Cold Spring Considers Doubling Speed Limit to 30 mph

Also, looks for solutions to leaky firehouse roof

By Liz Schevetchuk Armstrong

The Village Board on Jan. 10 proposed increasing the speed limit on Cold Spring streets to 30 mph, from 15 mph, to conform to state traffic laws. It also seeks to restrict parking on Church Street alongside the firehouse to fire company members and in front of Village Hall, at 85 Main St., to police officers, eliminating the present 15-minute Village Hall parking.

But before anything happens, the board will hold a hearing at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Village Hall.

The code revisions would allow some exceptions, such as a school zone speed limit of 15 or 25 mph near Haldane and the 25 mph allowed along Main Street west of Route 9D, the village-controlled portion of the street which is otherwise Route 301, a state highway.

Deputy Mayor and Trustee Marie Early said during the board’s Jan. 10 meeting that she noticed the speed-limit discrepancy as she reviewed the Village Code. “New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1643 stipulates that in a village or city, no speed limit shall be established at less than 30 mph, except for Long Beach, on the sea in Nassau County, which can restrict speed to 15 mph on certain streets. Statewide, New York also permits a 15-mph limit for a quarter mile on streets alongside schools. That’s 10 mph slower than what Cold Spring’s draft law proposes. Early recommended that residents, at the public hearing, urge that the village school-area limit also be 15 mph.

Whether residents will support the abolition of a 15-mph maximum elsewhere is unclear. Children sometimes play in the streets, especially on the 19th-century blocks where homes are close to streets that are narrowed further by parked cars. Over the last several years residents of Church, Fair, and other streets have complained about speeding even with a 15-mph limit.

The fact that the board can hold a hearing on the proposed speed limit, instead of changing the local law immediately to reflect the state standard, suggests alternatives may exist, such as a request to Albany to allow a (Continued on Page 7)
Wrap and Roll

By Mary Ann Ebner

Puffy golden egg rolls are a familiar sight atop plates at all-you-can-manage buffets or with takeout servings of beef and broccoli, but when you rely only on those sources, you’re missing out on a joyous do-it-yourself meal.

Takeout offers convenience on busy days, but cooking Chinese food at home can bring on even more flavor. As the Chinese New Year approaches, falling on Jan. 28 this year, make room for a meal of Chinese cuisine or at the very least a Chinese-American recipe without ready-to-eat containers.

For the last few years, it’s been my good fortune to attend festive gatherings to welcome the holiday. The menu typically includes two to three versions of stir-fry, steamed and fried rice, dumplings, tofu and stirs swiftly when cooking the filling. When using even the best ingredients, this easy endeavor can flop without proper technique. For her fried spring rolls, my Chinese cooking inspiration refers to her family’s carefully wrapped creations as spring rolls. No Chinese New Year feast would be complete without them as a festive indulgence.

As spring rolls. No Chinese New Year feast would be complete without them as a festive indulgence.

Though contemporary fans of Chinese food may use the terms interchangeably, my Chinese cooking inspiration refers to her family’s carefully wrapped creations as spring rolls. No Chinese New Year feast would be complete without them as a favorite side that can easily stand in as the main attraction.

Unraised sheets of dough wrap around a filling of chopped vegetables like cabbage, carrots, onions, celery and mushrooms while some variations include mung bean threads and pork or shrimp.

Tradition holds that spring rolls shared among family and friends trace their origin to the Chinese New Year to signify the renewal of springtime based on the lunar calendar. The term egg roll may be accurate for thicker wrappers made with egg, popularized by restaurants beyond the Chinese mainland during the last century. Other Asian cuisines claim their own varieties, and whether you call them egg rolls or spring rolls or shape them more squarely than roundly, those who pause to argue about names or misnomers could turn to find the platter empty.

Fresh spring-roll skins prepared with flour, salt and water may taste best, but you’ll find me assembling spring rolls with wheat-based ready-made wrappers sold in packages of 20 to 25 pieces for around $2. Local markets, including Foodtown and Key Food, stock super-thin wrappers that fry up lightly and crisply. Though she teaches the study of Chinese language professionally, spending far more time in a classroom than a kitchen, she’s very much at home sharing the joy of spring roll preparation and appreciation.

Find a little happiness in the new moon with this simple recipe. Serve with citrus sauce or plum preserves.

Yield: about 20 spring rolls

1 pound ground pork
8 to 10 stalks scallions, chopped
1 medium-sized cabbage, shredded into small strips
1 cup shredded carrots
2 cups mung bean vermicelli (rinsed, uncooked and cut with kitchen scissors into small pieces)
1 half teaspoon salt
a few twists of pepper
1 to 2 beaten eggs for sealing
salt and fresh ground black pepper
1 package 25-count spring roll wrappers (skins, shells)
canola or vegetable oil

1. Brown pork with scallions over medium heat. Add cabbage strips, stir and cook on high heat to warm through completely. Lower heat to medium, stir in carrots and cook additional 2 minutes. Add mung bean vermicelli and cook 1 to 2 minutes. Season with 1 half teaspoon salt and a few twists of pepper. Drain any excess liquid to minimize moisture. Cool cabbage mixture completely to prevent wrappers from breaking while filling.

2. To fill and shape rolls, lay a small stack of skins on a work surface with one corner of the skin pointing to you. Spoon a thick row of filling across the base of top skin, below its center. Fold bottom corner up and over filling, hold firmly and fold over left and right corners to opposite sides in envelope style. Complete rolling and brush the final corner with egg. Fold corner over to seal.

3. To fry, use a 12- to 14-inch pan that allows oil to cover bottom to a quarter inch. Bring oil to high temperature before adding spring rolls individually. Just as pan is full, turn the first one, and then one-by-one turn the others in the order they went into the oil. Once rolls have all been turned, remove them in the same order and place on a paper towel-lined plate to absorb excess oil, allowing space between each roll to preserve crispness. Serve whole or cut diagonally.
Did Your Vote Count?

Panel discusses workaround to Electoral College system

By Brian PJ Cronin

O

n Jan. 20 at noon, Donald J. Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the U.S., despite having won 2.9 million fewer votes than his opponent, Hillary Clinton. He won more Electoral College votes, a measure of who received more votes in each state and D.C., and that's what matters. The presidential candidate who did not win the popular vote has only taken office five times before, most recently in 2000 and prior to that three times in the 19th century.

Sandy Galef, a Democratic member of the state Assembly whose district includes Philipstown, said her office was flooded with calls, letters and emails following the Nov. 8 election from constituents asking how Trump could win despite receiving fewer votes than Clinton. In response, Galef convened a panel on Jan. 12 at the Croton Free Library to discuss the Electoral College and possible changes. Her guests were Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, who sponsored a state bill to reform the Electoral College; Hendrik Hertzberg, a longtime editor and writer at The New Yorker and board member of FairVote.org; and Jeanne Zaino, a professor of political science and new media science at Iona College.

In the Electoral College system, the number of electors for each state is determined by its population. It is designed so that an individual vote in a smaller state counts more in proportion to an individual vote in a larger state. This means, Hertzberg noted, that a vote in Wyoming counts about 50 to 60 times more than a vote in New York City. While New York City has more than 8 million people, the second most populous city, Los Angeles, has fewer than half that.

Instead of empowering rural states, the panel argued, the system empowers about 30 “battleground” states in which the polls predicting the popular vote are close enough to warrant candidates spend time and money there. That reduces the other 40 states to spectators.

“It's not worth doing grassroots campaigning everywhere in the country,” said Hertzberg. “In New York state it doesn't make sense to do a coffee klatch and invite your neighbors over and try to persuade them to vote for your candidate, because New York is a foregone conclusion for the Democratic candidate.”

