



April 1992

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. 33 No. 4

### Always Marry an April Girl

*Praise the spells and bless the charms,  
I found April in my arms.  
April golden, April cloudy,  
Gracious, cruel, tender, roudy;  
April soft in flowered languor,  
April cold with sudden anger,  
Ever changing, every true —  
I love April, I love you.*

Ogden Nash

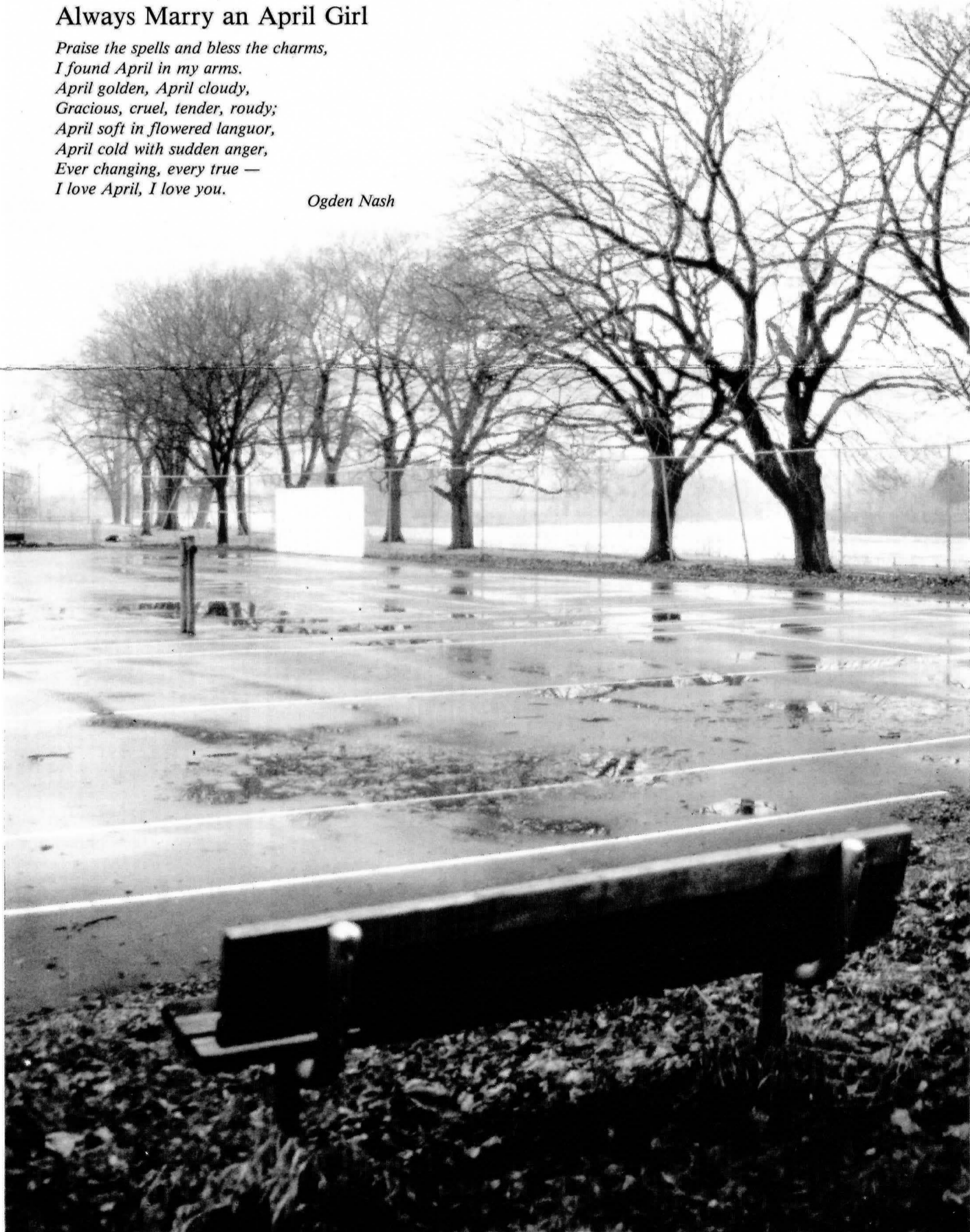


Photo by Mike Powell



**STOCKADE SPY**  
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Printed by Schenectady Herold Printing

As always we are happy to receive your comments, news, literary works, etc. Without them the *Spy* is dead! Just a few reminders, along with my thanks.

