



The Paper



Cabin in the woods
See Page 16

Beacon Schools Face Test Finding Superintendent

Turnover, turmoil may discourage candidates



By Jeff Simms

Although there have been a couple of public conversations, generally lasting a few minutes each, in the Board of Education meetings since Barbara Walkley resigned in January as Beacon City School District superintendent, the discussion about finding a permanent successor is expected to begin in earnest at the board's next meeting on Feb. 22.

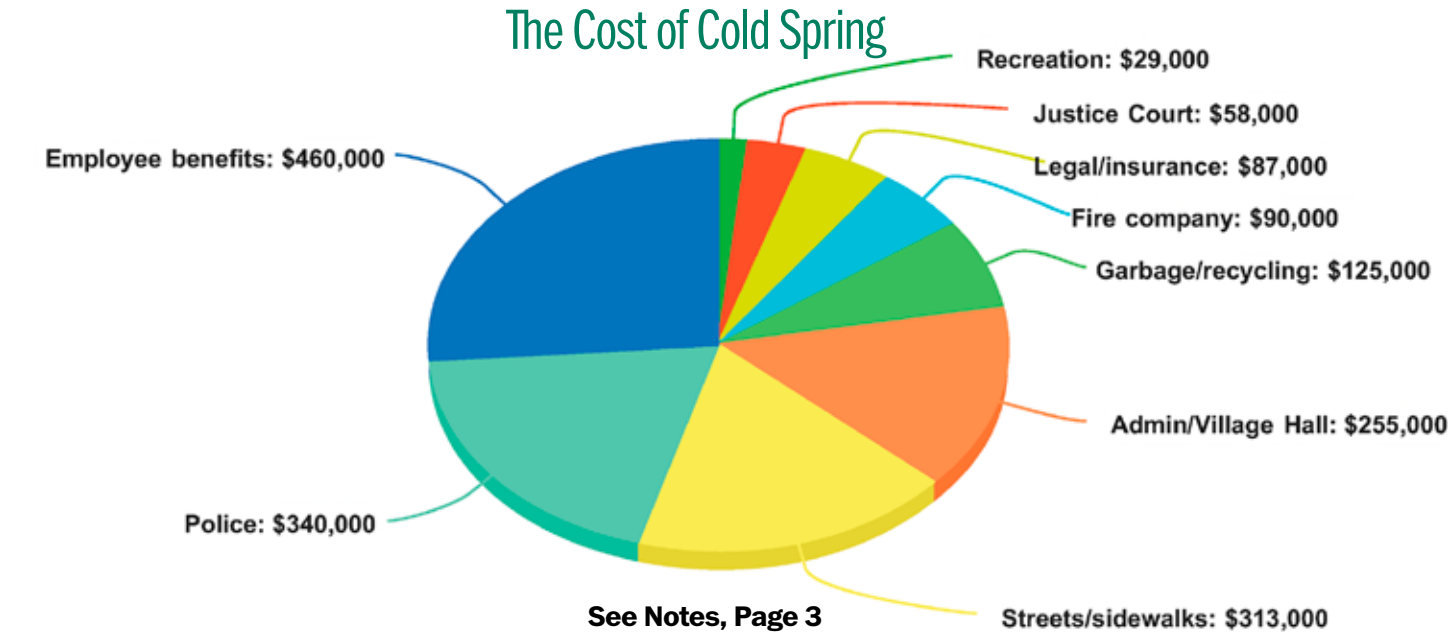
The challenges facing the board are many — most notably repairing a rift with hundreds of Beacon parents who have called for more transparency, and finding an administrator who can lead a school system riddled by frequent turnover and accusations of impropriety.

Walkley had been dogged by controversy since she was hired permanently in February 2015. In August, 27 teachers were reassigned across various schools and grade levels, and many speculated that the moves were politically motivated.

A Beacon parent, Melissa Rutkoske, filed a petition in December with the state Department of Education, calling for the dismissal of Walkley and school system attorney Michael Lambert, after a series of emails between district officials and former teachers' union president Kimberly Pilla were made public.

Rutkoske's petition, which she said was filed on behalf of "many concerned parents," alleged an inappropriate relationship between Walkley and Pilla, and that each worked behind the scenes to further an "unethical" agenda.

At an emergency meeting on Jan. 21, the school board announced Walkley's resignation and named Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi as interim chief. Walkley's departure, almost exactly 12 months after she was named to the post on a permanent basis, marked the fifth time the seat has been vacated — not including interim superintendents — after longtime chief (Continued on Page 3)



Cold Spring Trustees to Tackle Daunting Budget Cycle

The Cold Spring Village Board is about to begin drafting the 2016-17 budget. The task is especially challenging this year because the state-imposed tax cap limits spending to a 0.01 percent increase. At the same time, some village costs such as employee health insurance will undoubtedly increase more than the cap. Those who favor moving the village election from March to November argue that the shift in date would give board members, (Continued on Page 3)

CS Trustee Candidate: Lynn Miller

Main Street shop owner

By Michael Turton

In 2009, then-Mayor Seth Gallagher appointed Lynn Miller to the Cold Spring Village Board to fill a vacant trustee seat. She ran to retain the seat in 2010 but was not elected. She is now one of three candidates for two seats that will be filled by voters on Tuesday, March 15. Along with her husband Greg, Miller owns and operates Go-Go Pops on Main Street, assisted by their son Jack. She also has a daughter Jessi and two grandchildren. Miller's responses have been edited for brevity.



Lynn Miller Photo by M. Turton

What is your primary motivation for running for the village board?

I got a taste of it six years ago and I found it enormously interesting. I was able to get a sense of how village infrastructure and operations fit together. I think the mayor and trustees [Marie] Early and [Fran] Murphy have made some wonderful progress with efforts such as the Main Street Project. I'd like to be a part of that.

What qualifications, skills and experience make you a strong candidate?

Number one is the year I spent on the village board. I don't have to spend a lot of time on Cold Spring 101. I work collaboratively and (Continued on Page 6)



Steve Voloto Photo by M. Turton

CS Trustee Candidate: Steve Voloto

Owner of SDV Carpentry

By Michael Turton

Steve Voloto, sole proprietor of SDV Carpentry Inc., is seeking elected office for the first time. He and his wife, Lara, have three teenage children: Kyra and twins Jack and Aidan, and a three-year-old son, Sam. Voloto is now one of three candidates for two seats that will be filled by voters on Tuesday, March 15. His responses have been edited for brevity.

What is your primary motivation for running for the village board?

I'm going to be in this town for a long time. I've lived here five years and have been coming here since I was 11 years old. I want to get involved with the village. My strengths will help the board.

What qualifications, skills and experience make you a strong candidate?

A lot of things the village (To Page 5)

Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Playing Favorites

By Mary Ann Ebner

Certain foods have a way of bringing back memories that haven't been stirred for a while. It's far more appetizing to relive a feast than a painful potluck (scorched gravy from summer camp, anyone?). Sometimes sentimentality works up a longing for that favorite food and these epicurean moments usually deserve the credit — or blame — for an appetite. When it comes to French onion soup, nostalgia takes over and I trail back to one of those happier meals.

On a recent chilly evening, four of us ventured out and ended up at 12 Grapes in Peekskill. The cold weather called for something warm, and we all settled on French onion soup. The dish, simple yet perfected with a bit of precision, made the ideal wintery supper. We finished off every sliver of onion, crumble of toasty bread and dripping of cheese.

It may have been the wine talking, but nostalgia warmed us further as we recalled our early introductions to French onion soup. My husband remembered feeling like a big deal leaning over a bowl of broth and delicate onions, and even detailed what he wore on the occasion: an

off-white tuxedo fit for a six-year-old. Too tall to help as the ring bearer, he ushered at a wedding where reception guests celebrated with French onion soup. Onion soup still pleases crowds of all ages and it doesn't break the budget.

My own inspiration, served for decades at Famous-Barr, a St. Louis shopping landmark since retired into merchandising history by latest-owners Macy's, looked more tempting than anything on a plate. My best friend's dad brought me along on a Saturday excursion to see Santa and check out the festive window decorations. We were probably second-graders, far too mature to believe in the jolly old elf, but we played the part well. Finally, it was time to sit down to lunch. I would have typically gone for a kids' club sandwich and raspberry Jello served in a parfait cup, of course, but when I saw another diner eating a steaming bowl of the onion soup, I graduated to new tastes. It was a bowl full of softened lacey onions and gooey cheese goodness.