The Electoral College could only be dismantled with an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which would require approval by two-thirds of both U.S. House and Senate members and the legislatures in three-quarters of the states. But there is an easier way, the panel noted. Since it's up to legislators in each state to determine which candidate's electors get sent to the Electoral College — it could be based on the state's popular vote, the national vote, a coin flip or anything the legislators agree to — each state has the power to buck the system.

In response to this, legislators in many states have introduced bills to create a National Popular Vote Act, which would work as an interstate compact. Every state that passes the act would agree to send electors who represent the winner of the national popular vote, regardless of who won the electoral vote in that state. To date, states that represent a total 165 electoral votes, including New York and New Jersey, have passed the act, and it is under consideration in five others.

Supporters of the Electoral College argue that it ensures that rural and less populated states and sections of the country are not left out of the campaign. If the popular vote determined the election, candidates would simply campaign in major cities to reach as many people as possible.

However, members of the panel argued this reasoning is flawed.

“Mathematically, it's impossible to win the presidency by just visiting urban areas,” said Zaino. “And it's hard for those of us near New York City to realize that, because New York City is so much larger than any other city in the country.” While New York City has more than 8 million people, the second most populous city, Los Angeles, has fewer than half that.

There have been 58 presidential elections since 1789, and the candidate who won the popular vote did not reach the White House five times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Contenders</th>
<th>Popular Winner</th>
<th>Electoral Winner</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>John Quincy Adams vs. Andrew Jackson</td>
<td>Jackson (+38,000)</td>
<td>Jackson (99-84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>Rutherford B. Hayes vs. Samuel Tilden</td>
<td>Tilden (+250,000)</td>
<td>Hayes (185-184)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Benjamin Harrison vs. Grover Cleveland</td>
<td>Cleveland (+90,000)</td>
<td>Harrison (233-168)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>George W. Bush vs. Al Gore</td>
<td>Gore (+540,000)</td>
<td>Bush (271-266)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Donald Trump vs. Hillary Clinton</td>
<td>Clinton (+2,900,000)</td>
<td>Trump (304-227)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Neither candidate received the 131 electoral votes needed, so the decision went to the House of Representatives, which chose Adams.

The goal is to have states on board that represent a total of more than the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency. However, election analyst Nate Silver has pointed out that no states that consistently vote Republican have adopted the plan, and a traditional swing state seems unlikely to agree to anything that would reduce its influence.

Zaino noted that if the act went into effect and a presidential candidate who won the electoral vote but not the popular vote was kept from office, he or she would almost certainly mount a legal challenge that would end up with the U.S. Supreme Court. But the panel agreed that for those who see a need for reform, the act may be the most effective way to enact change before the 2020 vote.
Indian Point power

Energy makes the claim that the Indian Point nuclear power plant provides 25 percent of the electricity used by Westchester County and New York City (“Life After Indian Point,” Jan. 13). As a result, some county officials have expressed concern about how to replace that electricity. But they have been duped. The electricity from Indian Point has already been replaced.

First, some simple math. Indian Point’s two reactors produce 2,060 megawatts (MW) annually. According to Con Edison, the peak winter load for Westchester and New York City is 9,000 MW and jumps to 13,000 MW in the summer. Indian Point doesn’t produce a quarter of either of those figures, even if it all of its electricity went into our grid, which it doesn’t. Entergy sells 560 MW to Con Edison and bids 1,500 MW into the summer Mid-Hudson Capacity market, which serves five counties.

According to news reports, in the winter it sends 1,500 MW to the Boston area, where a lot of gas is diverted for heating and the price of electricity is high. The New York Power Authority, which supplies the subways, Metro-North, municipalities and government buildings, has not purchased electricity from Indian Point for years because it can get it cheaper elsewhere.

Replacement power does not have to be “new generation.” Since 2012, when Gov. Cuomo directed the Public Service Commission to develop a plan for the closing of Indian Point, more than 5,200 MW have been added to the system through improvements in the transmission lines, some new generation, increased efficiency and from “demand response,” where large users are paid to curtail usage at peak times. Some of this new generation is gas, but the carbon footprint is already figured into the New York State Clean Energy Plan.

More projects will be coming on line in 2017 and demand has not been as high as anticipated by the independent system operator, the agency that monitors our grid. Do the math and breathe easy. Indian Point’s power has already been replaced.

Marilyn Elie, Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, Cortlandt Manor

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Grateful for forum

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who represents Philipstown in Congress, attended a Town Hall meeting at the Desmond-Fish Library on Jan. 8. The turnout was overwhelming as the community expressed its fears and anger with the incoming federal administration. I heard, “He’s not my president! We must not normalize the direction that’s being taken.” Hearing that strong clear statement, I felt a renewed optimism for our country.

Maloney stated that we all need to help as a team — and to stay in contact with him. It was clear that he cares about his constituents and is responsive to our needs. I am grateful to Eric Stark for arranging this Town Hall (possibly a first?) and that Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, Planned Parenthood and an impassioned talk about climate change were also included.

It’s never too late to express our gratitude and support for those elected officials who refuse to attend the inauguration on Jan. 20. I would be proud to see U.S. Senators Kristen Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer and Maloney among the elected officials who will not attend.

The president-elect was not elected by a majority of the voters, and his every decision, whether an appointment, repeal of the Affordable Care Act or in foreign affairs, is severely damaging our country. Lack of public support and acclaim is one of the few actions that affect him.

Betty Calhoun, Garrison

Editor’s note: As of Jan. 17, five members of Congress from New York, not including Maloney, said they would not attend the inauguration. No U.S. senators indicated they would not be there.

County accountability

That our county legislature’s majority now routinely overreacts to any criticism of how it handled the new Cold Spring senior center lease was evident when it dismissed (Continued on next page)

Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

What is the top thing you want our new president to do in 2017?

“Leave Obamacare alone.”
- Greg Remillard, Cold Spring

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- Betsy Calhoun, Garrison

“Resign.”
- Jackie Wlodareczak, Cold Spring

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Legislative Counsel Clement Van Ross on Jan. 3, a year before his term was to expire, without explanation (“Putnam Legislature Fires Counsel,” Jan. 6).

Your report was on target to pair this unexpected development with a recounting of the complaints these legislators made against him when his legal opinions of the Putnam County charter temporarily delayed the passage of the revised lease and gave the public access to its contents.

With feelings so sore among our elected representatives, the county needs a different perspective on many substantive, unanswered questions about these incidents that limit our right to a fully accountable, transparent county administration.

As many of your readers know, right before the legislature fired Van Ross, the Rules Committee voted down asking New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman about the legality of offering a free and then after-the-fact underpriced special bus service to Philipstown seniors so they could witness the county legislature’s proposal to enforce safe storage of firearms. He can do the same with other potential forms of government overreach. Furthermore, one of his predecessors as Putnam DA, former Legislator Kevin Wright, introduced the idea of contacting our attorney general.

Here are five reasons why I believe Tendy must provide us with his professional guidance and insight:

1. The Rules Committee mixed any outreach to Schneiderman, but it allowed Sheehy to obtain feedback from her supervisor in Albany and read that feedback into the record.

2. A last-minute check of $742 for the buses signed by a private citizen doesn’t match the cost of these unique evening bus runs, according to the Putnam County transportation director’s own estimates for a bus run to Cold Spring and Dutchess County.

3. When confronted with the impression the administration favored one group over the rest of Putnam’s residents, some legislators said their intention was to help more seniors participate in local politics. Since then, no large number of western Putnam senior citizens has been seen regularly at county legislature meetings.

4. All this time later, we don’t know who authorized these buses or the Office for Senior Resources’ tapping county-owned facilities and materials to persuade as many seniors as possible to support the lease.

5. The legislature’s majority has gone from declaring an in-person session was to help more seniors participate in local politics. Since then, no large number of western Putnam senior citizens has been seen regularly at county legislature meetings.