All contributions must be received by **Friday, April 17** for publication in the **May** Issue. Please be sure they are typed, double-spaced, and the **writer's name, address, and phone included**. You may leave or mail materials to 43 Washington Avenue, clearly marked for the *Spy* editor, or at staff member Wendy Espina's home, 37 Front Street. Thank you for your cooperation. In case of undue hardship in getting information typed, we will consider clearly written letters (not articles). Any original material will be returned **upon request**; otherwise no responsibility for them is taken by the *Spy* staff. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Letter From The Editor**

Dear Readers:

Now that "super" and "fat" Tuesdays are behind us, I wonder why it is that so many preliminary happenings occur on a Tuesday? Yes, I do know about Lent, but is there some magic in Wednesday? If anyone knows the answer I would like to hear from them — even if they make it up!

Well, we survived the sensational warnings about the possibility of a major snowstorm, with dire predictions of history repeating itself — on the anniversary of the Great Blizzard of '88. Apart from a few minutes of admittedly tough ice scraping, I was fortunate enough to experience little hazardous driving, and I hope that was true for all of you.

We are fortunate to have received a plethora of copy for this issue — and I hope that no one who needed anything published to meet deadlines has been neglected. However that does mean that there are some contributions whose comments will have to wait until the May issue (the last one until September). As I have repeated so often: this is your forum and I am delighted that so many have taken advantage of it this month.

In regards to contributions, an anonymous donor has offered to help anyone who cannot get their letter or article typed. All you have to do is take it to Rogers Typing Service, 147 Front Street for typing, identify yourself as a *Spy* contributor, and submit the typed copy to me by the deadline. This is a most kind offer, and I hope it will help those who may have hesitated to write because we request typed copy whenever possible.

Think spring!

Editor

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**Dear Stockade Spy**

As an eight year resident of the Stockade I am reluctant to admit that I recently attended my first play at The Schenectady Civic Playhouse. I am not reluctant, however, to admit that it was love at first sight. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance and also had great fun hanging around afterward to tour the Playhouse and walk through the set. Everyone at the Playhouse was very friendly and eager to answer my numerous questions. I even ended up volunteering to assist with an actors workshop recently given at The Playhouse by Ward Dales and Cynde Schwartz.

Several new friendships are budding thanks to my "stepping out" in the Stockade. I had lost touch with what a wonderful and unique place this is to live. I would like to encourage all Stockade residents to attend a production at the Playhouse and experience the true essence of community and friendship.

See you there!

Patricia Kerton

**Request**

I would appreciate this article being included in the April issue of the *Spy*.

It is only decent, considering the manner of departure and the treatment of certain concerns, that a statement be issued at this time.

Please do not disappoint me in this matter, as I have already been accorded more "warmth, comradery, and cooperation" than I am capable of returning at this time.

Peter Colangelo

**Dear Fellow Stockadians**

As a member of perhaps the oldest family to reside in the Stockade, I feel that it is our responsibility to give back something to the neighborhood that provides us with a home, friends, and a sense of belonging. It was with this in mind that I decided to join the *Stockade Spy*, and to try and keep the Friends of the Stockade operating.

It was to be my way of helping to continue the work of previous generations who have been responsible for most of the improvements that have occurred here. What I found was not a group of people interested in serving the diverse natures of the Stockade residents, but intent on using a unique outlet available to all for their own desires. I do not say this lightly, nor without regret, because the people that I speak of do indeed give of their time and energy. This "giving" is done in the name of the Stockade, but does not welcome those ideas, or efforts which do not directly correlate with their perceptions of what is correct. I am deeply saddened by the lack of perspective, and the "clique" mentality offered by the current Stockade Association and *Stockade Spy* board members. It is with extreme regret, and after several months of trying to understand these people, that I have decided to resign as the business manager of the *Spy*.

