



The Paper



Happy New Year!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | philipstown.info



Photo courtesy of Garrison Volunteer Fire Company

Pre-Christmas Blaze Destroys Historic Garrison Home

Intense flames and heat a challenge for firefighters

By Michael Turton

The historic South Mountain Pass home of Nicholas Angell in Garrison was destroyed in a dramatic fire that began late on the night of Monday, Dec. 21. Jim Erickson, chief of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company, said the seriousness of the blaze became evident as the initial, automatic alarm at 11:20 p.m. indicating a “kitchen fire” quickly escalated to a “heavy kitchen fire” within a matter of minutes. Erickson, one of the first on the scene, said that by the time he pulled up, the house was “completely involved.”

Erickson dispatched firefighters to enter the structure but he said that the heat was so intense that, once inside, they were unable to advance. “It was one of the oldest

houses in the town,” he said, adding that the tinder wood frame undoubtedly contributed to the intensity of the blaze. “It was a very hot fire,” he said. The house, which included a rental apartment, dated to the 18th century.

No one was in the home by the time firefighters arrived. Erickson sustained the only injury when he was pinned between a boulder and a fire truck as he worked to set up a continuous loop of tanker trucks as part of his strategy for fighting the blaze. He suffered a broken finger and a cut to this hand that required 20 stitches but returned to the scene after receiving treatment at a hospital.

Someone had apparently entered the house in an attempt to put out the fire before GVFC arrived. Inside, a number of doors were left open, a factor Erickson said contributed to its ferocity. “Open doors between sections of the house allowed the fire to (Continued on Page 6)

When Should Cold Spring Vote?

Residents’ views differ widely

By Michael Turton

One of the first public discussions awaiting the Cold Spring Village Board in the New Year will be whether to move the village elections from March to November. The debate dates at least to Ralph Falloon’s tenure as mayor, when officials from the Putnam County Board of Elections (PCBOE) outlined the impact of having the county run the elections instead of the village.

When the village runs its own elections, with the village clerk acting as chief election officer, it costs taxpayers about \$4,000, plus the cost of staff time devoted to planning and supervising the election. If the PCBOE were to run Cold Spring elections in November, as it does for almost

all other municipalities in the county, the county would absorb the entire cost. The village board under Falloon opted to have the March 2014 village election run by PCBOE; the cost to the village was \$6,579.65 but staff at Village Hall had little or no involvement.

The “pro” side of November elections includes cost savings to a village that annually contends with a very tight budget, especially under the constraints of the New York State-imposed spending cap. Also considered a plus is the likelihood of a larger turnout of village voters since a trip to the polls in November would coincide with national elections. The “cons” identified with abandoning March elections center around a perceived loss of Cold Spring’s autonomy and a stronger, and what many consider negative, (Continued on Page 3)



Ralph Falloon File photo

Pataki Drops Presidential Bid

Former NY governor never found his place in bombastic campaign

By Kevin E. Foley

Former New York governor George Pataki, who lives in Garrison, has told supporters in New Hampshire he is withdrawing from the race for the Republican presidential nomination. Pataki has mostly campaigned in New Hampshire and had hoped, when he announced in May 2015, he could get into contention with a strong showing in the granite state.

Pataki announced his withdrawal in a two-minute spot on NBC. He also sent a similar message to South Carolina and Iowa supporters.

“While tonight is the end of my journey for the White House as I suspend my campaign for president, I am confident we can elect the right person — someone who will bring us together and who understands that politicians, including the president, must be the people’s servant and not their master,” he said.

In a year that saw 17 Republicans declare candidacies, Pataki never registered with GOP voters. His more moderate gubernatorial record, his absence from national politics for more than a decade, his low-key campaign style and his inability to raise money all combined to cast him aside in the aggressive campaign scrum. The year saw a campaign much more stridently conservative in tone and substance than Pataki could muster. Pataki was the only Republican to declare he would not support fellow New Yorker Donald Trump, who continues to lead in polls nationally and in New Hampshire.

A Dec. 11 poll in New Hampshire by Boston public radio station WBUR had Pataki at essentially zero support, having declined from 1 percent the month before. Pataki is reported to have last campaigned in New Hampshire on Dec. 4.

Given his low poll numbers, Pataki was relegated to the undercard of televised debates and was likely to be eliminated altogether in the debate before the New Hampshire primary in early February.



George Pataki (campaign photo)

Roots and Shoots

A Growth Industry

Predictions and inspiration for 2016

By Pamela Doan

Learn — Take a class at Stonecrop Gardens or the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County (“Planning a Vegetable Garden” is a free class coming up in Carmel on Wednesday, Jan. 13). If you’ve got more time and access, trek down to the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx to explore a new subject or pick up a new skill. Read about permaculture, agroforestry, xeriscaping or edible landscaping.

Experiment — Try a new variety of vegetable, grow one new vegetable you’ve never tried before, create a water garden, transplant and divide plants, try a new technique or design approach.

Go big — Replace your lawn with native grasses or a meadow. Plant a rain garden to capture runoff in your own yard. Double or triple the size of your vegetable garden. Turn your roof into a garden.

You might love the pawpaw — Nothing could be more impressive than treating friends to their first pawpaw from the tree in your yard. This native fruit tree has been described to me as part mango, part banana. Pollinators love it and it’s a host for two varieties of larva for butter-

flies, the zebra swallowtail and pawpaw sphinx caterpillars. Birds and other wildlife will eat the fruit, as well, if it turns out not to be friendly to your palate. Pretty purple flowers in spring and bright yellow foliage in fall make it a beautiful addition.

Stop buying bird seed when winter ends — Instead, fill the yard with trees, shrubs and plants that will sustain birds in spring, summer and fall. This could be from plants with berries or seeds and plants that attract insects the birds need to survive. YardMap.org is a website with a mapping tool and all the resources you need.

Pretty and sterile are out — The visual impact of our efforts in the yard is one of the biggest rewards but go for plants that are both beautiful and valuable for other creatures like bees and butterflies. Sterile landscapes are not much better than paved parking lots in terms of their ecological value. Big lawns and exotic species don’t contribute to the vitality of any creatures.

Embrace chaos — What I love about gardening is that no matter what I do, I can’t control it and I’ll make myself crazy if I try. Go with the flow and try out native plants that are good at re-seeding like Joe Pye weed, thistle or milkweed. A few of these can thrive and spread. Birds and butterflies will love it, too.

Got shade? Use it — Sunlight is over-



Primula sprouting new leaves on Christmas Eve during a record-setting warm December

Photo by P. Doan

rated in a warming world. Take advantage of tall trees and learn about what grows in their shadows. Another advantage is that the tallest trees sequester the most carbon.

Don’t waste water — It’s very clear that as weather patterns change due to global warming, rainfall isn’t always going to be where you want it, when you want it. This year we experienced a drought in our area and anyone with a garden was very conscious of the work involved in keeping plants alive. Plan for capturing rainfall in barrels and use mulch to keep the mois-

ture in the ground.

Get rid of invasive species in your yard — The Department of Environmental Conservation took a huge step this year to control the spread of invasive species when it banned and regulated certain trees, plants and shrubs. Many such as Japanese barberry and golden bamboo had been popular landscape plants. While the regulations prevent the sale or import of these species, many people already have them in their yards and they can spread when birds carry the seeds. Help stop these aggressive invaders from taking over more natural spaces by finding alternatives for your landscape.

Do less work — Mulch for weed control and water conservation. Plant a cover crop to improve the soil. Mow less by decreasing your lawn size and letting it grow higher. Don’t till the soil but add organic matter on top instead. Start with healthy soil and plant for the conditions you’re working in.

More joy! — Gardening can be one of the most pleasurable, relaxing and satisfying experiences. Or it can be one back-breaking chore after another. If your relationship is the latter instead of the former, change your approach, your design or your plants — whatever it takes to find more enjoyment in your efforts.

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Bids Expected Soon for Cold Spring Main Street Project

Work could begin in spring

By Michel Turton

Four mayors and 10 years in the making, Cold Spring's long-awaited Main Street project has moved another step closer to getting underway. The village board met briefly on Dec. 29 to authorize Mayor Dave Merandy to sign an agreement with CHA Consulting, the engineering firm that has assisted the village throughout the project's protracted planning process.

The agreement authorizes CHA to monitor and inspect works completed as part of the \$750,894 initiative. The village will bear \$150,179 of the cost, with the balance paid through a federal grant administered by New York State Department of Transportation (DOT).

The bulk of the work will replace the worst of Main Street's decayed sidewalks between High Street and the pedestrian tunnel. Lighting will also be improved along that portion of the street. New lights will be added atop some poles not

currently lit and lower "area lights" will be added to improve lighting along sidewalks. In addition, new curbs and curb cuts that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are planned.

