

Between the Lakes

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Seneca County's Official Newspaper

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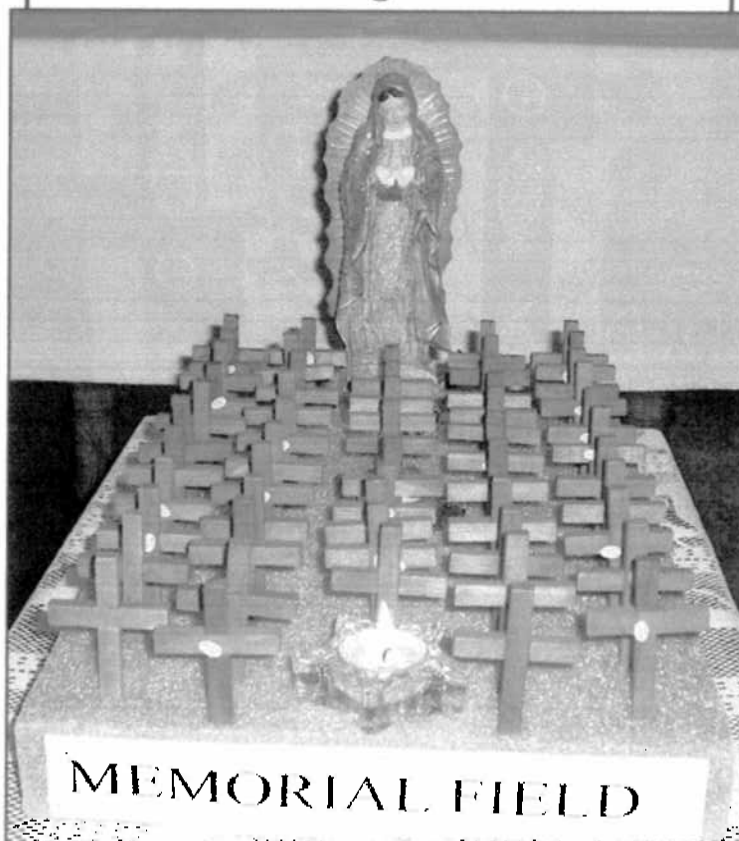
Marriage talk.

Girl: "When we get married, I want to share all your worries, troubles and lighten your burden."

Boy: "It's very kind of you, darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles."

Girl: "Well that's just because you're not married yet."

Remembering the Unborn



St. Francis/St. Clare Parish observed the 41st anniversary of Roe vs. Wade with the Mass of the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children at St. Mary's Church, Waterloo. Rev. Jim Fencessey celebrated Mass with special readings and Prayers of the Faithful. Lena Shipley and Gretchen Micio offered prayers and proclaimed the readings. Shown is a visual that was used to memorialize the 56,000,000 unborn babies killed by abortion.

At committees

What we learned

By Joe Siccardi
Reveille/Between the Lakes

After another nearly four and a half hour committee marathon of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors Tuesday night (Jan. 28), the big question was – What did we learn?

The short answer is not much and very little ... except the legislative process appears to be very dysfunctional and former County Manager Mitch Rowe was severely underpaid. His name kept popping up (at least a half dozen times) regarding projects and assignments he was working on. At least twice committees acknowledged not being up to speed on issues because "Mitch was doing it."

The first hour and a half chunk of time was consumed by presentations.

First up was Phil Spellane of Harris Beach briefing the Indian affairs committee – and full board – about the oral arguments heard in the Second Court of Appeals in New York City earlier this month. What did we learn? Absolutely nothing. Spellane essentially parroted the report given two weeks ago by Committee Chair Robert Shipley of Waterloo with maybe a few legalese words thrown in.

NEXT CAME JOHN Snyder, updating the public safety committee about courthouse renovation plans. What did we learn? Aside from some neat color plans and a 3-D slide representation of the addition, not much. He wasn't ready to share dollar estimates, although he promised to have some preliminary numbers for the committee within two weeks. Presumably the committee will meet prior to the next full meeting Feb. 11 so it can have something to share with the

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20,000 backpacks filled

Trevor's Gift reaches milestone

It's cause for both joy and sadness. In December, Trevor's Gift backpack feeding program distributed its 20,000th bag of food to a nutritionally needy child in Waterloo.

The program was started in 2010 by Doc-

backpacks each Friday to provide nourishment over the weekend when kids don't have access to food in the school cafeterias. The food is purchased from Foodlink in Rochester. When children have good nutrition, they are better able to focus in school, have better

bag of food for the Trevor's Gift children at Christmas, when school is on vacation for more than a week."

Well and Gerlach also thanked the team of faithful drivers who deliver the food to the schools. Don Peters, John King, Caren

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What did we learn at committees

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full board, including asking for a public hearing on the project or the funding or something.

Finally, Mercy Flight Central's Greg Eisenhut, Colleen Gleason and Duane Day made what turned into a PR pitch for the not-for-profit air ambulance service. What did we learn? Well, a patient can be airlifted from Waterloo Premium Outlet Center in Junius to either Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester or Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse in about 17-15 critical minutes and about one tenth of all transports last year (60) originated in Seneca County.

