

Road Four

NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDENS BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Winter
2008-09

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From the Editor

"Road Four" is now available in electronic (PDF) format. If you, or any friends or family would like to get the electronic version, which is now in color, contact us with the recipient's e-mail address. Road Four is also available on the GB website: www.goldensbridge.org/GBsite/roadfourmain.htm

Road Four is a community newsletter. If you have any news, be it personal or whatever that you would like to share, please send it to us.

Road Four prints 4 issues per year.

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Presidential Thoughts:

This winter we had many days that were way, way below freezing, and, as usual these days, we had a major thawing of the roads in February. This, combined with the very massive trucks that were cutting hazardous trees along our roads that week, led to the very deep ruts in our dirt roads.

As President, I heard some of our members complaining about the condition of the roads and the danger and damage they presented. As

a 35 year full-time resident, I have lived through these extreme one or two week periods every four years or so when we have very cold winters.

When we first moved up here, the entrances to our three roads were dirt and an area on Pond Street sometimes became particularly treacherous. We spoke with the Highway Superintendent. The Town budgeted money for improving the gravel surface of that Pond Street area (putting down a very heavy gauge netting with large gravel above it and replacing the road surface). They also budgeted for paving the entrances onto Rte. 138.

Our liaison to the Highway Department is Mark Schmid. He has developed a mutually respectful and productive relationship with them. While I am thankful that they responded quickly to the hazardous condition, I am hopeful that we can identify particularly vulnerable areas of our roads and ask the Highway Department to come up with long term solutions that can stabilize those areas of our roads. If you see an area you think is in need of stabilization, please let Mark know. We will have a meeting with the Road Engineer and Peter Ripperger and work with them to improve the long-term viability of our dirt roads.

As you may know, I am a staunch advocate of keeping our roads dirt. That dirt enables us, and particularly our children, to walk on them safely. The Lake committee and the Town's Storm Water Committee are addressing the

siltation issues associated with dirt roads. The Highway Department, responding to our complaint, is no longer putting recycled item 4 on them (which made things so dusty for a couple of summers). The Highway Department walked all the dirt roads in Town with a dirt road expert from Pennsylvania, and they are looking at which dirt roads can be saved (with some improvements) and which need to be paved to withstand the increased traffic they weren't meant to handle. From an article reported in the Lewisboro Ledger, our roads appear to be much less expensive to maintain than some other dirt roads in Lewisboro. I am hopeful that through our community working with the Highway Department, and with some fairly unsophisticated modifications, our roads can be stabilized for those extreme times and be maintained as safe and rural dirt for the other 50 weeks per year.

Eric Stand

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS COURTESY OF THE LEWISBORO LEDGER, HERSAM ACORN NEWSPAPERS

Dirt Roads Could Be Paved

Written by Ken Mastro, 3/1/09

Town Board members will discuss possibly paving some of the town's dirt roads at its work session meeting tonight at the Town House at 7:30. The town's storm-water management plan for 2009 will be presented at the meeting, and is expected to address factors impacting dirt roads. Town Supervisor Edward Brancati said the Town Board will not take any votes on whether or not to pave

town dirt roads at that meeting. The board typically does not allow public comment at work sessions.

Two residents of School House Road talked last week with board members at the Town Board meeting about possibly paving School House Road, a dirt road.

“There will definitely be more to come on the topic,” said Mr. Brancati.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS COURTESY OF THE LEWISBORO LEDGER, HERSAM ACORN NEWSPAPERS

Town to Consider Dirt Road Options

Written by Ken Mastro, 3/5/09

What were once just quaint features that brought to mind a Lewisboro from a time when it was dotted by farms and traveled by horse, dirt roads have evolved into a controversial, costly and pressing issue — and one the town appears ready to address.

Last week, the Town Board directed its engineer to determine different options and associated costs for preventive measures to permanently fix areas of dirt and gravel roads where conditions routinely deteriorate, and present them to the board by June. Board members said they would probably first consider tactics other than paving but could resort to paving if those options are not effective. The town's roughly 12 miles of dirt roads are problematic in the summer when they become dry and dusty, and in late winter and spring when they freeze and thaw. Water can cause extensive damage to the roads — as was the case a few weeks ago when many days of freezing temperatures followed by 60-degree weather made some almost impassable with deep ruts — and to waterways from road material runoff. It is also costly for the town to use fill and regrade dirt roads each year, which is only a temporary fix.

“We need to do something,” said Town Board member Peter DeLucia. The board has heard

from residents living on dirt roads before about some of these problems but had not taken any major action regarding them. Some residents want the roads to remain dirt because they deter traffic and speeding vehicles, and are historical, while others want them paved over to have a flat road surface that does not deteriorate in poor weather or carry as much material into wetlands and streams.

Peter Ripperger, highway superintendent, said the town wants to consider options other than paving to improve road conditions.

“We want to come across alternatives we can do for this,” he said.

An instructor of environmental management of dirt and gravel roads from Penn State University recently worked with town officials and analyzed all of the dirt roads in Lewisboro. He issued a report that highlighted problem areas that need to be addressed and made recommendations about improving conditions along them. Town wetlands consultant Bruce Barber presented those findings and other dirt road issues, including a ranking of all dirt roads from most problematic to least, on behalf of Lewisboro's storm water committee, to the Town Board at its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 26.

