



Wappingers Falls Halloween parade ... page 14

WEEKEND HAPPENINGS
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 - Concert to raise funds for People's Music Network ... 12B



Abilities First employee receives award... page 3

Southern Dutchess News

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Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Town of Wappinger & Poughkeepsie

October 17-23, 2018

ReStore to celebrate giving Block Party set for Saturday

Town of LaGrange files suit to overturn Legislature decision

Editor's note: In full disclosure, writer Jim Donick happens to own property adjacent to 18 Traver Road in the Town of LaGrange.

By Jim Donick

We reported in the Sept. 5 issue of Southern Dutchess News that a decision by the Dutchess County Legislature in its Aug. 20 meeting to include a LaGrange Property into the county Agricultural Districts had been met with controversy. The Town of LaGrange has now taken the matter further.

On Oct. 1, the Town of LaGrange filed suit requesting the Legislature's decision be overturned and is seeking injunctive relief against the landowners to bring the property and the operations thereon back into compliance with the original terms of the Home Occupation Certificate, which the landowner signed on the Feb. 16, 2017.

The property in question, 18 Traver Road in the Town of LaGrange, is a 2.1-acre plot in a neighborhood that is zoned Low Density Residential. After the certification of the legislature's vote by the state Agriculture and Markets Division, the property is claimed to now legally be a farm.

The business, Remsburg Honey and Maple, had established itself at this address in early 2017 and was operating from the residence under the terms of a Home Occupation Certificate granted to them by the Town of LaGrange on March 6, 2017.

In early 2018, the landowners applied to the county to have the property included in the County Agricultural Districts.

In May of 2018, the Town of LaGrange objected to the inclusion of the property as a part of the Agricultural Districts for a number of reasons, primarily based on their assertion that the landowners were in violation of the terms they had agreed to with the issuance of the Home Occupation Certificate and the fact that the town codes require a farm to be at least seven acres. This parcel is nearly five acres short of the statute requirement.

The county Agricultural and Farm Land Protection Board agreed with the town that the property was not a suitable candidate and recommended against the property's inclusion in the Ag District. At the Aug. 20 meeting of the County Legislature, the Chairman Gregg Pulver argued against including the parcel within the district, but the legislature chose to override the objections of the town and those of the county's Agricultural and Farm Land Protection Board and voted to include the parcel into the Agriculture Districts anyway.

Subsequent to the vote, Pulver noted that this action was unique in his experience and that this was the first time that the Legislature had ever chosen to override the recommendation of the Agricultural and Farm Land Protection Board. Legislator

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Robin Frank, ReStore Customer Service employee, and Gregory Thomas, ReStore Manager, organize plates and glasses on a shelf at ReStore in Poughkeepsie. ReStore proceeds are used to fund Dutchess County Habitat for Humanity programs and projects. A Block Party will be held on October 27 at ReStore to thank the community for its support.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

By Kristine Coulter

What does the diversion of approximately 557 tons, or 1,114,000 pounds, going into a landfill call for? A Block Party to celebrate.

On Saturday, Oct. 27, Dutchess County Habitat for Humanity will host the community event at its ReStore in Poughkeepsie, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ReStore proceeds are used to fund the programs and projects of Dutchess County Habitat for Humanity. Donations Day is also being celebrated that day – so

drive up with donations and volunteers will help unload them.

"We move stuff very, very quickly here," said Gregory Thomas, ReStore manager. Everything at ReStore is donated, he said.

One can find almost everything one would need – from furniture and glassware to appliances and building materials to art form the ReStore 'art gallery' – at ReStore.

"The volunteers say it's like Christmas. Every day you're opening something and

you don't know what it is," remarked Thomas. Donations are accepted at ReStore, 625 Dutchess Turnpike in Poughkeepsie, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday.

