

NEWS from Port Jervis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community to vote on 5.86 acre land purchase on August 15

Land will be used for maintenance, storage, and transportation facilities

On Tuesday, August 15, residents of the Port Jervis City School District will vote on a proposal to purchase 5.86 acres off of Route 209 in the Town of Deerpark. The land – which the district plans to use for maintenance, storage, and transportation facilities – is assessed at \$300,000.

The district is fully prepared to pay for the property by utilizing the money in its Capital Reserve Fund, and the land purchase will have no current financial

The land purchase will have no current financial impact on taxpayers.

impact on taxpayers.

“The Capital Reserve Fund is separate from the operating budget and can only be used for capital projects such as the acquisition of land. It cannot be applied to our budget,” said Lorelei Case, Assistant Superintendent for Business. “The district may use the money to pay for the prop-

erty; however, we are legally obligated to obtain voter approval before spending public funds – even if there will be

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John Bell named Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Twenty-one years ago, John Bell stood before the Port Jervis High School Class of '85 as the Grand Marshall of graduation ceremonies. Elected by his peers as one of the night's speakers, Bell read his carefully prepared speech to his fellow graduates – possibly about the good times playing baseball and football at PJHS – or maybe about looking toward the future and following your dreams.

Now, almost a quarter-century later, Bell will return to the place that inspired him to become an educator. The Port Jervis City School District is pleased to announce the

appointment of John Bell as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. He will replace Richard Roberts, who has served as interim since his retirement from the position in 2005.

“During my past three years in Port Jervis, there's no one I know who gives or cares more than Dick Roberts,” said Superintendent John Xanthis. “His heart and soul is in this



John Bell, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

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Visit PJ schools on the Web:
PortJervisCSD.k12.ny.us

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**Students honored
at Youth Bureau
Award Ceremony**

On May 17, two Port Jervis students were honored at the annual Orange County Youth Bureau Award Ceremony at the Brookside Manor Restaurant.

Rachel Guszick, and eighth grade student at Port Jervis Middle School (PJMS), received first place for Outstanding Leadership and Volunteerism Award.

Christina Baker, a fifth grade student at Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary School,

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Port Jervis honors top two graduates

Carl Davidson and Lauren Manganiello named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively

The Port Jervis High School is proud to announce that Carl Davidson and Lauren Manganiello have been named the valedictorian and salutatorian of the Class of 2006.

Carl Davidson, valedictorian

Carl Davidson, 18, led the graduating class with a 97.11 GPA and is this year's valedictorian.

Carl is involved in a number of activities including the BEPT committee and BOCES Enrichment. He is treasurer of the Student Council, National

Honor Society and the Key Club, and is also an Advanced Peer Leader.

Carl's volunteer efforts include cleaning Liberty Square and working on

the yearbook for Trinity Catholic School in Port Jervis. He works part-time in a law office.



Valedictorian Carl Davidson and Salutatorian Lauren Manganiello

Carl is proud to be this year's valedictorian, citing a

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John Bell returns home to Port Jervis

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community. He is one of the most generous people I know - he gives continuous support to the school and truly cares about the people. He is beloved, and we are thankful for his years of dedication to the district."

Bell will begin his new position on July 1, leaving his current post as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction of the Minisink Valley School District.

"John Bell is one of the brightest young educators in Orange County," said Xanthis. "He is originally from the area and knows the community as well as the issues and concerns of the school district."

After graduating from PJHS, Bell earned a bachelor degree from SUNY Albany and a Masters from the College of Saint Rose. He obtained a Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY New Paltz.

Bell began his career at Eldred Schools, where he taught at the elementary level. After five years,

he moved on to the Delaware Valley School District in Pennsylvania to serve as both assistant principal and principal of the middle school.

Now, after four years at Minisink Valley where he held the positions of middle school principal and Assistant Superintendent, Bell will return to the district where he was born and raised.

"I've dreamed of working in Port Jervis and having the chance to make a difference," said Bell. "I plan to bring long-term stability to the district and see it through its future endeavors."

When outside the district, you can find Bell coaching or umpiring at Port Jervis Little League baseball games, where his sons Michael, 8, and David, 6, are actively involved. His wife, Lynne, is also an educator, and taught elementary school in Port Jervis for 10 years.

"Bell has served as teacher, assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent," said Xanthis. "His experience in all facets of education will be a valuable asset to the district."

State mandates new transportation facilities

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no tax increases involved.”

New York State is mandating that the district build a new facility, and district officials looked at 13 different sites before deciding on this particular parcel.

