Reservoir patrolman calls firing ‘suspicious’

County cop says he was terminated for speaking out about mercury spill

By JARRETT CARROLL
Spotlight Newspapers
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Newly appointed court clerk quits

Patricia Parsons was town’s court clerk less then two months

By JARRETT CARROLL
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“She wanted to go back to her job at the county,” Cunningham said about Parsons’ sudden departure. “Barb’s back working, she’s continuing in that role and putting in more hours.”

Cunningham did not specify any of the details surrounding Parsons’ departure.

The town’s two judges, Bethlehem Justice Ryan Donovan and Justice Paul Dwyer, are the ones who appoint the town’s court clerk, a post whose pay starts at $58,000 a year. The town board

Ready to vote? They’re all ears

As the 2008 presidential election nears, learning about the candidates can feel a little like navigating a giant maze. Liberty Ridge Farm in Schaghticoke has taken that concept a step further, giving area families an opportunity to “vote with their feet.”

By ARIANA COHN
Spotlight Newspapers
cohna@spotlightnews.com

When it comes to work, it doesn’t matter how you get there, all that matters is you get there on time.

For several hospital and healthcare facility employees, getting to work on time is not so simple.

Some blame their tardiness on their dependence on buses that consistently run late. Others say the high cost of gas is slowing them down by forcing them to come up with alternative options like carpooling, leaving them subject to another person’s dependability. Even when they do make it to work on time, many have trouble getting home again after a strenuous eight-hour shift.

It can be frustrating when buses run late, but what do you do when the bus never comes?

For Leishea White, 42, of Albany, the answer was simple. If the bus doesn’t come, you walk.

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Three nabbed for DWI during county sweep

Bethlehem police arrested three motorists for driving under the influence while taking part in a countywide sweep on Thursday, Aug. 14, following the final Alive at Five concert of the season in Albany.

The sweep, dubbed “Operation Snapshot” by Albany County District Attorney David Soares, saw 31 DWI arrests, one DWAI arrest, and one driving while ability impaired by drugs arrest all in the matter of a four-hour block.

In total, Soares reported that the checkpoints held in municipalities around the county yielded 264 infractions that evening.

Bethlehem police held a checkpoint on Route 5W in Glenmont and arrested Charles J. Blanchard Jr., 20, of Delmar; Michael K. Altschuler, 54, of Glenmont; and Kira Stiles-Mikl, 24, of Albany.

Blanchard was arrested for DWI, operating a motor vehicle with a blood-alcohol content of 0.18 percent or greater, and unlawful possession of marijuana.

When police stopped Blanchard at the checkpoint, officers reported that they smelled alcohol on his breath and observed him display signs of intoxication, according to the arrest report.

Blanchard was given a field sobriety test and tested positive for alcohol before being taken into custody without incident and transported to the Bethlehem Police Department, the report states.

Bethlehem police said they discovered four bottles of unopened beer and when Blanchard was searched at the police station, officers found a small plastic bag containing “green vegetation,” which was later determined to be marijuana.

Blanchard was arrested by Bethlehem Justice Paul Dewey.

Altschuler, 54, of Glenmont, was arrested for DWI and driving a motor vehicle with a BAC of 0.08 percent or greater.

Police stopped Altschuler at the checkpoint and smelled alcohol on his breath, the report states, and his speech was slurred when speaking with officers.

Bethlehem Police said Altschuler failed a field sobriety test and was taken into custody and transported to the Bethlehem Police station, the report states.

Altschuler failed a field sobriety test and was taken into custody and transported to the Bethlehem police station where he submitted to a chemical test.

He was released to the custody of his son and scheduled to return to court on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Stiles-Mikl was arrested for DWI, operating a motor vehicle with a BAC of 0.08 percent or greater; and aggrandized DWI, with a BAC of 0.18 percent or greater.

Police smelled alcohol on Stiles-Mikl’s breath and when officers asked if she had been drinking, she stated, “Yes, two beers,” according to the arrest report. The report also states that she failed three field sobriety tests, tested positive for alcohol, and was displaying signs of intoxication.

Stiles-Mikl admitted to officers she had been drinking “two in Albany at a friend’s residence,” according to police. She submitted to a chemical test and was found to be nearly triple the legal BAC limit of 0.08 percent, the report states.

Other arrests

• Peter J. Smith, 53, of Delmar, was arrested on Wednesday, Aug. 20, on New Scotland Road for DWI and following too close.

Bethlehem police said they responded to a property-damage auto accident, and when the interviewed Smith at the scene, his breath-smelled of alcohol.

When asked if he was drinking, Smith “stated he had [two or three] beers about a half hour to an hour prior,” according to the arrest report.

Smith failed a field sobriety test and tested positive for alcohol on a pre-screening device before he was taken into custody without accident, the report states.

He submitted to a chemical test and is scheduled to appear in town court on Tuesday, Sept. 2, according to police. He was released to his wife.

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County announces Hudson-Helderberg rail trail

By CARROLL JARRETT
Spotlight News

Albany County Executive Michael Breslin announced that the county is seeking approval to buy the Canadian Pacific Railway property and turn it into a nine-mile pedestrian pathway from Voorheesville to the Port of Albany.

Breslin said at a press conference on Thursday, Aug. 21, that an agreement was reached with Canadian Pacific Railway and that he needs approval from the Albany County legislature to enter into a contract.

"With several members of the legislature at the meeting, approval is expected to easily pass by a majority vote," Breslin said at the press conference.

The idea, he said, would be to convert the former Delaware & Hudson Railroad, which runs directly through New Scotland and Voorheesville and link to it to other recreational trails and municipalities along the way.

"We are excited at the prospect of acquiring this land," Breslin said. The creation of this park would turn currently unused space into a huge asset for Albany County residents, creating recreational opportunities and preserving this scenic area.

"Albany County was given the $700,000 asking price for the railway from Scenic Hudson and the state Department of Environmental Conservation, Historic Preservation to purchase the trail. Scenic Hudson, who is partnering with the county on the initiative, said this was a 'no-brainer, we've got to do this.'"

"We're thrilled to have a basic agreement with Canadian Pacific Railway that will allow us to work around the capital region without having to deal with other companies," Breslin said. He added that he was "fully confident we'll be able to get approval from the legislature."
**With kids, you’re always on the clock**

By WILLIAM R. DEVOE
Spotlight Newspapers
devoe@spotlightnewspapers.com

Sometimes you just want to make a sandwich.

But when you have kids, you can no longer “just” do anything. You no longer “just” go to dinner or no longer “just” run right down to the store. Things that you “just” used to do are now chores that involve hours-long preparations, the stockpiling of diaper bags and the changing of diapers, the wrestling of clothes on and off on squirming little kids as they do just about anything they can to delay the process of “just” doing something that used to take no time at all.

When I do get a chance to “just” do something, I like to spend my time in the garden or doing yard work. I have a ritual: of the time with the lawn in particular. “Can’t mommy make it, Kev, my wife tells me.

“Just do something that is important.”

“Mommy pays me to shred the shredder but you can’t make your own peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches?”

I married young. That is to say, I married a woman who is a few years younger than me. When Neil Diamond wrote “I’m a believer,” the song which he recorded in 1969, my wife wouldn’t be born for another 17 years. She grew up on bands like the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Dashboard Confessional and Pearl Jam.

For the most part, my wife’s youthfulness coupled with a maturity that is beyond her years — keeps me young yet grounded. In this case, where all I’d like to do is mow the lawn, it was doing neither.

I decided that if I was going to be interrupted for what I thought was trivial matter, I’d try to show off my trivial knowledge as best as I could: “The song was written by Neil Diamond, made famous by the Monkees, and later recorded by bands like the Red Hot Chili Peppers and The Fifth Estate,” I say to her.

“What?” she says placatingly.

I live in new to mow the lawn with one of those old-fashioned mowers with the spinning blades out in front. My brother, and I once used to turn and take turns pushing the thing up and down the small patch of grass that is the backyard.

The old man — Tom is his name — used to watch us every weekend. I always thought it was because we were using a mower that was way out of date, with a few drinks and take turns pushing the thing up and down the small patch of grass that is the backyard.

“Time out,” I say to my son. “You can work the shredder but you can’t make your own peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches?”

