Fran Murphy
Ready to Tackle Village Issues
Running for Cold Spring trustee

By Michael Turton

Fran Murphy is one of three candidates running for two trustee seats on the Cold Spring Village Board as part of the March 18 election. Asked why she is running, Murphy told The Paper, “I’ve been thinking about politics for a long time.” Her first concrete step was to volunteer at the Village Hall, taking on such tasks as assessing current telephone service providers, dealing with insurance coverage for Main Street businesses and creating a database of volunteer applicants. “I wanted background, to get to know about the business of the village,” she said.

What tipped the scales toward seeking election was her attendance at a few village meetings. While she said the sample was not extensive, what she saw impressed her — though not favorably. “I thought the bickering that I saw, the politics for a long time.” Her first concrete step was to volunteer at the Village Hall, taking on such tasks as assessing current telephone service providers, dealing with insurance coverage for Main Street businesses and creating a database of volunteer applicants. “I wanted background, to get to know about the business of the village,” she said.

What tipped the scales toward seeking election was her attendance at a few village meetings. While she said the sample was not extensive, what she saw impressed her — though not favorably. “I thought the bickering that I saw, the ‘zingers’ can’t go on. I found it uncomfortable — and embarrassing,” Murphy said at that point she had a choice to make. “I decided that rather than sitting on the outside (Continued on page 3)

Camera Catches Carrion Carried Off
Scientists study local animal behavior

By Pete Salmansohn

What do a bobcat, a barred owl and a red-bellied woodpecker have in common? They were all seen recently feeding on the carcass of a deer leg strung 20 feet up in a hemlock tree and photographed by a motion-detecting trail camera wired onto the trunk.

This unlikely trio of animals was not all present at the same time, of course, but discoveries like this, which defy the predictable in terms of just what local animals may show up for a free meal, are becoming more common as wildlife biologists collect images from well-placed trail cameras where a small mountain of free food is hard to resist.

Motion-detecting cameras were first used by scientists to study truly rare animals like snow leopards, but inexpensive models are now being used much more commonly by naturalists and backyard amateurs as well, and this winter at least three teams of local New York State Park biologists are collecting a fascinating array of images from their cameras’ isolated locations in area parklands.

Max Garfinkel, Haldane alum and a field biologist, said his team from Bear Mountain has been trying to get photos of an elusive tree-climbing weasel named a fisher, so they tied a large deer leg they had cut from a carcass up onto the trunk of a tree in Sterling Forest. “So far we haven’t seen any fishers, unfortunately, but we did get photos of a bobcat up there in the daytime, which is pretty unusual, and a whole bunch of other creatures too, including a blue jay, a chickadee, a junco, a red-bellied woodpecker and a squirrel.”

Over on Duck Pond in Fahnestock State Park, naturalists from Taconic Outdoor Education Center have placed road-killed deer carcasses on the thick ice for the third winter in a row and have mounted a trail camera nearby to capture a parade of both daytime and nocturnal visitors. Said Program Director John Stowell, “This year, we got photos of two red-tailed hawks fighting each other off to get to the carcass … pretty cool!” Ravens and crows are usually the first animals to respond to the meat, and then eagles, hawks and vultures show up, and finally the more wary ones like bobcats, foxes and coyotes.

Zoologist Ed McGowan, supervisor of the Bear (Continued on page 15)

Funding remains the biggest question

By Michael Turton

About 25 residents braved frigid temperatures on Monday night (Feb. 16) to attend a meeting at the Cold Spring Firehouse, part of an ongoing discussion regarding plans to replace the aging home base of the Cold Spring Fire Company (CSFC) at 154 Main St. The public Q-and-A session, postponed one week due to a winter storm, was led by CSFC President John Landolfi and Assistant Chief Steve Smith. The audience included the five candidates running in the March 18 election for three seats on the Village Board. Landolfi and

Smith answered questions submitted by email and also addressed comments from the audience. During a break in the question period, Smith reviewed modifications to the proposal presented late last fall that called for a three-story, 19,458-square-foot building that would cost approximately $6 million. Plans have since been scaled back to a two-story, 14,193-square-foot building that would cost approximately $4.6 million to build. Additional costs such as engineering, demolition of the old building and storage required during construction could add another $800,000 to the bill.

Costly comparisons

Smith detailed facilities planned for each level of the proposed building. The basement would house utilities such as a furnace, compressors and generators. The main floor would include truck bays, a radio room, a laundry, decontamination and fitness rooms, showers and bathrooms. A mezzanine made
Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Egg Drop Soother

By Mary Ann Ebner

All along the genealogical trail, my ancestors professed their devotion to soup as a home remedy to calm life and any number of ailments. By second nature, it seems instinctive to echo that tradition.

A cup of soup quiets the soul affordably. And when it’s cold and unforgiving outside, as in bitterly cold around the Hudson Valley, a filling of soup may thaw a disposition and whatever else may be ailing. Soup can sustain us without adding excessive calories, while many soups can be tailored for dietary restrictions.

Cold Spring’s Karen Shea concurs that savory soup helps push us on through chilly winter weather and into warmer surroundings despite frigid temperatures. And she continuously tries new recipes to expand her repertoire of soups.

“I make a lot of different soups,” Shea said. “I just made a roasted cauliflower and mushroom soup.” Shea confirmed that she also added a good amount of garlic to the broth, which most likely boosted its healthfulness.

Her family appreciated roasted vegetables as the soup’s foundation, but the meal most remembered was an egg drop soup that served to nurture the appetite and spirit.

The soup represented a gift of warmth created by my cousin. It didn’t matter that the Texas temperature in Austin that day called more for a cold soup on a sunny afternoon. My cousin, Kathie, decided that the steamy broth and its powerful liquid deserved a place in the meal rotation. She prepared a family-sized pot of egg drop soup, embellished with a host of sources of nutritional properties from eggs and spinach to mushrooms and shrimp. The ancestors were right.

A cup of soup quiets the soul affordably, as soup should be eaten to let it work. She finished every sip of the broth, slowly, as soup should be eaten to let it work its best.

Life eventually leveled out around our home but the egg drop soup remained a preferred choice for a warm, nutritious meal. When a neighbor needed a healthy lift for a wicked virus, she agreed to try the egg drop soup. Chicken soup may have been more appropriate, but a bowl of steaming egg drop served her well.

She finished every sip of the broth, slowly, as soup should be eaten to let it work its best.