Praise or Protest

Village of Cold Spring
Mayor Dave Merando
mayor@coldspringny.gov

Village of Philipstown
Mayor Tenness Corless
tcorless@icloud.com

Town of Philipstown
Supervisor Richard Shea
supervisor@philipstown.com

City of Beacon
Mayor Randy Casale
mayor@cityofbeacon.org

Putnam County
Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra
putcoleg@putnamcountyny.com

Dutchess County
Legislator John Forman
jforman@dutchessny.gov

Legislator Jerry Landis
ptjl@optonline.net

New York Assembly
Sandy Galef (D) (Philipstown)
nyassembly.gov/mem/Sandy-Galef

Frank Skartados (D) (Beacon)
nyassembly.gov/mem/Frank-Skartados

New York Senate
Sue Serino (R)
nysenate.gov/senators/sue-serino

U.S. Congress
Sean Patrick Maloney (D)
seanmaloney.house.gov

At this juncture, I urge Putnam District Attorney Bob Tendy to step up to the plate. The Rules Committee ignored my suggestion it consult him as an alternative, but it can’t ban Tendy from starting his own investigation of these unorthodox activities and expenses.

Tendy volunteered his Second Amendment views when he argued against a Philipstown proposal to enforce safe storage of firearms. He can do the same with other potential forms of government overreach. Furthermore, one of his predecessors as Putnam DA, former Legislator Kevin Wright, introduced the idea of contacting our attorney general.

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5. The legislature’s majority has gone from declaring an in-person session with Sheehy a priority to letting her stand up the Rules Committee twice and then dropping the matter.

At the Dec. 19 Rules Committee meeting, Legislator Carl Albano called an end to the discussion. For him, those on the legislature who remain concerned about what happened can voice their disapproval, but it wasn’t worthy of a high state official’s attention.

When I protested Sheehy’s stonewalling, Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra dismissed my grievances with, “OK, enough.”

Alexandra Ballantine, Brexter

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown on February 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments for/against A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE TOWN CODE CHAPTER 82 BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE II ENTITLED “COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PROGRAM.”

A complete copy of the Local Law is available for inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York.

The same materials are available on the Town’s website: www.philipstown.com.

DATED: January 25, 2017
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

Hudson Valley Hate Free Zone Holds First Meeting

Maria Jaime, left, board president of the Hudson Valley Community Coalition, speaks during the first meeting of the Hudson Valley Hate Free Zone on Jan. 14. Jaime came to the U.S. from Mexico at age 2 and said she fears the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. More than 200 people gathered at St. Luke’s Church in Beacon to support the group, which organizers say was modeled after one formed in Queens “in response to an increasingly hostile climate for immigrants, people of color, Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ people, women and workers.” For more information, visit tiny.cc/hatefreepledge.

At right is Dominique Suddith, a member of Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson and a leader of the Hate Free Zone.

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Beacon on Board with Power Proposal

Council votes to join renewable energy plan

By Jeff Simans

Beacon on Jan. 17 became the first Highlands municipality to agree to join a regional Community Choice Aggregation district, while four other local governments consider the proposal.

Following a public hearing, the Beacon City Council voted to authorize the creation of a CCA which, if enacted, would allow the city to bargain on behalf of its homeowners and small businesses for cheaper and more energy-efficient electricity. The citizen group Renewable Highlands has approached five municipalities it believes, if working together, would have the bargaining power to negotiate for better rates and more environmentally friendly options for residents.

The Beacon vote signals that the city is on board with the creation of a CCA.

The Cold Spring Board of Trustees is expected to discuss the measure on Jan. 24 and Fishkill and Philipstown have scheduled public hearings for Feb. 6 and 8, respectively. Wappingers Falls is weighing the proposal, as well.

If all five municipalities approve the creation of a CCA — which would be the second in New York State, following a Westchester County pilot program — a second round of votes would be required to implement and automatically enroll residents in the program.

CCAs pool electric utility accounts to gain bargaining power in negotiating prices, and individual residents can opt out at any time. If one is enacted in the Highlands, Central Hudson would still provide delivery and billing services; the CCA would only negotiate rates and sourcing.

A handful of residents spoke during the Beacon public hearing, all in favor of the proposal. Cold Spring Trustee Steve Voloto attended the meeting and said afterward that the municipalities have "nothing to lose" by giving the proposal a try.

“All of the members of the [Cold Spring] board and the mayor are interested in moving forward on this," he said. "I don't see why everybody around here would not be interested in it. You can back out any time if you're not happy with how things are progressing.”

Twenty municipalities in Westchester banded together to create the state's first CCA last year, and Renewable Highlands' Jason Angell said that program stands to save its 100,000 participating households and small businesses up to $5 million over the next three years.

In other business:
• Beacon police officers Joseph Conti and Andrew Dewey were promoted to the rank of sergeant.
• Reuben Simmons was named on a provisional basis as the city's highway superintendent, succeeding Anthony “Zep” Thomaselli, who retired. Thomaselli will remain with the department as a part-time consultant.
• The council set a public hearing for Feb. 6 on the proposed update to the city's comprehensive plan.
• The city ratified an agreement with the Beacon Professional Firefighters union, retroactively granting Beacon's 12 paid firefighters salary increases.

Notes from the Haldane School Board

Highlights from Jan. 17 workshop

By Lily Gordon

Reflecting a trend also seen in Putnam County and the nation, Haldane High School students smoke more marijuana and view it as more socially acceptable than they did just two years ago, according to a confidential survey conducted by the Putnam County Youth Bureau, and Kristin McConnell, executive director of the National Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependences/ Putnam, Inc.

While marijuana use has slowly increased among eighth graders to about 8 percent from 2 percent in 2008, no consistent pattern could be discerned among 10th graders, they said. About 20 percent of Haldane sophomores reported smoking marijuana in the 30 days preceding the survey in 2016, compared to 22 percent in 2008. But use went up and down in the succeeding years, from 42 percent in 2010 to 25 percent in 2012 to 38 percent in 2014. Twelfth graders, however, have shown a somewhat steady increase, to 55 percent last year from 38 percent in 2008. More than twice as many Putnam County students reported using marijuana last year than in 2014, a jump from 12 to 25 percent.

"The kids, as do adults, get a mixed message from the media, from parents, from medicine," said DeMarzo. "When we have these focus groups with students, they say, how bad can marijuana be if it’s going to be used for medical purposes?" DeMarzo called tobacco and marijuana "gateway drugs" that affect brain development and lead to serious addictions, and encouraged parents to discuss the risks of marijuana use with their children.

He noted that the survey revealed a significant decrease in tobacco use among high school seniors, although the survey did not ask about electronic cigarettes or vaporizers. The consumption of alcohol among seniors in Putnam County also dropped to 55 percent last year, from 75 percent in 2010. The number of eighth graders who reported recently drinking has remained at about 10 percent since 2008, he said.

In other business:
• Foreign language may be added to the curriculum at Haldane Elementary School in the 2018-19 academic year. In a survey sent to families in December, 80 percent of the 151 respondents said foreign language should be “the highest or a high” priority; 85 percent wanted instruction to start in kindergarten or first grade; and Spanish was the overwhelming language requested, according to Principal Brent Harrington.
• Haldane will see a slight increase in its rollover budget, the amount of money the district requires to continue with “exactly what we have this year for next year and if we weren’t to add anything or take anything away,” said Superintendent Diana Bowers. Compared to a final budget of $23,098,874 for the current year, the estimated rollover budget for 2017-18 will be $23,583,635, an increase of 2.1 percent. These increases are mostly tied to an increase in health insurance premiums for faculty. “Our reserves are healthy at this point, but there is conversation about using them for buildings and grounds needs in the upcoming year,” said Anne Dinio, Haldane’s business manager.
• Jean Cendal, an elementary school art teacher, will retire on June 22 after 42 years with the district.
• The next Haldane Athletics Code of Conduct meeting is at 7 p.m. on Jan. 26. One possible item of discussion is whether to introduce drug testing to Haldane sports teams, Bowers said.