*Ender*
Making connections and covering the issues

Teens gather to create newsletter highlighting disability issues

By ARIANA COHN
Spotlight Newspapers
cohn@a spotlightnews.com

Twice a year, they come from different locations throughout the state. They are different ages and from different groups of friends, but they all leave as friends.

The newsletter is circulated to every high school throughout the state. Topics inside cover the issues that affect most high school students; primarily students with disabilities. Students write about all sorts of disabilities, and not necessarily ones they are familiar with.

The group, called "Connect-ability" has been sponsored by NYSUT since 2006, when NYSUT Vice President Maria Niera saw a need for the program to continue operating after its previous sponsors ended their participation.

"It was my staff who brought the issue to my attention immediately and we, 'right away' made a decision that we would pick up the publication of this newsletter," Niera said.

The newsletter, which was originally called "Disability Awareness Newsletter" became "Connect-ability," by recommendation of the students.

The students, in fact, call most of the shots when it comes to the newsletter because it is written, and edited by them.

According to Niera, the entire two-day event is sponsored by NYSUT, which covers the costs of the hotel accommodations, food, transportation and workshops. The teachers who help the students develop the newsletter volunteer their time.

"Our staff donates their time working with the students," said Niera. "They take time off from their jobs to come here to work with the students.

And it's the special attention the students receive that makes the newsletter a quality publication, according to Niera.

"The group is unique in another way. It blends together students with disabilities and those without, making it an educational experience for teens of different backgrounds.

Together, the kids toward a common goal: the newsletter. At this month's workshop, Tom Corrado led the group through a creative writing exercise.

He posed a question on a PowerPoint screen: "What is a disability anyway?"

Corrado, the teens' writing coach for the day, went around the room asking the students what their answer was, and coaching them to "get down to the ground" of the meaning of the word disability.

One student, Alexis Kim, said, "I feel like it has a negative connotation just because it has the word 'dis' in front of it."

Another student, Fabio Botrelli, said, "It's a mental or physical component of a person."

While some of the students do not have a disability, many of them have seen disability in their lives. Bridgeford, 20, of Delmar, said her sister, Cassie, who is also involved in Connect-ability, is autistic.

She knew a lot about disabilities and wanted to express her knowledge through writing.

"It's interesting to offer a completely different perspective," Ford said she would encourage younger people to get involved, if not with Connect-ability, then with something like it.

"I really think it broadens your horizon," she said.

According to Niera, NYSUT plans to broaden the program to include issues of race and diversity in the newsletter and have students discuss such topics at future meetings.

For information, contact Catherine McHugh at 212-6000, ext. 6522.

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Why not visit Shaker Power and learn things that can change the way you live?
Colonic LifeGuard has outlived its use

It's hard to put a price on human life, more so in the town of Colonie than anywhere else, it seems.

In the town, where Supervisor Paula Mahan and others are proposing to do away with the Colonic EMS LifeGuard Air Rescue program, the only thing that's hard is putting that price on life. But putting that price on life is proving to be not only morally, but logically, challenging. That's because, in the months of debate about pulling the plug on the rescue service that has culminated in an extension of the air-rescue until the end of the year, no one can pinpoint how much LifeGuard is costing or earning for the taxpayers.

Mahan reversed on Thursday, Aug. 14, her monthslong stance to not enter into a new contract with State Police in which 12 Colonie EMS flight medics assist in rescue missions. The 15-year-old program was scheduled to expire Sept. 1. A couple of months ago, the supervisor gave several reasons for not wanting to renew the contract, including liability, fiscal impact and in-air respondents not being able to care for residents of the town.

Supporters of the service, many of them members of the Post Falls Police Employees Union, the organization that represents the members of Colonie EMS, are saying that the flight rescue costs the town only $17,000 a year and is moving toward a break-even point or may be profitable.

Mahan, in turn says the net loss to the town because of the program is around $400,000.00.

Neither have provided concrete numbers, although the union does state that the service's low cost is due to some $3.3 million in insurance billing. Remember that the next year the program will be filled with the addition of two commercial operations.

At least a couple of times a week, our family would gather up in the car and seek out next ice cream stop. The girls can eat as much ice cream as they wish, and they often did. Jenna and Mei Lei were no feat for them. Jenna and Mei Lei seemed to enjoy every cone no matter the size or flavor. But there shouldn't they; they are kids.

They did tell us their all-time favorite flavors after a few stops. Jenna picked Hunka Chunka PB Fudge, and Mei Lei picked the one she was eating at the time — Mint Cookie Crumble from Stewart's. Of course they weren't included in what we were surveying, but that is their opinion, for the record.

After visiting different areas, this was our outcome:

- Best Taste: Lakeside Farms, Ballston Lake: Best Value, Just Meat, Malta: Best Size, Martha's, Queensbury.

Lakeside is an excellent value and was the creamiest. The serving size was a bit smaller than Just Meat and varied from server to server, but where can you get an ice cream sandwich for under $1 that actually tastes great? Now if you want to compare all three together for taste/size, we would choose Just Meat. Its portion size is very large, and the taste is excellent. For the price, it can't be beat.

Martha's serves an extremely large cone, but the price is large also, although the taste is good. Once, when the girls and I stopped at Martha's to share a kiddie cone, they were accommodating with our request for different flavors on one cone. Upon leaving, I noticed a man eating a very tall ice cream cone and asked if it was large. I was shocked when he said it was only a medium. The ice cream had to measure 7 inches.

Mr. Ed's Ice Cream Station served a great-tasting cone for $1. The portion was small, but where else can you get free homegrown zucchini and the owner to wait on you?

A place that claims they have "the best" was rated by us one of the least desirable, but the advertisement did get us to visit them. We also noticed that the further south we went, the smaller the portion size, and as we headed north, the servings got bigger.

We 'even sampled' a strawberry soft serve at Marcella's — now that was good.

We found in some establishments that a kiddie cone was not offered on the menu board, but when asked they would gladly make one.

The Urbanski family — dad, Joe; mom, Julie; Jenna, 5; and Mei Lei, 3.

Submitted photo

One establishment only served custard so it was not a good comparison. Some places had nicer atmospheres, and the neatness of the cone varied by the experience of the server and how busy they were. At some places, cone size was inconsistent.

Friendly's offers soft serve, which was news to us, and we were very disappointed with their offering, which we rated the worst. A popular comedian's quote about "eating the cold" went through my head when I was eating their soft serve. The serving was very small, and our girls wouldn't even eat it.

The ice cream didn't even look real — a big disappointment.

Overall, most of the ice cream we sampled was good in unique ways. There were a lot of establishments that were in very close running for the best taste, if only we could have sampled them all at once. Our family had fun visiting and sampling the many treats of summertime, and we are sad to see the summer days of ice cream get us to an end. Next year we'll make it a goal to visit every ice cream establishment in our surrounding areas.
Additionally, the $2 million project acquired the old D&H tracks in Voorheesville. I probably know more about the deal than most, as I was the only private citizen to attend all of the planning meetings starting in 1996, including riding the last passenger train to Delanson. As the track was being put up for abandonment by the D&H, meetings held by the Capital District Transportation Committee opened the track to options such as another railroad operation it, a tourist line from Albany to the Altamont Fairgrounds and a bike trail—the bike trail being the default right of way.

As meetings progressed up to 1999, the committee made it evident the right of way was going to become a bike trail, not by default, but by political influence and popularity. In one meeting, everyone was shocked to hear that this trail was a $25 million project. As I recall, it included 186,000 feet of guardrail at $10 million, 19 bridges with lead paint from the 1800s at $2 million apiece to strip.

The study was commissioned by the Albany County Highway Commissioner and executed by the county engineer. Safety concerns would cost millions to make it safe for bicyclists. Drop-offs at 100 feet or more concerned the engineer to the point of saying it is impractical.

At this point, the state Department of Transportation jumped out of the plan and left the CDTC to make the decision. As the rails were still in place at the time, I decided to apply to operate a tourist train on these tracks. A state Department of Transportation judge refused to hear the case and informed me that they had more political influence leaning toward using this corridor as a bike trail.

A study completed in 1999 stated a tourist railroad would bring 83,000 people into Altamont Fairgrounds yearly, spending an average of $39 per person per day for a total of $323,700. Additionally, the tracks could be used for a form of very light rail using buses instead of trains for commuter service in the mornings and evenings. The profits made by the tourist railroad would offset the commuters' cost.

