

The HIGHLANDS Current

JANUARY 27, 2017

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com



Women's March: See P. 19

House Sale Delayed by Colonial-Era Zoning

*Town Board comes to rescue
by giving up 8 feet*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Blame it on the Crown. Using Dutch lanes made from Native American paths, the British government of New York in 1669 created a postal road from Manhattan to Albany. In 1703, the provincial Assembly turned the road into a “common general highway” and extended its right of way 33 feet from the center on both sides.

Early New Yorkers called it the Queen’s Road, after the reigning monarch, Anne. But as George I, George II and George III succeeded Anne and each other, the narrow highway with the wide right of way was recast as the King’s Road, used by mail carriers, travelers and armies in two wars. When the American Revolution ended royal rule, it became the Albany Post Road.

Though its name changed over the years, the 33-foot right of way didn’t — not even when New York State rejected some stretches of the road, including six miles in Philipstown, while incorporating others into Route 9.



Amy Walter of Garrison waited at Hammar skjold Plaza with a group organized by Planned Parenthood to start the Women's March on Jan. 21 in New York City. While the group had registered to be in the first rank of marchers, an influx of unregistered participants delayed the start for nearly three hours. For more march photos, see Page 19.

Photo by Anita Peltonen

Jurisdiction over the unwanted six-mile length devolved to the Town of Philipstown. Thus, the recent discovery that a historic building edged into the 313-year-old right of way became the town’s problem.

It came to light in October when Brett Waszkelewicz and Marissa Shapiro sought to buy a home at 848 Old Albany Post Road, in Garrison, from Robin and

Thomas Whyatt, who had moved to Montana. The house includes a cottage wing, constructed around 1900 as a pump house for a water system on Saunders Farm but later converted to living space. The cottage-pump house extended into the right of way 6.5 feet and the Whyatts found that they could not conclude the sale until they settled the encroachment issue.

So they asked (Continued on Page 7)

Land Trust Buys Granite Mountain

*Pays \$1 million for 358
acres in Putnam Valley*

By Michael Turton

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has purchased three properties totaling 358 acres on Granite Mountain in Putnam Valley for about \$1 million, and intends to turn the area into public parkland.

The parcels include a network of informal trails, which HHLT Executive Director Michelle Smith said need to be improved before being opened to hikers. The site features numerous low stone walls, an indication that the land was likely farmed in the past, she said.

Putnam Valley Town Supervisor Sam Oliverio was effusive about the purchase. “I love the idea of having a functioning conservation park right in the center of town,” he said. “This is a recreational plus for all of our residents and a tremendous environmental coup for Putnam Valley.”

The transaction was funded through a number of sources, said Smith. It marks the first time the Garrison-based group has purchased land outright; it has arranged for conservation easements on

(Continued on Page 18)

New Superintendent in Beacon

*School board hires
administrator from Ithaca*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Board of Education has hired a school administrator from Ithaca as the district’s new superintendent and was expected to announce the appointment at its Jan. 26 meeting.

Matthew Landahl, a deputy superintendent for the Ithaca City School District, is expected to begin on July 1. The details of his appointment had not been released by press time, but he earned \$150,000 annually in Ithaca.

Landahl, whose mother was an elementary school teacher in Chicago for 30 years, earned a degree in history from Grinnell College before joining

Teach for America. He was assigned to teach fourth- and fifth-grade students in Baltimore and led a summer program during his five years there.

He next moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, where he was an elementary school principal while pursuing his master’s and doctorate in education administration and supervision at the University of Virginia. He earned his doctorate in 2012.

Landahl and his family moved from Virginia to Ithaca in 2013 when he was hired as the district’s chief elementary schools officer. In 2014 he became its chief academic officer.

Following the contentious resignation of Barbara Walkley a year ago, the Beacon school board in August hired the search firm, Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA) to recruit candidates. HYA organized (Continued on Page 3)

Are You Kidding Me?



Haldane Coach Joe Virgadamo reacts as he watches his boys’ varsity basketball squad battle Putnam Valley on Jan. 18. More sports on Page 20.

Photos by Richard Kuperberg Sr.

Family Trails

Why I Love Genealogy

With this issue, *The Current* introduces "Family Trails," by Valerie LaRobardier, a professional genealogist and president of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society. Every other month, Valerie will discuss strategy and resources for research in Dutchess and Putnam counties and answer queries from readers. She can be reached at genealogy@highlandscurrent.com.

By Valerie LaRobardier

My love affair with genealogy began as a child, paging through my grandmother's photo album, getting to know relatives far away and long gone.



Emily Porter is shown "colorizing" a black-and-white photo around 1918.

My paternal grandfather, Oscar B. Porter, was a photographer and his wife Emily was his colorist — she added flair to his black-and-white portraits. My grandmother also worked as a writer for the newspaper in Aroostook County, Maine.

It was there that she began researching her family tree. This was during the 1920s, when there were far fewer resources than we are blessed with today. After documenting five patriot ancestors, Emily became a charter member of the local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter. My father later added to her work.

O.B. and Emily married in 1905, about the time another Oscar — Oskar T. Johansson — kissed his wife and children goodbye in Sweden to travel to the U.S. He worked his way across the country until he found a place that "felt like home": Wyoming. My mother, their third daughter, was born and raised there. Before World War II she came to Washington, D.C. to work for the government and met my father.

And that is how I came about. Have you ever wondered about the sheer improbability of any of us coming into existence in the families and bodies that we do? How many junctions and choices through the ages went into our parents being so placed to bring us into this world?

I grew up in Wyoming and Montana and came east to attend Barnard. I married and we moved to Dutchess County to raise our three sons. I got serious about my family history when I bought a computer with an internet connection and began adding to what my father and grandmother had collected. I joined our county genealogical society and picked queries from online message boards to research and learn. I found I had a flair for solving mysteries.

Thus it began. I managed to get a few part-time



Oscar and Fanny (Robinson) Porter around 1952

projects, but my dream became to leave my work in construction management to become a full-time genealogist. When the recession hit and my day job dried up, I gave it a go. Over the years I have built a steady clientele. For the most part, they are people who have gotten fairly far along on their own, usually back to the early 1800s, and hit what genealogists call a "brick wall."

Understanding the history of the area where your ancestors lived, whether Philipstown or Beacon or elsewhere, is critical to genealogical research. I live in Dover, which puts me with easy striking distance to many repositories. I regularly make day trips to the courthouses, libraries and archives of Putnam and Dutchess counties, as well as those in nearby counties, New York City, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. You can't find *everything* online.

Just as I have followed my grandmother and father in genealogy, I followed my father and grandfather into construction. While that trade involves predictable results with predictable deadlines, in genealogy you may be looking for a record that does not exist. Charging for time spent on a search that turns up few or no results was always difficult for me, although people are paying for your time. Still, I attempt to narrow the search to the most likely areas and tackle multiple projects in each repository so that at least one client will come out a winner for the day!

Dutchess and Putnam counties (the latter was detached from the former in 1812) are a patchwork of diverse ethnicities. As a result, I have worked on projects focused on Quakers, Palatines, freed slaves, Huguenots and Catholic Irish, among many other groups. There is never a dull moment. In addition, I recently became tribal secretary and genealogist for the Schaghticoke First Nations; in March I will discuss resources for researching Native American ancestors in our area.

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Making the Forest Great Again

Day-long event in Beacon coincided with women's march

By Brian PJ Cronin

Things got a little hairy in Beacon on Jan. 21 when many residents were taking part in women's marches in Washington, D.C., New York City and Poughkeepsie and Beacon. For one thing, a maniacal beaver with an orange toupee and a scheming Russian bear tried to take over the town.

That was the plot of "Make the Forest Great Again," a puppet show with a live band that was the highlight of a day-long event called Hey Neighbor at the Beacon Community Center.

It was organized by members of Club Draw, which takes place on the first Tuesday night of the month at Quinn's. At the December meeting, Daniel Weise and other Beacon dads began talking about the presidential election, the need for people to reach outside their own social groups, and the realization that with their partners all signing up to attend a women's march somewhere, they'd be solo parenting that day.

The fathers agreed it would be nice to

do an event that day in Beacon that involved the children. "We all love doing fun stuff with our kids, and we knew most of our kids weren't going to be going to the marches, especially the young ones," Weise says. "So we thought we could do something community-oriented in Beacon, something the kids could help us with, and then they could feel like they were part of an event, as well."

Children made signs to direct people inside the community center, created murals on sheets of brown craft paper and ran around in the unseasonably warm weather while staff from Barb's Butchery grilled burgers. Weise says about 250 people showed up throughout the day.