Deputy Mayor Marie Early told The Paper that with the agreement signed by the mayor, a step required by DOT, contractors can now be notified of the opportunity to bid on the project. Companies will be given approximately six weeks to submit proposals. Early said construction should be underway by early spring.

Early pointed out that the project has been divided into two segments: the major improvements to Main Street and upgrades on Furnace Street as well as possible improvements to Mountain Avenue and Fishkill Avenue. The extent to which improvements are undertaken on the two avenues will depend on final project costs, she said.

The Main Street Project was initiated in 2006 during Anthony Phillips' last term as mayor.

Other business

- At their Dec. 15 meeting, trustees

voted to support adoption of Putnam County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. They also voted in favor of Putnam County's proposal to implement countywide regulation of taxi services.

- Trustees approved the appointment of Sean Conway and Andrea Connor Hudson to the Historic District Review Board and Paul Henderson to the Code Update Committee.
- Earlier this month, the New York State Comptroller announced that the 2016 tax cap for local governments with fiscal years beginning June 1, 2016, which includes Cold Spring, will be 0.12 percent. State law requires that the maximum allowable increase in the levy be limited to 2 percent or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is lower.

Planning Board

- After the close of a public hearing on Dec. 10, the Cold Spring Planning Board approved the application for Ella's Bellas to operate a bakery, cafe

and retail space at 15 Main St.

- The board is considering an application for reconstruction and a change in use at 69 Main St., the former home of The Paper and Philipstown.info, for Barber and Brew, a combination barber shop and pub. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 28.
- The board received confirmation from John Furst, the attorney for the Village of Cold Spring, that Scenic Hudson can proceed with a lot-line adjustment at the Campbell property located on The Boulevard. The 12.7-acre property will be split, with approximately 8 acres becoming part of The Foundry Preserve and the remainder, including the historic Campbell home, sold as a residential lot.
- The board is reviewing a proposal by River Architects of Cold Spring to establish its offices at 178 Main St. The building was formerly the office of A.D. Preusser Realty.

When Should Cold Spring Vote? *(from Page 1)*

association with national politics. Concern has also been expressed that village issues would become lost in a sea of media coverage of national issues, candidates and parties.

Are Cold Spring elections "broken"?

The village board is planning a mid-January workshop on the topic that no doubt will draw considerable public comment. By law, a change in election date must be decided by public referendum; as it stands, in February a resolution will be considered and almost certainly passed authorizing inclusion of the question of a move to November as part of the March 2016 ballot.

When the board voted in December to put the question to the public, Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy voted in favor. Trustees Cathryn Fadde and Michael Bowman voted against, with Bowman commenting, "If it isn't broken, don't fix it." One area of agreement was that if elections are moved to November, the change would take place far enough in the future that no current members of the board would benefit from a longer term in office.

The Paper contacted a number of village residents, some of whom have held public office. It was not a scientific sampling, but residents seem as divided on the election date issue as the board.

Former mayors disagree

"I'm absolutely against changing the election from March to November," said former Cold Spring Mayor Anthony Phillips. "Moving it would take away from our village, its quality of life. Part of that quality of life is having our own election." Phillips said he also disagreed when the board had Putnam County run the election in March 2015. "They talk about cost savings, but the cost savings don't amount to much," he said.



Tim Brennan

Photo by M. Turton

Ralph Falloon sees it very differently. "I started the investigation into moving the responsibility and date of the elections to the county for the purpose of saving money, including saving time energy and stress on the village clerk" he said. "I foolishly assumed that those reasons would be more important than bringing national political tactics to our little village."

Falloon said that the past two elections, although held in March, have been marked by "childish fights and tactics." For that reason, he said, "don't blame the date of the elections for childish behavior. Move the elections and save the money. If it doesn't work out, move it back."

A call for less acrimony

Former Haldane School Board Trustee Peter Henderson said he didn't feel strongly about a move to November but was of the same mind with Falloon when it came to the mood of village politics. "I don't have strong feelings either way, although I'm inclined to think keeping the election in March is best for getting people engaged to discuss local issues," he said. "I wouldn't change the date for the cost savings alone. What I'd rather see change



Gillian Thorpe

File photo

is the acrimony that seems to dominate village politics. I have a feeling we probably all agree on about 90 percent [of the issues] and could easily work out the rest if people could just get along a bit better."

National versus local politics

Gillian Thorpe, now a resident of Garrison, is a former Haldane School Board president who said she can understand both sides of the argument, to a point. "As with every issue, there are pros and cons," she said. "The residents have to consider what is more important to them at this time." However, she added, "although I wish our local elections ignored national political parties, I think it's clear to everyone, they don't. To try to preserve something that doesn't truly exist seems foolish to me. So save the taxpayers some money, and be honest about your political affiliations, and maybe there will be less arguing."

Joe Curto, another former Haldane School Board president, often agreed with Thorpe as a colleague on the school board, but they differ on this issue. "If the village's goal is to remain an independent government entity it would seem to make sense to leave [the election] as is," he offered. "Shifting to November will create further alignment with political parties and politicize an already overly political environment."



Joe Curto

File photo

He also echoed Bowman's philosophy of not trying to fix something that isn't broken and downplayed the significance of potential cost savings. "There is an inherent cost to being an independent entity, one of which is an open and free election [in which] people are focused on local issues."

Tim Brennan is a local contractor who has not held public office. He is just as emphatic as Phillips in his view of the election date issue, although his view is from the other side of the fence. "I think [moving elections to November] is a good idea," he said. "The biggest thing is that it will bring more people out to vote. And cost savings is an important issue." Brennan doesn't see national versus local politics as an issue. "November elections won't affect people's thought processes," he said. "People will still pay attention to local issues; they can deal with local and national issues on the same day."

"It's a toss-up"

Mayor Dave Merandy wouldn't tip his hand regarding where he stands on the issue but did say it's time to settle the question. "It's been talked about for quite a while," he said. "It's time to put it to a referendum and let the people decide. I'm not sure which way it will go."

Philipstown.info The Paper

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Philipstown.Info, Inc.

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(1939 - 2014)

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OPINION

The Town of Cold Spring

*Perhaps one government
would be better*

By Kevin E. Foley

Before we get into another season of village elections, let's pause and ask how much local government we really need. What if we had one government for the not quite 10,000 citizens within Philipstown's borders? Beacon, for handy comparison, has one government for its 15,000 citizens.

To ask the question another way: How might we reshape our local taxpayer-supported resources so they work better at improving and protecting the quality of life for all residents of Philipstown? Do we really need two village governments (Cold Spring and Nelsonville) in addition to a town government?

What might happen if we eliminated the village governments? Even as we adapt and use technology to learn, shop, and communicate, we nevertheless cling to old ways of governing. Perhaps the reasons have more to do with sentimentality and insecurity than any real conviction that what worked in the 19th century still works well in the 21st.

Two premises

The one-government idea rests on two understandings. First, most of the governmental factors that affect our quality of life originate in the capitals of Carmel, Albany and Washington D.C. The factors come, for example, in the form of laws that govern the handling of development projects; funding for transportation needs, street repair or disaster relief; mandates on how local government operates; or budget decisions on the level of services for senior citizens or other needs.

Second, the biggest task of local government is getting the paperwork right. This means organizing proposed projects so they are better understood at the outset; carefully reading the voluminous communication from other levels of government; and keeping elected and appointed officials up to date with changes so they can set priorities and respond to opportunities created by new or revised laws, regulations and budgets.

Streamlining the context and methodology for getting the paperwork right could, among other things, open opportunities for economic development, help identify funding sources, and resolve the challenges of public and private projects more quickly and effectively.

Conservative and liberal

Speaking through empowered representatives with a strong, unified and informed voice to Carmel, Albany and Washington D.C. and holding those representatives accountable for responding to their constituents would work better than the current wheel spinning and wishful thinking that too often passes for local



Nelsonville Village Hall



Cold Spring Village Hall



Town of Philipstown Town Hall *File photos*

inter-governmental relations these days.

The only jobs lost under this scheme are elected ones. Cold Spring and Nelsonville support eight positions. We might eliminate six of these and allocate the remaining two to increase the size of the town board from five to seven members with the goal of representing a broader diversity of views and political affiliations.

All the civil servants would stay to provide the actual services, but they would work in a single organization delivering those services in a more productive way. This efficiency is less about saving money and more about creating impact and greater economies of scale for the taxes we pay. It marries a conservative idea of less government with a liberal notion that government can solve problems and promote the general welfare.