THEN THE COMMITTEES got to work ... but not before getting bogged down in process.

Lake, for instance, the planning, development, agriculture & tourism committee's agenda item of creating a special committee to review progress in establishing a Comprehensive Plan for Seneca County. It ended up being tabled after Bill Bordeaux presented the unsuspecting board with an update and timeline, including drafts by next week for two critical chapters - infrastructure, jobs and development and the environment.

Or the environmental affairs committee, which addressed two published issues at length - WeCare and some of its services and brine used on roads. On the first, WeCare Organics is involved in a lawsuit alleging compost ended up in landfills. Committee Chair Steven Churchill wanted

to make sure WeCare Waste & Recycling wasn't part of the lawsuit and locally gathered recycled materials were not being dumped in the landfill. In the latter, there was a published report indicating some fracking brine was being used on state roads.

WHAT DID WE learn? WeCare Waste & Recycling Operations Manager Russ DeForest assured the board his division is not in any way associated with WeCare Organics and is not involved in the lawsuit. He also said his division only makes money by selling recyclables and no material is ever diverted to any landfill. Last year, he said, his trucks picked up 1,989 tons of recyclables in Seneca County, an increase of 49 tons from 2012.

We also learned no fracking material is used in the brine in Seneca County. The problem, said Churchill, is we don't know what is in the fracking cocktail, so we don't know what potential damage could be done to streams and lakes in the county. He noted a number of Hudson River area counties and Erie County have passed resolutions banning fracking brine in their counties. Could Seneca County be next?

There was also discussion about the white deer at the former depot, with Churchill saying we had a responsibility to maintain the herd when the Army pulls out next year. "We should be supporting Seneca White Deer," he stated, while others felt there were options for conservation to co-exist with development. Seneca

Falls Supervisor Don Earle, liaison to the Seneca County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) said he would bring that up at the next IDA meeting.

THEN THERE was the public safety committee, where Sheriff Jack Stenberg pointed out recent personnel shifts and negotiated contracts have resulted in a chief deputy making more than his superior, the undersheriff, and a sergeant in corrections making more than his superior, the jail administrator. In separate requests, Stenberg asked for a change in the grade/step process for the undersheriff and jail administrator.

Both requests were approved by the committee but not before questions about process. Why is coming up now instead of during the budget process, asked Keith Kubasik of Waterloo. "It happens every year. The board has to do its job and fix the process," he added.

And then there were a number of vacancies the committee was asked to approve. I did, but board members questioned why the vacancies came up under that committee rather than through personnel and finance as well. Apparently they forgot under the new committee structure where all board members are present, it seemed prudent to streamline the process a little by presenting any vacancies to the committee charged with oversight rather than repeat it two or three times.

AND THEN THERE is public works. First, the county missed a deadline for applying for low cost state funding - pointing fingers at the former county manager and consulting engineers and away from themselves. Then there was the two year issue of superintendent of water/sewer and facilities vs. superintendent of facilities as it relates to District One, a district operated for the users in the district only but administered by the county.

That opened a floodgate of comments about county liability vs. user liability, compounded by the fact Rowe oversaw both the district and facilities.

No decision was made, although the committee is leaning toward allowing the new county manager to assess the situation and make an appropriate decision. Or, don't do anything until a county manager is hired.



Mark Benjamin (left) of IESI Seneca Meadows and Trevor's Gift Co-Chair Kaaren Gerlach prepare to distribute bags of food to nutritionally needy children in Waterloo. Trevor's Gift has distributed its 20,000th bag of food.

Trevor's Gift reaches milestone

Continued from page 1 ♦

support the program, which receives no government funding. "We are so blessed to live in such a caring, generous community," Wolf said. "This year, we learned that the grants through Foodlink that have helped support our program in the past would end. We were really concerned that the program would have to be curtailed. But the people

of Waterloo came through to ensure that our children would be provided for."

IT COSTS Trevor's Gift \$20 to feed a child for a month and \$200 to feed a child for a school year. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to the Waterloo Education Foundation, Main Street Shop Center, Waterloo 13165, or made through paypal at www.facebook.com/TrevorsGift.

Clarification

In the story about the Seneca County Board of Supervisors re-organization (Jan. 16), Waterloo Supervisor Keith Kubasik voted against Robert Hayssen of Varick.

It was reported, "The pitch [by Democrat Cindy Garlick-Lorenzetti of Fayette] drew two Republicans to the [Steve] Churchill [of Seneca Falls] camp [Lee] Davidson [of Lodi] and Kubasik - but still fell short of blocking Hayssen's re-election."

Kubasik advised, "Just because I did not vote for Mr. Hayssen does not mean I would automatically vote for Mr. Churchill. There was no vote on Mr. Churchill so you

cannot say or assume I would have voted for him either. I believe if I feel that I cannot 100% support any or all candidates nominated for an office, I can vote no on all of them."

Davidson also noted while he did not vote for Hayssen he would not vote for Churchill "as a Republican."

The *Reveille/Between the Lakes* apologizes for the assumption.

ALSO, THE FAMILY of Katie LaBelle notified Coe-Gienung Funeral Home, Waterloo, after press time she is survived by four step-grandchildren.

The *Reveille*
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