TU BISH’VAT

Please join us in honoring the environment at a Seder celebrating the festival of the trees.

on

Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 2:30 to 4:30.

Service will include a meal of fruits & nuts.

St. Mary’s Parish Hall, corner Rtes 9D & 301, Cold Spring

Donations for Philipstown Food Pantry received at all services.

ALL ARE WELCOME - FREE OF CHARGE

Donations welcomed

845-265-8011 or philipstownreformsynagogue@gmail.com

RSVP appreciated

www.philipstownreformsynagogue.org
Cold Spring Considers Doubling Speed Limit to 30 mph *(from Page 1)*

lower speed limit in Cold Spring, a historic village heavily visited by tourists and with many pedestrians.

Other proposed traffic changes include:

- Banning parking on the east side of Fishkill Avenue for 25 feet from Mountain Avenue; on the east side of Garden Street for 50 feet from Main Street; on the east side of Chestnut Street for 20 feet south of Main Street; and on the south side of Mountain Avenue for 25 feet from Cedar Street.
- Prohibiting parking on the east side of Morris Avenue for 50 feet from Main Street and on the south side of Main Street for 50 feet from Morris Avenue (alongside and across from Whistling Willie’s restaurant, respectively).
- Forbidding U-turns on Main Street.
- Setting fines of $45, $90 and $100, respectively, for first, second and third offenses of parking in a restricted area.

Firehouse roof

The board began discussions of the condition of the Cold Spring firehouse roof and replacement of the air conditioning (HVC) system, which fire company members described as necessary for cooling firefighters after action on a hot day and for the firehouse’s large meeting room to serve as an emergency public shelter.

The leaking “is just constant,” Cold Spring Fire Company President Matt Steltz told the board. Chief Steve Smith said one contractor estimated reroofing would cost $80,000.

Voloto observed that roof repairs must precede the HVAC, although it may be possible to repair the roof area containing the HVAC units and fix the rest of the roof later. The village owns the firehouse and thus the roof problems damage a village asset, he said.

Nelsonville Voters to Decide on 5-Person Board

Plus, Philipstown scraps Fair Street sidewalk

By Liz Schevchuk Armstrong

Nelsonville decided Jan. 17 to let voters decide whether to add two trustees to its three-person board.

Mayor Tom Corless and Trustees Danielle Pack McCarthy and Thomas Robertson unanimously agreed to hold a public hearing on Feb. 21 on the proposal, and barring unexpected opposition, add the measure to the March 21 village ballot.

Robertson said a five-person board would provide both more personnel to handle village business and avoid open-meeting-law questions if two board members talk informally. “We’re very limited by what we can do with a three-member board,” he said.

If a majority of voters concurs, two additional trustees would be selected in the 2018 election, with one serving a one-year term and the other for two years. Starting in 2019, all trustee terms would be two years. Two of the three positions, now held by Corless and McCarthy, will be on the March 21 ballot.

Ian MacDonald, an attorney for the village, noted that Nelsonville once had a five-person board. “It’s not clear exactly what happened,” he said, but “it went to two trustees and a mayor without any explanation.”

According to The Sesquicentennial Anniversary of Nelsonville, published in 2005, the village government consisted of a president (not mayor) and four trustees after Nelsonville was incorporated in 1855.

Robertson told The Current on Jan. 18 that the minutes of a board meeting on March 2, 1898, named four trustees. But when the board convened again less than three weeks later, it had only two trustees and a president. The minutes of that later meeting referred to a “new village law,” although no record of it has been found.

Philipstown

The Philipstown Town Board at its Jan. 5 meeting rejected all bids from contractors for an extension of the sidewalk on Fair Street to run near the Hudson River from the edge of Cold Spring to Little Stony Point, dovetailing with the pending Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

Supervisor Richard Shea said the $100,000 the town received in state funding for the project fell far short of the lowest bid, which was $211,000. “At this point, it’s not going to happen unless we come up with some other money,” he said.

“It’s definitely a good idea, but it just got really complicated.”

Also on Jan. 5, the board heard from residents on the need for a fire sprinkler system in the county senior center planned for the Lahey Pavilion at the Butterfield redevelopment complex.

Lynda Ann Ewen, recently elected president of the Philipstown Senior Club, urged the board to encourage county legislators to equip the center with a sprinkler system and termed the lack of one “absolutely unacceptable.” Plans for the senior center specify a fire-suppression system in the kitchen but no overhead sprinklers in other areas frequented by up to 100 seniors, including the frail and wheelchair-bound, she said.

Ewen said she fears the county feels sprinklers are too expensive and intends to only meet minimum code requirements. “Our seniors are very upset,” she said.

However, Frank Keenan, retired founder and owner of Pidala Electric, disagreed on the need for sprinklers. He recommended a smoke-detector system as a better choice because sprinklers can be erratic, spraying water, making floors slippery and causing panic. Insurers often “think there’s more liability from the sprinkler system than from a fire,” Keenan argued. He advised the community to defer to experts “and not throw inexperienced people’s opinions out there and slow the project down.”

Board members John Van Tassel and Robert Flaherty, both volunteer firefighters, favored sprinklers, although Flaherty echoed the concerns about slippery floors and, like Keenan, saw merit in consulting experts. Van Tassel said that, at least for residential use, sprinkler systems “are so inexpensive to install.”

Shea said “it runs counter to common sense” to not provide sprinklers. But board member Nancy Montgomery said the fact that the code does not mandate a sprinkler system “indicates there is a reason it’s not needed.” She, too, preferred smoke detectors. “It’s more efficient and probably keeps people safer,” she said.

Cheaper electricity

At a workshop on Jan. 8, the board scheduled a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 at Town Hall (238 Main St., Cold Spring) for discussion of a draft law permitting the town to participate in a community choice aggregation (CCA) program to help municipalities obtain lower electrical rates and renewable energy sources for residents.
PCB pollution is found all over the world. In the Hudson and other rivers, the pollutant settles into the sediment, where it is eaten by small organisms and fish and passed to humans who eat the fish. PCBs accumulate in fat and in organs such as the liver.

PCBs pose special risks for younger women because they can be passed from a mother to her unborn child or through breast milk and have been associated with preterm delivery, low birth weight and learning defects.

Under state guidelines, children and teenagers under the age of 15, and women under the age of 50, should not eat any fish or crab caught from the lower Hudson. Men over the age of 15 can eat certain species sparingly, usually not more than 8 ounces a month. The DEC also advises anglers to cut away and discard the fattest sections of fish, or at least cook on grills so that excess fat drips away.

But the new reports found that forbidden species such as catfish continue to be caught in the river for meals and are usually fried. In a Scenic Hudson/Sierra Club survey, a third of fishermen said they ate more river fish than the guidelines. Eleven percent of the anglers interviewed by the Department of Health reported eating river fish daily.

Both surveys showed that the majority of “subsistence” anglers on the Hudson are African-American and Latino men, although language barriers prevented the researchers from accurately surveying Asian anglers who congregate at spots along the Hudson in large numbers.

Although the EPA has not ruled on whether GE must continue the cleanup, the state agencies and environmental groups hope their reports lead to the company being ordered back to work.

“The new reports found that forbidden species such as catfish continue to be caught in the river for meals and are usually fried. In a Scenic Hudson/Sierra Club survey, a third of fishermen said they ate more river fish than the guidelines. Eleven percent of the anglers interviewed by the Department of Health reported eating river fish daily.