This egg drop soup stands as one of our primary family meals, not just in winter, but all year through. We eat it as a main course with generous portions. Occasionally, it takes on different qualities and characteristics, deepened in flavor with additional ginger or filled out with cooked, shredded chicken or fish. For an even lighter version, we eliminate the vegetables and let the egg please on its own. Discover its many possibilities and compose your own. Rustic or refined, soup settles — slurped or sipped.

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Egg Drop Soup

Serves 8

1 tablespoon rice vinegar
2 teaspoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon sesame oil
1 teaspoon sugar
2 teaspoons freshly grated ginger root
3 cups water (reserve ½ cup)
6 eggs, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon cornstarch
4 cups fresh mushrooms, sliced
2 cups scallions, chopped
1 teaspoon fish sauce
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
4 cups fresh spinach leaves
6 eggs, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon cornstarch
4 cups fresh mushrooms, sliced
2 cups scallions, chopped

Combine rice vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil and sugar in large stock pot. Add grated ginger root and cook over medium heat 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add water, vegetable stock, fish sauce, salt and cayenne, and mix. Cook over medium heat 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in spinach. Gradually add egg and gently stir the egg into the soup with a fork 2 to 3 minutes. Whip cornstarch into the ½ cup of reserved water. Pour cornstarch mixture into soup and stir thoroughly. Reduce heat. Add mushrooms, cover and cook 10 minutes over low heat. Ladle soup into serving bowls. Smother with chopped scallions and serve immediately.
Downsized Fire Station Proposed

Possible by the high ceilings required for the truck bays would be used for offices, storage and the board of governors' meetings. The proposed new station would include a meeting room accommodating up to 80 people, ready room, kitchen and bathrooms. A divider separating the two large areas of the downstairs is learned to double the capacity of the meeting room.

Any scenario to replace the existing structure will be costly. Smith said that North Highlands' 37,000-square-foot fire hall cost approximately $4.7 million, an expenditure that was reduced somewhat because parts of the original building's skeleton were kept intact. Mahopac's completely new 34,000-square-foot fire station was initially estimated to cost $8.7 million but the final price came in at $8.7 million.

Alternate design suggested

Resident Mike Armstrong questioned why a design for a Cold Spring firehouse put forward in 2012 was estimated at only $3 million. Smith said one need that was the proposal did not take Wicks Law into account, a factor he said would add about 35 percent to the cost. Wicks Law forces municipalities to separate competitive bids from products, electrical and HVAC as well as general contractors. Landolfi also pointed out that the design was based on prefabricated components rather than a design created specifically for the lot that the current fire station occupies. Armstrong commented that the trapezoidal design currently being considered is inherently more costly than a rectangular building. He urged the contractors to be asked to bid on that type of design.

Repairs impractical

Early on, a question that may have been on the minds of many was addressed — why not simply repair the existing building? Smith said that previous engineering studies determined that is not feasible due to a number of serious structural flaws, for example, the pier that support the building are deteriorating, the west wall of the building is bulging outward, the floor of the meeting room is sinking; and the floor in the truck bay had to be reinforced several years ago. Cracks and settling are also evident in other parts of the building.

“The building cannot hold the weight of the [truck],” said Smith. “We can’t remodel it. It’s just not worth it ... it would probably cost more than building a new structure.”

Fire district again discussed

As in the past, the possibility of creating a new fire district was discussed, perhaps to include Cold Spring, the Village of Nelsonville, and parts of Philipstown and Garrison. The idea of a district would make it possible to build the new fire station in Nelsonville, moving it away from the crowded upped quay and Main Street. In a fire district, residents elect commissioners who administer the fire company within its area of jurisdiction. A fire district is independent of local municipalities and has the authority to tax residents directly for fire protection.

North Highlands currently operates as a fire district. When a new fire station was built there several years ago, spending had to be approved by voter referendum. Residents voted “no” the first time. Plans and costs were then scaled back, and a second vote approved construction of the new facility. Fire companies in Cold Spring and Garrison do not operate as a part of a fire district and as such come under the jurisdiction of the municipality.

Another possibility is establishing a single, expanded town-wide fire district with all residents within its boundaries taxed at the same rate for fire protection. That is not the case now. Landolfi did not have exact figures available but said that local taxation for fire protection differs considerably. He estimated that tax rates per thousand dollars of assessed property value vary from 83 cents in Cold Spring and $1.19 in North Highlands to $2.50 in Garrison.

While economies of scale may be possible by forming a large, merged fire district, it would require agreement among the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville, the Town of Philipstown and the North Highlands Fire District. The CSPF itself has twice voted against creating a fire district for Cold Spring, Nelsonville and adjacent parts of Philipstown, in recent years. One obstacle Landolfi pointed to were the “service awards” that provide a form of pension to firefighters, paid for by Cold Spring taxpayers. “I think it’s possible that if a new fire district were formed, Cold Spring taxpayers may be required to fund the existing service awards as well as the pension required by any new district. He also hinted at a loss of local autonomy, suggesting that while the CSPF has always been “openly and publicly” regarding use of its meeting room by community groups, in a fire district such decisions might not be made locally.

To date, the lack of success in streamlining local government and related services does not bode well for a dovetailing of fire protection services. A report commissioned by the Town of Philipstown in 2011 that supported consolidation of fire departments town-wide was strongly criticized by local fire companies. Last year the three municipalities abandoned the idea to merge their fire departments. The desirability of combining three local justice courts has also been discussed with no action taken. Talk of merging local school districts has also gone nowhere.

Funding

No one in attendance questioned the need for a new fire station; in fact Landolfi and Smith received a round of applause at the end of the meeting for providing updated information on the proposed project. The big question that remains is how the new facility will be funded in a village with fewer than 900 taxed properties. Cold Spring has to go after grants, Landolfi said. “We [CSPF] can’t apply for grants.” Trustee Stephanie Hawkins, however, encouraged the fire company to be a part of the grant-seeking process. Landolfi responded in part by saying, “It’s a no-brainer, you have to hire a grant writer now.”

Fran Murphy Ready to Tackle Village Issues

complaining, now would be a good time to get involved.” She decided to run for trustee.

Unlike the four other candidates, Mur - phy is running independently rather than as part of a team. “I believe running as a new and separate candidate for the future board,” she said. “The team needs to be formed with the full board once the election is over.”