“This land is highly desirable because it is adjacent to the 35.6 acres that was purchased – with the community’s approval – as a site for a future school building back in December 2004,” said Lorelei Case. “We certainly feel that size of the land, as well as its convenient location, will fulfill the district’s need for improved transportation, storage and maintenance facilities.”

The district’s current transportation facilities, located next to Anna S. Kuhl Elementary School on Route 209, suffered irreparable damage during the flood of April 2005. The district currently does not have central storage – items are stored wherever there is space. The Maintenance Department lost its facility and workspace in the flood as well.

The vote will be held from 12-9 p.m. August 15 at the district polling places:

- Election District 1:
Huguenot Fire House
- Election District 2:
Deerpark Municipal Building 2
- Election District 3:

Sparrowbush Fire House

- Election District 4:

Port Jervis Middle School
In December 2006, district residents will also vote to approve the construction of an 18,500 square foot unit for a bus garage, as well as other Capital improvements to all buildings. More detailed information will be shared as it becomes available.

“With the rising property values in the area, it would be to the district’s advantage to purchase the land before prices increase further,” said Case. “Ultimately, owning the property would give the district flexibility for future growth.”

In short...

Students honored at Youth Bureau Award Ceremony

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received the first place Positive Change Leading to Success Award.
PJMS School Nurse Sharon Close, PJMS Home School Advisor Betsy Messerle, Senior Probation Officer Jean Corcoran, and Port Jervis Youth Officer Detective Stan Buczek, received awards for their Outstanding Commitment and Dedication to the youth in our schools and community.

Don't forget to vote!

August 15, 2006

Noon - 9 p.m.

District polling places

District thanks retirees for years of service

The administration and members of the Board of Education would like to thank this year’s retirees for their dedication to the Port Jervis City School District.

“It’s been a pleasure to work with such a wonderful and committed group of individuals,” said Superintendent John Xanthis. “The district will be forever grateful for their hard work, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.”

This year’s retirees are:

- **Janet Barnett**
HBE Elementary Teacher, 21 years
- **Janet Kearns**
PJMS Home and Career Skills Teacher, 22 years
- **Kathryn Knight**
PJHS Business Teacher, 21 years
- **Margaret Nelson**
ASK Elementary Teacher, 22 years

- **Lynda Onofry**
PJHS Foreign Language Teacher, 33 years
- **Mary Jane Millspaugh**
Business Office Account Clerk-Typist and District Treasurer, 20 years
- **Janet Randolph**
Stenographer for the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, 18 years
- **Nancy Reilly**
PJMS Food Service Helper, 44 years

Top two graduates will study pre-med

Manganiello to attend SUNY Binghamton; Davidson will go to Marist College

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Voter information

Who can vote?

You may vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and have been a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee ballots

Absentee ballots must be received by 5 p.m. August 15 and are available if you will not be in the district on the day of the vote. To request an absentee ballot, call District Clerk Michele O'Donnell at 858-3175. Requests must be received by August 8.

fond memory from his final days at Port Jervis High School.

"At the Academic Awards Banquet, it was announced that I was this year's valedictorian," he said. "Everyone applauded – it was a great feeling."

Carl will study pre-med at Marist College. He is the son of Karen and Carl Davidson.

Lauren Manganiello, salutatorian

With an overall GPA of 96.58, 18 year-old Lauren Manganiello will represent her class as this year's salutatorian.

Lauren served as Student Council President, Key Club Secretary, and captain of the tennis team. She is vice-president of the Varsity Club

and a member of the National Honor Society.

Her volunteer work includes working at food pantries and the Bon Secours Community Hospital in Port Jervis. She is also a waitress at the Cornucopia Restaurant.

Lauren will further her educational career at Binghamton University, where she will major in pre-med.

"I look forward to meeting new people and being able to focus on my favorite subjects," said Lauren. "But I will definitely miss my friends and the close-knit environment here at PJHS."

The third of five children, Lauren is the daughter of Andrew and Diane Manganiello.

New district website is underway!

Administrators and members of the Board of Education are pleased to announce that a new and improved district website will be launched in the fall.

The new website – which will be created in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service in Albany – will offer pertinent information about each school building and several district departments. Visitors will be able to easily access useful information such as lunch menus, athletic schedules, contact information,

school calendar dates, and more.

"The new website will contain valuable news and information, and will serve as a powerful communications tool for the Port Jervis community," said Superintendent John Xanthis.

As time passes, the website will continue to develop and new pages and information will be incorporated.

More information about the new district website will be offered in the near future.

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Port Jervis SCHOOL DISTRICT
9 Thompson Street
Port Jervis, New York 12771

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