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The Putnam History Museum invites you to stop by the Desmond-Fish Library to view Haldane and Garrison 7th grade projects for the annual Jean Saunders History Contest. Over 75 students participated in the contest this year, either working individually or with a partner.

Projects are currently available for public viewing at Desmond-Fish Library during regular library hours until Sunday, January 22. Project topics this year include the West Point Foundry, Bannerman’s Island, and the Parrott Cannon.

Contest winners will be announced at the Saunders Contest awards ceremony and reception on Monday, January 23 at 6:30pm at Desmond-Fish Library. The snow-date will be Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30pm.

Desmond Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403, Garrison, NY. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel at 845-265-4010, ext. 10 or at rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org. Please visit www.putnamhistorymuseum.org for more information about the Jean Saunders History Contest and other PHM events.
Spy vs. Spy
By Kimberly Hiss

In 1996 MAD magazine called Peter Kuper with a proposal: Would he like to take over the wordless Spy vs. Spy strip, in which Black Spy and White Spy battle it out in escalating spats of creative cartoon violence?

The illustrator had done a wordless graphic novel and was drawing a weekly wordless strip. Apparently MAD felt that made him a candidate to draw its franchise, which was created in 1961 by Cuban expatriate Antonio Prohías.

Kuper, who has a home in Cold Spring, almost said no. He was busy with his own projects and reluctant to step into another artist’s shoes. He decided to submit a sample created with his signature stencils and spray paint, figuring MAD would pass. To his surprise, the editors loved it, and he found the pointy shoes of Spy vs. Spy to be a perfect fit. The strip had a great impact on him growing up, he says, and likely steered him toward creating his own silent comics.

He no longer uses spray paint and stencils, preferring the less-toxic tools of pen and ink. Over the past 20 years he has taken the spies in surreal directions, reinventing them as cavemen, old fogies and helicopter shapes. He says he finds inspiration for their twisted and deadly battles in the news.

“The whole point of the strip is that when it comes to destruction there are losers and bigger losers,” he says. While Prohías was inspired by the Cold War, Kuper says he felt he was addressing the “Lukewarm War.” But the influence of Russian spies on the U.S. election may mean the battle of wills has “come to a boil again,” he says. In the latest Spy vs. Spy, White Spy hacks into Black Spy’s computer, but Black Spy has his revenge.

Cleveland roots

Twelve-year-old Peter Kuper in 1970s Cleveland would have been thrilled to know he’d grow up to be 58-year-old Peter Kuper in New York today. As a middle-schooler he was so obsessed with comics — first superheroes and later underground publications — that he and a friend would trek to conventions in Detroit and New York, where they would interview their heroes, such as the publisher of MAD for a fanzine.

After a childhood that was also rich in international experiences (his professor father took the family to live in Israel for a year) and activism (he marched against the Vietnam war with his parents), Kuper stared down his high school graduation with a sense of panic. Art ultimately led the way, and in 1977 he ended up in New York City after an animator there offered him a job.

Unfortunately, Kuper’s would-be boss claimed to have no idea who he was. “I actually sat on the street and did drawings of what people would look like as animals,” he remembers from the comfort of his sun-filled Cold Spring living room. “I had a year of just trying to get work in New York.”

“Failure is a huge factor as an artist,” says Kuper, who teaches illustration at the School of Visual Arts and Harvard. “I tell my students your ability to deal with failure will determine your ability to stick around.”

He managed to land a job inking Richie Rich comics, then attended Pratt Institute while doing part-time illustration work. Eventually he was able to draw for a living, including for publications such as The New York Times Book Review.

A new direction

While Kuper felt fortunate to be a working illustrator, the projects he was given didn’t satisfy his interest in social and political commentary. The first Iraq war prompted him to look for assignments that mattered to him.

As a result, “there was a big dip in the work I was getting,” he says, “but I started to climb out and next thing I knew I was doing covers for Time.” He also did illustrations for The New York Times, Newsweek, Mother Jones, The Nation and Progressive. And he and his childhood fanzine co-editor launched World War 3 Illustrated, an annual anthology of illustrations and comic art.

Kuper began publishing graphic novels, as well, including The System, Sticks and Stones (which won a Society of Illustrators’ gold medal) and adaptations of classics such as Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle and Franz Kafka’s Metamorphosis.

“I’m a cruel taskmaster,” Kuper says of his schedule. “I should strike and drive myself out of business because I got the work-seven-days-a-week bug.”

To Mexico

Kuper met his wife, Betty, in 1984 during a trip to Spain. They lived in Manhattan but, “needing some green,” she persuaded him to rent a place in Cold Spring for the summer. “I thought, Hey this is fantastic!” Kuper recalls.

In 2006 the couple decided to move with their young daughter to Oaxaca, Mexico, for two years. As expected, the experience was eye-opening — including a first-hand perspective of a local teacher’s
FRIDAY, JAN. 20

Minecraft Mania (grades 3+)
6:30 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library  |  10 Morris Ave., Beacon
Cold Spring  |  845-838-3040  |  butterfieldlibrary.org

Open-Mic Night
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  |  477 Main St., Beacon
9 a.m. Beacon High School  |  101 Matteawan Road,
Beacon Bulldogs Wrestling Tournament
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
Classic Albums Live
Beacon  |  845-765-3012  |  howlandculturalcenter.org

Women’s March
9 a.m. Walkway over the Hudson
61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie
facebook.com/POKwomensmarch

Army Sports
11 a.m. Women’s Basketball vs. American
1:30 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs. American
Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526  |  goarmywestpoint.com

Celebration of Winter
1 – 4 p.m. Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane, Cold Spring
845-938-2526  |  goarmywestpoint.com

Upcycle Art Studio for Teens
11 a.m. Howland Public Library  |  313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134  |  beaconlibrary.org

Secret Ballot
Monday night, Beacon High School
See details under Saturday.

Nature Myths and Stories
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506  |  hnhnamuseum.org

Winter Walk
10 a.m. Beacon Train Station
845-264-2270  |  midhudsonADK.org

Philipspsotn Garden Club: Peonies
2 p.m. Garrison Fire House
845-938-2526  |  goarmywestpoint.com

Fei-Fei Dong (Pianist)
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  |  Details under Friday.

SUNDAY, JAN. 22

MLK Jazz Celebration
5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220  |  presbychurchcoldspring.org

Nature Myths and Stories
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506  |  hnhnamuseum.org

Wine Tasting and Catalogue Sale
4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-938-6900  |  beaconcityk12.org

Beacon School Board Meeting
7 p.m. Beacon High School  |  101 Matteawan Road,
Beacon  |  845-838-6900  |  beaconcityk12.org

Howland Public Library
9:45 a.m. Come and Play (ages 0-3)
11 a.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
See details under Saturday.

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11 a.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
See details under Saturday.

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11 a.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
See details under Saturday.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25

MLK Jazz Celebration
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  |  472 Route 403,
Garrison  |  845-265-4010  |  desmondfishlibrary.org

Beacon School Board Meeting
1 p.m. Beacon High School  |  101 Matteawan Road,
Beacon  |  845-838-6900  |  beaconcityk12.org

Howland Public Library
9:45 a.m. Come and Play (ages 0-3)
11 a.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
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Twins in Tune

Brothers share one voice

By Michael Turton

Jeff and Chris Toland have a lot in common, beginning with their birthday 58 years ago. “I’m three minutes older,” Chris boasts. But an incident from college reveals one of the most cherished aspects of the brothers’ shared lives: music.

In the late 1970s, while Jeff was attending SUNY Fredonia and Chris was at SUNY Potsdam, they returned home for the holidays and discovered that during the same week they had each independently purchased identical mahogany-colored Guild M-25 acoustic guitars. “When we brought our guitars out to show them off, we just looked at each other and said ‘What the hell?,’” Chris recalls.