Unfortunately, now that the tracks have been removed and the property awaits some sort of disposition from the railroad, I would suggest that the tourist rail be given a good second look. Lightweight vehicles and composite plastic track are more in order than the railroad of old.

Student tours of the area by train and bike can show our youth the history of the area and how the railroad made our town, yet show the latest and greatest in transportation.

I would hope that both tourist rail and bikes could use the right of way in certain sections, without affecting the safety of the bikers.

Perhaps our town could be the test bed for a new type of mass transit with lightweight individual cars that bring you from home to work, using the rail as a controlled corridor.

The Bethlehem Town Board has been very hesitant in side stepping the issue of the rail, and rightfully so. Where are they going to get the funding for the trail? From where else but taxpayers? So the board has reverted the right of way's usage back to Albany County and the "Rails to Trails" idea only.

The counties wanting to buy the right of way now, could only come with indemnifying the railroad from all the risks of past pollution from the 1800s on. Potentially leaving the taxpayer at risk.

I suggest that venture capital can be found to start the new project without the help of the taxpayer, clearing us from any burdens.

I challenge readers to call Albany County Executive Michael G. Breslow's office and make their suggestions. Help keep this the nicest place to visit and the nicest place to live.

Paul Marsh
Glenmont
Got news or views?
Spotlight Newspapers welcomes announcements of programs or events occurring in our coverage area. All events must be open to the public and announcements should contain the date, time, location and cost (if any) of the event, along with contact information. Announcements are published space and time permitting.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@spotlightnews.com, faxed to 439-0609, or mailed to Spotlight, P.O. Box 100, Delmar 12054.

The deadline for all announcements is noon Thursday prior to publication.

The Spotlight Newspapers also welcomes letters from readers on subjects of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing for fairness, style and length and should be contained to 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.

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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 on submitting a Point of View, e-mail Executive Editor Tim Mulligan at mulligan@spotlightnews.com or call 439-4949.

Editor, The Spotlight:
For the 10th consecutive year, our community will be coming together to participate in the Walk to Cure Diabetes, sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Over the past nine years, the community has rallied around this important cause - finding a cure for diabetes by participating in the event as a team called Bethlehem Cares.

Thus far, our team has raised approximately $190,000, all of which has gone directly to research to find a cure for diabetes and its complications. On Sunday, Sept. 21, Bethlehem Cares will participate in this year's Walk to Cure Diabetes at Corporate Woods in Albany. You can join us as a walker by calling 439-0894, by pre-registering at www.jdrf.org, or by using one of the walk brochures found in many area businesses.

Remember to sign up as a member of the Bethlehem Cares community/family team.

If you are one of the first 150 people to turn in at least $25 for diabetes research, you will receive a free team T-shirt.

We would like to thank our business friends for sponsoring our T-shirt this year, especially our Gold Sponsors: the Kiwanis Club of Delmar and Meadowbrook Farms.

We would also like to thank all of our Silver Sponsors: Allen and Tast Plumbing and Heating, Bethlehem Family Practice, Callanan Industries, Capital Cities Imported Cars, Capital District Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Choices Hair Studio and Day Spa, Crossroads Ford Mercury and Robert M. Deitz, DDS.

Also, Delmar Pediatrics, Farm Family Insurance Companies, Klersy Building Corporation, Michael F. Lyons, DMD, Nigro Companies, Northeastern Dental Lab and Re/Mac Premier.

The next time that you visit one of these businesses, please thank them for supporting their community and for supporting diabetes research.

If you can't join us for the walk but would like to make a donation, you can mail your check (made payable to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) to Bethlehem Cares at 65 Boylston Drive, Delmar 12054.

Thank you for helping us show that Bethlehem really is a caring community!
Tim Carey
Bethlehem Cares

Your Opinion Spotlight
Join Bethlehem Cares in walking to cure diabetes

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For the 10th consecutive year, our community will be coming together to participate in the Walk to Cure Diabetes, sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Over the past nine years, the community has rallied around this important cause - finding a cure for diabetes by participating in the event as a team called Bethlehem Cares.

Thus far, our team has raised approximately $190,000, all of which has gone directly to research to find a cure for diabetes and its complications. On Sunday, Sept. 21, Bethlehem Cares will participate in this year's Walk to Cure Diabetes at Corporate Woods in Albany. You can join us as a walker by calling 439-0894, by pre-registering at www.jdrf.org, or by using one of the walk brochures found in many area businesses.

Remember to sign up as a member of the Bethlehem Cares community/family team.

If you are one of the first 150 people to turn in at least $25 for diabetes research, you will receive a free team T-shirt.

We would like to thank our business friends for sponsoring our T-shirt this year, especially our Gold Sponsors: the Kiwanis Club of Delmar and Meadowbrook Farms.

We would also like to thank all of our Silver Sponsors: Allen and Tast Plumbing and Heating, Bethlehem Family Practice, Callanan Industries, Capital Cities Imported Cars, Capital District Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Choices Hair Studio and Day Spa, Crossroads Ford Mercury and Robert M. Deitz, DDS.

Also, Delmar Pediatrics, Farm Family Insurance Companies, Klersy Building Corporation, Michael F. Lyons, DMD, Nigro Companies, Northeastern Dental Lab and Re/Mac Premier.

The next time that you visit one of these businesses, please thank them for supporting their community and for supporting diabetes research.

If you can't join us for the walk but would like to make a donation, you can mail your check (made payable to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) to Bethlehem Cares at 65 Boylston Drive, Delmar 12054.

Thank you for helping us show that Bethlehem really is a caring community!
Tim Carey
Bethlehem Cares

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RCS capital project to be revised

A project manager will oversee revisions to the RCS School District’s EXCEL capital project and help the Board of Education and Interim Superintendent Michael Johnson determine how to conduct necessary health, safety and energy efficiency work within the funding allotted by voters last year.

The Board of Education on Monday, Aug. 18, approved the hiring of Armlin & Associates to serve as owners representative/project manager for the $2.35 million capital project that was approved by voters last October.

Base bids for the work — submitted earlier this year after a longer-than-expected state delay in approving the work — totaled $2.2 million, substantially more than was authorized by voters, said Johnson.

"Mr. (Tony) Armlin will look at the project, our five-year plan and the health, safety and energy efficiencies we need to address and work with our Buildings and Grounds Committee to develop our best course of action," the interim superintendent said.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee consists of board Vice President Cindi Elliott and members John Vadney, Tracy Travers and Mike Robbins.

Armlin will examine areas of concern with district facilities that have arisen since the project was put before voters, which include façade issues with the two elementary schools.

Johnson assured residents that no new taxpayer costs will be incurred as a result of the review and revisions to the project.

The project manager will explore grant funding through the state, as well as investigate potential cost savings from using energy efficiency contractors for aspects of the project.

One area of savings being explored is the use of smaller hot water tanks in the elementary schools because the current tanks are not utilized to their capacity and — as a result — use more electricity than necessary. A significant cost savings could result from the purchase of smaller tanks instead of the originally planned purchase of the same size tanks.

The bids for the project were opened earlier this summer and Architect Mike Fanning of Dodge Chamberlin Luzene Weber Associates told the Board of Education this month that several factors combined to significantly drive the cost of the project up.

Specifically, he cited:
• A six- and a half-month state Education Department review of the project, which delayed bidding until June and limited interest and competition among contractors, who had already filled their calendars with work.
• A longer and more difficult construction schedule than expected as a result of the delay.
• Escalating construction costs resulting from the economy. Specifically, Facilities Director Eugene Doane said, the costs of everything from fuel to copper, steel and other essential materials have skyrocketed.

Johnson said certain aspects of the project may be outright removed while others will be bid as alternates — meaning contractors can submit bids for the work, and the district may choose to accept the bids if it falls within the budget.

The interim superintendent said the review of the work is expected to take approximately six weeks with a course of action expected to be presented to the Board of Education by early October.

Creative chefs

Summer campers from Bethlehem Children’s School’s Healthy Cooking class “step outside the kitchen” to display their tissue-paper chef’s hats they created. Camp continues until Aug. 29. Campers in grades kindergarten to eight are welcome.