Chapel Road in Waccabuc ranked the worst, followed by Schoolhouse Road in Waccabuc, East Street in Vista, Boutonville in South Salem, Pettit Road in South Salem and Todd Road in Cross River. Mr. Barber said Chapel Road should be paved immediately.

In addition to the weather, a high volume of traffic on some dirt roads adds to the poor conditions.

“They weren't made to take this kind of use,” said Mr. Ripperger, noting that the Penn State report states that dirt roads should average about 40 cars a day. Chapel Road has about 940 cars driving on it daily during the school year. Eight of the 23 dirt and gravel

roads in town are used by more than 100 cars a day.

Mr. Barber also recommended that the town assign town employees to work specifically on dirt and gravel road maintenance. Board members said they would wait until they receive the report in June before deciding if they need a full-time crew to handle these roads or whether the work could be integrated into the existing employees' responsibilities.

The options other than paving that the town may consider to keep water from ruining the roads may include sediment removal and selective grading, using vegetation to stabilize road banks and updating drainage work.

The storm water committee addressed the dirt road issue in large part because it is required by New York State Department of Conservation to control storm water runoff. In addition to its effect on wetlands, runoff from lawns usually contains phosphorus, a fertilizer that causes algae blooms if it reaches the many lakes in Lewisboro.

“The whole idea behind dirt road maintenance is keeping the water off the road,” said Mr. Barber.

Mr. Brancati said the town will total what it spent on maintaining dirt and gravel roads in 2008, and compare that to estimates for more permanent preventive measures.

“We are now spending a tremendous amount of money maintaining these roads,” said Mr. Barber. The amount the town spends each year on road material for its dirt roads varies greatly depending on the road. East Street is the most expensive to maintain, with an average annual cost per mile of \$8,820, according to the storm water committee's findings. Chapel Road follows at \$6,930, with Schoolhouse Road the third highest at \$5,953. The cheapest is Yerkes Road in Waccabuc near the border of North Salem at an annual

cost of \$158 a mile. Main Street in The Colony in Goldens Bridge and Boway in South Salem follow at \$1,256 and \$1,315, respectively.

The storm water committee's Powerpoint presentation on Lewisboro's dirt and gravel roads is posted on The Ledger Web site, lewisboroledger.com.

Lewisboro Ledger Editorial

Eric's message on page 1 is timely not only because of the recent difficulties on our roads due to the winter weather but due as well to the actions of the Town Board. As noted in the Lewisboro Ledger articles above, town engineers have been directed to develop options for the kind of erosion that occurs on sections of dirt and gravel roads within the town.

A recent issue of the Lewisboro Ledger included an editorial as a response to the board's action. The full editorial is well worth reading. Below are some excerpts.

"Dirt roads reflect a bygone era in Lewisboro when people traveled by horse or early automobile... That perception is what usually attracts people to buy homes on the few remaining dirt roads in town now. It is not for everyone, but many prefer it..."

Granted, dirt roads are problematic at times, with storm water runoff collecting loose dirt and other fill material and depositing them in wetlands and lakes. The roads can also become nearly impassable during periods of extreme changes in weather... Those problems need to be corrected.

Yet there are many advantages to keep the roads made of dirt. Many find the look and rustic charm appealing. Also, dirt roads are generally safer than their paved counterparts...

Town Board members said last week they want to try measures other than paving to see if they can limit the deterioration of the roads to keep their surfaces safe

for driving, reduce costs and keep materials from emptying into bodies of water... There are only 12 miles of dirt roads left in town. Make sure all options have been exhausted before paving them over forever."

The editorial reflects many of the discussions heard at Colony Executive Board meetings. Perhaps you would like to add to this discussion and share it in Road 4. Drop us a line or send us an E-mail.

Ground-Water Supply Overview of the Town of Lewisboro, New York

The Town of Lewisboro is comprised of six hamlets encompassing approximately 29 square miles. Local drainage is to nearby surface water bodies and regionally water drains south and west towards the Muscote Reservoir as part of the Croton River Basin, with the exception of the Vista and Lewisboro areas, which drain south to the Silvermine River Basin. The area is underlain by bedrock of the Manhattan Prong, which includes metamorphic gneiss, schist and carbonate rock. The bedrock generally is productive enough to support individual domestic needs, with the carbonate rocks providing higher yielding wells. Saturated unconsolidated material above the bedrock is of limited thickness, however, stratified glacial-drift deposits potentially capable of supporting higher-yielding wells have been identified near most wetland areas in the Town.

Based on the 2000 Census data, the Town population is approximately 12,324. Westchester County Department of Health guidelines indicate the average daily water demand per person is 75 gallons. For an average family size of 3.25 people per household, the average potable use is approximately 250 gpd (gallons per day), or approximately 925,000 gpd for the entire town.

Recharge to the underlying

bedrock ranges from 8.30 to 9.87 inches per year or approximately 670 gallons per day per acre. This recharge rate to the Town of Lewisboro is equivalent to 12.4 million gallons per day, well above the estimated daily water needs.

This recharge rate is reduced to approximately 6.75 inches during periods of extreme drought (defined as a one-year-in-thirty occurrence) or approximately 500 gallons per day per acre. Total recharge to the Town during periods of drought is reduced to 9.3 million gallons per day, a recharge rate that is well above the average demands. During periods of drought, conservation measures can reduce the overall daily water demands.