Many years and servings later, I no longer remember much about the store's club sandwiches, but I can still smell the soup. The dish may not have been artful or elaborate but it had little competition and



French onion soup Photos by M.A. Ebner

enjoyed a loyal customer base. Famous-Barr even sold the soup's ingredients as if they were specialty supplies unavailable elsewhere. The effort exemplified clever marketing, but the product lived up to its reputation. Thin strips of golden onions hid beneath a thick slice of bread that floated in steamy broth and served as the base for a blanket of toasty Swiss cheese.

Fortunately, anyone can recreate onion soup at home with a few modest ingredients. Many variations appear around the

Hudson Valley; whether they are called French onion soup, onion soup gratinée and potage d'oignon, they all pay tribute to the onion, the indispensable ingredient that's affordable enough to keep on hand in large quantities. The version here suggests a lighter vegetable stock rather than the traditional brown beef stock generally found in the soup. I've tried both stocks and the vegetable brings the basic elements together with fine results. My attempt replicates a soup once famous for drawing shoppers into a retail outlet. The taste gave the soup its allure, but the experience made it a memorable meal.



Make French onion soup with a few basic elements.

French Onion Soup

4 to 6 servings

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6 medium sweet onions | 2 teaspoons fresh thyme |
| 6 tablespoons butter | 8 cups vegetable stock |
| sea salt flakes | 12 slices crusty bread (day-old bread recommended) |
| freshly ground pepper | 3 cups grated cheese (Swiss or gruyère) |
| 1 tablespoon flour | |

1. Cut peeled onions in half and thinly slice. In heavy pan, heat butter and add sliced onions. Season with salt and pepper. Cook and stir onions over medium heat 25 to 30 minutes until softened and just golden brown.
2. Sprinkle in thyme and flour and cook over low heat 5 minutes. Add vegetable stock, stir, cover and simmer for 45 minutes.
3. Preheat oven broiler to 400 degrees. Ladle soup into individual ovenproof bowls. Place bread slices on top of broth. Sprinkle generously with grated cheese and place in oven. Broil 3 to 5 minutes until cheese browns and bubbles. Serve immediately.



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Beacon Schools Face Test Finding Superintendent *(from Page 1)*

Vito DiCesare retired in 2006.

When Superintendent Jean Parr, who replaced DiCesare in 2006, took early retirement in 2008, Parr helped find her successor by screening resumes and forwarding candidates to the school board, said Larry Cohen, a member of the Board of Education at the time. After a handful of interviews, the board hired Fern Aefsky, who had previously led the Hudson City School District. Aefsky left the Beacon post in 2011.

At that point, Harvey Hilburgh, a retired superintendent who had served in interim capacities in other districts, took over as interim chief while the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), an agency that provides shared educational programs and services to Dutchess school districts, led the search for a replacement.

The BOCES search identified multiple candidates, with the board settling on former Fort Lee, N.J. superintendent Raymond Bandlow, who lasted just nine months before resigning in July 2012. Hilburgh, along with Walkley, who had served as interim assistant superintendent during Hilburgh's first interim tenure, returned again on a temporary basis.

Bringing Hilburgh and Walkley back "seemed like the right thing to do," said Cohen, a former three-term board member who is now on the Fishkill Town Council. "When they were here the first time, by all appearances, they added some consistency."

The district then enlisted Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP, which supplies Michael Lambert, the Beacon school district's attorney, and whose attorneys represent 60 districts throughout the Hudson Valley, to find Bandlow's permanent replacement.

Paul Dorward, the former superintendent of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District in Albany County, was chosen, although his tenure, too, would be short. After his hire in 2013, Dorward left just over a year later, which led to Walkley — a familiar face by then — being named the interim superintendent in July 2014.

Now, tasked with replacing Walkley, the board's choices are, again, to promote from within, utilize the BOCES search services

or to hire a professional, and more costly, search firm. Current board President Melissa Thompson said earlier this week that she feels a professional search firm is the district's best option, calling it an "investment," even if it comes at a greater cost.

School board vice chair Bill Zopf has stated the same. "We've tried quite a few different methods over the years — some successful, some not," he said during the Feb. 8 board meeting.

A search firm, however, may have difficulty finding qualified candidates. According to the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS), there are as many as 50 superintendent searches going on in the state — a number that Bob Lowry, NYSCOSS's deputy director for advocacy, research & communications, characterized as "exceptionally high."

"What we're hearing is that many districts are having difficulty finding what they regard as superior candidates," Lowry said, attributing that to financial pressures and statewide policy mandates that have made the superintendent position more difficult to navigate.

"We've found that boards have, in some cases, tried to demonstrate their financial concerns by constraining their compensation for superintendents," he said.

The average superintendent's salary in New York, according to NYSCOSS, is \$170,706 annually. In the Beacon system, which Lowry said is considered a smaller urban district, Walkley earned \$181,050.

However, Lowry said, Beacon's recent history may turn off some prospective candidates. "Beacon has had extraordinary turnover," he said. "I can imagine that will cause concern."

That could lead to another discussion: should the Beacon board limit its search to candidates within New York, or cast a net beyond state lines?

Thompson, who has announced she does not plan to run for a fourth term on the Beacon school board this year, said that, personally, she would like to see the search extended outside of New York. She also understands that state-specific mandates

could create a significant learning curve for a hire from elsewhere, although "I do think the right person will invest the time and energy needed to get up to speed."

Yet another variable is community involvement.

The Advocates for Beacon Schools, a grassroots parents group formed in the wake of last year's controversies, announced at the Feb. 8 board meeting the launch of an online survey, as well as mobile suggestion boxes at various locations in

Beacon, to gather input to develop a "vision" for the next superintendent.

"We want to go out far and wide, so we can make sure as many voices are heard as possible," said Kristan Flynn, a parent and member of the group.

Board member Anthony White says a search shouldn't begin until a clear community vision has been developed. "Before we get started with our process, I think we need to define what we want our leadership to be," White said during the Feb. 8 meeting. "I don't think a vision has been developed, so [our superintendents have been] leading blindly."

"Beacon has had extraordinary turnover. I can imagine that will cause concern."



Interim superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi

Photo provided

"It's not to say we haven't done our best," he added. "It's to say, 'What can we do differently?'"

Trustees to Tackle Daunting Budget Cycle *(from Page 1)*

especially those newly elected, more time to consider budget options. This year's election is on March 15. The board must finalize the new budget by April 29.

The accompanying graph illustrates village spending in 2014-15, the most recent complete budget year. Expenditures shown are for the general fund and do not include Water and Sewer department which is budgeted separately. Some categories shown have been combined and expenditure totals have been rounded.

Notes for Page 1 pie chart

- Village Hall: includes mayor and trustee stipends, staff wages, building inspector wages, office utilities, supplies and IT support

- Police: includes police officers and crossing guards wages, vehicle and other expenses and IT support
- Streets and Sidewalks: includes highway dept employee wages, vehicle and equipment maintenance, paving, snow removal, sidewalk repair, streetlight electric cost and Main St Project.
- Recreation: includes park maintenance and Christmas lighting
- Employees benefits: includes police and village employee pensions, fire service awards, social security and Medicare, health and dental insurance

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lynn Miller for Village Board

I have known and respected Lynn Miller since she was first appointed trustee by Seth Gallagher, and I'm delighted she's running for the post again. Our village is so fortunate to have Lynn offering her time and talents in the service of us all.

Lynn and her husband Greg, with whom I've had the good fortune to work on many theater productions, are jewels in our community. Lynn started her own small business here, Go-Go Pops, and has run it successfully for years, evidence of her commitment to fiscal responsibility and a devotion to community, as well as boundless creativity.

The Go-Go Pops storefront window on Main Street is an ideal metaphor for its designer, Lynn: an always inventive piece that makes much out of little. In these belt-tightening times, we need board members who can make much out of little, and who have real-life experience balancing budgets and making ends meet.

Lynn and Greg have lived in Cold Spring for years, raising their son here. But Lynn originally hails from the south, and she's retained her native predilection for charm and neighborliness. In my years' worth of dealings with Lynn, I have always found her to prize the seeking of common ground, a welcome quality on any civic body.

Fiscal savvy, community-mindedness, creativity and a proven track record of working well with others all make Lynn Miller an ideal candidate for Cold Spring Village Trustee. She has my vote, and I urge you to give her yours.

John Plummer
Cold Spring

Serino leading way on overpass

The issue of the Pudding Street Intersection on the Taconic State Parkway has been a source of unparalleled frustration for local leaders and community members for decades. The area represents a severe safety hazard and puts the lives of drivers in danger each and every day. It is even fair to argue that those most in danger are the schoolchildren whose buses cross the intersection multiple times per day.

Building an overpass to facilitate safe passage is something that has been a priority for this community for as long as I can remember. But, for years the bureaucratic red tape has made it impossible to get the project off the ground.