Submitted photo

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In a secure, beautiful 30-acre woodland setting, the future of retirement living is taking shape. And maybe yours, too.

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It’s all available with flexible entrance fee plans that let you choose the level of refundability you want — up to 100%!

THE POINTE OF IT ALL. FOR SECURE, REWARDING LIVING.

In uncertain times, the worst thing you can do is “wait and see.” Make the choice that will preserve your independence and protect your peace of mind: today and tomorrow. Shaker Pointe is coming soon — so reserve NOW, with special Founder’s Club pricing and privileges. To learn more CALL TODAY!

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Opening its doors to the community

LEFT: Beverwyck resident advisor Sue Lauer demonstrates the retirement community’s Home Med Health and Wellness machine, which can take vital statistics as well as monitor changes in the residents and is directly connecting to a nursing facility in Troy. With her is resident Fay Fairfax, Wednesday, Aug. 20, during an open house at the retirement community’s Slingerlands location. ABOVE: Beverwyck Vice President and Executive Director Douglas Miller, left, stands beside a Beverwyck van during the open house. Bethlehem planning board member Howard Engle and his wife, Wayne, right, also attended the event.

21ST ANNUAL
RAVENA
FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

SEPT. 6, 2008
Mosher Park, 12 Noon - 8:45 PM
Pool parking lot designated for vendors and handicap parking only
FREE ON THE FIELD
12:00 - 8:00 PM
JEFF GORDON #24 NASCAR SIMULATOR
Compete for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies in our FANTASY FESTIVAL NASCAR RACE
First 50 people to drive receive a free T-shirt
ONBORN ENTERTAINMENT
Extreme Force Obstacle Course, Airbrush Tattoos, Swing ride (children weight limit: 100 lbs.)
Space ball (teen ride holds 1 at a time)
CLIMB TIME ROCK WALL
BOUNCE A LOT bouncy bounce and Frischburst water balloon game
The Reverberators Country Music Pavilion #1 12:00-2:00PM
Sitarons Music in Motion 12:00-1:00 & 5:00-6:00 PM
(children's interactive music with movement)
Karaoke with Eddie 3 PM to 7 PM
Face Painting 1 PM - 3:30 PM, and 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Tots the Clown 1 PM - 5 PM with show at 2 PM
Guest Appearance by Winnie the Pooh and Tigger 5 PM and 7 PM
Inquire at the library booth for story hour
Dan The Magician with stroffling magic 3-7 PM
Pony Rides and Petting Zoo 12 PM - 4 PM
LAFARGE PLANT AND QUARRY BUS TOURS 1 PM - 4 PM
Must have full shoes to attend, no sandals, hard hat and safety glasses will be provided.
FESTIVAL IDOL CONTEST 3 PM 5 PM pavilion #2
TUG OF WAR CONTEST 5 PM
Mixed Company Band 6:00 - 8:30 pavilion #1
SPECIAL DEDICATION AND THANK YOU 8:30
Final Idol winner kicks off EMPIRE STATE FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT 8:45 WITH THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER,
VENDORS ON THE STREET INCLUDE FOOD CRAFTS AND INFORMATION please visit their booths

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO LAFARGE CEMENT FOR BEING A MAJOR SPONSOR

H.I.L.L.: fall semester begins Sept. 29
The Bethlehem Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning will begin its 16th year of offering university-level classes taught by local college faculty to residents of Bethlehem and the Capital District Sept. 29.

H.I.L.L. was founded in 1993 by Helen and Fred Adler, and is an adjunct organization of the Bethlehem Central School District, run by a committee of community volunteers.

Five courses are being offered this fall semester. Course descriptions and registration forms are available at bcsd.k12.ny.us.

For information, call 439-6719, 475-1757 or 430-4798.

THE MUSIC STUDIO
Cordially invites you to an OPEN HOUSE September 4-8
You and your child will be able to participate in a fun-filled introduction to The Music Studio's music fundamentals program for children ages three through seven.

Please call 459-7799 for reservations.

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MUSIC•ART•DANCE•THEATER
Explore '60s legacies in Woodstock

The decade of the 1960s was one of optimism, idealism, culture change, turmoil and the coming of age of the Baby Boomers. In August 1969, young people came from near and far, by Volkswagen Beetle, helicopter, bus and thumb to take part in the largest music festival of all time. We invite you to explore the legacies of the 1960s and Woodstock as you create the journey at the newly opened Bethel Arts Center on a Library Friends bus trip on Sunday, Sept. 28.

The center has been receiving rave reviews in the news and also from visitors who have already been there. You can experience the "Three Days of Peace and Music" in a minute-immersive multimedia presentation, explore the festival site through a screen interactive activity, and examine festival artifacts and memorabilia at the Woodstock Museum.

It should be a beautiful day to ride through the Catskills and, as a bonus, the center is also having a Harlem's Festival Weekend with vendors on site. You can bring your own picnic or lunch at one of several restaurants. The cost of the trip is $41, less for FOL members, and includes the admission price.

The tour bus leaves from the Voorheesville Elementary School at 8:30 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m. Paid reservations are being taken at the library circulation desk.

Ballroom crash course
Ron Trotto of LearnStreet is offering another free crash course in basic ballroom dance on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 11 a.m. You can try out steps like swing, fox trot, rumba or walts. Ballroom and Latin dancing is hot, hot, hot. Sign up to ensure a spot as space is limited and the fun will be boundless. Men and women from teens to grandparents, singles and doubles, are invited.

Seminar, workshop sign-ups
Signups are being taken for the Family Place seminars for parents and young children, workshops for seniors and caregivers, both starting in September. Don't miss out on these valuable programs.

Labor Day closings
VPL will be closed Saturday through Monday, Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, for Labor Day weekend.

Additional activities
• Laps for Babies will be on Thursdays, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, at 10:15 a.m.
• The Every Other Thursday night Poets meet on Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
• Philosophers 101 meet on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Director's Office.
• "Barbara Vink •
  "All library programming is free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. Voorheesville Public Library is located at 51 School Road, Voorheesville. For information, call 518-527-2791 or visit www.voorheesvillibrary.org.

The Spotlight

Delmar Florist hopes to spread goodwill with free flowers

The Delmar Florist will be handing out dozens of flowers for free Wednesday, Sept. 3, as part of its annual FTD Good Neighbor Day.

Beginning at 8 a.m., Delmar Florist owner Barbara Ostroff says she will hand out flowers in bunches of a dozen to anyone who visits the 257 Delaware Ave. shop and signs a promise note to keep one of the flowers for themselves and give the others away to 11 different people—spreading goodwill and friendship throughout the community.

Ostroff is also asking that anyone who picks up a dozen free flowers donate one or more nonperishable food items to the Bethlehem Food Pantry.

Joining the effort at Delmar Florist are local sponsors, The Peklebrer's Chamber of Commerce, Jerry Pitz of Edward Jones Investments, TD Banknorth and Spotlight Newspapers.

FTD Good Neighbor Day is being celebrated for the 13th year throughout the United States and Canada at participating FTD floral shops.

The free-flower giveaways will continue until supplies last.

Quitters to meet in September
QUILT, Inc. will meet on Friday, Sept. 12, at Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave. Delmar. The meeting starts at 9:45 a.m.; doors open at 9:15 a.m. A $5 visitor donation is appreciated. The group will be a giant show and share and service projects in the afternoon. For information, call 459-1194 or visit www.quillicion.org.
IN BRIEF

Shopping event to benefit Community Caregivers

Area shoppers will have the opportunity to participate in a unique one-day shopping experience Saturday, Sept. 20, at Macy’s that allows nonprofits, such as Community Caregivers, to raise funds by selling tickets that entitle customers to a 20 percent discount on regular, sale, and clearance items. The event will also feature in-store entertainment, special events, and the opportunity to win thousands of dollars worth of prizes.

Each ticket costs $5 and all proceeds will directly benefit Community Caregivers.

For information or to purchase tickets call, 456-2989 or e-mail diane@communitycaregivers.org.

RCS Board of Ed OK’s district tax warrant

The RCS Board of Education approved the final tax levy and tax warrants for the 2008-09 school year.