Most of Lewisboro is served by individual wells and septic systems. On an annual basis, 85 percent of the water being pumped from the individual water supply wells gets returned back into the ground. Consequently, the underlying aquifer is not usually impacted by most conventionally developed areas. For areas with sewage treatment, water use is nearly 100 percent consumptive because treated water is generally discharged to nearby surface water bodies and does not recharge the local ground-water system.

Our Town

The rural character of Lewisboro is one of its greatest attractions. As far back as the 1970's farsighted individuals found methods to preserve the land that they loved as open space. This dedication continues today.

From east to west the town offers a rich diversity of landscape and natural habitat. The four natural glacial lakes and two man made lakes support a broad diversity of native plants. The woodlands are characterized by a mixture of oaks, beeches, maples, hickories, birches and numerous understory shrubs and plants as well as the creatur-

that live there. Huge ancient trees remain in the second growth forests, cleared for farmland in the early days. Vernal pools and rushing streams harbor threatened or endangered species of salamander, turtle, and reptile.

Distant views give the visitor pleasure. Meandering stone walls tell stories of former farms. Historical interest is conveyed by archeological sites such as the remnants of an ice house used when the winters were cold enough to harvest ice. Meadows that are still open afford a unique habitat for birds such as the field sparrow and countless meadow grasses and flowers.

Wild Lewisboro is out there. This guide is meant to entice hikers, skiers, riders and explorers of all ages to discover the preserves, parks and trails of Lewisboro which beckon in every season and promise hours of enjoyment.

Wild Lewisboro would not exist without the hard work of the Lewisboro Conservation Advisory Council, Lewisboro Town Board, Open Space Advisory Council, Lewisboro Land Trust, Westchester Land Trust, and the dedication of all the individuals who have preserved their land for future generations.

The three town parks, Town Park, Onatru Park, Fox Valley Park, and three town preserves, Old Field, Brownell Preserve and Leon Levy Preserve offer many facilities for active sports as well as passive recreation opportunities. The Nature Conservancy properties include the Indian Brook Assemblage, Mt. Holly Sanctuary and Long Pond Preserve. Westchester Land Trust owns the Frederick P. Rose Preserve, Love Preserve, Old Church Lane and Pine Croft Meadow. Audubon owns the Hunt- Parker Sanctuary. The Gossett and St. Paul's Chapel trails are on private property. On north and south the town is bordered by two County parks, Mountain Lakes Park and

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, and the North Salem Open Land Foundation's two preserves: Marx and Five Ponds. Half of these preserves (10) are within the Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor: a regionally-important biodiversity area of 22,000 acres defined by the Wildlife Conservation Society/Metropolitan Conservation Alliance. What a wealth of open space to explore and enjoy

The Goldens Bridge Electric Railway

A friend who knows of our long relationship to Goldens Bridge asked us if we knew about the trolley line that had been planned many years ago. It was to run between Goldens Bridge and Danbury.

This was all new to us so we used the archives of The New York Times to find out when the plans began and why the trolley line was never completed. The following information, although incomplete, sheds some light on what took place more than one-hundred years ago.

The New York State Railroad Commission, met on August 8, 1901 to consider the application to build an electric railway from Goldens Bridge to Danbury with a link to Peach Lake. New York City expressed concern that this might in any way contaminate the water supply. The meeting was reported adjourned until the next morning.

It must have been approved. The Times reports on September 22nd of the consolidation of the Goldens Bridge Electric Railway of Westchester County with the Danbury and Goldens Bridge Street Railway Company with a capitalization of \$300,000.

Then on March 2, 1902 the partly completed trolley route is sold to the Westchester Traction Company. There is no description of what partially completed meant.

The last article found in the archives, May 3, 1903, states "The stockholders of the Danbury and

Harlem Traction Company...voted to ratify the action of the Directors in favor of an increase of the capitalization and of the bond issue". It further reads," all obstructions to the resumption of work on the road have now been removed, and it is now stated that it will be resumed in about two weeks, and that the road will be pushed to an early completion".

There are no further articles in the Times archive to indicate what happened nor why it was never completed. However, both Jim Callen and Drew Orr report that remnants have been found in the area. Ask them where they are and how to find them.

Judy Shulman to Appear on Jeopardy

*My Fifteen Minutes of Fame
by Judy Shulman*

To be more precise, it's 22 minutes of fame, not counting commercials. That's the extent of actual on-camera time on the game show, Jeopardy! For those of you who haven't yet heard, I took a risk on living out a lifelong dream to appear on my family's favorite game show, and it was worth every one of those 22 minutes. It all started about 45 years ago, when the original Jeopardy! first aired, hosted by Art Fleming. I was an elementary school student who came home for lunch every day and watched the show as I ate. I recall times when I barely made it back to school on time because I wouldn't miss the Final Jeopardy round. I think I was motivated to go back to school just so I could cram enough information in my brain to be able to use on TV someday in the distant future.

Skip ahead a few years (and a few college degrees and a few hundred thousand crossword puzzles later) and picture the Shulman family crowded on a couch in Goldens Bridge, glued to the TV set for the nightly ritual of Jeopardy! hosted by Alex Trebek. Can't you just see Billy and Judy compet-

ing against each other as they shout out rapidly at the television screen? Don't you notice that no phone ever gets answered between 7:00-7:30PM in the Shulman household? Can you sense that the sights and sounds emanating from the television set are mysteriously being absorbed by Judy's pregnant belly? Isn't it inevitable that when Judy's cradles her infant son, Avi, his head suddenly whips around when the Jeopardy! Think Music comes on the air? Or, when at the age of 4 he is given a choice of carrots or green beans at dinner, he responds, "I'll take the carrots for \$200, Alex?" You get the picture. (Is there a 12-step program for Jeopardy! addicts?)

