

Census will change district lines

Public meetings draw little interest
See page 2



A fantastic fund

The Adirondack Small Cap Fund, run by a Guilderland company, was recently awarded the 2011 Lipper Fund Award for Best Small Cap Value Fund in the U.S.

See Page 21.



Anyone can come

Clifton Park-based Not-So Common Players is preparing to present a rarely performed Stephen Sondheim musical. Admission is free.

See Page 24.



Hits hard to come by

Guilderland's bats were shut down by Miles Kelly and Mike Englert, who combined on a one-hitter to lead Shen to an 8-1 victory Saturday.

See Page 40.

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THE Spotlight

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Raising voices ...



...raising money

Delmar church concert raises \$2,100 for youth camp program

By CHARLES WIFF
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Over 200 people came out to take in an afternoon of music and help a good cause Sunday, April 10, at the 17th Annual Voices of Hope Benefit Concert at the First United Methodist Church in Delmar.

Like in past years, the concert collected donations for Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless, and attendees pitched in about \$2,100. That approaches last year's take, but with about half the number of people in attendance.

One difference is that the money will go specifically to Interfaith's Summer Youth Program.

"We were really excited to be raising funds for those kids," said Nan Rabinow, office manager at United Methodist. "This concert always benefited their general program. We learned about the summer program for the kids a year ago, and just wanted to benefit those kids in some way."

Interfaith's summer camp runs for 10 weeks and gives youth from the Arbor Hill and Sheri-

□ Raising Page 27



TOP: The Chancel Choir of Delmar Methodist Church, Joseph Farrell, director and accompanied by Ken Loiacono. ABOVE: Vedrana Kalas and tenor, Michael Lotano, sang excerpts from Puccini's "La Boheme" and were accompanied by Adam Jones

Submitted photos

Redlich to leave the area

G'land Town Board member will likely leave term unfinished

By CHARLES WIFF
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Guilderland Councilman Warren Redlich has already announced he won't be seeking a second term, but now it looks like his time on the Town Board will be ending before the year is out.

Redlich will be moving to Florida as soon as he sells his house, which he hopes will be sometime over the summer, he said. Although he cited a number of reasons for the decision, the biggest was one most every New Yorker has dealt with recently.

"The primary motivation really is winter," he said. "You're basically trapped in the house for three months unless you're a skier."

Supervisor Ken Runion said he wouldn't expect the Town Board to appoint someone to fill out the remainder of Redlich's term should he leave early.

□ Redlich Page 21



Warren Redlich

A D-Day remembrance

Delmar resident Frank DeSorbo has been trying to identify area D-Day survivors and hold a ceremony honoring them.

See page 8.

School decides on McDonald memorial

Clarksville community comes together to brainstorm ways to honor educator

By CHARLES WIFF
wiffc@spotlightnews.com

Principal Dorothy McDonald has always cast an endearing shadow over the Clarksville Elementary community.

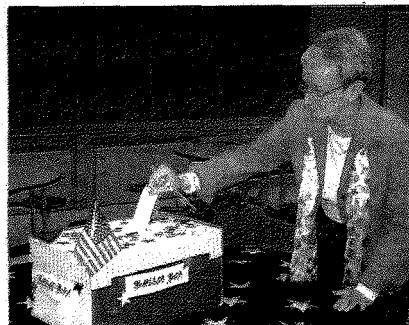
Now her memory will be doing just that for years to come, when a mature tree is planted near the school's play-

ground dedicated to the deceased educator. A public ceremony will be on May 13 when the tree will be planted. McDonald's family will also be at a school assembly honoring her memory.

"The children are preparing a song about how to make a difference to sing for the family," said Clarksville Principal Melanie Painter.

The decision on how to remember McDonald was made at a community meeting held at the school. Though it preceded a PTA meeting it was open to

□ School Page 23



The Clarksville Elementary School community has decided on several ways to remember Principal Dorothy McDonald who died in September.

File photo

Fun in any direction

Hop in the car and experience someplace new this spring

By TERESA FARRELL
news@spotlightnews.com

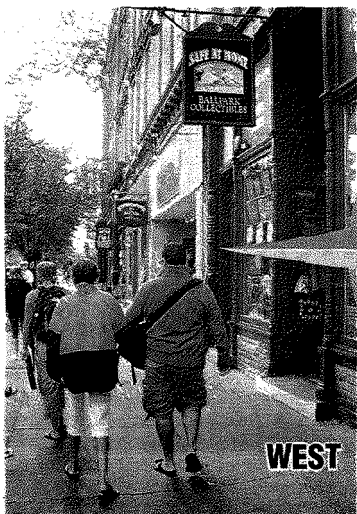
A spring family outing can really make the days seem brighter, but sometimes the familiar local sights and sounds don't feel like enough of a getaway. When you're craving a new trip or activity, set aside a day, a weekend or even just a couple of hours, and hit the road. Some great destinations lie within an hour and a half of Albany, which means they're manageable even with rising gas prices and busy schedules. Most sites offer a variety of activities to appeal to adults and kids of all ages, so there are no sibling wars in the backseat over the day's plans.