The 66-year-old Murphy recently re - tired as director of graduate school ad - missions at the Zicklin School of Busi - ness at Baruch College of the City Universi - ty of New York, a position she held for 18 years. She thinks that expe - rience makes her a strong candidate. “I learned to manage a staff and deal with people,” Murphy said. “I dealt with three different deans and four directors, and was able to learn how to sit with them, talk to them, listen to them — and to get things done.” She also had to deal with conflict, especially between departments within the school. “I know when to push my agenda, and when to stand back and say, ‘It’s your call.’”

Murphy mentioned a number of key priorities ahead for the village, starting with selecting a new village attorney as well as a long list of issues that she said included the Main Street project, water and sewer initiatives, a new design of the post office location, the future of Dockside Park and removal of coal tar from the area of the Cold Spring Boat Club. She also sees a need that goes be - yond the projects themselves. “We need to keep villages better informed, using reports on a regular basis” to include project schedules and financial updates.

Murphy said that at times, small vocal minorities can weigh too much influence within the village. “I believe running as a team creates a possible division for some,” she said. “The team needs to realize that ‘sometimes you win, sometimes you lose — and sometimes the greater good of the whole village is more important.” She said that trustees al - ways have to listen to what everyone has to say, “but we have to make decisions based on what is good for the majority.” There can’t be any ‘sacred cows’ anymore — we have to look at everything.” One area where Murphy feels she can have a positive impact is in seeking grants. “There hasn’t been a specific per - son working on grants, and we need new revenue sources,” she said. “I’ll work hard at learning to write grant applications, and I can’t do it alone.” She used grants for a new firehouse as an example. “I need to work with the fire company. And they need to contribute information.” Murphy, a Boston native, and her husband Ed have been married for 38 years. They moved to High Street in Cold Spring 15 years ago. She currently serves on the Cold Spring Recreation Commis - sion and is one of several candidates who have applied to serve on the yet - to - be - named Ethics Committee. Ed is a vet - eran with more than 40 years of service between the reserves and regular army. A command sergeant major, he served in the first Gulf War and is now Veterans of Foreign Wars commander of the James Harvey Hustis Post in Cold Spring.
Planning Board Schedules Public Hearing on Butterfield Plans for March 4

County legislators talk of moving forward — into 6,000 square feet of space

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Cold Spring Planning Board voted on Wednesday (Feb. 18) to hold a public hearing on March 4 on the Butterfield redevelopment project, a decision representing a milestone in more than three years of often intense — and contentious — review of plans (revised over time) by Butterfield Realty LLC to repurpose the old hospital site.

The Planning Board action occurred a day after a Putnam County Legislature committee discussed proposed county occupancy of 5,000 to 6,000 square feet, including a new county-run senior citizen center, in a multi-government facility on a redeveloped Butterfield parcel that totals 5.7 acres.

Led by owner-developer Paul Guillaro, Butterfield LLC intends to retain the existing Lahey Pavilion medical clinic but demolish the abandoned hospital building and, build not only the intergovernmental structure but 55 market-rate condominiums for older residents; a “square” of retail/commercial shops or offices; and three single-family homes on the 5.7-acre property which anchors the southern entrance to the village of Cold Spring.

Parking spaces

Wednesday’s hearing date-setting came on a 4-1 vote, with Planning Board Member Anne Saari the lone “no” after he strenuously objected that the site plan provided insufficient parking, particularly for residents of the two-bedroom condominiums.

The public hearing will focus on the site plan — or layout and other details — and, on a preliminary basis, on the land subdivision integral to the redevelopment. A second hearing on the subdivision would follow at an undetermined date, a pro forma requirement.

If the owners of each condominium bring two cars, “where are these people going to park?” Saari questioned. “I think we’re pushing the envelope on parking.”

He argued that “it sounds like we’re pushing the place toward Foodtown — inadequate parking.” At the Foodtown plaza, home to the village’s grocery store, he often cannot find a parking space and must leave his car on the street behind, he said. He foresees similar problems at Butterfield: “I think we’re going to create a parking nightmare down here.”

Chuck Voss, the board’s planning consultant, and Anna Georgiou, its attorney for the review, answered that the parking spaces will meet both needs and obligations under the Village Code. Voss noted that the code is likely to change anyway, reducing the requirements for providing parking from the “suburban”-style mandate now on the books.

The Butterfield redevelopment “was designed as a shared-parking environment,” a flexible-use site, in which residents could park elsewhere on the property and in which not all residents owning cars or others driving to Butterfield would bring vehicles in at once, Voss said. Thus, as he elaborated, some condominium owners would leave during the day, freeing spaces for cars of those patronizing the government facility or shops and while customers, employees and others using the latter buildings would not need parking overnight, and might not drive to the site in any case. “I don’t think you guys want to apply a pro forma requirement,” he told Saari, “but the village has to comply with the code, whether we like its logic or not,” he said.

An architectural rendering of buildings at the proposed Butterfield redevelopment

The Village Board reassigned the site to accommodate the Butterfield plans, and Steven Barshov, Guillaro’s attorney, suggested that Saari’s complaint is not with the developer’s plans but with the pertinent village laws. The developer, too, may dislike some rules but “everybody has to comply with the code, whether we like its logic or not,” he said.

A county discussion

Participants at the Feb. 17 meeting of the Putnam County Legislature’s Physical Services Committee, which deals with buildings and infrastructure, spoke of efforts to date and acting expeditiously to bring to Butterfield a strong county presence, including a senior center vastly upgraded above the current lunch venue at the American Legion.

Legislator Carl Albano, who chairs both the Physical Services Committee and the full legislature, called on his colleagues to join in finalizing Putnam’s plans. The legislature allocated $44,000 in contingency funds for 2015 for taking space at Butterfield.

“Conceptually, we’re on the same page with this, although we didn’t have a formal vote or anything,” after allocating the $64,000, Albano said. At this juncture, he proposed, “the next thing we have to do is try to put together some agreement with the developer so we know we’re really committed to this and decide which space we want.”

He outlined two spaces at Butterfield as options. One, on a second-floor level allowing someone to walk outdoors, would provide notable light. The other, perhaps more directly accessible, would be on the ground floor of a different building. Putnam County would take between 5,000 and 6,000 square feet overall, he said. He emphasized the need to finalize details soon, “make some kind of commitment,” and “move forward so we can start solidifying this whole direction we’re moving in.”

Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown, said the office of County Executive MaryEllen Odell is negotiating arrangements, (To next page)
The good news is that the 2015–16 budget process looks as if it will roll out fairly uneventfully in the hands of a seasoned group of Board of Education members at the Garrison Union Free School district. The district also hasn’t had any measles reports, but the board discussion at their Feb. 18 meeting looked ahead while evaluating the current state of affairs.

Superintendent Laura Mitchell and Business Manager Susan Huetter presented the board with estimated figures for the 2015–16 district budget. Mitchell reviewed the school’s mission as context for the budget and recognized the challenges they face in delivering quality programs within the bounds of the tax levy limit and low expectations for a larger portion of state aid.

Spending is up slightly due to increases in salaries and benefit commitments. The increase is projected at nearly $150,000, which is just under Huetter’s estimate for the tax levy limit. “Without having the governor’s aid figures, we can only estimate the budget now,” said Huetter. GUFSD relies on state aid for 7 to 8 percent of their budget. Most of their funding comes from district taxpayers.

Board members expressed concern about the amount of the district’s reserve funds that will be necessary to fund the 2015-16 school year. Although Huetter described it as minimal, Board member Derek Dubois said: “We decreased the fund balance by $83,000, what that really means is that we planned to spend $300,000 from the reserves and we are on course to spend close to $400,000 out of our reserves this year. It’s 1/8 to 1/10 of our reserves. We’ve gone from saving for a rainy day to spending $300,00 to $400,000, which by definition is a path we can’t be on for more than eight years without ugly consequences.” The board decided to review a five-year tally of the fund balances to get a clearer picture of the trends and look at net changes.

Board member Charlotte Rowe said: “Because we’ve had such large reserves, we’ve basically preserved our situation a good 10 years out. Most school systems have reached this point in three to five years, but we’ve maintained our independence and low taxes because of the reserves. Other districts face raising taxes, consolidating to lower costs or looking at completely new scenarios.”

The minutes from the Safety and Health Committee sparked another discussion about the district’s policy on vaccinations. Board members continue to be concerned that 16 of the 220 students are not vaccinated, and that puts the school below what is considered to be the herd immunity threshold of 95 percent. Although New York state law requires vaccinations, parents can refuse to vaccinate their children for personal, religious reasons and be granted an exemption.

The board requested that their legal counsel review the district’s policy and advise them if there are options to strengthen, refine or change the policy. The school health nurse interviews families who request the exemption about their beliefs. Board President Raymond O’Rourke said: “We want to be sure that we are not being unduly lax in granting exemptions. We have a high number, higher than any of our neighboring districts, but the question is if the policy is as restrictive as it can or should be. It may not be as rigorous as it could be if that’s the direction we choose to go.”

The Center for Disease Control reports 141 cases of measles in 17 states currently, including New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Measles is highly contagious. The district recently included information about the measles in packets that are distributed to parents.

Planning Board Schedules Public Hearing (from page 4)

Dave Merandy has over 40 years of professional construction and management experience building our community, and over 20 years of volunteer and elected service to his neighbors. As a Coach, Board of Education President, Town Councilman and proud father of 5, Dave has repeatedly demonstrated that long term commitment to community and the best interests of our kids and neighbors are what matter most.

Marie Early has over 35 years of professional experience in software engineering, market data and personnel management, and a decade of volunteerism in our Village. She is a dedicated civic leader who has been appointed to multiple standing boards. Marie has a proven record of problem solving, project management, critical thinking, and commitment to the best interests of our community.

VOTE! Wednesday, March 18th
Dave Merandy for Mayor · Marie Early for Trustee
Thinking of Raising Chickens in Your Backyard?

Lydia Langley’s ‘Home to Roost’ service offers humane advice and fresh egg deliveries

By Alison Rooney

Lydia Langley loves her birds — all 30-plus of them. She loves her crested frizzles and leghorn Polishes, her Marans and Ameraucanas. As partial to the “starters” sold at Blue Seal as the rare, heirloom breeds, Langley is quite simply crazy for chickens.

As a city-to-Cold-Spring-weekender-to-full-time-Garrison transplant, living on a historic farm property there, she had no experience with chickens but took the plunge with an initial six back in 2008. That number quickly grew, and Langley, brought up in the New Jersey suburbs, found herself with 30 pet chickens, most of whom did what they do best, especially under the right conditions: lay eggs. Shifting away from her former, New York City-based life as an interior designer, she began selling what they were laying, dubbing her farm a “yolkette” and delivering the freshest of eggs to Philipstown and beyond, all while absorbing and researching the world of pullets, cockerels, hens and roosters. Whether you would like to discuss coordinating your fledging project from start to finish or want to maximize your current flock, I love what I do and I’d be happy to be your ‘everything chickens’ resource.”

Why chickens? It all began in Turkey — the country of Turkey, that is. About 20 years ago, Langley took a trip there and spent a night with a family in the countryside. The matriarch went out and gathered eggs, which she then cooked — and they were spectacular, and it made me realize what eggs can actually taste like.

A later sojourn in North Carolina, where she sampled many fresh eggs, Langley and her husband decided, despite their lack of experience (hers, none whatsoever; his, a couple of chickens growing up), they wanted to put the 19th-century-built barns on their property, which had been in disuse except as storage, back in action — chicken action. “We had preexisting space conducive to housing chickens, so we thought we’d try it,” she said. Plus, Langley felt an affinity for the chickens themselves, not just their eggs. “They’re sociable, they come over to you, respond to you — they’re full of personality,” she enthused. Langley emphasized that she and her husband consider their chickens as pets. “We have a personal relationship with our hens,” she noted. Though egg production dwindles during the typical chicken’s five years, only the first two of which are egg-producing, her farm is “no kill — they spend their entire lives with us, and their safety and well-being is most important.”

On average each of the 30 hens on hand lays about four to five eggs a week, although a few lay every day, and “Rock-et” (all of the birds are named) whom Langley calls “temperamental,” produces a mere two or three. Egg production depends on the weather. “Since we can’t free-range this time of the year, there aren’t as many, but they’re kept in an enclosed yard with raptor nettings, so they can sit in the sun, but they can’t forage right now,” Langley explained, adding that they come in at sunset through an automatic door. Although they’ve never experienced a ground predator, they have had some issues from time to time with hawks and falcons.

Each dozen-egg carton (recountable and returnable to Langley each time new eggs are delivered) of “Chickie Whiskers” eggs (the name reflects her equal love of chickens — it’s great for insect control and they amuse us.”