It all came to fruition about a year ago, when I realized that you could try out for the show via a national on-line test. In less than 3 minutes, 50 questions in 50 different categories came blazing on the computer screen and were met by my machine-gun-fire-paced type-written responses. A few months later, I received an email inviting me to an in-person audition at the Sheraton Hotel in mid-town Manhattan. Along with 20 other nut-jobs (actually 300 nut-jobs in groups of 21 over a 3-day period), I was put through another written test, followed by participation in a simulated version of the game, followed by a brief interview and then (with no indication of whether I had passed or failed the screening) sent away with a Jeopardy! ballpoint pen to practice clicking in.

In mid-December 2008, I received the call at work. They needed me in Los Angeles for a January 28th taping. My first reaction — WHAT WAS I THINKING?!? I'm 53 years old and losing billions of gray cells by the second! I can't remember where I left my car keys. How will I remember the capital of Zambia? Did I ever learn the capital of Zambia? Wasn't it called something else when I stud-

ied the map of Africa in 4th grade? If I blow it on national television, will Avi ever respect my authority again? Come to think of it, does he even respect my authority now?

Well, I gathered up my courage and booked a round-trip ticket to L.A. I filled out a 3-page questionnaire, signed a 15-page legal document ceding my first-born son to Sony if I broke any of 2,000 rules of confidentiality, and studied the guidelines on acceptable on-air clothing colors and combinations. After a day of catching up with old friends and relatives and 2 nights of no sleep, I made my way to Sony Studios, Culver City at 8:00AM, with camera-ready clothing and hair and no make-up. At the gate, I joined a group of 14 other would-be contestants and was instructed to turn off all cellphones and PDA's. (No contact with the outside world allowed.) Having been unable to eat a full meal because of nerves, and having drunk 2 large cups of coffee, my hands were shaking and my bladder was overactive. When I get nervous, my mouth gets dry and I have to drink a ton of water — more fuel for my nervously overactive bladder. I think I spent more time in the restroom than in the green room, where a team of handlers prepped us, primed us with pancaked makeup and propped us up. (The energy level and rapid speech rate of the handlers leads me to believe that there is a Lithium shortage in Los Angeles.)

Finally, we were led out of the green room and onto the set. I felt just like Dorothy in Munchkinland — it was surreal (and very colorful). We got a chance to play a practice game or two, were measured to see how tall a podium we'd need to make optimum camera-height, filmed a Hometown Howdy mini-commercial for the local television market and then returned to the green room for a brief respite. The studio audience and family-and-friends-section were allowed in to

the set and we were given instructions not to make eye contact or have any conversation with them when we re-entered the studio (did they think my equally brilliant friends had secret information to slip me that would give me a distinct advantage?) We sat awaiting our fate (they tape 5 shows each day and pick the contestants for each taping in random order), watching the studio monitors, second-guessing the on-air contestants, and bonding with our equally nervous nerdy neighbors.

As for the actual on-air experience and results — well, I really do value my relationship with my son and don't wish to forfeit him to Sony Studios, so you'll just have to watch the show to find out. It airs Wednesday, April 1st (April Fool's Day - how fitting) at 7:00PM on WABC Channel 7 in the metropolitan New York area. Enjoy the show!

Art Openings

There is a new exhibition, Innovations In The Third Dimension: Sculpture In Our Time currently at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich. More than forty works from the late 19th century through the early 21st. They include artists such as Rodin, Botero, Noguchi, and Calder. Many of the works can be viewed on the Bruce Museum web site brucemuseum.org/exhibitions/

The exhibit will run until May 24th. The museum, at 1 Museum Drive in Bruce Park is free on Tuesdays.

Joel Sokolov, who spent the summers of his growing-up here in Goldens Bridge (and whose parents are still here) has an exhibit of some of his work at The Kentler International Drawing Space, 353 Van Brunt Street in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn. Joel spends most of the year at his home in Pahoia in the Puna district of the Big Island of Hawaii. His drawings reflect his surroundings and draw inspiration from the tropical foliage which grows in this region of

lava and ocean.

The exhibit continues until March 22nd. The Kentler is open Thursday through Sunday from noon until 5 PM.

Birth Announcement

Marty and Ellen Adelman happily announce the birth of another grandson, Charles Martin Ring.



Sara, Dan and Charlie hope to visit GB this summer from their home in LA

In addition to becoming a grandfather, Marty was the recipient of the Lifetime

Achievement Award presented to him by the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Judy and Mark Migdail on the celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Zachary. Congratulations also to Zachary's parents Denise and Erik Migdail. Good wishes as well to Zach's brother Max and uncle, Seth Migdail. Services were held in San Francisco at Congregation Sherith Israel.

Among those attending were Annette and Aaron Kroun, Ken Weinstock, Alisa (Berkowitz) Simon and Fred Simon, Rob (Berkowitz) Berahovich.

Family Pets Go Missing

On January 19, Bruno, a black lab and Betsy, a beagle belonging to Ilene and Chris Rietsch, went missing. Both dogs were wearing invisible-fence collars. However the batteries failed and both dogs left the property. A good samaritan spotted them wandering on Todd Road and brought them to the South Salem Animal Hospital. They were reunited with their owners none the worse for wear.

