School Board voters guide

The Spotlight gives you a look at who’s running in your school district
See Pages 5, 8,10,11 and 16

In this week’s issue

Double the service
Rotterdam twins Ryan, above, and Miana Hill have been volunteering at the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) food pantry, located at 839 Albany St., for two years. See Page 11.

Sheep thrills
This year is the Brookside Museum’s first family “Sheep to Shawl” program, on Sunday, May 2, from noon to 3 p.m. See Page 14.

Science Bowl bound
Van Antwerp Middle School students take part in national competition

By SEAN AHERN
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Niskayuna middle school students will compete on the national stage, using their brains and know-how in their sixth straight return to national competition.

Van Antwerp Middle School is among the 37 middle school and 68 high school teams that will be compete at the U.S. Department of Energy’s 20th annual National Science Bowl in Washington D.C. on Saturday, May 1, at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase Middle School.

Connie Soron, seventh-grade teacher at Van Antwerp Middle School in Niskayuna, stands with National Science Bowl team members Alex Young, Martin Schreiner, Cecilia Holodak, Andrew Stewart and team captain Aidan Wolfe. The students will travel to Washington, D.C., on Thursday, April 29, to take part in the National Science Bowl at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase Middle School.

Nisky post office looks to downsize

USPS officials say branch will move when current building is sold

By SEAN AHERN
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The Niskayuna Town Board heard from members of the United States Postal Service at the Tuesday, April 27, meeting about plans to sell the 2520 Nott St. East post office, in order to downsize and move to a smaller space. Postmaster of Schenectady County Mary Madonna and real estate specialist Joe Mulvey talked about the future of postal service in the town pending the sale of the Nott Street location.

The 11,500-square-foot building, which has been listed since March, has an asking price of $1.1 million and is being sold as a cost-saving measure.

While the post office is sold, the USPS will begin looking for rental space of around 2,000 square feet within the town and, if possible, near the current location of the existing building. Madonna said the selling of the property will not change any current postal route structure for deliveries or services and will not mean job cuts.

“We won’t make any move until we sell our current property,” she said.

While the USPS said downsizing to cut costs is part of a national effort to increase efficiency while cutting costs, some residents worry about the move.

Niskayuna resident Bernard Heller said the current site of the post office is more than adequate for the needs of the town.

“The reason they [USPS officials] are doing it has nothing to do with the service of the residents of Niskayuna,” said Heller.

Mulvey said no one is going anywhere until the Nott Street property has an interested buyer.

“When we know we have an interested and capable buyer, they [the USPS] will begin to look,” he said.

No vacancies in G’ville

Town wants to charge owners of empty building an annual fee to promote re-occupation

By SEAN AHERN
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In Glenville, if you own a vacant building, the town wants you to pay.

At the Wednesday, April 21, meeting of the Glenville Town Board, the town scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, May 5, regarding the creation of a vacant building registry. The registry would be a list of vacant properties throughout the town and the owners of properties on the list would be required to pay an annual fee.

Town officials said they hope

G’Ville Page 20

Gittin’ ’er done locally

A beautiful Friday afternoon, April 23, finds Larry the Cable Guy at the Mohawk Golf Club in Niskayuna playing 18 holes. “I only started playing less than a year ago, but I love the sport. I’m fortunate to be able to come into an area like the Capital Region and play a beautiful course like Mohawk,” he said. Larry was in town with Jeff Foxworthy and Bill Engvall to perform at the Times Union Center in Albany.

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