It was originally only the Langley’s friends who got to sample the eggs, as the distribution began via word of mouth. Although they have occasionally delivered in bulk to New York City, their usual clientele has weekly standing orders, or simply on an as-needed basis, or as she describes her clientele, “weekly, bi-weekly and those I annoy,” as well as some local businesses.

Langley delivers the eggs — sometimes still warm, to her neighbor, 100 feet away, and on her near daily rounds all over Philipstown. In addition to every-thing else, a great byproduct of this old-fashioned delivery system (replete with handwritten names on ribbon-fastened cartoon tags) has been meeting new people. “It’s been a wonderful social thing, too,” Langley said. “Our goal is to be the local resource for people. We don’t want to sell commercially. We love having pet chickens — it’s great for insect control and they amuse us.”

Interest growing

Asked why raising backyard chickens appears to be such a trend right now, Langley thinks it’s “having that aspect of being in control of your food supply, and also just that bit of life in your back-yard.” But, for healthy, thriving chickens, much must be learned, and that’s where “Home to Roost”, as Langley has dubbed her new consulting services, comes in.

Although “small backyards can still keep fat, happy chickens,” potential back-yarders need advice on which variety of birds are most suitable to their specific situation, how to set up and maintain coops and all the nitty-gritty on the care and feeding of the flock, including medical issues that might arise and are most often avoided through prevention techniques. Langley can work with those still in the planning stages, and also those who wish to maximize the output of an existing flock. She is also able to foster chicks until they are out of the “danger zone.”

“The most important aspect is housing,” Langley emphasized that she and her current flock of 30 pet chickens, most of whom did what they do best, especially under the right conditions: lay eggs. Shifting away from her former, New York City-based life as an interior designer, she began selling what they were laying, with handwritten names on ribbon-fastened cartoon tags, has been meeting new people.

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“The most important aspect is housing,” Langley said. (Continued on page 14)
Beacon Just Got ‘More Good’

Like connective tissue, a whole string of new Beacon businesses, prompted perhaps by the opening of the Towne Crier Café a year and a half ago, have opened up not on the east end of Main, nor the west, but at points between. The latest, opening its doors on a frosty Valentine’s Day, is More Good, which, along with its selection of hand-crafted, healthy soda syrup concentrates, bitters, cocktail ingredients, bar accouterments, herbs, spices and teas, is also a meeting place of sorts. A communal table, intended to serve as a community resource for meetings, or just a stop-in for a pot of tea, is open to all, whether purchases are made or not. The large storefront also holds a commercial kitchen prep area, used not only by More Good but other food startups.

There’s a newly built bar with seating on the premises, too, though no alcoholic beverages are served. That bar hearkens back to More Good’s beginnings, as the germination of this and More Good’s line of syrups, which it has been wholesaling for a couple of years, began with owner Jason Schuler’s stint behind the bar at Gleason’s in Peekskill not so long ago.

A 20-year veteran of the bar and restaurant business — his first job was as a busboy, Schuler, who grew up in Hopewell Junction, said he “worked in bars and restaurants my whole life, trying to figure out what I would do with my life; meanwhile I was in training and didn’t know it — I get enjoyment seeing other people enjoying themselves.” Schuler cut his teeth in the cocktail industry during a stretch living in L.A., where he said he “learned the history and culture of mixology, and how to make great cocktails with...

Foodshed Talk Stresses Importance of Farming in Hudson Valley

Demand for local produce means protecting land for farming

By Brian PJ Cronin

The evening began with bad news. “I know you all probably thought we’d be drinking beer here tonight,” joked Steve Rosenberg, Scenic Hudson’s senior vice president, as he stood in the red barn known as the River Center on the shores of the Hudson River at Beacon’s Long Dock Park on Feb. 17. Alas, even though the event was titled “Local Beer via the Hudson Valley Foodshed,” Rosenberg sadly explained that there would be no tastings tonight, and that the intrepid souls who had arrived bearing fresh growlers from Beacon’s 2 Way Brewing Company with the intent of sharing them with the ample crowd would have to refrain.

It was the only sour note on a night filled with optimism as Rosenberg and Emily Watson of Plan Bee Farm Brewery in Fishkill spoke about the Foodshed Conservation Plan, its many benefits to the Hudson Valley and how the foodshed is supporting the emerging craft beer revolution overtaking the area. Their lecture was the first in a series of Tuesday evening lectures (Continued on page II).
The Calendar
Looking for things to do and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Kids & Community

Pizza Night and Ice Cream Social
4 - 8 p.m. Vogelstein Center (Vassar)
845-473-4440, ext. 273 | vassar.edu
124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie
6:30 p.m. Vogelstein Center (Vassar)
4 - 8 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
472 Route 403, Garrison
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Film & Theater

Through a Lens Darkly
[documentary, 2014]
845-437-5473 | film.vassar.edu
124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie
6:30 p.m. Vogelstein Center (Vassar)
4 - 8 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse

Pizza Night and Ice Cream Social
Kids & Community

Music

Open-Mic Night
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | quinnsbeacon.com
8 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnsbeacon.com
Two Dollar Goat (Bluegrass)
8 p.m. Bear Runner Cafe | 201 S. Division St., Beacon
845-837-2526 | gaspmyports.com
Ladder to the Sun
9 p.m. Whistling Willie's
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5000 | coldspringdepot.com
Sailing Stone
9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | 12 N. Division St., Beacon
845-938-2500 |ubermusic.tattoo.be
Jonny Rosch and Friends
10 p.m. The Hudson Room | 23 S. Division St., Beacon
845-938-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com
Members Winter Walk
2 p.m. Storm King Art Center | 1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-838-2880 | stormking.org
Linda Polasti: Paintings
3 - 6 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com
Howland Library Openings
Lynn Sweeney: Obstructed Memories
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers' Market
8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
coldspringfarmmarket.org

17th Annual Polar Plunge
9 a.m. Registration opens | Noon, Plunge
Sharpe Reservation | 436 Van Wyck Lake Road,
Fishkill | poltarplungeny.org/fishkill
To benefit Special Olympics NY
Apprentice Beekeeping
10 a.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Road, Wappingers Falls
845-230-4434 | commongroundfarm.org
Learn & Serve Open House
10 a.m. | Noon. Scenic Hudson
8 Long Dock Road, Beacon
845-473-4440, ext. 273 | scenic Hudson.org
Secret Lives of Venomous Snakes
10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-634-7781 | thournaturecenter.org
Free Admission
5 - 8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Children's Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
mhcm.org
Minecraft Mania (grades 3 – 5)
5:30 - 7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Kids & Community

