Chief Robert J. Kwiatkowski Retires

His official first day of retirement after 38 ½ years of service was July 1

By Lt. Arthur P. Abbott, Woodbury Police Department

Robert J. Kwiatkowski was born and raised in Central Valley. When he was growing up, he had several jobs that included being the paperboy for the Central Valley area and caddie at the Central Valley Golf Course. His life-long love of golf came from that caddie job.

Bobby, as the Chief is affectionately known, attended the Monroe-Woodbury School’s where he graduated in June 1966. He spent the summer of ‘66’ causing havoc in the Town of Woodbury and the surrounding towns. So, by and by, at the end of the summer he had enlisted in the U.S. Army.

It was September 20, 1966, when Bobby enlisted in the Army. He served in Vietnam

Above: Chief Robert Kwiatkowski and his wife Peggy. Photos provided
Why did you celebrate the 4th of July?

There has been a struggle going on! Are you exercising your inalienable rights … or, have you given them away?

Think about it! Yesterday marked 236th years since the approval of the Declaration of Independence. But those Colonists did not gain their liberty on that fateful July 4th. But each delegate who approved and later signed it on August 2nd actually put his life, and that of his family, in jeopardy of being hanged.

What happened July 4th was that the rebellion of a people against its sovereign government was made legal. It plainly enunciated truths that Colonists understood and it served two purposes at the time of its adoption. It set forth the proper function of government, and, the causes of separation from the King of England. Seven more years of battles, disease, and at times starvation followed the volunteer militiamen.

Victory was won on the battlefield and ended bloodletting, but a new struggle emerged. It was different; it was a conflict of how our new fledgling nation would be governed. All nations today at the time of the government of families. Because of Rome a thousand years before had been the last democracies, and if you know Rome’s history, you’ll remember that it began as a republic. They protected the rights of citizens who held minority opinions. In Philadelphia, educated men in 1776 wisely gave us a republic, too, for the same reason.

Read, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights…” and “That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government…”, and “all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.”

Today we are perilously close to losing our liberties to a burdensome and out of control government. Are you aware, because it is mostly ignored, and many have never been taught, it is insidious, that a philosophical struggle is raging? It has been going on since our Constitution was ratified. We’ve been partially isolated from it because the great Atlantic distanced America from the Old World. We were also secure until the end of the nineteenth century partly because of the Country’s principal Protestant Christian heritage. That heritage was manifested by a strong trust in Scripture. Christian men and women relied upon their faith in God that through the grace and providence of Jesus, God would supply all needs, both material and spiritual. Americans were mostly hard working, independent, and charitable citizens.

This “struggle”, as referred to above, has manifested itself in different forms. It began fourteen years prior to the writing of our Declaration of independence when Jean Jacques Rousseau wrote The Social Contract, or Principles of Political Right. Later, out of the French revolution came Henri de Saint-Simon another Frenchman, then Karl a German, Robert Owen of England, Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx – to name a few. Each man advanced variations on themes of equality, property, production and ownership of capital. Here was the birth of Socialist thought. Communism and the Progressive movements were born of these men. Their thought was that “production and ownership of capital, must accompany the scientific organization of industry and society. He proposed that production and distribution be carried out by the state, and that allowing everyone to have equal opportunity to develop their talents would lead to social harmony and the traditional state could be virtually eliminated, or transformed. “Rule over men would be replaced by the administration of things.” This is what “Prosperity!” still want today in our America! They may not admit it, but an empirical analysis of our government would reveal progressive steps in that direction.

My view is that socialism and progressive politics are the antitheses of our Declaration of Independence’s principles. It emanates from humanistic, that is man centered, and not God centered principles of life. The socialist premise is that “governments defer power and rights to its citizens, and that man exists for the good of government.” Our Republic’s premise is that “God confers inalienable rights to man, and, man gives government certain limited power; and that government exists for the good of man!”

When citizens do not vote, they permit their government to easily size more and more power – until finally, when the citizens are powerless and have become the slaves of government.

Friends, neighbors and people of Woodbury, because of your indifference and laziness, you do not vote. Fewer than five out of one hundred of you registered voters have bothered to vote recently. Sometimes up to fifteen percent of you vote “in an important election will vote.” Do you want to have another kind of government? Sad! Dangerous! You who do not bother to vote, you are quickly giving away your liberty; and far worse to me, you are allowing my freedom to be trampled and disregarded. Why did you celebrate the 4th of July?
Letters to the editor

James Skoufis is a proven promise-keeper

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of the candidacy of James Skoufis for the New York State Assembly in the 99th District. There are many issues to be dealt with in Albany and I know James is fully prepared to do that in a conscientious, strong and intelligent way. Most of all, though, what makes me a Skoufis supporter is James’ proven track record in working for the people he has represented as a Woodbury Town Councilman. All of us remember the devastation that Hurricane Irene brought last fall throughout the Hudson Valley. One of the hardest hit areas was Woodbury. With no political motives but only a huge concern and caring for his constituents, James worked tirelessly for weeks and months to get help for those in need. He went far beyond what anyone expected, and it was truly a miraculous effort. I am absolutely certain that this is the same dedication that James will bring to all the people of the 99th Assembly District as their newly-elected Assemblyman. James Skoufis is a proven promise-keeper who will be there when we need him, both in Albany and here at home. I can think of no one else who will be more committed to representing us fairly, honestly and with complete dedication than James Skoufis. Please give him your vote and send James to Albany.