When Bruno and Betsy who were interviewed for this article were asked how it felt being lost

and away from home replied, Rough! Rough!

From the Editor

Putting Road 4 on-line has expanded its audience beyond the residents of our community. A relative who lives in San Rafael, California, and has visited GB on only a few occasions enjoys reading it as well as reviewing our web site. Recently we received the following letter from a former resident.

Dear Road 4,

I just read you're 2008 paper on line, and also discovered that you have a web site. I would like to receive Road 4 on my e-mail. Please add me to your list:

wynnegilbert@igc.org



I enjoyed seeing my photo with Fasts from the last reunion - 75th, as well as that wonderful photo from 1954 of my camp group in costume. May of us are still in touch with each other. My parents joined the Colony in 1936. My mother, Rose Wynne, was the secretary for many years. At six months old, May 1940, I came to G.B. and for five years spent six months of the year there until I had to go to kindergarten and had to stay in the city. My house is where the Cuffees live across from where the Goldenbergs lived.

My father was a great gardener

and they used to bring the camp children to view his gardens.

So much of my roots are in Goldens Bridge. As the director of the San Francisco Labor Chorus, I still sing the songs I learned in G.B.

An essay I wrote called, "Days of A Red Diaper Daughter" was published in a book called Liberating Memory, (1995, Rutgers University Press). I wrote a lot about Goldens Bridge. In the late 90's I performed a one-woman show with music based on that essay. At the 75th reunion, I performed 5 minutes of it depicting a meeting of the G.B. executive board or membership as I remembered it as a child sitting outside the barn listening.

I've enclosed some information about my CD, "Singing Is Believing". It would be great if you could mention it in Road 4. If you would like a copy to review I would be happy to send you one.

I love looking at the photographs of the lake. It brings back so many memories. Sometimes as a teenager, I would come to the lake at night, sit on a bench and look up at the sky, hoping to see shooting stars.

I worked as a junior counselor in the nursery when I was sixteen and seventeen. I'm still friendly with Stevie Mencher who was four years old at that time.

So many memories. Children were treated wonderfully - we were the hope of the future. When I went to Cuba, it made me think of Goldens Bridge.

I'm still in touch with Judy Wolfe (a wonderful artist living in France), Peter Gold (who started Rachel Carson College at the University of Buffalo), Bernie Libster, Barbara and Eric Gladstone - life-long friends.

So please e-mail me your next issue of Road 4.

Happy New Year and Happy Inauguration. Looking forward to

four better years.

Yours,
Pat Wynne

Pat's CD arrived and we've enjoyed listening to it. We're intending to put one of the tracks on the GB web site, maybe it's on by now. Meanwhile, if you would like to hear Pat sing there is a very amusing send-up of President Obama on You-Tube. It can be found at:

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=6KXqe4v9jeQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KXqe4v9jeQ)

Pat also sent some information about herself and her chorus. Please contact Gerry Sircus if you'd like to review them.

Fighting High Gas Prices—Spano Seeks AG's Help in Investigating "zone pricing"

March 18, 2009

Noting that a new law that was supposed to keep residents in certain communities from paying more than others at the gasoline pump isn't working, County Executive Andy Spano is asking the Attorney General's office to use its powers and investigate the "unlawful and discriminatory practice" of zone pricing.

In a March 17 letter asking Andrew Cuomo to take action, Spano stated that zone pricing continues to occur in certain areas in Westchester, despite the enactment of state legislation that was supposed to ban the practice. He cited apparent violations of the Gasoline Zone Pricing law and included survey data from the Department of Consumer Protection that shows how gas prices in Bedford, Croton, Katonah, Rye and Somers continue to run as much as 30 cents higher than the average.

Two years ago Spano called on the state legislature to prohibit petroleum wholesalers from charging higher prices to gas station owners in certain geographic areas. A new state-wide law went into effect in

November 2008 but doesn't seem to have changed much, Spano said.

"Despite our best efforts and this new legislation that clearly bans such practices, zone pricing continues to be a problem in portions of Westchester," Spano said. "I'm confident the Attorney General's office will agree this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Those who flaunt the law need to see that they will be held accountable and if necessary, required to pay civil penalties as well as restitution to aggrieved consumers."

Zone pricing occurs when oil companies charge higher wholesale prices to gas station owners in certain geographic areas. The higher wholesale prices are then passed along to consumers at the gas pump. The Westchester analysis found five areas in the county where it appears zone pricing is a factor in prices: Bedford, Croton, Katonah, Rye and Somers. In each of these areas, prices have been significantly above the county average. As noted in the Memorandum in Support of the legislation, "the result of zone pricing is higher prices at the pump for individuals who are assumed to be able to pay more."

According to Spano's letter, "In these difficult financial times, government has an even greater responsibility to ensure that all of our residents are treated fairly when it comes to purchasing fuel - or anything else, for that matter. Residents of one jurisdiction should not have to pay more for the same commodity as residents of a neighboring jurisdiction for no justifiable reason."

The Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection has been conducting regular surveys of gasoline prices in the county for years. The data compiled makes it clear that zone pricing has consistently occurred in Bedford, Croton, Katonah, Rye and Somers. The most recent survey, conducted earlier this month, shows that retail

prices in those areas continue to be 12 to 30 cents higher than the national average.