Howland Art Center Openings
Gabe Brown: Ladder to the Sun
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Howland Art Center
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org
Julie Anne Mann: Rooted / Forest Portraits

Music

Cabin Fever Workshop: Introduction to Watercolor
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org
Photo Apps Class
10 a.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com
Jonny Rosch and Friends
10 p.m. The Hudson Room | 201 S. Division St., Beacon
845-938-2500 | stormking.org
Lynn Sweeney: Obstructed Memories
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Meetings & Lectures

Intro to Life Insurance Basics (Talk)
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Film & Theater

Almost Maine: A Romantic Comedy
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre
See details under Friday.
Boating/Boogie
8 p.m. County Players Theater
See details under Friday.
Goblin Market (Musical)
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Music

Jazz Vespers
5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-9220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org
Buckwheat Zydeco
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Poughkeepsie
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com
Decoda (Chamber Ensemble)
8 p.m. Vassar College (Skinner Hall)
124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie
845-437-5799 | vassar.edu
Valentine's Dance
8 - 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Live Music
8 p.m. The Depot Restaurant
1 Depot Square, Cold Spring
845-265-5000 | coldspringdepot.com
Richie Goods and Nuclear Fusion
8 p.m. Bear Runner Cafe | Dates under Friday.
Luther ‘Guitar Jr.’ Johnson & The Magic Rockers
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.
The Differences
9 p.m. Whistling Willie’s | Dates under Friday.
Mike N Ed’s Acoustic Adventure
9:30 p.m. Max’s on Main
See details under Friday.
Electric Beaf
9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Friday.
Joy on Fire
10 p.m. Division Street Guitars
36 N. Division St., Beacon
845-937-9408 | divisionstateguitars.com
Jonny Rosch and Friends
10 p.m. The Hudson Room
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Intro to Life Insurance Basics (Talk)
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Architecture | Urban Planning | Passive House Sustainable Design | Historic Restoration | Interiors
8 Market Ave., Suite 3, Cold Spring, NY 10516
845.265.2254 | rieverarchitects.com
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

**Kids & Community**

- **Hudson Valley Renegades Job Fair**
  10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
  1500 Route 50, Wappingers Falls
  845-638-0004 | hernyrenegades.com

- **Beacon Farmers Market**
  11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
  Long Dock Drive, Beacon
  945-234-9325 | beaconfarmersmarket.org

- **Farestream Community Pop-Up Cafe**
  Noon - 3 p.m. Beacon Community Resource Center
  23 W. Center St., Beacon
  facebooks.com/farestream

**Health & Fitness**

- **Multiple Sclerosis Support Group**
  5 p.m. Cold Spring Healing Arts
  6 Marion Ave., Cold Spring | 415-420-4358

**Art & Design**

- **Hudson Valley Modern Quilting Guild**
  1 p.m. Hudson Valley Library
  313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

- **Sleeping Beauty**
  1 p.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

- **Highland Knitters**
  3 p.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

- **Haldane School Board**
  7 p.m. Haldane School
  15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
  845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

**Meetings & Lectures**

- **Peekskill Library’s Unknown African American Heroes (Talk)**
  2 p.m. Peekskill Library
  124 Union Ave., Peekskill
  914-736-0473 | peekskilllibrary.org

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

**Kids & Community**

- **Free Tax Assistance for Seniors & Low Income**
  10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

- **Books and Babies Early Literacy Program**
  11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
  472 Route 403, Garrison
  845-424-3900 | desmondfishlibrary.org

- **Not Your Ordinary Meatloaf (Class)**
  10 a.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

- **Developmental Check-up (ages 2–4)**
  2 - 4 p.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

- **Paint Like the Masters (ages 7–10)**
  10 a.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Music**

- **Piano Festival: Inon Barnatan**
  4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
  477 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-4988 | howlandmusic.org

- **Traditional Irish Session**
  6 - 8 p.m. St. Kevin’s Cafe
  124 Main St., Cold Spring
  845-205-2525 | silverspoons.com

- **Socks in the Frying Pan**
  7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
  See details under Friday.

**Meetings & Lectures**

- **Peekskill Library’s Unknown African American Heroes (Talk)**
  2 p.m. Peekskill Library
  124 Union Ave., Peekskill
  914-736-0473 | peekskilllibrary.org

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

**Kids & Community**

- **Howland Public Library**
  10:30 a.m. Baby & Me (ages 0–2)
  4 p.m. Crazy 8s Math Club (grades 3–5)
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

- **Paint Like the Masters (ages 7–10)**
  (First Session)
  3:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center
  23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
  845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

**Meetings & Lectures**

- **Knitting Club**
  3 p.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Art & Design**

- **Sleeping Beauty Opera/Ballet (Film)**
  2 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
  1008 Brown St., Peekskill
  914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

- **Goblin Market**
  914-736-0473 | peekskilllibrary.org

**Health & Fitness**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

**Kids & Community**

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

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**Music**

- **Piano Festival: Inon Barnatan**
  4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
  477 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-4988 | howlandmusic.org

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**Meetings & Lectures**

- **Knitting Club**
  3 p.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

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**Attorney General of the State of New York**

- **Piano Festival: Inon Barnatan**
  4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
  477 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-4988 | howlandmusic.org

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**Native Pulse Beats: The Unstung Heroes (Talk)**

- **Dance Performance**
  6 p.m. Sandino Hudson
  8 Long Dock Road, Beacon
  845-473-4440 | sandinohudson.org

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**Haldane School Board**

- **Board of Trustees**
  7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
  845-265-3011 | coldspringny.gov

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**WedNeSday, February 25**

**Kids & Community**

- **Howland Public Library**
  10 a.m. Howland Public Library
  313 Main St., Beacon
  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

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

- **Paint Like the Masters (ages 7–10)**
  (First Session)
  3:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center
  23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
  845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

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**Events:**

- **I love dining at the Garrison.**
  www.thegarrison.com

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**Jazz & Love**

- **Featuring jazz artist MARTY ELKINS**
  Sat. Feb 21 - 5:30pm
  The Palisades Center
  10 Academy St., Cold Spring
  Hwy. 9W Eastbound, exit 10, or exit 11 Westbound.
  Wine + Chance Reception to follow performance
Foodshed Talk Stresses Importance of Farming
(from page 7)

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(from page 7)

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Foodshed Talk Stresses Importance of Farming
(from page 7)
HVSF Hires New Managing Director Kate Liberman

T he Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) announces the appointment of Kate Liberman as its new managing director. Reporting to HVSF’s Board of Directors, and working in partnership with Artistic Director Davis McCallum, Liberman will be responsible for all administrative and operational aspects of HVSF’s activities.