EAST

Bennington, Vt., is about an hour's drive from Albany and affords the opportunity to explore a new state with plenty to do. Though Vermont is famous for fall foliage and has a reputation as a winter ski paradise, Bennington offers fun for the springtime crowd as well.

"Bennington is known for history," said PJ DeVito, coordinator of Visitor Services at the Bennington Chamber of Commerce. "We have the Bennington Battle Monument, which you can take an elevator up into and get a wonderful view; we also have the Bennington Museum, which also has Revolutionary War material."

The monument, which opens in mid-April each year, is a favorite Bennington landmark that affords visitors unparalleled views of the surrounding countryside. Bennington is also home to Old First Church, the



Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce

oldest church in Vermont, where Robert Frost was buried. The town has three covered bridges, as well as the Covered Bridge Museum, which is part of the larger Bennington Center for the Arts.

"The covered bridges are probably the thing that most tourists ask about when they come to our welcome center," said DeVito.

At Bennington Potters, one of the oldest continually producing pottery facilities in the country, visitors can take a self-guided tour. Downtown Bennington is the site of the annual Mayfest celebration, an arts celebration that takes place on Memorial Day weekend each year.

Bennington is also a hub for outdoor enthusiasts. Just a few miles out of town is where the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail cross, and there are plenty of short hikes to take advantage of as well.

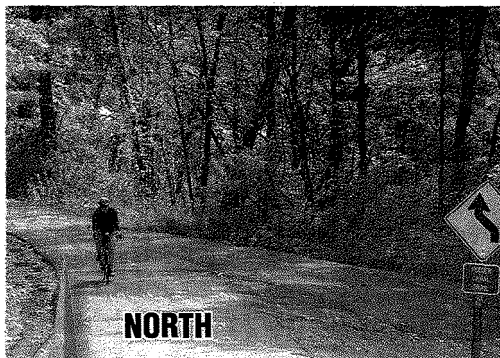
There are also plenty of

stops to make on the way to or from Vermont. The Berkshire Bird Paradise and Botanical Garden, in Petersburg, N.Y., is a sanctuary for injured or rare birds that opens on Memorial Day Weekend and is home to more than 1,000 birds.

"We have bald eagles, hawks, owls, exotic birds. We also have an extensive array of flowers and plants. It's botanical; we mix the flowers with the birds, and we kind of just give a nice ambiance, a peaceful setting, a nice feeling," said Peter Dubacher, director at the Berkshire Bird Paradise.

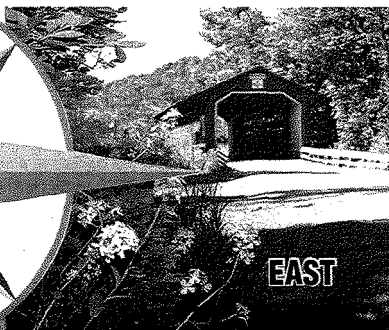
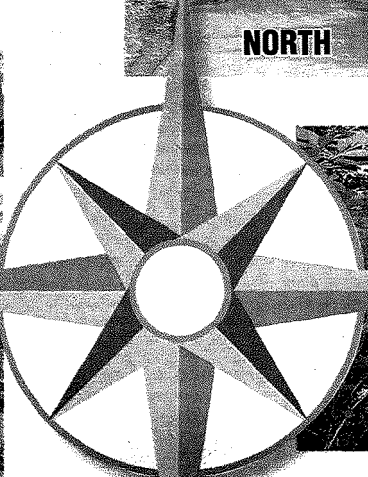
Visitors can interact with some of the birds, or just enjoy some time learning about new species. One of the most recent additions is a bald eagle named Mitch, who was rescued by U.S. troops after being shot and injured in Afghanistan.

Nearby Grafton Lake State Park offers 25 miles

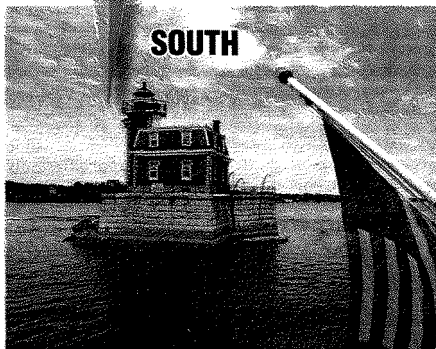


NORTH

VisitLakeGeorge.com



Bennington Chamber of Commerce



SOUTH

Guy Falkenheimer of Hudson Cruises Inc.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The Warren County Bike Trail, the Silk Bridge in Bennington, Vt., the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse, and Downtown Cooperstown are just some of the attractions that are just a short drive from home.