Fred Lindlaw
Highland Mills

Village Board meeting

By Desiree Potvin, Clerk for the Village of Woodbury

Dedication Rushmore Sewer Plant – Structure Demolition - Zone Change Request

Woodbury - Summary for June 28, 2012

Reschedule July 12 Meeting to July 10: The July 12 Village Board meeting has been rescheduled to July 10 at 7PM.

Acknowledge Service of Past Volunteers: Mayor Michael Queenan noted that plaques have been made to recognize the time served on the Zoning Board by Sandra Capriglione and the Planning Board by Sheila Conroy and Lorraine McNelli. A presentation was planned but the three individuals were unable to make the last meeting and this meeting.

Public Hearing Scheduled – Demolition of Structure: A public hearing will be held at 7PM on July 10, 2012 to entertain public comment on the offer of dedication of the Rushmore Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Village of Woodbury.

Discussion – Zone Change Request – Schroeder: A request was received from Robert Schroeder to change the zoning of property located on Route 32 (228-10-8) back to what it was prior to the Comprehensive Plan being adopted. It was previously mixed zoned as Limited Commercial (LC) and Residential-1-Acre (R1A) and now it is completely zoned as R1A. He stated that since he submitted his request, he has sold the property and the new owner is Wayne Corts. Mayor Queenen stated that proper procedure would dictate that Mr. Corts now submit a letter making the zone change request as Mr. Schroeder no longer has an interest in the property. Mr. Corts stated he would like to see the entire lot zoned as LC and does not understand why property with frontage on Route 32 would have been zoned as R1A. Mayor Queenen noted that the Comprehensive Plan and corresponding zone changes are currently in litigation so this issue cannot be decided upon until the litigation is complete.

Town Board meeting

By Desiree Potvin, Clerk for the Town of Woodbury

Sr. Citizens Medical Tax Deduction - Roselawn Bridge - Coyotes in Town

Woodbury - Summary of Week of June 18, 2012

Medical Tax Deduction for Senior Citizens: Assessor Laura Breslin stated she was asked by Councilman James Skoufis to investigate this exemption for senior citizens that involves deducting out-of-pocket medical/prescription costs from the total amount of all income earned on a residence. Each taxing entity has different maximum income levels and the income calculation includes all individuals that reside in the home. The resident would need to submit all receipts for medical expenses that would need to be calculated and verified so the amount could then be deducted from the income total. She noted that Woodbury currently has 64 seniors receiving a senior exemption, which she expects will increase should the Town opt into this exemption. She stressed that the workload for her staff would increase greatly due to the amount of documentation that would need to be sorted through and verified per applicant. Currently the Towns of Newburgh and Blooming Grove are the only municipalities in Orange County that offer this exemption type. Unlike the STAR exemption which is subsidized by the State, the other taxpayers of the Town would assume the cost of the tax relief the senior receives. Assessor Breslin noted that there was no way to estimate the exact cost this would incur to the other taxpayers because she would have no way of knowing the medical costs of all eligible individuals. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that Assessor Breslin will conduct more research into the issue for the Board to review at a later date.

Replacement of Roselawn Road / Adrienne Drive Bridge: Engineer for the Town Al Fusco stated the bridge has deteriorated due to age, storm damage and vehicle accidents. The project is ready to bid pending a few changes to the specifications as suggested by Highway Superintendent Robert Weyant and some he saw that need to be addressed. Roselawn Road will be detoured since it will be closed during construction. The contractor will be responsible for the signage. He noted the aesthetics of the bridge will be kept as much as possible and that it would be reinforced for the expected future impacts from vehicles. The timeline for the project was discussed (bid date, contract signing, construction completion) and Supervisor Burke asked if a penalty could be imposed if the deadline is not met. The specifications require the work to be completed within 60 days of the contract signing, and there is language in the specifications that address a penalty for failing to finish within this timeframe. Engineer Fusco noted the contractor can request an extension due to severe weather conditions, which are usually weather related. He also noted that a performance bond will be required to be posted that will be held for one year after the work is completed in case of any defect. The Board then discussed in detail the parameters of the work involved.