One court, one highway, one building department

Suppose we had one consolidated court to dispose of all judicial matters. Do we really need a system that says you report to a different court depending on whether you were stopped for speeding in Nelsonville, Cold Spring, or North Highlands? This idea has seen years of discussion.

Suppose we had one highway department, a combination of Cold Spring's and Philipstown's, to maintain and clear roads on all our town (and village) streets in close coordination with the county and state departments. And while we're at it, let's drop the idea of electing a town highway superintendent and instead have the new town board hire the best available person after a public job search.

And how about one building department for getting information, requesting inspection, filing plans and other issues involving our homes and businesses in Philipstown? This idea was actually discussed last year and went nowhere even though as a practical matter it would assist residents and entrepreneurs by having a better-staffed and more efficient office for the entire citizenry.

From three clerks, a town manager

Suppose we had one appointed clerk's office instead of the current three — one of which, the town clerk, is elected. Do we really need to elect the town clerk? Think about having one combined administrative office headed by a full-time, experienced town manager responsible for keeping government services on track, briefing the town board for its deliberations, carrying out the board's decisions, coordinating the work of appointed committees, providing timely and transparent public information on a new up-to-date website and keeping a sharp lookout for funding opportunities on the county, state and federal level.

Consolidation is coming

Governor Cuomo and the state legislature have already introduced incentives in the form of taxpayer rebates to encourage local governments to find ways to share services and become more efficient. Our state Assemblywoman, Sandy Galef, has long argued for greater sharing of services and consolidation. In the years ahead this effort will doubtless intensify. Why not get ahead of the curve and show other villages and towns the way forward? We could make history instead of remaining tethered to historical models that no longer respond adequately to contemporary challenges.

Doubtless there are flaws in this thinking. People will make legal, political, historic and other objections. But, really, if you object to a unified government, one that would preserve and protect the best of what we have now, then you have the burden of explaining why we should maintain the current village/town system, which is often so slow and seemingly unable to respond to issues in a timely or strategic manner.

Please see
a note to our readers
on Page 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many thanks to Beacon volunteers

Many thanks to all of the folks who contributed to the success of the City of Beacon + BeaconArts Tree Lighting on Dec. 12, including the Department of Public Works for helping with set up and lighting the absolutely gorgeous Blue Spruce on the southern end of the Visitor's Center; the Fire Department for the Santa escort; the Police Department for traffic and security; the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center for hosting the site; and Jon Miles and everyone at Peoples Bicycle for getting Santa down Main Street on time.

Thank you to Lori Merhige and the Wee Play Community project for the crafty fun! Thanks to Kenny Wright, Liam Goodman and Jeff McHugh for special production

assistance with the Bicycle Tree. Extra special thanks to Cheryl Lange and the music faculty at the Beacon City School District, as well as the parents and caregivers for helping prepare the children and bringing the school choruses to the event — they were absolutely wonderful! Also thanks to Anthony Scarrone and the Beacon Players for their terrific singing and for their assistance with the lighting. Many thanks to Angela Van Vlack and the dancers from the Yanarella School of Dance for their lovely presentation and for escorting Santa to the stage! Thank you to the extraordinary and effervescent Emily Ellison for leading the sing-along and for being a great MC as well as Stephen Clair and the Beacon Music Factory for their

absolutely essential support.

Thank you, Mark Price, Director of the Beacon Recreation Department, and the Beacon Recreation Commission for once again making this a special day to remember for so many, and thank you to the Tioronda Cadette Troop 10525 for its assistance in distributing the hot chocolate, cider and donuts. Finally, thank you to artist and eternal kid-at-heart Ed Benavente for his whimsical and uniquely Beacon Christmas Tree that speaks to the child in all of us. His dedication and lightheartedness have brought something very special and wonder-filled to the children, as well as to all of the citizens of our

town. More than 600 people attended the event, and many more have since come to visit the tree. It will continue to grow and evolve, so we hope everyone will come see it again next year.

May 2016 bring our friends and neighbors health and happiness. Shine on, Beacon!

The BeaconArts Board of Directors

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Jon Miles of Peoples Bicycle delivered Santa in style to Beacon tree lighting. Photo provided

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LEGAL NOTICE:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, GARRISON FIRE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Organizational Meeting of the Garrison Fire District will take place:

January 6, 2016, at 7 p.m., at the Garrison Fire Station,
1616 Route 9, Garrison, New York

GARRISON FIRE DISTRICT, December 23, 2015

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TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN TAX COLLECTION LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I, Tina M. Merando, the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of Philipstown, County of Putnam and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Philipstown for the year 2016 and that I will receive the same at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, from January 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. In January ONLY the Tax Collector will be at the Town Hall, Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Taxes will be collected without penalty if paid on or before January 31, 2016. On all taxes paid after January 31, 2016 an additional 1% penalty will be assessed for each month or fraction thereof thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the County Treasurer pursuant to law.

Partial tax payment (50% of total tax) will ONLY be accepted during the month of January 2016. The second partial payment will be assessed a 1% penalty charge each month until July 31, 2016 when all unpaid second partial payments will be turned over to the County Treasurer.

Full payment of taxes will be accepted without penalty during the month of January 2016. After the month of January, a 1% interest penalty will be assessed each month until May 1, 2016 when all "fully unpaid" taxes will be turned over to the County Treasurer for collection.

DATED: December 31, 2015

Tina M. Merando
Tax Collector
Town of Philipstown



Photo by Cooper Cardenas/Continental Village Fire Department

Blaze Destroys Historic Garrison Home *(from Page 1)*

expand," he said.

GVFC's chief said other fire companies assisting at the scene included Cold Spring, North Highlands, Continental Village, Putnam Valley, Fort Montgomery and Croton. Other media reports indicated that firefighters from Mahopac Falls, Rom-bout, Dutchess Junction and Buchanan also responded, along with New York State Police and a number of ambulance services.

A car was damaged but firefighters were able to save an outbuilding located within 15 to 20 feet of the house. Erickson said that building also dated to the 1700s. "We did what we've been trained to do," he

said. "We did our best."

As many as 70 firefighters were at the scene at the height of the fire. Erickson said that most had departed by about 5 a.m. but that some GVFC volunteers remained until 1 p.m. the next day. Once they returned to their Route 9 fire house, firefighters still had to deal with storing equipment and tending to vehicles. Erickson said that for some it was a 17-hour call.

The cause of the blaze is not yet known. The Putnam County Fire Investigation Team is investigating but Erickson said the cause may never be determined due to its severity.

Obituary

Daniel Solit

Daniel Solit of Cold Spring, NY passed away at his home on Friday, December 25, 2015 at the age of 56. Daniel was born to Ernest Solit and Jane Paynter Solit on May 6, 1959 in Cornwall, NY. Dan was a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America Local 279 for 35 years.

Daniel is survived by his cherished daughter Dana Solit, beloved mother Jane Paynter Solit, caring brothers Richard Whippo and Mark Solit, and sisters Janet Whippo and Ellen Whippo McGuire, and by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Daniel was predeceased by his father Ernest Solit and brother Barney Solit.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Saturday, January 2, 2016 from 1 to 3 p.m. with a Memorial Service beginning at 2 p.m. at Edward F. Carter Funeral Home, 170 Kings Ferry Rd., Montrose, NY 10548. In lieu of flowers Daniel's family ask that donations be made in his name to Carpenters Local 279 Scholarship Fund, 10 Corporate Park, Suite A, Hopewell Junction, NY 12532.



To Our Readers

A few improvements and more on the way

As you can see, our first-of-the-year Addition features a change to an all-color format, which we are excited about for better presentation of photos and text. Winter Photofest participants, please take special note.

In addition, we have changed our format size to a slightly shorter length, which is a standard for weekly newspapers in the tri-state area. The change in size is due to changing printers in pursuit of better production values. And, yes, we are also saving money in the bargain.

In the weeks ahead we are planning some other design changes and a surprise or two. Keep an eye out.

Website

In response to reader comments, we have upgraded *Philipstown.info* to better handle various devices. Phone and tablet users should have a much-improved experience when accessing the site. Please let us know if that's the case.

We have moved the website to a faster server and upgraded the platform, so the look is slightly different. In the weeks ahead we will continue to make changes we hope will improve your experience. We also will be adding more videos and introducing online advertising. Design changes consistent with the print paper are also on the horizon.

Thanks to an engaged and generous board of directors and a growing list of contributors and advertisers, we see 2016 as a year of exciting possibility for journalism that strives for a fair and open-minded approach to community news and events.

As always we welcome your comments, suggestions, complaints and support. You can reach me directly at editor@philipstown.info.