It should be noted that the state law bars zone pricing at the wholesale level, while the data compiled by the county shows higher retail prices in certain areas. Nonetheless, the existence of consistently higher retail prices in specific locations strongly suggests that zone pricing is taking place at the wholesale level.

Assemblyman Adam Bradley said he was pleased to be able to pass legislation prohibiting the practice of zone pricing.

"This practice is a discriminatory tactic used to inflate profits at the expense of consumers," he said. "It is important that all government officials protect consumers from artificially inflated costs for vital products such as gasoline."

Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, who put forth the original bill, also said he was deeply involved in the issue, sponsoring legislation to prohibit zone pricing for many years.

"It's nothing more than a discriminatory marketing practice that hurts New Yorkers," Brodsky said.

County Legislator Michael Kaplowitz, a long-time advocate of a ban on zone pricing and author of the resolution passed by the county Board of Legislators, said he's all for beefing up enforcement and welcomes an investigation by the Attorney General.

"This law will potentially save consumers significant dollars when purchasing a critical product," Kaplowitz said.

Looking for Ghosts

MAUREEN KOEHL who is the Town Historian of Lewisboro is seeking local ghost stories from the northern Westchester area, especially Lewisboro. If you've seen ghosts, or think you've seen ghosts or apparitions, contact Maureen at (914) 533-2396. Maureen is gathering material for a book.

Billie Firdman
1929-2009

Remembering Billie Firdman
On one of the fine, tranquil summer days of not too long ago our beach was quiet, just the normal buzz, awaiting the ice-cream man. Suddenly, without warning, Billie (Sam called her William) swept down to the shore. She wore a wide brimmed hat, a long caftan, large sun glasses, brightly dyed hair, and lots of makeup. Maxie, in awe, would whisper, "The Queen Bee!" Not one person raised an eyebrow or looked askance. This was normal. This was Billie.

We first met Billie when Marvin, our dear childhood friend, announced to us that he had made his choice for a life mate. She soon arrived on the scene with a bang and the clamor never stopped

until the end.

We spent many days and evenings together. There were dinners, musical events, parties, weddings, and sadly, funerals. We shared the ups and downs of life together and all the while Billie never changed her dramatic, flamboyant, original self. Her talents and interests were widespread. She always added her own sharp observation and critiques. Her cooking became gourmet, her talents encompassed painting, photography, and belting out a torch song or crooning a sentimental ballad. We all remember her many performances at the barn.

Her long illness was more than a hardship. Even as our time together grew more infrequent, she kept her image alive. Billie was a one-er. We shall miss her.

Selma and Sam Sokolov



Billie G. Firdman: Social worker, artist. Survived by husband Marvin, children Stephanie, Wendy, Robert, Melissa and granddaughter Jessica and sister Sandy.



SUMMER SOCIAL CALENDAR

The Social Committee has been working on plans for this coming summer season. The complete calendar will be printed in the spring issue of Road 4. Meanwhile, we can report that BBQs are planned for both July 4th and August 1st. An art gala is planned for July 25th. Artists and crafts people who may be interested in participating should contact Martha Levites or Judy Fast.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next meeting of the Goldens Bridge Community Association will be held on April 26th at the Barn. A number of important issues will be included on the agenda. You will not want to miss the discussions. A memorial tribute to Chaim Dubno, who spent so many years keeping our water system in good working order, will also take place. We hope to see you all there. Refreshments will be served

CLEAN-UP

The colony is planning a major cleanup of the community for Sunday, April 19th. Please take the opportunity to walk the roads and common areas on Saturday, April 18th, collecting trash and other items that have accumulated. You may deliver the materials to the Barn on Sunday where a dumpster will be located.

**TOWN OF LEWISBORO EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS
FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 911**

POLICE, TOWN OF LEWISBORO	763-8903
POLICE NEW YORK STATE	277-3651
AMBULANCE LEWISBORO VOLUNTEER.....	763-9633
FIRE DEPT., GOLDENS BRIDGE.....	232-4530

WATER EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS FOR THOSE USING COLONY WATER

To report a leak or other colony water emergency:
RON ARNSTEIN (914) 232-8260
PAT KILLEEN (914) 232-4931

Board Minutes

GCBA Board meeting minutes December 28, 2008

Present: Stand, Rosedale, Brown, Sirucs, Arnstein, Eisen, Callen, Schmid, Levites, Orr, Bergherr

Absent: Ehnes, Finkelman, Gordon, Fast

The meeting came to order at 10:40 am.

October Board Minutes were read and accepted into the record.

There was no quorum at the November meeting, so minutes were not taken.

Correspondence- None

Committee Reports-

Finance- An updated report was distributed. Levites expects we will be OK until 2009 dues come in.

DiAngeles- No confession of judgment signed yet. In-person visit with a notary is suggested. Stand to follow up and attempt to obtain the confession of judgment before the end of 2008. If that does not happen, then we go to our lawyer to file a lien. Moved, seconded, approved unanimously.

If no payment is received from DiAngeles before March 1, 2009, a letter threatening water shutoff will be sent. The matter of unpaid 2008 dues will be closed with either a signed confession of judgment or lien. Moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

Jean Rios died this past week; we need to know who is now responsible for outstanding dues, meaning the executor of the estate. Finkelman has been working with John Plasman to resolve the situation. Given the lack of information, it was suggested to pursue filing a lien on the house as soon as possible. Motion to do so made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Camporeale: Had a payment plan, made first payment and no more. Second check came in just recently- half of the balance due for 2008. We will draft a letter with a 2009 payment plan including remainder of unpaid 2008 dues; if they miss a payment, we will refer the matter to our lawyer and have him file a lien immediately.