Music had been a focal point for the brothers since childhood and now, after a lengthy sabbatical, they are again creating and performing together. They’re also living under the same roof in twin (but not identical) apartments in a three-story, turreted, early 19th-century home where they are restoring on Schenck Avenue in Beacon.

“My dad taught me to play the ukulele when I was six and I was off to the races,” Chris recalls. Jeff took a different path, joining the chorus in grade school. “I was in all the plays and musicals,” he said. “But I was also playing guitar by ninth grade.”

During the 1980s and 1990s the Tolands played in a New York City band fronted by their older brother, Michael. That collaboration ended when Michael moved to California and Chris returned to Long Island, where the brothers grew up. “Somehow I became a contractor,” says Jeff, who owns Toland Construction in Philipstown, quickly adding, “but music is my passion.”

According to Chris, their voices mirror each other as closely as their looks. “As twins, our voices are very similar,” he said. “And we’ve been harmonizing since we were eight years old.”

The brothers occasionally add a second layer of twinned harmonies to their performance — those of Jeff’s 17-year-old fraternal twin daughters, Laura and Tess Toland. “Their voices are completely aligned and so are ours,” Jeff says of their four-part harmony.

For Chris, music is his livelihood. With degrees in composition and teaching, he composes, produces and teaches. He attended the same high school as Mariah Carey and worked as a producer on her first album. He now advises aspiring musicians, offering guidance on everything from how to hire a lawyer to negotiating a record deal. He moved to Beacon to work with his brother on the home on Schenck, which will include a recording studio.

The Toland Brothers played in Cold Spring’s Summer Sunset Music Series last year and after an open-mic at the Towne Crier were invited to open there for the Cleverly Brothers. They are on the lookout for more local gigs.

The Toland Brothers in their Beacon studio

Chris and Jeff Toland in their Beacon studio

The Toland Brothers played in Cold Spring’s Summer Sunset Music Series last year and after an open-mic at the Towne Crier were invited to open there for the Cleverly Brothers. They are on the lookout for more local gigs.

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The harmony goes beyond vocals. The brothers say they have similar tastes in music, citing influences from Stevie Wonder and Steely Dan to Alan Holdsworth and Igor Stravinsky. “We work well together and are very aligned emotionally in writing lyrics,” Jeff says. While they write as a team, Chris handles the arrangements.

If there is one area where the brothers diverge it may be in how they view technology. Chris embraced it immediately; Jeff insists LPs provide better fidelity. A CD with their original work should be ready by year-end. “This is an amazing opportunity with Chris moving to Beacon,” Jeff says. “It is a wonderful moment in time when we get to work together.”

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Jan 28–Feb 26, 2017 Opening Reception: Jan 28, 5–7pm

TIM Rowan

Clay Fire and Ash
Ceramic Sculptures

Untitled #1210 by Tim Rowan

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garrisonartcenter.org 845.424.3960

Image 614x100 to 773x254
Image 411x285 to 570x502
Image 36x37 to 398x266
Image 224x271 to 398x502
Image 287x662 to 775x964

January 20, 2017
Night Kitchens

Top row, a rainy January night at the Red Line Diner on Route 9; Kennedy Fried Chicken on Main Street in Beacon.

Middle row, the deli counter stays open late at Appalachian Market in Garrison; BJ’s Restaurant on Main Street in Beacon; a night kitchen serving Mediterranean fare.

Bottom row, at right, hostesses at Maya Cafe in Fishkill; far right, the remodeled I-84 diner serves all-American standards plus Greek specialties.

Text and photos by Anita Peltonen
We do not live on a grid. Winding crossroads and small main streets define most of Philipstown. What sidewalks there are tend to roll up well before midnight. A few restaurants, delis and drinking joints stay open late, but they’re few and far between in Putnam County.

Up in Dutchess, in the city of Beacon, more lights stay on until late: BBQ and fried chicken places on Main St.; the Yankee Clipper Diner. Route 9 and Interstate 84 weave through northern Putnam and southern Dutchess Counties, bringing truck traffic to neon-lit diners also favored by locals. They are just outside of Beacon, in neighboring Fishkill.

The cool-green I-84 diner, at the edge of the highway at Route 52, is open 24/7, with "All Baking Done on Premises," since 1977. The newer Red Line, on Route 9, is a "Mad Men" version of the classic American diner.

There are those for whom these night kitchens are essential. Exhausted emergency workers, workers ending odd shifts who need dinner at 3 a.m., drunk members of wedding parties who still want to drink or eat. Waiters and hosts rouse themselves from staff meals to serve them all.

Finally, some just want not to eat alone. The elderly. Sleepless parents of dozing infants. Others come to parse out their insomnia drinking someone else's coffee.

This, too, is nightlife.
Chivalry is Alive and Kicking

Center launches class to teach boys martial arts and respect
by Alison Rooney

The martial arts, says Brad Teasdale, has taught him as much as the liberal arts. The Garrison resident has launched a six-part series at SkyBaby Yoga in Cold Spring called “Chivalry and the Martial Arts” that focuses on physical training as well as respect for one’s opponent. The classes are being given in tandem with two series of classes for teen girls and are offered on a pay-what-you-can basis.

“I’m trying to root these martial principles within our own culture, in a meaningful context where chivalry is a code of honor, a place for self-discipline and respect,” explains Teasdale, who in 2005 received his third-degree black belt in Southern Black Tiger Kung Fu under Sifu Cecil Jordan and Grandmaster Leung Shum.

The series, Teasdale says, “introduces the code of ethics and the basics of martial arts that have been taught to young men throughout the ages. We’ll learn the ways of the classical heroes of myth and legend while practicing fundamental techniques of martial arts, including basic self-defense and stance training.”

Teasdale hopes to mine the attraction many teen boys have for video games and role playing. “Martial arts are military arts,” he says. “The type of kung fu I’ve studied began on the battlefields of Northern China over 1,500 years ago. It’s a wonderfully rich, ancient system of martial arts — the oldest and most intact system of martial arts we have.

“But the system is only as good as the practitioner. In times of peace we practice the martial arts in different ways. There’s a saying, ‘it’s better to be a warrior in the garden than a gardener at war.’ It’s about respect for oneself and for one’s opponent, and finding beauty in the struggle. The ideal way to defeat one’s opponent is through skill, and there’s a code of honor used in refining one’s skills.”

The classes begin with 20 minutes of a cardio warm-up accompanied by “teaching stories, ideas and philosophies — no lectures,” followed by 20 minutes of training that includes stances necessary for balance, strength and movement, and basic self-defense. The sessions conclude with 20 minutes of cool down, which Teasdale considers as important as warm-up.

Teasdale, who is the lead massage therapist and trainer for the Manhattan club Soho House, says he wants to give his pupils “a taste of what I call ‘living magic,’ which is like a live-wire energy, and maybe it will plant a seed. Hopefully some will wind up finding it more attractive than sitting and playing video games.”

Although the series began Jan. 19, participants are welcome to join through and including the Feb. 2 session. All sessions take place on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Sign-ups are done online at skybabyyoga.com and the cost is $30 to $120 for all the sessions. Yoga for teen girls takes place at 3:30 p.m. on Fridays and Pilates for teen girls at 6:30 p.m. on Sundays. Enrollment is ongoing for those classes. SkyBaby is located at 75 Main St., Cold Spring.

Crash Course (from Page 9)

strike — but their return to New York coincided with the economic collapse of 2008, which was “particularly devastating because the whole [magazine] industry shifted,” he says.

With fewer assignments, he threw himself into a graphic novel, Ruins, a fictionalized account that weaves the migration of the Monarch butterfly with the couple’s experiences in Mexico. In 2016 it was awarded the Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album.