The $21,581,096 tax levy was approved with the May 20 district voter approval of the $41.8 million budget. Tax rates are as follows:

- Bethlehem - $18.59 for $1,000 assessed property value.
- Coeymans - $17.19
- New Scotland - $18.28
- New Baltimore - $26.86

Tax bills will be mailed by Sept. 2.

The Spotlight

**Cover Story**

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Out-of-town events spice up autumn calendars

Why not put some “zing” in your fall social schedule and sign up for some or all of the exciting out-of-town Senior Services programs for September and October?

How about a delicious Down East Lobster Bake Dinner at the East Greenbush Masonic Temple on Saturday, Sept. 6, which includes a lobster or steak dinner with baked potato, corn, slaw, dessert and beverage, and all for only $25?

Bethlehem Senior transportation will leave Town Hall at 3:30 p.m. with home pick-up available on a pre-arranged basis. This promises to be a popular event, so be sure to call 439-4955, ext. 1176 now because reservations end on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Other September and October program highlights include: Cohoes Music Hall matinee performances of “Noises Off” on Saturday, Sept. 20, and “Dames At Sea” on Saturday, Oct. 25; the Berkshire Theater Festival production of “Eleanor: Her Secret Journey,” about Eleanor Roosevelt on Sunday, Oct. 5; and the always popular and delicious Berne Volunteer Fire Co. Fire Auxiliary roast beef dinner on Sunday, Oct. 19. All you have to do is call 439-4955, ext. 1176 beginning Tuesday, Sept. 2, for a reservation.

Another way to add to your weekly social pleasures is to join the Bethlehem Senior Citizens Inc., a community social organization that meets in the Town Hall auditorium every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. for several hours of fun.

Men and women 55 years of age and over are welcome to participate in the fun and games that include pinochle, bridge, Mahjong and bingo. If you just prefer conversation, good company or listening to a guest speaker at times, this is also the place to be. Light refreshments are served, and there is a minimal social and membership fee for members.

You will be happy you added this activity to your calendar for Thursdays each week.

Also, be sure to look for the Fall “Bethlehem Report” in residents’ mailboxes this week which contains the Parks and Recreation Fall 2008 programs. Several classes for seniors are once again being offered: Seniors in Motion; Yoga 50+; Stretch, Kick and Tone; and Water Works, with a registration deadline on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

For information or registration, call 439-4955, option 3.

Program highlights

Monday, Sept. 1

• Labor Day is observed.
• Town Hall is closed and no senior transportation is scheduled.

• Colonial Acres Golf Course is open. No special senior rates today because holiday rates are in effect.

Wednesday, Sept. 3

• American Red Cross Blood Drive, Bethlehem Town Hall auditorium, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 1 to 6 p.m. Give the gift of life and donate blood. Register by calling 439-4955, ext. 1176.

• Senior Discussion Group, Room 107, Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, 10:30 a.m. - noon. Led by Jane Sanders, LMSW, Senior Services Outreach staff member. Discussion targets life cycle events, human interest stories and reminiscences of the past. Transportation can be arranged by calling 439-4955, ext. 1175.

• Seniors grocery shopping for residents of Elsmere, Delmar, Slingerlands, North Bethlehem and Marie Rose Manor. For reservations, call 439-5770.

Thursday, Sept. 4

• Weekday Walkers, a new senior walking program for better health, fitness and overall well-being, 10:30 a.m. - noon at one of the area outdoor nature preserves. Wear comfortable walking shoes. At 10:00 a.m. meet group at Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave., Delmar, and Bethlehem transportation will deposit seniors at the location. Home pickup is available on a pre-arranged basis. (Suggested van donation is $3.00.) For information and reservations, call 439-4955, ext. 1176.

• Senior grocery shopping for residents of Glenmont, Selkirk and South Bethlehem. For reservations, call 439- 5770.

Friday, September 5

• Seniors grocery shopping for residents of Good Samaritan Senior Housing and Van Allen Senior Apartments. For reservations, call 439-5770.

• Doris Davis, Bethlehem Senior Service, Inc. board member

For information on the above or a list of additional activities, call the Bethlehem Senior Services Office at 439-4955, ext. 1176.
Summer reading alive and well in Bethlehem

Our youth services area was a beehive of activity this summer as kids from preschool to high school took part in our “Catch the Reading Bug” and “Metamorphosis” summer reading programs.

This summer saw record participation numbers. More than 800 children in grades K and up signed up online; another 200 preschoolers took part in various pre-reading activities, including a five-week, twice-a-week storyline series featuring teen story-readers.

Slagerlands Elementary had the largest number of participants with 163 registered summer readers; Hamagrael followed with 108. Slingerlands Elementary had 90 and teens served as summer reading volunteers this summer.

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In Bethlehem, kids were enthusiastic and engaged when it comes to reading. We thank them for taking part in our summer activities, and we thank their parents and caregivers for their encouragement and support.

Summer reading for grownups

Basking in Books, our summer reading program for adults, counted about 100 participants. Most wrote their reviews in longhand for posting at the information desk, and 20 intrepid adult readers submitted their reviews online.

Here’s a small sampling:

• “Slaughterhouse Five” by Kurt Vonnegut—“If you’ve never read Vonnegut before, this is the one to start with.”

• “The Echo Maker” by Richard Powers—“Great story, a little bit of mystery, humor, relationships.”

• “Fearless Fourteen” by Janet Evanovich—“Fabulous as always!”


• “The Story of a Marriage” by Andrew Sean Greer—“A beautiful book... of how a marriage can weather changes.”

• “Three Junes” by Julia Glass — “In-depth character portrayal, thought-provoking and emotional.”

• “The Woods” by Harlan Coben—“Good book, kept you on the edge of your seat.”

Reviews are still available for perusal at the information desk and online at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org; take a moment to check them out. You may come away with some ideas for fireside reading this winter.

Liber Day holiday

The Library will be closed Saturday through Monday, Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, for the Labor Day weekend. Our regular Sunday hours resume Sept. 7 from 1 to 5 p.m. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Upcoming events

• Italy tour preview

Thursday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.

Information about “Italian Masterpieces featuring Rome and Florence,” a Spring 2009 travel opportunity sponsored by Friends of Bethlehem Public Library.

• Strike up the band: History of community bands through the ages

Labor Day holiday

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IN BRIEF

Five Rivers to host study of birds

A study of birds, by field sketching will be conducted on Saturday, Aug. 30, at 10 a.m. at Five Rivers Center, 6 Gunne Farm Road.

Center naturalists will lead an illustrated’s study of common birds. Participants will sketch or color in diagnostic field marks of birds a field, much as the late Roger Tory Peterson did in creating his seminal Field Guide to the Birds. All materials will be provided.

To register or for more information, call 475-0291.

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PRIME PROPERTIES
Fish said more mercury was released inside of the water plant than what was reported and that workers were constantly at risk by "having to track through mercury for two years." Fish also said that mercury tainted sludge was routinely "hosed down" past the plant's clean water and into a "sludge pit." The clear well contains treated water that is pumped directly from the town's water plant over the past two years, resulting from mercury spills at the town's water plant over the past two years, resulting from two pounds of mercury. 

"It was a good job, I enjoyed it up until recently. I didn't enjoy them letting us walk around in mercury for two years." Gary Fish

They then went on to describe the various workers that had been fired or terminated due to the mercury spills. Fish said he was fired after speaking to Spotlight News. 

"It was a good job, I enjoyed it up until recently. I didn't enjoy them letting us walk around in mercury for two years."

Gary Fish

"When we appointed Patricia Parsons, I told the Town Board that the judges should open up the process, provide notice about jobs and interview several candidates," Messina said when asked about Parsons' leaving. "They didn't do it. However, they gave another chance to someone who works things right and I hope they take the professional route in this decision.

"It wasn't a good job, I enjoyed it up until recently. I didn't enjoy them letting us walk around in mercury for two years," Fish said. "They informed the public we were not using mercury in the water, but they didn't really seem to care about us employees."
A reporter tests a typical bus route for a health-care worker

ByARIANA COHN
Spotlight Newspapers
cohn@spotlightnews.com

A reporter Ariana Cohn decided to take the bus to &quot;work,&quot; role-playing as a health-care worker making their commute from home to the hospital.

