

INSIDE

The new mission of the Lithuanian St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church in Amsterdam is to serve not only the church's 450 member families but also the East End neighborhood around it.

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COMING UP THIS WEEK

GLOVERSVILLE
The Mental Health Association in Fulton and Montgomery Counties will start a five-week parenting class on Wednesday at the Argersinger Building, 73 N. Main St., Gloverville. Call 725-2790 to register.

CANAJOHARIE
Singer-songwriter Tom Stieling kicks off a youngsters' read finding program at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery, 2 Erie Blvd. Registration for the free four-week reading program takes place from 5 to 6:45 p.m.

FORT PLAIN
St. James Roman Catholic Church begins a three-day rummage sale on Thursday at the church hall on Reid Street. The sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and to noon on Saturday.

ON THE AGENDA

- ▶ The Amsterdam Common Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday in City Hall council chambers, 61 Church St.
- ▶ The Fort Plain Central School District Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in the elementary school on High Street.
- ▶ The Amsterdam Town Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in Town Hall, 283 Manny's Corners Road.
- ▶ The Minden Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at 134 Route 90, Fort Plain.
- ▶ The Charleston Town Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Charleston Municipal Building, 480 Corbin Hill Road.
- ▶ The St. Johnsville Town Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday at 7431 Route 5.

FOCUS

On Fulton and Montgomery Counties

New radar gun bought for troopers

By STEVEN COOK
Gazette Reporter

AMSTERDAM—The state police Fonda barracks now has another tool to catch speeders, courtesy of the Town Board.

The barracks received a new laser gun, a device that uses light instead of radar to catch speeders.

The Town Board purchased

the laser gun for the barracks this summer at a cost of \$3,300.

"It's basically the top end of equipment for speed enforcement," said town supervisor Tom DiMezza, who is also a detective lieutenant with the Amsterdam city Police Department.

The new laser gun was demonstrated Sept. 17 on Route

67 north of Fort Johnson, an area that has seen three tractor-trailer rollovers in recent months.

Amsterdam and other towns purchase such equipment for the state police, since the devices may be a low priority and the agency is unable to apply for grants or other help, DiMezza said.

The unit will be used by the

state trooper assigned to the town. But it could also be used elsewhere, DiMezza said.

State police Sgt. John Agresta called the purchase of the Laser Tech Inc. 2020 gun a substantial one.

"The laser provides us with a lot more flexibility," Agresta said.

Compared with the traditional radar guns, the laser

is much faster, more accurate and mobile, Agresta said.

It can be used at wider angles and outside of cars, allowing it to be used around curves, such as the one on Route 67.

"This is an investment not just for the town, but for the whole county," Agresta said.

Contact Steven Cook at 843-2830 or gazette@journalist.com.



Yoga instructor Simon Rose of Manhattan leads an introductory class on the lawn of Johnson Hall in Johnstown during a gathering of Lexington Center clients for a picnic, yoga lesson and Indian music concert.

PETER B. BARBER, Gazette Photographer

AN UNUSUAL HALL OUTING

Event combines yoga, picnic

By RICK ARCHER
Gazette Reporter

JOHNSTOWN—Everyone agreed, it was something different.

In the name of testing a set of handicapped-accessible picnic tables, a group of Lexington Center clients was treated to a picnic/yoga lesson/Indian music concert on the grounds of Johnson Hall on Oct. 1.

It's definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear a sitar band at Johnson Hall," said site manager Wanda Burch.

Most of the Lexington clients arrived before the organizer, yoga instructor Simon Rose, who was running late, driving from his home in Manhattan.

Rose, a native of India, said a friend of his in London makes picnic tables designed for use by people in motorized wheelchairs. The triangle-shaped tables are designed to fit three people in wheelchairs and three on their seats.

Rose's friend is interested in exporting the tables to the United States, so he asked Rose to take a few and do some market research for him, Rose said.

Rose said he began calling state parks for a place to do the test until he got a positive response from Johnson Hall.

He then got in touch with the Lexington Center for people to do the testing.

"To make it worth their while to come, Rose offered a free yoga lesson and brought along the Kiran Orchestra, an Indian traditional music band he plays in, to give a concert.

The Lexington staff, for their part, contributed a selection of Indian food they had cooked, and Rose and his friends brought a selection of Indian desserts.

After a few minutes spent finding the power to play his background music, Rose and band member Anjala Prasad sat on mats in front of the



Jason Goodrow of Manhattan and a member of the Kiran Orchestra plays the sitar during a picnic of Lexington Center clients at Johnson Hall in Johnstown earlier this month.

PETER B. BARBER, Gazette Photographer

crowd and started going through a series of breathing exercises and arm and upper-body movements. Rose said were chosen with wheel-chair-bound people in mind.

"A couple of the 20 Lexington clients who had come to the event just watched attentively, one leaning forward in his wheelchair to try to catch Rose's soft voice.

"Some of the others did their best to imitate the motions, either by themselves or assisted by caretakers.

"I think the ones who tried it got a lot out of it," Rose said after wrapping up the lessons and posing out questionnaires about the tables.

One group of residents, whom Lexington staffers said they weren't allowed to identify, said they had enjoyed the lesson. "Yeah, I liked it," one said.

"Yes, I am going to try some of this at home," another typed on a computer keyboard. "When you get nervous and upset, you can do some deep breathing," Lexington

recreation director Nancy Murphy said to one of them.

Later, as the sun began to set, the band and Rose gave a concert of kiran, ancient Indian call-and-response songs.

Most of the Lexington clients had left, but Prasad's singing, backed by drums, a sitar and Rose on a tabla, attracted a few curious bystanders who had come out on the warm, sunny day for a walk in the park.

"This is nice," Burch commented.

Artists' works sought

Local contests being organized raise awareness

By RICK ARCHER
Gazette Reporter

The members of the Fulton-Montgomery AIDS Task Force are running a pair of contests to bring AIDS to the attention of the area's young people.

The group has announced its third annual World AIDS Day poster contest for teenagers in both counties.

At the same time, the First Community Church of Christ in Gloverville, a member of the church and the task force's Fulton County co-chairwoman,

any Fulton County residents in grades seven to 12, said the Rev. Tom Jacobs, pastor of the church and the task force's Fulton County co-chairwoman.

The contest is open to any kind of work, including paintings, drawings, sculpture, video or audio recordings, poetry, short stories and essays, she said. The contest has a \$250 first prize, a \$100 second prize and a \$50 third prize.

Jacobs said the church hopes to use the contest to motivate young people to learn more about AIDS. "We wanted something to complement the poster contest," she said.

She said they hope to use the winning items to promote AIDS awareness. "Whatever the kids might do, we want to do something with it," she said.

Last year, the church hosted an art show and film series on AIDS, and it conducted a service on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. The art show and service will be held this year, Jacobs said.

The poster contest is open to any Fulton or Montgomery county resident age 12 to 18.

In previous years, the group has done the contest through the schools, but this time they are trying a broader approach, organizer Nicolas Morales said. He said they hope to double the number of submissions from the previous year.

The task force will recognize first- and second-place winners from Fulton and Montgomery counties. The first-place winners will receive \$100, the second-place winners will receive \$50.

Submissions should be sent in on 8 1/2-by-11-inch sheets of white paper, and they should include the artist's name, age, address and telephone number on the back.

The deadline for entries in the multimedia contest is Nov. 10. The winners will be announced during the World AIDS Day events Dec. 1.

For more information, contact Jacobs at 725-4204 or Morales at 843-5762, ext. 217.

Contact Rick Archer at 843-2830 or gazette@journalist.com.