WEST

Cooperstown is the longest haul on this list at an approximate hour and a half drive from Albany, but it's worth the trip. This town is known for the Baseball Hall of Fame, but in addition to the popular shops, restaurants, cultural attractions and lake-related activities, find some time to visit a real-life cider mill. Fly Creek Cider Mill, located just a few miles out of town, is celebrating its 155th year.

"We're just making

cider the old fashioned way," said Bill Michaels, vice president and co-owner of Fly Creek with his wife, Brenda.

But there's much more than just cider-making going on here. Find homemade goodies, including fudge dips, spreads, salsas and caged cheddar cheese; gifts and crafts; and a variety of apple products as well as some animals to feed outside the historic cider mill. While the cider press

□ Direction Page 14

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Direction

(From Page 4)

won't be in action for a few more months, visitors can still take a look at the antique machinery and watch a video on how it's used in-season. A snack bar features homegrown products and specialties like cider slushes and floats, apple pie sundaes, and "bloomin' apples," as well as standards like sandwichs and ice cream.

The mill hosts the Taste of Fly Creek series, which features tastings and events for different products throughout the summer. From May 7-8, the featured product is maple syrup.

Michaels suggested pairing a stop with either the Baseball Hall of Fame or the Farmer's Museum, or the Fenimore Art Museum.

"That would be an excellent day trip, especially for the Albany area," said Michaels.

On a kid-free excursion, visitors can spend the afternoon following the Cooperstown Beverage Trail. Comprised of Brewery Ommegang, Cooperstown Brewing Company, Fly Creek and Bear Pond Winery, the Beverage Trail offers tours and tastings of everything from beer to hard cider to both regular and fruit wines.

"If you go to all four, we stamp your passport and you get a free glass at the end," said Michaels.

There are even more options for family fun on the way home.

"The best way to come to Cooperstown is along Route 20, which is now a Scenic Byway," said Michaels. "There are so many places along the way to visit, like the Tipi gift store in Cherry Valley, or Howe Caverns; if people want to stop and

do something on the way home, it's all along that corridor. There are views of the Mohawk Valley and the Cherry Valley Hills. There's usually little to no traffic on it, and it's almost four lanes the whole way. Families that are interested in historical buildings can visit Hyde Hall at the North end of Otsego Lake, and of course there are all the lake activities on Otsego Lake available as well."

Visitors can also stop by the Grumpy Buffalo Farm in Richmondville to pick up buffalo products and see a real buffalo herd in person.

NORTH

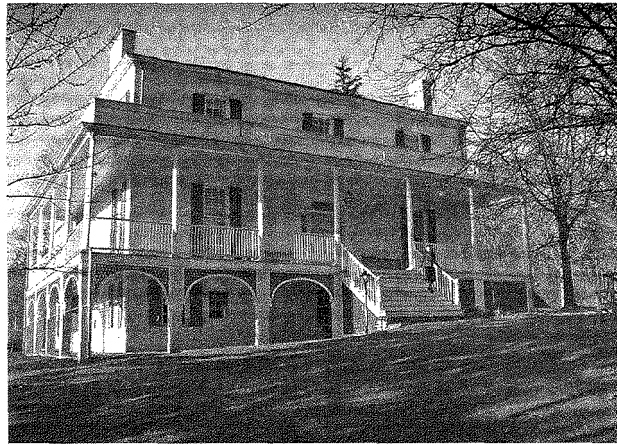
Many Capital District residents are familiar with all the fun of summer in Lake George. Spring brings the opportunity for a new twist on a standard day trip and a chance for some fresh air on the Warren County Bike Trail, which connects Lake George and Queensbury.

"It's a beautiful ride, peaceful and quiet and pretty. It's well-marked and user friendly," said Joanne Conley, assistant tourism coordinator for Warren County Tourism. "I'm on it all the time. There's very little of it that's on the road, and the section that is, is by a country club, so there are nice big wide bike lanes. I've been taking my kids on it forever."

This section of the trail is paved and winds through some wilderness, but doesn't get too rugged, making it a good fit for just about anyone who can ride a bike. There are also plenty of incentives for more reluctant bikers along the way.

"I would get my kids out there because there are several ice cream shops along the way, or we would head up to Lake George and bring a picnic," said Conley. "There are so many possibilities."