Commentary:
Reporter's Notebook

On that bus to get me to Ellis, I took notes on my surroundings: a busy road, a hot, summer day. A handful of strangers, my mp3 player, a book. I rode, came around, then 135 while I looked at my watch again. I finally did it. 135, and bus 70 was not in sight.

Less than a second away from 136, the bus pulled around the corner.

The ride
I boarded the bus, depositing my $1 fare, and kindly asking the driver to stop in Schenectady between Union Street and Nott Terrace. Without question, he agreed to do so, to help me keep my route intact. Another thing I was depending on the driver's wisdom was knowing where that stop was. Unfamiliar with the Schenectady area, I had no idea that this is where the bus picks us up. I might have never gotten there.

I don't have many complaints about the ride, except for some slight motion sickness around the curves and all the stops. I will say I was beginning to get impatient, but this could be due to my own worry. I've hardly ever ridden a bus. Growing up less than 30 minutes from Manhattan, one would think I've had great practice, but I don't understand the subway maps, the bus routes, the avenues, or the stops. I'm dependent on public transportation.

Regardless, the driver did tell me where to get off, and from there I waited for the 59.

White, said she gets paid about $15 and change per hour.

After a few failed attempts to look up any walking, then 1:33 p.m., the 59 arrived at Ellis hospital. "I cheated on the way home. Since I didn't actually work at the hospital that day, I did not stick around until 11 p.m. But what I did was have a friend drive my car and meet me at Ellis so I could drive the distance back and see how long the trip would take if I had done it by car. Adding together the stoplights, getting stuck behind slow drivers, traffic, and the riders, the trip took roughly 35 minutes to return to River and Front Streets.

In terms of gas, I used just under a quarter of a tank of gas, costing approximately $10. In a Camry. 

Oh, baby. Now it's time for you, Mom.

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The Post-Standard
August 27, 2008 • Page 17
Gas leak forces school evacuation

A gas main leak at Bethlehem's Slingerlands Elementary School forced the school to shut down Thursday, Aug. 21, as workers re-capped the gas line. Slingerlands and Delmar fire departments were called to the school around 1:30 p.m. for a two-inch high-pressure gas main rupture at the entrance to the school's parking lot. District spokesman Matt Leem said construction crews installing new parks accidently ruptured the line. Leem said the leak was fixed that day. Approximately 35 to 45 people were evacuated from the school and surrounding homes, according to Slingerlands Fire Chief Jason Tice. There were no injuries reported and National Grid arrived on the scene to clamp off the leak.

Tom Hetterian Sr./Spotlight

IN BRIEF

‘Button Heritage’ reception planned

The Albany County Historical Association will host a reception for the current exhibit, “Button Heritage,” at the Ten Broeck Mansion on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 5 p.m. The exhibit, which will run through Wednesday, Sept. 13, is being promoted by the Halfmoon Button Club.

For information, call 436-9826.

Capitol Area Warbirds to put on airshow

The Capitol Area Warbirds Airshow will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday at the South Albany Airport, 6 Old School Road, Selkirk.

Admission is $3 for adults; children age 5 to 12 are $1; and children younger than 5 are free.

For information, visit www.Capitolarawarbirds.com or call 851-1777.

HVICC to hold classes at Bethlehem High

Hudson Valley Community College will offer a pair of evening courses at Bethlehem Central High School beginning Monday, Sept. 8.

The college will offer “Western Civilization and the World II” and “General Psychology.” The cost is $360.

The semester runs through Dec. 18.

For information, call 629-7338.

NOTICE

WATER CONSERVATION

Town of Bethlehem

Water District No. 1

The use of water for sprinkling of lawns, shrubs and gardens shall be prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Is your family ready for Kindergarten?

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Bethlehem Preschool

3976 Rte. 9W, Clifton Park, NY 12062

Call 463-8091 for more information

Fall Family Picnic

Sponsored by the Bethlehem Republicans

Friday, September 12

At Elm Ave. Park - Large Pavilion

4:00 pm - Dusk

$25 per ticket

Children 12 and under - Free

Come and Bring the Family and Welcome Fall Music, Games and Activities for All Ages

Enjoy Non-Partisan Burgers & Hot Dogs, Greg’s Famous Clam Chowder, Steaming Politician Corn on the Cob, Senatorial and Congressional Salads Victorious Desserts!

Contact Tom Thorson, Delmar Printers for tickets 439-3026

Save the Date...

RealtyUSA’s 4th Annual Used Book Sale

All proceeds to benefit The Alzheimer’s Association

September 20th & 21st

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

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Clarksville geology subject of talk

Michael Nardacci will speak on geology in the Clarksville area for the Clarksville Historical Society’s September program, Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Clarksville Community Church, 2220 S. State Route 443, Clarksville.

Nardacci is state certified in geology and teaches at the Christian Brothers Academy in Albany.

Refreshments will be available following the free program.

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Save the Date...

RealtyUSA’s 4th Annual Used Book Sale

All proceeds to benefit The Alzheimer’s Association

September 20th & 21st

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Now Accepting Book Donations at RealtyUSA, 231 Delaware Ave, Delmar

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RealtyUSA.com
Stepping up

ABOVE: Incoming sixth-grade students and their parents packed RCS Middle School on Tuesday, Aug. 19, to prepare for the start of the upcoming school year. More than 100 students and their parents took part in the morning orientation session. RIGHT: The Delmar Fire Department and LiteNet 7-2 of Gien participated in the "Step up to BCMS" program Thursday, Aug. 21, behind Bethlehem Middle School. The LiteNet pilot informed students as to what the crew does when they get a call. The Delmar Fire Department gave tours of its trucks and the equipment on them. The "Step up to BCMS" program helps transition incoming sixth graders to life in the middle school.

Freedom Walk planned for early September

Capital Region NY 2 Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. will be hosting its second "America Supports You" Freedom Walk on Sunday, Sept. 7, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Henry Hudson Park in Bethlehem.

This Sept. 11, 2001, national remembrance will honor the memories of the fallen from the terrorist attacks that day and will also honor firefighters, first responders, law enforcement and servicemen, both past and present.

Following the 1.4 mile walk, a program will be held and a wreath laid in memory of the fallen. Blue Star Mothers will then host a complimentary picnic at noon with a DJ playing patriotic music. Free t-shirts will be distributed to the first 200 participants.

For information, visit www.americasupportyou.mil or www.capitalregion2bam.org.

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Charles E. Kelly
Charles E. Kelly, 87, died Tuesday, Aug. 12, at St. Peter’s Hospital in Albany.

Born in Albany, he was the son of the late Charles and Grace (Scheeler) Kelly.

Mr. Kelly was a graduate of Albany High School and received a bachelor’s degree from Union College in Schenectady.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and worked for the state Civil Service Department as a labor relations negotiator for 30 years, retiring in 1963. Mr. Kelly was a member of the Colonie Lodge of Elks, Nathaniel Adams Blanchard American Legion Post No. 1640 and was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years Dorothy (Miller) Kelly; two sons Tom (Hedy) Kelly of New Jersey, and Jim (Terri) Kelly of Albany; and eight grandchildren.

Services were from the United Methodist Church in Rotterdam with burial at the convenience of the family.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Richard George Moffatt

Born in Brooklyn, Mr. Moffatt lived in Ravena for 18 years. He was a Navy veteran serving during World War II, and he retired in 1985 as battalion chief after 38 years with the New York State Police. Mr. Moffatt was the husband of the late Ellen J. Moffatt.

Survivors include a daughter, Ellen O’Connor of Commack; a brother, Joseph (Bernadette) Moffatt of Commack, and Richard (Robin) Moffatt of Brooklyn, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Services were from the St. Patrick’s Church in Ravena and burial was in the St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar, and services were from the Delmar Reformed Church.

James A. Moffatt

Born in Brooklyn, Mr. Moffatt lived in Ravena for 18 years. He was a Navy veteran serving during World War II, and he retired in 1985 as battalion chief after 38 years with the New York State Police. Mr. Moffatt was the husband of the late Ellen J. Moffatt.

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Contributions may be made to the South Bethlehem United Methodist Church Memorial, 65 Willowbrook Ave., South Bethlehem 12151.

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Arrangements were by the Applebee Funeral Home in Delmar, and services were from the Delmar Reformed Church.