Kevin E. Foley, Managing Editor

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SAT 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45
SUN 1:30 3:45 6:00, MON 5:15
TUE 2:45 5:00 7:15, WED & THU 7:15

Star Wars:
The Force Awakens (PG13)
FRI 3:00 6:15 9:30, SAT 11:30 2:45
6:00 9:15, SUN 1:00 4:15 7:30
MON 5:30, TUE 12:30, 3:45 7:00
WED & THU 7:00

Joy (PG13)
FRI 3:45 6:45 9:45
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SUN 1:45 4:45 7:45
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The Calendar

Our Town is HVSF Gift to Its Home

Community members will share stage

By Alison Rooney

The annual announcement of the season's offerings by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) used to have a predictability about it. In recent years, the "reveal" would come down merely to the specifics. In what has been a "one from column A" kind of way, it was a matter of finding out which drama, which comedy and which small-cast, multi-character broad comedy would fill the bill the following summer.

Last summer, however, saw an alteration, with an increase in productions to four, just two by the Bard, with a third, less classifiable contemporary theater piece (*Arabian Nights*), and the fourth, a solo adaptation of Homer's *Iliad*, performed by Kurt Rhoads.

This new year brings even more "new" to the festival, which marks its 30th season under the tent at Boscobel. A trio of works by Shakespeare — including an all-female production of *Macbeth*, will be joined, in a nod toward honoring its Hudson Valley community, by a volunteer-driven production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* populated by a mix of professional actors and designers who will work alongside members of the community.

The production takes its inspiration from the Public Works program developed by Manhattan's Public Theater, which has sought to "engage the people of New York by making them creators and not just spectators." Public Works



For the first time, community members will find themselves on stage under the tent at Boscobel late this summer in the HVSF production of *Our Town*.

Photo by William Marsh

has partnered with diverse organizations, conducting workshops and other activities leading to the creation of participatory theater in the service of "creating

theater that is not only for the people, but by and of the people as well." The year-long process of engagement culminates in a big show at the Delacorte, the

Public's outdoor theater in Central Park.

Davis McCallum, HVSF's artistic director, along with Associate Artistic Director and (Continued on Page 10)

Quinn's Will Rock on New Year's Day

Ronstadt and Violent Femmes covers, plus Blue Vinyl

By Alison Rooney

Whether you've spent New Year's Eve in party hearty mode or curled up on your couch in an eggnog stupor, Quinn's is the place for a cure in the guise of Beacon Music Factory's third annual New Year's Day concert. This year it will showcase Kelly Ellenwood and band performing Linda Ronstadt's quintessential 1974 California pop-rock album, *Heart Like a Wheel*.

The concert also will feature the Bea-

con Music Factory's Violent Femmes Boot Camp (one of the latest in BMF's now-long string of musical incarnations) and Blue Vinyl, which consists of Beacon teenagers Miles Jakob and Leah Siegel. Beginning at the civilized hour of 3 p.m., the community is invited to welcome 2016 and revel in its first full day.

Ellenwood and her fellow musicians — BMF's Stephen Clair on guitar; Daria Grace on bass and vocals; JWhy on drums; Josh Stark on guitar and vocals; Kathy Vosman on violin and keyboard and back-up vocals from Ellenwood's daughter Rhiannon, along with Siegel — will be throwing it back to Ellenwood at 12 years of age, when she played her *Heart Like a Wheel* LP nonstop.

"I think whatever you listened to at 12

— that's your model forever," Ellenwood says. Calling *Heart Like a Wheel* a "song cycle — it really does have a beginning, middle and end," Ellenwood notes that some of Ronstadt's biggest hits are on it. "They're all covers, but you don't remember anyone else singing them."

Ellenwood was also drawn to the album after reading of Ronstadt's diagnosis of Parkinson's and how it has caused her to stop singing. "That really resonated with me," she says. "I lost my voice after an illness, and it was a loss of identity I was really 'feeling

her' and got the idea to do this, though I had never sung any of these publicly. My voice now is not too different from what it used to be; I'm just not doing the real operatic extreme (Continued on Page 11)



Photo by A. Rooney

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

A New Year's Vinyasa with Kelly Kamm
1:15 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga Studio
75 Main Street, Cold Spring
845-265-4444 | skybabyyoga.com

An Exhibition of Some Favorites from 14 Photographers (Opening)
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Group Show: Perceived/Constructed (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Holiday Open Barn
6 – 8 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

The Howland Wolves
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | See above.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

Blood Drive
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. All Sport Fishkill
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Downton Abbey Season Premier Tea Party
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

Fit for Life for Seniors (First Session)
11 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Free to Philipstown residents age 62 and older.

MLK Day Parade Singing Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Springfield Baptist Church
8 Maddie Cooper Square, Beacon | 845-264-5663

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

Yoga with Kathy Barnes (First Session)
7:30 p.m. Old VFW Hall | 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring | 845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Yoga with Kathie Scanlon (First Session)
9:30 a.m. Old VFW Hall | See details under Monday

Zumba Gold for Seniors (First Session)
10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Free to Philipstown residents age 62 and older.

Baby & Me (ages 0-2)
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

New Moms & Infants Group
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

Jean-Marc Superville Sovak: I Draw & You Talk (Opens)
Noon – 5 p.m. Matteawan Gallery
436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Blood Drive
2 - 8 p.m. Knights of Columbus
25 Townsend St., Beacon
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Crazy 8s Math Club (First Session)
3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org | *Registration required.*

Dancing with the Stars Live!
7 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

Haldane School Board
7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Putnam County Legislature
7 p.m. Putnam County Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Chair Yoga for Seniors (First Session)
9:30 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
See details under Monday.

Desmond-Fish Library
10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. Pre-school Story Hour
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Continues weekly.

Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Fit for Life for Seniors (First Session)
10:30 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
See details under Tuesday.

Garrison Fire District Organizational Meeting
7 p.m. Garrison Fire Station
1616 Route 9, Garrison | garrisonfd.org

Town Board Pre-Meeting
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

Zumba Gold for Seniors (First Session)
9:30 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
See details under Monday.

Zumba (First Session)
9:45 a.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Dr., Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Discover Abstract Painting (First Session)
10:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Learn to Quilt with Shirley Botsford (First Session)
Noon. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Dr., Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Lego Club (ages 4+)
3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Wednesday.

Town Board Reorganization / Regular Meeting
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Town Hall
See details under Wednesday.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

Chair Yoga for Seniors (First Session)
10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
See details under Tuesday.

Beginning Watercolor (First Session)
10:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center
See details under Thursday.

My Best – Annual High School Art Exhibit (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Celebrating the Music of Lennon and McCartney
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Jan. 2.

ONGOING

Art & Design
philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services
philipstown.info/services

Support Groups
philipstown.info/sg

Film and Animation Workshops for Kids

BIFF and Spark offer courses for ages 10-15

The Beacon Indie Film Festival and the Spark Media Project have opened pre-registration for three upcoming workshops designed for students ages 10-15: the four-hour Filmmaking 101 (on Saturday, Jan. 30), Multimedia Animation (six two-hour evening sessions beginning Wednesday, Feb. 3) and the four-hour Sci-Fi/Fantasy Filmmaking Intensive (on Saturday, March 19). All films made will be screened at the 2016 Beacon Independent Film Festival in September.

The workshops will be held at the Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., in Beacon. Download a registration form at beaconindiefilmfest.org, or email deana@beaconindiefilmfest.org to reserve a spot. The four-hour workshops cost \$75 and the six-week workshop is \$145. For more information, call 917-701-9823.

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MSMC Announces Community Classes

Winter catalog for Desmond campus now online

Mount Saint Mary College has released its catalog of community education courses being offered in January and February at its Desmond campus in Newburgh, including courses in computer literacy, digital photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, music, art history, genealogy, publishing, writing, film theory, beekeeping, theology, foreign languages, health and fitness, wine, meditation, yoga and driving.

The catalog can be downloaded at msmc.edu/desmondcampus or requested by calling 845-565-2076. The Desmond campus is located at 6 Albany Post Road in Newburgh, off Exit 10 on I-84 (the first exit after crossing the Newburgh-Beacon bridge).



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Garrison Man Joins Peace Corp in Senegal

Where the “cold” days are 90 degrees

By William Benjamin

At the beginning of December, I joined 58 other Americans sworn in as Peace Corps volunteers in Senegal, on the west coast of Africa. It has been a short month with many long days, filled with a new language, strange customs and the excitement of never knowing what to expect. It's certainly not Garrison, where I grew up.