Barn- Missing two padded chairs. Notice to go in Road 4.

Beach/Lake- Saw Mill Club may be a source of future lifeguards.

Town- no report

Camp- Meeting forthcoming. Callen to verify committee membership and roles.

Environment- no report.

Hospitality/Social- Will meet Jan. 17. Will get updated contact info list from Rosedale once it is finalized from Communication Survey data.

Legal/sales- no report.

Roads- Schmid created a list of trees to be taken down, and obtained estimates for removal from two companies. Initial estimates on identified trees on Colony land add up to \$5600; will get per-job price for removal from both sources. Schmid is authorized to contract with either Hawthorne Brothers or Corbett Stone, up to our budgeted amount of \$6,000, for removal of dangerous trees on Colony property.

Private property trees are in contention- we will send a letter to affected owners to notify them of potential damage and liability.

Road captains will be identified to contact people for events, and to report issues with the roads. Bergherr to follow up.

Maintenance- We need decisions on rebuilding lower barn area. Raft refurbishment still under discussion. Flotation from existing rafts to be reused. Number and size of rafts, meeting state requirements for weight capacity and draft above the waterline, are to be explored. Report for the next meeting.

Environment- Kaplan is willing to have a dumpster placed on their property for the removal of large trash items in the woods. We will use our dumpster included every other year in our contract with Bria/Somers. Schmid will contact Ehnes to coordinate.

Road 4- Will get final October minutes, then going to press. Email PDF will come out in color. Rosedale will let Sircus know about residents who have requested email delivery.

Committees could contribute news items for future issues.

Water- Work on the drawings will continue. Fly sheet will be sent to the board of health for informational purposes. Variable speed pump will be purchased and installed. Planning meeting for the Water Committee to be scheduled in March.

Garbage- no report.

New business- Ehnes has not made a final decision on whether or not he is resigning from the board. We will wait one more month to appoint someone to replace him.

Emergency phone notification system to be set up in January. Roads, Water and Secretary will be able to use it.

April membership meeting: Road captains, free refreshments; discussion on reapportioning maintenance charges to the Colony water system.

Next meeting: January 18th, 10:30am, Eric Stand's residence.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.

GCBA Board meeting minutes —January 18, 2009

Present: Stand, Fast, Rosedale, Brown, Sircus, Orr, Levites, Bergherr, Callen, Gordon, Finkelman, Arnstein, Eisen

Absent: Ehnes (resigned), Schmid

The meeting came to order at 10:35 am.

December Board Minutes were read and accepted into the record as amended.

Correspondence- none.

Committee Reports-

Finance- An updated report was distributed. We have not gone into savings, but may need to just a bit. Motion to invest up to \$10,000 of GBCA funds

in FDIC-insured CDs in a secondary CD market. Motion passed 11-2.

Confession of judgment from DiAngeles has been signed. Finkelman will file.

Call made to Camporeale regarding payment of outstanding dues.

John Plassman will become the owner of the Rios house. Finkelman has spoken with him, but he has not been forthcoming.

Two other outstanding dues payments have been made.

Our policy governing suspension of services, when dues are not paid, is to be included in all bills. Levites will revise Arnstein's draft text.

Levites will bring an updated, revised capital budget to the next meeting.

Barn- Need to prioritize capital projects. Wall and step still need to be reconstructed in lower barn floor area. Aim for March or April; this will be a joint project between camp and maintenance committees. Some of budgeted amount for lower barn floor repairs should still be available.

Beach/Lake- Beach: no report. Lake: update at April membership meeting.

Lake was recently surveyed, and sediment samples were taken.

Town- no report

Camp- Meeting took place; setting fees and salaries; plan is not to raise fees. We hope to meet minimum wage for counselors, and are discussing raises for returning staff. Traffic: advisory to parents is planned.

Environment- no report. New member (and replacement liaison to this Committee) to be elected by 2/3 majority of the Board according to our by-laws.

Hospitality/Social- Bergherr has spoken to or left messages with road captains. Food for membership meetings will be paid for from hospitality budget line. There will be 10 weekends this summer. BBQ on 7/4; Volleyball on 8/1; banquet on 9/5; kids' movies on Tuesdays; Wed. movies; Chorus Thursdays; Jim Gold plus another for Dance instruction on Fridays; two folk musicians; classical night; Bearcats; hootenanny; art show (7/25)- possibly benefiting the Scholarship Committee; possible game night. 2 "dark" nights with no events planned. Possible water carnival again. Possible cabaret night.

Legal/sales- Finkelman will file confession of judgment from DiAngeles.

Roads- Hawthorne submitted the low bid for the job of removing all the dangerous trees identified on Colony land as reported last time. Letter to be circulated to private property owners with dangerous trees. Bergherr will forward the letter to Schmid.

Ripperger has been spoken to about plowing problems on West Main St.

Stand will ask Schmid to speak with Forbes about possibility of Hawthorne leaving wood on his property after tree removal work is done.

Maintenance- Goal is to work on raft refurbishment before July. Chair holder in the barn to be constructed.

Environment- no report.

Road 4- Has gone out. Encouraging people to receive by email or check goldensbridge.org. Suggestion for historical column; regular column ideas solicited. Next issue by March?

Plaque for Chaim Dubno: to be dedicated at the April membership meeting.