My apologies to all of the advertisers who have been inconvenienced, and to anyone who has not received the *Spy*. My deepest apologies are extended to Mrs. Marie Nitchman. To the current staff of the *Spy*, and the Board of the Stockade Association I say, "Shame on you!". I never thought I would have to say that I am ashamed of the way representatives of our neighborhood have reacted to the efforts of others in helping to keep our neighborhood special.

Peter Colangelo

**American Red Cross Benefit**

SCHENECTADY — Stockaders can look forward to some fun at the MVP Health-A-Thon, an event to take place on Saturday, May 2, to benefit the Schenectady County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The event will incorporate three recreational activities — walking, swimming, and/or bowling. The walking part of the Health-A-Thon loops through the Stockade, giving participants a wonderful opportunity to experience springtime in our historic district.

Plans include an Open House at the Red Cross with health and safety related displays and exhibits all morning long and a "Mini Street Festival" with entertainment and food on Liberty and Ferry Streets.

All registered participants will be eligible for prizes. Tee-shirts will be given to the first 500 applicants who collect \$25, or more in pledge money.

For information including registration forms contact the Red Cross at (518) 393-3606.

**Attention: Senior Citizens**

In this time of rising costs and shrinking incomes, you should be aware of programs and services that could be of help to you. HEAP, which is the Home Energy Assistance Program, has monies left. The New York State tax form, IT-214 Real Property Tax Credit is available and is not limited to homeowners. Both these programs have income guidelines that must be met. The Medicare buy-in program assists in paying your monthly Medicare premiums as well as deductibles. Again there is an income level that must be met. For those of you facing reassessment, it is more important than ever to make sure that you are taking advantage of the senior citizens property tax reduction. If you need information about these programs or are interested in any other program, please contact the Counselor's Office at the Annie Schaffer Senior Center. Ask for Maria Moore or Nancy Lamb 346-3438. They will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

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## Tidings

I should have known...if the Indians (and I'm speaking about Native Americans) ate it, it must have been healthy. For those of us out there who love red meat, but are leery about eating it because of the cholesterol and fat content...this news is for you. Again, please note that I not only bring you all the news in the Stockade that's fit to print...but I bring you the very latest in meat eating...it doesn't get any better. Anyway, the word is EAT BUFFALO!!! "Oh give me a home..."

Speaking of home, the Stockade is shaking off its winter mantle and gearing up for Spring. Spring in the Stockade is always perfectly beautiful — all our gardeners strut their stuff...George Weinheimer's and Vivienne D'Estienne's Crocuses are up, so its officially Spring...

Spring was off to a rollicking start at the Sherwoods of Front St...Suzanne and Jim recently enjoyed a visit from all three of their daughters — Daughter Suzanne flew in from Winter Park, Florida, Teddy from Minneapolis and Emily from Boston and surprised Jim for a very special birthday...Jim knew absolutely nothing about it until he opened his front door — and there they were. It was truly a special birthday...and by the way Jim, Happy, Happy Birthday from the Spy staff.

Speaking of the Spy staff and birthdays, our own Paul Spencer also celebrated a birthday recently. Happy Birthday to youooooo from all of usssssssss....

Colleen McCauley of Front St. hailed the new season with a new baby — Elizabeth Nadine was born on March 10, 1992, weighing in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces. Both mother and daughter are doing splendidly, and we look forward to seeing them strolling about the neighborhood soon. Congratulations!!!

Now for all you mothers of young children and babies out there — what a wonderful surprise I found when leafing a catalogue called "Music for Little People" recently. I saw that they offered Earthmother Lullabies I by Pamela Ballingham. Pamela is Ruth Harvey's (of Washington Ave.) daughter. I can't say enough about this wonderful music. It soothed Erik to sleep many a night — and it is a wonderful gift for any new parent.

On a sadder note, the Stockade has lost one of its most beloved residents — Lavinia Shanklin, of Union St. Lavinia and her family have lived in the Stockade for generations, and contributed greatly towards making it the wonderful place to live that it is. She will be very missed by all of us who knew her, and we extend our most sincere condolences to the Shanklin family.