Each day so far has been slightly different, with the same pattern: wake up, breakfast, greet the compound, water, xa jara-jara, lunch, study, thresh rice, water again, read/journal, dinner, tea, read, sleep, and repeat. The routine sounds familiar, but being in Senegal, little of it actually is.

Roosters crow before the morning call to pray. They wake the donkeys, and pretty soon the whole village is moving. In this mud-hut village nearly everyone is moving before I am.

Around 7 a.m. women start to mill corn in their mortars and pestles, and it sounds like a high-energy baseline. I crawl out from under the mosquito net, pour water from a plastic bidon, and heat the pot on a single-burner, propane stove. I make gruel with fonio (a native grain), protein powder, hemp seeds, peanut butter, coconut shavings and whatever other nutrients I can pack into the bowl. Or I fry two eggs for fuel throughout my day. Then I duck under my back door, look over my garden and out toward the fallow rice and peanut fields of Dar Salaam.

Dar Salaam

Dar Salaam is an agricultural village down a bush path from an often-impassible dirt road to Kedougou. We are a kilometer from the Gambia river, and the ridge on the other side is the start of the Guinean Plateau. This is considered the mountainous and rainy part of Senegal, though no hill reaches as high as Sugar-



Dar Salaam is located in southern Senegal, near the border with Guinea

Image: Google Maps

loaf or Anthony's Nose, and no precipitation will fall between now and late May. Therefore, I must water.

With watering can in hand, I head to the well in the center of my compound. The women and girls still drum the giant wooden mortars with pestles. I greet them. Kor-tananté. Tanawanté. “Did you pass the night without evil?” “Without evil.” We speak Jaxanke, a language used by only about 30,000 people in the world.

The residents of Dar Salaam are known for their piety, although I've heard that other communities joke that they care only about three things: money, meat, and women. I have seen little money and no meat in my compound, though my homestay father does have three wives. He is an imam and marabou. A marabou is someone who teaches young boys Arabic and the Qu'ran in exchange for their labor on his fields. The boys are called talibé, or student in Arabic, and we have about 20 living on our compound. I greet them, pull water, pour it into my watering can, and soak my garden. They head to the fields.

I am a Sustainable Agriculture Volunteer, here to teach farmers techniques that will reduce costs, increase yields, and improve soil health. Much of what I will teach is basic — how to compost, mulch and intercrop. I don't yet have the language skills to explain what and why I am doing something, so for now, I garden to

demonstrate the benefits of what I will teach.

Xajara-jara

After I water, I head out to the communal gardening space and xa jara-jara. Xa jara-jara translates as “walk around and socialize.” So, I go to the sole hand-pump well in the village and pump for the women watering their gardens of mint, lettuce, and onions. A lady slides a bucket under the spout, I pump, we chat, then I help her get the bucket onto her head. She walks away and throws water over her garden beds with a bowl made from a dried gourd. Up steps the next one, and in slides another bucket.

At 11 a.m., it gets too hot to water or stand in the sun. I walk around to greet my friends, who I have not seen, xa jara-jara, then return to my hut and wait for lunch.

Every meal in Dar Salaam has been white rice or corn meal with a watery leaf or peanut sauce — nothing nutritious. During training, Peace Corps staff warned people heading to Kedougou would likely become malnourished if they do not supplement their diets, hence my breakfast. The men and older talibé sit at one bowl, the women and children at another. My homestay father fans the steaming bowl, then pours the sauce. We all reach with our right hands and start eating. It is too hot, but everyone here has an incredible tolerance to heat. If I don't burn my fingers, I won't eat.

After one eats his fill, he stands up, licks his hand clean, and walks away. The hungriest uses his pinky and outer palm to squidgy the bowl clean, then licks his hand like a cat.

After lunch I am exhausted. Although it may not seem like work, getting water from a well is tiring. It is even harder to walk around town and attempt to communicate in a language that you barely know. I point at objects, ask what they are, then write them in a notebook that I keep in my back pocket. I don't mind being the entertainment with my mispronunciations and grammatical errors, but in the afternoon, I need a break. I rest during the heat of the day, when there is nothing else to do.

As the sun begins to cool, I head down into the fields to help with the rice harvest. The men take meter-long bamboo sticks in each hand and bat small bales of rice, removing the grain from the stalk. It's a full body exercise, and exhausting. I last a few bales, and start to pray for the evening call to prayer, which means the men will head to the mosque.



Crossing a bridge on the way to Dar Salaam

Photo courtesy of W. Benjamin

Senegal is 90 percent Muslim, and in my community, every man will head to the mosque. When they go to pray, I go to my garden and water again. I save the last bucket for my shower at dusk. This is the “cold” season (although it still reaches 90 degrees during the heat of the day), so I only take one shower. Since there is no running water in my community, a shower is taken with a bucket, a cup and an onion sack, which works as a loofa.

I dress, then head into the middle of the compound to read or write in my journal under a solar lamp. No one in my compound can read, but they love watching me scribble. Some nights I write their names on a piece of paper and let them try to copy the letters. The girls are the most interested and keep asking me for pencils and notebooks. I write or read until the oldest son comes to me and says, “come eat, meat” — the one phrase the last volunteer taught him in English. There is no meat. More of the same.

After dinner, I go to visit other compounds, as I know they will offer me more food and tea. I shake hands, and the men feel them for callouses, while they ask, “How is work?” We sit around a fire to warm — them in jackets or sweaters, me in a T-shirt. The children point at objects and tell me the Jaxanke words for them. I jot them down and try to use them in sentences. They look up at me, smile, then drop their eyes.

I head home, turn off my headlamp and walk under the luminous carpet of stars. Heera doron. All is peace.

William Benjamin posts about his experiences in Senegal at his blog at transitionsofatwentysomething.wordpress.com.

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For more information visit philipstowndepottheatre.org Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station)

Our Town is HVSF Gift to Its Home (from Page 7)

Director of Education Sean McNall and the production's director, John Plummer, intend to create a Hudson Valley version of their own. "We thought about how we could pursue it: who is our community at HVSF, and what would it mean to turn the frame around and put our audience downstage center?" McCallum said.

Part of McCallum's inspiration was Made in Philipstown's Labor Day banquet, which he called "the most remarkable event I've ever been a part of — so filled with generosity and celebration, and such full participation from everybody. We hope that *Our Town* can be a kind of theatrical version of that. It's the great American play, period, full stop. It's filled with honesty, simplicity, power. As soon as I got this job, I thought about it; having it community-driven will make a lot of sense."

Although many details are being fine-tuned, what is currently planned is a series of two free workshops in Peekskill, Garrison, Cold Spring, Beacon and Newburgh, in February, March and April. The workshops will serve as a way to gauge people's interest and see "who wants to do it and build bridges between the festival and among communities," McCallum said. "Then, depending on the level of interest, a user-friendly audition process, will take place and a company will be formed." He noted that diversity is a goal, with different ages, backgrounds, walks of life and experience — from those who have appeared in

dozens of plays to those who have never been on stage before — mixing together, coming to know each other and, finally, putting on a play together.

After the initial meetings and casting, there will be a short hiatus, while the festival gets to work on its summer productions. Then, in May, rehearsals will begin, probably two evenings a week and one weekend afternoon through June, increasing to three weekday evenings and both weekend days as the performance weekend draws closer. After the festival season winds down, *Our Town* will have access to the stage under the tent for the final week before showtime on Labor Day weekend, with three or four performances, plus an invitation-only dress rehearsal and possibly performances at other venues.

McNall, who appeared in last season's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Winter's Tale*, will be one of three HVSF actors in the production, playing the Stage Manager. ("I would go anywhere in the country to see him play the Stage Manager," McCallum said.) The professional actors will mingle with a cast of about 30. Production values will be no different from the festival's other plays, McCallum said.

"The point will be we want to produce it with the full support of the theater community, with first-rate costumes, lighting, sound and props," he explained. "Everyone will be expected to memorize their lines, but part of what will make it



Sean McNall, who will help coordinate the HVSF community-driven production of *Our Town*, will appear in it as stage manager.

Photo by A. Rooney

beautiful is the authenticity and honesty of what is brought to it. The play itself has a universality. It's devastating and totally unsentimental. People come together to try to bring as much of themselves as they can to this play."

Admittedly, this is a grand experiment, and that's okay by McCallum. "We have many questions on how to budget for it, and we'll be encountering many things we weren't expecting, to be sure, but I have a lot of faith in the project," he said.

Aiding and abetting this project and production will be Emily Knapp, who will act as point person. Knapp is the recipient of a One-on-One grant through the Theatre Communications Group, which paired her with McCallum for 18 months of professional development through a mentorship at a member theater. Knapp, according to McCallum, will "be a familiar face in Philipstown this year." She, along with McNall and Plummer, will run the community workshops.