The Lake George to



The Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill is appealing to fans of the artist as well as fans of nature. Guided tours are available, but visitors are encouraged to traverse the home's five acres of trails.

Submitted photo

Glens Falls section is about 11 miles, and the route includes parking areas and other access points, so shorter trips are an option. If bikes aren't the family favorite, don't fret.

"There are people with strollers, jogging, in-line skating," said Conley. "There's a hill here and there, but it's all manageable."

Information about the Warren County Bike Trail map is available at visitlakegeorge.com, or visitors can receive a full size map by calling (800) 365-1050, ext. 5100. Bike rentals are available in Lake George at Beach Road Bait & Tackle (518) 668-4040; beachroadbait.com; and at Inside Edge Ski and Bike Shop, at the Queensbury end of the bike trail. Bikers who aren't satisfied with the 11-mile trip can follow the route as it continues past Queensbury and connects to the Veeder Canal section of the trail. That section is not paved.

"There's so darn much to do here," said Conley. "The Lake George area is an easy drive from the Capital District. You can

be out of the city in 45 minutes in the beautiful Adirondack mountains, on the lake, on the trail or in the amusement park — there's just a wide variety of things to do here."

Prospect Mountain offers breathtaking views of the Lake George area and can be reached by car or by foot, making it an easy addition to the day after a long bike ride. For thrill seekers, the Adirondack Extreme adventure course in Bolton Landing offers rock walls, zip lines, obstacle courses and more.

If in-town fun is on the agenda, stop by Glens Falls. This town boasts not only shopping and dining, but the Hyde Collection and its new roster of kid-friendly events and activities. On the third Sunday of each month from 1-3 p.m. the Collection hosts Discovery Day. The theme changes monthly, but the event includes a family-oriented tour with an arts and crafts session at the end. Family Kits are a new addition at the Hyde House.

"They're interactive, and help families go through the House and have engaging experiences with the kids and the collection," said Erin Coe, director of Curatorial Affairs and Programming at the Hyde Collection.

SOUTH

An hour drive to the south will leave day trippers with a wealth of unique opportunities in the towns of Hudson and Catskill, including a different take on art, nature and history.

"One of the things I tell people who are considering day or weekend trips that there is a cluster of things to do right near here that all have to do with the Hudson River School," said Elizabeth Jacks, executive director of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill. This historic home of Thomas Cole, an influential figure in American landscape painting, has a fun and

It's easy to spend a day in the area even without the hikes. The town of Catskill has a popular Main Street with shopping and dining opportunities, and the same natural beauty that inspired Cole is evident throughout town.

"Catskill has amazing topography. There's a spot where a creek meets the Hudson River and a point of land, so there's a restaurant that overlooks the river and the creek. It's a great spot. There's a park right down there on the water, and it's a beautiful place to have a picnic or something like that," said Jacks.

There are a variety of places to stop and enjoy views of the Hudson River, and sometimes there's even an opportunity to get out on it. The nearby Hudson-Athens Lighthouse, comes to life later on in the summer. On the second weekend of each month, from July to October, Hudson Cruises runs shuttles to the lighthouse and Emily Brunner, who used to live on the island, gives a tour.

"It's history, and the whole thing is special. The views are fantastic and the opportunity to get out there is kind of a rare event in this region," said Guy Falkenheimer, Captain and Owner of Hudson Cruises. "We have Emily go out there, and she talks about living there as a child, and to have the opportunity to talk to the person who experienced it in that age is phenomenal. It's just a really fantastic opportunity."

For tour information, visit hudsonathenslighthouse.org.

Back on dry land, a must-stop for kids is the FASNY Museum of Firefighting in Hudson. The 50,000-square-foot museum has enough room to be diverse.

"This is not your typical firehouse museum where you go in and there's one truck and one exhibit," said Jamie Quinn, the Museum's Executive Director. "Our museum is the largest fire museum on the East Coast. We have over 90 pieces of apparatus."

That means this can be a fun stop for all, but the museum is an especially good time for kids.

"We try to cater to families with small children," said Quinn. "We have four trucks and gear [that they can play with], a bucket brigade interactive space where the put out a fake fire; and a discovery room where they can do crafts. On the weekend we have a fire safety puppet show, so there's a lot to do."

A must-see aspect of the FASNY museum is the 9/11 exhibit.

Visitors can learn more about the museum and exhibits at fasny.com.



Spring brings the opportunity for a new twist on a standard day trip and a chance for some fresh air on the Warren County Bike Trail, which connects Lake George and Queensbury.

Photo courtesy of VisitLakeGeorge.com.