired from the state Office of General Services. He was a life member of the American Legion Post and of the Boyd Hilton VFW Post.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Cox; two daughters, Sandra Gooley and Sharon Lukens; a daughter-in-law, Lauren Cox; three stepdaughters, Linda (David) Gardner, Diane (Timothy) Gilligan, Jo-Anne (Mark) Stulmaker; a sister, Alice (Amos) Hallenbeck; a brother, Robert Cox; several grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

A service was held at the Fredendall Funeral Home, Altamont.

Mary G. Dobert

Mary G. Dobert, 67, of Delmar, died Friday, Oct. 26, at Albany Medical Center.

Born in Syracuse, she moved to Delmar at an early age. She attended Bethlehem Central schools and graduated in 1956 from Bethlehem Central High School.

She was a 1962 graduate of The College of Saint Rose in Albany with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry. She started her career at Sterling Winthrop Drug in Rensselaer but soon left to raise her family.

She was a gifted seamstress who started a business designing and making elegant gowns for wedding parties. After her children were grown, she worked for the state, retiring in 2006 from the comptroller’s office retirement call center. She was a tole painter and active participant in the Tuesday Toleers, a painting group in Delmar.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas J. Dobert; two children, Shawn Dobert (Brian) St. James of Delmar; Timothy J. Dobert and his partner, Betsy Heartfield, of Crested Butte, Colo.; three brothers, Laurence S. (Pat) Gifford Sr., of Belfair, Wash., Barry J. (Barbara) Gifford, of Scituate, Mass., and James K. (Shirley) Gifford, of Danville, Calif.; and two grandchildren.

Services were from the Appleseed Funeral Home, Delmar. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Delmar. Contributions may be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Pancan, 2114 Rosenlev Avenue, Suite 1000, El Segundo, CA 90245.

Gertrude Lenzenhuber

Gertrude Lenzenhuber, 101, of Delmar, died Thursday, Oct. 25, at Rosseed Garden. For many years, she and her late husband, Ludwig, were the proprietors of the Ace Pastry Shop in Albany. She was a former member of the German American Club in Albany.

Survivors include three children, Joseph (Mary) Lenzenhuber, of Delmar, Inge (Neil) Martinis, and Mary Lou (Martin) John, both of Florida; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services were from the Durant Funeral Home, Delmar, and were held at the convenience of the family. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Glenmont.

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Pauline Ouderkerk
Pauline Ouderkerk, 81, of Delmar, died, Saturday, Oct. 27. She was the widow of Clarence Ouderkerk. She was a past president and life member of the Delmar Fire Department Auxiliary. She was a member of the Albany County Volunteer Fireman's Blanchard Adams Post #404 and member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Survivors include a daughter, KaPa Burns and her husband, Robert, of Selkirk; two sisters, Marie Wright Frival of Delmar, Elsie Shong of Windsor, Vt.; two grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Wednesday, Oct. 31, at 10 a.m. at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., Delmar. Interment in Memory's Garden, Colonie. Arrangements are by the Durant Funeral Home, Delmar.

Contributions may be made to either the Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, 1552 Delaware Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12205, or call news@spotlightnews.com.
Everyone comes expecting the helicopter, Artistic Director Jim Charles said of "Miss Saigon," now being staged by C-R Productions at Cohoes Music Hall. When the show first opened on Broadway, the real helicopter used on stage became the talk of the performance.

"We have a great helicopter effect," Charles said. "We have a great scenic design team that works all year. We went round and round about how we would do this on our small stage."

The end result, he said, often gets applause.

But "Miss Saigon" is about much more than a helicopter. Based on Puccini's opera " Madame Butterfly," the musical tells the story of Chris, an American GI in Vietnam, and Kim, his lover and mother of his child. When Saigon falls, Chris leaves on the last helicopter, which Kim is unable to board. Later, he and his American wife meet Kim, along with her and Chris' son Tam in Bangkok. Kim takes her own life so that her son can go to America with her husband.

"It's bittersweet," said Yvonne Same, the California native who is playing Kim. "She's done what any mother would do in that situation. She sacrifices herself so her child can have a better life."

"This is a poignant story that needs to be told and re-told," Charles said, who said the show is more moving than depressing.