Now, it wouldn't be Tidings if I didn't say something about the state of politics as they currently stand...Paul Tsongas has decided to pull out and leaves behind him Fric and Frac. We've lost a good man in Paul Tsongas...he was honest. Who knows what we're in for now — but I suspect it's just back to politics as usual...you know, empty promises, lies...and lots and lots of hot air.

But, with Spring comes baseball...and for me the joy of baseball is best described by Edward Abbey — "Baseball is a slow, sluggish game, with frequent and trivial interruptions, offering the spectator many opportunities to reflect at leisure upon the situation on the field: That is what a fan loves most about the game." So say I...

I remind everyone again to let me know what's going on...We'll print it...See you next month...

## Is There Life After Laundry? Or What's In Store For the Abandoned Green Street Laundry Building

When Associated Textile Rental business pulled their Green Street Laundry out of the Stockade in 1990 they left two buildings and land which for seventy years had been mostly a non-conforming use and an intolerable thorn in the side of this residential neighborhood.

How that use was finally terminated and how an upgraded use may now find a home is an intriguing tale of dedicated perseverance and years of work on the part of your local Schenectady Heritage Foundation.

Here's the history. When zoning became law in Schenectady in the 20's, the Stockade, then known as "The Village" was designated a residential area. Light industrial buildings existing in the area such as the laundry were declared Non-Conforming Uses. They could remain but not expand and if their non-conforming use ceased only upgraded uses could take their place. Also, after a year of no use, only a permitted use could move in. So what happened?

In 1961 when the boundaries were drawn to create New York State's First Historic District in what was to be Schenectady's Historic Stockade District, the eastern line ran down College Street and the laundry was included.

When the booming 80's rolled around the laundry owner wanted to join the fun. So he and a builder-developer bought the Historic brick house next door at 237 Green Street, known as the "Saratoga House", and gutted it to make condos. When gutting was completed, they lost their guts for the project and the sad shell sat unused for 10 years. A neighborhood eyesore and a sad commentary on the City's practice not to enforce building project laws.

The Utica based laundry empire, Associated Textile Rental Services, bought up the land, laundry building and gutted house. Their plan was to make the building a laundry distribution center, demolish the historic house, expand the parking lot for trailer trucks, and build warehouse additions for a large regional operation.

When this happened the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, whose aim is to protect & preserve historic properties in Schenectady County, stepped in and persuaded Associated Textile that the Stockade was not for them. That under existing Historic Zoning they owned property that could never be used for their purposes. They could not demolish and could not expand. Their best course, they were told, was to sell the historic house to a restorationist and to operate the laundry as-is. Faced with this they chose an even more community beneficial course. They put everything up for sale.

Paul Spencer's article in the November 91 Spy told how Paul Cardamone bought the gutted "Saratoga House" and restored it to his family's residence — much applauded action that gave a real boost to the Green Street neighborhood.

Next the laundry building had to be dealt with. Was its fate to be abandonment and destruction by vandalism? The Heritage Foundation's answer was to explore and encourage every possible upgrade and physical improvement.

Contact was made with organizations known to be seeking new facilities: The latest candidate, Dennis Ballone and Associates, local advertising agency, is currently working on a plan to establish SPACE for advertising, public relations, commercial arts and their support groups.

The Heritage Foundation has been joined by the Stockade Association to help this group over the hurdles of city zoning rules. The City, the neighborhood and Ballone Associates will have to resolve problems of usage, off-street parking, occupant numbers, open space screening, etc. Working meetings have resulted in harmonious agreement among the participants. A preliminary review by the Historic District Commission was well received. The next step will be a public hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals in April.

Things look promising that there will indeed be a new life for the old laundry building in the Stockade.

J.D.S.

Jim Schmitt is president of the Schenectady Heritage Foundation.

## Final Concert

The Schenectady Symphony Orchestra will present the final concert of the season on the afternoon of Sunday, May 3rd at 3 p.m. at Proctor's Theatre. The SSO's grand finale promises to be amusing, splashy and patriotic in a program which includes Rossini's Overture to "Semiramide," Britten's "Rhapsody for Two Pianos," Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals," and the "1812 Overture" by Tchaikovsky.

The SSO music director and conductor is Dr. Charles Schneider. Tickets are \$10. for adults and \$5. for students. All tickets available at Proctor's Box Office.