Coyotes in Town: Richard Holmes presented a petition containing approximately 75 signatures urging the Town Board to develop a solution to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and pets from the growing population of coyotes. He stated specific instances where coyotes have been seen. Supervisor Burke stated the Board has hired a new Animal Control Officer and that the coyote issue, as well as snakes and other animals, have been addressed with her. She will be given a copy of the petition and hopefully there will be an improvement. Councilman Frank Palermo added that if a person sees a coyote on their property, they should telephone the Police Department.
Library

TONIGHT - “Turtle’s Big Dream” at Central Valley Branch

Robert Rogers Puppet Company

➤ The Opening program for families will be held tonight outside the Central Valley Branch at 7 p.m. Robert Rogers Puppet Company will perform “Turtle’s Big Dream.” Call 928-2114 to sign up for this program.

➤ Registration continues through July 30 at the Central Valley Branch and can be done in person at any time the Library is open.

➤ “Dream Big - Read” is the theme of the New York State Summer Reading Program this summer. Children are invited to join the Big Dreamers Individual Reading Program and track their reading over the summer. Stickers and weekly prizes will be given for reading. Dream Big Activity programs for grades K-1 and Grades 2-5 will be held weekly.

➤ Story times for ages 2-5, a parent-child program for ages 6-36 months called Little Library Stars and other programs will be offered during the summer. Stop in at either branch of the Library to pick up information.

➤ Those going into grades 6-9 are offered the “OWN THE NIGHT” Challenge. Reading, activity programs, puzzles and projects can all earn stars used for chances on a raffle. Come in to the Central Valley Branch to get information and to sign up for a summer of fun.

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Richard Vasquez – New Chief of Police
Announcement and Oath of Office at Monday night’s Town Meeting

By Benjamin Meyers

Highland Mills, NY - Monday night’s Town of Woodbury’s regular board meeting was anything but regular. Normally board meetings convene on Thursday evenings. But because of the Public Meeting being held tonight about the KJ and Brach’s annexation attempt, the regular board meeting was convened Monday instead.

Even well before John Burke called the meeting to order, almost all of the available seats were occupied. As the meeting began there were sixty-nine people in the town hall. Regular administrative business was taken care of quickly, and it was noted that Councilman Frank Palermo negotiated a 2013 – 2014 refuse collection contract with County Waste and that $90,000 in concessions were achieved.

John Burke continued with the resolution to appoint Woodbury’s new Chief of Police who will follow Chief Robert Kwiatkowski since his retirement on July 1st. After a long process of evaluations Burke announced that the town board had decided that Mr. Richard Vasquez had met all the qualifications to fill this newly opened position. He then read from Mr. Vasquez lengthy and very impressive resume’ achieved as an officer in New York City.

Supervisor Burke then slowly began to say that he wanted to “put some rumors to rest – “that this was not a pre-ordained process. The civil service requirements are very strict, a very complicated process that we started back in February.” Councilman Skoutis said, “This is not a time for divisiveness. I hope we all support the Chief. He needs to know he has the full support of the town.”

Members of the community took the podium to share their thoughts about either the process of selection, or, to congratulate and give support to Mr. Vasquez. Maria Hunter asked the board to voice their full appreciation for Chief Kwiatkowski’s contributions that he has made during his career. Mr. Burke replied “We do recognize his outstanding service, not only as Police Chief in Woodbury, but also his service in Vietnam. We recognize Chief Kwiatkowski and also Ted Jones who went before him.”

Robin Crouse asked the board for “the reason of your pick?” Burke replied, “You won’t get that answer tonight.” He also said, “There will be plenty of opportunity going forward… at any meeting.” Mrs. Crouse said that she will continue to ask her same question in future meetings. She felt it was, “A shame that the town board does not take care of its own,” meaning someone from within the Woodbury Police Department should have been chosen.

Jonathan Swiller thanked Chief Kwiatkowski and also Ted Jones for “establishing an outstandingly, professional police department.”

Ted Jones, a police officer for thirty-four years and chief fifteen of them, said, “I think you made the wrong decision. There were two qualified Woodbury Officers, one a Sergeant and a Lieutenant. I don’t care if the Director of the FBI is the one who qualified. A Lieutenant and Sergeant could have looked forward to moving up and they may feel they have nothing to look forward to.” He also stated, “My biggest concern is that this wasn’t done for political reasons.” Speaking to Mr. Vasquez, Mr. Jones assured him, “I look forward to meeting and helping you.”