"It was great to get to talk to some people who I've never had a chance to talk to, while my daughter fell asleep in my lap," he says. "We think we know a lot of people in town. But we don't know each other very well. Sometime we assume that everyone thinks the same way we do, so we rarely have actual conversations with each other. And then there are neighbors who think completely different than us that we might not know very well either."

As for the puppet show, that came out of Club Draw as well. Matthew Chase had been wrestling with how one could respond to the election. After talking with other artists, a collaborative street theater performance began to take shape.

"What got me excited about street theater is that this community is full of so many creative, talented people," said Chase. "As an individual artist it can be difficult to come up with a political piece of artwork that makes sense and feels like it's enacting change and doing anything more than gratifying yourself. Street theater is a thing that's open to everyone, and anyone can con-



Puppeteers Benjamin Lybrand and Jamie Pivar

New Superintendent in Beacon *(from Page 1)*

focus groups of community members, teachers, administrators and students to discuss what the district wanted from its next hire. The results of these interviews were compiled into a leadership profile that the board used to develop interview questions. Nearly 50 people applied for the position.

Ann Marie Quartironi, the district's finance chief, has been acting as interim superintendent since Walkley's departure. Over the past 10 years, the district has had nine superintendents, including interims.

In an interview with the *Ithaca Times* in 2014, when he was appointed as chief academic officer, Landahl said the major challenge for the Ithaca district was its budget. "We want our classrooms to be engaging places," he said. "We want our teachers to feel the support that they need to do their jobs well. And we will continue to strive for all of those things, but the budget is a rather big challenge right now."



Matthew Landahl

Photo by Michael Nocella/Ithaca Times



A packed house for the "Make The Forest Great Again" puppet show Photos by Brian Doyle

tribute as little or as much as they want."

Chase teamed up with Benjamin Lybrand to create a puppet show that would appeal to children while also delivering a message. "We also did this as a way to have some catharsis," said Lybrand. "I would have been very depressed in the days leading up to the inauguration if I hadn't had this to look forward to."

The show centered on a pair of forest animals who return home only to find most of the trees have been chopped down by a tyrannical beaver and his helpers to build a dam to keep out animals from other forests. Only by working together to thwart the beaver's plans — spoiler alert: an elephant saves the day — are the animals able to "make the forest great again."

Although the elephant is layered with

multiple layers of symbolism, it wasn't a stand-in for the Republican party. Instead, it explains in the play, it came to the forest as a refugee because it was fleeing poachers.

"The elephant character is central to this Hey Neighbor idea and what could happen if we all get to know each other, across party lines," says Chase. "But we had also been talking about the refugee crisis and what we could all accomplish together if we weren't afraid of the 'other.'"

An encore performance is planned for March, and Chase and Lybrand are saying they are at work on a new show, "something with a lot of female protagonists," says Chase. "We didn't get to have a lot of female characters with this first one since almost all the women we knew were out of town marching."



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Village speeds

There has to be some confusion in reading the state traffic law ("Cold Spring Considers Doubling Speed Limit to 30 mph," Jan. 20). Article 1643 ("Speed limits on highways in cities and villages") of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law seems to be referring to roads on or adjacent to a highway, which makes perfect sense. The fact that we have so many village streets that are only one or two blocks long — a minimum speed of 30 mph is a grave danger, especially on those streets with no sidewalks!

Katherine Bogardus, *Cold Spring*
Editor's Note: The law defines "highway" as "the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel."

Why would anyone think 30 mph is appropriate for our village streets? Garden Street? Church Street? Wall Street? Rock Street? That is insane! Why even propose such a change? If the state has a problem with our speed limits, let them come to us.

Peter Henderson, *Cold Spring*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Losing Indian Point

It is deceptive to claim that Indian Point does not supply 25 percent of Westchester and New York City power citing "peak" demand ("Life Without Indian Point," Jan. 13). Also, failure to replace this power at (or near) the Buchanan substation will result in grid instability (low voltage) during periods of high electrical demand; failure to maintain voltage in these areas will require Con Edison to brown-out portions of the grid to raise voltage within specification. (Low voltage results in hazardous current draw.) I would defer to ConEd and the Independent System Operator (ISO) regarding numbers and details.

Chuck Gualdoni, *Croton*
Gualdoni is a senior reactor operator at Indian Point.

The electoral vote

The effort to dump the Electoral College and rely on the popular vote is another instance of Democratic liberals trying to find a complicated, contorted solution prone to legal challenges to a problem that rarely exists. In the past 140 years, there have been four instances in which the Electoral College determined the winner, for an average of one every 35 years or so.

Not surprising, 10 "blue" states, including California and New York and some coastal states won by Hillary Clinton, have signed on to a compact of states, which itself is open to legal challenge. Imperfect as it may appear to the losers, the remedy prescribed would be a great deal worse.

Ann Fanizzi, *Southeast*

People should be thinking about this issue from another angle. Hendrik Hertzberg noted at the forum that "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]." This is why proportional representation should be pushed nationwide, so that major urban areas like New York City wouldn't make New York State a foregone conclusion. The 29 electoral votes could be distributed by zones, counties, etc. The same could be said for California, Texas and Florida.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*

The Electoral College is an artifact of an age when states with slaves demanded that they get special credit (counting three-fifths of each enslaved human being within their borders toward their population tally) as the price of joining the union, and when few people had an education, and few people lived in cities. We freed the slaves 150 years ago; education is widespread; the population is urbanized. Surely the efforts to rethink the Electoral College are owed at least a respectful hearing.

Michael Armstrong, *Cold Spring*

Make America great

I know how to Make America Great Again. In addition to banning Muslims, as President Trump has proposed, let's ban Irish Catholics. They molest children, don't they? And what about Italians? We know they're all Mafia. And, while we're at it, let's lock up all evangelical Christians. They shoot doctors.

Hypocrites unite and Make America Great Again.

Gretchen Dykstra, *Cold Spring*



Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

What's the last book you read? How many stars, 1 to 5?



"My daughter and I are reading the Lemony Snicket series. The last one was *The Hostile Hospital*. It was so horribly miserable!" ★★★★★
~ Daniel Kelly, Cold Spring



"*The Demigod Diaries* by Rick Riordan." ★★★★★
~ Ryder Henricksen, Cold Spring



"*The Circle* by Dave Eggers. It's the best book I've read in a while." ★★★★★
~ Kent Henricksen, Cold Spring

Meet Cold Spring's New Chamber President

Kate Liberman of HVSF will lead effort to expand

Michael Turton spoke with Kate Liberman, the newly appointed board president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, about the organization's priorities for the upcoming year. Liberman is managing director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. Her responses have been edited for brevity.

Have you been involved with other chambers?

Before moving here two years ago I was with the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, California, a small town with many similarities to Cold Spring, including visitors getting away from the city and parking issues. Prior to that I was with the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and attended meetings of the Downtown Business Association there.

What makes the Cold Spring business community unique?

We have diverse businesses both on Main Street and outside the village, and they have unique customers: tourists versus residents looking for an electrician or insurance agent. The number of strong nonprofits such as Glynwood, Boscobel and Manitoga is also distinctive for a small community.

What did you glean from the chamber's brainstorming event at Glynwood in November?

I heard that we have to bring the different types of businesses together, from Main Street shops and contractors to plumbers and IT specialists. There were also a lot of great ideas presented, including from new businesses. We have to take advantage of that.

Has the new board discussed priorities for 2017?

Next week is our second meeting. We have set the events calendar and will have monthly membership meetings with breakfast sessions devoted to business education and evening mixers for networking and finding ways to collaborate. We're also planning a newsletter that will include business news from national organizations and local chambers.

Do you have a pet project you'd like to see initiated?

Not a pet project, but we have to be responsive to our membership. Our big goal is to bring the diverse businesses in this community together. Most of the new board members are not from Main Street and some joined to help us think about that goal. We're eager to hear from members on that issue.

Chamber-sponsored events such as the town-wide tag sale, summer music series and Halloween parade are popular with residents, but do they help business?

Others have brought that up. We want those events to continue, if it is financially viable. They bring business to Main Street but not to our full membership.

The Chamber website has been greatly improved but is very tourism-oriented. Is that at the expense of non-tourism businesses?

We want to tweak it, giving all businesses equal opportunity to be featured on the site. And we want residents to find it useful when they need to find a local business.



Kate Liberman

Photo provided

lot of time working closely with the Merchants' Association. We want to continue to build on that relationship.