In addition to those in the community who wish to try their hand on stage, other production volunteers are welcome. "We're going to need a lot of help," McCallum says, "front of house, costume shop, serving food in between the three acts — people should feel free to reach out." Community members should keep their eye on the festival website at hvshakespeare.org for details. Workshop information will also be featured in The Paper and on Philipstown.info.

Local audiences will surely embrace the ticket prices: completely free, in keeping with how the HVSF envisions the production overall: "It's a gift that the theater company is giving back to the audience to celebrate 30 years in the Hudson Valley," noted McCallum.

Besides "the Scottish play," directed by Obie Award-winner Lee Sunday Evans in her HVSF debut, the festival's other summer productions will be *Measure for Measure*, directed by McCallum and *As You Like It*, directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, who directed *An Iliad*.

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Saturday, 1/2 8:30pm RICK DANKO TRIBUTE	Saturday, 1/23 8:30pm MIKE STERN W/BILL EVANS guest SCOTT BEALL TRIO
Sunday, 1/3 7:30pm TIFT MERRITT	Sunday, 1/24 7:30pm BIRDS OF CHICAGO guest MARC VON EM
Friday, 1/8 8:30pm PAT MCGEE DUO guest THE TRAPPS	Thursday, 1/28 7:30pm THE BIG TAKEOVER
Saturday, 1/9 8:30pm COMMANDER CODY BAND	Friday, 1/29 8:30pm WILLIE NILE
Friday, 1/15 8:30pm EIGHT TO THE BAR	Saturday, 1/30 8:30pm STEPHANE WREMBEL & HIS BAND guest SARA L'ABRIOLA
Saturday, 1/16 8:30pm LUTHER "GUITAR JR." JOHNSON	Sunday, 1/31 7:30pm VICTOR WOOTEN
Sunday, 1/17 7:30pm THE SUBDUDES	Sunday, 2/4 7:30pm JANE SIBERRY
Thursday, 1/21 7:30pm DRIFTWOOD	
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Closed Monday & Tuesday



HVSF Artistic Director Davis McCallum

File photo by A. Rooney

Quinn's Will Rock on New Year's Day (from Page 7)

range-y thing I used to get paid for."

This will be the performance's second outing, after a November fundraiser at The Falcon in Marlboro.

Chicago to Broadway to Beacon

For Ellenwood, who is a board member and vice president of BeaconArts, this is a foray into a musical genre she hadn't worked in during her professional life in music, which found her more often singing soprano roles on and off Broadway, in opera and in cabaret performances. After the Nebraska native received her graduate degree in music from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (where, she says, she was known for her Schubert and French chanson recital singing), Ellenwood moved to Chicago and landed the role of Mabel in the new version of *The Pirates of Penzance*. That was soon followed by the tour of the Second National Company of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, in

which she played the Witch.

Returning to Chicago, she performed in regional theater for a few years, while also writing grant proposals for a mid-sized theater company. She made her way to New York, where she spent several years appearing as Carlotta, the opera singer, in *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. Ellenwood currently teaches voice and works with music therapy graduate students at SUNY New Paltz.

The singer relocated to Beacon from New York City 13 years ago, after she and her husband became acquainted with the area during hiking trips. Needing to live somewhere within commuting distance of the city, and hearing that, at the time, a museum was coming, they thought "that's a good thing." With a young daughter as motivation, Ellenwood became involved in helping to get the toddler park built, becoming entrenched in the community through volunteer work.



The Heart Like A Wheel musicians (minus guitarist Stephen Clair) rehearsing at Beacon Music Factory

Beacon Teens Channel "Bluesy/alt"



Leah Siegel and Miles Jakob perform as Blue Vinyl.

Photos by A. Rooney

Also appearing at Quinn's (the New Year's Day Blowout is a family-friendly event) will be Miles Jakob and Leah Siegel, who perform as Blue Vinyl. Jakob, who attends Newburgh Free Academy, and Siegel, who is a student at Beacon High, perform mostly original material, which Siegel describes as "kind of a unique style — our inspiration is Ella Fitzgerald, but it's not jazz. It's a little bluesy but also a little alt, which we're trying to move more into. We also do some covers but try to deconstruct them and make them our own."

The teenagers have played together for two years and played at Dogwood and The Falcon. "We want to keep going with it, expanding our arrangements and also where we've been playing. Eventually we hope to record," Siegel says.

Arts among the "beautiful grit"

Around the time that her second daughter was born, Ellenwood shifted her focus to the arts, coming on board at BeaconArts in 2010, first as a member at large, and currently as vice president.

"I wanted to do something for the community and it was nice to turn to the arts," she explains. "BeaconArts was and is definitely a volunteer situation: hands-on — by being on the board you can make things happen. If you have an idea and the other eight people agree, you can run with it in a hands-on, roll your sleeves up kind of way. Many people think it's a larger organization than it is. We have a very active board and great membership. Fiscal sponsorship is a huge, important component and that's what has really made Beacon Arts work — supporting artistic visions and implementing them."

She adds that "all projects are run by project directors, separate from BeaconArts, but BeaconArts supports them. Our original mission was promotion. We're not a chamber of commerce, not an arts council, per se, but we're definitely local, all about Beacon and the greater Beacon area. That's why it's successful; anybody can make a difference. You can go and talk to the mayor, the city council, and if your intentions are right and you have the willingness to work hard, it can happen."

She adds: "We're in the middle of strategic planning right now, and the



Kelly Ellenwood

Photos by A. Rooney

challenge is keeping it real. As long as we can keep the neighborly feeling, a helping out spirit, we'll be okay. We love entrepreneurs as long as they can stay true to what Beacon is — its working class heart." Ellenwood feels that "everyone benefits from the new housing (being constructed in Beacon in 2016) as long as it doesn't escalate wildly out of control. I don't think it will. We're still a community of tidy, sweet, affordable houses. The challenge is not to panic. As long as we can keep Beacon at a low simmer, maintaining its beautiful grit, too, we'll be just fine."

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.



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Dear Neighbors and Friends,

This holiday season we're thankful for the natural beauty of the surrounding Hudson Valley and the special sense of community we all enjoy living here in Philipstown.

A few years back, a group of your neighbors came together in support of the wonderful programs of The Philipstown Recreation Department (The Rec). The mission of the non-profit group, **The Friends of Philipstown Recreation** (The Friends), is to enhance the programs and facilities of The Rec and our park system by sponsoring spirited, outdoor and community-based events and encouraging tax-deductible donations.

This February 6, 2016 we will celebrate our 3rd Annual Philipstown Winter Carnival (www.philipstownwintercarnival.com) in partnership with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. The day will be filled with indoor and outdoor fun for all ages. As part of this, The Friends raised enough funds to have our very own community ice skating rink at The Rec. You may have also participated in the *Castle-to-River Run* and *Spring Splatt* in previous years. All of these events are made successful entirely by the efforts of community volunteers.

Previous donations of time and funding have contributed to our latest program, the pavilion at Philipstown Park, which is nearing completion and will offer restrooms and picnic tables.

Please help us to finish this dream and to make the best ideas a reality by giving generously in support of the current projects. Everyone can have a hand in this— your friends in the community will be grateful! Funds can be earmarked to the pavilion or program of your choice, and online donations are an easy click away though PayPal on our website: www.friendsofphilipstownrecreation.org

For further information about The Friends of Philipstown Recreation, to donate, or join our group, kindly contact John Maasik, President of The Friends of Philipstown Recreation, at president@friendsofphilipstownrecreation.com.

Sincerely,
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Gallery 66 NY to Highlight Student Artists

Annual exhibit opens with Jan. 8 reception

Gallery 66 NY in Cold Spring will host an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, for its annual exhibit of works by high school artists from five area high schools, including Haldane.

The gallery posted an open call to high school artists in four surrounding counties for the juried exhibition of work about their personal lives, remembrances or special moments. The works of 20 students from five high schools — Haldane, Newburgh, Millbrook, Spring Valley and John Jay — were selected. “The result is a trove of rich and diverse pieces,” said Gallery 66 NY owner Barbara Galazzo, who has offered students a chance to exhibit their work in a professional gallery.

The artists participating from Haldane High School are Ethan Gunther and Wylie Thornquist. The others are Alex Letteri, Amanda Ortega, Ann Marie Hummel, Anna Di Fede, Claire Wu, Connor Pond, Crystal Okonkwo, Crystal Wu, Eleni Neckles, Francisco Colon, Hannah Whitehead, Jessica d’Alo, Kaitlin Haessler, Lamar Burch, Matt Reinhold, Mikhal Gallien, Olivia Delgado, Sarah Colotti and Tony Galarza.