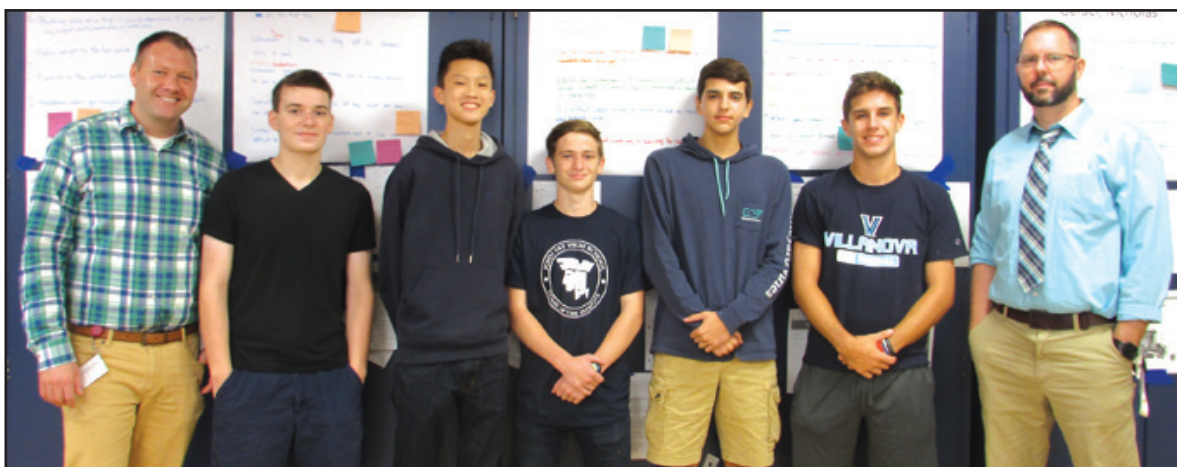
The Block Party, said Thomas, "is to celebrate the difference we've made in keeping things out of the landfill."

Robin Frank, ReStore Customer Service, gave an example of how items at ReStore can be used.

She said a couple came in with their

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John Jay 'leading the way' with engineering program



Project Lead the Way at John Jay High School offers a variety of classes. Students in the Capstone Engineering Design and Development class stand in front of their project ideas for the 2018-2019 school year. From left to right, Tech and Engineering Instructor Jeff Butler, Evan Bukofsky, Jason Li, Evan Swartvagher, Justin Rodrigues, Nick Geraci and Director of Instructional Technology Art Schouten.

-Photo by Anna Barton

By Anna Barton

John Jay High School students interested in technical and engineering fields are diving in to another school year with Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

A nationally accredited engineering program first imple-

mented at John Jay in 2001, PLTW seeks to reinvent the classroom experience by providing hands-on, student-centered STEM education.

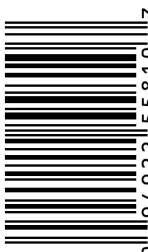
The certified program works with each state's affiliate university (Rochester Institute of Technology for New York) to

provide students with college credits after completing exams during each year of PLTW.

PLTW teachers are required to attend Core Training in the summer months at the state's affiliate university. There they take on the role of a student before returning to their schools with that knowledge

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Your News



John Jay PLTW

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under their belts.

John Jay's PLTW Teacher-in-Charge, Jeff Butler, has been working with the program at John Jay since his arrival in 2005, but his history with PLTW extends beyond that. He's a PLTW "poster child," he jokes, as Butler graduated from Liverpool High School in 2001 after going through PLTW as a high school student himself.

In 2009, Butler became a Master Teacher so he can now train other teachers at a national level.

Butler explained that 80-100 students begin with the Introduction to Engineering classes and then move on to take classes such as Civil Engineering and Architecture, Digital Electronics, Engineering Design and Development, and Design and Drawing for Production.

Butler teaches the Capstone Engineering Design and Development class, where students design a solution to a technical problem of their choosing. They are given the open-ended statement, "Don't you hate it when..." and work to solve it.

Two years ago, John Jay students voiced frustration on the flow of traffic in their high school's parking lot. Butler encouraged them to design something more user-friendly. After speaking to engineers and architects, part of the recently completed project is due to their design.

The five John Jay juniors and seniors taking the Capstone Engineering Design and Development class are working to form teams and to choose themes for this year's project ideas. They have all been

involved in PLTW classes since they were freshmen.

One group's theme was physical endurance and fitness. They will look into designing a mask for running in cold weather for a more enjoyable experience. The other group will focus on laboratory safety and designing safety goggles that are safe, yet more user-friendly, than the ones that leave lines on faces.

"We worked as a class to decide groups and problems," one senior said.

"I like the freedom we have," said Nick Geraci, who hopes to major in some branch of engineering after high school.