Mr. Vasquez was sworn into his office by Ms. Desiree Potvin, Clerk for the Town of Woodbury. Standing behind the podium, Chief Vasquez began, “I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the next Police Chief for the town of Woodbury. I would first like to thank God for guiding me through my first twenty years of law enforcement and ask for His guidance in my new assignment.” The Chief thanked his wife and two daughters for their support. He continued, “To the citizens of Woodbury…I will be a visible and accessible Chief. I will become an integral part of this community… I want to ask the whole board to voice their full appreciation for Chief Kwiatkowski’s contributions that he has made during his career. Mr. Burke replied “We do recognize his outstanding service, not only as Police Chief in Woodbury, but also his service in Vietnam. We recognize Chief Kwiatkowski and also Ted Jones who went before him.”

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L.H. Pool Services Opens in Highland Mills

L.H. Pool Services has been a family-owned business in servicing the Hudson Valley for over 20 years. This year marks the opening of their new store located at 960 Rt.32 in Highland Mills.

They are a National Certified Aquabot Repair Center for the entire Hudsons Valley area and house their own Aquabot service center.

Having over 20 years of pool expertise, they specialize in both above and in-ground pools and spa chemicals, openings (chemicals included), closings, liner replacement and repairs, pressure testing and line repairs, installation of fiber optic and LED lighting, heaters, filter systems, and motor/pumps.

L.H. Pools is proficient in the entire process of liners and safety covers, starting from preliminary measurements to installation and maintenance. They also offer seasonal packages, weekly service, and free water testing at their store location. They also offer specials dealing with safety covers and annual pool closings.

For more information on L.H. Pool Services, you can contact them at (845) 827-5901, by lhpoolservice@yahoo.com. Or stop by the store and ask for Liz or Dan; store hours are Monday-Saturday 9:00AM-6:00PM, Sunday 10:00AM-3:00PM, or call for an appointment.

The ANNEXATION Meeting is Tonight

Public comment and question meeting at IBEW hall at 7:30 pm

By Benjamin Meyers

Woodbury - This is the night, Thursday, to attend an important meeting. The three governments involved in the Village of Kiryas Joel’s (KJ) and Zigmond Brach’s petition to annex 14 acres of property that is within the Town and Village of Woodbury, have jointly agreed to hold the legally required public meeting in Harriman at the IBEW Union Hall. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

The property would become part of Monroe if the State agrees with their petition. Brach has in the past wanted to further develop his land with housing but water supply is limited.

Attempts at annexing land from Woodbury are not new. In 2005, Bob Quinn of the Photo News reported, “The Kiryas Joel Alliance announced this week it has withdrawn its petition to annex 87 acres from the Town of Woodbury into the Village of Kiryas Joel “as a gesture of good faith in its desire for improved relations and neighborliness with the surrounding communities.”

Earlier on September 11, 2004 Michael Hill who wrote for Associated Press reported, Kiryas Joel is among the fastest growing places in the state, with about 16,400 people, according to census estimates. The hammer taps of new construction are a common sound here. There are growing pains though. More residents are drawing on local wells, a problem that village administrator Gedalye Szege-din likens to too many straws in a drink.

“The village’s proposed solution is to tap into an underground aqueduct 13 miles away that carries drinking water to New York City from its upstate watershed. About 75 watershed communities already take advantage of a state law allowing them to siphon from the city’s supply. But this proposed pipeline has taken on symbolic weight. Mr. Hill concludes that the only barriers to KJ’s population are the natural resources – water and land. Hill said in his article, “More water for Kiryas Joel means more people . . . at least that’s the view of pipeline opponents. Petitions filed by Hasidic residents living next to Kiryas Joel to annex 184 acres of land into the village have fanned fears of rapid growth.” Typical of many comments by Woodbury residents, Hill in an interview with Joseph Ferguson, a resident of neighboring Woodbury quoted him, “I didn’t buy here because I wanted to live in an urban development. I came from Queens.”

The petition by KJ and Brach is too vague to ascertain why they believe annexation will be a win situation for all of the communities involved. This is the purpose of the public meeting. If this annexation attempt is successful some Woodbury citizens say, then the ACE Farm property will be the next in a series of future land grabs by the Hasidim.

Woodbury Supervisor John Burke said during an interview that “We will pursue this all the way!” When asked what that meant, he said, “We’ll take it to the Supreme Court.” Woodbury Village Mayor commented, “I understand how most people work very hard all day long, and travel long distances to get home. They’re very tired by the time they get home and they just want to sit down and relax for the little time that is left to them. But! This issue is extremely important!” Mayor Queenan urged everyone to be strong, “and get out to this meeting!”

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534 Rt. 32, Highland Mills
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Prices valid through 07/07/12 or while supplies last.
Swim Classes begin Tuesday, July 3rd
Two Sessions - The second session runs from July 24 through Aug. 9

We hope you are enjoying both parks now that they are open full time.

The first session of Swim Classes will begin on Tuesday, July 3, and continue through Thursday, July 19.

The second session runs from July 24 through Aug. 9. They are held Tues., Wed. and Thurs. mornings at the CV Pool.