"When the final curtain goes down, you can hear a pin drop," he said. "There's a second before the audience starts clapping. That's a good thing; the audience is caught up in the story. As they're leaving, we hear them say that they can't wait to tell their friends about the show.

Now in its fifth season, Charles said C-R Productions felt it can begin to take more chances with the shows it offers. While choosing "Miss Saigon," he said the company was looking for something as moving as "Ragtime" had been last season, and something not yet performed in the Capital District.

"This is happening all over again," he said of the wartime situation that is the setting for "Miss Saigon." The story is for mature audiences; it's heavy on love, and it depicts the changing of the guard in Vietnam, the change in culture and society," he said.

Charles said that casting has become easier with every show, but finding enough Asian people for "Miss Saigon" proved challenging. Many of the supporting players came from the New York City area, but Charles said this show represents the largest number of local actors in a C-R Productions show to date.

Brendan Hoffman, playing the lead role of Chris, is one of those local actors. He's a music teacher at Albany High School. He has played lead roles at Park Playhouse in the summer, done ensemble work at Lake George Opera and sung solo classical pieces with local groups like Albany Pro Musica.

"This is a dream role for me," he said of his character, Chris. "It's the type of show and role I've longed to do."

Hoffman described his character as someone who could be thought of as a real jerk, or someone trying to make a tough decision.

"You don't get a lot of the story, like what happens when he goes home," Hoffman said. "He loves his American wife, and although the decision he makes is more about him, it's the best decision at the time."

Everyone involved in the show has a great deal of admiration for their co-stars. "People should know this is an incredible pool of awesome performers," Hoffman said. "It's a huge show and we do it really well. It's worth everyone coming out to see it."

"We have a seven-piece full-time orchestra," Charles said. "The actors don't take a break; they're blown away by the music and by what we can do."

"Miss Saigon" will be performed through Nov. 11, on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 10, there will be a 3 p.m. matinee. Tickets range in price from $23 to $32, with 20 percent off on Thursdays. For information or to purchase tickets, call 237-5858 or visit www.cohoesmusichall.com.

Cohoes Music Hall is located at 58 Remsen St. in Cohoes.
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THEATER

4.2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays. $20 adults, $18 students and seniors. Information, 567-1688.

RED HOT & COLE

Colin von Preisch's hits in one musical, presented by Sir Col. Company, Shenendehowa High School Little Theatre, 1336 Milton Ave., through Nov. 4. 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays. Information, 271-6881.

TUESDAYS WITH MUDDY

Based on Muddy Waters' book, presented by Upstream Theatre Company, 165 Re- gent St., Saratoga Springs, through Nov. 15. 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. 3 p.m. Sundays. Information. 462-3597.

TERRY ADKINS ROCK AND ROLL QUARTET

MRBO piano player brings site project to own. Nov. 2, 8 p.m. Mark Twain Performing Arts Stathis, Central Avenue, Albany. $23 Information 455-2331 ext. 4.

"GOLDEN OLIVES SPECULATUM"

Featuring Benny Rydell, Lou Christie, The Turtles and other stars of the 60s. Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. Prosper Theat., Oak Street, Schenectady. $25-35. Information 464-6504.

THE FRANK WINKFIELD BAND


ROBERT JACOB AND THE LEAGUE OF CUNYSTRUMMERS

King Crimson guitar wizard and his ensemble. Nov. 9, 8 p.m. B.B. King Blues Club, 10th Ave., New York City. $20. Information 420-5306.

THE DAVID BROSBROEN BAND

With the Angel Band, Nov. 4, 7 p.m. The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany. $25. Information. 473-1945.

BACK AT THE MOON

Traditional music and song from the Canadian. Nov. 10, 8 p.m. Old Songs, 37 South Main St., Northville. $17. Information 369-6072.

Comedy

VITALITY AT 59: "A Serious Comedy"

"A Lost Man," presented by Co­ nference of the Arts, Saratoga Springs Opera House, 335 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, through Nov. 11. Q.25-$40. Information. 382-7890.

SALVE MAGNA


THREE VIEWINGS

Three one-act monodramas set in a kitchen setting, presented by Albany Civic Theatre. 226 Second Ave., Albany, through Nov. 11. 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. 3 p.m. Sundays. Information. 462-2079.