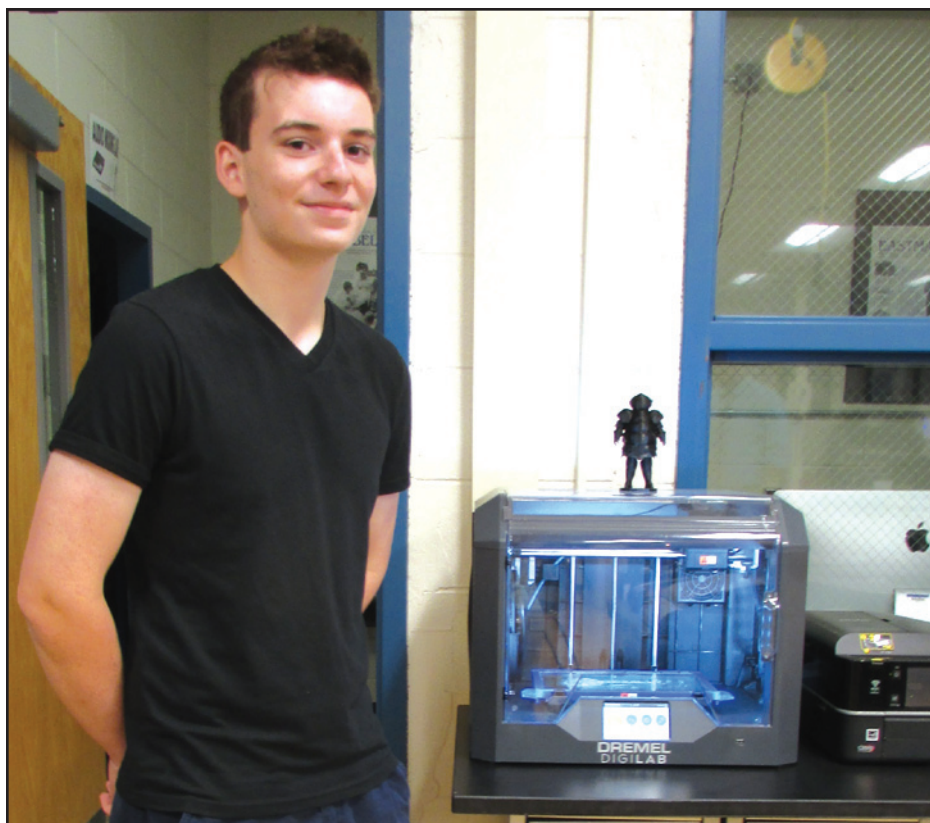
"We get to pick the problems we want to solve," added Justin Rodrigues, who would like to be a computer engineer.

Seniors leave PLTW with portfolios to take to college with them. Some students have left with a patent under their belts. Butler explained that local and national companies that support STEM education often video-conference into the classroom to discuss projects. Companies are often eager to donate products for the projects, and offer internships or scholarships after graduation in a STEM-starved workforce.

A PILOT program with GlobalFoundries began last year as the company invested in mentorship with students, video-conferencing in to discuss an area of science the student might be interested in.

The students present their finished projects in June to a panel of judges that include members of the community.

Art Schouten is the Director of Instructional Technology for Wappingers Central School District, overseeing 15



Senior Evan Bukofsky shows his 3-D printer creation made during the Capstone class.

-Photos by Anna Barton

different buildings. "My whole plan for this program is for these kids to go from concept to production," he said. It's more than just creating a design. "How can we produce that in the classroom?" he asked.

Schouten explained that the district is always seeking to engage students in creative endeavors that they won't have access to at home. This includes using a green screen in elementary schools and a miniature welding shop at Van Wyck Junior High School.

Earlier in the week, Capstone students at John Jay worked together to operate the 3-D printer located in the Capstone classroom for the first time.

John Jay encourages woodworking, metalworking and construction. "We want them applying knowledge from math and science class in a hands-on way," Butler said.

Students are taught how to program and operate a plasma cutter measuring 5 feet by 10 feet, nearly industry standard size, Schouten said.

"We're working all the way to the elementary level," said Schouten, elaborating on the need to incorporate STEM education beginning from an early age. This allows students to adapt quicker once they reach high school level and take part in PLTW.

Part of this process is done in hopes of encouraging more female involvement in the largely male-driven field of science. In the elementary level, 11 of the 12

librarians leading STEM projects are females, serving as role models to encourage females to embrace the sciences.

Butler said he receives emails from former students often once they've entered college life or the workplace. "They always say tech and engineering classes prepare them the most," he said.

Students describe that the soft skills of time management, self-awareness from group work, and even composing business letters to different companies, helps prepare them for life after 12th grade.

Down the hallway, John Jay alum William Roos ('07) is a real-life example of this. After working for Wolf Tec in Kingston, Roos returned to John Jay as an instructor and is redesigning the metal shop down the hallway from his former teacher's classroom.

Roos described his time in the engineering classes at John Jay as changing his life, especially since he was not excited about school until he found them. "I loved it so much that I wanted to come back," he laughed.

John Jay principal David Kedzielawa stated that he only hears positive feedback from parents and students alike regarding PLTW. "Many of our students walk away with a set of skills and a new knowledge of how to apply technology to different scenarios. Students take this knowledge and apply it to different contents in school and in their everyday life," he said.

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