The times for each level are as follows:

- Water Babies - 10:45-11:15
- Level 1: 11:30-12:00
- Level 2: 10:45-11:15
- Level 3: 10:00-10:30
- Level 4: 10:00-10:30
- Level 5: 9:15-9:45
- Level 6 - 9:15-9:45

Class rosters are posted at each park and at the park office.

Our Zumba Class is a big success. We ask our residents to please bring their park pass to each class. It must be current.

Finally, good news for 5 year olds who want to attend Camp Rez. The Commissioners met and agreed to allow 5 year olds who have not yet attended Kindergarten to go to Camp Rez. The child MUST be 5 before Camp starts. We have openings in both sessions. Please call the office at 920-9588, Ext. 6 for more info.

Fran & Joey
Woodbury Parks Department

Pediatric OT Solutions

Pediatric OT Solutions, located at 615 Route 32 in Highland Mills, offers occupational therapy services individually or in groups for children of all ages. We have a spacious and well-equipped sensory gym with professional and caring therapists trained in sensory integration treatment, handwriting skills, Interactive Metronome, Brain Gym®, and fine/gross motor development.

Our small groups are occupational therapy-based and we focus on having fun with movement and crafts.

Call 845-827-5360 for more details.

Visit: www.pediatricotsolutions.com to view clinic

Roselawn Bridge Replacement
Beginning end of July - find Alternate Route

By Benjamin Meyers
Woodbury - The small bridge at the bottom of the hill on Roselawn Road is about to be replaced. Woodbury Highway Superintendent Rob Weyant warned at the last two Town Board meetings that progress was being made toward selection of a contractor that will do the work. As of this writing, he expects work to begin between the middle and the end of July.

A narrow passage over the bridge and its location at a bend in the road has made this structure an obstacle for drivers. Those who are unfamiliar with the road can find the bridge almost hazardous. Even drivers that use the bridge often can make a mistake during the winter when ice has coated the road, or in the fall when wet leaves cause slippery conditions. The quaint stone wall has been destroyed and repaired many times over the years.

The last accident was the final straw. Instead of repairing the stones, the Highway Department is completely replacing the bridge allowing for wider lanes and a concrete wall. Keeping the esthetics of the area, the wall will be faced with natural stone. Superintendent Weyant expects the construction to take about two months. Woodbury Town Supervisor said that they hope to keep one lane open as long as possible. Once the concrete formed tunnel is ready to be installed, the bridge will be completely closed for an undetermined time frame. Weather conditions will play an important role in the project’s progress.

Another bridge in need of replacement. This one is on Roselawn Road. Photo by Ben Meyers
Proceeds went to the church’s “Roof Fund”
$400 goes toward HMUMC’s 150 year old church roof

By Fred Lindlaw
Highland Mills - The car wash was sponsored by the Highland Mills United Methodist Church’s Men’s Ministry and it was “free” so that people donated what they could to a worthy cause. The wash was chaired by Amiel Tutolo of the Men’s Ministry. Proceeds went to the church’s “Roof Fund” to replace the roof on the 150 plus year old church. It’s been about 20 years since the roof was last replaced, and so the car wash brought in about $400 toward the project.

The next Men’s Ministry Car Wash will be Sat., August 18th, from 10 AM to 3 PM. The church is located on Route 32 @ Ridge Road in Highland Mills. For more information, call (845) 928-6177, (845) 800-1258, or go to www.highland-millsumc.org

Fred Lindlaw washes left side of this car while Ray Hanaburgh takes care of the back and Amiel Tutolo cleans up the right side. Photo by Ben Meyers

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2012 Special Events!

OWN the NIGHT

Special Movie Presentation
Call 928-2114 to sign up
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows
Thursday, July 12
7–9 p.m.
Buttery Popcorn and S’mores!
Central Valley Branch

Closing Program
FLOW CIRCUS
PERFORMANCE followed by TEEN SKILL WORKSHOP
At Earl Reservoir
Monday, August 13
7–9 p.m.
Drawing for “OWN THE NIGHT” Challenge Prize
Call 928-2114 to sign up

“OWN THE NIGHT” CHALLENGE and Weekly Activity Programs at the Library

This program is open to residents of the Town of Woodbury and the Monroe-Woodbury School District
Orange County School of Dance will open a second location in September on Route 32 in Highland Mills right next to Town Hall. The school is a Conservatory of Fine Arts in its 21st year of operation. Offered are all forms of dance, private music and voice lessons, including musical theater and art classes. Little Feet Dance Company is the resident performing company.

