FLCC-Cornell collaboration slated to open in 2014

By MIKE HIBBARD
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GENEVA — A balky back kept Lt. Gov. Rob Duffy from attending Thursday’s groundbreaking ceremony for the Finger Lakes Community College Viticulture Center.

However, Duffy’s absence didn’t dampen the mood of the more than 100 people who showed up.

The center, which will be used by FLCC’s wine technology program, is slated to open in August 2014 near the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park on Pre-Emption Road in Geneva. It’s expected to bolster the ‘Finger Lakes’ reputation as a world-class wine region.

Pro-merger group: Vote is about students future

By JULIE ANDERSON
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VARICK — Romulus-South Seneca school district residents who favor a merger with South Seneca school district turned out at the Varick Fire House Thursday to discuss the situation. Below, Romulus teacher Bernie Wegman speaks to those in attendance.

Who can vote

Anyone whose official residence has been in either the Romulus or South Seneca school district for at least 30 days, at least 16 years old and brings proof of official residence can vote. Residents do not have to be registered voters.

Romulus school district residents will vote from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 29, while the school’s calendar may vary slightly. South Seneca’s proposed ballots are available from district superintendent Jonathan Hawkins in the district office, South Seneca school district residents who vote before noon Oct. 29 in the Middle School cafeteria in Canandaigua.

See MERGER on Page 5A

Ontario board backs creation of new law office

By MIKE HIBBARD
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CANANDAIGUA — Ontario County supervisors are backing a new office that will oversee legal representation for some indigent criminal defendants.

At its meeting Thursday night, the county Board of Supervisors approved a resolution of giving the County Office of Court Defender It will assign attorneys for indigent defendants. However, those attorneys will still be represented by the public defender’s office due to a conflict of interest.

County Administrator John Garvey noted that four years ago, in a move designed to save money and have criminal defense work for the poor handled by a private company, the county switched from its longtime assigned counsel program to the public defender’s office. However, assigned counsel is still used in some cases and for minors and families for court.

The lack of suspensions these attorneys at first was handled by Canandaigua attorneys John Kennedy and later by Alexandra Burkett, nikoli- sam Canandaigua attorney, after Kennedy’s death. However, county officials wants that responsibility be with one attorney.

“This has been a process going on for quite some time,” Casella, who chairs the Board of Supervisors’ Law and Courts Committee, said last night. “This is an effort to close control costs and bring

See OFFICE on Page 4A
Geneva center will be centrally located

**New York State Agricultural Experiment Station Director** Thomas Burr said a few words to the audience during the groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday.

**Risser and FLCC’s program** is the only one of its kind in the northeastern U.S. for community colleges. An advisory board of vineyard and winery owners and professionals in wine and grape research, education and marketing assisted with the development of the center.

**This center** will enhance the excellent wine quality in the region, she said. “What an honor to host our students. They will be learning in the heart of the wine industry for years to come.”

The center will be:
- **Flanked** from the 34-member Seneca Lake Wine Trust and less than 30 minutes from the Keuka Lake and Canandaigua Lake wine trails.
- **Two miles from FLCC’s Geneva campus center,** providing students with additional course options and services.
- **Fourteen miles from the junction of 2-1-2 and Finger Lakes Cooperative Extension/FLCC teaching and Cooperative Extension/FLCC teaching and demonstration vineyard at Anthony Road Wine Co. in Hector, Yates County.**

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