

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of this newsletter is to present factual information on local issues, actions and concerns of the citizens of our town. We will strive to address current updates from our Republican representatives on town, county and state levels.

Editor: Judith Blessinger-Neary

Thewatchfuleagle@aol.com

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CAUCUS TIME

Some Columbia County caucuses have already taken place. There are three towns in the county whose caucuses have not yet taken place. Remember.....VOTING IS NOT JUST A RIGHT; IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY. This is the time that you will have a voice in choosing your town representatives. Those towns which have yet to hold their caucus are:

August 3rd.....Clermont will hold the caucus at 6:30 pm
August 4th Greenport will hold the caucus at 6:00 pm
August 17thGallatin will hold the caucus at 7:00 pm

In addition to participation at a caucus, think about your availability and ability to serve your town in positions of leadership. So many people complain that they are not satisfied with one thing or another. There is an old adage which states, "If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem." Perhaps YOU can make the difference.



A SAD EYE ON THE NEWS:

By: J. Blessinger-Neary

This month we celebrated Independence Day. Unfortunately, the news media reported that many questioned did not know that it was a celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; the document that declared our separation from an oppressive government to set up a free and independent nation. It was the beginning of a unique and great nation which gave the rule to the people. In 1877 our Constitution was written. It is the highest law of our land. The first ten articles are the Bill of Rights – the rights given to the people. The Constitution sets down the laws of how our government is to operate. It is illegal for the government to violate these rights. There are a few methods to amend the Constitution, but the most common is to pass an amendment through the Congress, on a two-thirds vote. After that, the amendment goes to the states, and if three-quarters of the states pass the amendment, it is considered a part of the Constitution — it has been ratified.

As of a July 23rd article by Ryan Grim in the Huffington Post, a plan has been put forth by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and his counterpart Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to create a "Super Congress". As Mr. Grim points out, "This 'Super Congress,' composed of members of both chambers and both parties, isn't mentioned anywhere in the Constitution, but would be granted extraordinary new powers." He goes on to say, "A Super Congress would be less accountable than the system that exists today, and would find it easier to strip the public of popular benefits. Negotiators are currently considering cutting the mortgage deduction and tax credits for retirement savings, for instance, extremely popular policies that would be difficult to slice up using the traditional legislative process."

This panel would be composed of 12 members from both parties and both Houses of Congress. The proposal stems from the impasse on the discussions about the national debt, spending, and the problem of the limit of the debt ceiling. Poor John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, etc., for they must be turning over in their graves at the shenanigans going on in Washington. Are the American people so "dumbed down" that they do not understand what is taking place? Are they so weak, frightened and dependent upon government taking care of them with entitlements that they are willing to lose their freedoms through improper procedures that do not follow the Constitution? Are only the Tea Party advocates paying attention and speaking out? It is the time and duty of all Americans to become informed, participate and speak out to let our legislators know that we are not happy with their actions before we are no longer able or allowed to.



Assemblyman Pete Lopez sponsors Education bill: Assemblyman Pete Lopez (127th Assembly District - R,C,I-Schoharie) has been holding public meetings with three task forces in motion to develop legislation/state policy changes focusing on quality and affordable education. He recently sponsored a Bill (# A03124A) which recently passed in the Senate and is working to get it passed in the Assembly. This Bill would allow school districts and BOCES units to agree or contract to provide administrative services together in order to provide on their own. According to an article by Meghan E. Murphy in the Times Herald-Record, "In the Assembly, it came down to this: democrats wanted a relief option for strapped school districts on the state-caused crunch. Republicans objected to borrowing today money that must be paid back – with interest - tomorrow." Assemblyman Lopez was quoted to say "All of us have had every opportunity to come together with recommendations that can promote quality affordable education....to date, this body has not. It's not from a lack of our own ability or good will; it is from a lack of concerted attention to a very serious matter." Citing his own efficiency bill, he pointed out that changes can be made that don't harm students. He concluded "We have much more work to do as a body to attack this issue intelligently." The governor did lift a portion of Lopez's bill and place it in the mandate relief section of the recently passed bill (#A8518 – named "the big ugly") which incorporated the property tax cap and a first start at mandate relief.

