



Members of the Mohonasen Board of Education present David G. Bournazian with a mock up the "Bournazian Way" sign that will be placed in the Mohonasen High School music wing during a ceremony on Monday, Dec. 28.

Sean Ahern/Spotlight

Area inaugurations on New Year's Day

Glenville, Niskayuna and Rotterdam swearing-in ceremonies all take place on Jan. 1

By SEAN AHERN
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As the New Year approaches, the election results will come to fruition as new town supervisors and board members are sworn in across the county on Jan. 1.

In Niskayuna, Democratic Town Supervisor Joe Landry will retake the oath of office to retain his seat accompanied by running mates Democrats John McKinney and Denise Murphy-McGraw who will take the place of outgoing town board members Maria Freund Diane O'Donnell. Democratic Town Supervisor Joe Landry will take part in his second swearing in ceremony while the other four candidates for office on the Democratic line in November will also be sworn in at 4 p.m. on the first.

"This is a very good day," said Landry. "This will be my second swearing in and we will be swearing in all of our candidates in the same ceremony. I think that everyone is looking forward to them [Murphy-McGraw and McKinney] taking office and look forward to working with them on Jan. 1."

"I'm eager to get started to work with a new team of such talented people and to get to work with the town, there's much that needs to be done," said Murphy-McGraw. McGraw defeated Republican candidates Linda Rizzo and Richard Fisher alongside running mate McKinney to secure a seat on the town board of Niskayuna. She is also Chairwoman of the Schenectady County Community College Board of Trustees.

In Glenville, Republican Town Board member Chris Koetzle will be sworn in as town supervisor while running mates Alan Boulant and Sid Ramotar will take the

place of Democrat Ed Rosenburg and Val Digiondomenico (SP) who ran as an independent in this year's election. Koetzle and his running mates have also announced the addition of Republican Gina Wierzbowski, who will take Koetzle's vacant town board seat after the new board votes on a resolution to appoint her to the board on Jan. 6. She will have to run for re-election in November of 2010 and 2011. The new board members will be sworn in at the Glenville Municipal Center at 11 a.m.

"We're excited to get started," said Republican town supervisor elect Chris Koetzle. "We have the whole team being sworn in by Assemblymen [James] Tedisco. We're looking forward to a new, fresh team with a new outlook on town government."

Members of the incoming Glenville town board look to manage smart economic development in the town of Glenville while bringing new jobs and opportunities to those living in the town. Republican town board elect Alan Boulant has stated that they are ready to get to work as soon as possible.

"I'm looking forward to getting to work to be perfectly honest," said Boulant. "I like to get my hands dirty and get to work as soon as possible. I can't wait to get the job done."

In Rotterdam, Democrat Frank Del Gallo will take the place of Republican Steve Tommasone as town supervisor and running mates Nicola DiLeva, Matthew Martin and Robert Godlewski will be sworn into the town board at 1 p.m. Del Gallo stated that he ready to go to work for the town and believes that his team will be able to create the change the town deserves.

"I'm very excited about getting sworn in and getting to work," said Del Gallo of the event in Rotterdam on Jan. 1. "I'm pretty excited about it. I think we have

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'A teacher of life'

Wing of Mohon High dedicated to band teacher David G. Bournazian

By SEAN AHERN
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The Mohonasen Central School District dedicated the music wing of the Mohonasen High School to music teacher and director David G. Bournazian on Monday, Dec. 28. Known to students and parents alike as "Mr. B," Bournazian cemented the idea that "attitude is key," and that hard work and dedication pays off.

Starting his career in 1953 in Pittsfield, Mass., he came to Mohonasen in 1964, teaching there until his retirement four years ago. During his tenure, Bournazian led the school to numerous first place wins at high school band competitions and worked to include bands in area parades during his tenure. He also brought national recognition to the school when the Mohonasen High School Marching Band participated in the 1980 Olympic Torch Lighting Ceremony at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City and in the ceremonies at Lake Placid.

"Generally, something like this happens when your name is in the obituaries," said Bournazian of the event. "It's a 'memory-plus.' Not many people get this until afterwards."

Bournazian also thanked those who helped him along the way including his band parents and students for their dedication throughout the years. "Without the help of my band parents and my staff none of this would be possible. You can't do it alone, you need the support."

The dedication of the music wing will include the band and orchestra rooms at the high school with a memorial to Bournazian entitled "Bournazian Way" with artifacts of

the past accomplishments of the program and Bournazian's work with the students. Artifacts include past marching band uniforms and the door from the band bus, emblazoned with a yellow bee on the side.

"I miss the kids, I really do," said Bournazian. Since his retirement, he has stayed active in the Capital District by working with the Excelsior Drum Corp. in Troy and The Pacemakers, a group that rehearses at St. Paul's Hospital in Albany on Wednesday mornings. "It gets you out of the house," said Bournazian. "Mentally, it takes care of you."

"He's a very special man. I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time to develop a special relationship with the guy," said former student-turned-band-parent John Murray. "There are literally thousands of people he touched. There are his students but also the staff and parents." Murray stated in his remarks that evening that Bournazian had a magic that touched everyone he knew. As a student, Murray said that Bournazian instilled a love of music while as a parent he taught his own children the same care for music later in life.

Even those outside the music program at Mohonasen High School remember the work of Bournazian during their time as students. Board of Education president Dominic Cafarelli said that during his time as a student, while he was never musically inclined, he remembers Bournazian through the day-to-day life at the high school. "He always had an integral role in music in this school and even those were not into music knew about him." Cafarelli spoke about his time spent working at the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics, where the Mohonasen Marching band performed. "You're standing out in Lake Placid when suddenly you turn around and your whole

high school is out there performing for the world."

When Bournazian retired in 2005, colleague Keith Bushey, who worked at Draper Middle School, took over the program that had been honed by Mr. B for over 45 years. Bushey stated that Bournazian has a tremendous rapport with students. "He was very understanding but very stern," said Bushey. "He had a great ability to get the best from students. I just totally respect the man not only as a teacher but as a musician."

Bushey said Bournazian never turned students away from the program and in many instances brought students into the program who were in danger of falling out of school altogether. Drill Designer and Marching and Manuvering instructor Paul Peregrim spoke about his time working with Bournazian for 25 years and his impact on kids in the program. "The thing I learned the most when I was here the first year was the amount of students, alumni and parents that came down here," said Peregrim of the music wing. "This was there sanctuary, he never turned a kid away. You'd watch these kids come in on the edge, B would pull them by the collar and tell them what they had to do to get them back on the right track."

"There's no dispute that B is a music guy," said Peregrim. "I found that 'B' was a teacher of life."

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