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Visit www.oschoolofdance.com or visit us on facebook for class schedules of both the Monroe & Highland Mills locations. Registration is ongoing for fall 2012 at both locations and summer 2012 programs (in Monroe only). Joanna Markowitz, Director of the school has danced professionally in New York City for eleven years. Her dancing and Little Feet Dance Company in “Maureen” choreography have been favorably reviewed in such major publications as The New York Times, Village Voice, and The Villager. For more information, call 782-2482 or email us at orangecountyschoolofdance@yahoo.com.

How Old Is Your Roof?

If Your Roof Is Over 20 Years Old, Then It’s Time To Get It Inspected Before It Rains Again.

Shingles Can Come Loose, Crack And Fall Off Over Time. Don't Find Out The Hard Way. Get Your Roof Inspected Today For FREE!

Hudson Valley Roofers.com
Call 1-800-664-0304 for your FREE Roof Inspection Today!
By Kevin Steinauer,  
Troop 149 Scoutmaster

Woodbury - On Saturday June 30, Woodbury Troop 149 hosted its annual Fishing Derby at Earl Reservoir. The Cub Scouts from Woodbury Pack 148 that attended completed the requirements for the Fishing Belt Loop and Fishing Pin. The Boy Scouts as well as Ventures Scouts counseled the Cub Scouts on rigging the pole, baiting and preparing fish for cooking. The fish was then barbequed and one of the requirements is to eat the fish that was caught. Colin Davidson of Pack 148 caught the biggest fish and received a fishing pole, while Max Magill of Pack 148 won the most accurate casting contest and received a tackle box. Brian Witchen of Pack 148 drew the best pictures of three different fishing reels and received a fish fillet knife. Once again we would like to thank the Woodbury Parks Department for the use of the wonderful park facilities.

Brendon Fabbro demonstrates how to clean fish for Cub Scouts
Kevin Steinhauer Jr. and a catch from Earl Reservoir. Photos provided

The Woodbury Community Association
Wishes to thank the generous contribution of our Corporate Sponsors for making the 17th Annual Golf Outing a Success

Their generous support of the WCA benefits the Woodbury Community through student scholarships, the local food bank, PBA Toys for Tots, Scouting and a helping hand to a neighbor in need.

Thanks to Phil and Rosemarie Morello for their generous support. The same goes to George Salbia, Tom Sullivan, John Kelemen, Hank Adams, and Mike and Marianne Devenuto.

A special note of thanks goes to Mike Bennett of WHUD Radio. Mike donates his time every year to be Master of Ceremonies for the Golf Dinner.

Many thanks to the Donna, Chris, Tom, and Eric from Yoursport, and to Matthew and Arlette from the Falkirk Estate and Country Club.

* photos from previous events

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3rd Annual
Woodbury Firecracker Festival
Saturday, July 7th

5K Run/Walk  Registration starts at 7:00AM, race begins at 8:30AM

Street Fair  Begins at 11:00AM thru 4:00PM
             Touch-a-Truck  *  Operation Safe Child  *  Clown
             Vendors  *  Food  *  DJ  *  Children Activities
             Woodbury Jazz Quartet

Car & Bike Show  Registration STARTS at 12:00 thru 4:00PM

Fireworks at dusk  Sponsored by Town of Woodbury & Highland Mills Fire
                  Department

We ask that you support the following contributors:

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Dr. Seth Pulver     Skyline Chimney Sweep & Lawn Care
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Visit woodburyfirecrackerfestival.com for more information and details.
Flea Market & Fr. John’s Painting Big Hit at St. Pat’s
Parking lot was crowded & heat was not excessive

By Benjamin Meyers

Highland Mills - Saturday was not quite as hot as one might have thought listening to the weather forecast. It wasn’t oppressive and a nice breeze prevailed, especially in the afternoon. The Lord shined upon St. Patrick’s annual Flea Market because unlike last year when it rained, many vendors filled the parking area and many people looking for a good buy kept the vendors busy. Allan and Sharon Gutierrez had a canopy near the church and both said they were happy with their sales.

The canopy at which the Woodbury Gazette spent much time was the one where refreshments were served. Manned by teens from the church’s youth group, they did a good job serving up dogs, snacks and cold water; and we don’t think Bryan’s Dog House minded the one day competition. Louise Pisano, head of CCD at St. Patrick’s and her husband spent a lot of effort resupplying food as they made many trips back and forth between the school building and concession booth.

Mr. Bob Colbert was in charge of the event this year, and his wife, Rose, did the publicity. Bob was asked what struck him the most about the day. He smiled while saying, “I feel very strongly about how the whole community can get together in an open and friendly atmosphere. I saw a number of people making new friends – it’s good when a community can come together.” Bob was a bit reticent about thanking individuals because with so many doing great work, it is inevitable that he will forget to mention many.