Today Kuper contributes cartoons to The New Yorker, has started an adaption of a Kafka tale called Before the Law, helped publish a climate-change issue of The New Yorker and continues to draw Spy vs. Spy, which appears in every other issue of MAD.

“I’m restless as an artist,” he says. “That includes what I want to write about. I’ll do something funny, then heavy, then a book with tons of words, then a book that’s wordless. My trajectory seems to be a much longer arc, but if you look back from 1980 until now you could see styles that come back around. I’d like to think there’s a unifying perspective, but that’s up to a reader to decide.”
Stopgap Services for Those in Need
Partnership offers programs to combat poverty

By Alison Rooney

The people who run the Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County are well known to police and fire officials, which is a good thing. “When they go out on a call they can’t provide follow-up to a family, but we can,” said Elizabeth Spira, who is chief executive of the organization, based in Poughkeepsie. “What they can do is tell them ‘someone from CAP will call you and help you get help.’ The police and firefighters see the conditions people are living in and it can be hard for them because they have no recourse, so it’s nice for them to feel they’re connected. Many say no the first time, but we don’t get discouraged because they often come around. It can be hard to reveal things to a stranger, but we try to convince them that it’s worthwhile to review your options.”

The nonprofit’s mission is to improve the lives of Dutchess residents who live in poverty. It has five sites in the county, including in Beacon. The program is funded in part by a federal Community Services Block Grant distributed through the Department of Health and Human Services. “We operate programs that will help families spend less or earn more,” said Spira. “The goal is to make them more self-sufficient. Our managers allow clients to ‘own it’ because it becomes much more precious to them than it would receiving a handout. We do have emergency services, but we then want to make sure they have other things in place.”

She added: “There’s a fine line between where financial assistance plugs a hole in a dam, but doesn’t solve the problem causing that hole. For example, when someone is behind on rent, we can pay one month but also call the landlord to work out a payment plan after that.”

The national Community Action Partnership network was established in 1964 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s “war on poverty” initiative. Each state is given money to manage and distribute, and New York has established a CAP agency in nearly every county. (Putnam County residents are served by the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, which is based in White Plains and administers about 25 programs.)

The federal money is “not the beginning and end of funding but it’s the cornerstone,” Spira said. Assistance is tailored to the specific needs of the area being served. For example, in Beacon, the Office for the Aging administers an outreach program for homebound seniors and transportation to the local friendship center as well as a regular Wednesday shopping trip. Appointments are preferred at CAP’s Beacon office, located at 10 Eliza St., but the office also handle emergencies. “If critical, we don’t turn people away,” Spira said. Case managers interview clients and help determine which services are appropriate, as each program has its own income requirements. They can also provide referrals to other agencies, such as the Department of Social Services. Case managers are trained to provide “wraparound care” in which more than one funding source can be utilized. They also share information with each other so “each advisor at any of the centers knows the client’s story and the client doesn’t have to tell it 15 times over again,” Spira said. “Sometimes a client just needs a partner who can help them. A conversation with a client advocate can help them push the door a bit harder. We have very committed people and a very organized program.”

For more information, visit dutchesscap.org or call the Beacon office at 845-831-2620. For the Westchester/Putnam office, visit westcopy.org or call 914-592-5600.
Jazz Concert to Honor King
First Presbyterian series continues Jan. 21

The First Presbyterian Church of Phillipstown is hosting a celebration of the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at its monthly Jazz Vespers on Saturday, Jan. 21. The concert begins at 5:30 p.m. Gospel singer Rene Bailey joins Tom McCoy on piano, Mike Larecco on drums, Lew Scott on bass, Ed Xiques on saxophone and Gareth Guest on clarinet. The service features jazz, congregational singing and reflections on King. The event is free but donations are welcome. The church is located at 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring.

Desmond-Fish Workshops
Specialists will speak on essential oils, stews, clutter

The Garrison library has three upcoming workshops planned. On Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 1:30 p.m. Jen Rambala, a wellness educator, will present “Essential Oils 101.” She will cover how to boost health, manage stress and use oils for ailments such as diaper rash and cuts and scrapes. The talk is free.

On Thursday, Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m., Culinary Institute-trained chef Rebecca Weber will demonstrate how to make soups and stews to warm up chilly nights. A $10 donation is requested to cover supplies.

On Sunday, Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. professional organizer Madeleine DeNitto and clinical psychologist Susan Carroll Berck present a free program called “The Emotions of Clutter.” They’ll discuss why many people are attached to objects and exercises for how to get organized.

Valentines for Veterans
Cards will be shared with thanks

For the third year, U.S. Rep. Sean Money is asking constituents to create Valentine’s Day cards to thank veterans for their service. Cards dropped off by Feb. 10 or mailed to his district office (123 Grand St., Second Floor, Newburgh, NY 12550) will be delivered to the VA Hudson Valley Health Care Facility at Castle Point. Schools are encouraged to sign up. For more information, call 845-561-1259.

Collage Show at Garrison Art Center
Graphic designer uses found objects

A new exhibit by Ivan Chermayeff, Transparencies, opens on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Garrison Art Center on Garrison’s Landing with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. It is the third show at the center by the graphic designer, who designed logos for the Museum of Modern Art, Pan American airlines and Showtime. The show features collages made with materials found on city streets such as postcards and letters. It will be on view through Feb. 26. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday.

Pumpkin on the Menu
Restaurants will feature flavorful variety

Last year Glynwood launched a program with 11 Hudson Valley farms to grow the Long Island cheese pumpkin, a flavorful cultivar with a long history in the U.S. From Jan. 23 through Feb. 6, menu items featuring the pumpkin will appear at Hudson Valley restaurants, including The Roundhouse in Beacon, as part of Glynwood’s Kitchen Cultivars brand. For a full list of participating restaurants, see glynwood.org.

Bird Exhibit Opening
Focuses on local species

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will open a new interactive exhibit, Birds on the Wing, from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28. Curated by Wildlife Education Center Manager Emily Nesterode, the exhibit explores the world of birds and will help visitors learn more about local species. The opening weekend features a bird craft and an opportunity to meet some of the birds that call the museum home. Admission, including snacks, is $3 for non-members and free for members. See hhnm.org.

Get Creative in 2017
Life coach to offer workshops

Life coach Robin Hutchinson is leading a series of workshops for anyone who wants to start or finish an artistic or literary project. She says a group setting is ideal for local ideas and getting motivated. A four-part series begins at the Butterfield Library in
Cold Spring on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. The workshops are free but registration is required. Call 834-265-3040.

Trivia Night Fundraiser
Haldane School Foundation event is Jan. 27

The Haldane School Foundation will hold a fundraiser Trivia Night on Friday, Jan. 27 at 8 p.m. The event is for adults and teams of 8 to 10 people can participate. The $45 ticket includes chili and beer and wine. There will also be a raffle and prizes. The event will be held at St. Mary’s Parish Hall in Cold Spring. To purchase tickets, visit haldaneschoolfoundation.org.

Beacon
More Women’s Marches
Rallies in Beacon and Poughkeepsie

Although the largest women’s marches on Saturday, Jan. 21, will be in Washington, D.C., and New York City (see “Topping Off Women’s Marches,” Jan. 13), more than 600 “sister marches” are planned across the county, including in Beacon at 2 p.m. at Polhill Park. Organizers encourage participants to bring signs expressing their concerns with the new presidential administration. For more details, call 845-838-2415.

Earlier in the day, at 9 a.m., there will be a rally and march from the Poughkeepsie entrance to the Walkway Over the Hudson. Volunteer organizers for the nonpartisan event encourage participants to bring positive signs and banners. See actionnetwork.org/events/poughkeepsiewomens-march-across-the-hudson.

College Open House
Mount Saint Mary to host Jan. 29

Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh will host an open house for high school students on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Academic advisors and counselors will be available to talk with prospective students about their plans, applications and transferring credits.