The Chamber currently has 85 members, which seems like too few for an all-volunteer organization. Is thought being given to partnering or merging with the Beacon Chamber?

That is something Alison mentioned toward the end of her term. We'd love to discuss how we can collaborate with Beacon; there may be economies of scale in partnering for specific events.

There is a dearth of local tourism data to support marketing efforts. Should the Chamber gather visitor information such as hometown, mode of transportation, length of stay, spending, etc.?

We do that at HVSF. It would be good to reach out to other organizations to see what they do.

What could Putnam County Tourism do to aid the Chamber?

We can't ask much of them until they hire an executive director. We have a good liaison with Barney Molloy on our board. [Molloy is also president of the Putnam Tourism board.]

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Many feel it is unnecessary for this small community to have two business groups — the Chamber and the Cold Spring Merchants' Association. Will the new board address that issue?

[Immediate past president] Alison Anthoine and the previous board spent a

SITE VISIT - FEBRUARY 5, 2017

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, February 5, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. to inspect the following site:

- **Hudson Highland Reserve, located at Route 9 and Horton Road.**

The Board will meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of Horton Road. In case of inclement weather the site visit could be postponed, with notice given to Board members through a telephone chain previously established.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday February 13, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, to hear the following appeal:

Carolyn Garcia, 25 Mountain Drive, Garrison, NY Tax Map # 83.18-1-40. The Applicant seeks to construct a single family home on the subject property which shall be set back from the North sideline by a distance of 19.4' and from the South sideline by a distance of 21.3 feet. The Town of Philipstown Code requires a 30 foot setback from a side yard property line.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be reviewed in the Office of the Building Department at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 01/20/17

Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals.

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.

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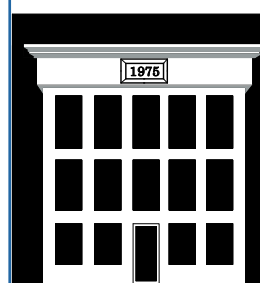
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Boscia Named Undersheriff

Comes out of retirement for position

Just a few weeks into his retirement, Paul Boscia has agreed to return to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office to become undersheriff. He succeeds Peter Convery, who died in November. Boscia will begin work on Feb. 6 and serve at least through the remainder of Sheriff Don Smith's current term, which ends in December.

Boscia, who retired in December as a first sergeant, began his career with Putnam County in 1988 as a corrections officer. He was appointed as a deputy sheriff in 1989 and assigned to the patrol division, later becoming a K-9 officer. He received several letters of commendation during his career, including for negotiating the surrender of a barricaded man, for disarming a suicidal man armed with a knife, and for saving a heart-attack victim. He and other instructors were also commended for improving the firearms



Paul Boscia

training program of the sheriff's office.

An Air Force veteran, Boscia holds a bachelor's degree from Manhattan College and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Garrison Fire District Commissioners Sworn In



The first elected Garrison Fire District commissioners were sworn in on Jan. 12 by Philipstown Town Clerk Tina Merando. From left are Nat Prentice (chair, five-year term), Stan Freilich (four years), Sandra Bohl (vice chair, three years), Linda Lomonaco (two years) and David Brower (one year).

Photo provided

GOP to Honor Norman MacLeod

One of most active volunteers in Beacon

By Jeff Simms

If you've spent any time in Beacon, you're familiar with the work of Norman MacLeod.

Together with his wife Ann, who died in 2015, MacLeod has been one of Beacon's most active volunteers, helping to beautify the city through the installation and maintenance of flowers at some of its busiest spots.

"A lot of people mention the flowers on Main Street and it makes me feel good," MacLeod says. "I never say I'm responsible for it, I just agree that it looks good."

The Beacon Republican Committee will honor the lifelong resident at the group's ninth annual Reagan Day Dinner at Dutchess Manor on Feb. 3. (For tickets,

call 845-202-2398.)

"Norm MacLeod has been a pillar in Beacon for so many years," said Beacon GOP Chair Justin Riccobono. "He is a volunteer who continues to give out of his heart, so our little city can be beautiful and welcoming for those who live here and those who visit."

Now 84, MacLeod retired as a systems analyst at IBM in 1991. It was Ann who urged her husband, then 58, to stay active, perhaps by trying his hand at something completely different: civic beautification. "Ann was always afraid I would just sit and watch TV, so she told me to try volunteering. 'You'll love it,' she said."

In 1998 MacLeod joined the Tioronda Garden Club, and shortly thereafter became Beacon's first civic beautification chairman, a post he still holds. He says he remembers exactly when he realized that Beacon was special: January 1956, when he returned from a four-year stint in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. "I remember thinking, what a beautiful place I live in," he says. "You appreciate a place like this when you leave and come back."

Working as a retiree with a handful of volunteers and alongside then-Highway Superintendent Randy Casale, MacLeod and Ann began preparing flower boxes at the Welcome to Beacon signs on Routes 9D and 52, at the train station and at Mt. Beacon, as well as at the George Washington triangle at Teller Avenue and along Main Street. In all, more than 20 locations around Beacon are maintained with flowers or decorations virtually year-round.

MacLeod said their goal was to do anything they could to make Beacon look better. "We found old flower pots and put plantings in (Continued on next page)



Norman MacLeod



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with Rabbi Helaine Ettinger

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The HIGHLANDS

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House Sale Delayed by Colonial-Era Zoning *(from Page 1)*

the town government to relinquish eight feet of right of way where the house intruded.

By law, the town government could have demanded removal of the offending part of the structure, according to Stephen Gaba, the town's attorney. Instead, Carl Frisenda, Philipstown highway superintendent, and Ronald Gainer, consulting engineer, joined Gaba in reviewing options.

The situation simply involved "rectifying a problem that the town did not create," Gaba told the Town Board in a Dec. 30 letter.

Nor did fixing it seem to adversely affect the town.

Frisenda noted in a Jan. 17 letter to the board that the land the Whyatts wanted was at least 13 feet from the shoulder "and apparently has never been used as roadway."



From Crown to Town to problem resolved: At 848 Old Albany Post Road, the stone wing of the house intruded onto a 1703 government right-of-way until the Philipstown Town Board "abandoned" an 8-foot strip of land.

Photos by L.S. Armstrong

Writing to the board the same day, Gainer said that relinquishing the piece "will not interfere with the use, repair and maintenance of Old Albany Post Road at present or in the foreseeable future."

Gaba drafted a resolution allowing abandonment of the strip. But the Town Board could not adopt it without conducting a public hearing. When the hearing occurred, on Jan. 18, no one opposed the abandonment and the Town Board approved it. "We're happy to do this,"

"We thought we'd won the Revolution" and ended Crown domination years ago.

Deputy Supervisor Nancy Montgomery said after the unanimous vote.

After enduring more than three centuries, a

British colonial act was undone in minutes — at least as applied to eight feet around an interloping house.

"We're thrilled!" Waszkelewicz and Shapiro said after the meeting.

Robin Whyatt said she and her husband, too, were pleased. "We thought we'd won the Revolution" and ended Crown domination years ago, she quipped.



GOP to Honor Norman MacLeod *(from previous page)*

them and the city would put them up for us," he says.

In 2002, MacLeod was honored as Volunteer of the Year at the Spirit of Beacon Day parade. In 2003, he was appointed to the Dutchess County Legislature to fill the unexpired term of Legislator John Ballo, and in 2007 he was appointed to the Beacon Housing Authority. He has been chair of the Housing Authority since 2009.

The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quad-

ricentennial celebration in 2009 also led him to team with George Mansfield to design the Beacon Visitor Center across from City Hall.

"Between the two of us, we got all local contractors to come in and work for free," says Mansfield, now a City Council member. "It was completely done with volunteers, and in the end, what I really liked about it was that it united old and new Beacon."



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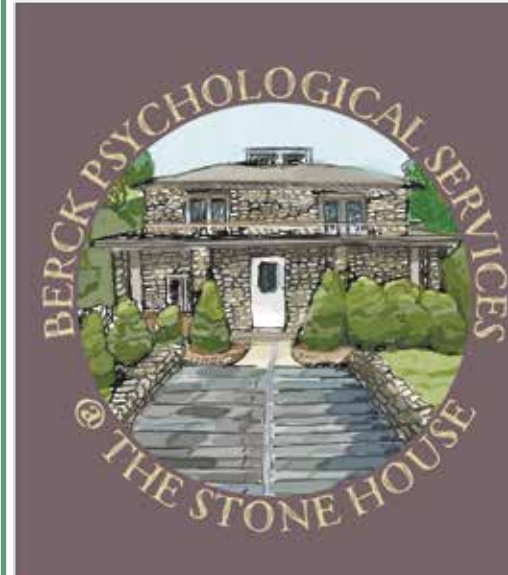
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Garrison School Plans to Dig Deep Into Reserves

Discussion of when school district may need tax-cap override from voters

By Lily Gordon

The Garrison school district will need to spend as much as a third of its reserve funds — more than \$900,000 — to meet its 2017-18 budget, according to a preliminary discussion at the Jan. 18 school board meeting.