Following the opening, the exhibit will be on view from noon to 5 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Saturday, Jan. 2 through Sunday, Jan. 31. Gallery 66 NY is at 66 Main St. in Cold Spring. For more information, visit gallery66ny.com or call 845-809-5838.



Earth After, by Ethan Gunther of Haldane High School



Some of the intriguing characters of *Downton Abbey*.

screening of the premiere at 9 p.m.

“Downton Abbey has something for everyone,” explained Desmond-Fish Director Jen McCreery. “Throwing a party to celebrate the characters and storylines we’ve grown to love seemed like a perfect way to send off the Crawley Family and the Downton staff.”

The Desmond-Fish staff has been working with Friends of the Library President and *Downton Abbey* fan Sarina Tamagna-Hawes to put together historically accurate desserts and treats for the party. Costumes are encouraged but not required, although some special Downton Abbey-themed prizes will be awarded for best costume and to trivia winners.

Registration Open at Garrison Art Center

Pottery classes filling quickly

The Garrison Art Center has opened registration for its winter classes that begin in January, February, March and April, and a number have already filled, including the Sculpture Workshop, adult pottery classes on Sunday, Thursday and Friday and Advanced Pottery on Tuesday. The Monday pottery class still had openings at press time.

Other courses include Beginning Watercolor with Linda Barboni, Making Comics with Summer Pierre, Non-toxic Etching

with Hiro Ichikawa, Abstract Painting with Martee Levi, Intro to Pattern And T-shirt Woodblock Printing for Teens or Adults with Melissa Schlobohm, Intro to DSLR and the Digital Workspace with Ethan Harrison, Beginning Fiddle and Mandolin with Harry Bolick, Introduction in Silkscreen Practices with Justin Catania, Plein Air Painting with Emmett McLaughlin and Pottery for Children on Wednesday or Friday.

To register, visit garrisonartcenter.org, or call 845-424-3960 for more information. Classes typically run four to six weeks.

Depot Docs to Screen *Indian Point*

Film examines controversial nuclear plant

The Philipstown Depot Theatre’s documentary series, Depot Docs, has scheduled *Indian Point*, a film by Cold Spring filmmaker Ivy Meeropol, for 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29. Meeropol will answer questions following the screening.

The film, an official selection of the Tribeca Film Festival, examines the nuclear power plant located in Buchanan, N.Y., 35 miles from Times Square. More than 50 million people live in proximity to the aging facility, and its operation has been the source of intense controversy and debate in surrounding communities, including Philipstown.

Entergy Corporation, which operates the plant, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission maintain that Indian Point is safe. Many New Yorkers, meanwhile, are concerned that the kind of disaster that happened at Japan’s Fukushima nuclear plant could happen here. *Indian Point* examines the debate over nuclear power by going inside the plant that is at the center of a contentious relicensing process.



Indian Point

Photo provided

Tickets are \$20 and can be ordered at brownpapertickets.com/event/2479927.

The theater is located at 10 Garrison Landing in Garrison. There is more information about the film at indianpointfilm.com.

Buster Levi Ponders Reality

Group show focuses on perception

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will host an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 2, for its latest exhibit, *Perceived/Constructed*. It will run on Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. through January.

The multimedia group show focuses on interpretations of reality evident in everyday experiences. It includes paintings, photography, ready-mades and sculpture by John Allen, Tim D’Acquisto, Grace Kennedy, Bill Kooistra, Ann Provan, Ursula Schneider and Lucille Tortora.

Grace Kennedy’s paintings in this show are from her series *Road Kill*. The sources for each of these paintings are roads near Kennedy’s home and studio. Tim D’Acquisto also paints a subject familiar to him; chairs and tables from a room in his home. In his work, John Allen focuses on a garden shovel draped in cloth and hanging on a wall.

In Lucille Tortora’s photographs, nearly identical images of the moon cast a somewhat blurred streak of light over a body of water. Bill Kooistra’s “Road/Sky Paintings” translate experience into abstract images. Ann Provan’s sculpture explores the relationship between an abstract object and its source.

The attempt to capture an experience, in this case observed, is the subject of Ursula Schneider’s painting *Visiting Hours*. Schneider describes the painting as “a series of hospital hallways, painted in grey tones including architectural details and objects in the individual spaces. These are stacked vertically on top of one another

Downton Abbey Overtakes Desmond-Fish

Library will host party to celebrate season premiere

Fans of the British television series *Downton Abbey* are invited to put on their tiaras and starched collars on Sunday, Jan. 3, for a post-Edwardian tea party and screening at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison of the final season’s premiere episode. The party will start at 7 p.m. and feature tea, treats and Downton-Countess-inspired trivia leading to a



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with a darker band on either side giving the appearance of a filmstrip.”

The Buster Levi Gallery is located at 121 Main Street. For more information, visit busterlevigallery.com.

Beacon

Howland Opens Piano Festival on Jan. 10

Gilles Vonsattel will perform Beethoven, Debussy and others

The first concert of the 2016 Howland Chamber Music Circle's annual piano festival, scheduled for 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 10, will feature a return engagement by Gilles Vonsattel, winner of the 2002 Naumburg International Piano Competition and an Avery Fisher Career Grant.

For his concert, which will be held at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon, Vonsattel has chosen to play *Six Bagatelles, Op. 126* by Beethoven, *Shadow Lines* by British composer George Benjamin, selections from the *Preludes* by Olivier Messiaen, and works by Claude Debussy, including his *Suite Bergamasque*.

The performance will be followed by a reception to meet the artist.

Subsequent performances in the series will feature Blair McMillan on Feb. 14, Lise De La Salle on Feb. 28 and Charlie Albright on April 3.

Tickets can be reserved at howlandmusic.org or by calling 845-765-3012. Tickets are \$30 (\$10 for students) or subscriptions are available to three concerts for \$80 and all four concerts for \$110.



Gilles Vonsattel

Photo provided

Singing Rehearsals Begin for MLK Jr. Parade

First session is Jan. 4 at Springfield Baptist

The Southern Dutchess Coalition will hold its first rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 4, for anyone interested in singing in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day parade in Beacon. A second rehearsal will be held at the same time on Monday, Jan. 11. The parade, founded 38 years ago by Pete Seeger, begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 18.

The rehearsals take place at the Springfield Baptist Church at 8 Maddie Cooper Square in Beacon. Please use the side door.

For more information, call 845-264-5663.

Concert to Feature Music of Lennon-McCartney

Tribute to benefit Howland Cultural Center

On Friday, Jan. 8, The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will host an evening of songs by John Lennon and Paul McCartney performed by the Howland Moondogs with special guest Julie Corbalis. *The Two of Us: Celebrating the Music of John Lennon and Paul McCartney* begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20 and a portion of the proceeds benefit the cultural center, which is located at 477 Main Street.

Lower Fines, Longer Check-Outs

Howland Library changes policies

The Howland Public Library in Beacon has lowered fines and extended check-out periods for DVDs. Overdue fines on DVDs have been lowered from \$1 to 25 cents a day and series that contain more than two DVDs may now be checked out for 14 days, instead of seven.

In addition, all items may also now be renewed twice, instead of once, if there are no holds. Finally, the public computers can be reserved for two hours a day, instead of one, and used by anyone who owes less than \$50 in fines, instead of \$10.

Fovea to Open Exhibit of Campaign Photos

Mark Peterson known for stark shots on trail

Fovea Editions will host an opening reception for an exhibit of the work of photographer Mark Peterson at Hudson Beach Glass from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9. Entitled *Political Theater*, the exhibit is a provocative look at the candidates in the 2016 race. Peterson will speak about his work at 6:30 p.m.

“Politics is theater,” Peterson has said. “Each politician has what is called his or her stump speech, like an actor that goes

on stage and says the same lines to a different audience each night.”

Based in New York City, Peterson has published his photography in the *New York Times Magazine*, *New York Magazine*, *Fortune*, *Time* and *Geo*, among other publications. He has spent the past year on the campaign trail, and his black-and-white, strobe-lit photos are designed to evoke what he sees as its carnival atmosphere. “Personally, I’m very frustrated with the political system we’re in, and that things seem to be like a soccer game — like a kid’s soccer game,” he told the *New York Times*.

Hudson Beach Glass, which is supporting the exhibit along with Beacon Fine Art Printing, is located at 162 Main St. in Beacon. The exhibit runs through March 16.