Music

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THEATER

4.2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays. $20 adults, $18 students and seniors. Information, 567-1688.

RED HOT & COLE

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SIX MAN


THREE VIEWINGS

Three one-act monodramas set in a kitchen setting, presented by Albany Civic Theatre. 226 Second Ave., Albany, through Nov. 11. 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. 3 p.m. Sundays. Information. 462-2079.

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Wednesday, Oct. 31
THE SPOTLIGHT
DELMAR ROTARY
Nominones Country Club, 7:30 a.m.
information, 767-5750.

PLAYGROUND MEETING
First United Methodist Church playgrounds will
be open from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Playground
supervisors are available for children and
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For more information, call 766-2609, ext. 286.

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)
Christian fellowship group for mothers of
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120. Information, 767-4929 or e-mail, help@mothers.org.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Park and Recreation Office, Elm Avenue
Park, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-5060.

BETHLEHEM BUSINESS WOMEN
Norman's Country Club, Delmar Freew. 
Elm, 8 p.m. dinner. 8:30 p.m. program and meeting to
follow dinner. Information, 439-5060.

SOLID ROCK CHURCH
Sunday prayer rally, 1. Information, 765-2805.

THE SPOTLIGHT

CALIFORNIA ANTIQUE CAR SHOW
Park Avenue and the intersection of Four Corners.
Delmar. 10 a.m. Information, 439-9819.

DEL MAR COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Public Library, 2-5 p.m. Information, 439-5815.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 58
(when school is in session)
Flares Elementary School, 347 Delmar Ave., 7:30 p.m.

DEL MAR COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Public Library, 2-5 p.m. Information, 439-5815.

NEW YORKER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Public Library, 2-5 p.m. Information, 439-5815.

PRAYER MEETING
On-Going prayer meeting and Bible study, 
Hiland Church, corner of New Scotland and School Ave., 
Route 9W, Delmar. 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-0503.

AA MEETING
First United Methodist Church of Bethlehem, 
200 Maple St. Information, 439-0503.

AA MEETING
First United Methodist Church, 465 Elm Ave., 8:30 p.m.

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)
Christian fellowship group for mothers of
preschool children, after Delmar Reformed Church, 
386 Delmar Ave. Nursery care provided.
For more information, call Jennifer at 439-6429 or e-mail, help@mothers.org.

OCCASIONAL MEETINGS
Board meetings (first Wednesday of each month)
apart, Bethlehem High School, 445 Delaware Ave., 6 p.m.

DELMAR YOUTH SERVICES
Youth Employment Services, 100 Peninsula
Drive, 7:30 p.m. Information, 439-5060.

BETHLEHEM BUSINESS WOMEN
Norman's Country Club, Delmar Freew.
Elm, 5 p.m., dinner. 8:15 p.m. program and meeting to
follow dinner. Information, 439-5060.

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Sunday prayer rally, 1. Information, 765-2805.

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A small company is looking for part time work. Work from home account managers and sales representatives, it pays 4000 Dollars a month plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Please contact us for more details.


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Eagles aim for second Sectional swimming title

O'Donnell, Powhida lead Bethlehem into DI battle

The Section II girls swimming and diving championships return to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy this weekend with a new format. Rather than hold all the finals in one marathon session Saturday, the championship races will be split into two sessions. Division II (classes B, C and D) will hold its finals at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, and Division I (class A) holds its championship races at 5 p.m.

The 24 teams are equally split between the two divisions as well, now that Niskayuna has dropped down to Division II. The new alignment will help the Silver Warriors, as they avoid swimming against class A powers Bethlehem, Shenendehowa and Saratoga Springs. However, they must battle Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, which only lost once this season, and Queensbury for the team title.

Division I also figures to be a close race between defending class A champions Bethlehem, Shen and Saratoga. All three teams feature strong individual swimmers, though Bethlehem and Shen hold an advantage over Saratoga in the relays.

Individually, Shen's Kara Zbowski is poised to have a big meet. The junior posted the top times in Section II in four different events this season—the 100-yard freestyle, the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststroke—and was in the top five in two other races. She will be a threat in any individual event she enters.