The estimated 2017-18 budget is \$10,697,839, up 3.9 percent from this year's budget of \$10,297,960. The increase

is mainly due to a district plan to hire a full-time reading teacher and full-time aide, as well as higher health care costs, according to Sue Huetter, the district's business administrator.

"There's not much in that budget that can be cut, unless we're cutting people or programs," she told the board. "There's not a lot of fluff. The fluff went away a long time ago."

Board Member David Gelber labeled the situation "fairly extreme."

However, using money from reserve

"There's not much in that budget that can be cut, unless we're cutting people or programs. There's not a lot of fluff. The fluff went away a long time ago."

funds is not unusual for Garrison. In recent years, the district has drawn between \$500,000 and \$600,000 from its savings each year. "But we haven't used all of it," said Huetter. "Last year we didn't draw down on the reserves; we were actually able to put some money back."

There are a number of variables that will still affect the final budget for 2017-18, she said, such as taxes, health care costs and eighth-grade students' high school selections. For each Garrison student who elects to attend private high school — and eight to 10 plan to do so, according to Principal John Griffiths — the budget will be reduced by roughly \$14,000 because Garrison will not have to pay tuition to Haldane or James O'Neill high schools.

There were murmurs of a budget override, in which the board would ask voters to allow it to increase property taxes more than the tax cap (more than 60 percent of voters must approve such a measure), but the board seemed to think it was too early to discuss such a move. In 2016, 36 of New York's nearly 700 school districts attempted an override; 28 were successful and eight failed.

Huetter said the board would likely have to call for an override vote at some point because the reserves won't last forever and "our hands are being tied by the state"

with the tax cap. The cap was 0.12 percent last year; for 2017-18 the state has set the maximum increase at 1.26 percent, which gives districts more breathing room.

In other business...

- In addition to its plans to hire a reading specialist, the district also would like to have more professional development for its staff so it can create a cohesive program, said Superintendent Laura Mitchell. The district has hired consultants from Words of Advice Literacy to run workshops with staff starting this month.
- The results of state-mandated water testing found that 16 of 59 potable sources at the Garrison School contain more than the state's legal limit of 15 parts per billion of lead, Mitchell said. These sources, mainly restroom faucets, do not include any water fountains or the nurse's office. However, one source that initially showed 221 ppb was retested and showed less than 1 ppb, causing the board to question the accuracy of the original results. Non-potable sources have been labeled, and Facilities Director Dick Timmons will continue to investigate the source of the lead. Well water tested below 15 ppb, leading Timmons to believe the lead source is the pipes or faucets.
- The board plans to host a drug awareness roundtable at 7 p.m. on March 28 to discuss Garrison residents' concerns.

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The Calendar

The Hudson's Favorite Fire Fighter

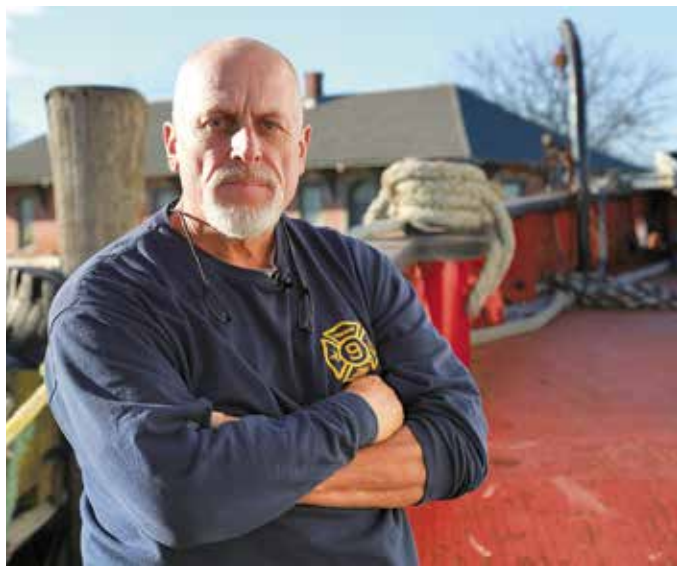
Cold Spring resident works to save historic boat

by Alison Rooney

As a practical matter, the time and effort Cold Spring resident Charlie Ritchie has expended on his quest to restore a 1938 New York City fireboat would sink the most ardent of idealists.

But the vessel, Fire Fighter, now a floating museum docked on the North Fork of Long Island, is not your run-of-the-mill fireboat.

Built by naval architect William Francis Gibbs, Fire Fighter was active on the Hudson River for 72 years. It fought more than 50 major fires, including those aboard the SS Normandie/Lafayette (1942) and Sea Witch (1973), and led the New York Fire Department Marine Unit response to the World Trade Center attacks,



Charlie Ritchie of Cold Spring aboard the Fire Fighter

Photo by Krysten Massa/Suffolk Times



A Fire Fighter salute

Photo provided

supplying water to emergency crews fighting fires at Ground Zero. The ship was not decommissioned until 2010, making it the longest-serving of the FDNY fleet.

Despite being recognized as a National Historic Landmark, Fire Fighter languished until Ritchie, an outdoors educator, devoted himself and his spring and summer weekends to what he calls “a

living and fully functioning example of the maritime history of New York Harbor.”

After receiving a number of grants, Ritchie’s nonprofit Fireboat Fire Fighter Museum (he serves as its volunteer president) has recently altered course. After 14 years at dock, Fire Fighter was taken from the water this month and towed to Rhode (Continued on Page 13)

Luminous Landscapes

Gallery mounts tribute to innovative photographer

By Alison Rooney

Earning that photographer Rafael Quirindongo studied astrophysics, computer technology and architecture makes perfect sense when viewing his work, on display through Feb. 6 at



Rafael Quirindongo

sion and wonder, science and structure.

The nine photographs examine iconic New York City facades and construction: micro and macro views of Grand Central Station, city bridges, the 9/11 Memorial and the skyline itself. Quirindongo said he focused his camera on “emerging architectural landscape, offering a unique perspective on its geometric patterns.”

Sadly, Quirindongo died in December at age 61 after a recurrence of cancer. His work appeared frequently in group shows at RiverWinds, and he did a solo show there in 2015. “He evolved rapidly, and we encouraged him — he was a constant in the gallery,” says RiverWinds co-owner Mary Ann Glass.



Rafael Quirindongo's Pegasus, photographed at Grand Central Station

Image courtesy of RiverWinds



New York Panorama, a photograph by Rafael Quirindongo

RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon. It is full of dimen-

Born in the city he photographed so frequently, Quirindongo studied astrophysics at Columbia and had a long career in information technology. Gradually he was able to combine his day job with his affinity for photography; for instance, while building an IT system for a construction company, he photographed their buildings in progress, sometimes climbing up the scaffolding.

In thumbing through Quirindongo’s prints at the RiverWinds show, you can see the intersection of architecture and the photographer’s eye for contrast. One photograph stands out; it places the geometry of a courtyard at Lincoln Center at the background against the distinctive shapes of a pair of garbage cans. Toward the end of his life, Quirindongo had been doing more editorial work. His photographs of the Kips Bay Decorator Show House were published in

2015 in *Architectural Digest*, *Forbes* and the *Washington Post*.

One of his techniques was known as “high-dynamic range imaging,” in which he took multiple photos at different exposures and combined them into one image. This produced a greater depth of field and range of luminosity. One photo on display, of Liberty Park, utilizes 12 such “slices.” The images are printed on aluminum, which helps to “highlight his palette — he was after a range of tones and very sharp detail,” Glass explains. She adds that Quirindongo also sometimes used fish-eye lenses. “I’d like to say I don’t photograph things, but rather how they make me feel,” he wrote for an earlier exhibit. “In the end it’s an expression of how I see the world, and perhaps, a very good way to get to know me.”