However, the hardworking men and women of this community have refused to let this issue fall to the wayside. It was thanks to their efforts that New York State Senator Sue Serino was able to jump on this issue quickly and effectively when she took office last year, working to get the ear of the NYS DOT Commissioner to plead our case directly. Without her advocacy, the feasibility study necessary to make this project a reality would never even have gotten off the ground.

I can honestly say Serino has done more to get the wheels turning on the overpass for this dangerous intersection in the first six months of her term than any other congressional or state leader has done since the 1980s. Her dedication to the safety of our community is truly commendable.

It is time that the NYS Department of Transportation accepts responsibility for the safety of this intersection. It is time for them to turn rhetoric into action and make the Pudding Street Overpass a priority before tragedy strikes.

Sergio Recine
Putnam Valley

Have Albany politics come to Putnam?

I have read the articles in the *Putnam County Courier*, *Journal News* and *The Paper* concerning Libby Pataki's tourist-gate mess. To varying degrees, the articles stumble journalistically, attempting to meld facts with the haze of obfuscation generated by individuals involved. Conclusions may be drawn, a host of questions abound.

There is a smell in Putnam County, having the distinct stench of Albany accompanying it. What both sides of the aisle routinely practice in Albany has arrived in Putnam. Either the county legislature is too busy playing politics or it is incompetent in its oversight.

Who with any sensibility creates a non-profit foundation without adhering to state law governing such creations? Did Putnam honchos give assurance that the trainwreck would never see newsprint? Who with any sensibility would issue themselves a \$50,000 stipend, on top of their \$70,000 taxpayer provided salary, to say nothing of having both salaries be "paid campaign leave" as Ms. Pataki followed her husband's presidential campaign folly around the nation? Why does Putnam County have a penchant for political appointee incompetence, particularly in mostly do-nothing positions?

Politicians are not doing the people's business. Rather, they practice the art of deception, dodge through legal loopholes and fail to govern as they were elected to do. And people wonder why everybody is fed up with both political parties. Can these folks maybe get Route 6 to Putnam Plaza ("Shop Putnam") paved? How about that for starters? Might \$125,000 be available?

Phil Bayer
Carmel

Current Politics

By Kevin E. Foley

- U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney has picked up two endorsements for his re-election bid. At its Feb. 9 meeting, the executive committee of the Orange County Democratic Committee voted to endorse him. In a statement, chairman Brett Broge said: "Whether it's fights on behalf of our workers, our environment, our veterans, or our share of taxpayer funds for local Orange County communities, the Congressman has worked tirelessly on these issues, while at the same time represent-

ing the values and ideals of members of our Democratic Committee."

- Maloney also was endorsed by the small Independence Party, a group seeking a moderate-center position in the political firmament. In 2014 Maloney and Nan Hayworth fought a primary over this ballot line, with Hayworth a narrow winner. She received about 3,400 votes on the line in November. As Maloney only won the election by just over 4,000 votes, this line could provide a cushion, all things being equal. A well-organized Republican could challenge him for

the line but that would be a diversion of resources in a multi-candidate race for the Republican nomination.

- Former New York Gov. George Pataki, having withdrawn his candidacy from the Republican presidential race, is campaigning for U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio. Pataki continues to be critical of Donald Trump, having said among other things, "He is unfit to have his finger on the nuclear trigger." However, according to Politico.com, when pressed, Pataki said he would vote for Trump over Hillary Clinton, whom he said was unqualified to be president.

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- Lynn Miller
- Barney Molloy
- Steve Voloto

CS Trustee Candidate: Steve Voloto *(from Page 1)*

deals with involves construction. I've had a construction and carpentry business for more than 20 years and I'm a general contractor. I coordinate all the trades and deal with architects and engineers. I work with a lot of people to get the job done on time and on budget. I'm good at working with others. In the past I worked as journalist for four years, at the state capital in Albany and then in Middletown. Journalism helped me understand bureaucracy and gave me some insight into government that a lot of people don't have.

What are three important issues facing Cold Spring that the board must address?

Revenue generation is a big issue. The village needs capital. The code update is also important. The [old] code is from the 1960s and there's been a lot of change in the construction industry since. Much of the code is based on legitimate safety issues. And with all the old buildings how can they be code compliant — how do we make that work?

Then there's the parking situation. It's a bigger issue than one meter going in and the residential permits that are being worked on. It seems to me there is more revenue that can be made here. There are a lot of people who come here to visit.

What is one skill that you feel you need to improve?

Just learning the procedures involved with being on the board would be my biggest challenge — getting up to speed on what my role is and what's required of the board by law. There's a lot to learn and I have a lot of reading to do.

Has the Village Board become too politicized?

For me it's not an issue. There's divisiveness in the village, and a lot of hearsay, but I don't know what's pushing the anger between the two sides. I just want to get the job done. National party politics is not an issue for me.

What is one area the board deals with that is of personal interest to you?

I'm interested in the Fjord Trail and I want to learn what's going to happen with it. Maybe there's some revenue to be made for the village. And I'd like to be the "sexton" for the village board. I have the skills to help evaluate buildings owned by the village. Or if boards such as Planning, ZBA or HDRB have issues that I could help with I'd like to make myself available.

Which of your personal traits make you a good candidate?

I'm trustworthy. I'm a hard worker. I'm not a dictator. I enjoy working with other people and I'm very good at it because I do it every day. I'm loyal to people I work with. And I'm not a quitter.

Cold Spring faces a tax cap of 0.12 percent for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Are there aspects of village spending that could be trimmed, freeing up funds for priority items?

I'd like to look at energy costs, perhaps more LED lighting — they save a ton of money. I look at things practically — should we fix up an old truck or buy a new one? I'd like to know more about the police department — what they do, what their role in the village is.

Obituary

Roy Alan Hammond

(1946-2016)

Roy Alan Hammond, 69, of Garrison, passed away suddenly on Feb. 11, 2016. He died at home doing the work that he loved in his editing studio.

Roy was born Dec. 17, 1946, in Fresno, California. He lived his adult life in Texas before moving to New York in 1990, where he continued his work in television production with PBS, WLIW and WNET.

He is survived by his wife, Linda P. Vaughan; children Eric Hammond (wife Jennifer); Ashley Pelham Vaughan V (wife Noelle); Jennifer Vaughan Hall (husband Aaron); grandchildren Brooke, Brinn, Andy, Emily, Kali, Alexa and Ashlyn; sisters Sandy and Bonnie; and his cherished English Springer Spaniel, Katy.

A celebration of Roy's life will be announced in the near future to be held in Corpus Christi, Texas. Contributions in his memory may be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering in NYC, P.O. Box 5028, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5028, or online at giving.mskcc.org.

Streamlining local government has been discussed for years, yet little has happened. What are your thoughts?

I'm interested in looking at possibly combining public works departments, road maintenance, plowing. Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown are so closely related in terms of roads — it seems it should be looked at. I do think Cold Spring's highway department does an awesome job.

Should the Cold Spring election be held March or be moved to November?

I see a need to move it to November. There's massive pressure to get a new budget and get it passed, and now two new people are going to get thrown into the process. I do understand the tradition of

March elections and appreciate that. But at the same time, if there is no affiliation with national parties and we stick to that, the party isn't the issue. I'm running as "The Highlands" party.

What do you do to relax? What is recreation for you?

I'm an avid mountaineer, an ice climber and a rock climber. I've been around the world climbing in a lot of places. And I enjoy kayaking and swimming. I'm an outdoorsman.

What's the No. 1 reason Cold Spring residents should vote for you?

I live and work in this area — often working in the village. I'm very much about the village and I'm not going anywhere. My three-year-old son will graduate from Haldane in 2030. I'm accountable, and I have no problem holding others accountable as well.

Butterfield Project Goes Back to Planning Board

New plan moves senior citizen center and post office to Lahey Pavilion

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Planning Board is once again reviewing the Butterfield project. Butterfield Realty Ltd., headed by developer Paul Guillaro, has submitted revised plans for the redevelopment of the former hospital site that include a change in use for the Lahey Pavilion, triggering the planning board review. Board members got their first look at the revisions at their Feb 11 meeting.

In the previously approved plan, the Lahey building was unchanged and would have continued as Cold Spring's medical office center. The senior-citizen center was to be created adjacent to it, along with condominiums, offices, retail space and three single-family houses. Correspondence from Butterfield Realty did not include an explanation for the proposed change.

The new proposal calls for the Lahey building to be converted to a 6,200 square foot senior citizen center, with a 1,350 square foot U.S. Post Office to be located



Construction continues at the Butterfield site.

