Vote YES on the WCSD Master Plan Referendum on March 11, 2008!

Dear Members,

The Wappingers Central School District is on the verge of the most ambitious school construction and program enhancements for our students, staff and community since the 1960’s! Through the diligent efforts of school and district staff, community members, board members and professional consultants, we now have a Master Plan that will give us reason to be proud. This plan will be presented to the voters on March 11, 2008. For our school community, March 11, 2008 will set the tone for the delivery of our District’s instructional programs and services for future generations.

The Master Plan addresses the inevitable long-range growth in student enrollment and identifies programmatic and related infrastructure needs.

The referendum seeks voter approval to expend a maximum of $107,137,282 to address several goals of the District’s Master Plan, as well as selected capital projects as contained in the District’s Five-Year Plan. Based upon this total funding authorization it is estimated, using current state aid formulas, that approximately $58 million of this cost would be offset by state building aid. This will leave $49,137,282 which will be funded by WCSD taxpayers through periodic bonds over the next 15 to 20 years.

Once construction has been completed, the anticipated maximum annual total tax associated with this project, for a household assessed at $350,000, is expected to reach $74.00 to be paid each year over the combined life of the loans.

(Continued on page 2)
Following are some benefits of the Master Plan Referendum:

- **Van Wyck Middle School and Wappingers Middle School**: A maximum of $88,447,752 would be used to renovate and expand our two junior high schools, Van Wyck and Wappingers Junior High Schools, adopting a consistent middle school program that would accommodate maximum enrollments of 1,600 students per school in a 6-8 grade-level configuration.

- **Capital Projects in 14 District schools**: The balance of the expenditure authorization, up to an estimated maximum of $18,689,530, would be used to address prioritized capital construction projects in 14 District schools. A complete list of these projects is available on the District website www.wappingerschools.org.

- **Elimination of sixth grade centers**: Sixth graders would attend one of the two 1600 pupil grade 6-8 middle schools (Van Wyck Middle School or Wappingers Middle School).

- **Consistent Feeder Patterns and Consistent Grade Level Configurations**: Feeder patterns will be established so that families would know in advance the planned K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 schools of attendance in a student’s K-12 career.

- **Equitable Elementary Class Sizes projected at 20-24 students**

- **Equitable delivery and availability of instructional programs, services and extracurriculars**: Since all students will be in the same grade level configurations, all will benefit from a consistency of programs and opportunities.

- **Special Education Services delivered in Home Schools**: Special education intervention services will be available at each elementary school, excluding the centralized communications classes. This will allow students to remain in their home schools.

Van Wyck Middle School will be completed in September of 2011 and Wappingers Middle School will be completed in September of 2012.

These educational benefits and building improvements will give the community, our staff and above all, our students, what they deserve - opportunities for realizing a quality education. For a maximum of $74.00 per year for 15 to 20 years, we receive a priceless gift – to quote Benjamin Franklin, “An investment in education always pays the best interest.”

At the January Representative Assembly, the delegates voted unanimously to support the proposed WCSD Master Plan. We support this plan with a view towards the future. This community is growing rapidly. There will be more demands placed on this District and we must accept the fact that this growth is inevitable and plans must be made now to ensure that our present and future students are taught in an environment that is both safe and conducive to learning.

Please encourage your colleagues, neighbors and friends to vote **YES** on March 11th.

In solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini
Ralph & Janet Capasso Scholarship

The WCT, in conjunction with the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, is offering three (3) $1500 scholarships to seniors presently enrolled in any public or private high school planning to attend college in the fall of 2008. To be eligible candidates must have a parent or legal guardian who is a member in good standing of the WCT.

The selection process for these awards will require the following:

• an application
• an essay
• a high school transcript
• one letter of recommendation
• a personal interview for the finalists.

Applications are available in the WCT office. Please call 227-5065 to request an application or pick it up directly. To be considered, applications must reach the WCT office no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 4, 2008.

Committee members are: Catherine Kim, Meri Piliouras, and Anchala Sobrin

Attention Retirees

Retirees who would like to volunteer for the referendum phone banks at the WCT office, please return this form to the WCT Office or call 227-5065.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Check the date and time you wish to participate.

**March 4** @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. _____ 5:00-6:30 p.m. _____ 6:30-8:00 p.m. _____

**March 5** @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. _____ 5:00-6:30 p.m. _____ 6:30-8:00 p.m. _____

**March 6** @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. _____ 5:00-6:30 p.m. _____ 6:30-8:00 p.m. _____

**March 10** @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. _____ 5:00-6:30 p.m. _____ 6:30-8:00 p.m. _____
PR News

Save the Date: Sunday, April 6, 2008

Plan on marching in a parade! Show your Teacher Pride!

Join the WCT and other Dutchess County teachers as we march to show our support for quality education at the Kid’s Expo in Poughkeepsie at the Civic Center.

Let Emily Guthoff or Ellen Korz know if you can march in the Kid’s Expo Parade on Sunday, April 6 at 11:00 am. We will give you more details about where to meet when you email us.

Thank you. Think Spring! Think Fun! Join Us!

Dawn Turpin-Orgetas: 2008 Shaker Award Recipient

By Anne Seymour
Kinry Road P.E. Teacher

On February 25, 2008 Dawn Turpin-Orgetas, Physical Education Teacher at Oak Grove School, was honored by the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce at the 3rd Annual Shaker Awards. The award is given to the top 40 people under age 40 who are considered leaders in their field. Dawn was chosen from the hundreds of nominees because of her commitment to our profession. Whether she is teaching, coaching, or involving the community in our schools, Dawn gives 100% to everything she does. It was an honor to be present as she received this prestigious award and it made me proud of my friend, our profession, and our school district. Hats off to you Dawn - you deserve it!
There’s no room for “Bullies” at Evans

Recently, the sixth grade students at Evans Elementary participated in a Creative Expression Contest hosted by Mrs. Soltish, Evans sixth grade school counselor. Students were asked to submit posters and literary works expressing their personal opinions of bullying and ideas to promote the tolerance of others. This contest was one of many examples of bullying prevention strategies being taught to sixth grade students throughout the district.