Glass describes Quirindongo, who lived in (Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, JAN. 27

International Film Series: Secret Ballot (Iran)

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Beginners Orientation

7 p.m. Living Yoga
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

Haldane vs. North Salem (Boys' Basketball)

7 p.m. Haldane High School
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Indian Point (Documentary, 2015)

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

SATURDAY, JAN. 28

Newburgh Last Saturday**Winter Weekend**

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Birds on the Wing (Opening)

Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

How to Die In Oregon (Documentary, 2011)

2 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Army vs. Bucknell (Men's Basketball)

3 p.m. Christl Arena | Fenton Place, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.
Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

K of C Free-Throw Contest (ages 9-14)

3 p.m. St. Joachim Church (Gym)
51 Leonard St., Beacon

Hudson Valley Seed Benefit

4:30 – 9:30 p.m. 9 Hanna Lane, Beacon
845-419-3871 | hudsonvalleyseed.org

Hudson Valley Wingfest 10

5 – 9 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
hvwingfest.com

Ivan Chermayeff: Transparencies (Opening)

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Dia Staff Art Show (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. Matteawan Gallery
436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio

9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar
173 Main St., Beacon
845-765-0885 | facebook.com/chillwinebar

SUNDAY, JAN. 29

Winter Weekend

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Storm King Art Center
See details under Saturday.

Annual Mass for Deceased Firefighters

7:30 a.m. St. John's Church | 31 Willow St.,
Beacon | Breakfast follows at Lewis Tompkins
Firehouse, 13 South Ave.

Mount Saint Mary Open House

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 330 Powell Ave., Newburgh
888-937-6762 | msmc.edu

Family Meditation Workshop

1 – 2:30 p.m. Living Yoga
See details under Friday.

The Emotions of Clutter

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Cirque Dreams: Jungle Fantasy

5 p.m. Eisenhower Hall | 655 Ruger Road, West
Point | 845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

MONDAY, JAN. 30

Hyde Park on Hudson (2012)

1 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Friday.

Beacon City Council Workshop

7 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom) | 1 Municipal Plaza,
Beacon | 845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news
updates and latest information.

TUESDAY, JAN. 31

New Moms & Infants Group

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

Creativity Workshop (First Session)

6 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold
Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Registration required.

Board of Trustees Meeting/Public Hearing

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov
Rescheduled from Jan. 24.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1

Beacon vs. Sleepy Hollow (Boys' Basketball)

6:15 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaconcitk12.org

Army vs. Lafayette (Men's Basketball)

7 p.m. Christl Arena | See details under Saturday.

THURSDAY, FEB. 2

Groundhog Day**Haldane vs. Pawling (Girls' Basketball)**

6:15 p.m. Haldane High School | Details under Friday

Desmond-Fish Library

6:30 p.m. Hiking in Winter (Talk) | 6:30 p.m. Aspiring
Writers Experience (AWE) Writing Club for Tweens
and Teens | See details under Sunday.

Kindergarten Parent Orientation

7 p.m. Haldane Middle School (Conference Room)
See details under Friday.

Town Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

FRIDAY, FEB. 3

Card Games/Dungeons & Dragons Club

3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Jan. 27.

Beacon vs. Hendrick Hudson (Girls' Basketball)

6 p.m. Beacon High School | Details under Wednesday

Group Show (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring | busterlevigallery.com

Reagan Day Dinner

6 p.m. Dutchess Manor
263 Route 9D, Beacon | 845-202-2398

Haldane vs. North Salem (Girls' Basketball)

6:15 p.m. Haldane High School
See details under Jan 27.

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hudsonvalleyseed.org

Luminous Landscapes *(from Page 9)*

Putnam Valley, as “a gentleman — kind, witty, intelligent, a softly charismatic guy who drew people to him, though he was never a self-promoter.” His photographs will be maintained by his widow, Dona Von Raalte (rqgallery.com).

Along with the new exhibit, RiverWinds, a stalwart of Beacon's West End (it has been open for 13 years) is showing off its revamped interior. Founded by Glass and four other artists, the gallery has featured works in a variety of media, including paintings, prints and photography, ceramics, jewelry, postcards and

even objects made from wool.

Last year, two co-owners, Virginia Donovan and Linda Hubbard, decided to relocate to Maryland and Connecticut, respectively, and spend more time with their families, particularly their grandchildren. Galina Krasskova came on board as an owner in 2014 and last year Kathy and Karl LaLonde bought in. Kathy, a jewelry designer, has put her decades of retail experience to work at the gallery, “lightening up the space, re-ordering the store, making it more open, giving customers room to see the



Rafael Quirindongo's Oyster Bar Restaurant photo.

Images courtesy of RiverWinds



Rafael Quirindongo conducting a tutorial on Advanced Lightroom Techniques, with Sandra Belitza-Vazquez watching, at RiverWinds.

Photo provided

work more easily,” says Glass.

Because RiverWinds is a consignment gallery, “we jury it amongst ourselves, and we’re eclectic,” Glass explains, noting that among paintings alone, the work ranges from expressionistic to realistic landscapes. Functional ceramics are popular with customers, she says, many

of whom find RiverWinds after visiting Dia:Beacon. “Dia is a huge anchor to the arts scene; it gives people a major reason to come up here,” Glass notes.

RiverWinds, located at 172 Main St., is open Wednesday through Monday from noon to 6 p.m. and on Second Saturdays until 9 p.m. See riverwindsgallery.com.

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Sat., 1/21 8:30 p.m.
Livingston Taylor
Marc Douglas Berardo

Sat., 1/28 7:00 p.m.
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Saturday Salon

Sun., 1/22 11:30 a.m.
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To Mary,
Roses are red
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet and
so are you.
Be mine!
John

The Hudson's Favorite Fire Fighter *(from Page 9)*

Island to have its hull repaired. The goal is to make the vessel seaworthy so it can ferry passengers.

Ritchie, who has never been a fire-fighter himself, chanced upon Fire Fighter while working in New York City for the Police Athletic League. He was supervising teenagers working as summer tour guides aboard historic vessels along the Hudson when he visited the Lilac, a former lighthouse tender being used as a dockside attraction. Intrigued, he landed a job on the boat, working on programming and its restoration.

While there, he heard about Fire Fighter, which was soon to be retired. The consensus among his colleagues was that because of its esteemed history, it would receive many preservation grants. It was built because the mayor of New York City, Fiorello LaGuardia, "was crazy about fire equipment and fighting fires" and so contacted Gibbs to build a fireboat, Ritchie explains. "Gibbs was 'the' naval architect for decades, and for a long period of time designed about 75 percent of the boats in New York, including the SS United States, then the fastest ocean liner in the world."

Despite working full time, Ritchie felt Fire Fighter was "a project I could get my arms around," he recalls. It was ambitious but also "the right amount of challenge. We tell all our volunteers that it can be thankless and that they should feel that they're 'doing it for the boat.'"

Initially the plans were to dock the fireboat along the Hudson or the Long Island Sound for tours and water displays. However, convincing the marina owners, borough presidents and others who control the docks from New York City to Peekskill and Cold Spring proved fruitless and/or was too expensive. "It's hard to get a place when it's a museum which 'owns' it," Ritchie says. "I expected more from New York City, as the boat is a city landmark. It was out of fire department control and nothing came through from

the parks department, either."

It was then Ritchie thought of Greenport, Long Island, a place he had visited, and one which met a couple of prerequisites, including being a growing tourism center. He was able to secure reasonable rent in a sheltered spot. However, the arrival of Fire Fighter proved contentious, with some residents questioning its seaworthiness and expressing concern that it represented an environmental hazard.



One of the mostly restored sections of Fire Fighter is the wheelhouse.

Photo by Krysten Massa/Suffolk Times

"We weren't very popular for the first year and a half, because of the rumors," Ritchie says. "But we survived that, as they were proven untrue. Now we'd like to stay in Greenport forever, but who knows?"

Over the past couple of years the museum secured funds needed to restore the boat, including an \$80,000 National Maritime Heritage Grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior and a \$414,000 state Environmental Protection Fund grant with a matching challenge of 25 percent, something the museum was able to meet with a mixture of donated labor, paint (including \$40,000 worth from Long Island's International Paints) and funds.