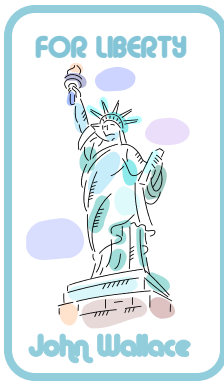
Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin states Homeowner's Loan Program will help upstate families: Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin (108th Assembly district -R,C-Melrose) announced he is partnering up with the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program (EHL), an assistance program launched by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This program will provide assistance to homeowners who are at least 90 days late on their mortgage, unemployed, working fewer hours because of the economy, or due to a medical condition. "This is a tremendous program for homeowners who have been adversely affected by the biggest recession since the Great Depression," said McLaughlin. "Unemployment and underemployment are the main causes of mortgage default in today's homeownership arena. This is personally important to me. As a former business banking officer and current residential mortgage specialist, I recognize this is a great opportunity for HUD to assist people who are in critical need during these times of fiscal instability. I urge all New York homeowners affected by unemployment or underemployment to take advantage of this opportunity." For more information, or to see if you are qualified for this program, visit www.trionline.org, the program website at www.FindEHL.org, where homeowners can receive more details on the program, or call Assemblyman McLaughlin's district office at 479-0542.

Assemblyman Marc Molinaro says MTA payroll has to go: Assemblyman Marc Molinaro (103rd Assembly District - R,I,C-Red Hook) released the following statement: "I am disappointed that the Assembly failed to repeal the job-killing MTA payroll tax before the close of the 2011 legislative session. I will continue to pressure the legislative leadership in Albany to act on this urgent issue. The MTA is a government-funded entity that continues to fail despite the influx of taxpayer dollars, and without the repeal of the job-killing payroll tax Albany is deepening the crisis for Hudson Valley taxpayers and businesses. In this struggling economy it is important that state government reduce the burdens on our job creators. Eliminating the unfair and onerous MTA payroll tax is a good place to start."

Hyde Park, NY - July 20, 2011 Assemblyman Marc Molinaro, candidate for Dutchess County Executive, officially opened his campaign headquarters, which will serve as the main office for volunteer activities and voter outreach. The office is located at 4290 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park Plaza, Hyde Park.

"Our campaign headquarters is centrally located to help us reach out to people throughout Dutchess County and spread our message of fiscal discipline and government efficiency," Molinaro said. "Thus far we have had a tremendous outpouring of support from people across the county but we always have room for more so we are encouraging people who share our ideas for a better future Dutchess County to stop in and get involved."

The volunteer office is easily accessible to the public. The office will be open for the summer, Tuesday through Thursdays from 4p.m. to 8 p.m. People are welcome to stop by to pick up literature or discuss issues and their concerns. There will be a volunteer coordinator on staff each night to organize volunteer activities at the office and in neighborhoods throughout the county.



Why is China Making Parts for the American Military?

Recently, Senators Levin and McCain warned of Counterfeit Electronic Defense Parts being made in China and they called on China to assist in an investigation; but China has stonewalled their efforts. Gee, really? I thought they are friends. Well, maybe not.

I have a better question for the two Senators from the American people. Why the hell is China making parts for our military in the first place? China is not our friend- and they are a communist dictatorship. Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee say it suspects counterfeit electronic parts, made in China, are infiltrating U.S. military weapons systems and they have called on the Chinese government to allow committee staffers into the country to investigate.

Senators John McCain, R-Ariz., and Carl Levin, D-Mich., say it is vitally important to U.S. interests to rid American systems of the parts. I say it is vitally important to U.S. interests to rid our military aircraft and weapons systems of any Chinese-made parts. What the hell is wrong with our elected and appointed officials in our federal government? These counterfeit electronic parts pose a risk to our national security, pose a risk to the reliability of our weapons systems and pose a risk to the safety of our military men and women. Senator Levin said that many at the Pentagon and within its contractors believe the threat comes from China. Do you really think so Senator? What took you so long?

"In 2010, the U.S. Commerce Department published the results of a survey of almost 400 companies and organizations in the Department of Defense's supply chain," Levin said. "Those surveyed overwhelmingly cited China as the country suspected of being the source of counterfeit electronic parts." The answer seems simple enough to me. Don't allow any Chinese made parts to be used in any of our military equipment. Don't allow any manufacturers that make parts for our military to use any Chinese-made parts at all.

Senators Levin and McCain complain that China is refusing to work with Senate staffers who are trying to enter China to further investigate the issue. Their offices continue to ask for visas, but China has thus far refused them. What a great friend China is to America! "The U.S. and China are not destined to be adversaries," McCain said. "We have overlapping interests, and this is one of them. It should be in Chinese interests not to have counterfeiting of these electronic parts going on because it would harm legitimate Chinese companies as well." Wake up Senator, the overlapping interest is money and greed on the part of American and Chinese international companies. What about harming members of our military Senator? Who cares what happens to the Chinese companies? And it gets worse!