Water- Plans are being drafted and revised. Meeting to take place in March. New variable-speed pump install will take place without shutting down the system.

Garbage- no report.

New business- Ehnes to be replaced. Stand will ask Joy Radulovic if she is interested.

ALOFT: Active Living over 50- local organization of retirees with many types of professionals. Westchester Dept. for Aging has decided to create "living community villages" so seniors can age in place. May invite someone to April meeting to speak. Eisen will convene a task force.

Chart of projects will be drafted in March. Each committee should have purpose/goals for the year and possibly beyond.

New GBCA directory to be created for distribution (both electronically and selectively in paper at the April membership meeting). Suggestion to divide names up by street.

Next meeting: February 15th at Russell Gordon's residence.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm. McFadden sale status uncertain.

GCBABoard meeting minutes –2/15/2009

Present: Stand, Fast, Rosedale, Brown, Schmid, Sircus, Orr, Levites, Bergherr, Eisen, Callen, Gordon, Finkelman, Arnstein

Absent: None (Ehnes' slot yet to be replaced)

The meeting came to order at 10:35 am.

January Board Minutes were read and accepted into the record.

Correspondence- none.

Committee Reports-

Finance- About \$30k of 2009 dues has been collected; we will not need to dip into our savings account to cover costs at this time. Specialized CD investments have been deferred due to fewer opportunities.

Camporeale has paid back dues from 2008, and has made a payment plan for 2009.

Rios- attempt to get confession of judgment signed; their phone has been disconnected. Levites spoke with John Plassman- he does not own the house yet. He believes ownership will be transferred to him in the probate process. The estate owes the town money. The house will eventually be sold. There is a question as to whether Plassman's signature on a confession of judgment would be legally binding since he is not the owner of the house, and may not be the executor of the estate. Motion: Allow two weeks for Martha to obtain a signed confession of judgment, then proceed with placing a lien on the property through an attorney. The lien would include unpaid dues plus attorney's fees. Carried unanimously.

Phone call from Yalowitz- requests not to be charged for winter garbage since the household is empty over the winter. Levites explained that Colony options for billing do not allow for this sort of exemption. Levites will supply details to Rosedale, who will draft a letter to explain billing categories.

Barn- No report.

Beach/Lake- Meeting scheduled for next weekend. Report on Lewisboro lakes is complete. A 7p. summary, and 250 p. report will be either posted

to or linked from the Wiki. In the future, the County will be requiring mandatory inspection of septic tanks when they are pumped out. They will require a maximum of 3-year intervals between pump-outs. Other recommendations from the report include minimizing use of chemical fertilizers, controlling animal waste, etc.

Town- No report.

Camp- New camp web site is done. The Board discussed the desirability of reviving camp-out events and influencing camp themes/emphasis. People with an interest or talent that can be put to use should be referred to Jo Ann Ehnés and/or Dawn. The Board is interested in continuing traditions through Camp programs. Stories, records of camp history are welcome. The central purpose of the camp should be enrichment of the children, not just custodial/day care. Camp Committee needs expanded membership. Too few people are asked to do too much.

Environment-

Hospitality/Social- Chess night is coming up. Art opening 7/25; artists interested in participating to Levites or Broberg. Meeting on 28th- summer calendar to be set.

Legal/sales- No report.

Roads- Tree project is mostly completed. Some people got free firewood! Logs lying around on Colony property are free for the taking. Roads are in bad condition- town only just responded this past Saturday after many phone calls from Schmid and others. Large rock chunks have been used to stabilize dirt road surfaces elsewhere. A meeting to share historical and technical data was suggested. Schmid will ask for such a meeting. People can use road captains or a map of the Colony to report bad conditions in their immediate areas. Rosedale will draft a letter from the Board to the highway department expressing our concern.

Maintenance- Orr is working on details for the chair rack in the barn. He is also in communication with a number of dock vendors. These vendors provide docks of variable designs, some allowing re-use of our components (floats, ladders); most have plastic decking; budgeting could allow for replacement of one dock per year. We may need to vote to increase our budget at the April membership meeting depending on the design selected. Pre-fabricated docks are more expensive than "kits" for assembly. Lower barn floor area still needs discussion. Possible repairs to boat house roof are under consideration. Among the many possibilities for improvement include trusses, decking and skylights.

Environment- Cleanup of valley near the Kaplan property are to be coordinated between Schmid and Levites. Suggestion was to collect refuse in mid-April and leave trash items at the end of driveways, then schedule pickup and removal for April 24-25.

Road 4: an 8-page issue is anticipated for spring. The goal is to have an issue ready for people to read before the April membership meeting.

Water- Plans to install variable speed pump hopefully before summer (costing about \$10,000, already budgeted) and to make connections to the new 3" line on Hall Avenue. The Committee will meet in March.

Garbage- No report.

New business- Joy Radulovic cannot be on the Board; Adriana Broberg was asked next and declined. Volunteers are still being solicited.

Annual insurance review is taking place- no changes are anticipated.

Stand will draft a letter to 1-family households with tenants- making them aware that they are non-conforming and asking to make it right with the town (apply for accessory apartment status or 2-family). If not done, we will be forced to notify code enforcement officers. This is to seek fairness with other 1- and 2-family dues-paying households, and also to ensure that tenants in our community are living in residences that are safe and code-compliant.

Next meeting: March 15 at the Eisen residence.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.





Road Four
Winter
2008-2009