Mrs. Soltish was extremely impressed by the work the students produced. Contest winners were awarded a certificate of merit, in addition to a free ice cream from the school cafeteria. Sixth grade student Diella Archie received recognition for producing the Best Overall Entry for the contest. First place was awarded to Teuta Berisha, second place was awarded to Josh Sossa, and third place was awarded to Israel Lopez. Kara McConologue and Brett Tracy were recognized as “Runner Up” in the contest.

(Anti-bullying posters created by: 6th grade students at Evans)
Letters of Gratitude from Fishkill Plains

To Our Friends,

We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to you for your kindness and generosity at this very difficult time. The loss of our student, Joseph Avis has caused tremendous sadness for us as teachers and our students. Having all the support of our colleagues has made this difficult time easier to endure.

Thanks you once again.

Sincerely,
Denise Lombardi, Natalie Connolly, Sharon Gawronski, and Laura Kiepkowski

The staff of Fishkill Plains would like to send out its heartfelt thanks to all who have kept us in their thoughts, prayers, and efforts during this difficult time. The loss of one of our first grade students, Joseph Avis Jr., was devastating to all and your kindness has been very much appreciated.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Good News!

• Shannon Banda (Gayhead) and her husband Ryan (John Jay) welcomed a baby boy, Evan James, into the world on February 13, 2008. Evan was born weighing 8 lbs and 8oz. Congratulations!

Dates to Know

MARCH:
• BOE meeting - March 3, 2008 (JJ)
• Referendum vote - March 11, 2008
• Financial Consultant - March 12, 2008
• pay day - March 14, 2008
• BOE meeting - March 17, 2008 (EV, VR, & KR)
• no school - March 21, 2008
• no school - March 24, 2008
• Superintendent’s Conference Day - March 25, 2008
• pay day - Mar. 28, 2008

APRIL:
• General Membership Meeting - April 7, 2008
• BOE meeting - April 7, 2008 (WJH & FP)
• Vote on changes to WCT Constitution - April 9, 2008
• Financial Consultant - April 9, 2008
• pay day - Apr. 11, 2008
• Spring Recess - April 14 - 18, 2008
• BOE meeting - April 22, 2008 (GY, BR, & VR)
• pay day - Apr. 25, 2008

MAY:
• BOE meeting - May 5, 2008 (RCK, FS, & SR)
• Financial Consultant - May 8, 2008
• pay day - May 9, 2008
• WCT Recognition Dinner - May 16, 2008
• BOE meeting - May 19, 2008 (VW, JJ, & OG)
• Budget vote - May 20, 2008
• pay day - May 23, 2008
• no school - May 23, 2008
• no school - May 26, 2008

JUNE:
• pay day - June 6, 2008
• BOE meeting - June 9, 2008 (MC, EV, KR, & OG)
• pay day - June 20, 2008
• pay day - June 26, 2008
Members’ Classified Ads

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE: Immaculate 2 bedroom (plus office / possible 3rd bedroom) 1.5 bathroom townhouse in Highland. Tons of storage / quick commute to work. Right over the MidHudson Bridge in Bridgeview. Priced to move $257,000. Call Crista 914-388-7198.

FOR SALE: Tandem Kayak/ $250 OBO. Call Crista 914-388-7189.

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Over 20 Years of Experience!
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Ray O’Dell
(845) 297-2341 or (914) 245-0001

FOR SALE: Antique solid Honduras Mahogany 5-piece bedroom set by Hungerford. $450. Call Mary @ 845-297-4785

FOR SALE: * Raymour & Flanigan oak kitchen corner breakfast nook table, breakfast nook bench and trestle bench. Includes table, outer bench and “L” shaped inner bench. Benches also double as storage areas (seats are hinged and lift up - one hinge needs repair) Overall in great condition! Paid $876 - Asking $400.


Please call 845-661-2567 (leave message).

FOR FREE: Office style desk in good condition. Call Susan at 226-8285 or email JohnRogerJr@yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: 15” five spoke low profile rims/tires. 195/50R-15 Hankook Ventus tires - chrome sleeve rims - locking nuts sold with key - already mounted and balanced - used for one month - had to sell car and didn’t need rims. $500. Inquiries: please call 845-797-3690. Ask for Vasili.

FOR RENT: Think Summer! Charlestown, R.I. (just 2 1/2 hours from home) four bedroom house within walking distance of pristine Charlestown Beach. Vacation near Newport, Mystic, Foxwoods, and Block Island. The house offers large screened-in-porch, washer/dryer, dishwasher, outside shower, and free beachside parking in private lot. Walk to Dunkin Donuts, coffee shop, deli, and casual restaurant. Pictures available. Call Roberta at 221-9872.

FOR RENT: Vacation in Ocean City, Maryland. 2 bedroom/2 bath CONDO, on the water (bayside). 1st floor unit, next to pool, beautiful sunsets, just cross the street to the beach - centrally located, close to everything. Contact Sandy for information at 896-1678.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Looking for another young-professional roommate to share house in Southside, POK. $650 a month includes everything! (Heat, electric, washer/dryer, high speed internet, cable, off street parking.) Please call Melissa-453-7723.

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(Continued on page 8)
(Continued from page 7)

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