

Cronyism lives on in Spafford

To the editor:

After retiring and returning to this area, where I went to school, I noted that certain things have not changed. Spafford still operates under the "Good Ole Boy" system. Recently, a retiring codes clerk position became open. Until recently this position lacked a job description and no one could describe who she reported to. Just four years ago the town clerk and town supervisor gave her a 40 percent pay increase while other positions received an average increase of 3 to 4 percent.

Being a taxpayer who is represented by the board, I frequently hear the town supervisor say he has to protect the taxpayers. It was just a month ago the board decided the codes clerk would report to the codes enforcement officer and a job description was created. Now that the state is in the process of auditing the code enforcement records, it was decided we had trouble with record keeping and needed to improve our systems. Just one year ago one of the town board members wrote in the newspaper while he was running for reelection that we had the best record keeping system in Onondaga County.

After much pressure from the townspeople, the codes enforcement clerk position was advertised for one day in the local newspaper. Surprisingly, five people applied for the job. Board member Joyce Barnett requested the board interview the candidates before appointing one of them. The interviews revealed four candidates who were overqualified but the fifth candidate was selected. Is this how my town supervisor protects the taxpayers at the highest level?

The good old boy system still lives in Spafford with the town supervisor doing what he wants rather than what is best for the taxpayers. November 2005 is

closing in and as my town supervisor keeps telling me, if you don't like my decisions, move out of Spafford or vote me out.

PETER PAYNTAR
SPAFFORD

Middle school principal recognizes help

To the editor:

Thank you to all the parents and the community for your support during our recent tragedy at the middle school. These situations are complex and there is never one right solution to such a difficult, multifaceted problem.

We can, however, prepare as much as possible, and then care for our students as if they were our own children.

This difficult time showed the strength and character of the entire middle school community. People came together to help and support one another and responded with sensitivity and compassion.

I want to say a word of special thanks to the middle school crises team and staff.

TIM CHIAVARA
MIDDLE SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL

Kudos to the collective coats

To the editor:

Kudos again to "The Collective" of Skaneateles, for its phenomenal coat give-away project. For the second consecutive year, The Collective collected, then distributed to farm workers and their families, more than 200 winter coats. Most of these workers are Mexican, many experiencing their first "northern" winter, and as such are in great need of good, warm coats, which they cannot afford on their wages.

... see From the mail bag on page 7

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