Some who he did mention were De- lores Currao, Anthony Spano, Kevin Steinhauer, and Mary Porcu. He said that Debbie Caldwell missed the flea market because her son, who lives in Australia, flew into Boston – so we can excuse Debbie. Don Skier a local artist also helped by having a good frame made for Fr. John’s “Tiger Swallowtail on a Zinnia” painting.

When 3 o’clock rolled around, it was time for the raffle drawing. Who would win Fr. John’s painting? On hand for the drawing was Fr. Jacob Mattappillil and two youngsters, Thomas Gutierrez and his brother Nicholas who pulled the winning raffle ticket out of the jar. And the winner… was Kira Herbert who is a teacher at St. Patrick’s School, a lector and Eucharistic minister at the church. Kira was on vacation as her ticket was picked and said by phone on Monday, “I am thrilled to have won it!” Kira will generously donate Fr. John’s painting to the Religious Education Building where many other pieces of art have found their home.

Top: Fr. Jacob Mattappillil and two youngsters, Thomas Gutierrez (L) and his brother Nicholas who pulled the winning raffle ticket.

Right: People looking for a good buy kept the vendors at St. Pat’s Flea Market busy. Photo by Ben Meyers
Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

A good history lesson that we all should read. Patrick Henry is not quoted properly in our present day school texts: “Give me liberty or give me death!” is not exactly all he said or why he said it.

Did you know that 52 of the 55 signers of the Declaration of Independence were orthodox, deeply-committed Christians? The other three all believed in the Bible as the divine truth, the God of scripture, and His personal intervention. It is the same Congress that formed the American Bible Society. Immediately after creating the Declaration of Independence we see the President of the United States instructing and earnestly pressed to consider well, the Bible’s role in preserving our nation, “...not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religious, moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are the indispensable support of our political constitution.”

Consider these words by John Adams, our second president, who also served as chairman of the American Bible Society. In an address to military leaders he said, “...we have no government armed with the power capable of contending with human passions, unbridled by morality and true religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

How about our first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay? He stated that when we select our national leaders, if we are to preserve our Nation, we must select Christians: “Provided he has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian Nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

John Quincy Adams, son of John Adams, was the sixth U.S. President. He was also the chairman of the American Bible Society, which he considered his highest and most important role. On April 2, 1821, President Adams said, “The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”

In 1782, the United States Congress voted this resolution: “The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools.”

William Holmes McGuffey, author of the McGuffey Reader, was used for over 100 years in our schools with over 125 million copies sold until it was stopped in 1963. President Lincoln called him the “Schoolmaster of the Nation.” Listen to these words of Mr. McGuffey: “The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our notions on the character of God, on the great moral Governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions. From no source has the author drawn more conspicuously than from the sacred Scriptures. From all these extracts from the Bible I make no apology.”

For over 100 years, more than fifty percent of all Harvard graduates were pastors. It is clear from history that the Bible and the Christian faith were foundational to our educational and judicial system. However, in 1947, there was a radical change of direction for the Supreme Court. It required ignoring every precedent of Supreme Court ruling for the past 160 years. The Supreme Court ruled in a limited way to affirm a wall of separation between church and State in the public classroom.

In the coming years, this led to removing prayer from public schools in 1962. Here is the prayer that was banned: “Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee. We beg Thy blessings upon us and our parents and our teachers and our country. Amen.”

In 1963, the Supreme Court ruled that Bible reading was outlawed as unconstitutional in the public school system. The court offered this justification: “If portions of the New Testament were read without explanation, they could and have been psychologically harmful to children.”

In the coming years, this led to removing prayer from public schools in 1962. Here is the prayer that was banned: “Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee. We beg Thy blessings upon us and our parents and our teachers and our country. Amen.”

In 1965, the Courts denied as unconstitutional the right of a student in the public school cafeteria to bow his head and pray audibly for his food. In 1980, Stone vs. Graham outlawed the Ten Commandments in our public schools. The Supreme Court said this: “If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments were to have any effect at all, it would be to induce schoolchildren to read them. And if they read them, meditated upon them, and perhaps venerated and obeyed them, this is not a permissible objective.”

Is it not a permissible objective to allow our children to follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments? James Madison, the primary author of the Constitution of the United States, said this: “We have staked the whole future of our new nation, not upon the power of government, but upon the moral principles of Christianity.”

Today, we are asking God to bless America. But, how can He bless a Nation that has departed so far from Him? Prior to September 11, He was not welcome in America. Most of what you read in this article has been erased from our textbooks. Revisionists have rewritten history to remove the truth about our country’s Christian roots. You are encouraged to make copies, and share with others, so that the truth of our nation’s history will be told.

Source: www.wandascountryhome.com/unitedstand
“Hair Cut Day”
Vinnie Vespa Fundraiser

Central Valley Fire Company coordinates the JULY 8 event at 10 am; Be there!