Photo by M. Turton

at the rear of the building. Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco said the post office would provide retail services only, with sorting and distribution continuing to be handled at the U.S. Post Office in Garrison.

Medical offices and facilities currently located in the Lahey building would shift to Building No. 2 of the new development.

Most of Thursday's discussion centered on how the proposed changes would af-

fect parking at Butterfield, as required by village zoning. Using the Lahey building as a senior-citizen center would require more parking than its current use. Likewise, shifting medical facilities from Lahey to Building No. 2 would mean an adjustment in the amount of parking provided there.

Representatives of Butterfield Realty notified Francisco that they were not able to attend Thursday's meeting. They are expected to make a formal presentation of the proposed changes at the Feb. 25 meeting of the planning board.

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CS Trustee Candidate: Lynn Miller *(from Page 1)*

am a firm believer in being able to talk to people you disagree with. I'm approachable and willing to listen. I have a lot of experience in cooperative management and have training in meeting facilitation and consensus building.

What are three important issues facing Cold Spring that the board must address?

A big one is how to manage revenues and the cost of running the village while staying within the tax cap — difficult to do in a small village. Congestion and trash during peak [tourist] periods are also big issues. Managing trash is a huge expense. The village receives a small amount of revenue from recycling and I'm committed to increasing that. We've tried a few things to improve the parking situation but we need more creative solutions - such as using the trolley more effectively to shuttle people to Main Street.

What is one skill that you feel you need to improve?

Village trustees read a lot of very, dry and technical text regarding regulatory law, cost/benefit analyses, land use, etc. I'm kind of a slow reader and it takes me time to glean the relevant information. I do, however, read every bit of the information I get and ask questions if there is something I don't understand. An example is the EPA report on the VOC [Volatile Organic Compounds] plume at the Mara-

thon Battery property. It was a tough read, but very interesting and it informs future decisions on the use of that parcel.

Has the Village Board become too politicized?

It's not an issue in my mind. We just need to focus on what's best for village residents. Again, you have to be able to talk to people you disagree with.

What is an area the board deals with that is of personal interest?

Protecting our water supply. We need to secure our dams. They need constant maintenance. Dealing with the water supply costs a lot of money and we have to always look for the most effective ways to do that.

Which of your personal traits make you a good candidate?

Tenacity. I'm not a quitter. Six years of running a business on Main Street has challenged us to be adaptable, to keep going. "Stick-to-it-iveness" is really valuable. My year on the village board confirmed that. The good work I did was behind the scenes — it's not a showy job. It's about getting your hands dirty and that's something I'm willing to do.

Cold Spring faces a tax cap of 0.12 percent for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Are there aspects of village spending that could be trimmed, freeing up funds for priority items?

It has to be from the perspective of in-

creasing revenue. We all work hard for our money in Cold Spring — it would be difficult to ask for more [through taxes]. A quality I have is creative adaptability. We have to think of ways to increase revenues other than taxes. I'd like to see Putnam County share sales tax revenue and I'm willing to work hard on that. Promotion of the village as a filming location is another idea. We need to be creative.

Streamlining local government has been discussed for years, yet little has happened. What are your thoughts?

Some people fear they will lose their jobs if Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown consolidate services. I don't think that necessarily has to happen. It's something I'd like to look into more. Combining building departments would seem to help everyone - it would speed up the process and provide better service to residents. The process involved in opening our business took forever. Even things like combined purchasing of supplies [among local municipalities] could save money.

Where do you stand on whether the Cold Spring election should be held March or moved to November?

When I ran for village board [in 2010], I realized how difficult it is to get a handle on the budget with March elections. There's a lot to be gained by opening that window by moving to November elections.

There are dollars to be saved by having the county run it. Participation in March elections always seemed a little low to me. If our election is held alongside the others I think participation would increase.

What do you do to relax? What is recreation for you?

We work 12 hours a day, six days a week, 12 months of the year. We take Mondays off. We're big movie fans. When the weather is nice I like to garden — though I haven't gardened since opening the business! I also love to just watch wildlife in our backyard, which backs onto Foundry Brook. There's tons of wildlife there.

What's the No. 1 reason Cold Spring residents should vote for you?

It's my commitment to collaboration and cooperative efforts — and my belief that everyone has something to contribute. They should be listened to. And my being willing to change my mind if information warrants that.

Candidate Barney Molloy will be interviewed next week.

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The Calendar



Artist Melissa Schlobohm's installations along the south wall of Garrison Art Center: eagle rays, beetles, snails, fireflies, and bats, which populate a cavelike corner and a window looking out onto the Hudson.

Photo by A. Peltonen

Flying Fish, Birds of Prey, Behemoths

Garrison Art Center showcases Beacon artist's fantastical prints

by Anita Peltonen

If you've never seen eagle rays in the ocean, or whiptails flapping lazily around the National Aquarium, there's a new place to catch a sense of these odd fish.

Multicolored cut-outs of spotted rays are among the lead characters in the exquisite and disturbing bestiary of 26-year-old Beacon artist Melissa Schlobohm in *Better Off Together*, now on exhibit at Garrison Art Center.

In nature, rays propel themselves by moving wide, wing-like fins. Here, they seem to be both of sky and sea. Earth-bound animals also inhabit Schlobohm's

show, some real, and some imagined. But your attention keeps coming back to the rays, large and delicate, which gently wave when the main door of the gallery opens to let in a wintry blast.

The work is made at Schlobohm's Fledgling Press, her relief-printmaking business housed in the garret of 45 Beekman St., Beacon. It is not too scary for children.

Zoological progression

Schlobohm's carved wood-block prints are hand-pressed, hand-painted, and then hand-cut from printmaker's paper. After the rays, there are beetles, snails, fireflies, and bats, which populate a cavelike corner and a window looking out onto the Hudson.

There end the installation walls.

The other walls are covered in Schlobohm's murals and framed prints of Through-the-Looking-Glass-like creatures

and animal bodies with humanlike heads — her “behemoths.”

There are rat kings and kingfishers, hadjii, anglers, elephant shrews and “infestations.” Then there are the bird-skull “arches” that run above the baseboard.

Born on the road

Some of Schlobohm's themes were born on a road trip West between her sophomore and junior years in college.

Away from her own northeastern habitat, she observed wild animals and bones that induced reveries about architecture, and how much it had in common with the skeleton or cartilage of animals.

“I began studying ecology on my own,” she says. “I saw so many bones in the desert. I started collecting bones, thinking about bones as architecture for animal structure, and expanding on that idea.”

Hunter-gatherers

The final, windowed wall of the south gallery is filled with giant, black images of forest predators. Some appear to be owls, wolves, and other animals that prey, until you get close enough to see they are nothing you've ever seen in a forest.

Schlobohm is fine with whatever people perceive in her work, and brings forth the idea that the dual nature of humans and animals often goes unsung.

A figure can be “welcoming and menacing,” she says. “Pretty and ugly. Graphic and sporadic. Or dirty and clean.” It never has to be just one thing.

Schlobohm says she doesn't work based on any “serious underlying tone or concept. I don't like to block out my images.” Instead, she likes “uncovering” their identities only when she finally lays on the ink.

(Continued on Page 9)

Getting Down to Business ‘On The Fly’

Cold Spring resident reopens fitness center

By Michael Turton

New Year's Day often signals a fresh start. But for Cold Spring resident Joy Albrecht, January 1 was not only the beginning of a new year but her first day as a first-time business owner when she took over On The Fly, the Route 9 cycling and fitness center.

“I was at a point in my life when I wanted do something like this,” says Albrecht, 59, who moved to Cold Spring three years ago after her husband of 31 years passed away. “I fell in love with this area and wanted to get involved with the community in a real, concrete way.”

With no retail experience, Albrecht said she looked for an opportunity she had some familiarity with, and something she would value. “When On The Fly came along, everything clicked,” she said.

“I had been a client there and when I heard it might be closing I didn't want it to go away.” She does have some important expertise, she said. “I have belonged to many gyms and I know what is important to clients.”

Albrecht said her biggest challenge has been dealing with the speed at which her life has changed. Becoming a business owner “was all spontaneous and happened over a period of just a few days,” she said. (Continued on Page 10)



On The Fly's new owner, Joy Albrecht

Photo by M. Turton

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Pizza Night and Ice Cream Social
4 – 8 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
Call 845-265-9595 for take-out

Minecraft Mania (grades 3+)
6 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

International Film Night: *Beyond Silence* (Germany, 1996)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Special Olympics Winter Games (Opening Ceremonies)
8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie | 845-454-5800
specialolympics-ny.org/winter-games

August: Osage County
8 p.m. County Players
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

Open-Mic Night
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Seed-Sowing Workshop, Part 1
9 a.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Cabin Fever Workshops
10 a.m. Introduction to Watercolor
Noon: Introduction to Color
Garrison Art Center | 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Intro to DSLR & the Digital Workplace (First Session)
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center | See above.