There was one hiccup with the state grant, which was "reimbursable," meaning the museum had to first spend the money. That proved difficult because the upstart nonprofit had trouble securing loans. Greenport businessman



Fire Fighter battling a Brooklyn pier fire

Photo courtesy Fireboat Fire Fighter Museum

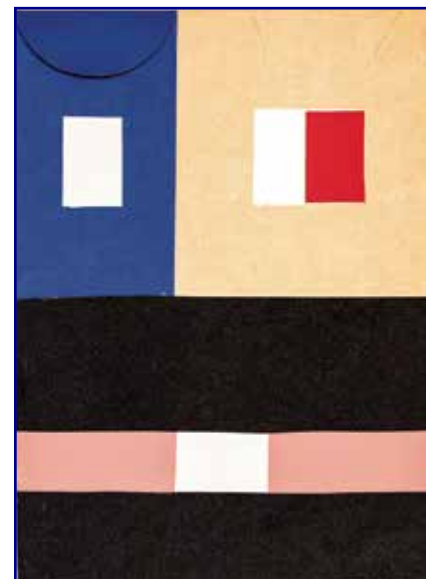
Charlie Reichert stepped in to lend the funds and, through the Charlie and Helen Reichert Foundation, pledged a matching grant of up to \$50,000. This funding, along with donations collected from tours, which are given from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday from April to October, merchandise sales and an online fundraising campaign, have kept the museum afloat.

An inspection after its arrival in Rhode Island revealed Fire Fighter to be in great shape — a tribute, Ritchie says, to the shipbuilders. Come spring, the hope is that the vessel will return to

Greenport under its own power and with a new paint job to again welcome visitors.

Ritchie says that all the effort, including long trips back and forth between Cold Spring to Greenport during most weekends in the spring, summer and fall, has been well worth it. "It's history," he says.

To learn more about the Fire Fighter, visit americasfireboat.org. To donate to the restoration effort and for other costs such as fuel, docking fees and the overhaul of the 78-year-old engines and pumps, see gofundme.com/matching-donation-drive.



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The Governor’s Big Plans

Cuomo lobbies for local consolidation, trail expansion, free SUNY tuition

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Gov. Andrew Cuomo wants New York’s county officials to figure out how to streamline government within their borders.

The governor revealed that priority and dozens of others in his draft state operating budget (\$98 billion for fiscal year 2017-18) and elaborated on them daily, one by one, throughout January (ny.gov/



Gov. Cuomo delivers a State of the State address at SUNY Purchase on Jan. 10

Photo by Kevin Coughlin/Office of the Governor

programs/2017-state-state).

He also called for increased school funding; free tuition for middle-class families at state universities; more child-care aid; longer terms for state Senate and Assembly members plus tougher anti-corruption laws; a trail system, including Hudson Highlands paths, to stretch from Manhattan to Canada; and financial support for installing community sewer lines.

Here are some proposals that would affect the Highlands:

Local consolidation

To “eliminate duplicative, inefficient government services,” cut property taxes and “lower the cost of local government,” Cuomo proposed a requirement that each county executive prepare a streamlining plan for better coordination, mutual services, common purchasing arrangements and sharing of “expensive transportation and emergency equipment” — an apparent reference to big-ticket highway machinery and firefighting and rescue vehicles. The plan would exempt school districts.

The executives would have to submit their drafts by Aug. 1 to the county legislature, which would have 45 days to respond. If the leg-

Proposed New York State child-care credit for families

Income Range	Old Average State Credit	New Average State Credit	Increase	Taxpayers Affected
\$50,000 – \$54,999	\$518	\$605	\$87	16,465
\$55,000 – \$59,999	\$355	\$452	\$97	14,682
\$60,000 – \$64,999	\$196	\$456	\$260	13,195
\$65,000 – \$74,999	\$116	\$347	\$231	24,005
\$75,000 – \$99,999	\$113	\$340	\$227	54,375
\$100,000 – \$149,999	\$111	\$333	\$222	79,135
Total Taxpayers				201,857

islature failed to do so, the plan would automatically go on the November ballot as a referendum. If voters rejected the plan, the process would begin again for the November 2018 ballot.

Cuomo’s administration warned that each county’s plan “must demonstrate real, recurring savings in costs, and not simply shift burdens to other taxpayers.”

Education

The governor proposed eliminating tuition for students from middle-class families attending the State University of New York or City University of New York. Families or individuals earning up to \$125,000 annually would be eligible. Students would have to be enrolled fulltime. The program would be phased in over three years and be available first to families earning less than \$100,000. Cuomo estimated the program would cost \$163 million annually when fully implemented.

Child care

Cuomo called for creation of an “enhanced middle-class child-care tax credit” to supplement the current credit. The governor’s office, which pegged the cost to the state as \$42 million, said the move would more than double the benefit for families with earnings of \$60,000 to \$100,000. (Those with lower incomes already can participate in such a program.)

Political ethics

To fight corruption and encourage openness, Cuomo proposed nearly a dozen reforms, including:

- A constitutional amendment to increase the terms of state Senate and Assembly members from two years to four years, with new members limited to eight years of service.

- An amendment to create a full-time state legislature and limit outside income.
- Campaign finance reforms, including public financing of election campaigns and closure of loopholes that allow limited liability corporations to avoid disclosure requirements.
- A requirement that local elected officials with public salaries of more than \$50,000, as well as chairpersons of county legislative bodies, file financial disclosure statements with the state.

Trails and parks

Cuomo called for the creation, by 2020, of a 750-mile Empire State Trail for biking and hiking that stretches from the New York Harbor to the Canadian border. It would consist of new trails and links to existing networks such as the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail System that includes the paths at Boscobel, Breakneck Ridge, North Redoubt, Arden Point and Little Stony Point, among other spots in the Hudson Highlands State Park; the Beacon shoreline, Madam Brett Park and Dennings Point; and the planned Hudson River Fjord Trail.

Clean water

- The governor urged that the state invest \$2 billion in water and sewer projects, including:
- Upgrades to aging community tap-water distribution and treatment systems
 - Connection of existing homes to sewer systems in communities lacking them
 - Conservation of open spaces and establishment of wetlands to capture runoff and filter contaminants
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Source: Realtor.com

Real Estate



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Winter Break Art Camp

Art center program open for grades pre-K to grade 8

The Garrison Art Center will hold an art camp for students in nursery school through the eighth grade during the Feb. 20 to 22 school break. The three-day workshop, which includes lunch, costs \$50 per day and runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Younger children will learn and practice drawing, painting, block printing and collage. Those in grades 1-8 will engage in collage, book arts, clay and painting.

Early reservations are encouraged. Email education@garrisonartcenter.org for more information.

Kindergarten Registration

Haldane and Garrison welcome Class of 2026

Children in the Haldane and Garrison school districts who will be 5 years old by Dec. 31 can register next month for the 2017-18 school year.

In advance of registration, Haldane has an orientation meeting for parents on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. Its registration is scheduled for Feb. 8 and Feb. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. both days. Call 845-265-9254.

Garrison registration is Feb. 7 and Feb. 8 from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Call 845-424-3689, ext. 230 or 221.

Children do not need to accompany parents. Bring a birth certificate, immunizations and recent physical records, along with two documents that prove residency.

Seniors Welcome

Club invites those age 60 and older

The Philipstown Seniors Club invites any resident age 60 or older to join its activities. The club provides social activities and advocates on issues that affect older people in the community. It is not affiliated with any political party or agency.

The club meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the community room of the Chestnut Ridge senior housing center in Cold Spring. The next meeting, on Feb. 2, which feature a speaker from the Putnam County Office of Senior Resources. The group works closely with the Philipstown Recreation Department to organize bus trips and activities.

For more information call Lynda Ann Ewen at 845-809-5924. Annual dues are \$15.

Romeo and Juliet Go to School

HVSF receives grant for school production

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to bring a production of *Romeo and Juliet* to 11 underserved schools.

As part of the HVSF education program to perform and teach Shakespeare with students in grades 6 to 12, a troupe



The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival has received a grant to perform *Romeo & Juliet* in area schools. Carl Howell and Angela Janas played the roles in a 2012 production at Boscobel (and later married).

HVSF photo

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will perform for and engage with 16,000 students in the New York City area from March 20 to at least May 5.

Tom Ridgely will direct a cast of actors that includes many who have appeared in HVSF productions at Boscobel in Garrison. Students will experience a performance, take part in a post-play discussion, and use a study guide to deepen their understanding. To book a performance or learn more about the HVSF's work in schools, see hvshakespeare.org/education.

Festival of Trees

Synagogue to host Seder meal

The Philipstown Reform Synagogue will celebrate Tu BiSh'vat, a holiday known as the New Year of Trees, with a Seder meal of fruits and nuts on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 2:30 p.m. The meal and program take place in the parish hall at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring.

All are welcome to participate and learn about this ancient practice that reminds us to protect land and water. Rabbi Helaine Ettinger will lead the service. Email philipstownreformsynagogue@gmail.com for more information.