Contributions may be made to the South Bethlehem United Methodist Church Memorial, 65 Willowbrook Ave., South Bethlehem 12151.
Adam J. Jones
Adam J. Jones, 26, died suddenly, Saturday, Aug. 16. Born in Albany, he resided in South Westerlo and attended Greenville Elementary School.

In 1990 he moved to Voorheesville and graduated from Clayton A. Bouton High School in 2000.

As a former carpenter/ laborer with C. M. Fox, he took great pride in being a part of building Severson Manor.

Mr. Jones was a member of the Voorheesville Rod & Gun Club, and enjoyed participating in the club’s trap league.

He also enjoyed fishing, hunting and riding recreational vehicles and was a member of Sons of the American Legion, Voorheesville and enjoyed participating in the American Legion, Voorheesville and riding recreational vehicles.

He was a brother, August III; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.


Arrangements were by Barb Balk, 84, died Thursday, July 24, at his home.

Born Buffalo, he grew up in Paris and Rio De Janeiro and spoke English, French, Portuguese and German fluently, and was conversant in Italian, Spanish and Tagalog.

After serving in the Philippines as a field artillery flash range observer between 1944-1946, he earned an engineering degree from Lafayette College.

He played lacrosse and was active in community theater, where he met his wife during a production of "Twelfth Night." They married in 1951 and settled in Woodstock.

Mr. Balk worked for IBM for more than 10 years in Endicott and Poughkeepsie, then returned to college, receiving a doctorate from the School of Public Affairs and Labor Relations at Cornell University in Ithaca.

In 1969 he joined the faculty of Rockefeller College at the University at Albany, where he taught for 25 years.

Mr. Balk joined the college when it was still known as the Graduate School of Public Affairs and was one of the core founding members of the Rockefeller College faculty.

Mr. Balk authored numerous articles and a book called "Managerial Reform and Professional Empowerment in the Public Service." (Quorum Press 1996). He encouraged governments and corporations to value the insights of all workers.

As a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, Mr. Balk traveled to Africa, Europe, South America, and to Southeast Asia.

"Walter delighted in meeting people from all over the world. He exchanged letters for years with a gondolier he met in Venice, struck up conversations with Sudanese chefs, and sang Tagalog songs with nurses at Swedish Hospital in Seattle," his family wrote in tribute. "His playful, humorous spirit came alive with his family and friends.

He enjoyed reading, fishing and camping, and animals of all sorts, especially cats, dogs, hummingbirds, ducks, and Alfonse, the bass in the pasture pond.

Survivors include his wife of more than 58 years, Anna Katherine Heinz Balk; a son, Peter Balk of Fort Toweasen, Wash.; two daughters, Amy Balk (Laurence) Armstrong of Indianapolis; and Christianne (Karl Pless) Balk of Seattle; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 15, at the University at Albany Alumni House, 1400 Washington Ave., in Albany, from 130 until 3 p.m., with a reception at 4 p.m.

Those attending can RSVP at (208) 301-6050, or c/o Balk, PO. Box 10023, Seattle, WA 98115.

Contributions may be given to PLAN USA, 155 Plan Way, Warwick, RI 02886.


Born and educated in Albany, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Concetta (Guiliano) Iannelli.

Mrs. DiPietro worked as a fur finisher for M. Solomon’s prior to her marriage in 1946.

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

She was the widow of Santo DiPietro.

Survivors include two daughters, Sandra F. Gerald Levy, and Barbara A. (Kevin) Boyle, of Delmar; four grandchildren; two brothers, Vincenzo Cunicelli of Delmar, and Vito Iannelli of Albany; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were from the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar, and arrangements were made by the Daniel Keenan Funeral Home in Albany on Thursday.

Burial was in St. Agnes Cemetery in Menands.

Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 511 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.
Mums the word

Welcome these fall beauties into your landscape

Fall is a long, glorious process in upstate New York, and mums are as much a part of the mix as are apples and pumpkins.

Mums are very intensively grown so always check for swirling roots and gently tease out the roots before planting to encourage rooting out into the soil. This time to root out or get established in the garden is crucial to the mum becoming perennial as it is much less likely to heave out of the ground with the freezing and thawing of winter. Do not fertilize this first fall as the grower has done this for you.

While traditional mums are left alone until spring before cutting back, the Belgian types are cut back in the fall and mulched well after the ground has begun to freeze. The Belgian types often bloom in early spring and are then cut back once, fertilized well and allowed to grow on to re-bloom in fall. Remember that they are genetically wired to grow in a mounded tight shape. Traditional mums are fertilized and then cut back several times in spring until mid-July, when they are allowed to grow on until they bloom. The maintenance chores with the non-Belgian types are greater and the end result more variable. Even after all the cutting back, many traditional mums are still tall and floppy by fall. Perhaps this is the fall to try something new and plant some Belgian mums in your garden.

Don’t be mum on this beauty, spread the word!

By SUSAN PEZZOLLA
news@spotlightnews.com

The author is a community educator for horticulture at the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

As soon as the first few cool nights arrive in late August, thoughts of fall mums come to mind. Big pots of colorful mums for the front steps, more for the back porch; and of course, mums are as much a part of the mix as are apples and pumpkins. The mums that we purchase do not come back reliably and local growers, that way the only travel that they were planted.

When you purchase fall mums, try to buy from local growers, that way the only travel that they were planted. Many people look only for size and color, but consider also the bud stage and buy plants that are mostly in bud, just beginning to show color. If you are buying several plants, ask for help choosing varieties that are early, mid-season and late blooming to prolong the fall “showtime.” Look for Belgian varieties (the tag in the pot will designate this) as they have been developed to have a naturally tight-mounded shape with no pinching or staking needed. They also have many more blooms per plant than traditional varieties and they are more flexible so there is less breakage.

Many homeowners want to use fall mums decoratively to line steps or patios or to change out planters of summer annuals. In these cases it is best to consider these mums as annuals and discard them when they are done blooming. The mums that are planted in ground stand the best chance of becoming perennial by being planted as soon as possible after purchase.
As the 2008 presidential election nears, learning about the candidates can feel a little like navi...
MENOPAUSE: based through Aug. 31, $12 children under 12.

TUNA, Blues guitarist extraordinaire, Aug. 29, 8 p.m., Saratoga Springs. Information, 473-1645.


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ELECTRIC CITY CHORUS Male singing group, training provided, rehersals Thu and Fri nights, 7:30-9 p.m., information, 385-1946.

VALLEY RIVER CHORUS Swell American Choir for men, seeking for men to join group. Information, 340-5393.

MORAVIAN MEDICAL CLUB WOMEN'S CHOIR Invitation to new members to join its sing along gay and sign group. Third Reformed Church, 20 Ten Eyck Ave., Albany. Chorus and Club 7:30 p.m., information, 477-4545.

CAPITAL COMMUNITY VOICES Caucasian-wide, open to all and processions sections. Information, 439-7749.

COLONIE TOWN BAND Several openings, rehearsals on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at 409 Main St., New Scotland, information, (413) 696-6455.


COMEDY

CAPITAL DISTRICT IMPROV JAM Open comedy jam hosted by the Hop A Buckle Company, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. at 130 Art, State Street, Schenectady. Information, 512-5100.

JEFF DUNHAM'S "SPARK OF INSANITY" CorrectionsVeronica, Sat., Sept. 4, 7 p.m., Times Union Center, South Pearl St., Albany. Ticket prices are to be announced. Information, 330-3000.


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Information, call Jennifer at 439-9929 or First
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Bible study. New Salem,
evening
district office,
The 12:30
BETHLEHEM
Spotlight
River Road (Route 144), Cedar Hill,
provides opportunity
7:30

Alzheimer's Association
meeting
at the Delmar Reformed
place, 8 p.m. Information,
439-4314.

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Slingerlands

Dorothy Godbold, Route 9W, 765-4410.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave.,
District office, 6 Adams Place, 7 p.m. Information,
439-2512.

**SCHOOL BOARD**

Bethlehem Elks Lodge 2233
1016 River Road (Route 144), Cedar Hill
7 p.m., Information, 765-7098.

HEALING TESTIMONY MEETING

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Ave.,
7:30 p.m., Information, 439-2512.

**FAITH TEMPLE**

Bethlehem, New Salem, 7:30 p.m.
Information, 765-7098.