Other swimmers to watch for in Division I are Saratoga's Taylor Soane, Mohonasen-Schalmont's Amanda Vitullo and Bethlehem's Bethany Powhida and Katie O'Donnell. Shen's Andrea Krok, Ballston Spa's Taber Walkowiak and Saratoga's Elizabeth Rice are the reigning contenders in the diving competition.

In Division II, Niskayuna's Katrina Hart, Emily Whitaker and McKenna Murphy will be looking to win individual titles. Hart has the top 100 breaststroke time in the section with a 1:09.06 she recorded in an Oct. 19 dual meet against Schenectady. When Whitaker and Murphy posted the third-best times in the region in the 200 and 50 freestyless respectively, Murphy also has the fifth-best time in the 100 butterfly.

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake has a serious individual title contender in Courtney Swearingen, Besides owning the sixth-fastest time in the 200 freestyle, Schwating also owns a 0:4-sec victory over ...
Saratoga runners took three spots with a time of 15:38.59, themselves apart from the pack. Finished fourth in a time of 15:57.36, and Brian Trainor finished eighth with a time of 18:02.38.

Bethlehem's Kristin Kenney finished seventh in a time of 18:18.46. The Suburban Council teams settled for third place with 85 points. Bethlehem placed eighth with 203 points.

Senior Hannah Davidson led Saratoga by taking the individual out of the Plainsmen's top five. Mike Danaher led the Shen's Craig Weiss (sixth, 17:14.88), and Chris Manico placed 45th with a time of 17:45.86, with John McDonald settling for third place with 85 points.

Cassandra Goutos was fourth in Shaker's Craig Weiss (sixth, 17:17.36 and 17:27.60, but Ubriaco. Yousef Ahit was Bethlehem's top runner. Ahit placed 6th with a time of 17:14.88. The Suburban Council teams will face Section II squads at Friday's Sectional final at Saratoga Spa State Park.

Seniors Janeczko's 10, 16:00.79) rounded out the top 10 in the girls' varsity race. On the boys' side, Shen defended its team title by placing five runners in the top 15. The Plainsmen finished with 43 points, 33 points ahead of runner-up Shaker. BH-BL was third with 85 points. Bethlehem finished 11th with 328 points.

The Blue Streaks finished in the top 10 to help Saratoga fend off challenges from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake and Shenendehowa to repeat as league champions. The Blue Streaks finished with 33 points, while BH-BL placed second with 44 points and Shen settled for third place with 85 points. Bethlehem placed eighth with 203 points.

In a year when the Saratoga (ninth; 18:35.20) and Niskayuna's Streaks (fourth) were seemingly vulnerable, its varsity race.

The Spotlight

### Time

**Time**

(Prom Page 48)

Define their Hall of Fame careers. Two sets of excellent receivers making clutch catch after clutch catch. Two defenses hanging on by their fingertips to stop the other side from entering the end zone. Who wouldn't want to see that?

Unfortunately, I don't think the NFL has the courage to make such a radical change to its playoff system. Not when tradition dictates that each conference produce a champion, and not when there's more money to be made by having wildcard teams add an extra week to the postseason. The league will say that its playoff system has worked well for nearly 40 years, so why change it now?

The thing is that when you look back at the history of the Super Bowl, there haven't been many super games because there hasn't been a great balance between the two conference. There have only been four Super Bowls decided on the last play - three on field goals, and one when a player was tackled a yard away from a game-winning touchdown. Granted, three of those games took place in the last decade - Super Bowls XXXIII (St. Louis-Tennessee), XXXIV (St. Louis-New England) and XXXVIII (New England-Carolina) - which would lead one to believe the NFL is becoming more competitive. But when you consider that only one NFC team has won the Super Bowl in that stretch (St. Louis), it doesn't seem all that competitive.

Of course, the AFC hasn't always dominated the Super Bowl. In fact, from 1981 through 1987, the NFC champion won nearly every time and in convincing fashion. I'm sure that at the time, people probably wondered if it wouldn't be better for a playoff system which allowed for the top two NFC teams to meet for the NFL title.