Farmers' Market Fundraiser

Annual event set for Feb. 9 at Garrison Institute

The Cold Spring Farmer's Market will hold its annual fundraiser on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Garrison Institute. The nonprofit brings together vendors from the region to offer produce and food. Fresh Company is preparing a sea-

sonal menu with ingredients from market farmers, and Tall County will perform. Tickets start at \$90 and can be purchased at csfarmmarket.org.

Group Show Opens

Gallery to feature work of four artists

The Buster Levi Gallery on Main Street in Cold Spring will bring together four local artists for an exhibit of large works beginning with a reception on Friday, Feb. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. The show includes paintings and photographs by Eric Erickson, Bill Kooistra, Ursula Schneider and Lucille Tortora.

The show will be on view through Feb. 24. The gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. See busterlevigallery.com.

Beacon

Art for Aleppo

Fundraiser will aid Syrian children

Beacon artists Russell Ritell, Carla Goldberg, and David Link have launched *Art for Aleppo: Postcards to Humanity* to raise awareness and money to provide Syrian children emergency care, food and water.

To participate, create and mail a postcard that expresses your reaction to the humanitarian crisis in Syria to P.O. Box 158, Cold Spring, NY 10516. See artforaleppo.org/calltoartists.py for specific guidelines.

All postcards will be displayed and offered for sale at an exhibit at the Catalyst Gallery in Beacon on Saturday, Apr. 22. A book with the postcard (Continued on next page)



Tall County (Colin DeHond, Liz Rauch and Ned Rauch) will perform at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market annual fundraiser.

Photo by Michael B. Rauch



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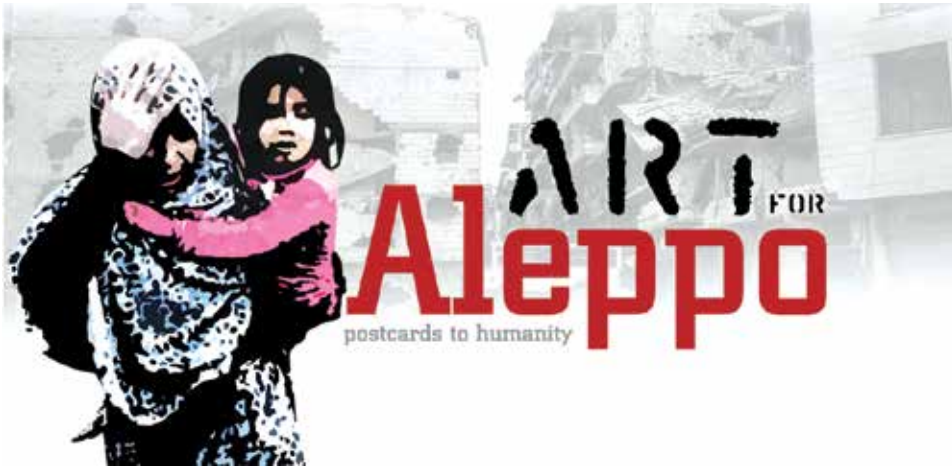
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WED & THU 7:15

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Russ Ritell of Cold Spring, Carla Goldberg of Beacon and David Link of Putnam Valley organized Art for Aleppo.

art will be created and sold as well. Proceeds will be donated to the Save the Children's Syrian Children's Relief Fund. The deadline for submissions is Apr. 15.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Fuel Café Begins Composting

All Sport joins Beacon initiative

The Fuel Café at All Sport in Fishkill is the latest business to join Zero to

Go's Compost Program to reduce waste. The café has switched all of its cups, containers and utensils to those that can be placed in compost and has added a compost bin for food scraps. The paper waste and scraps will be taken to Zero to Go's Beacon facility to be turned into soil.

To learn more about the Zero to Go program, which is open to both residents and businesses, visit beaconcompost.com. Scraps can also be dropped off each week at the Beacon Farmer's Market for \$1 per pound. Zero to Go also offers pick-up services.

Among the organic material that can be composted are leftovers, fruit and vegetable scraps, shellfish, meat, bones, fish, dairy, food-soiled paper, bread, eggshells, flowers, coffee filters and grounds, tea bags and compostable utensils. Plastic, glass and metal cannot be composted but should be recycled.

The River and Roosevelt

Talk will focus on its influence on FDR

On Thursday, Feb. 9, Neil Maher, a professor who teaches U.S. environmental and political history, will present a program called "Nature's New Deal: the Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt in New

York's Hudson Valley" as part of the Beacon Sloop Club's winter lecture series.

The free talk begins at 7 p.m. at the Sloop clubhouse adjacent to the Beacon train station. Maher will cover how Roosevelt's experiences growing up on the banks of the Hudson River influenced his approach to the New Deal and the Civilian Conservation Corps. See beaconsloopclub.org.



Neil Maher

Support Groups

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

A GUIDE TO COMPOSTING

the following items are acceptable

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<p>DAIRY</p>	<p>RICE (WITHOUT BOX)</p>	<p>BREAD</p>	<p>EGGSHELLS</p>
<p>FOOD SOILED PAPER</p>	<p>COFFEE FILTER & COFFEE GROUNDS</p>	<p>TEA BAGS</p>	<p>OILY PIZZA BOX</p>
<p>HOUSEHOLD PLANT (WITHOUT POT)</p>	<p>FLOWERS</p>	<p>COMPOSTABLE PLATES CUPS & UTENSILS</p>	

* NO PLASTIC, GLASS OR METAL, NO PLASTIC BAGS OR PLASTIC WRAP, NO ANIMAL WASTE *

A composting guide distributed by Beacon's Zero to Go.



FDR in January 1944. "All that is within me cries out to go back to my home on the Hudson River," he once said.

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Land Trust Buys Granite Mountain *(from Page 1)*

2,450 acres elsewhere in which the land's owner retains the property but agrees it will never be developed, even if sold.

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement attached to a deed, typically to protect natural features or farmland. Some landowners donate the easement and others are compensated.

Granite Mountain contains two peaks that rise more than 900 feet. It is dominated by northern hardwood forest that includes red and chestnut oak, hickory, tulip and sugar maple along with marshy wetlands and streams. The property also provides excellent bird habitat and is known for its species-rich collection of flora.

As part of the Peekskill Hollow Brook watershed, Granite Mountain supplies drinking water to Peekskill and Cort-

Smith noted the tributaries, wetlands and streams that run through the property are "unusually free of pollutants."

landt, and Smith noted the tributaries, wetlands and intermittent streams that run through the property are "unusually free of pollutants." It also is part of the state-designated Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Area, which is a conservation priority for the state and federal government.

The acquisition is located north of Church Road between Peekskill Hollow and Oscawanna Lake roads. Smith said that once Granite Mountain becomes public parkland, it will be easily accessible to residents of southern Putnam Valley. She estimated that nearly 4,000 people, or about a third of the town's population, live within a mile of the property.

In addition, significant tracts of vacant land owned by Putnam Valley, Putnam County and the Putnam County Land Trust, along with additional properties

protected by HHLT easements, are located adjacent to the southern boundary of the Granite Mountain parcels.