The SSO features a FAMILY PLAN which allows students FREE admission when they are accompanied by an adult paying the full price. Several Stockade families were seen at the last SSO Family Concert. What a delightful way to end the weekend!

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## A Continuing Saga

Just for the record; no, I am not muzzled every other month by the **Spy** staff. Getting to write stuff for this paper is a real luxury and when I don't you can attribute it to "if you don't have anything relevant to say, don't say it." I know, I know — it takes unmitigated temerity (gall?) for me to assume that any previous ramblings were relevant.

Anyway, while I'm completely on Wendy's side on last month's article about "Economy Blues" I don't blame it all on the folks we elect; a lot, but not all.

The politicians I do blame are those who wish to tailor democracy to their own needs. I blame Richard Gebhardt for declaring that he was elected "because his views best represented those of his constituency". Now that sounds good but it's as wrong as can be. His "views" should have nothing to do with his "representation". That should be a direct reflection of the wishes of his constituency and absolutely not "his views".

A few years back a political aspirant told us that the raises our legislators voted themselves were to ensure that we could elect good, professional politicians. That's not what our founding fathers had in mind. To them being an elected official was a part time profitless aside, particularly at the federal level.

There is, unfortunately, another group we can justly aim an accusing finger at. The keystone of democracy, the single premise upon which it all hinges is called "an informed electorate". Now we, you and me, we're that "electorate". Hate to put it simply but, it really is our job to keep tabs on the hired help. Oh, you say you do that! Okay, can you name them? Who are your federal and state legislators? Who are the people who run Schenectady, city and county? How did all these folks vote on the issues last year and what were those issues really? Did they truly represent you or did they decide what was best for you?

If you can't answer all those questions ("I don't know" doesn't count because I already used it up) then you're in the vast majority. By not watching the hired help we give them de facto license to get away with just about any damn thing they want. From the German concentration camps where doctors (who ran all the camps) committed inhumane atrocities we know one thing for certain; if you give folks any kind of license, sooner or later they'll exercise it no matter how noble their intentions or immoral the act, no matter how much it costs, no matter who gets hurt.

So who else is to blame? How about shouldering up beside me, raising your hand and saying, "Guilty."

MP

## Second Annual Preservation Awards Program Announced For May 1992

The Schenectady Heritage Foundation is seeking nominations for awards for outstanding historic building restorations in Schenectady County in two categories, Current Restoration and Previous Restorations of 15 years ago or earlier. Historic Buildings; whether residential, commercial or institutional are all eligible.

Nominations may be submitted before April 20th to the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, 217 Union Street, Schenectady, New York 12305 c/o James Caufield, Awards Chairman. Please state nominated building, address, owner, restoration designer-architect, submitter's name and telephone and category A-current or B-Previous and year of Restoration.

The 1991 Awards went to the current restoration of 114 Front Street, The Adrian Van Slyck House, ca 1750 restored by owner Debby Lambeth and to the 1976 restoration of 121 Front Street, The Johannes Teller House, ca 1740 by owner Axel Frieberg and restoration architects Feibes & Schmitt.

Awards will be presented at City Hall during National Historic Preservation Week in May.

J.D.J. Schmitt

## April Waste Collection Dates

April 10	Friday
April 17	Friday
April 24	Friday
May 1	Friday

- \* Waste collection pickup starts at 6:30 a.m.
  - \* Don't put waste on the curb before 7:00 p.m. on the night before collection.
  - \* Separate your yard waste and leaves.
  - \* Separate your newspapers.
- Any questions? Call the HOTLINE: 382-3144.

### Where to go for recycling

<b>Weaver Street Transfer Station</b> Schenectady Hours: 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Saturdays	Accepts: tin cans, plastic containers, glass bottles
<b>Sofco Inc.</b> 702 Corporation Park Scotia Hours: 7:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. weekdays	Accepts: magazines, telephone books, circulars and third class mail
<b>County Farm</b> Hetcheltown Road Glenville Hours: 8 a.m. — 3 p.m. Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Saturday	Accepts: newspapers, corrugated cardboard, tin and aluminum cans, aluminum foil containers, plastic containers, clear and colored glass, household batteries, junk mail and magazines

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