**PRAYER MEETING**

Wednesday evening prayer meeting and Bible study,
Mountainside Evangelical Church,
Route 85, New Salem, 7:30 p.m.
Information, 439-4314.

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NEW LOCATION OPPORTUNITIES!!!!

Community Care Physicians will be opening a new department in our Delmar location and we are currently recruiting for the following positions:

LEAD NURSE (RN)

FULL-TIME

Full time Lead Nurse (RN) needed to oversee the practice nursing functions and schedules. Regular nursing duties also required. Must help to create an efficient, productive and effective work environment. NYS licensed Registered Nurse with 3-5 years experience in a medical practice preferred. 40 hours per week.

REGISTERED NURSES AND LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES

FULL & PART TIME

Full and part time RNs and LPNs with strong experience in a medical office/urgent care setting needed for evening and weekend hours. Telephone triage and experience with Pediatric and Adult patients preferred. Must be a NYS licensed Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse. Should have 3-5 years experience in a medical practice or urgent care. 40 hour per week for full time, various hours for part time.

MEDICAL SECRETARIES FULL AND PART TIME

Full and part time medical secretaries needed for our Delmar Urgent Care. Responsibilities include greeting and instructing patients and recording patient data, answering incoming calls, and taking messages as required. Other clerical duties required as assigned. Successful candidates will possess strong customer service skills and excellent oral and written communication skills. High School Diploma or GED required. Previous experience in a medical office or hospital required. 40 hours per week for full time, variable hours for part time.

Employee hours for the department include M-F 4pm-11pm and weekends/holidays 9:30am-5:30pm. Schedules will vary based on Full or Part time status.

We offer competitive salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Let us know specifically what skills and interests you have so we may consider your application, EOE.

If you are interested in the above positions, please send resume to:

Community Care Physicians

Human Resources
711 Troy-Schenectady Road — Suite 201
Latham, New York 12110
E-mail—jobs@communitycare.com

***Community Care Physicians has been recognized as one of the Great Places to Work for 2005 and 2006 by the Capital District Business Review.***
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But wait...just this in from Troy: The RPI hockey team's 1985 NCAA Championship tied Steve Neuman for second place. Wow. Who knew his backstory of overcoming cancer was so intriguing? (Nice story, Albany. Nice.)

8. Who is the greatest Capital District athlete of the last 30 years?

Perhaps because this is an Olympic year, perhaps because his backdrop of overcoming cancer was so intriguing, 1984 Olympic champion and medalist Jeff Blatnick led the pack with three times the votes as the other finalists. The Niskayuna native still has a strong following 24 years after his golden moment in Los Angeles.

The rest of the votes were split evenly among Sam Perkins (who, as a cross country runner, competed in the 1984 Olympic Interior) and Michael McCallum (who, as a basketball player, helped the University of New Haven win the NCAA championship in 1984). McCallum was the favorite of the Niskayuna native who still has a strong following 24 years after his golden moment in Los Angeles.

If you want your area to continue having minor league teams, you need to care about how they're doing. Whether the Albany River Rats are in first place or last place in the Atlantic Hockey League, you need to be at the Times Union Center to show them you care. When the River Rats are barely clinging to life, you need to help them survive — even if it's in the weeds. Either way, show your support by showing up at the games.

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Dolphins hold tryouts:
The Delmar Dolphins swim club will hold tryouts for the 2008-09 season at 6 p.m. Sept. 12 and at noon Sept. 20 at Bethlehem Central High School.

The tryouts are open to Capital District youth age 7 to 12 who are interested in learning competitive swimming while having fun in a progressive, instructional program.

Swimmers must be able to swim a 25-yard front crawl with good breathing to the side.

There is no fee or pre-registration necessary. Swimmers should bring a swimsuit, towel and goggles.

For information or to schedule an individual tryout, contact coach Doug Gross at 569-5763.
More thoughts from our loyal local readers

Some people were kind enough to share some additional thoughts when they responded to the "Pledge Your Sports Allegiance" poll. Since they took the time to do so, I felt it was only fair to include them. I won't use any names, since I didn't ask for any, but I will make comments where applicable.

"Too much attention given to private high schools and public high schools that accept all students - not just rich ones."

Public school teams get plenty of coverage, too - at least, judging from the poll results.

"Too much emphasis on certain high school sports and individual athletes. Too much football, basketball and (at this time of year) horse racing."

I guess some people don't like horse racing.

"More NASCAR coverage - a closer NASCAR track would generate a lot of revenue. New York State would be out of (its) recession with a NASCAR track near the Capital District."

This was the only person to suggest we should build a NASCAR track in the region. Honestly I thought there would be more, but I guess not.

"Cover boys volleyball at the high school level!"

OK, I will do my best to honor this request. But, shouldn't I also cover girls volleyball at the high school level? It would only be fair.

"Being on a MLL (Major League Lacrosse) team.

Wouldn't we need a stadium that seats at least 10,000 people first? Oh wait, no we wouldn't because it wouldn't draw 10,000 people. I mean, if the Albany Attack couldn't draw big numbers for indoor lacrosse, how would an outdoor lacrosse team fare?

"More updates about Colonie All-Star game.

My guess is the next Colonie All-Star game will take place next summer at one of Albany County's numerous Little League and Babe Ruth complexes.

Thoughts Page 39

The results are in from our "Pledge Your Sports Allegiance" poll.

First of all, I want to thank all of the people who responded to this poll. Even the person who used the poll to suggest that organized sports get too much attention and "contributes to America's obesity" it shows that people cared enough to take the time to fill out the questionnaire and send it to me.

Secondly, I'd like to say that the results were enlightening, if not a bit contradictory - especially when it came to views about our minor league teams. Read on, and you will see what I mean.

1. What level of sports do you follow most closely?
   - A. High school 16.7 percent
   - B. College 22.2 percent
   - C. Minor league 11.1 percent
   - D. Major league 50 percent

2. What was the greatest Capital District sports event of the last 30 years?
   - A. Siena-Stanford '89 20 percent
   - B. Albany Firebirds '99 title 13.3 percent
   - C. Funny Cide wins Derby 40 percent
   - D. Other
   - RPI hockey '86 champions 20 percent
   - River Rats win Calder cup 13.3 percent
   - Siena '91 MTT run 13.3 percent

3. Who is the greatest Capital District athlete of the last 30 years?
   - A. Sam Perkins 14 percent
   - B. Jeff Blatnick 43 percent
   - C. Dottie Pepper 14 percent
   - D. Funny Cide 14 percent
   - E. Other
   - Mike Leveille 7 percent
   - Eddie Brown 7 percent

4. What is the best Capital District team?
   - A. Albany River Rats 12.5 percent
   - B. Siena men's basketball 56 percent
   - C. UAlbany men's lacrosse 12.5 percent
   - D. Tri-City ValleyCats 0 percent
   - E. Other
   - 18 percent

5. If given the choice, would you spend your sports money on...
   - A. Local game 40 percent
   - B. Out of area game 60 percent

6. What is the focal point of the Capital District sports scene?
   - A. High schools 74 percent
   - B. Colleges 16 percent
   - C. Minor leagues 11 percent

7. Would the sports scene suffer without professional minor league teams?
   - A. Yes 62.5 percent
   - B. No 37.5 percent

8. Do local teams get adequate media coverage?
   - A. Yes 56 percent
   - B. No 44 percent

9. What type of venue should be added to the region?
   - A. A large stadium 15 percent
   - B. A smaller arena 12.5 percent
   - C. A large race track 6 percent
   - D. Nothing 62.5 percent

10. How proud are you of the area's sports scene?
    - A. A lot 44 percent
    - B. Somewhat 50 percent
    - C. Not a lot 6 percent
    - D. Not at all 0 percent

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS YEAR'S POLL.

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Sports Desk

From the Capital District sports event of the last 30 years?

Let's jump on the big yellow school bus with the Saratoga Stables gang, because Funny Cide wins this category. The "gallant gelding" born and raised outside Saratoga Springs claimed more votes than Siena's historic 1989 NCAA Tournament victory over Stanford and the Albany Firebirds winning the 1999 Arena Bowl in front of a sellout crowd at the Times Union Center on national TV. I guess the Kentucky Derby is still the granddaddy of all sporting events.

Numbers Page 38