14 Photographers Select Their Favorites

Howland Wolves concert follows opening

The Howland Cultural Center’s annual photograph exhibit opens Saturday, Jan. 2, with a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. The show, *Some Favorites*, features the work of 14 photographers and continues through Sunday, Jan. 31.

The photographers are Mark Baylash, Alissa Corrado, Russell Cusick, Joan D’Emic, Christine Jacques, Dale Leifeste, Ralph Lopez, Susanne Moss, Jean Novack, Melisa Robin, Linda Schiller, Donald Whitely, Michael Wilmot and John Wynn. Gallery hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Friday to Monday, with the exception of Jan. 10 and 31, when the Howland Chamber Music Circle will present classical music concerts and the gallery will be closed.

After the show opening, at 8 p.m., the Howland Wolves will perform their 17th annual concert as part of the center’s monthly coffeehouse. The Wolves are Christopher Ruhe on guitar and vocals, Chet Williams on keyboards, Chris Shann on saxophone, Bill Imperial on bass and Olu Akiwumi-Assani on drums. Tickets



The Howland Wolves

are \$10 and may be purchased at the door. For more information, call 845-831-4988. The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon.

Dia:Beacon Offers Free Admission on Jan. 9

Full day of programs and lectures planned

Dia:Beacon will host a Community Free Day on Saturday, Jan. 9, in which residents of Dutchess and Putnam counties are admitted free. (Adult admission is usually \$12.) The museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day’s programs begin at 11:30 a.m. with *Experiments in Looking*, in which visitors can explore their perception of color and light through the work of Dan Flavin, Robert Irwin, and Blinky Palermo with artist educator Alisa Beshier.

At 1 p.m., Ellen Siebers will investigate the visual possibilities of transformation and contemplation reached through the traditional medium of paint in a tour focusing on the work of artists Agnes Martin, Palermo and Robert Ryman. Also at 1 p.m., Dia Teens will engage with the work of Ryman through conversation and debate.

At 2 p.m., curator Alex Klein will lead a focused talk on John Chamberlain. At 3 p.m., 2 Way Brewing Company of Beacon will present a beer tasting.

Community Free Days at Dia:Beacon are made possible, in part, through the generosity of the Dyson Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency. The museum is located at 3 Beekman Street. For more information, call 845-440-0100 or visit diabeacon.org.

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Education Fund Raises \$19K for Garrison School

GCEF commits \$30K to long list of programs

The Garrison Children's Education Fund (GCEF) raised \$19,000 during its fall fundraising efforts, which included a golf marathon and a general appeal. More than 100 donors donated \$17,000 to support a variety of academic, artistic and athletic curriculum-enhancing activities.

The fall appeal highlighted the Imagination Playground, a 105-piece architectural that allows children to design their own inventions, environments and activities. It was delivered to the school in November. "Creative play is vital to healthy human development, and Imagination Playground not only prompts this type of activity but fosters social interactions like no other recess activity I have ever seen," said Garrison School Principal John Griffiths.

GCEF welcomes grant proposals from any member of the Garrison School community, including teachers, administrators and parents. To date, the foundation has committed \$30,000 for 15 programs dur-

ing the 2015-2016 school year, including:

- \$6,000 to Hudson Valley Seed for the development of a sustainable, year-round school garden for grades K-5.
- \$3,700 to Garrison Art Center for a multi-disciplinary art program for students K-4 and middle school.
- \$3,350 for musical instruction that will teach middle school students to read jazz band arrangements, improvise solos and address basic jazz rhythms and scale choices.
- \$2,240 to partially cover the cost of bringing teachers from Beacon Music Factory, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and Garrison Art Center to teach afterschool music, theater and art programs in partnership with the Garrison PTA.
- \$1,250 for the annual fifth-grade sail on the Clearwater sloop as part of its study of history, ecology, art and music through the Hudson River.
- \$1,200 to fund a percussionist/teacher for an ensemble for grades 4-8.
- \$1,175 to bring the Teatro SEA's bilingual production of *Skeletons* to the school as part of a school-wide celebra-



Garrison students using the Imagination Station equipment paid for with a GCEF grant *Photo provided*

tion of Dia de los Muertos.

- \$1,700 for grades K-3 and 5 to participate in a program with Constitution Marsh/the Audubon Society to learn about tidal marsh ecology.
- \$1,000 to cover the cost of a dance instructor, Belle Ritter, to teach the eighth graders swing as part of its production of *Much Ado About Anything*.
- \$1,000 to reduce the cost of Kaplan's SAT Prep Course for participating students, which will be offered at the Desmond-Fish Library. (Contact Library Director

Jen McCreery at desmondfishdirector@gmail.com for more information.)

- \$500 to fourth-graders to participate in a three-part study at Constitution Marsh of eagle habitats and adaptations.
- \$400 to cover the costs for eighth graders to visit to the National Constitution Center and the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia.
- \$362 to partially cover a fourth-grade visit to the Liberty Science Center in New Jersey and participation in the Bee-bot Robot Challenge.
- \$350 for sixth graders to experience a simulated mission to Mars and transform themselves into scientists, engineers, researchers and astronauts at the Challenger Space Center.

GCEF's next two fundraisers will be a "Winter Garden" ladies' night cocktail party on Friday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. and the 17th Annual Spring Thaw at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 2 at Highlands Country Club. For more information, visit gcef.net.

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What Can We Learn from Cuba About Farming?

Glynwood trainer visits newly open nation to ask

By Pamela Doan

During its decades-long isolation due to the U.S. embargo on trade and travel, Cuba had to feed its citizens without access to the machinery, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers that came to define conventional agriculture in the U.S. and other developed countries. The nation also didn't have the resources to transport food long distances and so relied on local farming.

As a result, Cuban farmers developed "agroecology," an approach to growing food that was sustainable, small-scale and resilient. Campesino a Campesino, a movement that began in Central America, created networks for farmers to share their experiences and teach each other.

Dave Llewellyn, the director of farmer training at Glynwood, spent a week in Cuba as part of an exchange program organized by the Massachusetts-based Schumacher Center for New Economics to learn more about the concepts behind agroecology. "We're doing our best with a changing climate and we have big lessons to learn from Cuba," said Llewellyn, who was one of 250 delegates from around the globe who participated in the exchange. "They came up with a great means for putting their heads together to get every-



A group of delegates that visited Villa Clara, a central province. Llewellyn is third from the right.

one involved to work toward food security and transform their society."

Llewellyn and other visitors spent most

of their time meeting farmers in a central province and hearing about and witnessing their methods. They learned how the farmers use biological controls, agroforestry and involve the community.

Sustainable agriculture uses resources wisely and effectively. Water is collected and conserved; soil health is essential and managed organically. Llewellyn described one farm that he visited as a closed-loop system: "They collected chicken manure on rice hulls to feed tilapia, which were then harvested and turned into fish meal to feed the hogs," he said. "The hog manure was taken to a biodigester for the production of methane." Nothing is wasted and everything has a purpose. Whatever is taken from the soil is replaced and regenerated.

Back in the Hudson Highlands,

Llewellyn sees ways farming can improve and become more sustainable based on what he learned in Cuba. Supporting local businesses and tightening networks would mean sourcing local food for consumers and local resources for the farmers. He wants to see local farms feed the surrounding communities, which could stop relying on food shipped from around the country. "We need to understand business and close the loop," he said. He urged home gardeners to keep things out of the waste stream and compost.

At Glynwood, he hopes to someday host Cuban farmers and will be sharing his experiences as much as possible. One other thing he wanted to bring home? One of the 1957 Chevys that became iconic images of Cuba during the embargo, and that he says he saw everywhere.



Llewellyn called this a "typical landscape" and noted that it is very undeveloped, which he found refreshing.

Photos by Dave Llewellyn

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Longtime Philipstown public servant Betty Budney died at 82 on March 2.



Philipstown's best were celebrated as 400+ attended the first-ever Made in Philipstown on Sept. 5.



It was a long, cold winter.



A year after losing his wife, Mike Santos returned to Philipstown Little League, throwing out the season's first pitch.

2015 ~ The Year in Review



Marie Early, Dave Merandy and Fran Murphy celebrated victories in the March Cold Spring village elections.



Brendan McAlpine bought the Beacon Theatre to include residential use.



Left, Angelika Graswald was arrested and charged with murdering her fiancé while kayaking on the Hudson River. Right, controversial Dunkin' Donuts opened in Cold Spring.



Margaret Parr, Evan Schwartz and Peggy Clements were elected to the Haldane School Board in May.



Beacon Mayor Randy Casale was re-elected along with most other incumbents.



Martin Luther King Day was celebrated in Beacon.



Haldane boys and girls varsity basketball teams repeated as Class C champions on Feb. 28.