

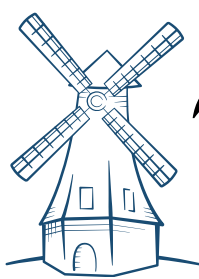
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The Recorder

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1832

AMSTERDAM, N.Y.

WEEKEND, SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023

\$2.50



PETER R. BARBER/THE RECORDER

Test run

Tyler Cole tests a new splash pad nearing completion in Veteran's Park in Amsterdam earlier this week.

ALBANY

Lawmakers: More to do to prevent next deadly limo crash

BY ASHLEY HUPFL
The Recorder

Following the guilty verdict of Nauman Hussain for his role in the deadly limousine crash in Schoharie County that killed 20 on Oct. 6, 2018, state lawmakers say more laws need to be passed to address ongoing safety concerns.

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, D-Rotterdam, said one of his major end-of-session priorities is to reconvene the Limo Safety Task Force, which has been seemingly defunct after it released its final report to the state Legislature last fall. Santabarbara, who sponsored the original legislation that created the task force following the crash, introduced into the state Assembly earlier this month new legislation to reconvene the task force with the goal of issuing a new report by December 2024. The state inspector general issued a report last fall. Similar legislation has already passed the state Senate. The legislative session ends on June 8.

Meanwhile, both Santabarbara and state Sen. James Tedisco, R-Glenville, said they would support making the task force permanent to address ongoing issues.

"The issue with [ending the task force] is that there was a deadline for when the report was due, but that was before the [state] inspector general's report was available to them," Santabarbara said. "I believe the Limo Safety Task Force should be continuous and not end at some point. I will keep introducing bills to extend it and I'm hoping the governor makes it a permanent task force that can continue this work, even if it is meeting maybe a few times a year down the road."

Tedisco said there were merits to making the task force permanent.

"I don't think it would harm us to have it be permanent. They don't have to meet as frequently once they get this investigation done," he said. "It might be a good one to keep in place and not have to keep coming back and saying, 'We've got to reinvent the wheel and put them back in place.'" Because, I don't believe they've completed their job.

Tedisco said he believes the most important pieces of legislation are still pending. Specifically, the state inspector general's report found, among other regulatory shortfalls, that there was a breakdown in communication from the state Department of Motor

See **LIMO**, page A8

Composer Maria Riccio Bryce has been musical director at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Schenectady for 25 years. Her "REQUIEM: What Remains is Love" will be performed Memorial Day weekend at three different locations, in Albany, Schenectady and Amsterdam.



PHOTO PROVIDED

AMSTERDAM

'Faith ... seems to shore itself up and renew'

Local to offer songs of redemption, remembrance this holiday weekend

BY INDIANA NASH
The Recorder

Amsterdam musician and composer Maria Riccio Bryce has long been captivated by the notion of redemption.

"I'm very drawn to the events in our lives that cause us to perhaps sink to the lowest level, and how we then reach so deep within us to see

how we can save ourselves," Bryce said. "It's astonishing to me the way that faith, when it's so desperately questioned, seems to shore itself up and renew. I find that so uplifting."

She has witnessed such occasions many times in her years as music director at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Schenectady, and those experiences inspired

See **REQUIEM**, page A8

AMSTERDAM

Liberty ARC alternative care residence greenlit

BY ASHLEY ONYON
The Recorder

Liberty ARC will begin constructing its newest alternative care residential facility at the corner of Second Avenue and Belmont Place in the coming months after receiving approval from the Amsterdam Planning Commission on Wednesday.

"People can live there their entire life and have the supports that are needed," said James Burroughs, assistant director of facility management at Liberty. "It's a goal of ours to increase housing."

A handful of curious neighbors reviewed the plans before signaling to the Planning Commission their support for the proposal during a public hearing on Wednesday. The board subsequently approved the site plan and special use permit for the project.

"I'm very pleased," one woman said. "We welcome them."

"I have a Liberty house right across the street from me, they are very good neighbors," board

member Kathy Paluso said. Liberty plans to build a 5,260-square-foot, ranch-style home for seven tenants on undeveloped land at the corner of Second Avenue and Belmont Place. The project site is behind La Segunda Sinagoga, the Latin American Pentecostal Church.

Liberty bought the 2.35-acre property from Robert Lupe for \$60,000 in March, according to Montgomery County property records. The building project is expected to cost around \$1.5 million and will be funded by the non-profit agency.

The single-story facility will be built on the lower section of the parcel on Second Avenue. The barrier-free home will be fully accessible to individuals of all abilities through all stages of life. Support staff will be on-site 24/7 with up to three employees per shift.

"They're intent is to have a home for people who can pretty much take care of themselves with some assistance," said Wil-

lard Myles, of Steven Smith Engineering.

The building was designed to accommodate the preferences and needs of intended residents already identified by Liberty. Burroughs said prospective tenants are normally selected to advance plans for new facilities, but can change during the monthslong design and construction process.

"It's based on individuals' wants and then we look at people's needs and try to facilitate that," Burroughs said.

The facility and related parking spaces for tenants and staff will cover just under an acre. Tree clearing will be limited to the project area to provide screening around the property.

Construction of the facility will likely begin in July for expected completion within about six-to-eight months.

Reach Ashley Onyon at aonyon@dailygazette.net or [@AshleyOnyon](https://twitter.com/AshleyOnyon) on Twitter.

FONDA

Sheriff's Office seeking man indicted in his wife's murder

BY ASHLEY ONYON
The Recorder

Michael Darling of Gloversville is being sought on murder charges by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department. Deputies say he is considered to be armed and dangerous.

Darling, 44, has been indicted on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of his wife, Kristine. He is additionally charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and two counts of tampering with evidence.

A Montgomery County Grand Jury handed up the four-count indictment on Friday. A warrant has been issued for Darling's arrest, according to the Sheriff's Department.

Investigators say Darling left his home on Thursday after learning of the grand jury proceedings and has not returned. Law enforcement officials are seeking information from the public regarding Darling's whereabouts.

Darling had previously been identified by

police as a person of interest in the death of his wife.

Kristine M. Howland Darling, 44, the mother of a teenage daughter, died at her Fort Johnson home on Feb. 6, 2019. Darling claimed she died by suicide. Police continued to actively investigate the incident involving a shotgun in the years since.

Darling later faced federal charges after pipe bombs were found during a welfare check at his Gloversville home on Feb. 12, 2021.

In October 2021, Darling pleaded to illegally possessing firearms and unlawful possession of six pipe bombs in federal court. In March 2022, he was sentenced to what was supposed to be a three-year term in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release.

But Darling was released on May 8 of this year after serving just over a year in prison, according to records with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Anyone with information regarding Darling is asked to contact the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department at (518) 853-5500, dial 911 or call their local law enforcement.



Darling

Sunny.
 High 79/Low 48.
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REACH US

Got a story idea? Call us at 518-395-3140. Email us anytime at news@recordernews.com.

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