More recently, the U.S. Department of Defense purchased 59,000 microchips to use in Navy equipment that control everything from missiles to transponders, according to report in Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin. But, all of the chips turned out to be cheap knock-offs from China, and they ultimately were not installed, according to military sources. Besides being subject to failure, however, the chips also were designed with a "back door" which would have allowed the chip and the device it controlled to be shut down remotely at any time, sources report. Had the flaw not been detected, the chips could have shut down U.S. warships, aircraft, advanced weapons systems and encoded transponders that distinguish friendly aircraft from hostile attackers. The revelation is only the latest in a series of incidents that have sent off alarm bells in the Pentagon. China previously was found to have been actively pursuing placing "back doors" in computer equipment as well. Several cases have been uncovered in which Internet-capable devices have had Chinese chips in them which also provided a "back door" into the networks the devices were supposed to protect. The devices were attached not only to industrial and commercial networks, but also to networks that were defined as part of the nations "critical infrastructure".

The problem is not unique to the U.S. Britain's M15 accused cyber intelligence agents in China of attacking U.K. businesses with the goal of gaining commercial intelligence. Officers from the People's Liberation Army and the Ministry of Public Security approached U.K. businessmen at trade fairs and exhibitions with the offers of free cameras and memory sticks. But the Chinese "gifts" were found to contain "back doors" that provide the Chinese with remote access to the business computers. The Chinese counterfeit parts have been specifically designed with "back door" secret programming in them so these parts will either malfunction or be controlled by Chinese military should we ever meet in combat situations. The Chinese cannot and should not be trusted.

I'll ask the question again: Why the hell is China making any parts for our military equipment in the first place? They are not our friends. **THEY ARE LOOKING TO DESTROY US!**

Congress must launch an investigation to identify the idiot(s) and/or traitor(s) who authorized such a foolish and dangerous thing? Is anyone in Washington concerned about our national security, or is it just a group of very rich traitors looking to make a lot of money at the expense of our national security and the safety of our military personnel? I guess we will have to follow the money to find out.

John Wallace, Chatham, NY



FROM THE DESK OF:

Albert L. Wassenhove

Just a bit of town news this month – from Ghent: At the Town Board meeting of July 21st, it was learned that the Devoreaux Foundation has 140 Fowler Lake Road in its crosshairs for a group home. The residence has four bedrooms, three baths, and an in-ground heated pool. There is also a three stall horse barn situated on the six plus acres. Its listed price is \$379,900 with an assessed value of \$338,600. The current school taxes for this property are at \$3,780 and the town taxes are \$2,318. If the Devoreaux Foundation does acquire this property, \$6,098 of taxes will be lost as the facility will be a tax exempt establishment. Considerable discussion took place on the number of tax exempt properties and non-profits that already exist in the town. The remaining taxable properties are assessed for their share of this lost revenue. The question voiced by some of the town council members was “Has Ghent reached its saturation point?” *Al Wassenhove*

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE COUNTY



MELLENVILLE – Country music is in the spotlight for the fourth week of the Claverack Republican Club’s free “Music in the Park” summer concert series Thursday, July 28 when Peaceful Country takes the stage at the Claverack Town Park, Church Street. This four-piece Capital District-based band has been wowing area audiences since the mid-1980s with their blend of modern and traditional country favorites and lively square dance rounds.

The band is lead by veteran country musician and champion square dance caller Ralph Barger on lead guitar, fiddle, keyboards and vocals. Lead vocals are handled by two-time NECMA (Northeast Country Music Association) “Female Vocalist of the Year” nominee Melissa Groves, a graduate of the SUNY-Potsdam. Keven Acton adds bass guitar and harmonies. His extensive musical experience includes stints with blues, rock, pop and country bands. Three-time NECMA award nominee Mike Harlo provides a rock solid tempo behind the drums. He is a veteran of various local bands, including Yukon, Crooked Creek, and the True Tones.

The band will perform from 7 to 9 p.m.

The second month of the series kicks off August 4 with local favorites Time Machine performing their blend of rock, country and pop covers from 6 to 8 p.m. The bands perform under the pavilion at the park. Some seating is available but concert-goers are encouraged to bring a blanket and enjoy the music from the lawn. Admission is free. Food and snacks, including some dishes specific to each event, will be available each night. Band fees have been paid by a variety of local sponsors.

Other concerts in the series are Thunder Ridge on August 11, The Run Away Boys on August 18, and King of the Forest on August 25. For more information on “Music in the Park” visit the website claverackrepublicans.com or call Charles Schram at (518) 851-7570.

CHUCKLES



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