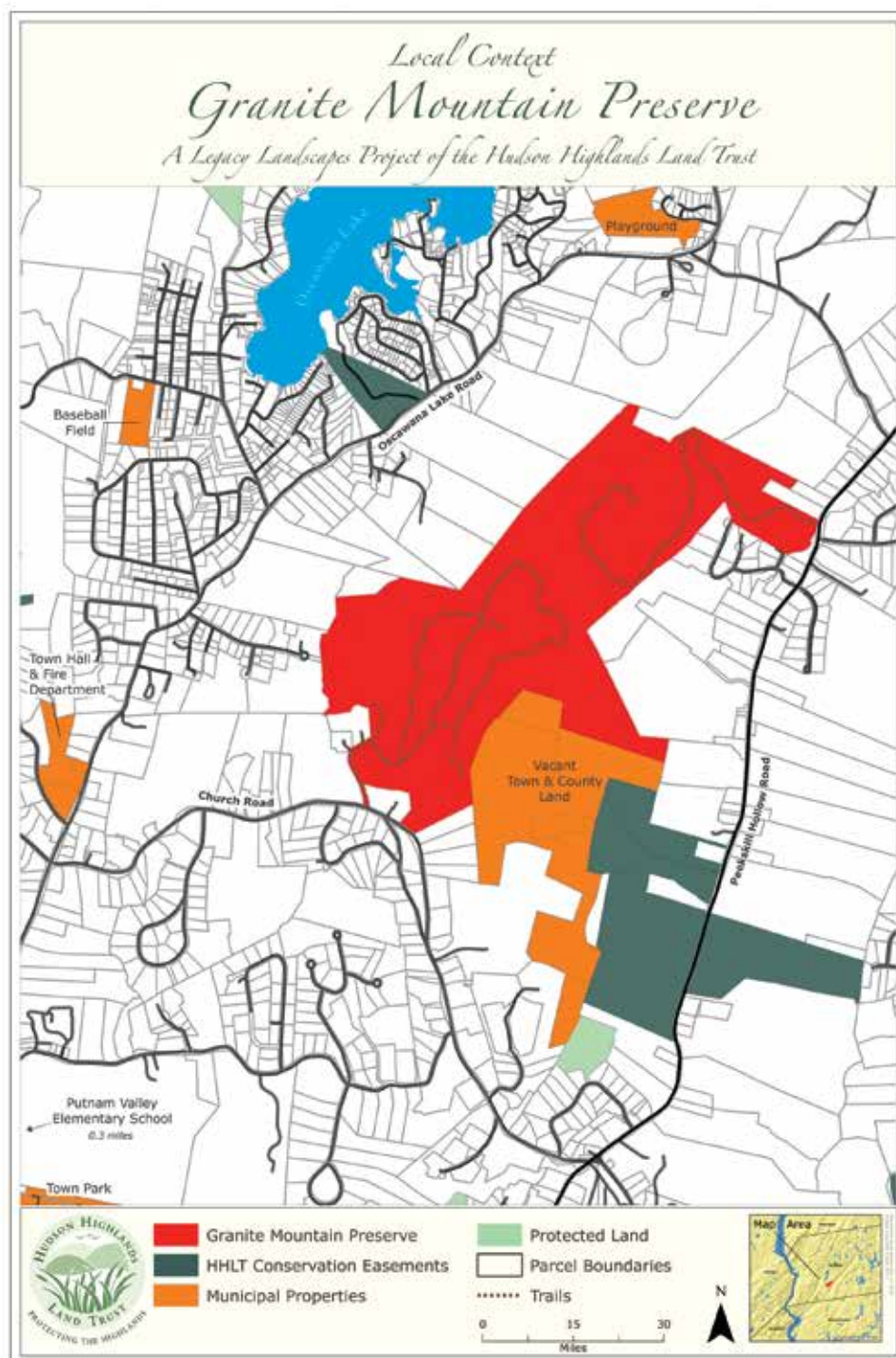
The first public meeting to discuss the

development of a management plan for the Granite Mountain tract in partnership with Putnam Valley and Putnam County will likely be held in February, Smith said.



Stone walls on Granite Mountain indicate it was likely farmed.

HHLT photo



Map courtesy of HHLT

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Why I Marched

By Beverly Griffin

I was fortunate to have connected with Beacon Unity and traveled on one of their chartered buses on Jan. 21 to the Women's March in Washington, D.C.

I'm 62 and just had my gall bladder removed, so why stick with my plans to go? Because I have lived my entire life in the changing climate of how women are viewed and treated. Donald Trump is rude and dismissive and that does not even cover any of his political aspects.

I served in the U.S. Air Force in the early 1970s, dealing with a system that was not comfortable with women as soldiers. I worked in the business world where the "glass ceiling" was a reality for us all. I

have been a single mom with no health insurance using Planned Parenthood as a provider. I have been a teacher for more than 25 years, a mom, a grandma, a union activist and a community volunteer.

For many of my students of varied sexual orientation and/or different religions or cultures, Mr. Trump is the bogeyman. I grew up in a world expecting nuclear Armageddon. My grandchildren and students should not have that burden nor their reasonable fears about their sexual orientation or ethnicity.

I served my country and have continued to serve it after I was honorably discharged. I resent the part Mr. Trump has played in fracturing our country by promising things he cannot deliver and for fomenting hate in word and deed.



Amy McIlwaine of Cold Spring with her children Lucia and Lughan at the Walkway Over the Hudson march in Poughkeepsie Photo courtesy of Amy McIlwaine



"Toddler Trump" stays in character as the crowd streams past him on 42nd Street.

Photo by Anita Peltonen



A bus prepares to take Garrison residents to the D.C. march. Photo courtesy of Nancy Swann



Erin McKeon Bell of Cold Spring

Photo courtesy of Eugenie Milroy

At left, Reagan (holding sign) and Roberta Upshaw of Beacon, on the Mall in D.C. "We marched representing our four wonderful daughters — one who represents undocumented kids in California, one who is gay and married and living in Tennessee — and all women and vulnerable people," said Roberta.



Kara Dean-Assael of Beacon at the Washington march



Ricann Bock, Liz Wisler, Shelley Gilbert, Casey Swann and Nancy Sigworth at the D.C. march

Photo courtesy Nancy Swann



Haldane seniors Allie LaRocco of Cold Spring, Jocelyn Lane of Cold Spring and Harper Levy of Garrison at the New York City march

Photo by Elise LaRocco



MJ, Kaelin, Marina and Fred Martin of Garrison at the New York City march

Photo courtesy of MJ Martin

Sports

Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

Kyle Davis, Beacon High School

Davis has won 27 of his 29 wrestling matches at 195 pounds this season and established himself as one of Section 1's best in the weight class. Last year he finished fifth in Section 1 at 170 pounds with a record of 34-8. The senior on Jan. 14 finished fifth at 195 pounds in the Eastern States Classic at Sullivan County Community College, which featured wrestlers from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine.



Kyle Davis

Loretto Knights Results CYO round-up for Jan. 21 and 22

5th-grade girls def. Sacred Heart (Patterson), 27-9 Finola Kiter (8 points), Ruby Poses (7)	6th-grade girls lost to Our Lady of Mercy (Port Chester), 20-5 Amanda Johansson (3)
5th-grade girls def. Chapel School (Bronxville), 22-8 Emily Tomann (11)	6th-grade boys lost to Bronxville CCD, 33-29 Matteo Cervone (10), Julian Ambrose (6)
5th-grade boys lost to IHM (Scarsdale) Ryan Van Tassel (6), Evan Giachinta (6)	7th-grade boys def. Our Lady of Mercy, 39-16 Ryan Irwin (15), Soren Holmbo (12)
5th-grade boys lost to Our Lady of Mercy (Port Chester), 31-27 Ryan Van Tassel (15)	7th-grade boys def. Iona Prep, 38-15 Ryan Irwin (20), Robert Viggiano (9)
6th-grade girls def. St. Vito (Mamaroneck), 27-9 Moretta Pezzullo (8)	8th-grade boys def. Iona Prep Daniel Santos (26)
	8th-grade boys def. Holy Name (Valhalla) Christian Pezzullo (15)

High School Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Basketball Saunders 79, Beacon 66	55-meter hurdles Ethan Burgos, 8.44
Girls' Basketball Haldane 52, Putnam Valley 46 Allison Chiera (19 points), Missy Lisikatos (11), Abbey Stowell (10)	Triple jump Richard Kish, 40-7.25
Track Beacon @ Section 1, League 2D, 1B Championship First-place finishers Girls 55-meter dash Jada Williams, 7.81 High jump Jummi Akinwummi, 5-0 Long jump Tiara Boone, 14-8.5	Weight throw Joseph Sarcone, 32-9
Boys 55-meter dash Alex Laird, 6.80 300-meter dash Vincent Compagnone, 37.72 3,200-meter run Jayen Lare, 11.03	Boys' Bowling Beacon 7, Carmel 0
	Girls' Bowling Beacon 7, Carmel 0
	Boys' Swimming Beacon 50.5, Yorktown 43.5 First-place finishers 50 Freestyle Sean Landers 24.73 200 Freestyle Lucas O'Blaney 2:00.54
	Wrestling Beacon Bulldog Tournament Team finish: 8 of 13 195 – Kyle Davis pinned Jimmy Ball (Saugerties), 4:48.



The Loretto Knights Fifth-Grade Girls' Team. Back Row: Emily Tomann, Camilla McDaniel, Elaine Llewelyn, Maggie Gordineer, Ruby Poses. Front Row: Eloise Pearsall, Finola Kiter, Clara Tripp, Sarah Jones

Photo by Emily Jones

Non-Contact Sport



Haldane junior Anthony Lombardo (15) and Putnam Valley senior Nick Singer (21) battle for a rebound on a foul shot during a game on Jan. 18. The Tigers prevailed, 53-32.

Photos by Richard Kuperberg Sr.



Junior Liam Irwin (33) of Haldane fights for position against senior Anthony Woods (30) of Putnam Valley on Jan. 18.

Coaches and Parents

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