Get a haircut at Vespa’s Barber-shop starting at 10 am on Saturday, July 8th. Vespa’s is located directly across from Mario’s Restaurant on Route 32 in Highland Mills. Did you just have a haircut? Stop and get another one anyway for a worthy cause. For more information call Joe Bonetti: 845-248-37921

Vinnie at work! A marine, it’s “Fire in the hole!” when you have fun talking with this veteran. Photo by Ben Meyers

M-W Lions & Rotary Pancake Breakfast

Service Organizations held annual fundraiser at Presbyterian Church

By Benjamin Meyers

Monroe - Teamwork would be a good way to describe the Monroe Woodbury Rotary and Monroe Lions Clubs’ pancake breakfast. It was held at the First Presbyterian Church on Stage Road in Monroe. It was a nice morning, not yet hot, and there were supporters from Monroe and Woodbury filling up with pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausages. The coffee was very good, nice and robust – knock your eyes out in the morning kind of java. Starbucks has competition. Tea and orange juice was also served - for the weak. Seriously the joint breakfast was good fun. There was also some thought given to holding a once a month breakfast, but this idea has not been decided yet for sure. If you think it is a good idea, share it with one of the members.

Back row left- Bob Ketterer, Bob Marr, Sue Ketterer, Jim Nelson; Front Row left – Charlie Pakula, Agnes Kiely, Patricia Marr, Jay Wilkens and Cliff Berchtold. Patricia serves Cliff who is especially happy because this was his last day before retiring as Director of Transportation at M-W CSD. Teamwork is apparent in this photo of the Rotary and Lions breakfast helpers. Photo by Ben Meyers

Solution

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The Value of an Internship

By Laura Bakst

It seems that with the challenging job market and increasing amount of college matriculations, employer expectations for first time job seekers continue to rise. Many studies seem to indicate that “college is the new high school,” meaning that a college degree today is equivalent to what a high school degree meant to an employee several decades ago. With these trends, it is not surprising to hear that a resume riddled with campus organizations, a job at the dining hall, and a recently granted bachelor’s degree might not fare so well amongst a pile of applications on a human resources director’s desk.

The most popular means of gaining marketability without embarking on a seemingly infinite graduate studies program is by obtaining internships during school breaks. In fact, on many campuses spending summers working as an intern is the norm. For instance, at Cornell University, the career services office is a valuable resource for those looking for similar work opportunities. At Northeastern University, the career services office is a valuable resource for those looking for assistance with the internship application and interview process, and it is not uncommon to see students panicking if they have yet to receive any offers by April. Other schools offer more structured opportunities. At Northeastern University, most students participate in the co-op program, spending five years as an undergraduate, with up to three semesters devoted to working full-time. Northeastern provides students with advice and assistance in obtaining such employment, they even schedule weekly advisor meetings during the semester before the first co-op.

Internships serve many benefits for undergraduates. Firstly, they are a great way of gaining hands-on experience, allowing students to actually apply what they have been studying at school. It also provides an incomparable learning opportunity. Participants not only develop skills specifically relevant to their job, but they also get a better understanding of what it is like to be in a real work environment. Internships also help in deciding if a career or area of study is a good fit. But beyond the educational and resume building benefits, another important factor are the networking connections it produces. Many summer internships eventually turn into full time job offers come graduation, and previous co-workers may serve as a valuable professional reference, or a means of learning about similar work opportunities.

Unfortunately, internships often fail to completely meet this ideal. It is not uncommon to hear stories of interns being treated as personal assistants, doing menial tasks like shredding and fetching coffee, instead of learning about a career. Another major issue is the question of pay. Many organizations view internships as a favor to the student, and thus do not pay. While this might be true, interns are still completing work for the company’s benefit, presenting a valid argument for compensation. For instance, some of the most competitive internships are political ones in Washington D.C. Every year, thousands of interns flock to the White House and Capital Hill, working over forty hours a week for nothing. Though this is certainly an invaluable experience, the opportunity cost is high, as students must forgo other chances to make money, and still are responsible for housing, travel, and food expenses.

Though some have their drawbacks, internships are generally a beneficial opportunity. I am currently interning at a regional bank, and have found it to be extremely helpful in realizing how to apply the abstract concepts I learned in class to an actual business. Even peers of mine who were less fortunate in securing internships that allow them to develop relevant skills, still feel that just being present and observing the office environment has given them a better feel as to whether or not a career is right for them. Therefore, even the most unsatisfying internships can still be worth it in the long run.

Laura Bakst is a 2011 Monroe Woodbury High School graduate and a rising sophomore at Cornell University. She is studying Industrial and Labor Relations with a minor in Law and Society. This summer she will be interning at Greater Hudson Bank, life guarding, and studying at King’s College London as a participant on a Fulbright Summer Institute.
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