Eating Our Values: Around the Globe and Supermarket
10 a.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Sea + Space (ages 7-9)
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Friday.

What to Eat & How to Shop (Class)
Noon. Homespun at Home
259 Main St., Beacon
917-803-6857 | homecookingny.com/beacon

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.

Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

Free Lacrosse Clinic (grades K-2)

3 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Shabbat Service

4 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-8011 | philipstownreformsynagogue.org

South Avenue PTA Spaghetti Dinner

5 & 6:30 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
860-970-6900 | southavenuepta@yahoo.com

Jazz Vespers

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

Silent Film Series: *People on Sunday* (1930)

7 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
With live music by Cary Brown

CSFS: *The 400 Blows* (1959)

8 p.m. Old VFW Hall
34 Kemble Street, Cold Spring | coldspringfilm.org

I of the Storm with Richard Hoehler

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

August: Osage County

8 p.m. County Players | See details on Friday.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Non-Toxic Etching (First Session)
1:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center
See details under Saturday.

Auditions for HMS Pinafore
2 – 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Saturday.

The Paul Robeson Affair (Talk)
2 p.m. Peekskill Museum
124 Union Ave., Peekskill
914-736-0473 | peekskillmuseum.org

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:
philipstown.info/sg

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Low-Income Tax Filing Assistance
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Continues weekly on Monday.

Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Friday.

Auditions for HMS Pinafore
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Saturday.

Playwriting 101 (grades 4-6) (First Session)
7:15 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Highland Garden Club
Noon. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Digital Salon
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Bank Square Coffeehouse
129 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7165 | banksquarecoffeehouse.com

Beyond the Bars in Our Backyard (Panel)
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon | beaconprisonaction.org

Haldane School Board Workshop: Technology, Budget
7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Pictures Meet Words Poetry Jam
7 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Cold Spring Village Board
7 p.m. Public hearing on parking
7:30 p.m. Regular meeting
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Zen and the Art of Coloring for Adults
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

The Hudson Highlands Revisited – William Thompson Howell (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Cornwall Presbyterian Church
222 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Senior Holiday Luncheon
Noon. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Saturday.

HHNM Benefit Honoring Andy Chmar
6 p.m. Chelsea Park | 260 West 26th St., New York
845-534-5506 x215 | hhn.org

Army vs. Boston University (Women's Basketball)
7 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

BeaconArts Member Meet-Up
7 p.m. Beacon Institute
199 Main St., Beacon | beaconarts.org

Budget Workshop
7 p.m. Garrison School (library) | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Hoops Academy (grades 5-9) (First Session)
7:15 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Saturday.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Sidney Poitier Double Feature
3 p.m. *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* (1967)
5 p.m. *To Sir, With Love* (1967)
Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org
Rescheduled from Feb. 8

Interfaith Exploration of Psalms
6 p.m. Salem Tabernacle | 7 Delavan Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Putnam County Chambers of Commerce Trailblazer Alumni Event
6 p.m. Bull And Barrel Brew Pub
988 Route 22, Brewster | putnamchamberny.com

Climate Change & Birds of Hudson River Valley (Talk)
6 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
8 Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440 x273 | scenichudson.org

8th Grade vs. Faculty/Parents Basketball Game
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Young Adult Connections Group
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

The Big Draw (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St., Beacon | 845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

PTA Movie Night: *The Sandlot* (1993)
7 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | gufspta.org

Birth / The Black Power Mixtapes
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church | 50 Liberty St., Beacon | moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

Jiayan Sun (Piano)
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Saturday.

ONGOING

Art & Design | philipstown.info/galleries

Religious Services | philipstown.info/services

Support Groups | philipstown.info/sg

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Flying Fish, Birds of Prey, Behemoths *(from Page 7)*

Perhaps that's one reason they seem so alive, with the prints and 3D work handsome enough to make an art collector or game-lodge owner want to take them home.

That would actually be possible. Although Schlobohm's work was rendered by hand for the show, the beauty of the wood-block process, she says, is its "economy." Once she carves to her satisfaction, she will make editions of up to 10 of each image set. Each place it



Melissa Schlobohm stands before her skull wallpaper at GAC. The zebra block-print T-shirt is also her work.

hangs will lend it a different aspect, so it will never be exactly the same twice.

Accidental education

Carinda Swann, the executive director at Garrison Art Center, found Schlobohm as a fill-in teacher for wood-block classes. Ultimately, Schlobohm also became GAC's education and outreach coordinator. Swann is highly interested in showing younger artists.

Schlobohm entered Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs in 2008, intending to be a sculptor. Sophomore year, however, art classes filled quickly, and she was left signing up unenthusiastically for relief-printmaking.

The specific "physicality of the process" hooked her, though: the "carving, embossing, tearing paper, laying out the ink, even the smell of the ink," she says. Compared with sculpting, printmaking kept her from overthinking and gave her a limitation she came to embrace: "You have to stop at a certain point before you overcarve."

"Ninety-nine percent of the time ... it's a surprise what I end up with," she adds.

While Schlobohm looks slight, working her presses takes strength. And she has worked them in some raw conditions. After leaving Skidmore, Schlobohm worked with a group of four guy friends in Cambridge, New York; Washington County was the only area they could afford. They worked in an old



Schlobohm's masked children and bird skulls

Photos by A. Peltanen

building that rented for \$200 a month.

Eventually, they moved to Beacon. The men took jobs at an art foundry there. Schlobohm started her Fledgling Press.

In a name

Schlobohm says she chose the show's title, *Better Off Together*, because "we all need each other. Living, traveling, mating: It is always more beneficial to be together than to be alone." Additionally, she wanted the eagle-ray-to-bat swarm to show how "the spaces of different animals cross each other." And to show bats "the way they hang in caves."

Her bestiary even includes cockroaches. But these insects are unlikely to give you the stereotypical shiver-reaction.

Even her rat kings are beautiful. From far away, they looked to one gallery-goer "like gingko leaves." Why a rat king?

"Because it's this crazy mythological phenomenon," the artist explains. (Rat kings, in lore, are multiple rats whose tails entangle them into a giant rat cluster.) "Ironically," she adds, "rats are not better off together. They are really better off as ... kings, leaders of the pack."

That this does not match the show's title doesn't make her apologetic. It seems to thrill her. Melissa Schlobohm, it appears, prefers things unsettled.

Better Off Together continues through Sunday, Feb. 28, at the Garrison Art Center's Riverside Galleries on Garrison Landing, which is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The gallery is also showing *A Lineage of Imagination*, with paper sculptures and drawings by Kenny Harris. Visit garrisonartcenter.org for more information.

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February 27, 7:30 p.m.

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Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

Getting Into Business 'On The Fly' (from Page 7)

"I've been playing catch up from day one."

Making it her own

That has not kept Albrecht from putting her stamp on her new venture. She has continued On The Fly's core offerings, which include personal training sessions, spinning (for non-spinners, that's the stationary bike), battle rope suspension training, barre classes, cardio-weight training and a cardio-circuit class.

Boxing, which Albrecht notes provides a high intensity and full-body workout, will make its debut at the end of Febru-

ary. The program will include heavy bag work, mitt training (sparring) and jump rope. Albrecht said she has been "pleasantly surprised by the number by of women who are very excited that we're adding boxing."

A "flex-time cardio circuit" is also planned and will allow participants to arrive during a two-hour window to complete their workout.

Also in the works is a "boot camp" that will put clients through two workouts a week for six weeks. That program will include cardio drills and muscle conditioning aimed at building strength and endurance.

Making fitness routine

Albrecht hopes to make participation an easier fit into residents' schedules. "One of the benefits of being small and local is that we can be very flexible, so we're experimenting with how to use our bikes more effectively," she said. "Walk-ins are welcome and can join an existing class as long as there's a bike available." She is also looking into other ways to open up the schedule for those who have not pre-registered for classes.

The competitive nature of the fitness industry doesn't seem to faze Albrecht.



Spinning sessions last about 45 minutes.

Photos by M. Turton



Jose Matos is a personal trainer at On the Fly.

"We'll never be an Allsport or Gold's," she said. "My goal is to offer a high quality fitness program close to home" in Philipstown. "We're close by and easy to get to. I know that if there's traffic involved in getting to the gym, I'm the first not to go."

Programs and classes are offered seven days a week between 7:15 a.m. and 8 p.m. "Occasionally we have workshops that feature a specialized instructor such as a coach or a racer," Albrecht said. "That would usually be a longer class [than the typical 45 to 60 minutes] with a different price structure." Clients can choose from several plans. Spinners can pay by the month or by class. Groups wanting to spin

together need to book in advance.