With an MPA in theater management from the Yale School of Drama and an MBA from the Yale School of Management, Liberman has devoted her career to theater administration, serving Yale Repertory Theatre as associate managing director, Berkeley Repertory Theatre as a managing director fellow, and the Blue Horse Repertory Theatre as associate managing director, among other positions. She is currently general manager and interim managing director and Mona Smith as deputy interim managing director. Ar- ditis said, “The Board is deeply appreciative of the staff’s exemplary teamwork during this transition period, as they execute our sold-out ‘second stage’ productions during the fall, planned for our diverse and innovative in-school education programs, and set the stage for what promises to be a terrific 2015 summer season.”

HVSF’s 2015 summer season opens June 9 and continues through September 27. Online ordering for the 2015 season begins March 1, and the box office opens May 10. For more information about ticket sales and shows, visit hvshakespeare.org.

Tennessee Williams at Depot Theatre March 28

Blue Horse Repertory in three plays by Williams and Durang

“Snatching the eternal out of the descriptively fleeting, is the great magic trick of human existence,” wrote Tennes- see Williams, in just one of his many mus- ings about life, art and the nature of the creative spirit that will be illuminated in Tennessee Williams, Straight Up With A Twist of Durang, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre at 8 p.m. on March 28. The Blue Horse Repertory Company will three short works by the two playwrights; ac- tors will include Julia Allen, Elizabeth Breslin, Lora Lee Ecobelli, Andrew Joffe, James Ochino and Nancy Rothman.

The Blue Horse Repertory Company is a professional theatre company dedi- cated to providing an inclusive and col- laborative environment where profes- sional actors, writers and musicians can rediscover the classics, develop new work and apply themselves to creating a richer cultural experience for the whole community. In addition to providing quality performances, the company offers di- verse educational opportunities and out- reach programs through the Blue Horse Repertory’s First Acting School.

Tickets for the performance are $20 for adults and $15 for seniors and students. For reservations and more information, call the Depot Theatre at 845-424-3900. The Depot Theatre is at 10 Garrison’s Landing in Garrison.

Marty Elkins to Perform at Jazz Vespers Feb. 21

Village Vanguard vocalist turned music therapist to sing

M arty Elkins, a highly regarded jazz singer, will perform at the Jazz Ves- pers at 5:30 p.m. this Saturday, Feb. 21, at the First Presbyterian Church of Philip- ipton, 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring. Elkins was featured in JazzTimes in an October 2014 interview on her growth as a musician, from the early influence of Billie Holiday to her job waiting at the Village Vanguard in New York City. She honed her singing skills by absorbing the musical styles of major jazz art- ists while working three nights a week at the Vanguard and singing whenever possible on her off nights. She confessed that at times she was so engrossed in the mus- sic that her customers left without pay- ing their bills. As the jazz scene began to wane she returned to school to put her skills to use in musical therapy, serving first at St. Vincent’s Hospital and later in private practice. Admission is free but donations are welcomed.

Lion Cubs Visit M&T Bank to Learn About Finance

Piggy banks help cubs save money for themselves and others

The Lion Cubs of Pack 137 have been busy during these winter months fo- cusing on responsibility and finance. The Lion Cubs had fun creating and decorat- ing piggy banks, with a lesson about saving money for themselves, as well as saving money to donate to charitable or- ganizations within their community. The Lion Cubs would like to thank M&T Bank of Cold Spring for setting up a tour of the bank and activities for them to do. This was an excellent opportunity for them to learn about what a bank does and how it helps people with their money.

The Alternate Card Catalog at Two Libraries

Karla Rae Johnson's piece in Desmond-Fish, Butterfield

T he Alternate, a collaborative project con- ceived and organized by artist/sculp- tor Carla Rae Johnson, will be on exhibit at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison to February 3 at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring, from March 31 through May 23. An opening re- ception will be held at both libraries, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Butterfield Library.

In 2010, Johnson purchased an old wooden card catalog with 30 drawers. This vintage dormer was in her studio for a year and a half while she contemplated how to use it. Finally, the idea emerged to transform the original collection: fill the drawers with cards, hundreds of individual cards. That was when she invited every creative individual she knew to collabo- rate with her on the project. More than 70 artists, writers and creative thinkers are participating in the Alternate. The 50-drawer cabinet is now more than 15,000 works of art.

With two other card-catalog projects (works by Barbara Page and Joanne Wil- cox), the Alternate has been exhibited in 10 venues since it was completed in 2012. Under the banner “Artists in the Archives,” the card catalogs were installed in libraries in New York, Massachusetts and New Jersey as well as at BookWorks in Asheville, North Carolina. In June of 2015, the Al- ternate will travel to Galesburg, Illinois, where it will be installed this summer in the Blick Contemporary Art Gal- lery at the Galesburg Civic Arts Center.

This exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours. For more information, contact the Desmond- Fish Library at 845-424-3020 and the Butterfield Library at 845-265-3060, or visit desmondfishlibrary.org and butter- fieldlibrary.org.

Alternet: Desmondfishlibrary.org

Gallery 66 NY Presents Designer Challenge

Opening reception on First Friday, March 6

This March, Gallery 66 NY will be do- ing something a little different. Three interior designers will create vignettes in each of the gallery’s rooms. The challenge is for designers to use artwork and create a unique or vignette around it, in a fusion of work and play, life and leisure, interior design and fine art.

Interior designers participating in the challenge are Nicole Ashby of Burloch Home in Beacon, Lisa Mc- Ternan of Life- styles and Interiors by Lisa in Croton- on-Hudson, and Maryann Syrek of M Studio Gallery in Garrison.

An advocate for sustainability and the local economy, Ashby has de- signed a playful and contempo- rary space enti- title (To next page)
Diabetes Program at Butterfield Library

Self-management sessions in March and April

The Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library in partnership with the Westchester Independent Living Center Health and Wellness Series, presents a Diabetes Self Management Program. This six-week workshop series is geared towards adults age 18 and older who have been diagnosed with diabetes or caregivers for those with diabetes. This workshop is geared towards adults age 18 and older who have been diagnosed with diabetes or caregivers for those with diabetes. This workshop is geared towards adults age 18 and older who have been diagnosed with diabetes or caregivers for those with diabetes. This workshop is geared towards adults age 18 and older who have been diagnosed with diabetes or caregivers for those with diabetes.