The Mount offers bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in healthcare, business, education, social services and communications/media and launched a criminology major last year. See msmc.edu. The campus is located at 330 Powell Ave.

Free Tax Help
Volunteers will assist with filing

Last year a coalition of nonprofit groups helped more than 7,000 Dutchess and Orange county residents complete their tax returns. Free tax help is again available starting Feb. 1 for low- and moderate-income residents. Volunteers from the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program will be on hand at a number of sites, including two in Beacon. AARP membership is not required.

Appointments can be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 800-889-1479 daily between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. To volunteer as a Tax Aide, see aarp.org/tax帮助/aarp_taxaide.

Indian Point Documentary to be Shown
Director will speak after screening

In a moment when the nuclear power plant is making headlines, Indian Point, a documentary by Cold Spring resident Ivy Meeropol, will be shown at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27 at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon. The screening is free, although donations are welcome. Meeropol will be the guest speaker following the film.

The Movies That Matter Beacon series, sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, the Beacon Peace Awards Foundation, the Beacon Independent Film Festival, Southern Dutchess NAACP and Connie Hogarth Center for Social Action, takes place on the last Friday of each month. See moviesthatmatterbeacon.org.

Sprout Out Gala
Hudson Valley Seed to hold fundraiser

Hudson Valley Seed is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at 9 Hanna Lane in Beacon to celebrate five years of working with Hudson Valley children and teenagers. The event will include dancing, a live auction and food from Stock Up, Marbled Meat and the Beacon Hotel. Tickets start at $200 and can be purchased at hudsonvalleyseed.org.

Día:Beacon Staff Show Off Talent
Gallery to showcase art by museum workers

On Saturday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 9 p.m., the Matteawan Gallery in Beacon will open an exhibition of artwork by the employees who make Dia:Beacon’s installations and exhibitions happen. The annual show includes work in all mediums and reflects the diverse talents of Dia’s staff. It will be on display through Feb. 11, with a closing reception scheduled for that day from 6 to 9 p.m. The gallery is open on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. See matteawan.com.

Support Groups
For a full list of area support groups, visit: highlandscurrent.com/sg

A view from Indian Point, from a documentary on the plant by Ivy Meeropol

A view from inside Indian Point, from a documentary on the plant by Ivy Meeropol

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**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**Share Your News With Our Readers**
Share news and announcements with the readers of The Highlands Current. To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to:

*calendar@highlandscurrent.com*

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Beacon Defeats Sleepy Hollow, Henry Hudson for First “Wins”

After forfeiting first seven victories, Bulldogs improve to 2-11

By Leigh Alan Klein

The Beacon boys’ basketball team walked into the well-lit, cardinal-red Sleepy Hollow gym on Jan. 13 with 37 minutes on the game clock, dressed in their game shorts and white with navy long sleeve shooting shirts donning Beacon on the front and the player’s number on the back, high up on the center of the neck.

This would be the Bulldogs’ first opportunity on the court to salvage a season that had seven victories taken away on Jan. 9 due to a senior who had been found to be academically ineligible in a snafu that school officials admitted was the district’s fault. He had scored 22 points in their last victory, over Spackenkill, but now sat in the front and the player’s number on the back, high up on the center of the neck.

This was the first game of a season that started 0-7 for the Bulldogs, including a pair of three pointers. The Bulldogs defended in a packed 2-3 zone.

Brandon Evans made back-to-back lay-ups and was fouled on the second for a three-point play that cut the lead to 44-42 at the end of the third quarter.

“In the second quarter, Sleepy Hollow exploited the interior of the Beacon defense with strong drives and by attacking the glass. The Dutchmen lead swelled to 36-21 and it looked as if Beacon was ready to return to their bus. Sleepy Hollow extended its lead, pressuring the Beacon guards above the three-point line.”

But Beacon rallied. Late in the quarter, Galloway looked unstoppable, scoring the last six points to cut the lead to 10 going into the half.

“Our players have great speed and are ball hawks,” said Timpano. “If they stay locked in, with active feet, we can get turnovers.”

In the first half, Sleepy Hollow led by eight with 25.9 seconds remaining. McKenzie stole a pass and was fouled on the second for a free throw and Galloway converted a three empty Beacon trips with Evans trying to do too much before Sleepy Hollow closed the three to force overtime.

The gym erupted, the Sleepy Hollow bench celebrated and the Bulldogs stumbled over to the bench. But sparked by McKenzie and Evans, the Bulldogs pulled down the second for a three-point play that cut the lead to 44-42 at the end of the third quarter.

“He has a deceptive first step attacking the crease of the zone. He has a lot of lift, he’s electric to the basket and he helps us on the glass. He’s a phenomenal addition to the team.”

In the fourth quarter, the Bulldogs adjusted their zone to a 1-2-2, which gave them better coverage on the perimeter and protected the middle of the lane. Za-

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A Cheesy Nursery Rhyme

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuffet
Eating her curds and whey...

How much cheese does the United States produce each year?

(26 - 17) billion pounds.

How much milk will a Jersey cow produce in one day?

(35 - 29) gallons.

Finch

Cheesy Math

Sponsored by The Gift Hut

How much milk will a Holstein cow produce in one day?

(350 + 350) gallons.

Write On!

Cheese Moon

What would happen if the moon were made of cheese? Write a silly story about astronauts exploring a cheesy moon!
Haldane Girls Fall To Briarcliff, 66-61
Coach hopes Class B battles
prep team for tournament
By Leigh Alan Klein

Last year's Class C regional semifinal defeat to Pine Plains made an impact on Haldane girls' basketball coach Tyrone Searight, who felt that for the Blue Devils to advance to Glens Falls in 2017 they would need to be ready for tough competition.

With that goal in mind, he upgraded Haldane's 2016-17 schedule to include more Class B schools. After losing to Irvington early, the team has notched wins against Valhalla, Westlake and Pleasantville. The most recent test of Searight's strategy was on Jan. 17 in a visit to Briarcliff High School, which had lost only one game this season.

From the onset, Searight's strategy seemed clear; force the Bears up-tempo to utilize Haldane's advantage in quickness and depth. Haldane is at its best swarming the basketball and creating fast breaks.

Briarcliff features a talented nucleus led by sophomore guard Maddie Plank, who was named seventh team Class B All-State last season. She is the focus of the offense and Haldane did its best to challenge her.

At the onset, Briarcliff sliced through Haldane's pressure and capitalized on strong drives to the basket. Often the Bears would get multiple rebounds attacking the undersized Haldane squad on the glass. "We have been stressing all year as a small team that we must get physical and box out for us to advance to where we want to go," Searight said.

Briarcliff took a 14-9 lead after Plank hit a three but Hannah Monteleone of the Blue Devils answered with a three of her own. At the end of the first, Briarcliff was up 21-15.

Briarcliff continued to dominate inside but Alzy Cinquanta caught fire and scored eight straight points to tighten the game. Haldane's defensive pressure forced several errors before Chiera scored on a lay-up to give Haldane its first lead, 34-33. The half ended with the teams tied at 35.

In the third, Chiera was effective scoring in the lane, scoring on lay-ups off a screen. When Searight rested his core three for a moment, Plank took advantage, nailing a three. Cinquanta made a reverse lay-up but Plank hit another three. Missy Lisikatos made a strong drive to the basket, drew a foul and converted both free throws, for a final score of 66-61. Chiera Contento calmly iced the game with two free throws, to make the layup."

I am not taking anything away from what they did, but I thought we outplayed them until the last three minutes," Searight said. "We let it get away from us. We didn't make the right rebound, the right passes, to make the layup."

The Blue Devils (10-3) hosted Putnam Valley on Jan. 19 and next play Friday, Jan. 27 at North Salem.