One challenge Albrecht sees is in getting a more balanced cross section of the community to take part. Female clients outnumber the men by 10 to 1. "Men don't seem drawn to group exercise," she said, although they do like to be challenged. "Most men would definitely find battle ropes to be a real challenge."

On The Fly is located at 3021 Route 9, just south of Vera's Philipstown Market, in the same building as Best Blue Print and Garrison Tree Service. The first visit is free. For more information, visit ontheflycyclingstudio.com or call 646-580-8241.

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Progressive Preschool to Open in Beacon

Brooklyn educator joins others promising holistic learning

By Jeff Simms

A new Beacon preschool for children ages 2 to 4 will open its doors Monday morning (Feb. 22), as Bija Beacon hopes to spread its brand of movement-, arts- and nature-based progressive education.

Founded 11 years ago in Brooklyn by Lauren Maples, who is its director, Bija (Sanskrit for “seed”) combines experiential learning techniques with yoga, fresh food and exercise, and lots of access to the outdoors to create what Maples calls a blueprint for a “purpose-driven life.”

“We’re thinking about the whole child — about creating experiences and opportunities to support children in growing into thoughtful, aware, graceful human beings,” she says. “We aren’t thinking about children meeting a standardized level of development. We understand that each child is a unique individual.”

Bija is opening at 868 Wolcott Ave., where a 1935 Colonial doubles as Maples’ home. Behind the house, a finished barn contains a library space, a place for dramatic play, a “sensory area” and tables for science, social studies and snack and mealtime. A large backyard is equipped for outdoor play, and extra room there, as well as in the front, will be used for food that the children will grow and eat.

Maples, 33, says Bija came to be after she began teaching yoga and dance to children in Brooklyn. As interest grew in the community there, so did Bija, organically.

“I was thinking really deeply about my own experiences and where we are in the world, and my



Lauren Maples

Photos provided

role in helping to shape the next generation,” said Maples, a graduate of The New School. “The more I’ve done this, the more committed I am to this work.”

Bija’s Brooklyn school continues to operate, serving around 200 families a year through its various offerings. Instructors from the Brooklyn school will probably come to Beacon from time to time, Maples said, to give students here access to new faces and ideas.

In the Hudson Valley, Bija is connected with Grass + Grit Farm in New Paltz, which will also help supply food for the school. Bija’s Beacon location, in addition, will serve as a host site for Grass + Grit’s CSA. Maples said a dedication to sustainable food, much of it plant-based, is a key component of the holistic educational en-



vironment Bija seeks to create.

“I think a focus on doing what we preach can have a long-term impact on kids,” she said. “It encapsulates a lot of my other educational ideas.”

The school will launch with five children and two instructors, including Maples. After the abbreviated first session ends in June, Bija will host four weeks of summer camp in July and August, and then begin its first full school year in Beacon in September.

On Wednesday, as Maples led a tour through Bija’s still under-construction space, she commented on the rain outside, offering some insight into her educational philosophies as well: “If it was warm enough, we could be outside today.”

Doing what? “The kids would be using movable materials outside. It would be dictated by the child. We would let them lead, and if they didn’t want to be outside, they wouldn’t be forced to.”

Why? “It develops resiliency, coping, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. I don’t think they have that many opportunities for those things anymore because their lives are so structured.”

For more information on Bija, visit bijakids.com/beacon.

Other schools

Besides Bija, Beacon has several other schools for pre-school students:

- Be Creative As Possible, located on West Main St. near the Metro-North Station, offers programs that address the needs of the “whole child”— social, emotional, intellectual, and physical (becreativeaspossible.com).
- On Hannah Lane, Hudson Hills Montessori utilizes the practices of Maria Montessori and offers primary and elementary programs for children from 3 to 8 years old (hudsonhillsmontessori.org).
- Kid’s Place is located at 60 Liberty St. and includes toddler, preschool and summer camp programs (kidsplace-beacon.org).



Outside activities at Bija Beacon

Photos provided

- Rose Hill Manor, on Wolcott Avenue, offers programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children (845-831-4847).

In addition, the Beacon City School Dis-

trict offers a half-day, pre-kindergarten program at each of the district’s four elementary schools. However, it will only operate if the Beacon City School District continues to receive state funding for the program.

Jazz Vespers

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20,
2016 AT 5:30 PM



FEATURING

RENE BAILEY/VOCALIST - TOM MCCOY/PIANO
ED XIQUES/SAX - GARETH GUEST/CLARINET
MIKE LAROCO/DRUMS - DAVID LIMBURGH/TRUMPET
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PTA to Host Free Movie Night

The Sandlot *will be shown*

The Garrison School PTA will host a Family Movie Night at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26, in the school gym with a free screening of the PG-rated 1993 comedy *The Sandlot*. Bring a pillow or sleeping bag. Hot dogs, popcorn and bottles of water will be available for \$1 each, and all children must be accompanied by an adult. The school is located at 1100 Route 9D.

Nature Museum Offers "Sweet Deal"

Maple sugar tours begin Feb. 27

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will open maple sugar season on Saturday, Feb. 27, with a "sugaring off celebration" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The opening day will include tours, a tree-tapping demonstration and taste test, crafts and games and Native American storytelling around a campfire.

The tours, in which guides explain the process of producing sugar maple (it takes 40 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup), will continue each Saturday and Sunday through March 20. Sugarbush tours, which include a mile-long, moderate hike through field and forest to the sugar shack (weather permitting) begin at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.; and Maple Lane tours, which include a shorter walk from the farmhouse to the sugar maple stand and are designed for smaller legs, begin at noon and 3 p.m.

Visitors are asked to dress warmly and wear appropriate footwear for snow and mud. Admission is \$10 for adults (\$7 for

museum members) and \$7 for children ages 3 to 17 (\$4 for members). For more information, visit hhn.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204. Tour size is limited so visitors are encouraged to sign up as soon as they arrive. The tours take place at the Outdoor Discovery Center on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road.

Farmers' Market Dinner Set for March 10



Music by Tall County; cocktails by Max Watman

Tickets are available for the annual Cold Spring Farmers' Market community dinner scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, at the Garrison Institute. Tickets are \$75 and reservations are required, as the event typically sells out.

The menu, designed and prepared by Fresh Company, will feature seasonal ingredients sourced from the market's farmers and producers. Hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dessert will be served, along with local beer, cider and wine, and cocktails designed and served by Cold Spring author and mixologist Max Watman. Music will be provided by Tall County.

To purchase tickets, visit csfarmmarket.org/dinner2016. The Garrison Institute is located at 14 Mary's Way in Garrison, about a half mile south of the intersection of routes 9D and 403. For more information or to RSVP, call 845-424-8204.

The market was recently granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the IRS and can accept tax-deductible donations. It has established two levels of support, Seed Friends (\$50 per year) and Harvest Friends (\$125 per year).

Vassar Dance Company to Perform

Gala celebration set for March 5 and 6

The Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre will perform ballet, jazz and modern dance in its 34th annual gala at the Bardavon at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 6.



Members of the Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre

Photo provided

The company will perform a dance by New York-based choreographer Seán Curran, who describes his piece, *Social Discourse*, as a "contemporary urban folk dance." Ballet fans can look forward to the traditional classical ballet, *Paquita*, staged by Meehan, and faculty members Miriam Mahdavian and Katherine Wildberger have created new works, each featuring half of the company and each using musical compositions written by contemporary composers.

In addition, faculty member Abby Saxton has taken the music of Ella Fitzgerald and the New York, N.Y., Orchestra as the inspiration for her piece, *Smooth Over*. The finale is *Footloose*: rehearsal director Alessia Santoro joined the faculty and company members to create this piece, danced entirely for fun.

Tickets can be purchased at bardavon.org or by calling 845-473-2072. The Bardavon is located at 35 Market St. in Poughkeepsie.

Free Tax Help Available

Open to low-income and seniors

State tax authorities, along with the SAARP Foundation, are offering free tax advice and assistance for low-income taxpayers and seniors.

William Estelle of the state Department of Taxation and Finance will be available at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays through April 11 to assist with electronic filing. E-filing is free for those with annual incomes of less than \$62,000. The library is located at 10 Morris Avenue. Call 845-265-3040 for information.

Ed Hogarty of the AARP Foundation provides tax assistance at the Howland Public Library in Beacon, for seniors age 60 and older from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The library is located at 313 Main St. The AARP Foundation also provides assistance at Rehabilitation Inc., 10 Eliza St. in Beacon, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and 2 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. An appointment is necessary at both locations; dial 211 or 800-899-1479.