Scenic Hudson

Scenic Hudson will present several events to the community this spring. The performances at Vassar are free and open to the public. Each show begins at 8 p.m. in the Martel Theater of the Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film. Reservations are required. Contact boxoffice@vassar.edu or 845-437-5599 to reserve.

Actors From the London Stage perform from such stages as the Royal Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

For information about accessibility and directions to Vassar’s campus, visit vassar.edu.

Howland Center Presents Women's Exhibit in March

The month of March is officially designated National Women's History Month, when the nation honors and recognizes women who contribute significantly to the spirit of American history:

Artists honored again this women's history month

Howland Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon.
Thinking of Raising Chickens in Your Backyard?

(from page 6)

“and I can work with preexisting space or circumstances (including meeting her husband Robert) led the former Mount Holyoke art history major and Parsons School of Design interior design graduate to country roads and a life with chickens. She's happy about it. “Discovering new information is endless and that’s the fun of it. They're such nice creatures, you want to do everything for them, and then they will make good eggs. We grow our eggs with love and want to share that passion with others.”

Langley will be presenting at the Cold Spring Farmers Market on March 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. She’ll be available to answer any questions and to talk to anyone interested in her consulting services. For information on both her egg deliveries and her consulting services, contact her at 845-705-0259 or homerootsto.lcs@ccs.com, or visit the chickiewhiskers.eggs Facebook page.

Foodshed Talk Stressess Importance of Farming

(from page 11)

where they make the beer, and not necessarily where the ingredients come from.” At Plan Bee, 100 percent of the ingredients come from within New York state, with many of them being grown on the farm itself. This includes honey from the farm’s hives that are used in the brewing process. While this would seem to safely qualify the farm’s beers as “local,” for the Watsons it’s not quite local enough. And their goals going forward illustrate the dedication that the next generation of Hudson Valley farmers will need to have in order to act not just as farmers, but stewards of the land. “Our goal is to reduce the radius of where our ingredients come from over the next few years until I can finally say that I personally planted and processed everything that goes into our beer,” said Emily. That’s a goal that’s worth raising a glass to — even if that glass can’t be raised at the River Center itself.
The images also give us a sense within a few yards of each other. And a raccoon on the other. Or fox feeding on one end of a deer, not typical. I’ve seen photos of a coyote and raven near the Taconic Outdoor Education Center. It’s so smart. They sense that it’s OK. They’re so smart. They sense that the moon has a pull on the earth, think of the tides, and depending on what phase the moon is in, it pulls the water up to the surface, making the ground more fertile. There’s a little folklore in it, but people have followed it and get the best results.” While the Almanac doesn’t guarantee their predictions, they do stand by their time-tested formula.

While they reached for their secret formulas, I did learn more about this approach.

Is everything on the Gardening Calendar based on moon phases?

“It’s not only based on the phase of the moon, but where the moon is located astrologically speaking. Formulas for various activities are either based on the zodiac signs or moon phases or both. Each zodiac sign supposedly has a specific nature/character. They are fruitful (productive) or barren; dry or moist; masculine or feminine; fixed or movable; flexible, earthly, airy, fiery or watery. All of which can enhance, complement, hinder or retard an activity. Same with the moon phases. The various phases can enhance, complement or hinder or have no impact at all on activities. All of which our formula takes into consideration.”

Camera Catches Carrion Carried Off (from page 1)

Mountain Zoo as well as scientific research in Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks, has reflected upon the advent of trail cameras and what we’re learning from the often-surprising images we collect off our convenient SD cards. “We all know a lot about African animals, like lions and other predators, from growing up watching all those nature TV programs. But here in the thickly wooded eastern forest, we really don’t know what happens,” he said. “One thing that’s being revealed,” he continued, “is that cryptic animals like bobcats are more common than we thought. We’ve also seen multiple species will feed in close proximity to each other, which is certainly not typical. I’ve seen photos of a fox feeding on one end of a deer and a raccoon on the other. Or eagles and ravens and vultures all within a few yards of each other. The images also give us a sense of how important deer meat is to them, especially during a winter as cold as this one.”

Stowell said that his educators are learning something about the personalities of the animals that come to the carcasses. “Coyotes are shy and careful. They’re so smart. They sense that something is weird or different about the setup of the carcasses, so they’re not the first to come in to feed. But then they see the crows and the ravens and probably figure it’s OK.”

Traditional questions and assumptions about dominance and hierarchy are also being pondered. “We put a dead deer in a big open field,” said Ed McGowan, “that we thought would appeal to eagles, and we were thrilled to see a rare golden eagle show up. Then the bald eagles came in, but the golden defended the carcass. Goldens, it turns out, are usually the boss.”

McGowan went on to describe a scene captured on another camera setup that showed an opossum walking straight into a carcass that had already been discovered by a bobcat and a coyote, who were standing just yards away. “He just walked in, impervious, right between them. How about that!”

A bobcat was photographed at Sterling Forest in Rockland County.
Philipstown Soccer Club to Host Referee Training Course

The Philipstown Soccer Club (PSC) will host a youth soccer referee course for adults and children age 14 or older, on an upcoming Saturday this spring.

The one-day course is for a Level 8 Certification that allows recipients to referee youth soccer travel games, earning anywhere from $25 to $80 per game, depending on the age level of the team. Fourteen-year-olds receive a Level 9 Certification. The PSC has arranged for the Hudson Valley Referee Association to commit on-field mentors for all new referees at games beginning this spring.

With the popularity and growth of soccer in the Hudson Valley, the numbers of games have outpaced the number of qualified referees, so there is a great need for new referees. The PSC plays upwards of 100 home games per year, and neighboring towns add to that number. A qualified referee is almost assured game assignments, based upon their availability on any given Sunday, spring and fall.

The PSC is currently asking interested people to email interest (name and age) to Craig Roffman at info@philipstown-soccerclub.org.

The cost of the program is $225 and includes certification, referee uniforms, cards and flags. In the case that not enough applicants reply, interested applicants will be directed to a nearby class in an adjoining town.

Referee Training Course
By Peter Farrell

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