

TINY HOUSES, BUT BIG IDEA



The upstairs bedroom of a modular tiny house built by Tiny Timbers LLC, of Ithaca.

NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO

Builder's proposal an affordable option

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When Varna residents first heard of plans for a 15-home development on a little more than two-acre plot in the hamlet, they were a bit skeptical.

After hearing what Buzz Dolph, the owner of Tiny Timbers, and the development's builder had to say, that apprehension gave way to excitement — after all, Dolph said, it's not every day a builder comes along who proposes homes that, under mortgage, cost less than \$700 a month to pay for.

"It's really important to the Varna community," Dolph said, referring to the nature of development in Varna and lack of affordable, for-sale housing. "I feel like they've been really frustrated with what's going on... there's a significant lack of that. Rents and housing prices have skyrocketed... there just



NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO

Caleb Dolph, left, and Buzz Dolph, owner of Tiny Timbers LLC, stand in the unfinished interior of a tiny house prototype on their property on Quarry Road.

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ICSD to release video of guest's speech

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After a one-year battle and more than \$20,000 in legal fees, the Ithaca City School District will release the footage of a guest speech by activist Bassim Tamimi at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School in the fall of 2015.

The decision results from a Freedom of Information Law Request filed last September by Cornell law professor and conservative blogger William Jacobson,

who wrote about the speech last year on his blog, LegalInsurrection.com.

Tamimi, a pro-Palestinian activist whose use of children in politically driven materials has drawn scorn in some circles, was invited to speak to the third-grade class by local activist Ariel Gold and gave statements "not developmentally appropriate for third graders, nor aligned with the New York State standards," Superintendent Luvelle Brown said in a statement last September. The talk itself prompted a review in

policy and procedures for guest speakers and visitors in the Ithaca City School District, according to a news release from last September.

Initially released in the form of a written transcript because the video itself contained the voices and faces of the district's third-grade students, Judge Phillip Rumsey, a justice for the Cortland County Supreme Court in the

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Edward Kopko spoke at the Democratic Party's public forum with their candidates for Tompkins County District Attorney.

Kopko: DA pick was illegal

Candidate files lawsuit,
claims process 'flawed'

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Edward Kopko, a candidate for district attorney, has filed a lawsuit alleging the Tompkins County Democratic Committee's nomination process was "fatally flawed and illegal."

The lawsuit filed Friday claims the committee's nomination of Matthew Van Houten did not follow committee bylaws and asks the Supreme Court to review the case and invalidate the nomination of Van Houten so that his name does not appear on the ballot Nov. 8.

On Sept. 15, the Democratic Committee voted to decide which candidate would run on the Democratic line. Acting District Attorney Andrew Bonavia and Kopko were running along with Van Houten. The first ballot was inconclusive because no candidate received at least half of the votes. Van Houten received 56 votes, Bonavia received 43 and Kopko received 16. On the second ballot, Van Houten secured 64 votes out of 111.

Days after the vote, Kopko secured a nomination from the Independence party. Kopko also was recently selected to be special prosecutor in a high-profile Broome County case involving District Attorney Steve Cornwell's son.

In the lawsuit, Kopko alleges the Democratic Committee allowed ineligible members to vote at the Sept. 15 meeting. He states that Irene Stein,

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election



AP

U.S. presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

The great debate

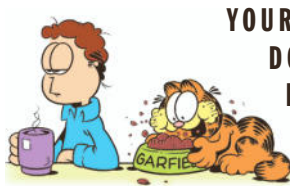
Clinton, Trump meet at Hofstra University. For details of Monday night's debate, go to ithacajournal.com.

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