The average return takes about an hour. Bring a copy of state and federal returns from 2015 (if filed), photo ID, affordable healthcare statement (form 1095-A, 1095-B or 1095-C), health insurance exemption

certificate (if received), information related to credits being claimed, bank account and routing numbers (for direct deposit of any refund), proof of income (forms W-2, 1098, 1099) and any other documents showing income.

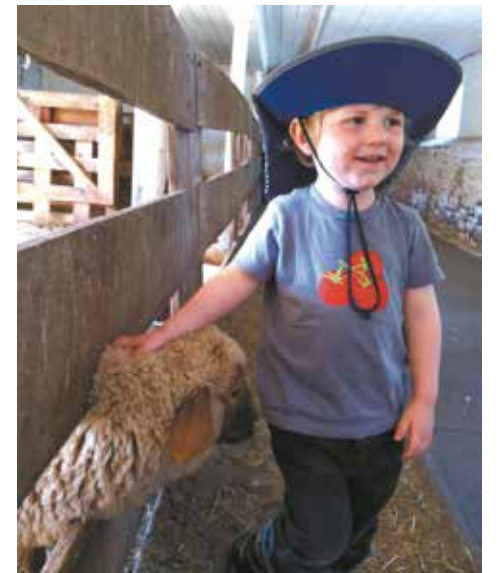
Kids' Farm Programs Begin March 4

Students will learn gardening and other skills

The Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls will begin its annual spring series for children in early March.

Preschool on the Farm for children ages 2 to 4 begins at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 4. Each one-hour session will feature a different farm or nature topic, experiential investigation and learning and movement, stories, and arts & crafts. The cost is \$10 per session, eight sessions prepaid for \$60 or 16 sessions prepaid for \$110. Topics include What's in a Seed?, Wild Animals on the Farm, Earthworms, Teddy Bear Picnic and Water World, among others. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Young Homesteaders program for children ages 5 to 12 will start at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, at Common Ground Farm. Students will learn to prepare and grow a garden as well as other skills such as maple tapping and making soup. They will end the series with a garden plan and seedlings to take home. The series is \$20 per session or \$110 for all six sessions,



A pre-schooler visits with a sheep at Common Ground Farm.

Photo provided



Checking out the sap

Photo provided

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Farms Gearing Up for CSAs

Weekly pick-ups of vegetables and fruit

National CSA Day, launched last year by Small Farm Central to promote community-supported agriculture, takes place on Friday, Feb. 26. A number of area farms offer CSA programs, including:

Glynwood Farms in Cold Spring offers 115 shares in its CSA program, with two options: a full share with weekly pickup for \$700, or a half share with pickup every other week for \$365. The season lasts 24 weeks, with the first pickup scheduled for Tuesday, May 31; shares include a selection of more than 40 varieties of USDA certified organic vegetables. Pickup hours will be 3 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays or Fridays at Glynwood, or 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Garrison Café on Route 9D. The farm also offers subsidized shares through the Philipstown Food Pantry and accepts SNAP benefits for share purchases and products sold at its Farm Store. Shares can be ordered online at glynwood.org/buy-our-products/csa.

Longhaul Farm in Garrison typically sells 30 shares, with delivery from June to September. A full share is \$650 for a weekly box of vegetables to feed a family of three to four people. It also offers split shares and community shares where members subsidize families who cannot afford a full share on their own. For information call 845-424-6277 or email longhaulny@gmail.com.

Fishkill Farm in Hopewell Junction offers weekly boxes of organically grown (uncertified) vegetables, berries and tree fruit, along with some ecologically grown (IPM) fruit. Fruit includes strawberries, peaches, nectarines, plums, pears, apples, lots of berries, plus some unique varieties like donut peaches and black raspberries. Pickup is available at the farm. CSA shares picked up at the farm also include a variety of bonus "U-Pick" produce members will be able to harvest themselves. Visit fishkillfarms.com for more information or call 845-897-4377.

Trailblazer Alumni Invited to Party

County chambers host reception Feb. 25

The Putnam County Chambers of Commerce has invited local business owners who have won a Trailblazer Award since its introduction six years ago and their guests to a networking reception in Brewster on Thursday, Feb. 25. Past winners from Philipstown have included the owners or managers of the Cold Spring Coffee Pantry, Fresh Company, Tightrope Interactive, The Garrison, Jaymark Jewelry, Robert's Total Care Salon and Cath-

ryn's Tuscan Grill.

The event takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Bull and Barrel Brew Pub, 988 Route 22 and will feature live music, food and a cash bar. Tickets are \$65 and can be ordered at putnamchamberny.org.

Equestrian Center to Offer Lessons

Available for teens and adults

The Therapeutic Equestrian Center will offer riding lessons in its indoor arena and heated barn for teens and adults starting the first week of March and running for 13 weeks. Adult lessons will begin on Wednesday, March 2, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and lessons for teens (ages 12 to 18) start on Friday, March 4, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$650 per person. To register, visit myfeettakewings.org, or for more information, call 845-265-3409. The center is located at 115 Stonecrop Lane in Cold Spring.

Next Clearwater Concert on Feb. 27

Performances benefit sloop restoration

The second of Clearwater's continuing concert series to raise money for the restoration of the sloop Clearwater is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27, at 299 Washington Street in Newburgh. The evening will include performances by Corey Glover, Decora, Michael Monasterial, Terri Gittens and Gregory Charlemagne, with master of ceremonies Poet Gold. The music begins at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 or \$40 and available online at clearwater.org. VIP tickets are \$150 and include a private reception and performance on Friday, Feb. 26, at The Wherehouse, 119 Liberty St., in Newburgh. Catered food will be served with a cash bar serving beer and wine.

Clearwater's next concert will take place on March 20 at the Linda Norris Auditorium in Albany with performances by American folk musicians Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Unger.

Clearwater has raised about \$650,000 of its \$850,000 goal for a hull restoration underway in Kingston. During the sailing season, Clearwater offers educational programs in which students come aboard to learn about the Hudson River's ecology, history and navigation.

Beacon

Dutchess Executive to Hold Town Hall

Set for March 1 in Beacon

Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro will host a town hall at Beacon City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, to share his thoughts on the state of the county and take questions about is-



Dutchess Executive Marcus Molinaro

Photo provided

sues important to residents. For more information call 845-486-2000 or visit dutchessny.gov. Beacon City Hall is located at 1 Municipal Plaza.

The Big Draw Opens Feb. 26

All works in juried show priced at \$70

The Big Draw, an annual three-day juried show that features more than 100 works on paper all priced at \$70, will open with a reception at the Catalyst Gallery in Beacon from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26. It will continue from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the gallery, located at 137 Main St. For more information, visit catalystgallery.com.



The Big Draw in 2015

Photo provided

French Pianist to Play Howland

Will perform Bach, Ravel, Liszt

The French pianist Lise de la Salle will perform in Beacon on Sunday, Feb. 28, as part of the ongoing Howland Chamber



Lise de la Salle *Photo by Marco Borggreve / Lynn Goldsmith*

Music Circle series.

De la Salle, 26, first gained international attention at age 16 when Gramophone selected her performance of Bach and Liszt compositions as its Recording of the Month. In 2008, not yet 20, she was again recognized for her recordings of the first concertos of Liszt, Prokofiev and Shostakovich. More recently, she made her London Symphony Orchestra debut with Fabio Luisi, who in 2014 had invited her to become the first Artist-in-Residence of the Zurich Opera.

For her concert at the Howland Cultural Center, de la Salle will play the Chaconne from Bach's *Violin Partita No. 2 in D Minor*, as arranged by Busoni; *Gaspard de la nuit*, by Ravel; *Après une Lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata*, by Liszt and a number of transcriptions by Liszt after works by Mozart (*Lacrimosa* from *Requiem*) Schumann (*Widmung* & *Frühlingsnacht*) Schubert (*Ständchen*) and Wagner (*Isoldes Liebestod*).

The concert will begin at 4 p.m. at the cultural center at 477 Main St., followed by a reception with the artist. Tickets at \$30 (\$10 for students) and can be reserved at howlandmusic.org or by calling 845-765-3012.

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Haldane Cafeteria Adds Glynwood Beef

*Organic meat will be used
weekly in pasta sauce*

The Haldane School cafeteria served organic, grass-fed ground beef raised at Glynwood Farm in Cold Spring for the first time in its pasta sauce on Wednesday, Feb. 3, and will continue to do so weekly through the remainder of the school year as part of the school district's Farm to School Initiative. Last fall, the Haldane Wellness Committee raised more than \$1,200 at a Family Pasta Night to pay for the beef.