So, why shouldn't the NFL switch to my proposed format? After all, if the league wants its championship game to have the best possible matchup, this will guarantee it nearly every time.

It certainly would guarantee this year because no one else is going to beat New England or Indy.
Soccer playoffs kick off

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk boys and girls soccer teams both played last Thursday in the opening round of the Section II Class B playoffs with mixed results.

The boys team ran into a tough Section II, Class B squad in the opening round and lost 5-4 in Rotterdam, while the girls team downed Hoosic Valley 8-0 in Ravena.

Schalmont (13-6) took a 4-0 lead on first-half goals by Marc Case, Alex Bartini, Bobby Sheehan and Carlo Viscuri. Case tallied again in the second half to cap the Sabers' scoring.

R-C-S finished the season with a 4-12 record.

The R-C-S girls fared much better against Hoosic Valley last Thursday. Ashley Wilson and Jessica Meyers each scored twice in the Lady Indians' 8-0 victory.

Chrissey Shepard, Jordy Vatalaro, Emily Scott and Liz Cown also scored goals for R-C-S, which faced Greeneville in the class B quarterfinals Monday after having the game postponed due to rain Saturday.

The Voorheesville boys soccer team also advanced in Sectional play, as the Blackbirds defeated Lake George 1-0 last Thursday in a class CC game. Voorheesville (19-2) faces the winner of Monday's Galway-Howes Falls game Wednesday in Glens Falls.

Bethlehem's boys team escaped a first-round class AA game against Schenectady with a 1-0 overtime victory last Friday. Lennart Hassel tallied in the third overtime period to lead the Eagles (11-4-2) into Tuesday's quarterfinal against either Columbia or LaSalle.

The Bethlehem girls team received a first-round bye in class AA after earning the No. 1 seed.

Let’s face facts, folks. Sunday’s Indianapolis-New England game is a preview of the NFL championship.

It can’t be a preview of the Super Bowl because they play in the same conference, but it might as well be a preview of the NFL championship because whoever wins this weekend will get the chance to raise the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

But what if there was a way that the Patriots and Colts — with no question, the two best teams in the NFL — could meet in the Super Bowl? Wouldn’t that be better than the Colts or the Patriots beating down some helpless NFC team next February in Phoenix?

Unfortunately, that can’t happen this year. But I have a proposal that could make it possible down the road, if only NFL commissioner Roger Goodell would consider it.

The proposal is based on how Section II organizes its playoffs. You take the four division winners in each conference and rank them based on their records (no wildcards allowed). Then, you have the top team from one conference play the fourth-best team from the other conference, and the No. 2 team play the No. 3 team from the other side — exactly like Sectionals. The winners meet in the semifinals, with the two victors playing in the Super Bowl.

Let’s do this with the NFL’s current division leaders. In the AFC, New England is currently No. 1 with an 8-0 record, followed by Indy No. 2 at 7-0 and Pittsburgh No. 3 at 5-2. No. 4 is a toss-up between Kansas City and San Diego, both of whom are 4-3 and are at the top of the AFC West, but I’ll give the nod to the Chiefs because of their win over the Chargers last month.

In the NFC, East-leading Dallas is No. 1 at 6-1, followed by NFC North leader Green Bay (5-1) at No. 2. Seattle and Carolina are both 4-3, but I’ll place the Panthers at No. 3 because of a better record against NFC competition (4-1 for Carolina to 3-2 for Seattle).

With my playoff alignment, New England gets Seattle, Indy meets Carolina (again), Pittsburgh plays Green Bay and Dallas hosts Kansas City. Chances are, New England would have no trouble with the mediocre Seattle Seahawks, Indy would throttle Carolina (again), Dallas would beat Kansas City and Pittsburgh would find a way to edge Green Bay.

Let’s advance the other two teams in the playoffs. For the AFC, I have West-leading Pittsburgh at No. 4 where Pittsburgh would play the No. 5 team from the AFC East, with the winner moving on to meet the New England-Dallas winner.

For the NFC, I would go with NFC East-leading Dallas at No. 5 where Dallas would host the No. 6 team from the NFC West, with the victor moving on to meet the Green Bay-Seattle winner.

Let’s change the NFL playoff format, because it’s time to change NFL playoff format.