The Farm to School program at Haldane began in 2010 with cooking demonstrations in elementary classrooms and some special locally sourced vegetable



A student with a Wednesday pasta meal that includes Glynwood beef Photo provided

Hudson Valley Fresh milk is served in the cafeteria, and each month a locally grown vegetable is featured on the menu; parents host taste tests and survey the students' response. In the fall and spring, Glynwood donates hundreds of pounds of produce, filling the salad bar and adding to hot-lunch menu selections.

"We always go through a lot more on the salad bar when Glynwood produce is there," said Nancy Norton, the cafeteria director. Sandy McKelvey, Haldane's Farm-to-School coordinator and the founder of Hudson Valley Farm to School, said the grass-fed beef, which has no additives or fillers, has also been a hit with parents, who "encourage their kids to buy on the days it is served."

"I hope other schools in the area will follow Haldane's example and consider incorporating local beef and other local farm products into their lunch menus," she added. "All kids should have access to fresh, nutrient-dense local foods and know where their food comes and how their food choices impact their bodies, their environment and their community."

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Sports**Free-Throw Sharpshooters Advance***Trio will next compete on March 6*

The Knights of Columbus Loretto Council No. 536 sent seven boys and girls to the District 54 Free-Throw Competition

held Feb. 12 in Hopewell Junction and three advanced to the regional competition.

Finola Kiter made 10 of 25 shots in the 9-year-old girls bracket; Isabela Monteleone won the 13-year-old girls' bracket by sinking

11 of 25 and Gaetano Cervone hit 19 for 25 in the 13-year-old boy's bracket. Each winner in the district competition was presented a medal by District Deputy Bill Hunt.

The three winners will next compete

in the regional competition on Saturday, March 6, at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. The winners there will continue on to the downstate regional tournament later in March.



Michaela Khadabux of Haldane takes off on her way to a distance of 14-6, good for fourth place at the Class C state championships at the Armory in New York City on Feb. 10.

Photos by Peter Farrell



Heather Winnie (center) set a Haldane record in the 55-meter hurdles to finish sixth at the Class C championships in New York City on Feb. 10. The girls' track and field team finished third overall out of 12 teams. The boys finished sixth.

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Get Your Cabin in the Woods

Lodge clubs allow overnight stays at Harriman

By Anita Peltonen

Horse Chock Creek. Wee Wah. The Lemon Squeezer. The Valley of Dry Bones.

These are features of Harriman State Park you've probably never heard of.

Some Highlanders never get past Bear Mountain and the picnic areas to find the lonelier reaches of its Adirondack-like forests and 200 miles of trails — and overnight cabins, run by various hiking and mountain clubs.

Putnam and Dutchess county residents are rare users of these outposts, but there's every reason to become active ones. Harriman's just 30 minutes away, with 50,000 acres to scout. Hudson Highlands State Park has 6,000 acres, and keeps residents of the east bank of the Hudson pretty happy. Eventually, though, some of us run out of trail.

Harriman, on the Crystalline Appalachian vein, has piney, craggy summits, (living) hemlock and laurel copses, silent moss dugouts, primitive lean-tos that serve Appalachian Trail through-hikers, and a preponderance of lakes. There's ample four-season sports activity (and often more snow there than here). It's rich terrain for those wanting to expand hiking and birding life-lists.

And there's the overnight life.

Group lodges depend largely on membership fees. The fees are low, and the getaway experience high enough that some members stop looking for places in the Catskills or Adirondacks once they find a cabin here to join.

Club life

Clare McKeen, of New York City, has found hers. "It's a welcoming environment for an independent and arguably quirky person such as myself," she said. "I like to enjoy the outdoors and socialize without pretense. Other members are very generous sharing their knowledge and skills, like teaching me how to sail one of the club's Sunfish!"

And McKeen is happy that "the outhouse scenario weeds out the more high-maintenance types."

Camp Nawakwa hiking club is quartered by Lake Se-

bago, Harriman's largest. The Lake Sebago area has 40 cabins and two cottages. Part of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Nawakwa's rustic main cabin holds 50 for get-togethers and meals. There are six sleeping cabins, a floating dock and a small flotilla of rowing and sailing boats. See adkny.org.

Thendara Mountain Club, with a double-cabin lodge (six sleeping rooms), screened bunkhouse and swimming and boating docks (boats supplied), sits near a southern cove of Lake Tiorati. It has 300 members, among whom there are great cooks, excellent oarsmen and women, fine birders, stalwart hikers, snowshoers and cross-country skiers. Thendara was founded by the Green Mountain Club in 1916.

Today, says Thendara Camp Committee Chair George Hewitt, "we are like-minded people who enjoy the outdoors and comradery through hikes, hosted weekends at our year-round lodge, and planning trips together."

He adds: "about 30 of us went last weekend to our annual snowshoeing cross-country skiing weekend at the ADK Loj [lodge] outside of Lake Placid."

A member whose former house had direct access to a state forest sees her club as a "simpler, better home in the woods, but with boats," and no tax, mortgage or insurance headaches.

There are a couple of membership steps to join Thendara. For casual access, you simply pay the fee. To get keys to the gate at the beginning of Thendara's long, forest road, you must complete three caretaker tests: furnace/fire safety, boat safety and trail maintenance.

You can come on your own or live large. "Members range from young to old, singles, married, and families," Hewitt says. "Everyone gets involved on hosted weekends, from the hosts coordinating it to attendees helping out with chores." For the upcoming weekend, reports the club at its website (thendaramountainclub.com), "gumbo will be served around the roaring fire."

But it is very easy to have the place to yourself on weekdays and in cooler weather. Hanging out on Lake Tiorati is hard to break away from. And on quiet days and nights, you should hear more bird calls, and see the bald eagles that nest nearby.

Fauna, flora and frozen lakes

According to the state Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Harriman is a bird conservation area whose species include the Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier and Pied-billed Grebe (all threatened), the Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler and Osprey (all "special concern"), as well as the Hooded and Kentucky Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush and Acadian Flycatcher.

Meanwhile, stayover space is set to expand this summer. The Appalachian Mountain Club (outdoors.org) has announced the opening of a new outdoor group-program

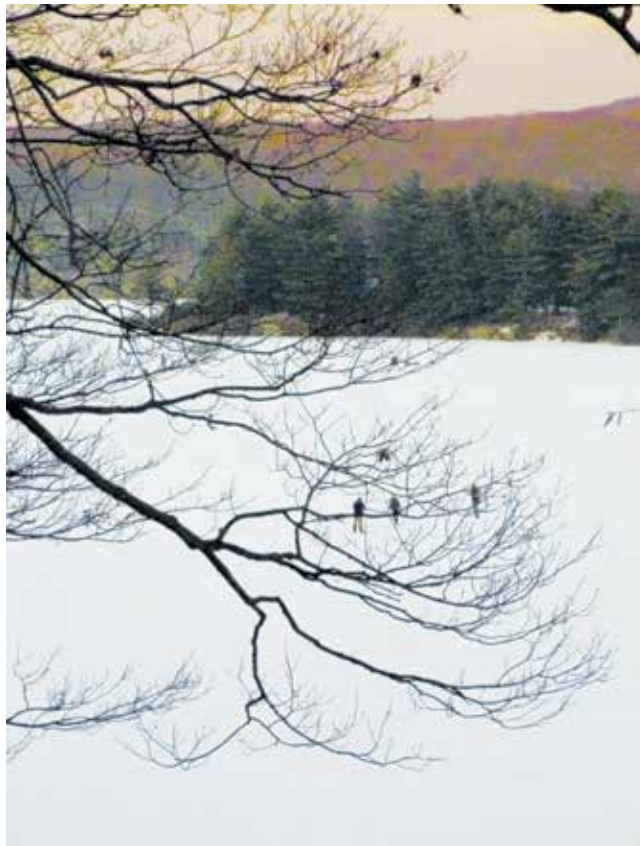


Thendara Mountain Club during Christmas week, fire pit outside, fireplace and furnace inside

Photos by A. Peltonen



Thendara Mountain Club's canoe dock, Lake Tiorati, Harriman State Park.



Harriman State Park. Those aren't birds, but skiers, ice-hockey players and fishermen on Lake Tiorati, near Thendara.

center at a renovated camp on Breakneck Pond, which will also have hiking, paddling and camping. The center is expected to have space for 140 people and provide a common space for programs, water access and a dining hall.

There may still be time to ice-fish, snowshoe or cross-country ski this winter. Ask a ranger if conditions are safe. And if the ice and snow don't hold up, then look next for a stunning takeover of the lakesides and lower stories of the forest by mountain laurels, whose sassy snow-colored flowers seem an ideal bridge between winter and spring.